



# The **NEWSCASTER**

The Official Publication of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club

<http://www.WinnipegARC.org>

May 2023

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VE4BB

*6M Operating essentials and Canadian Prairie QSO Party(CPQP) Information session"*  
by Ed Richardson VE4EAR

Date: Tuesday, May 9, 2023

Time: 7:30 PM An **"In-Person" Meeting**

**Windsor Park United Church**  
1062 Autumnwood Dr (at Cottonwood Rd.)  
Find it on Google Maps - [Click Here](#)

#### Other Important Dates:

Newscaster: Deadline June 1, 2023

WARC: Monthly Meeting Dates **2nd Tuesdays**  
June 13, 2023 - **"ELECTION NIGHT"**

ARES: Tuesday, May 16, 2023  
General Meeting - "Virtual only"

Field Day: June 24 - 25, 2023

Check your WARC Membership Status at ...  
<http://winnipegarc.org/join.html>

#### WARC Executive for 2022-2023...

President	Drew Kwartel	<a href="mailto:drewk.ve4drw@gmail.com">drewk.ve4drw@gmail.com</a>
Vice-Pres.	<b>VACANT</b>	
Treasurer	Dave Terrick	<a href="mailto:ve4dvt@gmail.com">ve4dvt@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	John Romanec	<a href="mailto:ve4vjr@gmail.com">ve4vjr@gmail.com</a>
	<b>(Interim secretary)</b>	
Membership	Cary Rubenfeld	VE4EA
Education	Drago Lambeta	VE4DBV
Director	Geoff Bawden	VE4BAW
Director	Jerry Volkers	VE4GCV
Past President	John Romanec	<a href="mailto:ve4vjr@gmail.com">ve4vjr@gmail.com</a>
Public Information Officer....	<b>Vacant</b>	

#### Important information for WARC members from the April minutes ....

##### New business

- **VE4AE advised that there was discussion at WARC exec of merging WARC and MRS. Reason: lack of volunteers for projects and lack of executive members. Multiple clubs in Winnipeg creating costs. Elections coming in June for Board and Executive .. vacancies were throughout 2022/23 year. Will there be a full slate in June? Program coordinator will also be vacant. Further discussion will occur.**

##### WARC Announcements

- Canadian Prairie QSO Party (CPQP) being held May 13, 1700 Z to May 14 0300 Z.

- **WARC is in need of people interested in serving on the WARC executive. General elections are coming up on June 13. If you are interested please contact the WARC executive at [info@winnipegarc.org](mailto:info@winnipegarc.org).**

- Field Day will be held in conjunction with WSC at WSC on June 24 - 25.

- WARC requires a Flea Market Coordinators to plan for a fall flea market. Time is running short.

#### 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

#### 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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**WARC General Meeting Minutes**  
**April 11, 2023**

Call to order  
7:30

Introductions, guests, new members, etc...  
15 present  
Silence for Silent Keys

**Minutes from previous WARC General meeting**  
- Approval of March 14, 2023 General meeting minutes as posted in Newscaster.

**Treasurer's report**

- Dave Terrick VE4DVT not present.  
- Geoff VE4AE gave very high level overview – WARC is in a positive financial state.

**Education Report**

By Geoff Bawden VE4AE  
- Geoff reported on Dates for Advanced Course and Basic Course start.  
- Need for more instructors for Basic Course. If anyone interested please advise Drew or Drago.  
- Geoff reported on Elmer Program at WSC.  
- Geoff conducting session at WSC every Sunday 11:00 to 2:30.

- Pete VE4PH contacted CNIB.

**Membership report**

By Jerry Volkers VE4GCV  
- 85 current members

**RAC Report**

By Ed Richardson VE4EAR  
- Reminder of about World Amateur Radio Day coming up next Tuesday, April 18. This is not a contest but rather a 24 hour event to encourage folks to get on the air and make contacts. Any band, any mode. As added incentive, many of the RAC provincial stations will also be on and you can earn a collectible certificate by working them. See the RAC website for full details.  
- If there are any operators willing to put the VE4 RAC callsign on the air for the event, contact Ed VE4VT@rac [ve4vt@gmail.com](mailto:ve4vt@gmail.com). Volunteers must be RAC members and must be willing to submit an electronic log after the event.

