



# The **NEWSCASTER**

The Official Publication of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club

<http://www.mts.net/~warc>

March, 2009

IRLP # 1066

VE4BB

## Five easy steps for hassle free tower installation

Rick Allan, VE4RA

Date: **March 9th, 2009**  
Time: 7:30 p.m.  
Place: **Dakota Collegiate**  
661 Dakota Street

### Other Important Dates:

WARC: Monthly Meeting dates - Apr. 20 (3rd Monday),  
May 11, June 8.

Flea Market: April 19th, 2009

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

ARES:

Other: April 14 MRS AGM  
April 19 MARCC  
June 21 MB Marathon

### WARC: Executive for 2008- 2009

President	Geoff Bawden	ve4baw at rac.ca
Vice-Pres	Albert Sousa	albert.sousa at shaw.ca
Treasurer	Sue Collings	collings at mts.net
Secretary	Ruthie Maman	rmaman at mts.net
Membership	Mark Blumm	ve4mab at rac.ca
Program	Vacant	
Director at Large	Robert Iwacha	ve4rai at mts.net
Past President	John Pura	ve4qv at rac.ca

*Our Vision To increase public awareness and support in all aspects of the hobby t*

### Radio Course being offered

The Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club (WARC) will be conducting a

#### Basic Amateur Radio Operator Course

Red River College, Princess Street  
April 7 - June 25, 2009.

Chief Instructor - Albert Sousa, VE4AS.

The course will be held at the Princess Street (downtown) campus of Red River College, Tuesday and alternate Thursday evenings, 1800 - 2100 hours.

Cost of the course is \$150.00, which includes the textbooks published by Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC).

The course is in RRC's catalogue as "PDEV-1018 Amateur Radio Operator Introduction". Further information is available by telephone at 694-1789 or at this website:

<http://me.rrc.mb.ca/Catalogue/Course.aspx?RegionCode=WPG&ProgCode=PERPP-NA&CourseCode=PDEV-1018>

All of the instructors are licensed amateur radio operators. Successful students should be qualified in time for Field Day!

Registration will be open in early February and will be posted in the Continuing Education Spring 2009 catalog as well as online.

Please tell your Friends  
who are interested in Radio

Freq	Prov/ State		UTC
7.055	MB	Trans Prov	17:00 local
3.747	MB	Evening Phone	19:00 local
3.937	ND	North Dakota	00:30
3.735	SK	SK Public Service	01:00
3.750	NWON	NW Ontario	01:15
3.700	AB	AB Public Service	01:30
3.660	MB, SK, AB	Prairie Traffic	01:30
7.055	MB	Trans Prov	08:00 local
3.743	MB	Mb Morning WX	14:30
14.140	CA	Trans-Canada	18:00
7.055		Aurora	23:00
3.860	MN	Minnesota	23:00
145.450	WW	MB IRLP	02:00 Wednesday
147.390 +	MB	Morning	09:00 Local
147.390 +	MB	MRS Thursday	21:00 Local
147.390 +	MB	MRS Sunday	21:00 Local

## The IARU President and Vice President confirmed.

Following a worldwide balloting that ended on February 10th, the IARU International Secretariat announced today the ratification's of the nominations of Timothy S. Ellam, VE6SH/G4HUA, to serve as President of the IARU for a five-year term beginning on 9 May 2009 and of Ole Garpestad, LA2RR, to serve as Vice President of the IARU for a five-year term also beginning on 9 May 2009.

Mr Ellam, a long time Canadian Amateur residing in Calgary, Alberta, was until now Vice President of the IARU. He is well known in the Canadian Amateur administration circles as he has been active with RAC and its proceeding organizations for many years. He will be replacing Dr Larry E. Price, W4RA, who has been IARU President since 1998 and has decided to retire at the end of his current term in May. Mr Garpestad, a resident of Oslo, Norway is presently President of the IARU Region 1. He also has a long history of working for Amateur Radio at different levels over the years. Our congratulations to Tim and Ole and we are looking forward to working with them.

## E-Magazines

### Extracted from the Red River Radio Amateurs

Everyone likes to get things for free, especially hams. Having said that, here are a few of free ham oriented e-magazines out there that some of you might be interested in:

- ☼ Ham-Mag - a French e-mag (in English - emailed to you) <http://www.ham-mag.com>
- ☼ World Radio (recently purchased by CQ Magazine - e-mailed or read it online) <http://mailman.sunserver.com/mailman/listinfo/WorldRadio-L> OR <http://www.cq-amateurradio.com/WorldRadio.html>
- ☼ SATMagazine - For those interested in satellites (not specifically about ham radio, but usually has ham articles - read it online) [http://www.satmagazine.com/cgi-bin/display\\_edition.cgi](http://www.satmagazine.com/cgi-bin/display_edition.cgi)

There are two types of e-magazines; subscription (i.e. It shows up in your in-box), and those that you read online. The online mags are self-explanatory, and the subscription ones are just that. All you have to do is send them your e-mail address to subscribe, and you' in....

