



# The **NEWSCASTER**

The Official Publication of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club  
<http://www.WinnipegARC.org>

Summer 2015

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VE4BB

## **Welcome Back**

Date: Monday, September 14, 2015  
Time: 7:30 PM  
Place: Dakota Collegiate - Theatre *See you there!*  
661 Dakota Street (At Beliveau Rd.)

## **WARC Meeting Minutes**

**May 11, 2015**

**Taken by Gerry VE4GKS**

Meeting called to order 7:33pm  
Introductions.

### **Minutes**

Minutes from April Moved by Glen VE4GWN  
Seconded by Rolf VE4VB

### **Treasurer's report:**

Opening \$9630. Income \$2713. Expenses \$483.  
Balance \$11860.

### **DX Report**

by Adam VE4SN

### **Flea Market report**

by VE4HK – it was a success. This is Dick's last flea market. He is asking for a replacement.

Motion to adjourn VE4GWN

## **City Of Winnipeg Antenna Policy**

The updated version of the City's Antenna Systems Policy is now posted publicly at the following link:

<http://winnipeg.ca/ppd/planning/AntennaSystemsPolicy/default.stm>

## **Other Important Dates...**

Newscaster: Deadline September 2, 2015  
WARC: Monthly Meeting Dates...  
October 19, 2015 AGM  
WSC: 2nd Thursday of month  
Breakfast - Garden City Inn  
ARES: Tuesday, August 13, 2015  
Sir Wm Stephenson Library  
765 Keewatin Street - Garry Frankel  
VE4VD is scheduled to speak on  
Doctors Without Borders (MSF)  
Other: Fall Flea Market -  
Sunday, October 18, 2015

## **WARC Executive for 2015-2016...**

President	David Latour	ve4dla@gmail.com
Vice-Pres.	Ross Gibson	rossg@prefixservice.com
Treasurer	Bob Jacobs	rcjacobs@hotmail.ca
Secretary	Gerry Sherman	ve4gks@outlook.com
Membership Programs	Ross Gibson	rossg@prefixservice.com
Director	Rolf Bandlow	rolban@mymts.net
Past President	Garth Blumm	ve4gwb@gmail.com
Public Information Officer....	Kurt Sargent	kurtsargent@gmail.com

## **Nostalgia Radio CJNU 93.7**

**CJNU 93.7 FM is where you'll hear the very best easy listening music that has been popular over the past eight decade**

**Listen On-Line at ...**

**<http://www.cjnu.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**

## Manitoba Repeater Society

The Manitoba Repeater Society operates and maintains a linked repeater system across southern Manitoba, including Winnipeg.

If you are a user of any of these repeaters, we urge you to support the group by becoming a member.

VE4MAN - Starbuck, VE4CDN - Morris,  
VE4PLP - Portage, VE4MRS - Bruxelles,  
VE4GIM - Gimli, VE4MIL - Milner Ridge  
VE4EMB - Hadashville, VE4FAL - Falcon Lake,  
VE4WPG - Winnipeg, VE4VJ - Winnipeg, VE4WRS  
- Autopatch & IRLP link Winnipeg

Links to repeaters in Ontario, Brandon, Selkirk and soon to be the Dauphin & area.

[info@mb-repeater-society.ca](mailto:info@mb-repeater-society.ca)  
<http://www.mb-repeater-society.ca/>  
<http://www.facebook.com/ManitobaRepeaterSociety>

### *Fall Flea Market* *By Dick VE4HK*

The WARC Fall Flea Market is scheduled for Heritage Victoria Community Center, Sunday, October 18, 2015.

Do you have too much stuff cluttering up your ham-shack, garage, storage locker, back yard etc.? Has your spouse threatened to exile you to the garden shed for a month in January, unless you clean up the mess?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, better contact Ruth VE4XYL, right away, and book a table or two for the Flea Market.

She can be reached at [ve4se@mts.net](mailto:ve4se@mts.net), or 204-837-6915.

*Tables are only \$5.00 each for WARC members,  
and \$10.00 each for non members.*

Please remember, I am retiring as Flea Market Coordinator after the Fall Flea Market. I am looking for a responsible person to mentor, and take over as Coordinator. I have a complete critical path, showing the Coordinators responsibilities.

