



# The NEWSCASTER

The Official Publication of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club

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

December 2004

VE4BB

Free to Members

## Christmas Party

Come out and enjoy meeting  
your fellow Ham's

Date: December 13th, 2004

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Sturgeon Creek Regional Secondary School

**Winnipeg Senior Citizens  
Radio Club News**  
by Adam, VE4SN



What a beautiful two months (namely October and November) we have all experienced this year! It's hard to believe that I had to mow my lawn again in mid-November and then just eight days later it was necessary to shovel the snow off my driveway for the first time! In the words of the comedian Yakoff Smirnoff... "What a country!!!"

Thankfully Halloween passed our area uneventfully and only forty six youngsters showed up for "Trick or Treat" even though we bought enough goodies for three times that many.

Thanksgiving, as usual, was an overeat event but it was a nice family gathering. Now the festive lights of Christmas are beginning to glow on many homes and we gear ourselves for the "tis better to give than to receive" season. It is my hope that the age-old message of "Peace on Earth to Men of Good Will!" will be heard loud and clear all over this world of ours!

Because I missed submitting a write-up last month, I have to report on two breakfast gatherings. October saw our group enjoy breakfast in renovated surroundings at the Garden City location. New rugs, new tables and new paint job were very evident. Twenty three persons showed up and Bill Shipley VE4BYL won the free breakfast. In November, we had to defer breakfast to the 18th because our

### Other Important Dates:

WARC Jan. 10 -Care & Feeding of Batteries

Feb. 14 - Monthly Meeting

March 14 -- Monthly Meeting

April 11 - Monthly Meeting

April 17 - Flea Market

May 9th - Monthly Meeting

June 13 - Monthly Meeting

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

December 7th - Christmas Party

December 15th - Annual General Meeting

ARES: Dec. 4 - SKYWARN Recognition Day

Dec. 21 - Canwest Global Park Paramedic

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	Vacant	
Secretary	Ed Horton	ve4eih@rac.ca
Treasurer	Fred Venema	fvenema@shaw.ca
Membership	Mark Blumm	ve4mab@rac.ca
Program	Vacant	
Director at Large	Jan Schippers	schippej@squared.com

usual date fell on the 11th which of course was Remembrance Day. Twenty seven showed up and Dorothy Flight VE4KEB was the recipient of the free meal.

By the time most of you read this article, our Basic class should be finished, the exams written and hopefully, several new hams have joined our ranks. More on this in the next newsletter including the names and call signs of those who made it! Just maybe we can get a CW class started early in the new year but it all depends on how many people would be interested in attending. Anyone who wishes to learn Morse code, please get in touch with Sandy, VE4SZ.

Ticket sales are going fast for our annual Christmas Luncheon to be held on Tuesday, December 7th at 12 noon. As usual, it promises to be a gala affair with a complete turkey dinner and entertainment provided by our own Intermods. We plan to have raffles, door prizes and of course a visit from Santa Clause himself. To get your tickets please get in touch with Gil Frederick VE4AG or call VE4WSC at 233-3122. Plan to attend.

Finally, remember the General Meeting for the purpose of electing a new Executive and Executive Board for 2005. Mark December 15th on your calendar. The meeting starts at 10: 00 am and there's a very good chance it will be held downstairs in the City of Winnipeg Retirees Clubrooms where our 20th birthday party was held in 2003. We hope this draws a lot of members to this meeting. Incidentally, I'm still looking for a candidate to fill the office of Treasurer. If you feel you are capable of doing the job or know someone who can, please give me a call at 339-3316. Thanks and 73!



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](http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/insmt-gst.nsf/vwGeneratedInterE/h_sf01709e.html)

Comments or if you just want to reach us :  
**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>

## **Minutes for W.A.R.C. November 8th, 2004** **Submitted by Ed, VE4EIH**

The meeting started at 19:38 Hours. The intros were done. There was 47 people in attendance. John welcomed all in attendance.

### *Minutes*

The last months minutes were introduced. Glen proposed that they be accepted, Betty second.

### *Bylaw change*

Motion passed, the minutes were accepted. Derek gave a motion about 3.12(a) and 3.12(b) John VE4QV read the motion to all in attendance. The floor was opened for discussion, there was no discussion. Motion 3.12(a) and 3.12(b) was put for a vote. The majority voted for with only 1 opposed. The motion passed. John explained, as to how the IRPL project is going. The computer is missing the sound card. People are out looking for a sound card, cheap or free. But may have to buy one. Then it is just a matter of just hooking it all up. Tom VE4SE asked if there was a computer, John said yes. Tom, then asked if there should be a motion to buy a sound card if no other way. Glen 2nd. Motion passed.

