



# The NEWSCASTER

The Official Publication of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club

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

February 2005

VE4BB

## IRLP Explained

The Ins & Outs of the system

By John, VE4QV

Date: February 14th, 2005

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Sturgeon Creek Regional Secondary School

## The President's Call

By John, VE4QV



I want to thank the membership for their generous contribution to Tsunami disaster relief. There are many Internet links to stories of how Amateur Radio has helped in this disaster. Just do a search on "amateur radio and tsunami" and you will find dozens of links that detail how important Amateur Radio is in such emergencies. This month's presentation will be about IRLP (Internet Radio Linking Project) and some details about WARC's joint installation with the Manitoba Repeater Society. I will be providing the bulk of the presentation but may be calling on some of the experts we have in our club to provide their thoughts on this very exciting aspect of Amateur Radio. The annual spring flea market is on Sunday, April 17th. While we currently do not have a coordinator we will have some simple to follow task sheets available at the next general meeting that details just how easy it is to help out. Please contact any of the club's executive if you want to find out more before the meeting. Also a reminder that as of the general meeting date there will only be 131 days till Field Day! Please consider getting involved in this fun and very practical test of Amateur Radio for emergency communications.

I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting.



## Other Important Dates:

WARC: March 14 -- Monthly Meeting  
April 11 - Monthly Meeting  
April 17 - Flea Market  
May 9th - Monthly Meeting  
June 13 - Monthly Meeting

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

ARES: Feb, 15th - VE4TED - Geocaching

Other: July 8-10 - 42nd. International Ham Fest  
Aug 19-20 - 10th. MARMFEST - Austin, MB

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 +

## WARC: Executive for 2004

Past President	Louis Gaudry	lcaudry@mts.net
President	John Pura	ve4qv@rac.ca
Vice-Pres	Vacant	
Secretary	Ed Horton	ve4eih@rac.ca
Treasurer	Fred Venema	fvenema@shaw.ca
Membership	Mark Blumm	ve4mab@rac.ca
Program	Vacant	
Director at Large	Jan Schippers	schippej@squared.com



## Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club News by Adam, VE4SN

When a person considers what the weather has done across this country from BC to the Maritimes, it seems almost petty and insignificant to report that only ten hardy souls turned out for our monthly breakfast gathering on January 13th at Garden City. The outside temperature was very cold to say the least but inside it was warm and cozy and those that did make it enjoyed a warm hearty meal and good company. Because of the small number of participants (and also the absence of the Club Treasurer), the draw for the free breakfast was bypassed for this month.

The Club's General Meeting was held on January 19th in our club rooms under the baton of our new President Irv Cosgrove, VE4UG. Year end reports were submitted for the purpose of bringing the membership up to date on Club activities for 2004. Some confusion was expressed regarding the Annual Meeting in December and the General Meeting in January. The Constitution is quite clear in regard to this. The Annual Meeting is held for the purpose of electing a new Executive and Executive Board and this occurs in December and is a scheduled event. A general meeting of the membership is called at the discretion of the President and serves many other purposes.

Preparations are being made to host the Girl Guides once again at our Club in February. Hopefully HF conditions will be such as to permit good contact between various groups of Guides. Nonetheless, there is always 2 metres and of course Echolink and IRLP to fill in should the bands be closed. Most of the girls who participate appear to enjoy the event in any case. More about this in the next issue of WARC News.

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](http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/insmt-gst.nsf/vwGeneratedInterE/h_sf01709e.html)

Comments or if you just want to reach us :

**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>

## News from the Net

### **FCC TO EXAMINE THE BAN ON USING CELL PHONES IN AIRCRAFT**

The FCC has proposed relaxing its current ban on the use of cellular telephones in airborne aircraft. Specifically, the Commission is proposing to permit airborne operation of off the shelf wireless handsets and other devices provided the devices can be made to operate at their lowest power settings under the control of a "pico cell" located in the aircraft. This the Commission says would insure that airborne cell phone operation would not allow unwanted RF emissions to interfere with conventional ground-based cellular systems. -- *Arnewsline*

### **Industry Canada Response to RAC Recommendations on Morse Code and Related Matters.**

Industry Canada has analyzed the responses to the public consultation called under Canada Gazette Notice DGRB-003-04. A summary of the comments received and the individual replies are now available on the Industry Canada web site at

