



# The **NEWSCASTER**

The Official Publication of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club

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

June 2009

IRLP # 1066

VE4BB

## Elections, Marathon, Field Day, Summer Activities & Anything Else

Date: **June 8th, 2009**  
Time: 7:30 p.m.  
Place: **Dakota Collegiate**  
661 Dakota Street

### Other Important Dates:

WARC: Monthly Meeting dates

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

ARES: June 30 ARES GO Team experiences

Other: June 16 7:00 p.m. - Marathon briefing  
227 - 200 Main Street  
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

Tempus fugit ... just three years ago I undertook the mantle and now my time has passed. I want to thank everyone for the experience to work with all of you.

The club is robust ... the finances are sound ... the annual events [Field Day, Flea Market, to name two] are successful.

Time for you to take over this enterprise. In previous years I would say that if you were unhappy then throw the rascals out .. well, this rascal is going. Time to step up and take over ... run for office!

1993 ... that is the year that Derek Hay [ve4hay] became the editor of our Newsletter, the Newscaster. I learned on May 26th that he was stepping down as editor. We all must thank him for his years of service as editor .. a stellar run that will be difficult to duplicate. I nominated him for "Ham of the Year" for his service as editor .. the Newscaster is amateur radio's "newspaper of record" telling us all what we needed to know about amateur radio events. He will be missed.

**Help wanted:** Editor Required, experience helpful but not essential.

He will continue to be a key pillar of amateur radio in Manitoba as the interim RAC Director and I know that we will help him with this challenging and important job. Amateur radio needs people of his calibre in such critical roles.

Wish Derek luck and help him as he helps us.

Good bye.

*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.*

## WARC Meeting Minutes May 11, 2009

Taken by Mark, VE4MAB

Meeting chaired by Albert Sousa

Introductions

Motion to accept the April minutes as printed in the April Newscaster moved by Glen, VE4GWN and 2nd by Dick, VE4HK

Business arising from the minutes - None

### Committee reports

#### Education

David, VE4DAR, spoke on the education program. 15 students have completed the course and there have been no drop outs. Many are interested in a CW course as well. Red River College has agreed to another course in September.

There will be a CW course at WSC in September with Adam, VE4SN, as chief instructor. The advanced course planned for the fall has been postponed to January 2010.

#### ARES

Glen reported on ARES. Ongoing operations at WWO during severe weather May 11 to September 13.

Flood operations ended April 25 and info is posted on the ARES web site.

CanWarn spotter training was this past weekend with 45 people in attendance. CanWarn reports any tornado or

#### Amateur Radio Service Centre Industry Canada

P.O. Box 9654, Postal Station T

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Toll free: (888) 780-3333

Fax: (613) 998-5919

E-mail: [spectrum.amateur@ic.gc.ca](mailto:spectrum.amateur@ic.gc.ca)

[http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/insmt-gst.nsf/en/h\\_sf01709e.html](http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/insmt-gst.nsf/en/h_sf01709e.html)

IRLP Node 1066

145.450 MHz -600 KHz

(VE4WRS)

Comments or if you just want to reach us :

**Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club**

**C/O VE4WSC**

**598 St.. Mary's Road**

**Winnipeg, MB R2M 3L5**

funnel, rotating, shelf cloud with winds 90 + Kms, rains 75 mm in 2 to 3 hours, visibility ½ km reporting to 1-800-239-0484.

#### Marathon

The Manitoba Marathon is Fathers Day, June 21 and there will be a volunteer briefing on Tuesday, June 16.

#### DX

Adam, VE4SN, spoke on DX. A lot is going on in the upper atmosphere and the sun is still void of sunspots. Things are picking up reporting that Ed, VE4YU had worked Turkey with Adam working South America and Bolivia. Europe is good in the late evening, 9-11 PM the Russians are there. Tune around and throw out the odd CQ.

Rick, VE4OV, asked Adam how long he had been licenced. Adam replied - since May 11, 1953. His first contact was Pittsburgh. He chose VE4SN because AR was taken. SN was the initials of his fiancé.

#### RAC

Derek, VE4HAY, spoke on RAC advising that Midwest Director Devon resigned due to personal reasons and Derek accepted the position on an interim basis. Derek will get signatures at the next meeting so he can file papers with RAC. Derek is going to Cornwall and will bring a report to the next meeting.

