



# The **NEWSCASTER**

The Official Publication of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club

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

**April 2007**

**IRLP # 1066**

**VE4BB**

## Home Brew Night

Bring out your Projects

Date: **April 9th 2007**  
Time: 7:30 p.m.  
Place: Sturgeon Creek Regional Secondary School

**And now for a word from the President ...**

**By Geoff, VE4BAW**

I was impressed by our last speaker, Mr. David Silverthorne. His dry wit and clear explanations held our attention and gave us a look into the world of Nav radio. Many thanks to Derek for asking David to come and of course thanks to David for making our evening!

April is now upon us and that means that Homebrew Night is near. Homebrew Night and Decision Night are on the same night.

Today's electronics are slicker, more capable, and more mysterious than the previous generation of electronics. Gone are the days that I would walk to the drugstore with a hand-full of vacuum tubes and test them by plugging them in some machine. Today the parts, are with a few exceptions, are solid state, and there are some electronic devices that are virtually configured. Our radios are more capable, use less power, and are more portable than their ancestors. Unfortunately they are much harder to understand, repair or make. Today's society is more consumer than creative in its orientation – no one makes clothes anymore like my mom did– my father actually made some of the furniture in our house – fast food is the rage. Let us roll back the consumer culture and revel in what we can make ourselves – I [a very new amateur radio guy] have made antennas [vertical and wire, some of which I displayed last year and took home a coveted coffee cup in the bargain] and if I can make something that works then anyone can make something! Come on out, show us what you're made of - I mean what you can make - and take home a rare and beautiful WARC mug for your hard work and participation!

The second part of the meeting will be decision time – time to validate our new vision/mission and set objectives for the future. You will recall our January GM where we undertook a SWOT and engaged in a brief discussion of the

### Other Important Dates:

WARC: April 15 - Flea market  
May 14 - Industry Canada ISOC direction finding  
May 26-27 - Balloon Launch  
June 2-3 Alternate Balloon Launch  
June 11 - Field Day Primer - Elections  
June 17 - Manitoba Marathon  
June 24&25 - Field Day

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

ARES:

Other: April 18 - World Amateur Radio Day.

### 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

***Our Vision - To increase public awareness and respect for Amateur radio; to provide education and support in all aspects of the hobby to our members in a social atmosphere.***

Freq	Prov/State	Net	UTC
3.860	MN	Minnesota Net	23:00
3.747	MB	Evening Phone Net	00:00
3.937	ND	North Dakota Net	00:30
3.744	SK	SK Public Service Net	01:00
3.750	NWON	NW Ontario Net	01:15
3.740	AB	AB Public Service Net	01:30
3.660	MB, SK, AB	Prairie Traffic Net	01:30
3.743	MB	Mb Morning WX Net	14:30
145.450 -	WW	MB IRLP Net	02:00 Wednesday
147.390 +	MB	Seniors Morning Net	09:00 Local
147.390 +	MB	MRS Net Thursday	21:00 Local
147.390 +	MB	MRS Net Sunday	21:00 Local

future of the club and set a course to establish that future. The results of the meeting were feedback to all in the pages of this illustrious journal – the Newscaster. On Decision Night we will take another step in setting the future of the club.

“Our Vision – to increase public awareness and respect for amateur radio; to provide education and support in all aspects of the hobby to our members in a social atmosphere.”

A vision/mission sets direction and helps in making future decisions. Our vision states that we are an active club in that we seek to have an ambassadorial role to the public in order to gain public support. Public support and respect will translate into attracting new people to amateur radio. Support and respect which will be essential if we want to keep our radio frequencies and gain understanding and support when we build yet another antenna in a residential development. The vision also states that we are supportive of each other and we want to have what Mark [ve4mab] calls three little letters: F-U-N.

Some objectives to discuss: developing a financial plan, setting up a clubhouse, setting performance indicators [ex. membership targets], a public relations plan, and an education plan. Actually the financial plan will be the last item that we should discuss because finance is the tool that we use to achieve our objectives.

Come on out ... let us have some F-U-N and steer a course toward the future.



**Program Chair**  
**By Derek, VE4HAY**

Last month meeting by David Silverthorne on how NavCanada links up their radios and communicate with aircraft was very informative and interesting. David gave us a great presentation, with a little humour and a low tech approach.

Next month we will have out homebrew night. I hope everyone has their projects finished. We will also have a short session as a follow up to our SWOT presentation in January, where we will be discussing out goals. Audience participation is required.

June of course will be our Field Day primer and our Elections. We are looking for someone to be our nomination committee chair. If interested please step forward and talk to the executive.

