



## *The Repeater*

Winter 2009

Distributed to all Current Members

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### **President's Report**

**From the desk of Ed VE4EAR**

Welcome to our winter edition of the MRS Repeater. Time is in limited supply it seems this years so let's get right to the news.

Your technical team has been working tirelessly trying to get all the repeaters and links back online. A lot of work has been done out at Portage la Prairie to bring VE4PLP into active status. Frustration begins to set in as we find ourselves making progress in one area, only to have another problem develop somewhere else. Gord has all the details in the technical report.

On the positive front, we are working on a new look for the MRS website. The new site should be easier to navigate for the users and easier to update for the administrators. It will be very easy to post system updates and status messages. Similarly a new contact page will allow you to easily send messages to the executive. Your views, comments and ideas are important to us and this should make the process even easier. The new page should be active very soon at the same URL as the current website. <http://www.mb-repeater-society.ca/>. Bookmark it now!

One of the requests we have implemented is the ability to pay your annual MRS dues online via PayPal. This secure system will allow you to make your payments with your credit card or direct from your chequing account. Just navigate to the "membership" page for more details and to take advantage of this ability.

By now most of the amateurs in Winnipeg have discovered that a CTCSS tone is required to access VE4WPG. This is just one step taken to help eliminate some of the annoying interference that has plagued this repeater for several years. You should expect to see CTCSS tones added to nearly every repeater in the next year or two. In Manitoba we have tried to standardize on a tone of 127.3 Hz but individual clubs are free to choose any tone they wish. So if your favorite repeater fails to respond one day, please try adding CTCSS encode before panicking.

As we prepare to enter 2010, I am looking forward to an active and exciting year ahead for amateur radio and in particular, the Manitoba Repeater Society. On behalf of the Manitoba repeater Society executive and myself, we would like to extend the warmest of season greetings to you and your family.

73

Ed Richardson  
VE4EAR

## **Technical Report**

**From the desk of Gord VE4GLS**

MRS Technical Report

December 2009-12-04

### Overview

As December begins so does winter! The relatively snow free and much warmer than normal November was appreciated, and I am sure many of us were hoping the weather trend would continue for another month or two and then warm up... but Mother Nature has some other ideas! The snowfall and freezing temperatures did put an end to my fieldwork so I have a bit more time to work on technical reports.

The MRS system status is changing slowly but steadily as we upgrade some of the sites. Thanks to Al, Yori, Walter, and Bill the updates at Portage have been completed and the PLP repeater is back on the air. Also some updates at the WPG/WRS site have enhanced the system in Winnipeg somewhat. We are still getting intermittent noise out of VE4MAN (Starbuck) and VJ (Winnipeg), which we should be able to fix over the next month or two. Most of our sites now have Motorola MSR-2000 repeater radios so our equipment is quite standardized, we have figured out how to upgrade one site we have the procedure for most of the other sites. We have more CTCSS boards for most of our sites so we will be slowly incorporating them. We find the tone squelch to be quite affective in removing much of the annoying interference we occasionally have throughout the system.

Repeater status (west to east):

VE4MRS 145.31- (Buydens Hill)

The repeater is currently off air, but we have plans to upgrade the site to incorporate full CTCSS access so we will be able to turn the repeater back on. Access tone will be the Manitoba Standard of 127.3Hz. Both links are operational and link to Winnipeg and east through the Portage system after it's recent upgrades.

VE4PLP 147.165+ (Portage La Prairie)

The new repeater has been installed along with a Palomar RBC-700 controller. The link radios have been updated to MSR-2000 UHF duplex radios as well. This is really a completely new system. We also replaced the original repeater radio with a General Electric Exec II duplex transceiver. The original duplexer filter cans are the only part that is original. A second cabinet had to be added to fit the large link radios. Many thanks to Manitoba Hydro for providing us with feedline, and an excellent antenna position for our repeater there. Signal reports have been really good.

