



The **NEWSCASTER**

The Official Publication of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club

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

April 2009

IRLP # 1066

VE4BB

Home Brew Night Show & Tell your favourite projects

Date: **April 20th, 2009**
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: **Dakota Collegiate**
661 Dakota Street

Other Important Dates:

WARC: Monthly Meeting dates - May 11, June 8.

Flea Market: April 19th, 2009

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

ARES: May 9th CanWARN - Spotter Training

Other: April 14 MRS AGM
April 19 MARCC
June 21 MB Marathon

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	Vacant	
Past President	John Pura	ve4qv at rac.ca

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

Countdown to elections! I now that it is several months away [June] but time passes quickly. In previous calls for nominations I used to say “ Run for office and throw the rascals out! ”. Well, almost all the rascals are leaving the Executive ... the President is out, the Vice President is out, the Treasurer is out, the Secretary is out.

I leave it up to you as to whether they deserve your thanks and respect. They [except for that awful President] have earned mine.

Thank-you to Ruthie [ve4crs] for all her years of being Secretary. Thank-you to Sue [ve4sym] for being Treasurer. Thank-you to Albert [va4as] for being Vice-President. We lost Derek [ve4hay] last year by the way and I never thanked him for his years as Program Director.

Why this almost maudlin approach? .. well I am leaving and want to document my thanks before losing the “bully pulpit”.

Run. The Club is successful. We have good monthly programs which are regularly attended. Our annual events such as Field Day are popular. The HamFest was spectacular. We are in partnership with Red River College to grow more hams. Life is good.

On other notes .. we have been evicted from the Seniors Club. Not a fit of pique but an inspection by the bylaw police [someone in from the city was in uniform and inspected but no inspection papers exchanged hands]. No storage of “stuff” on the third floor or basement was directed. MRS and WARC had to find a new place to hide our goodies. MRS approached us and your Executive

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.

agreed to "co-rent" [is that a word?] a storage locker. All of our goodies have been moved.

On the Bill 5 front; radio amateurs [I, on behalf of the Bill 5 Committee [WARC, MRS, ARES, WSC]] will discuss the impact of the current bill with provincial government representatives. Bill 5 is the Bill that will ban cell phone use in moving vehicles [that is how the Bill is labelled] but will also ban all radio communication –including ours. It seems likely that exemptions will be provided through regulation. There is a public good to amateur radio and this Bill would put a damper on amateur radio and have the unintended consequence of reducing public capacity to assist with emergencies and public events such as the Marathon. Stay tuned.

**DIAMOND
IMAGE**

Floyd Rolph VE4 FDR

835 Cavalier Drive Tel: (204) 888-3227
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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 WARC GM March 9, 2009.

Submitted by Ruthie VE4CRS

Meeting called to order by Geoff VE4BAW. Introductions followed. 43 members and 2 visitors attended.

Motion to accept minutes as printed

by Dick VE4HK, seconded by Rolf VE4VZ. **Carried.**

President's Intro

4 members of the executive are stepping down in June as they have exceed their allotted length of time in service and club needs new executive. Geoff eluded to motion in September re disbanding the club that was not carried. Club needs continuity. Geoff will be heading nominating committee and asked for nominations to be directed to him. Suggestion for future executive to appoint understudies.

Business arising from minutes

Approach Derek VE4HAY if not receiving Newscaster.

Field Day

Rolf VE4VZ coordinator – site within city limits is unavailable.

- ✂ option – Birds Hill. Need to book April 1, no later.
- ✂ discussion re lower or higher level site; other group areas; public site # 2; need secure site.
- ✂ Jeff VE4MBQ is inquiring re Little Mountain Park.
- ✂ Camp Manitou wants \$700-800.
- ✂ Crew for setting up in place.
- ✂ Rolf to have a look at tranceiver that needs fixing
- ✂ Ruth VE4XYL and Sue VE4SYM have menu in place.