Amateur Radio Service Centre - Industry Canada  
 P.O. Box 9654, Postal Station T  
 Ottawa, Ontario, K1G 6K9  
 Telephone: (613) 780-3333  
 Toll free: (888) 780-3333  
 Fax: (613) 998-5919  
 E-mail: [spectrum.amateur@ic.gc.ca](mailto:spectrum.amateur@ic.gc.ca)  
[http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/insmt-gst.nsf/en/h\\_sf01709e.html](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**

## Calendar

### April

RSGB RoPoCo		0700Z	Apr 1	
RSGB 80m Club Championship	CW	2000Z	Apr 2	
ARS Spartan Sprint		0100Z	Apr 3	
YLRL DX-YL to NA-YL	CW	1400Z	Apr 3	
10 meter NAC	CW/SSB/FM/Digi	1700Z	Apr 5	
SARL 80m QSO Party		1700Z	Apr 5	
ARLHS Annual Spring Lites QSO		0001Z	Apr 7	
QCWA QSO Party	All	1800Z	Apr 7	
ARCI Spring QSO Party		1200Z	Apr 7	
SP DX		1500Z	Apr 7	
EA RTTY	RTTY	1600Z	Apr 7	
Missouri QSO Party		1800Z	Apr 7	
	And	1800Z	Apr 8	
FeldHell Spring Sprint		1800Z	Apr 7	
	And	1400Z	Apr 8	
UBA Spring Contest	SSB	0600Z	Apr 8	
SARL Hamnet 40m Sim Emerg		1200Z	Apr 8	
Low Power Spring Sprint		1400Z	Apr 9	
144 MHz Spring Sprint		1900 L	Apr 9	
YLRL DX-YL to NA-YL	SSB	1400Z	Apr 10	
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug	CW	0030Z	Apr 11	
RSGB 80m Club Championship	SSB	2000Z	Apr 11	
JIDX	CW	0700Z	Apr 14	
DIG QSO Party (10-20 m)	CW	1200Z	Apr 14	
EU Spring Sprint	CW	1600Z	Apr 14	
Michigan QSO Party	CW/SSB	1600Z	Apr 14	
Georgia QSO Party		1800Z	Apr 14	
	And	1400Z	Apr 15	
Yuri Gagarin International DX	CW	2100Z	Apr 14	
DIG QSO Party (80 m)	CW	0700Z	Apr 15	
DIG QSO Party (40 m)	CW	0900Z	Apr 15	
SSA Månadstest nr 4	SSB	1400Z	Apr 15	
SSA Månadstest nr 4	CW	1515Z	Apr 15	
Run for the Bacon QRP		0100Z	Apr 16	
222 MHz Spring Sprint		1900 L	Apr 17	
RSGB 80m Club	Data	2000Z	Apr 19	
TARA Skirmish Digital Prefix		0000Z	Apr 21	
Holyland DX Contest		0000Z	Apr 21	
ES Open HF Championship		0500Z	Apr 21	
	And	0600Z	Apr 21	
	And	0700Z	Apr 21	
	And	0800Z	Apr 21	
Sun 2200 Kids Roundup	Phone	1400Z	Apr 21	
EU Spring Sprint	SSB	1600Z	Apr 21	
Michigan QSO Party		1600Z	Apr 21	
EA-QRP 20-10m	CW	1700Z	Apr 21	
		80m	2000Z	Apr 21
		40m	0700Z	Apr 22
		20-10m	1100Z	Apr 22
Ontario QSO Party		1800Z	Apr 21	
YU DX Contest		2100Z	Apr 21	

		And	0900Z	Apr 22
432 MHz Spring Sprint			1900 L	Apr 25
SP DX	RTTY		1200Z	Apr 28
Helvetia			1300Z	Apr 28
Florida QSO Party			1600Z	Apr 28
		And	1200Z	Apr 29
Nebraska QSO Party			1700Z	Apr 28

### May

AGCW QRP/QRP Party	CW	1300Z	May 1
10 meter NAC	CW/SSB/FM/Digi	1700Z	May 3
MARAC County Hunters	CW	0000Z	May 5
10-10 Int. Spring QSO	CW/Digi	0001Z	May 5
7QP 7th Call Area QSO	CW/SSB	1300Z	May 5
US IPARC Annual	CW	1400Z	May 5
Indiana QSO Party	CW/Phone	1600Z	May 5
ARI Int. DX	CW/SSB/RTTY	2000Z	May 5
New England QSO Party	All	2000Z	May 5
New England QSO Party	All	1300Z	May 6
US IPARC Annual	SSB	1400Z	May 6
ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	0100Z	May 8
SL Contest	CW	1100Z	May 12
A. Volta RTTY DX	RTTY	1200Z	May 12
CQ-M Int. DX	CW/SSB	1200Z	May 12
Mid-Atlantic QSO	CW/Digi/Phone	1200Z	May 12
SL Contest	SSB	1230Z	May 12
FISTS Spring Sprint	CW	1700Z	May 12
SSA Månadstest nr 5	CW	1400Z	May 13
SSA Månadstest nr 5	SSB	1515Z	May 13
US Counties QSO Party	SSB	0000Z	May 19
EU PSK DX	PSK31	1200Z	May 19
H. M. The King of Spain	CW	1200Z	May 19
Manchester Mineira	CW	1500Z	May 19
Portuguese Navy Day	CW/SSB	1500Z	May 19
Portuguese Navy Day	PSK	1500Z	May 19
Baltic Contest	CW/SSB	2100Z	May 19
SSA Portabeltest Vårömg.	CW/SSB	0700Z	May 20
AGCW Activity Week	CW	0000Z	May 21
Run For The Bacon QRP	CW	0100Z	May 21
CQ WW WPX Contest	CW	0000Z	May 26
QRP ARCI Hoot Owl Sprint	CW	2000Z	May 27
MI-QRP Club Mem. Day CW Sprint	CW	2300Z	May 27

