



The **NEWSCASTER**

The Official Publication of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club

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

February, 2009

IRLP # 1066

VE4BB

TBA

Date: **February 9th, 2009**
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: **Dakota Collegiate**
661 Dakota Street

Other Important Dates:

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

Flea Market: April 19th, 2009

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

ARES: Feb. 17 new City of Winnipeg 311 Call centre

Other: MRS AGM - April 14th
MARCC meeting April 19th

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

February ... the days are a little longer, people are vanishing to southern climes for a deserved respite from the climate, the sun is still bald and awaiting sunspots to actually show up and excite the ionosphere.

February ... just three months from June and June is the time for elections. OK, why bring that up now you may ask? We need to have a full slate of candidates for the club executive. This year we will lose a large percentage of the executive ... President cannot run, the Vice President may be leaving the province for further education, the Secretary has decided to lay down her pen, the Treasurer has said that she has made her contribution. We need fresh energetic blood. Earlier this year a motion was presented to abolish the club .. a call for attention. A club does not run itself .. people need to engage.

In addition to the executive we need to maintain the momentum of the educational campaign that we have started. Albert VA4AS and Dave VE4DAR have done a great job of putting the framework on the educational program to "grow" more hams. Albert is leaving - who will follow him to work on the "education file"?

Please think about this .. can you find time to help? Will you run for office?

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



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

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

Minutes for January 12th, 2009

Submitted by Mark, VE4MAB

Introductions - Minutes -

December 2008 Minutes accepted by Dick, VE4HK, 2nd by Ed VE4OAK, carried.

Field Day Report -

Rolf, VE4VZ, spoke on field day. Field day will not be at Camp Amisk as they are worried about liability so the city won't let us use the site and said there is no overnight camping permitted at La Barriere Park. Jeff, VE4MBQ, asked if there was another choice within the city and David, VE4DAR, asked about the YMCA Camp Manitou. More inquiries will be made.

Flea Market

Dick, VE4HK, spoke on the coming Flea Market -The date is April 19, 2009, at the Heritage Victoria Community Centre.

DX- no report -

Bill 5

Derek Hay, VE4HAY, spoke on Bill 5 - Nothing has changed since WARC last met and there have been no meetings regarding Bill 5 which is still an outstanding bill and the Manitoba Legislature is not in session. Derek plans to meet with the province to speak to the bill and both WARC and ARES have sent letters expressing their concerns. RAC has not yet sent in their letter. Geoff, VE4BAW said the house is expected to be sitting in March so we need to get our letters in to our MPs. Jeff, VE4MBQ, has sent a letter regarding all the good Hams have done for the city and province over the years.

RAC -

Derek also advised that Devon Racicot, VE5DWR, is the new Midwest Director. Derek has free TCA magazines for those who are not RAC members.

Antenna Structures -

Rolf, VE4VZ, asked Derek about the issue regarding antenna structures. Derek advised there is a meeting tomorrow with the City of Winnipeg and a draft proposal has been sent. Rolf asked if Industry Canada has had any comments and Derek advised that IC won't get involved. Rick, VE4RA, said he has a plan on file with the City Of Winnipeg that anyone can use as a reference. Derek said the city wants assurance that structures will be safe at 13 to 15 meters and we are asking this height limit to be for the support structure, not the antenna.

Risk, VE4RA, said that 6 years ago there were no limits on towers just that the base had to be sufficient to support the tower.

Derek advises that Industry Canada is only concerned with the technical reasons we need a tower and that aesthetics is not a valid reason. Rolf asked about radiation and Derek said he told the city we need higher for less radiation at ground level.

Financial Report -

Sue, VE4SYM, advised our December income was \$ 96 from memberships and 50/50 draw. Expenses were \$ 478.82 for Christmas gifts and our bank balance is \$ 8,704.37

Education Program -

Albert, VA4AS, spoke on the present education program that will be listed in the Spring Leisure Guide for classes April 7 to June 27 on Tuesdays and alternating Thursdays. The cost is \$ 149 per student and teachers are being organized by David, VE4DAR.

Geoff, VE4BAW, suggested we do what we can to get it advertised in the community newspapers as well. Ed, VE4OAK, asked that an outline be sent to the WSC and Dick, VE4HK, suggested advertising in the Manitoban, the U of M paper.

Winnipeg ARES -

Jeff, VE4MBQ spoke on Winnipeg ARES. The next General Meeting is Tuesday, January 20, 2009, 1900 hours at the Sir Wm Stephenson Library. Can West Park paramedics, who at the paramedics the course during the Manitoba Marathon, will be doing the presentation.

