



The **NEWSCASTER**

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

January 2015

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VE4BB

QRP with a Loop Antenna **By Peter VE4TTH**

Date: Monday, January 12, 2015
Time: 7:30 PM
Place: Dakota Collegiate - Theatre *See you there!*
661 Dakota Street (At Beliveau Rd.)

Other Important Dates...

Newscaster: Deadline January 28, 2015

WARC: Monthly Meeting Dates...
February 9, 2015
March 9, 2015

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

ARES: Tuesday, January 20, 2015
Sir Wm Stephenson Library
765 Keewatin Street -
Presentation - Wayne Warren on the
new VE4PSC Station

Other: WARC Spring Flea Market
Sunday, April 12, 2015

WARC Executive for 2014-2015...

President	David Latour	ve4dla@gmail.com
Vice-Pres.	Ross Gibson	rossg@prefixservice.com
Treasurer	Bob Jacobs	rcjacobs@hotmail.ca
Secretary	Gerry Sherman	ve4gks@shaw.ca
Membership	Ross Gibson	rossg@prefixservice.com
Programs	Vacant	
Past President	Garth Blumm	ve4gwb@gmail.com

Fearless Leader's Comments...

Happy New Year!

I wish everyone and their friends and relations, a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. May there be new contacts and new friends for each of us in 2015.

Cold, dark nights are not lost time for hams. The shack is warm and cozy, and there are old friends and new friends at the end of the random wire. I'm hoping to start filling my logbook this winter, and I'm sure others are also dipping their toes into the ether for the first time this year. We'll meet amidst the hiss and pop at some point.

WARC has some events and interesting talks planned for this year, and I hope we'll have a good turn-out of our newer members as well as the usual suspects.

73,
David Latour
VE4DLA
President

**Amateur Radios, Antennas, and more
are available from your local**

Winnipeg ICOM Dealer...

Micro-HighTech Communications Ltd.

197 Leila Avenue, Winnipeg, MB
(204)-783-1885

Contact George Hill, VE4GDH

Visit their web site..

<http://www.microhightech.ca/>

Our Vision

To increase public awareness and respect for Amateur radio; to provide education and support in all aspects of the hobby to our members in a social atmosphere

**WARC Meeting Minutes,
December 8, 2014
Taken by Bob VE4RCJ**

Meeting called to order by the president David VE4DLA at 0740 PM Dec 9 2014.

Treasurer's report:

Beginning month Cash ...	\$ 1,1150.16
Income Memberships refund from CMU ...	\$ 112.31
Expenses: Christmas Party, Raffle Tickets, Insurance ...	\$ 998.45
Cash Balance end November ...	\$ 10,264.02

Acceptance of previous minutes moved by VE4GWN.
Seconded VE4HK. Carried.
No new business from previous minutes.

Membership:

79 paid up members.

Education:

The two new chief instructors Rick VE4RIC and Dan VE4DPR were introduced.

Moved by Dick VE4RIC that WARC spend up to \$500 on education in 2015. Seconded VE4GWN. Carried.

ARES:

34 amateurs provided communication for the Santa Claus Parade November 15. Full report in the December Newscaster. Those who participated had many anecdotes to tell of events while participating. Recruiting is under way for the Klondike Derby in March and the Winnipeg Marathon in June.

RAC:

Nothing new to report.

DX:

Antarctica will be active primarily on CW and digital. 10, 12, and 17 meters are open regularly to South America. 12 and 17 meters are open in the late afternoon to Japan.

Raffle:

Once again Garth VE4GWN has organized a fund raising raffle for the club. Prize is a ICOM ID51A anniversary edition. Tickets \$5 each or 3 for \$10. Draw to be made at the Spring Flea Market.

OSCAR Presentation:

Ham radio operators as a group are getting older. One of the amateurs in WARC who has done something to change this is Rob Striemer VE4SHS. Through his work in combining modern space technology with Ham radio he has developed an enthusiastic group of young amateur radio operators amongst his students at

Shaftsbury school. In addition his efforts have resulted in the establishment of the only Telebridge station in Canada to the ISS. Therefore WARC presented the OSCAR for 2014 to Rob Striemer

Award of radios to new Amateurs:

Keith MacFarlane VE4KJM donated two older but fully serviceable radios to the club. The executive decided to donate them to recent graduate of the two Ham courses. The Kenwood TH22 was awarded to Teodor VE4TEO. The Yaesu FT101E was awarded to Victoria VA4VRD. Congratulations to the new hams and thanks to Keith for providing the radios.