**ARES Report**

by Jeff Dovyak VE4MBQ  
- Jess is unable to attend but sent the following:  
- ARES information is current as per the most recent Newscaster.  
- Spotter Training is April 15 in Fraserwood.  
- Next ARES General Meeting is Tuesday, April 18, 1900 h at Sir William Stephenson Library on Keewatin St.  
- Still need many more volunteers for the MB Marathon on Sunday June 18.

**DX Report**

- Ed Richardson VE4EAR

- Bands are perhaps a little down from a month ago. Still good openings to Asia on 40-12m just after local sunrise and again in the evening but with 10m also active.  
- 40-10 has been open to Eu and Africa during the day.  
- 6m has had a couple brief openings into LU and CE in the last few weeks. Expect more in the next 6-8 weeks.

**Previous Business**

- This year's summer ARRL Field Day will be held in cooperation with WSC, at WSC.

- Scott VA4SMC will be the WARC partner for Field Day.

- Flea Market Co-ordinator still required to plan for next flea market hopefully in fall 2023.

- We require a Treasurer, Secretary and Vice President.

- CPQP coming up on May 13.

- Grand Forks Hamfest/flea market coming up on April 22.

- WARC Planning meeting synopsis by Geoff VE4AE printed in previous Newscaster.

**New business**

- **VE4AE advised that there was discussion at WARC exec of merging WARC and MRS. Reason: lack of volunteers for projects and lack of executive members. Multiple clubs in Winnipeg creating costs. Elections coming in June for Board and Executive .. vacancies were throughout 2022/23 year. Will there be a full slate in June? Program coordinator will also be vacant. Further discussion will occur.**

**Program**

- Home brew night:

- VE4BSC showed super j pole tuned to ve4wpg. Home brew copper piping. Will be a stealth antenna hidden by shrubbery.

- VE4NOL showed keyer and handmade case for portable satellite antenna.

- VA4NJF showed an ammo can with 12 AH battery, capable of charging HT, capable of being charged with solar or wall wart.

- VE4SMC Showed a full featured keyer operated by arduino, Completely home brewed. He had a projected lecture ready but VE4AE had failed to set up the projector (my bad).

Continued ...

<sup>3</sup>  
- VE4UAB had two home made antennas; ehw (40M) and dipole (20). VE4AE showed them. These were made as part of the Elmer Program at WSC.

- VE4PL showed tripod for mobile satellite antenna and demonstrated the evolution of keying technologies using arduino technology to “power” a series of Keyers starting from a 1912 vibroflex. He withdraw from competition as he viewed the discussion being a completion of a previous monthly lecture on arduino technology and not something new.

- VE4AE showed some 3d print objects including di-pole feed line to radiator connectors with uhf or bnc fittings, and an 18 inch Viking warship at full sail. (Not in competition).

- The crowd judged VE4UAB and VA4NJF the winners of \$25 gift cards for Canadian Tire and Princess Auto.

Adjourn  
9:30

**Winnipeg ARES**  
**Jeff Dovyak VE4MBQ**  
[ve4mbq@rac.ca](mailto:ve4mbq@rac.ca)

Our hybrid general meeting in APR included a presentation on Call-Outs and Equipment by Jeff VE4MBQ. Our next General Meeting will be virtual only, TUE 16 MAY. We will return to an in-person meeting for our JUN General Meeting, TUE 20 JUN 1900h at Sir Wm Stephenson Library 765 Keewatin Street which will feature a Manitoba Marathon debrief.

We had an excellent CANWARN Spotter Training session in Fraserwood Manitoba SAT 15 APR at Fraserwood Hall. Amanda and her staff were most hospitable. Fifteen (15) Amateurs attended, we picked up eight new Spotters from several new communities. The coffee break and majority of hand-out materials (wallet cards, summer & winter what to report, URLs) and door prize tickets were financed by Winnipeg ARES Inc. Primary Speaker was ECCC Warning Preparedness Meteorologist Natalie Hasell VE4NAT, secondary speaker was Jeff Dovyak VE4MBQ CANWAN DEC & A/SEC Manitoba ARES. Attendees were:  
VE4s JDH, ABA, MBQ, HK, WAL, GMT, NQ, XC, SW, YE, KK, STG, PXL  
VA4s CQD, LMK

