



The NEWSCASTER

The Official Publication of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club

<http://ve4.net/warc/>

January 2004

VE4BB

Free to Members

E/H Antenna

By Willard VE4WJE

See why some think this
is the Antenna of the future

Date: January 12th, 2004

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Sturgeon Creek Regional Secondary School



Happy New Year

The President's Call By John, VE4QV



Another year has come and gone and it seems to have gone by so quickly. There have been some real losses to the amateur radio community, but there have also been some wonderful gains. We have a club that is rich in knowledge and experience and its important to pass on both the skills as well as the ethics of our chosen pastime to the new amateurs. What I've always found so interesting about this hobby is its diversity. The umbrella of amateur radio includes everything from VHF communications to moon bounce to HF communications around the world! The Internet is just one of the many new tools now at our disposal. Time and time again amateur radio has been counted on for emergency communications and I'm very proud to part of a hobby that can really make a difference. I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and I hope to see you all at the next meeting to share a coffee, some stories, and all that is part of this great hobby.

Other Important Dates:

Articles:

WARC Feb 9 - David VE4DAR & the RR Dxpedition
Mar. 8 Bruce VE4KQ "How to work DX, 144 MHz and above
Apr. 19-Cafeteria - Home Brew Night
April 25 2004 - Flea Market
May 10 - Ed VE4YU "Digital Communications"
Jun. 14 - TBA

WSC:

2nd Thurs. of month - Breakfast - Garden City Inn

ARES:

Jan. 27 - All Amateur Meeting with WRHA

Other:

Nets: Daily 01:00 UTC	MB Evening Phone net 3760 KHz
Daily 01:30 UTC	Prairie traffic Net (CW) 3660 KHz
Daily 02:30 UTC	Aurora #2 net 7055 KHz
Daily 14:30 UTC	MB Wx Net 3743 KHz
Weekdays 9:00	Seniors morning net 147.390 MHz
Wed. 9:00 pm	Six Meter net 50.238 MHz.
Thursday 9:00pm	MRS Net 147.390 MHz +
Sunday 9:00pm	MRS Net 147.390 MHz +

WARC: Executive for 2004

Past President	Louis Gaudry	lcaudry@mts.net
President	John Pura	ve4qv@rac.ca
Vice-Pres	Pat Giesbrecht	339-3018
Secretary	Ed Horton	885-4084
Treasurer	Fred Venema	fvenema@shaw.ca
Membership	Mark Blumm	ve4mab@rac.ca
Program	Glen Napady	ve4gwn@rac.ca
Field Day	Vacant	
Flea Market	Bob Hrabí	774-5178
Director at Large	Bob Hrabí	774-5178

From the Planning Chair:
Glen, VE4GWN



Wasn't that a great Christmas Party? It wouldn't have been such a success without the participants. First I must thank Ruth VE4XYL for feeding us. In the past she had her elves help her, but this year she had NO assistance (I'm sure her number one elf, Tom VE4SE did help a little)!!

Next I must send a thank you out to the Drum Line from the 2701 PPCLI Cadets. Their performance was wonderful. It is unfortunate that we couldn't dim the lights more, so everyone could get the full effect; I've seen their show in the past, without lights WOW!

Of course Prof. Flotz with his annual update, makes me glade I didn't invest in fruit computer or that micro-what ever. I hope that the company can figure out what the kit they came up with is good for. (Some say he looks like VE4DAR but I don't).

The Intermods, what can I say, there harmony can't be duplicated. I knew that Ed VE4YU had many friends, but I didn't know that George Burns and Gracie Allen were among them! Thanks to the entire group.

The HT decorating contest went well. I would have liked to see more then three entered, and congratulations to Ed VE4EIH, Ruthie VE4CRS and Rosi VE4YYL. Thank you to Fred VE4FV, John, VE4QV and Tedd VE4VID for being the judges.

Congratulations Bert VE4AND! I can't think of anyone I have met in the Winnipeg Amateur community more deserving of the OSCAR! Sorry I can't post a picture, but my camera failed me.

I must tip my hat, to Derek VE4HAY, and say thanks for once again bringing roses for the ladies!