<http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/insmt-gst.nsf/en/sf08280e.html>

Amateurs should note that while the responses heavily favoured deletion of the Morse Qualification as a requirement for access to the HF bands, Industry Canada still has to make and announce a decision on Morse retention or deletion. **Until a decision to delete Morse is announced, amateurs who do not hold the Morse Qualification may not operate on the HF bands below 30 MHz.** -- *RAC bulletin 005-01*

For complete listing of the comments check this link;

[http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/insmt-gst.nsf/vwapi/comments-dgrb-003-04.pdf/\\$FILE/comments-dgrb-003-04.pdf](http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/insmt-gst.nsf/vwapi/comments-dgrb-003-04.pdf/$FILE/comments-dgrb-003-04.pdf)

### **UK publishes new syllabus**

In the United Kingdom, their regulatory body Ofcom has published their new Advanced Radio Communications Examination syllabus for exams to be taken after 1st March. The new syllabus reflects the reduction in the number of questions from 68 to 62 to shift the emphasis more back towards operating practices than theory, and also includes a formula sheet which candidates may take into the examination with them. The syllabus can be downloaded here: <http://www.rsgb.org/full/advancedsyllabus.pdf> <http://www.rsgb.org/full/advancedsyllabus.pdf> - *RSGB*

## Minutes for W.A.R.C. January 10th, 2005

### Submitted by Ed, VE4EIH

The meeting began at 1939. With the usual intros being done. There were 44 members in attendance. This included 1 guest. The previous minutes were accepted after Glen's motions 1st and Ed VE4OAK 2nd. John reported that there was no business arising. VA4LES has all the parts for the IRLP. There is a possibility it may be up and running in two weeks.

#### Treasures report.

Fred reported for the Dec. Balance was; that the expenses were \$47.19 for postage, \$3.42 to Norwood Trophies, entertainment \$50.00 For the clown, \$232.70 for food and drink. This gave a total of \$333.31 The income was two renewals for \$30.00 The bank balance at the end of Dec. Was \$7109.37.

#### ARES

Jeff Jan. meeting was to be on the 18th of Jan. Wayne reported that VE4PSC is up and running. This is in a good location, Wayne is trying to arrange a tour, for WARC once the weather improves.

#### Marathon

Jeff told of the article in the Winnipeg Free Press on the 6/Jan/04. The article thanked all those organizations who supported the Marathon last year. Radio planning meetings start in Feb. The volunteer briefing will be on the 14 June 2005. At the Sports Federation Building

#### Dx Sleuths.

Adam reported that contacts are few and far between. Just have to wait for the cycle to improve.

#### Flea market

The date is 17 April, and is fast approaching. Ruth is doing the table sales. (Two have been sold already)

#### Field day

is coming as well. Looking for a coordinator, any one interested please see, a member of the Exec. Birds Hill to be booked.

#### Correspondence

John explained on how he received a E-Mail from Jeff VE4MBQ, about WARC donating to the Tsunami relief. John said how the club could give \$200.00 to \$300.00, for this cause. This was then opened to discussion. Wayne made a motion for WARC to donate money to the Tsunami relief. Jeff 2nd. During a discussion, several people brought up as to how the Canadian Government matches all donations until The 11th. Ruth asked if the donation could be brought up to \$500.00. Tom asked about the Red Cross, and who to see. Wayne, informed all he knows of a person. Wayne then re-motoned to donate \$500.00 to the Red Cross for Tsunami Relief. The club voted in approval. John thanked all.

#### Health & Welfare

Dick and Roy are in to collect dues for the MRS. Derek informed all, that the Gazetted Morse Code, comments should be on the web site by the end of the week.

#### International Hamfest

Tom VE4SE reported that the International Ham Fest is coming as well. That this may be David Snidel's last year as an organizer. He has organized the Fest for 25 years. Tom explained as to why clubs do not organize the International Ham Fest. The clubs are disappearing, so now various people organize the Ham Fest.

Motion to adjourn Dick VE4HK, 2nd by Tedd VE4VID 50/50 draw - unable to get name. The winner of the attendance prize was Aruni. She won a volt meter.