### *Treasures report*

John read the annual budget report. Fred Gave the monthly statement. 26 renewals for \$390.00 50/50 for \$20.50.

### *Flea market*

985.20 total income \$1395.70. Expenses coffee \$11.00, postage \$47.00, Hall rental for flea market \$150.00, food 4121.00, and the prizes 128.90. A balance of \$7129.51 in the account.

### *Presentations*

Walter is talking about antennas and transmission lines. December is the Christmas Party. Ruth, is providing food. Professor Flotz may attend. January is the care and feeding of Ni-Cad batteries. The programing chair is still open.

### *Membership*

Mark thanks all those who renewed. Currently there are 102 members in good standing.

### *Flea Market*

167 days remain it is on the 17 or 24 of April. Tom said that there was 27 tables left, 2 have been sold.

### *Field Day*

229 days left. Currently no coordinator, any one interested see a Exec member.

### *New Business*

The budget for the 04/05 year was read to all. \$470.00 for DSL and IRLP project, plus \$200.00 for hardware was explained to all. There was no comments.

### *Good and Welfare*

Dick VE4HK reports that MRS has changed the antenna position for VE4GIM. The antenna favors the east. MRS is

looking for any signal reports. No other information for the Good and Welfare.

### **Budget**

Glen nominated to accept the budget, John VE4JNF 2nd. Budget passed.

Dick VE4HK motioned to close meeting Bruce VE4BLB 2nd. The meeting ended at 2000 hours.

The winner of the 50/50 was Frank Dolski VE4ZCW

The attendance prize winner was Gill Taylor VE4

## **WPGARES**

### **Jeff Dovyak VE4MBQ**

Andre Aubin was the guest speaker at our NOV meeting (Grant Ubell was unavailable). Andre talked about the Touring Motorcycle Association and some of the events that they cover. We looked at a device featured in NOV QST pages 56-58 "Antenna Mounts for all Occasions" by Pete Norloff and Tom Azlin that I recently made. Basically it describes how to turn a double-suction cup lifting tool (like for plate glass or large tile sheets) into an antenna mount that allows using a mag-mount antenna on a bus or fire-truck window.

AEC Richard Kazuk VE4KAZ and I gave a presentation about WPGARES to the members of the current Basic Certificate class at WSCTC TUE 23NOV. Thanks to Sandy VE4SZ for the invite and thanks to John VE4QV for his patience as our presentation took up a lot of his time - I guess we need to cut it back quite a bit.

We will be staffing VE4WWO again this year during SKYWARN Recognition Day 04 DEC 2004. At press time we are the only Canadian weather station that has registered. The SRD web-site is: <http://hamradio.noaa.gov>

Since it looks like winter has arrived, a word on some winter weather elements that are of interest to the folks at Prairie and Arctic Storm Prediction Centre (PASPC):

- ☛ 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 or use the PUBLIC number: 1-800-239-0484

Our next general meeting is TUE 21DEC 1900h at Sir Wm Stephenson Library 765 Keewatin Street. Stefan Zueff from the Canwest Global Park Paramedic group will be our guest speaker.

## **Is that mobile or portable?**

There seems to be some confusion about when a station is mobile and when it's portable. There are basically three types of stations. The first one is self explanatory;

1. The Base station is your permanent home station.
2. The Portable station. This is a temporary base station, such as at field day or at the cabin for a week, etc.
3. The mobile station. This is the station in your vehicle, boat, airplane, etc. Any handheld is a mobile.

*Extracted from the November issue of the Feedline - Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club*

## **Reminder 70CM Is Shared**

Just a reminder that Amateurs have secondary status in the 70 Cm band. This means that we must accept interference and must not cause any interference to any licensed primary users of the band. As far as I know the only licensed frequencies in the band are

440.2875	445.2875
440.3125	445.3125
440.3175	
440.3375	445.3375
440.3500	445.3500
440.3750	445.3750
440.400	445.4000
440.4250	445.4250
440.4500	445.4500
440.4750	445.4750
440.5000	445.5000

Now as tempting as it may be to go searching for these users, it is **STRONGLY** suggest that you not bother, and that you make a point of not transmitting on these frequencies. Intentional interference will not be tolerated.

