Newscaster

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

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March 1995

Computer Programs for HAM Radio

by Rob, VE4GV

Date: March 13, 1995

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Sturgeon Creek Regional Secondary School

Other Important Dates:

Articles: Mar 27 deadline - April newsletter
Apr 24 deadline - May newsletter

WARC: Apr 10 - Home Brew Night
Apr 23 - Flea Market
June 24-25 - Field Day

WSC: Mar 9 Smorg
Mar 15 - General Meeting

ARES: Feb 21 - Meeting

Other: Apr 23 MRS Meeting
Sep 10 - Austin Ham Fest
Sep 10 - MRS General Meeting @ Austin

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
Members at Large: Jeff Dovyak - VE4MBQ
Appointed Positions:
Membership/Newscaster: Keri Kazuk - VE4KER
Flea Market: Alan McIlwain - VE4AKM

Notes from your Editor: by Derek, VE4HAY

Well space is tight this month, Thanks to all who submitted articles. I think I got them all in. Please watch for the continuing article on Batteries by Doug, VE3SPF. Thanks also goes to Ralph, VE4RY for in monthly tid-bits. Please keep the articles coming.

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

Hello all, I am please to announce that the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club (WARC) has provided a grant to Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) - Wpg, for radio gear to be used at the Emergency Operation Centre (EOC). This is a first for the club, and the club does have enough funds for this grant.

I would like to say thanks to Jeff for heading ARES. This is a big under taking for one person, and I hope to see other hams offer Jeff help when he asks for it. For all members who were not present at the last meeting, Jeff put on a very informative program about ARES, with a printed handout for everyone. Jeff also put a motion on the floor for the grant. The motion was passed (see minutes elsewhere in this newscaster). There was some concern of the membership that there were not enough members present at this meeting to vote on this motion. To clear up any concerns on this, the bylaws say that there must be at least twenty percent (20%) of the members present to pass a motion. At present time the total membership of WARC is 240 members. Therefore at least 48 members must be present. The circulated attendance record shows that there were 49 members & 5 non-members. (all is ok.) Remember the April Meeting is Home Brew night, so get working on these projects. There's not much time left.

Winnipeg Senior Citizen's Radio Club. released by Adam, VE4SN (President - 95)

An historic signing took place the morning of February 22... that of the first agreement in Canada between a provincial arm of the Canadian Red Cross Society, and an amateur radio club.

Signing on behalf of the Red Cross Society, Manitoba Division, was Judy Janzen, Commissioner; for the Winnipeg Senior Citizens' ARC was our club president, Adam Romanchuk, VE4SN. The 2-page agreement details that, should there be an emergency or disaster where the Red Cross would be involved, they would have VE4WSC activated by the Club, to ensure continuous and co-ordinated communications to anywhere in the world; and the Seniors' Club agrees to the establishment of, and the maintenance of, fixed, mobile and portable stations where required, if feasible. VE4WSC has also agreed to give 24-hour communications service if necessary.

The Red Cross is presently in an appeal for funds, but the Commissioner remarked that having the Seniors' Club contribute their facilities, equipment and talents, represented quite a value to them. Also, it gave them extra 'hands' to fulfil their mission statement "to supply emergency relief and humanitarian assistance to all in times of need". Ms. Janzen ended her short opening speech by saying, "and we hope we never have to use it".

Adam also made a short speech, as follows: "On behalf of the Executive, Board of Directors and all the members of The Winnipeg Senior Citizens' Radio Club, I want to say how happy and proud I am that we are being given this opportunity to assist in the service of our community, our Province, our nation, and even the world itself, in times of disaster and need. Although it is the fervent hope of all that no event should ever occur to warrant compliance with the terms of today's Co-operative Understanding, we do live in a real world. On that basis, I make this promise that, if and when The Winnipeg Senior Citizens' Radio Club is called upon to assist The Red Cross in time of need, we will be willing, able and ready to do our best".

A camera interview was provided by CKND-Channel 12 (shown first on the 6 pm news today); while an audio interview with Ms. Janzen was made by CKSB. Also present, on behalf of the Red Cross, Manitoba Division, was Michael Hyduk, Communications Co-ordinator, Anne Duncan, Emergency Services Co-ordinator, and a Seniors' Club member, Tom Mills, VE4SE, Communications Officer. Club members present for the signing were: VE4ALF (Alf), VE4AAI (Arch), VE4SN (Adam), VE4TSM (Tom), VE4AJR (Jim), VE4SE (Tom), VE4MAC (Ian), VE4AKA (Martin), VE4AG (Gil). And a brief note from Tom, VE4SE; The signing of this document in no way is an attempt to curtail the activities of hams in general during an emergency or crisis... every ham has always been ready to act alone, or in concert with any group, when faced with a disaster... and this will continue to be the case.

