



Newscaster

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

April 1999

Homebrew Night

Come out and see what you could
have built this winter.

Date: April 12th, 1999

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Sturgeon Creek Regional Secondary School

Other Important Dates:

Articles: April 28 - Deadline for articles May Newscaster

WARC: May 10 - Meeting - Amateur Television
June 14 - Meeting -
June 20 - Manitoba Marathon
June 26-27 Field Day

WSC: April 21 - Breakfast CanadInn Fort Garry

DX: Apr 19 - Meeting @ QTH of VE4YU

ARES: Apr. 20 - Meeting on Y2K

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

WARC: Executive for 1998-99			
Past President	Norm Coull	VE4EH	885-1692
President	Darcy Wilson	VE4DDW	783-0421
Vice-Pres./ PR	Les Barclay	VE4CCC	453-7369
Treasurer	Norm Coull	VE4EH	885-1692
Secretary	Ruth Mills	VE4XYL	837-6915
Goodwill	Vern Dutton	VE4VQ	256-5346
Membership	Mariska Maguire	VE4MMG	256-3143
Program	Tom Mills	VE4SE	837-6915
Director@Large	Susan Keller	VF4SUF	888-9011

RADIOGRAM FROM THE PRESIDENT: by Darcy, VE4DDW

Hello everyone!!

This is my first newscaster as president of WARC and I am overwhelmed by the chance to share my ideas with you. I would like to thank all of the members of the executive for their help. It may still be a bumpy road, but it would be a cul-de-sac if it weren't for them. I hope I can maintain the standards set by my predecessors.

I have been busy thinking about all the things the club has done in the past, and what we could do in the future. I think the first thing to do is create some goals. So that's exactly what I've done:

- 1) Increase membership by at least 15%,
- 2) Larger attendance for monthly meetings, and
- 3) Have more fun.

I think these are realistic goals to obtain. By having more fun we will increase membership and have larger attendance.

We have a great schedule of presentations lined up for the next three months, plus the long awaited WARC HamFest. I think this will be a great opportunity to have fun, and to spread the word of WARC to the rest of our ham family. There are approximately 900 hams in Winnipeg, out of these hams WARC only has just over 200 members!! That is something we can improve on.

I hope to see you all at the next meeting and enjoy the interesting assortment of projects at the homebrew night. I'll see ya there.

You can contact me with any question or ideas at any time:

783-0421 (home)
229-6461 (cell)
d.wilson@netcom.ca
881 Ingersoll St.

Winnipeg MB R3G 2J9

Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club
Submitted by Gil Frederick, VE4AG

Our Board meeting of March 17 began with a moment of silence and a prayer by our Prez Bob Hall in memory of Len Evans, VE4LEN, a director who is now a silent key. Lila, VE4LIL mentioned that Len's memorial service was well attended, with about 60 Hams present.

A short 'red carpet' 'bien venido' ceremony was enacted to welcome Ed, VE4YU, back to the table after a long absence due to a winter Mexican vacation.

Business matters attended to included an announcement by Ed, VE4YU that he was setting up a file system for archival material, and he asked that anyone having old items such as newspaper clippings, pictures, certificates, and articles pertaining to Ham Radio of yesteryears, make them available for inclusion in this collection. This request goes out to all readers.

The current cw classes will end in the middle of April, and an announcement will be forthcoming as to dates and times of the evening cw classes that are being considered; Norm Coull, VE4EH and Bruce Massey, VE4GR are in charge of this course.

In the area of Club security, Colin, VE4JCM, made the startling observation that he came in on Sunday to make a security check, and found that someone had left the lid off the coffee can! Horrors!

The list of members wishing to have training on the new computer has reached 13, and arrangements will be made for training sessions after Easter. Those signing up will be phoned as to date and time.

Will members please note that in the listing of Committees/Positions in the current Sparks, that Tom Mills, VE4SE, shown as Red Cross Liaison, should have his name removed - he has advised that he no longer has this connection to the Red Cross.

The breakfast at the Canad Inns-Garden City was well attended, with 26 present. George, VE4GNG, our Social Convenor, said that things went off without a hitch. The next breakfast will again be held at the Canad Inns-Fort Garry, on April 21. Someone mentioned that they hoped that the coffee would be acceptable this time!

The hall has been booked for our Annual Christmas Party- to be held again at the Legion in East St. Paul. It was agreed that it would be a catered affair, with the ticket price remaining at \$15.00 per. Date is Thursday, December 9.

Our big project, to be completed by Y2000, of a complete state-of-the-art Satellite station, was approved. This will enhance considerably the worldwide communications available from our Clubrooms, result in many members learning this aspect of Ham Radio, give joy and excitement to those using this mode, and hopefully, result in more members attending the club.

The crew involved will also be setting up a Slow-Scan TV station as an adjunct to this operation; again, a plus that will have benefits for our members.

In regards the status of our request to the Government to rule on our request to have 'Associate Members', they are still waiting for this matter (received by them January 5) 'to be assigned'.