RAC

- ✂ New President: - Bob Cooke VE3____; Sue Cooke is VP of field services.
- ✂ Study guides are an issue. Only sold through dealers; no student bundle but working on putting it back.

DX

- ✂ ARRL re propagation – no sun spots – up & down.
- ✂ conditions iffy but not bad; 15m opened up, 20m ok. VE4's are looked for.

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

Flea Market

Spring Flea Market at Heritage Victoria Community Centre.

9:30-10:00 breakfast

10:00-10:30 vendor set-up

10:30 buyers

Tables still left - \$5.00 for members, \$10.00 for non-members. Many prizes. QSL bureau on the spot. Stop by to pick up cards even for friends. Some cards using call-signs not assigned/non-licensed people.

Bill 5

- ⊘ Committee attending: - Jeff VE4MBQ, Geoff VE4BAW, Derek VE4HAY, Glen VE4GWN, Al VE4AEW
- ⊘ VE4BAW was contacted by government for consultation.

Marathon

Jeff VE4MBQ coordinator – 43 people registered. Need 70-75 for the event. Volunteer sheets on site but emailing registration is better. If worked last year's Marathon but have not registered for this year you are not automatically registered. Roster will be set by May 1. Don doing data base. VE4RST – medical. Norm – Medical net. Derek – net control. Albert VA4AS – desktop publishing. We are best organized part of it! Outstanding issue – people can't find us. Suggestion to buy vests co-funded by WARC and ARES. On front of vest will have RAC crest and back will read: - Amateur Radio Operator. These vest will be on loan for operator at event and will be returned at end of event. Total amount for 30 vests - \$760.00 for both organizations. Executive supports.

Motion to buy 35 vests

co-funded by WARC and ARES for special events, stored with ARES equipment by Glen VE4GWN, seconded by Dick VE4HK. **Carried.**

ARES

- ⊘ Approximately 15 ARES members and affiliates provided volunteer communications for Scouts Canada Klondike Derby, March 7 & 8 at Camp Amisk.
- ⊘ Next GM is Tuesday March 17, 1900h at Sir Wm Stephenson Library. Dick VE4HK is reviewing Message Handling.
- ⊘ CANWARN Spotter Training SAT., April 4 in Steinbach. Details TBA.

Education

- ⊘ Course was advertised in Leisure Guide and Newscaster.

- ⊘ As of date of meeting 7 people registered. As of date of writing these minutes (April 29) 10 people registered.
- ⊘ Version of study guide to be decided.

Treasurer Report

* As of Feb. 28, 2009:

General Bank Balance including events monies - \$8,720.67

Actual General Book Balance - \$5,937.06.

* Money from Ham Fest to be presented to RAC for DARF - \$750.00 next meeting (April)

Good and Welfare

- ⊘ MRS - Annual GM is April 14th at 7:00 PM at Senior's Club.
- ⊘ MARCC holding meeting after April Flea Market to discuss issues re repeaters.
- ⊘ DXpedition – Looking into repeat of Prairie Dog DXpedition. \$4900.00 for steam locomotive or \$4500.00 for diesel. Earliest time viable is Sept. 2009. Suggestions welcome. Hecla Island by bus; club partial subsidy for members, non-members full price. To be explored further.
- ⊘ John VE4JNF re Amateurs on boats for charity; boater's license on-line.

Meeting adjourned at 2030h.

Rick VE4RA presentation.

Winner of 50/50 draw - Ruth VE4XYL.

Winner of membership draw – Gord Linklater.

Manitoba - new Section Manager

Radio Amateurs in Manitoba will be pleased to know that the Manitoba Section Manager position has finally been filled.

Jan Schippers, VE4JS, of Winnipeg, has been elected to fill the remainder of a two-year term that began on July 1, 2008. A licensed Amateur since 1972, Jan ran unopposed, thus removing the need for a balloted election, replacing SM Rob Boux, VE4RRB, who did not stand for re-election.