Last I would like to thank everyone who came out to celebrate with us. Without you it would have been a very boring party! (We had 51 attend)

January 13th meeting Willard VE4WJE will be talking to us on E/H antenna. This promises to be very informative. Check Willard's web page:

<http://www.members.shaw.ca/w.elliott/>.

Being January it's time to start thinking about June. Why? You may ask. Simple, Field Day comes in June, and we need someone to coordinate this event, so start checking your schedule and let any member of the executive know if you can help. We also should start thinking of where we plan to set up this year.



**Winnipeg Senior Citizens
 Radio Club**
By Adam, VE4SN, President.

Did you ever notice that the month of December seems to usher in a time of great activity, of rushing around fighting crowds and traffic to find that "just right" gift for that someone special; a time of shopping frenzy and uncontrolled spending. Actually, I've just described the actions of my good wife who revels in this sort of thing. Personally, I hate shopping and especially at this time of year I deplore it!

Nonetheless, December also ushers in the warm feelings of holidays and celebrations, of sharing and giving, of family and friends and of watching the happiness on the faces of the children as the time for Santa Claus approaches. I have to admit that all of this sort of offsets the fact that it is winter and the nights are dreadfully long and cold!

Speaking of celebrations and such, the Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club held their annual Christmas Luncheon on December 9th at the Assiniboia Christian Centre. There were eighty six attendees and everyone enjoyed a fabulous turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Entertainment was provided by our own Intermods and this year we were pleased to have Cal Shermerhorn, VE4XQ emulating the late Don Messer with his "down east" violin music. Cal also

Industry Canada Amateur Centre
 Voice 1-888-780-3333 (toll-free)
 Fax: 1-613-991-5575
 Email: spectrum.amateur@ic.gc.ca
http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/insmt-gst.nsf/vwGeneratedInterE/h_sf01709e.html

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<http://www.ve4.net/newsletters.html>

played the banjo and the sax in great fashion. He was ably accompanied on the electronic keyboard by Ozzie Aasland retired from the RCAF Air Command Band. The raffle and silent auction provided some wonderful prizes. Thanks to all who donated the prizes and a special thank you to Gladys Haldane-Wilson VE4GE for all the work she did in making the dolls and other items. A visit by Santa (Gord Finch VE4GF) capped off a wonderful afternoon.

Because our Christmas party was on a Tuesday, the regular Thursday breakfast gathering was a go ahead affair on December 11th. Probably because of the somewhat cool temperatures that day and maybe because everyone was still full of turkey, only fifteen persons showed up for breakfast. The freebie meal was won (again) by Ed Oakes, VE4OAK. I think he won two or three raffle prizes on Tuesday. This has to be his lucky month!

Wednesday, December 17th was the day of our Annual General Meeting, which was to see the election of a new Executive and Board of Directors. However, we did not have a quorum at election time so that exercise could not be carried out. A Special General meeting is being called for December 29th at 600 St. Mary's Road, the place where we had our 20th Birthday party. It's downstairs so come on folks make an effort to attend. Remember it's your club! And if this column appears after the 29th, I sure hope we got our quorum!

By the time you read this, no doubt Christmas celebrations will be over. I hope everyone had a fabulous time and got just what they wanted from Santa. Now we look forward to a brand new year. On behalf of all our members, I want to wish everyone everywhere a healthy, happy, prosperous, safe and peaceful New Year. Happy New Year!!

Minutes for W.A.R.C. December 8th, 2003 **Submitted by Ruth, VE4XYL**

Meeting Began at 1934 hours. The introductions were done in the usual manner. 51 members and guests had signed in.

Previous minutes

Derek VE4HAY reports on wrong dates where used in the heading, this was noted. David VE4DAR proposed that previous minutes be excepted, motion passed.

Treasures report.

Fred VE4FV reported that in Oct. There was 345 new members and renewals. And various revenue came to 571.00. For Nov. 33 members paid 395.00 and the 50/50 draw was

35.75. The club had expenses of
535.70 The school rental is coming due 1200.00

Auditors Report.

The Report was misplaced, but Ed VE4YU the auditor report will be out for the January meeting. John believes that all is in order.

RAC Report

Adam VE4SN With the RAC report, The RAC Winter Contest on Dec. 27 is coming up. So far 1 person is using the VE4RAC Callsign, Tedd VE4VID. Adam also reported that there is nothing new on the RAC proposals.