If you are concerned about causing interference to a licensed user on any band that we as amateurs have secondary usage, then check this web site for a listing of licensed users. <http://sd.ic.gc.ca/engdoc/main.js p>

## **Parkside Appliance & Electronics**



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

**386 Belvidere Street**

**885-9278**

**<http://www.escape.ca/~ve4jnf>    [ve4jnf@escape.ca](mailto:ve4jnf@escape.ca)**

## Calendar

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### December

ARCI Topband Sprint		0000Z	Dec 2
Aktivitetstest	CW/SSB/FM	1700Z	Dec 2
ARRL 160-Meter Contest		2200Z	Dec 3
TARA RTTY Melee	RTTY	0000Z	Dec 4
Wake-Up! QRP Sprint		0400Z	Dec 4
TOPS Activity Contest 3.5 MHz	CW	1800Z	Dec 4
CIS DX Contest	CW	0000Z	Dec 5
ARCI Holiday Spirits Homebrew		2000Z	Dec 5
ARS Spartan Sprint		0200Z	Dec 7
28 MHz SWL-Contest	CW/SSB	0000Z	Dec 11
ARRL 10-Meter Contest		0000Z	Dec 11
Fall NA Meteor Scatter Rally		0000Z	Dec 11
Great Colorado Snowshoe Run		0200Z	Dec 11
Månadstest nr 12	SSB	1400Z	Dec 12
Månadstest nr 12	CW	1515Z	Dec 12
AGB PARTY Contest	CW/SSB/DIGI	1700Z	Dec 17
Russian 160-Meter Contest		2100Z	Dec 17
MDXA PSK DeathMatch	PSK	0000Z	Dec 18
OK DX RTTY Contest	RTTY	0000Z	Dec 18
RAC Winter Contest		0000Z	Dec 18
Croatian CW Contest	CW	1400Z	Dec 18
Stew Perry Topband Challenge		1500Z	Dec 18
International Naval Contest		1600Z	Dec 18
SSA Jultest (1)	CW	0700Z	Dec 25
RAEM Contest		0200Z	Dec 26
SSA Jultest (2)	CW	0700Z	Dec 26
DARC Christmas Contest		0830Z	Dec 26

### January

SARTG New Year	RTTY	0800Z	Jan 1
AGCW Happy New Year		0900Z	Jan 1
Original QRP		1500Z	Jan 1
AGCW VHF/UHF		1600Z	Jan 1
		and 1900Z	Jan 1
WQF QRP Party		0000Z	Jan 7
Midwinter Contest	CW	1400Z	Jan 8
ARRL RTTY Roundup	RTTY	1800Z	Jan 8
North American QSO Party	CW	1800Z	Jan 8
EUCW 160m Contest		2000Z	Jan 8
		and 0400Z	Jan 9
NRAU-Baltic Contest	CW	0530Z	Jan 9
Midwinter Contest	Phone	0800Z	Jan 9
NRAU-Baltic Contest	SSB	0800Z	Jan 9
DARC 10-Meter Contest		0900Z	Jan 9
Kid's Day Contest		1800Z	Jan 9
Hunting Lions in the Air Contest		0000Z	Jan 15
LZ Open Contest		1200Z	Jan 15
MI QRP January CW Contest	CW	1200Z	Jan 15
Hungarian DX Contest		1200Z	Jan 15

North American QSO Party	SSB	1800Z	Jan 15
BARTG RTTY Sprint		1200Z	Jan 22
ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes		1900Z	Jan 22
CQ 160-Meter Contest	CW	0000Z	Jan 29
REF Contest	CW	0600Z	Jan 29
UK DX Contest	RTTY	1200Z	Jan 29
UBA DX Contest	SSB	1300Z	Jan 29

## News from the Net

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### *VK Amateurs retain status at 5.8 Ghz.*

In July 2004, the Australian Communications Authority invited comments on a proposal to introduce apparatus licensing arrangements in the 5725-5825 MHz band that could allow greater opportunities for broadband wireless access services in regional and rural areas of Australia. The comment period concluded on 25 August 2004. The results of this ACA review have recently been announced, and represent a significant win for Australian amateur radio operators. Amateurs retain unencumbered access to the 5760 MHz band, which is currently used for moon-bounce and other weak signal applications. A proposal to use the amateur allocation for commercial services was rejected by the ACA. WIA Director Glenn Dunstan said "This highly successful outcome is the result of well researched professional submissions by the WIA. In addition, the Western Australian VHF Group Inc. and Mark Spooner also lodged submissions supporting the amateur position. "It is yet another example of the new National WIA working for the good of all Australian amateurs." The ACA report may be found at the ACA web site -- *WIA News*