#### Bill 5

Derek also spoke on Bill 5 which is progressing slowly. He, Geoff, VE4BAW, Jeff, VE4MBQ are on a committee to make presentations to the bill regarding amateur radio and they are waiting for notice.

#### Antenna Support Structure

Derek spoke on the City Of Winnipeg By law regarding antennas and said nothing more has happened. It has gone to the councilors and is out of their hands at the moment.

#### Treasurer Report

Sue, VE4SYM, advised our April revenue was \$ 1669.70 with Expense of \$2424.83 including prepaid education materials for which we will be reimbursed, prizes and pre-bought gifts for MARM and International. Our bank balance is \$ 7850.61.

David, VE4DAR, asked how much is left in the budget for education and Sue advised it is over and that we don't know what the revenue will be yet.

#### Hamfest DARR presentation

Albert, VA4AS presented Derek, VE4HAY with a cheque from WARC presented to DARR.



Derek, VE4HAY (left) (acting Midwest Regional Director) receives a cheque for the Defense of Amateur Radio Fund (DARF) as proceeds of last years Winnipeg Hamfest/RAC AGM from Albert, VA4AS, Vice President of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club

**Field Day**

Rolf, VE4VZ, spoke on Field Day. Nice posters have been produced. He will ask if the senior club will let us use their coax. Glen will use his trailer to pick up the equipment. Rolf inspected the site on Sunday afternoon and all is the same. The sit has been paid for. Samples of the poster are on the table for display.

**Flea Market**

Dick, VE4HK, spoke on the Flea Market. We made 700 plus dollars with 170 people in attendance, lower than usual. The next Flea Market will be in mid October at the Heritage Victoria Community Centre. Dick asked if there was anyone who wanted to take over looking after the Flea Market.

**Seniors Club**

Ed, VE4YU, spoke on Red Cross Day recently held at the WSC which was open to the public 10-6. The best input was from students. A class of 40 with teaches and parents showed up. Had communications with VE4GLS and another ham in St.. Francis Xavier, and a group of Cubs with their leader arrived about 5 PM. Rolf, VE4VZ took a lot of pictures which he may post on the WSC web site.

***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

**Marathon Volunteer Briefing is TUE.. 16 JUN 1900h Sport Manitoba 200 Main St.. Rm. 227.**

**Elections**

Most of the current executive members are not able to continue so we are looking for people to step up and take a position on the executive.

**Good & Welfare**

Dick, VE4HK, spoke about our new storage facility at Storage Ville. He was there recently with Gord, VE4GLS and rearranged the whole thing which will make it easier to move stuff on field day. Rolf, VE4VZ, asked how many tents were there and Dick advised there were 2 large ones. Bert, VE4AND, commented that one is a kitchen tent.

Dick, VE4HK, motioned to adjourn. 15 minute break followed by a presentation on networking by Alan, VE4YZ

<b>RAC/ARES NATIONAL EMCOMM FREQUENCIES</b>		
<b>SSB</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Tactical</b>
75M - 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
<b>CW</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Tactical</b>
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
<b>Digital</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Tactical</b>
80M	3.596 MHz	Mike
40 M	7.096 MHz	November
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>

## Contest Calendar

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

### June

2	0100Z	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW
4	1700Z	10 meter NAC	CW/SSB/FM/Digital
5	1800Z	Digital Pentathlon	BPSK63
6	0000Z	Open Season Ten Meter PSK	BPSK31
6	0400Z	DigiFest	Digital
6	0600Z	Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	CW
6	1200Z	SEANET	CW/SSB/RTTY
6	1500Z	IARU Region 1 Fieldday	CW
6	1600Z	Alabama QSO Party	CW/Phone
6	2000Z	DigiFest	Digital
7	1200Z	DigiFest	Digital
10	0030Z	NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	CW
11	1700Z	NAC 50 MHz (Aktivitestest)	All
12	1800Z	Digital Pentathlon	MFSK16
13	0000Z	ANARTS WW RTTY	Digital
13	0000Z	Portugal Day	CW/SSB
13	1100Z	Asia-Pacific Sprint	SSB
13	1500Z	GACW WWSA CW DX	CW
13	1600Z	DDFM 50 MHz	CW/SSB/FM
14	0000Z	SKCC Weekend Sprint	CW
14	0600Z	DIE (Spanish Is.)	CW/SSB/RTTY
14	1400Z	SSA Månadstest nr 6	SSB
14	1515Z	SSA Månadstest nr 6	CW
17	1800Z	MOON	CW/Digital/SSB
19	1800Z	Digital Pentathlon	MT63
20	0000Z	All Asian DX	CW
20	0000Z	SMIRK	CW/Phone
20	0800Z	SCAG Straight Key Day (SKD)	CW
20	1400Z	Feld-Hell Club Sprint	Feld-Hell
20	1600Z	West Virginia QSO Party	CW/SSB
20	1800Z	Kid's Day	SSB
22	0100Z	Run For The Bacon QRP	CW
24	0000Z	SKCC Straight Key Sprint	CW
26	1800Z	Digital Pentathlon	Feld-Hell
27	1200Z	H. M. The King of Spain	SSB
27	1200Z	Ukrainian DX DIGI	RTTY/PSK31
27	1400Z	MARCONI Memorial HF	CW
27	1800Z	ARRL Field Day	All
27	1800Z	QRP ARCI Milliwatt Field Day	All

