



The **NEWSCASTER**

The Official Publication of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club
<http://www.mts.net/~warc>

December 2009

IRLP # 1066 on VE4WRS 145.450-

VE4BB

Christmas Party *Bring the YL, XYL, OM and hang out with your fellow hams!*

Date: Monday, December 14, 2009
Time: 7:30 PM
Place: Dakota Collegiate - (In the theatre)
661 Dakota Street (At Beliveau Rd.)

Other Important Dates...

Newscaster: Deadline December 28, 2009

WARC: Monthly Meeting Dates
January 11, 2010—Linux OS
February 8, 2010

WSC: 2nd Thursday of month
Breakfast—Garden City Inn

ARES: December 15, 2009

Other: WARC Spring Flea Market
Sunday, April 18, 2010

WARC Executive for 2009-2010...

President	Mark Blumm	ve4mab@gmail.com
Vice-Pres.	Garth Blumm	ve4gwb@gmail.com
Treasurer	Bob Jacobs	rcjacobs@mts.net
Secretary	Jim Sutton	Jim.Sutton@AAAalarms.ca
Membership	Garth Blumm	ve4gwb@gmail.com
Programs	Mark Blumm	ve4mab@gmail.com
Director @ Large	Vacant	
Past President	Geoff Bawden	ve4baw@rac.ca

And now a word from the President *By Mark, VE4MAB*

Ok, it's official, the mercury has decided to stay below the zero mark!

Which means that Christmas and the festive holiday season will soon be upon us. We will be spending time with family and friends and the airwaves will be "Piled Up" with holiday greetings to and from our fellow Hams.

The coming year has a lot to offer. Be it chasing that elusive DX station, 2m QSOs on the way to work, Eyeballing at a Coffee Breaks, chatting to a visiting Ham, volunteering for the Marathon or ARES events, building that great antenna, or bouncing signals off the moon and more, all reminding us that it's much more than just talking on a radio!

On behalf of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club I wish all the very best this Holiday Season and to all a prosperous New Year!

On The Ham's "Wish List"



Our Vision

To increase public awareness and respect for Amateur radio; to provide education and support in all aspects of the hobby to our members in a social atmosphere

WARC Meeting Minutes, Nov 9 , 2009

Taken by Geoff, VE4BAW

Executives Present: Mark ve4mab, Garth ve4gwb, Bob, ve4xxx, Geoff ve4baw

Meeting called to order: 7:35

Minutes printed in Newscaster:

Acceptance moved by VE4MBQ, seconded VE4HAY, no business arising, no correspondence.

Treasurer's Report

By Bob Jacobs, VE4RCJ, advises that the audit is done and that there is \$6427.14 in the bank as of the end of October.

Membership Report

By Garth VE4GWB, Reported that there are currently 49 paid and 10 complementary members.

Programs Report

By Mark VE4MAB Christmas Party for December, Jasmine ve4jcl is organizing, Linux for January and in the works—QSL Bureau briefing

DX Report

By Adam, VE4SN

CW improving

Two sunspots

Antarctic DXpedition, Adam contacted the Koreans,

Adam is hopeful that two months from now we will have much improved HF DX

ARES Report

By Jeff, VE4MBQ. Geoff, VE4BAW, has left the Chair and left the Marathon Amateur Radio Committee.

As stated in the current Newscaster our next General Meeting is Tue 17 Nov at Sir Wm Stephenson library.

We will begin photographing current Winnipeg ARES members for new photo ID by 1845 h (all Manitoba ARES ID Cards expire December 2009). A "Winter Driving" presentation to follow.

Manitoba ARES SEC Don Gerrard VE4DWG advised by e-mail earlier today that according to the Director of the Office of Disaster Management, Manitoba Health, active ARES members are considered to be part of Priority Group #2 for the H1N1 Vaccine.

Regional Health authorities are currently vaccinating members of Priority Group #1 (at leave ten categories identified on Manitoba Health site including pregnant women, children under 5 years old, health-care workers & medical first-responders, etc).

Active ARES members who want to be administered the H1N1 Vaccine should pay attention to the public announcements and attend (with ARES photo ID) a convenience located once it has been announced that people in Priority Group #2 can now be vaccinated.

People in Priority Group #2 include Critical Infrastructure Workers and people who work directly with swine & Poultry.

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/sri/docs/priority.pdf>

Several ARES units are supporting Manitoba Ski Patrol Search & Rescue Exercise in Falcon Lake SUN 29 NOV. This is a physically demanding, all-weather exercise.

