



The **NEWSCASTER**

The Official Publication of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club
<http://www.mts.net/~warc>

October 2008

IRLP # 1066

VE4BB

Tactical Military Communications

by Robert VE4RAI

Date: **October 20, 2008**
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: **Dakota Collegiate**
661 Dakota Street

Other Important Dates:

WARC: Monthly Meeting dates Nov. 10, Dec. 8,
Jan. 12, 2009, Feb. 9, Mar. 9,
Apr. 20 (3rd Monday), May 11, June 8.

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

ARES: Oct 21 - Annual General Meeting

Other: Oct 17- 19 - 51st Jamboree On The Air



Motion to Dissolve WARC



"The following things make me wonder if there is still a need or even a desire to have a General Amateur Radio Club in Winnipeg."

Every year it seems to be more difficult to find someone to head events like Field Day or find members willing to stand on the Board of Directors of WARC. The same few seem to put things together.

Therefore I wish *to move that Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club be disbanded and its assets be disposed of as per article 6:2 of the WARC By Laws.*

*Moved by Glen VE4GWN,
Seconded by Luke VE3WTF*

To be voted at the November WARC meeting.

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

Most of us are not aware that WARC's year runs from September 1st to September 1st ... the fiscal year, the terms of office and annual events are on that cycle. So it is actually fitting that I look back on the year and ponder both our accomplishments and the upcoming year.

This a club that is has a robust annual cycle ... events take place on a preprogrammed basis, just like the seasons. No committee for the Christmas Party but a Christmas Party happens, no committee for Field Day but a Field Day happens [and 2008 had more participants than 2007]. Our focus is muddy owing to the fact that this is a general

WARC: Executive for 2008- 2009

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| President | Geoff Bawden | ve4baw at rac.ca |
| Vice-Pres | Albert Sousa | albert.sousa at shaw.ca |
| Treasurer | Sue Collings | collings at mts.net |
| Secretary | Ruthie Maman | rmaman at mts.net |
| Membership | Mark Blumm | ve4mab at rac.ca |
| Program | Vacant | |
| Director at Large | Robert Iwacha | ve4rai at mts.net |
| Past President | John Pura | ve4qv 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 | | UTC |
|-----------|----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 7.055 | MB | Trans Prov | 17:00 local |
| 3.747 | MB | Evening Phone | 19:00 local |
| 3.937 | ND | North Dakota | 00:30 |
| 3.735 | SK | SK Public Service | 01:00 |
| 3.750 | NWON | NW Ontario | 01:15 |
| 3.700 | AB | AB Public Service | 01:30 |
| 3.660 | MB, SK, AB | Prairie Traffic | 01:30 |
| 7.055 | MB | Trans Prov | 08:00 local |
| 3.743 | MB | Mb Morning WX | 14:30 |
| 14.140 | CA | Trans-Canada | 18:00 |
| 7.055 | | Aurora | 23:00 |
| 3.860 | MN | Minnesota | 23:00 |
| 145.450 | WW | MB IRLP | 02:00 Wednesday |
| 147.390 + | MB | Morning | 09:00 Local |
| 147.390 + | MB | MRS Thursday | 21:00 Local |
| 147.390 + | MB | MRS Sunday | 21:00 Local |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

interest club, with an emphasis on camaraderie and mutual support. The only ones seemingly stressed by this are the executive who are tasked [and volunteered] to make the club run smoothly.

Our major planned event for 2008 was the Hamfest and RAC AGM, which was a Canadian success. We had Hams from many parts of Canada [BC, Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, Nunavut] come and had a great time. New friends were made and much was learned. I doubt whether any other group across Canada could have done a better job.

This year we are looking to have a DXpedition in the spring of 2009 as well as classes to train new hams. Many look back on the Prairie Dog Special DXpedition with nostalgia and that precedent is serving as an example and model.

A motion has come forward to abolish the club. The primary mover states there seems to be little support for club events as evidenced by the lack of volunteers to plan events such as the Christmas Party and Field Day. The mover also noted that out-of-towners expressed some surprise at the numbers of locals at the conference. The mover has expressed that this motion is to motivate more involvement in the club.

There are rumours abounding about other demises, I hear rumours of the demise of MARMFest and the International Hamfest at the Peace Gardens.

Perhaps this is the trend or perhaps these are just rumours and gossip. In our modern electronic world where kids playing games on the Internet can team [and talk] with people from Australia and Turkey perhaps there is no place or reason for Hams to come together. Perhaps amateur radio is on its deathbed.

Naw ... I picked amateur radio as a hobby because it was fun and magical ... it is a mixture of technology, science, electronics and camaraderie. I believe that there are infinite dimensions to the hobby –satellites, APRS, DX, HF, etc., etc. I believe that Hams need to help each other and work to make the hobby flourish and I believe that WARC fills a certain role that no other group has the mandate for or will likely have the mandate for.