## 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



## Marathon Man

### By Geoff, VE4BAW

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April, then May, then June; the 17th of June is the day of the Manitoba Marathon.

Sunday [ve4sbs], the President of the Pathfinders ARC has advised me that 14 of his members are keen to help out on that grand day. I have five student volunteers from the Satellite Interest Group training program and they are all young ladies that want to help Adam [ve4sn] at his traditional spot. Sorry Adam but we may have to spread them out a bit. We also have student volunteers from the WARC sponsored training course. This event is a great way for new amateurs or wannabe amateurs to have some fun and gain experience in ham radio. The experienced can help out those brand new to the hobby and I know that John [ve4jnf] will mix and match newbies and veterans. One additional point – many of the graduates from the two classes won't have their own equipment and perhaps it would be a good thing if their experienced partners could help out [if possible] with a spare HT. I know that we usually require a significant equipment list but there will be a number of new and young hams who could use a hand. Give it some thought.

Don [ve4dwg] has presented me with V1.0 of the new database. Very slick – very slick indeed ... thanks Don! Text is starting flow to Albert [va4as] for the 2007 Amateur Radio Briefing Booklet. Soon I will be passing over the first draft roster to John [ve4jnf] who will in his inimitable fashion contact people and finalize the 2007 roster. [You have to bribe John to get your favourite position]

In total there are now over seventy registered volunteers. We have enough but could use some more [always room for more!]. If you are interested in this fun event do not hesitate to register and send your registration to me at ve4baw@rac.ca. Derek [ve4hay] has sent out the form twice now with the Newscaster and hard copy forms are available at both WARC and ARES meetings. Jeff [ve4mbq] has been collecting them at ARES meetings while I have been collecting them at WARC meetings. Sign up – you know you want to!

Your organizing committee:  
 Geoff ve4baw [General Coordinator]  
 John ve4jnf [Roster Coordinator]  
 Don [ve4dwg] Database Development  
 Albert [va4as] Desktop Publishing and Documentation  
 ARES Liaison: Jeff [ve4mbq]  
 Pathfinder ARC Liaison: Sunday [vesbs]

## What is Electricity

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Today's scientific question is: What in the world is electricity and where does it go after it leaves the toaster? Here is a simple experiment that will teach you an important electrical lesson: On a cool dry day, scuff your feet along a carpet, then reach your hand into a friend's mouth and touch one of his dental fillings. Did you notice how your friend twitched violently and cried out in pain? This teaches one that electricity can be a very powerful force, but we must never use it to hurt others unless we need to learn an important lesson about electricity. It also illustrates how an electrical circuit works. When you scuffed your feet, you picked up batches of "electrons", which are very small objects that carpet manufacturers weave into carpet so that they will attract dirt. The electrons travel through your bloodstream and collect in your finger, where they form a spark that leaps to your friend's filling, then travel down to his feet and back into the carpet, thus completing the circuit.

AMAZING ELECTRONIC FACT: If you scuffed your feet long enough without touching anything, you would build up so many electrons that your finger would explode! But this is nothing to worry about unless you have carpeting.

Although we modern persons tend to take our electric lights, radios, mixers, etc. for granted, hundreds of years ago people did not have any of these things, which is just as well because there was no place to plug them in. Then along came the first Electrical Pioneer, Benjamin Franklin, who flew a kite in a lightning storm and received a serious electrical shock. This proved that lightning was powered by the same force as carpets, but it also damaged Franklin's brain so severely that he started speaking only in incomprehensible maxims, such as, "A penny saved is a penny earned." Eventually he had to be given a job running the post office.

After Franklin came a herd of Electrical Pioneers whose names have become part of our electrical terminology: Myron Volt, Mary Louise Amp, James Watt, Bob Transformer, etc. These pioneers conducted many important electrical experiments. Among them, Galvani discovered (this is the truth) that when he attached two different kinds of metal to the leg of a frog, an electrical current developed and the frog's leg kicked, even though it was no longer attached to the frog, which was dead anyway. Galvani's discovery led to enormous advances in the field of amphibian medicine. Today, skilled veterinary surgeons can take a frog that has been seriously injured or killed, implant pieces of metal in its muscles, and watch it hop back into the pond -- almost.

