

# Newscaster

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

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Newsletter Editor  
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December 1994

## Annual Xmas Party Everyone is Welcome

Date: December 12, 1994  
Time: 7:30 p.m.  
Place: Sturgeon Creek Regional Secondary School

### Other Important Dates:

WARC: Jan 9, Feb 13, Mar 13 - Future meetings  
2nd Weekend of June - Field Day  
WSC:  
ARES: Dec 20 Meeting @ EOC  
Jan 17 Meeting @ St. John Ambulance  
Other: Dec. 18 - Santa Net - following MRS net.

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: Keri Kazuk - VE4KER  
Flea Market: Alan McIlwain - VE4AKM  
Members at Large: Jeff Dovyak - VE4MBQ (Wpg EC)

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

Welcome to an early issue of *the Newscaster*. The reason I say this is that right now I am relaxing on a beach in the land of AH6. I wrote this edition way back during our first snow storm in November. I hope everyone is having a good Christmas Season, and that if your are drinking, please don't drive.

The other day I receive a phone patch from way up north. It seems that good old St. Nick wants to chat with all the young OM & YL's in VE4 land. He has set up a sked for December 18th, right after the MRS 2m net. This will be on the various linked repeaters. So please check in. Last year Santa had many good contacts, and looks forward to updating his log book with even more this year.

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 Barret, VE4ABA

It was good to see seventy five members who came to the last meeting. Now that the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club has almost 200 members, this is a pretty good turn out. The program by Lee, VE4NAC was very interesting, with straight forward information on all types of wire antennas shown. Now that the snow is here it's time to get to work and try them out. Thank you very much Lee.

ARES Adverse Weather Tip.

Keep a 2 meter portable radio on when sitting around the house during adverse weather - as another HAM might require your assistance.

This month will be our annual Christmas meeting. I would like to see as many members & non-members come out as possible, (*ed note: why not bring out the XYL or YL or OM*) since the club will be giving a gift to the lucky winner of a draw. You must be a member of WARC to win, and you must be present. There will be no formal program this month except the draw and door prizes, and of course a good old festive seasonal get together.

The Executive of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club wish all members, family & friends a very merry Christmas & a pleasant New Year. Please do not drink and drive.

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

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Since this is the last issue for 1994, perhaps it would be appropriate to present a brief review of what has transpired in our Club since January.

Firstly, on the equipment side, as a result of much effort and expertise from Roy, VE4ROY, Eb, VE4ZI, Gary, VE4YH, and many willing helpers, our antenna systems are well and truly overhauled and grounded, our satellite antenna system has been raised by one tower section for better performance, and thanks to Roy, we have a new R7 added to the G5RV for the Icom 740.

Our thanks also to Harsha, with whose help we have received donations of additional computers from Muddy Waters Computer Society. These have been linked to operating room #1 and the satellite operating room to give us full Packet and Satellite backup for operating positions.

In Education, Adam, VE4SN has reorganized the Basic Theory and Code training schedule to reflect training needs and this has been very successful thanks to the willing cooperation of the Instructors and participation of the students. Another innovation has been the addition of Course followup hands on instruction in the use of Club equipment. This will be introduced in early January. An Advanced Course is also on the slate for January.

Socially, we had a great Picnic in September, thanks to Mike, VE4ABV, and once again, many appreciated helpers. Mike is also organizing the Annual Xmas Party which will be held on December 15th. Monthly Breakfasts at the Norlander have been enjoyed by all, for which we are indebted to Keith, VE4BC, and to Tom, VE4TSM. The morning Seniors Net is another success, thanks to Jim, VE4AJR, and to all the Net Controllers.

For all of the above and for other accomplishments too many to include here, a huge THANK YOU ! to all from the Club.

Have a very Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.

### **ARES Committee Report** **by Jeff, VE4MBQ**

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I am pleased to report that David Rosner and I have successfully completed the Plans & Operations (Peace) Course taught by the Manitoba Emergency Measures Organization in early November at RCMP "D" Division. As Hams we treated ourselves to a tour of "201 Telecom" - the RCMP Communications Centre as a graduation treat.

The Winnipeg ARES Emergency Plan has been **EXTENSIVELY REVISED**. The new plan was presented at the November meeting. Any Winnipeg ARES members who do not have a copy should call me to arrange getting one as soon as possible. The guest speaker at the November meeting was Major McKenzie from the Salvation Army who told us about their disaster operations. I will be exploring the idea of providing limited communications support to them.