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
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

Blue Book for Sale

Yes the latest run of the 2008 Blue books are now for sale. Pick up you copy at the WARC meeting. Remember this is a limited run and when they are gone, they are gone.

WPGARES

By Jeff, VE4MBQ -Emergency Coordinator

On-call or standby operations for VE4WWO in the Prairie & Arctic Storm Prediction Centre concluded WED 3 SEP. Our operation ran MON 12 MAY thru WED 3 SEP with an ARES member on call from 0930-1730h and 1730-2130h daily. There were only 8 Severe Weather activation's this season (as opposed to 15 activation's in 2007 and 18 activation's in 2006). Ten ARES members participated this year which is way less than what we need to make this manageable. Thanks to Volunteer Controllers VE4s: AJO, ALW, EH, RCJ, VZ, GWN, HAZ, JNF, DWG and MBQ. Special thanks to:

| | | |
|---|--------|----------------------------|
| Ellis Seddon | VE4AJO | Covered five weeks on-call |
| Bill Simm | VE4ALW | Covered five weeks on-call |
| and came in from Portage for each activation | | |
| Glen Napady | VE4GWN | Covered four weeks on-call |
| Harm Hazeu | VE4HAZ | Covered six weeks on-call. |

We need additional WWO Controllers for 2009 if we want to continue operating VE4WWO for severe summer weather. ARES units with members living close to Winnipeg are asked to encourage involvement with our on-call rotation. New Controllers can be mentored by an experienced WWO Controller.

Eight WPGARES volunteers provided Amateur communications SAT 13 SEP at Riverview Community Centre for the SuperWalk for Parkinson's. Thanks to VE4s: HAZ, GWN, MMG, BN, OAK, GNT, VID and HK. Special Thanks to Dick VE4HK for Coordinating this event for WPGARES.

Eleven WPGARES volunteers provided Amateur communications SUN 14 SEP at Assiniboine Park for the Terry Fox Run. Thanks to VE4s: AJO, PH, YYL, MMG, BN, DWG, OAK, LDI, HK, KAZ and GWN. Special Thanks to Glen VE4GWN for Coordinating this event for WPGARES.

Bill Karle VE4KZ, DEC for North-Eastman ARES gave us a very interesting presentation at the SEP General Meeting regarding the Simulated Response Exercise for the RM of Springfield in MAY. Bill's style of presentation was quite captivating.

As reported last month, nominations for the 2008-09 WPGARES Inc. Executive opened at the conclusion of our SEP General Meeting. Nominations close TUE 14 OCT. Our Annual General Meeting is TUE 21 OCT 1900h at Sir Wm Stephenson Library 765 Keewatin Street.

Superwalk for Parkinson's

By Dick, VE4HK

The 2008 Superwalk for Parkinson's moved to another new venue. The Bronx Park site used in 2007 was unavailable as it is under construction. The new site was the Riverview Community Club, located on Ashland and Eccles in the Riverview area of Fort Rouge. There was only one event, a 1.8 km walk. A few participants walked the course twice. The event began at 10:00 am, and was over by 11:30 am. More than 250 people participated

Our amateur radio group held a short briefing meeting at 9 am, before proceeding to our assigned locations. Each amateur who wanted a T shirt received one. One amateur shadowed Howard Koks, the event coordinator, another remained with the St. Johns Ambulance personnel. Two operated the base station. Two covered the water station. Two rode over the course several times to ensure the safety of the participants. Our duties were as follows:

- Watch for any participants having difficulty, and notify Control, who would then notify the St. Johns Ambulance personnel or arrange for an ambulance, as necessary
- Amateurs at the water station were to advise Control if more water or other supplies were required
- Shadow kept Event Coordinator apprised of happenings on the course
- bicyclists travelled around the course several times to ensure that no participants were having difficulty
- bicyclists stopped at turns in the course, to ensure that participants did not become lost
- bicyclists notified Control of numbers of entrants left on the course
- bicyclists notified participants that event would be closing shortly

The Superwalk for Parkinson's had several police cars, 1 police motorcycle, and 2 police officers on horseback accompanying the participants. Our bicyclists had to watch carefully for deposits left on the street by the horses.

There were no problems with the communications for this event. The Control station used a 2 meter mobile radio. Everyone else used their handheld. We used 146.46 simplex.

The Parkinson's Walk is an excellent low key operation, ideal for training ARES members. We appreciate the opportunity to work with Parkinson's personnel.