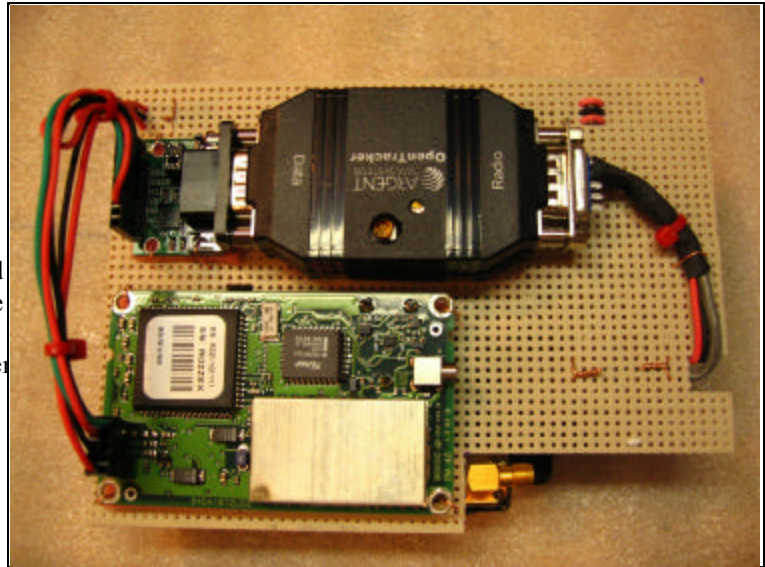
## High Altitude Balloon Project Manitoba Satellite Interest Group

### *Have APRS, will fly.....*

For all of you that love the cool stuff, here is a great project coming our way. Several high schools in Winnipeg and Manitoba are currently building payloads for high altitude balloon launches at the end of May. While the teachers and students are currently working on their amateur radio certificate, these folks have also been busy with putting together a ~1 kg box with a hand held radio, GPS system, programmable microprocessor and digital cameras.

The current payload design includes radios like the Alinco DJ-S11 and the Yaesu VX-2R. The radios will transmit APRS data coming from the GPS (Motorola Oncore GT+) via OpenTracker. The APRS data will include data on location, height, speed, and basic telemetry like temperature and battery voltage. The downlink frequency is on 144.390 MHz and we will take advantage of the APRS digipeaters on the ground for tracking. The microprocessor is a BasicStamp 2 that will trigger the digital camera and also the nichrome wire based cut-away mechanism. The latter is needed to have the payload come back down on the parachute assuming that the balloon did not burst at an altitude of 30km after two hours of flight. Since it is pretty cold up there, we need good insulation and reliable power (lithium batteries). The whole package will be hooked up to a 1200g Kaysam weather balloon filled with helium. Sorry, no hydrogen permitted since one Hindenburg was enough (although hydrogen has such a nice lift).

So in essence, we will carry amateur radio to the edge of space and take pictures to prove it. After a flight of around 2 hours and the balloon will burst (maybe) or we will



cut it off. The parachute will bring the “toys” back down, while the GPS is constantly updating the position. Once it hits the ground (and not water) we will try to recover it to get the equipment back and most importantly the pictures (which are on a memory card).

Why are we doing this? First, this is a great science project for high schools and is actually part of our WinCube satellite project (more about this later). Secondly, we hope to attract young folks to amateur radio and when they have their ticket in April, we know its working. Thirdly, it keeps us out of trouble until we get a call from Nav Canada about one of our balloons. ....Ooops.

We have two launch weekends identified (see below) and if the project works, we will plan on another launch in July or in the fall. This time we will have ATV on board (1.2Ghz) and transmit live video from near space. For now, first things first. Let's have the radios and the GPS working.

Do you want to be involved? The project definitely needs your help and involvement! If you have a mobile APRS set-up (car) and are willing to track the balloon and recover its payload, you are it. We will pay for gas, have a great launch day barbeque and provide real excitement! Also, if you like to help the schools in testing their equipment and assembling the payload here is another opportunity to work with teachers and students, please let me know.

Our proposed launch dates are:

The last weekend in May (26-27) with a rain date of June 2 and 3. All is weather (or wind) depending and if you want to be part of this great event, let me know and I will add you to our mailing list for all updates and meetings etc.

Contact me at: [VE4NSA@amsat.org](mailto:VE4NSA@amsat.org)

Picture: GPS communication board (attached)



Ham Operator Appears on Late Show

## Minutes for March 12th, 2007

### Submitted by Ruthie, VE4CRS

Meeting called to order at 1930 hrs. 28 members and 2 guests attended. Intros followed.

