



# News caster

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

January 1997

## RFI & TVI

*Speaker: Bill East*  
*Videon Cable Television*

Date: **January 13, 1997**  
Time: 7:30 p.m.  
Place: Sturgeon Creek Regional Secondary School

### Other Important Dates:

Articles: Jan 29 - for Feb Newsletter  
Feb 26 - for Mar Newsletter  
Mar 26 - for Apr Newsletter

WARC: Feb 10 - Meeting  
Mar 10 - Meeting

WSC: Jan 9 - Breakfast - Norlander  
Jan 15 - Forum meeting - Clubrooms  
Feb 13 - Breakfast - Garden City

ARES: Jan 21 - Meeting, WPS Chief David Cassels

Other: Jun 28,29 - Field Day  
July 11-13 - International HamFest

WARC: Executive for 1996 - 97

Past President	Barrett Filbert VE4ABA	338-2441
President	Richard Kazuk VE4KAZ	895-4778
Treasurer	Rick Lord VE4OV	896-0631
Secretary	Roxanne Byron VE4ZF	388-6114
Vice-President	Jim Ross VE4AJR	256-6366
Program	Lee Smith VE4ANC	864-2334
Membership Norm	Coull VE4EH	885-1692

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

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a very merry Christmas and are well on the way to a Happy New Year as we usher in 1997.

I would like to thank everyone who helped out at the W.A.R.C. annual Christmas party on December 9. Special thanks to Cheryl Mills, wife of VE4KEN and Gloria Lord, wife of VE4OV, for coming out and looking after the buffet.

I would also like to thank Comtelco Electronics for their generous donation of gift certificates that were given out as some of the prizes at the party, as well as to VE4QEW for his donation of the historic transit calendar, another of the many prizes to be given out. The big winner of the dual band base station antenna was VE4CC. Other prize winners during the evening were VE4XYL, VE4OPC, VE4ACX and VE4VQ, and VE4KER for her first place Christmas mug entry. Thank you to all Christmas mug contest participants. Thank you to everyone who attended — a great time was had by all 65 who were able to attend.

I hope that Santa Claus brought everyone all the ham gifts you were wishing for, particularly as January is the perfect time of year to put up that antenna you just received. We all know, after freezing your fingers trying to turn those wrenches and using your lighter to heat the electrical tape to keep it from freezing, occasionally burning your fingers, and running in and out of the house trying to keep warm, and annoying your wife, you finally finish putting up your new antenna. Yes, January is the perfect time. And yes, it works just fine, with a perfect SWR reading you can rest assured that since you put it up in January, it will work just fine for the rest of the year.

Happy New Year to all. Hope to see you all in the New Year

**Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club**

**Released by Alf, VE4ALF (President - 96)**

---

**EXECUTIVE FOR 1997:**

President:	Alf Keber,	VE4ALF
Vice-President:	Paul Champagne,	VE4OPC
Treasurer:	Gladys Haldane-Wilsons,	VE4GLA
Secretary:	Ed Henderson,	VE4YU

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 1997:**

Albert Diamond, VE4AX	Lila Forrester, VE4LIL
John Mitchell, VE4CCW	Gil Frederick, VE4AG
Arch Tingley, VE4AAI	Ian Rollo, VE4MAC
Harsha Godavari, VE4SAI	John Agar, VE4EI
Jeffery Morris, VE4JEM	Eb Schumann, VE4ZI
Colin McBeath, VE4JCM	Len Evans, VE4LEN

**SOCIAL COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRPERSONS:**

Len Evans, VE4LEN and Mabel Evans,

**NEW WSCRC MEMBERS:**

George Gillespie, VE4GNG	Roy Paisner, VE4SKT
Burt Tompkins, VE4BUR	Edward Bodnar, VE4BI
Firmin Michiels, VE4THO	

**GRADUATES - BASIC:**

Burt Tompkins, VE4BUR	Roy Paisner, VE4SKT
Wilf Dowbiggen, VE4WED	Joe Konkin, VE4WF
Robbie Robertson, VE4LER	Henry Briand, VE4HCB
Roger Workman, VE4???	Firmin Michiels, VE4THO
George Gillespie, VE4GNG (BASIC+12)	

