



The NEWSCASTER

The Official Publication of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club

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

May 2004

VE4BB

Free to Members

Digital Communications By Ed, VE4YU

Date: May 10th, 2004

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Sturgeon Creek Regional Secondary School

Other Important Dates:

Articles:

WARC June 14 - TBA

June 20 - Manitoba Marathon

June 26, 27 - Field Day

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

Aug. 26 - Picnic in St. Vital Park

ARES: May 8 - CANWARN Spotter Training

May 18 - ARES Message Handling.

Other: May 14-16 - Dayton Hamvention

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 +

The President's Call

By John, VE4QV



Of all of the meetings to miss, I had to be out of town for Home Brew night! I did have a good excuse however. I was attending the National Association of Broadcaster's conference in Las Vegas. I am assembling a short story and some pictures for next month's Newscaster. In addition to Home Brew night, the Flea Market has also come and gone. That means our next big events will be the Manitoba Marathon and of course Field Day. Both of these events are fun, educational, and perhaps even a bit inspirational. If you can possibly manage the time for either or both events you will find them very rewarding.

Silent Key

Charlie Brown VE4YB - March 24,2004

Darrel Turner ex - VE4AFE March 22, 2004

WARC: Executive for 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 Hrabi	774-5178
Director at Large	Bob Hrabi	774-5178

Minutes for W.A.R.C. April 19th, 2004

Submitted by Glen, VE4GWN & Bob VE4ZAP

The V. P. Pat, VE4PLG called the meeting to order at 1934 hours with 41 members and 7 visitors in attendance.

Tedd VE4VID moved that the minutes be accepted as printed, second by Gord, VE4GF; carried.

Business arising from the Minutes:

Glen VE4GWN explained the proposal for the IRLP node as discussed between the executives of WARC and the MRS. The cost for the first year to come out of general funds and get a vote next year as to keep it or not, one year notice to be given to the MRS if we choose to end the agreement at this time, the cost MAY also come out of the bank if necessary.

Tom VE4SE made the following motion: "If WARC proceeds with the MRS to jointly manage an IRLP site, the annual dues of WARC to be raised by \$5.00 to cover the cost of the IRLP site" - It was pointed out that the dues could only be raised at the annual general meeting. - Adam VE4SN, seconded by Tedd VE4VID asked for the motion to be tabled until the next annual general meeting; carried.

Ron VE4MGR seconded by Dick VE4HK made a motion for WARC to enter into a joint venture with MRS for an IRLP node. A short discussion was held, and then a vote was taken. Bob VE4ZAP noticed that some non-members voted, and the vote was retaken, with WARC members ONLY voting. Carried 35 for, and 1 against.

Correspondences

Glen read e-mail received from Bruce VE4KQ informing that a B-17 will be on display in Portage for the July 10th

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/vwGeneratedInterE/h_sf01709e.html

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

Newsletters - past issues

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

weekend. There was an invite for a radio club to set up a display. After a short discussion it was agreed that it should be passed to hams in Portage, noting that some WARC members will be willing to help. Note: this is the same weekend as the International Hamfest.

Standing Reports

Programs. VE4GWN

Home Brew night tonight, next month Digital modes with Ed VE4YU

John VE4OL along with Yori VE4ACX offered to be a nominating committee for the WARC elections Derek VE4HAY pointed out that each year even standing members of the board of directors have to be nominated and re-elected. Glen VE4GWN and Pat VE4PLG are the only ones of the current board who will not stand.

RAC/DX: Adam VE4SN

The Midwest director is on holidays. May 5th he will be at the CARAB meeting the new rules in regards to CW should be discussed.

Check into Broad Band Over Power Lines. Test in Europe and the U.S. shows that there is high noise form this, and it looks like that it is coming into Canada.

DX has been open to the following areas all CW contacts: XU7ADI Cambodia, R1FJ Franz Joseph, 5T0EU Mauritania, HK0GU Malpelo Island, A52PRO Bhutan, 3B9C Rodriguez Island, T33C Banada and ZL7II.

Flea Market: Bob VE4ZAP

An update of the events coming up this Sunday can use some more help at the main entrance

Field Day: Wayne VE4WKL.

The site is booked Birds Hill Park group use area 2 site 6 as used in the past.

Still looking for someone to help with advertising.

Gord VE4GF is still looking into the large tent

WINNIPEG ARES - Jeff Dovyak VE4MBQ

There has not been any communication from Guy Corriveau, WRHA Disaster Management since late February. With increased workload due to Marathon planning and CANWARN I will not be able to do much in terms of WRHA ARES until late summer/early fall.

