



# The **NEWSCASTER**

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

September 2020

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

VE4BB

## An "On-Line Social Distance" Meeting Presentation by David VE4DLA CW Groups That Help You Improve

Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2020

Time: 7:30 PM

Place: <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/djlatour>

In view of the current "Social Distancing" measures join WARC for this online meeting

### Other Important Dates:

Newscaster: Deadline October 1, 2020

WARC: Monthly Meeting Dates **2nd Tuesdays**  
October 13, 2020 - AGM  
November 10, 2020 - TBA  
December 8, 2020 - TBA

ARES: Tuesday, September 15 2020  
Will be an **on-line** "Remote" meeting  
Winnipeg ARES members will be advised by e-mail

Other: The Manitoba Marathon has been rescheduled to Sunday, October 11, 2020

To register as an Amateur Radio volunteer visit ...

[https://winnipegarc.org/marathon\\_volunteer\\_form.html](https://winnipegarc.org/marathon_volunteer_form.html)

### WARC Executive for 2020-2021...

President	John Romanec	<a href="mailto:ve4vjr@gmail.com">ve4vjr@gmail.com</a>
Vice-Pres.	Drew Kwartel	<a href="mailto:drewk1166@gmail.com">drewk1166@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	David Latour	<a href="mailto:ve4dla@gmail.com">ve4dla@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Dave Terrick	<a href="mailto:dave.terrick@gmail.com">dave.terrick@gmail.com</a>
Membership Programs	Jerry Volkens	<a href="mailto:jerryvolkers@hotmail.com">jerryvolkers@hotmail.com</a>
Education	Roberto Urrea	<a href="mailto:va4.rul@gmail.com">va4.rul@gmail.com</a>
Past President	Colin Mantay	<a href="mailto:ve4cem@rac.ca">ve4cem@rac.ca</a>
Public Information Officer....	Vacant	

### From The President -

Hi all, welcome back from another summer as we begin a new season of WARC!

I sincerely hope Covid19 has spared everyone and their families. it is a new world we live in, at least for the foreseeable future, where we all need to make adjustments and look out for each other. In view of this it would seem it would be a good opportunity to get on the radio, be it VHF/UHF or HF and warm up the atmosphere with our radio waves.

I know, I know - summer in this part of the world is very valued and priority is often given to outdoor, family, recreational activities, as should be the case. But now as the weather is slowly starting to turn to fall dust off the rig and warm it up!

The new season will be presenting us some challenges as well. The earliest we will be able to meet in the church will be for the November 10 meeting, but even that is up in the air so we will be trying something different.

For the September 8 and October 13 meetings we will be holding them online using the FreeConferenceCall app. We tried holding nets the last few meetings of the season in the spring and they were good but did not allow for any sort of presentation. So until we are able to meet in person we will be doing online meetings.

This severe restriction on getting together may also impact our planned Christmas supper in December but we will let everyone know about that as far in advance as possible.

So as we look forward to WARC's first online general meeting on September 8 please respect each other by wearing a mask and get on the air!

73

John Romanec VE4VJR

### 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*

<sup>2</sup>  
**WARC's**  
**September Meeting Instructions**

For WARC's September meeting will be our first on-line general meeting, and likely for October as well, with our first in-person meeting to be in November.

Please download the FreeConferenceCall app to your computer, tablet or smartphone, as that provides the most trouble-free access to the meeting.

Signing in well in advance of 7:30 will give everyone time to sort out technical troubles at their end.

**Instructions:**

At the scheduled meeting time...

By telephone dial in to the conference at (720) 740-9634 (LD Charges may apply). When prompted, enter the access code 1448748 followed by pound or hash (#).

By computer/smart phone - join the video and screen sharing session, click the online meeting link <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/djlatour> Or enter Meeting ID "djlatour" in the app.

WARC has donated to the

**Manitoba Firefighters' Burn Fund**

In memory of SK, Tom Mills - VE4SE, for all his years of service, both public and private. He will be missed.

**Minutes**

**WARC 2M General Meeting June 9, 2020**  
**Net called at 7:31 by VE4 DRW**

Attendance (all VE4 prefix): DVT Dave Terrick; RXL Rod; GCV Jerry Volkers; LMK Lee Kozak; JBB Jesse; GMB Greg Bolinsky; DLA David; AJ Kelvin; MBQ Jeff Doviak; VJR John Romanec; DTF David; GKS; DJS; BEF Bill; HK Dick; CKP; HAZ; HRM; MAB; GWB. Visitors: None. Late or missed: none reported

**President's report:**

Thanks to all for the final meeting attendance before summer. 73's. The Church basement should be ready by September for QSEs. Update will be received by mid-August.

Minutes: not reported or called for (unofficial minute from VE4DVT)

**Treasurer's report:**

\$11,502.78, in total cash on hand of which \$5,995.73 is in general fund (\$819.93 in Paypal) , \$5,507.05 in rainy day fund.

**Membership:**

JBB: Reports 105 members, as of the end of year. End of year report to be sent to RAC for insurance purposes.

**ARES:**

MBQ: P2 of the newscaster contains the report. . Requested questions but none offered.

**RAC:**

DVT reports on website re ongoing courses and Canada Day contest. DRW reports no field day locally and suggests all set stations up outside of their normal location (ie: back yard, etc).

**DX report:**

VJR: FT8 between 7-8:30 PM has lots of Asian traffic on 20m. He has worked most of the area.