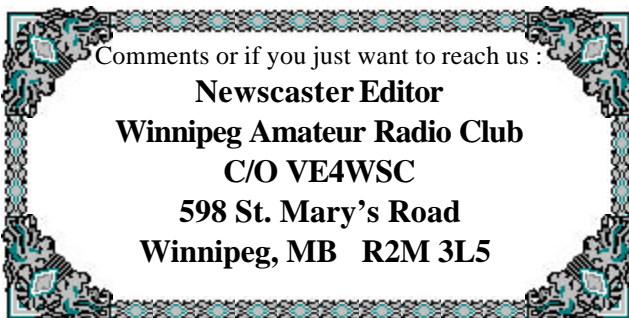
**ADVANCED:**

Don Checkley, VE4CC (ADVANCED+5)

**MORSE CODE ENDORSEMENT:**

Pat Giesbrecht, VE4PLG (+12)  
 Dan Michaelis, VE4SYG (+12)  
 Chuck Morton, VE4CLM (+12)  
 George Gillespie, VE4GNG (+12)  
 Don Checkley, VE4CC (+5) & OTHERS

**COMING IN 1997:**



Each month, except July & August, there will be a forum type meeting for members at VE4WSC. The meeting will feature a guest speaker or activity and will take place at 598 St. Mary's Road from 1 PM to 3 PM on the third Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be on January 15.

VE4WSC is purchasing a new FT736R satellite transceiver to replace the ageing equipment we had. This should result in renewed activity in this area at the club with more members participating.

VE4WSC will be installing a second telephone line in 1997 to accommodate activity on land line BBS and possibly Internet.

WSCRC monthly breakfasts will be held alternately between the Norlander Inn and Garden City Inn at 9 AM the second Thursday of each month. Breakfast specials are \$1.99 + beverage.

*NORLANDER INN:* 1792 Pembina Hwy..

•Jan 9/Mar 13/May 8

*GARDEN CITY INN:* 2100 McPhillips Ave

•Feb 13/Apr 10/Jun 12

Basic requirements for WSCRC membership are:

- Age 55 or older
- Retired
- Accepted by the Board

**ARES Committee Report**  
**by Jeff, VE4MBQ - Winnipeg EC**

---

The DECEMBER meeting was cancelled at the last minute due to lack of meeting facilities at StJohn House (renovation project is underway). Alternate meeting space has been arranged elsewhere through APRIL97. Since adverse weather was forecast for the day of the DEC meeting a bulletin was put out on the Sunday MRS Net and two Senior's Morning Nets preceding the meeting asking WARES members to monitor VE4WPG at 1800hrs Tuesday 17DEC96 for a go/no-go announcement on the meeting. Hopefully most members received the cancellation info prior to proceeding downtown.

From now on, in case of adverse weather or large scale emergency incidents in Winnipeg the day of a scheduled Winnipeg ARES meeting please monitor VE4WPG at 1800hrs for an announcement from the EC or one of the AECs regarding meeting status.

Our next meeting 21JAN97 1900hrs will feature WPS Chief David Cassels reflecting upon his experiences as Incident Commander during the Edmonton Tornado while he was with Edmonton Police. This meeting will be held on the third floor in the General Centre at HSC:

GH-304 (near central elevator bank)  
General Centre, Health Sciences Centre  
700 William Avenue.

Since on-street parking can be difficult don't forget several loonies on case you park in one of the HSC parkades.

Winnipeg ARES MIGHT be providing amateur communications 7,8,9, FEB97 for the Sled Dog Races that are part of Festival du Voyager. Have only had a preliminary discussion with the organizers at press time but mark your calendars now.

For those members in the grip of cabin fever do not despair: we are due for an exercise in the near future!

### **MINUTES for W.A.R.C. December 9, 1996** **Submitted by Roxanne, VE4ZF**

Meeting called to order by Richard VE4KAZ. There were 65 in attendance. Introductions were made in the usual manner.

Moved by VE4HK and seconded by VE4OPC that the minutes of November be accepted as printed in The Newscaster. Motion carried.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

none

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Rick VE4OV reported a current balance of \$5512.44.

#### **'HAM' RADIO OPERATOR'S COURSE** **COURSE INSTRUCTOR** **Larry R. Burkhardt, VE4LRB** **Electronics Engineer**

Once again, regrettably, the Amateur Radio Operator's course was cancelled at the last minute because the required minimum of 10 students per class was not met. For those interested parties who still wish to take this course, I am pleased to announce that I can now offer an alternative venue and am willing to teach classes of less than 10 students. My goal is to offer this course at the beginning of 1997. As I do not have a list of the students who enrolled to take this course at Sturgeon Creek Collegiate, I cannot contact each one of them individually to advise them of these new arrangements. I would, therefore, appreciate it if members of WARC who know of anyone who is interested in taking this course would pass on this information and ask interested parties to contact me *PERSONALLY* after 6 p.m. at 487-0509.

