

Newscaster

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

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

December 1995

Xmas Get Together

Enjoy festive cheer
with your fellow hams

Date: **December 11, 1995**
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Sturgeon Creek Regional Secondary School

Other Important Dates:

Articles: Dec 22 - Jan/96 deadline

WARC: Jan 8/96 - Meeting -Meet your RAC Director

WSC: Dec 14 - Xmas party
Dec 20 - Annual General Meeting
Jan 4 Advanced classes begin

ARES: Third Tuesday - Meeting

Other: Dec 16 - Talk to Santa

WARC: Executive for 1995-96

Past President	Barrett Filbert	VE4ABA	338-2441
President	Richard Kazuk	VE4KAZ	895-4778
Treasurer	Rick Lord	VE4OV	896-0631
Vice-President	Jeff Dovyak	VE4MBQ	694-8146
Secretary	Roxanne Byron	VE4ZF	257-8525
Membership	Keri Kazuk	VE4KER	895-4778
Flea Market	Jim Ross	VE4AJR	256-6366
Program	Rob Kaufmann	VE4GV	488-0077

Words from the President of WARC: by Richard, VE4KAZ

As the thermometer dips below -20C my wife and daughter are hinting that it would be nice if the Christmas lights were put up outside. Why not. It's almost cold enough to be putting up antennas.

We had a great turn out at the last meeting, and I'm sure everyone enjoyed VE4 WK's presentation on Transmitter Identification Techniques. We will be having VE4 WK back early in the new year for those members who weren't able to attend the last meeting and would like to have your transmitters electronically fingerprinted. We're still receiving membership renewals-keep them coming. Membership count as of November 29, 1995 is 258.

Our December meeting is being held in the cafeteria at Sturgeon Creek Collegiate starting at 7:30 p.m. ALL are welcome - that includes your XYL, YL or OM. There will be no formal program, just a yummy buffet. Remember to bring your favourite Christmas mug (best mug wins a prize!) and your Christmas spirit. Come celebrate the season with your fellow hams. There will be special draws for those members who attend. For those members who weren't able to get their Club jacket the last time 'round, now's your chance. The tailor will be in the cafeteria from 6:45 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. to take orders. A deposit is required at this time so remember your

Club Jacket Orders

18:45 - 19:30

December 11, 1995

Summer \$53.58

Spring/Fall \$66.12

Winter \$85.50

Each order must be accompanied by a \$20.00 deposit
payable to Shanter Sportswear.

cheque book. The Executive of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club wish everyone a very merry Christmas and the best to all in the New Year. Remember to buckle up, and don't drink and drive.

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

The big news this month is our TV exposure tnx to CBC-TV, when the club station was used as the backdrop for John Bertrand when giving his weather report on Wednesday, November 22 during the '24 Hours' newscast. Lead-in was Adam, VE4SN at the HF console, sending CW. Also present were Gil-VE4AG and Lila-VE4LIL (both seated at the packet console), and Alf-VE4ALF, and Bob-VE4RJH (standing in the background). We hope most of you caught this TV spot. One who did called by phone just after the broadcast to see about becoming a member! This was wonderful PR for the Seniors' Club, Ham Radio in general, and CW too! We thank John and his crew, and the CBC, for making it possible to promote our club.

Here's another reminder of the Advanced classes starting on Thursday, January 4, 1996. Classes are held twice per week, beginning at 11 a.m. Applicants must have their Basic licence for this course. There is no fee, but course materials must be purchased by the students. For further info, contact Sandy, VE4SZ, at 633-2877, or phone the club at 233-3122 during a weekday.

The Christmas Party is just a few weeks away now! December 14th is the date. Doors open at 12 noon, lunch begins about 1 p.m. (those bringing food please arrive between 12:30 and 12:45). Tables and chairs will be set up. The location is the St. James Civic Centre (2055 Ness Ave.), which is wheelchair accessible, with drop-off right at the front door. Ample parking is available. All members, spouses, and friends are welcome. So come and enjoy many hours of good fellowship. Doors close at 5 p.m. Anyone needing a ride, please get in touch with Ruth Breckman, VE4RMB, or phone the club. Further info about the Xmas Party can be obtained from Alf, VE4ALF, who is the convener. A request for salads of all types, plus dainties, has been made. There is a list posted on the bulletin board at the club - please sign up for supplying a dish or two; or phone Tom, VE4TSM.

We welcome a new member to our club - Chick Chackowsky, VE4AFD. We are also pleased to have

an application from Jack Chapman, VE4AE. Any other Hams who are now retired and over the age of 55, or seniors, are most welcome to join the club. Just drop in and pick up an application, or phone 233-3122 to have one mailed.