Sled Dog Races are returning to downtown Winnipeg SUN 31 JAN. I am taking volunteer registrations now.

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
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

Manitoba Marathon Report

Jeff, VE4MBQ, Rob Stegmaier and I will be attending a Manitoba Marathon Medical Meeting 24 NOV after which time I will call a meeting of the Marathon Radio Group.

We are in need of an Amateur Radio operator who is knowledgeable in Desktop Publishing to look after the Amateur Radio Handbook—don't need to create a new one just revise last years.

RAC Report

By Derek, VE4HAY. Report on recent events at RAC: election was held and three new executives were appointed: President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Geoff, VE4BAW, was elected President, 2 Directors resigned as did the sitting President, one Director resigned in support of the sitting President.

Intervention from the floor:

Robert Streimer a teacher from Shaftsbury School came with two students to get assistance in their balloon launch and APRS experiment. He wants assistance in mentoring 4 students and a teacher to become Hams.

Flea Market

By Dick, VE4HK Flea market is booked, April 18th, Ruth has already sold two tables.

Good and Welfare

Jeff, VE4MBQ, offered to introduce WARC Field Day Organizer to Winnipeg Emergency Officials to determine whether WARC can use Little Mountain Park for Field Day. WARC needs to identify Organizer.

Glen, VE4GWN, Motion to adjourn

January's WARC Presentation The Linux operating system By, VE4GKS

Gerald, VE4GKS, will give us an introduction to the Linux operating system. If you are interested in obtaining a copy to try at home, let us know your hardware, laptop, desktop, netbook, and he will bring along the appropriate number of discs ve4bb@rac.ca

RAC/ARES NATIONAL EMCOMM FREQUENCIES

SSB	Frequency	Tactical
75M - LSB	3.675 MHz	Alfa
40 M - LSB	7.135 MHz	Bravo
20 M - USB	14.135 MHz	Charlie
17 M - USB	18.135 MHz	Delta
15 M - USB	21.235 MHz	Echo
10 M - USB	28.235 MHz	Foxtrot
CW	Frequency	Tactical
80 M	3.535 MHz	Golf
40 M	7.035 MHz	Hotel
20 M	14.035 MHz	India
17 M	18.075 MHz	Juliette
15 M	21.035 MHz	Kilo
10 M	28.035 MHz	Lima
Digital	Frequency	Tactical
80M	3.596 MHz	Mike
40 M	7.096 MHz	November
40 M	7.096 MHz	November
20 M	14.096 MHz	Oscar
17 M	18.096 MHz	Papa
15 M	21.096 MHz	Quebec
10 M	28.096 MHz	Romeo

<http://www.rac.ca/fieldorg/racaresfreqs.htm>

Here is the news everybody has been anxiously awaiting!!!

WARC Spring Flea Market 2010 Sunday, April 18, 2010

The date for the WARC Spring Flea Market has been set. Mark your 2010 calendars for Sunday, April 18.

Clean out your ham shack, make a nice, neat pile of "Junque", then phone Ruth, VE4XYL, to pre-book your table.

Further details, as they become available.

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

Thanks to Glen Napady VE4GWN for photographing members for new ARES ID Cards as they arrived at our General Meeting in NOV. Adam Cheadle from MPI did a very good Winter Driving presentation for us.

Bob Poole VE4MAQ has stepped down as Assistant EC. Bob was in this position for almost four and a half years. Norman Coull VE4EH was recently appointed as Assistant EC. Our served agencies have been notified.

Several WPGARES members were scheduled to participate in a multi-unit operation SUN 29 NOV in support of a Manitoba Ski Patrol Search & Rescue exercise at Falcon Lake. Gord Snarr VE4GLS, South-Central DEC is the ARES Coordinator for this event. Sled Dog Races return to downtown Winnipeg SUN 31 JAN. We have approximately twelve volunteers so far – please contact me directly if you wish to volunteer.

Our next General Meeting is TUE 15 DEC 1900h at Sir Wm Stephenson Library

765 Keewatin Street. Daren Mini, Emergency Management representative from Manitoba Association of Native Firefighters (MANFF) will be giving a presentation on MANFF. New ARES ID Cards should be available for distribution at the 15 DEC meeting – don't forget to bring in your current ARES ID card to exchange for a new card.

