



The **NEWSCASTER**

The Official Publication of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club

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

January, 2009

IRLP # 1066

VE4BB

TBA

Date: **January 12th, 2009**
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: **Dakota Collegiate**
661 Dakota Street

Other Important Dates:

WARC: Monthly Meeting dates - Feb. 9, Mar. 9,
Apr. 20 (3rd Monday), May 11, June 8.

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

ARES: Jan. 20th - EMS crew and their capabilities

Other:

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

Christmas has come and gone .. Boxing Day too [I didn't go out shopping for electronics – my favourites can't be found at the local stores]. I am writing this while taking part in the RAC Winter Contest [I can spin the dial with one hand ... oops have to pause and make a contact!]. Between family duties and the lack of propagation [or is it just me?! Some of those Yankee stations have contact numbers north of 600 at 1900 hrs] I won't score very high but it makes for a fun day. I am at home and not at the lake where I have a number of wires in trees covering a number of frequencies... I am limited to 15M, 20M and 40M at home – no 80M [rats!]. The family can sigh and say "he's harmless" as I sit before the transceiver. A number of VE4s have been on the airwaves – including ve4ear and ve4sn. Great fun and no pressure .. I know that it is a contest but I am really just "play" against myself . It is a very good exercise for newcomers to HF, an easy and fun way to gain experience. There is cheerful chatter about New Years Day and best wishes exchanged for 2009, although there are a number of intense operators that are head down and racking up the contacts at an amazing rate. The point system is such that a VE4 is an attractive prefix so newcomers give it a try.

Good grief: N6ML just gave me 924 as a contact number [it's 20:50:11].

Good thing that I am only competing against myself. Some chap from Argentina is trying to play at the RAC contest but the pileup seems to be US stations just wanting a DX contact and ignoring the contest. They disappeared before I could throw my call in. Lot of QSB today.

UTC 22:02, just turned the dial by N6ML and he now has 1020 contacts.. size does matter, I am sure that he has a tall tower and lots of power. Pretty much dead on 20M and 40M for me after that.

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

On a non-radio note .. my extended family have really cut back on the habit of buying presents for each other at Christmas. Instead we make contributions to those in need – to our favourite charities. My father started this trend. This has more than one benefit; less worrying about what to buy, we stop cluttering our houses with all kinds of goods that we really don't need [talk about the Sorcerer's Apprentice of mass production] and we get to feel like we are helping others. The economic numbers rolling in through the media look rough [Toyota down in sales 22% Nov/08 compared to Nov/07, Chrysler, GM and Ford at bankruptcy's door – but don't worry, we will bail them out, the bear is striking with teeth and claw in Wall Street and Bay Street and the US banks need bailing out!]. The point being that there will be more people in need in 2009. Remember .. when you lose your job it is a recession, when I lose my job it is a depression. I hope that the governments have enough money in the kitty to pay for infrastructure projects. Putting money into public works of all sorts is the traditional method to prime the economy during a recession.

Have a great 2009 .. I look forward to seeing you all again. I hope that your Christmas and New Year was terrific.

Minutes for November 10th, 2008
Submitted by Ruthie, VE4CRS

Brief meeting came to order at 7:30 PM. Intros followed. 36 members and non-members attended. Christmas celebration to follow.

Thanks to Derek VE4HAY who arranged the Field Trip to the U of Manitoba. All considered one of the best programs ever. The U of M wants us to consider them as our second home. Additional Field Trips will be planned.

Bill 5 Committee

Derek VE4HAY is chairing. Reps from MARES, WARES, WARC, MRS and Seniors are on committee. Derek has his name in to sit on Bill Committee. Goal is to get the Bill written so that microphones/amateur radios are excluded.

DX

DX still not up to par. CW is good. Good signals to Africa, USA and Europe. 20m is improving. Other bands are iffy. No sun spots. Not much activity.

Education

Albert VA4AS is negotiating spring course with Red River College (RRC). Tentative dates: - to start in April,

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

Tuesday evening and alternative Thursdays, until end of June. Exam to be held before Field Day. Instructors will be from the list of instructors compiled by David VE4DAR.