#### **STANDING COMMITTEES:**

*FLEA MARKET:* The date is Sunday, April 20.

*MEMBERSHIP:* Norm VE4EH available for those wishing to pay dues tonight.

*THE NEWSCASTER:* Derek VE4HAY needs articles badly.

*THE DX SLEUTHS:* Adam VE4SN reported there was a small turnout for the world wide CW contest. He reminded everyone of the Heard Island DXpedition in January 1997.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- ☞ License plates for vehicles: Current holders of "VE4" plates will be getting a renewal application that will provide the brand new design plates. New applications should be sent in before February 28/97 in order to qualify for their call sign to be on the new design plates
- ☞ Lease extension: Ed VE4YU received the itemized list of all WARC equipment stored on the premises of the Seniors' Club and a list of any and all persons authorized to have access to the equipment.
- ☞ Radio Interference: A committee has been struck but the members request that their identities be kept confidential. Therefore, anyone wishing to report any incidences may provide the information to the committee by submitting it in writing c/o 559 St Mary's Road.

#### **GOOD AND WELFARE:**

- ☑ RAC contest: Ed VE4YU reminded everyone it will be December 29
- ☑ Dick VE4HK had a few notices:
  - ⇒ Talk to Santa on December 15 at 1pm
  - ⇒ Roy VE4EN has copies of user manual on cassette for "White Caners"
  - ⇒ MRS dues by December 31
- ☑ Rick VE4OV had a several notices:
  - ⇒ Rick VE4OV gave everyone Christmas Greetings from both himself as MidWest Director and from Dave VE4EF as Vice-President.
  - ⇒ Rick thanked Mike for voting for him and paid him the beer owed to him.
  - ⇒ The RAC winter contest is for 160 to 2M so everyone can and should get involved. VE4RAC will be in the contest.
  - ⇒ The deadline of December 16 in the membership drive brochure from RAC has been extended and anyone who paid before receiving the brochure will also be entered in the contest. Anyone with a special concern should contact Rick after the meeting.

Moved by VE4JNF that the meeting be adjourned

### **The WARC DX SLEUTHS Report**

by Ed, VE4YU

---

Two new members joined to close out the 1996 charter member drive. They are Pat, VE4PLG and Dan, VE4SYG. Welcome to Pat and Dan and lots of luck on DXing! Membership now stands at 22 but we notice a lack of activity by some members. We encourage members to get active since that is the main criteria for membership.

There is plenty of HF DX available and all it takes is being at the right place at the right time. Band conditions are slowly getting better and some DX heard/worked includes:

- ☺ On 160M - lots of USA and Canada with the odd bit of DX.
- ☺ On 80M - late night/early morning - 9J2(CW) ZL(SSB)
- ☺ On 40M - plenty of Europeans especially late evening and JA
- ☺ On 20M - lots of good stuff from Africa/Europe/South Pacific ZS/ZS8/HL/JA/OX etc.
- ☺ On 15M - openings are few and short but when open VK/ZL/KH7 etc.
- ☺ On 10M - believe it or not 10M does open & C4/KH7/ZL worked.

The RAC Winter contest was fun again and lots of activity from VE4's and WARC DX Sleuth members. Adam, VE4SN and Ed, VE4YU manned VE4RAC and posted a modest 460 QSOs for 172,480 points but gave a lot of VE's a VE4RAC bonus station. 204 QSOs were on CW.

Heard Island (VK0) will be active for several weeks around the middle of January. This is a hard to get one and will require a lot of skill and luck to pull it in. They will be on all bands and all modes with top notch operators and equipment. Good luck!

WARC DX SLEUTHS are working towards establishing a DX cluster in Winnipeg linked to other clusters to provide timely DX spotting information etc. Hopefully this will be up and running soon.