Motion to accept minutes of February meeting as printed in the Newscaster by Glen VE4GWN and seconded by Bill VE4DL. Carried

Error in Newscaster re Rick VE4OV's chart. A few corrections are needed. (see March Newscaster)

#### Correspondence

- from Glen VE4GWN re cost of club purchase of RAC manuals
- from Steffan VE4NSA from the Satellite group re their request for help with Radio course being held at the Maples collegiate. They need help with the following: - instruction, advanced ticket amateurs, help with balloon launch in May/June, help building satellite.
- from WARC education committee, Kent VE4KEH re need for speaker for Mar. 24, 2007

FYI – Satellite group meets at Seniors Club on Friday at 1200 noon.

#### Old Business

##### Notice of motion

Moved by Rolf VE4VZ as follows: "...that the club consider purchasing an HF radio for us at field day specifically a 450 or older radio with an automatic tuner". Seconded by Wayne VE4WR. The radio would be used for Field Day and demonstrating. It was pointed out that WARC already owns an HF radio.

Amendment to the motion to limit the budget to \$1000.00 for the radio. - Motion passed.

The executive will form a committee re same. A list of equipment already owned will be looked at. Wayne VE4WR offered to assist buying the equipment.

#### Treasurer's Report

Bank balance at end of February: - \$5870.35

#### Membership

To date, 123 paid members. 7 members have been given free membership by Geoff VE4BAW at the Maples Collegiate Radio course. On March 24, free membership will also be offered to Red River Radio course. In all 130 members.

#### ARES

- Roger Froebe VE4RLF was appointed Assistant EC. The other AEC is Bob Poole VE4MAQ. Thanks to Glen VE4GWN who was filling in "Acting".

- 13 WPGARES member and affiliates provided volunteer Amateur communications on Mar. 3,4 for the Scouts Canada Klondike Derby at Camp Amisk.
- Manitoba ARES – Larry Neufeld VE4CPU was recently appointed Emergency Coordinator for Stonewall and area by SEC Don Mackinnon.
- from Wayne VE4WR: - PSEPC to by \$5000 worth of equipment for ARES MB
- number of repeaters up north to be 60 – 70
- congratulations re antenna info that was attached to the Newscaster!

#### DX

- conditions are still not good but are improving.
- Spratly Islands: - will be active until Mar. 19 on all bands, 4 stations. These islands are in the south China Seas. 9M4SDX.
- Egypt: - SU8DLH

#### RAC

Recommendations for restructuring AR are posted in current TCA. Please read!!! Industry Canada still needs to approve and will most likely make changes to RAC's recommendations.

#### Flea Market

Date: - April 15, 2007.

Location: - Heritage Victoria Community Centre.

Tables: - 6 left.

Prizes: - lots to be won!!

Entrance: - \$3.00

#### Marathon

69 people have registered to volunteer for the Marathon. We are ahead of the Marathon people in planning. Sign up sheets available for anyone who wishes to register.

#### Programs

Home brew and SWOT at April meeting. The following proposed goals will be discussed:

- Undertake an awareness campaign for 2007.
  - Support education for 30 +
  - Set a membership goal
  - Establish a financial plan
  - Establish a clubhouse (to provide facilities to support education, support the social aspect, provide a meeting area, a radio shack, storage and a focal point to raise public awareness)
  - Keep brainstorming to discover the WOW factor.
- May: – Industry Canada – Let Derek VE4HAY know in advance any questions for Industry Canada.
- June: – Elections, Field Day Prep. The executive would appreciate members stepping forward to join the executive experience!!. Rolf VE4VZ is coordinating Field Day.

**2008 Ham Fest**

Derek VE4HAY invited members to join the planning committee. Meeting will be held March 19 at Derek's home. (meeting later cancelled).

Motion to adjourn meeting by Dick VE4HK, seconded by Rolf VE4VZ. Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2025 hrs.  
50/50 draw winner: - Pat VE4PLG  
Door prize winner: - Pat VE4PLG

Presentation by David Silverthorne from Nav Canada.

Very informative and most interesting. Thank you David!

**CANWARN Spotter Training**  
**By Jeff, VE4MBQ EC WPGARS, DEC**  
**Manitoba ARES**

CANWARN Spotter Training will be held 0930-1230h SAT 12 MAY at Union Station 123 Main Street Winnipeg (where Prairie and Arctic Storm Prediction Centre is located). Talk-in on VE4WPG 147.390+ MHz if required until 0930h. Exact room location will be announced during MRS Nets SUN 6 MAY & THURS 10 MAY. Location will also be posted on WPGARES web-site 2nd week of May [www.winnipegares.ca](http://www.winnipegares.ca)

This session is for new and experienced Spotters. The only prerequisite is that you must be a licensed Amateur. If planning to attend please register with you local ARES Emergency Coordinator or me by Fri. 27 APRIL.