Amateur Radio Service Centre Industry Canada  
 P.O. Box 9654, Postal Station T  
 Ottawa, Ontario, K1G 6K9  
 Telephone: (613) 780-3333  
 Toll free: (888) 780-3333  
 Fax: (613) 998-5919  
 E-mail: [spectrum.amateur@ic.gc.ca](mailto:spectrum.amateur@ic.gc.ca)  
[http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/insmt-gst.nsf/en/h\\_sf01709e.html](http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/insmt-gst.nsf/en/h_sf01709e.html)

**IRLP Node 1066**  
 145.450 MHz -600 KHz  
 (VE4WRS)

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**

### What have you done to "promote amateur radio this week"

That line we credit to an old News stalwart, Peter Parker with using in his old VK1 and VK3 casts many years ago and it still stands true -WIA

**WPGARES****By Jeff, VE4MBQ -Emergency Coordinator**

Best wishes to Don Mackinnon VE4DJ – he recently stepped down as the Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC) for Manitoba ARES after approximately 14 years in that position. Congratulations to long-serving Winnipeg ARES member Don Gerrard VE4DWG – Don G. was recently appointed as SEC by Manitoba Section Manager Jan Schippers VE4JS, the Manitoba ARES Executive was unanimous in “nominating” Don G as SEC. Kent VE4KEH will be taking over as Web-Master for WPGARES, something that Don G. did very well for very long.

Thanks to VEs SE, TRO, JNF and VG for digging our Boler Trailer out of the snow in Victor’s backyard and thanks to Tom for taking it in for servicing.

Melanie Swenarchuk, 311 Contact Centre Manager provided us with a very comprehensive presentation on the new 311 Contact Centre at our FEB General Meeting. AEC Bob Poole VE4MAQ gave a very brief explanation of what our role will be during Klondike Derby 7, 8 MAR at Camp Amisk.

As previously reported, the “VE4EMO Team” will be operating VE4EMO during the next few monthly ARES Readiness Nets as a re-familiarization exercise. In JAN VE4s GWN, HK & MAQ operated VE4EMO. In FEB VE4s MMG, SE & XYL were scheduled. Two WPGARES members are scheduled to attend the WEM Course in 17-19 MAR – the May session is now filled up but there are sessions in mid-OCT & mid-NOV that we can book two members into.

So far the preliminary Flood Forecast suggests few problems for residents of Winnipeg as long as there is no significant precipitation. Things could change. In the event that the situation is expected to deteriorate significantly in Winnipeg or alarmingly in rural areas we will run a separate “All-Amateur” meeting for Amateurs who might want to get involved in communications for Flood Operations – if we advertise such a meeting and you have an interest please attend. It was very frustrating in 1997 that less than 6 non-ARES operators attended the “All –Amateur” meeting yet a huge number ultimately volunteered and there was no efficient way left to brief them.

Recruitment of volunteer operators for the 2009 Manitoba Marathon SUN 21 JUN continues. Ideally we will have a close to final roster in place by 1 MAY. The time

commitment is approximately 0600-1300h on Fathers’ Day as well as a mandatory Amateur Radio briefing 1900-2030h TUES 16 JUN.

Our next General Meeting is TUE 17 MAR 1900h at Sir Wm Stephenson Library 765 Keewatin Street. Dick Maguire VE4HK will be reviewing Message Handling and focusing on our Tactical Message Form. Anyone wishing to donate an item or items for the Silent Auction to support WPGARES please contact Rosi VE4YYL via e-mail: ve4yyl@rac.ca or on the air on VE4WPG.

### **International Ham Fest #46** **July 10, - 12, 2009**

VE4QK has confirmed the same special camping rates as last year. To get the special rates you have to identify yourself as attending IHF.

Border Crossing Info  
(Effective June 01, 2009)

This is my interpretation of the situation  
“NOT” the official word !

- ✂ Canadians only entering the International Peace Garden and then re-turning to Canada should only need a drivers License and one other piece of identification. A passport , or enhanced Driver license is not required.
- ✂ Canadians entering the USA at a Port of Entry (from Canada or the International Peace Garden) will need either a Passport or an Enhanced Driver’s Licence.
- ✂ US residents who go only to the Peace Garden and do not cross the Canadian border will need a birth certificate and photo ID.