**RAC Bulletin # 17 & 18**

*Comtelco Electronics*

1456 Logan Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB, Canada R3E 1S1

**Authorized Kenwood Dealer**

MFJ \* Chushcraft \* Alinco \* Valor  
Sangean \* Aor \* Uniden \* Optoelectronics  
Canada Wide Mail Orders

Phone (204) 774-9313 Fax (204) 772 3550

Reply-To: [rachq@king.igs.net](mailto:rachq@king.igs.net)

---

Deadline extension of membership campaign

The RAC membership campaign is well under way, however, due to the Christmas mail rush, the return deadline of December 16, 1996 has been extended to January 6, 1997 so that everyone across Canada has a chance to respond. The special draw date has also been moved to January 10, 1997

500+ on E-mail!

As of last week, we now have over 500 individuals that have subscribed to the listserver to receive the RAC bulletins by E-mail.

Call Sign Working Group Deadline extended.

As most of you will be aware, the deadline for submission of the CSWG recommendations (established at the last CARAB meeting) was December 1st. Due to the unexpected volume of comments received after the articles published in November TCA, and the fact that we do not wish to rush through issues of such importance to all amateurs, the CARAB has agreed to extend our deadline until January 6th.

**VE4 CallSign HomePage - updates**  
by Derek, VE4HAY

---

The VE4 CallSign HomePage has been updated finally. One of the new links that was added to the Manitoba Amateurs homepage area was the homepage of Rob, VE4ROB. Rob has a great page dealing with soldering. He provides many tips and techniques. Please check it out at <http://www.mts.net/mcgill>

If you have a homepage that you would like to have linked, or know of any other pages that are Amateur Radio related please let me know and I will update the page and add the links. Also if you have any suggestions for the page please let me know as well.

**UMR - Packet Radio**  
by Bill. [ve4li@ve4wam.ampr.org](mailto:ve4li@ve4wam.ampr.org)

---

For those who use the WWW, ftp access to the umr site, now works. I discovered this morning that there has been a typo in the html file since august!!!!

**INTERNATIONAL PEACE GARDENS  
HAMFEST JULY 1997**

**by Dick, VE4HK,  
Co-host Committee Chairman**

As I sit down to write this letter, I am looking over vast white fields of snow and -34C temperatures. BRRRRR! At least, I can dream of warm summer temperatures, beautiful green meadows filled with mobile homes, tents, and happy people at the Hamfest. The 1997 International Peace Gardens Hamfest is July 11, 12, 13th. - only seven months away!

Pat VE4PLG and I have been slaving away to make this Hamfest the best ever. We will have a new Olympic calibre contest, which will excite everyone, along with more contests for the kids. We have gathered some excellent prizes. We will not stop until we have succeeded.

Pat and I invite everyone to come down to the Peace Gardens, whether for the entire three days, or just for Saturday. Burghardts, our favourite Candy Store, will be there, as always. Their tables will be loaded down with all the toys a ham could possibly desire. There are sure to be bargains galore in the "field of dreams" tailgate flea market.

Remember to register when you arrive. The cost remains only \$13.00, and entitles you to go to the Saturday night dance, to enjoy a delicious pancake breakfast on Sunday morning, and to enter all the contests. It is worthwhile to register, even if you are only there for the day. The three grand prize winners in 1996 were all at the Hamfest Saturday only. Winning a \$600.00 radio for only \$13.00, is a pretty good deal. Hope to see you there, in only a few short months.

**VE4 Auto Licence Plates  
By Al, VE4AD**

This is the information I have as of Dec.2/96 and applies to new applicants only. Those with existing active plates will be sent renewal forms in the usual way and need not reapply.

It is not essential to use the application form supplied by the Dept. A photocopy of the form or a letter with the following information will do.

NAME\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS\_\_\_\_ TOWN\_\_\_\_  
POSTAL CODE\_\_\_\_ TEL.NO.\_\_\_\_  
HAM PLATE TO BE MANUFACTURED VE4\_\_\_\_  
DATE OF APPLICATION\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE\_\_\_\_

The fee is \$15.00, not \$25.00 as previously stated.  
Mail your application with a cheque or money order for \$15.00 plus \$1.05 GST=\$16.05 (made payable to the Minister

of Finance) along with a PHOTOCOPY OF YOUR STATION LICENCE to:

DRIVER & VEHICLE LICENSING  
PERSONALIZED LICENCE PLATES  
1075 PORTAGE AVE.  
WINNIPEG MANITOBA R3G 0S1

NOTES:

If you are replacing a regular licence plate with a Ham plate, you will be assessed an additional \$15.00 plate replacement fee at time of registration.

