



The **NEWSCASTER**

The Official Publication of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club

<http://www.mts.net/~warc>

February 2007

IRLP # 1066

VE4BB

N.V.I.S.

How to work HF in the Province
Rick, VE4OV

Date: February 12th 2007
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Sturgeon Creek Regional Secondary School

Other Important Dates:

WARC: Mar. 12 - Radio in Aviation
April 9 - Home Brew Night
April 15 - Flea market
May 14 -
June 11 -
June 17 - Manitoba Marathon
June 24-24 - Field Day

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

ARES:

Other: April 18 - World Amateur Radio Day.

Nets: Daily 00:00 UTC	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 145.450 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 +

And now for a word from the President ...

By Geoff, VE4BAW

A Happy and Prosperous 2007 to you and yours. I had a break between Christmas and New Years at the cabin. I also played radio during the RAC Winter Day Contest.

I told our newsletter editor that I would make-up for being out of province when he set the deadline for the last Newscaster by producing a long [and boring] article. Hopefully I lied about the boring part – you will be the judge of that, gentle reader. Now when Derek went out of country he ensured that all his obligations were met ... except for one ... I am still waiting for that bottle of very peaty scotch that I promised him that he would bring back from Scotland for me [did you follow that? More importantly will Derek do something about that – Derek ... single malt ... very peaty ... please].

The last presentation at the WARC general meeting was labeled as a SWOT Exercise in the Newscaster – Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. SWOT is a tool that is part of an organizational planning process. At that meeting we did an environmental scan [organizational landscape, interests of club members, economics etc. .. see the crib sheet which follows this article and which was handed out to all participants that evening] .. we did perform the SWOT exercise and started to brainstorm objectives for the club. Usually you would spend up to a day to get to mission, vision and objectives but we only had a two hour meeting and so we focused on a barebones, fast forward process. I would have to say that attendance and

WARC: Executive for 2006- 2007

Past President	John Pura	ve4qv at rac.ca
President	Geoff Bawden	ve4baw at rac.ca
Vice-Pres	GeorgeMoodie	geomoodie at yahoo.com
Secretary	Ruthie Maman	rmaman at mts.net
Treasurer	Pat Geisbrecht	ve4plg at mts.net
Membership	Mark Blumm	ve4mab at rac.ca
Program	Derek Hay	ve4hay at rac.ca
Director at Large	Raymond Hall	ve4rq at rac.ca

participation was good and the input received was credible and even enthusiastic and can form the basis for your Executive to do some planning. The results of this planning will be articulated, discussed, and validated [or not] at a general meeting.

As I write this I am sitting in my radio shack with the sheets and notes from the meeting stuck up on the walls. They reveal the output of a meeting of dedicated, intelligent and engaged people. It will take a number of hours to analyze and synthesis the information that was generated that evening and any comments that I may make here are only preliminary. The purpose of this article is to document that evening for future analysis and discussion.

Why bother to plan? WARC has a robust and successful annual action plan including two flea markets, a field day, the Marathon, regular meetings, has a bank account, and there is a persistent core of members that keep the wheels moving. WARC has only one target or project that is not reoccurring in any current year – the RAC annual meeting and accompanying Hamfest in June of 2008. In my view one should always have a plan – even if you have to depart from it from time to time. If you don't have a destination how do you know that you ended up where you wanted to go?

One of the things that I noted at the meeting was that while WARC had a competent set of by-laws there was no objective or purpose formally established for the club. MRS, ARES, WSC, UMAR, etc. have focused purposes more or

less [mostly more] which are clearly articulated while WARC has no formal objectives. There is no sin in that and if after reasoned exploration no collective desire to establish a plan then no problem, no problem at all.

There are quite a number of clubs in Manitoba, in fact a great many clubs given the actual number of certified amateurs and many amateurs are members of one or more clubs and organizations. I am a member of at least four in Manitoba ... WARC, MRS, ARES and MARM. We documented the clubs: WARC, ARES, MRS, Winnipeg Senior's Club, UMAR, Pathfinders and a second [unnamed] Philippine club, the "dead" DX club, Satellite Interest Group, clubs in Brandon, Dauphin, Interlake, Beausejour, Pinawa, Portage, and perhaps more. At the national level there is RAC, CLARA and in the US, ARRL. The larger organizations have defined objectives [I am thinking of MRS, ARES, Seniors, MARM, in particular].