June 1, 2009 - ALL U.S. and Canadian citizens over the age of 15 traveling between the U.S. and Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Bermuda by land or sea (including ferries), will be required to present a valid passport, Nexus, Fast card or other documents as determined by the Department of Homeland Security - although teens 16-18 years old who are traveling as part of an adult-sponsored school, religious, cultural or athletic group, will be allowed entry with just a copy of their birth certificate

US residents wanting more info can go to:

<http://www.mts.net/~holderr/pgusinfo.pdf>

Manitobans wanting info on the EDL go to:

<http://www.mpi.mb.ca/EIC/EIC.html>

**Amateur Radio ✂ A Community Resource**

## News from the Net

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### ***A NEW THREAT TO 24 GHz IN EUROPE***

Potentially a new threat to amateur and amateur satellite operations in the 24 Gigahertz band in Europe. The European Commission has put out a call for public input and comment to prepare for a fundamental review of a decision made in 2005. This, for harmonization of the 24 Gigahertz radio spectrum for the time-limited use by automotive short-range radar equipment. In other words, unlicensed devices such as Short Range Radar and the like. Hams in Europe see this as an opportunity for commercial interests to extend, possibly indefinitely, what they see as the inappropriate use of 24 Gigahertz for these applications and are organizing their opposition to this use of the band. (EU Radio Spectrum Policy, Southgate)

### ***Hams can help NASA***

Chris St. Cyr of the Goddard Space Flight Centre says that experienced ham radio operators can participate in the historic STEREO mission to see the far side of the sun by helping NASA capture STEREO's images. The busy Deep Space Network downloads data from STEREO only 3 hours a day. That's plenty of time to capture all of the previous day's data, but NASA would like to monitor the transmissions around the clock. Goddard are putting together a 'mini-Deep Space Network' to stay in constant contact with STEREO. The two spacecraft beam their data back to Earth via an X-band radio beacon. Anyone with a 10-meter dish antenna and a suitable receiver can pick up the signals. The data rate is low, 500 bits per second, and it takes 3 to 5 minutes to download a complete image. NASA encourages people with X-band antennas to contact the STEREO team.

### ***CANADIAN SPECIAL EVENT CALLSIGNS***

To celebrate 50th anniversary of the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway, look for Canadian amateurs to use the following prefix between April 1st and May 31st:

XL -> VA XN -> VO

XM -> VE XO -> VY

### ***VP - 400 anniversary***

2009 is the 400th anniversary of the settlement of Bermuda by Sir George Somers. Most local organizations are having an event of some kind during the year. The Radio Society of Bermuda has been issued with a special call sign that can be used all year, it is VP9400/xx. The xx suffix is the operator's call sign, i.e. VP9400/LP. There are a few novice licence holders who have a 3 digit suffix, i.e. VP9400/NMT. Special pictorial postcards will be used to QSL. -- Radio Society of Bermuda.

### ***VE4DJ - Director of Planning for MEMO***

Don Mackinnon, VE4DJ, has become the Director of Planning for the Manitoba Emergency Measures Organization. A lawyer and former police officer, Don has been the RAC Manitoba Section Emergency Coordinator for some 12 years and this week gave up that appointment in order to address his new EMO role. Besides his many other contributions to Amateur Radio, Don chaired the RAC National Training Resource Group, commissioned by the RAC Vice President for Field Services in August, 2006. Many recommendations and suggestions came from that Group, with a number of them subsequently implemented. RAC extends sincere thanks to Don for his past support and best wishes in his new post. -- RAC

### ***Amateur Radio Operates Again on Midway Atoll:***

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has announced that they would once again allow Amateur Radio operators the opportunity to operate from Midway Atoll, the first time that USFWS has allowed amateurs to operate since 2002. Amateur Radio operations will be permitted for two weeks only, from October 5-19, 2009. "Radio operation will be allowed only within a designated area on the north side of Sand Island and the use of portable generators will not be permitted," said Midway Atoll Refuge Manager Matt D. Brown. "There is 120 V power available at the operation site. Any modifications to the island power grid/infrastructure must be approved in advance and be paid for entirely by the radio operators. Midway Atoll is located in the North Pacific Ocean, approximately 1250 miles northwest of Honolulu. --WIA

### ***40 metres in South Africa***

The South African Radio League has received assurances from their telecommunications regulator that the issue of making 7,100 to 7,200 KHz available to radio amateurs as of 8th March should be finalized by the end of January. --WIA

### ***Updated Contest Mapping Tool***

Some exciting news about EI8IC's unique Contest Log Mapping Tool - its now completely FREE to use, and its just been updated with the results of 35 new contests. Working from an online database of ALMOST ONE MILLION W/VE callsigns past and present, LogView plots the QSOs in a Cabrillo-format contest-log on to one of 8 different maps of North America. Essentially a post-contest log visualization tool for analyzing contest performance, LogView is also useful in defining gaps in your antenna coverage, by comparing the positions of entrants to the contest against those entrants actually contacted. All the maps you create can be saved for offline viewing and detailed future analysis - full details on the website. <http://www.mapability.com/ei8ic/logview> --WIA