We have booked a group lunch at The Old Spaghetti Factory at The Forks after Spotter Training. Cost is \$10.50 per person including gratuity and taxes. Lunch includes:

Salad with house dressing, Sourdough Bread, Spaghetti with meat sauce, Spumoni ice cream and choice of coffee, tea or soft drink. Please indicate when registering if you will be attending the group lunch after Spotter Training (we need at least 20 people).

***What have you done to "promote amateur radio this week"***

That line we credit to an old News stalwart, Peter Parker with using in his old VK1 and VK3 casts many years ago and it still stands true --WIA

**WPGARES**

**By Jeff, VE4MBQ Emergency Coordinator**

Our MAR General Meeting featured a review of a CBC Video "The Great Quebec Ice Storms of 1998". It was quite fitting that a circuit breaker tripped in the library while we were watching! Roger Froebe VE4RLF has been appointed Assistant Emergency Coordinator (AEC). Thanks to Glen Napady VE4GWN for filling in as Acting AEC.

Thirteen WPGARES members and affiliates provided volunteer Amateur communications for the 38th Annual Scouts Canada Klondike Derby at Camp Amisk 3, 4 MAR. Volunteer were VE4s: MAQ, DGS, PZL, CIB, RLF, TRO, STS, KAZ, GWN, HK, WTF, MBQ and Kaitlyn M (WFPS Cadet). We handled general radio traffic between "towns" and also traffic tracking the teams throughout the event. As well, we handled 2 major first aid calls and several calls for hypothermia affected event participants. Event organizer Bill Somers, passed along his thanks for a job well done and said that the event runs so much smoother with effective communications between towns. Originally 1st Sun Valley Venturers (VE4SVV), and now with WPGARES members for the last 3 years, Amateurs have been providing the communications for this event since 1998. Thanks to WPGARES AEC Bob Poole VE4MAQ for coordinating this event.

At press time fourteen WPGARES members have registered for CANWARN Spotter Training SAT 12 MAY. Please see the Spotter Training article elsewhere in this newsletter for more information. We are also looking for additional Net Controllers for VE4WWO at the Prairie and Arctic Storm Prediction Centre, any interested ARES member should contact me as soon as possible.

Eight WPGARES members so far have volunteered for our Exercise-59 which will be participation in a City of Winnipeg Emergency Preparedness Program Exercise WED

23 MAY. We will probably need twelve to fourteen volunteers to fulfill our probable tasking that day. Again any ARES member interested should get in touch ASAP.

Our next General Meeting is TUE 17 APR 1900h at Sir Wm Stephenson Library 765 Keewatin Street. Guest speaker is Joe Kowal Manager of Communications WFPS.

***What have you done to "promote amateur radio this week"***

## News from the Net

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### *Amsat shorts*

Patrick WD9EWK/VA7EWK, along with Gerry VE4GTB/KD7MDB, Larry W7LB, Brock W6GMT, and Ron W6ZQ reported success and good satellite operating demos from the Scottsdale Amateur Radio Club's "Springfest" hamfest. Contacts were made on two AO-51 passes and they sold about \$200 of AMSAT merchandise. -- AMSAT

### *Australia Hams get tour of the Dish*

By special arrangement with management, the WIA has been granted a series of detailed "technical" tours inside the Parkes Radio Telescope or "The Dish" facility for WIA members who will be able to see first hand the inside workings of the Radio Telescope and ask technical questions of the site engineers. Make no mistake, for most members, this will be a once in a lifetime opportunity to step inside and see the workings of one of the worlds most active and powerful Radio Telescopes. --WIA

### *IARU REPORTS CPM A SUCCESS*

The task of the 2007 World Radiocommunications Conference Preparatory Meeting, known as the CPM is to finalise and approve the almost 600 pages of draft text of the technical report to the WRC, which been in preparation by the ITU-R study groups over the past 3 - 4 years. There are three relevant issues for amateur radio:

1) The suggested alternatives or methods for resolving Agenda Item 1.15 proposing a world-wide secondary allocation to the amateur service of the band between 135,7 and 137,8 KHz.

2) The Method for Agenda item 1.13, proposing a world-wide primary allocation to the amateur service of the band between 7200 and 7300 KHz and

3) The Method for Agenda item 1.13 proposing a world-wide secondary allocation to the amateur service of the band between 5260 and 5420 KHz.

The 135.7 allocation proposal is widely accepted. However, Japan proposed that the power limit be left to each administration to be determined. This was strongly opposed by the Arab countries. During the meeting, some compromise was reached with a small change to the text but with retention of the no change Method. It is here hoped that the Arab countries will not oppose the Agenda item at the WRC. The review of the allocations between 4 and 10 MHz was much more difficult. There are major disagreements between opposing groups, which may well lead to the proposed amateur expansion of the 40 metre band becoming a bargaining chip. A lot of behind maneuvering by the IARU team resulted in the proposal remaining intact in the final report. -- SARL

### *Industry Canada reduces QRM*

Dateline, Ottawa: Industry Canada today took what they described as an important new step to reduce QRM on amateur frequencies by setting standards for voice speeds. Docket #200-4U will become official in amateur regulations effective April first.