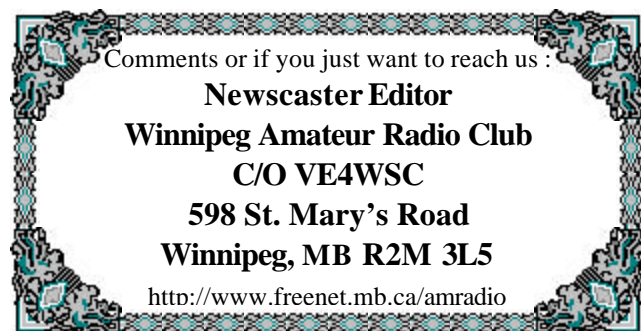
The Senior's Net will be set up soon, with VE4WSC and 3 other Seniors' stations initially setting a date and time - and details will be made known to the Ham community at that time.

A discussion took place about the PANAROG deal with the Transportation Committee of the Pan Am Games. Sentiments were expressed about the change in the original intent, now that Ham Radio use had been ruled out. A directive received raised the volunteers' involvement from 42 hours to 72 hours.

A discussion also ensued about the request from Manitoba Hydro to use Ham Radio facilities for a commercial radio link to a U.S. city.

A letter was read from the Girl Guides organization thanking the Club for being excellent hosts to the Guides on GOTA-day - they rated it highly successful. Members taking part in this operation were: Paul, VE4OPC; Colin, VE4JCM; Ala, VE4ALN; Adam, VE4SN; Lila, VE4LIL; Alf, VE4ALF; Albert, VE4AX; Bob, VE4RJH.

The meeting ended with the usual giving out of 2 awards: the 'broken clock' award, for the most talking, to Ed, VE4YU; the 'spice' award, a bottle of Lea & Perrin's Sauce, to Adam, VE4SN (his second time of winning).



MINUTES for W.A.R.C. March 8th, 1999
Submitted by Ruth, VE4XYL

The meeting commenced at 19:30 hrs. with each member introducing themselves. Despite the terrible weather we had 35 members in attendance. A warm welcome to our guest Dave VE3DIW.

MOTION

Moved Dick VE4HK, seconded HARM VE4HAZ that the minutes from our February meeting be accepted as printed in the newscaster. Carried

PRESENTATION:

By Maiko VE4KLM who is secretary on the MDECG, Manitoba Digital Emergency Communications Group. This is a packet system that has been running in Manitoba and because of the few members supporting this group they are in financial difficulty. Maiko asked all those who use the system to contribute to its upkeep by becoming a member. Membership fees are \$20.00 a year. If insufficient funds cannot be collected the system will have to be terminated. At present there is funding to last for another year. For further information contact Maiko VE4KLM, Dick VE4QK or Bill VE4ALW

CORRESPONDENCE:

None incoming. Norm VE4EH did send a letter of displeasure to the RAC Board of Directors as per their regrets on not being able to attend the WARC Ham Fest on May 29, 1999.

RAC:

Rick VE4OV reported on the new microwave band planning committee. Our Winnipeg rep on this advisory board is Barry Malowanchuk VE4MA. Rick read the letter received from Pat Doherty in response to Norm's letter in regards to the RAC representative absence at our Ham Fest. Pat Doherty assured us that these concerns were taken seriously and that the cost factors were the issue.

TREASURERS' REPORT:

Norm VE4EH reported, as of the end of February 1999, the balance was \$3370.64

PROGRAMS:

April 12th will be Home Brew night. On the May 10th meeting Rennie VE4TV will give a talk on ATV.

ARES:

Tom VE4SE reported the next meeting of ARES was to be held on Tuesday March 16th at 19:00 hrs.

FLEA MARKET:

Norm VE4EH confirms that the Victoria Heritage Community Club is NOT booked for a Spring Flea Market but has been booked for the Fall on October 24th 1999.

FIELD DAY:

Derek VE4HAY said that field day will be held at Falcon Lake. Hotel rooms and operating accommodations have been set aside. Rooms will cost the same as last year, those interested contact Derek. Camping facilities are also available.

DX SLEUTHS:

Adam VE4SN reported on Dxing as well as the next meeting. Also he reported on HAARP, High Frequency Active Auroral Research Facility, located in Gakona Alaska. They will be conducting transmission tests on March 26 and 27th. and had asked for Hams to listen on assigned frequencies. For more information E-mail can contact them at <http://www.haarp.alaska.edu/>

WINNIPEG HAM FEST:

Welcome back Ed. Ed VE4YU encouraged to pre register if possible to help in establishing a count as well as the money will be made available to pay up the bills.

PRESENTATION:

Norm VE4CS announcement that the 735 Communications Regiment is looking for radio operators', linemen and technicians to look after telephones etc. This is an Army Reserve group. Training will be available in all fields. Age requirements are 18 to 55. Those interested may apply at the Minto Armories Room 135, 969 St. Matthews.

EXECUTIVES:

Norm VE4EH introduced and welcomed the new executive board members for WARC.