Door prizes were won by:  
-Barrett Filbert VE4ABA  
Sangean Weather Radio donated by ECCC  
-Hamish Donaldson VE4JDH  
Sangean Weather Radio donated by ECCC  
-Marc Collette VA4CQD  
ARES coffee cup donated by Jan VE4JS  
-Phil Mendelsohn VE4STG  
ARES coffee cup donated by Jan VE4JS  
-Jeff Dovyak VE4MBQ  
Cloud Chart donated by ECCC.

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Barret VE4ABA, Phil VE4STG, Natalie Hasell, Hamish VE4JDH, Marc VA4CQD  
*Photo Credit J. Dovyak*

**Manitoba Marathon**  
**Jeff Dovyak VE4MBQ**  
[ve4mbq@rac.ca](mailto:ve4mbq@rac.ca)

The 2023 Manitoba Marathon will be SUN 18 JUNE. We need at least eighty-five (85) volunteers, so far we have about forty-five (45). New Amateur operators will be paired up with Amateurs experienced with the event.

Please register via the registration portal on the WARC web-site,

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

The 2023 Amateur Radio Group Volunteer Briefing is TUE 13 JUNE 1900h Crescentwood CC 1170 Corydon Avenue (Map 24 D2 in the Sherlock Map Book). Although the briefing starts at 1900h we will begin distribution of race information, documentation, volunteer t-shirts and pre-arranged equipment loans at 1815h.

**BUFFALOS ON THE AIR**  
**By Calvin VE4AJ@RAC.CA**

The Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club (WARC) and I are helping to organize an event in collaboration with other amateur radio clubs located in Summerside, Trenton and Comox.

The event is called “Buffalos on the Air” and will be held on the afternoon of 22 July 2023 into the evening, at the Royal Aviation Museum of Western Canada which is adjacent to the Winnipeg Airport.

The purpose of this event is to celebrate the life and retirement of the CC115 Buffalo SAR aircraft and to promote RCAF heritage in the community. The aircraft was retired during COVID-19 and the Canadian Forces was unable to celebrate the retirement of this SAR aircraft.

Amateur radio volunteers in Winnipeg will make contacts using WARC’s HF radio which will be connected to the aircraft’s antenna system. There will 3 other radio clubs and aircraft located in Summerside, Trento and Comox all making contacts as well.

Continued...

I will have more information later regarding the exact time, radio frequencies, etc., so come on down to the Royal Aviation Museum of Western Canada and have a look at the aircraft and enjoy the Museum as well.

As the coordinator, if you require more information please contact Calvin at the following email address, [ve4aj@myrac.ca](mailto:ve4aj@myrac.ca) or [winter@mymts.net](mailto:winter@mymts.net)

### *Spotlight on Geoffrey Bawden VE4AE By David VE4DAR*

Certified 2004 as Basic with Honours. Current Certifications: Advanced and Morse. Also an Accredited Examiner.

"I used to spend the evenings listening to shortwave radio at our cottage near Kenora. I wanted to build a better antenna and while researching a new antenna, I discovered that I could talk as well as listen. I studied for the exam on my own.



A basic certification holder (even with honours) cannot build a transmitter. I purchased Yaesu equipment, an FT 897D and 597D. I used Al-pha-Delta fan dipoles at the cabin and at home. As I used to travel a great deal, I used Buddipoles as my antennas.

I have made many friends across Canada and around the world due to radio and my 6 year stint as President of Radio Amateurs of Canada. I enjoy the technology, the science of propagation, the mathematics of antenna construction, and encouraging others to become hams.

As for public service I was President of WARC in 2008, as well as President of RAC for two terms ending in 2010. Currently I am VP of WSC and a WARC board member, and a member of a RAC committee reviewing the Basic and Advanced Certification exams for usability, accuracy, and relevance.

