



The **NEWSCASTER**

The Official Publication of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club
<http://www.mts.net/~warc>

May 2011

IRLP # 1066 on VE4WRS 145.450-

VE4BB

PowerPole Party

By Jim, VE4SIG

*Bring along your rigs
and power cables for quick disconnect*



Date: Monday, May 9, 2011

Time: 7:30 PM

Place: Dakota Collegiate - (In the theatre)
661 Dakota Street (At Beliveau Rd.)

And now a word from the President

By Mark, VE4MAB

So much for spring, as it's SNOWING as I write this on May 1! What's up with that???

Once again our Spring Flea Market was a success! Thank to all those who tried their luck with D-Raffle of the D-Star 80AD (Special thanks to Micro-HighTech) we more than covered the increase in our liability insurance.

Garth, VE4GWB, has taken on the task of running Field Day this year and has plans well under way for the event coming up on June 25-26. This year, Field Day will be on the grounds of the Canadian Mennonite University thanks to Craig, VE4CDM, and we are looking forward to the venue being local attracting more visitors.

Speaking of attracting more... Our election is coming up at our June meeting and the past several years we have barely had the number we need step forward. I took a look back at the past 17 years and found most executive members served for 2 years, some for 1 and 3 years, then a few for 4 years, up to Ruthie, VE4CRS, for 3 then 4 years totaling 7!

It would be great to actually have an election this year so lets make this happen! If you are wondering what you'd be getting into, speak to the current executives. Heck, if we can do it you can to!

Stay tuned!

Other Important Dates...

Newscaster: Deadline June 1, 2011

WARC: Monthly Meeting Dates
June 13, 2011—Elections
September 12, 2011—Welcome Back

WSC: 2nd Thursday of month
Breakfast—Garden City Inn

ARES: May 18, 2011

Other: June 14, 2011 -Marathon Briefing
Norwood Community Centre
June 19, 2011-Manitoba Marathon
June 25-26, 2011- Field Day
On the Grounds of the Canadian
Mennonite University

WARC Executive for 2010-2011...

President	Mark Blumm	ve4mab@rac.ca
Vice-Pres.	Ed Horton	edhorton@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Bob Jacobs	rcjacobs@hotmail.ca
Secretary	Jim Sutton	Jim.Sutton@AAAalarms.ca
Membership	Garth Blumm	ve4gwb@gmail.com
Programs	Craig Martin	cmartin@cmu.ca
Past President	Geoff Bawden	ve4baw@rac.ca

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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

WARC Meeting Minutes, April 11, 2011

Taken by Jim, VE4SIG

Called to Order at 1924 hrs

Introductions – as well as the usual suspects we were blessed with 3 non-ham visitors and 3 hams (VE4s AHN, SMK & DBK) who were new faces (at least to me)

Motion to Accept the Minutes of the Last Meeting - moved by VE4HK and seconded by VE4VZ

Reports

Secretary – VE4SIG reported two letters had been received both of which were renewals and they have been passed to the Membership Chair.

Treasurer – VE4RCJ reports we are making the final steps to move our bank account completely from the TD to ACU.

Programs – VE4CDM reported that

Tonite is Home Brew Nite
Aprils Meeting is a PowerPole Party
Jen – Elections and ??? (possible Field day Discussions)



Membership – VE4GWB reported we now have 115 members and he is selling the D-Raffle Tickets to be drawn at 1200 Hrs at the flea market (you don't have to be present to win)

Field Day – VE4GWB is coordinating Field Day – to be held this year in the parking lot south of CMU. Any help is welcome in the planning and preparation.

Flea Market – VE4HK reminded all that the event is this Sunday at heritage Victoria CC (Don't park on Sturgeon!). Admission is \$3 – try to bring exact change.

Doors open at 0930 for eyeball QSOs
1030 for the actual flea market

Closes and draws at 1200 - \$100 door prize (you have to be present to win)

Education – VE4DAR reported that the RRC course has been cancelled as they only got 3 applicants. A discussion was held about different approaches and reason education is faltering including holding webinars.

Questions were asked about better media coverage. VE4MBQ pointed out that a press release about flood fighting went out 10 days ago and got some coverage

<http://www.cjob.com/News/Floodwatch/Story.aspx?ID=1396375>

http://www.portageonline.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=21581&Itemid=468

and that last summers Press Release resulted in 5 media enquiries. (We can only send the releases out we cannot force the media to follow up on them)
VE4DAR suggested a Committee of Elmers to help mentor students doing self-study and asked for people to volunteer.

