Newscaster

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

November 1994

Wire Antennas
by Lee, VE4ANC

Date: November 14, 1994

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Sturgeon Creek Regional Secondary School

Other Important Dates:
WARC: Future meetings - Dec 12, Jan 9, Feb 13, Mar 13
                2nd Weekend of June - Field Day
WSC:
ARES: Nov 15, Dec 20 -Meetings
Other: Nov 18th - RAC Regional Elections - Please Vote
                Dec 3 - WARP JNOS Seminar.

Warc: Executive for 1994/95

President: Barret Filbert - VE4ABA
Vice-Pres: Richard Kazuk - VE4KAZ
Secretary: Dick Maguire - VE4HK
Treasurer: Gary Smith - VE4YH
Past Pres: Dave Panting - VE4EF
Program Chairman: Rob Kaufman - VE4GV
Membership/Newscaster: Vacant
Flea Market: Vacant
Members at Large: Jeff Dovyak - VE4MBQ (Wpg EC)

Notes from your Editor:
by Derek, VE4HAY

On the last page of this newscaster you will find a letter which you may read and sign, and then send it to your Member of Parliament. Please have a good look at this letter. It was extracted from the November issue of TCA. If you which to change the first line of the letter by crossing out the word **hold** and writing in the word **know** and then passing this on to fellow office employee's, and friends, please do. You will have to make a copy of the signed letter to be sent to the Honourable John P. Manley as well. Then place each letter into separate envelopes and address one to your Member of Parliament, (if you don't know who that is or don't know his address, call the inquiry line in the Grey pages of the MTS phone book under Government of Canada), and the other to

The Honourable John P. Manley, P.C.
Minister of Industry
House of Commons
1111Wellington Street
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

You do not need to put any postage on these envelopes, as this is free service of the government. Just make sure that the letters **M.P.** appear on the address line for your member. Without your help, you could end up shutting down your station if your neighbour complains about interferences to his bargain bin electronics, etc...

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.

Radio Amateurs of Canada Members

Please Remember to Vote for your regional
        RAC representative.
              Deadline is Nov 18th.

Any questions please call Dave, VE4EF

Words from the President of WARC:
by Barret, VE4ABA

Hello everyone, it seems that the winter season is here. A time when we all can enjoy our hobby out of the cold. The days are shorter and conditions on the low frequency H.F. bands are getting better. This time of year is the best for new ham radio operators to listen in on the local nets, and rag chew groups that live fairly close to us. There is lots of slow code for new hams to copy and if you don't have your five words per minute ticket as of yet, now is the time. Once you pass, your on phone, and at least on 80 & 160 meter bands. Being that the winter season is quite long, these low H.F. bands are perfect. We all have long wire antennas and if you don't have one yet this is the best time to put one up. A simple thing to do, that will reward you all winter, if it stays up in the air. But what the heck, the antenna that goes up in January always works the best.

This month I look forward to seeing all of you at the meeting. The topic this month is Wire antennas, and promises to be very interesting. Last month I enjoyed the program video that Rob had, and hope this was enjoyed by all who stayed to watch.

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

The days of outdoor activities are nearly over and we are now into all the busy indoor activities. Classes are past the midway mark for Basic Theory towards the D.O.C. examination as also are the Code classes, and in addition, Harsha is once again introducing members to the mysteries of basic computer operation. Monthly breakfasts at the Norlander are picking up to the normal Winter attendance level, and plans are on the way for the Xmas Party. The Party is tentatively set for December 15th. Look for a firm date soon. One thing is for sure, we will need volunteers for clean-up on the Saturday before the big day.

Extramural Club projects in the making include the development of an Understanding between the Club and The Manitoba Division of The Red Cross to provide radio communication facilities for that organization in the event of an emergency situation, and exploration of the possibility of obtaining handicapped access to the Club. Financially, Treasurer Tom (VE4TSM) reports that we are adhering well to our Budget constraints and look like reaching the year end in a stable position. Nevertheless, we don't have a crystal ball, so keep these donations rolling in. They are our main, and virtually our sole source of income.

