



The **NEWSCASTER**

The Official Publication of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club
<http://www.virtualmultimedia.com/warc/>

June 2002

Free to Members

Summer Activity Update

Bring your pocket calendar and mark down all
the events.

Date: June 10th, 2002
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Sturgeon Creek Regional Secondary School

Other Important Dates:

Articles: August 28th - Article Deadline Sept. Newscaster

WARC: June 16 - Manitoba Marathon
June 22-23 - Field Day

WSC: June 13, July 11, August 8, Sept 12 - Breakfast
June 19 & September 18 - Board Meeting
August 22 - Picnic - St. Vital Park

ARES: June 11 - Marathon Briefing
June - 25 - DND Domestic Operations Detachment

Other: July - RAC Canada Day Contest
July 12-14 - International HamFest - Peace Garden
July 26-28 - RAC National Convention
Aug 2-4 - Camp 807 - Warroad MN
Aug 17 - MRS Semiannual Meeting @ Marmfest
Aug 16 & 17 - MarmFest - Austin MB

Nets: Daily 01:00 UTC MB Evening Phone net 3760 KHz
Daily 01:30 UTC Prairie traffic Net (CW) 3660 KHz
Daily 02:30 UTC Aurora #2 net 7055 KHz
Weekdays 9:00am Seniors morning net 147.390 MHz
Wed. 9:00 pm Six Meter net 50.240 MHz.
Thursday 9:00pm MRS Net 147.390 MHz +
Sunday 1:00pm MRS Net 147.390 MHz +

From the Vice President WARC, Tom VE4SE

As June is the last meeting before the summer break it will also be my last meeting as a member of the executive. My three year term is up and according to the by-laws one can only serve three years maximum. You must take at least a years break before running for election again. Dave VE4DAR and Harm VE4HAZ have been on the nominating committee and have come up with an excellent team of people who agreed to stand for election to the WARC executive. Two other members have also completed three years and they will be leaving as well. They are Mariska VE4MMG our membership chairperson and Susan VE4SYM our treasurer. I would like to thank all the past and present executive for their help, advice and moral support in running the club as well as the membership at large. There are many other members who help out behind the scenes and I would like to thank some them. To name a few and not in any order Derek VE4HAY, our newscaster editor, Marc VE4MAB our web site coordinator, Ed VE4YU our club QSL manager, Floyd VE4FDR our newscaster printer, and Ruth VE4XYL our coffee maker and supplier of Tim Bits. To all of those volunteers who help out at the Flea market, field day, the marathon, the Christmas party and any other function that the club is involved in, THANK YOU. We could not do it without your help. This is what keeps WARC running. The executive cannot do it alone. To the new executive, the outgoing executive will help you in any way to get started. We are only a radio call, an email or a phone call away.

WARC: Executive for 2002

Past President	Norm Coull	VE4EH	885-1692
President	Vacant		
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	Glen Napady	VE4GWN	831-8082
Goodwill	Vacant		

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

Comments or if you just want to reach us :

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 Newsletters - past issues
<http://www.ve4.net/newsletters.html>

News Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club
By Gil Frederick, VE4AG, President

Not much to report this issue, but there are a few activities with dates that should be marked on your calendar:

Monthly Breakfasts: continue throughout the summer months. Dates are (Thursdays) June 13, July 11, August 8, September 12. Meeting place is the Canad Inn Garden City, McPhillips at Jefferson, and we hope everyone will be present by 9 a.m. Visitors are always welcome, and are eligible for the draw for the free breakfast or surprise package supplied by our convenor, George Gillespie, VE4GNG. Our last breakfast saw only 13 people out – but the adverse weather, or the scary news about bad road conditions, likely was the main reason.

The BBS station has been secured in location at the Club, and just needs the antenna work done to be operational. It requires licensing as well, with callsign to be determined.

We have had a resignation from the Board: Ruth Mills, VE4XYL has resigned due to time restraints (she's a busy lady with family and other activities). It was decided at the last Board meeting to leave this position vacant for the balance of the year.

Board Members are reminded that the Minutes of May's meeting are in their personal envelopes in Room #2; and the latest Blips 'n' Blurbs are in the bin for pickup by all Club members. The next Board Meeting will be held on

Wednesday, June 19, beginning at 10 a.m. This is the last meeting (a summer hiatus begins) until the September meeting on the 18th.


