

# News caster

The Official Publication of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club  
The Manitoba Repeater Society  
The Winnipeg Seniors Citizen's Radio Club

mailing address  
Newsletter Editor  
W.A.R.C.  
C/O VE4WSC  
598 St. Mary's Road  
Winnipeg, MB  
R2M 3L5

September 1994

## Antenna Support Structures and The Law or How to Get it Up video by Tim Ellam's (VE6SH) legal counsel for RAC

Date: June 13, 1994

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Sturgeon Creek Regional Secondary School

### Other Important Dates:

WARC:

WSC:

MRS: Oct 13 - Semi Annual Meeting

ARES: Sept 20, Oct 18, Nov 15, Dec 20 - Meetings

Other: October 16th - Flea Market

Warc: Executive for 1993/94

President: Dave Panting - VE4EF

Vice-Pres: Barret Filbert - VE4ABA

Secretary: Dick Maguire - VE4HK

Treasurer: Gary Smith - VE4YH

Past Pres: Judy Norton - VE4JBN

Membership/News caster: Kay Quinn - VE4YF

Program Chairman: Rob Kaufman - VE4GV

Flea Market: Pat Giesbrecht - VE4PLG

Members at large: Scott Marshall - VE4WSM

### Notes from your Editor: by Derek, VE4HAY

Now that you are all well rested from the summer hiatus, I'm sure that you are about to start those articles for the News caster that you have thought about all summer. So far I have receive 4 articles for 2 people. 3 of them are on packet, and one a review of a glass mount antenna for 2 meters. All this sound a bit like all the stuff the no-coders are interested in. What's wrong the HF bands were that bad all summer that no one has anything to say. Com'on you advanced guys, how about an article or two to encourage the basic licence type to upgrade to 5 or 12 wpm.

Ok so now that I have most of you embarrassed about the lack of input to the News caster, so on with other stuff. The summer was kinda slow for me, as my computer hard drive died shortly after the last news caster was done, so I had no ambition to go into the shack. (at least for long periods at a time) I did, however manage to purchase a brand new 2mtr-70cm beam by Cushcraft (a review will appear in a future News caster). I sure hope it preforms as good as if I had installed it in the depths of a Winnipeg winter. Of course with the new beam came the other expenses. Like a new tower to hold it higher above the roof line. And of course a new rotor, so as to aim this enormous signal to the vast corners of the province. It's only a hobby, right!

Now that I have relinquished some of my executive task from the various groups I belong to I am finding more and more fun out of this hobby. I am very interested in the new course Rick, VE4OV is putting on this fall. HF Techniques and Morse code. My time is still short but I am coming close to allowing someone to twist my arm. Lets hope other basic calls ham's take Rick up on his offer. I'm sure they will not regret it.

You can submit articles to me via the internet as derek@facs.mb.ca or derek@mbnet.mb.ca or via packet ve4hay@ve4kv.#wpg.mb.ca.noam. I can also be reached on MWCS or at my home number 257-1420.

## **Words from the President of WARC: by Dave, VE4EF**

---

Well, here we are again. Just when you thought I was safely retired. . .old soldiers never die, they just keep writing articles for The Newscaster. It never ceases to amaze me how quickly summer passes by and how quickly September creeps up on us bringing with it the resumption of all our extracurricular activities.

Your executive has been hard at work considering some new and interesting projects for the upcoming year. If you have any thoughts about projects you'd like to see the club undertake or about topics you'd like to see discussed at club meetings please write them on the back of your membership renewal form.

The new executive will be sworn in (not "at") during the inaugural meeting of the 1994/95 season that will take place on the evening of September 12. I hope you will come out and show them your support . See you all there.

## **Winnipeg Senior Citizen's Radio Club. by Martin, VE4AKA President.**

---

Hello again ! The Weatherman has been kind to us this year, and thus we have been able to catch up on our outdoor activities, at least one of which has been rained, snowed, or frozen off for quite some time. That was of course, the work on our satellite antennas and the new STV antenna. We are happy to report that, thanks to Eb Schumann VE4ZI, Roy Coldwell, VE4ROY, and an enthusiastic group of helpers, this project is now complete. We are also indebted to Kim Cheang, who lent us much needed equipment for that purpose.

The Yard Sale was a great success, thanks again to many member helpers who lent their support and I think had a fun time as well in the sunshine.

Breakfasts at the Norlander during the Summer were well attended, and amply justified the decision to continue through the holiday season. We look forward to seeing you again on the next occasion. If you have not been to one of these, give it a try. You'll be back, I guarantee !

