



# The **NEWSCASTER**

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

February 2021

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VE4BB

## "CNIB's Amateur Radio Program" By Randy Nelson VE3WRN & Jason Rowe VA7UT

Date: Tuesday, February 9, 2021

Time: 7:30 PM An "On-Line" Meeting

<https://join.freeconferencecall.com/treasurer523>

In view of the current "Social Distancing"  
measures join WARC for this online meeting

### Other Important Dates:

Newscafter: Deadline February 25, 2021

WARC: Monthly Meeting Dates **2nd Tuesdays**

March 9, 2021 (Venue TBA) - Starting  
out on 6M by Ed Richardson VE4EAR  
April 13, 2021 - Home Brew Night  
May 11, 2021 - TBA  
June 8, 2021 - Elections

ARES: Tuesday, February 16, 2021  
Will be an **on-line** "Remote" Zoom  
meeting Winnipeg ARES members will  
be advised by e-mail

Other: Many events are on hold due to the  
ongoing Covid 19 pandemic.

### WARC Executive for 2020-2021...

President	John Romanec	<a href="mailto:ve4vjr@gmail.com">ve4vjr@gmail.com</a>
Vice-Pres.	Drew Kwartel	<a href="mailto:drewk1166@gmail.com">drewk1166@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	David Latour	<a href="mailto:ve4dla@gmail.com">ve4dla@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Dave Terrick	<a href="mailto:dave.terrick@gmail.com">dave.terrick@gmail.com</a>
Membership Programs	Jerry Volkens	<a href="mailto:jerryvolkers@hotmail.com">jerryvolkers@hotmail.com</a>
Education	Roberto Urrea	<a href="mailto:va4.rul@gmail.com">va4.rul@gmail.com</a>
Past President	Colin Mantay	<a href="mailto:ve4cem@rac.ca">ve4cem@rac.ca</a>
Public Information Officer....	Vacant	

### From The President -

Greetings to everyone! Here we are - the beginning of the end of winter. Hoping everyone doing well and has avoided the Covid virus or any other type of illness.

It is a very trying time for a lot of people especially the elderly and those that live alone. We can all try to help by calling those we know who are in that situation and try to bring them a little of social time. Having Amateur Radio as a hobby is also a help. Whether you are into HF or VHF you still have the chance to get out the air and have a chat with someone.

We will once again not be having a hamfest this May. With all the uncertainty of the government's vaccination program and the new variants of the Covid virus, having a Hamfest in May would not be a prudent thing to do. We are considering its postponement to the fall but that is very much still in a discussion phase with a lot of dependencies before we entertain that plan.

Our general meetings will continue to be online and have not been informed otherwise so we expect this to continue for the next few months. On that note... This month's general meeting will feature Randy Nelson VE3WRN and Jason Rowe VA7UT from the CNIB's Amateur Radio Program. How many of you knew that the CNIB had such a program? Come join us to hear how the CNIB helps blind Hams get on the air. Promises to be very interesting.

It may seem a little early but we want to remind everyone that the April General meeting is the annual "Home Brew" night. Since there are not as many things being home brewed by Hams these days feel free to present any items you have purchased or seen that you believe would be useful, unique, interesting, etc to the Ham community as well. Being an online meeting makes it a little "different" but not by much so don't be shy, it is very easy to do, and start thinking of things you can share with us!

In the meantime please stay healthy and we look forward to the day we can meet in person again!

73, John VE4VJR

### 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

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**Minutes**

**WARC General Meeting January 12, 2021**

Call to Order  
7:33

**Introductions:**  
17 attendees

**RAC Report:**  
Ed Richardson gave the RAC report and announced that as of January 1, 2021 he is now the RAC Midwest Director (MB, SK).

**DX Report:**  
Ed Richardson VE4EAR gave the DX report.  
- 15M open occasionally to SA, Car and very occasionally to EU in mid morning.  
- 10M showing some life to SA but very weak.  
- 80M good to EU at sunrise, sunset and at their sunrise/sunset, also to JA around 6 - 7 AM for us.

**ARES Report:**  
Jeff Dovyak informed everyone that the ARES report is in that last Newscaster.

**Program/Presentation:**  
The Workings of the Outgoing QSL Bureau - Nenad Stevanovic VE3EXY, RAC outgoing QSL Bureau manager

Previous meeting's minutes  
No objections, comments.