DX – VE4SN—reported there are lots of contests occurring on the weekends. The 50th anniversary of Yuri Gagarin's space flight is producing a lot of special event stations including RG50F.

15M has been quite active especially in the evening (better than 20 m) and 12M has been sporadic,

ARES – VE4MBQ (DEC) —reported that the Marathon is almost completely staffed although he is still looking for 2 backup people who have done the Marathon before (one south of the Assiniboine and the other east of the Red).

Volunteer Briefing is 14 Jun 1900hrs Norwood CC. The location of the medical center has moved.

Flood Operations – we have been supporting City of Winnipeg Volunteer Management since last Wed and getting kudos for our work.

VE4DWG (SEC) reported that widespread flooding is expected outside Winnipeg and ARES units in Brandon, Portage and South Central are ready to go.

The crest is still a couple of weeks away.

VE4EMO has been substantially renovated and expanded and a Air-Ground Radio has been added to help coordinate the aviation assets available this year. 3 hams installed the coax to the roof in one day to allow this radio to function.

Elections & Executive Changes – VE4MAB reminded everyone that elections are in June and both he and CDM will not be running again due to work commitments (MAB has been on the executive for 9 years – is this a record?) VE4GWB and others will be canvassing members to look for candidates for this fun and fulfilling job.

Good & Welfare – VE4HK reminded everyone that the MRS AGM is this Thursday at Norberry-Glenlea CC at 1900hrs.

Motion to Adjourn – moved by VE4HK & seconded by VE4GKS.

Door Prizes were won by VE4MT, VE4GOM, VE4DDZ, VE4SN and Jerry Volkers

The 50/50 draw was won by a guest - \$24.50



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**Come See Us At our
New Location**

Homebrew Nite Presentations...

VE4DL showed a 6M antenna he is building which is portable with pull out elements

VE4VZ showed his “Dirt Cheap” 6M Yagi he built from discarded TV antennas. He has used it to work North America Coast to Coast as well as Europe and Brazil. He showed a picture of it as he was not prepared to pull it off his tower for us to exam.

VE4GKS showed a 5/8 wave telescoping antenna he built from a right angle adapter, Larsen coil and an old whip antenna off a CB HT.

VE4WSP shoed a CW Oscillator he built on the school break based around a 555 timer. He even demonstrated it with some very smooth code.

VE4IO – brought in his 40M “Baby Rat” transmitter based on a Hartley Oscillator. (Obviously a proponent of the “Real Radios Glow” School)

VE4RCJ showed a QRP SSB rig for 40 capable of both CW or SBB.

All were awarded a \$20 cash prize for their work and ingenuity.

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**Manitoba Marathon
By Jeff, VE4MBQ**

The volunteer briefing for Amateur Radio volunteers will be TUE 14 JUN 1900h Norwood Community Centre 87 Walmer off Lyndale Drive.

We are still in need of two volunteers as back-up operators:

One Amateur who lives south of the Assiniboine River
One Amateur who lives east of the Red River.

**Manitoba Marathon
Volunteer form is available at**

<http://www.mts.net/~warc/VE4-Volunteer-2011.doc>

Spring 2011 WARC Flea Market

By Dick, VE4HK
Flea Market Coordinator

One of the most important events for amateurs in Winnipeg is the Spring and Fall WARC Flea Markets. This year, the spring Flea Market took place on April 17, at Heritage Victoria Community Centre, 950 Sturgeon Road.



Thanks to an enthusiastic crew, all tables and chairs were set up, and ready to go by 9:30 am. Vendors were allowed to begin their set up at 9:30. Buyers were admitted beginning at 10:15. Both times were about 15 minutes earlier than advertised.

Ruth VE4XYL sold all 30 tables. Cost for tables was unchanged at \$5.00 for WARC members, and \$10.00 for non WARC members.

Total profit was \$871.85

Winnipeg ARES led off the draws, beginning at 11:30 am, followed by the WARC draw. Gloria Fuller won first prize, a cheque for \$100.00. Richard Zedril won second prize, a cheque for \$50.00. The draw for the DSTAR handheld was held at noon. Juanito (Boy) Alambra VE4BOY, was the big winner.