ARES is recruiting volunteer operators for Klondike Derby 7, 8 March at Camp Amisk. Event runs approx. 0800-1600 hours each day. Operators can volunteer for both days or just one day. If interested please contact Jeff.

Manitoba Repeater Society -

Dick, VE4HK spoke for the Manitoba Repeater Society reminding everyone that dues are now due. He has forms and will gladly take everyone's money.

Good and Welfare -

Rolf, VE4VZ, advises the 20 meter band is wide open with contacts being made with Japan and the northwest in mid afternoon hours. Rolf also spoke of an interference issue with CFRW broadcasting a 3rd harmonic on 38.6 MHz

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

with readings of over S9. The problem started 2 years ago when CFRW replaces their tower. Rolf also comments not to take blame for interference on Shaw cable channels. If a neighbour has a problem it is with Shaw, not the operator.

Kumara, VE4WKP, spoke to the club regarding a security issue he had when using on-line banking and advised everyone to be very cautious when accessing their bank accounts on-line.

Ajournment

Geoff, VE4BAW, adjourned the meeting.

Radio Course being offered

The Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club (WARC) will be conducting a

Basic Amateur Radio Operator Course

Red River College, Princess Street

April 7 - June 25, 2009.

Chief Instructor - Albert Sousa, VE4AS.

The course will be held at the Princess Street (downtown) campus of Red River College, Tuesday and alternate Thursday evenings, 1800 - 2100 hours.

Cost of the course is \$150.00, which includes the textbooks published by Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC).

The course is in RRC's catalogue as "PDEV-1018 Amateur Radio Operator Introduction". Further information is available by telephone at 694-1789 or at this website:

<http://me.rrc.mb.ca/Catalogue/Course.aspx?RegionCode=WPG&ProgCode=PERPP-NA&CourseCode=PDEV-1018>

All of the instructors are licensed amateur radio operators. Successful students should be qualified in time for Field Day!

Registration will be open in early February and will be posted in the Continuing Education Spring 2009 catalog as well as online.

**Please tell your Friends
who are interested in Radio**

50/50 draw was won by Jim, VE4MT, won \$ 17.00

News from the Net

Early 2009 is target for new joint radio service

Early 2009 is the target for a new joint radio service that will serve European audiences on shortwave using Digital Radio Mondiale technology. That's when the BBC World Service and the English-language division of Deutsche Welle will begin targeting Western and Central Europe with digital content that will include global news and current affairs, analysis, documentaries and cultural programs. Digital Radio Mondiale was developed in Europe as the digital broadcasting system for bands below 30 MHz. -- *RSGB*

Blast from the past

FISTS Member 2934, K4UK-Stan, the US FISTS QSL Manager reports an unusual blast from the past in the latest FISTS newsletter. In a batch of cards that he has just received from the W4-QSL Bureau was one **from W3MCG / VE4**. It confirmed his QSO with K4IKF on 21 MC CW in 1958! That QSO was made during the second weekend of the 1958 CW Sweepstakes. Back then, Stan's call was K4IKF. It took almost 50 years for the card to be delivered to him. Stan said "Amazingly I found my log for the 1958 Sweepstakes Contest and sure enough that contact was in the log." "Now I need to find out if Karl R. Medrow is still alive and kicking and whether he still has the W3MCG call. And then I'll need to find some of my old K4IKF cards - How about that for bringing back old memories? - Hi!" -- *WIA*

(ed note: anyone know anything about the operator who is in the VE4 callsign area when he made the contact)

WIRELESS WEATHER

Spaceweather.com has announced a new service, Space Weather Radio, broadcasting live "sounds from space" around the clock. Today you can listen to the Air Force Space Surveillance Radar in Texas. When a meteor passes over the facility--ping!--there is an audible echo. In the near future spaceweatherradio.com will be adding broadcasts of solar radio bursts and VLF signals from the ionosphere. The streams are punctuated by Daily Space Weather Updates from Dr. Tony Phillips. <http://SpaceweatherRadio.com>-- *WIA*

Updated Contest Mapping Tool

Some exciting news about EI8IC's unique Contest Log Mapping Tool - its now completely FREE to use, and its just been updated with the results of 35 new contests. Working from an online database of ALMOST ONE MILLION W/VE callsigns past and present, LogView plots the QSOs in a Cabrillo-format contest-log on to one of 8 different maps of North America. Essentially a post-contest

log-visualisation tool for analyzing contest performance, LogView is also useful in defining gaps in your antenna coverage, by comparing the positions of entrants to the contest against those entrants actually contacted. All the maps you create can be saved for off-line viewing and detailed future analysis - full details on the website. To start using LogView on your own contest logs, visit: <http://www.mapability.com/ei8ic/logview> -- *WIA*

