



The **NEWSCASTER**

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

November 2020

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

VE4BB

Annual General Meeting An "On-Line" Meeting

Date: Tuesday, November 10, 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 November 26, 2020

WARC: Monthly Meeting Dates **2nd Tuesdays**
November 10, 2020 - AGM (On-Line)
December 8, 2020 (On-Line)

ARES: Tuesday, November 17, 2020
Will be an **on-line** "Remote" meeting
Winnipeg ARES members will be advised by e-mail

Other: Many events are on hold due to the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic.

Check the WARC web site for updates

WARC Executive for 2020-2021...

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

From The President -

Well here we are 8 months into this Covid pandemic and for the most part people are adapting to a new way of life. I'm sure for many of you it has not been easy but you all deserve credit for doing so.

We as a club have had to adapt as well by moving to online monthly general meetings. With limits to gathering size and it being our civic duty of looking out for each other, we have no choice. Online meetings are not everyone's cup of tea, as was witnessed by the low attendance for September's meeting, but not having a monthly meeting is by far even worse. So I suggest to those that are hesitant to try an online meeting that you give it a try. If you have had difficulty connecting previously please contact us for assistance. Since the Covid situation does not appear to be getting better any time soon WARC is going to purchase a better supported online meeting software which should translate into a better online meeting experience for everyone.

There are a number of big advantages to online meetings:

1) We can record them and post the recording on WARC's web site so anyone can view the presentation at a later time. The Tower Safety presentation by Jim Idelson K1IR at our October general meeting has had over 50 views within a week of it being up!

2) Much easier to attend an online meeting. no need to go out in bad weather, use gas, time, no rushing, etc...

3) We can invite other groups to partake in our presentations. Again, the Tower Safety presentation had participants from the US, AK, SK, AB, North West Ontario, Dauphin, Brandon. A large portion of participants were not WARC members.

Anyway, I have beaten the online meeting drum enough here. I hope it is enough to get more members interested in them.

Continued....

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

The cold weather seems to have come a little earlier this year unfortunately and I'm guessing a few Hams got caught by that with their antenna projects - it's no fun working on the antennas if you cannot feel your fingers, hihi.

On a sad note Doug Kaebe who led the Radio Canada SSB DX Group of Manitoba passed away a couple of weeks ago. There are a number of past and present WARC members in the club that we know were good friends of Doug's and will miss him. Our condolences to them and Doug's family.

73, John VE4VJR

Minutes

WARC General Meeting October 13 2020

Call to Order: 7:32 PM
Meeting held via videoconference

Presentation: Jim Idelson K1R- Amateur Radio Tower Safety: Is It Time for a Change?

Attendance: 31 online for the presentation, 33 in total.

Previous Minutes: Distributed. No questions asked.

Business: WARC membership dues now due. \$20 for RAC members, \$30 for non-members

General discussion held on the subject of membership levels in the COVID pandemic era and the effect of lack of in-person meetings.

Treasury: \$8,809.34 in the general account and \$5,512.36 in the rainy day fund.

Monthly revenues of \$630.00 and expenses of \$335.00.

Membership: 42 paid up of which 11 or 12 are new hams.

Education: Nothing new to report

ARES: No report

RAC: Discussion about the progress in sponsoring the RAC Rookie award with RSM for the RAC Canada Day and Winter contests.

DX: Conditions are improving.

New Business: None

Meeting adjourned at 9:48 PM.

RAC Canada Winter Contest 2020

Contest Period: 0000 UTC to 2359 UTC
December 19, 2020.

New "Rookie" Subcategory and Sponsors for the RAC Contests
<https://www.rac.ca/rac-canada-winter-contest-2020/>

The new "Rookie Plaque" will be sponsored by RadioSport Manitoba and the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club

WARC Cable Shop Opening soon!

RG213 Coax - \$1.30 a foot
RG-8X Coax - \$0.90 a foot

Cut to length & terminated with PL259 \$12 extra
Flexweave 14ga antenna wire - \$0.60 a foot.
All items are American-made and high quality.

Also available soon in the Mart:

WARC baseball caps - \$20
WARC ID badges - \$10
WARC coffee mugs - \$12

WARC's

November on-line Meeting Instructions

For WARC's November meeting it will be our third on-line general meeting.

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.

