



The NEWSCASTER

The Official Publication of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club

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

April 2004

VE4BB

Free to Members

Home Brew Night Display your best Project

Date: April 12, 2004

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Sturgeon Creek Regional Secondary School

The President's Call

By John, VE4QV



What an exciting next few months we have coming up. We have some great programs to take us into the summer. It was obvious that Bruce VE4KQ put a lot of effort into preparing his presentation at the last meeting and clearly VHF and UHF DX is a passion for him. Thanks again Bruce. Of course April's meeting features "Home Brew Night". Amateur radio was started on the basis of experimentation and in that spirit, this is your chance to show off your latest project. Our Field Day coordinator will be announce at the April meeting and already plans are underway for a great weekend at the end of June.

There was a proposal that the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club explore the possibility of a joint project with the Manitoba Repeater Society that would see the creation of a new IRLP (Internet Radio Linking Project) node in Winnipeg. The following points came out of the meeting between your WARC executive and Manitoba Repeater Society executive regarding a possible joint ILRP node:

Both clubs seem to generally feel that having a reliable easy to access IRLP node would be of benefit to a significant number of radio amateurs.

Other Important Dates:

Articles:

WARC 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

Aug. 26 - Picnic in St. Vital Park

ARES: April 20 - WFPS Vehicle Location System

May 8 - CANWARN Spotter Training

Other: Apr 17 - Country Dance - Interlake Amateur Club

Apr 18th - World Amateur Radio Day

May 14-16 - Dayton Hamvention

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	lcgaudry@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

As a joint project, WARC would be responsible for supplying the computer as well as paying for the on-going high speed Internet connection required. One of our members has already offered a suitable computer to the club at no cost. The DSL lite Internet connection is expected to cost approximately \$ 700.00 per year. While the computer system will be donated, there is still a card required for the computer with an anticipated cost of \$ 100 - \$ 200. WARC will find a suitable system administrator within its membership.

MRS would supply the repeater and antenna system as well as the basic phone line connection. The call sign for the repeater would remain as VE4WRS and the phone patch that it currently is used for would still be available if needed.

Both WARC and MRS are interested in this being a long-term project but it is agreed that should either club wish to withdraw from the project a one year notification would be required.

Because of the nature of the location of the repeater and possibly the computer system access would need to be with the presence of a designated MRS member.

While WARC currently has a more than sufficient funds for this project this year, it is conceivable with an on-going expense of about \$ 700.00 per year at some time in the future either membership dues may need to be increased slightly, other forms of fundraising be explored.

This is an exciting project that I think can have a great impact on our amateur community. If you would like to find out what IRLP is, how it works, and what you can do with it more information is available at the following web site:

<http://www.irlp.net/>

I hope to see you all at the next meeting!

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>

DIAMOND IMAGE
 Floyd Rolph VE4 FDR
 835 Cavalier Drive Tel: (204) 888-3227
 Winnipeg, MB R2Y 1C6 Fax: (204) 831-6400

- South Western & Victorian home decor
- ty Beanie Babies
- Balloon bouquets & decorating
- Gifts
- Printing eg: Business cards, letterhead, envelopes
- Wedding invitations

World Amateur Radio Day April 18th, 2004

"Radio Amateurs: Pioneers in Bridging Barriers to World Understanding." is the theme this year for World Amateur Radio Day on April 18, 2004 which marks the anniversary of the founding of the IARU in 1925.



Radio Amateurs of Canada now offers a Certificate of Proficiency in Morse Code, to be administered by the RAC Awards Manager, to recognize voluntary candidate Morse code reception proficiency at speeds of 12, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, and 40 WPM. A new dated certificate will be issued with each new 'qualification' earned. The examination and certificate are also available in the French language. A charge of \$5 is assessed to cover printing, handling and postage costs.

Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club

By Adam, VE4SN,
Past-President.



A great deal of credence was given to that old saying.... "If you don't like the weather in Winnipeg, just wait five minutes!"... How else could we explain the happening a couple of weeks back when we awoke to heavy winds, lots of snow and blizzard conditions that closed a number of highways in the province and just a short time later we were almost basking in sunlight enjoying t-shirt conditions!! Mind you, the water on the streets was axle high and there still was lots of the white stuff!!

