



The Repeater

January 2012

Distributed to all Current Members

President's Report

From the desk of Ed VE4EAR

Welcome to our January 2012 winter edition of the MRS Repeater. We have been fortunate this year to have escaped the big snows and cold weather so characteristic of southern Manitoba for December. However as I type this the wind is blowing at 70km/h and the wind chill feels like -29, so winter is indeed here!.

2011 saw the MRS system stabilize to a level not enjoyed in quite some time. While there are still a few site challenges like Bruxelles, most sites are running quite well. As most folks are aware, a new controller was installed at VE4WPG and despite a few learning pains, it has worked well. Check out the technical report for more details and plans for 2012.

In 2011 we saw the entire MRS network exercised for some major events. The spring/summer floods of course proved the value of the network and our skilled operators to our government friends on multiple occasions. Both ARES and CANWARN groups used the network extensively for both exercises and actual events.

While MRS has not undertaken a D-Star project yet, we support and encourage the other clubs exploring this new mode. Winnipeg now has two D-Star systems

online and I suspect more sites will pop up in the coming year.

As you sit and reflect on your Holiday "to-do", I hope you have not forgotten to renew your annual MRS membership. Payments can be made by cash or cheque through the mail or via PayPal and a credit card from our website. 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.

As we enter 2012, 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 Ellis VE4AJO

The October Thanksgiving weekend saw the technical crew shutdown and remove the WPG complex for the installation of the Sierra Controller. This upgrade necessitated the change of the squelch system from the Palomar system which used the Micor squelch chip (now in the *un obtain-ium* catalogue) to the MSR 2000 version. The Micor system was a 2 level squelch system and handled weak signals very well. We ran into problems with manual – machine revisions. These were resolved very promptly from Sierra. Another issue was the USB to Serial port adapter for the laptop. The Prolific chip set does not work but acquiring a FTDI version of the adapter solved this problem. Another problem found during this refit was the Gimli link radio. The PA unit had blown one of the output transistors. The radio was replaced during the November trip to the WPG site.

Code to link VE4WPG to the UHF backbone is ***801** and to remove it from the UHF backbone is ***900**. There is a single beep tone when not linked and a beep-boop when VE4WPG is linked to the UHF backbone. The site prefix is as before **#45**

November 5, 2011, VE4HAY, VE4ACX, and VE4AJO made a trip to VE4MIL, VE4EMB, and VE4FAL. General inspection of the sites was made and measured

output power and AC line current draw. The three sites are secure although VE4EMB is low in output power. Here are the figures **0 dbm** is **1 mWatt** in a 50 ohm system

VE4MIL + 43 dbm out to the antenna.

Link to Winnipeg **+30 dbm** to the antenna

Link to Falcon Lake **+38 dbm** to the antenna

Link to Selkirk **+37 dbm** to the antenna

VE4EMB 1 Watt output to the antenna

VE4FAL +38 dbm out to the antenna

Link to Milner **+40 dbm** out to the antenna

Link to Kenora **+41 dbm** out to the antenna

November 13, 2011 VE4ACX and VE4AJO at VE4WPG. We de-emphasized the audio to VE4WPG and VE4VJ repeaters. The transmit audio levels were adjusted to proper deviation. The UHF link to VE4GIM was installed. While on site we checked the link to VE4MAN.

November 23, 2011 Your technical crew were at Starbuck this morning to look into the loss of the link to VE4WPG. We replaced the exciter in the MICOR radio out side on a great morning.. Power output now 1 watt to the duplexer. It was down to less than 100 milliwatts. We measured the output power of all the radios.

VE4MAN VHF **+40 dbm** to the antenna

Link to VE4WPG **+ 30 dbm** to the antenna

Link to VE4PTG **+38.41 dbm** to the antenna

Link to VE4CDN **+39.03 dbm** to the antenna

Also noted while at the site; the building that housed the CKND TV transmission facilities has been torn down and the ground leveled.

There is no official word as yet regarding the fate of the CBC complex at Starbuck. This writer believes the tower will be re-assessed in the spring/summer when the TV antenna is removed from the top of the tower.