ARES

7 members operated at VE4WVO 24 hrs. during special event commemorating Weather stations.
General Meeting Tuesday Dec. 16, 2008.

Flea Market

Dick VE4HK is coordinating. Spring Flea Market: - April 19, 2009 at Heritage Victoria Community Centre beginning 9:30 AM, ending 1:00 PM.

Field Day

Rolf VE4VZ is coordinating. He is working on venue, possibly Camp Amisk.

Treasurer's Report

* \$750.00 will be donated to DARF, revenue from Hamfest. The rest of the profit from the Hamfest will go back to WARC for the loss of revenue from 2 Flea Markets.

* Actual General Book Balance as of Nov. 30, 2008 is \$6,151.54. Detailed report on file.

Good & Welfare

* Congratulations to Bert and Betty, VE4's AND and BTY on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary.

* Requesting all to sign a special Xmas card for Jim VE4AJR.

* Thanks to Ed VE4EIH who took on the responsibility of organizing the Xmas celebration.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM. Xmas celebration followed.

Thanks to all who participated in making the Xmas celebration enjoyable: - Ruth VE4XYL, Sue VE4SYM, David VE4DAR, Ruthie VE4CRS, Tamara, and to those who assisted in the technical equipment! My apologies if I have excluded anyone. Many gift prizes were drawn. Piyumi VE4WPL submitted a very impressive decorated hand held.

50/50 draw won by Ruth VE4XYL.

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 -WLA

Program

By the time this is read hopefully everyone had a good Christmas. Hopefully everyone enjoyed the WARC Christmas Party. It was interesting and different to try to put together. It was also an interesting experience. It would not have happen, with out those who took time out of their busy schedules to come in, and provide what was required. The volunteers, that step forward, are the ones that make an event work. First I would like to thank the WARC Exec., who let me make the attempt, at the Christmas Party organizer. Then there is Tom and Ruth Mills. They provided the munchies and coffee. There was a wide variety selection of munchies, for us all to enjoy. Thanks to Adam who gave his reading, of a Highway Man. A very intriguing story, of how love conquers all. Thanks to David and Ruthie. They gave a skit as the Odd Couple. I think, most of us giggled and laughed through that one. Then there is Tamara Mares. Tamara took time out of her day to talk about the goings on in other parts of the world, stuff I think the NEWS shuns. Tamara also talked about her upcoming missionary work to Cuba. For those that would like to contribute, in some way to the various organizations. I've got the e-mail addresses for these. For the Decorated Handi-talkie contest. Supon Peirera VE4WSP, wowed us all, with his abilities. That kinda proves, this hobby of Amateur Radio, is still going. Congrats Supon on your good work! Also thanks to everyone who signed the card for Jim VE4AJR. Well that it. I hope everyone had a good time. That was my spin on trying, to organize the WARC Christmas party. Sorry I could not include pictures. The computer wanted a thousand and one steps, so could not get any to copy over to here.

The Odd Couple by VE4DAR

Although challenged by the complexities of ageing and Winnipeg's -20 degrees,

"The Odd Couple" managed to appear as the final act of WARC's annual Christmas Celebration. Dragging a bag of shredded paper for recycling, Harry came on stage. When questioned by his partner, Saidie, Harry replied, "I sometimes get a little mixed." Seated on a bench in the park, the couple enjoyed nature and talked about their life.

Saidie looked forward to "climbing towers at Field Day", reminded during Y2K by seeing those handsome and muscular fire fighters "who climbed a lot of things". Harry preferred the Marathon for the women running in shorts. Repeating "What did the doctor say" overcame Harry's hearing deficit, and Saidie's question got through: "Everything was OK, but you know, Saidie, I have plumbing troubles. I pee like a stutterer talks." "Oh, that explains the mess on the bathroom floor!"

Saidie's "Just in Case" bag contained an extra pair of panties in case she laughed too hard. Harry reminded Saidie that he belonged to ARES and had to be prepared 747.

That's when Harry sang, "Be Prepared, that's the ARES marching song..."