4-metres in Denmark

As of 1st of January 2009, Danish radio amateurs can also use the 70,225 MHz channel, i.e. the segment 70,2125 - 70,2375 MHz. This also means that two smaller segments are now joined into one segment 100 KHz wide. For more details see the Danish band plan: www.70mhz.org/bandplan_oz.htm-- *WIA*

40 metres in South Africa

The South African Radio League has received assurances from their telecommunications regulator that the issue of making 7,100 to 7,200 KHz available to radio amateurs as of 8th March should be finalized by the end of January. -- *WIA*

World Amateur Radio Day - April 18th

Each year on the anniversary of its founding, April 18, the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) marks World Amateur Radio Day. On this 83rd anniversary of its inaugural meeting in Paris, the IARU dedicates World Amateur Radio Day to the future of Amateur Radio with its theme, "**Amateur Radio: A Foundation for Technical Knowledge.**" It is no secret that many professionals in the field of radio, TV, communications and electronics have started their technical education as young radio amateurs. Although Amateur Radio has a different face nowadays -- Digital Communications, Voice over Internet Protocol, Satellite up- and downlinks and more -- it is even of greater value as a foundation for technical knowledge for youngsters. And much more -- it is and should be used as a unique attraction for future young radio amateurs. World Amateur Radio Day provides an occasion to promote and publicize Amateur Radio. Amateur Radio clubs are encouraged to find suitable ways of celebrating World Amateur Radio Day. Many ways can be considered -- inviting youngsters to visit radio clubs, showing up on the air with a special call sign, organizing a station in a public area with media coverage or publicly honouring amateurs who have made significant contributions. Whatever method is chosen, clubs should think about publishing a press release for the media, giving the background to World Amateur Radio Day and promoting the value of Amateur Radio as a foundation for a technical career.

"World Amateur Radio Day" APRIL 18 -- *WIA*

ANTARCTIC ACTIVITY WEEK

The Worldwide Antarctic Program has announced that the fifth Antarctic Activity Week will be held from 18 to 24 February. The aim of this annual event is to promote worldwide interest in the Antarctic continent. An official amateur call sign OPØLE is assigned to Princess Elizabeth base (IOTA AN-016, 71°57'S and 23°20'E).

Paul, ON3PC will be operating from the base until February 15. He is working at the base as a plumber/boiler-mechanic and also in-charge of the communications. After 40 years of silence, Belgium is back on air from Antarctica. Best frequencies are on the Antarctic DX net 23:00z every Saturday and Sunday on 7.078 MHz. Also check 14.160 MHz, 14.188 MHz and 14203 MHz from 16:00z. --WIA

NEW STUDY SAYS SOLAR STORMS COULD BRING DISASTER

A new study from the National Academy of Sciences outlines dire consequences on Earth for a worst-case scenario giant solar storm. Scientists involved in the study say that damage to power grids and other communications systems could be catastrophic. Even ham radio would be affected. Solar activity is expected to rise sharply in coming years and what is known as severe space weather will ramp up a year or two before the peak in 2012. Once it hits Earth it can disrupt power distribution grids and cause blackouts and also downgrade both terrestrial wire-line and satellite to ground communications. --arnewsline

BBC interviews UK CubeSat builders

A recent episode of the BBC Radio 4 show Material World met students from the University of Leicester in the UK who are building their own CubeSat. A podcast is now available. It was originally broadcast Thursday 8th January and the Podcast can be downloaded from <http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/science/thematerialworld.shtml> --WIA

WPGARES

By Jeff, VE4MBQ -Emergency Coordinator

Winnipeg Goldeyes Baseball Club EMS Supervisor Stefan Zueff VE4ZUF, assisted by Goldeyes EMS Operations Officer Richard Kazuk VE4KAZ gave us a very interesting presentation on the Goldeyes EMS department at our JAN General Meeting. It is always informative to hear about another discipline's capabilities, particularly one that we collaborate closely with during the Manitoba Marathon. Rosi Napady VE4YYL announced during the JAN General Meeting that she will stay on as Fundraising Chair and is considering a Silent Auction for the Winnipeg ARES table at the WARC Spring Flea Market in April. Thanks to Stefan

and the Goldeyes EMS department for the donation of an autographed Goldeyes batting helmet as the first donation towards our Silent Auction. Anyone wishing to donate an item or items for the Silent Auction to support WPGARES please contact Rosi VE4YYL via e-mail: ve4yyyl@rac.ca or on the air on VE4WPG.