Moved by VE4VZ that since many members of the Manitoba Repeater society provide service to the equipment throughout the province and particularly since they use their own vehicles without recompense that WARC provide some financial compensation to those amateurs servicing MRS equipment. Davis VE4DAR seconded the motion with an amendment that WARC provide some money to MRS. VE4MBQ objected that the motion to provide compensation to the amateurs should be a motion at an MRS meeting. David VE4DLA felt that the providing of compensation to MRS to be transferred to the amateurs providing the service would introduce too much bureaucracy. Many amateurs stressed the importance of joining MRS if you use the repeaters. The motion was allowed to die.

Motion to adjourn by VE4GWN at 0815.

After the meeting a great Christmas lunch was provided by Jean and Ed Mathurin and Darlene Blumm. Rosie and Nancy Napady helped with the arrangements. Additional desserts were supplied by Nina Notaro.

OSCAR AWARD



Rob VE4SHS (Left) receiving the OSCAR Award Presented by WARC President David VE4DLA

Winnipeg ARES
Jeff Dovyak VE4MBQ
ve4mbq@rac.ca

December turned out to be more newsworthy than I was expecting at the end of NOV.

On TUE 09 DEC Craig VE4CDM accepted the 17 Wing Commander's Commendation on behalf of Winnipeg ARES for our volunteer services to 17 Wing with regard to the RCAF Run. See detailed article elsewhere in this newsletter.

Recruiting is underway for the 2015 Manitoba Marathon Fathers' Day SUN 21 JUN, see separate article. Recruiting is also underway for the annual Scouts Canada Klondike Derby 07, 08 MAR. This is an all-weather, all-day event. The volunteer briefing for Klondike Derby will be at our 17 FEB General Meeting, let me know by 03 FEB if you wish to volunteer. It would be great to partner some new Amateur operators up with experienced Klondike operators so that the new Amateurs could observe on SAT then run the comms on SUN.

Larry Brown, a retired Air Canada 777 Captain gave us a fascinating and frank presentation at our DEC General Meeting with regard to the aircraft accident that he was involved with SEP 2013 over the Brandon Municipal airport (CYBR) involving the Vintage Wings of Canada-owned Stearman PT-27 C-GKUE biplane (which was a total loss). Thanks to Jim VE4GMT for suggesting Larry and his story.



*Larry Brown with an image of C-GKUE on the screen
 Photo Credit Garry Frankel VE4VD*

While Winnipeg ARES was not activated MON 22 DEC during the MTS system problems there has been some informal yet significant discussion since with the City of Winnipeg Emergency Program Coordinator in terms of what we might be able to offer for a similar situation in the future.

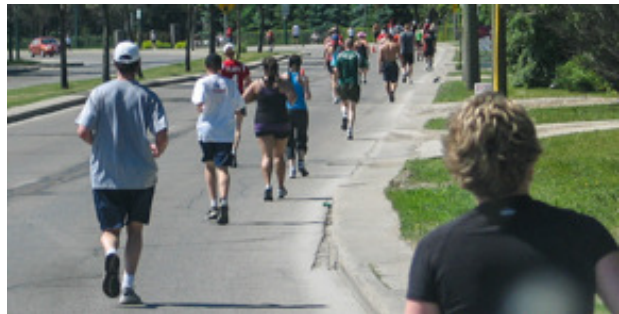
Our next General Meeting is TUE 20 JAN 1900h Sir Wm Stephenson Library 765 Keewatin Street. Wayne Warren VE4WR MB ARES Northern & Special Projects DEC is scheduled to give a presentation on the new VE4PSC station.

Winnipeg ARES On-line...

<http://www.winnipegares.ca/>

Manitoba Marathon
Jeff Dovyak VE4MBQ
ve4mbq@rac.ca

The 2015 Manitoba Marathon will be SUN 21 JUNE. If you volunteered last year we'd like you back for the 37th Marathon. If you are a new Amateur we will pair you up with someone who has done the event previously.



The 2015 Amateur Radio Group Volunteer Briefing is TUE 16 JUNE 1900h Norwood Community Club 87 Walmer (Map 17 C8 in the Sherlock map Book). Although the briefing starts at 1900h we will begin distribution of race information, documentation, volunteer t-shirts and pre-arranged equipment loans by 1815h. If you register as an Amateur Radio volunteer and cannot attend the 16 JUNE briefing please let us know in advance who will be attending to pick up your briefing materials and volunteer t-shirt. There will be an additional Medical Team briefing on another date for those assigned to the medical side.