His Disaster Preparedness bag held a radio, his medicine (Captain Morgan), a bag of pills from the doctor to help "Mr. Flop Drop", and a Depends "just in case" he coughed too hard.

And that's when Harry got a "signal." "Quick, Sadie, quick, I have to go."



As The Odd Couple exited the stage, Saidie held her nose and the audience heard, "You can slow down, Sadie, it's too late!"

Perhaps The Odd Couple wouldn't win any contests for fashion style or makeup; nevertheless, they did manage to extract some chuckles and a lot of smiles from the audience. "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year" from Saidie and Harry.

Top 25 things vanishing from America: #16 – Ham radio

This series explores aspects of America that may soon be just a memory -- some to be missed, some gladly left behind. From the least impactful to the most, here are 25 bits of vanishing America.

An easy way to prolong a disaster is to have the respondents use dozens of different, incompatible communications systems, or operate them with no protocol. Yes, I'm thinking about Katrina. I'm also thinking about a vanishing American treasure, the amateur radio operator. In the past five years alone, the number of people holding active licenses has dropped by 50,000, even though Morse Code is not longer a requirement.

Many think of a ham radio operator as a tubes-and-wires geek, and there is a certain truth to that stereotype, although today's ham is more likely to be computer-savvy and involved in cutting-edge technologies. However, from my personal experience, I know them to be among our nation's best trained and most capable respondents to disasters. In the hands of the amateur radio volunteers, disaster communications become orderly and prioritized, as they employ the protocols and training received in gaining their licenses. As director of one of the nation's largest week-long bicycle tours, I watched the ham community deal with countless challenges with imagination and expertise, whether it was assembling a portable tower and repeater in the field, coordinating emergency medical transport, or organizing the search for a lost child. I saw them sit for countless hours patiently looking out for the safety of thousands of people that would never know of their efforts.

As cell phones and the Internet siphon off much of what once attracted people to amateur radio, the nation's ham radio population is graying rapidly. Given the cash value of the radio bands allocated to amateur radio, there will be relentless pressure on the government to take back those bands so they can be sold. All these elements speak to a long, slow diminishment of a pastime that began with Marconi.

When amateur radio as we know it disappears, it won't be the radios we'll miss. We'll miss the operators. 73's to a national treasure. -Tom Barlow, N8NLO

WPGARES

By Jeff, VE4MBQ -Emergency Coordinator

Seven CANWARN Net Controllers operated VE4WWO for sixteen hours through SKYWARN Recognition Day SAT 6 DEC. We had confirmed contacts with thirty-eight NWS Stations. Still have no idea why CANWARN Stations in other Environment Canada facilities don't participate in this event. Thanks to volunteer operators VE4s: DWG, HK, HAZ, ALW, VZ, GWB and MBQ.

Don Mackinnon VE4DJ, Planning Director Manitoba delivered a very interesting and thought-provoking presentation on some current Inter-operability issues and possible effects on Amateur Radio and ARES. Thanks to Sue VE4SYM and Ruth VE4XYL for organizing the Christmas refreshment break during the meeting.

Our next General Meeting is TUE 20 JAN 1900h at Sir Wm Stephenson Library 765 Keewatin Street. Stefan Zueff, EMS Supervisor from Canwest Ballpark is scheduled to give us a presentation on his EMS crew and their capabilities.

News from the Net

CHU to move 41 metre frequency

On January 1, 2008 at 00:00 UTC, CHU will be moving its 41 metre time broadcast from 7335 Khz to 7850 Khz as a result of the 2007 WRC which relocated the band 7300-7350 Khz from Fixed services to Broadcasting. As a result of the increased interference, the National Research Council (NRC) decided to change frequency at the same time a refurbished transmitter will be installed. For more information see :

http://inms-ienm.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/common_files/stories/chu/communique_e.pdf

