



The **NEWSCASTER**

The Official Publication of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club

<http://www.virtualmultimedia.com/warc/>

May 2001

Free to Members

vol: 2001-05

Potpourri of Discussion Topics

Antennas – Rick VE4OV; Power Supplies – Albert VE4AJB;
Logging – Ed VE4YU; Food and Beverages – Bob VE4RCJ;
Operating Procedures – Adam VE4SN; Intro to HF – Wayne
VE4WR; CLARA and YL's – Gladys VE4GE.

Date: April 14th, 2001
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Sturgeon Creek Regional Secondary School

Other Important Dates:

Articles: May 30th - Article Deadline June Newscaster

WARC: Jun 11- Elections & Field Day Primer
June 17th - Father's Day Marathon
June 23 & 24 - Field Day

WSC: Dec. 12th - Christmas Party
June 5-7 - Garden City Mall Display - Amateur Radio
Aug 30th - Fall Picnic

ARES: May 15 - Meeting @ West Kildonan Library

Other: July 13-15 - International HamFest
Aug 3-5 - Camp 807 Fort Frances
Aug 17 & 18 - MARM HamFest
Thursday 9:00pm - MRS Net 147.390 MHz +
Sunday 1:00pm - MRS Net 147.390 MHz +

WARC: Executive for 2001

Past President	Norm Coull	VE4EH	885-1692
President	Darcy Wilson	VE4DDW	783-0421
Vice-Pres./ PR	Tom Mills	VE4SE	837-6915
Secretary	Ruthie Maman	VE4CRS	589-6718
Treasurer	Sue Collings	VE4SYM	694-1525
Membership	Mariska Maguire	VE4MMG	256-3143
Program	David Rosner	VE4DAR	489-4106
Goodwill	Vern Dutton	VE4VQ	256-5346

RADIOGRAM FROM THE PRESIDENT: by Darcy, VE4DDW

Well, it seems that spring is finally here!! As I write this article I can look out the window and see the street cleaners on the road, and the golfers on the golf course. That's one sure sign of spring. Another sign of spring in Winnipeg is the Annual Spring Flea Market hosted by the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club. This spring we saw another successful flea market pulled off. We had a great crowd again, and as usual folks got the opportunity to meet old friends (and not so old friends) while enjoying a cup of coffee in the lobby. Of course some equipment was probably bought and sold as well, but it sure seems that the flea market has become a way for members and non-members alike to enjoy each other's company. And that's what our club is here for, right? This is just one more way to bring everyone together.

During my time as the President, I've noticed that people really enjoy the coffee breaks, and the flea markets, and the field days, but not always for the same reason. I thought about this for a while and realized maybe we can have a social event without having to make coincide with a "radio" event. I thought about having a WARC picnic or Bar-B-Que in the spring or fall, so that we can all see each other and enjoy some food and drink, without having something else at the same time. I appreciate your comments on this idea!

Well my time is just about up, so I'll remind you that field day is once again approaching. It will happen at Birds Hill Provincial Park again this year, which turned out to be a great place to setup operations. You'll see some improvements this year, having "ironed out the bugs" from the first year at that location. I hope to see you all there in June!

A reminder that June is election time, and time to think about what direction you want the club to go, or what you want out of it. The best way to do this is by running on the board of directors. Another way is finding someone whom you would like to see on the board. And finally the last way is to come out and support the nominees at election time.

Minutes for W.A.R.C. April 9th, 2001
Submitted by David, VE4DAR

President Darcy VE4DDW called meeting to order at 1935 hours. Individual introductions followed. Forty members and two guests attended.

Moved/seconded by Dan VE4SYG/Gord VE4GF that the minutes of March 12, 2001 be accepted as printed in The Newscaster. Carried.

The Newscaster, page 10, was corrected to show Pat, VE4PLG's phone number as 339-3018.

Treasurer's Report by Sue VE4SYM

For the year ending March 31, 2001

Revenue:		
Meeting draws	<u>83.00</u>	
Total Revenue:		83.00
Expenses:		
Photo copies	43.86	
Petty cash replenishment	131.92	
Home Brew Night	100.00	
Meeting prizes	<u>168.59</u>	
Total Expenses		444.37
Profit/(Loss):		<u>(361.37)</u>
Opening Bank Balance:		4,434.76
Add Total Deposits	83.00	
Less Total Cheques	<u>444.37</u>	
Reconciled Bank Balance		4,073.39
Float balance on hand		<u>138.86</u>
Total cash on hand		4,212.25

Membership by Mariska VE4MMG

There have been no new memberships since the last meeting. We will be sending a letter of welcome with an invitation to join WARC to newly licensed amateur radio operators and recent ham arrivals to Winnipeg. The Newscaster will be enclosed. Since WARC memberships will

Industry Canada Amateur Centre
 Voice 1-888-780-3333 (toll-free)
 Fax: 1-613-991-5575
 Email: spectrum.amateur@ic.gc.ca
 Web: <http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/spectrum>

Comments or if you just want to reach us :

Newscaster Editor
Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club
C/O VE4WSC
598 St. Mary's Road
Winnipeg, MB R2M 3L5
<http://www.virtualmultimedia.com/warc>

be expiring shortly, Mariska will be placing a membership renewal form in The Newscaster. Membership renewals will be accepted at the Flea Market. There will be a draw prize for new memberships and renewals.