It is greatly appreciated if the completed volunteer registration form is returned to me via e-mail (saves lots of re-typing), but it would be preferred if you register on-line thru the terrific form that WARC Web-Master Mark VE4MAB has set up at:

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

For the 2014 Manitoba Marathon we had over eighty Amateur Radio volunteers (90 would have been better). The sooner registrations are submitted the sooner we can start working on the 2015 roster. We need a completed new registration form from each Amateur Radio volunteer every year regardless of what Amateur organization they belong to.

Winnipeg Amateur Radio Emergency Service receives... Wing Commander's Commendation



Craig Martin VE4CDM accepting Wing Commander's Commendation on behalf of Winnipeg ARES from 17 Wing Commander Colonel J.J. Roy and 17 Wing Chief Warrant Officer A.M. Robertson.

Photo courtesy of 17 Wing CWO Office Assistant SGT Mike Kuruliak.

Winnipeg ARES has been supporting the 17 Wing RCAF Run with volunteer Amateur Radio communications for several years. For all but the first year, Craig VE4CDM has coordinated the event for Winnipeg ARES (Wpg ARES EC coordinated first year's involvement). This past year eighteen (18) ARES members & affiliates volunteered.

The certificate states in part that Winnipeg ARES is awarded the Wing Commander's Commendation in recognition of their contribution to the success of the 6th Annual RCAF Run.

In addition to the wide expanse of the Wing, this year's race routes utilized more than 12 km of public trails and streets, presenting an enormous communications challenge.

The support provided by Winnipeg ARES was a significant element in communication and emergency planning. In recognition of their collective professionalism and exceptional support provided to the 2014 RCAF Run, Winnipeg ARES is awarded the Wing Commander's Commendation.



WARC Spring Flea Market By Dick VE4HK

Did Santa Claus leave an FTDX9000MP with optional TFT9000, VRF-9000 and MD200ARX under your tree on December 25? I am sorry to say I didn't get one either. Maybe you can pick one up for cheap at the Flea Market, hi, hi.

Do you have an excess of ham radio stuff, cluttering up your shack? Has your spouse mentioned casually to you that it is time to clean up your shack "RIGHT NOW"?

If this is happening to you, why not book a table for the

WARC Flea Market Sunday, April 12, 2015 at Heritage Victoria Community Centre

and sell your excessive gear? Make a few bucks to buy even more stuff, hi hi. Good tables are still available. Just phone Ruth VE4XYL 204-837-6915 or e-mail ve4se@mymts.net. She will be pleased to sell you a table in a prime location. The cost is only \$5.00 each for members of WARC, and \$10.00 for others.

Are you a recent graduate of an amateur radio course? The Flea Market is a great place to purchase your first radio. It is also an opportunity to meet the local hams, and ask all sorts of questions.

**Admission to the Flea Market is only
\$5.00 per person.**

Winnipeg ARES will have two tables piled high with outstanding Silent Auction prizes. Be sure to drop by and buy a stack of tickets. Manitoba Repeater Society will have their test equipment there. They will be happy to test your HF, VHF or UHF radio equipment, to ensure it is working up to snuff. Are you are having trouble figuring out how to program those %&*#@ tones into your handheld? They will assist you. DON'T FORGET TO BRING THE MANUAL!!!!. Haven't paid your Repeater Society dues yet? Now is your chance. WARC will also have a table.

Want to know more about DSTAR? Need advice on which DSTAR radio to purchase? The local DSTAR group will be there to help you out.

The Spring Flea Market is your last chance to purchase tickets for the WARC DSTAR radio draw. Tickets are \$5.00 each or 3 for \$10.00. I already have my tickets, do you have yours?

Continued....

Doors open for coffee, delicious muffins and exciting eyeball QSO's at 9:30 am. The stampede into the main hall to begin buying begins at 10:30 am.

Prize draws begin at 11:30 am, with the draw for the ID51 DSTAR radio or \$500.00 cash. This is a very special 50th anniversary limited edition version of this handheld. I heard a rumour that there are only a handful available for all of Canada. I would love to be the big winner.

Winnipeg ARES Silent Auction will follow the DSTAR draw. The Flea Market will conclude with draws for the WARC admission prizes. First prize will be a cherub for \$100.00. Second prize will be a cherub for \$50.00. I am expecting a few other nice prizes from some of the major amateur radio suppliers in Canada.

