

# News caster

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

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January 1995

## Nicad Batteries How to care for them By Alan, VE4AKM

Date: January 9, 1995

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Sturgeon Creek Regional Secondary School

### Other Important Dates:

WARC: Feb 13, Mar 13 - Future meetings  
2nd Weekend of June - Field Day

WSC: Jan 13 - Norlander Smorg  
Jan 18 - Board Meeting  
Mar 15 - General Meeting

ARES: Jan 17 - Meeting @ St. John Ambulance

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

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

Well, I came back, not that I wanted to, but the funds ran a little dry. The land of KH6 was great. I had wonderful time, and found out that I can float in salt water (not like fresh water where I sink like a rock). I managed to find a variety of repeaters, all quite workable from the hotel. This took some doing as they are not very active compared to the mainland. But still, I managed to find a few who would talk to a foreign callsign. I also managed to check-in to their nightly net on 2 mtrs. This net is run under the Emergency Amateur Radio Club (EARC) and is linked to 3 other repeaters (including 440 Mhz). On a couple of nights a week it moves to other repeaters, and once a month they run it out of the EOC for the city. They encourage all out of town callsigns to check-in, and I did. I was welcomed with great enthusiasm. While there I did not hear any other VE calls until the last day when I heard VE6HPZ. All in all a great time has had by myself, the XYL, and the little members of the family.

Now onto other matters. I hope everyone enjoyed the large newscaster last month. I seemed to have the time and people submitted their articles on time, so I was able to produce 10 pages. This month is a little different. Being as I arrived home 3 days ago, and slept for the first day. My work took the next 2 days, so I have one day left to write this newscaster. Thanks to VE4DAR & VE4APN, who submitted articles.

In keeping with this months meeting topic, I am trying to get a series of articles from the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club, who have just finished running a 4 part series on Rechargeable Batteries, by Doug, VE3SPF. When I get this series I will include it in the News caster. Until then please submit anything that you may have .

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**

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Hello to everyone, members or not, & welcome to 1995. The club closed out 94 with a successful Christmas party with snacks and all. I am sure everyone enjoyed themselves.

Now that the new year is upon us we can think of new programs to offer at the club meetings. To kick off 95, Allen VE4AKM has a program on Nicad batteries. Surely everyone has these little critters. So come out and have fun. Please bring a coffee cup, (for you java drinkers), if you can.

At this time I would like to say thank you to all the new hams who became WARC members at the last meeting. I think there was around fifteen new members added to the list. It's good to see the club grow, and great to make new friends.

The executive's New Years resolution is to provide a great year of meetings and gatherings. With that and on behalf of the entire WARC executive and myself I would like to extend our best wishes to everyone in the New Year and please do not drink and drive.

## **Winnipeg Senior Citizen's Radio Club. by Gil, VE4AG**

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The Xmas Party, held on Dec. 15 was a huge success, thanks to the efforts of about 30 volunteers, under the able direction of Mike VE4ABV. The XYLs provided the foodstuffs and serving support, and about 100 members and guests were served a very tasty and filling luncheon. The Annual General Meeting was held in the club rooms on December 21. Election of new officers and directors was part of the agenda, and the results are:

President - Adam Romanchuk, VE4SN  
Vice-President - Alf Keber, VE4ALF  
Secretary - Ian Rollo, VE4MAC  
Treasurer - Tom McRae, VE4TSM  
Past President - Martin Boyd, VE4AKA

### Directors:

John Agar, VE4EI; Ruth Breckman, VE4RMB; Bill Davis, VE4WU; Albert Diamond, VE4AX; Tom Faulkner, VE4PEG; Mike Fedak, VE4ABV; Lila Forrester, VE4LIL; Harvey Hanson, VE4CK; Harsha Godavari, VE4SAI; Lorne Kristjansson, VE4RLK; Colin McBeath, VE4JCM; im Ross, VE4AJR; Eberhard Schumann, VE4ZI, and Arch Tingley, VE4AAI.

