



Newscaster

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

April 2000

HomeBrew Night

Come out and see what everyone has built
over the winter - get some new project ideas
and advice

Date: April 10th, 2000
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Sturgeon Creek Regional Secondary School

Other Important Dates:

Articles: April 26th. - Article Deadline May Newscaster

WARC: May 8th - Meeting
June 12th - last meeting of the year.

WSC: April 5 - Chili Contest
April 19 - Board meeting
May - Bus tour to Warroad MN.

ARES: April 18 - Meeting - Y2K Northern experiences
April 30 - CPR training (heartsaver)

Other: April 14th - MRS Annual Meeting
June 18 - Manitoba Marathon
June 24,25 - Field Day
July 20,22 - Central States VHF Conference
Aug. - MARM HamFest

NEWS from the Winnipeg Seniors' Radio Club by Gil Frederick, VE4AG

April 5 is (was) the big day for another social activity at the Seniors' Radio Club - the Great Canadian Chili Cooking Contest and Eat-a-Thon! At least six great dishes were prepared, with a suitable prize (along with bragging rights) to the Grand Winner. Attendance prizes were also awarded. Judging began at 11 a.m., with the big Eat-Out during the noon hour.

The next big 'do' might be an outing in the form of a bus tour to a U.S. Casino, if enough members are interested. This could take place in May. Let George, VE4GNG, know how you feel about this. 46 tickets must be sold to make it a 'go'. Site would be either Warroad, MN or the Shooting Star.

We welcome a new member, Frank Dolski, VE4ZCW.

We welcome our President Ed, VE4YU and Irene, back from their exciting 2-month trip to San Miguel de Allende in Mexico. Ed had daily radio contacts with friends here at home during his stay there.

The next Monthly Breakfast will take place at the Garden City Inn, McPhillips at Jefferson, on Thursday, April 13, beginning at 9 a.m. If you haven't been lately, it's your turn for a visit.

The April Board Meeting will commence at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 19, at the Clubrooms. A few items are pending for discussion and possible action, so all Board members are asked to attend. Members are welcome also.

The Club now has round sew-on jacket crests available from any Duty Officer. Price is \$5.00 each (includes taxes). The crest features an intense blue background encircled with gold threading (like braid); the club logo is in the centre, with callsign VE4WSC encircled by the words "Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club Inc." Members are encouraged to buy one now while quantities last.

WARC: Executive for 2000			
Past President	Norm Coull	VE4EH	885-1692
President	Darcy Wilson	VE4DDW	783-0421
Vice-Pres./ PR	Tom Mills	VE4SE	837-6915
Secretary	Ruth Mills	VE4XYL	837-6915
Treasurer	Sue Collings	VE4SYM	694-1525
Membership	Mariska Maguire	VE4MMG	256-3143
Program	Tom Mills	VE4SE	837-6915
Goodwill	Vern Dutton	VE4VQ	256-5346

MINUTES for W.A.R.C. March 13th, 2000
Submitted by Ruth, VE4XYL

The meeting began with a warm welcome from our President Darcy VE4DDW. Introductions followed from an excellent attendance of 60 members in total.

Previous to the meeting the club jacket project was very successful. Some 30 orders for jackets were taken.

MINUTES.

Moved by Ted VE4VID and seconded by Dick VE4HK the minutes are accepted as printed. Carried.

TREASURERS REPORT

Susan VE4SYM reported as of February 29, 2000 our expenses were \$142.83, the revenue was \$60.00 and the bank balance is \$4262.12.

RAC REPORT

By Rick VE4OV. License fees. Industry Canada has dropped the station license fees and your new certificate will indicate your call sign and class of license.

DARF is needing financial assistance and it was proposed that WARC donate to this cause. The fund is used to provide financial support for research and travel expenses of a delegate to the WRC to defend the Amateur Radio

Bands. Derek VE4HAY has proposed that you may wish to join RAC or send a donation to DARF, instead of merely pocketing the savings.

Ralph Webb VE70M is the new RAC 1st V.P. Ralph was the former SM for B.C.

Please contact Rick VE4OV at 275 6980 if you are interested in being the new SM for MB. or if you are interested in being a RAC assistant director.

RAC V.P. for international affairs, Dr. Ken Pulfer VE3PU has propose to I.C. that the 12 wpm CW rate be dropped to 5 wpm for full HF access. I.C. will be asking for input from all Canadian Radio Amateurs before any decisions are made. This the first step of a long process and it is not a "done deal"

ARES

Tom VE4SE in Jeff's absence reported that the next ARES general meeting will be held Tuesday March 21 at the Sir William Stevenson library at 19:00hrs. Nothing more to report since the last exercise of the sled dog races.