Application due dates are Feb.24/97 for delivery in July 97 and Oct.27/97 for delivery in Dec.97. The current style plates are no longer being manufactured. Plates can be ordered for passenger cars and trucks (excluding farm trucks) up to and including a GVW of 4,090 Kgs.

Plates CANNOT be displayed on vehicles registered:

- to the Govt. of Canada
- to the Govt. of Manitoba
- to any Municipality
- to a consul or consular agent of any foreign country.
- as a remote vehicle
- as a delivery car
- as an antique car

- as livery
- as a taxi cab
- as a U drive

Plates CANNOT be displayed on the following vehicles:

- motorcycles/mopeds
- trucks weighing in excess of 4,090 Kgs
- commercial and public service vehicles
- farm trucks
- tractors
- trailers
- off-road vehicles

You don't go through a co-ordinator or an Autopac agent. You deal directly with the licensing Dept. Your plates will be mailed to you.

**D AND E WELDING**

**Aluminium, Galvanized, Steel & Various Other Metals  
102 Devos Road  
Garage Door #24 A & B, Winnipeg, MB**

**Specialized Welding Repairs of  
Antennas and Towers  
Custom Built Aluminium Cabinets  
for Repeaters or Ham Shacks**

**Ernie Vosper**

**Ph:(204) 261-3099**

## How Hams Can Help with Highway Emergencies by Bruce, N6TFS@N6YN#SOCA.CA.USA.NOAM

*packet relay by Ian, VE4MUD*

Daily, around our country, hams encounter highway emergencies on their travels. It could be as simple as a motorist stranded on a center divider or as deadly as a multi-car traffic accident. These are all emergencies and are worthy of dialling 911. By the way, at least in Southern California, there are no emergency call boxes on freeway center dividers like there are on the right shoulders. And all too often these motorists attempt to run across traffic lanes to seek help. The highway patrol considers these calls a priority, just as a traffic accident is.

You don't have to ask for a control operator on a repeater to find help. Any interested ham, on any frequency, that is near any telephone (even pay phones, autopatches and cell phones are fine) can help. I know hams, including myself, that take emergency calls from other mobile hams, and forward it via an autopatch, while driving. Being a good communicator is the important thing here, not how it gets through. If you are on a surface street and near a pay phone, often that is quicker than even using Ham radio. Just dial 911, a free call. Here are the basic steps, from both perspectives, in handling a typical call:

- HAM #1: sees a highway emergency  
 HAM #1: Takes note of details: location, injuries, description, etc.  
 HAM #1: grabs radio, calls for help, looking for someone near a phone: then transmits: "I have an accident to report, could someone near a telephone assist me? <your call sign>  
 HAM #2: near a phone responds: "Yes, could ahead with your emergency traffic (getting pencil and paper ready, and having the phone near the radio is a real plus)  
 HAM #1: slowly describes: location, vehicles, injuries, etc.  
 HAM #2: reads back all of the info to HAM #1, checking for errors  
 HAM #1: confirms accuracy or provides needed corrections  
 HAM #2: asks HAM #1 to stay on frequency, in case more info is needed  
 HAM #2: Dials 911, asks for needed agency (police, highway patrol, etc.)  
 HAM #2: reaches needed agency, explains that this is via Ham Radio and then reads the info to the dispatcher.  
 HAM #2: Calls back HAM #1 on radio and confirms delivery of message  
 HAM #1: thanks HAM #2 for being available to assist

That's all there is, it's not rocket science. But it can save lives. And if you are the mobile ham, don't be afraid to call for help several times. And just use plain English when asking for help, you don't need to use any special codes or ham-speak. The responding ham near the phone may even need your coaching, not a problem, walk them through it.

Hams don't have to be members of any special emergency assist on either end of this type of emergency. Our FCC license and Part 97 of the rules expects us to assist the public with emergencies - we don't have to be knighted by the Queen first. The repeater that I am active on, in the Los Angeles area, handled about 5000 calls last year. While the W6FNO repeater, 146.820-, specializes in this type of communications - IT CAN BE DONE ON ANY REPEATER - AND SHOULD BE. That is why we all should leave nice pause between our transmissions - so that emergencies can get through. Hurricanes and floods don't happen everyday, but highway emergencies do. And handling this kind of radio traffic is great training for larger disasters. Many of you will find that it will increase your confidence on the radio, it did for me. If this has provoked any questions or if I have left out something in the small space of this bulletin, drop me a line via packet. And feel free to include this in club newsletters, especially if you send a copy of your newsletter to Bruce, N6TFS, P.O. Box 41446, Los Angeles, CA 90041.