All members, keep December 20 indelibly-etched in your mind (or at least mark it on your calendar). This is the ANNUAL General Meeting, and all committee heads will have written reports to table (year-to-date). Also, this is the time for ELECTIONS! It is very important that everyone who can, comes to this meeting. You will learn where your club has been, and where it's headed. As well, you get the chance to make your voice heard in the election of the new Board and Executive for 1996.

The returns of the questionnaire in our last mailing was very high-77 out of 155 sent - almost 50% return. Thanks to all who took the time to fill out the form and get it back to us. There were also donations from 9 of those replying (to these, a BIG thank you). Since this is the last bulletin before the new year, we wish you All the Best of the Season, and hope you and your family enjoy happiness, good health and good fortune in 1996.

You Moved, Do we know about it? by Keri, VE4KER

Just a reminder to let me know your forwarding address if you are moving so that I can ensure you receive your copy of the Newscaster. We run into problems occasionally where members haven't given us their new address and the mail comes back - a waste of postage, and you don't receive your Newscaster! I'm good in the Blue Book. Thank you for your cooperation.

Santa Claus - 3rd Annual Sched. by Iman Elf, VE4HOHO

Gather your youngsters around the two meter rig on **Sunday December 16**, immediately after the M.R.S. net. The Manitoba Repeater Society has successfully negotiated with Santa Claus to speak with children on the VE4WPG repeater, as well as other linked in repeaters, beginning about 14:00hrs. This will be the third annual Santa Claus Net. The Manitoba Repeater Society invites all hams with young children to take part in the third annual Santa Claus Net.

ARES Committee Report **by Jeff, VE4MBQ**

Our November meeting included a presentation by Derek, VE4HAY of a summary of the Emergency Telecommunications Course he attended at the Canadian Emergency Preparedness College in Arnrior. We also had an unexpected guest. Glenn Leach, VE4SEW brought his brother Gerry to the meeting. Gerry, VE6BVZ is the Emergency Coordinator for Calgary ARES. We were quite interested in the activities that Calgary ARES participates in.

I am compiling a list of WARC members who own 4 wheel drive vehicles and would be willing to volunteer themselves and their vehicle to Winnipeg ARES in the event of a snow emergency in Winnipeg. A sign-up sheet will be available at the December WARC meeting for 4WD capable members able to volunteer.

The next Winnipeg ARES meeting will be held on Tuesday Dec 21 at 19:00h at St. John Ambulance 535 Doreen Street. Tom, VE4SE will be speaking on how Winnipeg ARES could provide tactical local communications for the Red Cross.

Hints & Kinks **by Ralph, VE4RY**

While the two-meter J-pole remains a favourite antenna for hams to build, have you ever considered making an invisible one? When you consider that in the standard copper J-pole, the main (long) element when clamped to a mast or pipe is simply an extension of the mast itself. So, instead of making this long copper thing, try just clamping a drive stub 19 inches long to the side of your mast, with the open top of the stub 38 inches (a half wave) down from the top of the mast.

I built one of these for portable use once, using #10 copper wire for the stub and hose clamps, with nylon spacing insulators. It worked exactly as well as

WARC Members renewing RAC membership

Please ensure that you quote WIN102 when renewing or beginning your RAC membership. The Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club receives a commission from RAC each time a member uses WIN102.

a full-blown antenna but it was a bit more patriotic... since I flew a Canadian flag on it.

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

Meeting called to order @ 1931hrs. Richard, VE4KAZ presiding. There were seventy-nine people in attendance who introduced themselves in the usual fashion. (eight were non-members). MOTION: to approve minutes as published, Dick, VE4HK, Second - Tom, VE4SE.

Business arising from the minutes:

Jeff, VE4MBQ reported that a representative from Shanter Sportswear will be in attendance from 1845Hrs to 1930Hrs at the December meeting for club jacket orders. prices are: Summer \$53.58, Spring/Fall \$66.12, Winter \$85.50. Each order must be accompanied by a \$20.00 deposit payable to Shanter Sportswear.

Ed, VE4YU reported that a \$25.00 deposit is required NOW from members intending to be part of the club trip to the Dayton Hanvention in may/96. Cheques should be payable to the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club. Ed reported that the Dayton deposit cheques will not be processed if the trip is cancelled.

Craig, VE4CET was presented with the Realistic HTX-212 2M transceiver that he won in the 1995-96 membership campaign draw that was held at the october/95 flea market.

There is no Correspondence

Reports:

Ed, VE4YU who audited the clubs 1994-95 financial records presented his verbal auditors report. He noted that 'the books' were in good order and easy to audit. He gave a written report to the executive. Motion: to accept the auditor's report. - Ed, VE4YU; Second - Adam, VE4SN

Rick Lord gave a verbal Education Committee Report - Currently has 12 students in the basic class.