### Get Ready for World Amateur Radio Day on April 18

Each year on the anniversary of its founding, April 18, the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) marks World Amateur Radio Day. On this 83rd anniversary of its inaugural meeting in Paris, the IARU dedicates World Amateur Radio Day to the future of Amateur Radio with its theme, "Amateur Radio: A Foundation for Technical Knowledge." It is no secret that many professionals in the field of radio, TV, communications and electronics have started their technical education as young radio amateurs. Although Amateur Radio has a different face nowadays -- Digital Communications, Voice over Internet Protocol, Satellite up- and downlinks and more -- it is even of greater value as a foundation for technical knowledge for youngsters. And much more -- it is and should be used as a unique attraction for future young radio amateurs. World Amateur Radio Day provides an occasion to promote and publicize Amateur Radio. Amateur Radio clubs are encouraged to find suitable ways of celebrating World Amateur Radio Day. Many ways can be considered -- inviting youngsters to visit radio clubs, showing up on the air with a special call sign, organizing a station in a public area with media coverage or publicly honouring amateurs who have made significant contributions. Whatever method is chosen, clubs should think about publishing a press release for the media, giving the background to World Amateur Radio Day and promoting the value of Amateur Radio as a foundation for a technical career. "World Amateur Radio Day" APRIL 18 --WIA

### ANTARCTIC ACTIVITY WEEK

The Worldwide Antarctic Program has announced that the fifth Antarctic Activity Week will be held from 18 to 24 February. The aim of this annual event is to promote worldwide interest in the Antarctic continent. An official amateur call sign OPØLE is assigned to Princess Elizabeth base (IOTA AN-016, 71°57'S and 23°20'E). Paul, ON3PC will be operating from the base until February 15. He is working at the base as a plumber/boiler-mechanic and also in-charge of the communications. After 40 years of silence, Belgium is back on air from Antarctica. Best frequencies are on the Antarctic DX net 23:00z every Saturday and Sunday on 7.078 MHz. Also check 14.160 MHz, 14.188 MHz and 14203 MHz from 16:00z. --WIA

### 4-metres in Denmark

As of 1st of January 2009, Danish radio amateurs can also use the 70,225 MHz channel, i.e. the segment 70,2125 - 70,2375 MHz. This also means that two smaller segments are now joined into one segment 100 KHz wide. For more details see the Danish band plan: [www.70mhz.org/bandplan\\_oz.htm](http://www.70mhz.org/bandplan_oz.htm) --WIA

### NEW STUDY SAYS SOLAR STORMS COULD BRING DISASTER

A new study from the National Academy of Sciences outlines dire consequences on Earth for a worst-case scenario giant solar storm. Scientists involved in the study say that damage to power grids and other communications systems could be catastrophic. Even ham radio would be affected. Solar activity is expected to rise sharply in coming years and what is known as severe space weather will ramp up a year or two before the peak in 2012. Once it hits Earth it can disrupt power distribution grids and cause blackouts and also downgrade both terrestrial wire-line and satellite to ground communications. --arnewsline

### BBC interviews UK CubeSat builders

A recent episode of the BBC Radio 4 show Material World met students from the University of Leicester in the UK who are building their own CubeSat. A podcast is now available. It was originally broadcast Thursday 8th January and the Podcast can be downloaded from <http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/science/thematerialworld.shtml>

### Japan to launch amateur satellites

A constellation of seven tiny Cubesat amateur radio satellites is being launched by Japan. The satellites are secondary payloads on board the GOSAT IBUKI satellite. The original launch date of 22 January was postponed until the 23rd due to weather conditions at the launch site --RSGB

### NEW ZEALAND gets 7.1 - 7.2 MHZ PRIMARY

The New Zealand telecommunications regulatory authority has announced that nations amateur radio service will be given Primary access to 7.1 to 7.2 MHz after March 29th. The Ministry of Economic Development says that its making the change in accordance with the ITU's latest Radio Regulations. The latest ones published last year state that the use of 7.1 to 7.2 MHz for Broadcasting services will cease after March 29th 2009. --WIA

**DIAMOND  
IMAGE**

Floyd Rolph VE4 FDR

835 Cavalier Drive Tel: (204) 888-3227  
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## OPERATING PRACTICE

Extracted from a document  
by Mark - ON4WW

### 14. THE USE OF QRZ AND QUESTION MARK

Some DX stations and DXpedition operators have a bad habit of not frequently identifying. This habit asks for problems.

DXers tuning the bands (especially those not logged in to a DX Cluster) hear a station, but not his callsign. After a while they transmit 'QRZ' or '?' or 'CALL?' on CW, and 'QRZ' or 'What's your/his call?' on SSB. This is most annoying; when the DX station works SPLIT he can't hear this. The pileup stations are transmitting on a different frequency and are disturbed by the one transmitting 'QRZ' or '?' or 'CALL?'. Result: the feared 'cops' surface. Chaos follows.

If you want to avoid chaos, follow rule number one of DXing: LISTEN. Don't ask 'QRZ', '?', 'What's your/his call?'. It won't help you in figuring out the callsign of the station.

'QRZ' in this case is being used incorrectly as well! QRZ means: Who is calling me?

### 15. HOW TO CALL A CONTEST STATION

Before entering a contest or calling a contest station, thoroughly read the rules of that specific contest. In some contests you cannot contact all participants due to the nature of the contest. It is somehow embarrassing if you call a station who does not want and cannot work you at that moment in time due to the contest rules. In such cases the logging software even prevents the operator from logging you. Here are some tips:

- I. a contest station wants to work as many stations as fast as possible. The message is: keep it short!
- II. Never give your callsign twice when calling a contest station. Once is sufficient;
- III. if the contest station copied your complete callsign, do not repeat your callsign and just give him the required contest report;
- IV. if the contest station returns to someone else: BE QUIET, BE SILENT!

