



News-caster

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

April 1998

HomeBrew Night

Come out and see the
Winter Projects

Date: **April 13th, 1998**
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Sturgeon Creek Regional Secondary School

Other Important Dates:

Articles: Apr. 29 - May Newsletter article deadline

WARC: April 19 - Spring Flea Market
May 11 - Monthly meeting
June 27-26 - Field Day

WSC: Apr. 9 - Breakfast meeting @ Norlander Inn

ARES: Apr. 19 - CanWarn Training Session
Apr. 21 - Meeting - Portable HF set-up
May 19 - Meeting - Severe Weather Video

Other: April 16 - MRS Annual Meeting
June 21 - Marathon
April 24, 1999 - WARC HamFest & Flea market

Words from the President of WARC: by Norm, VE4EH

Spring has sprung, and a young man's fancy turns to the recruitment of YL's to the ranks of amateur radio. All kidding aside, now is the time to install, and tune new antennas, string cable and generally cleanup after a moderate, but still an equipment deteriorating winter.

"Home Brew Night" is upon us April 13, 1998, following the WARC general meeting. The format for "Home Brew Night" has been modified somewhat in the hope, that just plain folks, will enter a home brewed item. Prizes will be available on a draw basis but you must enter a project in order to be eligible. The object is to have a little fun as well as admiring the skills of those that like to build.

Please note that the "Spring Flea Market" will be held on April 19, 1998, at the Heritage Victoria C.C., 950 Sturgeon Road, 10 am to 2 pm. A slight change has been made to the format. Those that arrive shortly before 10 am will be allowed in the coffee shop side of the C.C., however, access to the trading floor will remain closed to the general public until 10 am.

Preparations are still underway for a variety of spring and summer activities. This is not a major job when members take on small jobs voluntarily. Where it could become a big problem is if the executive is expected to do everything. Remember! Its your club and it can only do so much without your involvement and help.

WARC: Executive for 1997-98			
Past President	Richard Kazuk	VE4KAZ	895-4778
President	Norm Coull	VE4EH	885-1692
Treasurer	Rick Lord	VE4OV	275-6980
Secretary	Ruth Mills	VE4XYL	837-6915
Vice-President	Larry Burkhardt	VE4LRB	487-0509
Program	Dave Wood	VE4KU	895-7067
Membership	Dan Michaelis	VE4SYG	339-3018

Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club **Edited by Gil Frederick, VE4AG,** **& Paul, VE4OPC.**

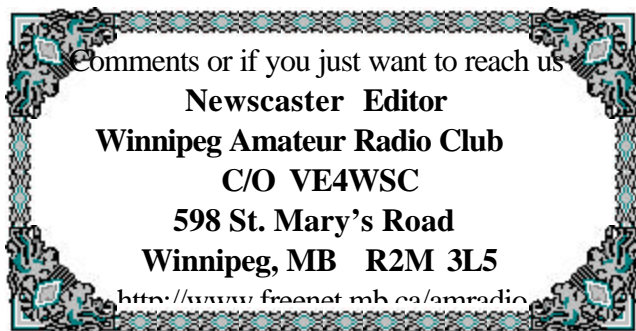
Members were sent a copy of the Amended Constitution (dated 12 January, 1998), together with the 8-page 'Sparks' newsletter at the end of February. If you did not get these, please advise Gil and they will be sent to you.

We must correct an error re the Breakfasts. Because the Windsor Park Inn is not available for our April breakfast meeting, it will now be held at the NORLANDER INN, on APRIL 9th. The Norlander is located at 1792 Pembina Highway in Fort Garry. The breakfast starts at 9 a.m. Listen for announcements by Len, VE4LEN as to the locations of subsequent breakfast meetings (disregard those shown for May and June in 'Sparks').

Len reports that 30 members and guests attended the March breakfast at the Garden City Inn and hopes for a large turnout at the upcoming one at the Norlander. Don't disappoint him!