ANNOUNCING A NEW BBS FOR SENIORS:

Look for a new Seniors' Bulletin Board Service (BBS), which will be available beginning MARCH 10th, 1995. SCIP (Seniors' Computer Information Project) is a three-year project, funded by the Federal Government (and don't say this isn't money well spent!).

Although it is presently just a Manitoba program, it has the potential of becoming national, and even international. There will be FREE ACCESS from all over Manitoba, and it will be tied in with Blue Sky FreeNet, and eventually, Internet. The BBS phone number will be made available after March 10. In talking with Ian Rollo, VE4MAC, who is on the Information Content Committee of SCIP, we learned that the network presently has 6 computers (486DX - Multimedia) on line to service the BBS, 4 being in rural areas, and 2 in the city (one at the North End Senior Centre, the other at St. Vital Centre). The offices for SCIP are at Creative Retirement Manitoba, on Portage Ave. (next to the Delta Hotel). There is one full-time staff member, one office worker, and the rest are volunteers. For further information, contact Ian at 888-3601

Two reminders: 1) The next Seniors' Breakfast will be held at the NORLANDER INN on MARCH 9TH (Thursday), beginning 9 am. SMORG is available, or the regular menu for those on special diets. With the weather improving, we should see lots more out! Price is very reasonable - $1.99 plus beverage plus tax. And the socializing is GREAT!! Oh yes, you are asked to phone the club (233-3122), send them a packet message (VE4WSC@VE4KV), or try 2m - and tell them you are coming, so they can arrange for sufficient tables. 2) The regular quarterly general meeting of the Club will be held MARCH 15 (Wednesday). This is a VERY IMPORTANT

meeting, as we have to consider a re-structuring of the present constitution. If you want to attend just one meeting... MAKE IT THIS ONE!

If you have ever wondered who the founding people of the Winnipeg Senior Citizens' Radio Club (VE4WSC) were, here are the names:

* denotes deceased

Bert Anderson, VE4AP	Glen Bjorndahl, VE4TJ
Lou Curtis, VE4AEM(*)	Albert Diamond, VE4AX
Gareth Evans, VE4ANT	Gil Frederick, VE4AG
Charles Harvey, VE4FG (*)	Earl Hiscox, VE4AIU
William Kinash, VE4MZ(*)	John Mack, VE4AF
Keith McConnell, VE4BC	Karl Nemez, VE4AIF
Joe Ozero, VE4IO	Mike Pura, VE4MP
Jim Riddle, VE4JC	Terry Green, VE4AJA (VA3TG)

The founding members plaque hangs prominently in the boardroom of the Club. Does anyone know where we can locate Jim Riddle? and Johnny Mack is no longer shown as a member of the Club... anybody help with info?)

Hints & Kinks
by Ralph, VE4RY

When making fine adjustments to screws and tuning slugs it is often difficult to observe very small tweaks using an unadorned screwdriver or tuning wand.

You can, however 'amplify' the degree of rotation using this simple trick: Attach a piece of masking tape or a small Ty-rap to the tool to form a flag a couple of inches long.

This flag shows even the smallest adjustments as very large movements at the 'flag tip' and also allows you to return to exactly the same spot as you started from, if necessary.

ARES Committee Report
by Jeff, VE4MBQ

The Winnipeg Amateur radio Club is to be soundly commended for providing Winnipeg ARES with a grant to purchase modern 2m equipment for the VE4EOC station at the City of Emergency Operations Centre. Our station is always set up and ready to go - not tucked away in a closet deep under City Hall. Hopefully we will be able to improve our access to the EOC when it is not opened for operations so that we might conduct more practice sessions and even run the MRS net now & then when one of our members is the duty controller. Lutz at Atlantic Ham Radio was able to provide a great deal on the purchase of a Kenwood TM241A transceiver. Once again **Thanks WARC Members !!**

Our Feb meeting with Inspector Eric Hrycyk from the Winnipeg Police Disaster Team was most informative. I must remind the members that the meeting starts at 7pm sharp. The next meeting will be Tuesday 21 mar 95 at 7pm at St. John Ambulance. David VE4DAR will be speaking about 2m procedures. We will also be discussing some important organizational issues so mark your calendar early. With spring around the corner this is a goods time to review the ARES minimum equipment and minimum documentation lists found in the emergency plan to ensure that you are prepared to respond for an ARES callout.

Volunteer operators are still required to assist Winnipeg ARES with amateur communications at the Winnipeg Airshow June 10 & 11.

MINUTES FOR W.A.R.C. - Feb 13, 1995

Meeting began 7:42 VE4ABA presiding

Introductions. Approximately 50 members.