Garth, VE4GWB presenting Juanito, VE4BOY
with the Icon 80AD D-Star radio

The sound system this year was quite interesting. We used the PA system outlet on the north wall. Which worked well last fall. It took some experimenting, and adjusting the amplifier in the office, to get decent sound in the main hall.

Meanwhile, I had reports that the sound in the lobby was excellent. I also had reports from other people, at the same time, that the sound in the lobby was distorted. (whom do I believe?)



Yori, VE4ACX, testing the bargains!

Thanks to the following volunteers. I am very grateful for their help. Without them, the Flea Market would not be a success.

Thanks to Gord VE4OK, Dave VE4DJS, Pat VE4PTH, Judy VE4JUD, John VE4JAH, Tom VE4SE, and Mariska VE4MMG, for looking after the Admission Door. Thanks to Ed VE4OAK and Mariska VE4MMG for looking after the Vendor Door. Another thanks to VE4MMG Mariska for looking after table setup, and numbering the tables.

More thanks to VE4SE Tom for all his other help, including with drawing the winning numbers in the door prize draw. Thanks, as well, to the anonymous people who helped set up and take down tables. Special thanks to Sue VE4SYM, both for trying to keep me calm, and for double checking my money count.

A huge THANK YOU to Ruth VE4XYL for all her help with table sales before the Flea Market, keeping a watchful eye for food and drink sales for Ruth's Kitchen, and for Ruth's Kitchen during the Flea Market.

The Fall Flea Market has been booked for October 16, at Heritage Victoria Community Centre.

Thank You

Dick Maguire VE4HK
Flea Market Coordinator

WPGARES

By Jeff, VE4MBQ

Emergency Coordinator

Winnipeg ARES Fundraising Committee Chair Craig Martin VE4CDM and his assistants VE4s SYM, MMG and GKS did a fabulous job at the Winnipeg ARES Table during the WARC Flea Market SUN 17 APR. Thanks to the Pathfinders Amateur Radio Club for their donation of an additional ARES Banner.

Our APR General Meeting featured a Business Meeting followed by a round-table discussion of 2011 Flood Operations to date. A Notice of Motion was presented at the meeting notifying those present that the following Resolution will be presented during the Business portion of the May General Meeting:

Resolved, that effective immediately for the 2011-12 Dues Year and subsequent years, Winnipeg ARES Annual Dues are increased across the board by ten dollars per member (\$10) including each family member if dues are paid as a family and that a discount of ten dollars per member be offered across the board for each Winnipeg ARES member who is also a member of Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC).

Within Winnipeg, APR has been a busy month for Winnipeg ARES members & affiliates performing a number of activities in support of the City of Winnipeg Emergency Program and Manitoba EMO:

Establishment of a temporary ARES Station at the Reception Centre in Winnipeg as of 5 APR with initially five and now four ARES members on-call to staff the station if required. Three ARES members participated in the Reception Centre Dry-Run 15 APR.

Establishment of temporary ARES Stations at the two Volunteer Registration Centres: Sam Southern Arena and Peguis Pavilion. As of this writing VE4YWG at Sam Southern Arena was active for at least six days and VE4RAC at Peguis Pavilion has been active for one day with several successive days cancelled due to sandbagging being put off (last mass public sandbag campaign ultimately cancelled due to a more favorable predicted crest of the Red River in Winnipeg). Use of the VE4RAC call-sign was facilitated by RAC Mid-West Director Derek Hay and authorized by RAC Vice-President Richard Ferch VE3KI.



The Volunteer Registration Centre at Sam Southern Arena was decommissioned THURS 28 APR and the Temporary ARES Station was taken down by VE4s HQ & AFL. Thanks to Tom Blatch VE4HQ for donating his 2m Cushcraft ARX-2 Ringo Ranger Antenna to Winnipeg ARES. Thanks also to David Rosner VE4DAR for loaning us a Copper Pipe J-Pole for that site and thanks to Richard Kazuk VE4KAZ for loaning us a dry-erase "white-board" for that site.

The Volunteer Registration Centre at Peguis Pavilion is scheduled to be decommissioned MON 2 MAY - VE4s JAH & SYM are scheduled to take down the ARES Station there.