If no one takes over, the October Flea Market will be the last for the club. It is important to remember that

the Spring and Fall Flea Markets are a very important source of revenue for WARC. It may be necessary to raise annual dues, without these Flea Markets to defray our costs.

Please contact me if you are interested in taking over as Flea Market Coordinator. I can be reached at [ve4hk@rac.ca](mailto:ve4hk@rac.ca) or 204-256-3143. I am usually on VE4WPG repeater 147.390 MHz

Dick Maguire VE4HK  
Flea Market Coordinator

### *RAC Foundation Grant* *By Rob Striemer VE4SHS*

The amateur radio team at Shaftesbury High School received a Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) Foundation grant.

The presentation of the cheque was made by RAC president Geoff Bawden (VE4BAW) to three grade 11 students, Dylan Fijal (VA4DFJ) and brothers Diljot (VE4DSG) and Navjot Garcha (VE4NSG) in the Shaftesbury ARISS Telebridge Station (VE4ISS) during Field Day 2015.

The grant will be used to upgrade a 2 metre satellite tracking antenna system. RAC raises the money from donors, provides them with tax-deductible receipts, and then disburses the grants. The Shaftesbury team would like to thank the donor(s) for their generous support of educational amateur radio programs.



For more information on RAC Foundation Grants visit <http://wp.rac.ca/rac-foundation-faq/>

For the latest news on the amateur radio programs at Shaftesbury High School, visit

<http://shsballoonproject.pbworks.com>

## *WARC's Basic Short Course Development - 1*

*By David Rosner VE4DAR*

How did WARC end up with such a successful Basic Short Course (BSC)? Having led the developmental process, here's my view on what happened: first, the history; next time, the educational components.

We began by copying Basic Courses organized by the late Sandy VE4SZ at the Seniors. After that 72-hour course (12 weeks of three-hour classes 2x per week) based on RAC's Study Guide, we tried mimicking Alberta's weekend course. Eventually, we got to our current Basic Short Course of 5 consecutive Saturday classes. Let's examine some recent history of ham education in the Winnipeg area to extract relevant factors.

Courses run by the Winnipeg Senior Citizen Radio Club ("The Seniors") in the 80's and 90's seem to base some of their success on these factors:

1. Many students had military experience so they came to the course knowing radio procedures, the phonetic alphabet, and how to use radios. Some, especially farmers, knew how to assemble and repair equipment. Others were trained in electronics.
2. Each course had a Chief Instructor, who kept things well organized; gave students course materials and a full set of all possible exam questions at the first class; and coordinated instruction done by several experienced hams.
3. The course ran about 72 hours, providing students sufficient time to understand the content and rehearse for the Basic exam.

That system graduated many students. However, as a professional educator taking courses there, I was concerned seeing some instructors "teach" by reading aloud, line by line, from overheads copied from the textbook. I determined my instructors would be hand-picked and be given a course on how to teach. (As we all know, just because a person can do something well, doesn't mean he can teach it well.)

Courses run privately by electrical engineer, Rick Lord VE4OV, also were successful.

Having observed Rick's teaching many times, I know Rick to be an outstanding instructor. He brings obvious knowledge and years of ham experience to students in a dynamic way. As the only instructor in his courses, he was able to provide continuity from class to class and get to know his students, something current courses lack.

WARC's first few 72-hour Basic Courses at the Seniors had marginal success. We were targeting youth including Air Cadets. Although the Seniors supported our work and provided some students, their classroom limited our classes to 18 students. Digital projector, Internet connection in the classroom, and other teaching aids weren't readily available. Dropouts were considerable, partly due to course lengths.

Moving WARC's courses to Red River College (RRC) brought several advantages. We got an air conditioned, well-lit, large classroom equipped with digital projector and Internet connection. RRC advertized and administered the courses for us. However, they charged \$150 for the course and required a minimum number of registrants. After several successful courses, we had to cancel some courses due to insufficient enrollments. Mostly the high course fees prompted our return to the Seniors.