The St. Vital Historical Society has invited members to come and see their displays. Gil, VE4AG and Paul, VE4PXP made a visit after the last Board meeting, and were impressed by the number of historical documents and artifacts that are in the room that this Society uses. Paul was especially excited, in looking over old school photos, to try and find his picture, and checking written documents for names of people and places he knew as a lad living in St. Vital. His Dad was a builder of houses, and built many in which they lived, in St. Vital. He has written an article, and it will be published in a subsequent issue of "Sparks". There were also many old pictures of the Fire Hall which we call 'home' to VE4WSC. The Historical Society is located in the old Norberry School, 900 St. Mary's Rd., Room 17 (2nd floor). Hours are 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. They would be pleased to see you and show you around

The Picnic is another club activity that is well-attended – because of the great food? The great fellowship? The entertainment? This year it is again being held at the Duck Pond location of the St. Vital Park – on Thursday, August 22. There is ample parking. Come anytime in the morning – the food will be served beginning 12 noon. Enjoy hot fresh corn on the cob, with butter or marg, sizzling juicy hamburgers, delicious hot dogs, all the usual condiments and garnishes, buns, and coffee and soft drinks. Tickets are sold at the site. Come one- come all – and bring a friend.

In closing, I'll mention Camp 807, to be held for the first time in the U.S. Place to be on the Civic Holiday weekend, August 02 (Friday) to August 05 (Monday) is Warroad, MN. Sorry, I don't have further details at this time – look for info in ham publications or bulletins. If any literature comes to the Club, it will be posted, and mentioned on the local Nets.

We hope all readers have a happy and safe summer. 73,
 de Gil

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Minutes for W.A.R.C. May 13, 2002

Submitted by David, VE4DAR

Meeting was called to order by VP Tom VE4SE at 1930 hours. His welcome to all was followed by introductions. 33 members and 2 guests were in attendance.

M/S Derek VE4HAY/Rolf VE4VZ moved that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted as printed in the Newscaster. Carried. Business arising: none

Wayne VE4WR said he was very impressed by the good attendance by amateur radio operators at Exercise Deep Freeze put on by Manitoba Emergency Management Organization (MEMO).

Treasurer's Report: Sue VE4SYM

Flea Market

Revenue:	\$1,059.75	
Expense:	\$ 395.54	
Net Income		\$663.81
Attendance:	- 210.	
Net income from fall Flea Market:	- \$585.60	
Attendance fall Flea Market:	- 191.	

Income Statement for April 30,2002.

Revenue	\$ 1,051.75
Expense	\$ 755.95
Net Income	\$ 295.80

Expenses to note: - \$250.00 for stamps.

Jeff VE4MBQ asked whether Ed VE4EIH had indicated whether he was willing to chair another Flea Market. Tom VE4SE had not been able to reach Ed.

Programs: Glen VE4GWN

Tonight's program would be about CANWARN as presented by Jeff VE4MBQ.

The main item for June's meeting will be the annual elections. Glen urged everyone to attend then to ensure a quorum. Since the June meeting is the last one before summer there will reports and discussion about the Manitoba Marathon, Field Day, and the fall Flea Market. Lots of good reasons to attend on June _____.

Membership: Mariska VE4MMG

Current membership expires in September. She has started to renew membership for next year. She will ask that a membership renewal form be included in the next Newscaster.

RAC: Norm VE4EH,

Our interim representative, brought greetings from the new RAC President, Bill Gillis. He has been in touch with Bill

by telephone. There is no news at this time, since the new Board has just met.

ARES: Jeff VE4MBQ

Referred members to the comprehensive report in the Newscaster. Manitoba Marathon planning is proceeding well. They could use six more operators. If they get sufficient operators, they would like to put them on the Winnipeg Transit buses which sweep the course. In past years knowing the location of these buses has been a problem.

Field Day: Bob VE4RCJ

In Bob's absence, Tom VE4SE noted that help was required with transportation of equipment and supplies to Birds Hill Park. Volunteers with a truck or van are asked to contact Bob to help.

International Hamfest: will be held July 12 -14 at the International Peace Garden.

Manitoba Repeater Society (MRS): Roy VE4EN Reported that the membership situation is good. New repeaters are being installed at WPG, MAN and Gimli.

MARM Hamfest will be held August 17 at Austin, Mb.

Nominating Committee: David VE4DAR

Reported that he and Harm VE4HAZ had completed their task. These members have agreed to stand for election in June:

VE4FV Fred Venema, VE4MAB Mark Blumm, VE4QV John Pura, VE4PLJ Louis Gaudry, and VE4RA Rick Allan. Nominations will still be open up to election time.

