



The NEWSCASTER

The Official Publication of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club

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

February 2004

VE4BB

Free to Members

RailRoad DX-Pedition

By David, VE4DAR

The Why, How & Who
made this event so successful

Date: February 9th, 2004

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Sturgeon Creek Regional Secondary School

The President's Call

By John, VE4QV



Thanks again to Willard, for his presentation last month. I will have a few VHS copies of it available at the next meeting. On that subject David, VE4DAR will be presenting his railroad Dxpedition at the February 9th meeting. I was unable to attend but I have first hand experience with the video that was shot as well as lots of great pictures. It looks like it was a lot of fun for all. With the brutally cold weather lately it will be nice to watch amateurs enjoying the relative warmth of a September day. Hope to see you there!

Other Important Dates:

Articles:

WARC Mar. 8 Bruce VE4KQ "How to work DX, 144 MHz and above
Apr. 19-Cafeteria - Home Brew Night
April 25 - Flea Market
May 10 - Ed VE4YU "Digital Communications"
June 14 - TBA
June 20 - Manitoba Marathon
June 26, 27 - Field Day

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 +

Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club

By Adam, VE4SN, President.



The New Year is upon us and so is the annual frigid temperature! I swear that it is considerably warmer inside my freezer than it is outdoors! But what better conditions could we ask for to complete any left-over antenna work! Of course it might be tough getting to that tower with the all the snow that has been dumped upon us. But what the heck; it shouldn't bother us hardy VE4's. As Red Green would probably say... "If the DX don't find you, then at least someone should somewhere under the snow drift!"

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 Hrabi	774-5178
Director at Large	Bob Hrabi	774-5178

Not much to report from the Club this month. Yours truly had to miss the first Board meeting of the year because of my annual medical check-up for which the appointment was made last September. I understand that all went well with a new president at the helm and a couple of new Board members. Speaking of which, here is a listing of the new Executive and the Board of Directors:

President -----	Willard Elliott	VE4WJE
Vice President -----	Irv Cosgrove	VE4UG
Secretary -----	George Gillespie	VE4GNG
Treasurer -----	Ed Henderson	VE4YU
Past President -----	Adam Romanchuk	VE4SN

DIRECTORS

Bert Andrews	VE4AND	Henry Hessner	VE4AUT
Glen Ash	VE4ASH	Colin McBeath	VE4JCM
Tom Blatch	VE4HQ	George Moodie	VE4GOM
Roger Carbotte	VE4ROG	Ed Oakes	VE4OAK
Paul Champagne	VE4OPC	Bill Shipley	VE4BYL
Grant Delaney	VE4HGD	Harry Tapper	VE4HST
Albert Diamond	VE4AX	Fred Venema	VE4FV
Gil Frederick	VE4AG		

A date has been picked for the 2004 WSCRC Christmas Luncheon. I know it's a long way to the next Holiday season but mark your calendars for Tuesday, December 7th so you won't forget!

Another upcoming event is the annual Girl Guides on the air weekend on February 21 and 22 at the club. Seems we only have one name on the list of volunteers, (happens to be mine), so we need a few more to assist and here's hoping a good number of Guides will show up.

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

Comments or if you just want to reach us :
Newscaster Editor
Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club
C/O VE4WSC
598 St. Mary's Road
Winnipeg, MB R2M 3L5
 Newsletters - past issues
<http://www.ve4.net/newsletters.html>

Finally for those who may not be aware, CNR Repeater is now under the control of VE4WSC and the club has inaugurated a daily net at 7:00 pm. There's been no official coordination as yet but it's a good idea to check in and get some idea of what is happening at the club.

**From the Planning Chair:
 Glen, VE4GWN**



I think that it would be less than honest if I said that I fully understood Willard's presentation that he gave in January. I don't blame Willard for this, but my own lack of understanding



about electronics. This being said, I still found the evening enjoyable. New ideas, and "reinventing the wheel" has always been a part of amateur radio, and it's good to

know that someone local is embracing new theories, ideas & antennas! Thank You Willard, and please keep us informed as you complete more tests. Again I'm going to post Willard's web address as I was told it was wrong in the last News Caster <http://www.members.shaw.ca/w.elliott/>.

