



# Newscaster

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

December 1998

HEAR YE.... HEAR YE.... HEAR YE

## ANNUAL XMAS PARTY

*Come One, Come All*

*Decorate a Mug. Win a Prize. Feasts and  
Fun for Everyone. Draws & Prizes.*

**Date:** December 14, 1998

**Time:** 7:30 p.m.

### **RADIOGRAM FROM THE PRESIDENT:** by Larry, VE4LRB

I hope that we'll see all of you at the CHRISTMAS PARTY/SOCIAL on December 14. As usual, Ruth will be treating us to a tasty spread featuring her very best culinary delights.

CONGRATULATIONS to GEORGE GILLESPIE, VE4NGG, the winner of the complete KENWOOD station whose name was drawn at the November 9th general meeting. The Executive Committee wishes you many, many years of good 'ham'ing!

Amateur radio is all about 'communicating', your President and Executive Committee members, just wish there could be more 'communication' between sub-committees and 'us'. The WARC Executive committee can be held accountable for whatever the WARC sub-committees sponsor or commit to. For this reason, it would be politic for the sub-committees to keep the Executive members 'au courant' with developments as they occur.

Do not forget to participate and encourage participation in our special CHRISTMAS CAPITAL OF CANADA event during the months of November, December and January.

On behalf of myself and members of the Executive Committee, **we wish you a safe and Happy Holiday Season and a 1999 full of**

**rare  
DX!**



### **Other Important Dates:**

Articles: Dec. 29 - Deadline for Articles Jan./99 Newscaster  
Jan. 26 - Deadline for Articles Feb. Newscaster

WARC: December 14 - Meeting  
Jan. 11/99 - Meeting

WSC: Dec.. 16 - Annual General Meeting  
Jan 14/99 - Breakfast Garden City Inn  
Feb. 20, 21/99 - 0900 to 1400 - GOTA

ARES: Dec.. 15 - Meeting  
Feb 13,14 - Training session - Sled Dog Races

Other: May 29, 1999 - WARC HamFest & Flea market

### WARC: Executive for 1998-99

Past President	Norm Coull	VE4EH	885-1692
President	Larry Burkhardt	VE4LRB	487-0509
Treasurer	Norm Coull	VE4EH	885-1692
Secretary	Ruth Mills	VE4XYL	837-6915
Vice-President	Dan Michaelis	VE4SYG	339-3018
Goodwill	Vern Dutton	VE4VQ	256-5346
Membership	Garth Fewster	VE4GDF	633-1012

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

Two events that the Club participated in recently were: the St. Vital BIZ community Christmas/Santa party, and the Creative Retirement Display.

Each year, St. Vital BIZ puts on a community Christmas party, centred at the Civic Offices next door to our clubrooms. There are toy hunts, skits presented (indoors), goodies and hotdogs available, and horse & wagon rides. This is a big day for the local kids, and also our own members, who circulate in the crowd outside, with 2m handi-talkies, and act as Santa's helpers to put the kids in contact with Santa (members of the Club operating from within our clubrooms). The children (and parents) are invited to make a tour of our facilities and watch the radio activities 'live'. This year the event was held on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 29.

Creative Retirement put on a Show & Tell display in the Grill Room of Eaton's Downtown, on Tuesday, December 1, attended by various groups which are involved in Seniors' activities; and we had an amateur radio station on display. The following members were in attendance to answer questions and promote Amateur Radio as a retirement hobby: Lila, VE4LIL; Bert, VE4AND; Ed, VE4YU; Albert, VE4AX; Adam, VE4SN; and Paul, VE4OPC.

At the last Board meeting, it was decided to continue in the CFARS program. We were advised that a linear amplifier is not required, and that the CFARS callsign could be used by individual members from their home QTH. This alleviates our problem of, presently, not having an antenna system that favours the out-of-band CFARS frequencies.

Len, VE4LEN, reported that the Oct. breakfast at the Norlander was attended by 35; the Nov. breakfast at the Garden City Inn, by 20 (blame the weather). During the year to date total attendance is 252. The September picnic attendance was 80. Next breakfast (we skip December because of the Christmas Party) is Thursday, January 14 at the Garden City Inn.