POSITIONS	NAMES	TERM EXPIRES
President	Darcy Wilson VE4DDW	Sept. 2002
Vice President		
and public relations	Les Barclay VE4CCC	Sept. 2002
Secretary	Ruth Mills VE4XYL	Sept. Y2K
Treasurer	Norm Coull VE4EH	Sept. 1999
Membership	Mariska Maguire VE4MMG	Sept. 2002
Program	Tom Mills VE4SE	Sept. 2002
Director At Large	Sue Keller VE4SUE	Sept. 2002

Goodwill

Vern Dutton VE4VQ

Sept. 2001

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:20 hrs. Coffee and cookies were enjoyed at the break and returning to the theater for an excellent and most interesting presentation on Trunking Radio by Ed Richardson VE4EAR.

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

Our March meeting featured an overview of Emergency Public Information by our new Public Information officer (PIO) Robert Stegmaier VE4RST. We welcome two new members Susan VE4SYM and Fred VE4TRO.

We are starting to get involved with planning back-up communications for 31DEC99/01JAN200 due to Y2K related communications disruptions. At this time we have one project with Winnipeg Police and one project with Manitoba Hydro System Control Centre. It is anticipated that our shifts will run 2200h 31DEC to 0700h 01JAN with a relief set to come in at 0700h unless they are cancelled. Y2K related communications disruptions may well be the biggest non-event ever planned for but again things might occur that have not at all been anticipated. I expect an "all-amateur" meeting in late SEP or early OCT to involve all interested amateurs in the Winnipeg area.

We have several ARES supporters to thank for some recent donations:

- ☛ Ron VE4RV donated a disk drive for one of our packet laptops
- ☛ Darryl VE4DS provided a belt clip for one of our IC-2AThts
- ☛ Harm VE4HAZ donated a mounting board for an ARES radio at VE4EMO

The next monthly meeting is Tuesday 20APRIL 1900h at Sir Wm Stephenson Library. Guest speaker Don Gerrard VE4DWG will be giving us a presentation on Y2K - Don is an Information Technology professional.

PAN AM GAMES AMATEUR RADIO GROUP - VIP TRANSPORTATION **by Jeff, VE4MBQ**

Many of us volunteering for VIP Transportation have received notice to attend a general volunteer orientation Sat 10APR 1300-1600h. If you have volunteered for VIP Transportation and have not received written notice for a training session please contact VIP Transportation Mgr. Neil Gottfred 954-3214.

We need to know by Tuesday 20APR what our volunteer's availability will be for working the event. Please let us know in writing your availability for the following weeks:

19-24 JULY
25-31 JULY
01-07 AUG
08-13 AUG

The weeks 25-31 JULY and 01-07 AUG are the most important. For each week please indicate whether you are available DAYS (0700-1600h) AFTERNOONS (1500-2300h) or EVENINGS (1800h-2359h). If you have e-mail you can send your replies to Grant VE4HGD: delaneyg@bigfoot.com If you are not on e-mail you can give me a note at the 10APR general training session, the 12APR WARC meeting, or the 20APR ARES meeting. If none of those work for you, please send me a note via "snail-mail", to my Blue Book address.

New MDECG alive and well **By Maiko, VE4KLM**

The Manitoba Digital Emergency Communications Group, also known as the MDECG, is an organization of Manitoba amateur radio operators dedicated to providing VHF and UHF digital communications throughout the province of Manitoba. To this day, this goal has been realized in the form of a packet radio network that extends across southern Manitoba, with access nodes in Beausejour, Winnipeg, Portage la Prairie, Sidney, and Brandon. This network is linked into North Dakota from the Brandon node, and to the Internet, through the WARP (Winnipeg Amateur Radio Packet) group's Internet gateway in Winnipeg.

On March 6, 1999, a special meeting of the MDECG was held in Portage la Prairie. A new executive was formed, but more important - it was decided to keep the provincial network running. In other words, it will not be dismantled. It will remain operational.

The new executive members are as follows :

VE4QK (Dick) chairperson
VE4ALW (William) treasurer
VE4KLM (Maiko) secretary

Our official website is at :

<http://www.qsl.net/ve4klm/mdecg>

Running this network is not cheap. Sites have to be insured and licensed. As well, there are other costs such as hydro, ice shields, equipment breakdowns, just to mention a few. We ask you to support this network by purchasing a yearly membership of only \$20.00. The most important benefit of buying a membership is that it helps keep the network running. Our vision is for a long term network that will go on for the next 10 years or longer, not just year to

year. A membership also grants you full voting privileges at the annual meeting of the MDECG, which will always be announced ahead of time. Donations are gratefully accepted.

Please send a cheque or money order to :
MDECG Inc.
C/OTerry Ryshak VE4TR
123 - 4th St NW
Portage La Prairie, MB R1N 2G1

The early days of Amateur Radio **As told by Gil, VE4AG**

From "Modern Electrics" - November, 1911

A modest, yet important invention, is the production of a metal alloy, having the same weight as aluminum, yet possessing the same tensile strength as medium steel. It is similar appearing metal as aluminum, and takes a brilliant polish identical to nickel plating. The specific gravity is 2.8, while the melting point is 650 degrees C.

