



# The **NEWSCASTER**

The Official Publication of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club

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

May 2008

IRLP # 1066

VE4BB

An Introduction to  
**Digital HF Radio**  
PSK,FSK, and Beyond ..  
**Or What a sound card is really for**

Date: **April 14, 2008**  
Time: 7:30 p.m.  
Place: **Dakota Collegiate**  
661 Dakota Street

### Other Important Dates:

WARC: June 9 Marathon Field Day, Hamfest briefing

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

ARES:

Other: June 5 Marathon Volunteer Orientation & BBQ  
5:00 to 7:00 at Norwood Community Centre  
June 10 Amateur Marathon Briefing,  
7:00 PM Sports Federation Building  
June 15 Marathon  
Jul 11-13 45th International Hamfest  
Aug 8-10 Winnipeg Hamfest & RAC AGM

### WARC: Executive for 2006- 2007

Past President	John Pura	ve4qv at rac.ca
President	Geoff Bawden	ve4baw at rac.ca
Vice-Pres	Albert Sousa	albert.sousa at shaw.ca
Secretary	Ruthie Maman	rmaman at mts.net
Treasurer	Sue Collings	collings at mts.net
Membership	Mark Blumm	ve4mab at rac.ca
Program	Derek Hay	ve4hay at rac.ca
Director at Large	Vacant	

**And now for a word from the President**  
**By Geoff, VE4BAW**

Many exciting things are on the horizon;

- † Elections are at our June meeting ... please volunteer to run, come and throw the rascals out! New blood is required!
  - † Filed Day is in June and it will be terrific ... please volunteer to help organize it. [Call me please – 257-1414] Ruth and Sue are busy doing the cooking [again!]. The Executive has found a terrific place. Ft Whyte Centre is magnificent... a lovely spot beside a lake, fire pits, indoor toilettes, a kitchen, buildings or camp/trailer spots, solar and wind power to maximize those points. We have this idyllic spot all day Saturday and Sunday morning. It is in Winnipeg but so close to nature. Don't fall into the lake!
  - † Did I mention that elections are in June?
  - † The Marathon is coming ... 80 of your closest friends will be there .. what about you? There is a form at the end of this Newscaster! Volunteer Orientation and BBQ is from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at the Norwood Community Centre on June 5th. The Amateur Briefing is on June 10h, 7:00 at the Sports Federation Building [sorry no BBQ, you'll have to eat on June 5th at the general orientation] - . The run is June 15th [Father's Day again!]
  - † Did I mention that the elections are in June?
  - † Did I forget to mention the Hamfest in August? Make sure you come for August 8th, 9th, 10th and share knowledge and good times with your fellow hams. Book a hotel room in case you want to share arcane technical knowledge during the course of a fluidics seminar.
- I must have forgotten something ... oh yes .. the elections are coming...

**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	19:00 local
3.937	ND	North Dakota Net	00:30
3.735	SK	SK Public Service Net	01:00
3.750	NWON	NW Ontario Net	01:15
3.700	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	Morning Net	09:00 Local
147.390 +	MB	MRS Net Thursday	21:00 Local
147.390 +	MB	MRS Net Sunday	21:00 Local

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**

## Minutes for April 14th, 2008

### Submitted by Geoff, VE4BAW

Dakota Collegiate Lunch Room

In Attendance: 33 members plus 4 guests

Minutes of the March 10th/08 General Meeting  
Moved: ve4gwn, seconded: ve4fv - **Carried**

Treasurers report:

Moved: ve4ol, seconded: ve4tp - **Carried**

#### Committee Reports:

##### Marathon report by ve4baw:

On track, briefing June 10th runs June 15th  
Don Gerrard ve4dwg working on an email method to communicate to past volunteers, volunteer forms available during meeting.

##### Hamfest report by ve4baw et al:

On track, delegates should sign up early to save money, presenters still required, regular organizing meetings be held third Monday of the month at 7:00 at WSC.

##### DX report by ve4sn:

Only two sunspots, not much in the way of propagation

##### ARES report by ve4gwn:

CANWARN Spotter training in Wpg SAT June 7 ..  
Please notify ve4mbq by May 16

##### Field Day Report:

Ft. Whyte booked for June 28h and the morning of June 29th. There is parking at site, a kitchen, hot and cold running water, and indoor washrooms.

