



The **NEWSCASTER**

The Official Publication of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club

<http://www.WinnipegARC.org>

December 2023

Facebook [Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club VE4BB](#) Twitter [@ve4bbwarc](#)

VE4BB

Christmas Supper

Date: Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Time: 7:30 PM An **"In-Person" Meeting**

At Salisbury House 787 Liela Avenue

Find it on Google Maps - [Click Here](#)

Christmas Supper Contest

If you are attending the Christmas Supper and wear a Christmas sweater- you are automatically entered in the "Best" Christmas Sweater Contest (note the quotes around "Best"). The winner, who will receive a "fantastic" prize, will be chosen by the rest of the Christmas supper attendees.



Other Important Dates:

Newscaster: Deadline December 28, 2023

WARC: Monthly Meeting Dates **2nd Tuesdays**
January 9, 2024—Presentation by Nolan VE4NOL on "The Basics of residential and equipment bonding and grounding."

ARES: Tuesday, December 19, 2023
In-Person Meeting
Sir William Stephenson Library
765 Keewatin Street
General Meeting—Presentation by Pietra Shirley on Car Co-ops

Check your WARC Membership Status at ...
<http://winnipegarc.org/join.html>

WARC Executive for 2023-2024...

President	Drew Kwartel	drewk.ve4drw@gmail.com
Vice-Pres.	Cary Rubenfeld	VE4EA
Treasurer	Drago Lambeta	VE4DBV
Secretary	John Romanec	ve4vjr@gmail.com
Director	Geoff Bawden	VE4BAW
Director	Nolan Harriott	VE4NOL
Director at Large	Apprentice - Evan Harriott	VE4EVN
Past President	John Romanec	ve4vjr@gmail.com
Membership	Jerry Volkers	VE4GCV
Education		
Public Information Officer....	Vacant	

Winnipeg ICOM Dealer... Micro-HighTech Communications Ltd.

2217 Henderson Hwy, East St. Paul, MB
(Just south of perimeter Hwy)

Ph. (204)-783-1885 Fax (204) 779-7522

Contact George Hill, VE4GDH

or

E-Mail Steve

at Steve@microhightech.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

2
WARC Minutes
November 14, 2023

Call to order
7:31

Introductions, guests, new members, etc...
- 18 in person, 11 on Zoom = 29.

Minutes from previous WARC General meeting

- Approval of October 10, 2023 General meeting minutes as posted in Newscaster.
- Drew VE4DRW motioned to accept, David VE4DL seconded, all were in favour.

Treasurer's Report

- Cary Rubenfeld
Community Builder account = \$6919.31
Community High Rate Savings account = \$239.24
GIC = \$10,000.00

Education Report

- Drago Lambeta, Geoff Bawden
- Neither Dargo nor Geoff present.

Membership report

- Jerry Volkers VE4GCV
- 62 members to date, 6 of which are free.

RAC Report

- Ed Richardson VE4EAR
- Ed not present.

ARES Report

- Jeff Dovyak VE4MBQ
- November 12 is next ARES Annual Meeting.
- Provincial emergency test coming up tomorrow at 13:55
- Toy Mountain campaign started up. Everyone encouraged to donate new unwrapped toy or cash.

DX Report

Open mic.
- Cary stated DX is really good now including on 10M till late in evening.
- Lots of Dxpeditions going on.

Flea Market Report

Scott Campbell, Cary Rubenfeld
- Scott not present so Cary gave report.
- Scott did an excellent job organizing the Flea Market.
Constructive feedback:
- Start the Flea Market at 10:00 AM to allow out of town people a reasonable chance to attend.
- Have it on a Sunday morning not Saturday. There is a lot of people have other plans for Saturday mornings.
- Start organizing it sooner.
- In this situation the club was looking for someone to organize the Flea Market but no volunteers came forward until Scott did in the late summer so that was the reason for this short planning time.
- The WARC raffle was also drawn at the flea market. The first prize of the Icom ID-52A was won by Paul VE4PL, second prize of a \$300 gift certificate from GPS Central was won by Stan VE4SJP and the third prize of a \$100 gift certificate was won by Sue VE4SYM.
- A big thanks to Cary VE4EA and John VE4IM for

organizing the prizes and for GPS Central, DX engineering, RAC, K4IA and N3FJP for providing prizes.

- Funds raised at the Flea Market:

Cable Shop = \$78.00
50/50 Draw = \$220 - \$110 went to the winner
Admission = \$790.00
Memberships sold = \$80.00
Books sold = \$295.00
Raffle tickets sold during the Flea Market = \$540.00
- A total of 299 raffle tickets were sold before and during the flea market.

Previous Business

- None

Program

Garry Moir is with us once more. Today his presentation is about one of the first members of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club, as we know it, - Graham Spry. Gary will be talking about his time in Winnipeg at the U of M and how, as a member of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club, that laid the groundwork for his role in the creation of the CBC.

New Business

WARC Christmas Supper

1) A private room has been booked at the Salisbury House at 787 Leila Ave. in Garden City for WARC's Christmas Supper on Tuesday December 12, 2023 from 6PM - 9PM. It is located across the street (Leila Ave.) from the Canadian Tire that is in the Garden City Shopping Centre. There is a lot of free convenient parking and no stairs.