The speaker did not show up, so there was an extended coffee break

## WPGARES

By Jeff, VE4MBQ Emergency Coordinator

Our January General Meeting featured a presentation on Call-outs and Equipment. There was discussion on potential WPGARES flood operations. We will likely be doing a test net between WPS Communications Centre, Command Unit, and Support Unit in FEB or early MAR. Kent Haase VE4KEH has come forward as Fundraising Chairman.

After meeting with festival du Voyageur staff it was decided that Opening Ceremonies were not a particularly "good" fit for us so we have withdrawn from the event.

Elsewhere in FEB 05 edition of The Newscaster is a submission from Rob VE4RST requesting volunteers for the Manitoba Marathon. The more operators that volunteer early the easier it is to put the Amateur operation together.

Our next General Meeting is TUE 15 FEB 1900h at Sir Wm Stephenson Library 765 Keewatin Street. Tedd Vidler VE4VID will be giving us a presentation about Geocaching.

## Parkside Appliance & Electronics



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## Ham Radio Do's & Don'ts

K4QKY "Don"

[k4qky@charter.net](mailto:k4qky@charter.net)

Congratulations! You've got your new Amateur Radio license and can't wait to start operating on HF phone. However, you're not certain how you want to conduct yourself. After all, there are few if any mandated rules. Most hams have developed good operating practices and etiquette simply by listening to more experienced hams and you will as well. Here are some of my ideas for your consideration.

### Do

- ☺ Always be polite regardless of the circumstances. If not, avoid transmitting.
- ☺ Set a good example especially for short wave listeners who may be thinking about becoming a ham.
- ☺ Be a good listener. It will help you better organize your thoughts before transmitting.
- ☺ Reply to a CQ, or call CQ yourself. It helps keep alive the magic of ham radio.
- ☺ Speak clearly and slowly, especially when giving your call sign to someone you have never worked before.
- ☺ Promote friendship and goodwill to DX contacts. Look for ways to get to know each other rather than simply exchanging signal reports and 73s!
- ☺ Try to keep track of everyone in the QSO. Hopefully someone has assumed the role of "traffic director" to make sure everyone has a chance to contribute to the discussion. If not, don't hesitate to do it yourself.
- ☺ Make it clear at the end of each transmission which station is expected to transmit next. Try to do this even when operating VOX.
- ☺ Operate on frequencies that are in whole Khz (e.g. 18.130 KHz). This alleviates ambiguity and makes it easier for everyone to be on the same frequency.
- ☺ Openly praise other hams when you observe them doing something that you feel is especially deserving. e.g., helping demonstrate ham radio to a group of scouts.
- ☺ Always be ready to quickly and calmly respond to emergency situations. Rehearse what you would do if presented with various scenarios.
- ☺ Pause between transmissions. "Quick keying" gives the appearance that other hams are unwelcome in your QSO.
- ☺ Consider using the Internet to enrich your QSO. Many hams have developed their own comprehensive websites which you can usually find through QRZ.COM.
- ☺ Respect the privileges of hams operating in other modes on the HF bands including those who enjoy AM.
- ☺ Make a point to try 17 and 60 meters. Good operating practices are especially prevalent on these bands.

- ☺ Look for opportunities to "Elmer" newly licensed hams when you hear them on the HF bands. Welcome them, solicit their questions and give them pointers on good operating practices.
- ☺ Remember that no one country can proclaim to be the leader of the Amateur Radio world. Likewise, no one country's foreign policy is any more right or wrong than that of another country.
- ☺ Develop good operating practices. You will be doing your part in helping insure the continuance of our long and proud tradition of self-regulation.

### Don't

- ☺ Act like some sort of Broadcast Radio station. Your fellow Amateurs will most likely not appreciate such a blatant display of personal ego.
- ☺ Acknowledge the presence of deliberate interference. After all, that's most likely the overall objective of the person doing the interfering.
- ☺ Be excessively long winded especially when in a roundtable discussion and during times when band conditions are changing.
- ☺ Just talk about ham radio. Most hams have many more interests.
- ☺ Operate when you are in a bad mood. You will be that much more vulnerable to losing your temper.
- ☺ Overuse Q-codes and other ham jargon on the phone bands.
- ☺ Claim or homestead any particular frequency for nets, schedules, etc. If your designated frequency is already in use, simply move up or down as necessary.
- ☺ Transmit before first determining that the frequency is clear. This includes transmitting within 3 KHz of other known QSOs.
- ☺ Break into an ongoing QSO unless you can hear the majority of the participants.
- ☺ Ignore someone new to a round table QSO. We should all do our part to make everyone feel welcome. Avoid making the discussion appear exclusive to your particular circle of friends.
- ☺ Test your transmitter over the air. It is far better to use a dummy load.
- ☺ Cough, sneeze or clear your throat into your microphone.
- ☺ Operate VOX except when in a QSO with three or less participants. It tends to foster "quick keying" which may give the appearance that you don't welcome breakers.
- ☺ Become a "Band Policeman" quick to tell others what you feel they are doing wrong. In instances where it may be called for, always be polite and constructive.
- ☺ Turn up your microphone gain or resort to excessive speech processing in order to be heard. Such practices will most likely result in diminished audio quality and increased likelihood of interference to nearby QSOs.