FLEA MARKET

Ruth VE4XYL in Michael, VE4MJM absence gave a brief report that to date all vendor tables have been spoken for and money received from all but 3. The executive has put together an event organizational method dividing the various jobs to ease the workload and giving work responsibility to many rather than that of only a few people. This method will be tried for the upcoming flea market on April 16th.

DX SLEUTHS

Adam VE4SN reported in some excellent conditions and one contest weekend it was almost possible to work your DXCC. Also if anyone is looking for Mexico as a contact Ed Henderson VE4YU is still down there and works back to Winnipeg nearly every morning.

NEW BUSINESS

Darcy has a contact with a company where we can have gold plated name tags made. They would be about 3in. wide by 13/4in high and the estimated cost to be about \$8.00 each.

FIELD DAY

Darcy is waiting for more information on Duff Roblin Park, a location closer to Winnipeg for our June field day. Further discussion on an alternate location to be at our next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 18:30 for a coffee break and some Tim bits to return at 18:50 for the draws and an excellent presentation by Wayne VE4WTS on GPS positioning. The attendance prize, a screw driver kit was won

Industry Canada Amateur Centre
 Voice 1-888-780-3333 (toll-free)
 Fax: 1-613-991-5575
 Email: spectrum.amateur@ic.gc.ca
 Web: http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/spectrum

.....
 Newscaster Advertising Rates:
 All advertising is black & white and must be submitted in electronic format.

full page	\$75.00
1/2 page	\$40.00
1/4 page	\$20.00
bus.card	\$10.00

For more information or to place an ad please contact Tom, VE4SE or e-mail ve4se@rac.ca

.....
 Comments or if you just want to reach us :

Newscaster Editor
Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club
C/O VE4WSC
598 St. Mary's Road
Winnipeg, MB R2M 3L5
<http://www.freenet.mb.ca/amradio>

by Jim Rogan VE4MT. The raffle draw, a butane soldering kit was won by Cal VE4XQ

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

WPS Staff Sergeants Paul Kentziger and Al Simpson gave us a fascinating presentation on PS disaster Management Team and an overview of other special teams at our March meeting. They also brought out WPS Command Unit and WPS Support Unit and set them up on the Library driveway. Both units have battery and generator back-up, "regular" WPS radios, MDTs, cellular hones, and PA systems. The Command Unit (22C1) also has a portable repeater (DVP scrambled) for the Emergency Response Unit (ERU). Both vehicles have a 1/4 Wave 2m antenna on the front fender, the Command Unit carries an ARES 2m radio. Eventually the Support Unit will have a 2m radio as well.

The next monthly meeting will be TUE 18APRIL 1900h at Sir Wm Stephenson Library 765 Keewatin Street. Yori Tsuji VE4ACX, Roy Maguire VE4EN, and Ed Henderson VE4YU will be giving a presentation on "Y2K Experiences in Remote Communities".

CPR Training (Heartsaver) for Winnipeg ARES members that have REGISTERED will be SUN 30APR00 1100h at Fire Station #1 65 Ellen Street. Richard VE4KAZ will be contacting those that are registered. This class is full now but Richard will be making a list up for a future class. You can e-mail him: rkazuk@escape.ca or register at a monthly meeting.

CANWARN 2000 - UPDATE #1 **Jeff Dovyak VE4MBQ, DEC Manitoba ARES**

CANWARN in southern Manitoba has grown from spotters in 17 communities in 5 districts in 1998 to spotters in 32 communities in six districts in 1999. This year we will be adding the Brandon area as our seventh district.

Current CANWARN districts or regions:

- South-Central
- Pinawa
- Selkirk
- Interlake
- Dauphin
- Winnipeg

The 2000 CANWARN "season" for southern Manitoba will run 15MAY thru 11SEP. Net Controllers for VE4WWO at the Prairie Storm Prediction Centre (PSPC) will be on-call DAILY from 0930-1730 and 1730-2130 for those four months.

ACTIVATION of CANWARN Nets can be done by: Severe Wx Forecaster PSPC On-Call Net Controller ARES EC or designate

If CANWARN is activated from the field (by ARES Emergency Co-ordinator or designate) ensure that Severe Wx Forecaster at PSPC OR On-Call Controller is notified. The ECs will have the toll-free number for PSPC AND the pager numbers for Net Controllers.

If CANWARN spotters observe severe wx when there is no active net please notify PSPC by toll-free number that you received during Spotter Training (your EC will give it to you if you lost the number). Also, the 1-800 number should be used for reporting if there is a loss of communications during a net. We hope to have HF on-line this year at VE4WWO, the ECs will be notified when it is up and running and what frequencies will be used.

NORTHERN PLAINS CONVECTIVE CONFERENCE

25-27APR00 Winnipeg University of Winnipeg

There will be many technical presentations. The session/s dealing with Warning Preparedness (of interest to ARES and CANWARN members) will likely be 26APR. For more information please see Bill Bowman's web-site:

www.ve4sss.mb.ca/wxworkshop.html

To register contact Pat McCarthy, telephone 983-1904

e-mail:

patrick.mccarthy@ec.gc.ca

SPRING SPOTTER TRAINING

SAT 15APR00 1300h Brandon location to be announced.

