



The **NEWSCASTER**

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

December 2020

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

VE4BB

Annual General Meeting An "On-Line" Meeting

Date: Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Time: 7:30 PM

Place: join.freeconferencecall.com/treasurer523

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

Other Important Dates:

Newscaster: Deadline December 31, 2020

WARC: Monthly Meeting Dates **2nd Tuesdays**
December 8, 2020 (On-Line)
January 12, 2021 (On-Line)

ARES: Tuesday, December 15, 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 -

Hi all! First I would like to wish everyone a merry Christmas and happy Hanukkah! Also that they are safe for all of you and your families.

It looks like help is on the way for this Covid19 situation in the form of a vaccine but that in itself raises some questions, so we will all just have to sit tight and see what happens. In the meantime do not forget about the December 8 general meeting where we will once again have Garry Moir speaking to us about "The Coats Connection: 100 years of Radio in Canada". Darby Coats was an Amateur Radio Operator who was instrumental in getting commercial radio going in Canada. Garry has done quite a bit of research about this and promises to be an interesting presentation.

I always find the arrival of winter a let down. The warm summer days are gone, the ducks and geese have flown away, except for a few "die hard" geese at The Forks, and now the cold weather and snow is well on its way. But the thing I have the hardest time adjusting to is the time change and the short daylight hours! I know I am not alone in this. This is the time of year where I can spend more time on the radio as once you are done shovelling what else can you do outside?

All that depressing stuff aside, this is also an exciting time because the RAC Christmas contest is coming up on December 19 (a little earlier this year) and along with it is a new award - WARC and RadioSport Manitoba (RSM) have teamed up to sponsor a Rookie award for both the RAC Winter and Canada Day contests! So if you have been licensed for 3 years or less get on the air and hopefully a VE4 will win the inaugural award! go to <https://www.rac.ca/rac-canada-winter-contest-2020/> for more information about the contest and the award itself.

Once again - merry Christmas and happy Hanukkah to everyone and guess what - the days start to get longer on December 22!!

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

Minutes

WARC Annual General Meeting November 10, 2020

Sorry... The November AGM Minutes were not available at publication time. The November minutes will be published in the January 2021 issue.

WARC's

December 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 (425) 436-6358 (LD Charges may apply). When prompted, enter the access code 1513251 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/treasurer523>

Or enter Meeting ID "treasurer523" in the app.

Did you know that December 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the arrival of commercial radio in Canada?

Did you know that one of the most instrumental people in this was a very enthusiastic amateur radio operator named Darby Coats?

He helped get that first radio station in Montreal on the air and ended up in western Canada working in Winnipeg, Moose Jaw and Calgary.

Don't miss WARC's December 8, 2020, online meeting at 7:30 PM CST, as radio and TV personality and author Garry Moir recounts this part of our heritage and history.

Garry's career in broadcasting spans more than 50 years and includes work at CBC radio and several private radio and television stations. He is currently involved with CJNU nostalgia radio here in Winnipeg. He has served as a correspondent for Maclean's magazine, been a contributor to Time magazine and was a broadcasting instructor at Red River College. Garry has written extensively about the early days of radio broadcasting in Manitoba including the book "On the Air: The Golden Age of Manitoba Radio".

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 Open For Business!

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.

WARC Members can order cables by emailing cables@winnipegarc.org and we'll quote the price and invoice them. PayPal, EMT or cheque only.

Also available soon in the Mart:

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

Winnipeg ARES
Jeff Dovyak VE4MBQ
ve4mbq@rac.ca

Thanks to Craig Martin VE4CDM for providing a remote meeting platform for both our NOV and DEC meetings, members have been provided the link by e-mail.

Thanks to those who donated and thanks also to Dick Maguire VE4HK for coordinating the collection of donations for Salvation Army Toy Mountain 2020. Photos for new Manitoba ARES ID cards are coming in very slowly from Winnipeg ARES members, Wpg members were previously advised by e-mail on the requirements.

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

Our remote or virtual Annual General Meeting is scheduled for 1900h TUE 15 DEC.