The next meeting is as usual on the third Tuesday of the month: **Tuesday 20 December**. This is particular meeting is open to only registered Winnipeg ARES members (bring your ID cards). We will have a tour of the city of Winnipeg Emergency Operations Centre (where our VE4EOC Stations is located) as well as a presentations by City Emergency Co-ordinator Mark Bennett. Meet in the central tunnel under City Hall between 6:45 and 7:00 PM. The first meeting in the new year will be back at St. John Ambulance on Tuesday 17 January, 1995.

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

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While not directly related to Ham Radio, you may want to try this trick. Instead of using a paint brush to apply contact cement, try using a piece of closed-cell 1 plastic packing material. The pink stuff doesn't dissolve and an applicator about an inch wide by six inches long and half an inch thick works just as well as a brush and costs nothing. The 'costs nothing' is the Ham Radio part.

### **MINUTES FOR W.A.R.C. - Nov 1994**

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Meeting began 7:40 PM at Sturgeon Creek High School, VE4ABA presiding. Introductions 50-60 present

Minutes of previous meeting approved as printed in Newscaster. moved VE4VQ, seconded VE4UX  
CARRIED

There was no correspondence

Treasurer's Report: Presented by VE4YH

As of September 30, the club had a balance of \$4866.03

Upcoming expenses: \$321.00 to St. James-Assiniboia School Division for rental of our meeting room. RAC membership \$36.00, 2 x \$36.00 for memberships to RAC given away at the Flea Market. Balance as of November 14 \$6722.20. VE4YH will be writing a cheque for \$572.00 for Newscaster printing, and for approximately \$400.00 for postage.

Auditor's Report presented by VE4SN as per photocopy attached. VE4MP recommended lowering club dues. VE4ABA demurred, noting that the club will have better prizes for our meetings, and had plans to spend money on club projects.

#### Standing Committees

Education VE4OV advised that both the code class and the basic class were doing well. The CW class knew the entire alphabet, and was preparing for the exam. There are three more code classes then the final exam. VE4OV is already giving mini tests to prepare his students. VE4OV thanked VE4SN for his assistance on two occasions, and VE4GV for his presentation on contesting. VE4OV also noted that the basic class was doing well.

ARES VE4MBQ noted that there will be a joint US/Canadian ARES drill around Sprague, MB on Saturday. He will be monitoring from EMO headquarters. VE4MBQ asked that all ARES members unable to attend the ARES meeting tomorrow evening see him tonight.

Newscaster VE4HAY asked all members to read the letter on the page of the Newscaster, sign it and mail it to their Member of Parliament and to the Minister of Industry. VE4HAY stressed the importance of mailing this form ASAP. VE4HAY requested articles for the Newscaster, ASAP, since he was going on vacation in December. He thanked VE4AKI for his articles.

Other VE4HAY spoke about the club bulk purchase of 9913 cable. He has a deal on Carol Cable equivalent to 9913 for .61 cents per foot. Carol and Belden specifications are identical. Belden price .71 cents per foot. This cable will be purchased locally. To date, he has sold 2350 ft, and needs 150 ft more. If anyone is interested, see VE4HAY. Make cheques out to VE4HAY, and he will write one cheque to supplier. VE4HAY also noted an article which he received in the mail, re ALEA report. There is a plan afoot to launch 26 Low Earth Orbit

satellites, in 1994 and 1995 using a frequency of 137-150 MHz. (2 meters is right in the middle of this allocation) VE4HAY has turned this information over to VE4EF our RAC representative for further investigation.

Flea Mkt VE4AKM had little to report. The Spring Flea Market has been booked. He will book Waverley Heights Community Club for fall 1995, soon. VE4GD suggested that WARC cancel our fall Flea Market, since there will be a flea market in conjunction with the Austin Hamfest in the fall of 1995 After some discussion, VE4ABA stated that the executive will look into this.

Field Day VE4ABA spoke about Field Day, and requested a volunteer to chair the Field Day committee in 1995

#### New Business

VE4DRK spoke about a new Freenet available through Industry Canada. WARC could put information about our club on the Freenet. VE4MJM noted that University of Manitoba ARS has a page on the Freenet/Internet giving information about UMARS

VE4ABA urged everyone to mail in the form on the back page of the Newscaster

VE4ABA announced that VE4ANC will be giving the presentation this evening.

VE4ABA announced the December meeting will be a Christmas Party. There will be a fabulous prize given away. Only WARC members will be eligible, and must be present to win.

VE4OV reminded everyone to vote for VE4EF for Midwest Director. Voting closes November 18.

VE4MP suggested using excess funds to purchase an portable amplifier to use at meetings. VE4ABA is repairing an amplifier donated by VE4HAY. It might be ready soon.