After several 72-hour courses at the Seniors, we tried mimicking Alberta's weekend course, but spread it over several weeks. Alberta's booklet contained several errors in fact. Also, students complained that the bare bones booklet didn't have enough information and made learning difficult. That's when we created WARC's Basic Short Course based on RAC's Study Guide. Each course has a Chief Instructor.

Several Basic Short Courses have been held at Shaftesbury High School (SHS). SHS has modern classrooms. SHS's programs of balloon-launched satellites and a Telebridge Station require involved students to get their ham ticket. Many of them enrolled in our Basic Short Courses. However, much of their success is due to the encouragement and extra tutoring provided by their science teachers, Rob Streimer VE4SHS and Adrian Deakin VA4AMD, since recruited into our instructional cadre.

WARC has worked hard to build a cadre of instructors. All are hams; some are "old timers" and some are recent grads from our courses. Initially, we held orientation sessions for all instructors prior to each course. We discussed course "theory"; house rules; teaching assignments; and finalized the course schedule including alternates. Later, we began to rotate instructors and alternates from course to course, and integrate new instructors. These 20+ volunteers create our magic.

Next time, we will examine the educational components needed for success.

Registrations are open for BSC 10 ...

[http://winnipegarc.org/basic\\_course.html](http://winnipegarc.org/basic_course.html)

**Winnipeg ARES**  
**Jeff Dovyak VE4MBQ**  
 ve4mbq@rac.ca

Twenty-seven (27) Winnipeg ARES members and affiliates provided volunteer Amateur Radio communications for the RCAF Run SUN 31 MAY. Thanks to Craig VE4CDM for Coordinating the ARES component. Thanks to:

VA4s DFJ, JCH, RWT, VMM, IAM, AJG  
 VE4s HQ, MWH, SIG, MMW, JDH, DLA, BOY, TSY, HK, MMG, SE, DJS, GKS, KAZ, JFK, TTH, JAH, CHT, GWN, TRO and CDM.

Eighty-seven (87) Amateur Radio Operators from at least five Amateur Radio organizations came together to provide an excellent public service communications product during the Manitoba Marathon 21 JUN. As usual the support of Manitoba Repeater Society is key to having a reliable race day communications infrastructure. See next month's newsletter for more information

Our 30 JUN General Meeting was debrief sessions for both RCAF Run and Manitoba Marathon.



Garry Frankel 2015

**30 JUN Debrief Participants**  
 Photo Credit Garry Frankel VE4VD

At press time we are just past the halfway point in our Summer Severe Weather Season. ARES members who volunteer as CANWARN Net Controllers have run at least six (6) Severe Weather Nets at VE4WWO. A reminder that these folks are on-call 0930-1730h or 1730-2130h in one week blocks. Thanks to Brad VE4WTZ for donating an LDG IT-100 Automatic Antenna Tuner for use with the IC-718 at VE4WWO (good to get Kent's Versa-Tuner replaced before someone wrecked it). The season summary will be published in the OCT newsletter.

Our next General Meeting is TUE 18 AUG 1900h Sir

Wm Stephenson Library 765 Keewatin St. Garry Frankel VE4VD is scheduled to speak on Doctors Without Borders (MSF).

About a dozen or so ARES members will be providing volunteer communications for the Parkinson Super-Walk SAT 12 SEP. We need approximately thirty Amateurs for the Santa Claus/Grey Cup Parade SAT 28 NOV, so far we have sixteen (VA4s AJG, RWT and VE4s DWG, GIS, HK, MMW, KAZ, JFK, JAH, TRO, JDH, VD, MWH, HAZ, GWN, MBQ). To volunteer for Santa Claus Parade please contact [ve4mbq@rac.ca](mailto:ve4mbq@rac.ca)

**Winnipeg Digital Repeater Group Inc.**  
 By Mark Blumm VE4MAB

The Winnipeg Digital Repeater Group Inc. held it's 5th Annual General meeting on July 29, 2015, and formalized the merging of the HSMM project into our group for the benefit of both.

Thanks to the HSMM project and Les Bester VA4LES of [LES.NET](http://LES.NET), who was in attendance, for donating a direct internet connection right on the roof that the HSMM project is now sharing with us.

Our membership structure for the 2015 - 2016 membership year have been changed to include an additional \$ 10 charge for members who are not members of RAC. This is to offset the additional costs of our insurance for members who are not RAC members.