Please register with Moe Balcaen VE4MOE by 07APR if you are planning to attend. Moe's e-mail is:

mjbalcaen@techplus.com

home phone: 1-204-726-4185

SUN 07MAY00 1300h Winnipeg PSPC Training Room 4th Floor 123 Main St (Union Station) Please register with Jeff Dovyak VE4MBQ by 01MAY if you are planning to attend. Jeff's e-mail is:

ve4mqb@rac.ca

home phone: 694-8146

CANWARN NET CONTROLLERS MEETING

TUE 09MAY00 1900h Winnipeg PSPC Training Room 4th Floor 123 Main St

Controllers in the Winnipeg area can call me NOW to book their on-call weeks.

Additional Spotter Training may be carried out in the Fall of 2000 or Spring of 2001 BY REQUEST. We generally

want 10 or 12 NEW SPOTTERS to run a session. We hope to have a Wx Watch video for each ARES unit in Southern Manitoba to use as a refresher.

RAC Bulletins

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

RAC Bulletin 00-022E

Amateur Streamlining Becomes Effective April 1, 2000

As part of an initiative to streamline the administrative process for the amateur radio service and remove duplication, Industry Canada will be introducing regulatory amendments as was previously outlined in the discussion paper released last year. A new amateur operator certificate will become the sole document required for the operation of amateur radio equipment. It will replace both the traditional amateur radio licence and operator certificate. Amateurs will no longer be required to pay a licence issuance fee or annual licence renewal fee. However, amateurs will still be required to advise Industry Canada of a change of mailing address.

A new certificate, consisting of both diploma and wallet size, will be mailed to each amateur currently holding a radio license. All call signs currently held by amateurs will now appear on the new certificate. Amateur clubs will receive an amateur registration identifying the call signs currently issued to clubs on behalf of the sponsor.

Any amateur that did not hold a radio license prior to March 31, 2000 will be eligible to apply for a call sign. There will be no charge for the initial call sign however, additional or specially requested call signs will now cost \$60.00. If amateurs move from one call sign region to another, they will still be required to change their call sign but no fee will be charged for such changes. Likewise, there will be no charge for an amateur updating their mailing address.

For additional information regarding this new streamlined procedure, amateurs should contact the Amateur Service Centre of Industry Canada at:

Industry Canada
Amateur Radio Service Centre
P.O. Box 9654
Postal Station "T"
Ottawa, ON
K1G 6K9

E-Mail address: <http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/radioamateur.e>
Telephone: 1-888-780-3333 (Toll free)
Fax Number: 1-613-991-5575

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

Changes to Regulations

By Ken Pulfer, ve3pu@rac.ca

Industry Canada has posted on their web site the changes to the radio regulations governing the amateur service. I have made a copy for you below.... They have also done an "impact analysis" which supports the rationale for the changes. It is fairly heavy going, so read only if you are interested. If you do work your way to the bottom, you will see how the changes were rationalized within the government.

Regulations Amending the Radiocommunication Regulations

P.C. 2000-228 24 February, 2000

Her Excellency the Governor General in Council, on the recommendation of the Minister of Industry and the Treasury Board, pursuant to section 6a of the Radiocommunication Act and section 19.1c of the Financial Administration Act, hereby makes the annexed Regulations Amending the Radiocommunication Regulations.

AMENDMENTS

1. Subsection 9(2) of the Radiocommunication Regulations SOR/96-484 is repealed.

2. The Regulations are amended by adding the following after section 15.2: Exemption of Radio Apparatus Operated in the Amateur Radio Service 15.3 A radio apparatus that is operated in the amateur radio service at a mobile or fixed station is exempt from subsection 4(1) of the Act, in respect of a radio licence, if

(a) a person who operates the radio apparatus is an individual who is the holder of one or more of the certificates or licences referred to in section 42; and

(b) the operation of the radio apparatus in the amateur radio service is in accordance with the technical requirements referred to in section 45.

3. (1) The portion of section 42 of the Regulations before paragraph (a) is replaced by the following:

42. An individual may operate radio apparatus in the amateur radio service if the individual is the holder of one or more of the following certificates or licences:

(2) Paragraph 42(i) of the Regulations is replaced by the following:

(i) a radio licence in the amateur radio service and an amateur radio operator authorization, issued by the responsible administration of a country other than Canada, if

(i) the individual is a citizen of that country, and

(ii) a reciprocal arrangement that allows similar privileges to Canadians exists between that other country and Canada; and

4. Section 43 of the Regulations is repealed.

5. The portion of section 44 of the Regulations before paragraph (a) is replaced by the following:

44. A person who operates radio apparatus in the amateur radio service must hold an Amateur Radio Operator Certificate with Advanced Qualification in order to

6. Section 45 of the Regulations is replaced by the following:

45. A person shall operate radio apparatus in the amateur radio service in accordance with the technical requirements set out in the Standards for the Operation of Radio Stations in the Amateur Radio Service, issued by the Minister, as amended from time to time.