##### New Business:

##### Nominating Committee

Required for elections. New program director is required. Glen and Rosie volunteered to form that committee [actually Rosie volunteered and Glen knew what was best for him].

##### 50/50 Draw:

\$15 Robin Ozero

##### Good and Welfare:

Glen ve4gwn asked for help with a Venture Troop for April 21st.

##### Motion to Adjourn:

Glen

It was Home Brew and there were participants!

Ve4WMK... Aruni Perera  
 Ve4GWN... Glen Napady  
 Ve4FV... Fred Venema  
 Ve4RCS... Bob Jacobs  
 Ve4AJO... Ellis Seddon

Each won \$20 for their efforts and a wonderful VE4BB Mug with our Club Emblem and QSL Card.

It was terrific to see and we hope that there will be even more next year!

**WPGARES**  
**By Jeff, VE4MBQ -Emergency Coordinator**

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Eighteen ARES members and two Auxiliary members attended a special meeting with WRHA Disaster Management TUE 08 APR at Deer Lodge Centre. We toured the new Regional Disaster Operations Centre (RDOC) and discussed Exercise Able Receiver a planned mass casualty exercise (the exercise had been planned for April then June and is now postponed indefinitely). ARES members and Auxiliaries present were VE4s: BN, TRO, SYM, WJE, RLF, JNF, DWG, HAZ, KAZ, GMT, XYL, SE, GWN, YYL, FV, ACX MBQ, VID, WTF and VA4IAM.

As a lead-up to that meeting we exercised our Telephone Fan-Out tree – only discovered two “bad” numbers. Thanks to our “phoners”!

Welcome to new WPGARES member Diane Perry VE4LDI. Thank-you to Roger Froebe VE4RLF who has stepped down from being Assistant Emergency Coordinator. Sergeants Tony Skinner and Gary Coles from the Canadian Forces gave us an excellent presentation on CF Recruiting and the Signal Operator trade at our April General Meeting.

Rosi Napady VE4YYL is the Chairperson for WPGARES Silent Auction at the WARC Hamfest in AUG. Donations of new articles for the Silent Action prize lots would be greatly appreciated, please contact Rosi [ve4yyl@rac.ca](mailto:ve4yyl@rac.ca) or give her a call on VE4WPG.

ARES volunteers are required to take on-call shifts for the CANWARN station VE4WWO in Prairie and Arctic Storm Prediction Centre. We need people to be on-call for daytime operations 0930-1730h and evening operations 1730-2130h daily from 12 MAY thru 12 SEP.

Our next General Meeting will be TUE 27 MAY 1900h at Sir Wm Stephenson Library 765 Keewatin St. Gerry

Roehr will be giving us a presentation on the Civil Air Search and Rescue Association (CASARA).

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


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I was not at the last club meeting due to work commitments, but from what I have heard the turnout was not to bad and there were actual Homebrew projects presented. Thank you to all who put their projects up for viewing. It show the rest of us, what can be done, and will hopefully encourage us to build for next year.

This month we will have Geoff, doing a presentation on Digital HF radio. Or as he like to call it “ What a sound card is really for”. The presentation will show you how to get on the air with a digital signal, that can punch through just about anything. And you thought the bands were dead. Well not for the digital signals. The need very little signal to be decoded.

June will be our summer event primer. You will not want to miss this. We will be discussing all the events that will take place, from Field Day to the Marathon, to MARM & the International Hamfest and finally to the finale - The WARC Hamfest 2008. Come out and hear about the excitement.