Contest Calendar

Extracted From

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

November 2020

IPARC Contest, SSB 0500Z-1200Z, Nov 8
 EANET Sprint 0800Z-1200Z, Nov 8
 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint
 0100Z-0300Z, Nov 9
 K1USN Slow Speed Test 0000Z-0100Z, Nov 10
 Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest
 0100Z-0159Z, Nov 10
 RTTYOPS Weeksprint 1700Z-1900Z, Nov 10
 QRP Fox Hunt 0200Z-0330Z, Nov 11
 Phone Fray 0230Z-0300Z, Nov 11
 CWops Mini-CWT Test 1300Z-1400Z, Nov 11
 VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest 1700Z-2000Z, Nov 11
 CWops Mini-CWT Test 1900Z-2000Z, Nov 11
 RSGB 80m Autumn Series, SSB 2000Z-2130Z, Nov 11
 CWops Mini-CWT Test 0300Z-0400Z, Nov 12
 RTTYOPS Weeksprint 1700Z-1900Z, Nov 12
 NCCC RTTY Sprint 0145Z-0215Z, Nov 13
 QRP Fox Hunt 0200Z-0330Z, Nov 13
 NCCC Sprint 0230Z-0300Z, Nov 13
 PODXS 070 Club Triple Play Low Band Sprint
 0000Z, Nov 14 to 2359Z, Nov 16
 WAE DX Contest, RTTY
 0000Z, Nov 14 to 2359Z, Nov 15
 10-10 Int. Fall Contest, Digital
 0001Z, Nov 14 to 2359Z, Nov 15
 JIDX Phone Contest 0700Z, Nov 14 to 1300Z, Nov 15
 OK/OM DX Contest, CW
 1200Z, Nov 14 to 1200Z, Nov 15
 SARL VHF/UHF Analogue Contest
 1200Z, Nov 14 to 1000Z, Nov 15
 CQ-WE Contest 1900Z-2300Z, Nov 14 (CW/Digital)
 and 0100Z-0500Z, Nov 15 (Phone)
 and 1900Z-2300Z, Nov 15 (Phone)
 and 0100Z-0500Z, Nov 16 (CW/Digital)
 Homebrew and Oldtime Equipment Party
 1300-1500Z, Nov 15 (40m)
 and 1500-1700Z, Nov 15 (80m)
 Run for the Bacon QRP Contest 2300Z, Nov 15
 to 0100Z, Nov 16
 K1USN Slow Speed Test 0000Z-0100Z, Nov 16
 RSGB FT4 Contest Series 2000Z-2130Z, Nov 16
 Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest
 0100Z-0159Z, Nov 17
 RTTYOPS Weeksprint 1700Z-1900Z, Nov 17
 QRP Fox Hunt 0200Z-0330Z, Nov 18
 Phone Fray 0230Z-0300Z, Nov 18
 CWops Mini-CWT Test 1300Z-1400Z, Nov 18
 CWops Mini-CWT Test 1900Z-2000Z, Nov 18
 NAQCC CW Sprint 0130Z-0330Z, Nov 19
 CWops Mini-CWT Test 0300Z-0400Z, Nov 19
 RTTYOPS Weeksprint 1700Z-1900Z, Nov 19
 NCCC RTTY Sprint 0145Z-0215Z, Nov 20
 QRP Fox Hunt 0200Z-0330Z, Nov 20
 NCCC Sprint 0230Z-0300Z, Nov 20
 YO International PSK31 Contest 1600Z-2200Z, Nov 20
 SARL Field Day Contest
 1000Z, Nov 21 to 1000Z, Nov 22
 LZ DX Contest 1200Z, Nov 21 to 1200Z, Nov 22

RTTYOPS Weekend Sprint 1600Z-1959Z, Nov 21
 All Austrian 160-Meter Contest 1600Z-2359Z, Nov 21
 REF 160-Meter Contest
 1700Z, Nov 21 to 0100Z, Nov 22
 RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest 1900Z-2300Z, Nov 21
 Feld Hell Sprint 1900Z-2059Z, Nov 16
 ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB
 2100Z, Nov 21 to 0300Z, Nov 23
 K1USN Slow Speed Test 0000Z-0100Z, Nov 23
 Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest
 0100Z-0159Z, Nov 24
 RTTYOPS Weeksprint 1700Z-1900Z, Nov 24
 SKCC Sprint 0000Z-0200Z, Nov 25
 Phone Fray 0230Z-0300Z, Nov 25
 CWops Mini-CWT Test 1300Z-1400Z, Nov 25
 CWops Mini-CWT Test 1900Z-2000Z, Nov 25
 UKEICC 80m Contest 2000Z-2100Z, Nov 25
 CWops Mini-CWT Test 0300Z-0400Z, Nov 26
 RTTYOPS Weeksprint 1700Z-1900Z, Nov 26
 RSGB 80m Autumn Series, CW 2000Z-2130Z, Nov 26
 NCCC RTTY Sprint 0145Z-0215Z, Nov 27
 NCCC Sprint 0230Z-0300Z, Nov 27
 CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW
 0000Z, Nov 28
 to 2400Z, Nov 29
 ARRL EME Contest 0000Z, Nov 28 to 2359Z, Nov 29
 RTTYOPS Weekend Sprint 1600Z-1959Z, Nov 28
 K1USN Slow Speed Test 0000Z-0100Z, Nov 30
 QCX Challenge 1300Z-1400Z, Nov 30
 QCX Challenge 1900Z-2000Z, Nov 30