VE4MAN 146.61- (Starbuck)

Our repeater here is working great, lots of range and very sensitive receiver. It is picking up some noise once in a while so we are hoping to add the CTCSS squelch to this site soon. We plan on replacing two link radios soon as well; the link #2 and link #3 to Portage and Morris. We have some surplus GE Exec II UHF radios almost ready to go for the site. This should improve the link stability to Portage, and get the Morris site on-line with the system again. We (Yori) is also working on a new duplexer filter for the site that might be ready before spring. This might help improve the VHF signal even more.

VE4CDN 145.27-/127.3Hz Morris

The Morris repeater is working great as a stand-alone system. We installed a new multi-link controller a few years ago and did have the system linked to Starbuck but the older link radios failed and haven't been replaced for some time. The link system at Morris is operational now and as soon as the link radio is installed at Starbuck we should have Morris linked in once again. Once that link is working we will get permission to install the antenna and feedline for the link to Winkler.

VE4TOM 147.33+ Winkler

Also working great as a stand-alone repeater. This site is also combined with an APRS digipeater that covers the Pembina Valley area and well into the Red River valley. Walter, Bill, and I installed a link radio and antenna at the site to link the system there to Morris. Once the Morris and Starbuck side is completed, Winkler will be linked to Starbuck and the rest of the MRS system. This should greatly improve coverage for Canwarn and general 2m mobile in Southern Manitoba.

#### VE4GIM 146.64- Gimli

We installed a new repeater and link radios two years ago and this site is working great now. The link system in Winnipeg was also improved to make the link more dependable. We had some audio trouble on the link at Winnipeg that has been corrected recently so the link should be solid now.

#### VE4WPG 147.39+/127.3Hz Winnipeg

The full CTCSS (tone squelch) has been installed on this repeater so you need to transmit the 127.3Hz tone to access this repeater now. This helps to minimize the noise created up at the repeater site by all the different services operating in close proximity of our equipment. We know this may inconvenience some regular operators but most equipment is capable of transmitting the proper tone and if you need any help with programming your radio(s) please let us help you! Most of our repeaters will be going this route eventually.

Some more equipment has been installed on the roof close to our antennae array so the range on this repeater may have changed in some directions. There is really nothing we can do about this. We may look at re-positioning our VHF antenna but doing so is very cumbersome and involves a whole bunch of engineering paperwork that can get costly.

#### VE4WRS 145.15- Winnipeg IRLP system 1650

We did have a problem with this system about two weeks ago when there was a power bump that re-set the computer. We have since installed a UPS that should absorb any power outages (up to several minutes) so we don't have to manually start up the system. Otherwise the IRLP has been working great.

#### VE4VJ 443.500+ Winnipeg

VJ is working well with no major changes in range etc. It picks up interference once in a while so we will be installing full CTCSS shortly. The tone will be the same as for WPG, 127.3Hz.

#### VE4MIL 145.21- Milner Ridge

This repeater is working great. Links and repeater range are stable and we don't have any updates planned for this site right now. Access to the site had changed a bit due to updates on the nearby grounds. Grant VA4GD is watching this site for us and keeps pretty close tabs on the system up there. Thanks Grant!

#### VE4EMB 147.37+ Hadashville

This site is now operating as a stand-alone repeater. We were having trouble with the VHF link so it was turned off this summer. We are looking into alternative linking systems for this site. The repeater is working well but there is a fault in the feedline or antenna that likely limits range just a bit.

VE4FAL 146.64- Falcon Lake (Pine Tree Repeater system)

This is the interface point between MRS and the Pine Tree Group systems. The repeater is working well and usually linked to the west. The link east is working but intermittent. Some upgrades are in the works at Kenora that should enhance the east link somewhat.

Just a quick rundown of the planned projects for December onward:

- Install CTCSS at VE4MRS and re-enable the repeater there
- Install L3, L2, and CTCSS at Starbuck, and winterize the cabinet(s)
- Install CTCSS on VE4VJ at the WPG site

Planned for Later when time/funding are available:

- Install feedline and antenna at Morris for link to Winkler
- Replace link radios at several MRS sites not yet updated
- Replace controller at WPG site.

Special Thanks to Al VE4AJO, Yori VE4ACX, Walter VE4VB and Bill VE4ALW for all the great work this last few months. Also Thanks to Murray VE4RE and Prairie Mobile for their support and providing us with some great repeater sites!