**Business:**  
- Ed Richardson VE4EAR from RadioSport Manitoba presented a new RSM sponsored DX Marathon Award for VE4's only starting with 2020 to promote the interest in HF radio.

**Treasurer's report:**  
As per David Latour VE4DL, as of December 31 2020:

Books	
Open	\$ 6365.20
Inc	\$ 224.15
Exp	\$ 281.74
Close	\$ 6307.61

PayPal	
Open	\$ 1004.67
Inc	\$ 193.20
Fee	\$ 7.70
Payment	\$ 150.00
Close	\$ 1040.17

Bank	
Open	\$ 5783.03
Dep	\$ 30.02

Clr	\$ 1704.57
Close	\$ 4108.48
Out	\$ 1461.53

RDF	\$ 5515.34
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Total Cash Balance \$ 9623.82

**WARC Cable Shop  
Open For Business!**

RG213 Coax - \$1.30 a foot  
RG-8X Coax - \$0.90 a foot

Cut to length & terminated with PL259 \$12 extra  
Flexweave 14ga antenna wire - \$0.60 a foot.  
All items are American-made and high quality.

WARC Members can order cables by emailing [cableshop@winnipegarc.org](mailto:cableshop@winnipegarc.org) and we'll quote the price and invoice them. PayPal, EMT or cheque only.

**Also available soon in the Mart:**

WARC baseball caps - \$20  
WARC ID badges - \$10  
WARC coffee mugs - \$12

**Membership report:**  
82 members currently, 10 of which are new Hams.

**Education report:**  
Basic and Advanced books are in stock with Roberto VA4RUL and are \$50 each which can be paid via PayPal on WARC's website.

Adjourn 8:54

**Winnipeg ARES**  
**Jeff Dovyak VE4MBQ**  
[ve4mbq@rac.ca](mailto:ve4mbq@rac.ca)

Our General Meeting was held remotely 19 JAN. Our roster has been cleaned up, delinquent members have been deleted. Our Telephone Fan-out lists have been cleaned up too with several Wpg ARES members stepping up as "phoners" or alternates including VE4sEAR, ESX, MWH, PXL and STL. I am in the process of distributing our new photo-identification cards.

Ed Oakes VE4OAK has resigned. Jeff Kazuk VE4JFK is our newest member.

Our next monthly meeting is TUE 16 FEB 1900h on Zoom, again hosted by Craig VE4CDM, Wpg ARES members have been advised by e-mail

**Manitoba Marathon**  
**Jeff Dovyak VE4MBQ**  
[ve4mbq@rac.ca](mailto:ve4mbq@rac.ca)

**UPDATE**

The 2021 Manitoba Marathon will NOT be held Father's Day weekend. Marathon leadership is currently considering dates Labor Day weekend.