Congratulations and thanks to Jan for accepting the challenge, as well as thanks to Rob for his many years of service to the RAC Field Organization

Contest Calendar

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

April

NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z	Apr 3
Montana QSO Party	0000Z	Apr 4
ARCI Spring QSO Party	1200Z	Apr 4
SP DX	1500Z	Apr 4
EA	RTTY 1600Z	Apr 4
Missouri QSO Party	1800Z	Apr 4
	And 1800Z	Apr 5
QCWA Spring QSO Party	1800Z	Apr 4
RSGB RoPoCo 1	0700Z	Apr 5
RSGB 80m Club Championship	CW 1900Z	Apr 6
144 MHz Spring Sprint	1900L	Apr 6
ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z	Apr 7
ARLHS Annual Spring Lites QSO Party	0001Z	Apr 9
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z	Apr 10
JIDX	CW 0700Z	Apr 11
PODXS 070 Club PSK 31 Flavors	PSK31 1200L	Apr 11
Radio Maritime Day	1200Z	Apr 11
EU Spring Sprint	CW 1600Z	Apr 11
Georgia QSO Party	1800Z	Apr 11
	And 1400Z	Apr 12
Yuri Gagarin International DX	2100Z	Apr 11
SKCC Weekend Sprint	0000Z	Apr 12
UBA Spring	SSB 0600Z	Apr 12
Low Power Spring Sprint	1400Z	Apr 13
222 MHz Spring Sprint	1900L	Apr 14
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	CW 0030Z	Apr 15
RSGB 80m Club Championship	SSB 900Z	Apr 15
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z	Apr 17
Holyland DX	0000Z	Apr 18
TARA Skirmish Digital Prefix	0000Z	Apr 18
ES Open HF Championship	0500Z	Apr 18
Feld Hell Sprint	1200Z	Apr 18
Michigan QSO Party	1600Z	Apr 18
EU Spring Sprint	SSB 1600Z	Apr 18
EA-QRP (20-10m)	CW 1700Z	Apr 18
	80M 2000Z	Apr 18
	40M 0700Z	Apr 19
	20-10M 1100Z	Apr 19
Ontario QSO Party	1800Z	Apr 18
	And 1200Z	Apr 19
YU DX	2100Z	Apr 18
	And 0900Z	Apr 19

Run for the Bacon QRP	0100Z	Apr 20
SKCC Sprint	0000Z	Apr 22
432 MHz Spring Sprint	1900L	Apr 22
RSGB 80m Club Championship	Data 900Z	Apr 23
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z	Apr 24
SP DX	RTTY 1200Z	Apr 25
Helvetia	1300Z	Apr 25
Florida QSO Party	1600Z	Apr 25
	And 1200Z	Apr 26
Nebraska QSO Party	1700Z	Apr 25

May

NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z	May 1
AGCW QRP/QRP Party	1300Z	May 1
MARAC CW QSO Party	0000Z	May 2
MARAC SSB QSO Party	0000Z	May 2
10-10 Int. Spring	CW 0001Z	May 2
10-10 Int. Spring	Digital 0001Z	May 2
Microwave Spring Sprint	0600	May 2
7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z	May 2
Portuguese Navy Day	1500Z	May 2
Indiana QSO Party	1600Z	May 2
New England QSO Party	2000Z	May 2
	And 1300Z	May 3
ARI International DX	2000Z	May 2
RSGB 80m Club Championship	SSB 1900Z	May 4
ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z	May 5
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z	May 8
SBMS 2 Ghz & Up WW Club	0600L	May 9
VK/Trans-Tasman 80m	Phone 0800Z	May 9
EUCW Fraternizing CW QSO Party	1000Z	May 9
	And 1800Z	May 10
CQ-M International DX	1200Z	May 9
VOLTA WW	RTTY 1200Z	May 9
FISTS Spring Sprint	1700Z	May 9
50 MHz Spring Sprint	2300Z	May 9
SKCC Weekend Sprint	0000Z	May 10
RSGB 80m Club Championship	Data 1900Z	May 13
NCCC Sprint	0230Z	May 15
Feld Hell Sprint	Hell 200Z	May 16
EU PSK DX	PSK 1200Z	May 16
His Maj. King of Spain	CW 1200Z	May 16
Manchester Mineira All America	CW 1500Z	May 16
Baltic	2100Z	May 16
Run for the Bacon QRP	0100Z	May 18
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	CW 0030Z	May 21
RSGB 80m Club Championship	CW 1900Z	May 21
QRP Minimal Art Session	1900Z	May 21
NCCC Sprint	0230Z	May 22
MI QRP Memorial Day	CW 2300Z	May 25