Permission has been granted for the Seniors' station VE4WSC to be used as the 'backbone' during the running of this year's Manitoba Marathon in June.

Here is an advance notice re a Boy Scouts' Jamboree, to be held over Labour Day weekend at Spruce Woods Provincial Park. Members Vern VE4VQ and Gil VE4AG expect to be in attendance - operating field ham stations.



The Girl Guides were highly visible at the Club during the 'Guides On The Air' activities recently; in fact, the rooms were crowded! One Guide Leader, Heather Bewza, had a nice on-air chat with Adam, VE4SN and Ed, VE4YU down there in Mexico. Heather had worked with Adam and Ed on previous GOTA operations at the Club. A report of this activity has been prepared and can be read at the clubrooms.

Gil, VE4AG and Jim, VE4AJR took on the club's Red Cross responsibilities with their involvement in Exercise 'Mercury', a telecommunications exercise sponsored by the Halifax Regional Municipality-Emergency Measures Organization (HRM-EMO), passing and receiving messages via HF (Gil) and Packet (Jim)- from their homes. VE4WSC is the official Red Cross station in Manitoba. The Red Cross HQ (VA3CRC) in Ottawa operates a Net every Sunday, on 14.125, beginning at 1900Z. Central control stations are VE4AG and VE4YU. Please check in if you are able. The VA3CRC Internet address is: va3crc@rac.ca; the packet address is: va3crc@va3tcp.#eon.on.can.noam

We have a new design for the club name badges - from now on, the club name in full will appear at the top. It will still have the logo of the provincial boundaries with the bison and the Canadian flag at each side (now new flat type), but the bottom section will have the callsign and name distinctly separate for easier reading. Also, they can be had with either the standard clip, or magnetic clasp. Order forms are available at the club.

It has been confirmed that Manitoba Hams can use the prefix XN4 during the period May 20 - July 20, 1998, to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of the R.C.M.P., beginning with the North-West Mounted Police. Also, there is an IC-confirmed reservation for the callsign VX4PAG for use by the Seniors' Club during July and August 1999 as a Special Events Station for the Pan-Am Games.

At the March Board meeting, a new member was voted in. He is Gordon Finch, VE4GF.

We trust members have fully digested the two questions asked in 'Sparks': the question of whether or not to have the next Christmas party catered; and the big question of the possible move to the downstairs section of our present site - and have signified their votes to either the duty officer at the club, or to our President, Paul Champagne, VE4OPC, who is highly concerned about both issues.

By Board vote, our next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 15th, beginning at 9:30 a.m. We hope to see all Board members in attendance.

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

PROVINCIAL ISSUES:

Attended Manitoba Emergency Management Organization Conference over the weekend. The session presented by two EMO staffers (Paul Robinson, Shelley Napier) regarding operation of the Provincial EOC during The Flood of the Century highlighted the role of amateur radio in emergency communication several times. The people attending that session were told that amateur radio is a valuable resource and that if municipalities do not currently include amateur radio in emergency planning they ought to. Emergency Planning courses both at the federal level and provincial level outline the uses and value of amateur radio in emergency communications.

We are embarking on a CANWARN program which utilizes specially trained amateur operators to report local severe weather conditions UPON REQUEST via amateur radio to a CANWARN controller at the weather office. The eight ECs in Manitoba are meeting on 29MARCH for a CANWARN planning meeting. We have tentatively planned a CANWARN training session for the afternoon of Sunday 19APR following the WARC

Flea Market. Environment Canada insists that amateurs take an approved CANWARN training session BEFORE acting as CANWARN observers.

The 1997 Red River Flood Post Emergency Report by Bryan Corkal of Ernst and Young for MEMO has been released. Hard copies are \$5 from Statutory Publications or available on the author's web site:

www.autobahn.mb.ca/-ey

WINNIPEG ISSUES:

Our next general meeting is Tuesday 21 April 730pm at Sir Wm Stephenson Library 765 Keewatin St.

