

# Newscaster

The Official Publication of the  
Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club  
Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club

September 1996

## Video Presentation

### CQ Ham Radio Horizons

*intro to the exciting & diverse world of ham radio*

### Amateur Radio - a Vital Resource

Date: **September 9, 1996**  
Time: 7:30 p.m.  
Place: Sturgeon Creek Regional Secondary School

#### Other Important Dates:

Articles: Sep 30 - for Oct newsletter  
Oct 28 - for Nov newsletter

WARC: Sep 15 Worked all Winnipeg 2Mtr contest  
Oct 14 - Meeting (maybe)  
Nov 18 - Meeting (maybe)  
Oct 27 - Flea Market

WSC: Courses every Tuesday & Thursday  
Sep 12 - Picnic

ARES: Sep 17 - Meeting - CASARA  
Oct 12-13 Simulated Emergency Test

Other: Sep. 7,8 - 2nd. MARM Hamfest  
Sep 7 - MRS - meeting at MARM  
Sep 7 - MDECG - meeting at MARM

#### WARC: Executive for 1996 - 97

Past President	Barrett Filbert	VE4ABA	338-2441
President	Richard Kazuk	VE4KAZ	895-4778
Treasurer	Rick Lord	VE4OV	896-0631
Vice-President	Jim Ross	VE4AJR	256-6366
Secretary	Roxanne Byron	VE4ZF	257-8525
Program	Lee Smith	VE4ANC	864-2334
	Jeff Dovyak	VE4MBQ	694-8146
	Norm Coull	VE4EH	

#### Words from the President of WARC: by Richard, VE4KAZ

As the month of September arrives, my daughter has begun grade 2 -- where does the time go? The Summer is definitely coming to an end. I hope that everyone had a great summer with lots of fun in the sun, and lots of contacts!

Once again the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club is starting up its monthly meetings at Sturgeon Creek School beginning in September and we hope to see even more members at the meetings than last year. The details on the monthly presentations are being worked out and this years looks to be very exciting.

I would like to take this time to thank the outgoing Executive members: Rob Kaufmann (VE4 GV) for his hard work and dedicated years as Program Chairperson of the Club, and Keri Kazuk (VE4 KER) for her great job and many hours of hard work as Membership Chairperson.

Joining the Executive are Lee Smith (VE4 ANC) and Norm Coull (VE4 EH). Welcome aboard gentlemen.

I would also like to take this time to thank Kay Quinn (VE4 YF) and Roxanne Byron (VE4 ZF) for their efforts in organizing the 1996 Manitoba Marathon; and also thanks to Derek Hay (VE4 HAY) for the use of his van for Field Day and to Bill Franzin (VE4 YK) for organizing food/coffee donations for Field Day; and to all of the volunteers who came out to set up and take down the Field Day site and to all of the radio operators for Field Day.

We hope to see you at the WARC meeting Monday, September 9. We will be featuring one, or possibly two videos -- CQ Ham Radio Horizons (your introduction to the exciting and diverse world of ham radio), and Amateur Radio - a Vital Resource. Hope to see you all there.

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### Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club released by Alf, VE4ALF (President -96)

Welcome back all from a beautiful summer. While we don't have a lot to report at this time, we do have the following events happening;

Beginner's basic course and code practice courses will be starting on Sep 2nd, and will run every Tuesday & Thursday. If anyone is interested in, or knows someone who is interested in either of these courses please contact the club to make arrangements for a spot.

The club picnic will be held at the duck pond of St. Vital park on Sept 12. Please, everyone try to attend.

The club is open every weekday, why not stop by. There is coffee, good company, good talk and there is always a seat open at the radio for all beginners who want to see what all the excitement is all about.

### ARES Committee Report

Comments or if you just want to reach us :

**Newscaster Editor**  
**Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club**  
**C/O VE4WSC**  
**598 St. Mary's Road**  
**Winnipeg, MB R2M 3L5**

<http://www.freenet.mb.ca/amradio>

### by Jeff, VE4MBQ

Winnipeg ARES continues to meet the third Tuesday of the month, 1900 hrs at St John Ambulance unless otherwise advertised. We took a "holiday" for July and met at Health Sciences Centre in August. Dave Rosner VE4DAR gave us a very good presentation "Rosner's Rules of Order" which is Dave's adaptation of some of the recognized methods of parliamentary procedure or in other words a framework for how a business meeting can be run. Our next meeting 17SEPT will feature speakers from CASARA - which is the Civil Air Search and Rescue Association. As usual this will be followed by a business meeting.