WSCRC Annual General Meeting

By David, VE4DAR

You'd think being President of a hobby club would be fairly easy. Apparently, not! Just ask Pat VE4PLG, outgoing President of the Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club, affectionately known as "The Seniors".



Tom & Pat (WSCRC President) discussing issues.

At today's Annual General Meeting, Pat with sore throat and rough voice was heard to say, "It's been quite a year."

Official start of the AGM was delayed until a phone call summoned the 24th member to form a quorum. One might guess there was lack of interest among the club's 156 members. Another assessment would suggest the club is outliving its membership. Five silent keys were added to the list over the past year. Some members no longer are able to climb the stairs. On meeting day four members were in hospital. Others were occupied caring for family. Then there are hams no longer active in the hobby.



Treasurer Ed VE4YU reported about \$2000 expended over the budget due to unforeseen circumstances. Some money was used to match a grant captured to replace outdated transceivers and computers. Funds were also required to remove and reestablish the antennas when the City made unexpected roof repairs.

Election of Officers and Board produced this result:

President: Harry VE4HST

Vice President: vacant

Secretary – Treasurer: Ed VE4YU

Board Members: VE4's ALF, MAC, RCJ, BL, WJE, AEW, AG, AND, OAK, SN, GR & VZ.

Reports and lively discussion ranged across topics such as education, fund raising, Outreach Committee, need for more Duty Officers, monthly breakfasts, the Christmas Party, and the IRLP project.

It was a good meeting with lots covered. However, my guess is the new Board will have to face two major challenges: renewing and revitalizing the membership, and securing sufficient funds to cover the shortfall and support activities.

We wish the new Board the best in all its endeavours during its term in office.

Contest Calendar

Extracted From

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>

ARCI Topband Sprint	0000Z-0600Z, Dec 3
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Dec 4
ARRL 160-Meter Contest	2200Z, Dec 4 to 1600Z, Dec 6
ARRL EME Contest	0000Z, Dec 5 to 2359Z, Dec 6
TARA RTTY Melee	0000Z-2400Z, Dec 5
Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	0400Z-0429Z, Dec 5 and 0430Z-0459Z, Dec 5 and 0500Z-0529Z, Dec 5 and 0530Z-0600Z, Dec 5
TOPS Activity Contest	1600Z, Dec 5 to 1759Z, Dec 6
ARS Spartan Sprint	0200Z-0400Z, Dec 8
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Dec 9
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Dec 11
ARRL 10-Meter Contest	0000Z, Dec 12 to 2400Z, Dec 13
Feld Hell Sprint	0000Z-2359Z, Dec 12
MDXA PSK DeathMatch	0000Z, Dec 12 to 2400Z, Dec 13
NA High Speed Meteor Scatter Winter Rally	0000Z, Dec 12 to 0200Z, Dec 16
International Naval Co	1600Z, Dec 12 to 1559Z, Dec 13
SKCC Weekend Sprint	0000Z-2400Z, Dec 13
CQC Great Colorado Snowshoe Run	2100Z-2259Z, Dec 13
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Dec 18
AGB-Party Contest	2100Z-2400Z, Dec 18
Russian 160-Meter Contest	2100Z-2300Z, Dec 18
OK DX RTTY Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Dec 19
RAC Winter Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Dec 19
Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party	0001Z, Dec 19 to 2359Z, Jan 3
Croatian CW Contest	1400Z, Dec 19 to 1400Z, Dec 20
ARCI Holiday Spirits Homebrew Sprint	2000Z-2400Z, Dec 20
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Dec 21
SKCC Sprint0	000Z-0200Z, Dec 23
South Dakota QSO Party	0000Z-2400Z, Dec 26
DARC Christmas Contest	0830Z-1059Z, Dec 26
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z, Dec 26 to 1500Z, Dec 27
PODXS 070 Club QRP DX Scramble	0000Z-2400Z, Dec 27
RAEM Contest	0200Z-0959Z, Dec 27

Good Luck In The Contest!

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

When All Else Fails—Amateur Radio, the Original Open-Source Project

By David A. Lane, KG4GIY

“When all else fails”—in 2003, the Amateur Radio Relay League used this as the motto for Field Day, the annual demonstration of its capabilities to the public.

It rapidly became the touch phrase for the Amateur Radio Emergency Service—probably the most public of all aspects of Amateur Radio and the operators that are usually first to respond in an emergency. To me, it also is the quintessential definition of open source.