There is a view that ham radio is obsolete and expiring ...not even close. The number of certifications climbs every year and at a rate faster than the growth in population. Clubs though are in trouble; even before CoVid, membership was falling in all service clubs, and ham radio clubs were and are no exception. People don't join groups like they used to and volunteerism is disappearing. There are more hams than ever and there is an interesting bimodal distribution... younger people get certified and after a while drift away to careers and family, but return when they have more time and money while in their 50s and up. This creates a standing wave of reentry into the service/hobby.

There is no lack of hams or interest in ham radio.

There is a lack of interest in joining organizations and volunteering in "traditional" ham radio clubs. Due to the accessibility of the technology, part of the growth in ham radio certification is by groups that are not interested in radio per se but for what it can do for them...boaters, off-roaders, truckers and others. This part of the growth is due to the low cost/high capability of the equipment in the VHF/UHF range. This group is not to be feared as swamping ham radio but viewed as helpful: in reducing the price of equipment, the numbers can be used for our political advantage, and this group is a pool of individuals that can be recruited.

The radios of even 20 years ago are not the radios of today. Technology has evolved rapidly with Software Defined Radios popping up in many forms and there are new and radio/internet hybrid modes. This technological change has radically impacted what "hands on" work we can do with our equipment... "home brew" is very different... so very different as radios have evolved from crystals to tubes to transistors to printed circuits to being a computer. Digital modes have expanded from RTTY to a stunning number of digital modes that come and go in popularity. With the technological change there has been an explosive increase in capability coupled with a huge reduction in costs. You can buy a complete QRP software defined transceiver for less than \$200 that can operate from 160 M to 6 M in SSB, CW, and digital modes. These capacities and qualities will just increase over the coming years.

What would I tell a new ham? By the way, a new ham means the 15 year old that is recently certified as well as the 55 year old returning to the hobby after a hiatus. I would tell them that if you're bored, you have not looked around at what ham radio has to offer: electronics, solar weather science, mathematics, physics, computing, public service, mentorship, learning, friendship, are all components of ham radio.

Ham radio will continue to evolve. More distributed systems such as WIN-LINK, more remotely operated systems, more digital modes and more of their use by hams, more computer science, more public service, fewer clubs.

We are actually in the golden age of ham radio. It is full of opportunities.

Many thanks, Geoffrey, for your very informative and encouraging words.

David.





## Contest Calendar

Extracted From

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/>

May 2023

Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest 0000Z-0100Z, May 4  
and 0200Z-0300Z, May 5

CWops Test 0300Z-0400Z, May 4  
CWops Test 0700Z-0800Z, May 4

NRAU 10m Activity Contest  
1700Z-1800Z, May 4 (CW)  
and 1800Z-1900Z, May 4 (SSB)  
and 1900Z-2000Z, May 4 (FM)  
and 2000Z-2100Z, May 4 (Dig)

SKCC Sprint Europe 2000Z-2200Z, May 4  
MIE 33 Contest 2300Z, May 4 to 0300Z, May 5  
NCCC RTTY Sprint 0145Z-0215Z, May 5  
NCCC Sprint 0230Z-0300Z, May 5  
K1USN Slow Speed Test 2000Z-2100Z, May 5  
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW  
0001Z, May 6 to 2359Z, May 7

RCC Cup 0300Z-0859Z, May 6  
SBMS 2.3 GHz and Up Contest and Club Challenge  
0600 local, May 6 to 2359 local, May 7  
Microwave Spring Sprint 0800-1400 local, May 6

ARI International DX Contest  
1200Z, May 6 to 1159Z, May 7  
F9AA Cup, Digi 1200Z, May 6 to 1200Z, May 7  
7th Call Area QSO Party  
1300Z, May 6 to 0700Z, May 7  
Indiana QSO Party 1500Z, May 6 to 0300Z, May 7  
Delaware QSO Party 1700Z, May 6 to 2359Z, May 7  
New England QSO Party  
2000Z, May 6 to 0500Z, May 7  
and 1300Z-2400Z, May 7

WAB 7 MHz Phone 1000Z-1400Z, May 7  
K1USN Slow Speed Test 0000Z-0100Z, May 8  
ICWC Medium Speed Test 1300Z-1400Z, May 8  
OK1WC Memorial 1630Z-1729Z, May 8  
ICWC Medium Speed Test 1900Z-2000Z, May 8  
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB  
1900Z-2030Z, May 8

Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest  
0100Z-0159Z, May 9  
0300Z-0400Z, May 9

ICWC Medium Speed Test 0300Z-0400Z, May 9  
Phone Weekly Test 0230Z-0300Z, May 10  
A1Club AWT 1200Z-1300Z, May 10  
CWops Test 1300Z-1400Z, May 10  
VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest 1700Z-2100Z, May 10  
Mini-Test 40 1700Z-1759Z, May 10  
Mini-Test 80 1800Z-1859Z, May 10  
CWops Test 1900Z-2000Z, May 10  
CWops Test 0300Z-0400Z, May 11  
CWops Test 0700Z-0800Z, May 11  
EACW Meeting 1900Z-2000Z, May 11  
NCCC RTTY Sprint 0145Z-0215Z, May 12  
NCCC Sprint 0230Z-0300Z, May 12  
K1USN Slow Speed Test 2000Z-2100Z, May 12  
Portuguese Navy Day Contest - CT1DBS Memorial  
0900Z, May 13 to 0900Z, May 14

SKCC Weekend Sprintathon  
1200Z, May 13 to 2400Z, May 14

## CQ-M International DX Contest

1200Z, May 13 to 1159Z, May 14

VOLTA WW RTTY Contest  
1200Z, May 13 to 1200Z, May 14

FISTS Saturday Sprint 1600Z-1800Z, May 13  
Canadian Prairies QSO Party  
1700Z, May 13 to 0300Z, May 14

50 MHz Spring Sprint  
2300Z, May 13 to 0300Z, May 14

4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint  
0000Z-0200Z, May 15  
0000Z-0100Z, May 15

K1USN Slow Speed Test 0000Z-0100Z, May 15  
ICWC Medium Speed Test 1300Z-1400Z, May 15  
OK1WC Memorial 1630Z-1729Z, May 15  
ICWC Medium Speed Test 1900Z-2000Z, May 15

Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest  
0100Z-0159Z, May 16  
0300Z-0400Z, May 16

ICWC Medium Speed Test 0300Z-0400Z, May 16  
Phone Weekly Test 0230Z-0300Z, May 17  
A1Club AWT 1200Z-1300Z, May 17  
CWops Test 1300Z-1400Z, May 17  
Mini-Test 40 1700Z-1759Z, May 17  
VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest 1700Z-2100Z, May 17  
Mini-Test 80 1800Z-1859Z, May 17  
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data  
1900Z-2030Z, May 17  
1900Z-2000Z, May 17

CWops Test 1900Z-2000Z, May 17  
Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest  
0000Z-0100Z, May 18  
and 0200Z-0300Z, May 19  
0030Z-0230Z, May 18

NAQCC CW Sprint 0030Z-0230Z, May 18  
CWops Test 0300Z-0400Z, May 18  
CWops Test 0700Z-0800Z, May 18  
QRP Minimal Art Session 1400Z-2200Z, May 18  
NTC QSO Party 1900Z-2000Z, May 18  
NCCC RTTY Sprint 0145Z-0215Z, May 19  
NCCC Sprint 0230Z-0300Z, May 19  
K1USN Slow Speed Test 2000Z-2100Z, May 19

SARL VHF/UHF Digital Contest  
0300Z-0500Z, May 20 (6m)  
and 0500Z-0700Z, May 20 (2m)  
and 0700Z-0900Z, May 20 (70cm)  
and 0300Z-0500Z, May 21 (2m)  
and 0500Z-0700Z, May 21 (6m)  
and 0700Z-0900Z, May 21 (70cm)

UN DX Contest 0600Z-2100Z, May 20  
NZART Sangster Shield Contest 0800Z-1100Z, May 20  
and 0800Z-1100Z, May 21

EU PSK DX Contest 1200Z, May 20 to 1200Z, May 21  
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW  
1200Z, May 20 to 1200Z, May 21

Arkansas QSO Party 1400Z, May 20 to 0200Z, May 21  
Feld Hell Sprint 1600Z-1759Z, May 20  
and 2000Z-2159Z, May 20

Baltic Contest 2100Z, May 20 to 0200Z, May 21  
FISTS Sunday Sprint 2100Z-2300Z, May 21

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest  
2300Z, May 21 to 0100Z, May 22

K1USN Slow Speed Test 0000Z-0100Z, May 22  
QRP ARCI Hootowl Sprint 0000Z-0100Z, May 22  
ICWC Medium Speed Test 1300Z-1400Z, May 22  
OK1WC Memorial 1630Z-1729Z, May 22  
RSGB FT4 Contest 1900Z-2030Z, May 22

Continued...