Adam, VE4SN announced that he has accepted the position as RAC Assistant Mid West Director, his appointment by Rick, VE4OV, RAC Mid West Director. Adam will contribute by interfacing with local radio amateurs regarding their concerns, with special attention to our own club members.

Paul, VE4OPC presented a proposal for discussion regarding the creation of an Associate membership for our club. A motion was presented, which carried, and read as follows: "That our club create an Associate Membership for a trial period of one year starting January 1, 1999, with candidates to be approved by VE4WSC Board of Directors." This class of membership would be restricted to those who are at least 50 years of age, and are a licensed Ham; and Associates would not have voting privileges, nor be able to hold office. They would be eligible for full membership when they have met the criteria as per our rules and constitution. At our Annual General Meeting on December 16th at the Club, a detailed description will be made available and presented for ratification.

Permission has been granted to the Girl Guides of Canada to operate the Guides On The Air (GOTA) contest from our clubrooms (VE4GGC is licensed to operate from our Club site). This annual 2-day Guides operation will be held next on February 20 and 21, 1999, from 0900 hrs to 1400 hrs local time.

Brian Johnstone of Industry Canada has advised our Secretary, Ed, VE4YU, that the Club has permission to use the special events callsign VX4PAG, from June 9 thru August 8, 1999, to commemorate the Pan Am Games being held during this period. ALL Manitoba Hams can use the prefix VX4 during this same time period.

We hope everyone had a wonderful time at the Christmas Party, and enjoyed the company of everyone who was there (nobody had to work in the kitchen). Let's see you all at our Annual General Meeting on December 16 - it's ELECTION time!

On behalf of the Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club



**Merry Christmas to all**  
**Happy New Year.**

**MINUTES for W.A.R.C.**  
**October 19, 1998**

**Submitted by Ruth, VE4XYL**

The meeting began at 19:30 hrs. with introductions. 55 members attended.

**MINUTES**

Moved by Tom VE4ZV and seconded by Bob VE4MAQ to accept the minutes as printed. Carried.

**TREASURES REPORT**

Reported by Norm VE4EH, balance as of end of October was \$2736.65. Total profit from the Flea Market after expenses was \$493.81.

**ARES**

Jeff VE4MBQ referred to the WARES report in the Nov. newscaster.

**RAC**

Rick VE4OV reported the proposed increase of the RAC annual membership to \$49.95 had been rescinded back to its original fee of \$39.95  
Rick is doing interviews for assistant directors for the mid west region for RAC.

**DX SLEUTHS**

Adam VE4SN reported that because of the poor turn out to their meetings at the school the meetings will now be held in the homes where there is an operational DX station set up. The first meeting will be held at the home of VE4SN. Didn't mention the time or date.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Garth VE4GDF reports that to date we have 202 paid up members.

**HAMFEST 99**

Ed VE4YU gave an updated report on the Ham Fest. Ads have been sent to TCA & ARRL and a reminder to all that the date is May 29, 1999. The costs are: Flea Market and seminars \$5.00 per person. Flea Market only \$3.00 per person. Dinner is \$25.00 per person. Tables for the Flea Market are \$5.00 each and for commercial \$10.00 each.

**QSL MANAGER**

Adam VE4SN reported on the changed method of mailing out QSL cards. This was reported in the newscaster and Adam answered any questions on the subject.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Bob VE4MAQ is an advisor for the 1st Sun Valley Venturers with the Boy Scouts of Canada. He invited all to join in the Scout Net which will be run by the young amateurs on Sunday evenings at 19:00hrs on a frequency of 146.580mhz. The purpose is to give these young hams more radio experience.

**PIONEER TROPHY**

This trophy is either lost or has been misplaced. Anyone knowing of its whereabouts please contact Larry VE4LRB, Dick VE4HK or Norm VE4EH.

**Section News**

Sincere congratulations to two very deserving Amateur Radio Operators. The Certificate of Merit Award was presented by Blake VE4AFF to Jeff VE4MBQ and Don VE4DJM. This was in recognition for their work in organizing the Radio Amateurs to supply emergency communications during the 1997 flood.