February 9th meeting VE4DAR David's presentation will be on the **RRDX Project** & will consist of a slide show, some remarks about the project, and the World Premiere of the RRDX Project video! This should be a wonderful evening for everyone whether you attended the trip or not. It should also show everyone how to organize something like this, if you have any ideas. (I heard something mentioned about River Boats)

Also in February we plan to vote on a location for Field Day, this is one of our biggest events each year. A list of possible sites should be else where in this issue. We are still looking for someone to coordinate this event. June is FAST approaching; and I would like to see us get off on a better foot then last year.

June is also elections. This year the board of directors have been operating two short (after the vote last June to increase our size), and I also must step down from my position after three years. We need a nominating committee, and/or people interested in helping to run this club to step forward. Please contact a member of the board of directors ASAP!

As I was surfing the Internet this morning I found some information about a net that anyone beginning or even re-establishing his or her interests in C.W. may wish to look into:

Pot Lid Net (slow speed 8-12 WPM) NM Ed VE3GX
3.620 MHz 11:00 Sunday E.T.

Contact ve3gx@rac.ca for more information.

As a personal note, I have setup my own web site at: <http://www.mts.net/~ve4gwn/ve4gwn.htm>. I do make some changes from time to time so please come and check it out. I took a picture at a Saturday morning coffee a short time ago that I plan to add to the site.

WPGARES

Jeff Dovyak VE4MBQ

Our January meeting featured Manitoba ARES SEC Don Mackinnon VE4DJ who gave a thought provoking presentation on Interoperability using a 9/11 video as an example.

CANWARN Net Controllers operated VE4WWO during the Winnipeg Weather Office Open House FRI 30 JAN. Thanks to VE4s AJR, ALW, VE4SE and VE4ESX

The Amateur Radio briefing for Festival du Voyager Sled Dog Races will be held TUE 10 FEB 1900h at PSPC 4th Floor Training Room 123 Main St (Union Station). If there is no one at the door call in on 147.42 MHz for access. A few volunteers are still required for SAT 14 FEB and SUN 15FEB.

Our next General meeting is TUE 17 FEB 1900h Sir Wm Stephenson Library 765 Keewatin Street. Ron Martin VE4MGR will be giving a presentation on IRLP. March and April will have presentations on the new federal Ministry of Public Safety and the new WFPS Automatic Vehicle Location system and mobile data system.

RAC Bulletins

RAC Bulletin 03-034E -

Canadian Amateurs may lose part of the 220 MHz band

After studying the spectrum needs of various services over the past 18 months, the Radio Advisory Board of Canada (RABC) has decided to recommend to Industry Canada that the 220-222 MHz band be transferred from the amateur to the mobile service. The RABC also recommends that:

- ⊗ Amateur repeaters in this portion of the band be grandfathered to continue operation for a number of years, with the number to be decided by Industry Canada.
- ⊗ A section of 150 kHz of spectrum in the 220-222 MHz band be designated as public service spectrum to be shared by amateur and mobile services for special public safety and disaster communications applications.
- ⊗ The band 219-220 MHz is allocated on a secondary basis to the Amateur service in Canada, which would be in harmony with a similar allocation in the USA.
- ⊗ The band from 222-225 MHz remains as a primary exclusive amateur allocation.


Following consultation with Canadian amateurs in a survey conducted in July 2002 RAC, as a member of the RABC, has vigorously opposed these proposed changes without success.

Industry Canada must now take this advice, together with input from RAC, decide on a course of action, and in all likelihood conduct a public consultation before issuing a decision. The prospects do not look good. For the full story, visit the RAC web site at <http://www.rac.ca/news/canada.htm>

**DIAMOND
IMAGE**

Floyd Rolph VE4 FDR
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Minutes for W.A.R.C. January 12th, 2004

Submitted by Ed, VE4EIH

The meeting began at 19:38 hrs. The usual introductions were done, there was 44 people in attendance.