The second change to the membership application is a selection of your interest. That is to say simply check on the application (Or drop down menu on-line) which project you wish your membership to support - D-star, the HSMM project or Both. This will help us direct funds to the projects that are of interest to you.

You can Join/Renew the Winnipeg Digital Repeater Group on-line at ...

<http://www.ve4wdr.org/membership.html>

The current executives were re-elected for 2015-15 ...

Mark Blumm VE4MAB - President,  
 Dennis Hurt VE4XE as Secretary,  
 Garth Blumm VE4GWB - Treasurer,

Joining the executive are  
 Derek Hay VE4HAY - Vice-President  
 Dan Keiser VE4DRK - Membership chair

**Catch you on D-Star or Amateur WiFi !**



## **Radio Boys See the Sights CONTEST TRAVELS OF VE4EA and K3KU By Art Boyars K3KU/VE4VTR, with Cary Rubenfeld VE4EA**

*Note: A shorter version of this article was published as "Highly Motivated Tourists" in the Potomac Valley Radio Club Newsletter for July 2015, available at [www.pvrc.org](http://www.pvrc.org), on the Reference tab. PVRC is one of the major contest clubs; Art has been a member since 1966.*

### **Part 1 – Art Gets to Winnipeg**

Cary and I met through ham radio HF contests, one of our favorite aspects of the hobby. We enjoy the chance to say hello to hundreds of old friends over a weekend, or to meet hundreds of new friends. And they are mostly friends. After all, ham radio contesting is unique – to succeed, you have to cooperate with your competition. To make a QSO you have to pass him the ball, and he has to pass it back.

We enjoy the rush of "running" stations – sitting on one frequency, calling CQ, and having the other stations compete to contact you. Running is a great way to make lots of QSOs and push up your score. We enjoy the challenge of searching for "multipliers" – stations in rare geographic areas, peculiar to each contest. Every additional multiplier that you contact can give a big increase in your score. We enjoy the real-time strategy decisions – what band to use, when to call CQ, when to search for CQers, when to focus on finding multipliers.

My own favorite contest is the ARRL Sweepstakes, particularly on CW – "SS CW." You need to make QSOs with stations in Canada and the USA and their territories. Unlike a DX contest, where each country is a multiplier and you never get them all, in SS the multipliers are the 83 ARRL and RAC administrative Sections. I've had a lot of fun and some modest success in SS CW with my small station at home in Maryland, 100W and a 200-foot dipole. In SS I can "run" some, but if you want to really run, you have to be loud or be in a rare Section that everyone else needs. Being in Maryland doesn't help. Like many contesters – or DXers -- I always dreamed of operating from a rare location.

For a few years Manitoba had been rare in SS CW. I had a fascination with Manitoba even way back to the mid-1960's. Around 2010 I began thinking about asking one of the then few VE4s active in the contest about making an expedition. Then, around the end of 2012 a new enthusiastic Manitoban contestester showed up: VE4EA. After working him in three different contests over a few months, I looked him up and wrote a letter explaining my situation and asking if he could help me find a place to stay and a place to operate SS CW in

Winnipeg. He quickly replied, "Come stay with us; we'll operate my station."

So, in November 2013 I visited Cary to operate SS CW. We bonded, sharing some strong cultural interests outside ham radio. I got to meet some of the other Winnipeg contesters: Ed VE4VT, Kelly VE4XT, and Ed VE4YU; more new friends. Cary's station was in its temporary set-up on a card table in his living room. To get ready for the contest we still had to put up his trap dipole. There were some adventures with that dipole, but we managed to get everything working in time. In the contest, with Kelly dropping in to help operate, we did pretty well in the new-for-2013 Multi-operator Low Power Class – First Place in Canada, and fourth overall, well behind the top three, but those three have some big antennas.

Cary and I had such a great time that it was just natural for me to return for the 2014 RAC Canada Day Contest. Cary's friends Jack W6NF/VE4SNA and Shelly K7MKL would be up from Reno visiting their daughter. They and Cary would be operating Field Day with WARC, and they would stick around for the 24-hour Canada Day contest, which started Monday evening. Cary hoped we could break the record for Multi-Operator, Single-Transmitter, Low-Power.