CANWARN Spotter Training Session SAT 08 MAY, 0900-1600h at Prairie Storm Prediction Centre. Summer Severe Weather Season will run Mon. 17MAY thru SUN 12SEP, a WPGARES member will be on-call daily as CANWARN Net Control for VE4WWO from 0930 - 2130h. If there is not a CANWARN Net in session spotters should provide their reports by phone using the 1-800 number rec'd during Spotter Training. The public reporting number is 1-800-239-0484. Wx reports should focus on: Any tornado event or funnel cloud, Rotating wall cloud, Hail> 20mm diameter (5 cent piece), Winds> 90 km/h, Rain> 50mm/h or > 75 mm in 2-3 hrs

Next WPGARES General Meeting is TUE 20APR 1900h Sir Wm Stephenson Library 765 Keewatin St. Ed Richardson VE4EAR will be giving a presentation on WFPS Automatic Vehicle Location system.

Marathon Radio Group - Jeff Dovyak VE4MBQ

2004 Manitoba Marathon is SUN 20JUNE. Volunteer briefing TUE 15 JUN 1900h Rm. 227 Manitoba Sports Federation 200 Main St. We currently have almost 75% of the required Amateur Radio volunteers. To register tonight please leave your contact information on the sign-up sheet that is circulating or contact Robert VE4RST, his contact information on page 10 of April issue of The Newscaster.

We have had two Marathon Radio Group (MRG) meetings so far. One Technical Committee meeting so far, along with two "mini" meetings. Next Technical Committee meeting later this week.

Treasurer's Report: Fred VE4FV

As of March 31 2004 bank balance \$5,877.73
INCOME for March

2 X Renewals	30.00	
Draw	42.00	
Total Income		72.00

Expenses for March

Postage	41.94	
Prizes/Supplies	44.74	
P.A. System	142.50	
Tim Bits	9.50	
Antenna Hardware	57.04	
Total Expense		295.72

New Business

Derek VE4HAY announced that as of 1 July 2004 Rob VE4RRB will become the RAC section manager

Notice for Good and Welfare

Dick VE4HK reminded everyone of the up coming MRS meeting

· Tom VE4SE mentioned that there will be an auction sale, in Carman for the estate of VE4OS (sk); Dick added that there shall be a table at the Flea Market with some of these items.

The door prize was won by VE4CC, and the 50/50 by was won by VE4GWN

The presentation was Home Brew night. There were five entries. All five received a prize for their protects:

- ☛ Aruni VE4WMP: CW oscillator
- ☛ Tom VE4HQ: Also a CW oscillator
- ☛ Rick VE4OV: 1 kw 4:1 Balun

- ☛ Dick VE4RH: Slim Jim, 70 cm dipole and 70 cm 'J' pole antenna
- ☛ Kumara VE4WKP: Electronic CW keyer and key

All errors are the fault of the writer and I give my apologies now.

WPGARES

Jeff Dovyak VE4MBQ

Our April General Meeting featured Ed Richardson VE4EAR (Radiocommunication Engineer, City of Winnipeg) gave an overview of the new Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service computerized communications system as well as a preview of the new computerized police radio system. Some discussion was held regarding hardware proposals for WPGARES digital operations. Thanks to John Foster VE4JNF, who donated a speaker mic for one of our HTX-202/HR-146 HTs.

The WPGARES table at the WARC Flea Market was quite successful thanks to those who participated in the Silent Auction. Dick and Mariska Maguire really outdid themselves with respect to organizing the large quantity of prize lots. Table volunteers were VE4s HK, MMG, ESX and MBQ.

The CANWARN Spotter Training session SAT 08 MAY is full, anyone that wanted to attend but was late registering and therefore unable to be accommodated should register ASAP with VE4MBQ for a future session. VE4WVO Net Controller meeting for registered 2004 Net Controllers is WED 12 MAY 1900h, 4th floor 123 Main St. Use 147.42 simplex if necessary to get into the stairwell/elevator lobby.

As stated at the April WARC meeting our Summer Severe Wx season runs approximately 17 weeks with a WPGARES member on-call daily from 0930-2130h as Net Controller for VE4WVO located in the Prairie Storm Prediction Centre (PSPC). If there is no CANWARN Net in progress and "reportable" weather is observed (elements described at April WARC meeting) please report by telephone to PSPC using the 1-800 number given out at Spotter Training or the public number mentioned at the April WARC meeting.

Best wishes to Grant Delaney from Pinawa ARES who is retiring as a CANWARN Net Controller. Last season he took 5 weeks of day shifts for us.