Further Business:

Jeff noted that the Provincial Fire Commissioner had requested Manitoba ARES help during the recent train derailment near Portage La Prairie (Ruthie, check location). Wayne VE4WR showed the meeting 33 cm transceivers, which are part of a new ENGЕНИUS system. After a brief discussion, the meeting adjourned for coffee.

Attendance prize was won by Dick VE4HK. Door prize was won by Rosi VE4YYL.

Program:

Jeff VE4MBQ presented an overview of the CANWARN program.

Meeting adjourned at 2005 hrs.

From the Planning Chair: Glen, VE4GWN

As I write this I hope that spring has finely "sprung"! I wish to say thank you to Jeff VE4MBQ for his timely presentation on CANWARN. I hope that any and all who are not CANWARN spotters, now will understand this program.

June, being the last meeting of the year, will be Elections. Please try to make this meeting so we can get the new executive in place and we can start our plans for next year. We will also be getting the final report for the flea market, and an update as to where we stand for the Manitoba Marathon, and Field Day. The outgoing executive also have some presentations they wish to make.

I hope that as the Program Chair I have succeeded in providing both entertaining and educational presentations. Today I confirmed two presentations for next year, and through the summer I hope to receive some suggestions. I can be reached by e-mail at: ve4gwn@rac.ca, or by phone (most evenings) 831 8082 or on the VE4WPG repeater.

Last of all I must thank all of the club members who came out to the meetings and showed interest in what this club is doing, and where this hobby is heading. See you in June.

Membership Report by Mariska Maguire VE4MMG

My term as Membership Chair is up and I had a great time. A new executive will be in place when we all come back from our summer holidays. I would like to remind everyone that WARC memberships are due at the end of Sep 2002. I invite all members who have not renewed and any new potential members to join WARC. Please see the application form elsewhere in this Newscaster or visit the WARC Web Site at <http://www.virtualmultimedia.com/warc>. Everyone have a great and safe summer.

Winnipeg ARES Report by Jeff, VE4MBQ - Winnipeg EC

WPGARES provided volunteer amateur radio communications to the Canadian National Juvenile Team Handball Championships that took place on May 3, 4, & 5, 2002. WPGARES members provided over 230 man hours.

Starting at 0700hrs and ending at 2030hrs Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Net Control was set up at the Canad Inn (Polo Park) passing traffic between the two gymnasiums, Red River Community College and Lipsett Hall. There were also two mobile vehicles used to transport referees and out-of-town officials. The following ARES members participated in the event: VE4's: AJR, CDP, CLK, CRS, FV, GWB, GWN, HK, KAZ, MAQ, MMG, SE, TJR, WF, XYL and YYL. A big thank you goes out to Ruth Mills for doing the logistical support for our members. We would also like to thank Yori Tsuji VE4ACX for allowing us to use his portable repeater. And a big thank you to Dormond Industries Ltd for allowing us to set up the repeater at their facilities.

Thirty-four amateur operators from six of the seven Manitoba CANWARN Districts attended a combined New Spotter / Refresher Spotter Training session Saturday 11MAY at the Prairie Storm Prediction Centre. We welcome to the Spotter ranks VE4s: XA, RAW, JNF, YYL, WJE, BSR, XM.

CANWARN in southern Manitoba will be running from 13MAY to 08SEP with Net Controllers for VE4WWO On-call from 0930-2130h daily. CANWARN in Manitoba can be activated by:

- Severe Wx Forecaster at PSPC
- Or On-Call Net Controller
- Or ARES EC in the Field

Spotters are reminded to use the 1-800 number received at Spotter Training to make reports to PSPC when there is no Net in progress. The PUBLIC number to report severe weather is: 1-800-239-0484.

Our May General Meeting saw adoption of two motions dealing with membership:

Resolved, Winnipeg ARES members are expected to attend at least four (4) WPGARES monthly meetings per year AND participate in at least two (2) Public Service Events or On-Air Exercises per year.

Resolved, an additional requirement for entry of new members will be sponsorship by a current WPGARES member in good standing or a satisfactory interview of the new member candidate by the Emergency Coordinator.