Membership in the club over the past year has brought the number to 163 (8 were proposed and accepted during the AGM just held), the ATV station is ready to go, and many other exciting things are in the works. Better PR is proposed, and the club expects continuing growth during 1995.

Upcoming events include: the starting of the 'advanced theory' ham licence classes on January 5 (so far, 13 have signed up), and this will include CW if interest is shown; the monthly breakfast at the Norlander (smorg is now offered) January 13; the first meeting of the new executive December 28; the first meeting of the new board, January 18; and the first quarterly general meeting on March 15.

A big vote of thanks was given to the retiring president, Martin, VE4AKA, for a job well done; and a solid vote of confidence was given to our treasurer, Tom, VE4TSM, who has been handling the very difficult matter of the club's finances admirably during his terms of office.

Please continue to listen to, and check into, the Seniors' Net- 9 a.m. each morning, Monday to Friday. This bulletin under the byline of Adam, VE4SN, President; Prepared for packet by Gil, VE4AG - OBS (RAC).

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

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Ares is on Xmas holidays at press time and as such no article this month. Please keep you radio tuned and ready. A drill can happen at any time.

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

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For you new hams who think you can't learn Morse code, why not take advantage of everyday sources of code lessons?

Repeater VE4WPG sends the letter 'K' (-.-) at about 20 wpm after each transmission. If that's too fast for you, the 'busy' signal on a telephone is a letter 'T' (-) and a time signal is the letter 'E' (.) and, if these speeds are too fast, the train whistle at level crossings is the letter 'Q' (--.-) at about one word per minute.

Incidentally, when the word 'PARIS' is sent in five seconds, the speed is ten words per minute.

## MINUTES FOR W.A.R.C. - Dec 1994

Meeting began 0750 Barrett VE4ABA presiding.

Approximately 100 members in attendance Minutes of previous meeting were approved as printed in the Newscaster. moved Jeff VE4MBQ, Seconded Bill VE4JR. - CARRIED

### **Correspondence:**

WARC received a Christmas card from Pat VE4PLG and Dan VE4SYG from their new QTH in Kamloops.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Gary VE4YH announced that WARC has a balance of \$6416.00 in our bank account

### **Standing Committee Reports:**

Training: Rick VE4OV stated that sixteen amateurs wrote and passed the basic exam. This was greeted with a round of applause. The next basic class will begin Thursday January 26, 1995. The cost will be approximately \$190.00. Phone Sturgeon Creek Continuing Education department at 832-9637 for further information or to register. As for the HF and CW course, half passed recently, the other half should pass soon. There are no plans for a new course in 1995. The HF course had a party at Rick's house to celebrate. The last guest departed at 4:30 am, after working New York state on 80 meters.

- VE4OKP has the list of people who ordered 9913 cable from VE4HAY. See VE4OKP at the break.

**New Business:** VE4NQ has been re-issued to Pat Pettapiece son. The new VE4NQ is Brian. (There was some concern that a bootlegger was using this call)

- Michael VE4MJM advised that re the VE4NS or VE4SYG Baycom modems had an occasional problem

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with locking up on transmit. There is no time out feature. See VE4MJM for the answer to the problem.

- VE4UB has copies of the Blue Book, \$10.00 ea or 2 for \$20.00 (hi)

- VE4OV won a Grey Cup pool with a ticket from VE4UB

### **Adjournment** by Roy VE4EN

After the business meeting, the assembled multitude had a rousing Christmas party. One of the highlights was Judy VE4JBN's "Decorate the DXMas tree" contest. Alexander VE4APN won first prize, a package of Christmas candy. Anna VE4ANA won a PK12 packet controller, in the big WARC members only door prize draw. VE4SE won the usual 4 for a dollar raffle prize. He refused to share his tray of candy with the group. The party wound down about 9:30 pm

## **D AND E WELDING**

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## **No Code to Know Code By David, VE4DAR**

Now I ain't advertising myself as a hero or something, but I recently moved from "no code" to "know code".