**MEMBERSHIP DRAW**

Congratulations to George VE4GNG who was the winner of our membership prize. We're all very happy for you George.

The next meeting will be held on Monday December 14th. This will be our membership Christmas party.

Meeting adjourned at 20:10 hrs.

**Teen Amateur Radio Operators Canada  
by Mike Roberts, VE7KED (Western Manager)**

We are a new Canadian club for teen amateur radio operators in Canada. If there is a teen amateur radio operator in your club or your area it would be great if you could pass this on. TAROC is a way to keep in touch with other teens that share the interest of amateur radio. We are trying to get the younger community of amateur radio together in a club so they can keep in touch. At present we are an Internet and packet radio based club but hope to expand to all bands on voice as well. If you want to join this TEEN club you may do so off our homepage, e-mail, or packet. The information for all is below.

Homepage: <http://www.qsl.net/taroc>

Email: [taroc@qsl.net](mailto:taroc@qsl.net)

Packet: [ve7ked@ve7ogo.#scbc.bc.can.noam](mailto:ve7ked@ve7ogo.#scbc.bc.can.noam)

**Canadian Scores for Field Day 1998**

## Submitted by Ed VE4YU - Results from Dec. 1998 QST

---

STATION	QSOs	# OPS	POINTS
VE9ND	1610	60	5404
VE5NN	1343	14	5180
VE2CWB	1550	10	4590
VE7ECC	784	15	2948
VE4BB	678	10	2694
VE3RAM	545	25	2356
VE1LUN	818	18	2266
VE7BAR	553	20	2262
VE9ND	373	15	2068
VE3SPR	481	20	1372
VE3NSR	402	15	1304
VE3LNZ	271	15	1142
VE6AOA	183	5	1076
VE3RSE	279	16	1074
VO1BRK	150	7	914
VE3UEL	100	10	700
VO1AA	84	9	694

Our Club Station VE4BB placed # 5 of Canadian Entries. Congratulations to the Participants from WARC and Thank you for a job Well Done! A higher score was attained because of our many CW contacts and bonus points earned

## Winnipeg ARES Report by Jeff, VE4MBQ - Winnipeg EC

---

Our November meeting featured Dave Wood VE4KU who gave us an interesting and practical presentation on solar power (hopefully you'll see it serialized in future Newscaster issues). I gave a short presentation on the BC PEP (Provincial Emergency Plan) Amateur Radio Service. During our business meeting we approved the 1997-98 Winnipeg ARES Financial Statement and passed the 1998-99 Budget. Welcome to Robert Jacobs VE4RCJ our newest member.

Our current ID cards expire 31DEC98, new passport type photos are still outstanding from: VE4s AJG, GWB, HAY, KLM, KU, MAB, MHZ, MJM, PLG, RBL, SYG, WTS, YU

We are going to a slightly different format card that will be provincial in nature - all ARES units in Manitoba will have a common ID card. Winnipeg will be the pilot project and then the rural ECs will be notified as to what will be required.

Mariska VE4MMG and Dave VE4KU recently attended the MEMO training course Manitoba Emergency Management (MEM) thru the City of Winnipeg Emergency Program.

We are in the process of registering volunteer ARES operators for the Festival du Voyager Sled Dog Races 13, 14 FEB99.

We have guest speakers booked thru April 1999 now. Our December meeting will be held Tuesday 15DEC98 1900h Sir Wm Stephenson Library 765 Keewatin St. Guest speaker Ed Richardson VE4EAR will be giving us a presentation on Trunked Radio.

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

---

### RAC Bulletin 98-99E

#### *VE3IQ steps down*

Jim Dean, VE3IQ, former RAC Vice President of Government Affairs, stepped down on October 31, 1998 to devote his time to his family and to other things that beckoned him when he retired in 1992 as a Captain in the Canadian Navy. Jim led RAC's Amateur Delegation Working Group (ADWG) from 1993 to 1997 and became a RAC VP in 1994. Jim's contribution to RAC, most particularly to the relations between the Canadian amateur community and government and industry, has been outstanding.