Speaking of the Manitoba Marathon, the Marathon Radio Group is now recruiting volunteer operators for the 2009 Manitoba Marathon SUN 21 JUN. So far we have recruited approximately 20 % of the operators that will be required race day. Several Amateur Radio organizations including WARC, WSCRC, MRS, UMARS, Pathfinders ARC and WPGARES collaborate every year to provide volunteer communications for the Manitoba Marathon. We can usually partner newer Amateurs with experienced Amateurs so people aren't "put on the spot" during the event. If interested in learning more about how you could get involved please contact me. The time commitment is approximately 0600-1300h on Fathers' Day as well as a mandatory Amateur Radio briefing 1900-2030h TUES 16 JUN. Those Amateurs working on the medical aside will also have a medical briefing, likely mid-morning SAT 20 JUN for 1-2 hours.

Our "VE4EMO Team" will be operating VE4EMO during the next few monthly ARES Readiness Nets as a re-familiarization exercise. We have identified three WPGARES members to get acquainted with the communications gear at the Manitoba Health EOC (MHEOC) near Polo Park. One WPGARES member is scheduled to attend the WEM Course in 17-19 MAR – we may well be able to get a 2nd WPGARES member on that offering if someone indicates their interest very soon. The "last" WEM Course before summer will be 12-14 MAY, we can send two members, but only if we register them in the near future.

We will once again be providing volunteer Amateur Communications for the Scouts Canada Klondike Derby at Camp Amisk 7, 8 MAR. Volunteer operators are still needed for this event - roughly 0800-1600h each day (outside all day, all-weather event). If able to get involved please contact me.

Our next General Meeting is TUE 17 FEB 1900h at Sir Wm Stephenson Library 765 Keewatin Street. Melanie Swenarchuk, Manager of the new City of Winnipeg 311 Call centre is scheduled to give us a presentation on the new 311 Call Centre.

OPERATING PRACTICE

Extracted from a document
by Mark - ON4WW

9. TAIL ENDING

A new hype came about some twenty years ago: 'tail ending'. It was and still is controversial.

What is tail ending? With the introduction of the 2nd VFO (at first external, later incorporated in the rig) working SPLIT mode became a popular way of operating for DX stations and DXpeditions. The pileup callers listen on their 2nd VFO to the DXer being called by the DX station. When the careful listener hears the QSO is 'ok' (callsigns and reports correctly exchanged) he 'steps on the tail' of the DXer who is still concluding his QSO. If his signal is strong enough the DX station can already hear him and jot down his callsign. When the DX station concludes from his end, he immediately calls the 'tail ending' DXer. It was thought time could be saved in working this way and more QSOs could be logged. But time has learned that very few operators perform 'tail ending' in a correct way; many operators step too early on the tail during an ongoing QSO, hence the QSO has to be repeated (part of callsign missing, report not understood etc.).

With today's attitude of less and less discipline many an operator seems to think it is necessary for him to call on top of an ongoing QSO. If they additionally hear the DX station is calling the next station without asking 'QRZ' or something similar, all hell breaks loose.

'Tail ending', yes or no? Today's general consensus: no.

10. DX WINDOWS

National administrations prescribe the frequency bands hams can use. Most do not prescribe on which frequencies which modes should be used. To coordinate these matters in an orderly fashion the IARU band planning comes nicely into play. The IARU Region 1 band planning only suggests two frequency segments on the 80m band where priority should be given to intercontinental DX contacts (3500-3510 KHz and 3775-3800 KHz) and a DXpedition window on the 20m band (14195 +/-5 KHz). Besides this we have the 'de facto' DX frequencies where DXpeditions and rare DX stations can be found.

Be aware of these DX frequencies, also known as DX windows, and respect them.

In the past, when active from central Africa with a low power station I wanted to make as many OMs as possible happy with a new and rare country. That's why I always looked for a spot in one of the DX windows to call CQ. I knew many DXers are keeping an eye on these windows in the hope of something 'rare' showing up.

My disappointment was big when I noticed these windows were filled with 'normal' European or American operators conducting 'local' QSOs.

Many think the DX windows are for them as 'regular' stations to call 'CQ DX'. I don't agree with this point of view and consider these windows as a haven for weak DX stations that want to be 'noticed'. It would be better for regular stations not to call CQ in these windows and use them solely in search for rare DX.

The following 'de facto' DX windows and DX frequencies are current and worth keeping an eye on. They are to be avoided by regular stations to call CQ:

SSB: 28490-28500, 24945, 21290-21300, 18145, 7045, 3790-3800, 1845 KHz;

CW: mostly bottom 5 KHz of a band, and also following frequencies: 28020-28025, 24895, 21020-21025, 18075, 14020-14025, 10103-10105, 3500-3510, 1830-1835 KHz;

RTTY: ± 28080-21080-14080 KHz.