7. (1) Subsection 46(1) of the Regulations is replaced by the following:

46. (1) Any person may participate in the operation of radio apparatus in the amateur radio service under the supervision and in the presence of an individual referred to in section 42.

(2) The portion of subsection 46(2) of the Regulations before paragraph (b) is replaced by the following:

(2) A holder of a certificate or licence referred to in section 42 may

(a) permit any person who does not hold such a certificate or licence to operate radio apparatus subject to compliance with the terms and conditions of that holder's certificate or licence; and

8. The heading before 47 of the Regulations is replaced by the following: Communications with Radio Apparatus in the Amateur Radio Service

9. The portion of section 47 of the Regulations before paragraph (b) is replaced by the following:

47. A person who operates radio apparatus in the amateur radio service may only

(a) communicate with a radio station that operates in the amateur radio service;

10. Section 48 of the Regulations is replaced by the following:

48. In a real or simulated emergency, a person operating radio apparatus in the amateur radio service may only communicate with a radio station that is in the amateur radio service in order to transmit a message that relates to the real or simulated emergency on behalf of a person, government or relief organization.

11. Section 49 of the Regulations is replaced by the following:

49. A person who operates radio apparatus in the amateur radio service shall do so without demanding or accepting remuneration in any form in respect of a radiocommunication that the person transmits or receives.

12. Section 59 of the Regulations and the heading before it are repealed.

13. The section reference and title of Part I of Schedule III to the Regulations are replaced by the following:

(Sections 55, 56 and 60)

FEE SCHEDULE APPLICABLE FOR A MOBILE STATION IN ANY SERVICE OTHER THAN THE AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE

14. Item 1 of Part I of Schedule III to the Regulations is repealed.

COMING INTO FORCE

15. These Regulations come into force on "April 1, 2000".

a S.C. 1989, c. 17, s. 4

b S.C. 1989, c. 17, s. 2

c S.C. 1991, c. 24, s. 6

REGULATORY IMPACT ANALYSIS STATEMENT

(This statement is not part of the Regulations.)

Description

Industry Canada manages the use and development of the radio frequency spectrum for such radiocommunication services as over-the-air broadcasting, mobile radio, satellite, cellular, public safety, and the amateur radio service.

Currently, Industry Canada issues approximately forty five thousand individual radio licences to individuals operating radios in the radio amateur service. The operation of radio apparatus in this service is used for the purpose of self-training, intercommunication or technical investigation by individuals who are interested in radio technique solely with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest.

Radio amateur operators enjoy communicating worldwide with other amateurs, experimenting with slow scan TV and pioneering innovative communication techniques such as packet radio. They also volunteer valuable community services by providing communications at various charity and sporting events and during disasters such as the Manitoba floods, the Saguenay floods in Quebec and the Ice Storm in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes.

Over the years, officials of the Department have worked with radio amateurs and organizations such as the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) to foster the development of the service. For example, a restructuring of the service in 1990 helped rejuvenate the service by making it easier for individuals to obtain their amateur radio operator certificate. This effort coupled with having delegated examiners administer the technical and regulatory examinations and effective promotion of the service by the RAC has resulted in a more than doubling of the number of amateurs enjoying this hobby since 1990.

With this growth and the Government's mandate to regulate smarter comes the need to streamline the current authorization procedures that permit qualified individuals to

operate in the amateur radio service. Essentially, this can be accomplished by removing the requirements to hold both a radio operator's certificate and a radio licence.

These amendments to the Radiocommunication Regulations waive the requirement for obtaining a radio licence, in the amateur radio service, in order to operate radio apparatus in a mobile or fixed station provided that the apparatus complies with the following exemption criteria:

- (i) the operator restricts the operation of the radio apparatus to the amateur radio service;
- (ii) the operator is certified or holds an appropriate authorization; and
- (iii) the operator of the radio apparatus complies with certain technical requirements referred to in the regulations.

These criteria are based upon sound spectrum management principles. The exemption criteria also recognize that those responsible for the operation of amateur stations must pass technical and regulatory examinations before receiving their operator's certificate to operate either standard manufactured equipment or home built equipment.

By exempting the radio apparatus, this regulatory initiative also eliminates the radio station licence \$24 annual renewal fee and makes the Amateur Radio Operator Certificate the sole authorization document. The certificate will include the operator's assigned call sign in order to comply with domestic and international station identification requirements.