DX Sleuths

Adam reported that DX is sporadic at the moment. If looking for it can be found. Wished every one happy hunting on DX .

ARES

Jeff VE4MBQ reported that the Gross Lake ERTS is full functional. It is on marine channel 24. Tom VE4SE asked about ERTS, and how one time no one was allowed on marine band unless licensed. Jeff explained as to how Industry Canada did away with the station licences for Aeronautical and marine station licences. Perhaps ERTS people will become amateur radio operators.

OSCAR Award

This years OSCAR award was presented to Bert Andrews VE4AND. Bert thanked the members for the award.

Good and welfare

The passing of Vern VE4VQ

Derek VE4HAY explained that as he bought roses for all the ladies who were at the Christmas party last year he as done so again this year, and presented flowers to all the ladies.

Rick VE4OV Explained as to how when he was a young Ham at 15, his uncle, gave him a volt meter. (That fell into his tool box., (hi hi wink wink) Saying all HAMS should have one. Rick explained how he thinks that every young ham should volt meter, and presented one to Aruni VE4WMK.

Meeting adjourned at 2000 hrs. The entertainment was provided by the PPCLI Cadet Drum line. Professor Flutz showed new products for the amateur market, in the new year. The Intermods, concluded the evening. With various Christmas carols

The winners of the HT contest were 1st Ed VE4EIH 2nd Ruthy VE4CRS 3rd was Rosi VE4YYL. The winners of the attendance prizes where Ruth Mills VE4XYL, Tom Blatche VE4HQ Mariska Maquire VE4MMG Rick Allen VE4RA and Yori Tusji VE4ACX

Echolink back on DARC

By Jack, VE4JA

Due to popular demand EchoLink is back up on the Dauphin Amateur Radio Club (DARC).

I had taken it off the air mostly due to no one answering incoming calls but it seems that seems to be the trend across the country. One may wonder at times when he\she idents on a repeater or even takes the big plunge and asks if there is anyone monitoring and all you get is dead silence! Why? can anyone tell me or is it just a coincidence that everyone has their 2 meter or UHF rigs turned off! I try to monitor the repeaters and answer anyone who calls in locally and especially anyone who calls in on IRLP (Node 1700) and of course EchoLink.

We hear time and time again that amateur radio is dying, the Internet is taking over, is it? no darn wonder if nobody is using the facilities that a few have put together (in this case repeaters) to enhance the Amateur fraternity if that's the right word.

The DAR'C' system as a good example covers from Brandon South to North of Swan River ...East beyond Ashern and North to near Gypsumville and South into Winnipeg but you would swear at most times that it goes nowhere as the repeaters set idle most times and when there is no activity we tend to turn off the radio's ...what a bummer.

So after all this please use our system and get it active.

IRLP on VE4SRR in Swan River and EchoLink on VE4BVR in Russell Which is part and parcel of the DARC system. Should anyone want the commands to work other stations and repeaters on EchoLink from VE4BVR-R just let me know and I will give you the codes. But it is a little more complicated than IRLP..

WPGARES

Jeff Dovyak VE4MBQ

CANWARN Net Controllers operated VE4WWO for 24 hours this year during SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) on SAT 06 DEC. Thanks to volunteer operators VE4s: EWN, ESX, KU, KEH, HAZ, AJR, GWN, YYL, MBQ. Several volunteers worked either two shifts or back-to-back double shifts. Thanks also to University of Manitoba Amateur Radio Society for allowing us to utilize VE4UMR for access to IRLP. We had a total of 120 contacts; 24 HF (at least 20 were with Glen's TS-520), 96 VHF, 24 Wx Stations. Once again we were the only Canadian Wx Station that participated. Glen not only brought out his own HF rig and tuner but also designed the log and acts as QSL Manager.

VE4s ESX, GWN, KEH, and YYL spent some time at VE4WWO SAT 13 DEC diagnosing some HF performance issues. Thanks also to Wayne VE4WR who attended the afternoon of SRD to make some preliminary checks and point us in the right direction. It appears that we have a problem with the FC-757 Antenna Tuner.