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ICWC Medium Speed Test	1900Z-2000Z, May 22
Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	0100Z-0159Z, May 23
ICWC Medium Speed Test	0300Z-0400Z, May 23
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, May 24
Phone Weekly Test	0230Z-0300Z, May 24
A1Club AWT	1200Z-1300Z, May 24
CWops Test	1300Z-1400Z, May 24
Mini-Test 40	1700Z-1759Z, May 24
Mini-Test 80	1800Z-1859Z, May 24
CWops Test	1900Z-2000Z, May 24
CWops Test	0300Z-0400Z, May 25
CWops Test	0700Z-0800Z, May 25
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	1900Z-2030Z, May 25
NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, May 26
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, May 26
KIUSN Slow Speed Test	2000Z-2100Z, May 26
CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	0000Z, May 27 to 2359Z, May 28
KIUSN Slow Speed Test	0000Z-0100Z, May 29
ICWC Medium Speed Test	1300Z-1400Z, May 29
QCX Challenge	1300Z-1400Z, May 29
OK1WC Memorial	1630Z-1729Z, May 29
ICWC Medium Speed Test	1900Z-2000Z, May 29
QCX Challenge	1900Z-2000Z, May 29
Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	0100Z-0159Z, May 30
QCX Challenge	0300Z-0400Z, May 30
ICWC Medium Speed Test	0300Z-0400Z, May 30
Phone Weekly Test	0230Z-0300Z, May 31
A1Club AWT	1200Z-1300Z, May 31
CWops Test	1300Z-1400Z, May 31
Mini-Test 40	1700Z-1759Z, May 31
Mini-Test 80	1800Z-1859Z, May 31
CWops Test	1900Z-2000Z, May 31
<b>June 2023</b>	
Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	0000Z-0100Z, Jun 1 and 0200Z-0300Z, Jun 2
CWops Test	0300Z-0400Z, Jun 1
CWops Test	0700Z-0800Z, Jun 1
NRAU 10m Activity Contest	1700Z-1800Z, Jun 1 (CW) and 1800Z-1900Z, Jun 1 (SSB) and 1900Z-2000Z, Jun 1 (FM) and 2000Z-2100Z, Jun 1 (Dig)
SKCC Sprint Europe	2000Z-2200Z, Jun 1
PODXS 070 Club Three Day Weekend Contest	0000Z, Jun 2 to 2359Z, Jun 4 0145Z-0215Z, Jun 2
NCCC RTTY Sprint	
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jun 2
HA3NS Sprint Memorial Contest	1900Z-1929Z, Jun 2 (40m) and 1930Z-1959Z, Jun 2 (80m)
KIUSN Slow Speed Test	2000Z-2100Z, Jun 2
10-10 Int. Open Season PSK Contest	0000Z, Jun 3 to 2400Z, Jun 4
PVRC Reunion	0000Z-0159Z, Jun 3 and 0000Z-0159Z, Jun 4
Tisza Cup CW Contest	0200Z-1459Z, Jun 3
KANHAM Contest	0600Z, Jun 3 to 0600Z, Jun 4
Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	0600Z-0629Z, Jun 3 and 0630Z-0659Z, Jun 3 and 0700Z-0729Z, Jun 3 and 0730Z-0800Z, Jun 3

**\* Good Luck In The Contest \***

## *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>

## *Confessions of a Casual Contester Vol. 3 Issue 8 from the shack of David VE4DL*

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.....

April brought some progress on the remote front. The underlying problem with integration was a corrupt driver for the Flex at my end. Re-installed and presto! I have logger control of the Flex6400. My usual logging software is N3FJP's AC Log and the various contest loggers that come with. Once the problem was located, it was only a question of querying the comm ports and assigning the correct ones in ACLog to have full control established. The FlexRadio is a drop-down option in the setup. Save the file and open it in each contest logger as needed. Bingo. I worked JIDX CW remote, using N1MM+, set up was almost as easy, I think 2 more boxes to check? No sweat, no manuals. It actually makes me feel like I know what I'm doing.....(don't bet on it.)

