



The **NEWSCASTER**

The Official Publication of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club
<http://www.WinnipegARC.org>

May 2015

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VE4BB

DXing Techniques & DXpedition ***by Ed VE4EAR***

Date: Monday, May 11, 2015

Time: 7:30 PM

Place: Dakota Collegiate - Theatre *See you there!*
661 Dakota Street (At Beliveau Rd.)

Other Important Dates...

Newscaster: Deadline May 27, 2015

WARC: Monthly Meeting Dates...
June 8, 2015 Elections

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

ARES: Tuesday, May 19, 2015
Sir Wm Stephenson Library
765 Keewatin Street -
2015 CANWARN Net Controller's
Briefing

Other: Marathon Volunteer Briefing -
Tuesday, June 16, 2015
Manitoba Marathon -
Sunday June 21, 2015
Field Day Weekend -
June 27 - 28, 2015 at CMU

WARC Executive for 2014-2015...

President	David Latour	ve4dla@gmail.com
Vice-Pres.	Ross Gibson	rossg@prefixservice.com
Treasurer	Bob Jacobs	rcjacobs@hotmail.ca
Secretary	Gerry Sherman	ve4gks@outlook.com
Membership	Ross Gibson	rossg@prefixservice.com
Programs	Vacant	
Director	Rolf Bandlow	rolban@mymts.net
Past President	Garth Blumm	ve4gwb@gmail.com
Public Information Officer....	Kurt Sargent	kurtsargent@gmail.com

From the President's desk ...

Welcome to May! In my neighbourhood, the trees and shrubs are in bud, and the grass a shade of green.

Many of us will be thinking of antenna projects and so are WARC executive! We've chosen our first "maker project" for the fall: a magnetic-loop transeiving antenna similar to the AlexLoop shown at Homebrew Night by Peter VE4TTH. We've sourced most of the parts already, and will have to wait patiently for the City to let the Seniors back into their club space, so we can get this on the road.

By the time you read this, we'll have gone through our storage container in Transcona and seen what's still in good shape, and what is recycling material.

We're looking for a few good hams to help Peter VE4TTH with refurbishing our field-day antennae, building an antenna-coffin and generally being generous with their time. We still need someone to come forward and take over the management of our Flea Markets from the retiring Dick VE4HK.

Many were on the air last week, trying to make contact with SOAR-1, and a few succeeded. That should be a unique QSL card for someone's collection.

My MLA stopped by today, and I bent his ear on a few subjects. That should keep him from my door for another couple of years, at least.

Lastly, at next month's General Meeting we should be electing next year's Executive. I will point out to those who don't like my style, that the easiest way to get rid of me is to volunteer for the Executive yourselves ;).

73,
David Latour VE4DLA

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

Amateur Radios, Antennas, and more are available from your local Winnipeg ICOM Dealer...

Micro-HighTech Communications Ltd.

197 Leila Avenue, Winnipeg, MB
(204)-783-1885
Contact George Hill, VE4GDH

Visit their web site..

<http://www.microhightech.ca/>

WARC Meeting Minutes,

April 13, 2015

Submitted by David VE4DLA

Meeting called to order @ 00.35 UTC
Introductions – no visitors

Minutes approved by VE4HAY, 2nd VE4GKS

Treasurer's report:

\$10,757.00 opening bank balance
\$107.00 income, \$1234.00 expenses
\$9630.00 bank balance

ARES report:

A comprehensive Winnipeg ARES report was included in the April newsletter.

CANWARN Spotter Training SAT 28 MAR in Beausejour went very well, we picked up several new spotters and CANWARN Net Controllers. Our goal is to have ARES members on-call 12 hours a day for VE4WWO in PASPC 11 MAY thru 13 SEP.

Thanks to all those who supported Winnipeg ARES by donating Silent Auction prizes or by purchasing draw tickets. Winnipeg ARES did very well at yesterday's Flea Market. Expect a detailed report in next month's newsletter.

Registration is still open for Amateur Operators for the 2015 Manitoba Marathon SUN 21 JUN. Volunteer briefing is TUE 16 JUN 1900h at Norwood CC 87 Walmer, although the briefing itself starts at 1900h, t-shirt & document distribution begins at 1815h. See WARC or Winnipeg ARES web-sites for on-line registration – if you sign-up on-line but do not get a conformation from the web-site immediately and a confirmation from me personally the web registration didn't work and you should submit your completed Registration Form to me by e-mail asap. We currently have approximately 51 volunteers and need approximately 85 volunteers.