Of course DX stations and DXpeditions can appear on other frequencies outside the de facto DX windows.

11. CONFLICT SITUATIONS

Let's keep in mind we are sharing with many hundreds of thousands the same hobby on the same terrain, namely the ether. Conflicts are bound to happen. It seems unrealistic not to discuss this fact; a bit of good advice never hurt anyone.

As pointed out in chapter 4: AT ALL TIMES, BE POLITE. This is the only way to successfully tackle conflict situations in the long run.

Let's have a look at an example of a very extreme case, namely IZ9xxx from Sicily.

OM Pipo had the annoying habit to call CQ on 14195 KHz, a 'de facto' DX frequency used by rare DX stations and DXpeditions, and to conduct QSOs with regular stations from Europe and America on that frequency. A lot of DXers worldwide felt offended. 14195 KHz was transformed to a mess every time Pipo showed up, because the DX community did not appreciate him 'monopolizing' that frequency.

If we analyze this case, we notice the following objective observations:

Pipo asks 'Is this frequency in use?' before attempting a CQ and makes QSY when the frequency is in use.

Pipo uses a frequency which he, as decreed by law, can use at anytime (see further).

14195 KHz is situated in the de facto DX window 14190-14200 KHz. This frequency segment has been withheld by IARU Region 1 with priority for DXpeditions since January 1st 2006 (since that date Pipo had to emigrate to other frequencies).

Whenever Pipo made legal transmissions on 14195 KHz (before 1 January 2006) he was being jammed by dozens of stations, who never identified with their callsign and who were, in fact, operating illegally (called pirates).

This situation came to my attention in mid 2003 and I witnessed on many occasions how dozens of DXers were deliberately jamming Pipo. Let there be no doubt that each of these stations transmitted outside the legal boundaries granted by their licenses. If their National Controlling Authorities would be stationed at their doorstep with a mobile unit, witnessing their illegal transmissions, these DXers would have lost their licenses. Not Pipo who was always working within the legal boundaries of his license!

As a quasi-objective observation we can say Pipo is an anti-social ham who on purpose spoils the pleasure of many. But, his actions are always conducted within the boundaries of his license.

What is a good approach to deal with such an individual?

Certainly not by jamming him (and making illegal transmissions yourself). It gives him a feeling of power, and power tastes for more... so he will even step up his efforts to annoy you and others!

Leave him be, and turn your VFO to another frequency;

contact him in a normal manner and try to find out the cause of his behavior.

On 12 August 2003 my nerves were tested once more by Pipo. I called him in a normal manner and we had a QSO which lasted about 20 minutes on 14195 KHz. During this QSO I learned Pipo didn't appreciate (to say the least) how he kept on being jammed by dozens of 'unknown' hams. He was appalled by the death threats (!) he received by telephone (picked up by his daughter!), etc. During this 'calm' QSO we exchanged argumentation as to why Pipo should or shouldn't continue using 14195 KHz. We ended the QSO without reaching an agreement, but the next few weeks 14195 KHz was clear of IZ9xxx transmissions.

Of course Pipo started using 14195 KHz again after a month or so, perhaps because someone caused him grief on another frequency?

On another occasion in 2005, when the K7C expedition was active on 14195 KHz, I overheard Pipo asking 'Is this frequency in use?'. I promptly responded: 'Yes Pipo, by K7C, txn QSY, 73 from ON4WW'. Pipo immediately went down 5 KHz to call CQ. Case closed.

In my early days as a ham I encountered a vicious incident taking place on 21300 KHz. An infamous and obnoxious ON6 was engaged in a local QSO on top of a major DXpedition. I broke in, explained the situation, asked them politely to QSY if possible and signed with my callsign.

The foul language in response thrown at me cannot be published here. At a later stage I learned this ON6 and an ON4 buddy of his were constantly being jammed on a VHF repeater. Perhaps their unmannerly mentality was the basis for the jamming or perhaps they gained this mentality

because they were unjustly jammed (by again 'illegal jammers')?

Here's another example of an improper incident which happened between an old-timer and two novices in Belgium. Two ON3 stations (novices) were having a QSO on a VHF repeater. One said to the other he could hear him very well on the repeater input frequency. At that moment an ON4 (old-timer) 'ordered' them in a very arrogant manner to leave the repeater because he wanted to make a call. This is not done. As said before, at all times BE POLITE. The ON4 operator could break in and tell them he wants to make a call. As a repeater user he should understand the primary purpose of relay stations, namely to provide an extended operational range for mobile and portable users. If these two unlucky ON3 stations would cross each other on a highway at 120 km/h in opposite directions, their QSO would be quickly finished on a simplex frequency. 'Newcomers' being bawled at by an old-timer is flatly embarrassing. Are we not supposed to help them become even more experienced hams?