2) There will be no set menu. Instead, everyone will order what they want from the Salisbury House menu and pay individually including the tip. WARC will cover each attendee's meal for up to \$10. So when you pay your bill they will deduct \$10 from your bill.

The room holds a maximum of 35 people so to make sure we do not have more than 35 show up we will be giving out 35 free tickets on a First Come First Served basis. Please send an email to info@winnipegarc.org or call/text John VE4IM at 204-612-7019 and let us know how many tickets you want.

As in past years we will be having some sort of G Rated entertainment for all including prizes.

At this time WARC wants to recognize Melissa Fleury who for several years organized fabulous Christmas Suppers for us! Unfortunately she is unavailable to do so this year. So we will do our best to emulate what she did!

Derek Hay:

Derek wants someone to coordinate a Thursday project night. Some project ideas include J poles, keyers, etc. Contact Derek Hay at ve4hay@gmail.com if interested.

Adjourn.
8:30

³
Winnipeg ARES
Jeff Dovyak VE4MBQ
ve4mbq@myrac.ca

Congratulations to Yori Tsuji VE4ACX for being selected by the Manitoba Marathon as Volunteer of the Month for November!

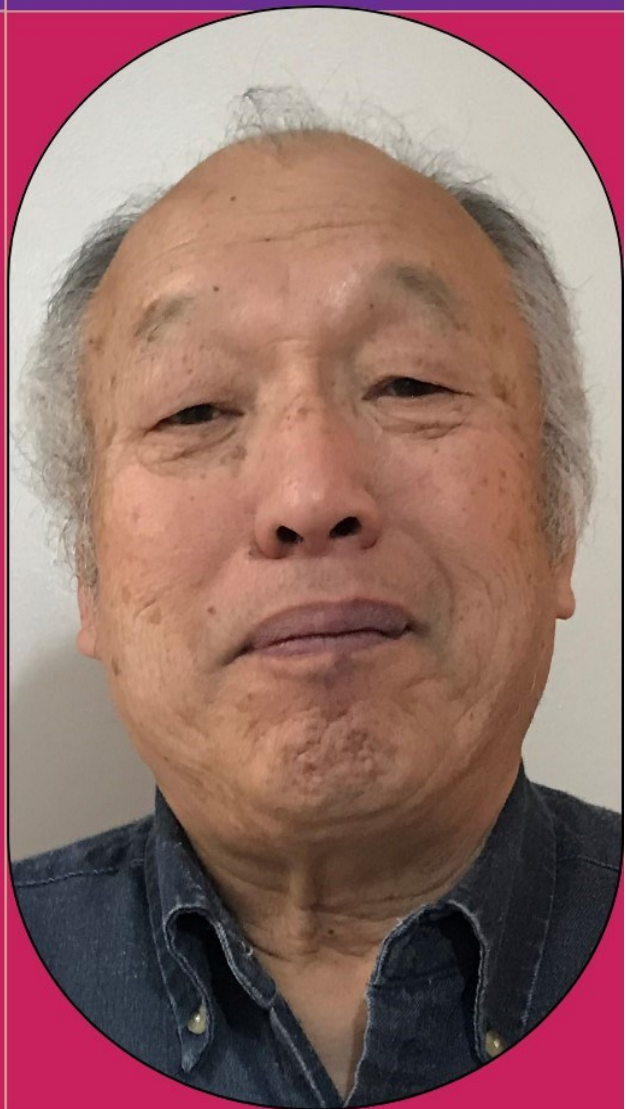
Thanks to Dick VE4HK for coordinating our Toy Mountain response for The Salvation Army (that response was previously coordinated by Tom Mills VE4SE before he passed).

At our Annual General Meeting 21 NOV, the 2022-23 Financial Statement was approved, the 2023-24 Budget was approved and our President Kurt Sargent VE4GIS and Secretary Pietra Shirley VE4PXL were acclaimed to office for 2023-24 year. Thanks to Larry Konowalchuk VA4LMK for working as Treasurer for 2022-23.

Our next General Meeting TUE 19 DEC 1900h will be an in-person meeting at Sir Wm Stephenson Library 765 Keewatin Street. Might be Hybrid. Pietra Shirley VE4PXL will be speaking about Car Co-Ops.

MANITOBA
Marathon
VOLUNTEER OF THE
MONTH
Yori Tsuji

Yorimassa (Yori) Tsuji VE4ACX has been a race day volunteer working with the Amateur Radio team for over thirty years. In recent years, Yori has worked in the Medical Centre with the Triage team. He is instrumental in linking the communications between the Medical Centre and on-course Medical vehicles. This work is a crucial part of keeping participants safe on race day. Being a true team player, Yori has also been seen pushing a wheelchair to help the flow in the Medical Centre. Thank you, Yori for your three decades of commitment to the Manitoba Marathon. Amateur Radio lead Jeff Dovyak tells us that Yori is already thinking about next year's communications!



Volunteers Wanted

Radio Amateurs of Manitoba (RAM), the new merged group of WARC & MRS, is looking for members to take on the role of committee chairs. Each committee chair will have a seat & a vote on the board of directors. The committee chair will report to the board once a month on the status of the committee and update the board on any events or projects. It is strongly suggested that the committee chair recruit a team to work with them. Especially those more complex committees.