Radio Amateurs of Canada by Rick VE4OV

Industry Canada has released the Gazette comments from across Canada on the proposed 12 wpm to 5 wpm changes. All 107 pages of comments are available in a .pdf file readable by Adobe Acrobat. Comments are 80% in favour of the change. The URL for the comments is:

<http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/pics/sf/comments.pdf>

Rick VE4OV will attend the 16th CARAB (Canadian Amateur Radio Advisory Board) Meeting in Cornwall, Ontario later in April. RAC Delegates and IC Delegates meet twice a year with a long agenda of mutual concerns. The RAC Board of Directors Meeting and the RAC Annual General Meeting will be in Cornwall as well.

Rick noted that his grandson, Andrew, who had displayed his project at our Home Brew Night, won the Gold Medal for Grade 8 at the Grant Park High School Science Fair. Andrew will be going on to compete in the Winnipeg School Division #1 Science Fair.

ARES by Tom VE4SE

Preparations for possible flooding are underway. Volunteers are still needed and are asked to register now with Jeff VE4MBQ or with the Winnipeg Senior Radio Club. WARES' next meeting is April 17 at the West Kildonan Library, 365 Jefferson. Cabling at the Woodsworth Building has been rerouted to join the newly installed 2m antenna.

Wayne VE4WR reported that volunteers with HF experience and equipment are needed to assist flood operations in South and South West Manitoba. He will be running SETS every second Sunday because they may need an HF backbone for MEMO.

DX Sleuths by Adam VE4SN

Sun flares during the last few days have cut out lots of communications. However, there are still a few good call signs worth going after. Nepal and Butan have been very active.

8Q7JB is good to April 19 on 20m from 0130 – 0230 hrs. Z.

A51AA can be found on 10m at 28.480 from 1100 – 1330. C31OF can be found on RTTY.

Manitoba Marathon by Gord VE4GF

We are still looking for volunteer operator for the Manitoba Marathon. Contact Pat, Kay or Ralph as per The Newscaster. They will be seeking volunteers at the Flea Market too.

Flea Market at Heritage-Victoria CC on April 22

Doug Henry VE4TG is in charge. Three out of 30 tables are still available. It will be held at the Heritage-Victoria Community Centre, 950 Sturgeon Road. Admission has been raised to \$2.00. Doors open for set up and coffee at 0800. At 0900 vendors are admitted. The public is granted access to the goodies at 1000. No parking on both sides of Sturgeon road will be enforced. Park in the lot or on nearby streets.

International Ham Fest at The Peace Gardens on July 13 – 15

WARC will be co hosting with the Brandon ARC. Since there are now fewer amateur radio clubs, our turn to co host comes up more frequently reminded Tom VE4SE.

MARM Ham Fest at Austin on August 17 & 18

Admission to the Ham Fest will include access to the whole agricultural museum.

WARC Field Day at Birds Hill Park on June 23 & 24

An information package on Field Day including a map of the park is being prepared.

Get Ready to Vote!

Darcy announced that David VE4DAR will step down as Program Chair in June. At least three more of WARC's Executive Board will be completing their three-year terms. Elections will be held in the Fall. Now is the time to begin thinking about running for office and making your intentions known.

Programs by David VE4DAR

May's program is Something for Everyone – A Potpourri of Discussion Topics! These topics and discussion leaders have been confirmed:

Antennas – Rick VE4OV; Power Supplies – Albert VE4AJB; Logging – Ed VE4YU; Food and Beverages – Bob VE4RCJ; Operating Procedures – Adam VE4SN; Intro to HF – Wayne VE4WR; CLARA and YL's – Gladys VE4GE.


Everyone will have a chance to sit in on two groups for 30 minutes each. Here's a chance share your knowledge and experience with newer hams, or just brush up. I'm still looking for discussion leaders for transceivers and contesting. Any volunteers?

New Business:

MRS Annual General Meeting will be held at 1900 hrs on April 26 at the Winnipeg Senior Radio Club.

Glen VE4GWN suggested that we advertise Field Day in the Birds Hill Park Newsletter. The member attendance draw was won by Fred VE4TRO. Chris VE4SET won the Door Prize.