### *FCC approves first software defined radio*

The FCC announced November 19 that it has approved, for the first time, use of a software defined radio (SDR) device in the US. This new class of equipment allows users to share limited spectrum, increases flexibility and reduces interference concerns. "This is the first step in what may prove to be a radio technology revolution," said FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell. "The industry's pioneering work to find more creative and efficient use of our airwaves will continue to bring benefits to consumers." The Laboratory Division of the Commission's Office of Engineering and Technology issued a Grant of Certification to Vanu Inc, a software development company, for a cellular base station transmitter. SDRs can change frequency range, mode or output power without resorting to hardware changes or switches. This programmable capacity permits radios to be highly adaptable to changing needs, protocols and environments. The FCC says Vanu has demonstrated that its device complies with the Commission's rules and has shown that its software has sufficient controls that the

device cannot be modified to operate outside its Commission-approved parameters. An FCC rule making [proceeding](#), ET Docket 03-108, is pending to further streamline SDR requirements, and the Commission is working with each applicant on a case-by-case basis to facilitate compliance with current rules. The ARRL has told the FCC that Amateur Radio "is a fertile testing ground" for SDR technology and that the technology would be especially valuable to facilitate disaster communications -- *ARRL*

### ***Changes Announced to Advanced Licence Exam***

Following discussions between the RSGB and Ofcom, changes will be made in the Advanced Radio Communications Examination, the examination that qualifies amateurs for the Full licence. The changes have been made following the current pilot scheme, which has been in effect since the exam's introduction in February 2004. To bring it into line with current educational practice, a Formula Sheet will be included in the exam material. This will allow candidates to concentrate on the concepts required, rather than having to memorize equations. In addition, the number of questions will be reduced to 62 from the current 68, to shift the emphasis more towards operating rather than electronic theory. The changes will come into effect from the beginning of 2005.

RSGB Board member Ed Taylor, G3SQX, said, "We proposed some amendments in the operation of the Advanced exam, following comments that the new exam was more technical than the old RAE. Ofcom agreed, and we are pleased that a way was found to implement changes without reducing the rigour of the system." -- *RSGB*

### ***ZR licenses to get HF access***

As we reported in the last SARL bulletin, the Department of Communications has given us a written undertaking that the new Radio Regulations will be gazetted in the next couple of weeks. When the new regulations take effect, the holders of ZR licenses will for the first time have operating privileges on the amateur HF bands. The band segments on which ZR licensees may operate under the new regulations are:

1.810 - 1.850 MHz in the 160m band  
 3.500 - 3.800 MHz in the 80m band  
 7.000 - 7.100 MHz in the 40m band  
 14.070 - 14.099 MHz and 14.225 - 14.350 MHz in the 20m band  
 21.080 - 21.120 MHz and 21.300 - 21.450 MHz in the 15m band  
 28.050 - 28.150 MHz and 28.300 - 28.500 MHz in the 10m band  
 In all cases the maximum permitted power is 100 Watts PEP.

When the new regulations take effect, the HF frequency allocations for ZU licenses will also change so they are identical with the ZR allocations on the 160, 80, 40 and 10m

bands. ZU licensees will be permitted to use SSB on all these bands. The frequencies applicable to ZU licenses are:

1.810 - 1.850 MHz in the 160m band  
 3.500 - 3.800 MHz in the 80m band  
 7.000 - 7.100 MHz in the 40m band  
 28.050 - 28.150 MHz  
 and 28.300 - 28.500 MHz in the 10m band

The maximum permitted power for ZU licensees remains 20 watts PEP. ZS licensees will retain all current frequency allocations, with a maximum power of 400 watts. The new regulations also introduce a new process for ZR and ZU license holder wishing to upgrade to a ZS license. In terms of the regulations, the SARL may prescribe assessments for the ZS license. A candidate wishing to obtain a ZS license must pass any one of the assessments. The assessments prescribed to date are:

1. Confirmed contacts with 100 different stations using any combination of bands or modes. Only simplex contacts, and contacts through earth-orbiting satellites, will count. Contacts through repeaters will not count.
2. The construction of a working direct-conversion or super heterodyne radio receiver, or a crystal-controlled radio transmitter with an output power of at least 1 watt.
3. The completion of at least 50 hours of public service or emergency communications in sports communications, disaster preparedness exercises, actual disasters and educational events.
4. Obtaining a professional tertiary qualification in electronics or radio.
5. Passing a Morse code test at 5 w.p.m.

### ***New Treasurer for RAC***


The RAC Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Ken Pulfer VE3PU has been appointed to the position of Treasurer, to complete the unexpired term of Eric Ferguson VE3CR who resigned recently. Ken has served as Treasurer in the past, and brings a wealth of experience to the table. -- *RAC*

**DIAMOND  
IMAGE**

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## The Satellite Beacon

By Emily Clarke, W0EEC – VP of Project OSCAR



### Amateur Radio and the ISS

One of the most important additions to amateur radio satellites has been the addition of amateur radio equipment on the International Space Station. The amateur radio equipment on the ISS allows the astronauts and cosmonauts to conduct QSOs with schools around the world, other hams, and when not in use it provides services that all hams can use. Because it is in an environment unlike other satellites (pressurized, temperature controlled) the ISS is using the same type of radio equipment many hams use on earth! With its huge solar panels, the ISS is also not strapped for power like most amateur radio satellites, so hearing the ISS is as easy as listening to a local repeater.