- ⊗ Use the word "break" when wanting to join an on-going QSO. Simply give your call sign between transmissions and reserve the use of the word "break" for more urgent situations.
- ⊗ Join an ongoing QSO unless you have something to contribute to the discussion. It is especially rude to interrupt other hams with a request for audio checks, signal reports, etc.
- ⊗ Operate in any fashion that is not in keeping with good amateur practice. Be certain to always comply with the provisions of Part 97 of the rules.
- ⊗ Knowingly interfere with an ongoing QSO just because you are working DX, especially split frequency.
- ⊗ Say that the frequency "is not" in use when you hear someone inquire. Refrain from responding at all except unless you know for certain that the frequency or one nearby "is" in use.
- ⊗ Ridicule other hams or express any negative views of the overall state of Amateur Radio. If you don't have something positive and constructive to say, avoid saying anything at all.

Note: The foregoing tips are just the opinion of one ham. As such, they are intended to be nothing more than a "shopping list" of suggested guidelines presented almost entirely from the perspective of a "rag chewer". DXers, Contesters and hams who enjoy other modes will most likely have somewhat different views. Equipment related issues, being generally well known, are purposely not included here. In any event, it is hoped that this list may prove somewhat useful especially for new operators. The overriding theme is common sense and courtesy to others. Let's always remember what a privilege it is to operate on the ham bands! This will help avoid doing anything that might impinge on the enjoyment of our hobby for others.

### **What is the right OSCAR Antenna?**

**By Bill Greene, VE7WFG – Project OSCAR Team Member**

*Photos for this article can be seen at <http://projectoscar.net/gallery/December-2004>*

When speaking of satellites and antennas, the first thing most people think about is a dish antenna. People used to think about big ugly TV dishes (or BUDS) that operated around 3 to 4 Giga Hertz in the late seventies and early eighties, and now see many smaller off set dishes that operate at 10 Ghz used by services like Dish Network in the US and Bell Expressvu in Canada. Well what about all these dishes? Are they any good for Amateur satellite use?

The simple answer is yes. Depending on the dish it can be used for both receive and transmit antennas for OSCAR

operation. Like any other type amateur set up there are two main considerations. First is what type of antenna do I need to receive and what type of antenna do I need to transmit with. Satellites communication is unique for the most part simply because your contact is in orbit which means you are trying to hit a moving target. This is not like anything HF users are accustomed to.

What works well for HF is just about any type of antenna with a low takeoff angle. This allows the signal to bounce off the ionosphere at the horizon, giving you the greatest distance. This works well for satellites in many situations too, as it can pick up signals from satellites as they rise above the horizon. But this also means the antenna may not work that well when the satellite passes directly overhead.

The solution for this is to have a rotator that will move the antenna both in azimuth and elevation. This way you can point the antenna in the direction (azimuth) of the satellite (i.e., from zero to 360 degrees based on where it is in relationship to your shack.) The elevation rotator is used to point the antenna up (i.e. tilting from zero to 90 degrees) so that as the satellite becomes higher you can point the antenna higher.

This may sound very complex, but you do not have to have fancy arrays of high gain antennas and AZ/EI rotators to make contacts on amateur satellites. I have a colleague who uses a small fixed array of Yagi's tilted up 30 degrees that is relatively inexpensive and works very well. In this case you can use an azimuth rotator alone, or none at all. The effort is well worth it.