VE4AND asked about the next jacket order. His jacket needs repair, but the company will not fix it until we give them an order of 12 or more jackets. VE4YH asked if anyone saw VE4CY frequently. VE4YH has been holding VE4CY jacket for over a year. VE4UX will deliver the jacket.

Question from the audience: what is our membership? VE4KER responded 195 members.

VE4RY thanked VE4GO and VE4FP for donating the large pile of magazines for this months swap and shop.

An involved discussion re standards for interference then took place.

Business meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm -VE4GD  
Raffle prize draw: screwdriver set VE4QEW, bag of PL259's VE4VQ

Presentation on Wire Antennas, or "Windom Wisdom" by Lee VE4ANC. VE4ANC gave a very illuminating and interesting presentation on simple and not-so-simple antennas. This program was aimed at the ham just getting started in HF operations. Everyone learned something useful from VE4ANC. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm

### **REPEATER ETIQUETTE** **by Dan VE4SYG**

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Taken from O.C.A.R.C. June 1994 Newsletter courtesy VE7MET. Thanks to the editor VE7TGR for letting me use this information.

1. Some repeaters are for local monitoring and phone patch use. These are a party line where most amateurs listen. Keep your calls short such as one or two minutes. If you wish to chit chat, then QSY to another commercially powered repeater such as 147.390 or to a simplex frequency such as 146.52 or 147.33.

2. When making a call on a repeater, make sure that if you have just turned your rig on, wait for a while to make sure no one is using the frequency. If you have an urgent call or phone patch to make, no one minds breaking off a QSO to allow you access to the patch.

3. Remember that ham frequencies and the phone patch are intended for personal use only, and that they can not be used for business use. Also remember that calls of a personal nature should be saved for a landline to save both you and other listening parties any embarrassment.

4. Avoid keying your mike just to see if the repeater or your rig is working. This is commonly referred to as "kerchunking" the repeater. It is very annoying to those listening and is not at all necessary in these modern days with very reliable equipment. This habit also places unnecessary strain on repeater equipment. (*ed note. If you must do this please ID*)

5. When calling another station be sure to speak their call sign and yours very clearly and slowly. Make sure you speak into your mike in a normal voice. It is not necessary to speak loudly when you are in a noisy environment as this just over-modulates your signal making it inaudible.

6. The only time it is necessary for you to give someone else's callsign over the air is when you are calling them. Example: "VE4ABC, this is VE4XYZ". At the end of a QSO, it is only necessary to give your own callsign. Example: "VE4XYZ clear". You do not have to say "VE4ABC, this is VE4XYZ clear".

7. Avoid the use of unnecessary words. Avoid the use of jargon from other bands such as the CB and commercial bands. Avoid the use of "Q" codes, these are meant to be used for cw and have a very special use there.

8. Remember that simplex vhf frequencies and the hf bands are suitable for rag-chew and long conversations. On local repeaters, especially the phone patch and calling repeater, calls should be kept reasonably short. Use your own GOOD judgement.

### **RADIO ETIQUETTE** **by Dan VE4SYG**

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Taken from O.C.A.R.C. June 1994 Newsletter courtesy VE7MET. Thanks to the editor VE7TGR for l

1. When using your hand held, make sure that you hold the radio and the antenna vertically to ensure that the best possible signal reaches the repeater. Remember that all local vhf communications use vertical polarization.

2. Be sure to speak directly into your microphone with your lips almost touching the mike, or not more than an inch or two away. Speak in a normal volume of voice. Don't whisper, and don't talk too loud either. (*ed note: I have found it best to talk across the mic, it avoids popping sound of the letters P, B etc..*)

3. If using a hand held. use high power when ever possible, as using low power in many areas, especially inside a building, does not provide a suitable signal into the repeater. Remember, if it is worth saying, then you might as well say it so others can hear you clearly. (*ed note: use as much power as you need to make 100% contact with the repeater, Do not use excessive power is not required*)

4. Experiment on your own hand held or mobile, using low power to see how well you are received, so that you can use low power in situations when you need to conserve battery power.

5. When recharging your nicad batteries in your handheld, it is best to let them discharge completely before you recharge them. Nicad batteries develop a memory of when they are empty, so you don't want them

to think that half empty is empty, or eventually that is all you will get from them.

6. Most nicad batteries in handhelds, take 15 or 16 hours to become fully charged when using a wall charger. Avoid charging your batteries for short periods, for the same reasons as stated above.

7. If your battery is almost ready for the charger, a good way to drain it completely, is to leave the light on for a while as this extra current drain helps to discharge it faster.