Contest Calendar

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

December 2020

K1USN Slow Speed Test 0000Z-0100Z, Dec 7
 OK1WC Memorial 1630Z-1729Z, Dec 7
 Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest 0100Z-0159Z, Dec 8
 ARS Spartan Sprint 0200Z-0400Z, Dec 8
 RTTYOPS Weeksprint 1700Z-1900Z, Dec 8
 NAQCC CW Sprint 0130Z-0330Z, Dec 9
 QRP Fox Hunt 0200Z-0330Z, Dec 9
 Phone Fray 0230Z-0300Z, Dec 9
 CWops Mini-CWT Test 1300Z-1400Z, Dec 9
 VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest 1700Z-2000Z, Dec 9
 CWops Mini-CWT Test 1900Z-2000Z, Dec 9
 CWops Mini-CWT Test 0300Z-0400Z, Dec 10
 RTTYOPS Weeksprint 1700Z-1900Z, Dec 10
 NCCC RTTY Sprint 0145Z-0215Z, Dec 11
 QRP Fox Hunt 0200Z-0330Z, Dec 11
 NCCC Sprint 0230Z-0300Z, Dec 11
 ARRL 10-Meter Contest 0000Z, Dec 12 to 2400Z, Dec 13
 PODXS 070 Club Triple Play Low Band Sprint 0000Z, Dec 12 to 2359Z, Dec 14
 TRC Digi Contest 0600Z, Dec 12 to 1800Z, Dec 13
 SKCC Weekend Sprintathon 1200Z, Dec 12 to 2400Z, Dec 13
 RTTYOPS Weekend Sprint 1600Z-1959Z, Dec 12
 International Naval Contest 1600Z, Dec 12 to 1559Z, Dec 13
 QRP ARCI Holiday Spirits Homebrew Sprint 2000Z-2300Z, Dec 13
 CQC Great Colorado Snowshoe Run 2100Z-2259Z, Dec 13
 K1USN Slow Speed Test 0000Z-0100Z, Dec 14
 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint 0100Z-0300Z, Dec 14
 OK1WC Memorial 1630Z-1729Z, Dec 14
 Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest 0100Z-0159Z, Dec 15
 RTTYOPS Weeksprint 1700Z-1900Z, Dec 15
 NAQCC CW Sprint 0130Z-0330Z, Dec 16
 QRP Fox Hunt 0200Z-0330Z, Dec 16
 Phone Fray 0230Z-0300Z, Dec 16
 CWops Mini-CWT Test 1300Z-1400Z, Dec 16
 CWops Mini-CWT Test 1900Z-2000Z, Dec 16
 CWops Mini-CWT Test 0300Z-0400Z, Dec 17
 RTTYOPS Weeksprint 1700Z-1900Z, Dec 17
 NCCC RTTY Sprint 0145Z-0215Z, Dec 18
 QRP Fox Hunt 0200Z-0330Z, Dec 18
 NCCC Sprint 0230Z-0300Z, Dec 18
 AGB-Party Contest 1600Z-1700Z, Dec 18
 Russian 160-Meter Contest 2000Z-2400Z, Dec 18
 RAC Winter Contest 0000Z-2359Z, Dec 19
 Feld Hell Sprint 0000Z-2359Z, Dec 19
 OK DX RTTY Contest 0000Z-2400Z, Dec 19
 Padang DX Contest 1200Z, Dec 19 to 1159Z, Dec 20
 Croatian CW Contest 1400Z, Dec 19 to 1400Z, Dec 20
 RTTYOPS Weekend Sprint 1600Z-1959Z, Dec 19
 ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW 1800Z-2359Z, Dec 20