The VE4EMO Team received WebEOC Training 27 MAR (11 members) and were offered a re-familiarization session at the newly renovated Manitoba Emergency Coordination Centre or MECC 6 APR (14 members). The VE4EMO Team had people scheduled on-call for VE4EMO 1-10 APR and we went live there MON 11 APR, staffing two positions 0730h-2200h (or until MECC close) daily and then 0800-1600h daily as of THURS 28 APR with one ARES member on-call 1600-2200h..

Three Winnipeg ARES members were unexpectedly tasked with installing feed line for an aviation radio 9 APR and that was completed in approximately two hours.

Our next General Meeting is scheduled for 1900h WED 18 MAY at Sir Wm Stephenson Library 765 Keewatin Street. This meeting will be the CANWARN Net Controllers briefing for 2011 but would be beneficial for all Winnipeg ARES members.

A CANWARN Spotter Training session is planned for SAT 28 MAY 1000h, likely in Minnedosa. Anyone interested in the Winnipeg area should register with me and rural Amateurs should register through their local ARES EC.

Winnipeg ARES in conjunction with Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club may be providing Amateur Radio support for the Air Force Run SUN morning 29 MAY. A request for assistance came in just as Flood Operations were getting underway. So far twelve Amateur Operators have indicated interest in getting involved with this event – assume a duty time of approx 0800-1330h. If interested in getting involved please get in touch with me, preferably by e-mail.

For general information on the event please see:

<http://www.airforcerun.ca/information/>

Contest Calendar

Extracted From

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

For May ...

NCCC Sprint Ladder 0230Z-0300Z, May 6
 Araucaria VHF Contest 0000Z, May 7
 to 1600Z, May 8
 10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW 0001Z, May 7
 to 2359Z, May 8
 Microwave Spring Sprint 0600-1300 local, May 7
 VK/Trans-Tasman 80m Contest, Phone 0800Z-1400Z, May 7
 7th Call Area QSO Party 1300Z, May 7
 to 0700Z, May 8
 Indiana QSO Party 1600Z, May 7
 to 0400Z, May 8
 ARI International DX Contest 2000Z, May 7
 to 1959Z, May 8

 New England QSO Party 2000Z, May 7
 to 0500Z, May 8
 and 1300Z-2400Z, May 8
 SKCC Weekend Sprint 0000Z-2400Z, May 8
 NAQCC-EU Monthly Sprint 1800Z-2000Z, May 9
 CWops Mini-CWT Test 1300Z-1400Z, May 11
 and 1900Z-2000Z, May 11
 and 0300Z-0400Z, May 12
 RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data
 1900Z-2030Z, May 11
 NCCC Sprint Ladder 0230Z-0300Z, May 13
 Slobzhansky Sprint Contest 1800Z-1959Z, May 13 (SSB)
 and 2000Z-2159Z, May 13 (CW)
 FOC QSO Party 0000Z-2359Z, May 14
 EUCW Fraternizing CW QSO Party 1000Z-1200Z, May 14
 and 1800Z-2000Z, May 15
 CQ-M International DX Contest 1200Z, May 14
 to 1159Z, May 15
 VOLTA WW RTTY Contest 1200Z, May 14
 to 1200Z, May 15
 Nevada Mustang Roundup 1700Z, May 14
 to 1700Z, May 15
 FISTS Spring Sprint 1700Z-2100Z, May 14
 50 MHz Spring Sprint 2300Z, May 14
 to 0300Z, May 15
 WAB LF Phone 1000Z-1400Z, May 15
 Run for the Bacon QRP Contest 0100Z-0300Z, May 16
 NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint 0030Z-0230Z, May 19
 RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW 1900Z-2030Z, May 19
 Feld Hell Sprint 1500Z-1700Z, May 20
 and 1800Z-2000Z, May 20
 UN DX Contest 1200Z, May 21

to 1200Z, May 22
 His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW 1200Z, May 21
 to 1200Z, May 22
 EU PSK DX Contest 1200Z, May 21 to 1200Z, May 22
 Baltic Contest 2100Z, May 21
 to 0200Z, May 22
 SKCC Sprint 0000Z-0200Z, May 25
 CWops Mini-CWT Test 1300Z-1400Z, May 25
 and 1900Z-2000Z, May 25
 and 0300Z-0400Z, May 26
 NCCC Sprint Ladder 0230Z-0300Z, May 27
 CQ WW WPX Contest, CW 0000Z, May 28
 to 2359Z, May 29
 ARCI Hootowl Sprint 2000 local - 2400 local, May 29
 MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint 2300Z, May 29
 to 0300Z, May 30

Into June...