8. When changing from a repeater frequency to a simplex frequency, make sure that you set your duplex/simplex switch to the proper mode, otherwise you won't be heard.

9. When ever possible, hook your hand held up to an outside antenna as this significantly increases your range and ensures that you will be heard clearly.

10. Before engaging in a conversation or relaying some vital information to another station, make sure that you have made contact and established that the other station can hear you clearly.

11. Remember for the most effective communications possible, speak clearly, in a normal tone of voice. Do not speak to quickly. Keep contacts on the phone patch repeater to a reasonable length.

### **How to add Binary transfer capability to the Baycom Unit?** **by JERRY, VE4SVB**

One excellent area of interest in our Bulletin Board system (VE4KV) is its File Section. Inside this section we can avail ourselves literally tons (gigabytes) of information on various subject (Amateur Radio). A very good example of these files are the different modification or improvement of various ham gear, from the obscure brand to the most popular known to Amateur Radio community. If you are operating a packet station, information like these are just a few keystrokes away.

Unfortunately, the Baycom program version 1.5 do not offer this capability. There was a slight mention about this capability somewhere in the documentation but it was unclear if it was coming or will be integrated in the next version, that is if they will choose to upgrade the software. In this particular requirement we are left with a half-baked program. Problem Like this will not go

amiss, so don't feel frustrated and feel left out in the big league.

#### **B-YAP to the Rescue**

B-Yap program is a derivative of the original Yapp Packet program protocol simply called Yapp (Yet Another Packet Protocol) develop mainly for Binary transfer. Saku, OH1KH ported this program to operate inside the Baycom program itself. The software developer of the Baycom team decided to add an extra function to the program "ST Macro". With a combination of the ALT key, you can send various command or text on the screen with a touch of that combination (good enough for me). So, that is how we are going to configure your present Baycom Version 1.5.

The latest version available is the 4THBYAP.ZIP. This program is available once again from our friendly landline bulletin Board, The Muddy Water Computer Society. It is located inside the HAMRADIO Conference (9). This program is uploaded by Michael, VE4MJM thanks to him of course.

Inside the program you will find the following program: BYAP.CFG - the configuration file, direct where the various files are located and the process output. BYAP.DOC Documentation (I know you, you know this one..<G>) BYAPC.EXE Main program for Download (fr BBS to you) BYAPT.EXE - Main program for Upload (in case you want to give..<G>) WHATSNEW.TXTA simple update news on what is added since last ! - a notice that simply tells, let's go Yapping.

Putting them together is a minor inconvenience but the result is excellent. Careful attention should be given to CFG file for a more automated operation. The documentation is simple enough and there will be no major alteration from your Baycom program (SCC.INI). I do not want to take the excitement of doing this upgrade for you right now and who knows you might be able to understand fully the capability of the "ST Macro" and probably come up with your own set of macros.

How about a Beacon Macro that will say " HOOKED ON PACKET WORKS FOR ME, B A Y C O M" or maybe "PIZZA PACKET". So until next time, happy YAPPING with BAYCOM.

*Thanks to Dan, VE4SYG for encouragement and support <VBG> Michael, VE4MJM for the challenge <VBG> Finally to All of you my inspiration. de VE4SVB.*

## **SUNSPOTS GOT YOU DOWN?** **by Tom, VE4AKI**

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As we slide down the sunspot cycle graph toward the bottom you have probably found the nature of your H.F. activity to be changing. DX is harder to find, there are more days of poor propagation and skeds are less reliable. If you don't have H.F. privileges yet you may feel that it is not worth your time to upgrade.

Well, even though the lack of sunspots is having a significant effect on H.F. propagation all is not lost.

The best approach to surviving a sunspot minimum is look for a new challenge with rewarding and attainable goal. This can take many forms. Why not try a new mode? If you have operated only SSB/CW why not try RTTY or AMTOR? A modest investment to get on this mode will be rewarded by new experiences and meeting new and different operators. Working all states on RTTY would be an attainable goal during this period.

What about trying a new band you have not used much, such as 160m or 80m? you may have to be innovative to erect a good antenna for these bands as well as become familiar with a different pattern of propagation. Your knowledge of these classic HAM bands and how to get on them will increase maintaining your enthusiasm for HAM radio.

Why not try some AM operation? This classic mode is available on many new transceivers. My experience has been that of meeting a different type of operator and a more relaxed style of operating. If your rig is not capable of operating AM you might consider restoring some classic equipment from the 1950's. Flea markets often have rigs prized by many HAMS a generations ago at low prices. Radios that "glow in the dark" might warm up those cold winter evenings through the slump.