I arrived Sunday mid-day as the WARC Field Day was being taken down. I'd been up way early for my flight, but everybody looked more tired than I did. With a big push we got Cary's station reassembled, now in its permanent location in an unused bedroom. We also tried setting up Jack's transceiver as a "multiplier station" (allows you to interrupt your running to work new multipliers on other bands), and we put up another wire antenna for 40 meters. The contest was, again, a blast – Happy Canada Day! We finished second in our class, about 11% behind the winner who used the VA3RAC call. They smashed the old record.

We out-pointed them by almost 15% in QSOs, but they had and amazing 83 multipliers to our (pretty good) 65. I think they had really big antennas.



*Adam VE4SN  
checking Art's  
answer sheet*

*Watch for Part 2 in the September Issue!*

## ***Updated RAC 0–30 MHz Band Plan Released***

The RAC Band Planning Committee has released an updated band plan for all LF and HF (0-30 MHz) amateur allocations. This includes the new LF bands at 2200m and 600m, the 60m USB channels, and changes to reflect current best practice on other bands.

The updated band plan represents the RAC Band Planning Committee's year-long review of all LF and HF allocations. It is intended to be a quick reference guide summarizing all bands on a single page. Special thanks go to Vince d'Eon, VE6LK, for designing the graphic and enduring many revisions.

The RAC 0 - 30 MHz Band Plan is available for viewing on the RAC web site: <http://wp.rac.ca/rac-0-30-mhz-band-plan/> or by navigating through the "How to Start?" tab on the RAC home page. A downloadable PDF file is available by clicking the image.

Comments and suggestions are welcome. Please use the comment form <http://wp.rac.ca/executives/> and select International Affairs Officer. Comments will be acknowledged and forwarded to the full RAC Band Planning Committee for consideration as future updates.

George Gorsline VE3YV

International Affairs Officer

### ***From Your RAC Midwest Director Derek Hay VE4HAY***

#### **RAC Facebook Page**

Are you a Facebook user? Do you know that RAC is on Facebook as just one of the many avenues we are using to promote Amateur radio in Canada?

Recently we have switched from a Facebook group (community type) to a Facebook page (business type).

The RAC Facebook public page will enable us to avail of future integrations and applications that can tie into our main web site. We are also complying with the Facebook regulations as they apply to a business operating Facebook pages.

If you were/are a member of our Facebook group, we ask you to join our Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/radioamateurscdn>

In a few days we will be shutting down the RAC Facebook public group.



Are you a  
**RAC** member??

<http://www.rac.ca>

#### ***RAC Member Coverage:***

Members of RAC, who are also a member of an insured Affiliated Club i.e. a Club that is participating in the RAC Club Liability Insurance Program, are eligible to obtain liability coverage for your personal Amateur Radio activities, at no extra cost. This program provides the same limits of coverage as the Affiliated Club insurance for your personal station and activities i.e. a home station, mobile and portable operation.

1. To be eligible for personal liability coverage, you **MUST** be **BOTH** a current RAC member **AND** a member of an insured RAC Affiliated Club.
2. RAC members who are **NOT** also members of an insured Affiliated Club are **NOT** eligible for coverage.
3. Liability coverage is offered at no extra cost to qualifying members, as a benefit of membership.
4. Please refer to the Policy Summary for details of coverage.
5. You must be a paid up member of both RAC and a RAC insured Affiliated Club to maintain coverage.

If you have any questions or require further assistance please contact the RAC Insurance Program Administrator at: [ve3ext@primus.ca](mailto:ve3ext@primus.ca)

***Amateur Radios, Antennas, and more are  
available from your local  
Winnipeg ICOM Dealer...***

#### ***Micro-HighTech Communications Ltd.***

197 Leila Avenue, Winnipeg, MB  
(204)-783-1885

Contact George Hill, VE4GDH

**Visit their web site..**  
<http://www.microhightech.ca/>

## ***Early Wireless and Radio in Manitoba***

***1909-1924 (Taken from a Manitoba Historical Society document by George F. Reynolds (VE4AG) published in the 1978-1979 season)***

***Submitted by Ed VE4YU***

Less than eight years after Marconi had first spanned the Atlantic by wireless on December 12, 1901, amateur operators, or "hams" as they are generally known, were active in Manitoba.