Would you like to volunteer to help out with the Flea Market? I need people to assist with setting up tables in the morning, then taking them down at noon. There are other tasks to be done as well. If you can help, please contact me via e-mail ve4hk@rac.ca, phone 204-256-3143, on VE4WPG, at the Golden Arches on Saturday morning, at WARC meetings, and finally, at coffee at Robins on Waverley and Clarence most weekday mornings at 11:00 am

I look forward to seeing all those smiling faces at the WARC Flea Market on April 12, 2015

Dick Maguire VE4HK
Flea Market Coordinator

***Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club
Seniors Christmas Luncheon
By David VE4DAR***

The Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club held their annual Christmas Luncheon on December 2 at the Polo Park Canad Inn. Forty-eight members and guests enjoyed each other's company and the delicious turkey buffet.



Two members were recognized for their dedication and service to the club. Bruce Massey VE4GR and Gary Benish VE4GJB were added to the Honour Roll. Other folks went home happy as well having won the special draws or door prizes.



Gary VE4GJB and Bruce VE4GR
Receive the Honour Roll Award



Special Draw Winners !!

May this Holiday Season provide opportunity to enjoy family and friends.

May the New Year bring peace and contentment.

<http://www.mts.net/~ve4wsc/>

WARC Christmas Party - Photos By Mark VE4MAB



7
Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club—Raffle
By Garth VE4GWB

I am pleased to announce that WARC is celebrating Icom's 50th Anniversary by offering the well sought after ID51A Anniversary Edition HT in the spring raffle.



The Icom ID51A Anniversary Edition (white) is 1 of only 5000 made and covers VHF/UHF with built in GPS & D-STAR. If the winner prefers he or she may choose the \$500 cash option which is available again. This will make the raffle appealing to both hams and non-hams alike.

Tickets will be available starting in December and can be purchased from Garth VE4GWB, Mark VE4MAB, Glen VE4GWN and others T.B.A as you run into us at meetings, coffee etc. Tickets will also be available at Micro-Hightech Communications @ 197 Leila Ave.

The raffle is once again being held to help cover the cost of club insurance and other increased expenses over the last few years to keep the membership fees as is.

Tickets are \$5.00 each or 3 for \$10.00. The draw will take place on April 12, 2015 at the spring flea market. Full rules can be found on the WARC website. (Licence # MGCC 5179-RF)

Thank you and good luck in the contest.

New QSL Manager for Manitoba

After his many years of service as QSL Manager for Manitoba Adam VE4SN has retired and passed on the duties to Harm Hazeu VE4HAZ!

Harm VE4HAZ can be reached at
ve4haz@gmail.com

D-Star's "D-Tip" Of The Month
By Garth VE4GWB

When using the GPS transmit in either DV-A or DV-G it is recommended to set the GPS AUTO TX to off while on a repeater. And let the GPS info go out when using the PTT. If set to auto TX it may interfere with a ongoing QSO or net.



Are you a
RAC member??

<http://www.rac.ca>

New RAC Web Site URL ...

<http://wp.rac.ca>

Not a RAC Member ??? ...

<https://www.rac.ca/en/rac/membership/form/>

Still looking to buy
Ubiquiti Nanostation2 ??

William VE4VR is still looking to make a group purchase. For anyone interested in purchasing the Ubiquiti Nanostation 2 units you can PayPal wfranzin@shaw.ca with \$35 x number of units you want.

What have you done to "promote
amateur radio this week"

That line we credit to an old News stalwart, Peter Parker with using in his old VK1 and VK3 casts many years ago and it still stands true -WIA

Contest Calendar

Extracted From

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

For January ...

NRAU-Baltic Contest, SSB	0630Z-0830Z, Jan 11
NRAU-Baltic Contest, CW	0900Z-1100Z, Jan 11
DARC 10-Meter Contest	0900Z-1059Z, Jan 11
Midwinter Contest	1000Z-1400Z, Jan 11
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Jan 14 and 1900Z-2000Z, Jan 14 and 0300Z-0400Z, Jan 15
AWA Linc Cundall Memorial CW Contest	
	2300Z, Jan 14 to 2300Z, Jan 15 and 2300Z, Jan 17 to 2300Z, Jan 18
NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Jan 16
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 16
LZ Open Contest	0000Z-0400Z, Jan 17
YL-ISSB QSO Party, SSB	0000Z, Jan 17 to 2359Z, Jan 18
Hungarian DX Contest	
	1200Z, Jan 17 to 1200Z, Jan 18
North American QSO Party, SSB	
	1800Z, Jan 17 to 0559Z, Jan 18
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Jan 21 and 1900Z-2000Z, Jan 21 and 0300Z-0400Z, Jan 22
NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Jan 23
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 23
CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	2200Z, Jan 23 to 2159Z, Jan 25
REF Contest, CW	0600Z, Jan 24 to 1800Z, Jan 25

Nostalgia Radio CJNU 93.7

CJNU 93.7 FM is where you'll hear the very best easy listening music that has been popular over the past eight decades!