Winnipeg ARES Volunteers

Coordinator, Dick Maguire VE4HK, Howard's Shadow Harm Hazeu VE4HAZ, Medical Shadow Glen Napady VE4GWN, Control, Mariska Maguire VE4MMG, Ed Bethune VE4BN, Water Station, Ed Oakes VE4OAK, Jim McKinley VE4GMT, Bike 1, Dick Maguire VE4HK, Bike 2, Tedd Vidler VE4VID

Minutes for September 8th, 2008

Submitted by Ruthie, VE4CRS

Meeting called to order by Geoff VE4BAW at 7:30 PM. First half of meeting to be conducted by Albert VA4AS. Second half of meeting to be a planning session conducted by Geoff.

Intros followed. 36 members and 3 non-members attended.

Presentation of WARC mug to Aruni for her presentation at Hamfest. Aruni VE4WMK presented mug to Adam VE4SN for his presentation at Hamfest. Present to future to past!

DX report by Adam VE4SN

Conditions are improving slightly. No sun spots, propagation not that good. Europeans on 20m, mostly CW. Wales Island – EU124. Alert reactivated – radio station CFARS – VE8RCS.

Motion to accept minutes

of June GM as printed in Newscaster by Rick VE4RA, seconded by Glen VE4GWN. Carried.

Hamfest Derek VE4HAY – preliminary report

Hamfest was excellent and made a profit. Detailed report will be given at Oct. GM. Part of the profit will go back to WARC for lost revenue because of having only one Flea Market this year. The rest of the profit will go to DARF. Question whether there will be a refund for presenters. Not discussed. The poor attendance of WARC members was noted.

ARES

Sept. meeting, Tuesday the 16th. Presenter: - VE4KZ. Need volunteers for Parkinson's walk and Terry Fox run.

Field Day

It was a success even though there was no coordinator. Executive did last minute planning. (more discussing during planning session)

Treasurer's Report

As of Aug. 31, 2008.
Income - \$670.00
Expenses - \$1,253.31
Bank Balance – \$4,938.87.

New Executive for 2008-2009

Past President – John VE4QV
President – Geoff VE4BAW
Vice President – Albert VA4AS
Secretary – Ruthie VE4CRS
Treasurer – Susan VE4SYM
Membership – Mark VE4MAB
Programs – Bob VE4RCJ
Education – Robert VE4RAI together with Albert VE4AS

MRS

Repair work has been completed on antennas at Richardson Bldg. Gimli/MAN repeaters are better. 6m antenna – good coverage Red River Valley.

New Business

Notice of Motion – presented by Glen VE4GWN to be voted at the November WARC GM.

"I move that Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club be disbanded and its assets be disposed of as per article 6:2 of the WARC By-Laws." Seconded by Luke VE4WTF.

This motion was introduced for the following reason.

"The following things make me wonder if there is still a need or even a desire to have a General Amateur Radio Club in Winnipeg. The poor attendance at the Hamfest. Every year it seems to be more difficult to find someone to head events like Field Day or find members willing to stand on the Board of Directors of WARC. The same few seem to put things together."

Motion to adjourn

Meeting by Glen VE4GWN, seconded by Rolf VE4VZ. Carried.

Winner of 50/50 draw – Glen VE4GW
Membership draw – Glen VE4GWN

Planning Session

1. Xmas party committee: - Rolf VE4VZ to head committee. He intends to get help from members. Plans to be tentatively in place by Oct. GM. Luke VE4WTF to help.
2. Field Day committee: - Rolf VE4VZ, Bob VE4RCJ, Rick VE4RA, Willard VE4WJE have volunteered to be the committee. Fort Whyte location was excellent and suggested as location for 2009 Field Day. Suggestion to raise profile with lots of PR. It is also a social event.

Amateur Radio  A Community Resource

3. Home Brew: - Participation is down – either step it up or give it up. Links are posted in Newscaster for project ideas. Discussion followed: - continue for betterment of learning; money incentive; show and tell nights; needs format change.
4. Marathon: - There is a large committee that works successfully every year.
5. Programs: - Asking for suggestions from members. APRS; Grounding; Mobile operation; antennas; workshop at U of M; EH antenna presentation by Willard.
6. Newscaster: - In need of articles. Newscaster is appreciated by members and should continue.
7. Membership: - Outreach to Philippine clubs. Outreach to new hams. Info of new hams to be reported to Mark. Get info from designated examiners. Home brew can be an attraction.
8. Website: - Mark VE4MAB is responsible for WARC Website. Members to say what info they want to see on site: - special events; technical info; links;
9. Clubhouse: - There is still a motion on the books. Need to come back to.
10. Education: - Albert VA4AS and Robert VE4RAI to head – education for members and a program to teach new hams. Leadership in the latter is needed.
11. DXpedition: - Suggestion to hold DXpedition like the one held on Prairie Dog Central. Ask David VE4DAR for info. Discussion will be continued.
12. Community Trailer: Derek VE4HAY - Think about outfitting and using. Could be portable Clubhouse. Need tall volunteers to put up ceiling – work party. Glen, Fred and Rolf volunteered. Has repeater equipment.
13. Satellite – short presentation by Witt VE4WK.