Jeff VE4MBQ, the District Emergency Co-ordinator for the Amateur Radio Emergency Service made his presentation on Winnipeg ARES.

The business portion of the meeting commenced at 8:17 after VE4MBQ completed his presentation.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published in the Newscaster. moved VE4VQ, seconded VE4TV, CARRIED

Errors and Omissions - VE4LKM should be VE4KLM, otherwise no errors or corrections

No correspondence -

Membership - We now have close to 240 members

Treasurer's Report - Presented by Gary VE4YH. The club has approximately $5400.00 in the bank. Expenses include about $386.00 for 1000 stamps and 1000 envelopes. VE4YH also brought forward the idea of starting an operators manual bank for any and all radio equipment. Gary discussed several possible ways to run the bank. 1.Anyone with an operators manual can register with Gary VE4YH. He will keep the data on computer, and give the information on who has what manual to anyone who requests it. 2.Anyone who has a spare operators manual, or a photocopy can give it to VE4YH who will establish a library to maintain the information. 3.Solicited other ideas VE4YH will prepare a form to insert in the March Newscaster

Committee Reports -

Education - VE4OV reported that there will be no amateur classes this winter. There were only 5 students registered. Sturgeon Creek School requires a minimum of 10. The next class will commence in late April, after Easter.

Newscaster-Derek VE4HAY thanked everyone who contributed articles for February Newscaster. He also made an appeal for more articles, particularly reviews of amateur radio gear. VE4HAY requested feedback on the quality of the Newscaster. He received a thunderous ovation. VE4OV volunteered to send VE4HAY his copies of the ARRL letter. There should be some material worth publishing in the Newscaster. VE4RG noted that the PC Users Group has an

amateur radio forum. VE4HAY thanked him and advised that he was already on that BBS

Programs - VE4ABA spoke to the upcoming programs on behalf of VE4GV, who was absentBarret offered a choice for the March meeting: option 1:Amateur Radio programs for computers option 2:HF and VHF Operating Techniques After a quick vote, the software won. VE4AJR then spoke in favor of a program on Operating Techniques at a future meeting. It should include

-Use of "Q" signals on voice
-Use of "break" on VHF
-Use of "Break Break" on VHF
-other

Notices for the Good and Welfare - Caroline VE4CAR spoke about Heritage Programs on Railways. She requested volunteers for the Midwestern Rail Association for the display at the CN Station. The purpose of the Midwestern Rail Association is to preserve railway history, archive books, photos. They require volunteers to talk to visitors, etc. She also mentioned that the MRA had the Countess of Dufferin and several other pieces of railway memorabilia in storage at the CN Station. She brought a brochure for interested people to peruse.

Flea Market - VE4AKM announced that the Flea Market will be held at the West Kildonan Arena, Sunday April 23, times TBA. VE4SET asked if anyone had considered a combined Muddy Waters Computer Group/Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club flea market. Some discussion ensued. We will probably remain separate, due to logistic and financial problems with a combined flea market. Barrett VE4ABA requested a vote on a later start for the Flea Market. A later start was passed

New Business - VE4OV wanted more people at our meetings. VE4ABA announced that the executive has decided to purchase an ARRL Handbook and an Antenna Handbook for future prizes. This may attract more people to the meetings.

VE4MBQ presented the following motion:

Moved that Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club Inc provide a grant to Amateur Radio Emergency Service of up to $750.00 to purchase modern two meter equipment for the City of Winnipeg Emergency Operations Center, VE4EOC. moved, VE4MBQ seconded, VE4DAR

VE4AJR asked if the motion was a notice of motion. Answer no, it was an actual motion. Several people spoke in favor of and against the motion

VE4AKM moved that the group defer the motion to the next meeting. moved, VE4AKM seconded, VE4ZV. DEFEATED

someone in the audience called the question MOTION CARRIED

VE4MBQ promised to write a letter of understanding to Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club, promising to return all equipment purchased with the grant to WARC if ARES disbands Adjournment 9:10 VE4YF

Use it or Lose it
by Tom, VE4AKI

Now that you have your 5 WPM qualification I hope you enjoy the privileges you have earned. Your new upgrade allows you to enjoy all modes on 80m. and 160m. bands. There are many myths around about how difficult these bands are to work. I would like to dispel some of these myths and encourage you to become active with your new privileges.

The first obstacle to overcome is you'll need a H.F. rig capable of working these bands. The best value in an H.F. rig for these bands is one of a number of models marketed in the late 70's to early 80's. Most of these rigs covered the 160m. & 80m. bands and were all solid state except for the final transmitter tubes. These rigs in good condition will give good performance on these bands and although they lack some of the "bells & Whistles" many hams feel are necessary today. A few examples are : the Yaesu FT101 series, the Kenwood ts900 & ts520 and a number of tempo models. They can still be found with a bit of searching and can be purchased at very reasonable prices ($300 -$450 typical).