Thank so very much Jim for the hours, days, months and years you spent in liaison and meetings with government advocating and defending Amateur Radio; for the many years in planning and promoting the Amateur Radio Delegation Project with government; for the countless hours spent in liaison with the major telecom players of the Radio Advisory Board of Canada (RABC). As a member of the Canadian government delegation to the 1997 World Radio Conference (WRC-97) in Geneva (the first Canadian to do so since 1979) and heading the Canadian delegation to the 1998 International Amateur Radio Union, Region 2 General Assembly in Venezuela.

### The early days of Amateur Radio

## 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 parties contact me personally at 487-0509 after 6 p.m.

## As told by Gil, VE4AG

---

### WIRELESS AMATEURS IN TORONTO

The spread of the wireless telegraphy "fad" amongst the young men of Canada has become so remarkable that a club of 150 active members is under way in Toronto, and Montreal is promising to follow suit, although on a more modest plan. As on the American side of the border, stringent laws have been passed by the Dominion Government regulating the possible interference of amateurs with commercial messages. That such a law was not placed on the statute books an hour too soon may be judged from the fact that in Toronto alone there are often fifteen amateur wireless systems in operation on the same night and within a radius of about twelve square miles. When one of the two powerful commercial plants established locally get into action, the amateurs usually close down shop for the time being, not only because they are obliged to do so by law, but also since they prefer to do so for the sake of their own apparatus and ear drums.

Some of these young enthusiasts carry their hobby to remarkable development. One of them has an aerial elevated seventy feet and stretched two hundred feet long, the benefits of which are that he has a much more sensitive instrument for receiving and can, in fact, get more Hertzian waves than his more sparingly equipped comrades of the wireless cult. Nearly every day he receives without any difficulty from New York, the Brooklyn Navy Yard, Colon (Panama), Key West and Washington. Others, however, content themselves with a five or ten mile radius and by diligent application to the Continental Code, the standard for wireless, have mastered the alphabet thoroughly. Their nightly conversations with one another have led to mutual introductions through the exchange of names and addresses over the housetops, and finally to the assembling of the young men within the lines of a Wireless Club.

The investment in wireless apparatus for amateurs in Canada alone last year amounted to several hundred thousand dollars, the demand coming from villages on the Atlantic Coast right across the continent to the towns and cities of British Columbia. There is probably no young man's hobby so absorbing in interest, so beneficial to mind and body, or with as few drawbacks even when carried to the extreme of enthusiasm as wireless experimenting. Electricity is an exhaustless subject and the purchase of a wireless outfit is but the door to a further search. - Robson Black

The item above was taken from "MODERN ELECTRICS", of June, 1913.

**LEOS**

## by Margaret Munro 31 Oct. National Post

---

### submitted by Doug, VE4STD

Radio astronomers complain they are experiencing increasing difficulty hearing radio signals from space due to pollution from man made sources. One of the worst culprits appears to be cellular phones. This noise source is expected to increase dramatically tomorrow, 1 Nov 98, when the \$5-billion Iridium mobile telephone and paging system of 66 Low Earth Orbiting (LEO) satellites comes on line.

By the year 2010 there could be as many as 1,000 LEOS in the sky. Globalstar, a mobile phone, fax and data service is launching 48 satellites late next year. Teledesic, a \$9 billion "Internet-in-the-sky" project, partly owned by Bill Gates plans to launch 288 satellites early in the next century. Subscribers will be able to surf the Internet from anywhere on earth. If that's not enough, there are also plans to suspend flying solar powered sky stations over cities to provide phone and communications. It's envisioned that they would free fly for years with up to a ton of transmitter gear hanging underneath.

This race to commercialize space is increasing the competition for radio frequency spectrum. Companies wanting to offer new services have to move up the frequency band thus crowding and encroaching on the radio astronomers. Theirs is a passive activity, listening for signals from deep space. A typical signal might contain the energy imparted by a falling snowflake, less than a trillionth of a watt. In contrast, the transmissions from a hypothetical user of a cellular phone on the moon would represent the strongest radio signal in the universe.