**New business:**

QSO: 20. Quorum. DLA: reports 21 and quorum.

**Annual Elections:**

Virtual election done on the net. All executive will stand for another year. No other nomination requests were made. Suggestion made that the best way to vote was to call for any nays.

MBQ: motion that nominations be closed for 2020. 2nd by HK. Discussion for alternatives for a Director At Large had no resolution. DRW calls for any objections to the slate- none received. Motion to re-elect all current executive members in their present capacities carried.

**New Business:**

HK: 2 new memberships at WARC ready to be picked up as of today.

BEF: 1st JBB has keyed on the 2M band for the first time.

Call for further new business: none received.

Call for late or missed attendance: none.

Next meeting announced for September 2, 2020 with location and format TBA.

Motion by GKK to adjourn, 2nd not required per HK comment. Meeting adjourned at 7:57 but links left up for arrangements.



**RAC Canada 2020**

**Conference and Annual General Meeting**  
**Sunday, September 20**

<https://www.rac.ca/rac-canada-2020-conference/>

## ***Middle School Students Launch A High Altitude Atmospheric Research Balloon during Covid-19 Pandemic***

About a dozen Manitoba schools carry out atmospheric research in a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) activity using weather balloons each spring. Students design and build a payload containing small Arduino microcontrollers or Raspberry Pi computers which log data from environmental sensors. Students develop skills in programming, electronics and data analysis. The payload rides to the stratosphere below a parachute and a large helium filled balloon. The high altitude balloons or HABs are launched from a host school in rural Manitoba. The balloons typically reach altitudes of between 30 and 33 kilometres. This puts the payload in the stratosphere and in the Earth's famous ozone shield. Measurements often include temperature, wind speed, barometric pressure, UV light intensity, radioactivity, magnetic field strength and acceleration.



Figure 1: Masked Student Prepares HAB Payload for Flight

Payloads also contain small video recorders and an amateur radio APRS transmitter and GPS receiver. The video recorders provide a visual record of the flight and the APRS transmitter provides the payload's position in real time. The APRS or Automatic Packet Reporting System gives students the precise time, latitude, longitude, altitude, speed and direction. The tracking system is entirely dependent on radio amateur volunteers who have built the APRS network of fixed and mobile digital radio repeaters (digipeaters or digis) and internet gateways (i-gates) around the world. Of course the HAB tracker also depends on the GNSS/GPS (Global Positioning System) of satellites that orbit the Earth roughly 20,000 kilometres above. The result of all this digital radio and network technology is that students can use their smartphones and tablets to follow their HAB (aprs.fi) as it travels across Manitoba and eventually recover their valuable payload.



Figure 2: Gusting Winds Made for a Challenging Launch and a Rough Landing

The novel corona virus (COVID-19) pandemic has made 2020 a particularly challenging year. Manitoba schools closed in March. Schools began the process of phased reopening in June. Most HAB schools decided to delay their spring HAB flights to the fall but one Manitoba school, HC Avery Middle School in the Seven Oaks School Division decided to fly in June. Their payload was nearly complete in March. The senior students (grade 8) were eager to finish it up and fly before they moved on to a high school. In addition to preparing a payload and balloon for flight, this year, students, parents and teachers also needed to practice viral transmission prevention techniques, including physical distancing.

Teacher Andrew Hildebrand prepared his team well. The students launched their atmospheric research balloon from behind Carman Collegiate on June 10th at 10:38 AM. The balloon reached an altitude of 30.13 km before it burst. Their payload landed in a field northwest of Brunkild at 1:27 PM and was recovered by the team just after 2 PM.

Andrew's students were prepared for and followed the established covid-19 safety protocol. Students did not travel together. Each student was driven to the launch site by a parent or guardian in the family vehicle. Many parents took the day off work to spend the day with their child engaged in an educational multi-disciplinary outdoor adventure. Students were able to keep a minimum 2-m distance from one another, taking their scheduled turn at preparing the payload and the balloon for flight according to the teacher's checklist. Everyone wore masks that covered the mouth and nose and they used hand sanitizer frequently.

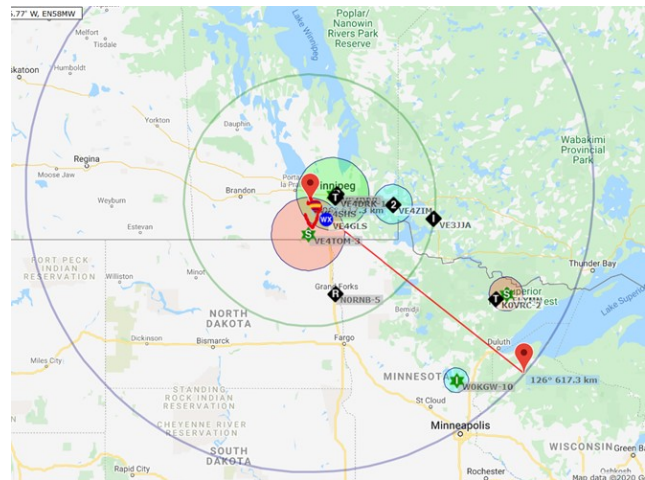


Figure 3: The 600+ km Radio Range Circle for the HAB at 30 km Altitude

In a normal year, several students ride in a teacher's or chaperone's vehicle. Andrew noted that chasing the balloon is more interesting when students can share the tracking experience together. In addition, more vehicles than usual were required adding to the expense. From my point of view, the event was very well organized and the students were well prepared for flight operations.