Under this initiative, the eligibility requirements to operate in the amateur radio service are not changed. Other than revoking a provision that limits the number of stations to three that an amateur may operate under a licence, the regulations concerning the operation of all radio apparatus in the amateur radio service are not substantively modified. The radio apparatus is subject to the applicable regulations and a person who operates radio apparatus in the amateur radio service must comply with the technical requirements specified by the regulations.

These technical requirements are set out in the document entitled Standards for the Operation of Radio Stations in the Amateur Radio Service, issued by the Minister. The common set of obligations in this document regarding the use of the frequency bands (depending on the operator qualifications), permitted power levels, and identifying the station by using the appropriate call sign are measures to ensure that amateur stations do not interfere with other radiocommunication services in Canada.

By eliminating the requirement for a radio licence, a radio amateur only needs an Amateur Radio Operator Certificate with Basic qualifications and a call sign to operate in the service. Amateur operators will require Advance qualifications to build their own equipment, or install repeater stations and amateur club stations. To ensure that there is a means to identify these stations, the Department will create a registry so clubs or other organizations may obtain call signs.

Delicensing rather than deregulation of the amateur radio service effectively removes the administrative burden created by issuing licences and paying radio licence fees. It also improves the efficiency of the Department's spectrum management program without compromising the regulatory regime for the service. In short, the operators of these stations must continue to comply with the Radiocommunication Act and the regulations governing their use.

It is anticipated that these regulatory amendments will come into force April 1, 2000 to correspond with the expiry date of existing licences and the beginning of the next annual licence renewal.

Alternatives

Three alternatives were considered: keeping the status quo, adopting a one time licensing regime and seeking partners to assume licensing responsibilities on behalf of the Department.

Continuing with the existing practice of requiring radio station applications and collecting fees from the majority of licensees in these services is no longer acceptable. The Department has determined that for certain radiocommunication services individual licences are not needed to manage the radio spectrum and control the use of the radio apparatus.

One time rather than annual licensing of amateur radio apparatus would still require significant program resources. This option does not significantly reduce the regulatory paper burden of administering and issuing individual licences because of the large number of individuals being attracted to the service.

In 1993 the Department launched a project to delegate administrative activities related to the amateur radio service to the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) through an organization, the Amateur Radio Administrative Services Inc. (ARAS), which was at arm's length to the RAC. Despite the best efforts of the RAC and Industry Canada the project did not come to fruition because of the need for substantial start up funding and not being able to secure continued long term funding of ARAS's operation by allowing ARAS to retain a large portion of the radio licence fees. However, some of the

work undertaken during this project is being applied in the administration of the amateur radio service.

Benefits and Costs

Benefits - One of the principal goals of this initiative is to improve our services while reducing the costs of providing those services.

The major benefit to radio amateurs is improved service in terms of a significant streamlining of the process to obtain and maintain an authorization to operate in the amateur radio service. Operators of amateur radio stations that meet the exemption criteria will no longer need to obtain a radio licence or pay radio licence fees. This effectively eliminates the administrative burden surrounding the application for a radio licence, the yearly renewal of the radio licence and the annual \$24 licence fee. It also allows a radio amateur to maintain a call sign for a lifetime whereas in the past this was contingent on the licence renewal.

This initiative also encourages new recruitment in the amateur radio service, leads to a more efficient regulatory framework, and harmonizes our authorization scheme with that of other administrations who issue only one authorization to radio amateurs.

The benefits to the Department include an important reduction in workload associated with the renewal exercise at headquarters and in district offices across the country as a result of eliminating numerous enquiries and requests from individual radio amateurs during the licence renewal period and throughout the year. The Department will be able to move the resources saved from these transactional activities to higher value spectrum management activities such as enforcement.

Savings associated with the initiative include more than \$75,000 yearly for printing and mailing licence renewal and radio licences, and for processing licence fee payments.

This initiative recognizes the work of amateur radio volunteer examiners - a program implemented across Canada to administer radio amateur certification exams to over 3,000 candidates per year.

No adverse impact upon the spectrum is anticipated.

Costs - This initiative will result in the elimination of 45,000 licensing accounts for the amateur radio service and will not yield any increase in cost.

Consultations

Consultations with the amateur community and other stakeholders have been favourable during Industry Canada's

review of the licensing policy for the amateur radio service. The Department engaged the amateur community by

- a survey on delicensing the service,
- an article published in the radio amateur magazine explaining the proposal,
- nationwide presentations of the broad concepts of the proposal to numerous amateur radio clubs,
- a departmental Internet site (<http://strategis.icgc.ca/spectrum>) where readers could leave comments regarding the notice, discussion paper, frequently asked questions and answers,
- establishing, in June 1999, the Amateur Radio Service Centre in Ottawa to carry out all amateur activities such as processing applications and issuing amateur radio operator certificates, and
- meetings with the RAC executive to review the proposal.