### How the ISS Communicates

The ISS is using a Kenwood TH-D700 and usually operates at a power of 10 watts, which is almost 20 times the power of AO-51 in low power and 5 times AO-51 in high power. With this much power, the average HT is able to hear the ISS without any modifications or upgraded antennas.

Since the TH-D700 has a built in TNC, it can operate as a APRS digipeater while in packet mode (the most used configuration), or it can be used by the astronauts and cosmonauts as a voice transceiver. Additionally the TH-D700 can operate as a cross band repeater! This means that it can also be used much like a terrestrial repeater and other amateur satellites.

### Listening to the ISS

To listen to the ISS you simply have to tune to the transmit frequency that the ISS is using. The worldwide frequency for this is 145.800 MHz. If the ISS is in packet mode, you will hear packet/APRS signals similar to what you would hear on the APRS frequency (144.390 MHz). However, don't be surprised if you hear an astronaut or cosmonaut talking to school children or even other hams. If the American astronaut is having a QSO they will use the callsign NA1SS. If the Russian cosmonaut is having a QSO, the callsign will be RS0ISS. If you hear hams having QSOs with each other it indicates that the ISS is in voice repeat mode and open for hams around the world to use the ISS as a repeater.

### Using the ISS for APRS

Using the ISS for APRS is very easy – you simply use the digipath “UNPROTO VIA ARISS” and the ISS will digipeat your APRS packets. You will need to receive on 145.800 and transmit on 437.800 MHz. If you are successful,

you will see your packets repeated by visiting the ISS APRS website: <http://www.findu.com/cgi-bin/ariss/index.cgi>

### Using the ISS Voice Repeater

Using the ISS voice repeater is a little more difficult. If the ISS is in voice repeat mode, you will have to receive on 145.800 and transmit on 437.800 MHz (there is no PL tone required). However, because of Doppler shift, you will need to start to tune your transmitter about 5 KHz below the center frequency when the ISS is approaching, and tune to about 5 kHz above the center frequency after it passes overhead. This is very critical if you expect to be heard. It's also tricky – unless you are working full-duplex you will not be able to tell if you are making it through the repeater.

### ISS QSL Cards

If you are lucky enough to log a QSO with one of the astronauts you will qualify for an ISS QSL card. Refer to the ISS website for QSL and other information at:

<http://www.rac.ca/ariss/>

## CARAB October 2004 Report

RAC Midwest Director Bj Madsen, VE4FX

The pre-CARAB meeting was held on Wednesday, October 27 with the full meeting with Industry Canada being held on the following day. Industry Canada is not moving with speed or urgency on any of the items that are so near and dear to the hearts of Canadian Amateur Radio operators, but they are moving - slowly - with the constant prodding received from RAC Vice President of Regulatory Affairs, Jim Dean (VE3IQ). The primary items which were discussed were:

### 1. BPL

- (Broadcast over Power Lines) is an issue of considerable interest to Industry Canada. Trials are still taking place at Sault St. Marie and the Ramada Inn in Cornwall has been doing in-house trials on a system within their building. Industry Canada will be moving to the public input process early in 2005, through the Gazette process, soliciting input on BPL from the public.

### 2. Tower Consultation

- Professor Townsend's report is being finalized (he received over 1000 responses) and should be available early in 2005. Industry Canada's best advice on Amateur towers continues to be that hams should establish a positive dialogue with their community before erecting towers. This translates to mean that IC is not anxious to be called in to settle disputes.





### 3. Reciprocal Operating Agreements

- Industry Canada will be suggesting that Canada should be willing to allow short term (up to one year) operation by foreign hams on the strength of their own license. Beyond that, foreign hams should obtain Canadian certification (write the exam). It is hoped that other countries will then undertake to treat visiting Canadians in the same fashion.

Unanswered - what to do about Foundation Licensees from Great Britain, as there is no comparable license in Canada. Should they have some sort of operating permission when operating in Canada?

### 4. Morse Code Proposal

- The Gazette period generated about 150 responses, which will be tabulated and summarized during the next two weeks. This summary will appear on the IC WEB site. Then, a decision will be made by Industry Canada on what direction to take. Much of it seems to hinge on whether changes will require regulatory changes, as this process is very long and tedious. The worst-case scenario in terms of time frame for a decision will be next summer. Maybe it will happen sooner. In the meantime, examination pass marks remain at 60%, the existing exam will be used and hams who wish to have access to HF are advised to obtain their 5 wpm Morse certification.