- Fund raising committee - responsible for any fund raising, raffles, 50/50 etc.
- Events committee - responsible with organizing any club events such as Field Day (Summer & Winter), Flea Market or any other events from time to time.
- Social committee - responsible for organizing any social events during the year or in combination with events organized by the Events Committee.
- Presentation committee - responsible with organizing a monthly presentation or a presenter and assisting on finding Thursday evening project presenters.
- Membership committee - Responsible for maintaining the organization's membership roster and sending out renewal notices.
- Education - responsible for organizing a basic course once or twice a year.
- Technical committee - responsible for organizing a technical crew to maintain repeaters & the data network. We have one person who has volunteered for this chair.
- Communications committee - responsible for the monthly newsletter, website and the organization's social media (Facebook & other media)

If you are interested in any of these committees or know of an amateur radio operator who would be good to take on the role, please contact Derek, VE4HAY@gmail.com and you must be a member in good standing of either MRS, WARC or WAN.

D-Star and DMR in Winnipeg

Are you looking for crystal clear communications with simple and reliable linking to other systems worldwide? Well, enjoy crystal clear digital communications on cutting edge digital technology!

Join the Winnipeg Digital Repeater Group Inc. and feel freedom of worldwide communications on crystal clear "Beep Free" networks.

The future is digital! <http://www.ve4wdr.org>

Thursday project nights

Do you have soldering skills? Are you good at building and following instructions? Would you like to give back to the amateur radio community & help some of our newer operators (and some older ones as well)?

Radio Amateurs of Manitoba wants to create a weekly project building evening, in conjunction with the WSC

on Thursday evenings, and is looking for experienced amateur radio operators to take the lead for a project or two. We have someone lined up to do a roll-up Slim-Jim j-pole antenna in January but, we are looking for someone to take on other projects of their choice. Some possible projects could be; Mag-loop HF antennas, 40-80m dipole NIVIS antennas, CW keyer kits, direction finding antenna VHF/UHF for fox hunting, QRP rig (must have an advanced certificate to build a transmitter), amplifier for QRP rig, tuner, SWR bridge. There are thousands of kits available for building, we just need someone to research one & then take the lead to do a group build on Thursday evenings.

A typical project, would need lead time to schedule and advertise it. With the first night being talking about the project and theory of the project and setting a list of parts & where to buy them. The next few Thursday evenings would be building the project, finally testing the project. Then the next project will proceed.

If you are interested in leading a project, or have one in mind and someone who you think could lead it, please contact Derek, ve4hay@gmail.com. We will then coordinate with you on scheduling and getting the project going.



Are you a
RAC member??

<http://www.rac.ca>

Remote Operating By Paul, VE4AMS

Have you ever thought of operating a HF radio remotely? Do you hold an advanced certificate of proficiency?

The WSC has a Flex Radio 6000 series radio connected to its internet access. This radio allows advanced radio operators the ability to connect remotely from anywhere in the world and operate the radio. All you need on your end is a stable internet connection, a computer, some free windows software, a microphone, a speaker, and you are operating phone mode remotely. It is also possible to operate digital modes and CW.

If you would like to learn more about connecting to the WSC Flex Radio, WSC will be having a training session for using the Flex Radio on Saturday January 13 2:00 PM. To register for the training session please email Paul Reisdorf reisdorf@shaw.ca

This seminar is primarily geared to those who have had some experience using SmartSDR and connecting remotely to the Flex. Continued.....

However, even if you don't have prior experience, you may wish to attend to hear about some of these more advanced features and learn the basics later.

We will cover using SmartSDR Cat and DAX to integrate third-party software such as fldigi, WSJTX and logging software into Flex radio operation. We will also discuss using additional hardware such as iPads and the Maestro and control through the command line in Windows.

The Flex is set up to be used as a remote station that you can connect to from home or while you are traveling. You must hold an Advanced Certificate to use radios remotely, however, anyone who holds a Basic Certificate with HF privileges (Basic with Honours, or Basic with CW) can use the Flex locally at the club to take advantage of the beautiful wide spectrum large screen display of the waterfall (up to two bands at once)!

Derek Hay

Merger of WDRs Digital Data & the MRS

By Derek VE4HAY

Back in the Spring of this year the board of the Winnipeg Digital Data (WDR) group decided not to renew the leases for rooftop access of the digital data network. The potential for this could end up crippling the current intranet and digital services that WDR's Digital Data was providing the various amateur radio groups and their members. Clubs such as the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club, the Manitoba Repeater Society, the Winnipeg Seniors Radio Club, Winnipeg ARES, Manitoba ARES, the Pinawa Amateur Radio Club, Brandon Amateur Radio Club, and the Dauphin Amateur Radio Club, as well as, the Winnipeg Digital Repeater group itself.

Many years ago, hams working with the Digital Data previously known as WAN or HSMW arranged for roof top access across Winnipeg, and in Selkirk, Portage, Brandon and Dauphin and a few towns like Neepawa, Souris and Morden (where equipment has not yet been deployed.) In fact, the arrangement is for any amateur radio group to have access to certain buildings in certain cities and towns across Manitoba for the purposes of providing open repeater/data services locations and where possible connection to an amateur radio class A internet address space, known as the 44. network.