RAC:

Derek had nothing new to report.

DX:



Adam: poor DX, but Chatham Is. was heard.

Adam showing his QSL Card received from RA9XE "Vladimir Putin" (No, not that guy!)

Flea Market:

Dick VE4HA - 225 at flea market, no \$ figures yet, but looks good. Thanks to those who helped out.

New business:

Design for T-shirts required by April 30, need a volunteer to take over the flea market from Dick ASAP, WSC is closed but has ideas for a project-space and a CW course when they re-open

50/50 draw winner VE4AUT won \$20.50

Business moved closed @ 00:58.

Four door-prizes were handed out to various members, including a 40W soldering iron.

Join Us For Field Day 2015

Saturday & Sunday

June 27 to June 28

On the grounds of the

**Canadian Mennonite University
Grant & Shaftesbury**

To volunteer or for more information
please contact

Gary VA4RWT

transittomret@hotmail.com

From April's Home Brew Night...

Adrian Deakin VE4AMD brought the SHARP instrument package to Home Brew Night, very interesting



Robin Ozero VE4IO brought a neat 2.4 Ghz multi-element beam and received good ideas on what to do with it.



Peter Toth VE4TTH brought first a magnetic loop antenna tunable from 20-40m, very compact and light-weight...may become a build-it project when WSC re-opens in the fall, and gave a delightful demonstration of some of the less-well-known uses of the MFJ-259 antenna analyzer



Nostalgia Radio CJNU 93.7
CJNU 93.7 FM is where you'll hear the very best easy listening music that has been popular over the past eight decade
 Listen On-Line at ...
<http://www.cjnu.ca>

WARC Spring Flea Market Report

By Dick VE4HK

The 2015 WARC Spring Flea Market took place April 12, at Heritage Victoria Community Centre. The Flea Market began at 9:30, with coffee, muffins, soft drinks, and visiting amongst the attendees. Tables were set up in the main hall, beginning at 9 am. It took about half an hour for all 30 tables, and chairs. Mariska VE4HK then put the numbers on each table. Vendors were allowed to begin setting up at 9:30, 15 minutes earlier than scheduled. Everybody was ready to go about 10:15. Buyers were allowed into the main hall just before 10:30.



All the draws were supposed to begin at 11:30 with the WARC draw for the ID31 DSTAR radio. This draw had to be delayed for about 45 minutes, due to some technical difficulties. Winnipeg ARES held their draws, beginning about 11:40. Once the WARES draws were completed, all the WARC draws were held. It took quite a while to do the WARC draws. There were too many prizes, and I was informed by some donors to not group any of their donations. In addition, many attendees had left for the day, before we drew their numbers. See accompanying list of WARC prize winners.

The DSTAR radio draw finally took place about 12:15 pm. Sharon Henry VE4TN won the radio.



Sharon VE4TN receiving her ID-51
from Garth VE4GWB

Ruth VE4XYL sold all 30 tables, well before the Flea Market.



We had good support from Durham Radio, Fleetwood Digital, and Radioworld, each of whom donated prizes for the draws. Radioworld also provided special flyers, and catalogues, which were very well received. Please thank these suppliers for their support, when you order radio items from them. (Prize winners listed on next page)

Thank you to everyone who helped set up and take down all the tables and chairs on Sunday. Thank you also to everybody who looked after the Admission Door and Vendor Doors. Thank you to Gary VA4RWT and Vera VA4VMM, who did a fine job of selling coffee and muffins during the Flea Market. Thanks to Ruth VE4XYL and Tom VE4SE for brewing up all that coffee. Thanks to Robin's 1400 Waverley for donating 48 delicious muffins for our dining pleasure.

Thanks to Dave Stimpson VE4DJS, Allan Grant VA4AJG, Pat Harapiak VE4PTH, Judy Harapiak VE4JUD, Tom Mills VE4SE, Mariska Maguire VE4MMG, and Ed Oakes VE4OAK for looking after the Admission Door and the Vendor Door during the Flea Market

Mark your calendars, BlackBerries, and other communications devices for Sunday, October 18, 2015, the date for the Fall Flea Market!