Continued .....



June 10th was very windy. Launch preparations were made in the lee of a tree line but when it came time to launch the balloon, 40 km/h gusts caused some concern. During a brief slackening of the wind, the balloon was able to rise to a position directly above the payload and the launch was safely made.

Although not observed directly, the landing was very rough. By early afternoon the winds were gusting to over 50 km/h. The APRS transceiver in my car indicated that the payload was dragged across a field by its parachute for at least a kilometre. The payload's 2-m centre-fed dipole antenna was badly bent and tangled in the parachute's shroud lines. A camera may have suffered some damage as well. It was understood beforehand that the wind would be a challenge but re-scheduling the flight day would be a problem given the number of parents who had arranged to take the day off work to transport their children.

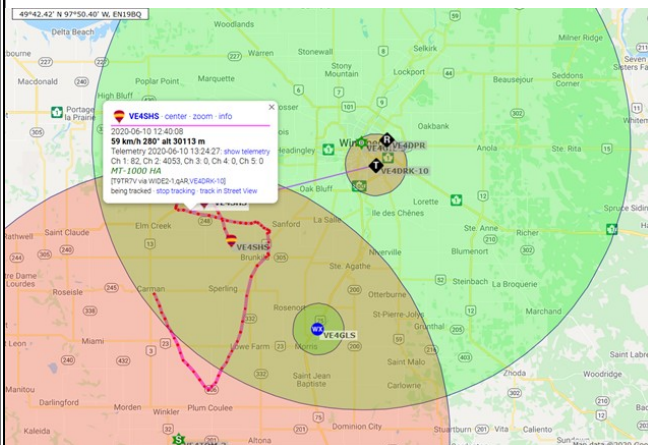


Figure 4: Flight Path for HC Avery Middle School's HAB – June 2020

The Automatic Packet Reporting System or APRS worked well. In general, high flying HABs do not use digipeaters. This is to reduce congestion of the North American APRS network as every digi in range would retransmit the HAB's data packets. An APRS transmitter 30 km above southern Manitoba has a radio range in excess of 600 km and would be repeated by digipeaters in Minnesota, the Dakotas and beyond every minute (see figure 3). There are few internet gateways or I-gates in Manitoba (black diamonds in figures 3 and 4). The nearest I-gate to the Carman launch site is in Winnipeg, about 90 km away. These internet gateways for APRS data are operated by local hams, usually at their homes. They are essential to Manitoba school HAB operations. There are two I-gates in Winnipeg that are used most often by school HABs. They are operated by Dan Perreux (VE4DPR) and Dan Keizer (VE4DRK). I don't know if the two Dans realize how critical they are to these school flights but should they read this, thank you and please maintain your I-gate!

Antenna heights for these residential I-gates are not great. Land vehicles typically use high level digipeaters (green stars in figures 3 and 4) to reach an I-gate. Outside of Winnipeg, the HAB's transmitter needs to be a few hundred metres above ground before its data pack-

ets can reach an I-gate. Students learn that the Earth blocks the VHF radio signal and the higher the antenna, the greater the radio range. Power-Height-Gain (PHG) circles are shown in figure 4 for the theoretical radio ranges of VE4DRK-10. The inner circle represents the effective range for a typical mobile (ground based) user. Chase cars with mobile APRS radios greatly assist locating payloads once they have landed. A few schools actually own mobile APRS transceivers as a number of the teachers (and students) in the school group are certified radio amateurs.

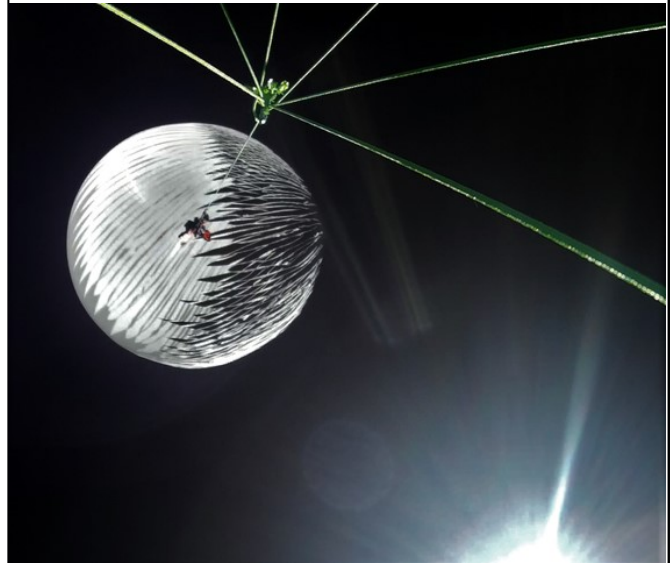


Figure 5: The H.C. Avery Balloon Burst at 30.13 km (98,750 feet)

APRS data that reaches the internet is stored on servers such as those of the aprs.fi web service. The basic flight data can be downloaded from a server by students as soon as the flight is over. In the coming days, students will process and analyze the sensor data logged in their payload and they will edit the videos recorded by the on-board cameras. They will then prepare their reports, posters and presentations. They will reflect on the structure of the atmosphere and on what they learned about HAB flight operations. Teachers say this is authentic science and engineering.

The HC Avery flight proved that school HAB flights are possible during the pandemic when carefully planned and controlled. The keys are dedicated teachers backed by supportive learning communities. HC Avery's supporters include parents, school administrators, the Seven Oaks School Division, the Manitoba Association of Physics Teachers, Manitoba Aerospace and Manitoba radio amateurs. Hopefully other schools in the Manitoba group will have the opportunity to fly their payloads after the fall harvest.