#### ***Ok what about portable operation????***

The most popular antenna for portable operation is called the Arrow Antenna. It is a great antenna for portable use and again is well respected in the Satellite world because it is easy to use and make piles of contacts. Another colleague and friend of mine, 11 year old Advanced Amateur Aruni Perera VE4WMK of Winnipeg makes many contacts including the ISS using an Arrow Antenna when she is not winning CW contests sending CW with her feet! Aruni and her dad Kumara VE4WKP work together as a team.

In conclusion, you can make many contacts without having to take out a second mortgage on you home or invest in towers and all the toys. Big arrays help but they are not necessary to make contacts. Use your imagination and check with Amateurs on the bulletin boards, as they will set you in the right direction. You can also homebrew many types of antennas (which will be the subject of an upcoming edition of the Beacon.) Before long you will be making satellite contacts! But be careful if you do start in Satellite communications it is exciting and very addictive.

Happy New Year and look forward to working you on the birds soon!

# DIAMOND IMAGE

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## Calendar

### February

SSA 10 m Aktivitetstest	CW/SSB/FM	1800Z	Feb 3
Vermont QSO Party		0000Z	Feb 5
10-10 Int. Winter Contest	SSB	0001Z	Feb 5
YL-ISSB QSO Party		1100Z	Feb 5
Minnesota QSO Party		1400Z	Feb 5
AGCW Straight Key Party		1600Z	Feb 5
Delaware QSO Party		1700Z	Feb 5
	and	1300Z	Feb 6
Mexico International Contest	RTTY	1800Z	Feb 5
North American Sprint	SSB	0000Z	Feb 6
ARCI Winter Fireside SSB Sprint	SSB	2000Z	Feb 6
RSGB 80m Club Championship	SSB	2000Z	Feb 7
ARS Spartan Sprint		0200Z	Feb 8
KCJ Topband Contest		1200Z	Feb 10
CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	RTTY	0000Z	Feb 12
SARL Kid's Day		0700Z	Feb 12
SARL Field Day Contest		1000Z	Feb 12
Asia-Pacific Spring Sprint	CW	1100Z	Feb 12
Dutch PACC Contest		1200Z	Feb 12
YLR L YL-OM Contest	CW	1400Z	Feb 12
Louisiana QSO Party		1500Z	Feb 12
OMISS QSO Party		1500Z	Feb 12
FISTS Winter Sprint		1700Z	Feb 12
British Columbia QSO Challenge		1800Z	Feb 12
RSGB 1st 1.8 MHz Contest	CW	2100Z	Feb 12
North American Sprint	CW	0000Z	Feb 13
Classic Exchange (CX)	CW/Phone	0800Z	Feb 13
SSA Månadstest nr 2	SSB	1400Z	Feb 13
SSA Månadstest nr 2 -	CW	1515Z	Feb 13
ARRL School Club Roundup		1300Z	Feb 14
AGCW Semi-Automatic Key Evening		1900Z	Feb 16
RSGB 80m Club Championship	Data	2000Z	Feb 16
ARRL Inter. DX Contest	CW	0000Z	Feb 19
YLR L YL-OM Contest	SSB	1400Z	Feb 19
CQC Winter QSO Party		2200Z	Feb 20
RSGB 80m Club Championship	CW	2000Z	Feb 24

Russian PSK WW Contest	PSK	2100Z	Feb 25
CQ 160-Meter Contest	SSB	0000Z	Feb 26
REF Contest	SSB	0600Z	Feb 26
UBA DX Contest	CW	1300Z	Feb 26
Mississippi QSO Party		1500Z	Feb 26
CZEBRIS Contest		1600Z	Feb 26
North American QSO Party	RTTY	1800Z	Feb 26
High Speed Club	CW	0900Z	Feb 27
	and	1500Z	Feb 27
North Carolina QSO Party		1700Z	Feb 27