Although I worked hard to get 5 wpm, I really want to get my to get my 12. The olde timers may say they took half as long to get twice as much and their exams were a lot tougher and ... but I really don't care, cause this here 5 endorsement will get me on 160 and 80m. But most of all, it'll get me back my mike from Smoke Eater! (Ask him; he just retired and needs to talk!)

Having attempted CW on my own about elebenteen times, I credit my getting started in code again to Rick VE4OV and Rob VE4GV, and the Senate at the Golden Arches, who kept encouraging me. Rick put together this course that really works, if you follow his advice TO THE LETTER. Use the right tapes; two 15-minute practices per day; write rather than print your letters; learn to listen before you learn to send, and ... well there's more. Thanks, Rick. Oh, bye the way, Golf Delta, I'll be asking to get back my 20m QRP rig any day now, so don't get too used to it, eh?

**WARP NEWS**  
**By VE7GWS@ve7kit.#vanc.bc.noam**

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**Twas the Night Before. . .**

Twat the night before barfing  
And all around town;  
Not a signal was stirring,  
Because KIT and ROB where down.

The TNC's were hung,  
No signals were there,  
As everyone waited,  
To go "on air."

With our TNC's counting retrys,  
and unprotos in non-connect mode;  
We were all waiting to handshake  
With any FBB node.

When out over the ether,  
There arose such a belch,  
I sprang to my rig  
And adjusted the squelch!

On my monitor I waited for characters to show,  
But alas not one L.E.D. on my TNC did glow.

Then what to my wondering eyes did appear,  
But a new FU mobile,  
Powered by 8 noisy cylin-deer.

More rapid than breakfast,  
His coursers they came,  
As he whistled and shouted  
And called them a foul name;

On Server! On BBS!  
On DOSgate! and DTE!  
On Cluster! On Data!  
On JNOS! and FTP!

To the top part of memory,  
To the hard disk install;  
Now upload and download;  
And file away all!

And then without warning,  
As I was checking my PMS,  
Came the Illustrious Ms. K.  
And the great RMS.

He was dressed all in red,  
A "big" belt 'round his belly;  
And it shook when he laughed,  
Like a jet full of jelly.

He was smoking (as usual),  
The smelly butt clinched in his teeth,  
And the smoke it encircled his head,  
Like a wreath.

He spoke many a word,  
When his wife gave permission;  
Then all of a sudden,  
There was a packet transmission!

Then giving me the finger,  
Aside of his noise,  
Up toward the doorway he rose.

Away to his vehicle,  
And to Ms. K. gave a whistle,  
And away they both flew,  
Like the down of a thistle.

But I heard him exclaim,  
As he drove down the road,  
"Join VAPO (**WARP**) this Christmas,  
And support your favorite Node!"

**Successful Second Santa Net**  
**by David, VE4DAR**

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With a tinkle of bells and a "Settle down you reindeer!" Santa began the Manitoba Repeater Society's second annual Santa Net on Sunday, December 18. Following the MRS Net, 16 children grabbed the opportunity to talk on 2 meters with Santa at the North Pole. They ranged in age from three (Eve) to nine years of age (Skye and Manda). Mindy (6) warmed old Santa's heart with "73 and 88". A few children listened intently but were mike shy. Apparently Santa was so charming that even Jessie RYSK9 tried to get in on the net! Thanks to all the Hams who helped Santa. Ho! Ho! Ho!

**HAM ?**  
**by Ken Brock N0BSM/VE4**  
**submitted by Alexander VE4APN**

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Have you ever wondered why a radio amateur is called a "HAM"?