Stay healthy;

Robert Striemer (VE4SHS)

## ***RAC Online Beginner's CW Course: October 2020***

<https://www.rac.ca/rac-online-beginners-cw-course/>

In response to the global pandemic, Radio Amateurs of Canada is continuing to offer Amateur Radio online courses so that individuals can obtain their Amateur Radio certification or can upgrade their qualifications while practicing social/physical distancing.

We are pleased to offer a Beginner's CW Course which will be provided by Tony Pattinson, VE2KM, to teach Morse Code to Amateurs and help them get on the air with CW.

As described in the bio provided below, CW has always been a passion for Tony and he is a CW Academy Advisor and a lifetime member of the CW Operator's Club. He is giving freely of his time and experience as a Morse Instructor with CW Academy and his professional experience in training. Thank you Tony!

### **Course Information:**

The primary language of instruction will be in English, mais je peux répondre à vos questions en français.

**Objective:** To enable any Canadian Radio Amateur of any level to send and receive CW at a speed of at least 5 wpm and to be able to pass the Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada's 5 wpm Morse Code test.

**Start Date:** The target date for the start of the course is October 2020. A survey will be sent to applicants to determine the best schedule.

**Duration:** The course will consist of two, 1-hour, group sessions via Zoom per week for eight weeks.

**Class Size:** Each class will be limited to a maximum of five students. Multiple classes may also be organized if necessary to accommodate different time zones.

**Cost:** The course will be offered free of charge to RAC members. Non-members may participate by donating \$150 to the RAC Youth Education Program which "provides youth and their leaders with an innovative way of learning by introducing them to the wonderful world of Amateur Radio".

### **Course Instruction:**

As indicated earlier the course instructor is Tony Pattinson, VE2KM and he provided the following bio. You can find additional information on his QRZ page at: <https://www.qrz.com/db/VE2KM>

"I was originally licensed as G3YAQ in 1968. On arrival in Canada in 1980, I immediately qualified at the Advanced level and was issued call sign VE2FUP. After a short wait I was pleased to be issued VE2KM. I was inactive for over 30 years but have recently (2018) decided to start up again. I have three other call signs – VA2XDX, VA2KCC and VE0XDX. The latter was obtained so I could operate from a 60-foot schooner that I was helping deliver to the Bahamas in December 2019.

CW has always been a passion with me and I was able to regain my previous operating speed helped in great part by the CW Academy advisors John, AJ1DM, Ted, WA3AER, and Joe, KK5NA. I graduated from Level 2 in May 2019 and from Level 3 in November 2019. I was accepted as a life member of CWOps in January 2020 with #2424.

I am delighted to be teaching CW again (2020) as an Advisor for the CW Academy and also on behalf of RAC and the Straight Key Century Club (SKCC). I am a member of FIST and SKCC. I obtained SKCC Centurion and Tribune status in February 2020 and am gradually (but slowly) building towards Senator status. Since being accepted as a CWA Advisor I have taught, and am currently teaching, classes to Amateurs in both the United Kingdom and North America."

### **Course Requirements:**

Participants in the RAC Beginner's CW Course will need to meet all of the following requirements.

**Note:** If you cannot meet the following requirements please do not apply. You will be wasting your time and potentially denying a place to someone who can.

- Commitment to 1-hour (4 x 15 or 5 x 12 minute sessions) of practice every day, for the full duration of the course.
- Commitment to record at least one Character Recognition exercise each week and send it to VE2KM for analysis.
- A computer with a hard-wired internet connection (no Wi-Fi) and with Zoom installed (the free version is fine).
- A webcam and microphone.
- A method of generating CW; either from a rig sidetone or a code practice oscillator using a straight key or paddles with sufficient volume to be picked up by the webcam microphone. Preference will be given to straight key operators.
- The capability to record CW using the computer and then export the file in MP3 format. There is free software such as Audacity that is available to do this. If you are sufficiently motivated, willing and able to meet the above requirements, Tony, VE2KM, will be happy to work with you to achieve your goals.

### **Course Registration:**

Unlike previous Amateur Radio courses provided by Radio Amateurs of Canada, the registration for the Beginner's CW Course will be handled by the instructor Tony Pattinson, VE2KM.

To apply for the course please send an email directly to Tony at [VE2KM@YnotSailing.com](mailto:VE2KM@YnotSailing.com) with "RAC CW Course" as the subject line.

If you need any assistance from Radio Amateurs of Canada please contact the RAC Office at

[racgm@rac.ca](mailto:racgm@rac.ca)  
Glenn MacDonell, VE3XRA  
RAC President and Chair

## Spotlight On Alex McIlraith VE4AIM

By David VE4DAR

What got you interested in Amateur Radio? “In grade school at Great Falls, Manitoba, I strung an antenna to receive AM radio. I kept a record of the many stations and radio plays I heard. Also listening to stations around the world on Short Wave, I developed an interest in radio, propagation, and skip.”

Take a class; study on your own; or have an Elmer?

“While at the U. of Manitoba, I took Prof. Kinsner’s (VE4WK) course; built a copper J-pole antenna; learned CW; got licensed; and was grandfathered into the Advanced certificate.”



Build or buy commercial equipment? “Built small receivers and transmitters; used the UMARS station and repaired their antennas; then bought a 2m handheld and a used HF rig.”