CQ WW WPX	CW	0000Z	May 30
Kids Roundup		1400Z	May 30
ARCI Hootowl Sprint		2000L	May 31

News from the Net

RAC new Vice President for Field Services

The Radio Amateurs of Canada Board of Directors has appointed Sue Cooke, VE3SUH, as Vice President for Field Services. She will act as VPFS for the remainder of a two-year term which ends December 31, 2009, or until a permanent replacement is identified and appointed, whichever comes first. Former VPFS Bob Cooke, VE3BDB, resigned from that post to accept appointment as the RAC President. Both appointments were made at a Board meeting on February 24, 2009. Sue brings to the VPFS position a wealth of experience in administration, having spent 30 years with the Ontario Government service. She has been a licenced Radio Amateur for nearly ten years and her operating qualifications include Morse Code. Sue's previous service with RAC embraces three years as an Assistant Director in Ontario South Region, two years as an Official Bulletin Station and a two-year term as RAC's Corporate Secretary. She is a RAC Certified Emergency Co-ordinator, having successfully completed the CEC exam.

Fessenden Radio Day

Sunday, June 14, 2009 - Time: 11:00 to 15:00 EDT (15:00Z-19:00Z)

Operating frequencies: 15M, 21250 in SSB

20M, 14175 "

40M, 7075 "

80M, 3775 "

CW frequencies 25 KHz up from the band edge

Global Simulated Emergency test

The date for the Global Simulated Emergency Test (GlobalSET), sponsored by IARU Region 1, has been altered to coincide with World Amateur Radio Day which takes place on Saturday, April 18th. The theme for the day of "Amateur Radio: Your Resource in Disaster and Emergency Communication" is an ideal opportunity to showcase the work of emergency communications groups around the world. --- QRZ.com

World Radiocommunication Conference

The next (WRC-11) is scheduled for 2011. These periodic conferences of the Member States of the International Telecommunication Union consider allocations to the various radio services, including the Amateur Radio Service and evaluate what new technologies and applications should be addressed by future conferences.

The agenda for WRC-11, developed by the delegates at the last WRC in Geneva in 2007 has 25 agenda items addressing potential new or revised spectrum allocations to existing services. Of most interest to amateurs is agenda item 1.23, "to consider an allocation of about 15 kHz in parts of the band 415-526.5 KHz to the amateur service on a secondary basis." WRC-11 is tentatively scheduled for October 24-November 18, 2011, in Geneva. -- WIA

PORTUGAL GETS A SPRING 2009 MAKEOVER

Major changes are coming to amateur radio in Portugal. According to an e-mail from CT1FBB, that nations new structure includes the introduction of a three class licensing system that will parallel the existing classes which have been grandfathered but which will no longer be issued. In other changes, the minimum age to obtain a Portuguese ham ticket has been lowered to 12. All applicants regardless of age will be required to enter the hobby with a third class license and remain there for at least two years before upgrading. The new 3rd class license will be good for 5 years giving a ham three years in which to upgrade to 2nd class. If a 3rd class ham fails to upgrade he returns to what amounts to SWL status. That means he or she can only use their own station as a listening post and must go to a 2nd grade or higher licensee's station to transmit under the control of that ham. -- WIA

Two New Sunspots ?