Citing frequent complaints about "long, boring conversations" on the ham bands, especially 75 meters, IC staff moved to impose a new standard on voice operations requiring all conversations to be at a speed of "at least 200 spoken words-per-minute".

The staff in its ruling was especially critical of what they called "long winded, often endless conversations by old men talking about their prostate problems and other needs to get up and go to the bathroom several times during the night".

IC staffers say they have personally heard conversations about nothing that went for hours and tied up frequencies that could be used by faster talkers. Official Observer stations have received instructions to listen to suspect conversations and count the number of words-per-minute spoken. Those QSOs which fail to meet the minimum speed requirements will be noted and the operators involved will receive Official Observer Advisory Notices encouraging them to follow the rules or risk receiving notice of apparent violation citations from the IC.

Some hams in Saskatoon complained the new regulation will impose a burden on them because they naturally talk more slowly than those down east. They are suggesting that frequencies be set aside for slow speed discussions concerning favourite country music artists (particularly Anne Murray), NASCAR, huntin' and feeshin' (particularly bass and trout). IC says it may consider that in future rulemaking.

In a separate press release, RAC said they are also concerned about two-meter operation where little is discussed except "full quieting and items to be picked up on the way home". A RAC spokesperson said that sort of thing is boring and is usually spoken very slowly as well, far below the 200 words-per-minute minimum. The organization suggested conversations on how to help raise more money for RAC activities would be especially welcomed and will be encouraged. Future issues of TCA will contain special pullout sections containing recommended topics for on-air discussion to brighten up QSOs.

### *Road Checks Lead to Forfeited Radios*

The most common discrepancies found are: Installation of illegal frequencies, such as RCMP channels. Amateur radios illegally modified to hold land mobile frequencies. Amateur radios in the possession of people who are not certified to operate them. A 500 watt amplifier installed on a CB radio.



### **Front programmable radios.**

In addition to tickets issued under the Federal Contraventions Act, some radio users were issued warning tickets and given a short time to correct their discrepancies. Some equipment was surrendered voluntarily and other radios were seized by Spectrum Management Officers. One order for forfeiture of seized radio equipment has been granted. Several court cases are pending as a result of these road checks.-- *Industry Canada- Pacific region*

### **Modified Amateur Equipment is Not Legal**

There have been several seizures of equipment recently in BC. Spectrum Management Officers in the Interior seized amateur radios that had land mobile channels illegally installed. The people in possession of these radios were not authorized to possess the equipment even if the radios had not been modified. A modified amateur radio was also seized at a commercial vehicle road check carried out in the Lower Mainland in co-operation with other federal and provincial agencies. The radio was found in an illegally modified state and was programmed to operate on unauthorized frequencies. An application for forfeiture of this radio was made to the Federal Prosecution branch and was successful. The radio has now been forfeited to the Crown. -- *Industry Canada- Pacific region*

### **Canadian Ladies ARA 40th anniversary award**

The Canadian Ladies Amateur Radio Association - or Clara, as it is more commonly known - has launched a special award to celebrate the 40th anniversary of its foundation. The Clara 40th Anniversary Challenge sets amateurs the task of working 40 YLs on amateur radio by the end of the year. Contacts can be made on any mode or frequencies. Repeater and Echolink contacts also qualify. Logs should include date of contact, name and callsign of the YL operator, and band or mode. Signal reports are not needed. To qualify for the award - and to receive a special certificate - send logs to Kathy, VE3GYL, by the deadline of 1 March 2008. Either post the logs to Kathy Steels, VE3GYL, at 444 Jellicoe Crescent, London, Ontario, N6K 2M5 or email an electronic version to Kathy at [ve3gy@gmail.com](mailto:ve3gy@gmail.com). -- RSGB

### **IRAQ BANS AMATEUR RADIO**

Amateur Radio operation has been banned in Iraq That is a claim made in a letter to the world-wide ham radio community from Diya Sayah, YI1DZ and distributed by Ian Abel, G3ZHI Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF from Amateur Radio NewsLine, reports: In his note dated March 13th, Iraq Amateur Radio Society President Diya Sayah, YI1DZ, says that he received confirmation from the office of Prime Minister Al Maliki that all Amateur Radio activity in that nation is to be closed down immediately. This includes

operation by Iraqi nationals, foreign visitors and even members of the coalition forces safeguarding that nation.

### **RAC puts forth recommendation on Foundation License**

Amateur Radio in Canada and elsewhere is changing and to survive we must be sure to change with it. Britain, Gibraltar and Australia have already taken the dramatic step of introducing a new entry-level license with considerable success. Should Canada consider moving in a similar direction?