The next monthly meeting will be TUE 25 JUN 1900h at Sir Wm Stephenson Library 765 Keewatin Street. Captain Ron Shaw, Operations Officer, Domestic Operations Detachment will be speaking about the role of DND Domestic Operations Detachment and how DND assistance is accessed by the provinces. We plan to skip the July meeting unless absolutely necessary, so please monitor the MRS Net THURS 11 JUL or SUN 14 JUL for confirmation either way. After 25 JUN, the next scheduled WPGARES monthly meeting will be TUE 20 AUG.

Why Should You Join RAC or Renew Your Membership ?



RAC INCOMING AND OUTGOING QSL BUREAUS

RAC operates the Central Incoming and Outgoing QSL Bureaus. If you do any amount of DXing, you know that you can easily spend hundreds of dollars a year in postage to handle your QSL cards. This service is operated by volunteers and is financed by RAC. To take advantage of the Outgoing QSL Bureau, you must be a member of RAC.

RAC BAND PLANS

RAC Committees plan, and coordinate nationally, the use of our amateur bands. We now have [approved plans](#) for all the Canadian amateur bands.

THE CANADIAN AMATEUR

As a member of RAC, you will receive 6 issues a year of The Canadian Amateur (TCA). Expanded to 64 pages per issue, this magazine will keep you up-to-date with regular columns on packet radio, VHF and UHF operation, DXing, amateur radio emergency service (ARES), propagation forecasts, antenna designs, contesting, short-wave listening, and more. There are feature articles every month of particular interest to amateurs. Subscribers also have regular access to information from advertisers selling the latest amateur equipment. Your RAC membership is worth the subscription to TCA alone. But TCA is not your only benefit.

BEHIND THE SCENES

Along with the direct membership services enjoyed by hams daily (see examples below), there is a tremendous amount of work taking place constantly behind the scenes. The lobbying and discussion to maintain our bands, the legal battles over towers, and more recently the proposals by Industry Canada to limit effective radiated power, make constant work for RAC on behalf of Canadian amateurs. The government is also issuing new radio regulations which have a potential to affect amateur radio and amateur radio operators.

Perhaps these issues aren't so obvious until you are affected directly. It is nice to know that you are not alone when it comes to dealing with these matters.

Today there is tremendous pressure to reallocate amateur frequencies in the VHF and UHF spectrum where a large majority of hams operate. As well, there is a sizable investment of equipment in terms of repeaters and links in this part of the spectrum. A few years ago, Canadian amateurs lost 420 - 430 MHz to the land mobile service. Recently the American amateurs lost 220 - 222 MHz to land mobile services. Amateurs only have secondary status in

the remaining 430 - 450 MHz band. This means that Industry Canada could allocate other services to this band at any time.

Amateurs must rally together, with RAC, to help defend our frequencies.

In order for RAC to carry on meaningful dialogue with government and industry leaders, it must represent the views of the entire Canadian amateur community. If only 20 or 30 percent of Canadian Hams belong to RAC, then the government may not view this as a clear mandate. As a member, your participation in discussion forums to shape the future of amateur radio in Canada is the best way to ensure that not only are your rights and investments protected, but that the amateur radio service can grow as well.

Don't let the tremendous volunteer effort on behalf of Canadian amateurs by the RAC volunteer Executive, Directors and officials be hampered by lack of support.

Support the organization that supports you... [JOIN RAC TODAY!](#)

[Radio Amateurs of Canada](#), is your national organization

Manitoba Marathon

By Jeff, VE4MBQ

WPGARES-WARC Planning for the 2002 Manitoba Marathon is almost complete. We are in need of five volunteers at this time- there will be approximately seventy (70) amateur radio operators involved this year. Wayne VE4WTS is currently arranging for loan of APRS gear for some Marathon vehicles. As in past years there will be amateur operators at Aid Stations along the course, driving Medical and Supply Vehicles, staffing two Net Control stations (Admin and Medical), and new for this year covering the five Transit buses that pick up runners that have exited the course along the route at various Aid Stations. The briefing for Marathon Amateur Radio volunteers is: TUE 11JUNE 1900h 2nd Floor Manitoba Sports Federation 200 Main Street.

RAC Bulletin

02-032E - Two new directors at RAC

The RAC Board of Directors has approved the appointment, of Bjarne (Bj) Madsen, VE5FX of Tisdale, SK and D. Howard Dickson, VE1DHD of Tantallon, NS, as Directors for the Midwest and Atlantic Regions respectively.

These appointments are effective immediately filling unexpired terms to December 31, 2002, of Directors Lord and Bartlett, resigned.