ARES Committee Report
by Jeff, VE4MBQ

Winnipeg ARES seems to be progressing quite well. There are currently over forty members. I have recently issued distinctive green ARES photo identification cards to the members which will greatly aid the authorities in the event of a disaster. Our telephone fan-out system and the check-in drill went fairly smoothly with only a few deficiencies identified - over seventy percent of the membership of Winnipeg ARES checked in with VE4EOC which is our net control station located in the City of Winnipeg Emergency Operating Centre. In the coming months we hope to have a more extensive live drill which would include activating the telephone fan-out system, checking in with net control, and then being assigned a task of a place to attend.

In order to familiarize our volunteer members with the roles of the various professional services and agencies one might encounter in a disaster we have had speakers from Emergency Measures, Wpg Police, and Wpg Ambulance. Our next meeting on Tuesday Nov 15 at St. John Ambulance, will feature a speaker from the Salvation Army. Our December meeting will be held at the City of Winnipeg Emergency Operations Centre. (lower level of the Council Building) on 20 December. For this meeting only we will meet in the tunnel running through the basement of city hall which links the Planetarium to the Public Safety Building. This meeting is open only to current members of Winnipeg ARES (bring your ID cards). WE WILL MEET BETWEEN 6:45 pm & 7:00 pm - The EOC doors will be locked at 7:00 pm sharp. Our meeting in January will be back at St. John Ambulance on 17 January, 1995 with a speaker on Emergency Social Services.

For those of you who do not belong to ARES and think that we do not have sufficient manpower to cope with major disaster - you're right. In the event of an actual Winnipeg ARES operation I invite you to "monitor the action" on the VE4WPG repeater and be ready to check in with VE4EOC or myself, VE4MBQ, if we ask for assistance of non-ARES amateur operators.

There will likely be an ARES presentation at a WARC meeting early in 1995 where you will get an overview of Winnipeg ARES and find out how you can prepare to help out in a disaster as an amateur radio operator.

Hints & Kinks
by Ralph, VE4RY

Remember the fact that you can use a 40 meter dipole on 15 meters? Well this also applies in the VHF/UHF bands as well. The third harmonic of 147 MHz is 441 MHz and although it will have a high angle of radiation, a VHF quarter-wave antenna will load quite nicely on the UHF amateur band.

MINUTES FOR W.A.R.C. - Oct 1994

Meeting began 7:40 pm, VE4ABA presiding
Introductions, approximately 50 in attendance.
VE4ABA spoke about the untimely death of VE4NQ.
VE4ABA announced that VE4AAN won the Kenwood handheld for our membership drive. VE4GWB and VE4PI won one year memberships to Radio Amateurs of Canada.

The minutes of the September meeting were approved as published in the Newscaster
moved VE4UB : seconded VE4GV

Business Arising:
VE4MBQ announced that he has the correct telephone number for himself. The one in the September Newscaster was incorrect. Minutes CARRIED

There was no correspondence

Treasurer's Report: VE4YH announced that our balance as of September 30, 1993 was $2424.05, and that as of September 30, 1994 the club, added 2441.98. Our new balance is $4808.03 There have been additional funds from the Flea Market and memberships, which have not been added in as yet.

Standing Committee Reports VE4PLG reported that the Flea Market was an outstanding success, due largely to the cheap rent at Waverley Heights Community Club. Our expenses were a little over $200.00, and our profits were $712.59. (best profit ever!!)

VE4OV reported that the VE4JO garage sale went very well, and thanked everyone who purchased something. VE4OV also reported that he was conducting two courses, one basic, and one for CW etc for an HF ticket. He had 19 students in each course. He was quite pleased.

VE4HAY pleaded for articles for the Newscaster. He solicited product reviews, and any other topics of interest to include in the Newscaster. VE4HAY noted that he was planning a group purchase of 9913 cable. Anyone interested could see Derek at the coffee break.

VE4VQ reported on the Jamboree on the Air. He thanked the Manitoba Repeater Society for allowing his group to use MRS repeaters. He also extended his thanks to all the hams who participated. There were more than twice as many hams helping as last year.