The next WPGARES General Meeting is TUE 18 MAY 1900h at Sir Wm Stephenson Library 765 Keewatin Street. Dick Maguire VE4HK will be giving a presentation on ARES Message Handling.

From the Planning Chair: Glen, VE4GWN



Well home brew night came and went with only one hitch! I remembered my camera, but the batteries were shot!! With that being said, we had 5 entries, all of which won prizes.

The first I'll mention is young Aruni VE4WMK. This young lady made a CW oscillator. This was well made, because when she sent her Morse, Adam VE4SN had a big smile!!

Tom VE4HQ also had a CW oscillator. I say had, because at the end of the evening he gave the oscillator to young Tristan VE4UNX, and I think that was a hint!!

Rounding off the CW list, Kumara VE4WKP made an electronic CW keyer, complete with a homebrew key. I was looking at his setup as Adam VE4SN was testing it out. I think that Kumara was a little surprised at how fast Adam required it to be set for his test. Again Adam was pleased. Everyone thinks that CW will go the way of the dodo bird, but here we are with most of our home brew items being CW dedicated.

Dick VE4RH provided three antennas for us to check out. One was a 70 cm J-pole designed to go right onto your radio, a 70 cm dipole and the last a "Slim Jim". I have seen the "Slim Jim" on the net, but that's it. If my memory serves me right (and I have been wrong before) this was designed by a Canadian!

Finally, Rick VE4OV brewed up a 4-to-1 balun. It will handle up to 1kw, and will change a 200-ohm balanced line into an unbalanced 50-ohm for the radio. Rick explained to me a few things I never understood, or even knew about baluns. With my limited knowledge of electronics this was a difficult task for Rick, but I walked away more informed than when I started.

CONGRATULATIONS and THANK-YOU all for bringing in your work. Like I keep saying home brew is my favourite evening of the year. I hope next year we have more entries.

May 10th Ed VE4YU will be talking to us about digital modes on HF. If you have someone who keeps answering your offers about amateur radio with something like "I can do that on my computer" this is the night to bring them in. The joining of radio and computers! (Can this attract youngsters??)

I'm still looking for ideas and offers for next year: ve4gwn@rac.ca, 831 8082 (evenings and weekends) or 147.390+ (VE4WPG). I will ensure that it is passed to the right person (I have 2 programs so far).

At Large Bob Hrabi - VE4ZAP

Is this Amateur Radio? In the last 6 months or so I have been appalled and somewhat disgusted with some of the ways people operate their stations. I can't tell you how many times a QSO of mine has been interrupted by a "Voice" throwing in a comment or just plain joining in without a "Break" or a "Call Sign". This is plainly BAD radio manners. We have calls for a reason, to identify the operator. They are to be used on a regular basis. It is illegal to transmit without it. Period. Maybe the "Voice" doesn't realize that the other operator and myself may not want anyone to join in. This is where a "Break" comes in handy. And throwing in a comment without a break and then adding a call sign doesn't cut it either.. It's RUDE! And it seems to me that these are people who should know better.

Speaking of knowing better, I heard two operators on the VE4WPG repeater, telling each other that it's okay to go on the HF bands without having their CW part of the ticket. After all, who would be able to stop them? This is becoming all too common with some of the newer people and not just here but all over Canada and the U.S. Doesn't it mean anything to be a Amateur Radio Operator any more? There is something wrong here folks. This is not 11 Meters, this is not pirate radio, this is not two kids screwing around in a basement with a radio they found in the garbage or stole out of a car. This is Amateur Radio! We, as operators, have a reputation to uphold. We are part of a fine tradition. It is up to "all" of us to police the bands and to correct bad operating practices. Yes I am aware that we can't fix everything, That is why we have I.C. and F.C.C. to take care of problems that get out of hand. Do some people feel that "they" are above the laws that governs radio? It seems to be. And the real problem is that the more who get away with it, the more who join in with these outlaws. I have also heard on the repeaters, operators talking about illegal satellite cheaters as well as others on simplex disclosing stuff they have heard on scanners concerning emergency communications. And I won't mention the handful of jammers out there or the operators who transmit broadcast TV and or music in the background of their audio. For shame.

On a lighter note, It gives me much joy to hear very young operators having fun and hungry to learn CW as well as other aspects of Amateur Radio. Even though I do not have my CW ticket (hearing problem), I can at least sign my call in morse unlike some others, and do try from time to time to get the code done. Maybe this year will be the year. I can only hope. At the W.S.C. 20TH bash last year, I met a delightful YL, Aruni, who was 9 years old at the time. She now holds

the call VE4WMK and has just passed the CW part of her ticket. Impressive, we are all proud of you. I hear that she is now going after the Advanced ticket. We wish you much luck.