This digital data network has resulted in providing digital services such as web site services, telephony services, Radio Over IP (ROIP) linking, video streaming, autopatch connection across Canada and the continental USA, city wide & rural intranet, standby services for ARES, and a connection to the internet. The savings for each amateur radio club on the network quickly added up to hundred and hundreds of dollars a year. But the savings was not the reason for the network, it

was only a bonus. The network was built up over the years to provide a Winnipeg city-wide ham-based, ham run intranet with backup emergency digital access, if and when needed. It also provided links to other rural cities mentioned above. Currently digital linking of voice repeaters via ROIP is mainly active on the network with some video and some telephony services to the public switch telephone network (PTSN).. Talks have happened over the years about ARES participating in the network and providing digital services to their serviced agencies. The WSC is currently in talks with the City of Winnipeg about a trial connection to their EOC.

The Digital Data members approached the Manitoba Repeater Society who agreed to take over the roof top leases and to merge in the Digital Data members into the Manitoba Repeater Society. This process was formalized at the end of October at the Winnipeg Digital Repeater group's annual general meeting, where a motion was made and passed to transfer the Digital Data members to the MRS.

The Manitoba Repeater Society welcomes the members of the Winnipeg Digital Repeater group's digital data (WAN/HSMW) members who have now officially merged with the MRS. We all thank you for your years of helping & supporting the build out of the digital network for Manitoba Amateur Radio users and we know this merger will provide a stable base to maintain & improve the network.

The Manitoba Repeater Society is committed to providing open digital services for all amateur's and other groups, such as web services, repeater linking, telephony, video, autopatch, city wide & rural intranet, standby for ARES, and a connection to the internet. If you are interested in helping to build and maintain this digital network, please contact the MRS at info@mb-repeater-society.ca If you are interested in connecting to the network for amateur radio purposes (no Netflix type streaming due to limited and shared bandwidth) please contact us at the above email address, where we would be pleased to talk to you about the network.

Editor's note: The Winnipeg Digital Data (WDR) group as noted in the above article does not in fact exist and is believed to be an uncorrected typo by the author

Winnipeg Digital Repeater Group

The Winnipeg Digital Repeater Group held its AGM on October 30, 2023. The new board of directors are ...

Calvin Winter - President
Mark Blumm - Vice President
Rob Boux - Secretary
Garth Blumm - Treasurer/Membership.

The WDRG AGM minutes, which are self explanatory, are be posted on the club's website <http://www.ve4wdr.org>

WDRG Board of Directors

Spotlight on Ray Plett VE4PT

By David Rosner VE4DAR

What got you interested in amateur radio? When I was pre-teen I had a friend, who was a radio operator, and he got me interested. Later he became my high school teacher and continued fostering my interest.

Electronics was my hobby since my early teens and I took several correspondence courses in electronics. Then I studied on my own for the radio exams.

I bought a very good army surplus receiver and built my home brew CW transmitter from an old TV set. It had 75 watt output to a long wire antenna. That gave me some good contacts. I later bought a 2 meter transceiver from Murray in Brandon.



I had several QSO's from the USA and from Eastern Canada. I also was quite active on 2 meters mobile for a number of years.

I was active for about 10 years after which I became inactive for personal reasons. I got a bit more active 30 years later when my wife, Pat VE4PGP, got her licence.

Any part of ham radio that interested you particularly? My first interest in radio was the electronics aspect. I built a pirate station, which was never very active but worked OK. I became a HAM, but after I went into electronics for work, the work took up my spare time and ham radio went silent for many years.

What kind of public service have you done? I did a few marathon communications in my first years about 40 years ago.

Any advice for new hams? Keep up the interest; get into public service venues and enjoy the hobby at whatever level you choose to get involved in.

What do you see as the future for Amateur Radio? Amateur radio has always had an important place in experimental advancement even though it's always changing. I don't see interest in it disappearing. The radio and experimental part will simply integrate into other elements of technology and remain a vital part of emergency communication backup.

Many thanks for this, Ray, and for your long-time interest in electronics. Thanks also for mentoring Pat.

MARM is looking for volunteers

Manitoba Amateur Radio Museum Inc.



HOME OF

{ VE4ARM
VE4MTR

Collecting, preserving, researching
& exhibiting articles of amateur radio
and communication interest.



MARM is looking for volunteers to operate the VE4MTR (Manitoba Threshermen's Reunion) museum station during the annual Manitoba Threshermen's Reunion and Stampede July 25th-28th, 2024 south of Austin, Manitoba.

We would require you to operate the HF station for perhaps a two hour shift during the reunion. This would allow you to continue to visit the Agricultural Grounds and explore the many activities and attractions.



July 25 – 28, 2024

See <http://mbagmuseum.ca>

It's an extremely busy week at the museum. Anyone interested in volunteering for MARM can contact me directly at the following.