VE4MRS

The repeater at Bruxelles has been shutdown all year. Plans are for a trip after flooding season is over in the spring. There is work to be done at this site as we have not been able to keep a repeater running for a year in duration. Most likely grounding and power conditioning required for our equipment.

The technical crew is waiting on the out come of the digital TV installations on top of the Richardson Building and are up to full output power. We may need to improve the duplexors and filters to co-exist with these High Power transmitters.

VE4WRS

The auto patch and IRLP repeater was "*pulsing*" causing problems for any reflector it was linked with. We found the auto patch was generating noise and the auto patch was removed. Also at the recommendation of the IRLP group a 127.3 CTCSS tone was added to this repeater. There are still issues with this system and the IRLP group is looking into the computer. It seems the IRLP reflectors cannot tolerate any noise in the receive audio. This repeater is in the WPG complex.

The weather has been very kind to us this fall/winter and we have been able to accomplish much; but there is more to be done in the seasons following.

Thank You all for your patience's and suggestions.

My thanks to VE4ACX for all his work and also to everyone else who lifted, hauled, and gave up time and gasoline to the benefit of your Repeater Society.

73
Ellis
VE4AJO

WARC Spring Flea Market

Mark your calendars for Sunday, April 15, 2012, for the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club Spring Flea Market. It will be held at Heritage Victoria Community Club, beginning at 9:30 AM.

Stay tuned to the MRS 2 meter nets, and the weekday Morning Net, all on VE4WPG repeater for updates.

Dick VE4HK

August 13, 2011 MRS Semi Annual General Meeting

Meeting held at MARMfest, Austin MB

Meeting began 2:07 pm VE4EAR presiding

Each person attending introduced themselves

VE4EAR welcomed all in attendance

Minutes of April 14 Annual General Meeting approved as e-mailed in MRS Newsletter

Moved VE4GWN
Seconded VE4HAZ
CARRIED

No business arising

Treasurer's Report

Presented by VE4HAZ. See attached copy.

Move acceptance of Treasurer's Report

Moved VE4HAY
Seconded VE4GKS
CARRIED

Membership Report

Presented by VE4SYM. See attached copy

VE4SYM reported that MRS dues for non-members of RAC will be going up. New rate will be \$35.00 for individuals and \$50.00 for family memberships. This is due to large increase in RAC insurance premiums. Membership dues for members of RAC, will remain unchanged, at \$25.00 for individuals and \$30.00 for families.

No discussion

Technical Report

Presented by VE4ALW on behalf of VE4AJO. See attached copy

VE4EAR stated that our main focus at this time is to get VE4MRS at Bruxelles back on the air. The controller at Bruxelles is damaged beyond repair. MRS has a Sierra controller on order, which will replace the Palomar Controller at VE4WPG. The Palomar controller will then be installed at Bruxelles.

The Sierra controller will be located at the VE4WPG site, since it is easily accessible, in case of problems.

End of Technical Report

New Business

VE4EAR asked for any questions from the group

VE4VID asked about accessibility of VE4WPG at Lilac Grove. VE4WPG is very weak, but VE4VJ on UHF is very strong.

VE4EAR explained that could be due to propagation differences between VHF and UHF, location, nulls in certain directions etc.

VE4HAY pointed out that VE4WPG uses a 2 element folded dipole, while VE4VJ is an 8 element folded dipole. Both antennas are about the same physical size. The Richardson Building will not allow us to add larger antennas.

VE4HAY added that MRS is looking for a site in Steinbach, to add a repeater, which could be linked to our system. Does anyone have any suggestions?

VE4VID noted there is a 100 ft tower at the Fire Station in Ste. Anne.

A discussion ensued

New Business

VE4DAR stated that we hams need to recruit youngsters to take ham courses. He mentioned the recent trip VE4ESX made in his sailboat to Norway House and back. Many of the boaters he encountered saw his ham radio on the boat, and are considering taking an amateur radio course. There may be a course taking place this fall on North Main.

