



The **NEWSCASTER**

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

April 2021

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

VE4BB

Home Brew Night

For Details Visit

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

Date: Tuesday, April 13, 2021

Time: 7:30 PM An "On-Line" Meeting

<https://join.freeconferencecall.com/treasurer523>

In view of the current "Social Distancing"

Other Important Dates:

Newscaster: Deadline April 29, 2021

WARC: Monthly Meeting Dates **2nd Tuesdays**
On-Line meetings until further notice
May 11, 2021 - TBA
June 8, 2021 - Elections

ARES: Tuesday, April 20, 2021
Will be an **on-line** "Remote" Zoom 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	Vacant	
Membership Programs	Jerry Volkens	jerryvolkens@hotmail.com
Education	Roberto Urrea	va4.rul@gmail.com
Past President	Colin Mantay	ve4cem@rac.ca
Public Information Officer....	Vacant	

From The President -

Greetings to everyone! So far a fantastic spring - snow all gone, temperatures generally above zero, what more could we ask for?

For those who are wondering what is happening with Hamfest and Field Day we should have a decision in the coming weeks so stay tuned. A 2 question survey was sent out a couple of weeks ago. The results indicate an overwhelming desire for at least a flea market in the fall. That will be taken into consideration, along with what the vaccination success is, as we lead up to making a decision. It's either the slowly accumulating pile of electronics in the basement, or the desire to just meet and talk to someone face to face for a change, either way people want to get out and socialize. But it's great to see how most everyone has come together and respected each other by wearing masks and staying put regardless of how difficult that has been on everyone for a year now. The WARC executive wants to thank everyone who participated in the survey. Suggestions from individual members usually indicate a conversation is going on somewhere without the WARC executive knowing so when we do hear about it a quick survey helps to get a bigger picture of what the general membership is thinking.

Reminder to everyone that the April 13 general meeting is "Home Brew" night. As with last year we are opening this up to not just what you may have built with your own hands. It can also be an interesting or unique ham related tool, software, news, event, curiosity, etc .. you get the picture, that you think others may find interesting, educational, or whatever... We hope more than a few brave souls will screw up their courage and make an online meeting appearance! As always there will be prizes! For those who just cannot get past their shyness we will even accept a written presentation that we will read out during the general meeting.

Another topic I want to bring up is the need for volunteers to become part of the WARC executive and volunteers who want to help with events such as Field Day and Hamfest. There are people on the executive who have been volunteering their time for a lot longer than the 5 years I have been on it. At some point someone is going to want a break. 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

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Currently we are in need of a secretary, a couple of "Members at Large" and assistants to the various executive positions. The Members at Large and assistants play a very important role because they get to see what goes on at the executive meetings and learn about the different roles. Hopefully they will take interest in one of those roles and when the time comes step into that role seamlessly.

WARC has been around for over 100 years now and it would be awesome to have it continue and grow. There have been a number of ideas that have been floated to the executive but without volunteers it is incredibly difficult to do. So please give this some consideration as June will come a lot quicker than we expect and at the June 8 general meeting we will be hoping there will be people ready to come forward and help!

In the meantime stay safe and healthy and we will meet face to face soon ... I hope.

73 John VE4VJR

Minutes

WARC General Meeting March 9, 2021

Call to Order
7:32 pm

Introduction
37 attendees

RAC Report

Ed Richardson VE4EAR - March 18 is World Amateur Radio Day. Everyone is encouraged to get on the air and make QSOs. The VE4RAC call is available for use.

DX Report

Ed Richardson VE4EAR - DX conditions have been poor past few weeks. Last weekend was the ARRLDX SSB contest and conditions were tough. Aurora to blame for this. BERU (Commonwealth) contest this weekend. Saturday am to Sunday am local time.

ARES Report

Jeff Dovyak VE4MBQ. ARES report was in this month's Newscaster and because of Covid not much else to report.

Program/Presentation

Getting Started in 6m

Ed Richardson VE4EAR \ VE4VT

NOTE - Due to technical difficulties Ed was not able to share his desktop to use the PowerPoint he had and we were not able to record the meeting. Ed said he will provide us with the PowerPoint to post on the website.

Previous meeting's minutes
No questions\comments.

Business

Nothing carried over from last month.

Treasurer's report

As per David Latour

As of Feb 28, 2021:

On Books

Feb 1: \$5754.93
In: \$229.50
Out: \$777.08
Close: \$5207.35

PayPal

Feb 1: \$126.66
In: \$150.00
Close: \$276.66

Bank

Outstanding: \$1662.07

Membership report

Numbers are 94 paid-up members including 13 free new hams.

Let's welcome the newest:

VE4KWN Ernest Kwan,
VE4PRS Igor Proskurin
VE4NIC Nick Verwymeren

Education report

No classes planned till at least spring 2022.