Some early observations: Diversity is a major WARC theme – the club is composed of a range of competent, interesting, personable and supportive people. Interests are diverse – DX, satellite, public service, IRLP, antennas, homebrew, APRS, contesting, digital, rag chewing, CQing, social involvement, electronics, gadgets, education, betterment of the hobby, recruitment [club and amateur radio], profiling amateur radio to the public, CW, F and SSTV, foxhunting, QRP, QRO, Echolink, [and probably more – we didn't have much time]. As part of an environmental scan we learned that there were about 1000 certified amateurs in Manitoba, 600 in Winnipeg with 122 being members of the club, economics are on our side – radios have never been cheaper or more capable. The club has many strengths; WARC is an established club with a long history, there is a core of competent members that manage the robust annual events undertakings such as the flea market, Field Day, Marathon, monthly meetings, Newscaster, Christmas Party, there is a regular cash flow resulting in cash on hand, the club encompasses a broad range of interests and activities [the diversity thing – its also a weakness]. There are some reported weaknesses; limited strategic thinking, increasing age of the members, lax executive development, limited publicity and public profile, the club is in a rut, no financial plan or objectives, lack of key performance indicators which inform decisions [e.g. financial or membership targets], lack of trend data on membership and amateur radio certification, inactive members, regulations which limit towers, lack of focus [the diversity thing]. There are opportunities; develop incentives for members to attend meetings, develop a clubhouse and active station, provide ongoing education function, determine appropriate age cohort to influence an interest in amateur radio, joint meetings with other clubs [MRS was mentioned], grow membership, advertise the club and amateur radio by



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Ottawa, Ontario, K1G 6K9
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Toll free: (888) 780-3333
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E-mail: spectrum.amateur@ic.gc.ca
http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/insmt-gst.nsf/en/h_sf01709e.html

IRLP Node 1066
145.450 MHz -600 KHz
(VE4WRS)

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

public service announcements, perform public demonstrations of amateur radio at public events or in the mall, access the inactive members list and engage past members, undertake a survey of members. What about Threats? The lack of young members was viewed as a threat to the future of the club and amateur radio although in an interesting survey of members present there seemed to be a history of an early exposure to amateur radio followed by a commitment later in life – that in youth there are a great many distractions but later in one's thirties or better the interest reached fruition, a low member's participation rate, small pool of interested people to recruit from, low general public knowledge or support of amateur radio, a plethora of technologies which allow for long distance communication.

Some objectives were proposed; establish a clubhouse, grow membership, establish a financial plan, more professional speakers at meetings even if an Honorarium is required.

Ok, the above was the input recorded at the meeting and I wanted to share the information with you gentle reader... subsequent to the meeting I received an email from Dave Rosner [ve4dar] outlining his thoughts ... I have taken the liberty of including his email with this article.

The Executive will review the info at its next meeting and a plan with options will be developed and presented at a future general meeting. Have patience.. it may be a meeting or two down the road but we will report back to the club and have a discussion or perhaps even a lively debate. If you have any comments that you would like to add please e-mail me at ve4baw@rac.ca.

And now for something completely different. Its time to start thinking about one of those annual events – the Marathon. "Once more into the breach dear friends..." the usual suspects from last year are banding together to organize amateur's contribution to the 2008 Marathon. Lessons were learned last year that will be applied to this year. I will be bringing in registration forms to WARC and ARES meetings. The forms will make it easier for the organizing team to get the job done.

Don't forget to pen in your calendar that June 17th is Father's Day and the Marathon. [Derek, its time to add it to the Newscaster's Calendar].

Have a great month and see you in February!

Marathon your first notice for 2007!

By Geoff, VE4BAW

The Marathon is now just less than six months away and the countdown begins! The Marathon Team is coming together again. John Foster [ve4jnf] is ready to collect your name and prepare the 2007 roster, Albert Sousa [va4as] is ready to perform his desktop publishing magic and Don Gerrard [ve4dwg] is updating our Access Data Base to track all the willing volunteers. As I have indicated at various meetings we want to ensure that our information about the volunteers is accurate and we are asking that you fill out a form to ensure that we have your correct contact information, that we know your t shirt size and where you want to volunteer. Please make it easy for your hard working volunteer team, add your call sign to the form and send your completed form to myself or John Foster. The form was originally developed by the Marathon Organization itself ... please tell us whether we can share your completed form with the Marathon Organization. My email address is ve4baw@rac.ca.