The Basic Examination Course in Theory and Code is planned to start on Tuesday, September 6th. We are hoping to have a full class and, if you know of any aspiring Amateur Radio Operators, please ask them to phone 233-3122 for details. Adam Romanchuk will be contacting the instructors who have so kindly provided their time and expertise in the past. The Club is most

grateful for their contribution, and trusts that they will once again be willing to help those who wish to join us in a great interest and hobby.

## **Manitoba Repeater Society by Tim, VE4THR**

---

Well, the leaves are falling and the kids are back in school, so fall can't be far behind. Hopefully everybody has completed their antenna and outside work for the year. The technical committee has had a busy and productive summer. The UHF link at the Portage site, which ties VE4NEP into VE4MAN has been completed, with a few technical problems to be cleaned up before the snow flies. The VHF repeater at St. Jean (VE4CDN) is back on the air and is also tied into VE4MAN, via UHF. The VHF radio at Gimili (VE4GIM) has been replaced and the coax cable replaced with heliax. Hopefully this up-grade will improve the site's efficiency. At the time of this report, the VHF repeater at Milner Ridge (VE4MIL) is in the process of being relocated to a different tower, which will give us a higher elevation for our antennas. Work to link VE4MIL into VE4MAN and into VE4FAL, at Falcon Lake, should be completed by the end of September, depending upon the delivery date of the duplexers ordered from Sinclair Radio Labs. The Falcon Lake group are also extending links into Dryden and Red Lake. Once everything is up and running, our joint VHF network will extend from Brandon across to Ontario and Dauphin to Winnipeg, including the Interlake. Long term goals are to reach north to Birtle, Flin Flon etc. and possibly west into Saskatchewan.

The fall general meeting will be held at the Elmwood Legion, 920 Nairn Ave. on October 13 @ 1930. All members, as well as new Hams, and prospective members are encouraged to attend. There is a large parking lot at the rear of the building, with the entrance at the front of the building. Refreshments will be available during and after the meeting. It is requested that any special business to be presented at the meeting be submitted to the executive, either via packet or mail, at least ten days prior to the meeting. Myself, Roy VE4EN, Bill VE4STW, Michael VE4MJM are active on packet. Please address posted mail to:

Manitoba Repeater Society  
c/o Wpg. Senior Citizens Amateur Radio Club  
598 St.Mary's Rd.  
Winnipeg, MB R2M 3L5

Unfortunately, this will be the last time the MRS will be contributing a report to this newscaster. Although this newscaster is very informative and reaches a large number of the hams in Manitoba, we, the MRS executive,

feel it is necessary to attempt to cut our operating expenses without cutting our "technical" budget. As a trial, the MRS will mail our members a quarterly report. We will utilize these reports to mail out membership cards, technical up-dates and general business reports. A technical up-date will be included in the edition of the newsletter listing the codes required to activate the controllers for the various links.

In addition to these quarterly reports, I will continue to post bulletins on Doug's BBS, VE4KV. Doug has also allowed us to set up a directory in the DOS server section of his BBS. In there, information with respect to MRS business can be stored for access by MRS members.

As always, your comments, criticisms and concerns are important to your executive. Please address any correspondence to myself, preferably via packet for those active on packet. All correspondence will be answered and presented at the next executive meeting.

### **ARES Committee Report** **by Jeff, VE4MBO**

---

We now have forty members who are meeting monthly. Startling in September our meeting day will change to the third Tuesday of the month (Sep 20, Oct 18, Nov 15 & Dec 20). Unless otherwise broadcast, our meetings are at 7:00 p.m. at the St. John Ambulance headquarters, 535 Doreen St. The guest speaker at our September meeting will be Bill, VE4JR who will speak about Message handling and radiogram form.

Thirty Amateurs worked ground communications at the St. Andrews Airshow. (please see VE4HK's report). As of this writing, there are no field engagements lined up in the near future but I would not be surprised if there was some kind of ARES drill around the time of the Simulated Emergency Test in October.

We have established a 2mtr. FM voice station (VE4EOC) in the City of Winnipeg Emergency Operating Centre. We've got a very used KDK2030 transceiver and a new pyramid power supply (maybe I can reimburse myself some day!). A meeting will be held at the EOC to allow our members to familiarize themselves with the location and the equipment. City of Winnipeg Emergency Program Co-ordinator, Mark Bennett, and Winnipeg Police Service Inspector, Bruce Taylor (VE4ABT) have been most helpful in getting this station on the air.