It is easily machined, and can be obtained in bars, sheets, and rods of any dimensions. It can also be supplied in any special shapes desired. The demand for such metal should be particularly strong from airship builders, aeroplane constructors, and all parties seeking a strong and light construction material.

THE INTERNATIONAL AMPERE SIGN -

The algebraical sign "C", which has been in use for many years, has recently been changed to "I", which will be the recognized sign used in denoting amperes in equations.

A NEW MARCONI RECORD -

On November 19th (1911), the following message was sent from the new Marconi station at Coltano, near Pisa (Italy), to the Glace Bay (Nova Scotia) station, a distance of approximately 4,000 miles in an air line.

"To the Editor of The New York Times:

My greetings transmitted by wireless telegraph from Italy to America. G. Marconi, Pisa 5:47 P. M."

The Coltano station has been built for the Italian Government so that it may be in wireless communication with the Massowah station in Africa. The New York Times has always displayed a great interest in wireless, patronizing the Clifden and Glace Bay stations for its trans-Atlantic press messages.

Owing to the large Italian population in Argentine Republic in South America, the Marconi interests have been planning the erecting of a high powered station in Buenos Aires, which will be in direct wireless communication with the station at Coltano, the distance being almost 7,000 miles.

THE RADIO CLUB OF AMERICA -

(from 'Modern Electrics and The Radio Club of America, just completing the fifth year of its existence), wishes to announce to all who are practically interested in the science of radio communications, and whose researches have been retarded by lack of acquaintance with others similarly interested, that here is an organization whose object is to bring such men together.

As the Junior Wireless Club, Ltd., it was among the first organizations to take a definite stand in the defense of the amateur against unsatisfactory legislation, sending a delegation to Washington in 1910.

Although the club was at first purely composed of amateurs, membership has in recent years been greatly increased by a score of professional operators, university graduates, and business men, interested in wireless. The club has as a consulting engineer, Prof. R. A. FESSENDEN. Several of the members have made inventions of no small note.

Meetings are held monthly, and an interesting program always is prepared for the occasion.

Applicants for membership are passed upon by a committee, and the name is then submitted for the approval of the club members. The secretary, GEORGE BURGHARD, 1 East 93rd Street, New York, will be pleased to answer any inquiries.

Hints & Kinks **de Ralph, VE4RY**

The electret microphone has become the industry standard in handie-talkies and speaker mikes, due to their light weight, low cost, small size and temperature stability.

A common problem which you may have noticed, is their tendency to produce spitting and puffing noises when talking into them. Some are very much worse than others, and you can almost tell the brand of the radio by listening for this. This flaw is not directly due to the fact that it uses an electret element, but more likely the result of the acoustical treatment of the sound pickup opening.

I surmised that this extraneous noise is caused by the turbulence created when the sound pressure waves travel past the sharp edges of the pickup hole.

Confident that my theory was valid, I got up some nerve and took a small drill bit countersunk the plastic around the hole very, very carefully, by hand, giving it a gradual taper and thus eliminating the sharp edges.

The result was gratifying. The mike is now much less prone to producing those annoying puffing sounds. The technique was so effective I also tried it on my telephone, with the same obvious improvement. [I compared phones in the local electronic stores, and it was interesting to note that while some manufacturers seem to be quite unaware of this effect, others seem to pay a great of attention to this aspect of design.]

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

Part 17

In the November, 1923, issue of QST, the A.R.R.L. magazine, there appeared a long editorial headed: C.R.R.L. According to the editor, "The A.R.R.L. was functioning in Canada at the request of leading Canadian amateurs who realized that Canadian amateurs were not sufficient in number to finance a successful organization. When the Canadian amateurs elect to separate and maintain their own organization, the A.R.R.L. will withdraw from Canada. In the meantime, the A.R.R.L. considers it has a sacred trust in Canada and it proposes to safeguard that trust if it withdrew in favor of an amateur organization fostered by a publishing company for pecuniary motives." These were noble but Manitoba hams felt that they had been left to fight the battle alone when Commissioner Lowry was attempting to emasculate amateur activity in the province. There is not a jot or tittle of evidence to show that the A.R.R.L. intervened on behalf of Manitoba amateurs.

The C.R.R.L. divided Canada into seven divisions and in September nominations were called for divisional directors. The league received enthusiastic support west of the Lakehead but in the east it got only a lukewarm reception. Later in the year the directors decided to change the name from C.R.R.L. to Canadian Amateur Wireless Association to avoid further confrontation with the A.R.R.L.. The C.A.W.A. eventually folded when it was unable to generate countrywide support and its house organ, THE RADIO BUG, ceased publication (presumably in 1924?).