Meeting ended – 9:45 PM.

Home Brew Night

While home brew night is months off. And in an effort to try to encourage more people to build projects, here are a few sites you could find from simple to technical projects. You now have notice with plenty of time to build one of these and bring to Home Brew night. Remember there is Prize money to be won.

<http://www.tecsolv.com/cq/>

<http://www.ac6v.com/homebrew.htm>

http://www.dxzone.com/catalog/Technical_Reference/Home_brew/

<http://www.nitehawk.com/rasmit/sa50.html>

http://hamradiooperator.blogspot.com/2008/08/2e0hts-home_brew-4-element-yagi-project.html

Field Day Coordinator - Rolf, VE4VZ

Field day is coming quickly. It is only 8 months away, and we are looking for help already. Make sure you come out to this month's WARC meeting, where we will be discussing Field preparations and the direction Field day will take. Rolf, VE4VZ has agreed to take on the coordinator position and is looking for a few people to form the rest of the committee. Please contact him if you are interested.

Help Wanted - Ham Radio Course

The Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club is looking at putting on a Basic Ham course in the new year. At this time they are looking for volunteers who would be willing to teach a small section of the material. If you have any expertise in one or more areas of the study guide, we need your help. Please contact va4as_albert.sousa@shaw.ca who is heading up this committee.

Please help us generate more interest in Amateur Radio and help increase our numbers.

Students Wanted - Ham Radio Course

In conjunction with the above noted course being developed for the new year, WARC is also looking for students. So if you know of a friend, relative, child, etc... that is interested in radio, wireless communications, electronics etc.. who you think would be a great person to be a ham, then please contact them and strongly suggest that they take this simple course and join our great hobby. Contact va4as_albert.sousa@shaw.ca for more information.

UMARS -SIG

The University of Manitoba Amateur Radio Club, is looking for help on the installation of the SpacePort antennas and equipment. If you would like to help out, and learn more about Satellites and the plans that are underway at the U of M for the Space Port, then please contact ve4wk_kinsner@ee.umanitoba.ca, who can put you in touch with the right 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*

Cell Phone Ban in Cars - Are Ham's exempt ?
By Derek Hay

There is movement a foot by various provincial governments to ban the use of cell phones and other devices while operating a motor vehicle. The follow is an exchange of letters between myself and the Ministers office responsible for this possible ban in Manitoba. Please read the exchange and think about voicing your own concerns. It is only with pressure from HAM's that we can be exempt from any legislation. There are at least two provinces already with restrictions. **Manitoba will have a ban, but it is up to us to ensure that Amateur Radio is exempt.**

From: Spacek, John (MIT)
Cc: Infrastructure & Transportation, Minister (LEG)
Sent: Tuesday, August 26, 2008 2:43 PM
Subject: Cell Phone ban

Dear Mr. Hay:

Your April 15, 2008 e-mail on behalf of Radio Amateurs of Canada to the Honourable Ron Lemieux, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation, regarding two-way radio operation and driver cell phone prohibitions, was referred to me for a response.

As you are aware, the Government of Manitoba is considering taking action on driver cell phone use. The use of cell phones and other in-vehicle communication devices are a significant driver distraction. The Government is interested in limiting the safety concerns associated with this behaviour; however, the Government is still assessing the best course of action to address the safety concerns posed by distracted driving and continues to monitor and assess the issue.

I appreciate that you and other radio operators have provided assistance to Manitobans during times of crisis and understand that you are concerned about how possible future government action on distracted driving and in-vehicle communication devices may impact your organization. The Government is in the process of determining the best course of action.

Thank you for taking the time to share your organization's concerns. The information that you have provided will be taken into consideration as the Government determines the best course of action for addressing the driver distraction caused by in-vehicle communication devices.

Sincerely,
John Spacek
Assistant Deputy Minister
Transportation Policy and Motor Carrier Divisions

c. Honourable Ron Lemieux, Minister

From: Hay-Family
Sent: Tuesday, April 15, 2008 3:08 PM
To: Infrastructure & Transportation, Minister
Subject: Cell Phone ban

Dear The Honourable Ron Lemieux,

I am writing to you today about a proposed ban or restriction on the use of cell phones in motor vehicles. Please see the attached document on items that need to be considered before imposing such a ban.

I am looking forward to providing insight on such a ban/restriction.

Thank you for your time.

April 15, 2008
The Honourable Ron Lemieux,
Minister Infrastructure and Transportation
Government of Manitoba

RE: proposed legislation – restrictions on cell phone use in motor vehicles

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you today as I have heard that the Manitoba Provincial Government is thinking of putting in a restriction on the use of cell phones while operating a motor vehicle. This is probably a very good idea, however I do have some concerns on the possible language and formatting of such a restriction.