I mention weather because I feel that the recent cold spell in our city was the cause for a somewhat small turnout for our monthly breakfast gathering at Garden City. Only 21 showed up on March 11. The winner of a freebie meal was Em Flight, VE4FE, who had his name drawn by Lauryn Henderson, Ed's (VE4YU) granddaughter.

Cool weather may also have been a factor in keeping folks away from our annual Chili Cook-off. The contest aspect of this year's event was shelved because of the lack of contestants. Nonetheless, of the twelve members and guests who participated on March 9th, no one complained of lack of or quality of the chili that was served. Although yours truly had a previous commitment and could not make the event, I heard that a good time was had by all those who did!

The Morse code classes have been officially ended. Of the nine remaining students, there were seven who graduated and the remaining two will continue to practice at home and will try the exam when they feel they are ready.

Still on the training circuit, a Packet Radio forum was held at the club on March 6. There were 14 attendees and according to Henry Hessner, VE4AUT, all went very well and there are a number of hams now who have a better understanding of Packet.

At this month's Executive Board meeting, several ideas for social events were tossed around but right now it's all in the embryonic stage. More information will be provided as these ideas mature. However all the necessary arrangements have been made for our annual picnic in St. Vital Park, by the Duck Pond. Please mark August 26 on the calendar as the date for the picnic. Let's hope for good weather and a huge turnout!

Remember, as we giddily and eagerly anticipate the arrival of Spring, keep in mind those two sobering words..... "Spring Cleaning!!!" 73 to all.

WPGARES

Jeff Dovyak VE4MBQ

Our March General meeting featured Andrea McDonald from OCIPEP who gave us a very interesting presentation on the new federal Ministry of Public Safety and Security overall as well upcoming changes in the local office and the opportunities that will be created for ARES involvement. There was some discussion of the VE4MAN situation with regard to the CBC lease.

Our April General Meeting will be TUE 20 APR 1900h Sir Wm Stephenson Library 765 Keewatin Street. Ed Richardson VE4EAR (Radiocommunication Engineer City of Winnipeg) will be giving us a presentation on the WFPS Automatic Vehicle Location System and data system.

WPGARES will have tables at the WARC Flea Market as usual. Besides the fundraising component two of the three Coordinators will be present to answer questions about ARES operations and sign-up interested Amateurs for the Manitoba Marathon SUN 20JUNE as well as for CANWARN Spotter Training.

CANWARN Spotter Training will run 0900-1600h SAT 08 MAY at the Prairie Storm Prediction Centre 4th Floor 123 Main St (Union Station). Anyone interested in attending should register with their local ARES Coordinator or Jeff VE4MBQ by SUN 25 APR. You do not have to be an ARES member to be a CANWARN Spotter. We are doing a group lunch at The Old Spaghetti Factory, \$10.50 per person including taxes and gratuity, choice of Veal Parmigianna, Lasagna, Chicken Penne, or Manicotti. Jay Anderson has some interesting new storm video footage from the U.S.

2005 SASKATCHEWAN CENTENNIAL
HAMFEST
Co-hosted by
Meewasin Amateur Radio Society
Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club

July 22, 23, and 24th

The web site is just getting started but you will soon be able to get the beginnings of the info.
<http://www.saskhamfest.com/>

Minutes for W.A.R.C. March 8th, 2004

Submitted by Ed, VE4EIH

The meeting started at 1935 hrs, with intros being done. There were 35 members present. David VE4DAR noted that "Up to" for the cost of a new PA system was not there this was noted, and corrected. Derek VE4HAY accepted minutes David VE4DAR seconded. Minutes were voted and accepted. John, introduced the membership to the new PA system. The total cost was \$125.00 plus taxes. The new system is the same as was used for the past two months. John explained as how WARC is looking for a field day coordinator. There is info on the various needs, to run it. Any one interested can contact a member of the exec. Glen Received a E-mail from Bruce. He is looking for help, for CNIB Armature Radio. They are looking for help with there web site.

Financial

The current totals are \$6035 in the bank. The club received \$24.50 from the 50/50 draw, a renewal \$15.00. The expenses \$64.00 for postage.