Semi- Annual WARC Flea Market

**April 15, 2007
Heritage Victoria
Community Club
950 Sturgeon Rd.**

Vendor doors open at 9:00 am
Buyers doors open at 10:00 am
Door prize draws 11:30 am

\$3.00 Entrance fee

Tables are \$5.00 for WARC members,
\$10.00 for non-WARC members and commercial

Dick, VE4HK is the Coordinator. If you would like to volunteer for various jobs please contact him.

Ruth VE4XYL and Tom VE4SE will be selling tables, please contact them at 837-6915 or at 605 Bruce Ave.

Minutes for December 11th, 2006

Submitted by Ruthie, VE4CRS

32 members in attendance - Introductions followed.

No minutes from Xmas party. Geoff thanked members who made Xmas party successful and all who attended. Special thanks to Ruth VE4XYL and her team.

Treasurer's Report

Bank Balance as of Dec. 31, 2006: - \$6534.22.

Insurance in Reserve: - \$500.00

Flea Market

Spring Flea Market: - April 15, 2007 at Heritage Victoria Community Club. Ruth VE4XYL is taking money for tables. Reserve early!

Marathon

Volunteer data base is being updated.

Education

Coming this coming Saturday a condensed course is commencing for 6-7 electrical students from Red River College. The electrical part of the course is being omitted. Kent VE4KEH.

Satellite Group

Stefan VE4NSA is putting together a course for Win-Cube at Maples High School. He is looking for volunteer instructors.

2008 Ham Convention

Volunteers are needed for committees. Already working on programs and arrangements. Get in touch with Derek VE4HAY. Convention date is weekend of Aug. 8, 2008.

Newscaster

Derek VE4HAY is looking for articles. Please submit!

DXpedition

DU7RG, DXpedition starting Jan. 15. VE7CT will be there. It's split up between 3 Islands, a rare station. Will be concentrating on North America!

ARES

Looking for volunteer operators for the following:

Sled Dog Races, 3,4 FEB approx 0830 - 1600 hrs.

Klondike Derby 3,4 MAR approx 0830 - 1630 hrs.

Opening for a WPGARES member in good standing to attend the Winnipeg Emergency Management or WEM Course 16-18 JAN, 0830-1630h. A member booked has to withdraw. Tom VE4HQ and Rolf VE4VZ will be attending.

Presentation

SWOT Exercise:

Environmental Scan

Organizational Landscape; Interest; Population; Economic Conditions; Annual Events (yearly plan)

Identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. State vision, mission, objectives and multi-year plan. Led by Geoff VE4BAW

- In our by-laws, no stated purpose. What is the purpose of our club? Member participation from the floor is encouraged.

Most of the Amateur Radio Clubs in Manitoba have an environmental plan, a purpose. Purpose of various Winnipeg clubs were noted as well as other clubs in Manitoba.

WARC has a robust plan as follows: 2 Flea Markets per year; Field Day; Marathon; Xmas Party; Home Brew Night; monthly meetings with educational programs; monthly Newscaster; Education/Training program.

Member participation commented on WARC and ARES activities. Suggestion: - membership survey with prize.

The following interests were identified:

DX; Satellites; IRLP; Public Service; Contesting; Digital; APRS; Ragchewing; Socializing/Fellowship; Electronics; Education/Betterment of Hobby; Gadgets; Publicizing; Recruitment; CW; ATV; CQing; Fox Hunting; QRP; Echolink;

Concerns:

- people complain but don't want to participate; no publicity, no recruitment, no course advertising; Amateur Radio isn't publicized; sameness, no new hams; community is aging; youth not attracted to Amateur Radio nor to WARC; technology advance is competing; have gotten away from basic purpose of hobby; regulations re antennas, etc. discouraging; young adult perception = GEEK; inactive members;

Interest:

- club is for general interest; display and publicize; Win-Cube; market through today's technology;

Population: - Over 1000 Amateurs in MB. WARC membership to date = 122.