The next obstacle to overcome is an effective antenna. it is often said that an effective antenna for 80m. & 160m. can not be achieved on an average residential lot. With a bit of work a very effective antenna for 80m. can be installed in limited space. With a bit more work and antenna for 160m can also be achieved that will give good performance at moderate distances.

I have had good results with shortened verticals on 80m. A coil loaded element of approx. 22 - 30 ft (7m. - 10m.) made of galvanized electricians conduit (E.M.T.) located in a convenient place in your yard/ (even braced against the house) with 6 - 10 radials of moderate length makes an effective 80m. antenna. A vertical has a low angle of radiation and you may even be able to work DX when conditions are good.

An effective 160m. antenna is a bit more difficult. A very short vertical on 160m. is very inefficient unless you can achieve an exceptionally good ground system. My suggestion is to erect and end fed wire antenna as long and as high as you can. If you can a wire up approx. 25ft (8-9m.) and close to 120ft (40m.) long and install a few radials on the ground as long as you can, you will get out with good results on 160m. Don't worry if the wire is not in a straight line, just don't bend it back onto itself (no angle smaller that 90degrees) but make it as long as you can. You will need a matching unit at the feed line end, but this can be easily fabricated with a coil wound on a p.v.c. pipe and a tuning capacitor from an old broadcast radio. This antenna can be used on 80m. as well by adjusting the tuning unit at the feed point. The ARRL antenna handbook (or other antenna books) has more information on constructing these antenna, or ask an experienced H.F. operator for assistance.

When you get operational what can you expect on 80m. and 160m. Both of these bans are evening and night-time bands. This doesn't mean that you can't make contacts at other times of the day, but distances will be more limited. Expect up to 500 miles (800km.) during the day on 80m. but when the sun set the rage can extend to much longer distances. Atmospheric and man made noise can be a problem at times on this band so try operating at various times to find out when conditions are optimum.

The 160 m. bands is a different matter altogether. it's actually a medium frequency band and can be very variable. It's mostly a winter time band, and can be very noisy at times. both atmospheric and man made noise, as well as second harmonics from broadcast stations can be obtrusive. in spite of these problems many enjoyable contacts can be made on 160 and often with only moderate power and antennas. Recent contacts on 160 include a VE3 in Ottawa using 30 watts output, a VP5 in the Turks and Caicos with 25w. and a C6 in the Bahamas using 100w. My antenna is a 125ft long wire antenna approximately 25-30 ft high.

Both 80m. & 160m. are popular for local and medium distance nets. The Manitoba Evening Phone net meets daily on 3.760 MHz. at 19:00 local time. This frequency is also popular at other times for contacting other Canadian stations. Careful listening during the evening will also turn up many special interest nets you may want to check into. Above all don't restrict your operation to SSB only.

To develop your CW skills you need on the air practice. Work the American novice section of the band to get your confidence up, then move up to the CW portions of both 80m & 160m. make as many contacts as you can to practice your CW skills and increase your code speed. This will make upgrading to the 12 wpm qualification much easier.

It is important both for yourself and Amateur Radio that we utilize our frequency assignments and privileges. I hope you will find as much enjoyment as I have in your H.F. operation. See you on the bands.

RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES

by Doug Bannard, VE3SPF

Reprinted from The Rambler the newsletter of the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club

A rechargeable battery or "secondary battery" is one in which a reversible chemical reaction takes places enabling us to store electrical energy in the form of chemical potential energy. This storage procedure is referred to as "charging" the battery. The reversible nature of the reaction allows us to later recover this stored chemical potential energy as electrical energy, this action being referred to as discharging the battery.

Although there are many rechargeable battery types in use today, some using quite exotic materials (for electric vehicle applications among others), two types in particular account for the majority of production:

a) Nickel-Cadmium

b) Lead-Acid

Both of these batteries can be further subdivided into two categories:

i) Flooded Cells (liquid electrolyte)

ii) Immobilized Electrolyte.

We tend to be most familiar with Nickel-Cadmium (NiCd) cells of the immobilized electrolyte type, as these find wide use in rechargeable appliances (including our HTs). Flooded lead-acid batteries are also well known to us for their use in starting, lighting and ignition (SLI) service in most motor vehicles. Another application of the flooded lead-acid battery is as a standby power source in telephone central-office applications, where individual cells of truly impressive size may be encountered.

The flooded NiCd battery finds use in large uninterruptible power systems (UPS), to supply back-up power to large computer systems in the event of commercial AC power failure. Additionally, they are the battery of choice for starting and lighting service on large aircraft.