-Gord VE4GLS

Technical Chair, Manitoba Repeater Society

## **MRS Memberships**

First, a big “THANK YOU” to everyone who has already paid their 2010 MRS dues

Dick VE4HK will have MRS membership forms available at upcoming WARC meetings, ARES meetings, and at coffee Saturday mornings, December and January. Dick would love to take your dues, to save you the postage of mailing a cheque.

As a new service to our members, you can now go to the Manitoba Repeater Society Inc. website [www.mb-repeater-society.ca/](http://www.mb-repeater-society.ca/) download the membership form, and use PayPal to pay your membership. We request that members using PayPal enter their call sign in the COMMENTS section of PayPal.

All necessary information is on the website, to complete the membership form and mail it in, or give it to Dick VE4HK

## M.R.S. Current Executive

|             |        |        |                    |
|-------------|--------|--------|--------------------|
| President   | Ed     | VE4EAR | ve4ear AT rac.ca   |
| V/President | El     | VE4AJO | ve4ajo AT rac.ca   |
| Secretary   | Dick   | VE4HK  | ve4hk AT rac.ca    |
| Treasurer   | Harm   | VE4HAZ | ve4haz AT rac.ca   |
| Membership  | Harm   | VE4HAZ | ve4haz AT rac.ca   |
| Technical   | Gord   | VE4GLS | ve4gls AT rac.ca   |
| Directors   | Yori   | VE4ACX | 453-3786           |
|             | Walter | VE4VB  | 284-3054           |
|             | Bill   | VE4ALW | williamr AT rac.ca |
|             | Phil   | VE4QB  | fphilb AT rac.ca   |
| Past Pres.  | Derek  | VE4HAY | ve4hay AT rac.ca   |

## M.R.S. Current Fee Schedule

Current & Renewal Members      \$25.00 per calendar year

**First time New Members      Pro-rated quarterly**

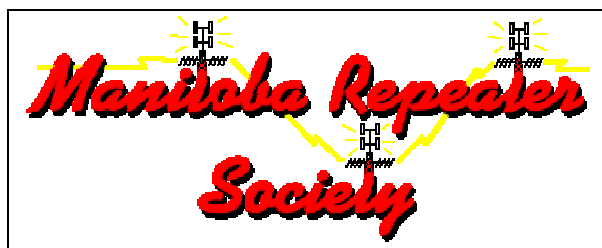
January to December      \$25.00

April to December      \$18.75

July to December      \$12.50

October to December      \$6.25

**Family Membership** is for each additional members residing at the same residence as the initial member is \$5.00



**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL**

(Please note: membership year is January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> )

**Mail to:**

**Membership Manitoba Repeater Society  
C/O VE4WSC  
598 St. Mary's Road  
Winnipeg MB R2M 3L5**

Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Prov \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ New Ham \_\_\_\_\_ RAC Member \_\_\_\_\_

**First Time Member Pro-Rated**

Jan to Dec \$25.00

Apr to Dec \$18.75

Jul to Dec \$ 12.50

Class of Member: Regular \$25.00 Addn'l Family Member \$5.00

Newsletter by E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ or Snail Mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Would you be willing to help out on work at various repeater sites ?** YES NO

**Optional Information:**

Current Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

If Retired Former Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Skills: \_\_\_\_\_

|   |
|---|
| <p><b>Club use only</b></p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>\$ _____</p> <p>Cheque/Cash/Money Order</p> <p>Recpt _____</p> <p>Card Issued _____ Year _____</p> |
|---|