Hints & Kinks

by Ralph, VE4RY

HF Rigs / Wire Antenna Tuning

This idea has helped at least one friend of mine and may be worth looking into. Many amateurs are fortunate to use modern transceivers equipped with a built-in automatic antenna tuner. After hearing great things about wire antennas, they decide to give one a try.

If it's a G5RV or random wire, they may be somewhat disappointed with the results. Either the tuner doesn't seem to handle the SWR, or if it does, they just don't seem to be "getting out." Our mothers always taught us to use a Low Pass Filter at the output of the rig and in this case, this may be the culprit. The auto-tuner is trying to tune the antenna through the filter. An external low pass filter requires 50-ohms in and also needs to see a 50-ohm load, or else it becomes lossy. The only option in this case is to remove this filter from the output or use a separate external tuner after it. Bear in mind, the new solid-state transceivers do not really require a low pass filter anyway, since the bandpass filters in the output section accomplish the desired reduction of harmonic content. These rigs meet the spectral purity requirements quite well on their own.

Contest Calendar

June

WW South America CW Contest		0000Z	Jun 1
IARU Region 1 Field Day	CW	1500Z	Jun 1
QRP TAC Sprint		1800Z	Jun 1
ANARTS WW RTTY Contest		0000Z	Jun 8
Portugal Day Contest		0000Z	Jun 8
RSGB Jubilee Contest		1000Z	Jun 8
Asia-Pacific Sprint	SSB	1100Z	Jun 8
TOEC WW Grid Contest	SSB	1200Z	Jun 8
ARRL June VHF QSO Party		1800Z	Jun 8
All Asian DX Contest	CW	0000Z	Jun 15
SMIRK Contest		0000Z	Jun 15
AGCW VHF/UHF Contest		1600Z	Jun 15
West Virginia QSO Party		1800Z	Jun 15
Marconi Memorial HF Contest		1400Z	Jun 22
ARRL Field Day		1800Z	Jun 22
QRP ARCI Milliwatt Field Day		1800Z	Jun 22

July

RAC Canada Day Contest		0000Z	Jul 1
MI QRP July 4th CW Sprint	CW	2300Z	Jul 4
Venezuelan Ind. Day Contest	SSB	0000Z	Jul 6
Kentucky QSO Party		1600Z	Jul 6
IARU HF World Championship		1200Z	Jul 13

FISTS Summer Sprint		1700Z	Jul 13
CQ Worldwide VHF Contest		1800Z	Jul 13
QRP ARCI Summer Homebrew Sprint		2000Z	Jul 14
Colombian Ind. Day Contest		0001Z	Jul 20
Pacific 160m Contest		0700Z	Jul 20
AGCW QRP Summer Contest		1500Z	Jul 20
North American QSO Party	RTTY	1800Z	Jul 20
CQC Great Colorado Gold Rush		2000Z	Jul 21
Venezuelan Ind. Day Contest	CW	0000Z	Jul 27
Russian RTTY WW Contest		0000Z	Jul 27
IOTA Contest		1200Z	Jul 27

August

10-10 Int. Summer Contest	SSB	0001Z	Aug 3
European HF Championship		1000Z	Aug 3
North American QSO Party	CW	1800Z	Aug 3
ARRL UHF Contest		1800Z	Aug 3
WAE DX Contest	CW	0000Z	Aug 10
Maryland-DC QSO Party		1600Z	Aug 10
SARTG WW RTTY Contest		0000Z	Aug 17
ARRL 10 GHz Cumulative Contest		0800 local	Aug 17
Keyman's Club of Japan Contest		1200Z	Aug 17
SEANET Contest	CW/SSB/Digital	1200Z	Aug 17
North American QSO Party	SSB	1800Z	Aug 17
TOEC WW Grid Contest	CW	1200Z	Aug 24
SCC RTTY Championship		1200Z	Aug 24
CQC Summer QSO Party		1800Z	Aug 25
YO DX HF Contest		1200Z	Aug 31
Ohio QSO Party		1600Z	Aug 31

Winnipeg ARES Provides Communication for Canadian National Juvenile Team Handball Championships

By Richard, VE4KAZ

Winnipeg ARES provided radio communications to the Canadian National Juvenile Team Handball Championships that took place on May 3, 4, & 5, 2002. Winnipeg ARES members provided over 230 man hours. Starting at 0700hrs and ending at 2030hrs Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Net Control was set up at the Canad Inn (Polo Park) passing traffic between the two gymnasiums, Red River Community College and Lipsett Hall. There were also two mobile vehicles used to transport referees and out-of-town officials. The following ARES members participated in the event: VE4's: AJR, CDP, CLK, CRS, FV, GWB, GWN, HK, KAZ, MAQ, MMG, SE, TJR, WF, XYL and YYL. A big thank you goes out to Ruth Mills for doing the logistical support for our members. I would also like to thank Yori Tsuji VE4ACX for allowing us to use his portable repeater. And a big thank you to Dormond Industries Ltd for allowing us to set up the repeater at their facilities.