QRP Minimal Art Session 1600Z-2200Z, Jun 2
 NCCC Sprint Ladder 0230Z-0300Z, Jun 3
 10-10 Int. Open Season PSK Contest 0000Z, Jun 4
 to 2400Z, Jun 5
 Wake-Up! QRP Sprint 0600Z-0629Z, Jun 4
 and 0630Z-0659Z, Jun 4
 and 0700Z-0729Z, Jun 4
 and 0730Z-0800Z, Jun 4
 SEANET Contest 1200Z, Jun 4 to 1200Z, Jun 5
 Alabama QSO Party 1600Z, Jun 4
 to 0400Z, Jun 5
 RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data 1900Z-2030Z, Jun 6
 ARS Spartan Sprint 0100Z-0300Z, Jun 7
 NAQCC-EU Monthly Sprint 1800Z-2000Z, Jun 8

WPGARES Flea Market By Craig, VE4CDM

Winnipeg ARES would like to thank all the individuals and businesses for their generous donations to the ARES silent auction at the Winnipeg Fall Flea Market on April 17, 2011.

TD Canada Westdale
 CTV Winnipeg
 Environment Canada
 Johnston Industrial Plastics
 Terry Fox Foundation
 Manitoba Marathon
 Wood Wyant
 Canada Safeway (Sergeant and Maryland)
 VE4's ... GWN, YYL, XYL, SE, TRO, SYM

Winnipeg ARES would also like to congratulate the following winners;

Lot 1: VE4JS	Lot 5: VE4ART
Lot 2: VE4JIM	Lot 6: Chris Hatcher
Lot 3: Zena Kadyniuk	Lot 7: Gloria Fuller
Lot 4: VE4CRS	Lot 8: VE4ALW

WARC's Home Brew Night By David, VE4DAR

Six builders displayed and described their projects at Home Brew Night during WARC's April 11th meeting at Dakota Collegiate. First up was Bill VE4DL, who showed his collapsible, portable 6 m antenna. It featured a 4:1 impedance matching twin T.



Rolf VE4VZ said he got good performance from his 6 m 3-element Yagi made from a surplus Ch. 2 TV antenna. The price was right!



A four foot whip designed for CB was the basis of Gerry's VE4GKS telescoping 5/8 wave antenna, which included a Larsen coil.



Robin's VE4IO power amp was housed in a nicely finished wooden cabinet.



Bob VE4RCJ displayed a QRP CW rig.



Most impressive was Sapun's VE4WSP project: a neatly constructed and very well illustrated CW oscillator.



With obvious understanding and confidence he described its operation and then demonstrated it with a good fist. Well done!



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Time For Change??

By David, VE4DAR

Repeated cancellations of the Basic amateur radio operator course at Red River College suggest it's not the way to go at this time. Analysis of the situation may yield a better path for training new hams.

We have an ageing, diminishing population of amateur radio operators in Manitoba. Many came to our hobby with electronics training and communication experience in the military during WW2 and the Korean War. Others in rural areas were used to working with their hands and repairing equipment. Most Youth today seem unskilled at making minor repairs; seem to expect instant gratification; are computer literate; are used to getting their information electronically and not by reading; and prefer getting "the latest model" rather than repairing the last one.

In the past becoming a ham was a demanding process requiring lots of detailed learning including Morse Code (CW), the demonstration of knowledge and proficiency through rigorous testing, and being "on air" with log evidence for at least six months. Just ask the "old timers". Today one can learn using the Internet; study with an Elmer; do self-study; or take classes. CW is optional, no longer required. Then having practiced on available exams, one just writes a multiple-choice examination from Industry Canada. ("Elmer" is ham talk for a licenced ham, who teaches and coaches a new graduate or someone studying amateur radio.)

For the last 20 years or so there have been classes at the St. James Collegiate, the Winnipeg Senior Citizen Radio Club, Red River College, and at private residences. Also, there have been classes at the University of Manitoba and some high schools for serious students focused on launching satellites and space exploration. Others have studied on their own with Elmer coaching.