Expedition to Sable Island 1979 by Cal VE4XQ This fascinating presentation with pictures was enjoyed by all. Imagine 8500 contacts!! Meeting adjourned at 945 p.m.



38th International HamFest

July 13, 14, & 15, 2001

International Peace Garden
Manitoba / North Dakota Border


Hosted this year by Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club
& the Brandon Amateur Radio Club

Ham of the Year Award

Nominations are made by submitting a letter which includes the following;

- ✓ Signature of Five or more Licensed Amateurs
- ✓ A description of the nominee's significant contribution(s) to Amateur Radio
- ✓ Must be submitted to VE4XN no later than June 30
- ✓ Voting will begin at 6:00 pm Friday of the Hamfest Weekend
- ✓ One those registered are eligible to Vote

Dave Snyder, VE4XN
25 Queens Crescent
Brandon MB R7B 1G1
dsnydal@mb.sympatico.ca





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Winnipeg ARES Report

by Jeff, VE4MBQ - Winnipeg EC

Wayne Schellekens VE4WTS provided an excellent explanation on conventional repeater linking and IRLP at our April monthly meeting. No update was available on Club Jackets at this meeting so maybe we'll have more information at the May meeting.

Twenty WPGARES members are taking shifts on-call as operators for VE4EMO for possible Flood operations from 22APR thru 06MAY. Thanks to VE4s:

AJR, AND, CRS, DAR, DWG, EH, ESX, GWN,
HAZ, HK, KAZ, KU, MAQ, MBQ,
MMG, SE, TJR, WF, WTS, XYL

Our "team" found the four HF Test Nets organized by Wayne Warren VE4WR to be most valuable in getting familiar with the TS-570 at VE4EMO - we split the group into quarters so that our numbers in the Radio Room were manageable for each session. Special thanks to Tom VE4SE, Richard VE4ESX, and Paul Sheridan for some cabling work done at MEMO in mid-April (the HF coax now goes through a proper hole and not through the hatch to the roof) and for setting up a Copper J-Pole (on long term loan from Tedd VE4VID) on the roof so that we can run Gov't VHF and 2m at the same time (previously both radios shared one antenna).

CANWARN Spotter Training 07APR in Morris went very well. Six people from Winnipeg attended Basic Spotter Training. We picked up 5 new Spotters (3 new communities), welcome VE4s GRE, DJT, STS, TJR and VA4CQD. Twelve people from Winnipeg attended Advanced Spotter Training. Certificates of Appreciation were presented to the 16 CANWARN Net Controllers from 2000 by Jay Anderson on behalf of PSPC. CANWARN runs this year from 14MAY thru 09SEP. VE4WWO Net Controllers Meeting is scheduled for THURS 10MAY 1900h at PSPC. Another Advanced Spotter Session is planned for SAT 20OCT north of Winnipeg, either in Selkirk or the Interlake.

Thanks to Dick VE4HK and Mariska VE4MMG for once again organizing the WPGARES Silent Auction at the recent WARC Flea Market. Special thanks to the donors and auction participants, there will likely be a separate report from Dick and Mariska elsewhere in this edition. Thanks also to Don VE4DWG for staffing our table.

WPGARES has been asked to provide volunteer amateur communications 11,12,13MAY for a national amateur Team Handball tournament in Winnipeg. If interested please contact Richard VE4KAZ ASAP:

e-mail: rkazuk@escape.ca or Tel 895-4778
between 1800 and 2100h (NO LATER)

Our next monthly meeting is TUE 15MAY 1900h at West Kildonan Library 365 Jefferson Ave near Salter. We will be watching a video on Summer Severe Weather. 2001-02 dues are due in June, Mariska VE4MMG would be most pleased to accept your \$10 dues payment at the May meeting - cheques payable to "Winnipeg ARES" are best.

Winnipeg ARES - Silent Auction

Winnipeg Amateur Radio Emergency Service had a most successful silent auction during the WARC Flea Market, April 22, 2001. I attribute our success to the people who donated prizes to ARES. We are especially grateful to Gladys VE4GE and David VE4DAR. Gladys spent 3 weeks crocheting a beautiful green dress to outfit a lovely doll. David donated a telephone answering machine. Both of these prizes were very popular with ticket buyers.

Brittney Hay, daughter of Derek VE4HAY had her heart set on winning the air mattress with a 100 year guarantee. She was the big winner on that one. Guess what she will be doing this summer at Falcon Lake Resort Hotel?

Dick and Mariska would like to thank everyone who donated prizes to our silent auction. We could not be so successful without your kindness. Thanks also to everyone who purchased tickets. We could not have done it without your toonies.