The immobilized electolyte lead-acid battery, referred to loosely by many of us as a GEL-CEL is finding wide use now as a replacement for flooded lead-acid batteries in such applications as wheel chairs, UPS, and telephone offices.

A Few Basics

1) Lead Acid Batteries

The lead-acid battery dates back to 1859, when Gaston Plante immersed two sheets of lead separated by a thin sheet of rubber in a dilute sulphuric acid solution and discovered that this cell could be "charged" and "discharged". The storage capacity of this crude cell was extremely limited, and in 1881 Faure greatly improved it by developing a positive plate which was coated with a

paste of lead dioxide (PbO2). This improvement paved the way for the use of the lead-acid battery in the power industry which was just in its infancy at this time. In the early 1920's, the first immobilized electrolyte batteries were developed. These used pasted plates like Faure's battery, but rather than having liquid sulphuric acid between them, the acid was absorbed in finely ground glass which filled the spaces between the plates. In the following years, various materials were used to immobilize acid in this application, the most famous being to "gell" the suphuric acid. The method (and the one used today) which ended up being the most successful was the absorption of the acid in porous fibreglass separators between the plates.

When a lead-acid battery is fully charged, its positive plate is composed of lead dioxide (PbO2) and the negative plate spongy lead (Pb). On discharge, both plates change composition to lead sulphate (PbSO4) in the process of releasing energy. When the battery is then re-charged, the energy supplied to the battery causes the above reaction to reverse.

Inevitably there are inefficiencies associated with any process, and it is necessary to input approximately 15% to 30% more charge (ampere-hours) to the battery than we actually need to "store" (energy we have previously used from the battery) to fully charge it.

Additionally, as the battery approaches a full charge condition it will start to evolve hydrogen gas, and, if charging is continued past the full charge point, significant water will be lost from the battery electrolyte as it is electrolyzed to hydrogen and oxygen. Hydrogen production of course is an explosion hazard and is minimized in both the immobilized electrolyte batteries and the "maintenance-free" flooded types by the addition of calcium to the lead plates as a strengthening material as a substitute for the antimony normally used.

2) Nickel-Cadmium Batteries

The NiCd battery has a much shorter history than the lead- acid. The first flooded batteries of this type were developed by Waldmar Jungner in Sweden about 1910 (the same time as Thomas Edison intorduced the now-defunct Nickel-Iron storage battery in the US). During World War II, the Germans further refined this battery to improve its capacity. In the 1950's the sealed NiCd battery was developed in Europe and to this day finds increasing use in electronic and consumer products.

When a NiCd cell is fully charged, its positive plate consists of nickel oxyhydroxide and its negative plate of cadmium. When the battery is discharged, the positive plate composition changes to nickel hydroxide, while the negative changes to cadmium hydroxide. The above reaction reverses when energy is supplied to the battery during the charging process.

Once again, as in the lead-acid case, we must supply 15% to 30% more ampere-hours to fully charge this battery than we have previously exhausted from it, due to inefficiencies in the reaction. Hyrogen is also produced as a by-product of charging NiCd cells. In sealed cells this is avoided by careful plate construction, the details of which are beyond the scope of this article. The typical sealed cell consists of a nickel and a cadmium plate, separated from each other by a porous plastic separator which is used to absorb and retain the potassium hydroxide (KOH) electrolyte. The sandwich consisting of these three pieces is then rolled into a cylinder and enclosed in a case.

Continued next month...

Setting up for password use on TPK
by Werner, VE4UA

I have my password function working well with TPK 1.82 here, on the ve4kv bbs, here is the info I have found out, in case someone else is trying to get it working. As with the ve4kv bbs, it responds as follows:

Here is your code: 1 5 2 4 14

Please enter your PASSWORD:

The important text to wait here is *code*: and not PASSWORD: This may be where a few fellows run into problems where you think the text to wait is password: but it will be code: or whatever your bbs has before the numbers. You still have to make a file in the TPK directory called PASSWD.TPK, make the first line password string wordkey as follows as described in page 37 of the TPK manual:

EBNPASSWD

YOUR PASSWORD ON THIS 2ND LINE

As explained in the manual, EBNPASSWD, in the first line of PASSWD.TPK, is the wordkey, and the 2nd line will be the password of your choice, page 38 of the TPK 1.82 manual refers.

To set all this up, I modified the following line in CONFIG.TPK

BR VE4KV C VE4KV^MM PASS or
BR (YOUR BBS) C (YOUR BBS)^MM PASS

I added this line in the TPK.DIR

PASS ATT 180 PASSWORD code: EBNPASSWD^MKM^M

The KM command is working in killing my already read messages but the KM^M can be removed.....