## Contest Calendar

Extracted From

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>

### February 2021

QRP Fox Hunt 0200Z-0330Z, Feb 3  
 Phone Weekly Test - Fray 0230Z-0300Z, Feb 3  
 CWops Mini-CWT Test 1300Z-1400Z, Feb 3  
 VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest 1700Z-2000Z, Feb 3  
 CWops Mini-CWT Test 1900Z-2000Z, Feb 3  
 UKEICC 80m Contest 2000Z-2100Z, Feb 3  
 CWops Mini-CWT Test 0300Z-0400Z, Feb 4  
 RTTYOPS Weeksprint 1700Z-1900Z, Feb 4  
 NRAU 10m Activity Contest 1800Z-1900Z, Feb 4 (CW)  
 & 1900Z-2000Z, Feb 4 (SSB) & 2000Z-2100Z, Feb 4 (FM)  
 & 2100Z-2200Z, Feb 4 (Dig)  
 SKCC Sprint Europe 2000Z-2200Z, Feb 4  
 NCCC RTTY Sprint 0145Z-0215Z, Feb 5  
 QRP Fox Hunt 0200Z-0330Z, Feb 5  
 NCCC Sprint Ladder 0230Z-0300Z, Feb 5  
 K1USN Slow Speed Test 2000Z-2100Z, Feb 5  
 Vermont QSO Party 0000Z, Feb 6 to 2400Z, Feb 7  
 10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB  
 0001Z, Feb 6 to 2359Z, Feb 7  
 EurAsia HF Championship 0800Z-1700Z, Feb 6  
 F9AA Cup, CW 1200Z, Feb 6 to 1200Z, Feb 7  
 Mexico RTTY International Contest  
 1200Z, Feb 6 to 2359Z, Feb 7  
 FYBO Winter QRP Sprint 1400Z-2400Z, Feb 6  
 Minnesota QSO Party 1400Z-2400Z, Feb 6  
 FISTS Saturday Sprint 1600Z-1800Z, Feb 6  
 British Columbia QSO Party  
 1600Z, Feb 6 to 0359Z, Feb 7  
 and 1600Z-2359Z, Feb 7  
 AGCW Straight Key Party 1600Z-1900Z, Feb 6  
 European Union DX Contest  
 1800Z, Feb 6 to 1800Z, Feb 7  
 North American Sprint, CW  
 2300Z, Feb 6 to 0300Z, Feb 7  
 K1USN Slow Speed Test 0000Z-0100Z, Feb 8  
 ARRL School Club Roundup  
 1300Z, Feb 8 to 2359Z, Feb 12  
 OK1WC Memorial 1630Z-1729Z, Feb 8  
 Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest  
 0100Z-0159Z, Feb 9  
 RTTYOPS Weeksprint 1700Z-1900Z, Feb 9  
 NAQCC CW Sprint 0130Z-0330Z, Feb 10  
 QRP Fox Hunt 0200Z-0330Z, Feb 10  
 Phone Weekly Test - Fray 0230Z-0300Z, Feb 10  
 CWops Mini-CWT Test 1300Z-1400Z, Feb 10  
 VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest 1700Z-2000Z, Feb 10  
 CWops Mini-CWT Test 1900Z-2000Z, Feb 10  
 RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data  
 2000Z-2130Z, Feb 10  
 CWops Mini-CWT Test 0300Z-0400Z, Feb 11  
 RTTYOPS Weeksprint 1700Z-1900Z, Feb 11  
 NCCC RTTY Sprint 0145Z-0215Z, Feb 12  
 QRP Fox Hunt 0200Z-0330Z, Feb 12  
 NCCC Sprint 0230Z-0300Z, Feb 12  
 K1USN Slow Speed Test 2000Z-2100Z, Feb 12  
 CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest  
 0000Z, Feb 13 to 2359Z, Feb 14  
 SARL Field Day Contest  
 1000Z, Feb 13 to 1000Z, Feb 14