New Business

No new business.

Adjourn

9:02 pm

From Hamvention 2021 - Cancellation info

Unfortunately, several setbacks in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic make necessary the difficult decision to cancel Hamvention 2021. Hundreds of volunteers have been working to do everything necessary to bring this Hamvention to the many amateur radio enthusiasts and vendors who support the Dayton Hamvention.

Vaccine distribution both in the United States and around the world is lagging behind what was planned. In addition, the emergence of a more communicable form of the COVID-19 virus increases the potential for further public health problems in the next few months. We make this difficult decision for the safety of our guests and vendors.

Those who had their tickets, inside booths or flea market spaces deferred last year will be deferred again. Those who purchased 2021 tickets, inside booths or flea market spaces will also be deferred.

If you desire a refund instead please email tickets@hamvention.org and we will contact you.

Contest Calendar

Extracted From

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

April 2021

OK1WC Memorial	1630Z-1729Z, Apr 5	CWops Mini-CWT Test	0300Z-0400Z, Apr 15
144 MHz Spring Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Apr 5	RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, Apr 15
Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest		NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Apr 16
	0100Z-0159Z, Apr 6	NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 16
ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Apr 6	K1USN Slow Speed Test	2000Z-2100Z, Apr 16
RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, Apr 6	Holyland DX Contest	2100Z, Apr 16 to 2100Z, Apr 17
Phone Weekly Test - Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 7	ES Open HF Championship	0500Z-0559Z, Apr 17
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Apr 7		and 0600Z-0659Z, Apr 17
VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	1700Z-2000Z, Apr 7		and 0700Z-0759Z, Apr 17
RSGB FT4 Contest Series	1900Z-2030Z, Apr 7		and 0800Z-0859Z, Apr 17
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1900Z-2000Z, Apr 7	Worked All Provinces of China DX Contest	
UKEICC 80m Contest	2000Z-2100Z, Apr 7		0600Z, Apr 17 to 0559Z, Apr 18
CWops Mini-CWT Test	0300Z-0400Z, Apr 8	YU DX Contest	0700Z, Apr 17 to 0659Z, Apr 18
RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, Apr 8	CQMM DX Contest	0900Z, Apr 17 to 2359Z, Apr 18
NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Apr 9	VERON PACCdigi Contest	1200Z to 2359Z, Apr 17
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 9	Texas State Parks on the Air	
K1USN Slow Speed Test	2000Z-2100Z, Apr 9		1400Z, Apr 17 to 2000Z, Apr 18
QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party	0000Z-0600Z, Apr 10	Michigan QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 17 to 0400Z, Apr 18
JIDX CW Contest	0700Z, Apr 10 to 1300Z, Apr 11	EA-QRP CW Contest	1700Z-1800Z, Apr 17 (10m)
DIG QSO Party, CW	1200Z-1700Z, Apr 10 (20m-10m)		and 1800Z-1900Z, Apr 17 (15m)
	and 0700Z-0900Z, Apr 11 (80m)		and 1900Z-2000Z, Apr 17 (20m)
	and 0900Z-1100Z, Apr 11 (40m)		and 2000Z-2100Z, Apr 17 (40m)
IG-RY World Wide RTTY Contest			and 2100Z-2300Z, Apr 17 (80m)
	1200Z, Apr 10 to 1800Z, Apr 11		and 0700Z-0900Z, Apr 18 (40m)
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon			and 0900Z-1000Z, Apr 18 (20m)
	1200Z, Apr 10 to 2400Z, Apr 11		and 1000Z-1100Z, Apr 18 (15m)
OK/OM DX Contest, SSB			and 1100Z-1200Z, Apr 18 (10m)
	1200Z, Apr 10 to 1200Z, Apr 11	Ontario QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 17 to 0500Z, Apr 18
FTn DX Contest	1200Z, Apr 10 to 1200Z, Apr 11		and 1200Z-1800Z, Apr 18
Nebraska QSO Party	1300Z, Apr 10 to 0100Z, Apr 11	Feld Hell Sprint	1800Z-2159Z, Apr 17
	and 1300Z-2200Z, Apr 11	ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB	1800Z-2359Z, Apr 18
New Mexico QSO Party		Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	
	1400Z, Apr 10 to 0200Z, Apr 11		2300Z, Apr 18 to 0100Z, Apr 19
North Dakota QSO Party		K1USN Slow Speed Test	0000Z-0100Z, Apr 19
	1800Z, Apr 10 to 1800Z, Apr 11	OK1WC Memorial	1630Z-1729Z, Apr 19
Georgia QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 10 to 0359Z, Apr 11	Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	
	and 1400Z-2359Z, Apr 11		0100Z-0159Z, Apr 20
Yuri Gagarin International DX Contest		RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, Apr 20
	2100Z, Apr 10 to 2100Z, Apr 11	Phone Weekly Test - Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 21
WAB 3.5/7/14 MHz Data Modes	1000Z-1400Z, Apr 11	CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Apr 21
	and 1700Z-2100Z, Apr 11	CWops Mini-CWT Test	1900Z-2000Z, Apr 21
Hungarian Straight Key Contest	1500Z-1600Z, Apr 11	432 MHz Spring Sprint	
RSGB RoLo SSB	1900Z-2030Z, Apr 11		1900 local - 2300 local, Apr 21
K1USN Slow Speed Test	0000Z-0100Z, Apr 12	RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	
4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint			1900Z-2030Z, Apr 21
	0000Z-0200Z, Apr 12	CWops Mini-CWT Test	0300Z-0400Z, Apr 22
OK1WC Memorial	1630Z-1729Z, Apr 12	RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, Apr 22
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW		NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Apr 23
	1900Z-2030Z, Apr 12	NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 23
Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest		K1USN Slow Speed Test	2000Z-2100Z, Apr 23
	0100Z-0159Z, Apr 13	10-10 Int. Spring Contest, Digital	
RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, Apr 13		0001Z, Apr 24 to 2359Z, Apr 25
222 MHz Spring Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Apr 13	QRP to the Field	0800-1800 local, Apr 24
NAQCC CW Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Apr 14	SP DX RTTY Contest	1200Z, Apr 24 to 1200Z, Apr 25
Phone Weekly Test - Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 14	Helvetia Contest	1300Z, Apr 24 to 1259Z, Apr 25
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Apr 14	Florida QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 24 to 0159Z, Apr 25
VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	1700Z-2000Z, Apr 14		and 1200Z-2159Z, Apr 25
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1900Z-2000Z, Apr 14	International Vintage Contest HF	
			1200Z-1800Z, Apr 25
		BARTG Sprint 75	1700Z-2059Z, Apr 25
		K1USN Slow Speed Test	0000Z-0100Z, Apr 26
		QCX Challenge	1300Z-1400Z, Apr 26
		OK1WC Memorial	1630Z-1729Z, Apr 26