## MANITOBA FREQUENCY LIST – DECEMBER 2009

| CALL     | LOCATION           | RX       | TX       | NOTES    | PL    |
|----------|--------------------|----------|----------|----------|-------|
| VE4ARM   | AUSTIN             | 50.0180  |          | BEACON   |       |
| VE4SPT   | GILLAM             | 50.0250  |          | BEACON   |       |
| VE4VHF   | WINNIPEG           | 50.0360  |          | BEACON   |       |
| VE4ARM   | AUSTIN             | 144.2810 |          | BEACON   |       |
| VE4ARM-3 | AUSTIN             | 144.3900 |          | APRS     |       |
| VE4BRC-3 | BEAUSEJOUR         | 144.3900 |          | APRS     |       |
| VE4SMA-3 | MORRIS             | 144.3900 |          | APRS     |       |
| VE4PTG-3 | PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE | 144.3900 |          | APRS     |       |
|          | ROSS               | 144.3900 |          | APRS     |       |
| VE4UB-3  | SELKIRK            | 144.3900 |          | APRS     |       |
| VE4VB-3  | WINKLER            | 144.3900 |          | APRS     |       |
| VE4GIL-3 | WINNIPEG           | 144.3900 |          | APRS     |       |
| VE4BAS   | BASSWOOD           | 145.1500 | 144.5500 | O        | 127.3 |
| VE4PAR   | WINNIPEG           | 145.1700 | 144.5700 | O,A,ECHO |       |
| VE4VRG   | WINKLER            | 145.1900 | 144.5900 | O        |       |
| VE4MIL   | MILNER RIDGE       | 145.2100 | 144.6100 | O        |       |
| VE4ARC   | WINNIPEG           | 145.2300 | 144.6300 | O        | 127.3 |
| VE4CDN   | MORRIS             | 145.2700 | 144.6700 | O        |       |
| VE4MRS   | BRUXELLES          | 145.3100 | 144.7100 | O        |       |
| VE4PAS   | THE PAS            | 145.3500 | 144.7500 | O        |       |
| VE4ARS   | WINNIPEG           | 145.3500 | 144.7500 |          |       |
| VE4PIN   | PINAWA             | 145.3700 | 144.7700 | O,E,A    |       |
| VE4COW   | WINNIPEG           | 145.3900 | 144.7900 | O        | 127.3 |
| VE4TEU   | TEULON             | 145.4100 | 144.8100 | O        |       |
| VE4SIX   | WOODLANDS          | 145.4300 | 144.8300 | O        |       |
| VE4WHR   | WINDY HILL         | 145.4500 | 144.8500 | C, E     |       |
| VE4WRS   | WINNIPEG           | 145.4500 | 144.8500 | C,A,I    |       |
|          | PINAWA             | 146.4900 |          | s IRLP   |       |
|          | BEAUSEJOUR         | 146.5050 |          | s IRLP   |       |
| VE4MAN   | STARBUCK           | 146.6100 | 146.0100 | O, E     |       |
| VE4CTY   | BRANDON            | 146.6400 | 146.0400 | O, E     |       |
| VE4DPN   | Dauphin            | 146.6400 | 146.0400 | O,A      |       |
| VE4FAL   | Falcon Lake        | 146.6400 | 146.0400 | O        |       |
| VE4JRA   | WINNIPEG           | 146.6700 | 146.0700 | O,ECHO   |       |
| PLANNED  | St Agathe          | 146.6850 | 146.0850 |          |       |
| VE4SHR   | SPEARHILL (ASHERN) | 146.7000 | 146.1000 | O,A      |       |
| VE4TED   | BRANDON            | 146.7300 | 146.1300 | O        |       |
| VE4SLK   | EAST SELKIRK       | 146.7300 | 146.1300 | O, E     |       |
| VA4IRL   | BRANDON            | 146.7600 | 146.1600 | I        |       |
| VE4FLN   | WINNIPEG           | 146.7600 | 146.1600 | O        |       |
| RESERVED | STEINBACH          | 146.7900 | 146.1900 | O        |       |
| VE4INT   | BIRDS HILL         | 146.8200 | 146.2200 | O        |       |
| VE4GIM   | GIMLI              | 146.8500 | 146.2500 | O,L1     |       |
| VE4IHF   | ST JOHN            | 146.8500 | 146.2500 | O,W      |       |
| VE4HS    | BRUXELLES          | 146.8800 | 146.2800 | O        |       |
| VE4MTR   | AUSTIN             | 146.9100 | 146.3100 | O        |       |
| VE4TGN   | MANIGOTOGAN        | 146.9100 | 146.3100 |          |       |