The winners were

Lovely doll with crocheted dress donated by Gladys Haldane-Wilson VE4GE

Won by Alf Kebir VE4ALF

Air Mattress with 100 year guarantee donated by Dick and Mariska Maguire VE4HK and VE4MMG, Operating an Amateur Radio Station and Icom Log Book donated by Rick Lord VE4OV, RAC Midwest Director

Won by Brittney Hay harmonic of Derek Hay VE4HAY (guess who will get which prize)

Telephone answering machine donated by David Rosner VE4DAR, RAC membership donated by Rick Lord VE4OV RAC Midwest Director

Won by Ed Noakes VE4ON

Stained glass suncatcher donated by Ron Martin VE4MGR, Candy dispenser along with potpourri wine glass donated by Glen and Rosi Napady VE4GWN and VE4YYL, Writing paper donated by Mariska Maguire VE4MMG, Certificate for chiropractic visit donated by Dr. John Alevizos (Glen VE4GWN

Won by Jean Arsenault VE4BEL

Tool kit donated by Sue and Fred Collings VE4SYM and VE4TRO, 2 meter mobile antenna donated by Mike Tomkewich VE4TCH, Comtelco Electronics

Won by Ron Martin VE4MGR

Greyhound 212 VOM kit donated by Tom Mills VE4SE, 2 meter mobile antenna donated by George Hill Micro High Tech Electronics, Golf Shirt donated by Tim Rhind VE4TJR
 Won by Paula Ehn VE4MHZ

Certificate for chiropractic visit donated by River Heights Chiropractic Dr. John Alevizos (Glen VE4GWN), Skin care kit donated by Mariska Maguire VE4MMG, Safeway gift certificate donated by Ian Clark VE4CLK
 Won by Keith Lindstrom VE4FR

Program By David VE4DAR

1979 DXpedition to Sable Island

Are you feeling the need to get away from it all? Perhaps you dream about being in some quiet place surrounded only by nature. Do you picture yourself walking along a sandy beach; hearing only the gentle surf breaking on the shore. Look inland! Do you see that small herd of wild horses galloping free along the knoll? Wake up! It's DXpedition time!

On April 11, folks attending the WARC meeting were treated to a free trip to Sable Island. Using a map, projected pictures and his lively narration, Cal VE4XQ transported us back to 1979 and took us on his DXpedition. After months of planning, permit seeking, and preparation, Cal and his group made their way to Sable Island, almost. Another five days of waiting out the weather before they were landed by helicopter. They took everything they needed: tower, antennas, cable, rigs, generators, fuel, shelter, food, water, and enthusiasm. During their time on the air, the group made an incredible number of contacts -- 8,500!!

If you missed Cal's presentation, I'm sorry. There's no way I can faithfully replicate it here. Eyeball Cal over coffee and get it right. And don't miss any more presentations at WARC. You may regret it!

On May 14th, we will be meeting in the cafeteria of Sturgeon Creek Collegiate starting at 1930 hours. The program for the evening is called Something for Everyone -- A Potpourri of Discussion Topics. Join one of these discussion groups and share your knowledge and experiences: antennas, power supplies, introduction to HF, operating procedures, logging, food and beverages, and CLARA and YL's. You might want to bring along some pictures or plans of projects. You can move to another group after 30 minutes if you choose. As you can see many of these topics are a warm up for Field Day on June 23/24. We hope you'll attend that too.

On June 11, Maiko VE4KLM will present, "Mostly Packet and a Little IRLP". Get the lowdown on the latest in packet and an intro to IRLP. See you then.

Contest Calendar

May

01	1300-1900	CW AGCW-DL QRP Party
06-07	0000-2400	CW Ten-Ten International Spring QSO
06-07	0000-2400	SSTV Danish SSTV Contest
06-07	2 periods	CW/SSB Connecticut QSO Party
06-07	2 periods	CW/SSB Massachusetts QSO Party
06-07	1400-2300	CW/SSB Indiana QSO Party
06-07	2000-2000	CW/SSB ARI Int'l DX Contest
13-14	0000-2400	CW/SSB Oregon QSO Party
13-14	1200-1200	RTTY A.Volta RTTY DX Contest
13-14	2100-2100	CW/SSB/SSTV CQ-M Internat'l DX
14	1700-2100	CW FISTS CW Spring Sprint
20	1500-1859	CW EU SPRINT Spring
20-21	2100-0200	CW/SSB Baltic Contest
27-28	0000-2400	CW CQ W W WPX Contest

June

02-03	0000-1600	CW W W South America Contest
02-03	1500-1500	CW IARU Region 1 Fieldday
09	0000-2400	SSB Portugal Day Contest
09-10	0000-2400	RTTY ANARTS WW RTTY Contest
09-10	1200-1200	SSB TOEC WW Grid Contest
10	1100-1300	SSB Asia-Pacific Sprint
10	1800-2400	CW/SSB West Virginia QSO Party
16-17	0000-2400	CW All Asian DX Contest
17	1800-2400	SSB Kid's Day Operating Event
23-24	1200-1200	CW SP QRP Contest
23-24	1400-1400	CW Marconi Memorial Contest
23-24	1800-2100	CW/SSB ARRL Field Day

RAC Bulletins

www.rac.ca/~racnews/othernotices/racbullemail.htm

RAC Bulletin 01-026E IARU HF World Championship

Radio Amateurs of Canada would like to invite Canadian amateurs with an interest in HF Radio Contesting to participate in a Canadian Headquarters entry in this coming July's 2001 IARU HF World Championship. Participants are welcome in any part of Canada, and we will be using various official RAC call signs.