VE4ACX advised that he was at VE4WPG site last Sunday. CBC is constructing a digital TV site on the roof. There will be 4-5 heavy helicopter lifts of equipment to the roof. Their equipment will be located close to our antennas for now. There is 2-3 months to go. We must live with it for now.

VE4EAR noted that UHF TV could present challenges to our linking system.

VE4GHR asked about visor cards

VE4HAY suggested he visit MRS website, and gave the web address

VE4EAR asked about retaining the MRS phone patch.

Not many people use the patch, but the consensus was to keep it.

VE4EAR pointed out that 10 digit dialling is coming to Manitoba shortly. Do we wish to spend money to upgrade our phone patch, since it gets very little use?

A discussion followed

VE4LB pointed out that the phone patch in Brandon has been turned off

VE4EAR stated that MRS needs new blood, and assistance for technical committee

VE4HAY suggested using VOIP at VE4WPG for free telephone service. We currently pay commercial rates for our phone patch/Internet connection

VE4HAY asked who in the audience is a member of RAC. About half raised their hands. VE4HAY then stated that anyone who is not a member will lose their @rac.ca alias at the end of December. RAC has cleaned up their problem with spammers using @rac.ca

VE4HAY then asked who in the audience was on HF. About half raised their hands. Canadian Amateurs will be receiving several channels on 60 meters. Will appear in Canadian Gazette in September, then 30 days later, will be in force.

VE4HAY stated that RAC needed a new president. VE4BAW's term is up shortly. He wishes to step down, since he is newly retired, and wishes to travel. A new treasurer and others are also needed for RAC executive.

VE4LB noted that the 146.85 repeater has been relocated to Adam Lake, MB. It has good coverage into Brandon.

VE4HK reminded everyone to see Adam VE4SN to pick up their QSL cards. He also gave the dates for the WARC Flea Market in October, and the next WARC meeting.

VE4VB noted that VE4CNR 146.76 – was moved to Prairie Mobile Communications site on Dugald Road. The antennas favour Steinbach.

No further business

Adjourn VE4GWN 2:46 pm

Minutes taken by VE4HK

M.R.S. Current Executive

President	Ed	VE4EAR	ve4ear AT rac.caX
V/President	Bill	VE4ALW	williamr AT rac.caX
Secretary	Dick	VE4HK	ve4hk AT rac.caX
Treasurer	Harm	VE4HAZ	ve4haz AT rac.caX
Membership	Sue	VE4SYM	ve4sym AT rac.caX
Technical	Ellis	VE4AJO	ve4ajo AT rac.caX
Directors	Yori	VE4ACX	453-3786
	Walter	VE4VB	284-3054
	Dave	VE4DJS	dave_js AT hotmail.com
	Phil	VE4QB	fphilb AT rac.caX
Past Pres.	Derek	VE4HAY	ve4hay AT rac.caX

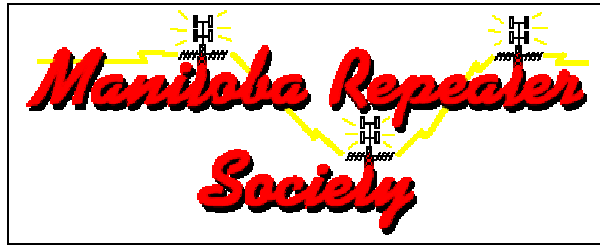
MRS Memberships

First, a big "THANK YOU" to everyone who has already paid their 2012 MRS dues

Dick VE4HK will have MRS membership forms available at upcoming WARC meetings, ARES meetings, and at coffee Saturday mornings, December and January. He would love to take your dues, to save you the trouble 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/ 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



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL
 (Please note: membership year is January 1st to December 31st)

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 _____

Club use only
Date _____
\$ _____
Cheque/Cash/Money Order
Recpt _____
Card Issued _____ Year _____

Renewal New RAC Member If RAC member \$10.00/member refunded

Class of Member: Regular \$35.00 Addn'l Family Member \$15.00

First Time Member Pro-Rated

Jan to Dec \$35.00 Apr to Dec \$28.75 Jul to Dec \$ 22.50

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: _____

Other Clubs to which you belong: _____