### 16. DX CLUSTERS

A controversial theme. Most love 'em; some dislike them.

It is striking how many incorrect 'DX spots' are being posted. When spotting DX, before hitting the ENTER button: check all data, correct any typos.

A DX Cluster also has an 'ANNOUNCE' function. Many operators 'mildly abuse' this function to air their frustrations, moan and to ask for QSL information. Air their frustrations, moan? Here are some recent spots and

announcements observed during the 3Y0X expedition (and also on numerous other occasions):

- 'I've been calling for 3 hours and still no QSO'
- 'been listening for 5 hours, not a peep. Bad expedition!'
- 'bad operators, they have no clue about propagation'
- 'why not SPLIT?'
- 'please RTTY'
- 'BINGOOOOO!'
- 'New one !!!'
- 'My #276 !!!'
- 'Europe PLLEAASEE'
- etc. etc.

This doesn't make sense. The added value is nil. A DX Cluster is a tool to spot DX, period. The commentary field can be used to give info about the SPLIT frequency used, QSL manager etc.

DX Cluster = DX spots, with possible relevant information which has added value for all DXers.

Need QSL info? Give the command 'SH/QSL callsign'.

If there is no QSL database on your DX Cluster: 'SH/DX 25 callsign'. The last 25 spots of this station will be shown, and usually one of the commentary fields mentions 'QSL VIA'. Even better is the command ':SH/DX callsign QSL info'. This will show the last 10 spots of that callsign with QSL info in the commentary field. If the DX Cluster can't provide you with any QSL info, it is good practice to consult any of the internet QSL websites.

Don't project your frustrations on others. Invest more time in improving your station or operator skills.

Spots with commentary such as 'Worked 1st call' and 'Worked with 5 W' say nothing about the signal of the DX station, but everything about the ego of the DXer who made the spot.

Many DX spots can be observed of stations spotting themselves or their chat partner, to pass a personal message in the commentary field. This is not to be done!

Spotting a PIRATE station? A PIRATE doesn't deserve our attention, don't spot him.

If you spot stations, such as our friend Pipo, what do you reckon will happen? Right, don't spot him.

Summary: make correct DX spots. Don't annoy your fellow hams with your frustrations. Nobody really cares about the state of your ego, but everybody will enjoy useful information such as SPLIT frequency and QSL Manager info. Use the DX Cluster functions in a correct manner. If you don't know them, look them up. The manual usually can be found on the DX Cluster by typing 'SH/HELP'. Read the manual.

Attention: the entire DX Cluster community reads your spot! It is very easy to build a bad reputation. It is just as easy to build a good reputation.

For our pure amusement, the following Cluster Monkey link(<http://www.kh2d.net/dxmonkey.cfm>) is recommended. The message is clear.

### 17. TIPS FOR DX STATIONS AND DXPEDITIONS

Do you enjoy a combined family and radio holiday ? Or are you working abroad and 'radio activity' is an option? Or perhaps you are totally nuts (according to your XYL) and prefer spending your money on a DXpedition? Odds are you will make transmissions from a 'wanted' entity. The more wanted, the more chances you'll have to encounter situations as above mentioned: 'cops', nobody listening to your instructions, etc. It is very important that YOU control the situation, and keep it under control.

- I. If going on holidays to Spain or France you won't create big pileups;
- II. if you're heading for the Balears, Crete or Cyprus, the pileup fever will surface and you'll get quite some callers;
- III. your job takes you to Iran and you get lucky to operate from that entity, take a seat and start sweating!
- IV. If you manage to set sail for Scarborough Reef and fire up a DXpedition adventure, the pileups will be awesome... 'fasten your seatbelts'!

How can you control a pileup and keep control? Indeed, while not a simple assignment, it is totally feasible. Here are some tips:

- I. mention your callsign after each and every QSO. If you are blessed with a real long callsign such as SV9/ON4ZZZZ/P, at least mention it after every three QSOs;
- II. if you are working simplex and notice you can't pick out complete callsigns or those you are calling are not coming back to you anymore, immediately switch to SPLIT mode;
- III. when switching to SPLIT mode make sure your QSX (listening) frequency is not in use! Be careful not to ruin an ongoing QSO;
- IV. when working in SPLIT mode, announce this fact after each QSO. Indicate which split you are using. CW example: UP 1, UP 1-2, UP 5. On SSB: listening 5 up, listening 5 to 10 (KHz) up;
- V. on CW SPLIT listen at least 1 KHz up (or down). Better is 3 KHz, to avoid possible key clicks on your TX frequency => no excuse for 'cops' to intervene;
- VI. On SSB SPLIT listen at least 5 KHz up or down your TX frequency. It is quite astonishing how 'wide' some SSB signals are. If you take a SPLIT of only 2 or 3 KHz these signals may interfere and splatter on your TX frequency;
- VII. keep the SPLIT window as narrow as possible, don't claim unnecessary spectrum just for yourself;
- VIII. if on SSB you managed to pick out a partial and not complete callsign (happens often in a big pileup), give a report to the partial callsign e.g. 'Yankee Oscar 59';
- IX. on CW do not send a 'question mark' when returning to a partial callsign. For some obscure reason the majority of (undisciplined) pileup callers take a 'question mark' as the sign to start transmitting again, although the

partial callsign does not resemble their callsign.

