



The NEWSCASTER

The Official Publication of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club

<http://ve4.net/warc/>

November 2003

VE4BB

Free to Members

“Eznec” Computer-aided Antenna Analysis Program

By Rick VE4OV

Date: November 10th, 2003

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Sturgeon Creek Regional Secondary School

The President's Call

By John, VE4QV



Well by the look of the snow on the ground antenna season has officially started! I hope those of you that had planned on getting antennas up have been able to complete your outdoor projects. By the time you read this the fall Flea Market will have come and gone. More than just a chance to trade “treasures” I think the Flea Market has become a significant social event for all amateurs. This month's presentation promises to be a very interesting one. Rick Lord is presenting “Computer Aided Antenna Analysis” and I look forward to seeing a lot of you there. Just a reminder that nominations are still open for the OSCAR award. Contact any member of your executive to make a nomination.

Other Important Dates:

Articles: November 25th - Deadline for December Articles

WARC Dec 8 - Cafeteria - Xmas Party

Jan. 12 - Willard VE4WJE on an E/H antenna

Feb 9 - David VE4DAR & the RR Dxpedition

Mar. 8 Bruce VE4KQ "How to work DX, 144 MHz and above

Apr. 19-Cafeteria - Home Brew Night

May 10 - Ed VE4YU "Digital Communications"

Jun. 14 - TBA

Nov. 2 - Flea Market

April 25 2004 - Flea Market

WSC: 2nd Thurs. of month - Breakfast - Garden City Inn

ARES: Nov 18 - WRHA Director of Disaster Management

Dec. 6 - SKYWARN Recognition Day

Other:

Nets: Daily 01:00 UTC MB Evening Phone net 3760 KHz

Daily 01:30 UTC Prairie traffic Net (CW) 3660 KHz

Daily 02:30 UTC Aurora #2 net 7055 KHz

Daily 14:30 UTC MB Wx Net 3743 KHz

Weekdays 9:00 Seniors morning net 147.390 MHz

Wed. 9:00 pm Six Meter net 50.238 MHz.

Thursday 9:00pm MRS Net 147.390 MHz +

Sunday 9:00pm MRS Net 147.390 MHz +

Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club VE4WSC

By Adam, VE4SN, President.



The time of tiny Ghosts and Goblins, Witches and black cats should be over by the time you are reading this article. I hope everyone had lots of small trick or treaters calling at your location for a share of goodies. We are also back on Standard time which makes the darkness arrive so much earlier in the evening. Makes it

WARC: Executive for 2003 - 2004

Past President	Louis Gaudry	lcaudry@mts.net
President	John Pura	ve4qv@rac.ca
Vice-Pres	Pat Giesbrecht	339-3018
Secretary	Ed Horton	885-4084
Treasurer	Fred Venema	fvenema@shaw.ca
Membership	Mark Blumm	ve4mab@rac.ca
Program	Glen Napady	ve4gwn@rac.ca
Field Day	Vacant	
Flea Market	Bob Hrabí	774-5178
Director at Large	Bob Hrabí	774-5178

tougher for all you hams out there in the workforce to get any meaningful antenna work done after supper. Oh well, there's always next Spring!!

The Basic Amateur Radio Course at WSCRC is into its final stages with only about a month to go before exam time. Hopefully by Christmas time, we will have several more brand new hams joining our ranks and enjoying the world's greatest hobby! And although the CW question is still undecided, I understand that a small number of folks have expressed a desire and have even made a commitment to learn Morse code regardless whether or not it will still be a requirement to get onto HF. My hat's off to these energetic and aspiring hams!

Our October breakfast session on the ninth was attended by 22 persons and as luck would have it, yours truly was the lucky recipient of the free breakfast draw. The next breakfast gathering will be on November 13 at the same place, Canad Inn Garden City corner of McPhillips and Jefferson at 9:00 a.m. Make an effort to attend as the food is good and the camaraderie is even better! And there's always the chance that your breakfast will be free!

Plans are in the works for our Club to have a "Games Day" on Thursday, November 20 in our clubrooms. Games would include Cribbage, Bridge, Checkers, Chess or any other social game that anyone might wish to call up. This will be a Pot Luck affair so bring whatever goodies you might fancy to eat and maybe share with others! Be sure to keep this date open and try to attend. Activities will begin at 11:00 a.m.

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

http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/insmt-gst.nsf/vw_GeneratedInterE/h_sf01709e.html

Comments or if you just want to reach us :

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Newsletters - past issues

<http://www.ve4.net/newsletters.html>

Finally, I must observe that we are not too far away from the Holiday Season and as such our annual Christmas Party is rapidly approaching. December 9th is the date! Lots of tickets are still available. To get yours, give Gil Frederick VE4AG a call. This event is open to all. There will be great food, good entertainment, draws and prizes as well as great socializing with other hams. See you all there! For now, good hunting, good luck and 73.