News from the Net

FCC PROPOSES TWO NEW AMATEUR BANDS!

Great news for ham radio this week! The FCC has proposed going along with ARRL's request for a new domestic (US-only), secondary HF allocation at 5.25 to 5.4 MHz. The FCC also is ready to permit operation on a 136-kHz "sliver band" in the low-frequency (LF) region. And, in response to a third ARRL request, the FCC has proposed elevating Amateur Radio to primary status at 2400 to 2402 MHz. "I'm just as tickled as I can be," ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, said upon hearing the news. "This is a classic example of our ARRL at work." The FCC voted unanimously May 2 to adopt the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in ET Docket 02-98. The Commission released a Public Notice May 9, and the NPRM is expected to be released soon. A comment deadline will be announced as soon as it's available. The FCC said the new 5-MHz band would help amateurs "better match their choice of frequency to existing propagation conditions." The band, if approved, would be the first new amateur HF allocation since World Administrative Radio Conference 1979 gave amateurs 30, 17 and 12 meters--the so-called "WARC Bands." Assuming the 5-MHz band eventually is authorized, it could be a few years before it actually becomes available. The League said its successful WA2XSY experiments demonstrated that amateurs can coexist with current users and that the band is very suitable for US-to-Caribbean paths. In comparisons with 80 and 40 meters, the WA2XSY operation also showed the 60-meter band to be the most reliable of the three. The ARRL also argued that a new 150-kHz allocation at 5 MHz could relieve periodic overcrowding on 80 and 40. If allocated to amateurs on a secondary basis, hams would have to avoid interfering with--and accept interference from--current occupants of the spectrum, as they already do on 30 meters. The band 5.250 to 5.450 MHz now is allocated to Fixed and Mobile services on a co-primary basis in all three ITU regions. The ARRL asked the FCC for two LF allocations in October 1998--135.7 to 137.8 kHz and 160 to 190 kHz. The FCC said its action on one part of that LF request "proposes changes that would enhance the ability of amateur radio operators to conduct technical experiments, including propagation and antenna design experiments, in the 'low frequency' (LF) range of the radio spectrum." Several countries in Europe and elsewhere already have 136-kHz amateur allocations. The first amateur transatlantic contact on the band was recorded in February 2001. Hams would be secondary to the Fixed and Maritime Mobile services in the 136-kHz allocation. The League said its engineering surveys suggest that hams could operate without causing problems to power line carrier (PLC) systems already active in that vicinity or to government assignments. Unallocated Part 15 PLC systems are used by

electric utilities to send control signals, data and voice. The FCC said its proposal to upgrade the Amateur Service allocation at 2400 to 2402 MHz to primary "seeks to protect current amateur use of this band." Hams have shared their other 2.4 GHz spectrum on a secondary basis with government users. Amateurs already are primary at 2390 to 2400 and from 2402 to 2417 MHz. The ARRL has said primary status in the intervening spectrum slice was needed "to provide some assurances of future occupancy of the band segments for the next generation of amateur satellites." The ARRL has expressed its belief that hams can continue to accommodate Part 15 and Part 18 devices at 2.4 GHz. ARRL's Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH, was among those welcoming the good news from the FCC. "This a wonderful example of the work ARRL conducts in Washington on matters important to the Amateur Radio community," Hobart said. "Thanks to the 10,000 hams who contributed so generously to the 2002 Defense of Frequencies Fund. The success of that campaign helps to make decisions like this possible." - ARRL

Amateur Radio and its role in the Lake of the Woods Area

By Woody, VE3JJA

For some time Amateur Radio in the Lake of the Woods Area has partnered with Emergency Services and Community Groups to provide communication services not only for events but also during times of emergencies.