I'll leave you with something to think about. Aruni said to me last month on the repeater ... "Amateur Radio is about never giving up!". Unlike what I wrote about at the beginning of the article, "This" is what radio is all about. After 33 going on 34 years of keying up a mike, almost 11 of them as a Amateur, I'm still learning.

You've been Zapped for this month. 73

Manitoba Marathon Volunteer Request Reminder

The planning for the 2003 Manitoba Marathon is again in full swing. This years Manitoba Marathon will be held on Fathers Day, Sunday, June 20th. I would like to thank those people who have already contacted me and have volunteered for this year's marathon. In the next few weeks the marathon organizing committee will be asking for more amateurs to volunteer their time. Announcements will be made through the WARC newsletter as well as MRS and WSC nets. Also, I will be contacting past volunteers directly by phone. However, if possible, do not wait until you are contacted. If you are considering volunteering or know that you will, I would appreciate that you contact me. You may do this by the following:

1. E-mail ftphysio@mb.sympatico.ca
2. Phone 982-9600 (if on answering machine please leave message)
 - a. Please indicate If and when you last volunteered for the Manitoba Marathon
 - b. Your call sign and your name
 - c. Your, last position posted at the marathon and if you wish to volunteer there again. (if applicable)
 - d. Your phone number and preferred time of contact
 - e. If you wish to be posted with someone in particular
 - f. Your T-shirt size
 - g. Your full mailing address

Also, if you know anyone that has not volunteered in the past. please let me know and I will

Call for Blue Book Updates

The Manitoba Blue Book - a publication which lists all Amateur Radio operators in Manitoba, by Call Sign, Name & Location is preparing for another printing and is asking for any updates you may have. The book is only as good as its contents. If your information is not correct or you know of another hams information that is not correct, please submit it to bill@bmsl.ca

This year the blue book will also publish e-mail address . As the book is not listed on the Internet having the address's harvested for spam will not be an issue. But this will allow your fellow ham to be able to send you e-mail. If you would like your e-mail address added to your listing please submit this information as well.

Anyone wishing to advertise in the Blue Book should submit their ad copy in electronic form to bill@bmsl.ca

Any clubs wishing to raise money by selling the blue book should contact Bill directly to discuss the requirements.

All proceeds from the sales of the Blue Book stay in Manitoba and help fund Amateur Radio projects

2005 SASKATCHEWAN CENTENNIAL HAMFEST

Co-hosted by
Meewasin Amateur Radio Society
Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club

July 22, 23, and 24th

The web site is just getting started but you will soon be able to get the beginnings of the info.

<http://www.saskhamfest.com/>

Contest Calendar

May

US IPARC Annual	CW	0000Z	May 1
MARAC County Hunters	CW	0000Z	May 1
UBA Welcome European Union		0000Z	May 1
10-10 Int. Spring	CW	0001Z	May 1
2 GHz and Up		0600 local	May 1
Microwave Spring Sprint		0600 local	May 1
AGCW QRP/QRP Party		1300Z	May 1
Indiana QSO Party		1500Z	May 1
ARI International DX		2000Z	May 1
New England QSO Party		2000Z	May 1
	and	1300Z	May 2
US IPARC Annual	SSB	0000Z	May 2
RSGB 80m Club Championship	SSB	2000Z	May 3
ARS Spartan Sprint		0100Z	May 4
Nevada QSO Party		0000Z	May 8
SL -	CW	1100Z	May 8
VOLTA WW	RTTY	1200Z	May 8
SL	SSB	1230Z	May 8
Oregon QSO Party		1400Z	May 8
Mid-Atlantic QSO Party		1600Z	May 8
FISTS Spring Sprint		1700Z	May 8
CQ-M Int. DX -	CW/SSB/SSTV	2100Z	May 8
50 MHz Spring Sprint		2300Z	May 8
RSGB 80m Club Championship	Data	2000Z	May 8
Anatolian WW RTTY -	RTTY	1800Z	May 8
Portuguese Navy Day HF		0800Z	May 15
US Counties QSO Party -	SSB	0000Z	May 15
Manchester Mineira	CW	1500Z	May 15
His Maj. King of Spain	CW	1800Z	May 15
ARCI Newcomer's Run		1800Z	May 15
SSA Portabeltest Vårömg. -	CW	0700Z	May 16
SS SSA Månadstest nr 5 -	SSB	1400Z	May 16
A Månadstest nr 5 -	CW	1515Z	May 16
RSGB 80m Club Championship	CW	2000Z	May 20
VK/Trans-Tasman 80m	Phone	0800Z	May 22
Baltic -	CW/SSB	2100Z	May 22
AGCW Activity Week		0000Z	May 24
CQ WW WPX	CW	0000Z	May 29
Great Lakes QSO Party		0000Z	May 29
ARCI Hootowl Sprint		2000 local	May 30
MI QRP Memorial Day	CW	2300Z	May 31