Contacts or moments that you remember? “Using an inverted V dipole made with tent poles with shock cords on my Fort Garry apartment balcony, I talked on sideband with a fellow in California to relay to someone in Transcona! I liked doing dike patrol during the '97 Flood.”

What have you got out of ham radio? “Lots of contacts; got to know people. Enjoyed teaching ham classes and passing our hobby to young people. My practical experience in amateur radio has helped my teaching electronics at Red River College.”

Particular interest in ham radio? “Public service stimulated by things such as Y2K preparations, and the marathons. Also, it helped me learn electronics, so when I switched from biology studies to electronics, it sparked a career in electronic design and communications.”

Public Service activities? “1997 Flood dike patrols; Manitoba Marathons; Y2K preparations; teaching ham classes and electronics at Red River College.”

Advice for New Hams? “It’s an interesting hobby with so many aspects: technology, community service, a community of people, the world. Be ready to try new things; people are supportive. Best to hook up Newbies with an Elmer.”

Future of amateur radio? “We are so dependent on technology; we assume it will be there when we need it. Hurricanes, example ... Katrina, required our help. With the pandemic and solar storms, we can lose systems. So amateur radio is very important. Our community is there ready to help. Also, technology will not stop changing.”

ALEX: THANKS FOR GIVING ME MY 40TH INTERVIEW IN THIS SERIES. David.

## Proposed Two Metre (2m) Band Plan

2020-08-20 BY ALAN GRIFFIN

As announced in The Canadian Amateur magazine, the RAC Band Planning Committee has completed the new proposed 2m band plan.

Radio Amateurs of Canada band planning committees coordinate the development of National Band Plans to provide guidance for the usage of the Canadian Amateur bands. These committees are made up of representatives from all regions of Canada.

The committees prepare interim band plans after consulting with Amateurs across the country. These plans not only take into account the wishes of Canadian Amateurs, but are also coordinated with band usage in other countries through membership in the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU).

The RAC Board of Directors extends thanks to the members of the RAC Band Planning Committee for undertaking the task of reviewing and updating the VHF and UHF band plans over the next year.

A draft of the band plans is provided below for final input before it is submitted to the RAC Board of Directors for approval.

If you have any comments or suggestions please send them to Serge, Bertuzzo, VA3SB, RAC International Affairs Officer, at [international@rac.ca](mailto:international@rac.ca).

RAC Band Planning Committee  
Chair: Al Penney, VO1NO

Members:

Bill Elliott, VE1MR  
Don Falle, VE2DFO  
Stuart Truba, VE2XX  
Dana Shtun, VE3DS  
Derek Hay, VE4HAY  
Ken Oelke, VE6AFO  
Skip MacAulay, VE6BGT  
Ernest Clintberg, VE6EC  
Don Moman, VE6JY  
Mitchell Goodjohn, VE6SM  
Grant Furnald, VE6TA  
Ed Frazer, VE7EF  
George Merchant, VE7GM  
Dave Miller, VE7HR

Serge, Bertuzzo, VA3SB  
RAC International Affairs Officer  
[international@rac.ca](mailto:international@rac.ca)

Ed, VE4EAR, [ed\\_richardson@shaw.ca](mailto:ed_richardson@shaw.ca), is the frequency coordinator for VE4

Download the proposed Band Plan here...  
<https://www.rac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Draft-2m-Band-Plan-August-2020.pdf>



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Contact George Hill, VE4GDH

E-Mail Steve at ....  
[Steve@microhightech.ca](mailto:Steve@microhightech.ca)

**Winnipeg ARES**

**Jeff Dovyak VE4MBQ**

[ve4mbq@rac.ca](mailto:ve4mbq@rac.ca)

2020-2021 Winnipeg ARES dues were payable in June.

Our next remote General Meeting will be TUE 15 SEP 1900h, there were no General Meetings scheduled for July or August.

Many of our scheduled Public Service Events were cancelled due to COVID-19 (including Air Force Run, Parkinson SuperWalk, Wilderness Challenge, etc). Due to COVID-19 concerns we couldn't staff VE4WVO so there was no organized CANWARN Net Control program this year, Spotter Training that was booked for March in Fraserwood was cancelled.

The date for the 2020 Manitoba Marathon is SUN 11 OCT 2020 – volunteer recruitment should be turned back “on” on the WARC website by press time.

**Manitoba Marathon**

**Jeff Dovyak VE4MBQ**

[ve4mbq@rac.ca](mailto:ve4mbq@rac.ca)

The 2020 Manitoba Marathon will be SUN 11OCT.

We currently need many more volunteers.

We need a completed new registration form from each Amateur Radio volunteer every year regardless of what Amateur organization they belong to. Thanks to Mark VE4MAB for having the registration portal on the WARC web-site,

[http://www.winnipegarc.org/marathon\\_volunteer\\_form.html](http://www.winnipegarc.org/marathon_volunteer_form.html)

New Amateur operators will be paired up with Amateurs experienced with the event. Amateur Radio volunteers must agree to abide by the Manitoba Marathon Code of Conduct for volunteers. Thanks to Dave VE4DJS for keeping track of the volunteer registrations.