VE4GV, our illustrious program chairman, solicited any ideas for programs. He announced that VE4ANC will be giving a presentation on simple wire antennas at the November meeting. VE4OV noted that the audience had a choice of two video cassettes for tonights meeting. Choice number one, VP8SSI DXpedition, choice number two, Getting Started in Satellites. Choice number one was the runaway winner. The meeting then had a brainstorming session, to come up with ideas for future programs.
 VE4OV Multiband wire antennas
 VE4RY Show and tell of "fancy" computers
 VE4AKM Care and Characteristics of Nicads
 VE4KU Logging Programs
 VE4HAY Bring an HF rig into the school, and have a
    hands on workshop
 VE4QEW Simple construction projects, etching PC
    boards, etc.

 New Business
 VE4YH, our treasurer, announced that he has secured two volunteers to audit our books.

VE4ANC asked where the Collins HF rig at the Manitoba Museum was?

Answer: The rig is at the Museum, since legally, it belongs to the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature.

Notices for the Good and Welfare of the Club

VE4ABA announced that VE4PLG and VE4SYG, who did an outstanding job with the Flea Market the past few years, were moving to Kelowna.

VE4AKM has volunteered to take over the Flea Market.

VE4KER volunteered to take over as Membership Chairman

VE4ABA made an impassioned plea that the Club must get involved in Field Day in 1995. The idea is to get a tent, and have fun. We must establish a Field Day Committee.

VE4ABA solicited volunteers to be in charge of Field Day

VE4OV asked the whereabouts of the Club's Field Day tent. Answer: Check with either VE4FO or VE4AOJ

VE4RY announced that he had a long story regarding cable. Anyone interested could see him at coffee break.

VE4UB stated that he would be selling the latest Blue Book, hot off the press during coffee.

Adjourn 8:06 VE4GHR

After a most enjoyable coffee break, members settled back into their chairs for a video cassette presentation of the VP8SSI DXpedition to the South Sandwich Islands. VE4GV interrupted the tape on occasion to tell the true, unbiased version of what was on the screen. The crew barely survived terrible weather conditions on South Sandwich Island, to give many DX'ers another new country. The program was quite entertaining. Meeting ended 9:45pm

Flea Market Report
By: Pat, VE4PLG

I would like to thank the following VE4's for there help at the Flea Market this passed October '94:- EPC OPC AFF CN JR AKM ABA KAZ FW BAR XYC SE YF EF SYG and anybody else I might have missed.

It was a great success. WARC realized a profit of $712.59. This will go to further Amateur Radio.

VE4AKM, Alan, will be taking over so please give him all the help you can with future Flea Markets. Thanks to Comtelco, MARM, RAC, and Atlantic Ham Radio for prizes and donations.

OPEN AIR RESTAURANT
by Albert, VE4APA

Hi! Derek.......There is a good cover story for you at BIRT ANDERSON VE4AP...home residence...it has some humour and some serious thoughts as stated by Birt. .....Apparently on the week-end when the family was sitting around the living room after a Thanks Giving Supper.......a car came through the wall and just about hit Birts son ...very lucky it did'nt.......A good Mother was teaching her son how to drive and when he was making the turn she grabbed the steering wheel and drove right into Birt's house......I thought I would let you know for a bit of a cover story...I'm sure it would be interesting piece of news for your Newscaster...Take care.

Portable QRP or You can take it with you
by Tom, VE4AKI

One of the more pleasurable activities you can engage in with your QRP station is portable operation. Whether you take it with you on vacation or make special trips just to operate, portable operation brings unique satisfaction. The highlight of this activity is Field Day. *(2nd weekend of June)*

The key to successful portable QRP is your selection of equipment. The three main components are: the rig, the power source and the antenna. Careful selection of these components according to the individual needs and resources will improve your chances of rewarding operation.