Why haven't recent ham courses at RRC attracted enough students to be viable? Some would say it's difficult to get folks to join or commit to anything. Just ask service groups, youth organizations, religious affiliations, or hobby groups. Folks are "too busy." Youth have school, homework, part-time jobs, sports, music and religious activities. Their need to communicate using radio has been filled more efficiently by computers and the Internet, cell phones, and handheld devices.

Adults are busy as well. In many families both parents are working outside the home and for longer hours. Besides maintaining their home and looking after their children, they too have other associations such as work committees, sports and recreation, coaching, religious affiliations, being baby-sitters and "grandpa's taxi".

So, it appears that many youth and adults don't want any additional commitments and responsibilities, especially if it takes one or two nights a week, and for three months.

Some say cost is the reason for low enrolment. That \$150, which includes \$42 for the textbook, is too expensive. When I suggest that folks are paying \$300 and more for RRC courses, I'm told if it's for career advancement, they will pay more, but not for a hobby. Good point.

Well, all this points to the need for a new approach in 2011. One possibility is to return to the "Seniors Club" with their permission. WARC would provide the course and instructors; WSCRC would provide the equipment and facility. The advantages & disadvantages are for another time. Instead, I want to propose another approach for the interim:

WARC supports Study On Your Own with help from an Elmer. WARC could provide the textbook at cost and either ..

1. provide a List of Elmers with their expertise eg. power supplies, antennas, or
2. match the student with an Elmer.

This proposal is low cost and allows the student to work at his own pace.

If you are willing to be an Elmer in such an approach, please send me an email at ve4dar@rac.ca with your name, phone number and area of expertise. 73

The SHAFTESBURY HIGH ALTITUDE ROBOTICS PROJECT Continued from April
By, Robert Striemer, VE4SHS

We were elated. It had been a near perfect flight. A self appointed guard took control of the precious memory card. The payload, parachute and remnants of the balloon were tossed into the back of a van. The students jumped back into the vehicles and we returned to the school.



It was just after 1 PM and we were back at school. The memory card was copied and then we assembled in a classroom to view the flight video. It seemed incredible that only a few hours before we were in Erickson wondering what would happen to the payload. Now could see what exactly did happen. The students saw themselves finishing the assembly.



They saw the launch and the FTU wire snap off. The little town of Erickson appeared then shrank rapidly into rectangular fields of brown and black. Little lakes reflected sunbeams at our camera. The southwest corner of Lake Manitoba appeared. As time went by we could see all of Lake Manitoba extending north to the narrows and Lake Winnipegosis beyond. To the east we could see Lake Winnipeg too. We could see the curvature of planet Earth; the blue haze that was the atmosphere and the blackness of space. The audio was very quiet at this point and then the balloon exploded. There was a shower of shredded latex followed by a chaotic period of tumbling and whipping of lines. Eventually the motion stabilized. Farm fields and roads reappeared. The shadow of a fully deployed parachute

swung across a black field. Then the camera went lens first into the dirt. Everything was now still. The close up of the dirt lasted until our team arrived. Shoes shuffled about. Then the box was righted. It was opened and then there was much shouting and cheering.

Much was learned from SHARP-1. During the chase, I was surprised to discover that many kids now come equipped with portable internet devices with data plans. This is how several Shaftesbury students followed the flight from the comfort of the chase vehicle. This winter we hope to set up our Kenwood 710A in SHARP's ground station and connect it to the internet. The idea is to learn how to set up and deploy an APRS repeater possibly using the wireless hotspots in small towns. SHARP will also investigate other modes of flight. We plan to test electric RC aircraft in the gymnasium this winter.

SHARP-2 is expected to fly in May 2011. We hope to reduce the mass of the payload structure and the GPS sensor. The students still want to fly a camera but this time it will likely be a high definition model. Finding a solution to the "blue haze" seen in the high altitude photos is a goal. Most importantly, the students are planning to include more science. Some of the proposed ideas are quite exciting. Learning to use our radios and the satellite tracking station effectively are priorities. A couple of weeks ago, a grade 10 student Nishahd Rishod (VE4NR) received his certification. "November Romeo" took Dr. Kinsner's amateur radio course at the faculty of engineering. We are very proud of "Nish"; our youngest to certify.



I would like to thank the ham community in Manitoba for there interest and tremendous help.

For more information about SHARP including pictures and video please visit

<http://shsballoonproject.pbworks.com>.