There is the possibility of some sort of exercise Good Friday 10APR98.

MINUTES for W.A.R.C. March 9, 1998 **Submitted by Ruth, VE4XYL**

Meeting was called to order at 19:40 hrs. Fourty six members signed the attendance book and introduced themselves. Our guest for the evening was Woody Linton VE3JJA, from Kenora Ont.

February 9 minutes were approved as in the newscaster. Moved by Dick VE4HK and seconded by John VE4JNF.

Amendments to the minutes to read that WARC will be hosting the IHF WITH Minot and Bismark N.D. co-hosting, not in Minot and Bismark.

Treasurers Report:

Rick Lord VE4OV. To date the bank balance is \$3868.63, after paying the outstanding bills such as \$144.00 postage, \$350.00 for rental of the theater at Sturgeon Creek Collegiate, \$350.00 insurance and \$275.00 to Norwood Trophies for the OSCAR plaque.

Program:

No Report except a reminder that April 13th is Home Brew night. There will be a separate draw for those participating and prizes will go out to the first 6 ticket holders drawn.

RAC:

Rick VE4OV highlighted the issues on the bulletins printed in the newscaster. Rick will attend on our behalf, a RAC general meeting which will be held in Arnprior Ont. on May 24/98.

Membership:

Dan VE4SYG, Nothing to report. Renewals seem to be at a standstill at this time.

ARES:

Jeff submitted his report (as per attachment) I hope.

Flea Market:

Pat VE4PLG. To date there are only 8 tables left. Interested vendors must have their money in before a table will be assigned to them.

DX Sleuths:

Welcome back Adam. Adam VE4SN reported on the ARRL contest. All bands were opened and conditions were near perfect. He reported that conditions were so good that a person could have gotten his DXCC in one weekend. Next contest will be the CW contest worldwide. Adam encouraged everyone interested to try and get their DXCC certificate during these contests and band openings.

New Business:

Ralph VE4RY reported that WARC hats will be available to the club for about \$6.00 if there is enough interest.

Program:

Jack Adams VE4JA, will, after the coffee break, be giving a talk on IPARN, the setting up of it, the

cost and operations as well he will try to answer any questions from the floor.

Meeting adjourned at 20:05 Hrs.

ARES Spring Flea Market Silent Auction **by Robert Stegmaier VE4RST**

It is that time of year again where the scent of spring is in the air and anticipation for the radio amateur spring flea market grows in every hams heart. Once again, Winnipeg ARES will be presenting its silent auction as part of its fundraising activities. As you all know, Winnipeg ARES is comprised of a group of dedicated amateurs who give of their time and expertise in communication to the people of Winnipeg in time of emergency. Fundraising is a very important part of ARES's success. With past flea markets, the amateur community of Winnipeg has given its support to WARES by participating in our silent auction as well as other fund raising events. This year the prizes that will comprise our silent auction will be better than ever. I am also pleased to announce that WARES will be selling the ever popular Winnipeg Sherlock Street Guide. If you have seen this guide you will know that there is no better source to finding your way around the busy streets of Winnipeg. If you have an older issue of this guide, the new addition will encompass updates to the changing face of Winnipeg streets as well as overviews of communities throughout Manitoba. Finally, if you have any questions about WARES or wish to know our meeting times our members at the table will be more than happy to help you. I hope to see you at the spring flea market.

Upcoming Radio Events

April

13	144-MHz Spring Sprint
21	222-MHz Spring Sprint
29	432-MHz Spring Sprint

May

- 9 902-MHz Spring Sprint
- 9 1296-MHz Spring Sprint
- 9 2304-MHz Spring Sprint
- 16 1750-MHz Spring Sprint

Murphy's Laws: Antennas and DX
Submitted by Dan, VE4SYG

Experience proves that entropy can strike at any time to foul up the best plans. Ham antenna systems are especially vulnerable to Murphy's malevolent meddling.