If you only have one rig (ie. you home station transceiver), your decision is easy, take it with you. Assuming your rig will operate from a 12V. source you will need a battery of sufficient amp/hour capacity to provide a reasonable amount of operating before being recharged. The average modern solid state transceiver draws about 1 amp of current on receive and about 2-4 amps on transmit @ 5W output. This is a rather high rate of consumption to allow the use of gell-cells or nicads. With a rig such as this you will need a larger battery such as a small car battery or a large motorcycle battery. This will give you a reasonable operating time. Of course, if you are located near your car, such as when camping you may use the battery in it. A power cable of sufficient length can be made up to allow you to locate some distance away.

If you are fortunate enough to have a dedicated QRP rig you are likely able to operate with a much smaller battery. Most QRP rigs with direct conversion or super het receivers, analog dials, and 2-5 W of output power draw only a few hundred Ma. on receive and less than 1 amp on transmit. A 12 V gell-cell, small motorcycle battery or a pack of 'C' size Nicads will allow a few hours of operation before recharging. Two 6V lantern batteries

can also be used but they must be discarded when their voltage drops too low.

The last but not least component is the antenna. Proper selection of your antenna can make or break your portable success. The antenna you chose for portable operation depends on a number of factors. Some of these are: cost, availability of supports, portability and necessity of gain. As a general guide-line, a simple wire antenna (such as a dipole) mounted in the clear ar a reasonable height will meet most of these requirements. if existing supports can not be found, a simple breakdown mast can be used for support. A guyed PVC pipe mast is particularly light and versatile. Careful impedance matching to maximize efficiency should be used at all times. Don't waste precious power in poorly matched antennas.

If your portable location is semi-permanent (ie. a cottage, summer home, etc), try to erect a gain type of antenna. A wire yagi or lazy 'H' or similar antenna will improve your results.

So next time you are heading to the lake or going camping consider taking a rig along. Plan ahead as best you can and improvise when necessary, but don't leave home without it.

WARP News
by Karl, VE4KHS

The current executive for Winnipeg Amateur Radio Packet (WARP) is as follows: President - Chris VE4SET, Tresurer - Bill VE4LI, Secretary/Editor - Karl VE4KHS, Mbrs @ Large - VE4KV, VE4CY, VE4HAY, VE4JHD, VE4MS, VE4SLB, VE4YZ.

On Nov. 15 VE4KV intends to QSY his BBS's direct 2 meter user port to 144.310 Mhz. This will take the TPK forwarding traffic away from the 145.07 Mhz congestion on that 1200 baud frequency. Users on 145.07 will still be able to gain access to VE4KV BBS via the VE4PKT node, which has a 9600 baud link to VE4KV BBS.

The weekly WARP info net has moved to Thursday nights, on MRS's VE4WPG repeater @ 20:00 hours. This will start on Nov 3.

WARP JNOS Seminar. The date is Saturday December 3, 1994 from 8am - 1pm in room 205-207 University Centre. This room is right under the stairs going to the third floor of University Centre.

Increasing the performance of your Baycom
by JERRY, VE4SVB.

To all Baycom lovers as well as non-lover, have you figured out a way to extend the usefulness of your Baycom Module? If the answer no, I indulge you continue reading this articles. (Did I wet your appetite ?)

You will need two (2) files to get it going. The main program TPK-V181.EXE , which is a self-extracting file and the BAY-TPK.ZIP, a collection of files (driver for Baycom) and instruction fully annotated by VE2MTV. I will lead you to this two files which I found to be running perfectly well and to save you from frustration and many unproductive hour of configuration. I choose the longer path but it yielded the same result. (Why re-invent the wheel if it is already there?) As soon as you have these files, make a separate subdirectory for each. There will be some inconvenience but they are minimal compared to the reward you are about to received.