June

SSA 10 m Aktivitetstest CW/SSB/FM		1700Z	Jun 3
Major Six Club Contest		2300Z	Jun 4
VK/Trans-Tasman 80m Contest	CW	0800Z	Jun 5
IARU Region 1 Field Day	CW	1500Z	Jun 5
RSGB National Field Day		1500Z	Jun 5
QRP TAC Sprint		1800Z	Jun 5

RSGB 80m Club Championship	Data	2000Z	Jun 7
ARS Spartan Sprint		0100Z	Jun 8
ANARTS WW	RTTY	0000Z	Jun 12
Portugal Day DX	SSB	0000Z	Jun 12
WW South America	CW	0000Z	Jun 12
Asia-Pacific Summer Sprint	SSB	1100Z	Jun 12
West Virginia QSO Party	CW/SSB	1600Z	Jun 12
DDFM 50 MHz	CW/SSB	1600Z	Jun 12
ARRL June VHF QSO Party		1800Z	Jun 12
SSA Månadstest nr 6	SSB	1400Z	Jun 13
SSA Månadstest nr 6	CW	1515Z	Jun 13
SARL Kid's Day		0700Z	Jun 16
RSGB 80m Club Championship	CW	2000Z	Jun 16
All Asian DX Contest	CW	0000Z	Jun 19
SMIRK		0000Z	Jun 19
West Virginia QSO Party		1600Z	Jun 19
AGCW VHF/UHF Contest		1600Z	Jun 19
Quebec QSO Party		1700Z	Jun 19
Kid's Day		1800Z	Jun 19
DIE	CW/SSB/RTTY	0600Z	Jun 20
RSGB 80m Club Championship	SSB	2000Z	Jun 24
UK DX Contest	CW	1400Z	Jun 25
SCAG Straight Key Day (SKD)	CW	0600Z	Jun 26
SP QRP	CW	1200Z	Jun 26
Marconi Memorial HF		1400Z	Jun 26
ARRL Field Day		1800Z	Jun 26
ARCI Milliwatt Field Day		1800Z	Jun 26
His Maj. King of Spain Contest	SSB	1800Z	Jun 26

History of WARC - info needed

I am looking for the history of Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club from anytime period. I am looking specifically for;

- who are the past presidents as well as vice pres etc.
- Besides Birds Hill and Falcon Lake, where else has field day been held, what years as well as what equipment was used, who was there and scores if possible.
- What caused the club to form?
- Old membership lists or news letters pre 1990.

- Who has a copy of the "WARC Duotang"?
- Where were meeting held before the school?
- Pictures?
- Any info on important people or events in the history of the club etc.

Hard copy such as a floppy disk or CD as well as paper would help but I'm not fussy. Contact Bob VE4ZAP on the VE4WPG repeater or phone 774-5178

W1AW Spring/Summer Operating Schedule

Morning Schedule:

Time Mode Days		
1300z	Cws	Wed, Fri..
1300z	Cwf	Tue., Thus

Afternoon/Evening Schedule:

2000z	Cwf	Mon., Wed, Fri..
2000z	Cws	Tue., Thus
2100z	Cwb	Daily
2200z	RTTY	Daily
2300z	Cws	Mon., Wed, Fri.
2300z	Cwf	Tue., Thus
0000z	Cwb	Daily
0100z	RTTY	Daily
0145z	VOICE	Daily
0200z	Cwf	Mon., Wed, Fri.
0200z	Cws	Tue., Thus
0300z	Cwb	Daily

Frequencies (Mhz)

CW: 1.8175 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475 18.0975 21.0675 28.0675
147.555
RTTY: - 3.625 7.095 14.095 18.1025 21.095 28.095 147.555
VOICE: 1.855 3.990 7.290 14.290 18.160 21.390 28.590 147.555

Notes:

CWs = Morse Code (slow) = 5, 7.5, 10, 13 and 15 WPM
CWf = Morse Code (fast) = 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 WPM
CWb = Morse Code Bulletins = 18 WPM
RTTY = Teleprinter Bulletins = BAUDOT (45.45 baud) and
AMTOR-FEC (100 Baud). ASCII (110 Baud) is sent only as
time allows.
Keplerian Elements Tues, Fri. 2230z sent on the regular
teleprinter frequencies.
The complete W1AW Operating Schedule
<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw.html>.