As Applied to Antenna Installations:

1. If it stays up, it wasn't high enough.
2. The efficiency of any given antenna is inversely proportional to the ambient temperature of the outside air at the time of installation.
3. The length of a half-wave dipole is calculated with the following formula $492 \times .95$ where:

$$\frac{492}{f} = WOH + 11''$$

(f=frequency in MHz ; WOH=wire on hand

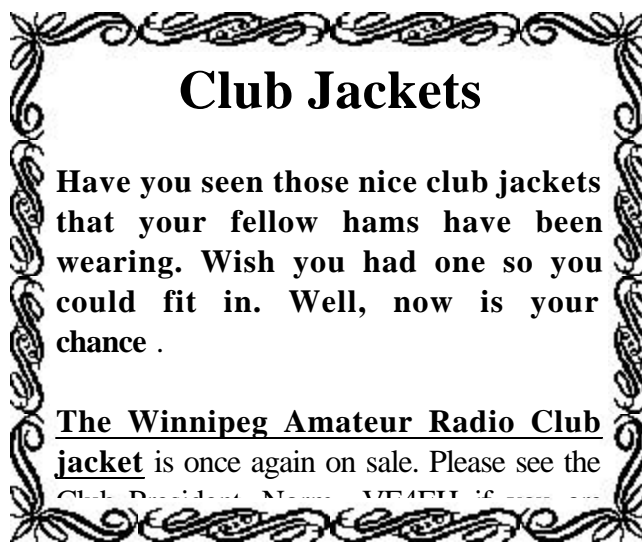
4. An antenna cut to the above length will resonate just outside the edge of the respective band.
5. SWR is inversely proportional to the ease of adjustment.
6. Antennas never come down until the day before a contest or the start of a DXpedition.
7. Temporary installations tend to become permanent.
8. Permanent installations never are.
9. The largest trees grow in the direction of the most-needed DXCC country.
10. No matter where a tower is located, it can't be sufficiently guyed in the direction of the strongest winds.
11. Rotators only rotate during testing or when held in your hands.

12. Mail order lightning arrestors arrive the day after the storm.
13. Your insurance policy covers only installations that were lightning protected.
14. Careful attention should be exercised in the selection of feed lines, as they radiate 90% of the transmitter's power.
15. Element dimensions given in manufacturer's instruction manuals contain typographical errors.
16. The frequency of the need to repair any antenna increases logarithmically with its height above ground.
17. Freestanding towers aren't either.
18. If it's in your junk box you can't use it.
19. If you can use it, there aren't enough of them.
20. If there are enough of them, at least one of them is the wrong size.

Spring Flea Market
by Pat VE4PLG

Reminder that the Spring Flea Market at:

Heritage Victoria C.C.
950 Sturgeon Road.



Club Jackets

Have you seen those nice club jackets that your fellow hams have been wearing. Wish you had one so you could fit in. Well, now is your chance .

The Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club jacket is once again on sale. Please see the

Sunday April 19/98
10 am to 2 pm

Anyone who has booked tables must pay now, or the tables will be released and placed on a first paid — first used basis.

Hints & Kinks by Ralph, VE4RY

Are you one of the many fans of the renowned 102-foot G5RV multi-band dipole? Could it be possible that a 40 meter dipole just might be a better choice, particularly for city dwellers with small lots?

There are some bonuses in the RF department with the shorter antenna that are worth considering.

Here are the characteristics of a 40-meter, 67-foot dipole:

1. It is a collinear double zepp on 20 meters.
2. It is an extended double zepp on 17 meters
3. It has the same four-leaf clover pattern as a G5RV, but on 15 meters - a great DX band for low power.
4. It is more unobtrusive, has less wind load and is lighter.
5. It is more omni-directional on the highest HF bands.

If your G5RV has to run close to trees and power lines, most of the theoretical advantages may be lost, anyway.

Granted, it would be a better radiator on 75 meters, but the 67-footer does at least enable you to check in on the local nets, which is all many of us do.