Jay Anderson gave us a great presentation "2003 Severe Weather Summary" at our December General Meeting as well as discussing some CANWARN plans for 2004. The promo items were just icing on the cake. Jay also mentioned the importance of spotter reports during the Winter Severe Wx Season, Page 8 of DEC 2003 WARC The Newscaster had a list of Severe Winter elements of interest to PSPC staff. New Manitoba ARES photo-ID cards were issued.

Wayne Schellekens VE4WTS has stepped down as AEC as well as resigning from ARES. We would like to thank Wayne for his help and advice over the last few years. Richard Sheridan VE4ESX has been appointed Acting Emergency Coordinator and is on the WPGARES contact list along with VE4KAZ and VE4MBQ.

The next WPGARES General Meeting is TUE 20 JAN 1900h Sir Wm Stephenson Library 765 Keewatin Street.



Manitoba ARES CANWARN "Reportable" Winter Weather



If you notice any of the following weather conditions this winter, please report this to the Weather office along with your locations and callsign;

- * Low Visibility
- * Freezing Rain or Freezing Drizzle
- * Snowfall accumulations over 6-8 cm
- * Rain that changes to Snow (when temps near Zero)

There will not generally* be an amateur net in operation, so phone your report in via: the 1-800 number received at Spotter Training. If you are not a CANWARN member you may use the general PUBLIC number is 1-800-239-0484. Or consider possibly joining CANWARN.

* Consider Participation in:

MMWX NET	3743 kHz LSB	approx 0830h local
MEPN	3760 kHz LSB	approx 1900h local

MMWX Net Manager may collate severe winter wx reports and forward to PSPC.

Guest speaker to be announced. We hope to have a representative from Office of Critical Infrastructure Protection and Emergency Preparedness (OCIEPEP) sometime during the first quarter of 2004 to talk about the new Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness ministry.

An "All-Amateur" meeting to gauge the interest of the general Amateur community (particularly those without current emergency response obligations) in assisting WRHA Disaster Management has been booked for TUE 27 JAN 2004 1900h Deer Lodge Centre 2109 Portage Avenue. If you are considering attending please notify VE4MBQ so that we have enough handout material available at the meeting and an appropriately sized room.

Recruiting has begun for Festival du Voyageur sled Dog Races 14 & 15 FEB at The Forks. If interested please notify VE4MBQ. The Amateur Radio briefing will likely be TUE 10 FEB.



Canwarn Amateur radio operators participated in a training activity in which Amateurs provided communications for a NWS-ARRL special event "SKYWARN Recognition Day". The Winnipeg Weather Office station, VE4WWO, located at the Prairie Storm Prediction Centre became the center of operations for the 24 hour event from 0000-2400z. VE4's, EWN, ESX, KU, KEH, MBQ, HAZ, AJR, GWN, YYL, and Luke Dovyak provide the 24hours operation in various shifts. Once again we appeared to be the only Canadian Wx station that participated. Environment Canada & the U.S. National Weather Service were the agencies involved

THE CONFUSED AMATEUR

1. When I turn off the power does the space charge in a vacuum tube fall to the bottom of the tube?
2. In a Radar set where is the key to the MTI gate kept?
3. Do you have to prime an ion pump?
4. What's a GETTER?
5. Is transit time the time spent every morning on the bus?
6. How fast does a vacuum tube have to travel to be velocity modulated?

RAC Board Elections

By BJ Madsen, VE5FX

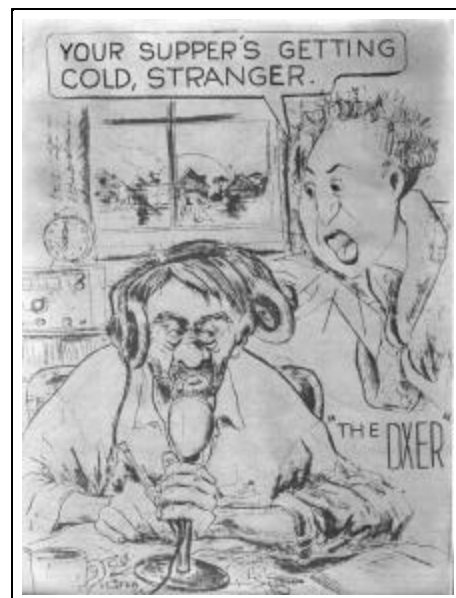
Following the election of new RAC Executive this afternoon, next year will see the following:

Running for President:

- ✓ Current President Gillis, VE1WG, chose to not run for this office again. Daniel Lamoureux, VE2KA (the current Quebec regional director), and Robert (Bob) J. C. Burns, VE1VCK. Daniel Lamoureux was declared elected with a 4:3 majority.