The exponential increase in electromagnetic emissions is cause for concern. The biological effects on humans are unknown. Owners of homing pigeons may be among the first to detect an ominous impact from the increase in magnetic flux density. Thousands of birds recently went missing during races held along the eastern seaboard in early October. Nearly 1500 birds from the 1800 entered in the races did not return home. Their owners blame cell phones for distorting the electromagnetic fields the birds use to navigate.

## Contest Calendar

---

### January

- 1 [Straight Key Night](#)
- 2-3 [ARRL RTTY Roundup](#)
- 23-25 [ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes](#)

**WARC DX Sleuths**



## Submitted sincerely by Ed, VE4YU

---

In 1996 a special interest group of WARC was formed called the DX Sleuths. At that time the creators, Adam, VE4SN and Ed, VE4YU, who are both very much interested in the DX side of Amateur Radio, explained the purpose of the new group. That purpose was, and still is, to encourage Radio Amateurs that have a keen interest in DX to meet to talk about DX, to share information about current DX stations that are active and to work as many countries as possible, hopefully leading to attainment of at least DXCC and perhaps DXCC Honor Roll status.

This group was formed because Adam and I noticed a lessening of interest in DXing and that there was no local venue for DXers to meet and share. The poor propagation, because of the state of the sunspot cycle may have dulled interest, but there were still good openings and good DX to be worked with a little bit of effort. In hindsight, the main cause of the lethargy is probably a general lack of interest in Amateur Radio - period. Take a look around WARC and what is featured or discussed at meetings. How many members are really active on HF or VHF, the heart of Amateur Radio and how many are active on the air at all?

Rob, VE4GV, has stated in his article in TCA, '... the HF Canadian Amateur's greatest threat (of deregulation) is - apathy', but I see this apathy on the part of present HF and VHF Amateurs is a threat to Amateur Radio itself. Amateur Radio is not and never will be a passive hobby. To survive it must have ACTIVE participants, on the air, communicating! As Rob noted, 'Advances in technology have essentially rendered the Amateur Radio Emergency Service obsolete' - and, as well, they have siphoned off younger persons that in earlier times would have been attracted to Amateur Radio. Let's face it, our numbers are dropping and the average age of licensed Radio Amateurs is rising. The days of the hobby of Amateur Radio are numbered.

As stated above, before I kind of got off track, Adam and I hoped to inject some life into operating radio again. We made it quite clear when we announced the DX Sleuths formation, as stated on the certificate given to members, that membership was for WARC members who expressed a sincere interest in pursuing DX. Well we have tried for two years now to have meetings, held for convenience 45 minutes ahead of our regular monthly meetings, and found that basically there are only three or four of us actively interested in DX. Since we have had 24 sign up as DX Sleuth members, we don't seem to have accomplished our goal of generating interest. For what reason, we are not sure.

Because we seem to have failed in our initial try, and we are not willing to continue showing up 45 minutes early for each meeting for no purpose, we are moving to plan B. Plan B is to hold a monthly meeting of DX Sleuths at

member's homes instead of the school. The reasons and hoped results are easily explained. If a member REALLY has an interest in DX, the only purpose of the group, they will attend. Also the atmosphere in a home with a real hamshack at hand for scanning the band and some 'hands on' should be much more enjoyable and will attract the interested DXers that we feel are still out there. We will feature a video or topic at each meeting as well as have an exchange of information on DX that is once again abounding as the bands open up.

Adam and I are dyed-in-the-wool DXers and ACTIVE Amateurs. We are trying to give back a little of the enjoyment we have derived from Amateur Radio over the past forty odd years. We feel we have a lot to contribute. Support us and WARC. Please help us keep the hobby alive a while longer!

## The History of Amateur Radio Revisited Condensed and submitted by Ed, VE4YU

---

### Part 13

A draft copy of the proposed Manitoba radio regulation Act was submitted to the Department of Marine and Fisheries for their consideration and comment. In a February 24, 1923, letter to the Minister of Telephones, Lowry reported that Ottawa, 'did not altogether approve of the contemplated legislation.' Departmental officials suggested, however, that if the Minister of Telephones wrote the Deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries stating that the province was desirous of establishing a monopoly of broadcasting, they were of the opinion the department had authority by virtue of Section 11 of the Radiotelegraph Act to grant the province the right to approve all license applications for broadcasting stations and to control the issuance of permits for sending and receiving stations.