As a volunteer group with no funds, we have been fortunate to be the recipient of some community

goodwill. I would like to thank the following for their support: W.A.R.C. (president Dave, VE4EF) for the KDK Transceiver, St. John Ambulance (Don, VE4DWG) for the continued use of their classroom, Bob Mallette at Kellet Copy Centre for the stationary, and last but not least Russ Schroeder at Cantel paging for providing us with a numeric pager that allows ARES members and civic authorities a mean of contacting the Emergency Co-ordinator on a twenty-four hour basis. The **Winnipeg ARES EMERGENCY only** pager number is **932-3927** - if you have a routine query for me, please call me during an MRS net.

### **Cantel Paging**

For all your paging needs call

RUSS SCHROEDER

**932-3927**

### **WARC Meeting**

We will be showing a video of Tim Ellam's (VE6SH) presentation "Antenna Support Structures and The Law or How to Get it Up" taped at the RAC national convention in Calgary. Tim is the legal counsel for RAC and is an acknowledged authority on this subject. Copies of the text from his presentation will be available in limited quantities at the WARC meeting.

This is a topic of great importance to all amateurs considering an outdoor antenna regardless of whether it's HF or VHF so come on out and hear the latest!

### **Hints & Kinks** **by Ralph, VE4RY**

---

Assembling a BNC connector and can't find the right size wrench to fit the grooves on the barrel? Try holding the barrel at the flat grooves on the barrel with needle nose pliers and then in turn clamp the pliers tips in a vise. This holds the barrel quite nicely while you tighten on the end part with a wrench. It seems every manufacturer uses a slightly different size.

### **MINUTES FOR W.A.R.C. - MAY 9 1994**

---

Sorry minutes are not available for print. It seems that VE4HK filed them during the summer

**BARNSTORMERS AIRSHOW**  
**ST ANDREWS AIRPORT**  
**by Dick, VE4HK**

---

Barnstormers International asked the Amateur Radio Emergency Service in Winnipeg to provide radio communications for the first annual Winnipeg Airshow, to be held at St. Andrews Airport. Our group naturally agreed! This event would prove an excellent opportunity for Jeff VE4MBQ, the new Emergency Co-ordinator, to get his feet wet. As it turned out, he got a lot more than his feet wet!!!

The organizers expected up to 100,000 spectators over the two days. Most drove to St. Andrews Airport, which is about 15 miles north of Winnipeg.

ARES was assigned several tasks. We were responsible for ensuring communications between the various parking areas, patrolling the crowd control line, and watching some restricted areas, to call RCMP or airshow officials, if any spectators entered.

Saturday was very chaotic, which was to be expected. The organizers had never put on an airshow before, so the first day was quite a learning experience. Jeff VE4MBQ quickly assigned a spare operator to stay with Vic Neudorf, our primary contact person from the airshow. This really cut down on difficulties, since Vic was usually the only person who could solve problems.

The weather on Saturday was only hot and humid until about 2 pm. We then had two thunderstorms, with heavy rain. One of our volunteer hams ended up with a fairly bad sunburn, and soaked to boot. All the hams out in the field stayed in their positions, despite the rain. That is true dedication to duty!

Sunday, the weather was very foggy early in the morning, but ended up quite hot, with a high overcast, which was ideal for the airshow.

Our day began both days at 7:00 am with a short briefing, and ended around 5:30 pm, when the last spectator departed. The Net Control Station ended up handling lost and found articles, along with kids as the airshow proceeded. We managed to reunite lost parents with their kids, and turned over everything else to the organizers.

I would like to thank each of the volunteer hams who participated in the Barnstormers International Airshow. Each one went far above and beyond the call of duty. All of us put in very long hours under very trying conditions, to contribute to the success of the Airshow. Thank you for a job well done!

**BIRDS HILL 20 K ROADRACE**  
**by Dick, VE4HK**

---

Five members of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club Inc. participated in the annual Birds Hill 20 K RoadRace, on Sunday, August 28, 1994. This race takes place in Birds Hill Provincial Park, which is located about 20 km north of Winnipeg.

The weather forecast Saturday evening was for clear skies and cool temperatures. They were quite right about the cool temperatures. The clear skies were a little different story. About 6:30 am, while I was driving over to pick up Ed VE4EAR, one of my trusty helpers, I encountered a heavy rainstorm. Fortunately, the rain stopped and the skies cleared before we arrived at Birds Hill Park.

We began our day with the usual pre race briefing and assignments at 7:15 am, at the finish line area. Each ham then proceeded to his or her location.