E: ve4vhf@mymts.net
C: 204-330-0772

7 Contest Calendar

Extracted From
<https://www.contestcalendar.com/>

December 2023

Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest

ARS Spartan Sprint 0100Z-0159Z, Dec 5
ICWC Medium Speed Test 0200Z-0400Z, Dec 5
QRP Fox Hunt 0300Z-0400Z, Dec 5
Phone Weekly Test 0200Z-0330Z, Dec 6
A1Club AWT 0230Z-0300Z, Dec 6
CWops Test 1200Z-1300Z, Dec 6
VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest 1300Z-1400Z, Dec 6
Mini-Test 40 1700Z-2100Z, Dec 6
Mini-Test 80 1700Z-1759Z, Dec 6
CWops Test 1800Z-1859Z, Dec 6
QRP ARCI Topband Sprint 1900Z-2000Z, Dec 6
Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest 0000Z-0300Z, Dec 7
and 0200Z-0300Z, Dec 8
CWops Test 0300Z-0400Z, Dec 7
CWops Test 0700Z-0800Z, Dec 7
NRAU 10m Activity Contest 1800Z-1900Z, Dec 7 (CW)
and 1900Z-2000Z, Dec 7 (SSB)
And 2000Z-2100Z, Dec 7 (FM)
and 2100Z-2200Z, Dec 7 (Dig)
SKCC Sprint Europe 2000Z-2200Z, Dec 7
NCCC FT4 Sprint 0100Z-0130Z, Dec 8
NCCC RTTY Sprint 0145Z-0215Z, Dec 8
QRP Fox Hunt 0200Z-0330Z, Dec 8
NCCC Sprint 0230Z-0300Z, Dec 8
K1USN Slow Speed Test 2000Z-2100Z, Dec 8
PODXS 070 Club Triple Play Low Band Sprint
0000Z, Dec 9 to 2359Z, Dec 11
ARRL 10-Meter Contest
0000Z, Dec 9 to 2400Z, Dec 10
TRC Digi Contest 0600Z, Dec 9 to 1800Z, Dec 10
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon
1200Z, Dec 9 to 2400Z, Dec 10
ARI 40/80 Contest 1300Z, Dec 9 to 1300Z, Dec 10
International Naval Contest
1600Z, Dec 9 to 1559Z, Dec 10
QRP ARCI Holiday Spirits Sprint
2000Z-2300Z, Dec 10
K1USN Slow Speed Test 0000Z-0100Z, Dec 11
4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint
0100Z-0300Z, Dec 11
ICWC Medium Speed Test 1300Z-1400Z, Dec 11
OK1WC Memorial 1630Z-1729Z, Dec 11
ICWC Medium Speed Test 1900Z-2000Z, Dec 11
Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest
0100Z-0159Z, Dec 12
ICWC Medium Speed Test 0300Z-0400Z, Dec 12
NAQCC CW Sprint 0130Z-0330Z, Dec 13
QRP Fox Hunt 0200Z-0330Z, Dec 13
Phone Weekly Test 0230Z-0300Z, Dec 13
A1Club AWT 1200Z-1300Z, Dec 13
CWops Test 1300Z-1400Z, Dec 13
Mini-Test 40 1700Z-1759Z, Dec 13
VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest 1700Z-2100Z, Dec 13
Mini-Test 80 1800Z-1859Z, Dec 13
CWops Test 1900Z-2000Z, Dec 13
CWops Test 0300Z-0400Z, Dec 14
CWops Test 0700Z-0800Z, Dec 14

EACW Meeting 1900Z-2000Z, Dec 14
NCCC FT4 Sprint 0100Z-0130Z, Dec 15
NCCC RTTY Sprint 0145Z-0215Z, Dec 15
QRP Fox Hunt 0200Z-0330Z, Dec 15
NCCC Sprint 0230Z-0300Z, Dec 15
AGB-Party Contest 1600Z-1700Z, Dec 15
Russian 160-Meter Contest 1800Z-2200Z, Dec 15
K1USN Slow Speed Test 2000Z-2100Z, Dec 15
OK DX RTTY Contest 0000Z-2400Z, Dec 16
Feld Hell Sprint 0000Z-2359Z, Dec 16
Croatian DX Contest 1400Z, Dec 16 to 1400Z, Dec 17
ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW 1800Z-2359Z, Dec 17
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest
2300Z, Dec 17 to 0100Z, Dec 18
K1USN Slow Speed Test 0000Z-0100Z, Dec 18
ICWC Medium Speed Test 1300Z-1400Z, Dec 18
OK1WC Memorial 1630Z-1729Z, Dec 18
ICWC Medium Speed Test 1900Z-2000Z, Dec 18
Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest
0100Z-0159Z, Dec 19
ICWC Medium Speed Test 0300Z-0400Z, Dec 19
NAQCC CW Sprint 0130Z-0330Z, Dec 20
QRP Fox Hunt 0200Z-0330Z, Dec 20
Phone Weekly Test 0230Z-0300Z, Dec 20
A1Club AWT 1200Z-1300Z, Dec 20
CWops Test 1300Z-1400Z, Dec 20
Mini-Test 40 1700Z-1759Z, Dec 20
VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest 1700Z-2100Z, Dec 20
Mini-Test 80 1800Z-1859Z, Dec 20
CWops Test 1900Z-2000Z, Dec 20
Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest 0000Z-0100Z, Dec 21
and 0200Z-0300Z, Dec 22
CWops Test 0300Z-0400Z, Dec 21
CWops Test 0700Z-0800Z, Dec 21
NTC QSO Party 1900Z-2000Z, Dec 21
NCCC FT4 Sprint 0100Z-0130Z, Dec 22
NCCC RTTY Sprint 0145Z-0215Z, Dec 22
QRP Fox Hunt 0200Z-0330Z, Dec 22
NCCC Sprint 0230Z-0300Z, Dec 22
K1USN Slow Speed Test 2000Z-2100Z, Dec 22
RAEM Contest 0000Z-1159Z, Dec 23
CW QRS Xmas Activity 0000Z, Dec 24 to 2359Z, Dec 31
K1USN Slow Speed Test 0000Z-0100Z, Dec 25
ICWC Medium Speed Test 1300Z-1400Z, Dec 25
QCX Challenge 1300Z-1400Z, Dec 25
OK1WC Memorial 1630Z-1729Z, Dec 25
QCX Challenge 1900Z-2000Z, Dec 25
ICWC Medium Speed Test 1900Z-2000Z, Dec 25
Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest
0100Z-0159Z, Dec 26
ICWC Medium Speed Test 0300Z-0400Z, Dec 26
QCX Challenge 0300Z-0400Z, Dec 26
DARC Christmas Contest 0830Z-1059Z, Dec 26
SKCC Sprint 0000Z-0200Z, Dec 27
Phone Weekly Test 0230Z-0300Z, Dec 27
A1Club AWT 1200Z-1300Z, Dec 27
CWops Test 1300Z-1400Z, Dec 27
Mini-Test 40 1700Z-1759Z, Dec 27
Mini-Test 80 1800Z-1859Z, Dec 27
CWops Test 1900Z-2000Z, Dec 27
CWops Test 0300Z-0400Z, Dec 28
CWops Test 0700Z-0800Z, Dec 28
NCCC FT4 Sprint 0100Z-0130Z, Dec 29