WPGARES

Jeff Dovyak VE4MBQ

The WPGARES Annual General Meeting was held TUE 21OCT. The 2002-03 Financial Statement and 2003-04 Budget were approved by the membership. The following members were re-elected by acclamation: President Richard Kazuk VE4KAZ, Secretary Dick Maguire VE4HK, and Treasurer Susan Collings VE4SYM. The members approved a motion that will require new member candidates to undergo background checks if the City of Winnipeg implements background checks to access to civic facilities that we might operate from.

Thanks to Don Gerrard VE4DWG and Tim Rhind VE4TJR our web-masters for the past year - they don't get thanked enough. Our public web-site is :

<http://www.winnipegares.ca>

Our CANWARN Net Controllers are planning to operate VE4WVO again this year during SKYWARN Recognition Day on SAT 06 DEC. If we get enough ARES volunteers we will operate 24 hours, cutoff for volunteer sign-up is MON 17NOV. The SRD web-site is: <http://hamradio.noaa.gov>

We welcome our newest member Ed Oakes VE4OAK formerly of Brandon ARES.

Our next General Meeting is TUE 18 NOV 1900h at Sir Wm Stephenson Library 765 Keewatin Street. Scheduled guest speaker is WRHA Director of Disaster Management Guy Corriveau. Immediately after the presentation representatives from Hi Tec Security will be on hand to photograph members for their new photo-identification cards.

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From the Planning Chair: Glen, VE4GWN



I would like to thank every one who attended the October meeting. We had a better turnout then normal, and I'm sure Barrett felt more then welcome. It's unfortunate that I had to ask Barrett to stop, but I believe that everyone who was there learned from this presentation.

I must apologize for not having anything in the last News Caster. I know I wrote an article, but I don't know if I forgot to send it, or if I sent it to the wrong address, anyway it's lost in "cyber-space"! The article was mostly a list of what I have organized the year, so here it is now: (subject to change with no notice) *{ED. Note - I may have received Glen article and lost it Who knows }*

- ☛ November 10th has got Rick VE4OV informing us on "Eznec Computer-aided Antenna Analysis Program";
- ☛ December 8th we'll have our always fun Christmas party;
- ☛ January 12th 2004 plan to have Willard VE4WJE; he will be talking about an E/H antenna he has been working on. Anything on antennas should be both interesting and educational;
- ☛ February 9th I have invited David VE4DAR to talk to us about his Railroad DXpedition. As I write this, I'm looking forward to this trip;
- ☛ March 8th Bruce VE4KQ has graciously offered to come out and talk to us again on VHF DXing, this time with "How to work DX, 144 MHz and above";
- ☛ April 12th should be my favourite meeting, yes **HOME BREW NIGHT!!** Get your plans out and start working NOW;
- ☛ May 10th will have the always-informative Ed VE4YU covering digital communications. This is the way of the future, maybe it may be what we need to know in order to get the "computer generation" interested in Amateur Radio; and
- ☛ June 14th... this is our election (my last meeting as program chair), and since for the past two years everyone seems to enjoy a coffee meeting at the end of the year, this is what I have planed.

Like I always say this list is only a "definite maybe", and is subject to change without notice. One of my presenters gave me a list of 4 programs that he could do, I don't think that it would be fair to him to ask for all 4 in one season, and I think Bruce should be willing to carry on next year ect. Thank you Bruce for the offers, and a big thanks to all who will be doing presentations for WARC.

I hope to see you all at the Flea Market (you will get this after the event), and I hope you all will be at the November meeting. 73, and Good DX.

Contest Calendar

November 2003

IPA Contest	CW	0600Z	Nov 1
	and	1400Z	Nov 1
Ukrainian DX Contest		1200Z	Nov 1
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest	CW	2100Z	Nov 1
North American Collegiate	CW	2100Z	Nov 1
ARCI Running of the QRP Bulls		2100Z	Nov 1
IPA Contest	SSB	0600Z	Nov 2
	and	1400Z	Nov 2
High Speed Club CW Contest		0900Z	Nov 2
	and	1500Z	Nov 2
DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest		1100Z	Nov 2
WAE DX Contest	RTTY	0000Z	Nov 8
Japan Int. DX Contest	Phone	0700Z	Nov 8
SARL Field Day Contest		1000Z	Nov 8
OK/OM DX Contest	CW	1200Z	Nov 8
Anatolian ATA PSK31 Contest		1800Z	Nov 8
LZ DX Contest	CW	1200Z	Nov 15
All Austrian 160-Meter Contest		1600Z	Nov 15
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest	SSB	2100Z	Nov 15
North American Collegiate	SSB	2100Z	Nov 15
RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest	CW	2100Z	Nov 15
CQ Worldwide DX Contest	CW	0000Z	Nov 29