Eighteen WARES members provided amateur communications for the Dragon Boat Festival held 4AUG96 on the Assiniboine River at The Forks. Thanks to Interlake ARC for the use of VE4ARC. Ten members provided amateur communications for the Birds Hill 20Km Roadrace. Thanks to Pinawa ARC for the use of VE4INT and special thanks to Darcy VE4DDW and Wayne VE4WTS. Darcy came in on short notice when another member un-volunteered. Wayne paid a late night visit to the INT site to do some tweaking, he also lent a hand on race day. WARES volunteers are required for Terry Fox Run 22SEPT and for the Corporate Rowing Challenge 28SEPT - please contact Jeff VE4MBQ to sign up.

Our next major exercise will be the weekend of the Simulated Emergency Test, which is 12/13 OCT. The SET weekend has been changed so as not to clash with JOTA (according to QST). All WARES members are asked to try to arrange their affairs so that they can participate.

Richard Kazuk VE4KAZ and Derek Hay VE4HAY have been appointed Assistant Emergency Coordinators for WARES - it should now be clear to the civil authorities, WARES members, and other interested agencies, who to contact in an emergency if they are not able to reach the EC. Our Emergency Plan has been revised and ought to be released at the SEPT or OCT meeting.

### Flea Market

#### 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.

## by Dan, VE4SYG

Hi there one and all. It's WARC flea market time again, so set aside October 27/96 for this falls' event. Admission will be \$1.00 per person including vendors. Tables are \$5.00 for members of WARC, MRS and WSC. All non members are \$10.00 per table. At the time of writing there are 18 tables spoken for, so if you want a table contact us ASAP on packet, telephone or arrange during the MRS nets. A few of the features this time will be attendance by Industry Canada, demonstration by VE4WK on spectrum fingerprinting of transmitters as well as representation by various other radio related groups. We will also have a couple of examiners on hand, willing to conduct testing on basic, advanced or code. So if you would like to upgrade or know someone wanting to take one of the tests by all means attend the flea market.

We could use a few more "good" volunteers, so please come and give us a hand if you can. We are not in the BlueBook, so you can contact us at 339-3018 or on packet as VE4PLG@VE4KV or VE4SYG@VE4KV

## **Mail Order Pitfalls**

by Frank, VE4FO

I recently ordered an Amateur radio item from a company in the U.S.A. It cost \$38.50US including shipping and handling. I assumed the shipping of the package would have been by ordinary postal service. I was resigned to whatever time it would take the item to come to hand.

The item arrived at my door in reasonable good time delivered by U.P.S. with a COD tag for \$32.17 brokerage fee. You guessed it, I told the driver I certainly wasn't going to pay that kind of money, simply on principle. I couldn't see how some "Broker" got between me and my package. I wasn't mad at the driver, in fact I wasn't mad at all. I just wanted a good explanation, since the customs duty indicated on the package was 38 cents, for a custom value of \$42.00, plus \$3.00 PST & \$3.00 GST. Then another \$23.00 *Brokerage Fee* Plus PST & GST again. This was getting to be another "Columbo Mumbo Jumbo". The driver sympathised with me and suggested I clear the package myself. "Big deal that's for sure", I said, and took the reference number of the package from her.

I immediately called an 800 number which turned out to be UPS Moncton, NB, and explained the concoction. I told them I would like to clear the package through Customs myself. The clerk checked my package number on her computer and promised to "E-mail" Winnipeg as soon as they get a copy of the

shipping order from the originators in the States. The following day the Winnipeg office called to say my customs papers were ready for pick-up. I was down to that office "pronto", then drove to Customs, and cleared my package and paid them \$5.95. They even asked if I wanted the package delivered. I said no thanks and got a yellow form back which authorized me to collect my package at the UPS warehouse.

The moral of the story is "take the time to question things and maybe save yourself some bucks". That meant \$27.22 remained in my pocket. I guess nobody likes to be "taken", except when you don't have a ride. (hi hi) I promised myself to find out what this is all about, any item over \$20.00 having to go through a "Broker".

## **Worked all Winnipeg Award VHF QSO Party** by Dick VE4HK

Mark your calendar for Sunday, September 15! That will be the big day for the first annual 2 meter version of the Worked All Winnipeg Award QSO Party.

The contest will commence immediately after the 2 meter net and continue until 5 pm, using 146.46 MHz simplex. We will QSY to other simplex frequencies, if 146.46 becomes overloaded.

The Worked All Winnipeg Award certificate is one of the most beautiful available in the ham fraternity. It is known and appreciated the world over. Everyone is certain to enjoy having this award on their hamshack wall.