Example: 3TA, 599. Not: ??3TA, 599. In the latter case, the pileup WILL start calling again;

- X. on SSB and CW (and digimodes): if at first you gave a report to a partial callsign, be sure to transmit the complete callsign so the operator knows you logged him and not someone else. Some inexperienced DX stations do as follows: TA, 59. OH3TA returns with his callsign several times and gives a report. The DX station comes back and says: QSL, tx, QRZ? Of course OH3TA is left in the dark as to whether he has been logged or not. The DX station should have said: OH3TA, tx, QRZ?
- XI. once you have given a report to a partial callsign, stick with that station until you manage to get his complete callsign. A pileup can be very undisciplined. If they notice you stick with the partial callsign until you have the complete callsign, they will understand their continuous calling has no effect on you, and they will eventually show a bit more discipline. If on the other hand you drop the partial callsign to work another station, you have lost the battle and chaos will rule;
- XII. if a pileup becomes too undisciplined, go QRT, change your TX frequency or move to another band;
- XIII. always stay 'cool' and don't start shouting at the pileup;
- XIV. don't work 'two-letter callsigns'; tell them you only want to hear complete/full callsigns;
- XV. in SPLIT mode, when you notice the stations you return to are not responding, listen on your TX frequency, chances are someone is jamming you (e.g. 'cops');
- XVI. on CW on the higher bands, a transmit speed of 40 wpm is about the limit the pileup can cope with. On the lower bands (160 to 40m) the maximum speed to use - depending on conditions - is between 20 and 30 wpm;
- XVII. always inform the pileup about your moves. If you go QRT, tell them. Are you up for a pitstop in the little shack, tell them: QRX 5 (QRX 5 minutes, standby). If you QSY to another mode or frequency, tell them. It is very annoying for a pileup not to know what your next step will be. After all, they want to work you and like to be informed about your activities. 'You are hot'!

If a pileup grows too big on you, you may decide to work by continent/region or by numbers. Working by continent/region means you call only one specific continent (e.g. Europe) or region (Northern Europe, West Coast USA), while the DXers in the other continents/regions have to standby. Working by numbers means you call the stations by the number in their callsign (0-9). This way of operating is generally not recommended. Large groups of operators are sitting idle, nervously waiting until it is their turn to call you. While waiting, they have no guarantee you will call their continent or number; you can go QRT at any time. Hence they are nervous. And nervous people can quickly turn into nasty 'cops'. If you work by numbers, 90% of the pileup is sitting idle!

However, to cope with a big pileup, this way of operating may assist operators who are in the learning curve.

The one real advantage of working by continent/region is to give areas of the world that normally have poor propagation towards you, the chance to get through.

Some things to keep in mind when working by continent/region:

- I. use this technique to reach areas with poor propagation towards you;
- II. when using this technique because the pileup is too big for you to handle, rotate quickly between continents;
- III. inform the other continents/regions about your plans: are you going to work JA only for 10 minutes, will you work EU next, then NA? Tell them.
- IV. When the pileup gets smaller and smaller, return to normal operating practice and work all continents/regions simultaneously

Some things to keep in mind when working by number:

- I. once you started a number sequence, finish it. Sometimes operators stop in the middle of a sequence to go QRT or return to operating without using numbers: be assured, you do not get the sympathy of the pileup by doing this!
- II. start the sequence with number 0 (zero), continue with 1-2-...-9 and start with 0 again;
- III. don't use the number 'jumping' technique: 0-5-2-3-8-4-...the pileup will hate you.
- IV. Work a maximum of 10 stations per number, always work an equal amount of stations per number.
- V. Inform the pileup on how many stations you will work per number and repeat this information each time you switch to the next number.
- VI. Remember, 90% of the pileup is sitting idle, 'cops' will transmit on your frequency. Avoid working by numbers if you can.

Besides working by continent/region or number, some operators try working by countries. This is to be avoided at all times. Repeat, do not do this, you will attract 'cops' of all the 'idle sitting' nations. You will certainly fail to call each of the 335 different DX entities, so why even think about using this silly technique?

Final remark: one of the most important points when running a pileup is to maintain the same RHYTHM throughout the operation. If you master this you will be much more relaxed, as well as the pileup. The most important point though: enjoy yourself!