Strengths identified:

- established organization with long history; successful semi-annual Flea Markets; some productive committees; common interests; wide scope and knowledge in amateur radio and life professions; self-actualizing; diverse; committed to membership through Newscaster; good participation;

Weaknesses identified:

- no strategic thinking/planning; declining/aging membership; members on periphery; not enough participation; shadow members; lax in membership development; lax in executive development; no publicity committee; core member burn-out; no financial plan; no fan-out list;

Opportunities:

- dollars available; establish incentive for bringing in new members; incentive for attending meetings; youth

education project and Win-Cube project; draw for all members even if not at meeting; joint meetings with other clubs; clubhouse and active station; income/cash flow to support incentives; find appropriate cohort; exposure;

3 steps exposure to Amateur Radio: - a) target groups – hands on demonstrations – teams ready to go; b) course – introduction to Amateur Radio; c) basic or foundation course.

Threats:

- low number of new Amateurs, especially younger than 25; new hams not active in WARC; competing interests: - technology and other hobbies; refract ring; targeting wrong youth groups; doing same thing all the time;

Objectives

- * Change sameness – review annual activities
- * Introduce Amateur Radio to school children
- * Have young kids teaching young kids (role models)
- * Membership development plan
- * Financial Plan
- * More professional lecturers at our meetings in electrical field. Honourarium.
- * 5 year plan – clubhouse and radio station.

Meeting adjourned at 2145 hrs. SWOT not completed. Executive will sit down with suggestions and come up with a plan for membership. Can be continued at upcoming meeting.

50/50 draw: Pat VE4PLG.

Membership draw: Geoff VE4BAW

**Did you received this newsletter
via the postal service?**

Do you have an e-mail account?

Would you like to have the newsletter delivered right to your desktop in glorious colour along with bones material, and web links to articles.

Then please send an email to Mark,
ve4mab@rac.ca and we will switch you over to the electronic version of the newsletter.

IRLP Help wanted By Derek, VE4HAY

The Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club and the Manitoba Repeater Society have jointly put up the IRLP system on the VE4WRS repeater. The joint project is to be MRS supplying the radio side of things and WARC supplying the Computer & internet side of the operation, with the two groups coming together by a wire on the passing of the audio. While this sounds great on paper, in reality is has not been. WARC started out with proper intentions, but fell short when the person involved back off the project and MRS took up the slack. MRS is no requesting that someone from the WARC membership would volunteer to take over the administration of the IRLP system.

Administrative duties for the site include but are not limited to, login procedures, audio alignment procedures, and other basic file management pertaining to IRLP. Technical background is best but as Amateurs most of us qualify here.

- ✓ Basic computer skills are required by anyone who wants to be the administrator.
- ✓ ability to run remote login software at home on a secure network/system. SecureCRT is recommended.
- ✓ command line entry and GUI Linux in particular Red Hat-9+
- ✓ ability to maintain strict security with passwords, IP addresses, etc.
- ✓ some experience setting audio levels, FM deviation, and some knowledge of repeater setup and maintenance.
- ✓ Someone that our host site will allow physical access to the secure VE4WPG site

Participants should have at least some of the above qualifications. Keep in mind that once the access passwords are given out anyone with remote access has the capability of changing audio characteristics of the IRLP system, changing passwords, modifying audio files (IDs), and timers for basic repeater function.

Those of us who are members of both clubs should contact the WARC executive if they are interested in being the potential IRLP system administrators. MRS will arrange with Dale, VE4DRC for access and training information.