Dick Maguire VE4HK
Flea Market Coordinator

Updates and info about our Fall Flea Market will be posted on the WARC web site at ...

www.WinnipegARC.org/flea_market.html

2015 WARC Spring Flea Market Prizes

#	Prize	Donated by	Winner	Call
1	Yaesu mousepad	Radioworld	Robin Ozero	VE4IO
2	Yaesu mousepad	Radioworld	Lito Guevara	VE4LIT
3	Yaesu mousepad	Radioworld	Kent Haase	VE4KEH
4	Yaesu mousepad	Radioworld	Leor Drory	VE4DXR
4	Yaesu logbook	Radioworld	Peter Haertel	VE4PH
5	Yaesu logbook	Radioworld	Jan Schippers	VE4JS
6	Flexradio baseball cap	Radioworld	Robert Wilkes	VE5LTD
	-Yaesu mousepad	Radioworld		
	-Flexradio note book	Radioworld		
7	Flexradio baseball cap	Radioworld	Paul Arsenault	VE4AEY
	-Yaesu mousepad	Radioworld		
	-Flexradio note pad	Radioworld		
8	Yaesu World Map	Radioworld	Peter Pohorily	VE4TD
9	Yaesu World Map	Radioworld	Rick Jones	VE4AV
10	Kenwood mini tool kit	Radioworld	Michelle Keiser	
11	Kenwood mini tool kit	Radioworld	Jim Townsend	VE4CY
12	\$20.00 gift certificate	Fleetwood Digital	Don Palsson	VE4DON
13	\$20.00 gift certificate	Fleetwood Digital	Robert Hawthorne	VE4RBH
14	Durham Radio FREE SHIPPING	Durham Radio	Keith Beach	VE4KK
15	Durham Radio FREE SHIPPING	Durham Radio	Werner Schwager	VE4UA
16	2014-15 Repeater Directory	Durham Radio	Glenn Grant	VE4AIO
17	2014-15 Repeater Directory	Durham Radio	Betty Andrews	VE4BTY
18	2014-15 Repeater Directory	Durham Radio	Don Sutherland	VE4AAS
19	Radioworld \$25.00 gift card	Radioworld	Dan Keiser	VE4DRK
20	Radioworld \$25.00 gift card	Radioworld	Glen Napady	VE4GWN
24	Radioworld \$25.00 gift card	Radioworld	Paul Arsenault	VE4AEY
21	Radioworld \$25.00 gift card	Radioworld	Don Palsson	VE4DON
22	Eureka hand vacuum cleaner	VE4DTF	Fred Collings	VE4TRO
22	\$50.00 2nd prize	WARC	Ed Richardson	VE4EAR
23	\$100.00 1st prize	WARC	Darlene Blumm	

Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club VE4WSC By Gary VA4RWT & Gil VE4AG

The City of Winnipeg has begun renovations on the building and while the work is in progress the WSC will be closed.

Until the work has been completed the planning for future CW and Advanced Courses is being put on hold.

Gary will be checking the mail box and he will be passing on mail for WARC or MRS to the proper recipients.

Tune in to the Morning Nets on the VE4WPG repeater at 9:00 am Monday to Friday for updates. Gary will keep you all posted and will advise when the work has been completed.

Winnipeg ARES

By Jeff Dovyak VE4MBQ

ve4mbq@rac.ca

Welcome to Brad Burtnick VE4WTZ, our newest Winnipeg ARES member. Brad is already registered for next month's WEM course.

A lot of work went into making the Winnipeg ARES Silent Auction at the WARC Spring Flea Market a success. Thanks to Craig VE4CDM for organizing thing, Tom VE4SE and Ruth VE4XYL for acting as Craig's drivers, table help VE4s SYM, TRO, YYL, DLA, PH, PEH and to VE4s SIG and GWN for helping me out on the information side. The new vertical ARES banner that Jim VE4SIG ordered made its first appearance in Winnipeg, quite eye-catching as was our new display mode. We've gotten away from photos glued onto Corplast and instead are displaying Winnipeg ARES activities via slideshow on our new flat screen monitor.

Again thanks to Jim VE4SIG for getting that organized.



Table is set-up and Craig VE4CDM is awaiting the oncoming hordes!