Continued....

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 NCCC RTTY Sprint 0145Z-0215Z, Dec 29
 NCCC Sprint 0230Z-0300Z, Dec 29
 K1USN Slow Speed Test 2000Z-2100Z, Dec 29
 RAC Winter Contest 0000Z-2359Z, Dec 30
 YOTA Contest 1200Z-2359Z, Dec 30
 Original QRP Contest 1500Z, Dec 30 to 1500Z, Dec 31
 Stew Perry Topband Challenge 1500Z, Dec 30 to 1500Z, Dec 31
 Bogor Old and New Contest 0900Z-2359Z, Dec 31

**** Good Luck In The Contest ****

Confessions of a Casual Contester
Vol. 4 Issue 4
from the shack of David VE4DL

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.....

Don't get too excited, there are no pictures this month.

It's been a fun few weeks, spinning the antenna and seeing who I can work. I have discovered that I only need 6 directions to point, and in fact, NE will do the majority of what I like to do. Of course, seasonal requirements and family medical issues have kept me from camping in the shack as I had hoped. Life is what it is.

I looked forward to CQ WW CW, and had a great time with it. For me conditions were good, with almost no noise on 10-15-20 during my operating times. Northern Europe and UK were all over my receiver, but southern Europe almost absent. Didn't hear many VEs, worked 2 for the zone 2 and 3 mults. A couple of All-Time-New-Ones didn't hurt. Added to my mainland Africa total. I think I worked all Finland on 10 and 15m bands. All the UK and Eire. Moldova, Lichtenstein and Andorra. Morocco. Worked a lot of South America, not so much of Carib. Still half were Americans, including rare ones and missing the usual suspects. Alaska clear as next door off the side of the beam and Hawai'i off the back.

I noticed during the day before the start that my antenna was becoming more narrow-banded, I was having to work the tuner every 10-15 kHz. Odd. About 2 hours into the contest I lost output entirely, infinite SWR. Disconnect from the tuner and put a VTVM on the coax: short. Run outside in -17C and disconnect the other end in the junction box. Open to the antenna, short to the shack. That's lucky. Two places it could have failed, inside or outside? I chose inside and replaced that UHF-M. No joy. Back outside, into the cold and wind, and struggled for an hour to replace that connector. Amphenol RG8U is damn stiff at zero Fahrenheit. Won't cut or slide easily off the centre conductor. Ruined the first couple, finally got the last connector I owned on it. Tested open! Yay!

Back inside, a big mug of beef broth and fire it all up. Back in business. Nicely broadband again, tunes like a concert grand. Everyone has abandoned 10-20 for the low bands. Sigh. Give up until the morning. Ordered more UHF-M from Mouser before hitting the hay. It occurred to me that an analyzer would have saved me from replacing BOTH ends, so research begins.

Saturday morning was a late start, well after sunrise, and 10m working nicely to EU and the East Coast. I did this contest unassisted, so it was just tuning up the dial to find each station, no more than 5 calls and move on. I'd gotten used to not being heard at the old station. This one is heard. First or second call under the pileup was not uncommon, and most before I gave up at 5. It's not as fast as moving up the band map on 'enter' but gives me real radioman feels. A couple of hours on 10m, have lunch. A couple of hours on 15m, coffee break. A couple of hours on 20m, dinner. Best rate on Saturday was 33. Tried running on 15 and 20 in the evening, but rates only 6 per hour, never spotted. Everyone probably on the low bands with the hiss and crash of the latest storm in their ears. Sunday I did two 3 hour stints, working through the 3 bands again. Hit rates of 43 mid-afternoon on 15m. Once again, family-first had me out of the fray before sundown. I make it 13 hours in the chair, the logger says 11.5 (what does it know?) Add a couple of hours of working on the problem feed line and that's about 30% commitment to the cause. I've put in more time, I've had more success, but I'm still smiling from this one. It's good to be back.