New RAC ARES Operations Training Manual

The recently introduced RAC ARES Operations Training Manual has met with widespread approval from the Amateur Radio community and is even being requested by Emcomm groups in other countries. Plans are that it will be printed in a handy and portable hard copy form early in 2009. The editor, RAC National Training Coordinator David Drinnan, VE9FK, is making further updates for inclusion in the manual. Once published, the new training resource will be offered for sale on the RAC On-Line Store. It will continue to be available for downloading, free of charge,

at <http://www.rac.ca/fieldorg/RACARESTrainingManual.htm>
--RAC

ARES Alert System

The Radio Amateurs of Canada Field Services Organization has created an ARES-Alert system for Radio Amateurs who are part of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service or other Canadian Emcomm unit. The email-based system is provided as a means to alert Radio Amateurs of emergencies or disasters, or threat of same, where Amateur Emcomm services are or may be required. It will also serve to advise stations of the need to avoid or monitor frequencies that are being used in an emergency event anywhere in the world. Any Canadian Radio Amateur may register to be added to the email list. Full name, call sign and QTH are required. This is not a "chat" reflector and only national officials of the RAC Field Services Organization will have authority to initiate messages. To be added to the list, or for further information, please see the web site - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ARES-Alert/>
--RAC

Special Prefix for use

The International Year of Astronomy Special Prefix Callsign starts January 1st 0h UT and ends Feb 27th 23:59 UT Feb 28 2009. All Canadian Amateurs are encouraged to use it to commemorate Galileo Galilei's first look through an optical instrument towards the heavens. The Special Prefix

are:

VE changes to CG

VA changes to CF

VO changes to CH

VY changes to CI

The official kickoff date for IYA is January 10th and on that date many astronomy clubs across Canada and around the world will be participating in local astronomical activities. Displays at Shopping Malls, talks in Public Libraries, star parties for the public will be happening. I am also encouraging those amateur Radio operators who are affiliated with the RASC (Royal Astronomical Society of Canada) that might have local IRLP access to visit node 9005 the Vancouver Reflector on January 10th to join in the across Canada IYA Net. To find out more about this unique ham radio Special prefix and related projects visit <http://www.hamiya2009.info>

OPERATING PRACTICE

Extracted from a document by Mark - ON4WW

Here are most of the different pileup situations:

A. SSB SIMPLEX PILEUP

What is the most effective way to break through a SIMPLEX pileup (a big pileup with many stations trying to work the DX, all at the same time)?

Wait until the previous QSO is COMPLETELY finished;

timing is VERY important. You will have little or no success if you throw in your callsign immediately after the previous QSO.

Wait for approximately seven seconds and give your complete callsign ONE TIME

LISTEN ...

There are many variants to this approach. This is experience you will only acquire by listening very often to simplex pileups. A lot depends on the rhythm in which the DX station works, and how well or not so well he can decipher the callsigns out of the cacophony.

If you call immediately after a previous QSO finishes, your callsign will disappear in the pile of tens of others calling simultaneously. The pileup callers mostly give their callsign two, sometimes even three or four (!) times in a row. Meanwhile the DX station probably already answered one of them, but nobody hears this as some keep calling 'endlessly', without listening.

By waiting for approximately seven seconds, the moment when the majority of the pileup takes a breath, time has come for you to give your call, once. Then LISTEN.

Give your callsign relatively fast. 'Stretching' of the phonetic alphabet is USELESS.

'Oscar November Four Zulu Zulu Zulu Zulu' is the correct

way and this may be pronounced rather quickly.

'Ooooscaaaar Noooveeember Fooouurr Zuuuluuu' etc. is a waste of time and does not contribute to the intelligibility of your callsign at the DX station's end. On the contrary!

ALWAYS use the CORRECT phonetic alphabet when calling in a pileup.

The phonetic alphabet (Alfa through Zulu) in radio traffic serves to avoid mistakes during exchanges of letters and words. To achieve this goal, the 26 alphabet letters have been attributed a unique word.

A DX station listens for these unique words in the pileup cacophony. His ears are harassed by the fusion of all these words (and figures) and fatigue increases. If we deviate from the standard words of the phonetic alphabet, it gets even more difficult for him.

Far too often in pileups one can notice that the DX station missed just THAT letter that deviated from the standard alphabet, and consequently he has to ask for a repeat.

Example:

'Lima' cuts like a razor blade. Many use 'London' as alternative. If your signal is very weak, the DX station will probably understand 'Lima' but not 'London'!