Are these true stories? Does it matter? 'Bottom line': be polite. One will not always reach his objectives, but he will more often than not.

This brings me to the next chapter, which could actually reside under 'Conflict Situations' as well...

12. 'COPS' (POLICE)

The ham community is expected to be 'self policing', keeping order in our ranks. As long as nothing illegal happens, the 'Authorities' won't intervene. This, however, does not mean the Radio Amateur Service needs to have its own police! Self discipline? Yes.

Let us go back to our friend Pipo from Sicily. Had I been 2 seconds slower in responding to his question 'Is this frequency in use?', surely one of the self-imposed DX 'cops' would have thrown bad language at him. This foul language (such as IDIOT, LID and much much worse) is of the kind of nature for things to evolve from bad to worse.

As can be expected from a person with Pipo's character, he would just love staying on 14195 KHz instead of moving to another frequency. Not only will he be jammed for the next two hours or so, also the K7C expedition will disappear off stage... Precious time and lots of QSOs will be lost thanks to our 'helpful cops'.

Most 'cops' have good intentions and are not using foul language. They remain polite and are often successful in their attempt to clear a frequency of unwanted traffic.

Some 'cops' also have good intentions but by using bad language and manners they don't achieve their goal to clear a frequency. These 'cops' create chaos instead of calm.

A 3d category of 'cops' is those using foul language with the objective of creating chaos. Their bad language and manners attract comments from colleague 'cops', with a resulting total chaos!

These three 'cop' categories have one thing in common: while playing 'cop', they are effectively being PIRATES, because they make transmissions without identifying.

In which cases can we usually encounter 'cops'?

'Cops' mostly appear on a rare DX station/DXpedition's frequency, usually when this station is working in SPLIT mode;

a DXer forgets to press the SPLIT button on his transceiver and starts calling the DX station on his transmit frequency. Usually this operator also prefers to send his call sign three or four times, because of which not a soul in the pileup hears whom the DX station is returning to. This is the time for 'cops' to start shooting.

A civilized 'cop' can correct the 'offender' by telling him to transmit 'UP' or 'DOWN'. He is trying to help, rather than punish him. A lot of variations are being used that sound neither neutral, nor polite. I don't want to quote these, as not to show how things mustn't be done.

How can we help the 'offending' operator in a neutral way?

Before giving in to your 'cop' vocation:

first of all consider what the added value can be of YOUR intervention, if any;

stay quiet if another 'cop' is already in action.

And if you still have to give in to your being a 'good cop':

give the last 2 or 3 letters of the offender's call sign followed by UP or DOWN. That's it;

Any other message may not be well understood by the offender, he possibly won't correct his mistake and chaos creeps in.

CW Example:

ON4WW calls by mistake on the DX station's frequency. Transmit the following: 'WW UP'. By only transmitting 'UP' (or 'DWN'), ON4WW will probably not understand you were addressing him. Consequently he will repeat his mistake and call again on the DX station's frequency. A second consequence will be you probably woke up the other 'cops' who will start to transmit UP UP, with chaos as a result.

So: always transmit some letters of the offender's call sign, followed by 'UP' or 'DWN'. In that way he will understand you are addressing him and not someone else. If you transmit his 'full' call sign followed by 'UP', you will very probably cover a part of a transmission made by the DX station.

Of course it would be better if nobody felt attracted to 'being a cop', but this seems a utopia. An effective call to the offender can restore order rapidly. A call with foul language achieves the opposite and brings little joy to the pileup and DX station. One good 'cop' can be a blessing, two good 'cops' are already too many.

On SSB and RTTY modes the same principle applies. Give a part of the call sign (or even the complete call sign in these modes) followed by the correct instruction (listening

UP/DOWN) and the DX station's frequency will be clear again in no time at all.

Being a DXer you will quickly grasp you accomplish more by not reacting to 'cops' at all. Try to swing something negative to something positive. Keep on LISTENING (here's the magic word again) through the tumult to the DX station and in many cases you will be able to log the DX station while the 'cops' are having a 'jolly good time'.

Remember, strictly taken, a 'cop' ALWAYS makes illegal transmissions, unless he identifies!

13. TWO LETTER CALLSIGNS (PARTIAL CALLSIGNS) AND DXNETS

As pointed out in chapter 3 (CORRECT USE OF YOUR CALLSIGN), you are to use your complete call sign in all modes at all times.

In many DX nets (mostly to be heard on the 15, 20 and 40m bands) the MOC (Master of Ceremony) takes a list of stations wanting to work a DX station that is present in the DX net.

