



The NEWSCASTER

The Official Publication of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club

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

May 2005 **VE4BB**

Free to Members

AMSAT

By VE4GTB

Just how easy is it to work the satellites

Date: May 9th, 2005

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Sturgeon Creek Regional Secondary School

The President's Call

By John, VE4QV



What a busy spring for radio amateurs! The WARC Flea Market was an absolute success, beating the attendance at the fall Flea Market. Well OK, by just one but its still bigger. The Flea Market is a major fund-raiser for WARC and I'd like to thank all of you that attended and helped out. While there were many faces behind the success of this spring's Flea Market, a few individuals deserve special recognition. Ruth Mills, VE4XYL's organization and experience proved invaluable. The tables sold quickly, the food was fantastic and she does this all with a smile and makes it look so easy. Thank you. Ever present and awaiting his orders was Tom Mills, VE4SE. Tom is always there to help out. Others that helped out were Ed VE4OAK, Jim VE4AJR, Ruthie VE4CRS and many, many more. I think that everything went very smoothly. If you do have comments or suggestions we will open the floor for discussion at the next meeting. If you'd like, send me your ideas via email at ve4QV@rac.ca or give me a call at 488-6811 and I'll be sure to add them to the meeting agenda.

There are currently seven positions on the Executive of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club. For this past year the positions of Vice President and Program Director have been vacant. Note that all positions are open for nomination and we'd love to see some new faces sitting at the front of the room. At the next general meeting we will announce the members of the current executive that will be running for the 2005-2006 year. Please, if you are interested or know of someone that you think would enjoy helping out bring his or

Other Important Dates:

WARC: June 13 - Year End Wind-up

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

ARES: May 17 - Bicycle Mobile Operations

Other: June 19 - Manitoba Marathon

June - 25 & 26 Field Day

July 8-10 - 42nd. International Ham Fest

July 22-25 - Saskatchewan Ham Fest - Saskatoon

July 22-25 - RAC AGM - Saskatoon

Aug 19-20 - 10th. MARMFEST - Austin, MB

Nets: Daily 09:00 pm	MB Evening Phone net 3747 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. 02:00 UTC	MB IRLP Net 147.27 MHz +
Wed. 9:00 pm	Six Meter net 50.238 MHz USB
Thursday 9:00 pm	MRS Net 147.390 MHz +
Sunday 9:00 pm	MRS Net 147.390 MHz +

WARC: Executive for 2004

Past President	Louis Gaudry	lsgaudry@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

her name forward to any member of the executive. We hope to have a nominating committee in place by the May general meeting. The positions are, President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership, Program Director, and Director at Large.

The WARC/MRS IRLP node should be on-line very shortly. Saturday, April 23rd MRS reorganized the equipment racks in the Richardson Building to accommodate the IRLP computer generously donated by Les VA4LES. Final configuration on the computer and its interface is underway and hopefully we will be up and running very soon. Thanks to Yori VE4ACX and Dick VE4HK for getting the rack prepared. The weekend of April 29 will be a bench test of the IRLP computer system at the UMARS club room. This site was chosen as it has a high speed Internet connection and a working IRLP node to test with that will not interfere with over the air or other IRLP nodes. The following weekend should be a beta install of the computer & radio at the VE4WRS site. If all goes well the system should be up and running by the end of that weekend. Listen for formal announcements on the MRS bi-weekly 2 meter nets. Please note that the MRS Autopatch will be off line for a few weeks during this period.

A special thanks to ARES for their work at the annual Fort Whyte Centre EcoAdventure Sunday, April 24th. This event held each spring (usually on the same day as the WARC Flea Market) and has over 300 athletes boat, roller blade, run, and cycle a course in the Southern part of the city. The logistics of keeping track of individual athletes as well as teams over a course like this is something that ARES does very well. My wife, a Fort Whyte Centre staff member has said many times she doesn't know what they would do without the ham radio group to help communicate vital race information.

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 :

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>

One of the other events coming up soon is the Manitoba Marathon, June 19th, Father's Day. Once you work the Marathon, you'll be hooked for life. It's just that much fun, and is such a great experience. They may still be looking for some help so contact Rob Stegmaier at rstegmaier@shaw.ca if you're interested.