March 8th 2002 saw again Amateurs playing such a role. Members of the Lake of the Woods Search & Rescue (LOWSAR) were called out at 0427 hrs by the Ontario Provincial Police to assist in a search for a missing Manitoba snowmobiler in treacherous ice conditions not far from Kenora Ontario. LOWSAR a volunteer team has many duties one of them being ice/water rescue. The team owns and operates an ice/water rescue airboat. Many of the LOWSAR members are Amateur Operators. Larry VA3LCT, Terry VE3TMJ and Woody VE3JJA were activated for this particular rescue and at 0533 hrs. The victim was located in a camp on an island on Lake of the Woods. He had lost his machine through the ice in -25c temperatures and was suffering from hypothermia. He was treated on scene transported over ice and water to a waiting ambulance on shore and taken to hospital. The subject's chances of survival without LOWSAR'S arrival would have been greatly diminished. Amateur Radio is the primary communications mode for the team and new members are encouraged to obtain their licences. Classes have been put on specifically for LOWSAR by the Lake of the Woods Amateur Radio Society. A generous donation by Prairie Communications of Winnipeg provided the team with a portable Amateur Repeater and all LOWSAR's vehicles are so equipped.

RST Explained

RST stands for Readability, Signal Strength and Tone. On CW all three codes are used for a report such as 599 which means perfectly readable, extremely strong, and perfect tone. On phone only the first two codes are used or. A report might be 55 meaning perfectly readable, fairly good signals. In operation the signal strength is often taken from a reading on the S-meter.

The RST System

Readability

- 1--Unreadable
- 2--Barely readable, occasional words distinguishable.
- 3--Readable with considerable difficulty.
- 4--Readable with practically no difficulty.
- 5--Perfectly readable.

Signal Strength

- 1--Faint signals, barely perceptible.
- 2--Very weak signals.
- 3--Weak signals.
- 4--Fair signals.
- 5--Fairly good signals.
- 6--Good signals.
- 7--Moderately strong signals.
- 8--Strong signals.
- 9--Extremely strong signals.

Tone

- 1--Sixty cycle a.c or less, very rough and broad.
- 2--Very rough a.c., very harsh and broad.
- 3--Rough a.c. tone, rectified but not filtered.
- 4--Rough note, some trace of filtering.
- 5--Filtered rectified a.c. but strongly ripple-modulated.
- 6--Filtered tone, definite trace of ripple modulation.
- 7--Near pure tone, trace of ripple modulation.
- 8--Near perfect tone, slight trace of modulation.
- 9--Perfect tone, no trace of ripple or modulation of any kind.

**DIAMOND
IMAGE**

Floyd Rolph VE4 FDR

835 Cavalier Drive Tel: (204) 888-3227
Winnipeg, MB R2Y 1C6 Fax: (204) 831-6400

- South Western & Victorian home decor
- ty Beanie Babies
- Balloon bouquets & decorating
- Gifts
- Printing eg: Business cards, letterhead, envelopes
- Wedding invitations

Field Day 2002

By Robert, VE4RCJ

The weekend of field day is fast approaching. Thanks to Dave VE4DAR and Mark VE4MAB publicity releases have been made to the press and posters have been distributed throughout the city. At this time we plan to have three operating positions covering bands 80 through 10 metres. We also plan to have a PSK31 rig in operation on 20 metres or other bands if they open. It appears at this time that Rene will be in France rather than at field day and will therefore not be able to provide his usual demonstration of ATV. He will be missed but it is hoped that he has a great trip to the old country.

At this time the rush of volunteers has not been great. Ruth and Susan have the meal on Saturday evening well in hand and as might be expected it sounds mouth watering. However the list of things needed for the weekend remains long. It includes:

1. Operating tents. Approximately 8ft X 8 ft. Three if possible but two will be enough.
2. Portable tables. Each operating position will need a table that will fit in a tent. Card tables will work but can be somewhat unstable. Larger 4 X 8 tables are needed for the barbecue area.
3. Transportation. We need transportation to Birds Hill. The largest items to be transported are the 8 ft sections of mast and the beam antenna. The other items are smaller and can be squeezed into vans etc. Remember many smaller vehicles can replace one big one. We also need transportation for 3 barbecues. Make a note that these are necessary for the Saturday supper so let a certain selfishness be your guide.

4. Labour. We will need several able bodied persons on Saturday AM to load the vehicles in the city and assemble the circus at Birds Hill. I will be at the WARC meeting on the 13 June to visit, report on progress and elbow volunteers. See you there.