The SpaceWeather.com website says that two proto-sunspots are simmering near the sun's equator. Could they be the start of the long-awaited upturn in sunspot activity ? SpaceWeather.com says the sun is blank, but maybe not for long. Their locations are shown in a magnetogram at www.spaceweather.com/ -- WIA

RAC Bulletin 2009-009E

Amateur Radio Direction Finding Coordinator Needed

March 22, 2009

Radio Amateurs of Canada is seeking an interested Radio Amateur to volunteer as the Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) Coordinator for Canada. ARDF is the sport of finding radio transmitters while on foot, using a radio receiver, map and compass in diverse, wooded terrain. The RAC ARDF Coordinator's job is to promote the development of this sport and work with ARDF Coordinators in other International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) countries to organize competitions and activities. As the current ARDF Coordinator's term has come to an end, a replacement is required. Interested Radio Amateurs should contact the RAC Corporate Secretary via email at ve9glf@hotmail.com.

For more information about ARDF, please visit the RAC web page at www.rac.ca/opsinfo/ardf.htm. --RAC

OPERATING PRACTICE

Extracted from a document

by Mark - ON4WW

18. MISCELLANEOUS

CW keyclicks can be very annoying for your fellow-hams. If you own a rig that produces 'garbage', have it modified (or do this yourself, being a good ham!). Your fellow-hams will be grateful. The same applies to SSB: over modulated signals don't call for friends. Make sure your transmissions are 'clean'!

The Q code and number code (73/88) are established to make certain questions and words easier and shorter to transmit and receive on CW. In fact, they don't belong in phone (SSB/AM/FM) QSOs! Why say '73' on phone while you can just as well say 'Many greetings/Best regards'? Try to keep a reasonable balance in this matter. A phone QSO mustn't exist out of 'as many as possible' Q words and numbers.

To say 73 (best regards) in plural (73's) on phone is not correct and sounds a bit 'overdone'. Also, ever tried to transmit 73's on CW?

If a DX station's CW speed is too fast for you to copy and you really want to work him, use a tool (e.g. software decoding) so you understand what he is transmitting. If not, a lot of time can be wasted to complete just one QSO, yours. You don't react promptly because you don't understand what is being transmitted. Don't forget, many others are waiting for a QSO with the DX station.

Only with lots and lots of practice will you gradually increase your capability to copy fast CW stations without difficulty and without software.

'QSO NOT IN LOG': if your QSL cards regularly return with this feared message, it means time has come to upgrade your 'operating practice'. TO LISTEN is a first requirement: if you can't hear a station, why call him? Read and re-read this document several times, try to act upon it, and be a successful operator. Wanna bet the 'QSO NOT IN LOG' message won't be regular anymore?

Talking about QSLs, the saying goes: 'The final courtesy of a QSO is the QSL card'. Of course, most people like to have your paper QSL card in their collection. Some however don't. I personally take it as a matter of pride to answer all QSL cards that reach me via the bureau system or direct. This includes QSLs from hams and SWLs (short wave listeners) alike. In Belgium we are lucky, the use of the bureau system is included in our annual dues to the UBA,

our National Radio Society. Using the bureau system is extremely cheap for us to exchange cards worldwide. However not all hams are that lucky; different countries use different bureau systems, some are not that cheap. Keep this in mind when you send QSL; inform yourself (eventually through the IARU website) if there is a good functioning bureau system in the country you are sending your card to. If not, consider sending direct with an SAE (self addressed envelope) and sufficient funds for return postage (e.g. IRC - International Reply Coupon). Another way is confirming contacts electronically through e.g. the LoTW (Logbook of the World) from the ARRL. No paper QSL is required, but hey, I still fancy these old fashioned paper QSL cards piled in shoe boxes!