Parkside Appliance & Electronics



Sales & Service of
Computers & Software
Home repairs offered

John, VE4JNF

386 Belvidere Street

885-9278

<http://www.escape.ca/~ve4jnf> ve4jnf@escape.ca

RAC Bulletins

RAC Bulletin 04-09E - New Manitoba Section Manager

Robert Boux, VE4RRB, of Winnipeg, is the new Manitoba Section Manager for RAC. Boux replaces Manitoba SM Derek Hay, VE4HAY. Robert was the only nominee in the last election cycle and was declared elected. His term will begin July 1, 2004.

Geocaching - The modern day Treasure hunt

Geocaching is a fast-growing hobby that should interest many Amateur Radio operators. After all, hams tend to be enamored with techno-gadgets and probably own more Global Positioning System (GPS) receivers per capita than the population at large. Geocaching makes use of both GPS technology and the Internet. Amateur Radio adds an extra dimension that makes it even more enjoyable.

Someone hides a cache in a publicly accessible place, such as a park or natural area. The cache may be as small as a 35-mm film canister, or as large as a five-gallon container. Plastic containers that seal tightly to prevent moisture damage to the contents are preferred. Inside the container, the person hiding the cache usually includes an explanatory note in case someone happens to find it accidentally, along with a logbook and various pieces of "treasure." These often resemble the contents of a junk drawer, but may include more valuable items such as CDs or video games. Once the cache is hidden, the hider uses his GPS unit to note the latitude and longitude of the cache. He then goes to the geocaching Web site <http://www.geocaching.co> and enters the coordinates along with a description of the cache, including difficulty and terrain ratings. After a volunteer reads the information and approves it, the cache is listed on the Web site and the fun begins.

Editors note - there are 58 geocaches in Manitoba

DIAMOND IMAGE



Floyd Rolph VE4 FDR
835 Cavalier Drive Tel: (204) 888-3227
Winnipeg, MB R2Y 1C6 Fax: (204) 831-6400
- South Western & Victorian home decor
- ty Beanie Babies
- Balloon bouquets & decorating
- Gifts
- Printing eg: Business cards, letterhead, envelopes
- Wedding invitations

News from the Net

PCSat2 Passes Final Test Before Launch

PCSAT2 this weekend passed final outgassing tests for Space Station and Space Shuttle and is ready for launch on the first shuttle return to flight (next year). These outgassing specs are some of the most stringent in the space program. Interestingly, all of our parts were off-the-shelf Kantronics TNC's and Hamtronics TX/RX including original plastic parts. The rate achieved on the TQCM test was 5E-13 grams per second. The test chamber itself was able to get down to 2E-14. -- AMSAT

RAC web site BPL and UWB information to be expanded

Because of all the amateur radio concern about potential interference from Broadband over Power Lines, we are introducing a special BPL news page on this web site.

In addition to the current news which will be carried on the Canadian and International pages, all BPL articles will be archived and stored on the BPL page. The link to the new page is: <http://www.rac.ca/news/bplnews.htm>

There is already a general BPL page, to which we will be adding a Frequently asked Questions page that will be expanded as we learn more about possible Industry Canada plans for licensing BPL in Canada. These can be found at <http://www.rac.ca/regulatory/plc.htm> and <http://www.rac.ca/bplfaq.htm>

Those interested in the microwave bands, can follow the developments of Ultra Wide Band (UWB) technology in Canada on the UWB page at:

[Http://www.rac.ca/news/uwb.ht](http://www.rac.ca/news/uwb.ht) -- RAC

Swedish Plans to Drop Morse Requirement

It now looks likely that Swedish radio amateurs with a Class 2 licence - the equivalent of the UK's former Full Class B - will be allowed to operate on the HF bands from the 1st of April. The decision to drop the Morse code requirement for an HF bands licence in Sweden has already been postponed from the 1st of January. A note in the March issue of QTC, the Swedish national society's magazine, suggests that it is April when the change will be made. (GB2RS) --WIA Tasmania

Narrowband Highspeed Data

aeroTelesis, Inc., recently conducted a live demonstration for a major satellite conglomerate where through the use of its proprietary USM technology achieved success in the data transmission of six megabits per second (Mbps) through a single 3 kHz (3 dB bandwidth) channel. --SpaceDaily