Have you constructed any of your station? Why not try some homebrew? (the solder together kind that is) Many station accessories such as antenna tuners, wattmeters, microphones, etc.. make good beginner projects with low investment. The experience will increase your knowledge of electronics.

Have you tried satellite operation? The R5 birds are easy to work with modest equipment. Lets keep 10M active during this period.

Maybe this lull in H.F. activity is a blessing in disguise. It could be your opportunity to become more involved in another type of amateur radio activity. Maybe you have some skill of knowledge you can put to

use in a club activity. Have you tried to teach a ham class, or organized a flea market? What about doing a presentation on your favourite topic at a club meeting? Maybe just offering your services to "Elmer" a new ham will sustain your enthusiasm. Don't let your spirits sag like the sunspot cycle. You get out of it as much as you put in, so put some effort into something new and you will be rewarded with new experiences and enthusiasm.

## **Winnipeg Scanner Listeners Net** **by Ed, VE4EAR**

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Winnipeg Scanner Listeners Net Every Wednesday evening since early September, a devoted group of scanner and HF utility monitoring enthusiasts have gathered on VE4WPG at 9:00 p.m. local time. For the next 60 to 90 minutes, a wide variety of topics related to the hobby are presented and discussed.

Topics have included the City of Winnipeg Police, Fire and Ambulance radio systems, R.C.M.P., Natural Resources, Aircraft and Low Power services. Special features on equipping your monitoring station and selecting the appropriate accessories and general Canadian frequency allocations have also presented. Each net is started with a short presentation on a timely subject followed by a question and answer session. Check-ins are invited to ask questions or share information relevant to the hobby. The net also features a weekly "Tip of the Week" where some hint or useful technique(???) or information is presented and discussed.

Another new addition to the net is the weekly skill testing question. Each week, a new technical question is asked with the answer being provided the following week. One of the benefits of running this net is the number of non-amateurs that are listening in. It is hoped that the net combined with their interest in radio as a hobby will provide the incentive for them to get their amateur licenses. I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to the MRS for allowing us to use VE4WPG to conduct these nets. If you have an interest in the hobby, please join us on Wednesday evenings. Everyone is welcome and the more people that contribute, the greater the fun and benefits for everyone!

## **Grenfell's Oldest HAM** **by Vern, VE4VQ**

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His name is Leo Sherer, VE5DT. I found him while doing a bit of genealogical research on my Fotheringham relatives in and around Grenfell. No, the famous Allan is

not one of them. Although raised as a Fotheringham on a farm near Grenfell, Allan was an adopted child.

Leo, too, was a farm lad with an older sister, Josie. It was she who obtained her licence, VE4BC, in 1929. Leo then obtained his Certificate of Proficiency a year later, which allowed him to finish assembling the equipment for their first station and operate it. However, the big Depression, and the drought, brought an end to radio work for a few years. Josie married and, in 1935, was able to reactivate her station, now VE5QB, on her new home farm at Glenavon where she continued her radio work amongst the many chores of a farm wife and mother.

In the meantime, Leo was finally able to get his licence, VE5DT, in 1936, which let him communicate regularly with his sister at Glenavon - a not-inconsiderable boon in those far-off days of mud roads and Bennett buggies. The location given on that licence was NW1/4-12-16-8 W2 where, nearly half a century later, Leo's station is still located and where Leo operates about three times each week during the summer. Now 85, Leo has a suite in the Seniors Citizens' Complex in Grenfell while one of his nephews, who farms at Glenavon, runs the Sherer farm for Leo. This forces Leo to take his receiver into town each fall to become a winter-time SWL.

Over several cups of tea, Leo talked of his years in the RCAF, mostly spent doing telephone installations at the numerous bases that were established on "the island" in the early years of the war and ending with equipment maintenance and repair at RCAF Sidney north of Victoria.

Leo's talk of the then-newly-built airport at Sidney brought back vivid memories of my visit to Sidney then days earlier when I had visited with one of my former Scouters and his wife. In June, they had moved from Winnipeg to their new retirement home across the road that bounds the north side of Victoria's airport at Sidney. No, they will never have planes taking off over their house as I gather that, in that land of vertical protuberances, there is room only for one runway and that is on an E-W axis.

When I had turned in off the Trans-Canada to explore Grenfell and its environs, I had no idea that my interests in Ham radio would pay off so handsomely. Thank you, Leo for making my Grenfell visit such a memorable one.