In order to make this list the MOC often asks for the last two letters of your call sign. Not only is this incorrect, it is also illegal. Unfortunately many have also adopted this method when they call a DX station outside a net operation. It slows the rhythm in which a DX station/DXpedition moves ahead. Overheard many times, also when I was active 'from the other side': a station gives three times the last two letters of his call sign. He is very strong with the DX station and had he given his complete call sign once, the QSO would be made in five seconds. Now it will take three to four times more time to complete the QSO!

On CW this phenomenon is heard much less and in RTTY it is seldom seen. The most improbable example in the blooper category I ever encountered: a station called me on CW as follows: 'XYK XYK'. He was so strong I eventually had to log him to be able to hear the much weaker callers. So I replied: 'XYK 599'. The call sign that follows is fictitious, but you'll understand. He came back: 'Z88ZXY Z88ZXY 599 K'. This nice OM at first transmitted the last two letters of his call sign followed by the letter K (invitation to transmit in morse=Key). The letter K was glued to the last two letters which made it seem as if it were the last three letters of his call sign. This is what I call both literally and figuratively 'a waste of space and time'!

A final remark on DX nets. The enclosed cartoon says it all. The QSOs are fed, so to speak, with a spoon. The MOC often lends a 'helping hand' and this cannot be the idea of someone wanting to make two-way QSOs. Try to make contacts independently. It will result in more pleasure and higher reward.

-- Continued next month.

Contest Calendar

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

February

1	2000	QRP ARCI Fireside SSB Sprint	SSB
3	0200	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW
5	1800	10 meter NAC	CW/SSB/FM/DIGI
7	0000	Vermont QSO Party	All
7	0000	YLISSB QSO Party	CW/RTTY
7	0001	10-10 Internat. Winter QSO Party	Phone
7	1200	Black Sea Cup International	CW/SS
7	1200	WW PMC Contest	CW/SSB
7	1400	Minnesota QSO Party	All
7	1600	AGCW Straight Key Party	CW
7	1600	British Columbia QSO Challenge	All
7	1700	Delaware QSO Party (1)	All
7	1700	New Mexico QSO Party	All
7	1800	Mexico International RTTY Contest	RTTY
8	0000	North American Sprint Contest	CW
8	0000	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW
8	1300	Delaware QSO Party (2)	All
9	1300	School Club Roundup	All
11	0130	NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	CW
12	1800	NAC 50 MHz (Aktivitetstest)	All
13	1400	YLRL YL-OM Contest	All
14	0000	CQ World Wide WPX RTTY Contest	RTTY
14	1100	Asia-Pacific Sprint Spring	CW
14	1200	Dutch PACC Contest	CW/SSB
14	1500	Louisiana QSO Party	All
14	1500	OMISS QSO Party	SSB
14	1700	FISTS Winter Sprint	CW
14	2100	RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest	CW
15	0000	North American Sprint Contest	SSB
15	1400	SSA Månadstest nr 2	SSB
15	1515	SSA Månadstest nr 2	CW
16	0200	Run For The Bacon QRP Contest	CW
18	1900	AGCW Semi-Automatic Key Evening	CW
18	1900	MOON Contest	CW/Digi/SSB
21	0000	ARRL International DX Contest	CW
21	0600	REF Contest	SSB
21	1400	Feld-Hell Club Sprint	Feld-Hell
22	0900	High Speed Club CW Contest (1)	CW
22	1500	High Speed Club CW Contest (2)	CW
25	0100	SKCC Sprint	CW
27	2100	Russian PSK WW Contest	PSK31
27	2200	CQ WW 160-Meter Contest	SSB
28	1300	UBA DX Contest	CW
28	1500	Mississippi QSO Party	CW/SSB
28	1800	North American QSO Party	RTTY
28	2200	Open Ukraine RTTY CS Low band (1)	RTTY