40 metres

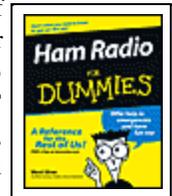
San Marino has authorized amateur radio operation in the 7.100 to 7.200 MHz band on a secondary basis with effect from the 25th of February. Norway has announced that radio amateurs can use the same frequencies on a secondary basis and this has been effective since the 1st of April last. -- Irish Radio Transmitter Society

FCC INVITES COMMENTS ON AMATEUR RADIO RESTRUCTURING PLANS

The FCC is seeking comment on three plans, one from the ARRL, that would reshape the Amateur Service licensing structure. Each Petition for Rule Making responds to World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 actions last summer that made changes to Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations. While differing substantially in some other aspects, the three petitions call for modifications at Amateur Radio's entry level and for a three-tiered license system. One petition goes beyond licensing structure to recommend additional changes to amateur testing and HF digital privileges. A fourth petition focuses solely on the Morse requirement. Comments are due by April 24 on all four petitions. -- ARRL

Ham Radio for Dummies Now Available

Thought the For Dummies series of how-to guides was only aimed at computer users? The wide-ranging series now also covers Amateur Radio. Authored by QST Contributing Editor H. Ward Silver, N0AX, Ham Radio for Dummies hit both online and retail outlet bookstores April 12. -- ARRL



RAC Directors Report By BJ Madsen, VE5FX

BJ is away on holidays this month, but he will be attending the CARAB meeting on May 5th in Ottawa. This meeting may result in a decision on the Morse Code Debate.

A new Directors for the Atlantic Region and the Quebec region have been appointed. A new Treasurer has been appointed. The only current position open at this time is the Regional Director for BC.

If you have not renewed your RAC membership, now is a good time to do so. If you are not a member. Why? Is there something that RAC needs to do so that you will join. Let BJ know and he will see if it is possible. You can reach him at bj.madsen@sasktel.net

Field Day 2004

June 26th and June 27th
Birds Hill Park
 (Site #6 - Group Use Area #2).

General Coordinator - Wayne - VE4WKL
 Technical Coordinator - Bob VE4RCJ
 Food Coordinator - Ruth VE4XYL

People needed

- ☛ Publicity Coordinator (setup display table at field day and place an ad in the local newspaper)

Equipment needed -

- ☛ One all mode, all band, solid state transceiver (Kenwood TS450 preferred).
- ☛ Three personal computers (Windows 98 or newer operating system)
- ☛ One half ton truck

With the possibility of Morse code (CW) no longer being a requirement to operate on HF, this years Field Day is the perfect opportunity for a **Basic ticketed amateur radio** operator to come out and operate HF. Get your feet wet, and learn all about this area of the hobby. Try out different radios. Compare brands and features. Learn all about HF so that when the time comes you will be prepared to take the plunge. Come see what all the fuss is about.

If you are interested in participating in Field Day, please get in touch with Wayne so that he can schedule you a time slot to operate. Remember that we need operators for the whole 24 hour period. So for you night owl, remember this is when you will get the longest operating times.

Please note that volunteers are needed to help setup and take down. Please try to be there for these times as well. Remember that Field Day is not just the operating - It also includes the friendship and the work of setup & take down.

Anyone wishing to set up accommodations on the site should contact VE4WKL - 224-1449 after 11 am or e-mail wludman@hotmail.com

The WARC Executive By Derek, VE4HAY

With the club elections just around the corner, I feel it is time to remind everyone about volunteering. Or to put it another way, **taking your turn at the helm.** While this club has been around for a long time, and we all hope that it will continue to be around for a lot longer. This will only happen if you each get off your **"Let's let someone else do the work" attitude.** Now before I get everyone upset, yes, I know that some of you have volunteered for one or more of the WARC executive positions over the many years of the clubs existence. But there are also many of you who have not stepped forward at all. And now is the time for this to happen. The nature of our hobby is communicating, trying new modes, experimenting. This also applies to taking on role in the running of the club. Have you noticed how quiet it gets in the meeting room when the questions comes up if there is anyone who is willing to run for an executive position, or to volunteer to be on one of the committees for the many events that happen each year. Have you also noticed that it seems to always be the same people taking on these positions.

What I am now asking for is some new blood to be injected into the club. I am looking for you to step forward and pay back to the club just a small piece of what you have gotten out of it. Come on step up to the plate. Nothing bad will happen if you volunteer to help out. In fact, you just might boost your own self-esteem. And we can all use a little of that from time to time.