I have used both of these 'three half-wave dipoles' and for overall versatility the adage "smaller is better" seems to apply here, especially with the rising sunspot cycle. When you consider that the mathematical average of 75 and 10 is 42.5, then 40 meters isn't very far off, as a compromise.

(Note: both these antennas must be fed with balanced line when operated as multi-banders.)

Glossary of Antennas & Feed Lines Submitted by Dan, VE4SYG

1. FRONT-TO BACK RATIO: Amount of real estate in front of your house compared to the amount behind your house (yielding an insufficient ratio to support a center-fed half-wave dipole).
2. IMPEDANCE: Extent of "Quiet Hours" imposed by the DOC; directly proportional to TVI.
3. FEED POINT: Opening between the nose and the chin.
4. INVERTED "VEE": Yagi element after yesterdays ice storm.
5. ANTENNA GAIN: A definite oxymoron.
6. RADIATION RESISTANCE: Level of opposition by your XYL/OM to your intention to erect "another unsightly mess of wires."
7. SKIN EFFECT: Result of missing a rung when climbing the tower.
8. HORIZONTALLY POLARIZED: Position of everyone on the ground when you're working at the top of the tower.
9. PI-NETWORK: Local radio club's bake sale.
10. AURORA SKIP: Performed by your XYL/OM when your antenna farm is decimated by 80-mph winds.
11. NODE: Center portion of the OM's physical profile.
12. NULL: Entire portion of OM's financial profile after antenna installation.
13. SUNSPOT CYCLE: Exercise bike in the basement that gets used one year out of every eleven.

At a recent computer expo (COMDEX), Bill Gates reportedly compared the computer industry with the auto industry and stated "If GM had kept up with technology like the computer industry has, we would all be driving twenty-five dollar cars that got 1000 mi/gal."

Recently General Motors addressed this comment by releasing the statement "Yes, but would you want your car to crash twice a day?"

The History of Amateur Radio Revisited

Condensed and submitted by Ed, VE4YU

In 1922, two of the biggest downtown radio theaters were quick to exploit radio as a gimmick to attract more customers. On April 17, 1922, the papers carried large ads by the Capitol and the Allen (later the Metropolitan) saying that they had installed receivers and loudspeakers in order to demonstrate the wonders of radio to their patrons. The Capitol equipment was operated by Salton-Foster; the Allen's by H. W. G. Kirk, 4CV, a 15 year-old amateur.

Both theaters made identical claims, boasting that it had the largest and most powerful receiver - the only one capable of being heard throughout the theater - and that it was the first picture palace in Canada to install such an apparatus for the benefit of their patrons. Each promised reception from such distant points as Boston, Pittsburgh and San Francisco. They had an ace in the hole, if atmospheric conditions prevented them from hearing the American stations. They could tune in the Free Press or Tribune, which were only a couple of blocks away, but the musical programs were interspersed with code signals from transatlantic stations, which must have mystified the theater goers.

Within a few days, accusations of fakery were being bandied back and forth. It was charged that the opposition was playing phonograph records over their loudspeakers because of defective radio equipment. The Capitol management offered a \$100 reward to any person who could prove that the radio was not

genuine. "The Capitol equipment is open to the closest scrutiny by anyone doubtful of its authenticity". The novelty of theater demonstrations soon wore off and after a couple of weeks was discontinued.

T. Eaton Company ads for April 22, 1922, told of the opening of a radio section on the fourth floor of the store. Eaton's was the first large city firm to enter the radio merchandising field. Salton resigned his position as radio inspector and disposed of his interest in Salton-Foster Radio Engineering to his partner before taking charge of Eaton's radio department on May 1, 1922. Salton set up his CKZC transmitter in the store and it was a great attraction to the customers, who were fascinated by a close-up view of the apparatus that put a radio program on the air.