Asia-Pacific Spring Sprint, CW 1100Z-1300Z, Feb 13  
 Dutch PACC Contest 1200Z, Feb 13 to 1200Z, Feb 14  
 KCJ Topband Contest 1200Z, Feb 13 to 2359Z, Feb 14  
 SKCC Weekend Sprintathon  
 1200Z, Feb 13 to 2400Z, Feb 14  
 YLRL YL-OM Contest 1400Z, Feb 13 to 0200Z, Feb 15  
 HamCation QSO Party 1500Z, Feb 13 to 0300Z, Feb 14  
 OMISS QSO Party 1500Z, Feb 13 to 1500Z, Feb 14  
 Feld Hell Sprint 1900Z-2059Z, Feb 13  
 RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest 1900Z-2300Z, Feb 13  
 AWA Amplitude Modulation QSO Party  
 2300Z, Feb 13 to 2300Z, Feb 14  
 PODXS 070 Club Valentine Sprint  
 0000Z-2359Z, Feb 14  
 Balkan HF Contest 1300Z-1700Z, Feb 14  
 K1USN Slow Speed Test 0000Z-0100Z, Feb 15  
 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint  
 0100Z-0300Z, Feb 15  
 CQC Winter QSO Party 0100Z-0259Z, Feb 15  
 OK1WC Memorial 1630Z-1729Z, Feb 15  
 RSGB FT4 Contest Series 2000Z-2130Z, Feb 15  
 Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest  
 0100Z-0159Z, Feb 16  
 RTTYOPS Weeksprint 1700Z-1900Z, Feb 16  
 QRP Fox Hunt 0200Z-0330Z, Feb 17  
 Phone Weekly Test - Fray 0230Z-0300Z, Feb 17  
 CWops Mini-CWT Test 1300Z-1400Z, Feb 17  
 CWops Mini-CWT Test 1900Z-2000Z, Feb 17  
 AGCW Semi-Automatic Key Evening  
 1900Z-2030Z, Feb 17  
 CWops Mini-CWT Test 0300Z-0400Z, Feb 18  
 RTTYOPS Weeksprint 1700Z-1900Z, Feb 18  
 NCCC RTTY Sprint 0145Z-0215Z, Feb 19  
 QRP Fox Hunt 0200Z-0330Z, Feb 19  
 NCCC Sprint 0230Z-0300Z, Feb 19  
 K1USN Slow Speed Test 2000Z-2100Z, Feb 19  
 ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW  
 0000Z, Feb 20 to 2400Z, Feb 21  
 Russian PSK WW Contest  
 1200Z, Feb 20 to 1159Z, Feb 21  
 FISTS Sunday Sprint 2100Z-2300Z, Feb 21  
 Run for the Bacon QRP Contest  
 2300Z, Feb 21 to 0100Z, Feb 22  
 K1USN Slow Speed Test 0000Z-0100Z, Feb 22  
 QCX Challenge 1300Z-1400Z, Feb 22  
 OK1WC Memorial 1630Z-1729Z, Feb 22  
 QCX Challenge 1900Z-2000Z, Feb 22  
 Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest  
 0100Z-0159Z, Feb 23  
 QCX Challenge 0300Z-0400Z, Feb 23  
 RTTYOPS Weeksprint 1700Z-1900Z, Feb 23  
 SKCC Sprint 0000Z-0200Z, Feb 24  
 QRP Fox Hunt 0200Z-0330Z, Feb 24  
 Phone Weekly Test - Fray 0230Z-0300Z, Feb 24  
 CWops Mini-CWT Test 1300Z-1400Z, Feb 24  
 CWops Mini-CWT Test 1900Z-2000Z, Feb 24  
 UKEICC 80m Contest 2000Z-2100Z, Feb 24  
 CWops Mini-CWT Test 0300Z-0400Z, Feb 25  
 RTTYOPS Weeksprint 1700Z-1900Z, Feb 25  
 RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW  
 2000Z-2130Z, Feb 25

*Continued...*

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 NCCC RTTY Sprint 0145Z-0215Z, Feb 26  
 QRP Fox Hunt 0200Z-0330Z, Feb 26  
 NCCC Sprint 0230Z-0300Z, Feb 26  
 K1USN Slow Speed Test 2000Z-2100Z, Feb 26  
 CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB 2200Z, Feb 26 to 2200Z, Feb 28  
 REF Contest, SSB 0600Z, Feb 27 to 1800Z, Feb 28  
 FTn DX Contest 1200Z, Feb 27 to 1200Z, Feb 28  
 UBA DX Contest, CW 1300Z, Feb 27 to 1300Z, Feb 28  
 South Carolina QSO Party 1500Z, Feb 27 to 0159Z, Feb 28  
 NA Collegiate Championship, RTTY 1800Z, Feb 27 to 0559Z, Feb 28  
 North American QSO Party, RTTY 1800Z, Feb 27 to 0559Z, Feb 28  
 High Speed Club CW Contest 1400Z-1700Z, Feb 28  
 Classic Exchange, CW 1400Z, Feb 28 to 0800Z, Mar 1 and 1400Z, Mar 2 to 0800Z, Mar 3  
 North Carolina QSO Party 1500Z, Feb 28 to 0059Z, Mar 1

### Good Luck In The Contest

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 members

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Be sure to present your membership card.

### Confessions of a Casual Contester #10 From the shack of DavidVE4DL

I am not now, nor ever have been, a Contester. I don't see myself becoming a Contester either, if one defines the term to include round-the-clock operations, intravenous fluids and diapers, and frequent relays of cold, one-hand meals. Not my thing, at all. BUT.....

Covid Christmas has come and gone, the family Zoom was a success and a New Year Cousins Zoom planned. Somehow, Christmas dinner for 3 has created leftovers for 13. Fishes and loaves ain't in it. If I can disinter the rowing machine I'll be okay.