## WPGARES

By Jeff, VE4MBQ -Emergency Coordinator

We still **need approximately 7 additional operators for the Manitoba Marathon** SUN 21 JUN. The Volunteer Briefing will be TUE.. 16 JUN 1900h at Sport Manitoba 200 Main Street – Room 227.

Several Amateur organizations supported our Flood Operations – as promised in last month's report, Amateur organizations that supported Winnipeg ARES Flood Operations were:

Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club  
Manitoba Repeater Society  
University of Manitoba Amateur Radio Society  
Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club.

CANWARN Spotter Training was held SAT 9 MAY at the East Selkirk Recreation Centre. Thanks to RM of St. Clements Emergency Coordinator Jim Stinson and St. Clements ARES EC Dave Place VE4PN for organizing the facility for us (Dave also organized the group lunch in Selkirk after the training session concluded). The Weather Spotter training was conducted by outgoing Warning Preparedness Meteorologist Dave Carlsen VE4WXG (he's going back to Forecast Operations) and yours truly did the Net Protocol presentation. We had an excellent turnout with a total attendance of 44 people including 29 Amateurs representing six of nine CANWARN Districts (Brandon, Portage, Interlake, North Eastman, South-Central, Wpg). A number of municipal staff and volunteer firefighters (from East Selkirk, Narol & Steinbach) were also in attendance.

The operational briefing for 2009 CANWARN Net Controllers was held TUE.. 12 MAY at the Prairie & Arctic Storm Prediction Centre. Fifteen of eighteen WWO Controllers attended (VE4s BN, EH, DWG, HAZ, RCJ, GWN, MAQ, AJO, ESX, ALW, HK, MMG, EIH, CDM and MBQ). Thanks to Luke VE4WTF for playing "doorman" and letting participants in (it's a secure facility). There is an ARES member on-call now for VE4WWO 0930-2130h daily thru 13 SEP.

Our MAY General Meeting featured Dick Maguire VE4HK doing a presentation on operating bicycle mobile. Sunday Satiada VE4SBS donated a terrific-looking new ARES banner to us.

Our next General Meeting will be TUE.. 30 JUN 1900h at Sir Wm.. Stephenson Library 765 Keewatin St.. Kent

**Amateur Radio** ✨ **A Community Resource**

VE4KEH and Tedd VE4VID will be discussing their experiences on the ARES GO Team that was deployed to St. Adolphe during Flood Operations. We will not be meeting in July but will be back to the 3rd TUE. of the month in AUG.. – 1900h TUE. 18 AUG. at Sir Wm. Stephenson Library – Cindy Bolton is scheduled to discuss the Volunteer Management component of the City of Winnipeg Emergency Preparedness Program.

## News from the Net

### **RAC Bulletin 2009-015E**

#### **Resignation of Midwest Director**

Due to increased demands on his personal and career schedules, Midwest Director Devon Racicot, VE5DWR, has regretfully submitted his resignation from the Radio Amateurs of Canada Board of Directors. The RAC Board and Executive extends sincere thanks to Devon for his past service, and best wishes for the future. As required by the RAC Constitution, a call for nominations to fill the remainder of the director's two-year term will appear in the July-August 2009 issue of The Canadian Amateur magazine, as will nomination procedure details. Qualified RAC members who reside in Manitoba or Saskatchewan are encouraged to take the necessary steps at that time to fill the post and ensure representation for all Radio Amateurs in the Midwest Region.