As you know there are not just cell phones being used in motor vehicles. There are also a number of other devices, such as 2 way radios & data terminals. My concern is with any restriction on the use of 2-way radios while operating a motor vehicle. I am a member of the following clubs, Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club, Manitoba Repeater Society, Radio Amateurs of Canada and Amateur Radio Emergency Service. You may or may not be aware, but amateur radio, AKA Ham Radio, is a very integral part of community emergency plans. The ability for an amateur radio operator to use their radio while mobile in a motor vehicle is a very import part of their function in their relaying of information from the field to a central dispatcher and then on to various government departments or other served agencies. Ham radio operators were, an important member of the 1997 Flood of the Century, being placed behind the ring dikes with their own equipment sending information back to Winnipeg on the conditions in the field. Ham radio operators also relayed information during times of severe storms such as last summers F5 tornado near Elie. This information is sent directly to the amateur radio CANWarn

station located in the Prairie Storm Prediction Centre of Environment Canada office on Main Street. During non-emergency times amateur radio provides communication service for a number of public service event such as for the Manitoba Marathon. Without the services of Amateur Radio, the Manitoba Marathon would not have been able to operate over these many years. It is the behind the scenes use of amateur radio that supports the runners by providing medical, therapy and aid dispatch through out the course. In other words Amateur Radio is used in motor vehicles in much the same way that emergency services (i.e. police, fire, ambulance, public works, Transportation etc...) use their radios in their motor vehicles. While these emergency services use their radio for routine exchange of information on a daily basis and on occasion exchange emergency information during times of crisis, Amateur radio operators also use their radios on a daily basis exchanging information between each other. While this information is personal in nature for 95% of the time, it is also used to develop skills and knowledge of radio use that can and do get used during times of need, be it public service or during emergency situations.

I urge that any legislation allow for the specific exemption of Amateur Radio in any restrictions of using 2-way radio devices in motor vehicles.

If there is going to be an Industry Action Committee (IAC) developed to study the use of 2 way radio in motor vehicles that would lead to exempting such use from proposed legislation, I would like to request, that a member of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio club and a member of Amateur Radio Emergency Services, be allow to sit on such a committee.

Should you have any questions or would like more information or clarification on Amateur Radio and our services to the public and served government department or agencies, I would be more than willing to meet with you or your deputy ministers.

Sincerely,
Derek Hay



RAC Bulletin # 23

Since the introduction of a Radio Amateurs of Canada Field Services national emergency program, the responsible RAC officials have been working behind the scenes to launch an effective Canadian Amateur Radio Emergency Database, or "CARED", in support of the RAC Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and mutual aid. Steps are being taken by RAC's National Emergency Coordinator Ken Oelke, VE6AFO, and CARED Manager Drew Watson, VA7DR, to ensure both RAC and the ARRL are on the same page when it comes to the deployment of ARES personnel. In this regard it is beneficial that RAC and ARRL have uniformity in their respective programs. Cooperation and coordination with Section officials, elected and appointed, will be vital in accomplishing a useful database. Full details of the CARED, including how qualified Radio Operators might go about being added to the database, will appear in the November-December 2008 issue of The Canadian Amateur magazine and a special page on the RAC Field Organization area of the RAC website, www.rac.ca, will be created.

News from the Net

Proposed Allocations ZS Amateur Frequencies

The proposed South African table already includes the expansion of the 40 metre band to 7200 KHz as well as a new allocation of 135,7 - 137,8 KHz in the long wave spectrum. In the table the limitation that currently exists for ZRs in the 14 MHz band has been removed. Some time ago the SARL made a representation to ICASA to have the 160 metre band expanded to 2000 KHz as well as a new allocation in the 5 MHz spectrum. The SARL has also addressed spectrum needs in the 2300 - 2450 MHz band and an allocation in the 3300 - 3500 MHz band, to align South Africa with other parts of the world where this band is being considered for amateur satellite use. The South African table of frequency allocations include an interesting allocation for use by radio amateurs in the 40 MHz band. The frequencies 40,675 - 40,685 MHz may be used for propagation studies with a maximum power limit of 10 Watt EIRP, limited to ZS licensees. All current regulations and allocations remain in force and new allocations will only become available when published in the South African Government Gazette. --WIA

Iran develops satellite launch capability

In August, Iran moved closer to achieving it's own satellite launch capability. To date only a limited number of countries have had the capability of launching satellites into Earth orbit. The high demand for satellite launches and

shortage of launchers has resulted in high prices being charged even for non-commercial educational satellites. However, launch technology is being developed by a growing number of countries for various reasons. On August 17th Iran tested its Safir-e-Omid-1 launcher. According to reports Iran plans to put a satellite Omid into Earth orbit in the coming months. --WIA