|          |                |          |           |              |       |
|----------|----------------|----------|-----------|--------------|-------|
| VE4TWO   | PORTABLE       | 146.9100 | 146.3100  | O            |       |
| VE4BDN   | BRANDON        | 146.9400 | 146.3400  | O            |       |
| VE4FFR   | FLIN FLON      | 146.9400 | 146.3400  | O            |       |
| VE4SRR   | SWAN RIVER     | 146.9400 | 146.3400  | O,E,I        |       |
| VE4TPN   | THOMPSON       | 146.9400 | 146.3400  | O            |       |
| VE4LDR   | LUNDAR         | 146.9700 | 146.3700  | O            |       |
| VE4CAI   | WINNIPEG       | 147.0150 | 146.4150  | O, ASTRO     |       |
| VE4BMR   | BALDY MOUNTAIN | 147.0300 | 146.4300  | O, E         |       |
| VE4PCL   | FOXWARREN      | 147.0600 | 147.6600  | O            |       |
| VE4MBR   | SELKIRK        | 147.0600 | 147.6600  | O, E         | 127.3 |
|          | MANITOBA WIDE  | 147.0900 | 147.6900  | PORTABLE     |       |
| VE4AGA   | WINNIPEG       | 147.1200 | 147.7200  | C            |       |
| VE4PTG   | PORTAGE        | 147.1650 | 147.7650  | O, E         |       |
| VE4INC-R | WINNIPEG       | 147.1800 | 147.7800  | O. L         |       |
| VE4NEP   | NEEPAWA        | 147.2100 | 147.8100  | O            |       |
| VE4RAG   | ELIE           | 147.2400 | 147.8400  | O            | 127.3 |
| VE4BVR   | RUSSELL        | 147.2400 | 147.8400  | O,E,D        |       |
| VE4UMR   | WINNIPEG       | 147.2700 | 147.8700  | O,E,A        | 127.3 |
| VE4EDU   | WINNIPEG       | 147.3000 | 147.9000  | O,E,B        |       |
| VE4TGN   | WINKLER        | 147.3300 | 147.9300  |              |       |
| VE4EMB   | HADASHVILLE    | 147.3600 | 147.9600  | O            |       |
| VE4WPG   | WINNIPEG       | 147.3900 | 147.9900  | O, E         | 127.3 |
| VE4BRC   | BEAUSEJOUR     | 147.5400 |           | C,A,S        |       |
| VE4RPT   | WINNIPEG       | 224.9400 | 223.3400  | O,E,D        |       |
| VE4ARM   | AUSTIN         | 432.3010 |           | BEACON       |       |
| VE4EDU   | WINNIPEG       | 434.0000 | 1253.2500 | ATV          |       |
| VE4MBR   | SELKIRK        | 443.0000 | 448.0000  | O, E         | 127.3 |
| RESERVED | WINNIPEG       | 443.2250 | 448.2250  | O,           |       |
| VE4PAR   | WINNIPEG       | 443.4000 | 448.4000  | O, Portable  |       |
| VE4VJ    | WINNIPEG       | 443.5000 | 448.5000  | O            | 127.3 |
| VA4FIL   | WINNIPEG       | 443.6000 | 448.6000  | O            |       |
| VE4CTY   | BRANDON        | 443.7000 | 448.7000  | O, E         |       |
| VE4UHF   | WINNIPEG       | 444.0000 | 449.0000  | O            | 432.0 |
| VE4ART   | WINNIPEG       | 444.1000 | 449.1000  | O            |       |
| VE4SLK   | EAST SELKIRK   | 444.1500 | 449.1500  | O, E         |       |
| VE4ARM   | AUSTIN         | 444.2750 | 449.2750  | O, E         |       |
| VE4MIL   | MILNER RIDGE   | 444.4000 | 449.4000  | C TO VE4FAL  |       |
| VE4AGA   | HEADINGLEY     | 444.5000 | 449.5000  | O            | 127.3 |
| VE4KIL   | KILLARNEY      | 444.5000 | 449.5000  | O            | 123.0 |
| VA4UHF   | WINNIPEG       | 444.7500 | 449.7500  | O,ECHO       |       |
| VE4DEJ   | WINNIPEG       | 444.8750 | 449.8750  |              |       |
| VE4CAI   | WINNIPEG       | 444.9750 | 449.9750  | O IMBE ASTRO | 664.0 |