Pat VE4PLG handled the finish line, and acted as net control station. Dan VE4SYG was responsible for the start line, then assumed race marshall duties. Ed VE4EAR started at the 5 km aid station, and later moved to the 15 km aid station. Derrick VE4VV manned the 10 km aid station. Dick VE4HK led the runners on his bicycle.

The race began at 8:00 am. The weather was very good, with temperatures in the low teens and a moderate wind. Two prominent local runners were neck and neck for the entire 20 kms, but one showed quite a kick with 50 meters to go and won the race. The last runner crossed the finish line about 10 am, and the course was closed down.

It was fortuitous that I was leading on my bicycle, since a very important "turn" sign was knocked down. If I hadn't raced ahead and uprighted it, the runners would have been half way to Grand Beach.

Our duties were: advise VE4PLG if any runners required medical assistance, report as each aid station opened and later closed, report if any motorists were harassing runners, report as the top three males and females passed each aid station, report any other problems which could affect the race. Once again, there were no problems.

After the race ended, the amateur radio team, with the exception of VE4VV, stayed for the post race presentation of medals and for the random prize draw.

VE4SYG won a dinner for two at a local restaurant, but refused to share with the rest of us. The other hams were shut out. Thanks to the following hams for giving up their Sunday morning for a good cause: Pat VE4PLG, Dan VE4SYG, Derrick VE4VV, Ed VE4EAR, and Dick VE4HK

Get ready for a great summer of mobiling fun without missing your skeds!! Check out these specials from **AERIAL COMMUNICATIONS** --Your Manitoba Kenwood Dealer.

ts 450sat-- \$1670.00. ts 5os-- \$1325.00  
tm 241a-- \$450.00 th 22at-- \$360.00

**call 1-746-8452 anytime!!**

### **Fall Flea Market by Dan, VE4SYG**

Hello there one and all, It's Fall flea market time once again and plans are in progress for the semi annual event. WARC is holding the fall flea market on October 16, (that is a Sunday for all you sleepy heads) at Waverly Heights Community Club, located at 1885 Chancellor Drive. For those of you who don't know where that is; Chancellor Drive runs off of Pembina Highway near the Canadian Tire store. Doors open at 9:00 am for the public. Admission will be \$1.00 to everyone. We will be operating a canteen with coffee, drinks, donuts and hot dogs so we will be needing some volunteers. We also need volunteers for the door and to sell draw tickets. Volunteers please contact Pat, VE4PLG at 338-0511. We only have thirty tables available and some are already gone so if you want one, first come first served. Tables are \$5.00 to members of WARC, MRS and Seniors and \$10.00 to non members. For table bookings contact Pat, VE4PLG at 338-0511 or Dan, VE4SYG on packet at VE4KV. Help with planning, etc. greatly appreciated, please contact either Pat or Dan.

### **Through Glass VHF Antenna - Review by Alexander, VE4APN**

Around town and on the highway the past three years I used a mag mount antenna on the roof of my car. The constant mounting and taking off the antenna, base walking, and cable whipping at highway speed certainly took its toll. Last spring I spent the better part of a day trying to polish out the scratches and scuff marks out of the paint on the roof of my mobile ground plane.

I dropped into a local radio supply store in June and saw a possible fix; mount a through glass antenna! Midland International puts out an inexpensive but very functional window mount kit called the Power Max,

model 18-259A. I understand from the vendor there is a dual band unit available also. I chose to mount the antenna base and coupling box on passenger rear side window. I checked it out at 5 w with my IC-28H mobile and an MFJ-812B SWR/wattmeter. Results across the 2 meter band: 1.2 (144.520), 2.0( 147.520). A summer's worth of feed back from QSO's indicate clear transmission and reception from repeaters around the city. As simplex operation goes, I was able to access the MRS phone patch with my HT set at 6 v and 2 w from just inside the West perimeter (Down's Motor Inn).

This is a stealthy set up. The slim black antenna is 23" overall; the center coils reduce the physical profile to 6". The side window mount is barely visible and draws little attention to the vehicle contents. Most people would mistake the profile for a cellular phone antenna. More than one passenger thought my HT a cell tel hi,hi. The whip is easily removed to prevent vandalism, theft, or going through automatic carwashes.

### **High Frequency (HF) Techniques & 5 Word-Per-Minute Morse Code Class by Rick, VE4OV**

Now you can upgrade your skills with this new course to learn 5 WPM CW sending and receiving along with HF Techniques! This course is your next "stepping-stone" to full HF privileges. You will be fully prepared to take the Industry Canada 5 WPM tests. Your success will allow you full privileges on the 160 metre and 80 metre bands. (Full 160m-10m privileges on all 9 HF bands are awarded to you upon successfully passing the 12 WPM tests.)