Continued

4 QCX Challenge	1900Z-2000Z, Apr 26
Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	0100Z-0159Z, Apr 27
QCX Challenge	0300Z-0400Z, Apr 27
RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, Apr 27
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Apr 28
Phone Weekly Test - Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 28
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Apr 28
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1900Z-2000Z, Apr 28
UKEICC 80m Contest	2000Z-2100Z, Apr 28
CWops Mini-CWT Test	0300Z-0400Z, Apr 29
RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, Apr 29
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	1900Z-2030Z, Apr 29
NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Apr 30
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 30
K1USN Slow Speed Test	2000Z-2100Z, Apr 30

Into May 2021...

Araucaria World Wide VHF Contest	0000Z, May 1 to 1600Z, May 2
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW	0001Z, May 1 to 2359Z, May 2
RCC Cup	0300Z-0859Z, May 1
SBMS 2.3 GHz and Up Contest and Club Challenge	0600 local, May 1 to 2359 local, May 2
Microwave Spring Sprint	0800-1400 local, May 1
ARI International DX Contest	1200Z, May 1 to 1159Z, May 2
F9AA Cup, Digi	1200Z, May 1 to 1200Z, May 2
7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z, May 1 to 0700Z, May 2
AGCW QRP/QRP Party	1300Z-1900Z, May 1
Indiana QSO Party	1500Z, May 1 to 0300Z, May 2
FISTS Saturday Sprint	1600Z-1800Z, May 1
Delaware QSO Party	1700Z, May 1 to 2359Z, May 2
New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 1 to 0500Z, May 2 and 1300Z-2400Z, May 2

Good Luck In The Contest

During these times of lockdowns and stay at home orders it would be a great time to work on getting your Worked All Winnipeg Award. After all our hobby is already "Socially Distanced"

For details visit <http://winnipegarc.org/awards.html>

The Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club is looking for volunteers to be Duty Officers.
Please contact Calvin Winter (VE4AJ) at VE4AJ@RAC.CA

The morning net is looking for net controllers to help out when required.
Please contact Calvin Winter (VE4AJ) at VE4AJ@RAC.CA

Winnipeg ARES
Jeff Dovyak VE4MBQ
ve4mbq@rac.ca

Our General Meeting was held remotely 16 MAR.

We are still looking for a Secretary for our Executive.

Our next monthly meeting is TUE 20 APR 1900h on Zoom, hosted by Pietra VE4PXL, Wpg ARES members have been advised by e-mail.

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Comm Academy 2021

An emergency communications & amateur radio conference to be held online.

April 10-11, 2021

Join us for our 2021 theme:

DISASTERS HERE, THERE, AND EVERYWHERE – ARE WE READY?