Some DX stations use a QSL manager to provide you with a QSL because they like making QSOs instead of doing the time consuming QSL chores. Many websites can provide you with all needed info on these managers. I just name one (QRZ.com) which is often mentioned during on the air conversations.

A note on National Radio Societies. Remember during WorldWar II all ham licenses and equipment were revoked? Who do you reckon talked to the governments after the war so hams could get operational again? Indeed, it were the National Radio Societies (IARU members). These non-profit organizations are the sole bodies who have power to negotiate with the Authorities that are 'granting' you the privilege to operate ham radio. It is important that the National Radio Societies have a strong voice, and that can only be if you are a member of your National Radio Society. Together we are strong, l'Union fait la Force. Are you not a member ? Consider becoming one. For those living in countries that don't have a cheap bureau system, perhaps it is time for you to stand up and ask your Society why it is possible in Belgium but not in your country? And why not even offer your volunteer services to your Society? Remember, these Societies are the only option for you to be heard when it comes to dealing with the Government! They are important.

Many DX resources are available through the internet. The list is very long, a search on the web will help you out. To name a few: 425 DX News Letter, ARRL Propagation Bulletins, Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, etc.

Become acquainted with the IARU band planning and the frequencies authorized by your national administration for you to use. Make a hard copy of them and put it on the wall.

IZ9xxx and Pipo are the for obvious reasons somewhat modified callsign and name of a Sicilian ham.

We all deserve a good laugh, have a look at DL4TT's **sharp observations**

(<http://www.qsl.net/dl4tt/DawgX-rayClub.html>) on 'Dog X-ray' after you finished reading chapter 19.

19. IN CONCLUSION

This boy started out as a small pistol ham. In the beginning he was very pleased if he could make just one QSO with a major DXpedition. With a low power station (some bigots claimed otherwise) he worked his first 300+ entities. There was no secret, there was just the very strong desire to work a new country.

This meant going through all paper 'DX magazines'. I also tuned in on the 2 meter DX channel to listen to the old-timer DXers and see what new ones they were hearing with their superior antennas. There were those sleepless nights. There was the calling for hours to make just one QSO. There were the calls without success. More hours of calling until he finally broke the pileup. Or perhaps not, and tried again the next day. Sometimes taking holidays to be able to work 'a new one'.

This boy still is a small pistol ham. If DXers from the east of the country pay him a visit, they exclaim: 'Boy, is this all you got? Is this really all you are using to work that juicy DX?'

Indeed, the desire to work DX is high, and that makes one eager to find ways to build a station as efficient and competitive as possible. It doesn't have to be mega big to be successful. Above all, good operating practice delivers the key to success.

It often tickles me to take a drive to those 'DX Cluster moaners' and show them how to log a difficult QSO instead of wasting their time by moaning and airing their frustrations on a DX Cluster.

'Get a life, and work DX'. As a grand personality once said, "**DX IS**"!

Good luck in working 'new ones' on the bands. I hope the above tips may contribute to lift the level of operating practice a bit.

If you don't manage to break the pileups, you may always call upon me. A tasty trappist beer per new country worked from your station is all that is needed...

And, keep in mind, nobody will ever be without mistakes. Want to bet you will catch the author one day making a mistake? In that case, smile, and try to do better than him instead of 'shooting at the pianist'.

Wishing you lots of success and pleasure on the bands! My thanks goes to the good friends who were involved in this project.

English translation assistance was kindly provided by NIDG, tnx Don!

73 - Mark - ON4WW.

(April 2006)

p.s.: I care to learn about your opinion after you read the complete article. Was it of any use to you, would you like to see something added, etc. Kindly leave a message in my or send me an e-mail: Tnx!

WARC's Basic Course Begins April 7
by David VE4DAR - Chief Instructor.