Correction to Minutes

Ruth VE4XYL didn't take the minutes for the December meeting. Eric VE4EWN Motion was made to accept the minutes as corrected. Ed. VE4OAK, second, motion passed.

Business arising.

The PA system has stopped working, and currently checking options. John VE4JNF asked if he could take the old system, to see if he could get it working again. This was agreed to.

Correspondence

- ✓ Received an email, from CNIB about their amateur radio program.
- ✓ Glen VE4GWN, explained about a letter from Almont, to see if the amateur radio clubs can donate to youth amateur radio.
- ✓ There is to be a Manitoba Marathon Tech. Committee meeting on the 16 Feb. For info contact Jeff VE4MBQ.

Financial Report

- ☞ Fred explained the current financial state. The book shows 6688 but is actually, 5988. Rental \$650.00, Insurance \$550.00, Christmas \$190.00, and RAC donation \$200.00
- ☞ Ed. Henderson VE4YU gave the auditors report. This was as of 31 July 2003, and the books were in good order.
- ☞ Fred passed out the budget copies. There was a increase from the flea markets \$1200.00 to \$1300.00 per flea market at 2 per year.
- ☞ Question about where the money goes for donations. Glen explained about Youth Amateur Radio ad DARF.
- ☞ Adam VE4SN moved that the auditors report be approved. Wayne VE4 WR 2nd. Motion passed.
- ☞ Rick VE4OV asked if the budget should be voted upon. David stated that \$730.00, 18% is going for prizes, this was just for info.
- ☞ Adam VE4SN explained that budgets are not usually voted upon, they are a guide line. Derek, noted that postage was going up. Fred said that there is a reserve for this.

- ☞ A question was asked about the book purchases. At \$85.00. Fred explained as how 3 were sold and 1 is being held in reserve.
- ☞ Tom VE4SE, explained as how the printing is done free. By Floyd Rolph VE4FDR. The money saved balances out the budget.

RAC Report

Adam VE4SN, with the RAC report. There was no news on CW 220 to 222 MHz may be lost to the amateur radio users and transferred to the transportation industry. 222-225 MHz will be amateur us only, while 220-222 MHz repeaters will be grandfathered.

Program

Glen told every one about the nights presentation from Williard VE4WJE David VE4DAR report on the Prairie Dog Special will be on February. Glen is also looking for presentation ideas.

Membership

Mark Reported that there is 116 active and paid up members.

DX

Adam DX sleuths DX available spartic opened up. The WARC bands opened. DX expeditions are becoming a rarity, due to expense.

ARES

Tom Informed that the next ARES meeting is at 20/Jan./04 at the William Stevenson Library. The sled dog meeting will be held on the 10 Feb. 04. Wayne Gave a MB ARES report. There is a new Critical Structure Developing in the McDonald Bldg. There having a extensive Amateur radio station setup. MB ARES had HF course for the ERTS users. The user would be trappers, hunters, fishermen, etc. This is using 160 MHz equipment. This is on marine channel 24. MB ares operates a HF net on the 4th Sunday of every month. At 7.070 MHz. Wayne is planning a DX expedition with China. Wayne also has mini expeditions to Belize and Guiana.

New Business

Require nomination committee for the up and coming WARC executive elections.

John, explained that WARC and MRS are in the preliminary discussions towards a IRPL node. A question was asked about what site. Glen explained that, the UM IRPL node is hooked in with other computers and is busy.

Wayne informed that he just purchased a 30 ft tower with a building in Petersfield. That there may be use.

Dick, motioned that the meeting be concluded Eric 2nd. Motion was passed. Meeting ended at 2016 hrs. Mariska VE4MMG won the membership prize. Fred VE4TRO won the door prize.