Photo Credit Mark Blumm VE4MAB

It takes more than an engaged membership to have a successful Flea Market fundraising operation. Without generous donors we wouldn't have had anything to offer. Thanks to:

Boston Pizza Birchwood
 Environment Canada
 RCAF 17 Wing/RCAF Run
 Craftercindy Pillows
 Anonymous
 Tom Blatch VE4HQ
 Gath Blumm VE4GWB
 Susan Collings VE4SYM
 Rob Stegmaier VE4RST
 Jim Sutton VE4SIG
 David Rosner VE4DAR

Mark Blumm VE4MAB
 Ruth Mills VE4XYL
 Tom Mills VE4SE
 Cary Rubinfeld VE4EA.

There were ten prize lots although only nine were claimed (so we now have at least one lot for the fall). Prize lots were won by:

1. Unclaimed
2. Dan Perreux VE4DPR
3. Rufino Soriano VE4SNY
4. Jan Schippers VE4JS
5. Mariska Maguire VE4MMG
6. Vera Koladubsky VA4VMM
7. Gary Goodman VA4RWT
8. Richard Kazuk VE4KAZ
9. Garth Blumm VE4GWB
10. Don Suarez VA4DON.

Due to the somewhat extreme wildland fire conditions in southern Manitoba the VE4EMO Team was on alert for possible activation 15 to 19 APR and seven members provided their availability in case of activation during ALERT-125, thanks to..

VE4s: SE, DWG, ESX, GWN, SIG, JNF and MBQ.

Winnipeg ARES President and PIO Jim Sutton VE4SIG gave us an interesting presentation on NBEMS at our APR General Meeting – the demo at the end was unforgettable. A sub-group with particular interest in NBEMS will be having a focused seminar 02 MAY in St Vital.

Our next General Meeting is TUE 19 MAY 1900h Sir Wm Stephenson Library 765 Keewatin Street. The topic will be 2015 CANWARN Net Controller's Briefing at 1900h and the volunteer briefing for RCAF Run at 2000h, likely no business meeting that day.

A reminder that Winnipeg ARES dues are payable in JUN, please consider pre-paying in May to make the Treasurer's job easier.



<http://www.winnipegares.ca/>

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“With a Little Help from My Friends...”
By David VE4DAR



Chief Instructor Dan Perreux's VE4DPR (above) welcoming remarks acknowledged the support of WARC, Shaftesbury High School, and all the volunteer instructors for Basic Short Course 9.



The first morning's instructor, Paul Reisdorf VE4AMS (above), gave a terrific up-to-date overview of our hobby. "There's a lot to learn in this course. Expect to do one to two hours a day over the next five weeks."

In the afternoon, Adrian Deakin VA4AMD introduced students to electronics with the components of Ohms Law.



On April 11, thirteen students began the latest version of WARC's Basic Short Course, which now runs five consecutive Saturdays. The fifth day has the exam in

the morning and Rolf's (VE4VZ) practical "How to get started" session in the afternoon.

The class consists of two students from Shaftesbury, two from Manitoba EMO, one from a rural fire department, some ex-military, and others interested in becoming "hams." We wish them all success.

Radio Frequency Warning Signs
Submitted by Derek VE4HAY

Many of these warning signs can be found online by searching images on Google with the words..

“Radio frequency warning signs”



Manitoba Repeater Society

The Manitoba Repeater Society operates and maintains a linked repeater system across southern Manitoba, including Winnipeg.

If you are a user of any of these repeaters, we urge you to support the group by becoming a member.

VE4MAN - Starbuck, VE4CDN - Morris,
VE4PLP - Portage, VE4MRS - Bruxelles,
VE4GIM - Gimli, VE4MIL - Milner Ridge
VE4EMB - Hadashville, VE4FAL - Falcon Lake,
VE4WPG - Winnipeg, VE4VJ - Winnipeg, VE4WRS
- Autopatch & IRLP link Winnipeg

Links to repeaters in Ontario, Brandon, Selkirk and soon to be the Dauphin & area.

info@mb-repeater-society.ca

<http://www.mb-repeater-society.ca/>

<http://www.facebook.com/ManitobaRepeaterSociety>

VHF Basics

By Ed VE4EAR

At the recent WARC flea market and again at the MRS annual general meeting, I was approached with questions and comments about the use of frequencies in the VHF and UHF bands. This will be the first of several short articles on how and where to operate in the VHF and UHF bands.

Most new amateurs usually start off with making contacts on the local VHF repeater systems. This is a great way to meet other local hams, and to get the feel for the hobby in your area. Once the excitement of the first few contacts fades away, the newcomer will start to experiment with various repeaters and may even venture onto simplex channels.