The major event right after the Marathon is Field Day. I can't impress upon you enough how important it is for the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club to participate in this International event. This is the day where we show Winnipeg and the world that we're ready, willing and more than able to help out should disaster strike. More than a communications event, it's a great opportunity to get friends and family members out to try out amateur radio. We want to promote our hobby and this is a great venue to do just that. At the request of a number of members the site of this year's Field Day has been changed to Group Use Area 2, Site 6. We have the site booked from Friday at 11:00 AM till Monday morning, 11:00 AM. This allows anyone interested to set up camp on Friday and we don't have to rush Sunday to meet the check out. All of this has been arranged without a Field Day Coordinator. As I am writing this, there is no Field Day Coordinator named. I can't imagine WARC not taking part in this international event. I had the pleasure of coordinating Field Day two years ago and because you end up with a lot of help, it's rally not that daunting a task. I will make this a major topic of discussion at the next meeting. We have volunteers willing to look after food, there are many amateurs ready to help out on the technical and logistic side of things, what we need is one or two individuals willing to coordinate all of this talent. Please give me a call.

The last presentation for the year is by Gerry VE4GTB on Amateur satellite communications. I hope to see you all there.

Remember the WARC Board of Directors elections in June - Many positions still need to be filled.

Parkside Appliance & Electronics



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John, VE4JNF

386 Belvidere Street

885-9278

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Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club News

by Adam, VE4SN



It's hard to believe that April is almost over. Someone must have cranked up the mainspring because it seems to me that the passage of time has increased in velocity. Maybe that's something that only us seniors experience. When I was a youngster the time seemed to crawl and it took so long for events to happen!

Speaking of events, our April breakfast gathering at Garden City was a big one, at least in comparison with the previous three or four. Twenty nine persons showed up, (no doubt because the weather was great), and enjoyed a good meal and plenty of idle chatter. The winner of the free breakfast was none other than yours truly. It was a pleasant surprise and I must admit that I really enjoyed my breakfast that day!

A handful of WSCRC members also took part in the Planes Trains and Sails exhibit at the Winnipeg Aircraft Museum along with a couple from WARC. Those involved were Ed Henderson VE4YU, Adam Romanchuk VE4SN, Irv Cosgrove VE4UG, Bert Andrews VE4AND, Kumara Perera VE4WKP and Aruni Perera VE4WMK. Our display concerned the mode of CW in amateur radio. This event was staged on April 9th and 10th between the hours of 10 am and 4 pm. We had many visitors come by and most of them showed a keen interest in Ham Radio and specifically the history of Morse Code. A big pat on the back for Ed VE4YU for setting up a very interesting display using a variety of old and new morse keys, computers, oscillators and even an old "clicker" as was used in the old railway stations for transmitting morse code on the wires. I'm sure all involved had a wonderful time; I know I did!

The April Executive Board meeting ratified the purchase of a new 2-metre rig to be installed in the Number 1 Operations Room because the old unit was not repairable and certainly was not operating properly. This was done by Rolf VE4VZ and the little rig appears to be functioning quite well. The Board also decided to forego this years Open House in June and instead plan for the Club's 25th birthday party upcoming in 2008. Mark your calendars.

That's it for this time around. Enjoy the good weather and don't despair... conditions will improve on the Bands and DX will flow again.

Looking for Youth interested in HAM Radio

Are you involved in a youth group? Would your youth group be interested in taking a HAM radio course?

At the March WARC meeting the following motion was passed.

Motion: That the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club, once per fiscal year, sponsor a group of youth (Scouts, Guides, or any other youth group age 14 or more) for enrollment into an Amateur Radio course, such as the one that is put on by VE4WSC.

**Moved by Derek, VE4HAY
Seconded by, Adam, VE4SN**

The next step is to find a youth group (boys, girls or both) who would like to take a HAM radio course. So what better place to look for group leaders/volunteers than within our club itself. If you are involved in a group or know someone who is, please think about this. It could be a wonderful opportunity for the youth to learn about radio and to enjoy a great life long hobby.

If you are interested, please get in touch with John, VE4QV (info on front page) the current president of WARC who will take it to the executive and then find a course to take.