### **RAC Bulletin 2009-016E**

#### **Appointment of Midwest Region Director**


At a Special Meeting of the Radio Amateurs of Canada Board of Directors, held May 5, 2009, Derek Hay, VE4HAY, was unanimously appointed Midwest Region Director to fill the position left vacant by the resignation of former director Devon Racicot, VE5DWR. Derek brings to the Board a wealth of experience and will hold the post in accordance with the RAC Constitution until a formal election can be conducted in the Region. A call for nominations to elect a permanent Midwest Region Director will appear in the

**DIAMOND  
IMAGE**

Floyd Rolph VE4 FDR

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July-August 2009 issue of The Canadian Amateur magazine, giving full details of the election process.

#### **Aussie research takes on IT giants and wins**

Modern wireless technology has many applications adding to the utility of lap-top computers and a wide range of other devices. The Australian government's research arm, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) took 14 major companies to court claiming infringement of its US patent on wireless local area network technology. The fight was over the CSIRO standard 802.11 used in most wireless devices. While the exact settlement details remain confidential, in dollar terms it will be substantial. Those to pay include Hewlett-Packard, Intel, Dell, Microsoft, Toshiba, Nintendo, Belkin and Netgear. The CSIRO conceived the idea of the wireless technology in the early 1990s and took out a patent in 1996. The first wireless cards based on the CSIRO's system appeared in 2002. Attempts during the next three years to negotiate licences with the companies using it failed – they would not pay royalties. So the CSIRO took legal action and a US judge has finalized a settlement in favour of CSIRO. It also sends a clear message that the CSIRO will fight to protect all of the rights flowing from its research undertaken on behalf of the Australian taxpayers. -- WIA

## Teachers Wanted

### **By Derek, VE4HAY**

If you are a teacher in high school, please get in touch with me. Is your school short on funds? Would you like to have greater resources to provide quality education to your students? Of course the answer to these questions is, Yes. Well, The RAC Youth Education Program will provide financial and personal support to teachers and schools in all regions of the country. Teachers who wish to include an element of radio technology in their classroom programs will be eligible for assistance in acquiring the necessary equipment, books and other resources. As such, I am looking for teachers who would be interested in showing Amateur Radio to their students, in an effort to plant the bug we all have.

### **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

## First Time to Dayton

By David VE4DAR

It's really nice when things come together and opportunity presents. An invitation to visit friends and an Air Canada seat sale and POW! I got to Dayton's Hamvention for the first time on May 15 – 17.

Some say luck is when preparation meets opportunity. I had been thinking of going to the “ham radio Mecca” for years: listening to the tales of locals who drove to Dayton; reading past editions of QST; watching ARRL's website for the program; delaying purchases; and then ...“We'd like to see you. Please visit.”

Friday morning was a little scary. Police were present as I approached the site. Then I realized they were just directing traffic, human traffic, as thousands crossed the highway from nearby parking. Others reached the Hamvention by shuttle buses. And there I was, a lone VE4 lost in a myriad of other prefixes from around the world.



Someone handed me a program in the parking lot: 48 pages of info including six pages of just maps of the site. The arena containing the forums wasn't opening for another hour so I toured the outdoor flea market. With more than 1500 vendors Ruth would be so busy selling tables she wouldn't get a chance to open her kitchen! Just walking up and down the many rows tired me out so I entered the first of three arenas to go to some of the 45 forums.

At Sally Ann's SATERN forum I talked with Major Rick Shirran, VE4RS, now living in Toronto and heading SATERN for Canada. He asked to be remembered to all here.

Speakers described SATERN's structure and some activities. Later I visited SATERN's communication trailer,

which has satellite capability. The response to “How long should we prepare?” was “Prepare until a disaster!”

I met Carole Perry, MB2MGP, at the Teachers' Workshop. Over the years she got amateur radio into her school curriculum. Now retired, Carole had been teaching 15 classes with 36 kids per class! The panel talked about recruiting kids into our hobby by going to schools; having a COOL demo such as how to build an antenna, talking around the world, and the text messaging vs Morse Code video from Jay Leno.

Speakers at the Youth Forum said our clubs need to be youth friendly. Change boring meetings to include interesting and understandable presentations. Have a youth as a member of the board (executive). To be COOL, why not just call our hobby “Radio”? Show new developments such as PSK.