Open and frank discussions brought forth some negative and cautionary responses in light of the termination of the ARAS project. However, other respondents wholly support the initiative and eagerly await further details and are amenable to paying a fee for added value services. The consultations also provided an opportunity to identify and allay certain concerns.

For example, the survey showed that confusion over the purpose and function of the radio licence and the operator certificate exists. The presentations were structured and refined to address this point and emphasize that delicensing is not deregulation of the service.

Other concerns that were expressed and addressed throughout the consultation varied from broad questions such as "What impact will this initiative have on the Amateur Radio Service?" to specific questions such as "What call sign do I use with my station?". These and other questions are addressed in the discussion paper and on the Internet site.

Twenty four submissions were received with respect to the discussion paper entitled Streamlining the Authorization Process for the Amateur Radio Service that was released in May 1999. Most of the responses from individual amateurs, amateur clubs and organizations such as the Canadian Institute of the Blind applaud and fully support the Department's efforts to streamline the amateur service and suggested improvements for its implementation. The Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) also endorsed the proposal as presented and recommended that radio amateurs report of address changes be made mandatory, the authorization be entitled: "Amateur Radio Operator's Certificate and Radio Licence" and that the Department publish a policy governing the assignment of call signs.

Mandatory reporting of an address change has been included as a term of the operator certificate. Industry Canada has finalized a policy governing the assignment of

call signs which incorporates the recommendations in the report of the joint Industry Canada - RAC Call Sign Working Group. Exempting amateur radio apparatus from licensing precludes calling the new radio authorization, which is primarily an operator's certificate, a radio licence. A radio amateur operator may install and operate an amateur station by complying with the terms and conditions of the exemption set out in the Regulations.

In short, the Department has made a concerted effort to keep interested parties informed and allayed concerns raised by the amateur community early in the development of this initiative. It is anticipated that existing licensees will have an opportunity to benefit from this initiative beginning April 1, 2000.

Compliance and Enforcement

The Department will continue to support the Radio Amateurs of Canada and the amateur community efforts to promote the development of this service. Operator certification, the use of standard radio equipment for amateur operator with basic qualifications, and technical training available within the amateur community are measures that help regulate this service.

Although an operator's radio apparatus in the amateur radio service is exempt from radio licensing requirements, the operator of the apparatus is still subject to the Radiocommunication Act and the Radiocommunication Regulations made thereunder. Regulatory sanctions, such as tickets, issued under the Contraventions Act, where

appropriate, will also ensure the orderly management of the radio frequency spectrum for the amateur radio service.

Contact

Mr. Darius Breau, Manager, Spectrum Management Operations Directorate, Radiocommunication and Broadcasting Regulatory Branch, Industry Canada, 300 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0C8
tel.: (613) 990-4736; Fax: (613) 952-9871;
Internet: breau.darius@ic.gc.ca

MILLENIUM MARATHON
Kay VE4YF and Ralph VE4RY

It is a new millennium and with it come some significant changes. At the first technical committee meeting we were surprised to find out that the GoldWing motorcyclists have withdrawn their support.

Things are really happening with the technical side of the race. The Manitoba Marathon has ' become big time ' with an all new high-tec system for timing each runner in the marathon, half marathon and relay events. Only major races, such as the Boston Marathon, use this system of electronic chip ID tags that are read with sensors at the start and finish lines.

Speaking of Boston, our own Manitoba Marathon's doctor, Ed Pilat, has been invited to Boston, where he will be working at their finish line. He should come back with quite a few stories and ideas.

So now comes the time that we start asking for volunteers. The race takes up only a few hours of your time on Father's Day, Sunday, June 18th. No previous experience required!

Think about it and if you are interested please get in touch with either of us. Hope to hear from you!

Contest Calendar

April

01-02	1300-1300	CW/SSB YLRC Elettra Marconi
01-02	1500-1500	CW/SSB SP DX Contest
01-02	1600-1600	RTTY EA RTTY Contest
06-08	1400-0200	CW DX YL to NA YL Contest
07-09	2300-2300	CW Japan Int'l DX, High Bands
08-09	1800-1800	CW/SSB King of Spain Contest
08-09	Periods	CW DIG QSO Party
09	0700-1100	CW UBA Spring Contest
15	0000-2400	CW/SSB Australian Post Code Con
15	0500-0859	CW/SSB ES Open Championship
15-17	2 periods	CW/SSB Michigan QSO Party
15-16	1200-1200	CW/SSB YU DX Contest

COME ONE , COME ALL

The Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club Semi - Annual Flea Market

Sunday April 16th.