**Are You  
A Member ?**

**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



## Contest Calendar

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### May

AGCW QRP/QRP Party	CW	1300Z	May 1
10 meter NAC	CW/SSB/FM/Digi	1700Z	May 1
MARAC CW QSO Party	CW	0000Z	May 3
10-10 Int. Spring QSO Party	CW/Digi	0001Z	May 3
7QP 7th Call Area QSO Party	CW/SSB	1300Z	May 3
US IPARC Annual	CW	1400Z	May 3
Day of the Portuguese Navy	CW/SSB	1500Z	May 3
Day of the Portuguese Navy	PSK31	1500Z	May 3
Indiana QSO Party	CW/Phone	1600Z	May 3
ARI Int. DX	CW/SSB/RTTY	2000Z	May 3
New England QSO Party (1)	All	1959Z	May 3
New England QSO Party (2)	All	1300Z	May 4
US IPARC Annual	SSB	1400Z	May 4
ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	0100Z	May 6
Nevada Mustang	CW/SSB/RTTY	0001Z	May 10
EUCW Fraternizing CW QSO Party	CW	1000Z	May 10
A. Volta RTTY DX	RTTY	1200Z	May 10
CQ-M Int. DX	CW/SSB	1200Z	May 10
SL	CW	1200Z	May 10
SL	SSB	1200Z	May 10
Mid-Atlantic QSO Party	CW/Digi/Phone	1600Z	May 10
FISTS Spring Sprint	CW	1700Z	May 10
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW	0000Z	May 11
EUCW Fraternizing CW QSO Party	CW	1800Z	May 11
MARAC SSB QSO Party	SSB	0000Z	May 17
EU PSK DX	PSK31	1200Z	May 17
H. M. The King of Spain	CW	1700Z	May 17
Manchester Mineira AA CW	CW	1500Z	May 17
Feld-Hell Club Sprint	Feld-Hell	1500Z	May 17
Baltic	CW/SSB	2100Z	May 17
SSA Portabeltest Vårømg.	CW/SSB	0700Z	May 18
SSA Månadstest nr 5	CW	1400Z	May 18
SSA Månadstest nr 5	SSB	1515Z	May 18
Run For The Bacon QRP	CW	0100Z	May 19
MOON	CW/Digi/SSB	1800Z	May 21
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	CW	0030Z	May 22
CQ WW WPX	CW	0000Z	May 24
ARCI Hoot Owl Sprint	CW	0000L	May 25
MI-QRP Club Mem. Day	CW	2300Z	May 26
SKCC Sprint	CW	0000Z	May 28
Digital Pentathlon (1)	PSK	1800Z	May 30
UBA-OSA WLC-contest	SSB	0600Z	May 31

### *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

## Batteries, Alkaline, AA size.

### By Bill, VE4DL

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I use AA batteries at my Church for:

- ☛ 2 wireless microphones @ 2 batteries per transmitter (AKA 2 battery > 10 hrs)
- ☛ 2 wireless microphones @ 1 battery per transmitter (TOA 1 battery > 10 hrs)
- ☛ 8 receivers for the hard of hearing @ 2 batteries per receiver (Telex 2 battery > 15 hrs est)
- ☛ personally, I use 6 batteries at a time in my HT, especially when I travel.

Over time I have tried a number of brands of AA Alkaline. Prior to my recommendation below, I found that the Radio Shack appeared to last the longest. About 6 months ago, I came across the brand "DURACELL -- PROCELL". Contacting two rental operations and requested their input, this brand is the only one they use. Further, I found that TV/Radio and filming operations use this brand.

Now the following "where do I buy them?" , "the minimum quantity?" and of course "the cost?". You CANNOT buy this brand across the counter of your Walmart, Sears, etc in any lot size! They are available at Mr. Battery Man, at 1390 St James St.. The cost each is \$0.79 per battery and packaged in lots of 24 for a total of \$18.96 before tax; \$21.24 taxes in. I discussed the cost and availability to Amateur Radio operators with Mr Brett Duseigne, the General Manager and he agreed to the above cost and will sell to Amateurs. This is the current cost and has been this cost for the past 10 – 12 months but I'm sure it is subject to change. There may be other battery vendors selling this product.

### *Two final bits of information.:*

- ✓ Alkaline batteries are not recommended for digital cameras unless you have no other backup. The sudden surge of current when you use a flash will damage and hence minimizes the battery's life – discuss if interested.
- ✓ Many so called battery testers will read "Good" when the batteries are not usable ... The reason is that the "load" is inadequate. You should be drawing approximately the same current as in normal usage. Sometime in the future I will consider providing a basic test circuit because I need one at the Church and at home. As a matter of interest, the wireless microphones have a test circuit built in .. one excellent, one marginally good.

## CANWARN Spotter Training

### By Jeff, VE4MBQ -Emergency Coordinator

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Canwarn Spotter training will be held 0930-1230h h SAT 07 JUNE 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. Session will be held in the Citizenship Courtroom on the main floor.