More examples:

Bravo - Baltimore. Echo - Easy (very bad). Hotel - Honolulu (bad). Juliett - Japan. Kilo - Kentucky. Lima - London (very bad). November - Norway (very bad). Oscar - Ontario/Ocean (very bad). Papa - Portugal (very bad). Quebec - Quitto (very bad). Romeo - Radio. Sierra - Santiago. Tango - Toronto (bad). Uniform - United/University (bad). Victor - Venezuela (bad). Whiskey - Washington (very bad). X-ray - Xylophone (very bad). Yankee - Yokohama (very bad). Zulu - Zanzibar (bad).

Not only is the DX station listening for the exact words, he is also expecting certain consonants/sounds in these words and a defined number of syllables. If a syllable gets lost due to static/QRN, he can often reconstruct the word by completing the missing consonants and/or number of syllables.

The amusing words as often heard on HF/VHF may sound comical, but are not effective ('Old Nose four Zenith Zebra Zinc Zigzag' comes to mind).

If the DX station returns to you with your full and correct callsign, why waste time by repeating your callsign at the beginning of your transmission? Just give him his report. You can end your transmission with your callsign, but this is time consuming and certainly to be avoided when working DXpeditions.

The shorter your transmission the better and the rest of the pileup will appreciate it as well. Usually just giving a report

without additional info is the best way to go. One second and the QSO is made, the DX station can attend to another caller.

When you're calling in a pileup, never transmit the callsign of the DX station; he knows his callsign.... a pure waste of time.

Give your callsign once. Two times is a maximum, but not advisable. In some cases (where the DX station doesn't hear well or if he's an inexperienced operator) you have to do this. Three times is out of the question!

If the DX station returns with a part of your callsign, put an emphasis on that part of your call he missed.

Examples:

QRZ, XU7ACV.

(cacophony - 7 seconds of waiting time)

ON4zzzz.

ON4zzzz, you are 59, QSL?

QSL, 59.

Thanks, QRZ, XU7ACV

QRZ, XU7ACV.

(cacophony - 7 seconds of waiting time)

ON4zzzz.

4zzzz, you are 59, QSL?

ON4 - ON4zzzz, 59, QSL?

ON4zzzz, QSL tnx, QRZ, XU7ACV

if the DX station returns to a partial callsign which does not correspond to yours, BE SILENT. Again, BE SILENT, BE QUIET! The DX station doesn't want to hear your callsign if he hasn't called for you.

If pileup callers would follow this logical principle, more stations could be logged by the DX station!

Unfortunately the 'ME, MYSELF and I' attitude prevails with a lot of DXers. Although they know the DX station didn't come back to them, they continue calling anyway.

This is a pure waste of time, and a display of very selfish attitude!

If the DX station returns with the word 'ONLY' and a partial callsign, this usually means that he already tried several times to log one particular station, but due to unsportsman like behavior of the pileup DXers (who keep on calling on top of that station) he has been unable to do so and has to make a repeat after repeat after repeat.

If the DX station instructs 'JA ONLY, Europe Standby' he expects to hear ONLY Japanese stations. If you're from Europe, do not call. Also, don't call in the pileup 'Europe PLEASE' or 'What about Europe?', this is really not to be done.

If you are running QRP (5 W or less on CW, 10 W or less on phone), do not call the DX station with your callsign followed by /QRP ('stroke QRP'). Never. In Belgian Radio Regulations this is a non-permitted suffix (surely in many

other countries as well). Only /P, /M, /MM and /A are permitted. How often can one hear someone calling in a pileup with just 'stroke QRP' without giving his callsign? Eventually the DX station has to ask for his callsign, again a waste of time. Of course, during a 'ragchew QSO' you can clarify that you are working QRP.

B. CW SIMPLEX PILEUP

The same points as mentioned above are valid for a CW simplex pileup.

Never transmit 'de ON4ZZZZ' but just plain 'ON4ZZZZ'. The word 'de' (in morse code means 'from') only adds to the confusion for the DX station in trying to disentangle the callsigns.

Never end with a 'k' (invitation to transmit) when calling a DX station.