The rules are very simple: Check in on 146.46 simplex and work as many different Winnipeg stations as possible. Twenty five is the magic number. Remember to keep a record of which station you spoke with, the time and the frequency. Each one of us can contribute to giving ourselves and others the opportunity to collect the certificate. Finally, have your log signed by two other hams, and present your log, along with \$2.00, to Dick VE4HK. Soon, you will receive your certificate!

I will have detailed rules available at the September WARC meeting.

## **JAMMERS AND YOU!!**

By Ian Kennedy, VE4MUD

Over the last couple of months, certain incidents have occurred on the two metre band in the Winnipeg

area that brought to mind an article that was published in November 1990 in THE OVMRC RAMBLER. Even though some of the references might tend to be a little outdated, its basic theme is as valid now, in Winnipeg during the mid 90s, as it was then, in Ottawa at the beginning of the 90s. As people are wont to say history can and does repeat itself. Enjoy the article.

### ***PUTTING JAMMERS OUT OF BUSINESS!***

***By Ed LeBlanc, VE3VLF***

Much has already been written and discussed about the Dxpedition to Bouvet Island last December and the terrible on-the-air behaviour that occurred during the time Bouvet was active. What I have to say about such behaviour has probably already been said, but it is important to remind ourselves of some of the basic principles of handling the problem of on-the-air jammers.

Although I did not listen in on the Bouvet Island operation, I have read and heard from others that it proved to be the worst display of ham radio behaviour in recorded history because of the jamming that took place. I have also heard many reports of similar operating practices on the twenty metre phone band, especially around 14.313 MHz, home of the International Maritime Net and a popular rag-chewing frequency for U.S. hams. I decided to spend some time monitoring this frequency to see if these reports of outrageous operating behaviour were true. Unfortunately, I found them to be not only true, but understated.

I have been a ham operator for some sixteen years and I have never heard such horrible operating (if it can be called that) over the airwaves until now. It appears that this frequency, and perhaps others, has become a soapbox for jamming, swearing, hurling insults and name calling.

Unfortunately, this type of activity is not restricted to our southern neighbours. In fact, some of it has arrived in our city of Ottawa, on area repeaters and has been here for sometime. It has appeared in the form of station jamming and repeater jamming by transmitting loud noises or bringing up the autopatch and digitalker. Such antics usually bring most of us to the boiling point and no wonder. It is heartbreaking to see our long standing reputation for courteous behaviour on the air being sullied before our eyes by a handful of unknowns, be they hams or not.

It appears that this situation will get worse unless we determine to do something to discourage these airway hoodlums. Therefore, it is very important for us

to know how to discourage and stop such illegal and disruptive activities on our bands before all control is lost. Here is what you should do when you are being jammed or when you become aware that others are being jammed:

1. **KEEP YOUR COOL** - This is perhaps the hardest thing to do. It is so much easier to get angry with someone who is trampling over the hobby and rules of the airwaves. Keeping your cool is the hardest thing to do, but it is by far the most effective. If we are to solve this problem, it must be done with a level head. If we let passions drive us, we will find ourselves turning into the very jammer type we are trying to stop. This is evident on the twenty metre phone band where such passionate police action makes it hard sometimes to tell the good guys from the bad guys.

2. **DON'T TALK TO THE JAMMER** - I have heard people try to talk to the jamming station. Such QSO's are usually one way as the jammer never responds verbally. The one being jammed usually threatens him with DF action or notifying the DOC or even telling him what a subhuman he is. This is a major mistake on your part and a major victory for the jammer. A jammer wants only two things - recognition and entertainment. If you start to talk to him, the more he jams. In effect, you become a circus animal, providing him with a fabulous ringside show. Don't let the jammer get under your skin and turn you into a performing seal. Direct all your transmissions only to licensed radio hams who identify themselves and exercise courteous operating practices. There is a good possibility that the jammer is not a licensed amateur and speaking with him contravenes the Radio Act, so don't talk to him.

3. **DON'T ACKNOWLEDGE HIS PRESENCE** - A jammer loves to know that he is succeeding in bothering someone. When he knows he is disrupting your communications, he will continue to do so. An effective way of preventing this is to give him the impression that he is not being heard. Remember, a jammer can't hear how well he is jamming. He needs feedback from his victims. **DON'T GIVE IT TO HIM.** Frequently, when two stations are engaged in a QSO and someone starts jamming, their conversation quickly turns to the severity of the interference and the IQ level of the one doing the jamming. Unfortunately, this plays right into the jammer's hands. Don't give him the satisfaction of knowing that he is succeeding. Ignore him completely. In fact, don't even acknowledge that you are experiencing any interference. Carry on with your QSO as if everything was Q5. If you miss some portions of the transmission from the station you are talking to, don't ask him to repeat it. This only tells the jammer how effective his work is. A complete lack of feedback conveys the message that he is not getting through.