Ed VE4YU, at the controls!

Listen On-Line at ...

<http://www.cjnu.ca>

BARTG RTTY Sprint	1200Z, Jan 24 to 1200Z, Jan 25
ARRL January VHF Contest	1900Z, Jan 24 to 0359Z, Jan 26
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Jan 28
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Jan 28 and 1900Z-2000Z, Jan 28 and 0300Z-0400Z, Jan 29
NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Jan 30
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 30
UBA DX Contest, SSB	1300Z, Jan 31 to 1300Z, Feb 1
February 2015	
ARS Spartan Sprint	0200Z-0400Z, Feb 3
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 6
Vermont QSO Party	0000Z, Feb 7 to 2400Z, Feb 8
YL-ISSB QSO Party, CW	0000Z, Feb 7 to 2359Z, Feb 8
10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB	0001Z, Feb 7 to 2359Z, Feb 8
Black Sea Cup International	1200Z, Feb 7 to 1159Z, Feb 8
Minnesota QSO Party	1400Z-2400Z, Feb 7
AGCW Straight Key Party	1600Z-1900Z, Feb 7
British Columbia QSO Party	1600Z, Feb 7 to 0400Z, Feb 8
Delaware QSO Party	1700Z, Feb 7 to 0100Z, Feb 9
Mexico RTTY International Contest	1800Z, Feb 7 to 1759Z, Feb 8
AWA Amplitude Modulation QSO Party	2300Z, Feb 7 to 2300Z, Feb 8

Worked all Winnipeg AWARD Weekend

WARC is once again promoting a Worked all Winnipeg weekend to help get new (& seasoned) hams to get the WAW award. Although you may go for your award at anytime, this will provide a good window of opportunity to do so.

Starting the evening of Friday the 23rd to Sunday the 25th I encourage everyone within Winnipeg to monitor the 146.520 FM calling frequency to listen for any calls. You may use any band/any mode and perhaps even D-STAR DV simplex if equipped. As long as the contact is not thru a repeater. You may make initial contact on a repeater but then must QSY to simplex to log a QSO.

This will also be a good way to exercise your simplex skills. Use your base antenna, mobile antenna, a extended whip on the ht with a tiger tail counterpoint for added range.

Thank you and good luck.

Full rules - <http://winnipegarc.org/awards.html>

News from Shaftesbury High School

By Rob VE4SHS

Representatives from Prairie Mobile Communications and JVC - Kenwood Canada visited the Shaftesbury ARISS Telebridge Station. Prairie Mobile and Kenwood each donated a Kenwood TS-2000 transceiver to the SATS project.



Prairie Mobile and Kenwood Canada representatives visiting the Shaftesbury ARISS Telebridge Station. Without the amazing generosity of both Prairie Mobile and Kenwood Canada, SATS would not have been possible. Thank you Mr. Wiebe (Shaftesbury's principal) for the photo which shows some of our most dedicated students seated in the front row. (Photo above)

Members of the Shaftesbury High Altitude Robotics Project (SHARP) visited Ecole Dieppe and spoke to grade 6 science classes who are studying flight.



Shaftesbury's presentation on high altitude balloons and other SHARP activities at Ecole Dieppe. A mock ARISS contact was performed by the students using their hand held transceivers. Dieppe students questioned the "astronaut" (Mr. Deakin) who was orbiting in the hallways. (Photo above)

SHARP members attended the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club's annual Christmas party. Some of them received early Christmas gifts from WARC. Thank you!

CJOB's Nighthawk (Geoff Currier) chatted on air with Mr. Deakin (VA4AMD), Kendra McTavish (VA4MCT) and Dylan Fijal (VE4DFJ) about SHARP, SATS and the appeal of amateur radio for teens.



Geoff Currier with Dylan and Kendra in the CJOB studio. We met Mr. Currier at the CJOB booth on Portage Avenue during the Santa Claus Parade last month. (Photo above)

Beginning on Saturday, April 11, Shaftesbury will host WARC's Basic Short Course 9.

Planning continued for the flight of SHARP-4, a high altitude balloon cross-band repeater (possibly a 250 gram Puxing UV973). The balloon will likely carry an APRS beacon as well so 2-metre interference could be significant. By using a 3000 gram balloon the payload, could reach a record altitude (for SHARP) of 135000 feet and be airborne for up to 5 hours. The greater altitude will increase the size of the radio footprint. We will need WARC's advice on the frequencies and ideal date and time of day to fly to appeal to the largest number of radio amateurs. Questions about such as how to efficiently manage the radio traffic on the repeater. The flight is planned for mid-May 2015.