So to each the newcomer into the hobby, here are a few pointers and guidelines....

1. Visit the Manitoba repeater Society's website and review this document.

<http://www.mb-repeater-society.ca/docs/guide03.pdf>

2. Visit the Radio Amateurs of Canada website and review the VHF and UHF band plans here.

<https://www.rac.ca/en/rac/services/bandplans/2m/>

<https://www.rac.ca/en/rac/services/bandplans/70cm/>

Now armed with the information above, you are ready to venture out to explore the VHF and UHF bands.

A few universal pointers applicable to V/UHF Repeater frequencies.

1. Before calling on a frequency, LISTEN first. Do not break into the middle of a conversation unless absolutely essential. If you need to interrupt a conversation, wait until the transmitting station unkeys and quickly announce your call or "Break". So not begin your transmission until directed to by the users currently in conversation.
2. Do not KERCHUNK a repeater. Kerchunking is the annoying practice of transmitting a short carrier without saying anything, and listening for the repeater to ID or transmit a brief carrier. Often done to see if a station is in range of a repeater, or just to see if a repeater is there. If you want to make this check, just transmit your callsign.
3. Check your transmit offset, On VHF, the transmit frequency is either 600 kHz above or below the receive frequency. On the 440 band, the input is typically

5 MHz above the receive frequency.

4. Verify you are using the correct CTCSS or DPL tone or code. Most FM repeaters use these now to prevent interference. In Manitoba most FM repeaters use a tone of 127.3 Hz but there are a few differences.

5. By agreement, all repeaters in an area are coordinated by the local frequency coordinator. This person is responsible for assigning repeater frequencies to individuals or groups wishing to install repeaters. They make sure that the bandplans are followed and that repeaters can coexist with a minimal of interference to each other. A frequency coordinator will typically not assign two repeaters to the same frequency separated closer than 175 miles. However they also have to consider intermodulation products and interference to and from commercial licenses in the vicinity. In Manitoba, frequency coordination is handled by the Manitoba Amateur Repeater Coordination Committee (MARCC) <http://www.winnipegarc.org/marcc/>

When it comes to simplex frequencies, there is no coordination. Look at the band plan and use one of the frequencies recommended for simplex. Simplex by its nature is generally a shorter range communication but signals can travel a surprising long way at times.

You must realize that simplex frequencies are shared and no one can claim a frequency as "their frequency". Small groups generally hang out on a common frequency but it is certainly not for their exclusive use.

A few common guidelines for simplex operation.

1. Always LISTEN before calling. The frequency may be in use by stations you cannot hear. Or you may only hear one side of the conversation.
2. Disable your CTCSS or DPL squelch codes and tones. If you don't you may not hear someone calling you.
3. Make sure the transmitter offset is set to 0 kHz or off.

Next month we will look at the different groups using local VHF and UHF repeaters and maybe find the one right for your interests.

73 Ed VE4EAR

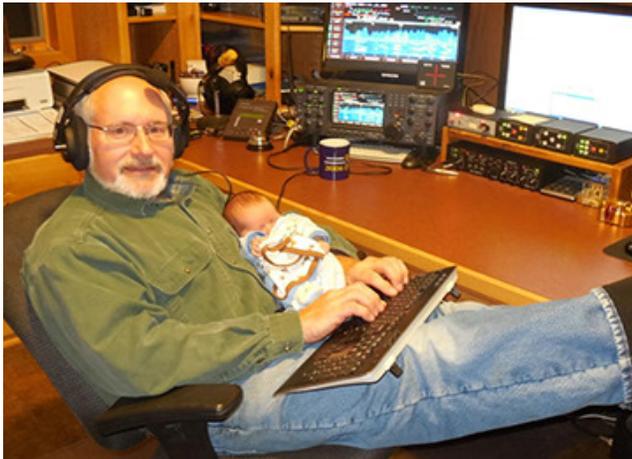
There are many different repeaters scattered through Manitoba.

Each one serves a purpose and caters to a likeminded amateurs. The trouble is to find out which one is which.

Radiosport Manitoba (RSM)

By Cary VE4EA

Radiosport Manitoba is pleased to host a presentation by Glen W0GJ—"Is 3db Worth a Divorce!" on Tuesday, June 9, 2015. Please contact Cary VE4EA at ve4ea@rac.ca for the place and time or visit the RSM Website at <http://rsmb.keizer.ca/> for updates.