Programming

Glen informed the members of to nights speaker. Bruce VE4KQ, and how to work DX on 144 MHZ and above. April is home brew night. Any one who has a entry will but their name in a hat. May is Ed VE4YU, and will talk on digital communications. June is elections. Glen's time is on the exec is up. The Exec is short by two. Looking for a nominating comity, or volunteers for the exec. Glen noted that Floyd VE4FDR was present. Floyd prints, the WARC news letter at no cost. There was a round of applause, in gratitude.



Membership

Mark informed the membership that there is 121 current members.

ARES

The next, ARES meeting is 16 April. David has the Manitoba Marathon sign up sheets. The sheets are making their rounds.

DX

Adam VE4SN DX for those who work ARRL had sideband. 160 is gone 40 not bad. Adam explained on DCCX certificates. Adam heard Cambodia XU7. Wasn't working North American. But was working some E. Europeans and Russians.

RAC

Adam, reported that there is nothing to report on C.W. Few other countries have dropped it. Canada is only a matter of time, before it is dropped. The Director and the Assistant Director in the Maritimes have resigned. The Atlantic region has gone through 3 directors in four years. Adam may have more information coming.

Section Manager

Derek told members that, in the News Caster, he is looking for a Section Manager. He has done 2 and ½ terms. Rob VE4RRB, is looking to step up and run as Coordinator. Rob needs 6 signatures of members of RAC to run as Coordinator.

Glen Has made contact with the Teacher coordinating the 30 hour famine. The teacher is going to talk to the students, to check their interest level. Sturgeon Creek has 2 students are Armature radio operators.

Flea Market

Bob the Flea market is on the 25 April. It is to be held at the same place. Bob noted that, 275 attended the last flea market, and is looking for 300 to attend. Bob informed members that he would like to extend the Flea Market till 1300 hrs. Derek noted that it is usually dead by 1200. Bob informed members that, by extending there could be time for MRS to have a meeting. Ed VE4YU asked why not have auction first then sale. Bob, said with the auction at the end, the sellers, can cut prices, and not have to take boxes home. Dick told as to how there was lots of problems with auctions in previous flea markets. People would bring in junk. That was why it went to Flea Market format. This is on a trial bases if it works, it will stay. If it does not work it is gone. Bob informed members that he is trying to bring life in to the Flea Market. David asked about those who bought tables, would they have to stay? Bob informed Those that wish to leave, may. Glen as suggestion those that wish to leave

would have about 15 minutes before the auction begins. Those the ones who stay, can auction off their items. Dick Brought up on how people who put their names and call signs on tickets worked better than 50/50 draw tickets. Louie, asked if the P/A system was going to be brought in. No one can hear the speakers. Bob agreed saying that the speakers are no good. Ed. VE4OAK voted to accept the new closing time. John VE4JNF second. The membership voted and approved.

The International Ham Fest is on the 12 to 13 July. The 30 June is the last day for submissions for Armature of The Year.

New Biz.

Bob, explained about WARC Exec, and MRS Exec, getting together to discuss a IRPL node. Bob explained, how the UMR repeater was no good. The IRPL node would be owned by WARC, and on a MRS repeater. This would put Winnipeg on the map. This resulted in a lively discussion. The main questions were, who would maintain the node. Members were concerned about costs. David VE4DAR thought that the reasons, costs for 5 years in advance should be in the News Caster. Dick explained that MRS has a few questions, the meeting between MRS and WARC Exec. are to hash things over. John will report to members, on next meeting as to the result.

Good and Welfare

Roy has extra copies of the MRS newsletter. Next MRS meeting is 22 April at 1900 hrs. All interested people are invited to attend. This is for the elections of new officers and have a annual meeting.

The VE4MAN repeater on the CBC tower in Starbuck, is coming up for renewal. Lease expires in August of this year. CBC in trying to recoup costs, will charging \$2400 a year. There is a form letter on the MRS web site. Armature operators can download it, and snail mail it or sign it electronically and send it to their MP.