I have TPK 1.82 working with a 80 character password now, with no problems, I also have a F1 key set up to connect manually with our bbs VE4KV, you don't have to look up the password manually, here is the command I used for that:

C VE4KV^MATT 180 PASSWORD code: EBNPASSWD^MKM^M

I have used the program called MKPWRD.EXE program by VK7JRM@VK7GL.#HBT.TAS.AUS.OC, and generated a 80 character random password which I used with my TPK program and it is working out good. Robert VK7JRM, had sent this program a short while ago via 7PLUS, so I gave it a try, However the password as mentioned before can be anything you wish.

The final thing I should mention, is don't forget to log onto your bbs also and use the PWD command to input your chosen password there, if any troubles there, check with your sysop, in case another command is used for that function. You can also do this via Landline on VE4KV, which even further protects the password.

I hope this explains and helps anyone wishing to use the password function, if there are any questions, please send me a message.

What old VE4's are up to
Relayed via packet by Derek, VE4HAY

From : AB5MP
To : VE4HAY
Type/status : PN
Date/time : 13-Feb 01:12
Bid : 141_AB5MP

Message # : 100347
Title : Howdy Derek
Path:!VE4BBS!VE4JA!VE4KK!ve4kk!AB5MP!ab5mp!

well any wet hamfests lately Derek ?

try the Dallas (dry) hamfest down here -its better than dayton in June and Ham Holiday here in Okie City i July ... greetings to all Manitobans packeteers lets hear from you,on hf and on vhf net-work .Please work my gateway on 14.119 and send messages to me on my bbs ab5mp-1 .to get to okc locally use the x ab5mp-7 cmd . please reply to me direct on hf packet or to ab5mp@k2gkk.#okc.ok.usa.na Dale (VE4AED/W5) AB5MP. END TO ALL MANITOBA PACKETEERS AND NEED REPLY ADDRESS -GL DE AB5MP EDMOND (OKC) OKLAHOMA<USA

73

----keep warm and take care

Dale the ve4aed/w5 guy !

End of message #100347

(ED. So if anyone is on HF packet or in the Oklahoma area, why not try to give Dale a call and let him know what happ'in in the land of VE4)

Aerial Trivia
by Alexander, VE4APN

Around the turn of this century Guglielmo Marconi was experimenting with wireless Morse Code communication with sailing ships far at sea. Marconi insisted ship antennas were to be strung atop the highest masts above the top most sail yards. From his own experiments during his youth Marconi noted the higher the antenna, the better the reception and transmission of code. The highest sail on highest mast or main was known as the sky sail or aerial sail. Thus the wireless antenna became known as the aerial.

NOTE TO ALL RAC MEMBERS
by Dick, VE4HK

All RAC members and prospective members please take note!

When you are renewing your membership, you can help Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club to receive a commission. Simply quote number "WIN102" when sending your membership form and cheque.

You will be assisting the WARC to pick up a few dollars, which we can use for the betterment of amateur radio in Winnipeg.

WILD ROSE AWARD
by Dick, VE4HK

Stu VE6SRC asked that I advertise the Wild Rose Award. The details follow.

THE WILD ROSE COUNTRY AWARD IS AVAILABLE TO AMATEURS AND SWL'S TO LOG STATIONS FROM WITHIN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA, CANADA.

1.There is no fee for this award. It is sponsored by the Amateur Radio League of Alberta.

2.VE6 stations require 30 contacts, all other VE's require 20. USA stations require 15. International stations require 10 contacts with VE6 stations.

3.Canadians send SASE, USA stations please enclose a green stamp or two IRC's. International hams please send 4 IRC's.

4.There are no band or mode restrictions. IPARN or any other satellite contacts count, along with packet.

Send to:Awards Manager, VE6SRC, Stu Crawford, 6354 Bowview Rd. NW, Calgary, AB, T3B 2H8 Please direct any questions via packet VE6SRC @VE6YYC

Random Orbits
by Chris VE4SET

One of the more common questions that I get is "How do I send mail through the SatGate?". Well, normally you don't need to do anything, as most BBS sysops will take advantage of a nearby SatGate. In Winnipeg and Portage the BBS sysops are well aware of the Satgate services available and will route suitable mails in that direction. But, there is also a little known service available at most if not all Satgates called the REQSAT server. This server allows the individual user to force their personal msgs to go via Satgate. This can come in handy when, as an example you find that your msgs to Joe in England go via the nearest Satgate and arrive in less than 24hrs at his local bbs, but his replies for some reason go via HF and take 5 or more days to get back to you. The fix in this case would be for Joe to send his replies to you as a REQSAT msg to the Satgate closest to him, and from there his msg would be readdressed and forwarded without delay.