Calendar

February

10 meter NAC	CW/SSB/FM/DIGI	1800Z	Feb 1
Vermont QSO Party		0000Z	Feb 3
10-10 Int. Winter Contest	SSB	0001Z	Feb 3
AGCW Straight Key Party	CW	1300Z	Feb 3
Minnesota QSO Party		1400Z	Feb 3
YLRL YL-OM Contest	CW	1400Z	Feb 3
Delaware QSO Party		1700Z	Feb 3
	And	1300Z	Feb 4
Mexico RTTY International	RTTY	1800Z	Feb 3
North American Sprint	SSB	0000Z	Feb 4
ARCI Fireside SSB Sprint	SSB	2000Z	Feb 4
RSGB 80m Club Championship	SSB	2000Z	Feb 5
ARS Spartan Sprint		0200Z	Feb 6
CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	RTTY	0000Z	Feb 10
Asia-Pacific Spring Sprint	CW	1100Z	Feb 10
KCJ Topband Contest		1200Z	Feb 10
Dutch PACC Contest		1200Z	Feb 10
Classic Exchange (CX)	AM/SSB	1400Z	Feb 10
YLRL YL-OM Contest	SSB	1400Z	Feb 10
Louisiana QSO Party	CW/SSB	1500Z	Feb 10
British Columbia QSO Challenge		1600Z	Feb 10
FISTS Winter Sprint		1700Z	Feb 10
RSGB 1st 1.8 MHz Contest	CW	2100Z	Feb 10
North American Sprint	CW	0000Z	Feb 11
Classic Exchange (CX)	AM/CW/SSB	1400Z	Feb 11
ARRL School Club Roundup		1300Z	Feb 12
SKCC Sprint	CW	0000Z	Feb 14
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	CW	0130Z	Feb 14
AGCW Semi-Automatic Key	CW	1900Z	Feb 14
RSGB 80m Club Championship	Data	2000Z	Feb 14
ARRL Inter. DX Contest	CW	0000Z	Feb 17
YLISSB QSO Party	CW/SSB	0000Z	Feb 17
SSA Månadstest nr 2	SSB	1400Z	Feb 18
SSA Månadstest nr 2	CW	1515Z	Feb 18
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest		0200Z	Feb 19
RSGB 80m Club Championship	CW	2000Z	Feb 22
Russian PSK WW Contest		2100Z	Feb 23
CQ 160-Meter Contest	SSB	0000Z	Feb 24
REF Contest	SSB	0600Z	Feb 24
UBA DX Contest	CW	1300Z	Feb 24
Mississippi QSO Party	CW/SSB	1500Z	Feb 24
OMISS QSO Party	SSB	1500Z	Feb 24
North American QSO Party	RTTY	1800Z	Feb 24
High Speed Club	CW	0900Z	Feb 25
	And	1500Z	Feb 25
North Carolina QSO Party		1700Z	Feb 25
CQC Winter QSO Party	CW/SSB	2200Z	Feb 25

March

10 meter NAC	CW/SSB/FM/Digi	1800Z	Mar 1
ARRL Inter. DX Contest	SSB	0000Z	Mar 3
Wake-Up! QRP Sprint		0400Z	Mar 3
	And	0430Z	Mar 3
	And	0500Z	Mar 3
	And	0530Z	Mar 3
Open Ukraine	RTTY	2200Z	Mar 3
	And	0000Z	Mar 4
	And	0800Z	Mar 4
DARC 10-Meter	Digital	1100Z	Mar 4
RSGB 80m Club	Data	2000Z	Mar 5
ARS Spartan Sprint		0200Z	Mar 6
AGCW YL-CW Party		1900Z	Mar 6
Pesky Texan Armadillo ChaseCW		0400Z	Mar 8
RSGB Commonwealth		1000Z	Mar 10
AGCW QRP Contest		1400Z	Mar 10
Oklahoma QSO Party		1400Z	Mar 10
	And	1400Z	Mar 11
EA	PSK31	1600Z	Mar 10
DIG QSO (10 & 20 m)	SSB	1700Z	Mar 10
	And 80M SSB	0700	Mar 11
	And 40M SSB	1100	Mar 11
SOC Marathon Sprint	CW	1800Z	Mar 10
North American Sprint	RTTY	0000Z	Mar 11
Idaho QSO Party	All	0000Z	Mar 11
UBA Spring Contest	CW	0700Z	Mar 11
Oklahoma QSO Party (2)	All	1400Z	Mar 11
NSARA Contest (1)	CW/SSB	1600Z	Mar 11
Wisconsin QSO Party		1800Z	Mar 11
SKCC Sprint	CW	0200Z	Mar 14
RSGB 80m Club	CW	2000Z	Mar 14
SARL VHF/UHF Contest		1600Z	Mar 16
	And	1600Z	Mar 17
10-10 Int. Mobile Contest		0001Z	Mar 17
BARTG Spring	RTTY	0200Z	Mar 17
Russian DX Contest		1200Z	Mar 17
DARC HF-SSTV Contest	SSTV	1200Z	Mar 17
AGCW VHF/UHF	144	1600Z	Mar 17
	And 432	1900Z	Mar 17
CLARA & Family HF	CW/SSB	1700Z	Mar 17
Virginia QSO Party		1800Z	Mar 17
UBA Spring Contest	6m	0700Z	Mar 18
SSA Månadstest nr 3	CW	1400Z	Mar 18
ARCI HF Grid Square Sprint		1500Z	Mar 18
9KCC 15m-Contest	CW/SSB	1600Z	Mar 18
SSA Månadstest nr 3	SSB	1615Z	Mar 18
Run for the Bacon QRP		0100Z	Mar 19
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug		0030Z	Mar 22
RSGB 80m Club	SSB	2000Z	Mar 22
CQ WW WPX	SSB	0000Z	Mar 24
QRP Homebrewer Sprint		0000Z	Mar 26

Ideas for WARC 2007

By David VE4DAR

This is like a “straw man”; a collection of ideas for your consideration. The purpose is to discuss the ideas, bash them about; accept them, change them or reject them with no harm done nor offense taken. I hope there’s something useful herein.