Complete contest rules can be found in the April 2001 issue of QST magazine, or at

www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/rules-iaru.html .

Interested parties can contact Derrick Belbas, VE4VV, at ve4vv@rac.ca, or by telephone at 204-224-2641, prior to 10 June 2001.

News from the Winnipeg Seniors' Radio Club by Gil Frederick, VE4AG

If you are reading this by May 8-9 (Tues. & Wed.), please try and attend the special Bake Sale at the WSCRC Clubrooms, to support the Thalidomide Victims Association of Canada in their fund-raising venture. Bring a relative, a friend, and, besides making a purchase, donate some 'goodies' for sale (even 'store-bought' items). Louis, VE4PLJ, is in charge of the tables, with Ruth, VE4XYL assisting. Sale times are 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. each day. Cash donations are also welcome – tax receipts will be issued by the Association for amounts of \$10 or more.

Another event that warrants your attendance is the Mall Amateur Radio display being set up at the Garden City Shopping Centre, on June 5-6-7. Operating times of our booth in the Centre Court will be 9:30 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. each day. This is an information booth, with Ed, VE4YU in charge. Any Hams that would like to help are asked to get in touch with Ed. We expect to have a 2m station in operation, and a computer in a ham-related service. The first Tuesday of each month is Seniors' Day, so we should see a great number of prospective members for the ham radio hobby and club membership. So mark your calendar now, and join us for some good PR work.

Our membership roster has changed slightly. We are sorry to report a Silent Key: Don Campbell, VE4NI, who died on April 1, 2001; and we have one new member, Bob Jacobs, VE4RCJ. Welcome Bob- we know you'll be a great asset to our club.

There has been a change in the date of our annual Fall Picnic. In order to try and have it in more favourable weather, the Board has set the date for late August, Thursday, the 30th. The corn should be at its peak – and everything else will also be the 'excellence' that you have come to expect at this well-attended picnic. Site will be the usual place- the duck pond pavilion at St. Vital Park.

Our Club has been asked to nominate a member for 'Ham of the Year' to be picked at this summer's International Peace Garden Hamfest. Nomination papers require 5 signatures, and a brief bio, and must be in the hands of Dave Snyder, VE4XN, by June 30th.

Bluebooks will once again be available this year, and members are asked to purchase a copy from WSCRC (we get a commission). Cost will remain at \$10.00 each. Notification of availability will be given in the usual ham news routes.

Our last monthly breakfast at the Canad Inns Garden City was very well attended, I believe 37 was the count – and the winner of the prize (a coffee maker) was Tom Mills,

VE4SE. Our next breakfast, at the same location, will be on Thursday, May 10th.

We hope to have our new Packet Station operating by mid-June. More on this in the next issue.

The CancerCare group is asking for donations of 'artificial hair' wigs, any size, any colour. For further info, please contact Alf, VE4ALF.

Our next Board meeting is Wednesday, May 16th. We hope to see all Board members out for this meeting.

A Plastic Transistor Vern VE4VQ

From Science & Vie, July 2000, p. 347

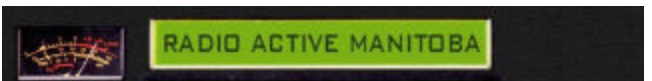
"It is one more step in the understanding of plastic electronics.", says Denis Fichou. This scientist at the Laboratory of Molecular Materials of the National Centre for Scientific Research (Thiais) has just proposed, with his Dutch colleagues, a method for understanding how charges are conducted in an organic transistor (Nature, Vol. 6781)

The transistor, basic element of all electronics, is no longer composed of atoms of silicon as in classical electronic devices, but of a microscopic organic crystal placed between two electrodes. A semiconductor, this material is able to circulate charges between the electrodes.

"The transport of charges at ambient temperature was very poorly understood.", Denis Fichou continued; "Today, this new fundamental knowledge will allow us to progress in the technology of plastic electronics."

The objective is: to construct chips in plastic, thin and flexible, which would be integrated into bank cards, electronic badges, on flat and flexible computer-screens.

In the illustration accompanying the article, one reads: This crystal of sexithiophene possesses electronic properties that make it ideal for the transport of charges.