When something is missing in commercial system, we look to open source for the solution. A better operating system? A better management platform? How about a better ERP system? Open source has become the answer. But, what about a better communications system? When we think open source, our mind naturally turns to software, usually *NIX-based, running on Linux.

What most people tend not to think about is the open-source nature of Amateur Radio. While operators most often are seen working in emergency situations, many of the modern conveniences we have today—cell phones, satellites, wireless devices—were developed and tested by radio amateurs!

Read the full text and get the Linux Journal featuring Amateur Radio at <http://www.linuxjournal.com/ham>



News From The Net

RAC Bulletin 2009 38E *New Section manager for Maritimes* *2009-11-26*

RAC SECTION MANAGER ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to Jim Langille VE1JBL who was recently re-elected Maritime's Section Manager for a two year term of office that will begin on March 1, 2010.

He ran unopposed eliminating the need for a balloted election. Thanks Jim for your continued support and effort in the Maritime's Section.

Thanks

Doug Mercer
Vice-President - Field Services Radio Amateurs of Canada

RAC Bulletin 2009 37E *New Executive Announced*

It is with pleasure to report that in keeping with the Constitution of the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) Section 7, Article 6, and because Earle W. Smith, VE6NM withdrew from the race after the deadline, Mr. J. T. (Mitch) Mitchell, VE6OH is declared elected as the RAC Director representing Alberta/Northwest Territories/ Nunavut for the term January 2010-December 2011.

Mr. Mitchell can be contacted via email ve6oh@rac.ca.

G. Linda Friars, VE9GLF
Corporate Secretary - Radio Amateurs of Canada



Try An Eyeball At The "Arches" *By David, VE4DAR*

Looking for a place to have an eyeball with folks between club meetings?



Perhaps you're new to town or just passing through Winnipeg? Are you new to our hobby, or just thinking of becoming a ham?

Well, come on down to McDonald's at Ellice and St. James, better known as "The Arches", Saturday mornings from 0745 to 0930. That's the place to discuss technical problems or the latest rigs. A few hams can be found there on Sundays about the same time.



We used to go to the Arches daily when it was located on St. James opposite the Arena. Lawrence LQ remembers going there as early as 1982 before he retired. It was Grant HGD and Lawrence who kept the daily meetings going until Grant moved out of Winnipeg. Now it's Saturdays for most guys; a few meet on Sunday mornings.

Some of the earliest hams attending regularly were VE4's ER, LQ, GJ, Mk, and MP.

Up to 30 hams would gather to suggest programs for WARC, exchange bits of news, and trade equipment. Or they just discussed and solved the world's problems.

⁷
Dick HK recalled Prairie Dog Central train engineers stopping on the tracks behind The Arches and popping in for coffee. He reminded me that regular attendees had coffee mugs with their names on them kept in a wall cupboard behind the counter. Other locations were considered but The Arches gave unlimited refills and still do.

According to Chris SET, Winnipeg Amateur Radio Packet Users Group (WARP) used to hold their meetings in the basement of the former Arches. Among that group were VE4's CY, KHS, KV, LI, LU, KLM and SET. Chris ran the satellite gateway and WARP gave hams first access to the Internet.

When McDonalds moved to its present location, Hams at The Arches moved too.



Our dwindling and ageing population has reduced the daily eyeballs to Saturday with the occasional Sunday. Try it; you'll like it.

Manitoba Ski Patrol Search & Rescue Exercise—Falcon Lake Nov 29, 2009 *By Gord, VE4GLS (Excerpts) Photos by Garry, VE4GMS*

ARES Radio Operators were requested for the event by the Ski Patrol Public Relations Officer, Gerry Desjardins. Radio Operators were provided from three ARES clubs/groups; Winnipeg ARES, Pinawa ARES and South Central/Eastern Manitoba ARES.



ARES members present were:

(From Winnipeg ARES):

VE4TRO Fred
VE4KAZ Richard
VE4KEH Kent
VE4ESX Richard
VE4CDM Craig
VE4GWB Garth
VE4BAW Geoff

(From Pinawa ARES):

VE4GMS Garry

(From South Central/Eastern ARES):

VE4MHZ Paula
VE4GLS Gord

The exercise was a bit different from the last one ARES attended due to the type of rescue scenario and there were a few more participants in both the professional side and ARES side, and the weather was much nicer. This year's scenario was a family affair with the Father (Gerry) having had a chain saw accident (dismemberment), and two children, one with a broken leg and the other succumbing to CO poisoning inside a nearby building). A woman from the Ski Patrol also played the part of the Mother who literally stumbled into the ski chalet to start the event. The (actors) really played the parts well.