### **U.S.A recent Call Signs extracted from the Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club - Feedline Oct/94**

This list shows the last call sign in each group assigned as of June 1994. For more info write to FCC, Consumer Assistance Branch, Gettysburg, PA, 17325-7245

| Radio District | GroupA<br>Extra | GroupB<br>Adv. | GroupC<br>Gen | GroupD<br>Novice |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|
| 0              | AA0RB           | KG0NH          |               | KB0MXY           |
| 1              | AA1JE           | KD1VA          | N1RYS         | KB1BIA           |
| 2              | AA2SH           | KF2VK          | N2YTZ         | KB2QZD           |
| 3              | AA3HV           | KE3NE          | N3SBK         | KB3BCD           |
| 4              | AD4SJ           | KR4SZ          |               | KE4MHX           |
| 5              | AB5UH           | KJ5XX          |               | KC5GWN           |
| 6              | AC6CM           | KO6CP          |               | KE6HQM           |
| 7              | AB7CN           | KI7YS          |               | KC7CQR           |
| 8              | AA8OX           | KG8JB          |               | KB8STD           |
| 9              | AA9KX           | KF9VT          | N9ZAD         | KB9IYE           |
| N.Mariana Is   | KH0D            | AH0AS          | KH0CR         | WH0AA Y          |
| Gaum           | WH2E            | AH2CU          | KH2JL         | WH2AA Y          |
| Johnston Is.   | AH3D            | AH3AB          | KH3AG         | WH3AA G          |
| Midway Is.     |                 | AH4AB          | KH4AG         | WH4AA H          |
| Hawaii         |                 | AH6NG          | WH6UQ         | WH6CRG           |
| Kure Is.       |                 |                | KH7AA         |                  |
| Am. Somoa      | AH8J            | AH8AG          | KH8BF         | WH8ABB           |
| Wake Wilkes    | AH9C            | AH9AD          | KH9AE         | WH9AA I          |
| Alaska         |                 | AL7PQ          | WL7SN         | WL7CHQ           |
| Virgin Is.     | WP2N            | KP2CC          | NP2HM         | WP2AHU           |
| Puerto Rico    |                 | KP4WU          |               | WP4MPE           |

### **Invite A Criminal to Dinner or what not to say on the radio by James, KD1FW**

After reading an interesting article in a magazine from our friends at Newington, I felt security needed emphasis. Here are some scenarios:

A couple of hams discuss travel on the club repeater. One says he is going to Dayton; the other says he will leave next Wednesday for a month-long vacation.

## **D AND E WELDING**

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Specialized Welding Repairs of  
Antennas and Towers  
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for Repeaters or Ham Shacks

Another ham uses the autopatch to tell his wife not to prepare dinner for him, as he will be going out for the evening.

All these everyday events would be harmless but for one detail. They are transmitted over the air, where anyone can listen. Anyone includes the unscrupulous. With the help of a Callbook, a thief can use what he hears to his advantage. Thus, you could become a victim of your own words. It's not something you would wish on yourself or on others.

You can do something about it. You can be careful what you say on the air, especially when it concerns a trip, an evening out, who's minding the store, etc.. You could even change you ham license address to a P.O. box, to keep you real address from future Callbook editions. But above all, don't lull yourself into believing, "It will never happen to me."

*via the W4Cn BBS and the April'93 Amateur Radio Transmitting Society (Louisville,KY) "WATTS NEW" - Mark, K4OKX, Editor*

**RF POWER  
CONNECTORS FOR SALE**

|                                 |       |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| U300 PL-259 nickel .....        | 1.25  |
| U301 PL-259 silver .....        | 1.65  |
| U303 PL-259 gold .....          | 4.00  |
| U307 RG-58/u reducer (n) .....  | .50   |
| U308 RG-58/u reducer (s) .....  | .65   |
| U309 RG-58/u reducer (g) .....  | 1.00  |
| U310 UHF fem. x UHF fem. ....   | 2.00  |
| U314 UHF right angle MxF .....  | 4.00  |
| U315 SO-239 nickel .....        | 1.50  |
| U316 UHF M x "N" fem. ....      | 4.00  |
| U318 UHF fem. bulkhead .....    | 3.00  |
| B503 BNC male 3 pc. crimp ..... | 1.50  |
| B507 BNC m. x fem. angle .....  | 3.00  |
| B513 BNC male x UHF fem. ....   | 3.00  |
| B517 BNC chassis mount .....    | 2.50  |
| R801 "N" T f-m-f adapter .....  | 7.00  |
| R804 "N" male x UHF fem. ....   | 4.00  |
| R821 "N" fem. panel mount ..... | 3.50  |
| R822 "N" male gold/silver ..... | 7.00  |
| Bulk PL-259 10xU300 .....       | 12.00 |
| 10xU301 .....                   | 15.00 |
| 10xR822 .....                   | 65.00 |
| Antenna compound 2oz .....      | 5.00  |