The jammer will think that he is wasting his time and move on to easier and more entertaining prey. If we all did this, the number of jamming incidents would drop off sharply.

**4. TRACK DOWN AND REPORT PERSISTENT JAMMERS** - If a jammer just won't quit, record as much information as possible on his techniques, operating times, operating frequencies, signal strength as well as direction finding his signal to determine his location. Notify the DOC and supply them with all available information in the form of audio tapes and written records. Such actions, with DOC help, has worked in the past to halt illegal operations and it can work in the future. The CARF News Service Bulletin of 15 October, 1990, reports on two cases of jamming and illegal operations. Charges have been laid against a Vancouver man and an amateur in the State of Maine has been fined \$1,000. In the Vancouver incident, it is regrettable that some licensed Amateurs appeared to be condoning this lawlessness by QSO'ing with Dwayne Burditt, knowing he was not licensed, in contravention of the Radio Act. Perhaps a co-operative effort, in the form of a jammer task force, could be put together if the need ever arose. Be sure not to advertise this to the jammer as this will only give him more satisfaction. He rarely takes threats seriously, especially when they are not followed through. We can contain the jammer menace, but it can only be accomplished by personal on-the-air discipline. We must not unintentionally feed the fire by acknowledging the interference or by reacting to it. This will only serve to make a bad situation worse, making us losers and the jammer a happy winner.

### ***LETS MAKE JAMMERS THE LOSERS THEY REALLY ARE!!!***

I would just like to add a couple of comments before I let you go. I have noticed that our jammer was most successful when its efforts were directed against the newer crop of amateurs. If you stop and think about it this makes eminent sense, the new amateur is most often inexperienced and unsure as to what is going on or how to handle it. At this point the intimidation factor takes over and they allow themselves to be forced off-the-air and/or they wind up making every mistake in the book. All I can say is don't let yourself be intimidated, you have worked long and hard for your license and it's your right to be there on the airwaves, not the jammers! Oh, by the way, I also heard some of our much more experienced amateurs fall into the same trap so don't feel too bad.

73 and look forward to chatting with you on-the-air!!

### **Ham Fest** **By Dick, VE4HK**

Well, by the time you read this, the 1996 International Peace Gardens Hamfest will be but a pleasant memory. Despite the thunderstorms, the wet sleeping bags, and the soggy tents, my wife VE4MMG, and I had a wonderful time. Lots of Junque (pronounced Jun-q-way) to look at, and old friends to share a story and an 807 around the camp-fire. Who can forget our annual opportunity to see all the new toys from Burghardts Candy Store.

WARC will be one of four clubs responsible for organizing the 1997 International Peace Gardens Hamfest. Pat VE4PLG and I have been conscripted as the Club's representatives. We intend to make the upcoming Hamfest the best ever!

Pat and I are looking for new games, contests and other forms of entertainment for next year. Please see either one of us at coffee at the Arches on Saturday mornings, at any WARC meeting, via the landline, or QSO us on 2 meters (voice, or packet VE4HK @ VE4KV) with your ideas.

Maybe some of us have been at some other less important hamfests, such as Dayton (just joking). What events did the organizers have for entertainment? We would enjoy hearing your input. Watch the Newscaster for more information on the Hamfest each month.

### **My view of Field Day -96** **by Derek, VE4HAY**

Field Day has come and gone, now we can only wait to see what our score was. From what I could see we were no where near our second place score of the previous year. In fact the attendance was down from the previous year.

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I first want to congratulate those members who did show up to help in the set-up of the equipment. Especially Lee, VE4LEE for coming out and loaning his 70' popup tower, and Gary, VE4YH for the use of his tri-bander beam, and of course Rob, VE4GV for his HF station, co-ordination and the excellent effort he did for the entire weekend. He operated until frost appeared on his fingers, and his hand froze to the paddles and the keyboard.

My regrets goes to those ARES hams who did not show up at all, if anything to find out what Field Day was all about, and to see how, if during an emergency situation, stations can be set-up, frequencies co-ordinated, transmission cable run, operating schedules developed etc. While Winnipeg has a good VHF ARES group, and Field Day is mainly HF, that is no excuse to not learn. In fact there was a very elaborate VHF/UHF Voice/Packet station set-up that could have used your help. Also, all you HF hams who have thought of volunteering to help out ARES, if they are called upon, this was your big chance, and you blew it. I am disappointed with all but the dozen hams who helped to tear the station down. Those who were there you are exemplary and deserve a big pat on the back.