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest

2300Z, Dec 20 to 0100Z, Dec 21
 K1USN Slow Speed Test 0000Z-0100Z, Dec 21
 OK1WC Memorial 1630Z-1729Z, Dec 21
 Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest 0100Z-0159Z, Dec 22
 RTTYOPS Weeksprint 1700Z-1900Z, Dec 22
 SKCC Sprint 0000Z-0200Z, Dec 23
 Phone Fray 0230Z-0300Z, Dec 23
 CWops Mini-CWT Test 1300Z-1400Z, Dec 23
 CWops Mini-CWT Test 1900Z-2000Z, Dec 23
 CWops Mini-CWT Test 0300Z-0400Z, Dec 24
 RTTYOPS Weeksprint 1700Z-1900Z, Dec 24
 NCCC RTTY Sprint 0145Z-0215Z, Dec 25
 NCCC Sprint 0230Z-0300Z, Dec 25
 Gedebage CW Contest 0000Z-2359Z, Dec 26
 DARC Christmas Contest 0830Z-1059Z, Dec 26
 Stew Perry Topband Challenge 1500Z, Dec 26 to 1500Z, Dec 27
 RTTYOPS Weekend Sprint 1600Z-1959Z, Dec 26
 RAEM Contest 0000Z-1159Z, Dec 27
 K1USN Slow Speed Test 0000Z-0100Z, Dec 28
 QCX Challenge 1300Z-1400Z, Dec 28
 OK1WC Memorial 1630Z-1729Z, Dec 28
 QCX Challenge 1900Z-2000Z, Dec 28
 Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest 0100Z-0159Z, Dec 29
 QCX Challenge 0300Z-0400Z, Dec 29
 RTTYOPS Weeksprint 1700Z-1900Z, Dec 29
 QRP Fox Hunt 0200Z-0330Z, Dec 30
 Phone Fray 0230Z-0300Z, Dec 30
 CWops Mini-CWT Test 1300Z-1400Z, Dec 30
 CWops Mini-CWT Test 1900Z-2000Z, Dec 30
 CWops Mini-CWT Test 0300Z-0400Z, Dec 31
 Bogor Old and New Contest 0900Z-2359Z, Dec 31
 RTTYOPS Weeksprint 1700Z-1900Z, Dec 31

Into January 2021 ...

AGB New Year Snowball Contest 0000Z-0100Z, Jan 1
 NCCC RTTY Sprint 0145Z-0215Z, Jan 1
 QRP Fox Hunt 0200Z-0330Z, Jan 1
 NCCC Sprint 0230Z-0300Z, Jan 1
 SARTG New Year RTTY Contest 0800Z-1100Z, Jan 1
 AGCW Happy New Year Contest 0900Z-1200Z, Jan 1
 AGCW VHF/UHF Contest 1400Z-1700Z, Jan 1 (144) and 1700Z-1800Z, Jan 1 (432)
 QRP ARCI New Years Sprint 1500Z-1800Z, Jan 1
 PODXS 070 Club PSKFest 0000Z-2400Z, Jan 2
 WW PMC Contest 1200Z, Jan 2 to 1200Z, Jan 3
 RSGB AFS Contest, CW 1300Z-1700Z, Jan 2
 Original QRP Contest 1500Z, Jan 2 to 1500Z, Jan 3
 Winter VHF Sprint 1600Z-1659Z, Jan 2
 ARRL RTTY Roundup 1800Z, Jan 2 to 2400Z, Jan 3
 ARRL Kids Day 1800Z-2359Z, Jan 2
 EUCW 160m Contest 2000Z-2300Z, Jan 2 and 0400Z-0700Z, Jan 3

Good Luck In The Contest

Confessions of a Casual Contester *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 – ALog – 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 ALog, 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.

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***"Wanted" – Future Duty
Officers and Net Controllers***

Hello everyone

As the Duty Manager of the Winnipeg Seniors Radio Club, I would like to know if we have any members who would be interested in volunteering for various positions within the club. At the present time we still have the secretary's position available and I also would like to know if we have any interested persons that would like to become future net controllers or duty officers.

Training and guidance would be provided and regarding the net controllers, you need to have a radio capable of transmitting on the amateur VHF/UHF bands.

Please contact me at ve4aj@rac.ca or cell phone 431-338-4416 if you are interested.

Calvin – VE4AJ

Thank You

On behalf of Winnipeg Amateur Radio Emergency Service, I would like to thank everybody who donated children's toys, cheques, and on line donations for Salvation Army's Toy Mountain.

I can assure you the officials from Salvation Army were very grateful for our contribution. You have made a better Christmas for a bunch of kids. You can still make a donation on-line at ...