This session is for new and experienced Spotters. The only pre-requisite is that attendees must be a licensed Amateur. If planning to attend please register with you local ARES Emergency Coordinator or me by Fri 16 MAY.

We have booked a group lunch at *The Old Spaghetti Factory* at The Forks after Spotter Training. Cost is \$11 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. There is a minimum number required for this deal so if you are coming to lunch too please let me know.

There is some additional information on the Winnipeg ARES web-site:  
<http://www.winnipegares.ca/canwarnTraining.htm>

## The Big Jump

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"Michel Fournier will drop off the stratosphere from an altitude from about 130,000 feet (40 000 meters) CANADA 2008"

As a result of the Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club's High Altitude Balloon Project, we have been invited to participate in Michel's Big Jump. He will be flying from the North Battleford airport between May 25 and 29. We have been invited to assist with communications and tracking for the ground and air support crews. The capsule and Michel will both have APRS trackers so we will be able to monitor the progress of the ascent and the Big Jump.

<http://www.legrandsaut.org/index.php?lang=eng>

## News from the Net

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### IRC MORSE COMES TO THE WWW


It was bound to happen and now it has, Morse code over Internet Relay Chat or IRC. According to its host

website, CWirc is a plug-in for the X-Chat IRC client. It is designed to transmit raw Morse code over the internet using I-R-C servers as reflectors. The transmitted Morse code can be received in near real-time by other X-Chat clients who are equipped with the CWirc plug-in. CWirc tries to emulate a standard amateur radio rig. It has the ability to send and receive Morse over virtual channels, and it can listen to multiple senders transmitting on the same channel. Morse code is keyed locally using a straight or iambic key connected to a computers serial port, or using the mouse buttons, Sound is played through the soundcard or through an external sounder. Note that CWirc doesn't do any Morse decoding. It simply transmits and receives C-W timing events. The program and your computer does the rest to give you a Morse code experience without the radio, the antenna or any T-V-I. More about CWirc is on-line at [users.skynet.be/ppc/cwirc/](http://users.skynet.be/ppc/cwirc/) The website also has historic information on the Morse code and the telegraph. -- WIA


## QTX~

### By Derek, VE4HAY

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Did you know:  
 Mtn. Dew & Ham radio - check this site out

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MieEfkwiCB8>

 The Big Jump mentioned above is a guy jumping from a balloon from 130,000 feet above the earth. He will literally be at the edge of space. And that Amateur Radio be there providing data of the balloon and the guy as he plummets to earth.

Sorry Guys & Gals but, work (you know the people who send the money at the end of the month) seems to be getting in the way of the hobby more and more every day. I just ran out of time to produce this newsletter. If I had the time I would have searched for updates to the Contest Calendar, found more news from the Net, and maybe even a feature article. But With 3 conventions in 2 weekends, plus getting snow bound in Falcon lake & Kenora last weekend with minimum staff on hand to help out, there was just not enough time in the month. So I hope to do better next month.



**Amateur Radio ✨ A Community Resource**



# Manitoba Marathon

## Volunteer Information 2008

### Marathon Day: June 15th /2008\_

CALL-SIGN: \_\_\_\_\_

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate (dd/mm/yyyy) : \_\_\_\_\_  
(optional)

Race Weekend #: \_\_\_\_\_

Volunteer Shirt Size (circle one) S M L XL XXL XXXL

Can the information above be provided to the Marathon Organizing Committee? Y N

Have you Volunteered for the Marathon in previous years (circle one) Y N

Which years? \_\_\_\_\_ What did you do? \_\_\_\_\_

What did you do in 2007? \_\_\_\_\_

What do you want to do in 2008? \_\_\_\_\_

Special Considerations: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Email to [ve4baw@rac.ca](mailto:ve4baw@rac.ca)

hand deliver to Geoff Bawden ve4baw at WARC Meetings or to Jeff Dovyak, ve4mbq at ARES meetings.

Schedule June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Marathon Briefing 7:00 pm [location TBA]

June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Marathon Day 6:00 am

#### Office Use Only

Date of Initial Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

I.D. # \_\_\_\_\_

Volunteer Group Marathon Amateur Radio

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Date Forwarded to Group Coordinator \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Information Evening June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Information Received By \_\_\_\_\_