I am including the help file available from my system which will explain in more detail how to go about sending this type of msg. The following Satgate stations handle mails for Canada:

N7SBP @ N7SBP.#WWA.WA.USA.NA
VE7 & VE8
VE4SET @ VE4SET.#WPG.MB.CAN.NA
VE6, VE5 & VE4
NU9H @ NU9H.#NWIN.IN.USA.NA
VE3
WB2VPH @ WB2VPH.#WNY.NY.USA.NA
VE2
VE1HD @ VE1PAK.NS.CAN.NA
VE1/VO1, VO2 & VE9

I should also mention that you should normally not need to use the REQSAT server as most bbs's already take advantage of the satgates for forwarding of personal mails, but if you do find that this is not the case, then the Reqsat server becomes a valid option.

REQSAT Request Satellite Mail Server V2.7

Written by Grant Willis, VK5ZWI (c) 1992, 1993, 1994

INTRODUCTION

This server is designed to take a specially formatted REQUEST Message and readdress it with appropriate headers for forwarding via the Satellite system. It was conceived to help those who wished their mail to be directed via the Satellite Forwarding system, but who's local BBS was using Terrestrial Routes to send the mail. An example would be if a station was several HF and/or HF BBS's away from a satellite gateway and normally mail to the region they wanted to send a message to went via a Terrestrial HF Circuit, they could send their message encapsulated in a REQSAT Request to the satellite Gateway and then the satellite gateway could forward the message via satellite.

USAGE

To use the REQSAT Server a user is required to send a message from their local BBS that looks like the following format.

SP REQSAT @ SatGate.BBS <-- Command to local BBS

The Subject of their Satellite Message <-- Subject to local BBS

SP TOCALL @ BBSCALL.ADDRESS<-- Address Command to Server

Content of their message

/EX or CTRL-Z to end their message

In the above example:- SatGate.BBS = the nearest Satellite Gateway station TOCALL = the callsign of the station the message is to be sent to BBSCALL.ADDR = the BBS where TOCALL will read the message from. The .ADDR is the Hierarchial Extended Address. The Extended address is optional but is encouraged to be included where possible.

An example follows. This is sent by VK2XYZ in Melbourne to the Satellite Gateway in Adelaide and the contents of the message is destined for KA4AA in California USA.

SP REQSAT @ VK5ZK.#SA.AUS.OC
Hello George!
SP KA4AA @ WA6TRY.#NOCA.CA.USA.NA
Hello George. I haven't heard you on 20M for a long time so I though I would try a packet message via the satellites to you to see how you are going!
Cheers de Rob in Melbourne
Ctrl-Z

The REQSAT Server is fairly careful about what it re-addresses. If it can't find the address line in the message it sends back the HELP text to the originator of the message as well as a copy of their message. If the users want help with the server all they need to do is send a message to REQSAT @ SatGate.BBS with no body and the server will send back the help text. Users can also include the words HELP in the subject and Body of the message and provided they did not include

an address line in the body of the message (the satellite address command) the help text will be returned to them.

I hope this was of interest, and if you have any questions or comments, feel free to send them my way.

RAC NEWS
Received via E-mail

SPECIAL PREFIXES - COMMEMORATING END OF WAR IN EUROPE

On 10 February 1995, Industry Canada Quebec Region gave permission for all Canadian Amateurs to use special prefixes to mark the 50th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe. This is part of the "Canada Remembers" programme sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs. From 0000 UTC 25 March 1995 through 2359z 28 May 1995, Canadian Amateurs may use special prefixes as follows:

Regular	Special Prefix	Regular	Special Prefix
VA2	VX2	VA3	VX3
VA7	VX7	VE1	CJ1
VE2	CJ2	VE3	CJ3
VE4	CJ4	VE5	CJ5
VE6	VX6*	VE7	CJ7
VE8	CJ8	VE9	CJ9
VO1	XO5	VO2	XO4
VY1	XN5	VY2	XN4

*The CJ6 prefix was unavailable in Alberta as there is another special event using that prefix during this period.

NEW 144 MHZ RECORD

December 12, 1994

A new tropospheric ducting, continental distance record has been reported on the 144 MHz amateur band. On November 5, Rene Shaw, WB4MJE, of Big Pine Key, Florida, and Serge Szpilfogel, VE1KG, of Halifax, Nova Scotia, worked over a 1687 mile path. The previous record was 1468 miles, set by K5WXZ and K1RJH, and had stood since October 1968. WB4MJE is crucially located for this work at the southern tip of the Florida Keys. This information comes from Al Ward, WB5LUA, who maintains VHF and UHF North American distance record information for QST's "World Above 50 MHz" column. Records are published in April QST each year.