New HF Digital Protocol

WINMOR, an HF digital protocol designed for use with the Winlink 2000 network, will be unveiled at the upcoming ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference in Chicago September 26-28. --WIA

Police radio triggers a wet problem

All was going well with the testing of a new police communication system in the Texas cities of Cedar Hill, DeSoto and Duncanville, until it was found to be producing an unwanted side-effect in the city of Plano some 30 miles away. The police transmissions have been setting off an expensive network of radio-controlled sprinklers used for parks and road median strips. Worse still, the issue took on a life of its own through radio talk-back programs and other media outlets trying to point blame for the technical hitch. Then came news that the new emergency system also interfered with radio equipment that monitored the levels of three water towers. Attempts to find a mutually agreed solution appear to have failed so it is off to the Federal Communications Commission for a determination. --WIA

Broadcasters set to QSY

In six months time powerful shortwave broadcast stations are to migrate from the band 7100 to 7200 kilohertz as that spectrum fully reverts to the Amateur Service. Before 1938 there was an exclusive amateur allocation of 7 to 7.3 MHz. But due to world unrest 7.2 to 7.3 MHz was taken away to accommodate propaganda broadcasting in the lead up to World War II. It had been thought the band would be returned to the Amateur Service, but it continued due to Cold War, and in fact broadcasting increased the size of its primary allocation. While in some parts of the world radio amateurs managed to retain 7 to 7.3 only the bottom third was amateur exclusive and the remainder shared with broadcasters. The International Amateur Radio Union mounted a campaign for the 40m band to be returned globally to the Amateur Service. Its case stated that such a change would ensure effective communications support particularly in the event of natural disasters. The IARU pursued the issue at the World Radiocommunications Conference in 2003 gaining 7.1 to 7.2 MHz worldwide for the Amateur Service, adding an extra 100 KHz on the exclusive allocation, while sharing between 7.2 and 7.3 MHz continues. --WIA

CW skimmer makes paddles go further?

Like virtually all sports, amateur radio does have its controversies and a current one is called the CW Skimmer, but what is it? A clever piece of software developed by Alex Shovkoplyas VE3NEA, the Canadian who is also behind the DX Atlas and a number of other ham radio programs. CW Skimmer receives and decodes signals and graphically shows them as a band map on a computer screen, listing stations by callsign and frequency. The software obviously can help to more easily find stations, which could be very useful during a DXpedition. Meanwhile Pete Smith N4ZR is pushing for listening centres to be set up using the software to create a 'reverse beacon' network. CW Skimmer is sparking lots of debate as to whether it's just a new innovation that should be embraced by radio amateurs, or outlawed by ham radio rule makers. --WIA

Low Frequency band for VK

Australia is set to join the 30-odd countries whose radio amateurs have been already given the new low frequency amateur band of 135.7 to 137.8 KHz. It's been a wait of more than 20 years to officially get the band. A few VK radio amateurs, under special Scientific Licences, have been engaged in pioneering experimentation on low frequency spectrum since the mid-1980s. The World Radiocommunication Conference in 2007 decided that there be a world-wide secondary allocation but left it to individual radio administrations around the world to decide on its introduction. --WIA

SSTV from Space.

Beginning Oct 14, Rihard Garriot W5KWQ will spend 9 days conducting experiments and doing extensive photography of the Earth. Richard being a licensed amateur will also be transmitting SSTV images from the ISS. The standard downlink of 145.800 will be used for voice contacts, school contacts and SSTV transmissions. The standard voice uplink frequencies of 144.490 for ITU regions 2 & 3 will be used. Tracking information can be found at

<http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/realdata/tracking/index.html>

RAC Announces new HF Band Plan

The HF band plan presently in use in Canada was adopted in 1996. Since then, many changes have happened in the amateur radio world and other band plans have been revised and modified. Let us only mention the changes announced by the FCC in 2007 affecting the US band plan and the revised band plan adopted by the IARU Region 2 countries at the Brasilia conference in September 2007. Just under two years ago, Radio Amateurs of Canada had asked Bob Nash, VE3KZ, a former First Vice President of RAC, to reactivate the HFBPC (HF Band Planning Committee) with a goal to review and modernize the Canadian HF Band

Plan. Bob's committee has since worked very hard in studying and consulting all across Canada to eventually come up with a band plan proposed to the Board of Directors of Radio Amateurs of Canada. The RAC Board adopted this plan at its July 2008 meeting and the new band plan is now on the RAC Web page at: http://www.rac.ca/service/bandplans/hfband_e.php -- Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