Tedd VE4VIDD voted to adjourn the meeting, Roy VE4EN seconded, members voted and approved. Meeting adjourned at 2022 hrs. VE4BYC won the 50/50 draw a storage cabinet, While Gord VE4OK won the membership draw, a Multi meter

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

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

You are invited to attend:

- ☞ our Forums where you can meet and hear authorities on all facets of amateur radio
 - ☞ 500 inside exhibit spaces where the exhibitors are showing their latest equipment and are available to answer questions about their products
 - ☞ our HUGE 2500+ space outdoor vendor area!
- Come meet your friends, make new ones and remember: "If you can't find it at Dayton, you'll never find it!"

Experience amateur radio tradition..
..visit Hamvention®!



We held a dance nearly 2 years ago and it was a sold out success as a fund raiser to buy the piece of property we bought with the tower on it. If you need any more information on this you can e-mail hambel@mts.net

From the Planning Chair: Glen, VE4GWN



Again I must extend my thanks to Bruce VE4KQ, for his excellent presentation. I have always believed that VHF-DXing to be interesting, but have never tried it myself (roving sounds fun). I have always known that amateur radio had something for everyone, but I never would have believed that 'customizing' trucks and vans was a part of ham radio. Some of those 'mobile antenna farms' could be a topic for a presentation themselves.



The April 12th meeting will be home brew night. Home brewing has always been a very important part of our hobby; unfortunately technology has ALMOST made this aspect of amateur radio obsolete. Every year I learn something new at home brew night, so please bring your projects along with schematics, plans, test results or what ever with you. As in the past few years we will draw 4 winners. Some feel that this isn't a fair way to judge home brew projects, but considering that an amateur with his advanced is allowed to build transmitters and amplifiers, and those of us who haven't obtained this qualification (yet) can't. How can you compare their work? Also I must ask, "who could we get to judge"?

At the time of my writing this I THINK that we finally have someone to do Field Day. If I get a confirmation, before I send this off to Derek I'll amend this paragraph stating whom the coordinator is. I know that he/she/they will get all the support needed to have a successful field day.

We still are looking for a nominating committee for this year. If you wish to stand on this committee (which ends in June) please come forward. Also if you wish to nominate someone for next year's board of directors please pass your nomination on to a board member (after you confirm that your nomination will be accepted).

To give an idea of how easy it is to be on the board of directors I'll use the program chair for an example. There are 10 meetings each year. We have a meet and greet every September leaving 9 meetings. There is the Christmas party, home brew, and elections night leaving only 6 meetings to fill. I already have two presentations for next year. There

you go, you now have over half the year completed. Most of what I have had to do has been by phone and e-mail with the occasional letter. If you have a program you wish to present, or know of something you wish to have please contact me and I'll pass it along.

I'm sure that our editor Derek VE4HAY, will have something about this issue, just in case, CBC is planning to start charging the MRS for use of their tower. I won't repeat things here. I will state that I have already sent a letter to my M.P. Check out <http://ve4.net/mrs/> for more info.

I'm now going to take the liberty and change hats. This year I am the QSL manager for VE4WWO during the 2003 SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD). I just finished doing up another 6 cards, all going to the U.S. and I notice that I'm the only Winnipeg station that sent a QSL card to the Weather Office. The rules for QSLing on SRD are simple; if you want a QSL card you have to send one, with a SASE. If you give it to me in person you don't need postage. (Sorry Pat)

I would like to thank the members of VE4WSC and Werner VE4UA for the packet radio course that was run on March 6th. I was one of a number of people who attended this informational morning (giving up coffee at McDonalds), and I'm glad that I did attend. I hope you have more sessions like this one in the future.

The club (VE4BB@rac.ca) has received e-mail from two amateurs coming to Winnipeg in June. Listen out for 63-year-old Bob W4OU who will be here to run his first Marathon, and Ed WA2JXI who will be heading to Lynn Lake, then north for some fishing. Ed will be driving through, and is also taking his FT 817. Ed's e-mail is dogman@msn.com if you wish to arrange a sched. with him. I know that we will make both of these fellow hams, as well and all the others who come to Winnipeg and area feel welcome.