Jim, VE4AJR spoke briefly about the October Flea Market and referred the membership to his printed article in the Nov/95 Newscaster. The net profit was approx. \$540.00. While there were a couple of complaints made about the Waverley Heights facility, the rent is only \$50.00.

Barrett, VE4ABA as Past president, informed the membership that the prize for this evening's membership draw is a Casio 32K digital Diary. The raffle prizes are an Electronic Draw Poker Game & 4-2hour VHS cassettes. Draws to be held after the coffee break.

Rob, VE4GV gave a verbal Program Report. The December meeting will be a catered Christmas Party, The January meeting will feature RAC Mid-west

Director, Dave Panting, who will update us on the many happenings at the national level of our hobby.

Derek, VE4HAY gave a verbal newsletter report. Articles are required for publication. The RAC bandplans for 2M & 70cm will be in the Dec/95 newscaster. The Santa Net will be held after the MRS net on Sunday Dec 16/95.

New Business

Adam, VE4SN would like to organize a DX section for the club. many of those present indicated that they too would be interested in a DX section - Details to be worked out.

Derek, VE4HAY stated that since the club executive have decided to return to Falcon Lake for Field Day/96, he will book the hotel. Ron, VE4GV informed us that the club came in second (behind Burnaby ARC) in the Category 3A in Canada for Field Day/95. It was suggested that a presentation or a coaching session be held prior to the next Field Day. Ed, VE4YU suggested that the club buy a copy of "CT" Logging Software. A small group indicated that they would be interested in a demonstration of "CT".

Notices for the Good & Welfare:

Special event FM broadcast station CKVN 101.1MHz, organized by Lee, VE4ANC is back on the air.

Motion to adjourn the meeting, Dick, VE4HK, Second - Geo. VE4GHR.

Following a short break, Barrett, VE4ABA made three prize drawings: Membership - 32K digital diary, Dick, VE4HK, Raffle draw poker Jim, VE4ACN, VHS tapes, Chris, VE4SET.

Dr. Wit Kinsler gave a presentation on Transmitter Identification Techniques. recorded by Jeff, VE4MBQ.

RAC BULLETIN INTERNET **EDITION 25 November 1995** **Issued at RAC Administrative Office**

SURVIVAL

In the September issue of this bulletin, I was reporting on the state of RAC as an organization that looks after the good of all amateur operators in Canada.

Well RAC is not alone in the precarious situation of having only a very small percentage of the operators as members. 18% only is not a very large slice of the pie! While perusing the English sections of the August 1995 issue of the South African magazine "Radio ZS", it would appear that there is a similar situation developing in that country.

"So You Think That You Cannot Afford To Belong To The League Any Longer?" is the title of the article. It relates the present situation in that country regarding the fact that not enough amateurs belong to the League and it is important to realize that the League is the "guardian" of the amateurs' rights in South Africa.

The article discusses the review being done of the spectrum use and the release last July of the "Green Paper for Telecommunications Policy." This paper looks critically at the need for South Africa to look at the distribution of available frequencies. This rings a bell! An interesting parallel here is that the next step is a "White Paper" and then legislation for formal implementation, a new "Telecommunication Act"? "Do you want to have a voice in the drafting of this new legislation? Then support the League!"

The article is most critical of the operators who do not feel they should belong to the League but have the enjoyment of all the same "goodies" as the operators that belong to the League, and paints a not very rosy picture of what could happen if the League does not have the funds and/or the mandate to speak for all the amateur operators in the country. I had to look very carefully and often at the cover page of the magazine to make sure that it was not TCA or the RAC Monthly Bulletin.

From what I am seeing in the amateur literature in the last few months, there is a major problem brewing for the amateur radio operators about the "free" use that they now have of some parts of the radio spectrum. It is important that all the amateurs, around the world, support their national associations, leagues, etc. If this is not done, there is a real danger that what we know now as the "Amateur Use" of certain slices of the HF spectrum, will become an "Antique" to be talked about while you are moving the pieces on a chessboard. Support Radio Amateurs of Canada, pay your dues promptly (and often!) and "entice, coerce, drag, blackmail..." new members to join Radio Amateurs of Canada.

SURVIVAL 2

In the last few months I have attended two Canadian and one American ham flea markets, and one fact did surprise me and also worried me: there were no young faces anywhere at these events.

At these gatherings, most of the buyers and sellers were older, equipment that was being sold and bought was eclectic and the conversations were, typically, reminiscences of "good" old days. But no young faces were to be seen, no young faces were looking over anyone's shoulder, no young voices were heard asking questions.

If the young crowd does not become interested in amateur radio, the hobby will disappear in the very

near future and the frequency bands now "on loan" to the amateurs will have shrunk to minuscule flecks on the radio spectrum chart.