The batch file. In BAY-TPK.ZIP, you will find the two batch files (TB1/TB2) one for each comm port, whichever your baycom is configured. Here is my own TB2.BAT

```
@echo off
rem Loading the resident files
tfpcx286 -pcom2 -f
tncded 2
btpk
rem Unloading the resident file after Exit
tncded 2 u
tfpcx286 -u
```

Note: Please do not attempt to change the order of the files, you will be surprise to learn what the computerese means by "System Hang-up". To summarize TB2, first it loads the driver TFPCX286 (a new version of TFPCX) at comm 2 (-pcom2) and reads the driver initialization file (TFPCX.INI). The TNC emulator is loaded at comm 2 (TNCDED 2). The Baycom interface for TPK is then loaded. Very elementary ...

The CONFIG.TPK There are some changes I made myself in this config file, mainly to suit my needs (I know yours too...). Check the comm port speed it should be V 1200 (I personally believe this is unnecessary but just the same do it). FE 5 (I changed this to 8 for the Monitor Window, try 10). FE VE4KV, We need this for the Unproto Command,(VE4KV is our BBS, right?). FRE 145.070 ,this is the frequency we are using. ALA <your callsign here>, Alarm for your station (whenever someone wishes to connect, you know what I mean). Remove or disable the line "/send bpq.set" there is no bpq.set included anywhere the two compressed file. Place your call sign now at MYCALL. Remove the next three line that begin with ";syntax. It will surely generate a Canadian error prompt "cmd:EH?" Next line are the Broadcast function necessary to receive the mail and bulletin listing from the Board (this is the gem of the whole program, I think).

From my configuration: BR VE4KV U VE4KV -- unproto command for the bulletin board BR VE4KV C VE4KV -- Direct connect path from you to the VE4KV *BR RXMSG TO TPK -- receive message with header TO: TPK *BR RXMSG TO FBB -- receive message with header TO: FBB *BR RXMSG STRING BAYCOM --

receive message that contain the word (Baycom) *BR RXMSG 7PLUS -- receive all 7plus messages *BR RXMSG 7 PLUS DECODE --Decode 7plus messages *BR RXMSG PRIV -- receive your private mail BR VE4KV SYN -- synchronize your receive mail header with the BBS *BR VE4SVB E DAYS 3 --Erase files older than 3 days *BR MSG_PRIV E K -Erase or kill your message after download.

note * - this is how I configured it in my system, and you can configure your system the way you want it to work.

The TFPCX.INI For the moment the only thing you should change are: I VE4xxx -Place your callsign here C VE4kv -our bulletin board of course If you can understand the text, Please translate to us poor soul,<grin>

The Beef of the whole thing. Please be reminded that I am assuming we are installing this into the Hard Disk and if my assumption is wrong please make the necessary adjustment to suit your particular needs.

First go to your root directory and make a subdirectory "TPK". You will need this during the installation and also there is a logic why we should do it this way, be patient for now. Go now to the subdirectory where the TPK-V181.EXE reside and extract the file (are you still there?). By now you have the read me file and several ZIP file together with the TPKINST. Install the program by typing "TPKINST GB <enter>. Do not forget the GB or else some other language will greet you instead of English. You will be greeted by the installation window and all you have to do now is answer them by pressing the return key or enter key if it is in accordance with the set-up earlier. If you have followed my recommendation earlier, you will find that default subdirectory is correct.

    TPK directory:C:\TPK\
    Uploads(remote access) :C:\TPK\UPLOAD\
    Uploads (syssop) :C:\TPK\PRIV_UP\
     ----- CUT -------
    Language:ENGLISH
    Serial Port Speed:1200
    Hardware Flow Control:CTS
    Serial Driver:INT 14 <--this is very important
    Video display lines: <your choice>
    Display type: <your choice>
    Mouse used (Y/N): <press enter>
    Number of your next personal message:2 <but then your choice>
    Validation Y/N:Yes (and press enter)

After the validation, the different subdirectory will be created as you have installed it. (Done now? Not quite yet, Dr. Watson...)

Go to the "TPK" subdirectory and delete the CONFIG.TPK. (don't worry). Go to the BAY-TPK subdirectory and copy the following files to the "TPK" subdirectory: TB2.BAT   (whichever you configure

earlier), TFPCX286.EXE, TFPCX.INI, TNCDED.EXE, BTPK.COM, CONFIG.TPK (edited earlier)

After moving the files we are at last ready. As soon as the program is running there is an on-line help that you can avail of by pressing ALT key and H (Alt-H) for help. I have a few more recommendation or advice if you may allow me to digress further.