73

Robert Striemer (VE4SHS)

Teacher: Shaftesbury High School

More on the SHAFTESBURY HIGH ALTITUDE ROBOTICS PROJECT

By, Robert Striemer, VE4SHS

The Shaftesbury High Altitude Robotics Project (SHARP) began as a high school engineering project in the fall of 2009. Shaftesbury students started construction of the SHARP-1 balloon satellite or BSat in the spring of 2010. On October 22nd SHARP-1 was launched from Erickson Manitoba. The payload contained little more than a digital video camera and a GPS sensor connected to an APRS transmitter (Byonics MicroTrack 8000). The weather was perfect and the flight was a complete success. Many Manitoba amateurs tracked the balloon (VE4SHS-9) from the launch, to its apogee of 107 375 feet over Portage la Prairie, then to a parachute landing in a farmer's field, just 18 km west of the school.

SHARP relies on Manitoba amateurs for technical and educational support. We have had tremendous help from Alan Thoren (VE4YZ), Jeff Cizecki (VE4CZK), Bruce Feaver (VE4BDF) Craig Martin (VA4CDM) and Dr. Withold Kinsner (VE4UM) to name a few. The students have obtained funding through grants.

The photo below shows a messy Shaftesbury High School radio shack, as well as, from left to right, grade 12 student Katrina Soriano, grade 10 student Nishadh Rathod (VE4NIR) and grade 12 student Bohyun Lee (VE4BHL).

Katrina is recently from the Philippines. Katrina has made digital 3D models of the SHARP-2



capsule including its electronic and optical components. She will take the amateur radio certification exam in June. Nish took his certification course with Dr. Kinsner's group of engineering students back in November. Bohyun completed the course that was offered Saturday mornings at Maples Collegiate in the spring of 2010. Nishadh is recently from India while Bohyun hails from South Korea. Katrina and Bohyun will be going into the faculty of engineering (U of M) next fall.

At Shaftesbury at least, amateur radio study seems to appeal more to our population of "Soon-to-be Canadians". The base station shown is the Yaesu FT-847 "Earth Station". The Yagi tracking antenna on the roof

of this portable classroom will be relocated to the adjacent roof of what will be, Shaftesbury's new library now under construction. More transmission line will be needed. Shaftesbury High School is located at the corner of Grant Avenue and Shaftesbury Boulevard in Charelswood directly across from the Canadian Mennonite University (south) Campus, site of the upcoming WARC Field Day. Look for us.

The photo below shows Bohyun and Nishadh in a BSat chase vehicle equipped with SHARP's mobile Kenwood TM-D710A connected to an AvMap GeoSat 5 GPS navigator (APRS call sign VE4SHS-10 on www.aprs.fi).



The plan for SHARP-2 is to exceed the performance of SHARP-1 in every way. We hope to go higher (over 110000 feet), go farther (over 200 km) and to carry a more sophisticated payload (e.g. temperature and radiation sensors).

The original plan called for a mid-May launch but we are having some delays. Our weather balloon is manufactured in Japan and recent events there have delayed its delivery. Until the 3000 gram balloon (nominal 120000 foot burst altitude) is in hand, we cannot set a launch date. Other issues include the flood in the Red River valley (our ideal landing zone) and our need to run more payload tests. Therefore, we may not see SHARP-2 fly until the fall of 2011. With the higher altitude attempt, SHARP's launch site will move from Erickson to a location farther west and north (Riding Mountain or the Dauphin - Roblin area).

Besides moving the antennas, SHARP plans to setup an APRS digipeater/internet gateway in the ground station next school year. We will work on certifying more student Hams and we also hope to continue collaboration with the Department of Computer and Electrical Engineering at the U of M and with WinCube and the Space Adventure Camp. We will continue to provide WARC with updates and we will notify Manitoba Ham's once we have a firm date for the SHARP-2 launch.

We rely on your continued interest and support.
73

Robert Striemer (VE4SHS)
Teacher: Shaftesbury High School

LED Lamp for your Station!

By, Jim VE4SIG

Recently I found myself wandering the aisles of my local Wal-Mart when I came across an LED Desk Lamp. The thing that caught my attention was that it was powered with a 12VDC power supply and drew a measly 250mA.