Thirteen volunteer instructors have been oriented to teaching at Red River College. RAC's latest textbook (Hamstudy Basic 2009/2010) has arrived and is ready for distribution to the students. Lesson planning is underway. At least ten students have registered at Red River College for the PDEV - 1018 Amateur Radio Operator Introduction course advertised in the Winnipeg Spring Leisure Guide on

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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.

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!

tell your Friends who are interested in Radio

April 7 and run until June 25, Tuesday and alternate Thursday evenings.

Anyone interested in getting his or her Basic Qualification can register by calling Red River College at 694-1789.

WPGARES

By Jeff, VE4MBQ -Emergency Coordinator

Thanks to Dick Maguire VE4HK who reviewed Message Handling at our March General Meeting.

Recruitment of volunteer operators for the 2009 Manitoba Marathon SUN 21 JUN seems to have stalled out at 45 people. We need 75 volunteer operators for the Manitoba Marathon and we need them confirmed by 1 MAY.

Sixteen ARES members and affiliates enjoyed the somewhat mild weather 7 & 8 MAR at Camp Amisk during Klondike Derby. The event ran approximately 9 hours on SAT and 8 hours on SUN. WPGARES Boler Trailer worked very well as the Net Control location. Thanks to volunteer operators VE4s: WTF, RLF, HAZ, GWN, HK, TRO, EH, KAZ, GWB, SBS, BOY, LIT, CIB, DGS, MBQ and MAQ.

CANWARN Spotter Training scheduled for SAT 4 APR in Steinbach has been postponed to SAT 9 MAY in Steinbach. If interested in attending please let me know by FRI 1 MAY.

The mention of emergency communications in several reports in the current edition of the MRS newsletter The Repeater was very timely. Several ARES Flood Operations will be getting underway MON 30 MAR. I know of requests both from the Province of Manitoba and City of Winnipeg to ARES for Amateur Radio support. All ARES members are asked to advise their ECs with regard to their availability for volunteer communications duties.

RAC/ARES NATIONAL EMCOMM FREQUENCIES

SSB Frequencies		Tactical
75 M - LSB	3.675 MHz	Alfa
40 M - LSB	7.135 MHz	Bravo
20 M - USB	14.135 MHz	Charlie
17 M - USB	18.135 MHz	Delta
15 M - USB	21.235 MHz	Echo
10 M - USB	28.235 MHz	Foxtrot
CW Frequencies		Tactical
80 M	3.535 MHz	Golf
40 M	7.035 MHz	Hotel
20 M	14.035 MHz	India
17 M	18.075 MHz	Juliette
15 M	21.035 MHz	Kilo
10 M	28.035 MHz	Lima
Digital Frequencies		Tactical
80 M	3.596 MHz	Mike
40 M	7.096 MHz	November
20 M	14.096 MHz	Oscar
17 M	18.096 MHz	Papa
15 M	21.096 MHz	Quebec
10 M	28.096 MHz	Romeo

RAC 2009 February
<http://www.rac.ca/fieldorg/racaresfreqs.htm>

WARC Flea Market

Sunday, April 19, 2009
 Heritage Victoria Community Club,
 950 Sturgeon road

9:30 am for coffee, muffins
 10:00 - Vendor doors open for set up
 10:30 - Buying begins at 10:30 sharp

Prize draws begin at 12:30 pm

To book your table please contact Ruth ve4xyl
 837-6915, or ve4se@mts.net
 Tables are \$5.00 for members of WARC,
 \$10.00 for commercial vendors and non-members

Admission at the door \$3.00

Ruth's kitchen will have delicious food and drink
 for your gustatory pleasure!

Talk in on ve4wpg 147.39 MHz + offset

Contact Dick ve4hk 256-3143 ve4hk@rac.ca,
 ve4wpg repeater or coffee on Saturdays for further
 information

****No parking on Sturgeon Road!****

Our next General Meeting is TUE 21 APR 1900h at Sir Wm Stephenson Library 765 Keewatin Street. I will be doing a presentation on Call-Outs & Equipment.