### Amateur Radio and Your Health

## Applied Communications & Electronics

2-414 Westmount Drive, St. Boniface.  
204-253-3963

### Specials on 2 meter Antenna's Contact us for your Larsen or Sinclair Antenna needs.

Specializing in service and repair of Communications equipment, two-way radio and marine electronics. We invite all our friends and customers to drop in and visit. Please call Gerry, VE4ACE for more information. See our ad in the 1995 Fall blue book (inside rear cover).

**HF-VHF-UHF**  
Commercial-Amateur-CB-Shortwave-Scanners  
Installations-Repairs-Modifications

## By Robert, VE4RST

---

Well, happy new year to everyone. I hope that you had a festive holiday season and enjoyed time with family and friends. Now that the Christmas and new year festivities are threw, I know that I am looking for ways to decrease that extra 1 or 2 pounds gained during the holiday season. Since most of us are also recovering from the extra monetary cost of Christmas, what better way to spend inexpensive and quality time than in the ham shack.

In the last newsletter I went through the basic specifications for getting or making a more comfortable chair. Another important issue for your health in your ham shack is the proper positioning of your computer and related accessories. It is important to position this equipment correctly to avoid back, arm, neck and head strain. The following are just a few tips when placing this equipment;

### Adjusting your Monitor's Height and Distance

Now that you have that comfortable chair, sit down in front of the radio table in your shack. These next adjustments will lessen the stress placed on your neck and shoulders.

Sit comfortable on your chair. Keep your feet flat on the floor. Hold your head so that you are looking straight ahead, not down and not up. This is the position that your head should maintain when looking at the monitor. Also, keep your shoulders and arms relaxed. Raise and lower the height of your monitor till you are looking straight at the centre of the screen. The top of the monitor should generally be the same height as your forehead. There are a number of ways that you can raise or lower your monitor. You can use household items such as old telephone books, packages of paper, catalogues or shelving. The viewing distance from your eyes to your monitor should be between 16 and 24 inches. You can also decrease eye strain by tilting the monitor 10 - 20 degrees. After you have made the proper adjustments try sitting in front of the monitor for about 15 - 20 minutes to see if you can feel stress on you neck. If you do, begin again by adjusting the monitor height.

### Preventing Glare

Glare is the biggest single cause of eyestrain when the computer is being used. It is not that difficult to avoid the eye strain. Avoid setting your monitor under direct light. Florescent overheads are the biggest causes of glare. If you have them in your shack, turn the ones directly overhead off. A portable desk lamp will decrease your problem with glare and still provide adequate light. Most newer monitors now have built in anti glare protection. If you are using an older one, an anti-glare screen can be bought at any computer store. You can also purchase anti glare glasses from you ophthalmologist. A simple method of reducing the glare from

overhead lights would be to place a large piece of cardboard over the top of the monitor. Avoid staring at the computer screen for too long a period of time. People who do this tend not to blink as often. Look away and focus on an object at a distance for a few seconds. Blink frequently to avoid eye dryness.

### Adjusting the Keyboard Height

Carpal tunnel syndrome and repetitive strain injury have become more prevalent because of keyboards and mouse devices. Over long periods of use you could be susceptible to these problems. A way to reduce your risk is to place your keyboard at the proper height in you shack.

The table height of your shack table should be between 23 and 28 inches from the floor to the typing surface. Use a comfortable wrist pad in front of your keyboard, so that your wrists have cushioning and do not touch a hard surface. Adjust the height of your table so that when you position your hands on the keyboard, your elbows are bent at an 90 degree angle and your wrists are not bent up or down. Make sure that your wrists lie flat and that your fingers are stretched out in front.

### Using a Mouse Pad

To reduce the presence of wrist and shoulder strain try to use a mouse pad under the mouse when you are in operation. Try to move your entire arm when using the mouse. A lot of us, myself included, make sharp, jerky movements with just the wrist when moving the mouse. Take a "mouse break" every now and then. Position the mouse pad next to the keyboard so you do not have to reach too far.