**Contact Gary Smith VE4YH  
Ph: 661-4158**

**News from RAC  
extracted from the RAC Bulletin (e-mail)**

**TOWER POLICY DUE THIS FALL**

The long awaited Industry Canada policy concerning antenna towers is expected soon. The new policy is expected to spell out a requirement that prior to erecting an antenna tower, Amateurs will have to first consult with municipal authorities. The new policy is expected to end arguments between municipalities and the federal government over who has legislative

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authority over the erection of antenna towers. Once the policy is decided, municipalities will be free to determine their own rules on towers.

**INTERESTED IN EME?**

If you are interested in moonbounce transmissions, EME (European Moonbounce Edition), may be of interest. It is published on a monthly basis and is circulated to about 50 subscribers in Europe, Asia and North America. The purpose of the news sheet is to share information, technical and otherwise. EME specializes on 144 MHz. For more details, contact Dan HB9CRQ, P.O. Box 12, CH-5737, Menziken, Switzerland. You can also reach him through Packet radio at HB9CRQ@HB9RF.CHE.EU, or by fax at +41 64 70 21 45. Your first bulletin is free so you can get a taste of what's being offered.

**EMCAB-2 ISN'T GOING ANY PLACE**

EMCAB-2 isn't going any place, according to Brent St. Denis, MP for Algoma. There have been a number of objections filed by various MPs and the document will be left to die.

This item is from the Algoma AR November club bulletin. Some would argue that the letters to MPs from Amateurs from across the Country may be having some effect. RAC has been very active in lobbying against EMCAB-2. Amateurs are reminded that their views are important on this vital issue and they should consider writing their MP. For guidance, refer to November TCA.



## **MICHIGAN STATE RULES REGARDING VHF MOBILE EQUIPMENT**

From the Algoma AR bulletin

Check with Michigan State Police before travelling with radio equipment in this State. It appears that anyone carrying a receiver capable of tuning police frequencies is facing confiscation of their equipment. If you are a licensed Amateur and can produce a Police issued authorization card, you are apparently exempt.

## **PACKET HUMOUR**

From the Happy Club, Miguel KB4WWE

Apparently heard on VHF marine radio:

**FIRST VOICE:** Our radar has you on a collision course with us. You should alter course 10 degrees South

**SECOND VOICE:** We have you on our radar. Suggest you alter course 10 degrees North.

**FIRST VOICE:** We have Admiral Goodman on board. Strongly suggest you bear 10 degrees South. This is a battleship.

**SECOND VOICE:** This is Seaman Farnsworth. Still suggest you bear 10 degrees North. This is a lighthouse!

## **CW ONLY RELIABLE MEANS OF COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE POLE**

Canadian Press item from the Thunder Bay Chronicle-Journal

Ships with up-to-date communications equipment have the occasional need for a more dependable mode. A recent Canadian Press article reports that the Canadian Coast Guard icebreaker, Louis St. Laurent, and the American Coast Guard icebreaker, Polar Sea, had successfully reached the North Pole. Captain David Johns, a Coast Guard spokesman in Ottawa, reported that communications had become unreliable on Monday, August 22 while the ships were at the Pole.

According to the report, "For most of Monday, the only communications with the two ships was by Morse code because electromagnetic interference from the Pole made voice transmission impossible by either radio or satellite telephone. A Canadian Press reporter managed to receive a barely decipherable voice transmission from the Louis on Monday night, but could not make himself heard."

The ships are the first North American surface ships to reach the North Pole. US, British and Russian submarines have made the trip beneath the surface many times. Surface ships from Sweden and Germany as well as four Russian ships, some with tourists aboard,

routinely cross the Pole. Thanks to the Lakehead ARC bulletin for this item.

## **ARES MESSAGE HANDLING SOFTWARE AVAILABLE**

The Utah County Amateur Radio Emergency Service has developed an excellent software program for handling ARES traffic on Packet radio. The program was written by Larry Driskill KE7AEW and David Martin WA7FFM. The program, which runs on a PC, is available free of charge to non-profit groups involved in emergency communications thanks to the software developers and Utah County ARES.

Recently tested by Kingston, Ontario ARES, the program was found to run flawlessly. If this software interests you, write to Queen N7HMF, 1087 North 506 West, Orem, Utah 84057.