Good Luck In The Contest

VE4/VA4 Incoming QSL Burro November, 2020

For those of you that may be unfamiliar with the Incoming QSL burro, I would like to introduce the Burro to you. A QSL card is a physical confirmation of a contact made on the radio. It can come in the form of a hand written piece of paper to an elaborate high quality photographic printed card. The card must have the call sign of the sending and receiving stations, the signal report sent and received, the date and time the contact made. To help reduce the cost of exchanging the cards through the mail, a system has been set up to exchange the cards at very little cost.

There are incoming burros and out going burros in many of the countries with active amateur radio communities. The out going burros gather the QSL cards from within their country and sort the cards according to the destination country. When there are enough cards to make an economic shipment, they are packaged up and sent by the most economic to that country. The package of cards is received by the Incoming QSL Burro and sorted by call areas. Each call area has a volunteer or several volunteers to sort, record and file the cards.

Continued....

Here in VE4/VA4 many of the received cards are picked up at the semi-annual hamfests or mailed out. To get the cards mailed to you, you would have provided monies to cover the cost of mailing the cards to you. Please check out the Radio Amateurs of Canada website www.rac.ca under the operating tab for further information.

In light of the current restrictions, hamfests have not happened and keeping information up to date by the amateur radio stations hasn't happened. Many operators may not be aware that they may have QSL cards on file. If you have done any operating on the HF bands, then there is a possibility that there could be cards in the files. There are currently 55 stations with accounts that have two or more cards that do not have enough funds to cover their mailing. There are further 312 stations that have one or more cards that have no credit to mail their cards.

We have recently mailed out 59 envelopes with cards to those stations that have enough credit for the mailing. Of the 367 stations without enough credits, we could have mailed out at least 120 stations more with two or more cards. If you would like to know if you have any cards or what your credit is please contact us at ve4va4qslbureau@gmail.com. If you would not like to receive any cards please let us know as well.

In an effort to reduce our "Dead Letter File", we would like your help in contacting the following stations. They are all in the Government of Canada call sign data base. Stations followed with an * have had their mail returned. The stations are all VE4; AF, ALJ*, APG, APZ*, AR, ARD*, BGG, DZ, ER, FZ, GU, HTA, JWC, ME, NSA, PLD, RQ, WN, XB, XH and ZM. If you are one of these stations, please contact us to make arrangements to get your cards. If you know any of these stations, please forward this request to them so we make arrangements as well.

If you have any questions or require any further information on the QSL Burro system, please do not hesitate to contact us. ve4va4qslbureau@gmail.com

73 and Good DX!

Harm

VE4HAZ

Winnipeg ARES
Jeff Dovyak VE4MBQ
ve4mbq@rac.ca

Thanks to Mark Havens VE4MWH for not only providing a remote meeting platform for our OCT General Meeting but for doing a presentation on Mobile Computer Lab. Our NOV General Meeting will be TUE 17 NOV 1900h. Craig Martin VE4CDM is providing the remote platform for that meeting and Wpg ARES members have been provided the meeting link by e-mail.

Winnipeg ARES is once again spearheading Amateur Radio donations of new, unwrapped children's toys for the Salvation Army Toy Mountain campaign. Dick Maguire VE4HK has kindly volunteered to be the collections coordinator and will be in the McDonald's parking lot, St James and Ellice SAT 21 & SAT 28 NOV from approximately 0900-1000h. Dick will also be at the Tim Horton's on Waverly near the tracks 1100-1130 some weekdays, arrange with Dick on VE4WPG. Wpg ARES collections for Toy Mountain will conclude 28 NOV. For those who find it easier to make a financial donation, please make your cheques payable to Salvation Army Toy Mountain and you will be issued a tax receipt.

Nominations for the 2020-21 Winnipeg ARES Inc. Board of Directors will open at the conclusion of the NOV General Meeting and close FRI 12 DEC at 1600h.

Notice...

Winnipeg Amateur Emergency Service is holding our annual Toy Mountain drive, to collect new unwrapped toys and cheques for the Salvation Army's Toy Mountain campaign. (Tax receipts will be made out for cheques made out to "Salvation Army Toy Mountain")

WARES will not be holding an in person meeting in November. I will be at the MacDonald's Restaurant on St. James St. and Ellice, November 21 and 28, between 9:00 and 10:00 am. I will also be at the Tim Hortons on Waverley and Wilkes between 11:00 and 11:30 several days a week. I will be collecting on each of those days. Call me on VE4WPG to ensure that I am there.