## Contest Calendar

Extracted from <http://www.sk3bg.se/>  
& <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal>

### March

1	0000Z	Open Ukraine RTTY CS Low band	RTTY
1	0800Z	Open Ukraine RTTY CS High band	RTTY
1	1700Z	North Carolina QSO Party	CW/SSB
2	1500Z	JLRS Hina 3.3	All
3	0200Z	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW
3	1900Z	AGCW YL CW Party	CW
5	0230Z	Pesky Texan Armadillo Chase	CW
5	1800Z	10 meter NAC	CW/SSB/FM/Digi
7	0000Z	ARRL International DX	SSB
7	1200Z	DIG QSO Party (10-20 m)	SSB
7	1400Z	Oklahoma QSO Party	All
7	1800Z	SOC Marathon Sprint	CW
8	0000Z	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW
8	0700Z	DIG QSO Party (80 m)	SSB
8	0700Z	UBA Spring	CW
8	0900Z	DIG QSO Party (40 m)	SSB
8	1100Z	DARC 10 m Digital "Corona"	Digi
8	1200Z	NSARA (1)	CW/SSB
8	1300Z	Oklahoma QSO Party	All
8	1800Z	NSARA (2)	CW/SSB
8	1800Z	Wisconsin QSO Party	CW/SSB
10	1700Z	CLARA & Family HF	CW/SSB
12	1800Z	NAC 50 MHz (Aktivitestest)	All
13	1830Z	HA3NS Memorial	CW
14	1000Z	RSGB Commonwealth	CW
14	1400Z	AGCW QRP	CW
14	1600Z	EA PSK31	BPSK31
14	1700Z	CLARA & Family HF	CW/SSB
14	1800Z	Virginia QSO Party	All
14	1900Z	Idaho QSO Party	All
15	0000Z	North American Sprint	RTTY
15	0700Z	UBA Spring 6 m	CW/SSB
15	1400Z	SSA Månadstest nr	CW
15	1515Z	SSA Månadstest nr	SSB
16	0100Z	Run For The Bacon QRP	CW
16	1600Z	HF Bucuresti	CW/SSB
18	1900Z	MOON	CW/Digi/SSB
19	0030Z	NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	CW
21	0000Z	Feld-Hell Club Sprint	Feld-Hell
21	0001Z	10-10 International Mobile QSO Party	All?
21	0200Z	BARTG Spring RTTY	RTTY
21	1200Z	DARC HF-SSTV	SSTV
21	1200Z	Russian DX	CW/SSB
22	1200Z	9KCC 15m-Contest	CW/SSB
23	0000Z	QRP Homebrewer Sprint	CW/PSK31
25	0000Z	SKCC Sprint	CW
28	0000Z	CQ WW WPX	SSB
28	1800Z	QCWA QSO Party	All

## Radio Amateurs of Canada - New President

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At the February 24th, 2009 Radio Amateurs of Canada Board teleconference meeting, President Dave Goodwin, VE3AAQ/VO1AU, announced that he was resigning his position effective immediately. Dave indicated that his decision was motivated by his inability to devote enough time to RAC affairs because of a recent increase in personal and professional responsibilities. Dave became RAC President on Jan 1st, 2008 at the end of President Earle Smith's tenure. All attending the teleconference thanked Dave for the time he could devote to RAC's affairs both as a Director and then as President.

At the same teleconference meeting, the RAC Board elected Bob Cooke, VE3BDB, to be the RAC President until the end of the current term on Dec 31, 2009. Bob has a long history of working with RAC. His involvement started in the early 1990s as an Assistant Director and he was elected and served as RAC Ontario South Director from November 2001 to January 2005. He was then elected by the RAC Board as Vice president for Field Services, serving from January 2006 to February 2009 when he resigned to accept the appointment as President

## Minutes for February 9th, 2009 Submitted by Mark, VE4MAB

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Dick, VE4HK, moved to accept the January 2009 minutes 2nd by Adam, VE4SN - Carried

### Radio Course

Albert spoke on the upcoming ham course. David, VE4DAR, asked how many have been enrolled.

### Field Day

Rolf, VE4VZ spoke on Field Day. It will be at the executive's choice to go to Birds Hill with a booking by April 1 since he has had no luck with a city venue as the city will not allow for overnight stays and a deposit will need to be sent in for Birds Hill, site 5 of 6. He would prefer Site # 5 as it has a shelter.

### Flea Market

Dick, VE4HK, spoke on field day which is on Sunday April 19, 2009. He has call the contact at the Heritage Victoria Community Centre to confirm. Tables at \$ 5 for WARC members and \$ 10 for non-members and commercial vendors, plus \$ 3 at the door.

### DX

Adam, VE4SN spoke on DX. Things are slowly improving and this morning 20 meters was booming in.

Look for KP5 and American group operating from February 12 to 26. One to look for is VE7CT who will be on this expedition. Mostly CW on 160 meters. QSL's done via N200. Derek, VE4HAY commented that Midway is coming back on the air and Rob, VE4RCJ, commented they have a web page to tell where they will be listening.