I do not have an answer, I do not think that one answer will suffice to reverse this trend. It would not be fair to say that the ham community was the only one that needs to look around and come up with some ideas. Over the years the equipment manufacturers have made it very easy to purchase equipment and get on the air with no problems. Gone are the days where a youngster could learn to build a new piece of equipment while learning what electronics and communications were all about.

In many publications, you still find some construction ideas but often they are very specialized and quite elaborate, often not projects to be undertaken by a youngster as a starter project.

What is being done to interest the coming generation to the hobby? Will we need to somehow combine amateur radio with computer technologies? What will the clubs do to attract that particular stratum of our population? We need answers and we need those answers SOON, before the hobby is dead and there are no bands left to operate on, the frequencies "on loan" to the hobby having been "loaned" to other services.

AMATEUR LICENCE FEES GOING UP?

Rumours persist that the federal government plans to increase the price of an Amateur Radio license in the near future.

Industry Canada will neither confirm nor deny the rumours.

Jim Dean, RAC's Vice President for Government Affairs, recently said the following in response to a question from one Canadian amateur:

"In 1989, the Radio Communications Act replaced the former Radio Act. As a result, it is necessary for IC to bring the Radio Regulations into alignment with the new act. This process was begun a number of years ago, and has been the subject of consultation with spectrum users. One of the things that could be affected by this realignment is the fee structure, and this would be true for all spectrum users, not just amateurs. Services provided by the Government affect the fee structure. IC has been working on the realignment of the regulations and they have just about finished. Before the changes are finalized IC will have to publish them in the Canada Gazette and seek comment.

"To be realistic, I think we are in for a fee increase. IC is well aware of what amateurs in other countries are paying for their annual licence fees. The costs of all Government services are going up, and Spectrum Management is no exception. Indeed, there is tremendous pressure on spectrum

management due to new PCS licences, DTH television by satellite, cellular and mobile telephones, etc."

Stay tuned. As soon as there is any news, we will let you know.

WHERE IS THE HIGHEST REPEATER?

In September, we reported that VE6HWY (9744 feet) was the highest repeater in Canada, and now we have been advised that this is not completely correct. We have received a message stating that VE7KNP (9748 feet) IS now the highest by 4, yes 4 feet! I refuse to take sides, specially when two provinces are involved in this "dispute". Please, will the highest repeater stand up?

HEADQUARTERS ADDRESS

While reviewing some of the Clubs bulletins and correspondence received in Kingston on a regular basis, it was noted that still in many cases the postal address is incorrect. This may cause some problems, as the Post Office could return the incorrectly addressed mail. Please check your mailing lists and amend if necessary to:

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

Membership Raffle
Each meeting there is a membership raffle.
no purchase necessary
All members who attend the meeting are eligible to win.
The usual door prize raffle will also be drawn for all attendees who buy a ticket

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REACH FOR THE SKY

By TOM, VE4AKI

With the sunspot cycle bottomed out the HF bands are in rough shape. Want to try an exiting new mode? Try your hand at working the RS satellites.

RS 10 and RS 12 are both low orbiting satellites [about 600 miles up] that are easy to work with a modest station. All you need to work RS 10 is a 10m. receiver and a 2m CW/SSB rig with about 10 watts output. A simple dipole or vertical will receive the downlink signal fine. A quarter wave or half wave vertical for the 2m uplink will work and does not need to be rotated.

RS 10 transmits a beacon on 29.357 Mhz. Monitor this frequency until you hear the beacon. It will identify in Morse code and you will be able to hear it for between 10 to 20 minutes as it passes over. The uplink signals for RS 10 are between 145.860-145.900 Mhz. This is where you will transmit up to the satellite. You listen for your downlink signal between 29.360-29.400 Mhz.

Listen to a few passes to get a feel for the sound of the signals and the operational procedures. Each revolution of the satellite around the earth takes approximately 1 hr. and 45 min. The lower part of the passband is used for CW operation and the upper for SSB. Don't use FM.

Now how do you make a contact? Let's try a CW contact first. When you hear the beacon tune your 2m rig to 145.870 Mhz. and make sure it is in the CW mode. Tune your 10m receiver to about 29.565 Mhz. Send a series of dits and your call sign while tuning the 10m receiver until you find your downlink signal. It is easier than it sounds. When you hear your downlink you are ready to call CQ. Make it a short one and repeat a few times until you get a reply. Keep your exchanges short and tune the 2m rig up or down as necessary to adjust for the Doppler effect. This keeps your downlink signal from moving through the passband and QRM'ing other contacts in progress. You can usually make two or three contacts during a pass if you keep them short.