<https://www.commacademy.org/>

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Contact George Hill, VE4GDH

E-Mail Steve at

Steve@microhightech.ca

5 Confessions of a Casual Contester #12 From the shack of DavidVE4DLA

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.....

It's been a while since I've sat at this keyboard, I've been dealing with health and business issues in the interim. Put a few contacts in the log, not a lot. Heard that I did well in the last RTTY contest, which only goes to show there are not enough RTTY contesters in Canada. Come on, peeps! Give me a run for my money, here. Added WAS-mixed to my wallpaper.

Thinking about my next antenna – I have most of an OCFD set-up that came in a \$5 mystery box from the 2018 Fall Flea Market, never even stretched out the pieces. There's a balun and a bunch of flexweave wire in the box, and a tattered instruction sheet. Should be enough to start with. I can get the centre an easy 20' above the roof here, or 33' above ground. Should be good for most purposes I need it for. Maybe next month?

I also acquired a RemoteHams control box off the KWARC S&S. This is a good online swapmeet that I check every couple of days. I think about a third of my shack has come from this one source. The idea is to simplify the interface at home, to run my shack via RemoteHams client/server software but avoid some of the pitfalls of third party software not playing nicely with what I have. I'll be melting solder later today, prepping cables for the installation.

Starting my research for my May WARC presentation on logging software. This is to be an overview of the field, rather than an in-depth tutorial on a particular app, so please remember to check in and find out how little I know.....

In February I started a pseudo-net for newbie CW ops, running on the 10m and 12m bands twice a week. The idea is for those who want live practice with real people to tune up at the appointed time/freq and call CQ MB CW. Chat with whoever answers. In the current solar climate, these bands are strictly local ground-wave propagation, so here's a chance to be on the air with no fear of the Kalifornia Kilowatter or HighSpeed from Helsinki butting in. Only your own neighbours can hear you. I've been unable to monitor its progress, but I'm told there are a dedicated few getting in their practice time. Join them and grow the group. Details are announced on the VHF Net. A year from now it may not be so local and private any more. Don't delay!

Once you're comfortable with chatting across town, I highly recommend looking into the Straight Key Century Club and the Long Island CW Club for more practice with a wider range of ops. There is also the CW Academy to grow your skills quickly (relatively.)

As Accredited Examiner I've been doing a steady line

WARC Cable Shop & Merch Mart 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 in the Mart:

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

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

in new hams during lock-down, since December using an online platform to challenge the test. The marks of these home-study hams have been nothing short of phenomenal. I'm glad to see a good proportion of them have joined WARC and are showing up in our online meetings. Ham radio is far from dead.

The WARC Cable Shop is open for business, just in time for antenna-season. Drop us a line at the WARC email, maybe we can make what you need? Also available are WARC callsign badges, WARC ballcaps, WARC coffee mugs. Get your Club merch and display your Club pride!

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

D-Star and DMR in Winnipeg

Are you looking for crystal clear communications with simple and reliable linking to other systems worldwide? Well, enjoy crystal clear digital communications on cutting edge digital technology!

Join the Winnipeg Digital Repeater Group Inc. and feel freedom of worldwide communications on crystal clear networks...

The future is digital! <http://www.ve4wdr.org>

Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club Has reopened!

We are open Tuesday's, Thursdays and Saturdays from 9:00 to 12:00.

The usual social distancing and wearing masks when required.

Calvin - VE4AJ Chief Duty Officer

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>

Notice Concerning MRS 2 Meter Nets

I am making some changes to the Manitoba Repeater Society 2 Meter Net, held Sundays and Thursdays at 9:00 pm, on VE4WPG, and other linked repeaters. I have updated the net script. I have dropped the reference to "emergency training". There has never been "emergency training" on this net. I have dropped references to links to other clubs and systems. There has been no connection to repeaters in Brandon, the Interlake, and Northwestern Ontario for some time. If these links return, I will amend the script to reflect that.

I am keeping the present format for calling stations by area, since it allows everybody who wishes to check in, to do it efficiently.

Most nets are over by 9:20 pm, including the Swap and Shop. When the current script began, around 1995 there were typically between 75-100 check ins. The nets frequently lasted for an hour. It was necessary to speed up proceedings, by reducing unnecessary comments.

Currently there are about 30 people checking in nightly. I would like to see more people checking in. I would also like to extend the net by about 20 minutes each time, by having hams say a few words when checking in. (just a few words, not a 600 page novel, hi hi)

I invite everybody to listen to the nets, and to check in. Once you have checked in a few times, please feel free to e-mail me with any comments, positive or negative.

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
VE4WPG 147.390 Mhz + (127.3) &
VE4VJ 443.500 Mhz + (127.3)
(WPG is normally hot linked to VJ)

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)
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)
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)

Dick Maguire
Net Manager ve4hk@rac.ca