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



Minutes for April 11th, 2005

Submitted by Ruthie, VE4CRS

Meeting opened with introductions. 45 members and guests attended.

Minutes

Errors from March minutes as follows:-

- Good and Welfare – the name of the silent key is Dollard, not Dollar.
- MRS annual general meeting is the 21st of April not the 28th.

Motion to accept minutes as corrected by VE4HAY, seconded by VE4HK. Motion carried.

Business from Minutes

Past WARC members who haven't renewed membership will be sent a letter asking why they haven't renewed.

- IRLP hardware ready to go; installation on the 23rd. May be cabling issues. There will be no additional charge, only online internet charge.
- VE4DAR reported re motion to train youth groups. Committee members are: VE4's DAR, DWG, HAZ, and KEH. Thanks to: VE4's WR, OV, MAQ, CRS, SZ, and Seniors Club. A letter was received from Air Cadets, Doug Roberts, supporting the program for 15 cadets. (see recommendations)
- - discussion following re training program included: - proposed age, WARC initiative, new RAC training program, BJ being supportive .
- - Motion to accept recommendations of training program committee for 1 year by VE4YU, seconded by VE4GWN. Motion carried.

Recommendations

WARC Basic Qualification Training Plan

1. WARC sponsor Basic Qualification level training for up to 18 youths (aged 16 – 24) each year for 5 years at a maximum of \$40 per youth.
2. If no suitable course is being offered in Winnipeg, WARC will conduct the training.
3. Youth groups will be given preference over individual youth.
4. When feasible, WARC will share training expenses with the group nominating trainees.
5. Youth training is a line item in WARC's budget as an ongoing program.
6. The WARC Training Committee manages the Basic Qualification training for youth.

Treasurer's Report

Income - \$44.00

Expenses - \$48.00

Bank Balance as of end of March - \$5,924.42

Programs

May meeting – AMSAT by VE4GTB.

Executive will be appointing nominating committee.

RAC

RAC convention will be in Saskatoon, July 22-24, 2005.

DX Sleuths

Conditions – sporadic, CW, solar cycle hasn't bottomed out, only in 2006. Some stations to try to contact are: Bolivia, CP, Rene is QRV as CP6/DF9GR – CW; Iran, Hamid EP4HR on 17meters SSB; Lebanon, Francis OD5PL digital communications; Ivory Coast Gerard TU20J using PSK on 17meters; Brunei, Ambran V85SS QRV on 160 meters, also CW on 80,40 and 30 meters.

ARES

1. ARES logo clothing available for purchase at flea market. Thanks to VE4KEH for organizing ARES table.
2. General meeting is on TUE, 19 APR, 1900h – guest speaker is Kent VE4KEH about Operating from Remote locations.
3. CANWARN Spotter Training SAT 07 MAY 1000h Portage la Prairie City Library. Register by FRI 22 Apr.
4. List of CANWARN Net Controllers shifts is being compiled running from 16 MAY – 11 SEP for Summer Sever Wx Season. Shifts are for one week 0930-1730h or 1730-2130h daily. If interested, contact Jeff VE4MBQ.

Marathon

Currently 66 amateurs have registered to volunteer. Target is 85-95 operators. Contact Jeff VE4MBQ or Rob VE4RST ASAP if interested in volunteering. Rob's email is: rstegmaier@shaw.ca There will be a sign-up sheet at ARES table at Flea Market.

Maiko VE4KLM is trying to borrow GPS units, Tiny Trackers, HT's and mag-mount antennas. The Manitoba Marathon is funding the purchase of 3 Tiny Tracker kits that Maiko will build. If you have gear to loan, contact Maiko directly at 885-2398 before 1200h daily or email: maiko@pes.mb.ca

Flea Market

All ready to go. 5 tables remaining.

VE4-ESX, Richard, XYL, Lisa, and 2nd Harmonic Kevin, wish to thank the Ham fraternity for all their good wishes and concern during this last while. We want you all to know that it DOES make a difference, Thank you all, 73 Richard VE4ESX.

Field Day

Still no coordinator. Gr. 2, site 5 is booked at Birds Hill. Camping is paid for. Date: - June 24 - 26. Members recommended to try to get site 6. A park ticket is required even if there is no one at the gate.

International Ham Fest

Second weekend in July, 8 - 10th.