Contest Calendar

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

March

AGCW YL Party	CW	1900Z	Mar 2
SSA 10 m Aktivitetstest	CW/SSB/FM	1700Z	Mar 4
ARRL Inter. DX Contest	Phone	0000Z	Mar 6
Open Ukraine Championship	RTTY	2200Z	Mar 6
DARC 10-Meter	Digital	1100Z	Mar 7
Pesky Texan Armadillo Chase		0200Z	Mar 11
YLISB QSO Party	SSB	0000Z	Mar 13

RSGB Commonwealth Contest	CW	1000Z	Mar 13
DIG QSO Party (10 - 20 m)	SSB	1200Z	Mar 13
AGCW QRP Contest		1400Z	Mar 13
SOC Marathon Sprint		1800Z	Mar 13
North American Sprint	RTTY	0000Z	Mar 14
UBA Spring Contest	CW	0700Z	Mar 14
DIG QSO Party (80 m)	SSB	0700Z	Mar 14
DIG QSO Party (40 m)	SSB	0900Z	Mar 14
NSARA Contest		1200Z	Mar 14
SSA Månadstest nr 3	CW	1400Z	Mar 14
SSA Månadstest nr 3	SSB	1515Z	Mar 14
Wisconsin QSO Party		1800Z	Mar 14
BARTG Spring	RTTY	0200Z	Mar 20
SARL VHF/UHF Contest		1000Z	Mar 20
Russian DX Contest		1200Z	Mar 20
DARC	SSTV	1200Z	Mar 20
AGCW VHF/UHF Contest		1600Z	Mar 20
Virginia QSO Party		1800Z	Mar 20
9KCC 15m	CW/SSB	1200Z	Mar 21
Spring QRP Homebrewer Sprint		0000Z	Mar 22
CQ WW WPX Contest	SSB	0000Z	Mar 27
Oklahoma QSO Party		1300Z	Mar 27
CLARA and Family HF Contest		1700Z	Mar 27
9K 15-Meter Contest		1200Z	Mar 28
QRP Homebrewer Sprint	CW/PSK31	0000Z	Mar 29

53rd. Hamvention Dayton Ohio May 14 - 16, 2004

Hamvention® is the world's largest amateur radio gathering and trade show.

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- ☞ our Forums where you can meet and hear authorities on all facets of amateur radio
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News from the Net

Croatian Amateurs go code free

9A amateurs now no longer have to pass a Morse code test for access to the HF bands. The Morse code requirement for an HF bands licence was also dropped with the new regulations and there are now only two licence classes there: the full licence and a beginners' licence.

P29 Goes Code Free

The principal legal officer for PANGTEL has given an opinion confirming P29 Z calls - those holding a Limited Amateur Operator's Certificate of Proficiency, have access to all HF bands granted by PANGTEL. Board meeting minutes are currently unavailable, but to allow P29 amateurs to jointly celebrate the change with VK amateurs, permission was urgently sought over the last week or so.

PCSAT Ops Going Well

PCsat is doing fine and will continue in good Sun through New Years Eve. Seeing about 50 users per day and 30 per pass over the USA. Any packet station can copy her, just tune 145.825 and watch (1200 baud normal AX.25 packet). To transmit though her, just set your unproto to UNPROTO APRS VIA WIDE, go to CONVERSE and type something to someone else you see. This is the same path as APRS users use terrestrially. (RELAY, PCSAT-1 and W3ADO-1 also work.) Sapphire (45) is 10 minutes behind PCsat in the same orbit. Her uplink is 145.945 and very weak downlink is on 437.095 +/- Doppler. Her digi callsign is VIA KE6QMD. ISS is not doing packet these days, but we can hope. During travels, set your mobile to 145.825. When you hear one PCSAT pass, the next one is exactly 100 minutes later and the NEXT day the same pass is 30 minutes earlier. (And Sapphire is 10 minutes behind it but takes a UHF beam to hear it on 437.095, though it is easy to hit on 145.945.)

Croatian Amateurs Gain New Bands, 100KHz at 40 Metres

Croatia has become the first country in Region 1 to benefit from the expansion of the 40-metre band agreed at the World Radio Conference in Switzerland last summer. 9A amateurs have also been given privileges at 70 and 3400 MHz and now no longer have to pass a Morse code test for access to the HF bands.