WWW.VE4.NET

Promoting the Spirit of Radio

Bob Hrabí

VE4ZAP

The state of Packet Radio in our region

By Maiko, VE4KLM

I was told one day that packet was dead. Several other people told me there is nothing available for packet in our area. I even had a few people tell me that Winnipeg has no BBS or NODES to connect to. Those observations couldn't me further from the truth. Yes, packet radio is not as popular as it once was, and in fact, its use is in decline and has been for years, some say mostly because of the internet, but... it's still not dead..

I wrote this article to state some facts about packet in Winnipeg, and the rest of the province. I am fairly active in the packet community and am one of the very few people behind the scenes that tries their best to keep some of the systems working for those who still feel packet is worth the effort.

Winnipeg and surrounding area

If you think packet is dead, then maybe you should tune your radio/tnc station to 144.390, where you will find a fairly active crowd that make up the APRS people in our area. What does APRS have to do with packet you may ask ? APRS itself is a high level protocol that uses packet radio UI frames. APRS would not be possible without packet radio.

Maybe you want to connect to a BBS in our area ? Tune your radio to 144.310, and try to connect to VE4BBS. This particular frequency is specially suited for Winpack and TPK users that want to use FBB unproto beacons to get their bulletin lists. If you live out of range of the BBS, then try to digipeat to it, via the VE4RAG digi out in the Elie area, on 145.09.

Want to hit the internet ? Then connect to VE4UMR, our internet gateway. It can be connected to directly with 9600 baud packet on 441.05 or it can be reached through VE4PKT and the other provincial nodes. From VE4UMR, you can access converse servers and DX clusters located on other systems around the world. Due to security concerns, new users have to request an account. It only takes a second to set it up, and all you have to do is ask.

Need an alternate way to connect to VE4BBS or VE4UMR ? Try 145.07, and connect to the VE4PKT node. From there you can connect to the BBS or the internet gateway. You can also connect to nodes in Portage, or Brandon, or Beausejour.

Other parts of Manitoba

In Portage, try 145.03, connect to VE4NOD. In Brandon, try 145.05, connect to VE4BDG. In Beausejour, try 144.99, connect to VE4BRC. All those nodes are inter linked together, along with VE4PKT, so that people as far west as Brandon can 'do packet' with people as far east as

Beausejour. Any users along that stretch have access to the VE4BBS and VE4UMR machines. From Portage, there is a string of nodes that goes north, up to Baldy Mountain, Russell, and Swan River, so users in that area should also be able to get into the network. From Brandon, there is an intermittent link into North Dakota. Unfortunately the Brandon site will be down by end of April (we're losing a tower), but the plan is to get a new site going in the Minnedosa area. This new site will service the Brandon area just as well, and provide a better path to the south into North Dakota.

Bottom line

Packet is available in Winnipeg and in other areas of Manitoba. People that live 40 km outside of Winnipeg can hit VE4PKT easily with a good beam. Similar situations exist for the Portage node, VE4NOD. Believe it or not, alot of these machines have been around for years and years, in one form or the other.

If you have internet access, then bookmark the following site :

<http://www.qsl.net/ve4klm/resources>

This is a site I created a few years ago, that lists all the packet resources available to users in the province of Manitoba and into the northern states. I try my best to keep it updated. If you have questions, then e-mail me at maiko@langelaar.net.

If you don't have internet access (and even if you do), give me a call at home, or send me a packet mail. I can send you an ASCII summary of everything that is available to you. So, dust off that old TNC and connect to VE4BBS, leave me a message there and have fun with packet.

Biological Computers

By Vern, VE4VQ

Moore's "law" says that the number of transistors on a chip doubles every 24 months. Since Moore made this observation back in the 70's, miniaturization has multiplied the number by 3200. The Pentium III contains a mere 9,500,000 transistors on a chip scarcely larger than 1 cm² (which is about ¼ sq. inch).

Unfortunately, miniaturization has its limits so the scientists have been looking for other ways of making diodes and one of them has been to turn to the neurons that convey electricity in animal (including human) bodies.

Researchers in Los Angeles have discovered that rotaxane is one of the chemicals that has the ability to assume either one of two possible states, thus providing the basic 0 or 1 required in binary logic.

The diagram (Sciences et Avenir, Sep 2000, p. 60) shows a molecule of rotaxane shaped like a dumbbell – two “balls” connected by a slender shaft. The atoms in this molecule may be thought of as a ring that can move back and forth on the shaft. By soaking the molecule in either an acidic bath or a non-acidic bath, the ring on the shaft of the molecule assumes one or other of the two possible states, thus producing the required diode effect.

No, don't look for a computer using biological components in your favourite computer store for Christmas; the article is headed Computers for 2015. One of the problems is that biological material has a relatively short life so storage of data will have to be done on some kind of conventional computer. Lots of problems – but a fertile field for imaginative minds.