Glenn's interest in amateur radio started as a youngster listening to his grandfather's short-wave radio. He was licensed at age 15 and within three months had contacted all 50 states using Morse Code with a home-made crystal transmitter. He has always been interested in contesting and working DX. He has several first place world scores and holds several records in international competition. He has worked all of the countries and has confirmation cards from 360 countries/entities. Further, he has achieved #1 Honor Roll, 5BDXCC and 5BWAZ awards.

He has three consecutive First Place World scores with QRP in the ARRL 160M Contest. He has led three major DXpeditions to #2 Most Wanted areas (Kingdom of Bhutan in the Himalayas (2000), Lakshadweep in the Arabian Sea (2007)), and Desecheo (2009), all of which were awarded DXpedition of the Year. Glenn is also a



member of the Amateur Radio Hall of Fame.

His wife and four children are all licensed hams and compete in ham radio contesting from their home. They have traveled to many countries, some quite remote, for contest activities. He and his wife have homeschooled their four children.

Glenn has been a practicing orthopedic surgeon for over 30 years. He is currently works for the Mayo Clinic Health System in Minnesota and Iowa. His interest is in Minimally Invasive Surgery and he has developed a highly regarded practice specializing in outpatient partial knee replacement surgery and anterior hip replacement surgery.

His other area of interest is teaching orthopedic surgery in third world countries. He is a member of Orthopedics Overseas. He has spent a lot of time at a crippled children's hospital in Bethlehem, Israel, and has had four tours of duty in The Kingdom of Bhutan in the Himalayan Mountains. In addition to teaching medicine he also brought amateur radio into Bhutan. He taught the first group of hams licensed in the country and in later years helped establish club stations in several high schools throughout the country. For this work he received the prestigious 2004 ARRL Humanitarian of the Year Award.

Together with Bob Allphin K4UEE Glenn was the co-Team Leader for the very successful, February 2015 Navassa Island DXpedition.

Glenn has an undergraduate degree in Forestry and Ecology. He has operated amateur radio from many environmentally fragile areas from the Arctic to Antarctica and many places between.

Glenn has many other interests including beekeeping, wood working and building furniture, draft horses and carriage driving and flying both a float plane in the summer and a ski plane in the winter. He also holds a commercial helicopter rating. He is also very active in local community affairs and in his local church.

Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club

***Election of Officers
for the 2015-2016 year
will be held at our***

***General Meeting
Monday, June 8, 2015***

***Please consider joining the Executive
info@WinnipegARC.org***

Five Winnipeg High Schools Launched High Altitude Balloons from Morden - Four Payloads Recovered So Far

April 24th was a very exciting day for students and staff from five Winnipeg high schools; Shaftesbury, Fort Richmond, Garden City, St. James and Maples.

The five Global Space Balloon Challenge teams arrived at Morden Collegiate around 8:30 AM to prepare to launch five similarly configured high altitude balloons from the playing field behind the school. The launches were delayed by strong gusting winds and the accidental loss of the Maples balloon but not its payload. Shaftesbury contributed a backup balloon and all teams provided helium. Maples Collegiate were back in business. All HABs were in the air by 11:35 AM and the chase began.

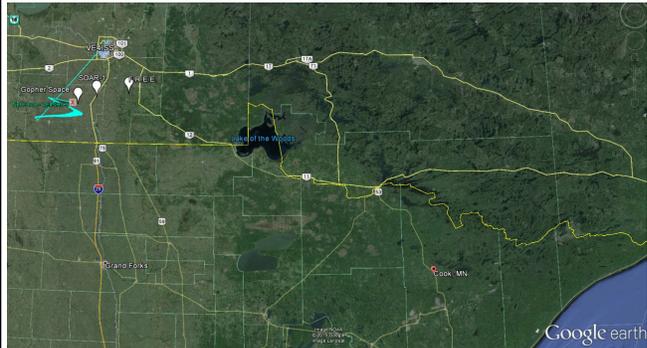
Each payload containing an APRS tracking radio, however the winds disrupted the launch process to such a degree that check lists were forgotten and the aprs radios were not properly checked. In other words, only the Maples balloon could be tracked for its entire flight. Despite this enormous problem all but the St. James payload was recovered. We fervently hope that the St. James Collegiate payload will be found on a field near Morris.