Good and Welfare

Ed VE4YU - a look at the past: 1979 radio interview with Dick VE4HK about old WPG repeater. Get Well card passed around for signing for Tom Blair VE4TOM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Home brew participants were: - VE4's VID, RCJ and Tom Higgins.

Calendar**May**

May CW Sprint		0000Z	May 1
AGCW QRP/QRP Party		1300Z	May 1
RSGB 80m Club Championship	SSB	2000Z	May 2
ARS Spartan Sprint May	CW	0200Z	May 3
SSA 10 m Aktivitetstest	CW/SSB/FM	1800Z	May 5
MARAC County Hunter	CW	0000Z	May 7
Nevada QSO Party		0000Z	May 7
US IPARC Annual	CW	0000Z	May 7
10-10 Int. Spring	CW	0001Z	May 7
Microwave Spring Sprint		0600 local	May 7
SL Contest	CW	1100Z	May 7
SL Contest	SSB	1230Z	May 7
Oregon QSO Party		1400Z	May 7
Indiana QSO Party		1600Z	May 7
ARI International DX		2000Z	May 7
New England QSO Party		2000Z	May 7
	And	1300Z	May 8
US IPARC Annual	SSB	0000Z	May 8
AGCW Activity Week	CW/RTTY	0000Z	May 9
RSGB 80m Club Championship	Data	2000Z	May 11
US Counties QSO Party	SSB	0000Z	May 14
Portuguese Navy Day	CW/SSB	0800Z	May 14
CQ-M International DX		1200Z	May 14
VOLTA WW	RTTY	1200Z	May 14
Mid-Atlantic QSO Party		1600Z	May 14
	And	1100Z	May 15
FISTS Spring Sprint		1700Z	May 14
Anatolian WW RTTY Contest	RTTY	1800Z	May 14
50 MHz Spring Sprint		2300Z	May 14
Mid-Atlantic QSO Party	CW/Phone	1100Z	May 15

SSA Månadstest nr 5	CW	1400Z	May 15
SSA Månadstest nr 5	SSB	1515Z	May 15
RSGB 80m Club Championship	CW	2000Z	May 19
VK/Trans-Tasman 80m	Phone	0800Z	May 21
EU PSK DX Contest		1200Z	May 21
Portuguese Navy Day Contest	PSK31	1300Z	May 21
Manchester Mineira	CW	1500Z	May 21
His Maj. King of Spain	CW	1800Z	May 21
Baltic Contest	CW/SSB	2100Z	May 21
SSA Portabeltest Vårømg.	CW/SSB	0700Z	May 22
CQ WW WPX Contest	CW	0000Z	May 28
ARCI Hootowl Sprint		2000Z	May 29
MI QRP Memorial Day	CW	2300Z	May 29

June

SSA 10 m Aktivitetstest	CW/SSB/FM	1700Z	Jun 2
Digital Pentathlon (5)	THROB	1800Z	Jun 3
Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	CW	0400Z	Jun 4
VK/Trans-Tasman 80m Contest	CW	0800Z	Jun 4
IARU Region 1 Field Day	CW	1500Z	Jun 4
RSGB National Field Day		1500Z	Jun 4
QRP TAC Sprint		1800Z	Jun 4
WorldRadio Friends' Day QSO Party		1800Z	Jun 4
RSGB 80m Club Championship	Data	2000Z	Jun 6
ARS Spartan Sprint June	CW	0200Z	Jun 7
ANARTS WW	RTTY	0000Z	Jun 11
Portugal Day Contest		0000Z	Jun 11
Asia-Pacific Sprint	SSB	1100Z	Jun 11
GACW WWSA DX	CW	1500Z	Jun 11
DDFM 50 MHz Contest	CW/SSB	1600Z	Jun 11
SSA Månadstest nr 6	SSB	1400Z	Jun 12
SSA Månadstest nr 6	CW	1515Z	Jun 12
ARRL June QSO Party	VHF	1800Z	Jun 11
RSGB 80m Club Championship	CW	2000Z	Jun 15
SARL Kid's Day		0700Z	Jun 16
All Asian DX Contest	CW	0000Z	Jun 18
SMIRK Contest		0000Z	Jun 18
AGCW VHF Contest		1600Z	Jun 18
AGCW UHF Contest		1900Z	Jun 18
West Virginia QSO Party		1600Z	Jun 18
Quebec QSO Party		1700Z	Jun 18
Kid's Day Contest		1800Z	Jun 18
DIE Contest	CW/SSB/RTTY	0600Z	Jun 19
RSGB 80m Club Championship	SSB	2000Z	Jun 23
SCAG Straight Key Day (SKD)	CW	0800Z	Jun 25
SP QRP Contest	CW	1200Z	Jun 25
Ukrainian DX DIGI	RTTY/PSK31	1200Z	Jun 25
Marconi Memorial HF		1400Z	Jun 25
ARRL Milliwatt Field Day		1800Z	Jun 25
ARRL Field Day		1800Z	Jun 25
His Maj. King of Spain Contest	SSB	1800Z	Jun 25