New amateur radio regulations came into effect in Croatia on the 26th of December. Since then, amateurs there may operate between 7100 and 7200 kHz on a Secondary basis, with a maximum power of 1000 watts PEP, in addition to the normal Region 1 allocation of 7000 to 7100 kHz. On 4 metres, Croatian amateurs now have 70.000 to 70.450 MHz, with a power limit of 10 watts. They also gain a new band between 3400 and 3410 MHz, with a maximum permitted power of 150 watts.

Icom solution enables VoIP amateur radio

Icom America recently announced the first EchoLink over D-Star contact between Ham radio operators in Bellevue, Wash., and several cities in Ohio. The successful contact established that Ham operators now have the ability to use EchoLink and other voice-over-Internet protocol (VoIP) technologies even in mobile or remote locations, the company said. EchoLink uses VoIP technology to transmit voice signals digitally from one PC to another, while the D-Star platform provides 128 kb/s data transmission over the air on the 1.2 GHz amateur band. - IWCE/MRT, Jan 29 2004

ARRL Asks for code free license

The ARRL will ask the FCC to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license that would include HF phone privileges without requiring a Morse code test. The League also will propose consolidating all current licensees into three classes, retaining the Element 1 Morse requirement--now 5 WPM--only for the highest class. The entry-level license class--being called "Novice" for now--would require a 25-question written exam. It would offer limited HF CW/data and phone/image privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters as well as VHF and UHF privileges on 6 and 2 meters and on 222-225 and 430-450 MHz. Power output would be restricted to 100 W on 80, 40, and 15 meters and to 50 W on 10 meters and up, thus avoiding the need for the more complex RF safety questions in the Novice question pool. (HF PACK RELAY) -- WIA - Queensland = Qnews

Yes it's coming.... And soon.

Home Brew Night

April 19th

What have you decided to build ? If you start now, you should have it built in time for the big night. So start building and show your soldering prowess by bringing your project out on April 14th, to be judged by your fellow hams. If you are lost for idea's, check out these sites on home brew projects.

<http://homepage.tinet.ie/~ei9gq/homebrew.html>

<http://www.ku4ay.net/homebrew.html>

<http://www.ac6v.com/homebrew.htm>

<http://www.ac6v.com/homebrew.htm>

<http://wb0nni.dakotamade.com/>

<http://www.qsl.net/ve3rgw/dream.html>

<http://www.tecsolv.com/cq/>

History of The Winnipeg Repeater Society

I am looking for information on the history of Winnipeg Repeater Society, from 1968 until 1990. I am looking specifically for dates that VE4GIM in Gimli, VE4NEP in Neepawa, VE4CDN in St. Jean, and VE4BMR in Baldy Mountain first went on the air. I would also like to know exactly when the 2 meter nets began. Any other details of important events in the history of WRS would be appreciated. (Manitoba Repeater Society was originally known as Winnipeg Repeater Society)

Contact Dick VE4HK on VE4WPG repeater, at the Golden Arches most Saturday mornings, at WARC meetings, phone 256-3143, or ve4hk@rac.ca

Reflections of 2003

by: **Tedd Vidler – VE4VID**

Each of us has memories that we tend to reflect upon as the year draws to a close. For myself there were many milestones but I'll stick to the hobby of amateur radio as that is where we share a common hobby interest. I'll try to keep the events in sequence and not bounce around too much.

In January, after many attempts to learn Morse code I enrolled in the evening classes at VE4WSC. This time with more determination, as I had all the equipment needed to operate on the HF bands. March 3rd 2003 saw the successful completion of testing for the first group and I came home "on cloud nine" as I managed to pass.

The month of March 2003 saw a good number of HF contacts including one 50 minute CW contact which left me feeling totally wiped out. What a blast that was. In March Harm VE4HAZ suggested that I try contesting for fun as time permitted and my first contest was March 29-30, 2003. He was right. It can be fun and educational.

In April I obtained a Yaesu FT-840 transceiver which provided the opportunity to operate mobile on a trip to Alberta in early May. By the long weekend I went camping and while there entered another contest from Lac Du Bonnet. I actually won the Manitoba certificate for that one.

Operating mobile permitted me to operate on my own call sign during field day 2003 from different locations in

Winnipeg. The operating mobile continued during travel to the Peace Garden for the International Hamfest. Several times while camping I was privileged to operate portable and worked several DX stations.