I didn't break any records in JIDX, as a long-wire in an urban setting is still not the best set up for contesting, but it was enough to be fun. Had I more time to commit on the Saturday, my score would have been much higher. Mostly I worked the early and late fringes. I keep missing the one JI I know personally (we went to college together) but I think it's only a question of time. I know he'll be one op on a special event station this month, I'll have a listen for them.

The last of the snowbank in my yard melted out yesterday, and I rescued my 2 el yagi from its precarious perch. It's now up on cinderblocks awaiting its ride to the roof. I'm looking forward to having my own station back on the air this spring. Being retired has given more daytime to operate but less nighttime. I was not expecting that.

I also have HamRadioDeluxe on my computer. I've only opened it a few times, stared at its complexity, and closed it again. I might get around to setting it up this year and putting in the effort to learn it. Whether or not, I have a lot of projects lying about the shack to keep my few idle hours not-idle.

But it isn't contesting. Nope. Not at all. Well, maybe.... yes it is!

## *The MRS AGM highlights* *By Derek VE4HAY*

The MRS executive for 2023-2024 are returning board members Derek Hay, Dan Keizer, Kent Haase, Bill East, Jim Sutton, Brendan Christian. MRS Members who allowed their name to stand for election Nolan Harriott, Drago Lambeta, Jamie Hill & Wyatt Zacharias. All members were elected by acclamation.

A number of proposals were presented to the membership for their consideration. The members agreed to convert the VE4CNR repeater to the AllStarlink System. This will be done by the technical crew as soon as they can.

The membership also agreed to a fair usage suggestion that the linking of repeaters outside of Manitoba is to be for QSO's and should not be just for monitoring distant repeaters & nets. If you wish to monitor distant repeaters for hours, then it is suggested you use a web link or a hotspot, rather than tie up local repeaters, so members can not use them.

Lastly the membership agreed to have the technical crew set up the AllStar system with two conference bridges (hubs) one for Winnipeg repeaters VE4WPG/VJ downtown, VE4WRS south Osborne Street, VE4TMP in Assiniboia and the planned installations at 101 Marion and Stadacona. The other bridge for the rural MB repeaters Brandon, Portage, Starbuck, Morris, Selkirk, Gimli, Hadashville, Milner Ridge and Falcon lake as they get converted or connected to the All-Star network. Both bridges would be connected together for the MRS semi-weekly nets.

## *Manitoba Repeater Society* *Members ....*

If you haven't already done so....

It's time to renew your *MRS Membership!*

You can do so via PayPal online at...  
[http://mb-repeater-society.ca/?page\\_id=144](http://mb-repeater-society.ca/?page_id=144)

Or download the Application form ...  
<http://mb-repeater-society.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/mrs-app.pdf>

Check Your MRS Membership Status??  
[Click Here](#)

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Check out WARC's "Cable Shop & Merch Mart"  
<http://winnipegarc.org/shop.html>

## 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 Saturday Morning Net 147.390 Mhz+**  
**Saturdays at 10:00 am**

A Net for all Hams to participate and learn about Ham radio and get on the air! PLUS a presentation of The History of Amateur Radio by Dick VE4HK

### 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 ( XRF103BO )

**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>

**The following Nets are on the WDRG DMR**  
**repeater system:**

**TransCanada D-Star Net**  
Fridays @ 20:00 local, Timeslot 2,  
Talkgroup 302050

**SkyHub**  
Wednesdays @ 20:00 local, Timeslot 2,  
Talkgroup 310847

## HF Nets .....

**MB Evening Phone Net - 3747 Khz**  
**Daily at 7:00 PM Local Time (CT)**

**Aurora Net (Afternoon) 7.100 Mhz**  
**Daily at 2300 UTC**  
**Aurora # 2 Net (Evening) 7.100 Mhz**  
**Sunday at 9:30 CST**

**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 at [ve4mab@outlook.com](mailto:ve4mab@outlook.com)