At the ARES and Red Cross Forums, participants were told that expectations are increasing each time there is an emergency: more, better and faster. Topics covered were cooperation among agencies, better training, learning from the last event, and using Echolink. Familiar phrases: “No one self deploys”. “In an emergency you will not have enough resources. There will be problems.” Red Cross members were reminded to have 4W drive vehicles to bring supplies to the emergency shelters.

One arena was filled with commercial vendors such as Yaesu, Kenwood, Icom, Alinco, Diamond Antennas, etc. Another had exhibitors such as AMSAT, FISTS CW Club, International Amateur Radio Union, and Radio Society of America. The ARRL Expo included a project building area, special event station, youth lounge, and a bookstore.



Among the more interesting sights were hams dressed in military fatigues and using military equipment adapted to amateur frequencies; another chap had a 2m rig with a big amplifier and antenna on his back. Outside was an area with various towers including a pneumatic unit on four wheels that shot up a very sturdy tower with a very large three-element Steppir antenna. Tower unit only cost \$75,000.00. Walking away from that purchase I heard my name called. Thinking I might hear a lower ask, I turned around. Guess what? There were Garth VE4GDF and Rob VE4ROB from Prairie Mobile. And here's the picture to prove it. But where was Walter? 73.

### Shared MRS/WARC Storage Facility

By Dick, VE4HK

The Winnipeg Seniors Radio Club notified MRS and WARC in March, that neither club would be allowed to store equipment at the Seniors. An inspector from the City viewed the third floor of the Seniors. He gave the clubs one month to clear everything out, or it would go in the garbage.

WARC and MRS agreed quickly to share a storage facility. We further agreed to split the cost 50/50. I was able to secure a 5 ft x 15 ft storage locker with Storage Ville on Waverley. We moved in a few days after receiving the notification from the City.

Storage Ville lent us a large van to move all our equipment. It took about 1-1/2 hours to load the van at the Seniors, but only 15 minutes to unload. MRS equipment was piled up in the far end of the locker, with WARC's gear near the door. We agreed that WARC should be near the door, to make it easier to move Field Day equipment out.

Gord VE4GLS and I rearranged everything in the locker 2 weeks ago. All the equipment is stored much more efficiently now. MRS equipment remains at the back, and WARC at the front.

WARC and MRS each have 2 keys for the locker. Access is now much better than it was at the Seniors, since Storage Ville has extended hours. Neither club has to bother Bert VE4AND or another member of the Seniors to open up. Best of all, no more stairs to climb, thank goodness!

Thanks to Bert VE4AND for opening the Seniors, so we could move out. Thanks also to Geoff VE4BAW, Glen VE4GWN, Rosi VE4YYL, Fred VE4TRO, Sue VE4SYM, and Dick VE4HK for helping with the move.

### INTERNATIONAL HAM FEST

By Richard VE4QK

### AT THE INTERNATIONAL PEACE GARDEN - Second weekend in July Annually

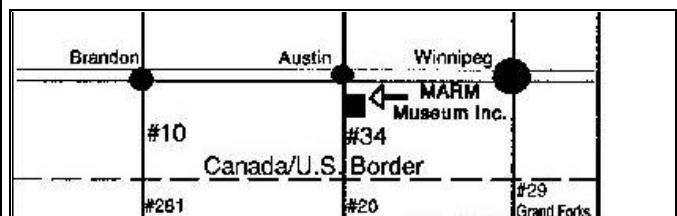
Just a note to let you know what is happening with IHF 46 which is less than two months away. There are going to be some changes at this year's event! The Peace Garden has inadvertently rented the Lodge for a wedding on the ham fest weekend. The plan is to have a large tent in the middle of the campground for our activities. It will have a wood floor for our Saturday night event and we will have lots of tables and chairs for our use, The band, that has been performing the last couple of years, has been confirmed for Saturday. There will be a change in the food available. Sandy is unable to provide her good services out in the middle of the field. She was to provide the breakfast this year in place of the meal provided by Bill and his elves. We haven't finalized the food services but we are working on it. No one will go hungry. I will send out more info when I have it. There is info on the Ham Fest page at <http://www.mts.net/~holderr/ihf.htm> that will be updated as we know the details.