In the fall of 1909, Alex V. Polson and some of his classmates at Central Collegiate Institute on Kate Street began experimenting with wireless. Young Polson had visited a United Wireless Telegraph Company station while traveling in the eastern United States that summer. When he returned to Winnipeg he told his friends all about the marvels of wireless and they decided to build an outfit of their own.

Their transmitter had a one-inch spark coil, glass plate condenser, tuning helix and spark gap. Messages were sent from Polson's home at 94 Cathedral Avenue to Melville Sayer who was living on Graham Avenue in the Alexandria Block.

The receiver consisted of a Hughes-type microphonic detector, which had a steel needle resting on carbon prisms, a tuning coil and headphones.

This is the first recorded use of wireless in Manitoba. Because of the success that attended these trials, there were soon many others who took up this new and fascinating hobby.

In February, 1911, the Canadian Central Wireless Club was organized in Winnipeg. Available records suggest that this was the first amateur wireless club in Canada. The Wireless Association of Toronto came into existence later that year.

In March, 1919, the Winnipeg Radio Club was formed. The president was J. Ralph Foster; vice-president was Douglas C. Chapman while the energetic secretary was Graham Spry.

Spry, Manitoba Rhodes scholar in 1922, later became co-founder and president of the Canadian Radio League. The league was the driving force behind the establishment of nation-wide, publicly owned broadcasting in Canada which culminated in the incorporation of the CBC.

The club met in the old red brick University of Manitoba Arts building on Kennedy Street just north of the Law Courts. There were some 20 members, mostly war vets with signaling experience plus a few students.

### **VHF Nets .....**

**MRS Nets - 147.390 Mhz +**

**Sundays & Thursdays at 9:00 pm**

This net covers Winnipeg and the MRS linked repeater system, and includes various announcements on amateur radio activities, plus Dick's "Swap and Shop"

**The Morning Net 147.390 Mhz+**

**Weekdays at 9:00 am**

This net covers Winnipeg and hams of all ages are welcome to join in this net which is always a lot of fun!

**Friendly Manitoba IRLP Net**

**Net - 145.450 Mhz - (Node # 1066)**

**On - The Great Lakes Reflector #9611**

**Wednesdays at 7:00 pm**

This net connects you with the world using the internet as the backbone!

### **D-Star Nets on the VE4WDR System using**

**UHF 444.575+ DV Port B and/or**

**VHF 145.490- DV Port C**

TransCanada D-Star Net - Fridays at 8:00 pm

On "Free Star" Reflector 21 ( XRF021BO )

HamNation D-Star Net Wednesday at 9:15pm

On "DPlus" Reflector 14 ( REF014CL )

Ozark Mtn. D-Star Net - Sundays at 8:00 pm

On "DPlus" Reflector 1 ( REF001CL )

More nets <http://www.dstarinfo.com/nets.aspx>

### **HF Nets .....**

**MB Evening Phone Net - 3747 Khz**

**Daily at 7:00 PM CT**

**Prairie Traffic Net (CW) 3660 Khz**

**Daily at 01:30 UTC**

**Aurora # 2 Net 7055 Khz**

**Daily at 02:30 UTC**

**MB Wx Net 3743 Khz**

**Daily at 8:30 AMC**

### **ARES Manitoba Monthly Readiness Net**

**4TH Sunday of each month**

**4:00 PM - 4:10 PM -7,075 Khz**

**4:10 PM - 4:20PM -3,675 Khz LSB 5,375 USB**

**Manitoba IRLP Nodes - Use reflector 9003**

**Winnipeg VE4WSC (Node 1809) Pinawa**

**VE4PIN (Node 1981), Flin Flon VE5ROD**

**(Node 1750), DARC Swan River VE4SRR**

**(Node 1700)**

*The Newscaster* is the Official Publication of **Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club**

Please send your submissions/comments to the editor Mark VE4MAB, - [newscaster@WinnipegARC.org](mailto:newscaster@WinnipegARC.org)