Hope to see you at home brew

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

Contest Calendar

April

SARL 80m QSO Party		1700Z	Apr 1
SSA 10m Aktivitetstest CW/SSB/FM		1700Z	Apr 1
IYLRC Elettra Marconi CW/SSB/RTTY		1300Z	Apr 3
Kids Roundup		1400Z	Apr 3
SP DX Contest		1500Z	Apr 3
EA	RTTY	1600Z	Apr 3
Missouri QSO Party		1800Z	Apr 3
And		1800Z	Apr 4
QCWA QSO Party		1800Z	Apr 4
RSGB RoPoCo 1		0700Z	Apr 4
144 MHz Spring Sprint	1900 local		Apr 5
ARS Spartan Sprint		0100Z	Apr 6
JIDX CW Contest		0700Z	Apr 10
ARCI Spring QSO Party		1200Z	Apr 10
EU Spring Sprint	SSB	1500Z	Apr 10
DIG QSO Party (10 - 20 m)	CW	1700Z	Apr 10
Georgia QSO Party		1800Z	Apr 10
And		1400Z	Apr 11
CIS DX Contest	SSB	1900Z	Apr 11
UBA Spring Contest	SSB	0600Z	Apr 11
DIG QSO Party (80 m)	CW	0900Z	Apr 11
DIG QSO Party (40 m)	CW	1100Z	Apr 11
SARL Hamnet 40m Simulated Emerg		1200Z	Apr 11
Low Power Spring Sprint	CW	1400Z	Apr 12
222 MHz Spring Sprint	1900 local		Apr 13
Holyland DX Contest		0000Z	Apr 17
TARA Skirmish Digital Prefix		0000Z	Apr 17
ES Open HF Championship		0500Z	Apr 17
YU DX Contest		1200Z	Apr 17
GACW CW DX	CW	1200Z	Apr 17
EU Spring Sprint	CW	1500Z	Apr 17
SSA Månadstest nr 4	SSB	1400Z	Apr 18
SSA Månadstest nr 4	CW	1515	Apr 18
Michigan QSO Party		1600Z	Apr 17
Ontario QSO Party		1800Z	Apr 17
World Amateur Radio Day Party		0000Z	Apr 18
432 MHz Spring Sprint	1900 local		Apr 21
Harry Angel Memorial Sprint		1100Z	Apr 23
SP DX RTTY Contest		1200Z	Apr 24
Helvetia Contest		1300Z	Apr 24
QRP to the Field		1500Z	Apr 24
Florida QSO Party		1600Z	Apr 24
And		1200Z	Apr 25
Kentucky QSO Party		1600Z	Apr 24
Nebraska QSO Party		1700Z	Apr 24
EUCW/FISTS QRS Party		0001Z	Apr 25
Harry Angel Memorial Sprint CW/SSB		1100Z	Apr 25

May

US IPARC Annual	CW	0000Z	May 1
MARAC County Hunters	CW	0000Z	May 1
UBA Welcome European Union		0000Z	May 1
10-10 Int. Spring	CW	0001Z	May 1
2 GHz and Up		0600 local	May 1
Microwave Spring Sprint		0600 local	May 1
AGCW QRP/QRP Party		1300Z	May 1
Indiana QSO Party		1500Z	May 1
ARI International DX		2000Z	May 1
New England QSO Party		2000Z	May 1
	and	1300Z	May 2
US IPARC Annual	SSB	0000Z	May 2
RSGB 80m Club Championship	SSB	2000Z	May 3
ARS Spartan Sprint		0100Z	May 4
Nevada QSO Party		0000Z	May 8
SL -	CW	1100Z	May 8
VOLTA WW	RTTY	1200Z	May 8
SL -	SSB	1230Z	May 8
Oregon QSO Party		1400Z	May 8
Mid-Atlantic QSO Party		1600Z	May 8
FISTS Spring Sprint		1700Z	May 8
CQ-M Int. DX -	CW/SSB/SSTV	2100Z	May 8
50 MHz Spring Sprint		2300Z	May 8
RSGB 80m Club Championship	Data	2000Z	May 8
Anatolian WW RTTY -	RTTY	1800Z	May 8
Portuguese Navy Day HF		0800Z	May 15
US Counties QSO Party -	SSB	0000Z	May 15
Manchester Mineira	CW	1500Z	May 15
His Maj. King of Spain	CW	1800Z	May 15
ARCI Newcomer's Run		1800Z	May 15
SSA Portabeltest Våromg. -	CW	0700Z	May 16
SS SSA Månadstest nr 5 -	SSB	1400Z	May 16
A Månadstest nr 5 -	CW	1515Z	May 16
RSGB 80m Club Championship	CW	2000Z	May 20
VK/Trans-Tasman 80m	Phone	0800Z	May 22
Baltic -	CW/SSB	2100Z	May 22
AGCW Activity Week		0000Z	May 24
CQ WW WPX	CW	0000Z	May 29
Great Lakes QSO Party		0000Z	May 29
ARCI Hootowl Sprint		2000 local	May 30
MI QRP Memorial Day	CW	2300Z	May 31