Your Instructor is your Examiner and is delegated by Industry Canada to administer your tests. Guest instructors and specialists will be invited to contribute their special skills and knowledge.

Major Topics Covered: CW sending and receiving skills (5 WPM, Farnsworth Method); CW and phone QSO protocol; DXing and contests; propagation and bandplans; how to buy HF transceivers and accessories; building and buying antennas and transmatches; how QSL bureaus work; filters and TVI; books and magazines; laws and regulations; international bandplans and agreements; RCVR and XMTR adjustment; demonstrations of equipment use.

This new course is a response to your requests to upgrade to HF and to realize your full potential in the truly international nature of Ham Radio!

**Course:** 10 Tuesdays, beginning 27 Sept 94, 7:00pm to 9:00pm Location...to be determined, You will be called! Cost is \$180.00, all inclusive Instructor: Rick Lord, P. Eng., VE4OV Guest Instructors and Specialists by invitation

### **HOW TO REGISTER**



Phone: (bus) 885-9320 9:00am - 5:00pm Mon -Fri  
(res) 896-0631 7:00pm to 10:00pm  
Fax: (bus) 888-7551

Drop In: Probe Industrial Electronics Ltd. (business hours above) 1874 Portage Ave. at Ferry Road  
Mail: Rick Lord 27 Portsmouth Blvd. Winnipeg MB R3P 0V7  
Payment: Cheque (please!) payable to Rick Lord  
Deadline: None... but register soon to make sure you get in!

**2-DAY HAM RADIO GARAGE SALE!!!**  
**Jack Chambers, VE4JO,**

571 Berkley St., Charleswood, south of Roblin Blvd. 895-2655. Sat. 10:00am to 4:00pm 17 Sept 94 and Sun. 10:00am to 4:00pm 18 Sept 94. O.K. if rain. I'm retiring from a long career in Ham Radio and I have to sell a tower, rotor, HF and VHF beams, HF and VHF linears, HF station, VHF Transceivers, accessories, test gear, cables, swr bridges, transmatch etc. Over 100 items must go!

**Basic Course - Ham Radio**  
**by Rick, VE4OV**

Another basic Ham radio course is about to start. Please let anyone know who may be interested in the exciting hobby of Ham Radio know about it.

This course fully prepares you to write the Industry Canada exam. Your instructor is your examiner and is delegated by Industry Canada to administer the exam. Classes are for everyone. The course is sponsored and approved by the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club and is designed for you ...not just for electronic buffs...

**Course# HA58** 10 Thursdays starting Sep. 29 1994, 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm, at the Sturgeon Creek Collegiate, 2665 Ness Ave. The cost of the course is \$145.00 plus a material fee of \$45.00 (materials payable to the instructor)

**Register** - 832-9637 9:00am-3:30pm Mon-Fri  
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Mon-Thu  
1-800-387-0266 (rural residents only)

Drop-in: Continuing Education Office, Sturgeon Creek Collegiate.

Mail: St. James-Assiniboia Continuing Education, Sturgeon Creek Collegiate, 2665 Ness Ave. Winnipeg MB R3J 1A5. Fees a payable by Cheque, Visa, Mastercard.

**RAC National Convention, Calgary 1994**  
**by Dave, VE4EF**

The first annual RAC national convention which was held on the August long weekend was a great success. There were (at last head count) 1,055 amateurs registered at the convention from across the country. Several VE4's were in attendance to represent Manitoba. Congratulations to Rick Lord VE4OV, Rob Kaufman VE4GV and Barry Malanchuk VE4MA who all gave GREAT presentations during the course of the weekend.

This was a great opportunity to meet many new people, to put faces to voices heard over the years, and to learn about the current affairs of RAC. I enjoyed this convention and hope to be able to attend another one next year.

**Reminder:**

**Blue book changes are now due.**

If you are a new Ham or know of a new ham, or have moved, upgraded etc.. Please make sure you get your info to VE4UB so that you can be included in the fall edition of Manitoba's best call book.

contact Bill via packet VE4UB@VE4KV or on the VE4MBR repeater (147.060), or the Manitoba evening phone net. Bill will also be at the September WARC meeting. If all else please call him at 482-3402  
Deadline is September 30 or very shortly after that.

Books will be available at the October Flea Market