Next year, I just hope that there is a better turn out. For those who missed it here are my highlights. I had the great pleasure of working about 30 stations on HF. Now I know the meaning of "The bands are dead". It's truly amazing the effect of no noise at all from a rig that has the squelch turned completely off, and you hear that faint station coming in from the South-Pacific. I now know the power of 6 meters, this is truly a revolutionary band, it has the best of both HF & VHF. If I had the extra cash around, I would invest in a 6 metre all-mode rig. There was more food than anyone could imagine, we had hot dogs & hamburgers. A rather resourceful ham convinced a Subway outlet to donate two coolers of assorted sub sandwiches, Salisbury House donated pancake mix and a dispenser.

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There was bacon & eggs, soft drinks and drink crystals, even the odd 807 was floating about. The facility was not quite the luxury hotel of last year, but still very quaint and use-able. At least there as a place to escape the rain. Thanks to all and see you next year.

### **MINUTES for W.A.R.C. - Jun 10 1996** **Submitted by Roxanne, VE4ZF**

Meeting called to order by VE4KAZ

Total attendance at meeting = 44

Moved by VE4HAY/seconded by VE4JNF that May minutes be accepted as read. Carried.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

%01. bulletin on Sept 7/8 MARM Hamfest

%02. brochure on Aug 2 Dryden 14724+

#### **TREASURER's REPORT:**

Rick VE4OV reported current balance of \$3,504.

#### **PROGRAM:**

Rob VE4GV announced this was to be his last meeting as a member of the WARC executive. Rob thanked everyone for their support.

#### **CON ED:**

Rick VE4OV stepping down as instructor. Seeking replacement since he will be devoting more time to duties as RAC director Mid-West Region and as a WARC director. Teaching has been "a slice" and he will be available to help the next instructor.

#### **MEMBERSHIP:**

Keri VE4KER sent report of an increase in this year's membership by 35

#### **DX CLUB:**

Adam VE4SN reported that conditions are poor for DX but they are learning a lot at their monthly pre-WARC meetings.

#### **RAC:**

Rick VE4OV spoke about RAC executive and board. ARRAS taking over from IC eventually. All hams are encouraged to submit to RAC their concerns about Low Earth Orbit satellite use of 2M. Moved by VE4MBQ and seconded by VE4CPU that "WARC opposes reallocation of amateur spectrum to commercial interests. The president of WARC shall advise RAC of our position." Motion carried.

#### **NOTICES:**

%01. Dick VE4HK advised of a Garage Sale on Saturday, June 15 from 9-3 at 237 Harford

%2. Michael VE4MJM spoke about using own software to locate illegal operations including tones and voices. IC is trying to locate and deal with problems. He is looking for help ie: note date, time, location, frequency or repeater, signal strength, antenna height, kind of radio, beam direction of any illegal transmissions. Please contact Michael if you have anything to report. Occurs usually late evening over past 3 years and includes abuse of 911, shutting down phone patches, FAXing over phone patch. VE4MBQ noted that the problem occurs across Canada.

%3. Caroline VE4CAR provided a much needed and much appreciated joke.

### **EXECUTIVE:**

Changes include Rob VE4GV and Barratt VE4ABA stepping down Slate of directors presented: Richard VE4KAZ, Jim VE4AJR, Roxanne VE4ZF, Rick VE4OV, Jeff VE4MBQ, Norm VE4EH, Lee VE4ANC Moved by VE4HF and seconded by VE4JNF that the slate presented be accepted. Carried

Meeting adjourned at 20:30. Presentation to follow by Rob VE4GV: Field Day Primer

Door prizes were awarded:

%CQ UHF to Larry VE4LRB

%o packet radio to Bill VE4WY

%o autographed book to Adam VE4SN

%o (antenna) book to VE4BJ

%o almanac to VE4BBM

%o 12/24 hour Clock to Brian VE4RBL

Thanks to Rob VE4GV for procuring prizes.