The procedure for SSB is basically the same but you operate higher in the passband. Use USB only. It may take a few more tries to find your downlink but note the uplink and downlink frequencies and use them as the start point for future contacts. Wearing earphones helps to hear your downlink signal clearly and turn down the sidetone on the 2m rig if you can. Some passes of RS 10 will give better results than

others due to the position of the "bird" in respect to your location. With some practice you will be able to find your downlink signal quickly and maximize your effectiveness during each pass. This mode [2m up/10m down] is called mode A.

The RS 12 satellite is usually operating mode K. This is 15m up and 10m down. Your privileges may allow you to work this "bird" and the procedures are similar. You will need either separate 10m and 15m rigs or you may have some success operating blind i.e. transmitting up without hearing your downlink signal. I have had only limited success with RS 12 but the following information is presented if you wish to try it.

RS 12 Beacon	29.408 Mhz.
Uplink passband	21.210-21.250 Mhz.
downlink passband	29.411-29.451 Mhz.
modes are CW and SSB	

Well that's about all the information I can include in the limited space here. If you want to find out more please contact me or any of the active members of AMSAT in the club. Give a listen to the activity from RS 10. Even if you have only the Basic Qualification you can be active on this mode. Hope to work you on RS 10 soon.

'Ham' talks to astronaut relayed by Alexander, VE4APN

(extracted Friday, November 17, 1995 The Globe and Mail - News Briefs)

TIGER LILY, Alberta -- An amateur ham radio operator, Scott Smith, 53, had better luck getting through to the space shuttle Atlantis than did Prime Minister Jean Chretien. Smith sent out a type of all points bulletin and to his surprise, Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield called back and they spoke for a minute. There was no such luck for Chretien, who tried to arrange his own call through the U.S. Space Agency, which was shorthanded because of a government shut-down. Spokeswoman Leslie Swartman said Chretien wanted to call the shuttle from Japan, where he is attending a summit of Asia-Pacific leaders. NASA could only offer a call in the middle of night, which Chretien declined.

W.A.R.P. News **By Bill, VE4LI**

Membership Status (Nov. 27, 95) It's that time of year again, time to renew your W.A.R.P. Membership and help support the great packet works in Winnipeg. Your executive would like to thank all those who have paid your 1996 dues. VE4APN, VE4CY, VE4DAR, VE4DRC, VE4GHR, VE4GPS, VE4HAY, VE4KHS, VE4KV, VE4LI, VE4QP, VE4SET, VE4STW, VE4TT, VE4UB, VE4UC, VE4UX, VE4VID, VE4WTS, VE4XQ, VE4YZ, WC0M,

1996 Associate Members. HL1AZH, VE4ARN, VE4BGW, VE4CET, VE4GOD, VE4IET, VE4MHZ, VE4TJM, VE4TRT, VE4XOR, VE6UJD,

Non-paid USERS of W.A.R.P's VE4UMR, VE4IP

VE4AAF, VE4AAM, VE4ABV, VE4ADC, VE4ADS, VE4AED, VE4AHL, VE4AID, VE4AIR, VE4AJJ, VE4AKA, VE4AKC, VE4AKM, VE4ALW, VE4AMG, VE4ANC, VE4AP, VE4APA, VE4AQ, VE4ARD, VE4ART, VE4BJ, VE4BWA, VE4CD, VE4CE, VE4CK, VE4CLY, VE4CS, VE4DCD, VE4DDD, VE4DE, VE4DGI, VE4DIG, VE4DKD, VE4DRK, VE4DRN, VE4DT, VE4DUG, VE4EI, VE4EN, VE4EO, VE4EPC, VE4FG, VE4FO, VE4FRP, VE4GAU, VE4GCL, VE4GLS, VE4GN, VE4GPS, VE4GQ, VE4GTB, VE4HGD, VE4HIP, VE4HL, VE4ID, VE4IST, VE4IX, VE4JA, VE4JBN, VE4JE, VE4JG, VE4JHD, VE4JQ, VE4JR, VE4LJV, VE4KE, VE4KGB, VE4KIX, VE4KK, VE4KP, VE4KS, VE4LAR, VE4LG, VE4LJS, VE4LNX, VE4LOM, VE4LOR, VE4LU, VE4MJM, VE4MOE, VE4MP, VE4MRG, VE4MS, VE4MT, VE4MUD, VE4NGM, VE4NIK, VE4NN, VE4NR, VE4NSU, VE4NU, VE4OM, VE4ON, VE4OP, VE4OPC, VE4PD, VE4PJ, VE4QEW, VE4RBL, VE4RNB, VE4RNE, VE4RQ, VE4RSP, VE4RUS, VE4SEW, VE4SP, VE4SVB, VE4THR, VE4TI, VE4TLH, VE4TM, VE4TR, VE4TSR, VE4TT, VE4UA, VE4UNM, VE4UZ, VE4VR, VE4VV, VE4VZ, VE4WA, VE4WC, VE4WEB, VE4WO, VE4WPK, VE4WSC, VE4WY, VE4XR, VE4XZ, VE4YE, VE4YF, VE4YH, VE4YR, VE4YV, VE4ZB, VE4ZR, VE4ZS, VE4ZT, VE4ZY, VE4ZZZ,

Send your \$20 renewals to VE4LI at the arches most Saturday mornings, or by mail to: Bill McKenzie, VE4LI 116 Risbey Cres Winnipeg, MB R2Y 1M4

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DX.. What is it? How Do I Get Involved?