Running unopposed and thus elected by acclamation were:

- ✓ First Vice President - Bob Nash, VE3KZ (Bob writes "The Sports Page" for TCA)
- ✓ VP Field Services & International Affairs - Pierre Mainville, VE3PM (Pierre is currently VP Field Services)
- ✓ VP Regulatory Affairs - Jim Dean, VE3IQ (Jim currently holds this position)
- ✓ Secretary - Noel Marciel, VE2BR
- ✓ Treasurer - open - no candidate



News from the Net

Space News

AO-40 now is in "hibernation mode" which lasts for approximately four weeks. This is done twice a year to ensure the satellites day to day running. Although the satellite's passbands are switched off at the moment, its beacon remains on. It is hoped that the passbands will be back on in time for Christmas.

--IRISH RADIO TRANSMITTERS SOCIETY

Amateur radio operators to benefit from ACA reciprocal licensing decision

A decision by the Australian Communications Authority (ACA) will make radio operation easier for overseas amateur radio operators visiting Australia and Australian amateurs travelling overseas.

Acting ACA Chairman Dr Bob Horton said the decision is one of several made by the ACA as a result of its current review of amateur service regulation.

"We have decided to participate in an international arrangement for reciprocal recognition of amateur qualifications and licences in participating countries. This will make it much easier for amateurs to operate their radios when visiting these countries," Dr Horton said.

"The arrangement means that it will not be necessary for Australian amateurs to obtain a temporary licence to operate while visiting other participating countries, or for visiting amateurs who hold a licence from a participating country to obtain a temporary licence to operate while they are in Australia."

"The ACA will work towards the implementation of these new arrangements, which are expected to come into force in the second half of 2004."

-- Australian Communications Authority

Morse Code

Although the 2003 World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC-03) recently eliminated the Morse code requirement for amateur/experimenter access to the HF spectrum the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) hasn't forgotten Morse code completely. In Geneva on December the 5th last, the ITU Radiocommunications Sector agreed on the wording of a new Draft Recommendation that specifies the international Morse code character set and transmission procedures. It also includes a new Morse code character to cover the "@" (at) symbol which is used in e-mail addresses (.) -- IRISH RADIO TRANSMITTERS SOCIETY

Finland Drops Morse Testing November 1, 2003

Paul Keinanen, OH3LWR, reports that Finland has deleted Morse code as a requirement for HF access, effective November 1st, 2003. While the official announcement appears to only be available in Finnish, Paul reports that the major elements are as follows:

The 5 wpm Morse test will no longer be required for access to the HF bands (in fact, it is reported that no new Morse tests will be offered). The technical class will have the same privileges as the general class (full power, all bands). The data communication class will have the same privileges as the basic class (medium power, 80 m, 40 m, 15 m, 10 m, 2 m, 70 cm and 24 Ghz) -- No-Code International

New WSJT released

As promised by Joe Taylor K1JT at the WIA Eastern Zone Amateur Radio Club's GippsTech 2003 technical conference, a new beta or trial version software in the WSJT family has been released.

A number of VK radio amateurs are currently trying and evaluating the Beta Release that promises to be even more efficient in processing weak signals on VHF and UHF. Its principal attraction is a new mode called JT65 that includes powerful FEC (forward error correction) and will enable communication with significantly weaker signals is possible with JT44. A new Beta Release of WSJT is available for free download at the WSJT home page,

[Http://pulsar.princeton.edu/~joe/K1JT](http://pulsar.princeton.edu/~joe/K1JT)

A brief list of the features and technical specifications of JT65 is available at:

[Http://pulsar.princeton.edu/~joe/K1JT/WSJT4.TXT](http://pulsar.princeton.edu/~joe/K1JT/WSJT4.TXT)

and a 'Quick Start Guide for JT65' may be found at:

[Http://pulsar.princeton.edu/~joe/K1JT/UPD411.TXT](http://pulsar.princeton.edu/~joe/K1JT/UPD411.TXT)