Calendar

October

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------|--------|
| 432 MHz Fall Sprint | | 1900L | Oct 8 |
| RSGB 80m Club Sprint | CW | 1900Z | Oct 9 |
| 10-10 Int. 10-10 Day Sprint | | 0001Z | Oct 10 |
| NCCC Sprint | | 0230Z | Oct 10 |
| YLRL Anniversary Party | SSB | 1400Z | Oct 10 |
| Bill Windle QSO Party | CW | 0000Z | Oct 11 |
| LoTW | CW/Digi | 0000Z | Oct 11 |
| Makrothen | RTTY | 0000Z | Oct 11 |
| | And | 1600Z | Oct 11 |
| | And | 0800Z | Oct 12 |
| Oceania DX | CW | 0800Z | Oct 11 |
| EU Autumn Sprint | CW | 1600Z | Oct 11 |
| Pennsylvania QSO Party | | 1600Z | Oct 11 |
| | And | 1300Z | Oct 12 |
| FISTS Fall Sprint | | 1700Z | Oct 11 |
| North American Sprint | RTTY | 0000Z | Oct 12 |
| SKCC Weekend Sprintathon | | 0000Z | Oct 12 |
| UBA ON | SSB | 0600Z | Oct 12 |
| SSA Månadstest nr 10 | SSB | 1400Z | Oct 12 |
| SSA Månadstest nr 10 | CW | 1615Z | Oct 12 |
| NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint | CW | 0030Z | Oct 15 |
| MOON | CW/Digi/SSB | 1800Z | Oct 15 |
| NCCC Sprint | | 0230Z | Oct 17 |
| ARRL EME | | 0000Z | Oct 18 |
| JARTS WW | RTTY | 0000Z | Oct 18 |
| LZOCC 80 m Sprint | CW | 0000Z | Oct 18 |
| ARCI Fall QSO Party | | 1200Z | Oct 18 |
| Worked All Germany | | 1500Z | Oct 18 |
| Stew Perry Topband Challenge | | 1500Z | Oct 18 |
| Worked All Germany | CW/SSB | 1500Z | Oct 18 |
| W/VE Islands QSO Party | | 1600Z | Oct 18 |
| 160m GP Sprint | PSK31 | 2000L | Oct 18 |
| Feld Hell Sprint | Hell | 2200Z | Oct 18 |
| 50 MHz Fall Sprint | | 2300Z | Oct 18 |
| Asia-Pacific Fall Sprint | CW | 0000Z | Oct 19 |
| UBA ON | 2m | 0600Z | Oct 19 |
| Illinois QSO Party | | 1700Z | Oct 19 |
| Run for the Bacon QRP | | 0100Z | Oct 20 |
| ARRL School Club Roundup | | 1300Z | Oct 20 |
| SKCC Sprint | | 0000Z | Oct 22 |
| RSGB 80m Club Sprint | SSB | 1900Z | Oct 22 |
| NCCC Sprint | | 0230Z | Oct 24 |

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|-------|--------|
| CQ Worldwide DX | SSB | 0000Z | Oct 25 |
| 10-10 Int. Fall | | 0001Z | Oct 25 |
| Microwave Fall Sprint | | 0600L | Oct 25 |
| NCCC Sprint | | 0230Z | Oct 31 |

November

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|-------|---------|
| HA-QRP | CW | 0000Z | Nov 1-7 |
| IPARC | CW | 0600Z | Nov 1 |
| Ukrainian DX | | 1200Z | Nov 1 |
| Feld-Hell Club Fall Fling | Feld-Hell | 1600Z | Nov 1 |
| RCA QSO Party | AM/SSB | 1700Z | Nov 1 |
| ARRL Sweepstakes | CW | 2100Z | Nov 1 |
| NA Collegiate ARC Championship | CW | 2100Z | Nov 1 |
| IPARC | SSB | 0600Z | Nov 2 |
| | And | 1400Z | Nov 2 |
| High Speed Club | CW | 0900Z | Nov 2 |
| | And | 1500Z | Nov 2 |
| DARC 10-Meter | Digital | 1100Z | Nov 2 |
| ARS Spartan Sprint | CW | 0200Z | Nov 4 |
| 10 meter NAC | CW/SSB/FM/Digi | 1800Z | Nov 6 |
| NCCC Sprint | | 0230Z | Nov 7 |
| WAE DX | RTTY | 0000Z | Nov 8 |
| JIDX Phone | | 0700Z | Nov 8 |
| OK/OM DX | CW | 1200Z | Nov 8 |
| SL | CW | 1200Z | Nov 8 |
| SL | SSB | 1415Z | Nov 8 |
| Kentucky QSO Party | | 1400Z | Nov 8 |
| CQ-WE | | 1900Z | Nov 8 |
| SKCC Weekend Sprintathon | | 0000Z | Nov 9 |
| RSGB 80m Club Sprint | SSB | 1900Z | Nov 13 |
| NCCC Sprint | | 0230Z | Nov 14 |
| ARRL EME | | 0000Z | Nov 15 |
| JT Hamradio-50 Anniversary DX | | 0000Z | Nov 15 |
| SARL Field Day | | 1000Z | Nov 15 |
| INORC | CW | 1200Z | Nov 15 |
| All Austrian 160-Meter | | 1600Z | Nov 15 |
| NA Collegiate ARC Championship | SSB | 2100Z | Nov 15 |
| RSGB 2nd 1.8 MHz | CW | 2100Z | Nov 15 |
| ARRL Sweepstakes | SSB | 2100Z | Nov 15 |
| Feld Hell Sprint | | 2100Z | Nov 15 |
| EU PSK63 QSO Party | | 0000Z | Nov 16 |
| SSA Månadstest nr 11 | CW | 1500Z | Nov 16 |
| SSA Månadstest nr 11 | SSB | 1615Z | Nov 16 |
| HOT Party | CW | 1700Z | Nov 16 |
| Run for the Bacon QRP | | 0200Z | Nov 17 |
| MOON | CW/Digi/SSB | 1900Z | Nov 19 |
| NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint | | 0130Z | Nov 20 |
| YO International | PSK31 | 1600Z | Nov 21 |
| LZ DX | | 1200Z | Nov 22 |
| ARRL International EME | All | 0000Z | Nov 23 |
| SKCC Sprint | | 0100Z | Nov 26 |
| RSGB 80m Club Sprint | CW | 1900Z | Nov 26 |
| QRP ARCI Topband Sprint | CW/SSB | 0000Z | Nov 27 |
| CQ Worldwide DX | CW | 0000Z | Nov 29 |