By Adam Romanchuk, VE4SN

With the help of Joe Mastroianni, AA6YD, who wrote the original article "How to Be a DXer" in 1993, I'll try to outline some of the hints and hazards of DXing for the unsuspecting new Ham. While I'm still clear of mind, I'll do my best to pass on something learned in my first year of Amateur Radio Operation. When I got my Ham Radio license, DX was the thing. The only concern was how far am I able to reach with this primitive equipment. True DX of course was anything over the "Pond" while North American contacts were considered "backyard" communications. There's more to DX however than just establishing contact with some other Ham way off in another part of the world. For those of you contemplating getting involved with DXing, BEWARE! DX is a term given to communication over a long distance. DXers themselves are a cadre of flesh-eating maniacs hellbent on repairing the ozone-depletion problem that we face on this planet. DXers are dangerous people and DXing is a dangerous sport!

For the True Believer, a rare DX station suddenly appearing on the band is a primeval signal to revert to shark-like instincts. Blood flows with coulombs of electric current. Family and friends become secondary. Your wife may speak but you will not answer. You become a slave to the primordial instinct to feed on the attention of the DX! DXing is a disease and DXers are sick people. Ham radio is an anachronistic hobby. We use 1940's technology to communicate with people in the 1990's. Many of us have perfectly good telephones in our homes with which we could easily and calmly communicate with anyone anywhere. We ignore these. As True DXers we know that the phones will be rendered useless by the interference from our 1500-watt stations. Our neighbours' phones will be similarly affected when rare DX comes up! Not pretty, is it?

Perhaps you're still thinking, "OK, how do I get started as a DXer?" For perspective, you must remember that DXing was invented in the early part of this century by people who had fun by connecting themselves to high-voltage VHF. They got their kicks by glowing in the dark and turning their hair into flaming broomheads. These people, our forefathers, also used to smoke quite a bit. Maybe that's why getting started in DX is a lot like starting to smoke.

At first, it hurts a lot and annoys everyone around you. Then you're hooked and can't stop. Then you die - the death of a social outcast. You still want to do it? Okay.

First of all, DXing is a sport. Keep telling yourself this. DXers are sports people. Pole vaulters may be a little slimmer than you are, but DXing is a sport all the same. My wife wonders what kind of sport involves sitting around screaming into a microphone or diddling metal contacts for days on end. She doesn't see the athletic potential in this. But then, my wife is not a DXer, so she doesn't see the truth. She doesn't see the sweat, the tension, the strategy.

DXing involves cunning, strategy, power and nerve. It requires stamina and fortitude. The essence of DXing is this: How can you get some guy on the other side of the planet to say your callsign when 10,000 other screaming maniacs are trying for the same thing? To win this game, you have to be one of the "golden ones" who gets his or her callsign spoken correctly by the "rare DX". And even if you do win, you can't brag about it to your friends. Most of them don't have the slightest inkling of what you're doing and its importance. You tell them, "I got St. Peter and Paul Rocks on 10-meter CW last night!" and they'll look at you with astonishment. Then they'll speak among themselves. Then they'll change the subject. What they've said to each other in private is that one of them will slip away to phone the Cops while the others keep you busy. They think you've been buying crack.

Another thing to consider is that no one will teach you to be a DXer. Ham radio Elmers will help you get a license, assist in putting up an antenna and even help build a fancy rig. They won't help you be a DXer. DXers are sharks. They don't want competition for the food! Put enough of them in one place and they'll eat each other just for kicks. DXers have clubs and gather at conventions and barbecues. They don't gather for companionship; they gather to size up the competition. They gather to see who'll put up a tough fight in a pile-up and who can be overcome like a swooning lemming.

In spite of all this you still want to become a DXer. Okay... tune around and find that spot on the band where the sharks have gathered for a frenzy-feeding. Take a deep breath and dive in. Maybe, if you're lucky, you will hear, through the surrounding din, your callsign being spoken correctly. Then it goes on to the next one. A sudden, awe-inspiring realization hits you that you have communicated with someone in Libya. For a few

seconds you had his attention and have earned the right to ask for his QSL card. The absolute terror strikes you that you were extremely lucky to have managed, by sheer chance, to be heard with 100 watts and a random wire above the din of 10,000 calling stations - something that would never happen again in a million years.