December 2003

QRP ARCI Topband Sprint		0000Z	Dec 4
ARRL 160-Meter Contest		2200Z	Dec 5
PSK31 Death Match		0000Z	Dec 6
TARA RTTY Melee	Rtty	0000Z	Dec 6
TOPS Activity 80m Contest		1800Z	Dec 6
QRP ARCI Hol. Spirits Sprint		2000Z	Dec 7
ARRL 10-Meter Contest		0000Z	Dec 13
Great Colorado Snowshoe Run		0200Z	Dec 14
AGB Party Contest		2100Z	Dec 19
Russian 160-Meter Contest		2100Z	Dec 19
OK DX RTTY Contest	Rtty	0000Z	Dec 20
Croatian CW Contest	CW	1400Z	Dec 20
International Naval Contest		1600Z	Dec 20
DARC Christmas Contest		0830Z	Dec 26
RAC Winter Contest		0000Z	Dec 27
Stew Perry Topband Challenge		1500Z	Dec 27
Original QRP Contest	CW	1500Z	Dec 27

News from the Net

Luxembourg Grants HF Privileges

The Institut Luxembourgeois de Régulation has issued a notice entitled "Decision 03/69/ILR of September 18, 2003, Radio Amateur Services" that grants CEPT Class 2 licensees full HF privileges, effective Sept. 18, 2003.

Australia offers voice mail on IRLP

As of Monday 29th of September - the voice mail facility on the VK7AX IRLP Node is officially on line. To the best of our knowledge this is the first IRLP Node in Australia to employ the Voice mail facility - *WIA - Tasmania*

IARU urges swift end to mandatory code tests

International Amateur Radio Union Administrative Council is urging all radio societies to push for the earlier possible implementation of changes to the amateur service achieved at the World Radiocommunications Conference.

In particular, the IARU governing body has called for the earliest possible removal of Morse code as an examination requirement to operate on below 30 MHz.

The IARU in 2001 declared that Morse code proficiency "as a qualifying criterion for an HF amateur licence is no longer relevant to the healthy future of amateur Radio."

The IARU and its member societies including the WIA continues to recognize and support the use of Morse code by many thousands of radio amateurs throughout the world - *WIA - Victoria*

RAC Board approves 3 revised Microwave Band Plans

During the past year, the RAC Microwave Band Planning Committee revised and updated the plans for the 10 GHz, 24 GHz and 48 GHz amateur bands, and posted them on this web site and in The Canadian Amateur for comments. Subsequently the plans were approved by the RAC Board of Directors on October 14th. The newly approved bands can be viewed on this web site at:

<http://www.rac.ca/micropla.htm>

Industry Canada to auction Spectrum in the 2300 and 3500 MHz bands

According to Industry Canada, an auction will take place in January 2004 to facilitate "the implementation of new and innovative wireless services in urban and rural areas".

The auction will provide access to spectrum for Wireless Communication Services (WCS) in the 2305-2320 and 2345-2360 MHz bands, and Fixed Wireless Access services (FWA) in the 3475-3650 MHz band.

How will this affect Amateur Radio?

Our 2300 MHz amateur band extends from 2300-2450 MHz. It is a secondary allocation, with many primary users from which we must accept interference. We have two areas of usage where interference could have been a problem. According to the current RAC band plan, we use 2303.8 to 2304.4 for weak signal and moon bounce communications. We use the band 2400-2450 for Amateur Satellite communications. The bands identified for auction will not directly impact either of these important uses, although we will need to watch for splatter from signals just above 2305 MHz.

The 3300 MHz amateur band extends from 3300-3500 MHz. Once again, it is a secondary allocation and we must accept interference from many other primary users. We use 3400-3450 for amateur satellites, and have set aside 3450-3500 for weak signal operations. Within the weak signal band, the critical international calling and beacon frequencies identified in the RAC band plan, fall in a narrow band in the vicinity of 3456 and 3457 MHz. Once again, the auctions will not overlap these critical bands. A narrow band around 3400 MHz is used by some European amateurs for weak signal operation, and this also falls outside the auctioned spectrum.

RAC has been following the development of Industry Canada plans in this range for several years, and have been consulted on our use of the bands. We have every reason to believe that our concerns have been taken into account in planning the current auction, but it is clear that all of the spectrum in this range is very valuable, and it is only a matter of time before new auctions will overlap areas we use for weak signal work. When this happens, we will either have to adapt to the increased interference, or move up to higher frequencies.