Joe K1JT k1jt@arrl.net welcomes comments from users of the Beta Release. --WIA- Victoria

**DIAMOND
IMAGE**

Floyd Rolph VE4 FDR

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 Winnipeg, MB R2Y 1C6 Fax: (204) 831-6400

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Contest Calendar

January 2004

AGB NYSB Contest		0000Z	Jan 1
SARTG New Year	RTTY	0800Z	Jan 1
AGCW Happy New Year Contest		0900Z	Jan 1
ARRL	RTTY	1800Z	Jan 3
Kid's Day Contest		1800Z	Jan 3
EUCW 160m Contest		2000Z	Jan 3
	and	0400Z	Jan 4
Hunting Lions in the Air		0000Z	Jan 10
East Asia 160/80 DX Contest		0900Z	Jan 10
UK DX Contest	SSB	1200Z	Jan 10
Midwinter Contest	CW	1400Z	Jan 10
North American QSO Party	CW	1800Z	Jan 10
NRAU-Baltic Contest	CW	0530Z	Jan 11
NRAU-Baltic Contest	SSB	0800Z	Jan 11
Midwinter Contest	Phone	0800Z	Jan 11
DARC 10-Meter Contest		0900Z	Jan 11
070 Club	PSK	0000Z	Jan 17
LZ Open Contest	CW	1200Z	Jan 17
MI QRP January	CW	1200Z	Jan 17
Hungarian DX Contest		1200Z	Jan 17
North American QSO Party	SSB	1800Z	Jan 17
ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes		1900Z	Jan 17
CQ 160-Meter Contest	CW	0000Z	Jan 24
REF Contest	CW	0600Z	Jan 24
BARTG RTTY sprint	Rtty	1200Z	Jan 24
UBA DX Contest	SSB	1300Z	Jan 31

February

Vermont QSO Party		0000Z	Feb 7
New Hampshire QSO Party		0000Z	Feb 7
Inter. Winter Contest	SSB	0001Z	Feb 7
Minnesota QSO Party		1400Z	Feb 7
Delaware QSO Party		1700Z	Feb 7
	and	1300Z	Feb 8
Mexico International Contest	RTTY	1800Z	Feb 7
North American Sprint	Phone	0000Z	Feb 8
CQ/RJ WW WPX Contest	RTTY	0000Z	Feb 14
SARL Field Day Contest		1000Z	Feb 14
Asia-Pacific Sprint	CW	1100Z	Feb 14
Dutch PACC Contest		1200Z	Feb 14
YL-OM Contest	CW	1400Z	Feb 14
FISTS Winter Sprint		1700Z	Feb 14
OMISS QSO Party		1700Z	Feb 14
RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest	CW	2100Z	Feb 14
North American Sprint	CW	0000Z	Feb 15
QRP ARCI Winter Fireside	SSB	2000Z	Feb 15
ARRL School Club Roundup		1300Z	Feb 16
ARRL Inter. DX Contest	CW	0000Z	Feb 21
YL-ISSB QSO Party	CW	0000Z	Feb 21

YL-OM Contest	SSB	1400Z	Feb 21
CQ 160-Meter Contest	SSB	0000Z	Feb 28
REF Contest	SSB	0600Z	Feb 28
UBA DX Contest	CW	1300Z	Feb 28
Mississippi QSO Party		1500Z	Feb 28
FYBO Winter QRP Field Day		1600Z	Feb 28
North American QSO Party	RTTY	1800Z	Feb 28
High Speed Club Contest	CW	0900Z	Feb 29
North Carolina QSO Party		1700Z	Feb 29

RAC Directors Report

By BJ Madsen, VE5FX

As you might imagine, the world has kind of slowed for the season. The RAC office has been closed for a couple of weeks. Immediately, in the new year, the new executive will take over as per the new slate of officers. We still have not had a candidate for treasurer come forward, unfortunately. Of course, we are hoping to have an interim director named for Quebec to replace Mr. Lamoureux who resigned that position earlier this month.

Nothing has been heard from Industry Canada following our CARAB meeting. As I mentioned earlier, their concept of moving quickly is probably somewhat different from ours!