**RAC/ARES**

**NATIONAL EMCOMM FREQUENCIES**

SSB	Frequency	Tactical
75M - LSB	3.675 MHz	Alfa
40 M - LSB	7.135 MHz	Bravo
20 M - USB	14.135 MHz	Charlie
17 M - USB	18.135 MHz	Delta
15 M - USB	21.235 MHz	Echo
10 M - USB	28.235 MHz	Foxtrot
CW	Frequency	Tactical
80 M	3.535 MHz	Golf
40 M	7.035 MHz	Hotel
20 M	14.035 MHz	India
17 M	18.075 MHz	Juliette
15 M	21.035 MHz	Kilo
10 M	28.035 MHz	Lima
Digital	Frequency	Tactical
80M	3.596 MHz	Mike
40 M	7.096 MHz	November
40 M	7.096 MHz	November
20 M	14.096 MHz	Oscar
17 M	18.096 MHz	Papa
15 M	21.096 MHz	Quebec
10 M	28.096 MHz	Romeo

<http://www.rac.ca/fieldorg/racaresfreqs.htm>

The 2020 Amateur Radio Group Volunteer Briefing is to be determined and might be on-line only. Supply pick-up +/- volunteer briefing will be in the evening TUE 06 OCT or WED 07 OCT, details to be announced.

If you register as an Amateur Radio volunteer and cannot attend the supply pick-up please let us know in advance who will be attending to pick up your briefing materials and volunteer t-shirt. There may be an additional Medical Team briefing on another date for those assigning to the medical side.

We need all borrowed equipment returned as soon as possible. On Race Day loaner traffic vests & HTs should be turned over to the Course Closing Vehicle as it passes by.

  
**204.899.3350**  
1798 St Matthews Ave  
Winnipeg, MB R3H 0A5

**Discount for  
“WARC”  
members**

Print It On is offering WARC members a 15% discount on any size qty of QSL cards.

Be sure to present your membership card.

## Contest Calendar

Extracted From

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

September 2020

CWops CW Open 0000Z-0359Z, Sep 5  
and 1200Z-1559Z, Sep 5  
and 2000Z-2359Z, Sep 5

Russian RTTY WW Contest 0000Z-2359Z, Sep 5

All Asian DX Contest, Phone  
0000Z, Sep 5 to 2400Z, Sep 6

Wake-Up! QRP Sprint 0600Z-0629Z, Sep 5  
and 0630Z-0659Z, Sep 5  
and 0700Z-0729Z, Sep 5  
and 0730Z-0800Z, Sep 5

RSGB SSB Field Day 1300Z, Sep 5 to 1300Z, Sep 6

Colorado QSO Party 1300Z, Sep 5 to 0400Z, Sep 6

IARU Region 1 Field Day, SSB  
1300Z, Sep 5 to 1259Z, Sep 6

IARU Region 1 145 MHz Contest  
1400Z, Sep 5 to 1400Z, Sep 6

AGCW Straight Key Party 1600Z-1900Z, Sep 5

PODXS 070 Club Jay Hudak Memorial 80m Sprint  
2000Z, Sep 5 to 2000Z, Sep 6

WAB 144 MHz QRO Phone 1000Z-1400Z, Sep 6

Tennessee QSO Party 1800Z, Sep 6 to 0300Z, Sep 7

RSGB 80m Autumn Series, SSB 1900Z-2030Z, Sep 7

MI QRP Labor Day CW Sprint  
2300Z, Sep 7 to 0300Z, Sep 8

Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest  
0100Z-0159Z, Sep 8

ARS Spartan Sprint 0100Z-0300Z, Sep 8

RTTYOPS Weeksprint 1700Z-1900Z, Sep 8

Phone Fray 0230Z-0300Z, Sep 9

CWops Mini-CWT Test 1300Z-1400Z, Sep 9

VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest 1700Z-2000Z, Sep 9

CWops Mini-CWT Test 1900Z-2000Z, Sep 9

CWops Mini-CWT Test 0300Z-0400Z, Sep 10

RTTYOPS Weeksprint 1700Z-1900Z, Sep 10

NCCC RTTY Sprint 0145Z-0215Z, Sep 11

NCCC Sprint Ladder 0230Z-0300Z, Sep 11

FOC QSO Party 0000Z-2359Z, Sep 12

ARRL EME Contest  
0000Z, Sep 12 to 2359Z, Sep 13

WAE DX Contest, SSB  
0000Z, Sep 12 to 2359Z, Sep 13

SARL Field Day Contest  
1000Z, Sep 12 to 1000Z, Sep 13

SKCC Weekend Sprintathon  
1200Z, Sep 12 to 2400Z, Sep 13

Ohio State Parks on the Air 1400Z-2200Z, Sep 12

Texas QSO Party 1400Z, Sep 12 to 0200Z, Sep 13  
and 1400Z-2000Z, Sep 13

Russian Cup Digital Contest 1500Z-1859Z, Sep 12  
and 0600Z-0959Z, Sep 13

Alabama QSO Party 1500Z, Sep 12 to 0300Z, Sep 13

ARRL September VHF Contest  
1800Z, Sep 12 to 0300Z, Sep 14

North American Sprint, CW 0000Z-0400Z, Sep 13

Swiss HTC QRP Sprint 1300Z-1900Z, Sep 13

4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint  
0000Z-0200Z, Sep 14

## Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest

RTTYOPS Weeksprint 0100Z-0159Z, Sep 15  
1700Z-1900Z, Sep 15

Phone Fray 0230Z-0300Z, Sep 16

CWops Mini-CWT Test 1300Z-1400Z, Sep 16

RSGB 80m Autumn Series, CW 1900Z-2030Z, Sep 16

CWops Mini-CWT Test 1900Z-2000Z, Sep 16

NAQCC CW Sprint 0030Z-0230Z, Sep 17

CWops Mini-CWT Test 0300Z-0400Z, Sep 17

RTTYOPS Weeksprint 1700Z-1900Z, Sep 17

BCC QSO Party 1930Z-1959Z, Sep 17 (CW)  
and 2000Z-2029Z, Sep 17 (SSB)  
and 2030Z-2059Z, Sep 17 (RTTY)