Details of the auction can be found on the Industry Canada web site at:

<http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/insmt-gst.nsf/vwGeneratedInterE/sf05472e.html>

Papua New Guinea latest to drop Morse requirement:

Rick Warnett, P29KFS, reports that the Papua New Guinea Telecommunications Administration (PANGTEL) has deleted Morse code as a requirement for HF access. The decision came on October 6 and will be formally announced in the next few days, said Warnett--the International Amateur Radio Union representative for the Papua New Guinea Amateur Radio Society. "Some 30 to 40 new 'full calls' will now have access to HF radio and the international communication possible," --*WIA New South Wales*

Records Speeds.

Ever wonder why the first successful disk phonograph records ran at 78 revolutions per minute? Well a posting to

one of the audiophile remailers explains it this way. Up until the 1920's recordings were made at a variety of speeds from 75 rpm to 84 rpm, and sometimes outside this range. The minimum acceptable speed was governed by the quality of the sound from the innermost grooves of the record. By trial and error this speed was found to be around 78 to 80 rpm. The speed of records is based on the American electricity AC standard of 60 hertz. When engineers wanted to standardize the speed of recording equipment in the studios they started using synchronous electric motors. These are motors that are locked on to the 60 hertz power and run at precisely 3600 rpm. If you use simple gear ratios then 3600 divided by 46 is 78.26 rpm. And all other phonograph record speeds came from the same source as well. 3600 divided by 80 gave us the popular 45 rpm record that helped to make the rock and roll revolution. 3600 divided by 108 is responsible for the L-P 33 1/3 rpm record and divided by 216 made the somewhat rare 16 2/3 rpm disks. Of course most 'black flat' albums have been replaced by digital compact disks, but the history of grooved disks is an interesting one and now you know how it all came about. (ARNewsLine)

RAC Board recommends that examinations be revised and mandatory Morse testing dropped.

Following the change, in July 2003, of the international regulations governing the requirement for Morse testing as a prerequisite for access to the amateur bands below 30 MHz, the Board of Directors of Radio Amateurs of Canada established a small ad-hoc committee to review the results of consultations with Canadian amateurs, and to make recommendations as to appropriate action. The Ad Hoc committee, composed of Chair Jim Dean VE3IQ, and members Brice Wightman VE3EDR and Bob Kavanagh VE3OSZ submitted their report to the RAC Board in September.

The RAC Board approved the report and it was presented to Industry Canada at the fall meeting of the Canadian Amateur Radio Advisory Board, held in Ottawa on October 23 2003. Industry Canada has subsequently asked RAC to submit a formal proposal.

In particular, the report recommends that:

Morse proficiency cease to be a mandatory requirement to qualify as a radio amateur, although an optional Morse test should be retained for Canadian amateurs who may need it to qualify for operating privileges abroad.

To maintain an adequate standard needed

for HF privileges, the report also recommends an increase in the examination pass marks.

The result of these changes would be a progressive, three-tier, scheme of qualifications: Basic, Intermediate (replacing the present Basic + Morse) and Advanced.

Finally, the report recommends certain enhancements to the privileges granted to holders of the Intermediate Qualification.

These recommendations are such that the authors believe they could be implemented by Industry Canada relatively quickly and would not prejudice a possible restructuring of the system of qualifications which might be contemplated for the future.

The report also examines, in a preliminary way, other aspects of the system of qualifications and examinations. In particular, it suggests that consideration be given to replacing the present Basic Qualification by a new entry level qualification. This would resemble the entry or foundation levels existing or planned in other countries to encourage the entry of new people, particularly young people, into Amateur Radio while maintaining a high standard of proficiency.

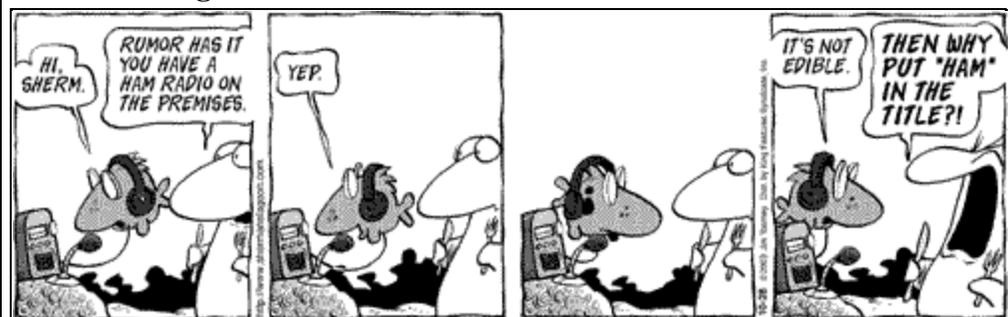
It also suggests that the Intermediate syllabus, in future, would include increased emphasis on operating procedures and on modern technologies.