Heritage Victoria Community Club
950 Sturgeon Road
Between Ness & Silver

Admission is \$1.00
Doors open at 10:00 a.m.
For table rentals contact Ruth,
VE4XYL at 837-6915 or mail to
VE4WSC, 598 St. Mary's Road R2M 3L5

15-16	Periods	AMTOR SARTG WW Amtor
15	1500-1859	SSB EU SPRINT Spring
15-16	1800-1800	CW/SSB Holyland DX Contest
20-22	1400-0200	SSB DX YL to NA YL Contest
21-22	2200-0200	CW Good Friday CW Sprint
22-23	1200-1200	RTTY SP DX RTTY Contest
22	1600-2400	CW QRP to the Field
24	1500-2000	CW Low Power Spring Sprint
29-30	1300-1300	SSB/CW Helvetia Contest
29-30	2 periods	SSB/CW Florida QSO Party
29-30	1700-1659	CW/SSB Nebraska QSO Party
29-30	1800-1800	SSB/CW Ontario QSO Party

Adventures for the New and Beginning Ham

By Phillip Boucher, VE3BOC

extracted from TCA by Glen VE4GWN

Our new ham, VA3***, Bob, has been listening to a few repeaters for a couple of days and has made note of the way the hams operated on them. He has written down all the things that seem to be common in the way they called, greeted each other, greeted new parties to the conversation, and conducted themselves. Bob is now a little surer on how to operate on the air He is sure that now he has everything he needs to know.

Well, like Dad trying to teach his daughter to drive, learning how to conduct oneself on the air by listening to hams is quite similar. You will learn how to operate the equipment but you will also learn the bad habits of the teacher I'm not saying that most hams don't operate properly on the air I'm saying that the more experienced most of us get, the sloppier we may become in our conduct. We get lazy and don't think of what we are really doing.

Bob keeps hearing the hams calling each other by their last two or three letters in their call sign. So Bob emulates that. "*** listening" he will say. Or, "### this is ***" My call is VE3BOC. Once, and only once, I caught myself identifying as just BOO. But I have heard many Amateurs do this on a constant basis. For one thing, it is not legal. Your call sign is your full call and must be used. You can't abbreviate it, at any time, for any reason.

Secondly, there is more than one province (and now three territories) and there could be a BOC call sign in each area. Where would I be from? And another thing about call signs. They should always be expressed phonetically and clearly. How many times have you heard someone say, "V... K, VE2.". They say their calls so fast that you can't make out the call. Why? Amateur Old-timers Disease! AOD affects us long-time hams. We get complacent. We get in a rut. We forget and we get sloppy. So those new Amateurs learn these bad habits.

Now Bob (and us) has learned that saying our call - or even anything else we say over the air - should be done in a slower, more emphatic way so those listening can understand what the heck we are saying. Also that we should always, always, use our full call sign. Be proud of it. Make sure everyone hears it.

Bob also learned when he had to say his call sign over the air He knows that it is at the beginning and end of every contact. He has heard the hams on the air do it this way. However, there is more to it than just that. The hams that Bob listened to did not Identify themselves every half-hour as they are legally required to do - another "sloppy" operating practice.

We now observe Bob as he OSY's (moves to another frequency) around the band and tries to find some other repeaters. He keys up (presses the PTT [push-to-talk button] on his radio) to see if an active repeater is on the frequency. When he hears nothing back, he goes to the next frequency and does the same thing, continuing on until he finally hits a repeater Bob has committed an ART (not the creative noun but the Amateur Radio Taboo). He is "kerchunking". This is caused by the quick keying of the radio to access the repeater. No call, no modulation, just, "kerchunk", "kerchunk". Other than a good hum from your 1 2v power supply, this is probably the most annoying thing any ham can listen to. Not only is it a pain in the pants (family mag, you know), but it is also illegal. You have to identify when you transmit. So don't kerchunk. If you need to see if a frequency has a repeater on it, then do this:

Listen to the frequency for a while

Get a repeater directory!

In lieu of a repeater directory, look on the Internet for.. .yep, a repeater directory.

This corrected practice has now endeared Bob to his fellow hams.

Already, Bob has corrected a few of the bad operating habits he has picked up from listening to and talking with other hams. Bob can sure talk. He could talk the ears off a bat, the microphone off a tape recorder, and the line off a telephone! He can talk, talk, talk, talk, talk. In fact Bob talks so much and for so long that he keep timing out the repeater! "Hey, the repeater's back on, Bob must have stopped talking." Another bad habit. There's nothing wrong with talking on the radio; hey that's the major activity of our hobby. However, there is talking, and there is being very long-winded. Don't ramble on when on the air. The purpose of radio is to convey as much information in as little time as possible (the reason for Q codes, 10-codes, colour codes, etc.). Yes, we in our hobby stretch this out a bit but remember that brevity is better than bority (a "boring monologue". I made it up, yes). And while on the subject of long-windedness, Bob's soliloquies never gave any other

ham a chance to join the conversation. Who knows if anyone had an emergency transmission to make? Besides being brief in your chats, it is also a very good idea to not key up right away when the party you are in contact with unkeys. Wait a few seconds to let another Amateur join the contact or make an emergency call. Seems like Bob, and the rest of us as well, have learned how to correct quite a lot of operating boo-boo's in this column. Now we just have to practice them.