AMATEUR RADIO DEFENSE FUND

From VE6JY

It is evident that our hobby is being threatened by municipal regulations and bylaws governing the installation of Amateur radio towers and antennae. Meanwhile, federal regulations address this situation but an increasing number of municipalities are instituting by-laws attempting to regulate these installations. Industry Canada has encouraged Amateurs (CPC 2-0-03 provisional) to consult with their neighbours and the municipality before erecting a tower so as to address their concerns. While the municipalities have no jurisdiction over these installations pertaining to height and siting, it is felt that every possible effort should be made to address this and come to a reasonable solution between the interested parties. Industry Canada would prefer a non-confrontational solution. At this time, Industry Canada is being approached for their position on this issue. CPC 2-0-03 can be obtained from your regional office of Industry Canada. There is at present a test case: VE6FQ vs the County of Strathcona, near Edmonton, Alberta where an amateur is directly challenging the bylaw as opposed to merely having his own tower and antenna approved. If successful, it will likely spell easier times for Amateurs in other municipalities. If the appeal is not successful, it will mean an escalation in the movement of municipalities in opposition to our case which could affect Amateurs in any municipality in Canada. The case is at the Alberta Court of Appeals stage. It is estimated that the cost to proceed with this appeal could exceed what most would be willing or able to pay. Because of the implications to all amateurs, it seems fair that we share the cost. Legal counsel has advised there is a very good chance of a ruling in our favour. It is conceivable that an Amateur Legal Defense Fund could be set up. While it will take some time to activate this fund, there is an immediate need to raise funds to assist the present case. In view of this and possible future problems, an interim trust fund to aid the legal defense of Amateurs has been established. Donations may be made in person or by mail to : CANADA TRUST, 13318-50th St., Edmonton, Alberta T5A 4Z8. Donations must be made payable to Account # 501744 Branch 681 (Amateur Fund). Donations may be made in person at any Canada Trust branch across Canada.

The object of this fund is to assist Amateurs with legal costs and disbursements for cases that could affect all Amateurs e.g. antenna tower problems and radio interference problems such as the Ravenscroft case in Ontario. The idea, in view of the large increase in our numbers, is to have the fund in place before the fact. A committee will be established to set guide-lines which will determine whether or not a case will be supported.

The funds interim administrators are : Lorne Ingrey VE6AWI, Don Moman VE6JY and Heinz Paeuser VE6LDX. Questions may be addressed to any of the above Amateurs.

CANADA SUPPORTS IARP

Dr. Bruce Gracie, Head of Industry Canada's International Telecommunications section, reports the approval of the resolution and provisions for an International Amateur Radio Permit (IARP) at a meeting of the permanent executive committee of CITEL

(COM/CITEL), recently held in Montevideo Uraguay. The permit will make it easier for Amateurs to operate from countries in this hemisphere. RAC President, J. Farrell Hopwood VE7RD, had asked IC to support the resolution. IARU Region II Vice-President Tom Atkins VE3CDM, who has worked on the permit issue over a number of years states, "We are moving ahead. The next stage is to have it approved by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS)."

HEFTY FINES FOR ILLEGAL OPERATIONS IN THE US

If you think your last traffic ticket was painful, wait until you see what the FCC has to offer. The commission's new fine schedule includes a $625 penalty for "assorted minor violations," and a $1,250 fine for failure to identify your station. Unauthorized use of equipment can cost you $5,000. Running excessive power, failing to respond to an FCC communication, or operating on an unauthorized frequency will set you back $10,000 under the new schedule, and transmitting indecent material or words could cost $12,500. Causing malicious interference to another ham is $17,500, and failing to permit an FCC station inspection carries a hefty $18,000 price tag. But if you really want to help reduce the US national debt, try sending a false SOS. llegal distress communications now cost $20,000 per transmission. In addition, the FCC has the authority to adjust its fines; these are just the base amounts recommended for first-time offenders.

ELECTION RESULTS,
RAC Board of Directors

Atlantic Region

The result is that incumbent, William Gillis VE1WG, has been re-elected.

RAC Section Manager

Saskatchewan Region

The result is that incumbent, Joan Lloyd VE5JML, has been re-elected.

M.D.E.C.G. Raffle Winners! by Terry, VE4TR

Well, we finally had our draw today Monday Feb 27th 1995.. the draw was made at the Neepawa RCMP Detachment by a constable at the Detachment. Here is the list of Winners:

Hitachi 27" Monitor style TV - Tracy Blight - Portage La Prairie.

Hitachi VCR - Karen Laing - Portage La Prairie. I would like to thank everyone, that took part in sale or purchase of the tickets toward the MDECG Raffle.