Volunteer Communications required

Major concern within Wpg currently is a significant ice jam that could possibly over-top some low-lying dikes. Some neighbourhoods may need sandbags on top of existing structures to give additional freeboard.

There is a strong possibility that City of Winnipeg Volunteer Coordinators will try to organize a mass public sandbagging project for WED 1 APR and THURS 2 APR for some low-lying neighbourhoods. Amateur operators will be needed to provide supplemental communications at several volunteer recruiting centres and at major sandbag worksites. The nature of the communications from the sandbag worksites to VE4EOC will be along the lines of sufficient volunteers, too many volunteers or more volunteers needed as well as any other urgent traffic (e.g. EMS activation for a sick or injured sandbagger or Police activation for someone causing a disturbance).

We are not looking to put Amateurs to work sandbagging, we are looking for Amateurs as communicators. I will not know until mid-day TUE whether or not this is going ahead. If interested in getting involved please monitor VE4WPG at 1800h tomorrow evening for more information.

If you are interested now, it would be good to know by e-mail:

Your Callsign & full name and mailing address

Telephone numbers (home & cell)

Availability WED, THUR, FRI & SAT (days or eve) - in 1997 these operations ran dawn to dusk.

If this goes ahead you will need appropriate outdoor clothing, government issued photo-ID, notepad & pencils, ideally the wallet size copy of your Amateur certificate, and a 2m HT with spare batteries, programmed for:

VE4WPG 147.390+

VE4ARC 145.230-

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

VE4CNR 146.760-

VE4UMR 147.270+

VE4ARS 145-350-

Misc simplex 146.580 MHz.

Basically whatever gear you'd use at a Hospitality Station during the Marathon, just much colder, possibly wet weather. As of today the WARC-ARES co-funded "loaner" traffic vests are not ready yet.

QTX~

By Derek, VE4HAY



Did you know:

- ✉ The MB QSL Bureau will be at the Flea Market. If you have ever worked HF and made a contact, please stop by the Bureau and check to see if you have a card there. Currently there are 1000+ cards sitting in the bureau that can not be delivered, because the people have not set up an account with the bureau, so they are on hold. "For now", but not for long, before they are sent back as undeliverable.
- ✉ The MB Marathon is now taking registrations for radio operators to help out with the Marathon. They are asking that you register each year, with name, Call sign, contact info and your first two (2) choices for which stations or duty you wish to volunteer for. VE4's have been volunteering for the marathon for over 30 year, and are an integral part of the smooth operations of the marathon.
- ✉ That a call out for Radio Operators was done on Tuesday evening March 31, and not one person responded. Even with an email being sent out 24 hours earlier advising that the call-out would be happening. At a time of need by the citizens of Winnipeg, to prepare for a flood of houses in low lying areas, and NOT ONE PERSON responded. The email said that the call out would be for radio operators not people to fill sand bags, But for communicators and NOT ONE PERSON responded to the call for help. Are we all forgetting why we have been given access to all these frequencies? Again this is at a time when the MB government is looking at passing legislation that would prohibit the use of any hand held device used as telephony in a motor vehicle. At the same time a small group of HAM's have formed a committee trying to persuade the government to exempt Amateur Radio from such legislation, because we need our radios so that we can serve the Citizens of Manitoba. And NOT ONE PERSON responded to the call for assistance. It is not terrible hard work to sit by your radio and pass traffic like more sand bags are needed on Scotia street, or the dike is breaching on Kinston Row. But we have

been asked by the City of Winnipeg to do just that and NOT ONE PERSON volunteered. We are not being asked to haul sand bags or to build the dike, just to provide communications, where none exist or where it is not feasible to deploy a city worker with a cellphone. AS you can tell, I am not pleased with our (HAM's) attitude right now.

I know it's a hobby, but we need to give back as well.