1. Committee structure for WARC

A committee can provide a venue for activity. Rather than just being a passive recipient of WARC’s services, a member can get more involved. Through committee work a member could develop some organizational and leadership skills. After being a committee chair, a member could join the Executive Committee. A new member might choose involvement in a committee as a way to become integrated into the Club and to learn more about our hobby. Through the committee structure, responsibility and work is shared. The whole burden isn’t on one person.

2. Membership Committee

Chaired by the Membership Chairman on the Executive, this committee is intended to recruit new members and retain existing members. New members need to be welcomed into the club officially. Perhaps an existing member can “host” a new one. Perhaps the committee can develop a check list to ensure all points are covered. For example, introduction to the Executive; provided with introductory handout (eg. list of main events during year); given copy of Club’s constitution. New member can be encouraged to participate in one of the committees.

3. Publicity Committee

Doesn’t require Executive chair; can be chaired by ordinary member.

Opportunities for hobby photographers to contribute.

This is a year-round committee with these functions:

Works with Newscaster Editor and other media representatives to inform the public about our hobby and specific activities/achievements of WARC.

Develop/update WARC brochure for new members

Publicize at least these events: Field Day, Flea Market, monthly program

This includes making announcements on the Nets and at meetings of other clubs.

4. Field Day Committee

WARC manual already exists for this activity

5. Flea Markets Committee

If no WARC manual for this exists, ask Ruth VE4XYL for her notes and advice.

6. Training Committee

This important activity requires an Executive chair. I think this is a good role for the VP.

The current Training Committee Chair (and Chief Instructor), Kent VE4KEH, might be willing to have a Co Chair, especially if this committee’s activity and role expands.

Goal A: Create a pool of new amateur radio operators from which to recruit WARC members.

Interest persons (preferably Youth) in our hobby by placing relevant articles in local papers by placing and staffing booths in shopping malls, at community events by connecting with a specified number of schools/youth groups each year to offer demonstrations of several operating modes (see below)

Graduates in three steps:

a. Set up 4 different operating stations. Divide class into 4 groups. Groups spend 15 minutes at each station, then move to the next station. Short talk; then chance to try handheld, CW, IRLP, HF if signals OK or digital mode. Handout provided to each participant.

b. Introduction to Amateur Radio. 3 – 5 short sessions to give overview of hobby. Teach phonetic alphabet in one session.

c. Basic Course or Foundation Course. These will be a little shorter than usual because students will already have had some training as above.

Goal B: Develop and sharpen the amateur radio skills of members

By working with the Program Chair to have at least one (for example), antenna building workshop per year

By working with the Field Day Committee to ensure some instruction is given to new hams on:

how to raise a tower/antenna safely

how to set up a generator including proper grounding.

Note: I have concern that if activities such as these aren’t “scheduled”, the same persons do these activities year after year, and few skills are passed on.

7. Finance Committee

Chaired by the Treasurer. Prepare annual budget. Help to collect/manage money at Flea Markets and other events. Develop and work on fund-raising activities if required.

8. Program Committee

Chaired by Program Chair. Develop and work on programs at WARC meetings, and at other times/events.

News from the Net

Ham Meeting Speaker Database

Radio Amateurs of Canada is compiling a list of volunteer guest speakers for clubs or ARES units within their own area, to speak on any Amateur Radio, ARES or related topic. Those responding will have their names and information added to a speaker pool list which will be made available to their respective Section Manager. Clubs or ARES groups requiring a speaker will obtain information from the list through their SM, so that the club or group may contact the speaker directly. Willing volunteers should forward their contact information and areas of speaking expertise to the RAC Vice President for Field Services by email at ve3bdb@sympatico.c Full details appear in the January/February issue of TCA.