NCCC RTTY Sprint 0145Z-0215Z, Sep 18

NCCC Sprint 0230Z-0300Z, Sep 18

AGB NEMIGA Contest 2100Z-2400Z, Sep 18

Collegiate QSO Party 0000Z, Sep 19 to 2359Z, Sep 20

ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest  
0600 local, Sep 19 to 2400 local, Sep 20

SARL VHF/UHF Digital Contest  
1200Z, Sep 19 to 0800Z, Sep 20

All Africa International DX Contest  
1200Z, Sep 19 to 1200Z, Sep 20

Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW  
1200Z, Sep 19 to 1200Z, Sep 20

SRT HF Contest SSB  
1300Z, Sep 19 to 1300Z, Sep 20

Iowa QSO Party 1400Z, Sep 19 to 0200Z, Sep 20

QRP Afield 1500Z-2100Z, Sep 19

Wisconsin Parks on the Air 1600Z-2300Z, Sep 19

New Jersey QSO Party  
1600Z, Sep 19 to 0359Z, Sep 20

New Hampshire QSO Party  
1600Z, Sep 19 to 0400Z, Sep 20  
and 1600Z-2200Z, Sep 20

Washington State Salmon Run  
1600Z, Sep 19 to 0700Z, Sep 20  
and 1600Z-2400Z, Sep 20

Feld Hell Sprint 1800Z-1959Z, Sep 19

North American Sprint, RTTY 0000Z-0400Z, Sep 20

BARTG Sprint 75 1700Z-2059Z, Sep 20

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest  
2300Z, Sep 20 to 0100Z, Sep 21

144 MHz Fall Sprint 1900 local - 2300 local, Sep 21

Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest  
0100Z-0159Z, Sep 22

RTTYOPS Weeksprint 1700Z-1900Z, Sep 22

SKCC Sprint 0000Z-0200Z, Sep 23

Phone Fray 0230Z-0300Z, Sep 23

CWops Mini-CWT Test 1300Z-1400Z, Sep 23

CWops Mini-CWT Test 1900Z-2000Z, Sep 23

CWops Mini-CWT Test 0300Z-0400Z, Sep 24

RTTYOPS Weeksprint 1700Z-1900Z, Sep 24

RSGB 80m Autumn Series, Data 1900Z-2030Z, Sep 24

NCCC RTTY Sprint 0145Z-0215Z, Sep 25

NCCC Sprint 0230Z-0300Z, Sep 25

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY  
0000Z, Sep 26 to 2400Z, Sep 27

Maine QSO Party 1200Z, Sep 26 to 1200Z, Sep 27

AGCW VHF/UHF Contest 1400Z-1700Z, Sep 26 (144)  
and 1700Z-1800Z, Sep 26 (432)

QCX Challenge 1300Z-1400Z, Sep 28

QCX Challenge 1900Z-2000Z, Sep 28



RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, Sep 29
222 MHz Fall Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Sep 29
Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 30
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Sep 30
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1900Z-2000Z, Sep 30
UKEICC 80m Contest	2000Z-2100Z, Sep 30

### *Into October 2020....*

CWops Mini-CWT Test	0300Z-0400Z, Oct 1
RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, Oct 1
NRAU 10m Activity Contest	1800Z-1900Z, Oct 1 (CW) and 1900Z-2000Z, Oct 1 (SSB) and 2000Z-2100Z, Oct 1 (FM) and 2100Z-2200Z, Oct 1 (Dig)
SARL 80m QSO Party	1700Z-2000Z, Oct 1
SKCC Sprint Europe	1900Z-2100Z, Oct 1
NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Oct 2
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Oct 2
Portable Operations Challenge	0000Z, Oct 3 to 2359Z, Oct 4
Oceania DX Contest, Phone	0600Z, Oct 3 to 0600Z, Oct 4
TRC DX Contest	0600Z, Oct 3 to 1800Z, Oct 4
German Telegraphy Contest	0700Z-1000Z, Oct 3
Russian WW Digital Contest	1200Z, Oct 3 to 1159Z, Oct 4
YLRL DX/NA YL Anniversary Contest	1400Z, Oct 3 to 0200Z, Oct 4
IARU Region 1 UHF/Microwaves Contest	1400Z, Oct 3 to 1400Z, Oct 4
International HELL-Contest	1600Z-1800Z, Oct 3 (80m) and 0900Z-1100Z, Oct 4 (40m)
California QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 3 to 2200Z, Oct 4
FISTS Fall Slow Speed Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, Oct 3
SKCC QSO Party	1800Z, Oct 3 to 1800Z, Oct 4
RSGB DX Contest	0500Z-2300Z, Oct 4
UBA ON Contest, SSB	0600Z-0900Z, Oct 4
Peanut Power QRP Sprint	2200Z-2359Z, Oct 4
RSGB 80m Autumn Series, CW	1900Z-2030Z, Oct 5

## *Good Luck In The Contest*

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### *Confessions of a Casual Contester - 4 from the shack of DavidVE4DL*

I am not now, nor ever have been, a Contester. I don't see myself becoming a Contester either, if one defines the term to include round-the-clock operations, intravenous fluids and diapers, and frequent relays of cold, one-hand meals. Not my thing, at all. BUT.....