## **RAC NEWS BULLETIN INTERNET EDITION - Summer/96 Issued at RAC Administrative Office**

### **FUTURE BULLETIN BY E-MAIL**

Anyone interested in obtaining future issues of the RAC Bulletin by E-mail should send, as soon as possible, their complete and correct E-mail address to RAC Headquarters. This will not be an automatic "subscribe" "unsubscribe" server, the bulletin mailing list will be compiled manually and will be compiled only from the requests received. It is not easy nor time efficient to compile this new list from any other mailing list that RACHQ may have on hand at the present time. Do not wait till fall, do it now! E-mail address for RAC HQ: rachq@king.igs.net

## **RADIO AMATEURS OF CANADA SEEKS TECHNICAL EXPERTS TO HELP FIGHT LEO**

J.Farrell Hopwood, VE7RD

President

RAC appreciates the many notes of support to oppose the American Government's proposal to allow Low Earth Orbiting (LEO) satellites to share the 2 meter band. We have received over a hundred messages. We apologize because we are not always able to send a courteous "thank you." Regardless, keep your comments and information coming! We are reviewing them all. The fight to keep LEO's off our VHF/UHF bands will depend heavily on technical argument against the proposal.

As a member of the government "WRC-97 Preparation Committee," RAC is attending meetings and consulting with both the public and private sector officials. In discussions with the government and the interested members of the Committee, we will need to develop an effective argument using "technical reasons" why the LEO's cannot share our band. While argument for the "exclusive" retention of the bands for Amateur "public service" and "emergency service" and for the experimental and operational use of the Amateur Service in general is a powerful one, we need sound technical knowledge in support of our "exclusive" AMATEUR allocation.

**RAC NEEDS THE HELP OF EXPERTS!** If you are, or know of anyone who is knowledgeable in the field of digital radio, spread spectrum technology, orbiting satellite technology and space radiocommunications, please ask them to help and to supply their name, callsign, address, telephone number, e-mail address, and fields of expertise to:

RAC HEADQUARTERS

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Radio Amateurs of Canada

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Kingston, ON K7P 2R9

## **THE RAC REPORT TO IARU: LOOKING AT THE ISSUES!**

There is no more important subject than our vision of the future of Amateur Radio. The RAC ad hoc committee report to the IARU is the result of careful analysis and judgment. It is a major milestone en route to the 1999 World Radio Conference (WRC-99). Governments, preparing to review international Amateur Radio regulations, are looking to the IARU for

suggestions that are timely and realistic. Faced with needs for the future of Amateur Radio, RAC, as an IARU Member Society, recommends changes to international regulations that are practical and forward-looking.

Questions concerning regulations over the "Definition Of The Amateur Services", "The Banned Countries List", "The Amateur Service As A Resource for Emergency Communications", "Messages on Behalf Of Third Party" and "The Technical And Operational Qualifications To Be An Amateur" are examined and explored in a straightforward manner within the report. The issue of the "Morse Code", however, took much time to consider.

What to do about the Morse Code question is the most difficult to answer. It touches upon something which, for many, is sacred. The issue is charged by firm beliefs and deep emotional feelings. Yet, we know that radiocommunications authorities in many countries are moving to have Morse Code abandoned: not as a mode of operation, but rather as an international mandatory requirement to operate below 30 MHz. While administrations may continue to use the code in their licensing program, it is no longer viewed by some governments as a suitable international "treaty" obligation.

RAC is a solid supporter of the use of the Morse Code "mode". We cannot, however, demand that it be kept as a "mandatory" requirement in the HF licensing process. The original need, to be able to respond to government stations in CW, has disappeared. A large majority of amateurs use SSB. Many prefer modes which embrace the newer digital technologies. To suggest that the code be viewed as a "filter mechanism", to exclude those unable or unwilling to learn the code, is discriminatory. A more appropriate and effective approach, in this regard, is to ensure that licensing examinations demand more in-depth knowledge of all modes of operation and also focus on operating procedures and on operating ethics.

The RAC report to the IARU is just that, "a report". A set of proposals which will be considered, modified, adopted or rejected by the IARU. Over 150 Member Societies will be weighing the issues and presenting their recommendations to IARU over the next three years. IARU Region 1 (Europe and Africa) will address the same issues at the forthcoming October conference in Tel Aviv, Israel. Region 3 (Asia and Oceania) will deliberate on it in 1997 and Region 1 (North and South America) at Caracas, Venezuela in 1998. IARU is working hard to ensure that the decisions taken at WRC-99 impact favourably on the

survival and growth of Amateur Radio into the "21st century".

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Executive, J. Farrell Hopwood, VE7RD, President and IARU Liaison Officer, Radio Amateurs of Canada, Inc.

### *Ad Hoc Committee on WRC-99 and Future of Amateur Radio*

The following summary has been compiled from the report by the RAC WRC-99 ad-hoc committee.