That's when you are chosen. You are chosen by the eternal forces of pride and avarice and physics to be a DXer. You will never be able to deny your true nature again. You are on your way to becoming a True Believer. You will alienate your family and friends. You will turn from reading Scientific American and Byte to QST, CQ and The DX Magazine. You will dream of larger and larger antennas, and stronger and stronger "muscle radios" - Henrys, Alphas and other linears.

That's how you become a DXer. You are chosen by God!

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

It's that time of year where we think about all friends, relatives, and of course our families. We also remember of ham friends, not just on VHF/UHF, but also our HF friends, those rare DX contacts, the delay of our EME contacts, the time scheduled contact of our satellite friends, our forwarded packet friends, and of course these who we see eyeball to eyeball. We all share a great hobby, and with it the ability to share our warm thoughts and joys for this truly festive season, both locally and the world over. With the conflict nearing an end in Bosnia and others remembering the festive time of year, why not get on the air and wish your next contact a Merry Xmas, and a peaceful New year.

You can submit articles to me via the internet as: derek@facs.mb.ca or ve4hay@ve4umr.ampr.org or via packet as: ve4hay@ve4kv.#wpg.mb.ca.noam. I can

Don't forget about Dayton

WARC is arranging a bus trip to Dayton for the HamVention.

Deposits of \$25.00 are now due.

Please bring a cheque to the Dec. meeting made payable to WARC. The cheque will not be cashed until it is assured that the trip is a go. See y'all there.

THE RADIO AMATEURS OF CANADA 70 CM BAND PLAN
(Approved September 23rd 1995) STATUS: Radiolocation primary, Amateur secondary

430.025 - 431.500	- DIGITAL MODES (1) (6) (7)
431.500 - 433.000	- CW, SSB, MOONBOUNCE (<i>Global Exclusive Allocation</i>), Amplitude Modulation narrow band modes.
432.000	- Centre frequency for EME, globally coordinated frequency allocations exist above and below 432.0 Mhz.
432.100	- National CW Calling Frequency (2)
432.200	- National SSB Calling Frequency (2)
432.300 - 432.400	- Propagation Beacon Network Exclusive (10)
432.400 - 433.000	- Experimental Narrow bandwidth modes
433.000 - 434.800	- DIGITAL MODES (1) (7)
434.800 - 434.900	- Analog Repeater Links (4)
434.900 - 435.000	- Guard Band
435.000 - 438.000	- SATELLITE (<i>Global Exclusive Allocation</i>)
438.000 - 444.000	- Amateur Television (<i>NTSC, Vestigial Sideband, Digitally Enhanced Video</i>) (3) (6) (8)
439.250	- Video Carrier Frequency
442.000 - 445.000	- Repeater Outputs (5) (4) (11)
444.000	- Spread Spectrum (9)
445.000 - 445.775	- Analog and Digital Links (4) (1)
445.800 - 445.975	- DIGITAL (1)
446.000 - 446.175	- FM Simplex
446.200 - 446.375	- FM Remote Base (<i>Uncoordinated</i>)
446.400 - 446.775	- Analog and Digital Links (4) (1)
446.800 - 446.975	- DIGITAL MODES (1)
447.000 - 450.000	- Repeater Inputs (5) (4) (11)

Footnotes:

(1) Channelling 25 Khz "minimum" raster, contiguous multiples of 25 Khz should be released based on required Digital System Bandwidth. (Data Rate and Modulation scheme will govern bandwidth). Consult with your local coordinating body, or RAC where no coordination exists.

(2) Once communications has been established, QSY off frequency to allow others to call.

(3) ATV operations may be for point to point, or repeater input operations. Note that any no ATV activity below 444.0 Mhz must be coordinated with ATV users to minimize or eliminate interference to the video signal. Consult with RAC for advice on administrative and technical means to achieve this. Note that Double Sideband Video is NOT sanctioned from a technical, spectrum, interference and power conservation viewpoint. Note that non video Digital operations in this sub-band should only occur if other frequencies allocated are full, consult with your local coordination body. RAC supports development of spectrally efficient video transmission techniques in this band.

4) Local Option - consult with your local coordinating body.

(5) Repeaters - includes Narrowband FM, Digital (Voice, video and data) modes. Frequencies must be coordinated with your local coordinating body, or RAC VHF UHF Advisory where no coordination body exists.

(6) Non conforming analog links on 70 cm are grandfathered provided that their existence does not cause harmful interference with amateur operations designated for that sub-band. In the case of interference, coordination discussions must be held to resolve the problem. Note grandfathering ceases once that link goes out of service, consult with your local coordinating body.