### March

AGCW YL-	CW	1900Z	Mar 1
ARRL Inter. DX Contest	SSB	0000Z	Mar 5
Wake-Up! QRP Sprint		0400Z	Mar 5
DARC 10-Meter	Digital	1100Z	Mar 6
RSGB 80m Club Championship	Data	2000Z	Mar 7
ARS Spartan Sprint (Mar)		0200Z	Mar 8
Pesky Texan Armadillo Chase		0200Z	Mar 10
RSGB Commonwealth Contest		1000Z	Mar 12
AGCW QRP Contest		1400Z	Mar 12
Oklahoma QSO Party		1400Z	Mar 12
	And	1400Z	Mar 13
North American Sprint	RTTY	0000Z	Mar 13
UBA Spring Contest	CW	0700Z	Mar 13
NSARA Contest		1200Z	Mar 13
	And	1800Z	Mar 13
Wisconsin QSO Party		1800Z	Mar 13
RSGB 80m Club Championship	CW	2000Z	Mar 16
10-10 Int. Mobile Contest		0001Z	Mar 19
BARTG HF Contest	RTTY	0200Z	Mar 19
SARL VHF/UHF Contest		1000Z	Mar 19
Russian DX Contest		1200Z	Mar 19
CLARA and Family HF Contest		1700Z	Mar 19
Virginia QSO Party		1800Z	Mar 19
UBA Spring Contest	6m	0700Z	Mar 20
9K 15-Meter Contest		1200Z	Mar 20
RSGB 80m Club Championship	SSB	2000Z	Mar 24
CQ WW WPX Contest	SSB	0000Z	Mar 26
UBA Spring Contest	2m	0600Z	Mar 27
Spring QRP Homebrewer Sprint		0000Z	Mar 28

### Morse may be ending... But NOT YET....

I feel it is time for someone to comment on the operating practices of amateurs who are illegally operating on frequencies below 30 MHz. The latest bulletin from RAC reads as follows: "Amateurs should note that while the responses heavily favoured deletion of the Morse Qualification as a requirement for access to the HF bands,

Industry Canada still has to make and announce a decision on Morse retention or deletion. Until a decision to delete Morse is announced, amateurs who do not hold the Morse Qualification may not operate on the HF bands below 30 MHz.”

As I monitor the HF bands I have heard several hams (more than 2 less than 10) operating below 30 MHz. but only hold their Basic Qualification Certificate. Some are newly licensed and others have been licensed for many years. These amateurs are checking into HF nets and putting the net controller in a difficult position. The net controller should politely tell the operator that he is operating illegally and refuse to allow him to check in. But we know that this will never happen since the net controller would not want to create any animosity.

Many of us struggled for many months or even years to be able to gain the skill to pass our morse code test and thus gain access to the HF bands. Why should these hams who only have their basic qualification be allowed to operate on HF in the same way that those of us who are fully qualified. Maybe they believe that they will never get caught or that Industry Canada will never enforce their own rules. Is it time for the amateur community to report these infractions each and every time we hear them? Maybe it is. Or should we publish a list of those have been heard operating “out of band” and perhaps embarrass them enough so they will stop. Let’s all “play by the rules” and follow the Industry Canada regulations for Licensed Amateur Radio Operations. If you want to operate on HF take the time and effort to learn morse code so you can legally operate within your Certificate Qualification.

*(ed note: The above article was sent to me anonymously, and while I would tend not to publish an anonymous letter, the content does speak for itself.)*

## **2005 Manitoba Marathon Volunteer Request** **By Robert, VE4RST**

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Another holiday season has come and gone and although the weather is still cold it is time once again to look forward to the coming summer. One of the major events in this upcoming season for Amateur Radio is the 2005 Manitoba Marathon. Last years marathon was a great success. Support for the runners through the presence of Amateur Radio provided for a smooth running event as well as prompt emergency communication when needed.

With all of this in mind it is time again to think about, generously, giving up a portion of your Fathers Day to

volunteer for the marathon. We are asking for your co-operation in volunteering early this year so that the 2005 organizing committee can get a feel to the amount of amateurs and helpers that will be staffing the event. This way the committee can plan not only to fill all of the regular posts, but, hopefully expand our communication ability.

This years Manitoba Marathon will be held on Sunday, June 19th with your commitment being from about 06:15 in the morning to about 13:30 in the afternoon. There is also a pre-event meeting, a few days prior to the marathon, where individual station information packets are discussed and distributed. Please make arrangements in your individual schedules to attend. This year’s pre-event meeting will be held on Tuesday June 14th at the Manitoba Sports Federation Building, 200 Main St, beginning at 1900 hrs in rooms 227-229. As perks for volunteering for the marathon, T-shirts, tickets for the pasta feast and an open invitation for the post event BBQ are usually provided.