On September 22, 1923, the Deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries wrote the Minister of Telephones that the radio-telephne business in Manitoba had become a matter of some concern to the Dominion government, the strongest representations having been made to the effect that the actual working out of the arrangement between the two governments was severely handicapping the development of the radio industry in Manitoba.

Commercial interests with plenty of financial and political clout were endeavoring to break CKY's stranglehold on broadcasting. One of the intervenors on behalf of private

industry was the Radio Corporation of Winnipeg (owned by the Toronto-based Canadian Radio Corporation) which was acting as the sales agent for the FREE PRESS station. They had applied for a license with the intent of putting the CJCG equipment back on the air to promote the sale of the entire station unit. Lowry had refused to endorse their application unless the radio Corporation agreed to certain conditions, one of which was a guarantee that the standard of broadcast programs be as good as CKY's. After further discussion, Radio Corporation withdrew their license application.

NEXT MONTH:

Amateur Radio is used in an emergency situation in 1923

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.

Hints & Kinks **de Ralph, VE4RY**

Ever have a problem keeping that extension wand handy with your aerosol can of WD-40, contact cleaner etc.? They usually come just taped to the side of the can, and are soon lost.

Many methods are tried to hold these wands in place, with varying success. The chemicals usually cause elastic bands to deteriorate, the glue on electrical tape to dissolve, and pieces of wire just don't hold very tightly.

The best storage technique I've come across is to use a nylon cable tie [Ty-rap] wrapped around the middle of the can, and then cut off the excess. You can then push the wand into the gap under the joint and slide it sideways under the Ty-rap so it is held tightly against the can until next use. I have often been able to reuse these cable ties [in true ham spirit!] by prying them off the empty can with a screwdriver.

WARC DX Sleuths **Submitted sincerely by Adam, VE4SN**

This months meeting will be at the home of Ed, VE4YU. April 19th, @ 19:30 hrs. Come on out and see a true DX station. This meeting is for DX'ers or those who truly want to be a DX'er.

VE4WSC - Donations

By Gil, VE4AG

The Seniors' Club receives most of its operating income from donations, from both members and non-members. All monies received are used for the benefit of club members and hams at large who make use of its facilities and services. Members are not obligated to make a donation, but we do hope that all feel inclined to give something; even small donations are appreciated. Nonmembers who also benefit from the existence of the club are invited to contribute. Donors who make payments that do not constitute monies for services or goods receive a receipt for tax purposes. May we have you seriously consider this request? We hope you do, and thank you in advance.

Contest Calendar

April, 1999

SP DX Contest	1500Z, Apr 3 - 2300Z, Apr 4
EA RTTY Contest	1600Z, Apr 3 - 1600Z, Apr 4
Japan Int. DX Contest, 20-10m	2300Z, Apr 9 - 2300Z, Apr 11
MARAC County Hunters, SSB 0000Z, Apr 10	- 2400Z, Apr 11
His Maj. King of Spain Contest 1800Z, Apr 10	- 1800Z, Apr 11
Yuri Gagarin International Contest 2100Z, Apr 10	- 2100Z, Apr 11
UBA Spring Contest, CW	0700Z - 1100Z, Apr 11
144 MHz Spring Sprint	1900 - 2300 local, Apr 12
Australian Post Code Contest	0000Z - 2359Z, Apr 17
YU DX Contest	1200Z, Apr 17 - 1200Z, Apr 18
EU Spring Sprint, SSB	1500Z - 1859Z, Apr 17
Holyland DX Contest	1800Z, Apr 17 - 1800Z, Apr 18
Michigan QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 17 - 0400Z, Apr 18
222 MHz Spring Sprint	1900 - 2300 local, Apr 20
SP DX RTTY Contest	1200Z, Apr 24 - 1200Z, Apr 25
Helvetia Contest	1300Z, Apr 24 - 1300Z, Apr 25
Nebraska QSO Party	1700Z, Apr 24 - 1700Z, Apr 25
Ontario QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 24 - 1800Z, Apr 25
Florida QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 24 - 0159Z, Apr 25
	1200Z - 2159Z, Apr 25
Six Club 6m Sprint	2300Z, Apr 24 - 0400Z, Apr 25
Harry Angel Memorial Sprint	1100Z - 1246Z, Apr 25
432 MHz Spring Sprint	1900 - 2300 local, Apr 28

May, 1999

MARAC County Hunters, CW 0000Z, May 1	- 2400Z, May 2
0-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW 0001Z, May 1	- 2400Z, May 2
Massachusetts QSO Party 1800Z, May 1	- 0400Z, May 2
	1100Z - 2100Z, May 2
ARI International DX Contest 2000Z, May 1	- 2000Z, May 2
902/1296/2304 MHz Spring Sprint 0600 - 1300	local, May 8
VOLTA WW RTTY Contest 1200Z, May 8	- 1200Z, May 9
Oregon State QSO Party 1400Z, May 8	- 0400Z, May 9
FISTS CW Club Spring Sprint 1700Z	- 2100Z, May 8

CQ-M International DX Contest 2100Z, May 8 - 2100Z, May 9

**Canada May Get Family Radio Service
by Doug, VE4STD**

*From Globe and Mail 13 Mar 99
And IC Web Pages*

Industry Canada is contemplating opening up spectrum space in the UHF band to allow a new Family Radio Service in the 462.5625 to 462.7125 MHz and 467.5625 to 467.7125 MHz ranges. These radios are similar to the familiar amateur HTs but have less power and fewer functions. They have proven to be big sellers in the states where they retail in the \$200 range and do not require a licence to operate. Industry Canada will release a consultation paper in order to determine the level of interest for the licence-exempt radio devices in Canada, and how or if, they can be integrated into spectrum areas now allocated to the land mobile service on a primary basis.