My phone number in the Blue book is wrong. The correct phone number is 477-9125. rcjacobs@mts.net.

Free open-source for software defined radios

[From Dave Farber's Iper list--BSA]

Introduction

GNU Radio is a collection of software that when combined with minimal hardware, allows the construction of radios where the actual waveforms transmitted and received are defined by software. What this means is that it turns the

digital modulation schemes used in today's high performance wireless devices into software problems.

What is a Software Defined Radio?

Joe Mitoloa says, "A software radio is a radio whose channel modulation waveforms are defined in software. That is, waveforms are generated as sampled digital signals, converted from digital to analog via a wideband DAC and then possibly upconverted from IF to RF. The receiver, similarly, employs a wideband Analog to Digital Converter (ADC) that captures all of the channels of the software radio node. The receiver then extracts, downconverts and demodulates the channel waveform using software on a general purpose processor." [1]

For our purposes, on the receive side, the idea is to get a wide band ADC as close to the antenna as is convenient, get the samples into something we can program, and then grind on them in software.

Can you give me an example?

To get a better idea of what we're talking about, please see the screen shots and examples. They range from playing a sine wave out a speaker, a single channel FM receiver, a display of the real time Fourier transform of the signals from a high speed analog to digital converter, to an application that receives two broadcast FM stations at the same time from the same input.

<http://www.gnu.org/software/gnuradio/>

For more information on this item please visit the CANARIE CA*net 3 Optical Internet program web site at

<Http://www.canet3.net/news/news.html>

Editors Ramblings
By Derek VE4HAY

Well another year has come and gone. Antennas went up and some came down. New hams joined the hobby and some have pass it by. Regulations have changed and more are in the works. It's been a busy year. And this summer is going to be a hot bed of activity as well. Take a look at the front page of this newsletter. You will see a number of events are planned. Please try to attend at least one of these events, if not more or all of them. Remember its your hobby, get out and show us how well you enjoy it..

For those who are members of RAC don't forget about the RAC National Convention, July 26-28. Even if your not a member, and you are vacation this year. Why not head in that direction and attend. You will not regret it. All you have to do is to convince your XYL that it will be fun.

The Manitoba Marathon is the one event of the summer that I always attend. It is the one time of the year where about being a HAM really pays off. This is the time where you combine your operating skills and the fun the of the hobby together and have a great morning for a very worthwhile cause. This is a very well run event and all amateurs work together to pull it off. Even if you are not involved, please take the time to monitor and see how the event unfolds. 73 - Have a great summer



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Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club



Attn: Membership
C/O VE4WSC
598 St. Mary's Road
Winnipeg MB R2M 3L5

Membership Application

The membership year starts in September and runs to August 31 of the following year.

Regular membership is only open to licensed amateurs & all radio enthusiasts.

Current Membership Fee \$ 15.00 per year

<input type="checkbox"/> New Membership		<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal of membership	
<u>Callsign</u>	<u>Surname</u>	<u>Preferred First Name</u>	
<u>Mailing Address</u>			
<u>City</u>	<u>Prov.</u>	<u>Postal Code</u>	
<u>Home Phone</u>		<u>Work Phone</u>	
<u>E-mail Address</u>		<u>Packet Address</u>	
Club use only: Date: _____ \$ _____ Cheque / Cash / Money Order Rept. _____ Card Issued: _____ Year _____			
Class of Member: (please circle one only)		Regular / Associate / Club	
Certificate Class: (please circle one only)		Advanced or Basic	
HF Endorsement (please circle one only)		Yes or No	
How do you wish the Newsletter by: (please circle one only)		E-mail or Snail-mail	

My interests:

VHF/UHF	<input type="checkbox"/> FM	<input type="checkbox"/> SSB	<input type="checkbox"/> CW	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
HF	<input type="checkbox"/> AM	<input type="checkbox"/> SSB	<input type="checkbox"/> CW	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Digital	<input type="checkbox"/> Packet	<input type="checkbox"/> Amtor	<input type="checkbox"/> Rtty	<input type="checkbox"/> SHF/EHF
<input type="checkbox"/> Satellite	<input type="checkbox"/> SSTV/FSTV	<input type="checkbox"/> Antenna	<input type="checkbox"/> QRP	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

Other Clubs:

<input type="checkbox"/> MRS	<input type="checkbox"/> ARES	<input type="checkbox"/> WSC	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
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Optional Information:

Current Occupation: _____

If Retired: Former Occupation: _____

Skills: _____