-  Will the Morse requirement be dropped? Probably.
-  Will the exam pass mark be increased? Probably.
-  Will the exam question bank change (soon)? Probably not.
-  Will Morse proficiency continue to be an avenue to HF access, even though it is no longer required? Probably.

### 5. Callsign Proposal

- The 2X4 callsigns will, in all likelihood, be treated like special event callsigns, available for defined short periods only, not as permanent allocations. The Industry Canada database is not configured to record permanent 2X4 callsigns.

### 6. Designated Examiners

- are reminded that they have to renew their status every two years and that they must be using the current exam generator, as available from the Industry Canada WEB site. I will be calling the examiners in VE4 & VE5 in the near future for a brief chat.

## RAC News

### From Director Bj Madsen, VE4FX

There are a couple of major items coming out of RAC, on which you will be receiving more, detailed information.

#### *The good:*

RAC has obtained insurance coverage, from a firm by the name of AXA which has insured Quebec Amateurs for many years. This insurance will provide \$5 000 000 in liability coverage for RAC members and for qualified Amateur Radio Clubs. The insurance is a benefit of membership, not an extra cost item, for RAC members. It evidently meets the requirements of the CBC for repeater hosting on transmission towers. It will make it unnecessary, for participating clubs, to have (expensive) liability insurance for repeater installations, public events, etc, etc. This could be a significant saving for clubs. The participating clubs will have to be incorporated for this to work. Otherwise, the club members will carry the liability personally. (And, if RAC members, have their own \$5M liability coverage, of course)

#### *The inevitable:*

RAC has been forced to change the membership fee structure, to become effective with the coming of the new year. The new fee structure will be:

Membership in RAC (no TCA)	\$44.95
Subscription to TCA (no membership in RAC)	\$44.95
Both membership and TCA	\$49.95

This change was required by Heritage Canada in order to continue RAC's qualification for favourable mailing treatment, which is a significant budget factor. The old membership cost of \$39.95 has been in effect, unchanged, for many years. If RAC had continued with this structure, the Heritage Canada benefit would have been lost. For the past few years, it has NOT covered the actual cost of membership, and had to be augmented by sales of merchandise and books to cover RAC's operating costs. Certainly, the benefit derived from the liability insurance will, by itself, more than offset the increase in membership fee

### RAC Winter Contest

Don't forget about the RAC Winter Contest on December 18th. Check this document for rules <http://www.rac.ca/downloads/canwin2004.pdf> Also check with Adam VE4SN about using the VE4RAC or VA4RAC callsign. Help to Promote our callsign area Good Luck



*The following article was asked to be printed in last months newscaster - but arrive to late for publication. The original version was very blatant and involved names and was an attack on certain Ham's in our community. This version is only slightly better. The executive of WARC was asked about printing it, and it was felt that if not printed then it would cause more problems. As Editor of the newscaster, I really do not want to start an editorial page, I prefer to keep the newscaster as an information tool, not a place to air one's laundry.*

## **Last Kick at the Can.**

**By Bob, VE4ZAP**

In light of rumours and people who think they know what's what, I set the record straight. What I hear on the air, I find truly amazing. I've been called "Dictator" and "Someone who can't take honest criticism" and everything in between, as well as, "I've moved away from Wpg", "My Father needs me or is sick" and "I'm working two jobs now and don't have time". Only two people have contacted me to find out why. "Thank You All" to the rest.

I took my position on the board seriously and was always thinking about and looking for ways to make this club better. Such as getting another club to work with us (IRLP) so members could enjoy more out of radio and have something to be proud of, something that was ours. Fund raising by selling Blue Books, something the club hadn't done in a long time. As well as other stuff like volunteering for events so the club had a member of the board to represent it, making net announcements and getting on the air, talking to and asking others what do you want? I represented the club. I did my job. Others didn't.

The Flea market was a 1-2-3 punch and reconfirms how much this community can't cooperate. Not to worry it's always been like this and will be long after I'm dust.

1- I ran into that dreaded "It's always been done this way and there is no room for improvement so toe the line or else" attitude. It started after the Spring market when I said "If this event keeps growing, we'll have to find a bigger place". This person didn't like that and told me if the market moves, I can find someone else to do "THEIR" thing. Gee, I thought it was "OUR" thing. Folk's, you wouldn't believe the flak I got for trying to move a table a bit over. This from a person who made a kit for the market and heaven forbid that someone deviate from the same old tired formula, and have the same old market and the same old food. This was why I took on the job because it wasn't working. I was badgered on the phone more than once about stepping out of line and thinking how to make this better. This person

told me that "They" do the most work and "They" bring in the money for the club and that "They" know how it's done. I was shocked. Fine, I agree about the money, but the other volunteers are "JUST" as important too! I also put a lot of time and effort into the market seeing as it was my job as an executive. So I leave it to this person to run the market because "They" know it all and do a fine job with it. After all, the two I held had record numbers attending, 300 and 305 respectfully with record sales to boot too. As well as ARES making record funds for their cause. Not the usual 190 to 230 for a crowd. Gosh, what did I know? I was doing it all wrong.