In May of 2006 RAC formed a committee, headed by Midwest Director Bj. Madsen (VE5FX), to look into the possibility of submitting a proposal to Industry Canada on this subject. This committee, called 'The Advisory Committee on Restructuring of Amateur Radio in Canada', designed and ran a survey to gauge the feelings of Canadian Amateurs on these issues.

This survey ran from mid-July to the end of October. It received a total of 2220 responses: 1815 in English (82%) and 405 in French (18%) along with 699 written comments and over 300 additional e-mails.

The data has now been analyzed and converted to bar graphs indicating the relative responses to each of the 27 questions. The written responses were all read and categorized. Based on this data, a series of recommendations were written to represent the feelings of Canadian Amateurs. This has produced an extensive report for RAC's Board of Directors, which they formally adopted at a Board meeting on February 20, 2007.

The complete 30-page report is available for you to download in .PDF format below. The committee also produced a PowerPoint summary of the report, which you may find useful for presentation to your club. -- RAC  
[http://www.rac.ca/regulatory/CommitteeReport\\_Jan1707.pdf](http://www.rac.ca/regulatory/CommitteeReport_Jan1707.pdf)  
[Http://www.rac.ca/regulatory/CommitteeReport\\_Jan\\_1707.pdf](http://www.rac.ca/regulatory/CommitteeReport_Jan_1707.pdf)

### **Suitsat-2 is coming !**

Last year, SuitSat-1/Radioskaf-1 caught the attention and fascination of the world, garnering a large amount of newspaper, magazine, radio and TV reporting. Even more important, SuitSat-1 captured the imaginations of students and schools! The little satellite was such a success that plans were developed to produce a second SuitSat/Radioskaf. At their delegates meeting in October 2006, architect of the first Suitsat/Radioskaf, Sergey Samburov, RV3DR, discussed the idea with the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) team and everyone was enthusiastic about the potential of a second SuitSat/Radioskaf. -- RAC Full details are available at:

<http://www.amsat.org/amsat/ariss/Hardware%20Development/SuitSat-2/SuitSat-Radioskaf-2%20Overview.doc>

**Thai Hams get 160 & 80 for contests**

The Radio Amateur Society of Thailand has received authorization for Thai amateurs to operate on 80 and 160m during contests during 2007. They will be able to operate their stations on CW and SSB between 1800-1825 KHz and 3500-3536 KHz. Split operations have also been authorized. Stations in Thailand can currently only operate on 40, 20, 15 and 10m and cannot operate on 30, 17, 12 and 6m. However, special permission is sometimes granted for activity on the WARC and 6m bands. -- RSGB

**MB Hydro & BPL ??**  
**Extracted form CJOB.com**

Manitoba Hydro is introducing an advanced metering technology Pilot program in various parts of Winnipeg.. The wireless automatic meter reading and data communication system is the first of its kind in Canada.

It allows the Utility to provide improved system reliability, accuracy in metering and billing, and enhanced energy conservation. It will also eventually offer flexible rate plans, time-of-use information, customer in-home energy use display and much faster response times for power outages and restorations..

Currently, If there is a power outage in the city Hydro officials don't know about it until they get a phone call. The new system will enable hydro officials to pinpoint exactly and instantly the homes that don't have power. About 5,000 electric and 1,000 natural gas customers will get the new meters from North River Heights into the West and North ends as well as West Kildonan and the Maples.. Installation starts later this month..

Meantime, Manitoba hydro will implement a similar program for 200 residential customers near Landmark. **The technology uses power lines to communicate automatic meter readings and other data back to Manitoba Hydro**

*(ed. Anyone in this area should be on the lookout for BPL type interference. If you find any, please inform MB hydro & Industry Canada) Not An April Fools Joke.*

**WARC Elections in June**

Isn't it about time you put back into the club at least a fraction of what you have gotten out it.

Fresh blood is wanted.

Please put your name forward. Contact any executive member if you are interested

**QTX~**  
**By Derek, VE4HAY**



**Did you know**

- ☛ The included Ham Radio Vehicle license plate application form with last months newsletter has resulted in at least one more person getting the coveted VE4 plate for their car.
- ☛ That even with spring coming, I was not up to writing articles for the newsletter, so I filed it with news I found on the internet. I hope people actually read these short snippets.
- ☛ That there are at least two April's Fools items in this newsletter. I sure hope you found them. And the BPL article to the left is not one of them.
- ☛ The WARC executive is looking for someone to take on the Nomination committee for this year elections. Its not that we are asking you to run for office, just a committee chair. If you are interested please contact anyone on the executive.

**Dayton Hamvention**

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May 18, 19 & 20 2007  
Hara Arena, Trotwood, Ohio  
<http://www.hamvention.org/>

**Semi- Annual  
WARC Flea Market**

**April 15, 2007**

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

Buyers doors open at 10:00 am  
Door prize draws 11:30 am  
\$3.00 Entrance fee  
The may be one table left call  
Ruth VE4XYL and Tom VE4SE at 837-6915