But it isn't contesting. Nope. Not at all. Well, maybe... yes it is!

Winter Field Day

WARD/RAM will be hosting winter field day this season on January 27 & 28, 2024, at the Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club at the old firehall.

Further details will come as organizing it progresses.

RAC Winter Contest

For details on the RAC Winter Contest, 0000 UTC to 2359 UTC on December 30, 2023, visit

<https://www.rac.ca/rac-canada-winter-contest-2023/>

December is YOTA Month!

Youth-operated stations around the world are part of a special event celebrating Youth in Amateur Radio (aka YOTA or Youth on the Air) during the month of December.

<https://www.rac.ca/december-is-youth-on-the-air-yota-month/>

Winlink VHF

Submitted by Derek, VE4HAY

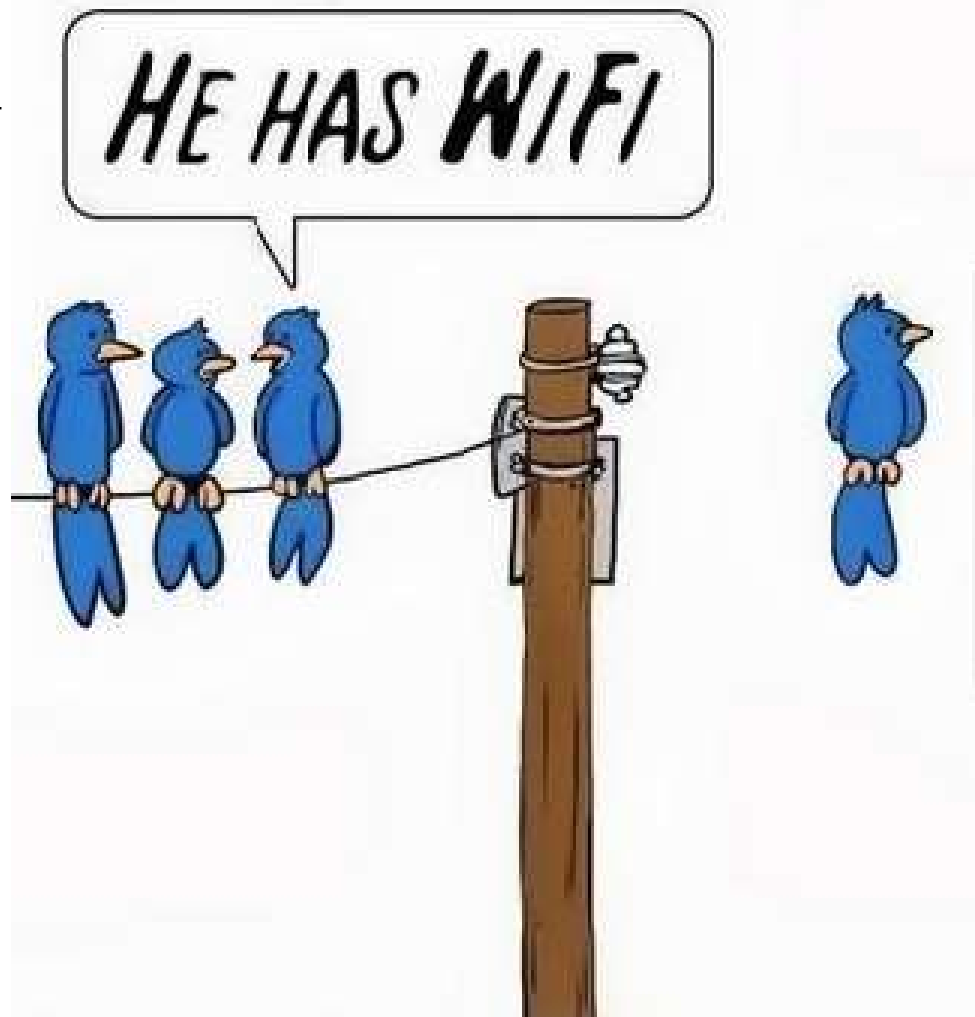
The WSC in the old fire hall now has Winlink running on VHF using VARA-FM mode. Winlink is a network of amateur radio stations that provide worldwide radio email using radio pathways where the internet is not present. The system is built, operated and administered entirely by licensed "Ham" volunteers. It supports email with attachments, position reporting, weather and information bulletins, and is well-known for its role in interoperable emergency and disaster relief communications. It is capable of operating completely without the internet--automatically--using smart-network radio relays. The WSC has Winlink running on both HF scanning 5 different frequencies using the VARA software modem and on VHF on 145.090 simplex using the VARA-FM software modem. Using VARA eliminates the need for a Hardware Terminal Node Controller (TNC), but you still need something to interface your computer sound card to the radio. Your best option in this case is a DRA-30 digital radio adapter or a SignalLink device.