Because these concepts will require further time and effort to refine, the authors suggest that the report be considered to be an interim report and that the ten specific recommendations contained therein be acted upon forthwith. They also suggest that the ad hoc committee be authorized to continue its efforts concerning these matters of qualifications and examinations with a view to submitting a further report in due course.

The complete report (17 pages) can be downloaded from this web site in MS Word format, or in pdf format by clicking on the addresses below.

http://www.rac.ca/downloads/Morse_report.PDF or
http://www.rac.ca/downloads/Morse_report.doc

Sherman's Lagoon



Q Signals Explained

Q signals are used primarily in CW and Rtty. They provide an abbreviated way of asking a question or making a statement. A Q signal followed by a question mark (?) asks a question. A Q signal without the ? answers the question or makes the statement. The following are Q signals commonly used by CW operators world wide.

QRA--What is the name of your station
 QRG--What's my exact frequency
 QRH--Does my frequency vary
 QRI--How is my tone (1-3)
 QRK--What is my signal intelligibility (1-5)
 QRL--Are you busy
 QRM--Is my transmission being interfered with
 QRN--Are you troubled by static
 QRO--Shall I increase transmitter power
 QRP--Shall I decrease transmitter power
 QRQ--Shall I send faster
 QRS--Shall I send slower
 QRT--Shall I stop sending
 QRU--Have you anything for me (Answer in negative)
 QRV--Are you ready
 QRW--Shall I tell _____ you're calling him
 QRX--When will you call again
 QRZ--Who is calling me
 QSA--What is my signal strength (1-5)
 QSB--Are my signals fading
 QSD--Is my keying defective
 QSG--Shall I send _____ messages at a time
 QSK--Can you work breakin
 QSL--Can you acknowledge receipt
 QSM--Shall I repeat the last message sent
 QSO--Can you communicate with _____ direct
 QSP--Will you relay to _____
 QST--General call preceding a message addressed to all amateurs and ARRL members
 QSV--Shall I send a series of V's
 QSW--Will you transmit on _____
 QSX--Will you listen for _____ on _____
 QSY--Shall I change frequency
 QSZ--Shall I send each word/group more than once (Answer, send twice or _____)
 QTA--Shall I cancel number _____
 QTB--Do you agree with my word count (Answer Negative)
 QTC--How many messages have you to send
 QTH--What is your location
 QTR--What is your time
 QTV--Shall I stand guard for you _____
 QTX--Will you keep your station open for further communication with me
 QUA--Have you news of _____.

Minutes for W.A.R.C. October 20th., 2003 Submitted by Ed, VE4EIH

Meeting began at 1930. The introductions were done, there was 42 members present. Derek (VE4HAY) proposed that the September News Caster be accepted. Ted (VE4VID) seconded. The motion was voted upon and passed.

Glen apologizes for no article of up coming events. Currently Glen has lined up Rick (VE4OV) Talking about EZ Nec computer-aided Antenna Analysis Program. December is the Christmas party. Willard VE4WJE on an E/H antenna. February David VE4DAR on the Prairie Dog RR Expedition. March Bruce VE4KQ How to work DX, 144 MHZ and above. Apr is Home Brew night. May Ed. VE4YU Digital Communications. June TBA.

Flea Market

Bob VE4ZAP Looking for 4 volunteers for the front door. Also reports that Flea market is good to go. TO VE4SE volunteers to be at door.

RAC

Adam VE4SN Adam made everyone aware of the CARAB meetings, and their recommendations.

DX Sleuths

Adam VE4ESX-dx is horrendous CEOY Sanfielder Island Polish expedition, Contest pickings are slim.

MARATHON RADIO GROUP - Jeff Dovyak VE4MBQ

2003 Manitoba Marathon operation was reported in the September 2003 WARC newsletter. My deputies and I are willing to organize the Marathon Radio Group once again as a joint WARC-WPGARES operation similar to the last two years. Very little MRG activity since 15 JUN except for our leadership debrief & completion of thank-you cards for the volunteers as well as getting borrowed equipment back to the owners. We are giving consideration to either running a separate Amateur Radio equipment seminar the Thursday prior to Race Day open to operators who might need some coaching or immediately following the Amateur Radio briefing (which is usually the TUES eve before the Marathon). We are also considering a test net, perhaps tied into the Thursday evening MRS Net and ask all of our volunteers for the Admin Net to check-in (to ensure correct radio programming since it is the same frequency) and run a separate test net for Medical Net participants. The name of the Admin Net will likely be changed to the Hospitality Net. With the large number of volunteers and additional tasks set for us by the Marathon Technical Committee we need a dedicated deputy to look after Volunteer Support. This