Although most of these suggestions seem simple, most people do not think about positioning of their ham equipment when setting up their shack. If you incorporate some of these suggestions, sitting in you shack can be made a lot more comfortable and your "transmitting" time will be increased.

## Gossip!

---

Hello, my name is Gossip! I have no respect for justice. I maim without killing. I break hearts and ruin lives. I am cunning and malicious and gather strength with age. The more I am quoted the more I am believed. My victims are helpless. They cannot protect themselves against me because I have no name and no face. To track me down is impossible. The harder you try, the more elusive I become. I am nobody's friend. Once I tarnish a reputation, it is never the same. I topple governments and wreck marriages. I ruin careers and cause sleepless nights, heartaches, and

indigestion. I make innocent people cry in their pillows. I am called Gossip and I make headlines and headaches.

Before you repeat a story, ask yourself: "Is it true?" "Is it harmless?" "Is it necessary?" "If it isn't, don't repeat it!"

## Interference

---

There has been considerable interference on 2 metres during 1996, and your club has finally decided to do something about it. They have stuck together an interference committee.

This committee would like to know of any interference you may receive, or monitor. Please record the date, time, duration, and frequency of the interference. Try if you can, to identify the direction of the signal (the input of a repeater). If you happen to recognise any voices or mannerism please also relate this information.

The committee would like to know of each occurrence you come across. They need this information so that they can properly monitor the situation and keep Industry Canada informed as well. The committee wishes to act as the funnel point for contacting Industry Canada, however, should you wish to, you may still forward your concerns directly to Industry Canada

Please send any information you have to:

Interference Committee - WARC  
C/O VE4WSC  
598 St. Mary's Road  
Winnipeg, MB R2M 3L5

## Longitudes and Latitudes (W2IOL) de Alexander, VE4APN

---

It is not "Where in the World is Carmen Sandiago?" but for Radio Amateurs wanting to know where in the world ?? W2IOL's Latitudes and Longitudes may be the answer. Listings are in alphabetical order by callsign, location prefix, city, longitude (degree minutes) and latitude (degree minutes), e.g., Winnipeg:

VE4 MB WINNIPEG 49 53 N 97 10 W

Check it out at <http://itre.uncecs.edu/radio/atlasinfo.html>

Those with text only access to Internet try Yahoo or AltaVista with search string - ve4 manitoba amateur radio .

## Maglev - The wheelless race

## Source: Le Train Magnetique Accelere, La Recherche Sep/96

---

*Relayed by Vern, VE4VQ*

The tie between this article and amateur radio is a bit tenuous but, since all Hams have some sort of experience with magnets in one form or another, you may find it interesting. Those who are less long-in-the-tooth than this writer may also find themselves in either Japan or Germany in the future and have the opportunity to travel one of these trains.

Japan and Germany have been in the magnetic levitation game for many years - the Japanese since 1962. The objective of the Japanese was to develop a system of land-transport that would allow people to travel between Osaka and Tokyo - a distance of 500 km - in one hour.

Because of the earthquake problem in Japan, the designers decided that their maglev train had to clear the rails (if that is the appropriate terminology) by 100 mm. This force them to turn to super conducting electromagnets. These, in turn, have to be cooled to -269<sup>0</sup> C by an onboard refrigerating system involving liquid helium.

The tests that the Japanese are now running on a portion of line 18.4 km long.

The Germans, not having to deal with earthquakes, use conventional electromagnets that lift the carriages only 20 mm above the rail. This means that their trains do not have to carry the refrigerating systems required by the Japanese trains. Nor will they attain the velocity of the Japanese trains; the Germans have settled for 400 km/hr.

Last May, the German government authorised a 280 km line between Berlin and Hamburg that should be ready for service in 2005. It is estimated that the transrapid will carry 12,000,000 passengers per year, thus freeing the other train-lines for the carrying of freight.

## Editors Ramblings BY Derek, VE4HAY

---

Ok, who got my Icom IC-756 that I asked Santa for. I woke up on Christmas morning and all I got was some underwear. Nice, but not quite the same warm fuzzy feeling as a new rig. I hope everyone had a great festive season and welcome to a new year of Amateur Radio.

This year looks like a good one. The bands are opening up, activity is starting to be heard (see the DX Sleuths article). The International HamFest is in the planning stages, (see VE4HK's article). Field Day is also quickly approaching and the need to form a committee for this event is great. If you are interested please contact any executive member.

73 to all, and to all a good contact