I invite all amateurs, whether a member of WARES or not, to donate a new unwrapped toy or a cheque on those days. Make cheques out to "Salvation Army Toy Mountain". You will receive a tax receipt for any cheques. This has been a very tough year for everybody. If you would like to make a kid's Christmas cheerier, please consider donating.

73

Thank you

Dick Maguire VE4HK,

Coordinator ve4hk@rac.ca

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**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.

Confessions of a Casual Contester - 7 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.....

Well, that's exciting! Two certificates to hang on the wall this month. First in the mail, and totally unexpected, was an award from RAC for the 2019 Winter Contest. Apparently I beat out all contenders in Manitoba for my category. (Maybe I was the only one in the running???) So that one's destined for the wall. And then 2 weeks later, I realized I'd made QSOs with over a hundred different SKCC members over the last few years, so I submitted my log and presto – I'm a Centurion (whatever that is.) More wallpaper. It's pretty silly, really, but fun, nonetheless.

This week I'm trying to work the ARRL School Club Round-up. I do this every year, it's a no-pressure exercise that flexes flabby contest skills. This year has been tough, only one school a day so far, phone or CW. Not trying digital modes, there are too many possibilities to cover. I am using new logging software for it – ACLog – and so far I like it a lot. I may review it at a later time when I have more experience with it.

I had a good time in CQ World Wide SSB last weekend, put about 7½ hours in over the 3 days. Last year I worked mostly Europe. This year it was mostly Latin America and Oceania. Different rig, different antenna, different ionosphere. Still using N1MM+ to log contests, but I'm going to try the N3FJP log for Sweepstakes next month, see how I like it. The SCR logger was dead easy.

Continental Africa continues to elude me, but I picked up the Azores and Canaries.

Japan! Finally on SSB. Have one JA in CW logged too. Things are looking up to the west. I have a friend in Osaka, he's limited to 20W and a wire. Maybe by next year??

I was heard CW on 20m in New Zealand last week, that's promising.

I've been neglecting my paddles and CW Academy difficult character exercises again. Having too much fun with the straight key, but I have to force myself back to daily practice if I ever hope to improve.

I spent tonight going through my log, now that I have it running in new software and everything from everywhere combined, removing duplicates. Found about 130 since 2015, which is not bad. Most are obviously from combining multiple logs various ways and times. Some singles that didn't belong, that were “auto-save on close” errors. Gave me a chance to look back at what I've been up to.

I heard this week of the passing of K6ELQ, who is my first SKCC number in the log. I'd worked him a total of 6 times over the years, it seems. RIP Tony. I logged 555 QSO between Jan 2015 and Jan 2019 as VE4DLA. From March of that year 'til now I've added 1240 as VE4DL. See? A shorter call equals more QSOs. Just stands to reason, don't it?

I've been running several logging apps for various purposes. SKCC Logger for, you know, SKCC contacts and contests. Fldigi for most digital modes. JS8Call for JS8 work. QRZ and eQSL. Now, all but the SKCC logger automatically update to eQSL and LoTW and ACLog, which is my new master log. I also run N1MM+ for contesting, and have to manually upload that after each contest. (That reminds me, back in a second.) There, done. QRZ.com was my first computer log – I started with and still maintain a paper log. I added eQSL when I discovered I like QSL cards, but few people send them anymore (I do. Don't you?) Cary VE4EA got me to add N1MM+ when he started me down the contest road. That's when I signed up with Log of the World, too. It's like phylogeny – first there's a few stumbling, weird experiments, then explosive diversification, followed by long, slow selection winnowing the field to a few fit survivors.

But it isn't contesting. Nope. Not at all.

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

DMR NEWS...

Changes to the operation of the DMR repeater in Winnipeg will take effect on November 1, 2020

For those amateur radio operators who operate on VE4DMR, the color code was changed to 4. The color code was 8 and after the above date you will not be able to access the repeater without making this change.

Calvin VE4AJ (on behalf of the administrator)

Amateur Radios, Antennas, and more ...

Winnipeg ICOM Dealer...

Micro-HighTech Communications Ltd.

2217 Henderson Hwy, East St. Paul, MB
(Just south of perimeter hwy)

Ph. (204)-783-1885 Fax (204) 779-7522
Contact George Hill, VE4GDH

E-Mail Steve at

Steve@microhightech.ca

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

The Newscaster is e-mailed to members of WARC and to members of MRS.

Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club dues **expire September 30**. You can renew today at <http://winnipegarc.org/join.html>

Manitoba Repeater Society dues will **expire December 31**. You can visit their web site and renew today at <http://mb-repeater-society.ca/>

To continue receiving *The Newscaster* ensure your memberships are up to date.



Are you a
RAC member??

<http://www.rac.ca>

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

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 (REF091CL) **New**
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)**