Well it goes something like this--the word HAM was applied in 1908 and was the call letters of one of the first amateur wireless stations operated by some members of the Harvard Radio Club. They were A. Hyman, B. Almy and P. Murray. At first they called their station Hyman-Almy-Murray. Tapping out such a long name in

code soon called for a revision, and they changed it to Hy-AI-Mu, using the first two letters of each name. Early in 1909 some confusion resulted between signals from HYALMU and a Mexican ship named Myalmo, so they decided to use only the first letter of each name and identified their station as HAM. In the early pioneer and unregulated days of radio, amateur operators picked their own frequencies and call letters.

Then, as now, some amateurs had better signals than some commercial stations. The resulting interference finally came to the attention of Congressional Committees in Washington and they gave much thought to proposed legislation designed to critically limit amateur activity. In 1911, Albert Hyman chose the controversial Wireless Regulations Bill as the topic of his thesis at Harvard. His instructor insisted that a copy be sent to Senator David Walsh, a member of the committee hearing the Bill. The Senator was so impressed that he sent for Mr. Hyman to appear before the Committee. Hyman was put on the stand and described how the little amateur station, HAM, was built, and he almost cried when he told the crowded committee room that if the bill went through, they would have to close up the station because they could not afford the license fees and other requirements which were set up in the Bill. The debate started and the little station, HAM, became a symbol of all the little amateur stations in the country that were crying out to be saved from the menace and greed of the big commercial stations who didn't want them around. Finally the bill got to the floor of Congress and every speaker talked about the poor little station, HAM.

That's how it all got started. You can find the whole story in the Congressional Record. Nationwide publicity identified the station HAM with amateurs. From that time to this, and probably to the end of time, in radio, "Every radio amateur is a HAM".

### **RAC Report** **via E-mail**

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#### **HIGH SPEED CODE ANYONE?**

The World Wireless Beacon reports that Pacific Coast high speed practice skeds are currently running on 3523 and 7023 MHz, Mondays and Thursdays at 0330 UTC.

#### **HAM NEWS ABOUT CHINA**

*From Calgary ARA Key Klix  
Key Klix credits DL6RDE for the report.*

At the IARU Region 3 Conference in Singapore, the delegate of the Chinese Radio Sports Association,

BZ1HAM, submitted a document which gives the prefix line-up in China as follows:

- B VHF/UHF stations and contest stations on the mainland
- BA Class 1 individual home stations
- BD Class 2 individual home stations
- BG Class 3 individual home stations
- BO Jin Men (Quemoy) area of Taiwan
- BR Repeaters
- BSOH Huang Yan Dao (Scarborough Reef)
- BT Special events stations
- BV Taiwan BV9P Dong Sha Dao (Pratas)
- BY Club stations
- BZ Personal calls of club station operators, to be used at club stations only.

There are now 33 old-timers who have been issued permission to operate from their homes with the BA prefix. On July 17, China conducted an examination in 28 cities for the Class 3 individual home station license. About 1400 people took the examination and about 1000 are expected to pass. The main problem for most of these Amateurs will be obtaining equipment. Imported ham gear is too expensive for most of their pocket-books and ham gear is not made in China.

As of June, 1994, there were 99 club stations (BY) in China. About 200 Amateurs currently hold the BZ prefix call sign enabling them to use personal calls when operating from club stations.

#### **RAC MAILING ADDRESS CHANGE**

Radio Amateurs of Canada, Administrative Offices is located in Kingston. The postal box has been closed and mail is now being delivered directly to the office. Please address your mail to:

Radio Amateurs of Canada  
614 Norris Court Unit 6  
Kingston, OT K7P 2R9.

#### **ANTENNA TOWER POLICY CLARIFICATION**

The long awaited Industry Canada policy concerning antennas and antenna structures is expected soon. The delay is over the possible impact of new legislation governing environmental health factors and the limits of exposure to radio frequency fields. Our November Bulletin reported that the new policy was expected to spell out a requirement that prior to erecting an antenna tower, Amateurs would first have to consult with municipal authorities.