2- A example of how the community doesn't work together... a club, who through bad timing, bad judgment or lack of insight, held a sale the weekend before the WARC event. A fellow named Dan use to do this and people were madder than hell and up in arms. I guess things have changed. Intentional or not, this doesn't sit well with me.

3- Should of known better, no excuse... a prominent net controller from MRS, who flogged and made very elaborate announcements for another group which for the most, are not radio operators, who were having a market the same day as the WARC event and at the end, basically added, oh and by the way if you have time, come to the WARC market. The event he was promoting is the same old nothing junk sale that use to be at the CBC parking lot. Which for the most part, offered crud, and I mean real crud,

So with the above as well as other things, I knew I was fighting a losing battle. People just don't want to get it together. So I wash my hands of it. Some things will never change with Wpg's radio community. It's been like this forever. If you don't believe me, ask someone who knows the history. Prove me wrong. You might learn something.

I left the exec for the following reason... "THINGS ARE NOT BEING DONE, PERIOD"! From the smallest, such as a Thank You card sent to Rosi, VE4YYL, for looking after folding and mailing the newsletter for approximately a year or so. Asked 3 times. Has it been done yet? Who knows. To a little bigger... I put forth that WARC give Aruni, VE4WMK, a one year membership in CLARA for her outstanding work with going from no ticket to full ticket in one year. This was brought up in March or April and was voted upon at the May exec meeting and passed. Presentation was to be at the June meeting. Only two people have signing power for the club and neither followed up on this small gestor. I want to know, "What the HELL happened here"? Guess it wasn't important enough to honour one of our own. Let's move forward to "FOR SHAME", where a prize for MARM was "NOT" given. This was discussed in June and is in the exec minutes. Wonder



how Dave, VE4XN felt seeing as he is a long time supporter of this club. To the largest, the IRLP node. This had dragged out for 7 looong months and still was nowhere near finished when I handed it to John. This was brought up in Feb., was okayed in April, the computer package was suppose to be ordered in May, then June, July and August, and finally got here at the beginning of Sept. It takes approx. 2-3 weeks to be sent. There was a problem with getting the DSL connect ordered also. Most nodes are put up in 3 days to 3 weeks providing someone does their job and orders the hard and software when they were suppose to. The node should of been on the air by the end of August at the very latest. This is one of the things the exec of MRS said would happen and we, the exec of WARC gave our word that it wouldn't be like that. Apparently our word means nothing. No wonder members don't care what happens or bother to get involved when the exec is not a tight working group. The things people don't know. Just a few examples of a long frustrating year on the board. I have to ask my ex fellow execs this question, "Why are you on the board"? Is it because no one else would do it and your just putting in time or do you want to be a driving force and turn this club around? Your suppose to be leaders. People are counting on you. I put it to you to really think about what you are doing and why. If you can't find a good reason and are not ready to do the job you said you would, then step down and let someone who has the drive and the spirit of radio take over. After all, this is what is really needed. People to take command and move this club into the future if it's to survive and not do it because no one else would. And if no one steps forward, then maybe the people have spoken and it's time to let this club go the way of the dinosaur instead of wasting time and gas.

I withdrew my by-law motion because what's the point of keeping people in office when squat is happening. Why extend it? Even a year is too long for what's "NOT" being done.

Which brings me to why I quit the club. I want more out of radio than to belong to a group that is happy with the same old thing forever and a day. The same old thing on the same month of any given year. The same old Flea market, the same old Field day in the same old place. The same old same old. This club use to do stuff and get involved but someone turned it into a "TEA CLUB" not that many years ago and its not been the same ever since. Membership is down, meeting attendance is down and Involvement is down. Over the years, it's been slipping away. The fact is... It's boring! Sorry but I want to belong to a group that gets excited about and has a passion for "RADIO" and everything it means. People who feel the "MAGIC" and can't get enough of it. People who believe it's a way of life, not just a hobby. People who dare. For me, this club doesn't

offer what I want out of Amateur Radio. So I'll continue looking. Until I find this mythical group, I'll just go back to being a independent radio operator. Been doing it going on 35 years and I do just fine. I want to "DO" things folks, I want "EXCITEMENT", I want to "LIVE", "EAT" and "BREATH" radio, "I WANT TO RF TILL I DIE!!!", ...Tea, Ladies, won't do.