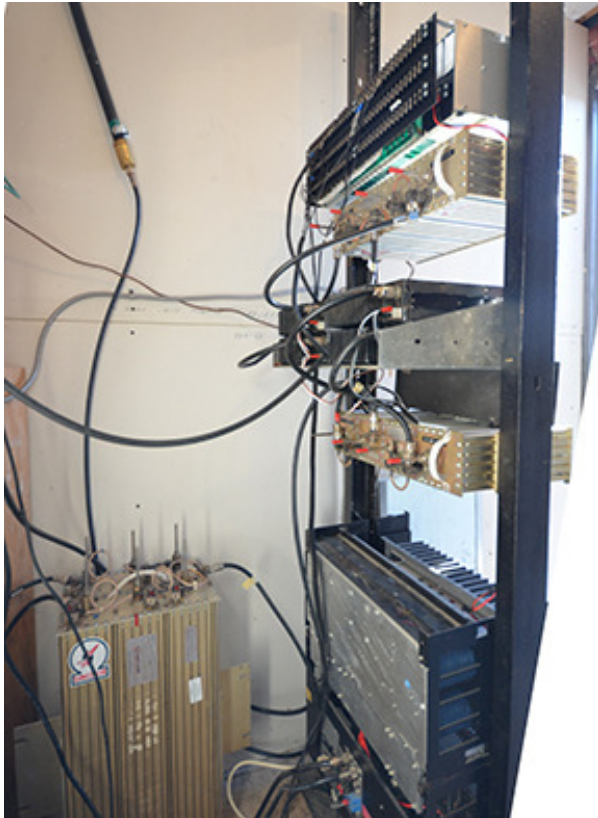
SHARP-4 radio footprint with the balloon near Winnipeg at 135 000 feet

Manitoba Repeater Society - Updates

By Derek VE4HAY

Members of the Manitoba Repeater Society technical crew, VE4ACX, VE4AJO VE4HAY spent the day on Grey Cup Sunday, repairing some of the Manitoba Repeater Society radio systems before the snow became too deep to access the remote sites.

The day started at sunrise with a 2 hour drive, up to what may be the 3rd highest bump on the Manitoba flat prairie to service the VE4MRS repeater near Bruxelles. Arrival at the site showed -24 degrees with an extreme cold warning and -33 wind-chill.



VE4MRS Repeater - Bruxelles

On the way back home we stopped at the VE4PLP repeater near Portage la Prairie to reinstall a duplexer and a VHF radio.

Manitoba Repeater Society

The Manitoba Repeater Society operates and maintains a linked repeater system across southern Manitoba, including Winnipeg.

If you are a user of any of these repeaters, we urge you to support the group by becoming a member.

Remember to Renew for 2015
(Memberships expired December 31)

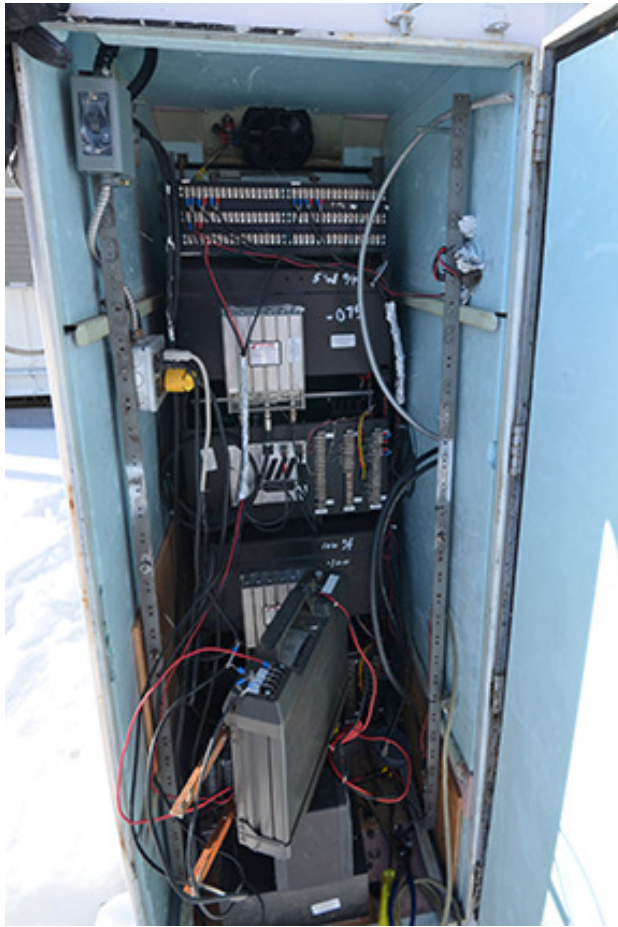
VE4MAN - Starbuck, VE4CDN - Morris,
VE4PLP - Portage, VE4MRS - Bruxelles,
VE4GIM - Gimli, VE4MIL - Milner Ridge
VE4EMB - Hadashville, VE4FAL - Falcon Lake,
VE4WPG - Winnipeg, VE4VJ - Winnipeg, VE4WRS
- Autopatch & IRLP link Winnipeg