Parkside Appliance & Electronics



**Sales & Service of
Computers & Software
Home repairs offered**

John, VE4JNF

386 Belvidere Street

885-9278

www.escape.ca/~ve4jnf

ve4jnf@escape.ca

Manitoba Marathon 2001

by Ralph, VE4RY

<<< Fathers' Day, Sunday, June 17th >>>

Volunteers Needed!

Just a reminder that we can always use more volunteers; the more we have, the better chance of placing our operators at the position of their choice on the course.

We have already signed up quite a few operators at the spring flea market. We would also like to encourage new hams to come on board. You will be stationed with a more experienced ham and can gain valuable operating experience while having lots of fun - and besides, get a nice souvenir T-shirt!

So, if we haven't talked to you yet about helping us out this year, please give one of us a call:

Pat, VE4PLG 339-3018

Ralph VE4RY 663-8894

Kay VE4YF 669-5077 [9 a.m. till 9 p.m. only please]

Thanks. We hope to hear from more people soon!

Nanotubes and Electronic Noise

By V. L. Dutton, VE4VQ

When the first silicon-based semi-conductor transistors were being developed, electronic noise was a major problem. (R. M. Ryder and R. J. Kircher. Bell System Technical Journal 28,367,1949). The development of nanotube diodes and transistors is in a similar state today.

This article in La Recherche for June 2000 shows how a nanotube is assembled. Nanotubes are narrow sheets of hexagonal carbon atoms rolled into a long two-layer tube. Then, in one of the tubes, two of the hexagons are replaced by a pentagon (5-sides) and a heptagon (7-sides). This causes one tube to be a conductor while the other becomes a semi-conductor. The result is that you have a diode that lets current flow in one direction only.

The most recent research has been to study the chemical environment in which the nanotubes are operating. Specifically, the physicists are investigating the effect of oxygen. “We have shown that the excess of noise in nanotubes is not due to their structure but to their chemical environment. This sensitivity to the environment was very much unexpected but the constraints that it places on nanotubes to be used in electronics seem to be neither too complex nor too costly. Our optimism concerning the use of nanotubes in electronics seems to be justified.”

News from the net

NEW 1296 MHz EME beacon !

With financial assistance from the American Astronomical Society, The SETI League Inc has placed on the air a transmitter that bounces microwave signals off the moon's surface for use in testing Earth-based radio telescopes.

Operating on 1296 MHz under the call sign W2ETI, the EME beacon enables amateur and professional radio astronomers to calibrate their receiving systems by providing a stable reference signal from a known point in the sky. The SETI League's EME beacon received its first shakedown in March, providing scientists at the Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico with a weak, well-calibrated test signal for use in conjunction with the Project Phoenix targeted search for extraterrestrial intelligence.

Project Phoenix scientists had formerly used a microwave transmitter aboard the Pioneer 10 spacecraft for this purpose. Twenty nine years after its launch, Pioneer 10 is now outside our solar system, seven billion miles from Earth, and its 8 W beacon is too weak to be received--even by Arecibo.

The SETI League promotes a privatized search for extra-terrestrial intelligence. The organization boasts more

than 1200 members in 60 countries, many of the Amateur Radio operators. Its executive director is Paul Shuch, N6TX. For more information, visit the SETI League Web site, <http://www.setileague.org/> . - (Thanks to ARRL Letter)

UK - TVI

UK takes new approach to TVI The Radiocommunications Agency in the UK has announced a new policy on domestic interference and has issued a new RA179 leaflet which is now entitled Television and Radio Interference.

Under the new system, the complainant will be charged £50 if, following an investigation, the RA finds that the interference is not due to any illegal use of radio or faulty electrical equipment, but is due to a problem with the complainant's own TV or radio installation.

No charge will be made to the complainant if the interference is found to be due to illegal radio use or faulty electrical equipment outside the complainant's premises.

If householders wish to report a possible source of interference but do not wish to commit themselves to a possible charge, they can give details of a source of interference by contacting the local office of the RA. The RA staff will use this information as part of their intelligence-gathering on possible illegal use of radio.

For further details please read [RA179 - Television and Interference](#) at the RA web site - http://www.radio.gov.uk/publication/ra_info/ra179/ra179.htm - . (RSGB News)

WORLD AMATEUR RADIO DAY April 18th

Every year on 18 April, the world celebrates World Amateur Radio Day, a day set aside to focus on Amateur Radio and the contributions the service makes in the field of technological and communication development and its support in the elevation of human suffering during natural disasters. The theme for 2001 is :

“ Providing Disaster Communications: Amateur Radio in the 21st century

The following from the IARU. It is worth copying and keeping.