Ham Radio Online Headlines

WARC - Field Day

June 26- June 27

**Falcon Lake Resort Hotel
Whiteshell Provincial Park**

Minimum Station to consist of:
3 HF Stations
1 VHF/UHF
CW, SSB, FM, Digital
Beams, Slopers, Di-Poles, Balloon Long Wire

Bar- B Que at Noon to kick things off.

Come out for the day or the entire weekend
Bring the YL, XYL, and your Harmonics.

Radio, Swimming, Radio, Hiking, Radio, Nature, Radio

This will be a family function. Everyone gets a chance to operate. Let the rest of your family experience the thrill of making that first contact or make it your chance to hear what HF is all about.

Accommodations for the Resort Hotel to be arranged through Derek , VE4HAY 257-1420, or if you prefer you

<http://hamradio-online.com/>

Press Release, 9 March 1999

The Amateur Radio Research and Development Corporation (AMRAD) has received an Experimental license to conduct tests on the frequency 136.75 kHz using the call sign WA2XTF from twelve sites in Northern Virginia. These experiments are to gain experience in anticipation that the FCC may allocate the low-frequency (LF) band 135.7 - 137.8 kHz to the Amateur Radio Service in the United States.

FCC Press Release, 9 March 1999

The FCC has auctioned frequencies in the 904-928 MHz band for use by Location and Monitoring Services (LMS), raising nearly \$3.5 million U.S. dollars. This band is shared with Amateur Radio, although hams may have to discontinue operation if interference to LMS occurs.

ARRL Bulletin, 6 March 1999

The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act would protect existing Amateur Radio spectrum against reallocations to or sharing with other services unless the FCC provides "equivalent replacement spectrum" elsewhere.

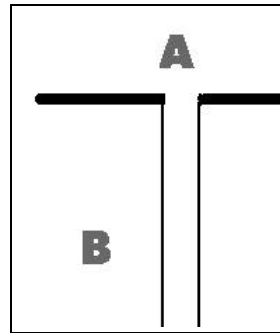
FCC Enacts Internet Morse Code Requirement

The FCC, under pressure to clean up the Internet, especially after the Communications Decency Act provisions regarding Internet content regulation were stricken as violating the U.S. Constitution, has decided instead to require a Morse code requirement for Internet users. Citing the success of the Amateur Radio Service and the general belief that its requirement for operators to pass a Morse code proficiency exam and other technical requirements, has kept the A.R.S. "clean", the FCC will enact a 5 word-per-minute requirement for all Internet users. They are leaving open the issue of whether there should be a "codeless" class of Internet user and are soliciting comments on this proposal.

Persons wishing to develop a web site having only links to other web sites having links to other web sites, and so forth, must pass a 13 word-per-minute test and demonstrate proficiency in HTML, the Internet authoring language.

Persons wish to develop web sites that have actual content, as compared to just links to other web sites, must pass a 20 word-per-minute Morse proficiency test, demonstrate proficiency in HTML and the Java programming language, and show that they have mastery of at least one human language, such as English.

The FCC, which lacks budgetary authority to implement the testing program, has stated that it intends to create Volunteer Examiner programs for Internet applicants.



THE SIX-INCHER MINI ANTENNA **An Easy Practical Antenna** by Alan G3MOJ

Many radio amateurs live in places where it is impossible to erect a full-sized HF antenna.

The antenna described below is ideal for such a location.

HF Dipole only six inches long!

Yes, this amazing HF dipole called "The Six-Incher" is only six inches long. This makes it ideal for the ham without space.

The Six-Incher Construction Details

Take a six-inch piece of copper-wire (wire gauge is not important) and cut it neatly into two pieces of 3 inches each. These two pieces form the top portion of the aerial - A. The centre insulator may be any suitable porcelain or plastic device from the junk-box.

The critical part of the antenna is the feeder - B. This is constructed from 300 or 450 Ohm twin feeder and must be cut to length exactly.

These lengths are:

80 metres 67 feet.
40 metres 33ft 6 inches
20 metres 16ft 8 inches
15 metres 11ft 2 inches
10 metres 8ft 5 inches

Positioning of Antenna

Like all other antennas the Six-Incher must be erected as high and in the clear as possible. For best results the feeder should be straight (no kinks) and as near vertical as possible.