would entail distribution of information packages to people who miss the briefing and also conducting the equipment seminar as well as other related duties. In the summer we requested that the previous WARC administration appoint an knowledgeable operator to the MRG leadership team as Deputy Coordinator - Volunteer Support. To date no response to this request has been received by the current Marathon Radio Group Leadership team. I will likely be at eve 2nd WARC meeting this year - conflict with school-parent council meetings. Won't be much to report until at least JAN 04.

ARES - Jeff VE4MBQ

Winnipeg ARES Annual General Meeting is TUE 21OCT 1900h at Sir Wm Stephenson Library 765 Keewatin Street. In the past year we have been involved with: 9 Alerts, Tests, Exercises 11 Educational Meetings 10 Public Service Events CANWARN Net Controllers continue to operate VE4WVO for the Manitoba ARES Net 4th Sunday of the month. We will be involved with the annual SKYWARN Recognition Day SAT 06 DEC at VE4WVO. Last year we operated approx 10 hours, if sufficient CANWARN Net Controllers volunteer we will run a 24 hour operation. Apparently there is a SRD article in NOV. QST on page 90. SRD web-site is: <http://hamradio.noaa.gov> Once again this winter we plan on providing volunteer Amateur communications for Festival du Voyager Sled Dog Races 14,15 FEB 2004. Winnipeg Regional Health Authority now has interest in Amateur Radio for back-up communications. Very preliminary talks with WRHA Disaster Management but if we are going to provide support WPGARES can't do it alone. We would need the assistance of the general Amateur community much like 1997 Flood Operations or Y2K Operations. Possibility of an "all-amateur" meeting in the next few months.

Field Day

John VE4QV Field Day is in discussion by the Executive. The locations will be brought to the membership in January or February.

New Business.

John VE4QV - Oscar award is awarded at the Christmas Party. Any one with suggestions, pass on names to a member of the Executive. George VE4GHR reported that his WARC News Caster arrived late. Glen, explained that due to the long weekend, the Newscasters were mailed a day later.

Good and welfare

David VE4DAR reports that their was 117 passengers on the Prairie Dog. Tom VE4HQ Won for the longest QTH. Dick VE4HK Reported the Vern, is doing well and is at Home. Pat VE4PLG, Informed the club that Ralf's VE4RY wife

passed away on Thanksgiving.

Winner of the membership prize VE4WKP Kuma the 50/50 winner was Adam VE4SN, who won \$18.50

Meeting was adjourned at 2009

RAC Bulletin

RAC Bulletin 03-020E -

News Section Back on RAC Website

After a period when no volunteer was available to write the material, we are delighted to have a website news section again, with lots of current amateur radio news. A News button will be added to the home page. Meanwhile you will find it at <http://www.rac.ca/news>

RAC Bulletin 03-028

Brief report by Radio Amateurs of Canada at the conclusion of the twenty-first IC-RAC Canadian Amateur Radio Advisory Board meeting held in Ottawa, ON, October 23, 2003.

Among several on-going regulatory subjects on the agenda, were the following: * RAC presented its Board-approved recommendation that Morse code be dropped as a qualification requirement. * Possible options for consideration related to four-character call sign suffixes were discussed. * RAC provided IC with a copy of its submission to the Committee on the National Antenna Tower Policy Review. * RAC's efforts to bring more young people into Amateur Radio through the RAC Youth Education Program were introduced and discussed. Industry Canada invited RAC to submit detailed proposals on dropping Morse code and the use of four-character call signs. Industry Canada expressed appreciation to RAC for its prompt and comprehensive response to the department's request for input on significant changes to regulations arising out of the WRC-2003 decisions.

**DIAMOND
IMAGE**

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- Wedding invitations



RAC Affiliated Club Membership Recognition

Both RAC, and the hundreds of local clubs across Canada, need more members for the benefit of all. There are two groups of non-members of RAC - those who are members of one or more local clubs, and those who are not members of either RAC or a local club. To support the effort by clubs to encourage their members to join RAC, we have implemented the Membership Recognition Program described below.