So if you are in the least bit interested in giving back, please contact John, VE4OL, ve4ol@yahoo.ca or 832-6857 who is heading the nominating committee and let him know.

Flea Market Report By Bob, VE4ZAP

Revenue		1150.00
Expenses		
Canteen	115.83	
Prizes	191.48	
Hall Rental	75.00	
Total Expenses		<u>-382.31</u>
Net profit		<u>767.69</u>

Thank you to all who volunteered with setup, take down admission canteen, etc... A more complete report will be in next month newsletter

MRS Annual General Meeting April 22, 2004
By Dick, VE4HK

Manitoba Repeater Society held its Annual General Meeting, Thursday, April 22, in the Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club boardroom. Thirty five members attended. The membership voted in favour of installing an IRLP link on the VE4WRS autopatch frequency. This radio will be converted to a full repeater. Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club Inc. will pay the costs for the Internet connection, the computer, and other necessary equipment. MRS will provide the radio. Expected cost to WARC \$700.00 annually. Minimal expenses for MRS. Other business included Treasurer's report, Auditors report, a budget for the upcoming year, and a technical report. MRS is doing very well financially.

MRS executive is working with Radio Amateurs of Canada to change CBC's new policy of charging \$2400.00 per year to use the Starbuck tower for our VE4MAN repeater. RAC and CBC will be meeting in early May to attempt to resolve this problem

The evening was topped off with the election of officers. This is the first year for some time that an actual election took place. The following were elected to the board of directors. The positions were decided at the MRS executive meeting April 26.

President	Ed Richardson	VE4EAR
Vice President	Wayne Ludman	VE4WKL
Secretary	Dick Maguire	VE4HK
Treasurer	Paula Ehn	VE4MHZ
Membership	Roy Maguire	VE4EN
Technical Chairman	Gord Snarr	VE4GLS
Members at Large	Al Homenick	VA4AA
	Ed Horton	VE4EIH
	Yori Tsuji	VE4ACX
	Walter Bezpalko	VE4VB

Thanks to Glen Napady VE4GWN, Richard Sheridan VE4ESX, and Tedd Vidler VE4VID for counting the ballots.



QTX~
By Derek, VE4HAY

☛ Want to know when a radio was first manufactured, then check this site out <http://www.sarl.org.za/Radios.asp> once you find the radio, click on it and you will get an approx. price in African currency. Use as a guide only.

It's the end of another newsletter, and this is where I fill in the rest of the page with my ramblings. Have you noticed this yet... Just think how much more enjoyable it would be for you to not have to put up with my wandering mind each month, but rather you would be reading an interesting article about a topic you enjoy. This is possible, all it needs is for you to write it and submit it. Then there would be less space for my stuff. However, tell you the truth. Since articles do not fit exactly in the columns etc... I will still need to put something to paper each month. But with your help it can be less.

So what is happening in Amateur Radio these days. Plenty, if you stop to think about it. The CARAB meeting will be taking place between the time you read this and the next WARC meeting, I hope to have some word on this at that meeting.

Field Day will be coming up once again. I have already talked to one contester about showing everyone how to really bring in those points. Now if only the rest of you contesters will also come out. Yes, that is an invite as well as a hint. Bring your rig if you want, bring you computer, keyboard and favorite key, paddle, bug and TNC. Any mode you want to use. As for you Basic type folks out there.... Field Day is the perfect time to get your feet wet on HF. Come out and see what it is all about. Learn what is so fascinating about HF. Learn about propagation first hand. Learn how to operate HF for when the regulations change (and they will some day real soon). If you have never been to Field Day, this is your year. Make an effort and cone on out. See the article elsewhere in this issue for location and time.

Ah... the Manitoba Marathon.... My favourite time of year. Just think about the fresh air, the hard bodied men & women, the 26 miles, the cardio work out.... Wait a minute, you have all seen me. I could never run a marathon. But I do love to help out with the communications event around the marathon. This is the perfect time to show the city why we have the privilege that we do. If you did not sign up this year to help out, you are missing a great time. If you want to see what I am talking about, get up early on Father's Day, around 6:00 a.m., tune into 147.390 MHz and listen. You will hear a great bit of communicating. And you will hear a bunch of dedicated amateurs who are giving up their one morning of being able to sleep in, or they are out their with their dad's doing what the hobby is all about. Playing Radio.

Come on everyone admit it. Playing Radio is why we are in this hobby, and Filed Day and the Marathon are the Cream of the Crop for us VE4's. - Get out there and have fun.