Both WSC Winlink systems are running as gateway station with RMS relay. A gateway station is a Winlink station, that provides a gateway to the internet and to radio. RMS Relay is an optional, supplemental program for gateway sysops that provides temporary storage of messages and local routing in the event internet access to the CMS sites is lost. What this means is that an incoming message can be set to be relayed either via the internet primarily, but if the internet is not available for some reason, then the message is relayed via radio. In the case of WSC, that is via VHF or HF. As WSC is still testing and verifying the VHF setup. Once we are sure it is working, we will then network the two system together, that way any message incoming or outgoing can be process on the system via the internet or radio, both VHF & HF. So, a message coming in on VHF can go out on HF or Internet if available.

What do you need to get on Winlink? You need a computer running the Winlink

software, an account in Winlink which, you setup during the Winlink install process. This greatly eliminates spam as only messages from Winlink account holders can be sent. Then, you need the VARA software. Both Winlink & VARA are free, but if you want greater speed or bandwidth, there is an upgrade free for VARA. And Winlink will always take a donation. Lastly you need some sort of an interface to convert your audio from VARA to your radio. As suggested above your best options are a DRA-30 usb module or a SignalLink device.

Give Winlink a try, especially if you are away from the connected world, but still want to stay in touch. Think backpacking in the wilderness, sailing, that remote summer cottage, or for emergency purposes. Remember Winlink works via radio, so if your internet goes down, you can still send out messages to anyone and received them from other Winlink users. ARES or ACS members, really should have a Winlink station setup.





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

<http://www.mb-repeater-society.ca/>

<http://www.facebook.com/ManitobaRepeaterSociety>

MRS Memberships Expire on December 31

Manitoba Repeater Society Members....

Have you renewed your **MRS Membership**

You can do so via PayPal online at...

http://mb-repeater-society.ca/?page_id=144

Or download the Application form ...

<http://mb-repeater-society.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/mrs-app.pdf>

Check Your MRS Membership Status??

[Click Here](#)

Check out WARC's "Cable Shop & Merch Mart"

<http://winnipegarc.org/shop.html>

VHF Nets

MRS Nets

VE4WPG 147.390 Mhz + (127.3) &

VE4VJ 443.500 Mhz + (127.3)

(WPG is normally hot linked to VJ)

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 Saturday Morning Net 147.390 Mhz+ Saturdays at 10:00 am

A Net for all Hams to participate and learn about Ham radio and get on the air! PLUS a presentation of The History of Amateur Radio by Dick VE4HK

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 (XRF103BO)

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)

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

The following Nets are on the WDRG DMR repeater system:

TransCanada D-Star Net

Fridays @ 20:00 local, Timeslot 2,
Talkgroup 302050

SkyHub

Wednesdays @ 20:00 local, Timeslot 2,
Talkgroup 310847

HF Nets

MB Evening Phone Net - 3747 Khz

Daily at 7:00 PM Local Time (CT)

Aurora Net (Afternoon) 7.100 Mhz

Daily at 2300 UTC

Aurora # 2 Net (Evening) 7.100 Mhz

Sunday at 9:30 CST

MB Wx Net 3743 Khz

Daily at 8:30 Local Time (CT)

SSB Nets

144.240 SSB Monday at 8pm local

432.100 SSB Wednesday at 8pm

1296.100 SSB Friday at 8 pm

The Newscaster is the Official Publication of **Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club**
Please send your submissions/comments to the editor Mark VE4MAB at ve4mab@outlook.com

Announcement



Amateur Radio Satellites and Systems – Canada (AMSAT-CA)

Amateur Radio Satellites and Systems – Canada (AMSAT-CA) was recently officially incorporated as a non-profit membership-based association within Canada.

The official board members who established the new Canada-based AMSAT organization are:

Dr. Stefan Wagener, VE4SW,	(President)
J.T. (Mitch) Mitchell, VE6OH	(Vice President)
Levente Buzas, VA7QF	(Technical Director)
John Langille, VE1CWJ	(Director)
Tom Anderson, VA6TA	(Director)
Dr. Witold Kinsner, VE4WK	(Director)

Main Purpose:

The **Amateur Radio Satellites and Systems Canada Association (AMSAT-CA)** will promote, develop, and support amateur radio in space, including but not limited to amateur radio communication via man-made and natural satellites (e.g., the moon), amateur radio on space stations and planets, and related experiments, as well as new developments of (i) technology, (ii) methods and techniques, and (iii) new applications, all intended for use on satellites, ground stations, and terrestrial-space communications for the benefit of humanity.

Next steps:

AMSAT-CA is currently in the process of establishing its online profile, membership, and other business processes.

In the meantime, the board has started establishing a technical working group (Canada) to develop our position and ideas to support the proposal for a new European and Canadian geostationary amateur radio payload project, announced by *Frank Zeppenfeldt, PDOAP*, (ESA) at AMSAT-UK (2023):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FTvIEyDa1Y&t=37s&pp=ygUYYYW1zYXQgVUsgY29sbG9xdWI1bSAyMDIz>

For more information and official correspondence, please get in touch with us at:
info@amsat-ca.org