Figure 1 Out of the box but not yet modified



Figure 2 All PowerPoled and in use (the flash has nullified the pool of light from the LEDs though)

It was quickly modified by removing the plug in power supply and installing a pair of PowerPole connectors so now I've got a nice little light for the shack, field day (no tubes or bulbs to break) or even in my car while parked. (I suppose addition of some Velcro to the base and my dashboard would allow it to be used while mobile). It's low current draw makes it a good match with a QRP rig on a battery.

Fishing For A Cure

By, John, VE4JNF

The scene is set in Selkirk Manitoba in early June 2011 (Date still to be decided) An R.A.C. EVENT!

We just finished volunteering many countless man hours helping the city of Winnipeg with the notorious flooding Winnipeg and surrounding areas get year after year. Tired and needing some down time, some of us hams were called back to action to volunteer our services for children of all ages inflicted with cancer. What could this be, you ask!

Its called {FISHING FOR A CURE}.



Fishing for a cure is a day of fishing for sick children getting treated for cancer. The day starts with a pancake breakfast around 8:00 am. Then volunteer boatmen who have brought their boats to Selkirk have a meeting with our hams, the fishing supervisor and harbor patrol.

All equipment and fishing lines, bait and lifejackets are provided. No license is needed as it is waived this day. We assign one Ham to a boat, so if need be, we are able to call Dick VE4HK on shore to call 911.

We have one lead boat, John owner VE4JNF and Doctor Ted Banach and wives who attend each and every boat to check on the children's condition throughout the day. Also the wives, Lori and Marie, hand out chips and drinks to all.

The Doctor is always in contact with all the boats, this is done, of course, by ham radio. In case of an emergency, John and Ted will race to the sick child and inform Dick VE4HK who will in turn have called 911. Then the medical necessary will be ready when our boat arrives. We haven't had any instances so far, but it feels good to know that we are in contact with each other by ham radio. You might think this isn't much fun for the Hams, but they also fish and help the kids fish and bait the hooks. They are also provided with shirts and baseball caps for helping out. Mascots were also present for the day and even jumping into the boats. OBOY that was fun! The fire department and a petting zoo were present including Ronald McDonald.

After a day of fishing we were all treated to a barbecue lunch provided by Safeway and other volunteers. There is also a silent auction to help raise funds as there isn't a cost to the families involved. The other year VE4HK won two of them. Horseshoe or what!



Seeing all the children get a medal and prizes for the biggest species of fish is a treat, as the smiles on their faces is worth all the effort we give. I think we provide an essential service in the form of safety for the kids. I know if I were a parent to one of these kids I would worry far less knowing there is communications ready to get help fast in case of a problem with their loved ones.



Last year VE4EDE grabbed a child out of the Red River as he had fallen in fishing. Good job ED! This year in 2011, we will be fishing from shore as the water will be too swift and the Harbor Patrol won't let us take the children out on the water. That's ok as everyone that has done this exercise has had so much fun they come back year after year to help.

Man hours 8*17 HAMS \$12.00 /HOUR= \$1632.00

GAS TO GET THERE AND HOME \$10.00.

Cost to Fishing for a cure {FREE}

If you wish to participate this June please contact...

John, VE4JNF by e-mail at ve4jnf@shaw.ca or catch him on the air on the VE4WPG repeater!

VHF Nets

MRS Nets - 147.390 Mhz +

Sundays & Thursdays at 9:00 pm

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

Seniors 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!

IRLP (Internet Radio Linking Project)

Net - 145.450 Mhz - Node # 1066

Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

This net connects you with the world using your VHF rig and using the internet as the backbone!

Six Meter Net - 50.238 Mhz

Wednesdays at 9:00 pm

HF Nets

MB Evening Phone Net - 3747 Khz

Daily at 7:00 PM CT

Prairie Traffic Net (CW) 3660 Khz

Daily at 01:30 UTC

Aurora # 2 Net 7055 Khz

Daily at 02:30 UTC

MB Wx Net 3743 Khz

Daily at 8:30 AMC

ARES Manitoba Monthly Readiness Net

4TH Sunday of each month

4:00 PM to 4:20 PM -7,075 Khz

4:00 PM to 4:15 PM -3,675 Khz LSB

Also.. VE4WRS IRLP, VE4ARC/TEU, Interlake, VE4FFR Flin Flon, IRLP Reflector 9003 to Flin Flon/Swan River/Pinawa, VE4SIX/DARC repeater, VE4TPN/VHF Thompson.

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Please send your submissions/comments to the editor

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The June issue Deadline is June 1, 2011