A special treat for me was operating on the Prairie Dog Central DX expedition. For me, being one of the operators VE4RAC for the Canadian Winter Contest closed off the year with a great blast. It's hard to believe that I worked 178 contacts on 2m, 10m, 15m and 20 bands in between four and five hours.

The moral of the story is that I couldn't have done any of these great things if I hadn't taken that CW course. If you have had someone tell you not to bother as we'll get access soon anyway like I did . . . DON'T LISTEN TO THEM. If a course isn't possible, tapes and computer software will get you a good start and a mentor is probably waiting to be asked for help.

My thanks to all of you who helped with encouragement and in so many ways along the trip. For me the year 2003 was a great year and my log book proves it, with an excess of 680 contacts with over 600 on HF in about ten months.

RAC Directors Report

By **BJ Madsen, VE5FX**

Not much has been happening recently - the new President, Daniel Lamoureux, attended a meeting with the ARRL last weekend, at Newington, CT. No reports have been received about the outcome of this meeting.

RAC is still without a treasurer.

Ken Pulfer, VE3PU who most recently served as VP of Government and International Affairs, has accepted the newly-created position of Assistant to the President. Ken had served out his term as VP and was not eligible to continue in that position.

A very nice article has been posted to the RAC InterNet WEBSITE about the Prairie Dog Central train expedition.

Has your club met the RAC Youth Education Program Challenge yet? Do you want to contribute to a cause that has the potential to do so much for Amateur Radio? See our WEBSITE at <http://www.rac.ca> with a link to "Youth Ed. Program" for details on how to participate. Several clubs, including the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club and the Regina Amateur Radio Association have come forward already.



Amateur Radio Hamfest

2004

March 13th
8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

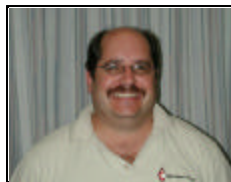
Red River Valley Fairgrounds - West Fargo, North Dakota

Admission \$5.00 Check the following web site for Hotel, Table rental and more information

http://www.rrra.org/2004_hamfest.htm

QTX~

By Derek, VE4HAY



OK, It's almost St. Valentines Day/ One of my favourite times of the year. The is where careful planning and execution really pays off. Remember the sweepstakes last year, or that night of great DX, or when you just had to get that one last station to complete that award you have spent years trying to finish off. Well Valentine's Day is where all of this gets paid back. Yes, it's time to spend some time with the XYL, YL or OM. Let them have their day... lay it on good and thick. Just keep thinking about Field Day and all the other upcoming events for 2004. I know I spoil my girls rotten with cards, chocolate flower & plants.

I have been the Section Manager in the VE4 section for 5 years now (2 1/2 terms). As such, I feel it is time to pass over the reigns to someone lese. Someone with new fresh ideas and enthusiasm So if you are in the least bit interested in this position, please consider taking it on. The only

requirement is, since it is a elected position in the Filed Service Division of RAC, you must be a RAC member. And you are a member right? If you would like any information on what the position entails, please get in touch with me. I was hoping that one of the ARES EC's in this section would have come forward, but so far no one has.

This newsletter is normally 10 sides long. Right now we are on page 8. So the next two pages are blank. They were being held for your article. You know the one I'm talking about. The one you were going to write one day. Well I'm still waiting and hold space for you.....

Did you know -

☛ Youth Education - There seems to be quite a lot happening in this area. A VE5 has put up the WEBSITE <http://homepage.usask.ca/~bdb368/ham/basic/index.htm> which is geared to his 14 year old daughter's needs as she studies for her license. We are, as you can imagine, encouraging him to keep working on it so that other young people can also benefit

Parkside Appliance & Electronics



**Sales & Service of
Computers & Software
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John, VE4JNF

386 Belvidere Street 885-9278
<http://www.escape.ca/~ve4jnf> ve4jnf@escape.ca

Silent Key

Stanley Kennaugh VE4XP
December 30th, 2003
Orvis Skelton - VE4OS
January 5th, 2004