Parkside Appliance & Electronics



**Sales & Service of
Computers &
Software
Home repairs offered**

John. VE4JNF

Feeding and matching the antenna

Now comes the sneaky bit. Only ONE of the feeder lines (either point C OR point D - NOT both!!) must be connected to the Antenna socket on the ATU or AMU at the transmitter end. The other side of the ATU input must be connected to a very good earthing system.

Results

The results, using relatively low power, have been absolutely amazing. Most DX stations have been unable to tell the difference when I have switched from the Six-Incher to a full-sized vertical aerial in the same location. On eighty metres alone, during the 15th Antarctic DX Contest, I worked close to 500 countries! The Six-Incher really does work! Why not try it?

RAC Bulletins

<http://www.rac.ca/~racnews/othernotices/racbulletin.htm>

There were no bulletins that pertained to VE4's this month of any value.

CK's Ode To Dah Code **Contributed by Gary Spence VA2CK**

We've all heard the cry "abandon the code!, it's useless outdated, NOT a mod-er-n mode!"
So I said to myself, "could code's day really be over?
Best left for SKs' fer-til-iz-n' the clover?"

So off went my paddle 'n keyer to a museum,
so those curious of our "past" could drop in an' see um.
I then bought a computer and a box I was told...
would update my station, using all hi-tech modes.

It then was set up, all by my own hand...
the screen it lit up, et voilà Heard Is-land!
I switched to transmit to "talk with this gent"
but my screen read "sorry, can't copy 100%!"

"There's static, interference if you could hear it you'd agree...
if it ain't armchair copy we machines cry c'est la vie!"
It then said "there is as YOU know a way to get through,
it's called the code, and what luck for you!"

"You've learned this art, you "stuck it out"
'tis a valuable tool, there isn't a doubt."
"You've invested your time, and besides the code you did learn,
possession of valuable skills must be... EARNED!"

So I say to you now don't get fooled when some say...
"Codes an' old dinosaur fadin' away!"
It's part of our past, present and future existence...
anti-coders prepare for "beaucoup de resistance"

Morse Code Lives On **by Doug, VE4STD**

extracted from Globe and Mail 2 Feb 99

The code may have lost its place as an emergency language on the high seas last year but it isn't deep-sixed just yet. The code lives on. As a medium of communication Morse code is of course used most extensively in the amateur radio community.

There are however, other code users, even more dependent on Samuel Morse's language of dits and dahs. It is being adopted as an alternate communication method for people with conditions such as cerebral palsy and arterial lateral sclerosis.

The Children's Rehabilitation Centre of Essex County in Windsor Ontario reports that it has really worked well for individuals who have learned to use the code. Patients who can't use their hands can tap with their feet or use puffs of breath to spell out words in code. The sounds of the code make it simple for use by people who are visually impaired.

A University of Wisconsin group, Morse 2000 Outreach, is promoting the code for patients with a variety of conditions. Among the success stories is a quadriplegic patient at Seattle Children's Hospital who earned an accounting degree from the University of Washington doing all his work on a computer using Morse.

Canada's Amateur Radio Superstore

Canada's First Radio Superstore will open on May 1, 1999. "Radioworld" will be located at 4335 Steeles Ave. West, (just east of Hwy. 400) in Toronto. Leading this new business venture is; Angelo Meffe of Norham Radio, Canada's largest Amateur Radio dealer, Lutz Ecker of Atlantic Ham Radio, Canada's largest Shortwave Radio and Communications Scanners dealer and Canada's second largest Amateur Radio dealer and John Summach of Texpro Sales, Canada's largest wholesaler of radio related equipment and accessories. Radioworld will be the largest radio store of its type in Canada, specializing in Amateur, Shortwave, Marine, Avionics, CB radios, Communications Scanners and a complete assortment of related accessories. Jointly, we are committed to provide the widest selection, competitive

pricing and quality in and out of warranty service at our on-site factory service centre.

ARES and CANWARN list-servers
By Bill, VE4UB

The list-servers were created on SIRnet (www.sirnet.mb.ca) to assist ARES and Canwarn members by giving them a simple venue for getting information out as quickly and simply as possible. Those amateur radio operators wishing to subscribe to the lists only need to send an e-mail to ve4ub@rac.ca requesting that their names be added, I will usually comply within a few hours and a return message will confirm this or follow the directions below.

Presently we have a list for ham radio which is of general interest to ham operators, this is an open list and one can subscribe by sending a message to majordomo@sirnet.mb.ca with nothing in the subject line and the text "subscribe hamradio" without the quotes in the body. Please be sure to send as plain text since html formatted documents will create return error messages.

Other lists are for Canwarn, ARES as well as ec-ve4, these are closed lists and subscription requires manual intervention to ensure that Spam is not generated. The Canwarn list is intended for Environment Canada trained spotters and hopefully we can convince the weather office to send their warnings as well as watches to this list. In the mean time I will forward these items from the Ontario list as I receive them. Subscription is as above but might be delayed, the message text would be "subscribe canwarn".