March

1	0000	Open Ukraine RTTY CS Low band (2)	RTTY
1	0800	Open Ukraine RTTY CS High band (3)	RTTY
1	1700	North Carolina QSO Party	CW/SSB
2	1500	JLRS Hina 3.3 Contest	All
3	0200	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW
3	1900	AGCW YL CW Party	CW
5	0230	Pesky Texan Armadillo Chase	CW
5	1800	10 meter NAC	CW/SSB/FM/Digi
7	0000	ARRL International DX Contest	SSB
7	1200	DIG QSO Party (10 - 20 m)	SSB
7	1400	Oklahoma QSO Party (1)	All
7	1800	SOC Marathon Sprint	CW
8	0000	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW
8	0700	DIG QSO Party (80 m)	SSB
8	0700	UBA Spring Contest	CW
8	0900	DIG QSO Party (40 m)	SSB
8	1100	DARC 10 m Digital Contest "Corona"	Digi
8	1200	NSARA Contest (1)	CW/SSB
8	1300	Oklahoma QSO Party (2)	All
8	1800	NSARA Contest (2)	CW/SSB
8	1800	Wisconsin QSO Party	CW/SSB
10	1700	CLARA & Family HF Contest (1)	CW/SSB
12	1800	NAC 50 MHz (Aktivitetstest)	All
13	1830	HA3NS Memorial Contest	CW
14	1000	RSGB Commonwealth Contest	CW
14	1400	AGCW QRP Contest	CW
14	1600	EA PSK31 Contest	BPSK31
14	1700	CLARA & Family HF Contest (2)	CW/SSB
14	1800	Virginia QSO Party	All
14	1900	Idaho QSO Party	All
15	0000	North American Sprint Contest	RTTY
15	0700	UBA Spring Contest 6 m	CW/SSB
15	1400	SSA Månadstest nr 3	CW
15	1515	SSA Månadstest nr 3	SSB
16	0100	Run For The Bacon QRP Contest	CW
16	1600	HF Bucuresti Contest	CW/SSB
18	1900	MOON Contest	CW/Digi/SSB
19	0030	NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	CW
21	0000	Feld-Hell Club Sprint	Feld-Hell
21	0001	10-10 International Mobile QSO Party	All?
21	0200	BARTG Spring RTTY Contest	RTTY
21	1200	DARC HF-SSTV Contest	SSTV
21	1200	Russian DX Contest	CW/SSB
22	1200	9KCC 15m-Contest	CW/SSB
23	0000	QRP Homebrewer Sprint	CW/PSK31
25	0000	SKCC Sprint	CW
28	0000	CQ WW WPX Contest	SSB
28	1800	QCWA QSO Party	All

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

Flea Market

Seniors Club will be holding a Flea Market at the club on Saturday February 7/09. It will be held from 10 AM until noon. There are a number of items for sale. If anyone has something they want to sell contact Ed ve4yu, at ve4yu@shaw.ca The club will get 10% of the sales.

QTX~

By Derek, VE4HAY



Did you know:

There is a new book on ham radio - new book, "Hogwash for Hamsters" and would be grateful if you could mention it to your club members. A recent review in the Ontario Swap Shop (online) went as follows:

"A very funny MUST READ full of traditional style HAM HUMOUR. It is targeted for older hams that can relate to all of what our hobby is today, and was really all about in the past. I think the newer hams should also enjoy it a great deal. It is VERY TASTEFUL, and a joy to read over and over again. If you remember when times were POLITE AND A LOT DIFFERENT, and all of us enjoyed the very funny {AND SOMETIMES CORNY} humour from early commercial radio and golden age TV, this book is for you. Jerry has recreated that very same feeling using modern content. It put a big smile on my face, and it sure takes away the stress of the day. A wonderful attempt to create a nice new original addition for your HAM RADIO book collection. " GREAT JOB JERRY " DE NICK "OSS

The book is published in Canada and can be found only at: www.trafford.com/08-1259

☛ If you'd like to track sunrise and sunset times, the U.S. Naval Observatory is the place to go. You can find sunrise/sunset times for any location at www.tinyurl.com/BITS-027

☛ A good documentary video on Amateur Radio - <http://www.n0hr.com/Ham%20Radio%20Videos.htm>

Well you made it to the last page. But did you really read the front page? The part about the executive and the elections. You see there is a little part in the bylaws (passed by the membership a few years ago) that restricts the number of terms a person can run on the executive. And for a good majority of the executive, that time has come. So now what? Do you really want to the club to continue. I hope so. Do you feel in your heart, that paying the membership fee to be a member is enough. Maybe it is time for you to step forward and sit on the executive. Come on it is not that hard, and really not that time consuming. You meet once a month (1 week) prior to the general meeting. You discuss issues via email. You make a bank deposit and write some cheques. The same thing happens year in year out. The running of the club is well established. There is always room for improvement. Really the hardest part is finding programs each month. But since I did that for two years, I can tell you it is not that bad. All you need to do is plan in advance and tap the knowledge and expertise of the members and HAM's we already have. You even get to promote the areas of the hobby that you are interested in. SO THINK HARD ABOUT IT. IS IT YOUR TIME TO PUT BACK INTO THE CLUB - FOR ALL YOU HAVE GOTTEN OUT ??

Semi- Annual WARC Flea Market

April 19th, 2009
Heritage Victoria CC
950 Sturgeon Rd.

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

Ruth VE4XYL and Tom VE4SE will be selling tables, please contact them at 837-6915

Amateur Radio ✨ A Community Resource