### Camp 807

For the first time ever, Camp 807 is being held in Atikokan in 2009. This annual event has rotated amongst several communities in the 807 area code west of Thunder Bay. It takes place on the August long weekend, and is a terrific way to meet hams in the area that you've talked with on the air. There will also be technical presentations on a few subjects. And, perhaps most important, there will be steak and beer. We have booked all of Bunnell Park, a municipal campground in Atikokan, for the event. There are also numerous hotels in town for the event (which runs from Friday afternoon to Sunday noon). It is early days, right now, but mark your calendars, and keep track of our progress on [www.ve3fyn.ca/Camp807](http://www.ve3fyn.ca/Camp807)

### MARMFEST 15

August 15, 2009 Manitoba Amateur Radio Museum on the grounds of the Manitoba Agricultural Museum at Austin, Manitoba



**QTX~****By Derek, VE4HAY**

Did you know:

© I was sent this fun to watch video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c9zmYX27dHY>**RAC News****By Derek, VE4HAY**  
**Midwest Regional Director**

I attend my first RAC board meeting in Cornwall last weekend. Nothing like throwing the sheep to the wolves. Here I am new to the position, and arriving in Cornwall, for 3 days of 8 hour meetings. A normal person would sit back and observe. Maybe, be a little leery to open their mouth. Well, those that know me, know that would not be the case. I was seconding motions, speaking to them, voicing my opinion, etc... In basic terms I was standing up for the Hams of the Midwest Region. So I guess I was doing what I was put there to do.

What I did learn from the 3 days, was that RAC is in dire need of membership revenue. While membership is basically staying about even with new members vs. Silent Keys, it is with the current members not renewing that is causing a membership drop. This drop in membership relates to a drop in revenue, and thus a possible cutback in services. RAC, as some of you may not know is a not-for-profit federally registered company. What this means it that it is geared to not make a substantial profit, and at the same time should not be making significant loss either. But RAC is in a loss position, and as such is asking all former members to renew their memberships, and all members to talk to your fellow hams and if they are not a member, extol to them the virtues of being a member of RAC.

Remember, as the only national amateur radio organization in Canada, RAC represents you to the federal government (Industry Canada) and on the international front. This crucial representation is made possible through membership support. Your membership will help to ensure the continuation of the Amateur Radio Service. Membership in RAC is a must for the serious radio amateur, new or experienced. I invite you to be a part of RAC by supporting its future, while at the same time enjoying the benefits that only RAC membership can provide. For a complete listing of services provided for membership please check the following link.

<http://www.rac.ca/en/rac/membership/benefits.php>

2 very important services that RAC provides is the Outgoing QSL bureau and the Liability Insurance. The Outgoing QSL bureau in 2008 sent total of 484 kg in Canadian QSL cards to foreign and domestic QSL bureaus. Additional cards sent in 2008 were held from previous year to package in bigger boxes. Total of 297 mailings was shipped. Total expenses (\$9665.04) were contained to the level less than 10K, applying policy to package bigger boxes and increase waiting period, from typically 3 months to 4-5 months.

The liability Insurance is a great boon for members of RAC. The possible saving on this alone on you household insurance can more than pay for the cost of your RAC membership. Contact your insurance agent, and ask them what it is costing you for your liability insurance on your tower. Is it more than \$50 per year? For those who have been telling RAC that they do not want to subsidize non-RAC members in the insurance plan via Affiliated club insurance, well RAC has listened. And there will be changes to the Insurance program for Affiliated Clubs, which will be communicated to them in the next few months.

RAC members, if I have you email address, please look for my Midwest Regional Newsletter, which should be out shortly. If I do not have you email, please send it to me.

**Newsletter Editor****By Derek, VE4HAY**

Well the time has come for me to hang up my editors hat and pass on this task to someone else. I have been the newsletter editor since 1993. That is some 16 + years of you, the members, having to put up with my poor writing style grammar and spelling errors. Not to mention the slanting of the articles to my way of thought. I tried my best to keep an impartial mind, and to find articles that would be of benefit to everyone (we do have a very diverse hobby). But my time has come up and I feel I must pass the quill pen and ink well onto someone else. Someone who has new ideas and new direction to take the newsletter. Someone who is better at design & layout. Someone who can advance the writing style of the newsletter. Someone like You! So with this short little note, I write my last Newsletter for the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club, as I put my new hat on as RAC's Midwest Regional Director (interim). A position that will take a great deal of my time and effort to ensure that your needs are taken not only to Winnipeg Hams, or VE4's & VE5's but to all hams across Canada. Thank you for the honour of allowing me to produce the Newsletter for you these past 16 years. It has been a lot of fun. -

73,

**Derek Hay**