### Bill 5

Derek, VE4HAY, spoke on Bill 5 It is basically set out to prohibit anything you operate in your hand that is a telephone. The legislature is not sitting yet and the bill has not gone through a second reading so there will be a chance for comments. Derek's name and Jeff, VE4MBQ are on the list to speak to the bill.

### RAC

Devon, VE5DWR, is the new Midwest Director and Jan Schippers is the new section manager. Doug, VE4DWG is the new section emergency coordinator.

### Tower issues

Derek, VE4HAY spoke on antenna structures - The next meeting with the City of Winnipeg is on March 10 and they are supposed to have a final draft of their proposal. Derek and Ed, VE4EAR and the cell phone companies all agree that because of an error on the city's part we can go up to 21 meters. Over 21 meters would require public meetings and discussions with neighbour. The city wants to ensure safe structures and only back or side yards are ok. Nothing in the front yard. Derek is pushing for the 21 meter limit to be the structure, not the elements of the antenna. Rick, VE4RA, commented that an engineer's stamp on a drawing is all you need.

### Treasure's report.

Per Sue's printed report Albert reported our current balance is \$ 8751.02 with \$ 97 in income and \$ 58.68 in expenses. \$ 750 is outstanding with regard to DARF. Rick, VE4OV, asked about outstanding expenses from Hamfest and Derek commented we are waiting for funds from the Armed Forces. David, VE4 DAR, asked that we do a follow-up. Derek commented that he gave Sue a folder with the info which is about \$ 300 or so.

### ARES

Dick, VE4HK, spoke on ARES advising the next meeting is Tuesday February 17 at the Sir William Stevenson Library at 7 PM Also, ARES is looking for

## ***What have you done to "promote amateur radio this week"***

That line we credit to an old News stalwart, Peter Parker with using in his old VK1 and VK3 casts many years ago and it still stands true -WIA

volunteers to help on March 7 and 8 for Klondike days at Camp Amisk. Call Bob, VE4MAQ let him know you are available.

**MRS**

Dick, VE4HK, said the Annual General Meeting is coming up April 10, 2009, more info to follow. Derek, VE4HAY, advised that VE4MAN is coming down due to CBC building another tower and MAN will be off the air for 2 or 3 months. In the meantime a link is in the works to link through to Portage skipping Starbuck. Dick, VE4HK, also said he had membership forms to MRS.

Motion to adjourn by Dick, VE4HK and 2nd by Adam, VE4SN

**QTX~  
By Derek, VE4HAY**



Did you know:

- ☛ Upcoming North Dakota QSO Party will be 1700Z March 21st until 0100Z March 22nd, 2009, using 160 through 2 meters. ND stations are encouraged to spend some time on 20 meters in the afternoon to work DX stations seeking ND counties. The exchange is: ND stations give RST and county; others give RST and state, province, or country.
- ☛ That Don M VE4DJ has stepped down after 14 years of service in the role of SEC for Manitoba, and that don, VE4DWG has taken on the role and challenge of the Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC) for Manitoba
- ☛ Bill-5 the bill before the provincial government will be going to second reading when the legislature resumes in March. There is still time to get your name on the list to make a presentation at the committee stage. Just make sure you have your facts in order and are prepared.
- ☛ The Antenna Committee will be meeting with the City of Winnipeg to finalize the draft protocol on March 10th. Note sure of the process after that, but it is believed to then go to city council for their initial approval (hopefully not rip it apart) , and somewhere along the lines it will have to go to the public. Stay tuned.

**And now for a word from the President  
By Geoff, VE4BAW**

The president was busy with work this month, but is looking for people to run for executive office. Please think about supporting your club by running for the executive.

**Manitoba - new Section Manager**

Radio Amateurs in Manitoba will be pleased to know that the Manitoba Section Manager position has finally been filled.

Jan Schippers, VE4JS, of Winnipeg, has been elected to fill the remainder of a two-year term that began on July 1, 2008. A licensed Amateur since 1972, Jan ran unopposed, thus removing the need for a balloted election, replacing SM Rob Boux, VE4RRB, who did not stand for re-election.

Congratulations and thanks to Jan for accepting the challenge, as well as thanks to Rob for his many years of service to the RAC Field Organization

**WARC Flea Market**

Sunday, April 19, 2009  
Heritage Victoria Community Club,  
950 Sturgeon road (just north of Ness AVE.)

9:30 am for coffee, muffins & eyeball qso's  
10:00 - Vendor doors open for set up  
10:30 - Buying begins at 10:30 sharp

Prize draws begin at 12:30 pm

To book your table please contact Ruth ve4xyl  
837-6915, or ve4se@mts.net  
Tables are \$5.00 for members of WARC,  
\$10.00 for commercial vendors and non members

Admission at the door \$3.00

Ruth's kitchen will have delicious food and drink  
for your gustatory pleasure!

Talk in on ve4wpg 147.39 MHz + offset

Contact Dick ve4hk 256-3143 ve4hk@rac.ca,  
ve4wpg repeater or coffee on Saturdays for further  
information

**\*\*No parking on Sturgeon Road!\*\***