The more irrelevant information you pass, the bigger the chance for mistakes. An extreme example on how a transmission of 'k' can lead to confusion when calling a DX station, is given at the end of chapter 13 (Two-letter callsigns).

If the calling station (you) does not transmit during a time span which is significantly longer than a space between two letters, the DX station will understand your transmission has ended.

Adapt your speed.

After careful listening to the pileup and the rhythm in which the DX station works, you can quickly figure out which stations are picked up by the DX station. Adapt your transmit speed to the average speed used by those stations. Just because the DX station transmits at 40 wpm doesn't mean he is actually working stations using the same speed. Often he picks out stations using a much lower speed. In that case it is better for you to slow down as well.

If the DX station returns with 'ONLY' and/or finishes with 'KN' (instead of the usual K = Over, invitation to transmit) it means he wants to hear ONLY the specific station (or the partial callsign of that station) he calls. It is usually an indication he is starting to lose his patience because of the many undisciplined callers who are transmitting on top of the station he is trying to work!

C. RTTY (AND OTHER DIGIMODES) SIMPLEX PILEUP

Giving your callsign once will usually not be sufficient in digimodes. Twice is advisable and depending on how well the DX station can pick out callsigns, it is sometimes necessary to give your callsign three times. The latter is to be avoided as much as possible.

It is better to use good timing and call at the right moment. Hopefully the DX station turns to SPLIT mode fast!

D. SSB SPLIT PILEUP

Pfew, the DX station works in SPLIT mode, what a relief! Indeed a relief because in SPLIT mode the pace of making QSOs increases considerably compared to working in SIMPLEX mode.

How to get in the DX station's log fast when he's working SPLIT?

LISTEN, LISTEN, LISTEN ...

Go through the above simplex techniques, a lot of items are applicable in split as well.

Is your transceiver positioned in SPLIT mode?

By LISTENING a few minutes before making ANY transmission, you increase your chances considerably to get in the log with a few well placed calls on the correct frequency.

Some hams make a sport out of it. They try to break the pileup with just one well placed call to get in the DX station's log.

By listening for a few minutes you will:

get acquainted with the rhythm in which the DX station works;

get to know the width of the SPLIT (e.g. 5 to 10 KHz up/down), either indicated by the DX station (preferred method, but unfortunately not all DX stations do this often enough) or figured out by yourself;

understand if you are having a real chance to break the pileup at that moment in time (does the DX station work only Japan because he has better propagation to that region?);

figure out how the DX station moves through the SPLIT window;

In other words, does he start at the bottom of the SPLIT window moving to the top and does he return to the bottom to start over again? Or once he gets to the top, does he move from top back to bottom?

notice in which frequency hops the DX station moves through the pileup. E.g. if the SSB SPLIT window comprises 10 KHz, does he work stations every 2 KHz, or is it rather every 3 or 5 KHz? Or does he work some stations at the bottom, before moving to the middle, and then the top?

After which:

give your callsign one (1) time;
and LISTEN.

If you went through the above mentioned, it is usually a piece of cake to place your call at the right time on the right frequency. Wanna bet you will be more successful (than before following these tips) to 'break' through a pileup? And no, you don't need a kilowatt of power to do this.

Again: when the DX station returns with a partial callsign and it doesn't correspond to yours, BE SILENT - BE QUIET! This item is important and needs emphasis. If you do call when it is not your turn, even during SPLIT operation you can ruin someone else's QSO and decrease the speed and rhythm of the DX station. DO NOT DO THIS! Even if you hear others doing it! Be a lady/gentleman in radio traffic!

If you don't do this - hence you are listening - you have a good chance to hear which station the DX station is calling, and on which frequency!

Depending on the capability of the DX station to pick callsigns out of the pileup, it is advisable to give your callsign only once. You will get the feel of this in time. Two times is an absolute maximum, three times is not to be done. I repeat myself, it is an important topic.

Different DX stations have different operating styles. One will be more to your liking than another. Some operators work by numbers to thin out the pileup. If the requested figure does not match the one in your callsign: BE QUIET - BE SILENT!