<https://www.iheartradio.ca/virginradio/winnipeg/more/toy-mountain-1.13939214>

Dick Maguire VE4HK
Toy Mountain Coordinator

Radio Amateurs Of Canada

The Board of Trustees of the Canadian Amateur Radio Hall of Fame is pleased to announce that Maurice-André Vigneault, VE3VIG and Doug Leach, VE3XK (SK), have been named to the Hall of Fame.

Radio Amateurs of Canada recognizes deserving Amateurs by appointments to the Canadian Amateur Radio Hall of Fame. The Constitution for the Hall specifies that the appointment as Member of the Hall is made for "outstanding achievement and excellence of the highest degree, for serious and sustained service to Amateur Radio in Canada, or to Amateur Radio at large".

The Trustees of the Hall have interpreted the Constitution to mean that the person has performed significant service over many years to enhance the well-being of Amateur Radio.

Maurice-André Vigneault, VE3VIG

Radio Amateurs of Canada and the Board of Trustees of CARHOF sincerely congratulate Maurice-André Vigneault, VE3VIG, on his appointment to the Hall of Fame.

Maurice-André Vigneault, VE3VIG, obtained his Amateur Radio certification in 1990 following a 38-year career in the Canadian Armed Forces where he specialized in radio, radar and in teaching electronics. Subsequently, he went on to serve the Amateur Radio community internationally as Canadian delegate to AM-SAT and to the ARISS Working Group and as a member of the ARISS School Selection Committee for Canada and Latin America.

Nationally, he fostered the art and science of Amateur Radio through authorship of over 200 published articles and he managed the Amateur Radio Station VE3JW at the Canada Museum of Science and Technology for 18 years from 1996 to 2014.

Locally, he was recognized by his peers with club life membership and Amateur of the Year awards for his

untiring devotion: inspiring school children to consider STEM careers by facilitating contacts with astronauts; educating the general public on the many aspects and social benefits of Amateur Radio at VE3JW during Field Days, Lighthouse Lightship Weekends and during multiple activations; mentoring new Amateurs, teaching a course on satellite Amateur Radio and facilitating for physically-handicapped Amateurs the enjoyment of the hobby; and deploying as a volunteer radio operator during the North American ice storm of 1998.

A summary of Maurice-André's contributions to Amateur Radio will be published in an upcoming issue of The Canadian Amateur magazine.

Doug Leach, VE3XK (SK)

Radio Amateurs of Canada and the Board of Trustees of CARHOF are pleased to appoint Doug Leach, VE3XK, to the Hall of Fame. Sadly, Doug became a Silent Key on January 15, 2020.

The contributions that Doug Leach, VE3XK (SK), has made to Amateur Radio in Canada have been many and long lasting.

As one of the driving forces behind the creation of Radio Amateurs of/du Canada, he served as the RAC First Vice-President in 1997-98 and was the RAC Director for the Ontario North Region from 2001 to 2004. He also served as Acting President for three months.

Doug successfully initiated numerous programs that have served to define the organization, including: the RAC Affiliated Club Program; the RAC Foundation; the RAC Audio-Visual Program; the RAC Liability Insurance Program; and the RAC alias email forwarding programs.

In addition to serving on the RAC Board and Executive, Doug was the author and editor of several RAC publications and reports including: the RAC Operating Manual; the RAC Emergency Coordinator's Manual; the RAC Official Observer's Guide; the RAC Administration Manual; and the RAC Manual for Directors.

Doug was a member of Radio Amateurs of Canada, the American Radio Relay League, the Quarter Century Wireless Association, the Straight Key Century Club, the PODXS 070 Club, the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club and the West Carleton Amateur Radio Club.

A summary of Doug's contributions to Amateur Radio will be published in an upcoming issue of The Canadian Amateur magazine.

For more information on the Canadian Amateur Radio Hall of Fame please visit: <https://wp.rac.ca/carhof/>

Frank Davis, VO1HP
Chair, Board of Trustees
Canadian Amateur Radio Hall of Fame



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>

Manitoba Repeater Society

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

The Newscaster is sent to members of both WARC and MRS. To continue receiving *The Newscaster* ensure your memberships are up to date.

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E-Mail Steve at

Steve@microhightech.ca

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)**

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