Searchers were split off into three groups with members of the Ski Patrol, local fire departments, paramedics, K9 unit, and SAR techs from the OFC. I was expecting 4-5 groups to be put together with two ARES operators per group, but we ended up with three groups so we had ample personnel for the event. Weather was quite mild however a light snow the night before left the area quite slippery in places so there were several slips and falls but no one hurt as far as I have heard so far. The "injured" were pulled back to the ski chalet on rescue toboggans.

The search started with a preliminary look-around the chalet to find clues as to where the victims would be. The groups came back to the Chalet to discuss what they found and where to go next for the wider area search. When the victims were found two sleds were dispatched with medical supplies and blankets. One had to be re-dispatched for the third victim. This is where most of the physically demanding part of the exercise occurs and everyone did very well!

After the event and a snack all participants took part in a debriefing session to discuss what went well and what didn't. This was very helpful to all and there were several issues that came up such as who has the right to pronounce someone deceased, code words and phrases used over the radio, etc.

VHF Nets

MRS Nets - 147.390 Mhz +

Sundays & Thursdays at 9:00 pm

This net covers Winnipeg and the MRS linked repeater system, and includes various announcements on amateur radio activities, plus Dick's "Swap and Shop"

Seniors Morning Net 147.390+ Mhz

Weekdays at 9:00 am

This net covers Winnipeg and hams of all ages are welcome to join in this net which is always a lot of fun!

IRLP(Internet Radio Linking Project)

Net - 145.450 Mhz - Node # 1066

Wednesdays at 8:00 pm

This net connects you with the world using your VHF rig and using the internet as the backbone!

Six Meter Net - 50.238 Mhz

Wednesdays at 9:00 pm

HF Nets

MB Evening Phone Net - 3760 Khz

Daily at 7:00 PM CT

Prairie Traffic Net (CW) 3660 Khz

Daily at 01:30 UTC

Aurora # 2 Net 7055 Khz

Daily at 02:30 UTC

MB Wx Net 3743 Khz

Daily at 8:30 AM C

ARES side of the operation:

We used a Kenwood D-710 mobile, power supply, feed line, pop-up tower and J-pole antenna for the base station equipment. We set up the J-pole and tower just outside the (back) door where I could park the truck to anchor the tower base. This was within 50ft of the operating position. Paula VE4MHZ ran NCS duties. We were going to set up APRS but since I was the only portable capable of the mode we decided not to use digital and use the second VFO to monitor the repeater, VE4FAL. The local repeater site does now have an APRS digipeater that covers the southern Whiteshell area very well.

Talk in was via the VE4FAL repeater located nearby, but we used a simplex VHF channel (ARES #1) for the operation. All operators had good portable setups and

were within range of the base at all times. Keep in mind that the event was all located within about 500 meter radius of the base.



Search groups were sorted out by tactical call signs for easy identification. Since radio equipment with each group was redundant one operator would monitor the local repeater if they had the capability to monitor 2 frequencies at once in case we had to use it as a backup to simplex in case they went out of simplex range. Teams 1-2 had three ARES operators and Team 3 had two. I stayed back at NCS as a backup/monitor. Communications was clear and decisive but there were some problems once the victims were found and the search groups split up; it was difficult to grasp the scene from the NCS side when the search group tactical designations no longer worked.

I want to thank Gerry and the Ski Patrol for inviting us once again. This as a great training opportunity for us to take part in. We all enjoyed the event and hope to take part again. The Ski Patrol was very happy to have us participate and really appreciated how involved the operators were in the exercise; such as helping to move objects, watch victims, pull the rescue toboggans, etc., as well as the professionalism in doing their primary task of doing the radio work. Lots of good comments at the debriefing too. Great work ARES and a very BIG Thank You to all the ARES operators involved. You each left a great impression on the other participants and organizers and I enjoyed working with you!

Gord, VE4GLS

ARES EC South Central/Eastern Manitoba ARES

Newscaster

By, Mark, VE4MAB

For the November issue, please send in your submissions no later than December 28, 2009 to ve4mab@gmail.com

The Newscaster is the Official Publication of
Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club

Please send your submissions/comments to the editor
Mark Blumm, VE4MAB at ve4mab@gmail.com