E. CW SPLIT PILEUP

Most of the points concerning SSB SPLIT pileup techniques are also applicable to CW SPLIT. Kindly read them again.

Initially adapt your speed to the transmit speed of the DX station; when you figure out the average speed of the stations he is working, use that speed. This is the speed the DX station feels most comfortable at.

Transmit your callsign once (1 time), and LISTEN. Giving your callsign twice on CW is senseless in most cases.

If after all you decide to give your callsign twice, change to QSK mode (CW full break-in). Using this mode of operation you will hear when the DX station starts transmitting. You can then interrupt your transmission and use your 2nd VFO to find out who he is working.

F. RTTY (AND OTHER DIGIMODES) SPLIT PILEUP

Again, the points concerning SSB SPLIT pileup techniques are also applicable here. Kindly read them again.

Send your callsign twice (2x) and listen. You will quickly notice that by giving your callsign three times, the DX station is already giving a report to someone else. If you are lucky the DX station will repeat the callsign of the station he's working at the end of his transmission. You can then go and search on your 2nd VFO who he called. Very often you are not that lucky and then it is important to hear the beginning of his transmission. Usually this works out fine if you give your callsign only twice.

-- Continued next month.

Contest Calendar

*Extracted from <http://www.sk3bg.se/>
& <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal>*

January, 2009

ARRL Straight Key Night	CW	0000Z	Jan 1
Happy New 21th Century	CW/SSB	0000Z	Jan 1
DRCC New Years Crawl	JT65A	0000Z	Jan 1
DRCC New Years Crawl	JT65A	0700Z	Jan 1
SARTG New Year	RTTY	0800Z	Jan 1
SCAG Straight Key Day	SKDCW	0800Z	Jan 1
AGCW Happy New Year		0900Z	Jan 1
DRCC New Years Crawl	JT65A	1200Z	Jan 1
IRTS 80 Metres Counties	CW/SSB	1200Z	Jan 1
DRCC New Year	Olivia	1300Z	Jan 1
10 meter NAC	CW/SSB/FM/DIGI	1800Z	Jan 1
NCCC Sprint		0230Z	Jan 2
ARRL RTTY Roundup	RTTY	1800Z	Jan 3
EUCW 160m		2000Z	Jan 3
	And	0400Z	Jan 4
Vytautas Magnus Trophy	CW/FM/SSB	0700Z	Jan 4
Kid's Day	SSB	1800Z	Jan 4
ARS Spartan Sprint		0200Z	Jan 6
NCCC Sprint		0230Z	Jan 9
070 Club PSKFest	PSK-31	0000Z	Jan 10
Hunting Lions in the Air		0000Z	Jan 10
NCCC Sprint		0230Z	Jan 10
MI QRP January	CW	1200Z	Jan 10
Midwinter	CW	1400Z	Jan 10
North American QSO Party	CW	1800Z	Jan 10
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon		0000Z	Jan 11
NRAU-Baltic	CW	0530Z	Jan 11
Midwinter	Phone	0800Z	Jan 11
NRAU-Baltic	SSB	0800Z	Jan 11
DARC 10-Meter		0900Z	Jan 11
NCCC Sprint		0230Z	Jan 16
NCCC Sprint		0230Z	Jan 17
LZ Open		0400Z	Jan 17
CQ UT	CW/SSB	0600Z	Jan 17
Hungarian DX		1200Z	Jan 17
UK DX	RTTY	200Z	Jan 17
Feld-Hell Club Sprint	Feld-Hell	1700Z	Jan 15
North American QSO Party	SSB	800Z	Jan 17
ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes		1900Z	Jan 17
SSA Månadstest nr 1	CW	1400Z	Jan 18
SSA Månadstest nr 1	SSB	1515Z	Jan 18
Run for the Bacon QRP		0200Z	Jan 19
MOON	CW/Digi/SSB	1900	Jan 21
NAQCC	Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0130Z	Jan 22
NCCC Sprint		0230Z	Jan 23
CQ 160-Meter	CW	2200Z	Jan 23
REF	CW	600Z	Jan 24
YLISSB QSO Party	SSB	0000Z	Jan 24
REF	CW	0600Z	Jan 24

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