E-Mail: ve3boc@rac.ca

Website: www.skyfoot-technical.nu

NEW MEXICO HAMS STAY ON AIR AS MOST OF STATE GOES DARK

New Mexico suffered what could be the largest power loss in the state's history March 18. Amateur Radio operators stood by to fill the communication gap as the outage that resulted from a grass fire left thousands without power.

"We had done our Y2K exercises well, and it paid off," said New Mexico ARRL Section Manager Joe Knight, W5PDY. Knight says smoke from a large grass fire caused the large insulators on a major power line to arc, shutting down the line. Three major power lines from the Public Service Company of New Mexico's Four-Corners Power Plant followed suit. The outage subsequently took out a major power generating unit. "In a domino effect, most of the state of New Mexico, a small part of southern Colorado and part of El Paso, Texas, were out," Knight explained. Thanks to emergency power, hams and repeaters remained operational. "Needless to say, there were no cell phones, and the 911 system was jammed," Knight said. ARES/RACES was activated and in full operation through both local and linked repeaters throughout the state. "Operators were cautioned to transmit only for emergency traffic in order to conserve our battery power on the linked repeater system. Since the shopping malls, grocery stores, restaurants, filling stations and traffic lights were down, it made for a real Y2K emergency."

Parkside Appliance & Electronics



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

John, VE4JNF

**386 Belvidere Street
www.escape.ca/~ve4jnf**

885-9278

ve4jnf@escape.ca

Knight says the linked system was able to help keep the public up to date on what was happening. In addition, 21 battery-powered HF stations checked into the New Mexico Roadrunner Traffic Net and were on standby until the power was restored to most of the state. Two broadcast radio stations, KOB AM and KDEF AM, were on the air using emergency power generators. Knight said the New Mexico State Emergency Operations Center and the Albuquerque EOC also were on line using emergency power.

"There were several traffic accidents and a few burglaries, but the hospitals all operated on emergency power," Knight reported. Approximately 1.3 million people were without power for about three or four hours following the outage, which began around 4:30 PM Mountain Time.

In Las Cruces, officials had to halt the state's high school basketball playoffs when the power went out in the arena.

"It was certainly a wakeup call for amateurs in the affected areas," said Knight.

Hints & Kinks de Ralph, VE4RY

It's true! A doubling of RF power equals an increase of 3 dB. Consider a 50-watt transmitter, whose signal is reaching the distant receiving station at say, S5. As a demonstration, let's now double the transmit power to 100 watts, then 200 watts, then 400 watts...and finally 800 watts.

Kink: Since receivers are calibrated for 6dB per S-unit, it can be seen that at 800 watts from the transmitter, the receiver's S-reading in this typical case would only go up from S5 to S7. Two measly S-units!

Hint: A clear crisp signal at S5 is much easier to copy than a muffled or distorted S7 signal. So, if you've got this nagging feeling that you're a bit feeble when it comes to "getting out", it may be prudent to find a microphone that suits your voice, rather than spending big bucks on a kilowatt linear.

I once worked a guy with terrific transmit audio on HF SSB. I had to know what kind of mike he was using, and I asked if it was a Heil, or possibly some expensive Shure studio mike? His reply: "Just a stock Radio Shack CB mike!" That was educational, if not a bit embarrassing. Hey, it sure suited his voice!

Remember: a 5x1 signal report is much more complimentary than a 1x9!

RADIOGRAM FROM THE PRESIDENT: by Darcy, VE4DDW

No article received at the time of producing the newsletter.

I know Darcy would have wanted anyone who is buying jackets to show up with money in hand before the meeting starts to pick up and pay for your jacket. So make sure you attend. The topic for next months meeting is not known yet.

But if you have anything to say please get in touch with Tom, VE4SE

And lastly, there has been a lot of talk about on the repeaters, at coffee and other gatherings about amateurs who are not ID'ing properly. The regulations say that you are to ID at the beginning of every transmission, again at least every 30 minutes. And finally at the end of the transmission. The ID is to consist of your full CallSign. Not just the suffix, or 4DDW, but the whole thing. **VE4DDW**. Since we are a self-policing group please make an effort to properly ID, and please point out to your fellow amateurs when they do not properly ID. This will only help improve our hobby and how it is perceived by others.

If you want to receive the Newscaster electronically please send an e-mail to the editor **ve4hay@rac.ca** Please include your e-mail address and callsign and Derek will add your address to the electronic mailing list. You will need Adobe Reader version 3 or greater to view the Newscaster. This is a free program from www.adobe.com 73