1. The present international radio regulation (ITU-RR) restricts third party radiocommunications. Administrations should have the flexibility to allow third party radiocommunications during safety or emergency related events. This would encourage more international radiocommunication on behalf of served agencies world wide, thus providing for radiocommunication training in non emergency and emergency related events. The ITU-RR should incorporate provision for countries to aid each other during natural disasters, and the following wording is suggested:

‰ S25.1 "Except for distress and safety communications, radiocommunications between amateur stations of different countries shall be forbidden if the administration of one of the countries concerned has notified that it objects to such radiocommunications."

2. The ITU-RR should not contain provision for banned countries. The ITU-RR should not set down third party guide-lines, but rather should place the onus on individual administrations if they do NOT wish their Amateurs to participate in third party radio communications. It is suggested that wording in S25.2, S25.3 and S25.4 should be revised to read as follows:

‰ S25.2 "When transmissions between amateur stations are permitted, they shall be made in plain language and shall be limited to messages of technical nature relating to tests and to remarks of a personal character.

‰ S25.3 "Amateur stations may be used for transmitting international radiocommunications on behalf of third parties, unless otherwise specified by the administrations of the countries concerned."

‰ S25.4 "The preceding provisions may be modified by special arrangements between the administrations of the countries concerned."

3. S25.6 places an onus on individual administrations to recognize operational and technical qualifications. Adding the words: "including modes or procedures that facilitate communications between persons using different languages, and the efficient use of frequency spectrum" would provide the opportunity



for administrations to encourage non-voice modes, and those which utilize narrower bandwidth, including CW. IARU could prepare a recommended set of guidelines for examination content to establish the "operational and technical qualifications" to include a need for a basic knowledge of all modes of transmission and essential knowledge in operating practices and operational ethics. This could provide the basis for future extension of CEPT/IARP (international reciprocal licensing and privileges). Radio Amateurs of Canada will be pleased to contribute to the production of such an IARU guideline, if requested.

4. The matter of the possible deletion of S25.5 on Morse code requirements has taken precedence in discussions and RAC membership feedback. However, most of the respondents were not addressing the matter of whether Morse code was really appropriate as an international treaty requirement, binding on all ITU member countries, but were expressing their feelings towards the usefulness of, and traditions surrounding Morse code within the Amateur services.

The main reason (perhaps the only reason) for including in ITU-RR a requirement for knowledge of Morse code was to ensure that an amateur station operator could understand an instruction from an official station to close down or change frequency. An official station would no longer use Morse code for that purpose. Now that a review of Article S25 is on the agenda for WRC-99, it is unrealistic to think that it will be placed on the agenda of another conference in the foreseeable future. That means we should be realistic about our justification for retention of S25.5 over the next decade or two, in light of the discontinuation of Morse code by official stations. In spite of the arguments for retaining Morse code within the Amateur services themselves, the ITU-RR international treaty provisions should not be used to look after the needs within a service. Therefore the committee accepts that S25.5 may be deleted.

5. In S1.57, the committee has suggested deleting the words "on earth satellites", and changing the name to "Amateur Space Radiocommunication Service", defined as "Any amateur radio- communication involving one or more space stations or the use of one or more reflecting satellites or other objects in space". This was proposed to bring the service description into line with potential future use of transponders on deep space probes, the Moon, planets, etc. The committee also felt that S25.11 is redundant and should be deleted.

6. Finally, the committee felt that the IARU should solicit further input on the "Future of the Amateur Services" which would not be limited to suggested ITU

Radio Regulation wording changes. This may provide additional comments, opinions, and foresight, which may be useful in WRC-99 preparation and negotiations, and in planning for the new millenium.

### ***NEW INDUSTRY CANADA PROPOSED RADIO REGULATIONS.***

You can access an "unofficial" version of these proposed regulations by visiting the RAC Home page on the Net.

The starting point is in What's New where it explains that the HTML version is not official, but available for info. It also directs people to IC for official copies.

The home page of RAC can be found at:  
<http://www.rac.ca>

### ***MOVE OF RAC HEADQUARTERS.***

Radio Amateurs of/du Canada is re-locating its administrative offices to Ottawa in October 1996.

From Monday, October 7, through Friday, October 18, the administrative office will be "dormant" while the telephone services and computer systems are transferred from the Kingston location to the new Ottawa facilities. The physical move will also be on going during that same period.

Clubs requiring study materials for fall classes are "strongly" encouraged to get orders into the Kingston office early, to avoid shipping delays.