## **NO CHANGE ON CW REQUIREMENT**

From Amateur Radio Newsline - September 1994

The Administrative Council of the International Amateur Radio Union Region 3, met in Singapore in September. A resolution concerning the requirement in the Radio Regulations for a demonstration of Morse code ability for operators before being licensed to use Amateur frequencies below 30 MHz was adopted.

Consistent with the views of the member-societies as expressed through the regional organizations, the IARU will neither propose nor support a change in the requirement at this time.

## **TELEPHONE AND ELECTRICAL GROUNDING**

It is common practice in England to signal a telephone subscriber by signalling with 90 volts across one side of the two wire circuit and ground. When the subscriber answers the phone, it switches to the two wire circuit for the conversation. This method allows two parties on the same line to be signalled without disturbing each other.

One elderly subscriber called the telephone company to say that her phone sometimes failed to ring when her friends called. When it did ring, her dog always barked first.

A telephone serviceman was sent to locate the problem. Climbing a nearby telephone pole, he hooked in his test set and dialled the subscriber's house. The phone did not ring. He tried again. This time, the dog barked loudly and the phone rang. Here is what the serviceman discovered. The dog had been tied to the telephone system ground post via an iron chain and collar. When the phone rang, the dog was receiving 90

## MRS Palomar controllers

| <u>Hubs</u> | <u>Prefix</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Link 1 &gt;</u> | <u>Link 2 &gt;</u> | <u>Link 3 &gt;</u> | <u>Link 4 &gt;</u> |
|-------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| VE4MAN      | #46           | Starbuck        | VE4NEP             | VE4MIL             | VE4CDN             | VE4WPG/VJ          |
| VE4NEP      | #47           | Neepawa         | VE4MAN             | VE4BDN             |                    |                    |
| VE4MIL      | #42           | Milner Ridge    | VE4MAN             | VE4FAL             | VE4MBR             |                    |

### Non-MRS Palomar Controllers

|        |     |               |        |        |        |  |
|--------|-----|---------------|--------|--------|--------|--|
| VE4FAL | #40 | Falcon Lake   | VE3LWR | VE4MIL |        |  |
| VE4MBR | #43 | Selkirk       |        |        |        |  |
| VE3LWR | #30 | Kenora        | VE3RSN | VE4FAL |        |  |
| VE3RSN | #32 | Sioux Narrows | VE3LWR | VE3BRK | VE3DRY |  |
| VE3RBK | #34 | Blackhawk     | VE3RSN | VE3RLC |        |  |
| VE3RLC | #36 | Fort Francis  | VE3RBK |        |        |  |
| VE3DRY | #38 | Dryden        | VE3RSN |        |        |  |

### Link Repeaters

| <u>Repeater</u> | <u>Link &gt;</u> | <u>Location</u>   |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| VE4CDN          | VE4MAN           | St. Jean Baptiste |

### User Codes

| <u>Repeater to HUB</u> |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| 506                    | ON  |
| 505                    | OFF |

### Telemetry Codes

| <u>CW</u> |                | <u>Voice</u> |
|-----------|----------------|--------------|
| 04D       | Repeater test  | 099A         |
| 71A       | L1 Test on/off | 711A         |
| 72A       | L2 Test on/off | 722A         |
| 73A       | L3 Test on/off | 733A         |
| 74A       | L4 Test on/off | 733a         |
| 861       | Time (12 hour) | 8661         |
| 862       | Time (24 hour) | 8662         |
| 863       | Date           | 8663         |
| 864       | Day of week    |              |
| 09A       | Location       | 099D         |

### Link to HUB

| <u>L1</u> | <u>L2</u> | <u>L3</u> | <u>L4</u> |     |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----|
| 701       | 702       | 703       | 704       | ON  |
| 710       | 720       | 730       | 740       | OFF |

**NOTE:** Prefix all commands on local Palomar Controllers with a \* and remote Controllers with their **PREFIX** (ie. #47)

volts of signalling current. After several jolts, the dog urinated on the ground and started barking. Finally, the wet ground conducted the current and the phone rang.

The London Amateur Radio Club bulletin carried this item which was downloaded from Internet.

## TALK TO SANTA CLAUS by VE4HOHO

Get ready for it! Get your harmonics by the 2 meter rig, and in the Christmas spirit! The Manitoba Repeater Society will have the second annual "Talk to Santa Claus" net, immediately after the 2 meter net on Sunday, December 18. Yes, Santa will put in an appearance, live and direct from the North Pole, while he makes last minute preparations for his big ride. Maybe Rudolph and a few of the other reindeer will drop by for a visit, too. Santa Claus has agreed to spend about an hour, talking on the radio with any youngsters in the crowd. MRS welcomes anyone with young children to take part in the net.