Contrary to our previous report, Industry Canada, not the municipality, has sole authority over towers.

However, IC has made it perfectly clear to RAC officials that it is in the best interest of the parties concerned, i.e., the Amateur, his neighbours and the municipality, that a consultation process take place. While consultation is not mandatory, "Good Neighbour Relations" can help to diffuse possible future confrontation.

*Note this! IC does not look with favour on Amateurs who fail to consult with their neighbours.*

### **220-225 MHZ REMAINS AMATEUR EXCLUSIVE**

RAC announced recently that, as a result of negotiations with Industry Canada, the 220-225 MHz band remains exclusive to the Amateur service in Canada. The IC decision was communicated to RAC President, J. Farrell Hopwood VE7RD, in a letter dated November 23, 1994 from IC's Director, Spectrum Management Operations, Michael Connolly. Mr. Connolly congratulated RAC on its effective representation on the 220 MHz matter.

Mr. Hopwood says that, "This was one of the first issues addressed by the Canadian Amateur Radio Advisory Board (CARAB), and RAC extends its thanks to Industry Canada for its co-operation and assistance."

"Canadian radio Amateurs are encouraged to make maximum use of this valuable spectrum allocation", Mr. Hopwood says. "Amateurs are free to make full use of 220-225 MHz as before, and should use the band in accordance with our band plan. Amateurs should be aware that due to re-allocation of 220-222 MHz in the US to land mobile services, for this part of the frequency, sharing and co-ordination arrangements in the border corridor is currently being negotiated between IC and the FCC and should be finalized shortly. Any such plan must be incorporated in Canada-USA treaty obligations. Amateurs will be notified when implementation is required."

### **RAC ANNOUNCES ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

RAC Secretary, Ken Pulfer VE3PU, on behalf of the election committee, recently announced that J. Fergus Kyle VE3LVO, Dennis Livesey VE7DK and David Panting VE4EF had been elected to the Radio Amateurs of Canada Board of Directors.

RAC President, Farrell Hopwood VE7RD said he welcomed the new directors on behalf of all Amateurs across the country. He encouraged them to be active and in-touch with clubs and in attendance at conferences and hamfests within their regions. Mr. Hopwood says that RAC "as a fledgling national society" has taken on some important and demanding

roles and projects. He said, "We are faced with some serious matters concerning resources, both human and financial. There are solutions to our needs, however, they are problematic and complex." He further encouraged active recruitment of new membership in RAC.

### **ARE YOU INTERESTED IN CFARS?**

The Canadian Forces has created an organization called the Canadian Forces Affiliate Radio Service (CFARS), manned by licensed volunteer Amateur operators that help link people far from home with loved ones back in Canada. Thrill seekers, missionaries, scientists, the Coast Guard and our Military all know the value of CFARS.

CFARS stations operate on frequencies just below the normal Amateur bands. They use a different set of call signs (only 100 are allowed by IC), so the number of operators is limited and strategically located around the country for optimum efficiency.

Volunteer CFARS operators recently handled 450 patches to families across Canada during the Haiti crisis. Canadian scientists and Coast Guard staff aboard the Louis St. Laurent on her recent trip to the North Pole depended on CFARS for communications with family and loved ones at home. Canadian Medical relief troops in Rwanda, peace keeping troops in the Golan Heights, Yugoslavia and Croatia have all made use of CFARS services. If you are interested in monitoring CFARS, try 14.452.5 and see for yourself how Amateurs help our Armed Forces around the world.

Len Brewster VA3LEN, has offered to share more information on CFARS with interested Amateurs. His address is; R.R. #2, Chesterville, Ontario K0C 1H0.

Thanks to all those who went in on the group buy of transmission cable. Without these number we could not have receive the pricing we did.

Thanks to Allied Wire & Cable for best price.

### **This Space Could Be Yours.**

If you have a product or a service you wish to let other HAM's know about. Please contact any WARC executive member about advertising space.