Silent Key

Lloyd Lee VE4JN - Feb 23rd

John Walker - VE4WX - March 12th

Joseph Nix - VE4NA - March 13th

Edward Hardy - ex-VE4HE - March 12th

News from the Net

New Version of WSJT Released

Joe Taylor K1JT has released the latest version of his WSJT software suite. Version 4.5.0 was released on Thursday 4 March 2004, and includes a more powerful decoder for JT65, and new modes FSK441B and FSK441C with FEC features. The JT65 modes employ an entirely new decoding algorithm that uses "soft decisions" to recover the transmitted message. The message format and Reed-Solomon encoding are unchanged, so the JT65A, B, and C modes are fully compatible with earlier versions. However, the new decoder is more sensitive by slightly more than 1 dB. It is based on software licensed from CodeVector Technologies, LLC, and protected under United States Patent 6,634,007. As usual, however, WSJT is freely available for amateur radio use. Changes to the JT65 modes are "under the hood," and except for the improved performance you will find them mostly invisible. The new decoder can be somewhat slower than the one in v4.3.4, depending on details of the received data. The software can be downloaded from K1JT's website

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

--*South African Radio League*

6 Metres

Following a meeting between IRTS and ComReg representatives held on Wednesday February the 25th, the society is pleased to announce that it has secured the lifting of restrictions on the 6-metre band. All experimenters are now licensed to use this band with a power limit of 20dBW. We stress that there is no need to apply for specific permission to use the band. Unfortunately, there is no change in the 4-metre band licensing requirements.-- *IRISH RADIO TRANSMITTERS SOCIETY*

The Manitoba Repeater Society appeals for help.

It seems like after 30 years of a very successful working relationship, the CBC has decided that they would like to charge \$2400.00 per year to allow the VE4MAN repeater to reside on their Starbuck tower. The executive of the Manitoba Repeater Society (MRS) has tried to explain that they just can not afford such a cost, and would like to be exempt from their corporate financial policy. Their request has been rejected. MRS are urging everyone who uses the VHF & UHF repeaters &/or linking system to write a letter to their Member of parliament, listing the fact that Amateur radio provides a public good and aid in times of emergency, and urging them to support an exemption to the CBC's new policy on charging for access to their tower space.

(Thanks to The Manitoba Repeater Society for this story) <http://ve4.net/mrs/manhelp.htm> -- RAC

Tim Ellam VE6SH, elected to 5 year term as IARU Vice President

The Secretary of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Dave Sumner K1ZZ, announced today that in voting completed on March 16, IARU's member-societies overwhelmingly ratified the re-election of Larry E. Price, W4RA, as President, and the election of Timothy S. Ellam, VE6SH/G4HUA, as Vice President, for five-year terms beginning 9 May 2004. Radio Amateurs of Canada is one of the 159 member-societies of the IARU. Tim Ellam, VE6SH/G4HUA, is a Barrister and Solicitor with the law firm of McCarthy Tetrault LLP and is a partner in the firm's Calgary, Alberta and London, UK offices. Born in England, Tim emigrated to Canada in 1972 and holds both Canadian and British/EU citizenship. He earned the degrees Bachelor of Arts, Political Science and Economics from the University of Calgary and LLB, Faculty of Law from the University of Alberta, Edmonton, and is a member of the Law Societies of Alberta and England & Wales as well as of the International Bar Association. He has served as an IARU Expert Consultant since 2000, represented the IARU at the 2002 meeting of the ITU Special Committee on Regulatory and Procedural Matters and the 2002 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference, and appeared as a speaker and panelist at the ITU Americas Telecom 2000 in Rio de Janeiro and ITU Africa Telecom 2001 in Johannesburg. First licensed in 1977 at the age of 16, he has held executive positions in RAC and one of its predecessor organizations CRRL, starting in 1990.