News from the Net

Special Prefixes

At the request of Radio Amateurs of Canada, Industry Canada has authorized all Canadian radio amateurs to use special event prefixes for the month of May, 2005, to mark the opening of the new Canadian War Museum in Ottawa on 8 May, 2005 coincident with the 60th Anniversary of VE Day.

The official opening of the new Canadian War Museum in Ottawa, the national capital of Canada, on May 8, 2005, coincides with the 60th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day -- VE Day -- which, on May 8, 1945, officially ended the Second World War in Europe.

The year 2005 has been declared The Year of the Veteran by the Canadian government in recognition and commemoration of the determination, service and sacrifice of Canada's WW II veterans.

Canadian radio amateurs are authorized to use the following special event prefixes during the period 1 May to 31 May, 2005 inclusive:

- CF for VA stations
- CG for VE stations
- CH for VO stations
- CI0 for VY0 stations
- CI1 for VY1 stations
- CI2 for VY2 stations.

Environmental Canada Weather Updates by Email

Were you aware that Environment Canada has a FREE service whereby they will send you weather warnings, forecasts, etc. by email. Sterling (VE9SK) tells me that various services are offered including bulletins only for specific locations, forecasts up to three times a day, everyday, selected days, etc

If interested you can go to www.weatheroffice.pyr.ec.gc.ca/e-products and select the subscription(s) of your choice

HAM Radio comes through - Again

The role of Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) volunteers in Connecticut in last week's massive TOPOFF 3 exercise has drawn praise from the American Red Cross, for which ARES provided virtually all radio communication. Operators were there when needed them, and messages got to where they were needed. Connecticut's phase of TOPOFF 3 began April 4 with a bang-- an explosion in New London meant to simulate a terrorist attack. "Loud enough that the organizers passed out earplugs for the media gathered on the bluffs above." Visual realism was very much a part of the \$16 million exercise, and prospective ARES volunteers were cautioned in advance. "As the mushroom cloud of

smoke drifted away, hundreds of simulated gory victims processed into the site to assume positions of death and agony. Amateur Radio's performance in TOPOFF 3 did not go unnoticed within the Department of Homeland Security. Amateur Radio made a major contribution to the nation, and those who contribute to making it safer and stronger and folks in the right places know it. -- ARRL

Cypress gets expanded 40 Metre Band

Hams in Cypress have been given more spectrum on 40 meters. This, with word that Cypriot amateurs may now use 7.100 to 7.200 MHz in addition to 7.000 to 7.100 MHz they already had.

With this action, amateurs in Cypress join those in the UK, Ireland, Croatia, Switzerland, Norway, Denmark, San Marino and Iceland who already have access to 7.100 to 7.200 MHz. The expansion of the 40 meter band is included in the Cyprus Department of Electronic Communications National Frequency Plan which has been posted on the Internet at www.tinyurl.com/528w Its in Adobe pdf file format. -- *The Canadian Amateur Radio Bulletin*

Live Streaming Video Webcast from Dayton, Ohio Hamvention 2005 May 18 - 22, 2005

This will be our 3rd year to broadcast live our drive to hamvention (550 miles) and then the 3 days outside in the fleamarket. This year we have a new addition. We have the helmet cam which will let people around the world get a view of all the things we look at as we walk around. The streaming cam page <http://tmedlin.com/cam.htm> also has its own chat room and hams from around the world watched, chatted, and enjoyed it the past 2 years. There are no pop-ups or advertisements. Just something we like to do each year and have fun. It lets hams take part in ham radio if they are too far away to travel or health does not permit it. -- *The Canadian Amateur Radio Bulletin*