Links to repeaters in Ontario, Brandon, Selkirk and soon to be the Dauphin & area.

info@mb-repeater-society.ca
<http://www.mb-repeater-society.ca/>
<http://www.facebook.com/ManitobaRepeaterSociety>



VE4PLP Repeater at Portage La Prairie



VE4PLP Repeater at Portage La Prairie

And finally at the VE4MAN, repeater site near Starbuck for a check-up only. By this point the temperature had warmed up to -20 degrees with a -31 wind-chill.

Arrived back in Winnipeg just in time to watch the kick-off of the game. A day well spent on the Canadian Prairie. Reminder, next year the Grey Cup is in Winnipeg, hi hi.

Manitoba Repeater Society To Join or not To Join By Derek VE4HAY

A fellow ham passed along the following message after an "on-air" conversation by some locals was overheard complaining about and not wanting to pay memberships and wanting "Something for nothing". While I did not hear the original conversation, I have heard it before by other amateur radio operators over the years.

It basically boils down to this. For some reason Amateur Radio Operators want a perfect working, high capacity, long range repeater system, with redundant



back up radios, and networks. And they are willing to pay for that service. But, and here is the kicker, they are only willing to pay \$20.00 - \$25.00 a year. For a networks of 10 sites with an average of 3.2 radios per site. Oh and did I mention that this network is interconnected to a number of other networks, run by other groups, which extends the entire network across Southern Manitoba and well into North Western Ontario.

Who we are...

Perhaps some explanation needs to be put forward on our little repeater system. Let's start with the people who are maintaining this system. They are all volunteers and not paid employees. They have families, work and other activities other than amateur radio. They take whatever slice of time they can afford to give up to repair (at home) and then travel to remote sites up to 2 hours away in any given direction, to install and field repair equipment in most times outdoor locations, in the weather that mother nature provides. Now remember we are in Manitoba and not the US Central Mid-West, or the center of Canada (Toronto ??). It gets cold here, darn cold. And when it is not cold, it is ridden with mosquitoes, wasps, black flies, ticks etc...

Now let's go to the equipment...

The commercial companies are installing the latest and greatest equipment all the time. Why are they replacing their equipment? Well, mostly for reliability and a little for the latest bells and whistles. Have you ever wondered where their old equipment goes? The resale market, as in they sell what they can for whatever they can get for it. Eventually it starts to enter the Amateur Radio world but, this is many years down the road, after it has been resold or repurposed many, many times. Why you may ask does it take so long to get into amateur hands – Cost is the main reason. Just keep that in mind as we will come back to that.

How about the sites?

The sites are not chosen for their uniqueness. They are chosen, because we feel that they are in the intended coverage area, and somehow we have arranged for very low cost access or even free gifted access, in exchange for providing a community service, or through business or personal connections with the host site provider. Most, 99.9% of commercial tower space has a price tag on it. Business is business and if money can be made selling tower access space, it will happen and it can demand very high or top dollar rates.

How about Antenna placement or what is effectively climbing the towers...

We used to be able to climb these towers ourselves and install antennas and transmission cable. Not anymore, as every host site now requires only experienced, and certified climbers who carry insurance. These climbers are always associated with a tower company and thus require fees to be paid for their service. We try to piggy-back on a service call that may happen at a site as best we can but there is no guarantee on that happening. We hold off as long as we can, but it sometimes takes a priority and we have to hire a climbing crew. Yes a crew, as they do not work alone. Oh and don't forget travel time, both directions.

Now let's get into the finances of the group...

While we have money in the bank, if you look at our budget for the last 10 years, you will see that most of the time the budget is a defect budget. We plan on losing money. This type of budget is not sustainable; eventually the money in the bank will run out. How can we produce a budget with is a break even or even a profit? Well, we would first have to cut expenses. So how do we do that? We could stop paying climbers to go and fix antennas. Or we could put some more glue on those outdated radios we are using that are constantly breaking down and the commercial guys abandoned many years ago. We already volunteer our time and labour to repair, fix replace and maintain, plus our mileage, gas and wear and tear to travel to the sites, so there is no savings there. We already purchase and donate to the cause our own test equipment to effect

*Broken antenna in need of repair*

repairs. Where else can we save money? Really there is nowhere else. So how can we balance the books? It must come from the revenue side, the side that brings in the money.