All RAC Affiliated Clubs derive a benefit from a stronger and more representative national membership association. To encourage clubs to invite their club members to join RAC, we offer a membership recognition certificate at three levels: 60 - 74% Bronze, 75 - 89% Silver, and 90%+ Gold. Of course, clubs are encouraged to maintain and increase their Percentage of RAC Membership through club recruitment incentive programs. Percentage of RAC Members = Number of RAC Members / Number of Club Members

It is very time consuming for the WARC executive to manually check each and every member to see if they are RAC members. I would be a lot easier if each member were to fill in their WARC membership application indicating membership in other groups and particularly in RAC. If you have not already renewed your membership for this year, please do so with the membership form sent last month and mark which club you also belong to.

RAC - Midwest Director Report

By BJ, VE5FX

RAC made a recommendation to Industry Canada on the Morse code and License issue: (This is a recommendation based on input from the Amateur Radio community and supported by the RAC Board of Directors.)

1. Drop Morse code as a requirement for access to the HF bands.
2. Set up three levels of license:
 - a. BASIC – should remain as it is now. VHF access only.
 - b. INTERMEDIATE – a new category with HF access.
 - c. ADVANCED – should remain as it is now.

The Exam

The exam contents should remain the same, however, the pass marks should be revised:

- ☛ BASIC – the BASIC exam as now, but with a pass mark raised from 60% to 70%.
- ☛ INTERMEDIATE – the BASIC exam as now, but with a pass mark of 80%.

- ☛ ADVANCED – the ADVANCED exam as now, but with a pass mark of 70%.

Grandfathering:

- ☛ The current BASIC holders should become BASIC without HF access.
- ☛ The current BASIC + CW holders should become INTERMEDIATE.
- ☛ The current ADVANCED holders should become ADVANCED.

Notes

- ☞ Existing BASIC holders may re-take the exam. If they score 80%, will be reclassified INTERMEDIATE.
- ☞ A CW endorsement will be made available for those who wish to have it.
- ☞ The new INTERMEDIATE licensees should be allowed to build commercial transmitter kits at 10 watts.

Please be aware that IC now has to decide whether to accept these recommendations or revise them or come up with their own choices on what to do. This will not happen immediately. *Stay tuned.*

Also presented to Industry Canada, but NOT as an official recommendation. (This issue had NOT been approved by the Board of Directors) Implement an “Entry Level” license, similar to the UK’s very successful Foundation License system. This would narrow the scope of the syllabus and raise the standard of operation.

It should provide operators who might not be as technically proficient as currently, but would know WHAT to do. It was suggested that the present BASIC syllabus be examined with excerpts used for the exam.

Similarly, the concept of four character suffixes was presented for discussion but NOT as a formal proposal. -no feedback was received from Industry Canada on this issue.

The Youth Education Program was presented to Industry Canada and was met with considerable enthusiasm from them.

If you wish to have more detail (there is lots) on this and other items discussed with Industry Canada at the CARAB meeting, check out the RAC WEBSITE or contact me. Give me a ‘phone call. I would be happy to discuss issues with you.

Brief report by Radio Amateurs of Canada at the conclusion of the twenty-first IC-RAC Canadian Amateur Radio Advisory Board meeting held in Ottawa, ON, October 23, 2003.

Among several on-going regulatory subjects on the agenda, were the following:

- * RAC presented its Board-approved recommendation that Morse code be dropped as a qualification requirement.

- * Possible options for consideration related to four-character call sign suffixes were discussed.

- * RAC provided IC with a copy of its submission to the Committee on the National Antenna Tower Policy Review.

- * RAC's efforts to bring more young people into Amateur Radio through the RAC Youth Education Program were introduced and discussed.

Industry Canada invited RAC to submit detailed proposals on dropping Morse code and the use of four-character call signs.

Industry Canada expressed appreciation to RAC for its prompt and comprehensive response to the department's request for input on significant changes to regulations arising out of the WRC-2003 decisions.

RAC was represented by President Bill Gillis, VE1WG, Vice-president Regulatory Affairs Jim Dean, VE3IQ, and Directors David Nimmo, VE1NN, and Bj Madsen, VE5FX. Also participating through presentation of their work as members of the RAC Ad Hoc Committee on qualifications were: Bob Kavanagh, VE3OSZ and Brice Wightman, VA2BW/VE3EDR.

Industry Canada was represented by Senior Director, Spectrum Management, Mike Connolly, Director Eastern Ontario District Office and Amateur Radio Service Centre Line Perron, Directorate of Spectrum Operations staff members, Rob Cepella and Gary Steckly, and Harold Carmichael, Program Manager, Quebec City District Office.

RAC Board recommends that examinations be revised and mandatory Morse testing dropped. Following the change, in July 2003, of the international regulations governing the requirement for Morse testing as a prerequisite for access to the amateur bands below 30 MHz, the Board of Directors of Radio Amateurs of Canada established a small ad-hoc committee to review the results of consultations with Canadian amateurs, and to make recommendations as to appropriate action. The Ad Hoc committee, composed of Chair Jim Dean VE3IQ, and members Brice Wightman VA2BW and Bob Kavanagh VE3OSZ submitted their report to the RAC Board in September.