1. All the files mentioned are available at Muddy Water Computer Society Bulletin Board and much more. If you have a friend and is willing to download them for, all is well. But inquiring about membership can prove to be the more practical way to go.

2. Move to any unused channel for testing (monitor first is a sound reminder), so as not to disturb the tranquillity of the of 145.070 and the BBS itself. We owe Doug, VE4KV and the rest of the group for giving us a place to thrive upon and we should at least try to preserve it (at least that's how I believe).

3. The only reason that the entire program will crash is when you purposely re-arrange the order of file in your batch file, other than that you are safe from any eventualities. (Sometimes you need the reset button but you will destroy anything only your the sanity)<VBG>.

4. If the configuration is totally unacceptable to the program it will give you enough warning and it will continue executing. Exit and review. The hardest part is reading the manual, but I believe I have explained enough here. Continue ,the road is all clear for you.

5. If it seems running smoothly, at least give notice to Doug, VE4KV that you have enable the Broadcast Feature and ready to SURF the airwaves. Again you can do this yourself by changing your configuration in the bulletin board itself but a matter of courtesy is very much appreciated. That will be the first mail you will sent out using TPK, isn't that great?

6. Get hold of the WARP Manual (which will soon be a motion picture) and read the section Winnipeg and Manitoba info, You will find support (not when you are lonely) on how the whole packet system in Manitoba operates, tips and tricks from the Masters themselves.

7. Borrowing a line or two from the Manual "TPK is the best thing since sliced bread...the other downside to using TPK is that it is easy to use, that packet almost becomes boring!...Karl, VE4KHS"

8. I would like to give the credit to Alain, VE2MTV for putting together the file BAY-TPK.ZIP and some of his translation and comment.
    Enjoy, and happy Packeting
    VE4SVB will be back, Installing KA9Q/G1EMM NOS, Super Packet V6.10, Multi-TNC for Baycom and BPQ for Baycom.

AMEATEUR RADIO "Q-SIGNALS" FOR CW USE ONLY
Extracted from ARRL internet server

QNA Answer in prearranged order.
QNC All net stations copy.
QND Net is directed.
QNE Entire net stand by.
QNF Net is free.
QNG Take over as net control station.
QNI Net stations report in.
QNM You are QRMing the net.
QNN Net control station is [call sign].
QNO Station is leaving the net.
QNP Unable to copy you.
QNS Following stations are in the net.
QNT I request permission to leave the net.
QNU The net has traffic for you.
QNX You are excused from the net
QNY Shift to another frequency.
QNZ Zero beat your signal with mine.
QRG Will you tell me my exact frequency?
QRH Does my frequency vary?
QRJ Are you receiving me badly?
QRK What is the intelligibility of my signals?
QRL Are you busy?
QRM Is my transmission being interfered with?
QRN Are you troubled by static?
QRO Shall I increase power?
QRP Shall I decrease power?
QRQ Shall I send faster?
QRS Shall I send more slowly?
QRT Shall I stop sending?
QRU Have you anything for me?
QRV Are you ready?
QRX When will you call me again?
QRY What is my turn?
QRZ Who is calling me?

QSA What is the strength of my signals?
QSB Are my signals fading?
QSD Is my keying defective?
QSG Shall I send messages?
QSK Can you hear between your signals?
QSL Can you acknowledge receipt?
QSM Shall I repeat the last message?
QSN Did you hear me?
QSO Can you communicate with me?
QSP Will you relay?
QST General call preceding a message.
QSU Shall I send or reply on this frequency?
QSW Will you send on this frequency?
QSX Will you listen?
QSY Shall I change frequency?
QSZ Shall I send each word more than once?
QTA Shall I cancel message?
QTB Do you agree with my counting of words?
QTC How many messages have you to send?
QTH What is your location?
QTR What is the correct time?