My last contest of the year is always RAC Winter Contest, and I had the best one ever this year. This despite Friday night being awful on any band higher than 80m. I don't have 160, which I'm told was "booming" and on 80m my antenna is tuned for 3650-3800 or so. The noisy end of phone. For CW, it's showing SWR over 5 and the transmitter rolls back to



25W output. It's essentially an NVIS outfit on CW. Only 18 QSO for the whole night's effort. I skipped Saturday morning for family obligations, but the afternoon was just amazing. Contacts on 10-80 and both modes adding 116 QSOs to the total. It didn't feel like a lot of work, but the results were amazing for me and my modest station: 13 RAC stations, some multi-band/mode. All provinces and territories. Alaska and Hawaii. One Canadian station on all bands I have. Firsts include NU, YT, PE and Labrador. SK and the Maritimes were all hard work. The North was easy!! except for the long wait to bust pile-ups. A clean sweep of the Arctic from Alaska to Labrador is pretty remarkable, too bad there is no award for it.

I worked about 40% CW and the rest phone. In the end, I had 45 multipliers, which is not bad. My high score was due to strategy mostly; work as many Canadians and RAC stations as possible for the highest scores and multipliers. Here is where the right spotting software is key. Mine shows me spots as they happen, rather than spots on the band around me. So when a RAC popped up or a new Canadian started, I could jump right on them wherever they were. I also find that spinning the dial to work a band is more effective than clicking the next spot. There are a LOT of stations not spotted out there.

I spent some time running phone on 20, 40 and 80. Only added 11 Americans to my list. I avoided Americans while S&P, unless they were stations I already knew well ("friends", as it were,) from previous contests. Or ones that seemed lonely - they could certainly use my extra points.

I'm not planning on contesting in January. I've signed up to be the NA-MB station for SKCC's Straight Key Month, starting on the 2nd. I did this last year, and had a lot of fun. The call is different this year, and some small details are changed, so download the current rules and have at it. This is where you'll find all the QRS operations you crave. Not a contest, all bands are kosher and spotting on the sked page is legit. Just stick to mechanical keys and bugs, no keyers, to stay in character. But we're not discriminatory, all are welcome. Now is the time for the first-time and casual operator.

December also marked achieving WAS on multi-band and multi-mode. A certificate is in the mail. North Dakota has been the long-time hold out for me. Picked up Fargo by CW in the first week.

Vaccines are making the rounds now, and I hope that by RAC Winter Contest 2021, the herd will be immune enough, and a merrier Christmas may be had. But in the meantime, enjoy the benefit of being radio-social and get on the air.

But it isn't contesting. Nope. Not at all.





## 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>

### Manitoba Repeater Society

Reminder that MRS dues **expired on December 31**. You can visit their web site and renew today at <http://mb-repeater-society.ca/>

The Newscaster is sent to members of both WARC and MRS. To continue receiving *The Newscaster* ensure your memberships are up to date.

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Contact George Hill, VE4GDH

E-Mail Steve at ....

[Steve@microhightech.ca](mailto:Steve@microhightech.ca)

### 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 and "Dick's Swap & 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!

**The Newbie Net 147.390 Mhz+  
Saturdays at 10:00 am**

A net for new hams to participate in a Net and get on the air!

**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 5 ( XRF005BO ) **New**  
Also on VE4DMR Timeslot 2 Talkgroup 302050

**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 ( REF091CL ) **New**  
More nets <http://www.dstarinfo.com/nets.aspx>

### HF Nets .....

**MB Evening Phone Net - 3747 Khz  
Daily at 7:00 PM Local Time (CT)**

**Prairie Traffic Net (CW) 3660 Khz  
Daily at 0130 UTC**

**Aurora Net (Afternoon) 7055 Khz  
Daily at 2330 UTC**  
**Aurora # 2 Net (Evening) 7055 Khz  
Daily at 0230 UTC**

**MB Wx Net 3743 Khz  
Daily at 8:30 Local Time (CT)**

*The Newscaster* is the Official Publication of **Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club**  
Please send your submissions/comments to the editor Mark VE4MAB, - [ve4mab@outlook.com](mailto:ve4mab@outlook.com)