ARRL Field Day has come and gone. What a difference a year makes! Canada Day and beyond. Not much action on the air recently. Unless you're an FT8 operator, you're pretty much invisible on the waterfall. Even the other low signal modes are quiet.

Summer is my busy season at work, even in the Year of Covid-19, so I'm not on the air much. A year ago, my target was to work one contact a day, at least, early morning or late evening. This year, I have managed maybe two in three weeks on average, casual QSOs on

a normal day schedule. I blame the almost complete absence of sunspots, not the complete absence of hams. Even the 3 contests I've worked since the last post were not high-numbers events for me. Which, in a way, was a lot more enjoyable than the usual drinking from a fire-hose that they can be.

So I've been working on other ham projects. Remoting my station is successful (partially) and I've learned some interesting things about the computer end of things. What works well, is using your favourite computer remote software simply to access the shack computer desktop, and operate the radio via Fldigi. This is stupid simple and works a charm, if you're aware of some of the peculiarities of Win10. One is that the soundcard interface is not like Win7. There used to be a way to turn off the default frequency roll-off and get a flat response. I can't find it in Win10 Home, so I have a problem with setting the level in digital modes. Each different transmit frequency requires a different volume setting for the radio input to stay in the right ALC range and power out. I've compiled a table for those freqs I use psk31, RTTY, Olivia/Contestia/Thor. This worked well until the volume slider at the shack end went wild one day and would return to 100% from wherever I set it. That's a reboot.

I've successfully connected via RemoteHams server/client and via Kenwood server/client, but again, getting the level set for my USB gaming headset has proven intractable. Too many level controls betwixt lip and antenna. This is an ongoing project, but at least I can listen to the early and late HF nets at home.

Windows10 Home has not been my favourite OS. The first problem surfaced when Windows Defender started identifying my DXLabs logging software as trojans, and quarantining them. One module at a time over the course of two weeks. If you want to run it, apparently you have to whitelist it in WD. A pain, but works. Did the same with WK2MGR for my WinKeyer. Same cure. The less control over the soundcard functions is also a problem, one I don't know how to fix yet, but the workaround works, if it restricts my operations somewhat.

As I write this there are two (2!) new sunspots on our star, and the solar flux has exceeded 71 for the first time in ages. Hurray! Each spot is a different polarity, so I am not expert enough to comment wisely on cyclic things. But there were certainly more signals on 40m yesterday. That has to be a good thing.

I've worked a few Parks on the Air this month. Always fun talking to someone out and about and enjoying Nature while I'm stuck down the salt mine. I'm curious about one thing, though. DXLabs logger supports Summits on the Air and Islands on the Air with their own entry boxes, but there is no box for Parks on the Air. Why? I dunno. Just is, I guess. Maybe I'll drop the developer a line and ask? (Revolutionary idea.) But it isn't contesting. Nope. Not at all.



## Manitoba Repeater Society

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

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

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

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

[info@mb-repeater-society.ca](mailto:info@mb-repeater-society.ca)  
<http://www.mb-repeater-society.ca/>  
<http://www.facebook.com/ManitobaRepeaterSociety>

**MRS Memberships Expired on December 31**

### Editors Note:

Many thanks to David, VE4DAR, for covering the personal side of the History of Amateur Radio operators in Winnipeg with his column "Spotlight On Hams" this past four years in The Newscaster.

David took on the task of interviewing amateur radio operators licensed for 20 years or more, exploring how operators came about becoming a "Ham", choices of radio gear and modes, their personal accomplishments, and their thoughts on the future of amateur radio.

After all the coffee meetings, chats at amateur radio events, and tracking down various Hams for their stories, David has chosen to retire his contributions to the his Spotlight On column. It is certain those reading his column have related to many of the articles, and gotten the "Hey I could do that" bug. Should anyone wish to continue contributing to the "Spotlight On" Column please contact David at [ve4dar@rac.ca](mailto:ve4dar@rac.ca) and he will offer his guidance.

If you have missed seeing David's Spotlight column the back issues of The Newscasters are on-line at <http://winnipegarc.org/newscaster.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 and "Dick's Swap & Shop"

**The Morning Net 147.390 Mhz+  
Weekdays at 9:00 am**

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

**The Newbie Net 147.390 Mhz+  
Saturdays at 10:00 am**

A net for new hams to participate in a Net and get on the air!

**D-Star Nets on the VE4WDR System using**

**UHF 444.575+ DV Port B and/or  
VHF 145.490- DV Port C**

**TransCanada D-Star Net - Fridays at 8:00 pm**  
On "Free Star" Reflector 5 ( XRF005BO ) **New**  
Also on VE4DMR Timeslot 2 Talkgroup 302050

**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 Local Time (CT)**

**Prairie Traffic Net (CW) 3660 Khz  
Daily at 0130 UTC**

**Aurora Net (Afternoon) 7055 Khz  
Daily at 2330 UTC**  
**Aurora # 2 Net (Evening) 7055 Khz  
Daily at 0230 UTC**

**MB Wx Net 3743 Khz  
Daily at 8:30 Local Time (CT)**

*The Newscaster* is the Official Publication of **Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club**  
Please send your submissions/comments to the editor Mark VE4MAB, - [ve4mab@outlook.com](mailto:ve4mab@outlook.com)