And so I move on. To some, my call might be mud and I let the club down. Funny, I see it the other way around. This is not sour grapes, just frustration, futility and disappointment. But believe what you want. I don't hold it against you. I'll survive. I have soap and water and I'll continue to do radio the way it was meant to be done... from the Heart!

Good luck.

That is all. VE4ZAP...  
OUT.



## The Blue Book 2004

edition has been released. As there may not be many more Blue books printed it is important that your info in the book is correct ?? Do you know of any changes or missing info for any other hams? Depending on the updates received will indicate if another book is ever published again.

Please call Bill at 204-482-3402 and he will make the changes or you can email myself [ve4hay@rac.ca](mailto:ve4hay@rac.ca) and I will send to Bill for you.

If you have not picked up you copy of the MB Blue Book, please ask any executive member of WARC who will be happy to tell you how to get a copy.

## The President's Call

By John, VE4QV



A few weeks ago I had the pleasure of speaking to the most recent amateur radio class at the Winnipeg Senior's Radio Club. Sandy, VE4SZ had lined up several groups to speak to the "about to graduate" class. As I was presenting last I had a chance to hear the groups before me and I realized that this "hobby" is so much more than just a hobby. Community service has always been at the forefront of an amateur's priority. During the summer I listened with great interest to the hurricane net on twenty meters as hurricane after hurricane hit the South Eastern United States, four storms in all. Amateurs provided vital direct measured weather information back to the National Hurricane Center. I also think back to my father's contributions to emergency communications. The 1950 flood and the earthquake in Venezuela in July 1967 during the Pan AM games come to mind. I recall how he invited athletes into our home, and his Ham shack to find out first hand how their family and friends were doing back home. As we reflect on the year past and look forward 2005 I think it might be appropriate to once again look at the Amateur's Code as it appears on the first page of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club bylaws.

### The Amateur's Code

1. The Amateur is Considerate. He never knowingly uses the air in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.
2. The Amateur is Loyal. He offers his loyalty, encouragement and support to his fellow radio amateurs, his local club and his national organization through which amateur Radio is represented.
3. The Amateur is Progressive. He keeps his station abreast of science. It is well built and efficient. His operating practice is above reproach.
4. The Amateur is Friendly, slow and patient sending when requested friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interest of others; these are the marks of the amateur spirit.
5. The Amateur is Balanced. Radio is his hobby. He never allows it to interfere with any of the duties he owes to his home, his job, his school or his community.

6. The amateur is Patriotic. His knowledge and his station are always ready for the service of his country and his community.

Once again this year we are running the "Decorate your Handi Talki" contest with prizes awarded for the top three entries. As before your transceiver must be fully functional without removing the decorations.

This year's WARC holiday celebration will prove to be unique, as our own David Rosner VE4DAR has kindly volunteered to both organize and act as the master of ceremonies. David has several things up his sleeve including a very special guest. This will truly be a seasonal celebration for all. I look forward to seeing all of you there but for those that cannot attend, I hope that you have a very joyous holiday season and wish you good health and prosperity in the New Year.



### QTX~

By Derek, VE4HAY

Dear Santa,

I have been extra good this year. I have joined all the local HAM groups, and kept up with my membership fees. I have also renewed my membership in Radio Amateurs of Canada, our national organization. I have attended the flea markets and entered into the 50/50 draws. I even went to the International Ham fest and the Manitoba Amateur Radio Museum Ham fest. I participate in the weekly nets as best as I can, as well as, the morning nets. I have attended all the Winnipeg Amateur Radio club meetings and the Manitoba Repeater Society ones. I even did a small presentation at the latest Ham radio class about repeaters and about RAC. I have welcomed new calls I hear to the air, and greeted out of provinces calls with a hearty welcome, Can I be of assistance? I even give my just read TCA magazines to new HAMs and or leave them in public places for others to read. Let's not forget that I have put out 13 newsletters this year. All in all Santa, I have been a very good Amateur Radio Operator.

I am not asking for much this year. I don't need the new Icom IC-7800, nor do I need the Mosley Tri band beam. All I really want is for the current sunspot cycle to turn around so that my friends who DX can have some fun again. I want my friends who are trying to get their CW endorsement to be able to easily pass their test. I want my friends who work on all the repeaters to have a year with no breakdowns. I want my friends at WARC to be able to make it to the meetings to see each other. I want my friends who are looking for that rare country to finally get make contact. And I want all my friends to enjoy their hobby, as I know they do. 73, VE4HAY