Please note the new address, NOT BEFORE October 15, 1996:

Radio Amateurs of/du Canada Administrative Office  
720 Belfast Road, Suite 217  
Ottawa, ON  
K1G0Z5

The new telephone (613) 244-4367  
The new fax number (613) 244-4369

### ***Antenna Comparison - Wilson VS Larsen By Alexander, VE4APN***

I did field tests on the performance of the new Wilson 2M 5/8 mag-mount antenna compared to a similarly configured Larsen 5/8 LM-MM. I compared each by physical description and specs, SWR across band, repeater and simplex operation. Test equipment used: my trusty MFJ-812B SWR/WATT meter and Icom 28H 2M VHF FM transceiver set to low power - 5 watts maximum. After trying the dynamic duo I did come to some interesting conclusions:

**Wilson 2M 5/8 antenna:**

Sold as a complete unit. Base consists of combination heavy duty coil and 10 oz. rare earth magnet covered with a black high impact thermo-plastic cover. The base comes with a 17' Wilson 14 gauge 50 ohm cable. This feed is ample in most applications, no need for a patch cord here. The whip is manufactured from 1-77 stainless steel. The black base and finished SS whip topped with a machined brass antenna ball - nice touch! Wilson rates 2M 5/8 up to 500 Watts output with 3.4 db gain.

Though the Wilson is pretuned ready to transmit, "plug and play" if you will, it can be fine tuned. To get optimal performance I fine tuned the Wilson by adjusting the antenna length and made the whip 3/4" shorter (an adjustment screw on the whip socket allows fine tuning up to 1"). This reduced the original height of 49" to 48 1/4 inches. I checked the SWR at less than 1.5 across the band. In the 146.000 to 147.900 MHz range SWR almost a flat 0.

**Larsen 150 LM-MM 144 to 148 MHz 5/8 mag-mount antenna:**

Items purchased separately. Unit consists of LM-MM mag mount, 150 loading coil, shock spring and 50" Kulrod whip. Larsen supplies a 15' Larsen 50 ohm cable with the LM-MM magnet and in some cases a 2' or 3' patch cord will be required. Larsen rates its 5/8 antennas up to 200 Watts output power and no stated db gain, though it is probably around 3 db.

Larsen really brings out the Amateur instincts in you. Ya got to put this thing together!! I started by screwing the loading coil onto the magnet mount and adding the shock spring to the top of the coil. Then I added the whip cone (base) to the top of the shock coil. The bored-through whip cone has an adjustment screw and the top section of the shock spring is hollow. This allows for 3/4" adjustment in case the rod has been cut too short or if fine tuning of SWR is desired. After consulting the cutting chart, with a quick calculation I decided 45" the proper whip length to use with the shock spring in place. I made the full 3/4" adjustment to the Larsen while tweaking the SWR. This brought the final overall length from 50 1/4" to 49 1/2". SWR checked out at less than 1.5 across the band with nearly O readings 144.500 to 145.500 range.

**The Big Test:**

Over the past two weeks I field tested antennas and radios from locations near and far; Winnipeg, Lockport, Altamont . . . and chatted with several

**M.A.R.M. Second Annual  
HamFest  
September 7 & 8, 1996  
Manitoba Agricultural Museum  
Grounds  
Austin, MB**

Flea Market Commercial Displays, Computer Fest, Radio Controlled Aircraft Demo. Saturday Dinner & Dance. Ladies & Kids activities, Rabbit Hunts, Food Concession, tours of the Museum.

For more info or to register contact:  
Dave Snyder, VE4XN@VE4BBS.#hwd.mb.ca.noam  
204-728-2463

Amateurs in the process. Special thanks to Larry VE4CPU, Dick VE4HK, Brad VE4BAR, Louie VE4PLJ, Scott VE4SM, Maurice VE4MYX, Charlie VE4LB. My apologies for excluding some if they feel left out (I was using different radios and antennas).

The test results are inconclusive. With basic test equipment I can't tell if there is a performance difference between the Wilson and the Larsen with the exception of the Wilson out of band sensitivity. It seems more broad banded than the Larsen, probably because it is factory tuned and the Larsen resonator user-cut to the center of the 2M band.

My original impression Wilson only manufactured antennas for the 11 meter crowd. I took the opportunity to try out the new Wilson 2M 5/8 Amateur radio antenna courtesy of VE4TCH at Comtelco and compare it with the Larsen 5/8 LM-MM. My opinion about Wilson changed. Performance wise it certainly seems to stand up to high quality and performance standards set by the folks at Larsen. It is also genuine bargain at \$53.00 plus taxes. When one compares the cost of a new Larsen 5/8 LM-MM a la carte, prix fixe - with taxes, over \$100.00; it is hard to believe one can buy the same, perhaps in some cases better, performance for a couple of dollars more than the price of a new Larsen magnet. IMHO (in my humble opinion) performance choice is win/win. Selection has to be a matter of personal preference and affordability . . .