First QSOs via the moon on 47 GHz, April 16, 2005

The team of RW3BP, AD6FP, W5LUA, and VE4MA would like to announce that the first 47 GHz contacts via the moon have been completed. As you may recall, RW3BP heard the first lunar echoes on 47 GHz back in August of 2004. At that time he was heard by AD6FP, W5LUA, VE4MA and VE7CLD. Since the receipt of the first 47 GHz echoes via the moon, numerous tests between RW3BP and AD6FP led to improvements by RW3BP allowing him to copy calls from the lower power signal of AD6FP in January of 2005.

As of April 16, 2005 the team of AD6FP, W5LUA and VE4MA have each completed a CW QSO via the moon with RW3BP. The station at RW3BP consists of a 2.4M offset fed dish and 100 plus watts while the station at AD6FP

consists of a 1.8M offset fed dish and 30 watts. At W5LUA and VE4MA 2.4M offset fed dishes and 30 watt TWTs were used. Noise figures of all stations are in the 3.5 to 4.7 dB range. Since the doppler shift can be as much as 100 + kHz at 47 GHz, one must continuously adjust the receive frequency to keep the station centered in the passband. Precision frequency control was obtained by using GPS controlled, Rubidium locked, or TV sync controlled phase locked local oscillators. Various techniques were in use to keep the Doppler shifted frequency in the passband of the receivers. -- RAC

2005 Manitoba Marathon Volunteer Request Reminder

The planning for the 2005 Manitoba Marathon is again in full swing. This years Manitoba Marathon will be held on Fathers Day, Sunday, June 19th.

The pre-marathon meeting being held on Tuesday June 14th starting at 7 p.m. at the Sport Manitoba building, 200 Main St.

I would like to thank those people who have already contacted me and have volunteered for this year's marathon. However, more volunteers are still needed. If you are considering volunteering or know that you will, I would appreciate that you contact me. You may do this by the following:

E-mail rstegmaier@shaw.ca
Phone 982-9600 (please leave message)

Please indicate

- ☛ When you last volunteered for the Manitoba 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 address

Also, if you know anyone that is interested in volunteering and has not volunteered in the past, please let me know and I will be happy to contact them.

Tuner Vs. Coupler

<http://www.sgcworld.com>

The question of 'tuner' and 'coupler' and the distinction between them is a point on which you will find quite a bit of confusion and contention. All for no reason. The words are often used interchangeably, so many people equate them in their minds. People who use the words to represent different things make the distinction based on what each thing does.

If you want to use the terms distinctly, then a TUNER is something which TUNES just after the output of your transceiver. It's purpose is to match the feedline to the transceiver. What it tunes is the system composed of the feedline and the antenna to provide a 50 Ohm connection (or whatever impedance is needed for the match) for the transceiver. A COUPLER is put at the feed point of the antenna. It's purpose is to match the antenna to the 50 ohm feedline (or whatever other impedance is needed, but usually it's 50 ohms). A coupler keeps the SWR down along the whole feedline, while a tuner does not.

Which is better? There you'll find lots of opinion, but in general, most experts would consider the antenna feed point as the proper place to insert some sort of coupling device. Books like the Antenna Handbook or others usually have collections of matching sections for antennas run at a specific frequency. A coupler does the same thing, but it does it across a wide range of frequencies.

SO which do you want? A tuner built into your rig is there to protect the transceiver, not to give you the best signal. It's convenient, simple, and at most HF frequencies, losses will be fairly minimal on a practical level. A coupler at the antenna feed point will maximize your energy flow into the antenna, giving you the best signal possible with that physical antenna. Most matching sections though, are only for a single frequency and a small band around that frequency. The Smartuner (SGC's product), automates the tuning by selecting the best match at the feed point to maximize energy flow. This minimizes SWR across the whole of the feed line which also minimizes energy loss. Since the Smartuner is completely independent with its own internal intelligence, it operates completely without attention once it's properly installed. Many of our customers have had one for 5, 10, or more years and never even bother to look at it since it just sits there and does its job.