Further to the Canada Winter Contest:

As you possibly know, the official VE#RAC stations, which count as bonus contacts, may NOT compete in the contest. Further, they must send their logs to RAC headquarters so that QSL requests can be handled by RAC headquarters rather than by the individual stations. Assistant Director Adam Romanchuk - VE4SN - and I have both sent in the logs for VE4RAC and VE5RAC.

The contest went quite well, I thought. Band conditions were better than expected with a 10 metre opening and good conditions on the other bands as well. I was able to work every province and district except for NU.

Once the new executive takes over following the new year, there might be some news, which I will pass along to you.

All the best for the upcoming 2004,

Parkside Appliance & Electronics



**Sales & Service of
Computers & Software
Home repairs offered**

John, VE4JNF

386 Belvidere Street

885-9278

<http://www.escape.ca/~ve4jnf> ve4jnf@escape.ca

QTX~ By Derek, VE4HAY



Did you know -

☞ A new net is on the air in Saskatchewan. The net is being organized by Val, VE5ACJ, and it will cater to YL's and XYL's in an attempt to get more ladies on the air. Val envisions the net on a frequency of 3752 + or - to give American ladies a chance to check in as well. She hopes to get a net controller in Saskatchewan, Alberta, and possibly British Columbia to cover Western Canada plus the northern states. She hopes to operate three times a week on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 0130 UTC time. The name of the net will be the "Laurel Ladies Net" and Val will be net manager for the net. Watch and listen for more information on this new net.

☞ e-Town Hall Website on Antenna Towers! Re-opened
This website has been re-opened to provide a brief update on the various and ongoing activities related to the National Antenna Tower Policy Review

<http://www.antennareview.ca/english/welcome.htm>

☞ Here is the web address for the RAC response to the review; http://www.antennareview.ca/pdf/RAC_Oct.pdf

☞ The following website is for the Online Course in Singapore <http://www.sarts.org.sg/online%20rae.html>

☞ The following link is for the on-line course in Australia <http://www.radioelectronicschool.com>

☞ Congratulation to Alton Breault VE4BD for being a winner in RAC's Renewing Member Recognition and Reward Program..

☞ VE4AND, is the newest recipient of the OSCAR Award (Outstanding Service Concerning Amateur Radio). Bert was presented with the award at the Christmas party last meeting. Congrat's Bert....

☞ Tom, VE4YG passed on the following site which has some very useful scripts and calculators for various RF projects <http://www.qsl.net/n9zia/wireless/page09.html>

☞ EVD to replace DVD? A move is underway to create a challenger to the now popular Digital Versatile Disc (DVD). Reports out of China, the world's biggest maker of DVD players, are that a higher-definition Enhanced Versatile Disc (EVD) is about to be mass produced.

☞ Check this web site for a great article on Manitoba Hams & DARF http://www.rac.ca/news/aia_rrdx.htm

It's the start of a brand new year. Time to sit back and reflect on how bad the bands have been, on the lack of DX, and the fact that you just still need one more County, State, Province, Country, or what ever to get that award. And how about those contests. Are you thinking that you could have done better. We ll guess what, that was last year, this is this year, and now is the time to get out to the shack, and see how much better you are at this hobby we call Amateur Radio. With so many different facets our hobby to choose from, there just has to be something to please each of year.

Are you getting bored with the hobby? Are you operating less that you used to? How about operating a different mode this year. With so many to choose fom, there has to be something out there that you were once thinking about, but just never tried. So go one, gather the required parts, break out the soldering Iron, buy the accessory required and get out there. Give it a try, be it, Fast Scan TV, RTTY, QRP, WSJT, PSK31, Pactor, Satellite, EME, APRS, CW, SSB, AM or FM. How about going up in frequency, or even down in frequency. What ever mode or band you choose does not matter, just as long as you get on the air.

Oh, you think the bands are dead do you? Can't hear anyone calling? Well I guess your right, they must be dead, after all we are in the bottom of the cycle. But what if everyone thought this. Someone has to be the first to transmit. Why not make it you. Turn on the transmitter and put out that CQ CQ CQ de ve4???. As we are a much sought after callsign, you just might start a pile up, (OK, a small pile up, but still a pile up). Go on make Manitoba proud to have Amateur Radio Operators like yourself. Put us on the map and make a fellow operator happy.

What ever you decide to do, just remember, it's your hobby, your investment and the return is only what you are willing to accept. ***Have a great New Year -- 73***