How does this money come in???

It comes from your membership. Remember that measly little \$20.00 - \$25.00 per year you pay to be a member. But there is not enough of it. So the only choice is to either raise fees or gain more members. For the most part our tried and true members understand that costs have gone up over the years. Equipment breaks down and needs to be replaced. Tower crews need to be paid for services performed. So a slight increase in membership will be tolerated. There will always be some members who say they can not afford a \$5.00 a year increase. As they want to buy that new HF/ VHF/ UHF rig with all the bells and whistles. So paying \$5.00 more a year, heavens no.

And how about those that linger on side...

Those that use the radio system to check into nets, to rag chew, to assist with parades, or community events, and even step forward in an emergency. Those that go for a drive or just stay home and stay in touch with their fellow hams for company and someone to talk to. Those that as the opening paragraph says - those who are overheard complaining about and not wanting to pay memberships and wanting "Something for nothing".

Simplex...

Perhaps we should let them try simplex for a week and see how they like it. Yes we all remember simplex. Many of the older guys around can swear that is how we used to communicate. Back when cities and housing developments let people put up towers, so they could get a signal across the city. Back when handhelds were

were the size of a brick and not something that is well so small that you can not push a button on it without hitting two other buttons at the same time. Yes perhaps we can urge everyone to move over to simplex. Yes, I'm sure that would work, we will all comply and everything will be just grand.

Where am I going with this article and what is my point???

Two Manitoba Repeater Society crew members and one apprentice/organizer just spent Grey Cup Sunday traveling in extreme cold warnings with -33 wind-chill for two hours, before the real winter hits, to replace a power supply on a remote linked repeater, then another hour and a half to another site to replace a failed duplexer and radio, and finally another half hour to check on another linked repeater. All before finally arriving home, just in time to see the kickoff.



This trip like the 20+ other trips made in 2014 to various repeater sites was done for the love of the hobby and to try to ensure that you as member and even those as non-members have a linked repeater system that functions as best as we can maintain it. So you can have that all important rag chew as you drive across Manitoba, or as you exchange pleasantries with your fellow ham, or as you volunteer for the parade, marathon or assist in an ARES function.

Have you ever heard anyone from the executive of the Manitoba Repeater Society complain about the system? So when we hear fellow Amateur Radio Operators complain about a system that you do not pay for and use, well it sort of ticks us off a bit. As for those who are members, we thank you, but please endure with us, as we do our best to keep your memberships low and still manage to maintain a link repeater system that with the last count is 10 sites with 32 radio, 26 antenna's, over 100 cavities as part of a filters, thousands of feet of transmission cable, dozens of power supplies. And an enormous tube of glue to hold it all together.

To see what it is that the Executive of the Manitoba Repeater Society does, please check our Facebook page and look at our albums of each repeater site...

[facebook.com/ManitobaRepeaterSociety](https://www.facebook.com/ManitobaRepeaterSociety)

You can renew your MRS membership or Join MRS using PayPal at ...

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

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"

The Morning Net 147.390 Mhz+

Weekdays at 9:00 am

This net covers Winnipeg and hams of all ages are welcome to join in this net which is always a lot of fun!

Friendly Manitoba IRLP Net

Net - 145.450 Mhz - (Node # 1066)

On - The Great Lakes Reflector #9611

Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

This net connects you with the world using the internet as the backbone!

D-Star Nets on the VE4WDR System using

UHF 444.575+ DV Port B and/or

VHF 145.490- DV Port C

TransCanada D-Star Net - Fridays at 8:00 pm

On "Free Star" Reflector 21 (XRF021BO)

HamNation D-Star Net Wednesday at 9:15pm

On "DPlus" Reflector 14 (REF014CL)

Ozark Mtn. D-Star Net - Sundays at 8:00 pm

On "DPlus" Reflector 1 (REF001CL)

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

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 - 4:10 PM -7,075 Khz

4:10 PM - 4:20PM -3,675 Khz LSB 5,375 USB

Manitoba IRLP Nodes - Use reflector 9003

Winnipeg VE4WSC (Node 1809) Pinawa

VE4PIN (Node 1981), Flin Flon VE5ROD

(Node 1750), DARC Swan River VE4SRR

(Node 1700)

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Please send your submissions/comments to the editor Mark VE4MAB, - newscaster@WinnipegARC.org