Should you use both? Generally not, simply because they're usually not needed. It shouldn't make any difference if you do, though. The transceiver might change power levels or do something else to confuse the remote coupler. Most people simply turn off the internal tuner and rely on the external one, since they can usually get demonstrably better signal reports when using the remote coupler.

WPGARES

By Jeff, VE4MBQ Emergency Coordinator

Our April General Meeting featured a presentation by Kent Haase VE4KEH "Operating from Remote Locations". Kent VE4KEH and his xyl Isabel are to be congratulated for the excellent manner in which they organized the very successful Winnipeg ARES Silent Auction and Raffle at the recent WARC Flea Market. I would also like to thank the prize donors as well as our "customers". There should be a detailed report from Kent elsewhere in this newsletter regarding the Silent Auction & Raffle.

If you are interested in volunteering for the Manitoba Marathon SUN 19 JUN please contact our Volunteer Coordinator Rob VE4RST A.S.A.P. so that we can begin to finalize this year's plan. You can reach Rob via e-mail: rstegmaier@shaw.ca or by work phone 982-9600 (leave voice-mail). We have recruited approximately 80 % of the required Amateurs so far. Maiko VE4KLM our APRS Coordinator is still in need of some "loaner" APRS gear (GPS units, Tiny Trackers, TNCs, etc). He could probably use a few additional mag-mount antennas and HTs. You can reach Maiko via e-mail: maiko@pcs.mb.ca or home telephone 885-2398 before 2100h daily. The Manitoba Marathon has funded the purchase of three (3) Tiny Tracker kits. The more medical units that we can track by APRS the easier it is for critical voice communications to get through and also makes for more economical spectrum use (Net Controllers don't have to voice-poll units to ask about their location). The Manitoba Marathon operation continues to be a WARC-Winnipeg ARES joint operation.

Our next General Meeting is TUE 17 MAY 1900h at Sir Wm Stephenson Library 765 Keewatin Street. Dick Maguire VE4HK will be giving us a presentation "Bicycle Mobile Operations".

WARC's Training for Youth Program

By David VE4DAR

On April 11, WARC's Training Committee reported its findings and recommendations regarding amateur radio operator training for youth in Winnipeg. The report suggested that WARC's very existence was threatened by not having a plan to renew its ageing membership. There appears to be a very small pool of new youthful radio operators from which WARC can recruit. Most of the WSARC graduates are retired persons. Training by other clubs has been for their own members.

Six recommendations for WARC emerged from the above observations. Generally, they said that WARC should focus on training for youth; that WARC could co-sponsor amateur radio operator training at the Basic Qualification level with Air Cadets in Winnipeg; that classes could be held on Saturday mornings at the WSARC facility; and that RAC Study Guides should be purchased by WARC and loaned to students for a refundable deposit. Up to three other youth could participate in the training, admitted on a first come, first served basis.

The report, recommendations and budget were approved at the meeting. Implementation has been steady and will continue over the summer so classes can begin around October 1, 2005.

The syllabus has been completed. RAC's Instructor Guides for the Basic Course have been acquired and are being reviewed. Most instructors have been recruited and will receive training in May. Teaching assignments are being determined. Other administrative details are being worked out.

We appreciate the advice and assistance offered by many in our amateur radio community.

QTX~

By Derek, VE4HAY



While wearing my Assistant Regional Director hat, I have been asked by a ever growing number of HAM's in Manitoba - What is Happening with RAC, IC and the Morse Code issue? Well to tell you the truth, I just don't have a good answer on that. I have been told that RAC has another CARAB meeting scheduled prior to the Board of Directors' meeting next month, where Jim Dean, two directors and the chairman will, once again, be pressuring IC to move on the issue. Should you wish to communicate directly wit Industry Canada, you can email them at

Spectrum.amateur@ic.gc.ca maybe then with enough people asking about it, they will give an answer, or at least move ahead on this issue. All I could get out of Industry Canada was "*The decision as I understand it may be made late spring.*" Not quite what I was looking for, but a typical response form government.

Reminder - The RAC Annual General meeting will be held in Saskatoon this summer, for more info check the web site <http://www.saskhamfest.com/>.