AMATEUR RADIO:

A National and International Resource

Radio amateurs are well known for their public service work in times of natural disasters. Amateur radio also makes significant technological and sociological contributions to those nations that sanction and support it. The amateur radio movement as we know it today emerged shortly after the beginning of the 20th Century and in 1927 achieved formal international recognition at the International Radiotelegraph Convention in Washington, D.C. Today, the service operates under a general mandate that has remained essentially unchanged since that time.

Provides disaster communications resources.

When natural disasters cause normal communications channels to be lost or overloaded, radio amateurs can respond swiftly and effectively to calls for assistance. When invited to do so, they maintain close ties with government and relief agency officials to assure prompt availability of their emergency communications resources in the event of a need. Radio amateurs take pride in their ability to provide this unique public service.

Develops a national source of electronics expertise.

As electronic devices and telecommunications systems proliferate in our world, there must be a corresponding increase in the number of individuals who can understand them. Radio amateurs train themselves in electronics, in radio wave propagation theory, and in telecommunications techniques. The practical, hands-on experience that one gains as a radio amateur is valuable across a wide range of disciplines.

Contributes and demonstrates electronic innovations.

Dedicated amateur experimenters have contributed heavily to the development of electronics technology from its early beginnings to the present day. Amateur radio provides extensive opportunities for experimentation in a wide variety of communications disciplines. What is learned and discovered is to the advantage of employers, governments, and the public itself.

Is a disciplined and self-regulating service.

Radio amateurs are licensed by their government administrations. Each licensee becomes a registered and identified user of radio communications equipment. Radio amateurs often are applauded by governments for their ability to monitor and regulate their own activities effectively, and to avoid interference to other radio services. It is a reputation that is well deserved and one in which all amateurs take pride.

Is a growing service.

It is not surprising, in our technologically advancing world, that increasing numbers of people are being attracted to amateur radio. Worldwide, the number of amateur licensees has been increasing at the rate of approximately 7% per year for several decades and is continuing to increase, to a total of almost three million as we enter the 21st century.

Needs spectrum space.

It is important to remember the benefits of amateur radio. They are available to all segments of society throughout the world only because of the enlightened and long-standing international policy of allocating adequate segments throughout the radio-frequency spectrum for use by amateurs. This provides the means whereby experimentation and discovery can flourish and the environment in which the many benefits and services of amateur radio can be delivered. As a growing service, amateur radio must have access to spectrum in keeping with its requirement.

Editors Ramblings
By Derek VE4HAY

In the last month I was forced to reformat my main hard drive and reload the operating system. The harmonics seemed to lock up my system real good one day and a couple of key files were trashed. I did a backup of my Windows Address Book *.wab and I restored the file when I had my system back. But I guess Bill, never thought about sub folders in an address book, because they never came back. And in one of those sub-folders was a lot of HAM e-mail addresses. I was able to get the listings for those who get the WARC newscaster &/or the MRS Repeater, but all the other address of amateurs I know have been lost. So if you were in my e-mail address book, please send me a note so I can get your address back. Thank you.

A couple of links to check out
 Manitoba emergency measures organization briefing for Amateur Radio Operators
<http://www.mts.net/~trhind/VE4TJR/MEMO.htm>
 Warc Flea Market
<http://www.mts.net/~trhind/VE4TJR/W.A.R.htm>

So much is happening in the next few months. The Manitoba Marathon on Father's Day. This is I think, the very first public service event I got in involved with as far as Amateur Radio is concerned. It's what got me hooked, and has kept me that way. I get such a thrill out of it each year. Seeing how professional everyone is and how efficient we can be with the passing of messages from station to station.

So if you have the time and care to really put your radio through its paces, give VE4YF or VE4RY a call and volunteer. If you can spare the time. If not then why not monitor for an hour or two that morning, and see what a great job everyone is doing.

The International HamFest is next. Another worthwhile event. The drive is a little bit long, but if you go with other hams either in the car with you or on the road the time goes very quickly and you make use of your radio along the way. Once there, you will be treated to tail-gaters like you may never have seen before (excluding Dayton of course). Bargains can be found and so can the one part or old piece of equipment you have been looking for. Not to mention the eye ball contacts and fun in the evening. I'm not much of a dancer, but just being there is enough for me.

Field Day is the best time of the year to show off our hobby. The bands are full and contacts can and will be made. For all you Basic calls operators, this is a perfect chance to get on HF and show your stuff. Who knows, maybe you will get the bug and upgrade your ticket. For all you 5 WPM people, here is your chance to try the other bands before you are grandfathered.

Camp 807 this year is in Fort Frances, a bit of a journey, but the steak dinner is worth the trip, as they say. Remember to bring your own knife & fork, or you will have to use your fingers. Watch out for your fellow amateur as they bid on that piece of junk in your name. Yes everything goes.

And remember about MARM, our local hamfest 73



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