Retiring IARU Vice President Dr. David A. Wardlaw, VK3ADW, was honored for his accomplishments during his term of office at the closing Plenary of the IARU Region 3 Conference in Taipei on 20 February. Dr. Wardlaw served as a member of the Australian delegation to WRC-2000 and WRC-03, and represented the IARU at preparatory meetings of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity. His participation contributed substantially to the favorable outcome for the amateur services.

(Thanks to the IARU)

RAC Directors Report By BJ Madsen, VE5FX

As a result of the recent resignation of (ex) Director Nimmo from the Atlantic Region and the election of Daniel Lamoureux, the (ex) Director from Quebec, to RAC President,

RAC now lacks representation from both the Quebec and the Atlantic Region. Also as a result of the election of President Lamoureux, RAC also lacks an Honourary Legal Council and a Treasurer.

The RAC Board of Directors' Annual Meeting is scheduled for early May, in Cornwall, ON. It will (probably) be preceded by a CARAB meeting in Ottawa, which I will again probably be attending.

While the recent WRC2003 meeting changed the limitations on Third Party Traffic, VP Jim Dean advises that we continue to work under the old rules until we are officially informed by Industry Canada that the new rules are in affect.

- The new rules state that third party traffic WILL be allowed UNLESS the country in question has informed the IRAU that they do not permit such traffic.

Industry Canada has not yet informed RAC of their official position on the CW issue. Hopefully, they will bring us up to date at the next CARAB meeting.

Advice for BASIC license holders who wish access to the HF bands: If you can possibly do it, get your 5 wpm CW endorsement BEFORE Industry Canada officially changes the requirements.

- if you wait, you will probably have to re-write the BASIC exam and score over 80% to get HF access.

- not all countries intend to drop the CW requirement. To operate in those countries, you will need to have a CW endorsement anyway. The USA may drop the CW requirement, but if they do, it will probably take some time.
- CW is not a bad thing.

Congratulations to Bart Ritchie (VE5CPU), Sam Ferris (VE5SF) and Bruce Rattray (VE5RC) who will be taking over the management and administration of the RAC Winter Contest.

Have you or has your club considered making a contribution to the RAC Youth Education Program? For details, see <http://www.rac.c> with a link to "Youth Education". Contributions have already been received from the Regina Amateur Radio Association and the Weyburn Amateur Radio Club. This program is designed to bring schools and young people into Amateur Radio. Saskatoon's Walter Murray Collegiate is already an active participant in the program.

Following an announcement from RAC's First Vice President, Bob Nash, congratulations are in order to Bart Ritchie (VE5CPU), Sam Ferris (VE5SF) and Bruce Rattray (VE5RC) who will be managing both RAC contests: The Canada Winter Contest and the Canada Day Contest.

The situation at RAC continues, unchanged. Since the election of President Lamoureux, RAC still does not have directors to represent the Atlantic Region or the province of Quebec. We do not have a Treasurer. We do not have an Honourary Legal Council. A WEB site is being put up at <http://www.aidrac.ca>, designed to carry information about the efforts being made in the east to obtain an interim representative to the Board of Directors. Note that this is not an official RAC WEB site, but is hosted by hams who are concerned about RAC issues.

The spring CARAB meeting is tentatively scheduled for early in May to precede the Board of Directors' Meeting. I should be (tentatively) attending, but due to the state of flux with RAC, nothing is certain. This meeting should provide more information about progress on the deletion of the CW requirement and the Third Party Traffic issue. Of course, nothing will change until Industry Canada makes it official.

Your club recently received a letter about the RAC Youth Education Program Challenge. What better project could you undertake than to help to introduce young people to Amateur Radio? See our WEB site 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.