Lowry went on to say, 'The suggestion ... appears to be a very good one and might obviate a lot of difficulties, the contention being that we can get all by letter that we could secure by legislation. This letter would have the further advantage that no local criticism would be stirred up when the newspapers dropped out of the business and the whole matter could be developed without any friction anywhere.' The subject of license fees for private receiving stations was a separate topic. Any division of fees between Ottawa and the province would necessitate Parliament passing an amendment to the Radiotelegraph Act.

Manitoba wasted no time in carrying out Ottawa's suggestion. On February 27, 1923, the Minister of Telephones wrote the Deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries advising him that the Executive Council of Manitoba wished to secure a monopoly of broadcasting in

Manitoba and that future licenses for broadcasting stations and for sending and receiving sets should be issued only by and with the consent of provincial authority. the minister also requested that the fee for a private receiving station license be increased to \$2.50 effective April 1, 1923, with an unspecified portion devolving to Manitoba. He said this matter was now urgent as the newspapers in Manitoba were pressing for action since they wished to terminate their operations at the end of the month or as soon as possible.

On Thursday, March 8, 1923, the FREE PRESS and the TRIBUNE announced they were relinquishing the field of broadcasting to the Manitoba Telephone System. The last broadcast of the TRIBUNE station, CJNC, was on Friday night, March 9, 1923, while the last broadcast of CJCG, the FREE PRESS station, was its Saturday noon program of news and sports. Both papers printed similar explanations for discontinuing broadcasting. They said they had an amicable understanding with the Manitoba Telephone System - they had not been forced out of broadcasting. They concurred with the viewpoint of the M. T. S. that radio and wire telephony belonged together and that one high-powered station was adequate for a city the size of Winnipeg.

The TRIBUNE commented, 'Some of you may not be sorry if broadcasts are less frequent. We have had many complaints Winnipeg stations have hogged the air so much that it has been difficult to listen to broadcasts from other parts of Canada and the U. S.. We believe the M. T. S. will be more merciful and not pound the ether so hard.'

The Manitoba Telephone System was authorized to operate on a wavelength of 450 meters using the callsign CKY. A three-letter call was unique; the reason for the choice of a three-letter call is not known unless it was to distinguish the lone publicly-owned broadcaster from the privately-owned stations all of whom had four-letter calls.

NEXT MONTH ..

Radio station CKY - a small budget station - begins to broadcast.

*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.*

**PAN-AM GAMES AMATEUR RADIO ORGANIZING GROUP "PANAROG"**

**By Jeff, VE4MBQ EC Winnipeg ARES**

Despite a well publicized recruitment campaign in October only 20 amateurs have volunteered as amateur radio operators supporting the Pan-Am Games Transportation Group. The Transportation Manager was quite disappointed and asked me to poll the amateur community one more time.

Amateurs living in and near Winnipeg who are able to commit at least forty-two hours (42) of volunteer time as amateur radio operators or amateur operator/driver are asked to register with me by Monday 21DEC98 by mail, packet , or e-mail:

90 Cail Bay Wpg, MB  
VE4MBQ @ VE4UA  
ve4mbq@ve4umr.ampr.org

**RCMP 125th ANNIVERSARY**  
**By Dick, VE4HK**

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police is celebrating its 125th anniversary in 1998. The North West Mounted Police was formed in 1973 by the Government of Canada to police the vast area of western Canada now known as Saskatchewan and Alberta. Everyone is familiar with the stories of how the Mounties stopped the sale of firewater to natives and brought law and order to the West. The Mounted Police assisted with quelling the North West Rebellion, led by Louis Riel, in 1885.

In 1904, King Edward VII granted the North West Mounted Police the use of the prefix "Royal". This title is a rare privilege, permitted by the Royal Family. In 1920, the Royal North West Mounted Police became the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and became responsible for enforcing federal laws throughout Canada. The Mounties have been responsible for acting as the provincial police force in most provinces, except Ontario and Quebec since 1932.