Eaton's also began a radio section in its mail order building. Like the city store, it started as an adjunct to the music department. Eaton's mail order is now only a memory, but a half-century ago, it completely dominated the radio mail-order business in western Canada. Eaton's 'Radio Bulletin' was the bible of radio fans across the prairies for many years and it displayed a full line of receiving sets, kits and component parts.

On May 4, 1922, the Commissioner of the Manitoba Telephone System gave a statement to the press, the significance of which was not realized at the time, but which would have a tremendous effect on radio broadcasting in Manitoba for the next decade and more. The Commissioner said that at a conference the previous day with the Minister of Telephones, Thomas Johnson, it had been decided that the M.T.S. would enter the domain of radio broadcasting. Strangely enough, neither newspaper commented on the M.T.S. decision. The following month, the Commissioner took an option on a Northern Electric 101-A 500 watt radio-phone transmitter.

NEXT MONTH ..

Local radio programming in 1922 and cries of 'American influence'.

The above information is taken from a publication available at the Manitoba Archives, produced by George F. W. Reynolds, VE4AJ, who became a silent key in 1996.

- Condensed and submitted by Ed Henderson, VE4YU - 1998

Editors Ramblings **BY Derek, VE4HAY**

This was a hard newsletter to put together this month. I have been very busy lately and have not had any time for radio or newsletters. Basically I finished this month's newsletter in 2 days. Thank you all those who had submitted articles in advance of my having to phone for them. Also thank you to those who submitted quickly, after the phone call.

Well the snow is finally melting and the yard looks #@\$*. But, now it's antenna time. So for all of you who have lost parts of your Gem-Quad's or can't quite figure out why your signal has dropped over the winter, get up that tower and fix that antenna. The DX Sleuths keep saying that the bands are opening up more and more each day. So if you want to get points on the summer contest scene or just want to QSO with that new found OM while you were a snowbird, now is your chance.

There are many great events coming up this summer. Firstly, I will mention the Manitoba Marathon. I have been helping out with this event since I got my license. It provides a great day of radio fun, and also lets you get into community service fulfillment mode. So if you are a couch potato and won't run in the Marathon, why not volunteer as a radio operator at an Aid Station. All that you require is a 2 metre rig, batteries, and the urge to get up early in the morning. So all you Basic Only guys can help out here. If you are a rookie or a little unsure of

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John. VE4JNF

AMATEUR RADIO for BEGINNERS

**Instructor: Larry R. Burkhardt
Electronics Engineer**

The current course is already running but, I am now taking names for the next course.

If you who know of anybody (XYL, YL, OM or just a friend) who is interested in taking this course, Please pass on this information and have interested

yourself in regards to this event you can be paired up with someone who has a couple of years experience at the marathon. For more info please contact Kay, VE4YF at 669-5077 or via e-mail at kquinn@pangea.ca

Secondly, is Field Day. This is a great radio weekend event. It shows each amateur radio operator, just what being a ham is all about. The feeling of setting up a station in the event of a disaster. The manning of the station, the thrill of getting another contact, the theory of what band conditions react like, and the camaraderie of your fellow amateur. While this is an mainly HF event it is open to all amateurs, Basic - Advanced. This year once again Field Day will be held at the Falcon Lake Resort Hotel. While this is not quite roughing it, (and who said we have to actually setup in disaster mode), it is still away from the city and a good location for a lot of fun for the whole family. The kids in the pool or the lake, the XYL on the beginners station, and you on the IC-756 (or similar rig). Evenings by the bar and the wee-hours hunting down that elusive rare DX station.

Good luck in the contest. For more info on this event please contact any WARC executive member listed on the front of the newsletter.

Thirdly, there is the International HamFest at the International Peace Gardens. WARC is the Canadian host this year. More details on this in future Newscasters. But if you want information now or wish to help out, please contact Ruth, VE4XYL at 837-6915.

And lastly there is there Austin HamFest which will be held in August this year. A great local HamFest just a short drive from Winnipeg. Details to follow in future Newscasters. Contact Dave Snydal VE4XN for more info at 728-2463.