(ed: This will be a great help for any Hamfest or convention in the future)

RAC HF Band Planing Review

The HF BandPlanning Committee has been reactivated, under the chairmanship of well known contester and TCA columnist, Bob Nash - VE3KZ. If you have issues or questions in this area, please contact your regional representative on this committee. The committee members are: John Conner (VE3TG), Don Moman (VE6JY), Gus Samuelson (VO1MP), Rob Kaufmann (VE4GV) and Mel Martin (VE2DC). -- RAC

Restructuring of Amateur Radio in Canada

The Report on the Restructuring of Amateur Radio in Canada has been completed and presented to RAC's Board of Directors. It was accepted and will, on approval of the Board, be posted to RAC's WEB site. You will be able to download a .PDF copy of the full report as well as a Power Point summary which you will find suitable for presentation at club meetings. Both contain a summary of the data collected as well as recommendations based on this data. -- RAC

US going Code Free

RAC members and Canadian amateurs are invited to go to URL <http://arrl.org/fcc/morse/> to read of FCC's notice "deleting any Morse code examination for United States Amateur Radio Licence applicants that would go into effect Friday Feb. 23/07. ARRL cautions that this date is tentative, pending official confirmation and publication. RAC President Earle Smith VE6NM attended the ARRL Board of Directors meeting Jan 19-20/07 and reports that attendees there were very positive about this announcement, anticipating an increase in the number of US amateurs becoming active on HF phone after Feb 23. -- RAC

IRLP Update By MRS Technical Committee

First; the phone patch is now back up and running. Access codes and operating routine are as they were before. The phone patch takes precedence over the IRLP functions.

-The audio properties are a bit different for signals coming from the internet side of the IRLP. The speaker output of the computer has a lower impedance rating than the circuit to which it is connected causing the high end of the audio spectrum to be a bit enhanced. We plan on installing a matching system so the sound card will see an 8 ohm load which should improve the audio quality.

-The IRLP disable/enable during phone patch access will be different. We are able to use a signal from the phone patch to put the IRLP system in "standby" and re-enable it as soon as the phone patch hangs up. This eliminates the need for the 9 minute timer we were using before. This change also causes remote stations trying to access WRS to get a message "The node you are trying to connect to is being used locally" when they input the 1066 IRLP code. The node will not allow connects until the phone patch is ended. Please monitor the system and report any problems. There may be some glitches but we haven't found any yet.

Program Chair By Derek, VE4HAY



Wow, what a great presentation ... Err workshop we had last month. Those who were there certainly know what I am talking about. For those that missed the meeting, we had a very compressed SWOT session. See the president Article on the front page for more on the meeting highlights. Needless to say the board has some work cut out for itself.

This month we will have Rick, VE4OV talking about NVIS, Near Vertical Incident Systems. Anyone in ARES, Anyone new to HF, Anyone wanting to make contact within MB, ND, MN, SD, SK NWON, on any HF band really needs to come out to this meeting. I have heard Rick talk about this before it is very educational.

Next month we will have David Silverthorne from Nav Canada talking about Aviation Radio use. Davis has been a tech with Nav Canada 25 years or so and comes with lots of experience.

Radio Communications Act Fine Schedule

Extracted from the Canada Department of Justice in regards to the Radiocommunications Act and fines. Disclaimer: These documents are not the official versions

SCHEDULE IX (Sections 1 to 3) RADIOCOMMUNICATION ACT

Provision of Radiocommunication Act	Short-Form Description	Fine (\$)
45	Operate radio apparatus licensed in the amateur radio service contrary to the applicable standards	250
47(a)	Communicate with a radio station that is not licensed in the amateur radio service	100
47(c)(iii)	Operate radio apparatus licensed in the amateur radio service to transmit music	100
	Operate radio apparatus licensed in the amateur radio service to transmit programming originating from a broadcasting undertaking	100
47(c)(iv)	(a) Operate radio apparatus licensed in the amateur radio service to transmit radiocommunications in support of industrial activities	250
	(b) Operate radio apparatus licensed in the amateur radio service to transmit radiocommunications in support of business activities	250
	(c) Operate radio apparatus licensed in the amateur radio service to transmit radiocommunications in support of professional activities	250
49	(a) Demand remuneration for transmitting a radiocommunication on a radio apparatus licensed in the amateur radio service	250
	(b) Accept remuneration for transmitting a radiocommunication on a radio apparatus licensed in the amateur radio service	250
	(c) Demand remuneration for receiving a radiocommunication on a radio apparatus licensed in the amateur radio service	250
	(d) Accept remuneration for receiving a radiocommunication on a radio apparatus licensed in the amateur radio service	250

WARC Spring Flea Market By Dick, VE4HK

The days are finally getting a little longer. Spring is still a glimmer on the distant horizon. Soon enough, the snow will be gone. Now is the time when a good ham's thoughts turn to WARC Flea Market. The Flea Market will be held on Sunday, April 15, at Heritage Victoria Community Club, 950 Sturgeon Road.