(7) Digital operations may include repeater operation, crossband duplex operation, links or simplex. Consult with your local coordination body.

(8) RAC encourages development of Digital compression techniques to reduce video bandwidth within this sub-band.

9) Spread Spectrum centre frequency, secondary, operations per IC bandwidth limit of 12 Mhz (max spreading), may occur within these sub-bands, but must not cause interference to primary Amateur systems.

(10) Propagation Beacon frequencies are to be coordinated through the RAC VHF UHF Advisory Committee.

(11) RAC encourages the use of CTSS encoding where spectral congestion occurs.

THE RADIO AMATEURS OF CANADA TWO-METER BAND PLAN

(Approved September 23rd 1995) STATUS: Amateur Exclusive

144.000	-	144.100	- MOONBOUNCE & TERRESTRIAL CW
144.100			- CW CALLING FREQUENCY
144.100	-	144.200	- CW/SSB WEAK SIGNAL
144.200			- SSB CALLING FREQUENCY (1)
144.200	-	144.275	- AM NARROW BAND MODES EXCLUSIVE (ACSSB, SSB, CW, other modes with bandwidth less than 3 KHz. ie FAX, SSTV, RTTY)
144.275	-	144.300	- PROPAGATION BEACON NETWORK EXCLUSIVE
144.300	-	144.500	- DIGITAL(2)
144.340			- NATIONAL ATV COORDINATION FREQUENCY (1)
144.390			- NATIONAL APRS FREQUENCY (9)
144.500	-	144.600	-REPEATER INPUTS PRIMARY, LINEAR TRANSLATOR INPUTS SECONDARY(10)
144.600	-	144.900	- REPEATER INPUTS (10)
144.900	-	145.100	- DIGITAL (3)
145.100	-	145.200	-REPEATER OUTPUTS PRIMARY, LINEAR TRANSLATOR OUTPUTS SECONDARY (10)
145.200	-	145.500	- REPEATER OUTPUTS (10)
145.500	-	145.590	- SAREX/MIR/SPACE STATION LINKS
145.590	-	145.790	- DIGITAL (4)
145.800	-	146.000	- EXCLUSIVE AMATEUR SATELLITE SERVICE
146.010	-	146.370	- REPEATER INPUTS (10)
146.400	-	146.580	- FM SIMPLEX (5)(6)
146.520			- NATIONAL FM CALLING FREQUENCY (1)
146.610	-	147.39	- REPEATER OUTPUTS (10)
147.420	-	147.57	- FM SIMPLEX (30 KHz raster) (7)
147.435	-	147.585	- DIGITAL(30 KHz raster) (8)
147.600	-	147.990	- REPEATER INPUTS (10)

Footnotes:

- (1) Once communications are established QSY off the frequency.
- (2) Seven (7) frequencies on a 20 KHz channel raster 144.37, 144.39, 144.41, 144.43, 144.45, 144.47, 144.49. Occupancy to occur ONLY when available Digital frequencies within the sub bands 144.9 - 145.1 Mhz and - 145.79 Mhz are exhausted. Consult with your local digital coordination body regarding maximum ERP, Bandwidth and coverage area within this subband. Operation may occur on 144.31 Mhz provided operating bandwidth, ERP do NOT cause harmful interference within the propagation beacon network subband.
- (3) Ten (10) frequencies on a 20 KHz channel raster. 144.91, 144.93, 144.95, 144.97, 144.99, 145.01, 145.03, 145.05, 145.07, 145.09. Consult with your local coordination body.
- (4) Eleven (11) frequencies on a 20 KHz channel raster 145.59, 145.61, 145.63, 145.65, 145.67, 145.69, 145.71, 145.73, 145.75, 145.77, 145.79 Mhz. Consult with your local coordination body.
- (5) The frequencies 146.40, 146.43, 146.46 Mhz continue to be used as repeater inputs in some areas. Consult with your local coordination body.
- (6) Thirteen (13) Channels on a 15 KHz channel raster 146.415, 146.430, 146.445, 146.460, 146.475, 146.490, 146.505, 146.520, 146.535, 146.550, 146.565, 146.580, 146.595 Mhz.
- (7) Six (6) Channels on a 30 KHz channel raster, 147.420, 147.450, 147.480, 147.510, 147.540, 147.570 Mhz.
- (8) Six (6) Channels on a 30 KHz channel raster 147.435, 147.465, 147.495, 147.525, 147.555, 147.585 Mhz. Consult your local coordination body for available frequencies, ERP and bandwidth
- (9) Consult with your local coordination body.
- (10) Repeaters may include FM, ACSSB or digital modes of modulation. Consult with your local coordination body for frequency and modulation scheme allocations.

also be reached on MWCS or at my home number
257-1420.