**Semi- Annual
WARC
Flea Market**

**April 25
Heritage Victoria
Community Club
950 Sturgeon Rd.**

\$2.00 Entrance fee
Tables are \$5.00 for WARC members, \$10.00
for non WARC members and commercial outlets.

Bob Hrabi is the Coordinator. If you would
like to volunteer for various jobs or would like to
book your table please contact him at 774-5178

2004 Manitoba Marathon Volunteer Request

By Robert, VE4RST

Hi, my name is Robert Stegmaier, VE4 RST. Another holiday season has come and gone and although the weather is still cold it is time once again to look forward to the coming summer. One of the major events in this upcoming season for Amateur Radio is the 2004 Manitoba Marathon. Last years marathon was a great success. Support for the runners through the presence of Amateur Radio provided for a smooth running event as well as prompt emergency communication when needed.

With all of this in mind it is time again to think about, generously, giving up a portion of your Fathers Day to volunteer for the marathon. We are asking for your co-operation in volunteering early this year so that the 2004 organizing committee can get a feel to the amount of amateurs and helpers that will be staffing the event. This way the committee can plan not only to fill all of the regular posts, but, hopefully expand our communication ability.

This years Manitoba Marathon will be held on Sunday, June 20th with your commitment being from about 7 in the morning to about 2 in the afternoon. There is also a pre-event meeting, the week prior to the marathon, where individual station information packets are discussed and distributed. As perks for volunteering for the marathon, T-shirts, tickets for the pasta feast and an open invitation for the post event BBQ are usually provided.

So, open your calendar, ask your significant others and consider volunteering for this years event. If you have given of your time in the past or have any posts that you would prefer to be stationed too, the organizing committee will try its best to comply. The earlier we can hear from you the better.

The Race Director of the Manitoba Marathon has stated many times that the marathon could not run as smoothly and as safely as it does without the dedicated commitment of the Radio Amateur community. Please help us make this event not only an exercise in communication but also an ongoing tradition in amateur radio.

You may contact me in one of two ways:

E-mail ftphysio@mb.sympatico.ca

Phone 982-9600 (if answering machine leave message)

Please indicate

- † If and when you last volunteered for the MB Marathon
- † Your call sign and your name

- † Your, last position posted at the marathon and if you wish to volunteer there again. (if applicable)
- † Your phone number and preferred time of contact
- † If you wish to be posted with someone in particular
- † Your T-shirt size
- † Your full mailing and e-mail address

QTX~

By Derek, VE4HAY



☞ That stuff you love to hate - Spam - We all know that Spam is the trade name of a canned meat product. At least I suspect that most of you do. But have you ever wondered where the phrase "spam" in relation to unsolicited junk e-mail came from. Well, blame it on the computer nerds who were fans of one of the world's greatest comedy ensembles. It seems that the term began being applied to junk electronic mail in the early 1990's by computer geeks. It was based on a 1970 Monty Python skit in which an exasperated restaurant customer is urged to order the meat until she screams: "Stop it already. I don't want any Spam!" And that was it. And now you do know the rest of the story - *Sorry I forget where I stole this from, but credit to the author whom ever you are.*

☞ Want to know the future of radio spectrum. Maybe this web site will help envision you <http://www.spectrum.ieee.org/WEBONLY/publicfeature/mar04/0304scar.html>

☞ There seems to be some uneasiness in the rank and file of the RAC executive and board members. Our Assistant Director - VE4SN mentioned this at the last WARC meeting. He had only found out about it that day, and could not really speak to the matter. Suffice it to say that our Director VE5FX has talked about it in his regional report this month. As well as listed a website <http://www.aidrac.ca> I have checked out this site, and it while claiming to be unbiased, seems to be a tiny bit one sided. Mind you it is still a work in progress. I did respond to the web master who is the ex-VE1 director and ask for some more info, which I got and passed onto our director and to VE4SN to confirm and they did. While there are some precedural issues and conflict of personalities, I am sure these will be worked out. In the meantime, RAC needs your support more than ever now. While there are a few disgruntled members out East, this is no reason to drop your membership. So please read everything first, contact your own director if need be, then form your own opinion and support RAC to the best you can. 73, de VE4HAY