Ruth VE4XYL has already sold several tables. If you have as much junk as I do, better book a table quickly. Tables are still the same popular price of \$5.00 for WARC members, and \$10.00 for non members and commercial vendors.

Admission: \$3.00 per person

Times: coffee, snacks and eyeball QSO's at 8:30 am
Vendor doors open at 9:00 am
Buyers doors open at 10:00 am
Door prize draws 11:30 am

Talk in will be on 147.390 MHz positive offset, VE4WPG repeater

Come early to enjoy camaraderie with you friends, then join the crowd in the main hallway. You are sure to find something valuable to take home.

If you have any questions or suggestions, contact me at 256-3143, ve4hk@rac.ca, Saturday mornings at the Golden Arches, or the next WARC meeting.

DIAMOND IMAGE

Floyd Rolph VE4 FDR

835 Cavalier Drive Tel: (204) 888-3227

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- South Western & Victorian home decor

- ty Beanie Babies

- Balloon bouquets & decorating

- Gifts

- Printing eg: Business cards, letterhead, envelopes

- Wedding invitations



Compressed Basic Course
By David VE4DAR

It may have been bitterly cold outside, but inside things started to warm up around 0900 hours on Saturday, January 13. That's when WARC's new Compressed Basic Course began at Red River College downtown. "Compressed" is how Chief Instructor Kent VE4KEH labeled the course after he and Alex VE4AIM removed much of the electronics content, and shortened the course from 20 to 12 weeks. Nevertheless, these students will still have to pass Industry Canada's Basic exam to get their Certificate of Proficiency.



And who are these bright students? Six are second-year RRC Engineering Technology students; the seventh is an Instrumentation Technology instructor. Good job on the recruiting, Kent and Alex! We look forward to hearing seven new call signs on the air around the end of March

WPGARES
By Jeff, VE4MBQ Emergency Coordinator

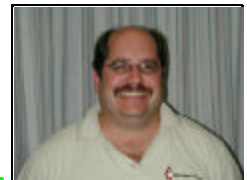
Megan Gillespie, Dissemination Specialist Environment Canada gave a very interesting presentation on S.A.M.E. Weather Radio during our JAN meeting. Megan's Power Point presentation can be downloaded from our web-site: <http://www.winnipegares.ca/educmtng.htm>

Tom VE4HQ and Rolf VE4VZ completed the Winnipeg Emergency Management or WEM Course in mid-JAN. To date eleven WPGARES members have attended a WEM course, seven current members have attended a MEM course and three current members attended Plans & Operations (Peace) or "POPs" thru ARES approximately ten to twelve years ago. Harm VE4HAZ and Roger VE4RLF are scheduled to attend the 28 JAN familiarization session for VE4PSC in the Public Safety Emergency Preparedness Canada (PSEPC) Regional Office.

By the time you read this report, at least 6 of us should have done a Test Net on the Red River SUN 28 JAN to look at repeater coverage and approximately 20 of us should have covered the Rivers West Sled Dog Races from The Forks 3 & 4 FEB, more details next month.

Volunteer operators are still required for Scouts Canada Klondike Derby 3, 4 MAR Camp Amisk, just off the South Perimeter Hwy.

Our next General Meeting will be TUE 20 FEB 1900h at Sir Wm Stephenson Library 765 Keewatin Street, we will be looking at our 2m beam kit.



QTX~
By Derek, VE4HAY

Did you know

- ☛ Did you know that Arunie's younger sister just got her Ham License about a week and a half ago? Her name is Piyumi and she is only nine and a half years old. She beat her sister by just a little bit
- ☛ The MB marathon Communications registration form is attached to this newsletter for those who receive it online and is on our web site.
- ☛ Homebrew night is coming - R U Ready !!

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