The ARES list is intended to distribute information to Manitoba ARES members. "subscribe ares"

The ec-ve4 list is intended to distribute information to the Manitoba Ecs and their assistants. This list will be open to those persons holding the positions. "subscribe ec-ve4"

Other lists can be created for worthwhile causes within amateur radio. Please send your requests to ve4ub@rac.ca

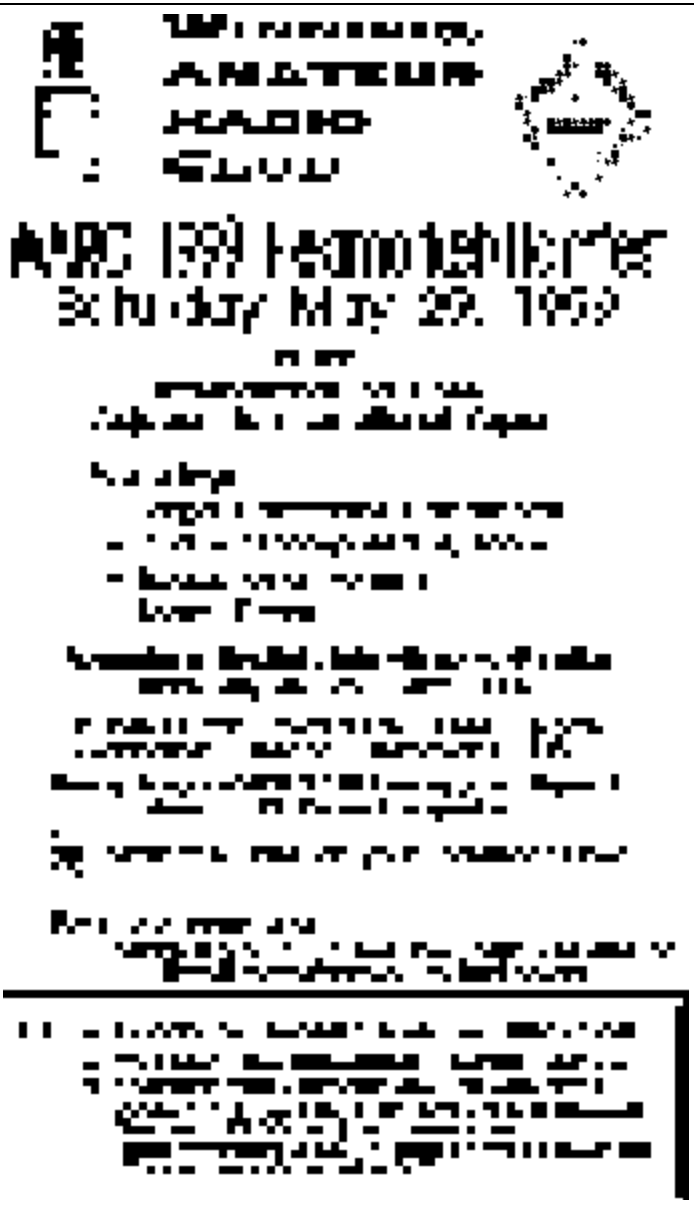
NB: PLEASE go to the RAC website www.rac.ca and apply for an alias for your e-mail! No matter where you move your e-mail account to just update your alias on the RAC site and your mail will follow you. The service is free and you do not have to be a member of RAC to use the service.

1999 BlueBook - Update requests

By Bill, VE4UB

Due to a lack of support we were not be able to publish the 1998 fall edition of the VE4 Bluebook, we will try to get enough support to enable us to publish in time for the WARC HamFest in May 1999. Please get any additions, deletions or correction to Bill VE4UB A.S.A.P.. We also require advertisers so if your business is interested please let me know.

Please send any information concerning callsigns, license class, phone numbers, non renewals to as quickly as possible to ve4ub@rac.mb.ca. We are also interested in club information, nets, meetings and get togethers. Cartoons or favorite ham memories are also requested for publication as fillers are needed.



Editors Ramblings
BY Derek, VE4HAY

Another newsletter is finally put to print. This month was easy. No computer problems, no printers suddenly giving up the ghost. Articles and snippets left over for the next issue. A week vacation (suppose to be with the kids for spring break, Yeah right...) This was a welcome relief as compared to the last couple of months.

Well it's April, and with that comes the day of fools. Maybe each of you should check the articles in the newsletter carefully this month. Once never knows which is true and which is truth.

Spring is finally here, the snow has melted and the antenna installation season come to an end. Now it's time for some serious operating. The sunspot peak should be heard later this year, and the bands are coming to their peak as well.

Get your marker out of the drawer and start marking the various events on your calendar. This year should promise to be a good one. Starting with the Winnipeg HamFest (see box below) and continuing through the Marathon, Field Day, International Peace Garden HamFest, MARM HamFest and many other events and activities in between. Watch this newsletter for details as they come up, or the MRS semiweekly nets.

As usual I can be reached at ve4hay@rac.ca