To this day, the RCMP is a primary symbol of Canada. Every tourist in Ottawa and other places, wants a picture of a red coated Mountie to commemorate a visit to Canada. The musical ride is world famous.

The Manitoba Repeater Society will be celebrating the 125th anniversary of the RCMP by holding a special session of the 2 meter net on Sunday, December 13, at 1 pm. We are looking for exactly 125 check ins to the 2 meter net. I am hoping to have a special QSL card made up to commemorate this occasion. Make sure that you check in to the 2 meter net on Sunday, December 13 at 1 pm. Please tell all your ham friends to check in as well. We will accept only the first 125 people to check in.

**Samuel Morse - The Grandfather of Data Communications**

## Submitted by Doug, VE4STD

---

The era of non-amateur Morse code telegraphy in Canada ended two years ago on Nov 19, 1996. Vern Hillier sent the Canadian Coast Guard's last Morse code message from the Coast Guard Radio station at Ketch Harbour, Nova Scotia on this date. Today the Coast Guard's Marine Communication Traffic Services carries on the tradition of these pioneers, using modern technology, including radar and satellites, to keep track of marine traffic and communicate with navigators.

Samuel F. B. Morse who was born in Charlestown, Mass. in 1791 started the Morse era. Once a portrait painter and graduate of Yale, his interest in telegraphy began in 1832. Morse had little training in electricity, but knew that pulses of energy could be sent through wires. He figured that by altering the transmission of this energy, he could use the pulses to transmit information. By 1835 he had conceived elements of an electrical relay system that could carry simple signals.

In 1837, Morse was traveling the US and Europe, demonstrating a simple prototype of this system. Investors liked it and backed the construction of a cable between Baltimore and Washington. On May 24, 1844, Morse tapped out the first electronic message ever between two points. His transmission, in Morse code consisted of four simple words, a biblical passage actually.... "What hath God wrought?"

Soon, this astonishing invention did more to change the lives of people in the 19th century than the Internet has changed life today, or the telephone did decades ago. At the very least, his now-archaic, even quaint, technology pushed us in the direction of the digital communications that define our society today.

Excerpted from St. Croix Courier, 24 Nov 98 edition; and Vol. 2, No 4, Winter 1998 edition of Structured Cabling and Wiring Systems.

## Editors Ramblings BY Derek, VE4HAY

---

Sorry last month I said that VE4YZ just got an engagement ring. Sorry Al. I meant to say it was Kay, VE4YF. Once again congratulations and will this be a special Filed Day this year?

I can be reached by e-mail at: ve4hay@rac.ca.

## While in Town Santa Shops at *Comtelco Electronics*

**1456 Logan Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB, Canada R3E 1S1  
Phone (204) 774-9313 Fax (204) 772 3550  
*comtelco@cyberspc.mb.ca***

## “And so Can you”

**Kenwood TS-50:** - Compact HF mobile ..... \$1199.00  
**Kenwood TM-V7A:** - Dual band mobile ..... \$739.00  
**Kenwood TM-G707:** - New 2 Meter mobile .. \$549.00  
**Kenwood TM-261A:** 2 Meter mobile 50w .... \$349.00  
**Kenwood TH-22AT:** 2 Meter Handi ..... \$299.00  
**Kenwood TH-G71:** 2M/70cm 6W handi ..... \$449.00

**Uniden TBC-235XLT/BC895XLT**  
 800 MHz, 300 channel “trunk tracker” Scanner .... \$349.00

**MFJ-949E** - Deluxe HF tuner/meter ..... \$219.00  
**MFJ-259** - Deluxe antenna analyzer ..... \$349.00  
**MFJ-1728B** - 5/8 2M/6M mobile antenna ... \$49.00  
**MFJ-1734** - Glass mount dual band antenna \$55.00

## MANY MORE IN STORE SPECIALS TOO NUMEROUS TO LIST

*Transceiver prices are cash/cheque, until Dec. 31/98  
 VISA/MC add 2 %  
 (Prices in effect while quantities last!)*

**Kenwood \* Yaesu \* MFJ \* Cushcraft \* Alinco  
 \* Valor \* Sangean \* Aor \* Uniden \* Optoelectronics**