Communications Trailer

By Derek, VE4HAY

I know I have mentioned this a few times of the years, But I still have a mobile office trailer, that I am slowly fixing up for use by Amateurs as a mobile presentation trailer of a mobile command post or a mobile whatever. This spring VE4BAW & myself tore out the walls then insulated and covered them in new wood. The next area is the roof, for which both Geoff and myself are too short. So we are looking for Ham's or helpers who are taller than ourselves who would like to help out on this project.

I am also looking for a roof vent. One like the type that are on vacation trailers. The crank-up from the inside ones. So if you had/have a trailer where you removed the vent and put in Air conditioning, and the vent is taking up space in the garage, please feel free to donate it to the project. Once the vent is acquired and in, then we can insulate the roof.

After that the next part of the project is to wire the unit for 12 volt. VE4GF was kind enough to provide for us a 12 converter that is used in travel trailers which, we will use that to provide for lighting of the trailer. I have a large single panel solar cell that can be used. So for the next part of the project we are looking for 12 lighting, deep cycle batteries, 12 volt wiring panels, 12 volt distribution panels etc... to provide for the electrical requirements. We will have one 120V receptacle for use of a ceramic heater for the cooler events.

So if you are interested in helping out on this project and or have materials you wish to donate to the project, please contact myself, VE4HAY, ve4hay@shaw.ca so I can put you on the volunteer list. The work is normally done week day evenings. Who knows we might even have a couple of beers during the process.

**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

QTX~

By Derek, VE4HAY



Did you know:
Halloween is coming up in a few short weeks.

I am a little disheartened by the motion that was presented at last months meeting. I am not sure of the reasoning behind it. I hope it is only a scare tactic in an effort to get more people out to meetings and involved in the club. But it is a pretty scary way of doing things, even with Halloween a round the corner.

Ok I said my peace, and this is not a column on personal opinions. I have been arranging this newsletter for a long time, and I can only recall maybe at the most three letters to the editor type of insertions.

I would have hoped that efforts it took to raise a motion like this could have been better invested into writing an article on amateur radio clubs and their dwindling numbers.

I don't know, but as I sit here writing this, the smoke keeps pouring from my ears. I received a letter from Winnipeg ARES asking to go to a special meeting in an effort to boost their numbers. This letter is signed by the person who raised the motion at the WARC meeting. I wonder, should I join Winnipeg ARES? Should I attend their AGM this month? Should I make a motion to disband ARES because of low membership numbers?

No I think not! Amateur radio is a very large hobby, with many, many & many avenues of interest to go down. WARC being a general interest club, has a very difficult task trying to appease members with such diverse interests. Can WARC do better, sure it can. Will it do better, well let's all hope so. I sat on the executive of WARC for the last two years. I can see some great direction with in the executive of WARC But what I don't see is the support of the membership. So I am asking the membership to step up and support your executive. Support the various committees. Support your club !!

I guess I can use this space as my own little soapbox, as I am the editor. Don't like it... Well guess who gets to write the next newsletter.

Did you know : We are at the bottom of the page and the end of the newsletter for this month. Amazing how I can ramble on at times, just to fill space... But I hope you see the point. Whatever happens from the motion happens. Just remember this is your club.

Support it or not - **It's your choice !**