So, open your calendar, ask your significant others and consider volunteering for this years event. If you have given of your time in the past or have any posts that you would prefer to be stationed too, the organizing committee will try its best to comply. The earlier we can hear from you the better.

The Race Director of the Manitoba Marathon has stated many times that the marathon could not run as smoothly and as safely as it does without the dedicated commitment of the Radio Amateur community. Please help us make this event not only an exercise in communication but also an ongoing tradition in amateur radio.

You may contact me in one of two ways:

E-mail [rstegmaier@shaw.ca](mailto:rstegmaier@shaw.ca)  
Phone (work) 982-9600 (if answering machine is on, please leave message)

### ***Please indicate***

- ✎* If and when you last volunteered for the Manitoba Marathon
- ✎* Your call sign and your name
- ✎* Your, last position posted at the marathon and if you wish to volunteer there again. (when applicable)
- ✎* Your phone number and preferred time of contact
- ✎* If you wish to be posted with someone in particular
- ✎* Your T-shirt size
- ✎* Your full mailing and e-mail address

## QTX~ By Derek, VE4HAY



I want to thank all ham's who turned on their amplifiers and helped to warm up the air around your antennas during the month of January. I was seriously considering moving to Fargo, if it did not warm up soon. But I made it. Now I see we have a ground hog who thinks that winter is still 6 weeks away. Where do they get these guys from.... I guess if you are interrupted from your sleep you might say the same thing just to get back at us.

OK guys, please note the date of our meeting. Does that date sound familiar. Yes, your right, it's St. Valentines Day. So now we get to see who wears the skirt in your family. Will you be out to the meeting? For those who do come out ( and bring the better half with them) I am planning to have a special treat just for them. For the girls in our club, we already know you will be at the meeting with your other half.

Speaking of the ladies in our lives, please note that February 19 & 20th will be Guides on the Air (GOTA). Please if you get a chance, invite your local guide troop over to your station and show them what amateur radio is all about. Who knows, you just might spark the interest of 1 or 2 of them to take this up as their hobby. You can contact the Provincial offices at 774-1939 or CLARA <http://www.qsl.net/clara/gota.html> ( please note they have updated this site and are using last years dates)

Yes the rumors are true. I just can't stop volunteering to help our amateur radio, where ever possible. BJ the RAC Midwest Regional Director has ask me if I would like to become an assistant director, along side the ilk's of Adam, VE4SN. After a lot of convincing on BJ's part and assurance that I would not be taking anything away from Adam, I have agreed to the position. Also new to being an assistant director is VE4QK, Dick Holder. Paul Arsenault, VE4AEY from the Interlake area has stepped down for the position. So now you have 3 assistant directors in Manitoba to draw on.

Now speaking of RAC. For all the ARES people out there, or anyone who passes traffic, or any HAMs who are concerned about liability of anything you say on the air in regards to third party information, did you know that RAC has free Liability Insurance. OK now really free, but it is included in your RAC membership fee. Check this site out for more information. <http://www.rac.ca/service/liabins.htm>

Yes this newsletter is down to 8 pages again. That means that my articles folder is empty, and I can not find anything on the net to insert. So now I am counting on you to provide some content for the next issue. Really if you have anything to say at all in regards to Amateur Radio please put it down to paper and send it to me. What is your favourite operating mode? Why you do use a certain piece/combination of equipment? Why you like contesting so much? What is the trill of digital? What brought you back to the hobby after so many years of being away? What is driving you away from the hobby? Please anything would help. You know you have something to say and I know that others will be interested in your thoughts. So please send something in to me A.S.A.P.

See you all at the meeting 73



GOTA began in 1985 to celebrate 75 years of Guiding in Canada, the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Australia. GOTA has grown each year with more countries

taking part, and most Canadian Call Areas now have an operator sponsoring the GGC suffix e.g. VE4GGC, VE7GGC. There are many Amateur Radio operators, winter camps, clubs, schools, fire halls, Red Cross, churches and Military basis involved with GOTA.

GOTA is scheduled to be the 3rd full weekend in February each year, therefore the dates for 2005 will be 19th and 20th February.

Suggested frequencies for GOTA

80 m - 3.733 or 3.93  
40 m - 7.088 or 7.188  
20 m - 14.133 or 14.188 or 14.28  
15 m - 21.98  
10 m - 28.98  
2 m is ok to use.