The RAC Board approved the report and it was presented to Industry Canada at the fall meeting of the Canadian Amateur Radio Advisory Board, held in Ottawa on October 23 2003. Industry Canada has subsequently asked RAC to submit a formal proposal.

In particular, the report recommends that:

Morse proficiency cease to be a mandatory requirement for access to the amateur bands below 30 MHz, and that an optional Morse test be retained for Canadian amateurs who may need it to qualify for operating privileges abroad.

To maintain an adequate standard needed for HF privileges, the report also recommends an increase in the examination pass marks.

The result of these changes would be a progressive, three-tier, scheme of qualifications: Basic, Intermediate (replacing the present Basic + Morse) and Advanced.

Finally, the report recommends certain enhancements to the privileges granted to holders of the Intermediate Qualification. These recommendations are such that the authors believe they could be implemented by Industry Canada relatively quickly and would not prejudice a possible restructuring of the system of qualifications which might be contemplated for the future.

The report also examines, in a preliminary way, other aspects of the system of qualifications and examinations. In particular, it suggests that consideration be given to replacing the present Basic Qualification by a new entry level qualification. This would resemble the entry or foundation levels existing or planned in other countries to encourage the entry of new people, particularly young people, into Amateur Radio while maintaining a high standard of proficiency. It also suggests that the Intermediate syllabus, in future, would include increased emphasis on operating procedures and on modern technologies. Because these concepts will require further time and effort to refine, the authors suggest that the report be considered to be an interim report and that the ten specific recommendations contained therein be acted upon forthwith. They also suggest that the ad hoc committee be authorized to continue its efforts concerning these matters of qualifications and examinations with a view to submitting a further report in due course.

The complete report (17 pages) can be downloaded from this web site in MS Word format, or in pdf format by clicking on the addresses below.

http://www.rac.ca/downloads/Morse_report.PDF

**QTX~
By Derek, VE4HAY**



Did you know -

The following web site has a graph of the Glenlea station just south of Winnipeg that measures the K index. So you are wondering why no one can hear your and you can not hear them, check the current reading.

http://www.spaceweather.gc.ca/forecaststations_e.shtml

The night before Christmas,
He lived all alone,
In a one bedroom house,
Made of plaster and stone.

I had come down the chimney,
With presents to give,
And to see just who,
I this home did live.

I looked all about,
A strange sight I did see,
No tinsel, no presents,
Not even a tree.

No stocking by the mantle,
Just boots filled with sand,
On the wall hung pictures,
Of far distant lands.

With medals and badges,
Awards of all kinds,
A sober thought,
Came through my mind.

For this house was different,
It was dark and dreary,
I found the home of a soldier,
Once I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping,
Silent, alone,
Curled up on the floor,
In this one bedroom home.

The face was so gentle,
The room in such disorder,
Not how I pictured,
A Canadian soldier.

Was this the hero,
Of whom I'd just read?,
Curled up on a poncho,
The floor for a bed?

I realized the families,
That I saw this night,
Owed their lives to these soldiers,
Who were willing to fight.

Soon round the world,
The children would play,
And grownups would celebrate,
A bright Christmas day.

They all enjoyed freedom,
Each month of the year,
Because of the soldiers,
Like the one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder,
How many lay alone,
On a cold Christmas eve,
In a land far from home.

The very thought brought,
A tear to my eye,
I dropped to my knees,
And started to cry.

The soldier awakened,
And I heard a rough voice,
"Santa, don't cry,
This life is my choice.

I fight for freedom,
I don't ask for more,
My life is my god,
My country, my corps."

The soldier rolled over,
And drifted to sleep,
I couldn't control it,
I continued to weep.

I kept watch for hours,
So silent and still,
And we both shivered,
From the cold night's chill.

I didn't want to leave,
On that cold, dark night,
This guardian of honour,
So willing to fight.

Then the soldier rolled over,
With a voice, soft and pure,
Whispered, "carry on Santa,

It's Christmas day, all is secure."

One look at my watch,
And I knew he was right,
"Merry Christmas my friend,
And to all a good night."

This poem was written by a peace keeping soldier stationed overseas. The following is his request. I think it is reasonable. Please, would you do me the kind favour of sending this to as many people as you can? Christmas will be coming soon and some credit is due to our Canadian service men and women for our being able to celebrate these festivities. Let's try in this small way to pay a tiny bit of what we owe. Make people stop and think of our heroes, living and dead, who sacrificed themselves for us.