The Shaftesbury High Altitude Robotics (SHARP) payload was called SOAR-1 for Shaftesbury Overhead Repeater #1. The payload contained a Puxing PX-UV973 cross band amateur radio repeater as well as two small video cameras, a temperature sensor, the APRS transmitter, A SPOT (GPS) satellite tracker and a flight termination circuit programmed to release the payload once it had arrived at 103,000 feet. Everything worked to some degree except the APRS tracker which has never failed us before.

The payload came down on a parachute and landed about 5 miles north of Morris between highway 75 and the Red River. Please see the map showing the Maples Collegiate APRS track, the landing locations of four payloads, and Dave Quick's location in Cook Minnesota.

The prime mission of this flight was to test the cross band repeater. It did work reasonably well for about an hour (50-60,000 feet) when the ever increasing noise produced by the PX-UV973 made all further communication impossible. Shaftesbury students made several QSO's from HTs and chase car mobiles. All call signs recorded by the team will be posted on the SHARP web site but a few that easily come to mind are Derek Hay, VE4HAY, Richard Kazuk, VE4KAZ of Winnipeg but on a mobile near Carmen at the time, Eric Johnson,

VE4EDJ, an engineering student at the U of M and a friend of SHARP, Robert Bond, VE4BJZ of Steinbach, and our "big fish", Dave Quick, K0EKL, who was having lunch at a MacDonalds in Cook, Minnesota and just happened to pick us up on a routine VHF scan. Cook Minnesota is about 400 kilometres southeast of Winnipeg. Dave generously took time to write a very helpful e-mail which you can read on the SHARP web site.



The SHARP team is still in clean up mode and has not had a chance to properly document the contacts or even figure out what went wrong with the GPS receiver attached to the APRS transmitter but Adrian Deakin (VA4AMD) will be sending out our student designed, SOAR-1, QSL cards in the near future.

All the participating high schools now have the hardware and the experience of a flight to draw on and they will likely fly HABs again. It is hoped that this experience will result in teachers and students from these schools becoming certified radio amateurs in the near future.

Thanks to all members of WARC, the Manitoba Repeater Society, Manitoba ARES and RAC who continue to support SHARP and SATS in so many ways. If there is a SOAR-2, we will certainly let you all know.

More information including photos and video clips are available on the SHARP web site at

shsballoonproject.pbworks.com

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Rob Striemer (VE4SHS)

Photos from St James Collegiate launch are on their web site at ..

<http://hwerner.weebly.com/jimmies-space-balloon.html>

Slow Scan Television on the International Space Station

By Christopher Friesen, VE4CWF

The International Space Station (ISS) is the brightest orbiting object in the night sky. It makes several relatively high passes through the North American sky each day. This orbiting laboratory is one of the most impressive feats of human space exploration. As it was on MIR - the ISS's forerunner - and the late Space Shuttle program, amateur radio is part of this experimental space platform. And fortunately for amateur radio operators, the ISS is one of the easiest amateur radio satellites to work and to monitor.

On-board radios include a two meter Erickson handheld, 70cm Erickson and two VHF/UHF Kenwood D700A radios. These radios currently support a variety of modes and operating frequencies. On most days, the radios are operated in the Amateur Packet Reporting System (APRS) mode. In this mode, terrestrial amateurs can send position and message packets through the ISS to be copied by other ground-based stations who are configured as gateway stations.

At other times, the on-board stations are used for school contacts as part of the public awareness campaign controlled by the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program. And on very rare occasions, amateur operators aboard the space station may make contacts with ground based operators for fun.



On April 11th the Russian cosmonauts aboard the space station transmitted Slow Scan television images to commemorate Cosmonautics Day on the anniversary of Yuri Gagarin's history-making first flight into space. The day provided 22, 56 and 88 degree pass opportunities to monitor these signals. During all three passes I

was able to copy signals and get partial images. The 56 and 88 degree passes provided the strongest signals with the least amount of fading.

For this event, I temporarily converted my terrestrial APRS station into a satellite receive station. My station consists of a Yaesu FT-60R handheld transceiver and a homebrew sound card interface. I swapped the usual 3 element Yagi for my 2m/70cm J-pole, which is mounted at about 22 feet. The Omni-directionality of the J-pole allows for the longest length of receive time possible. My computer usually runs Packet Engine with UI View but I shut down the UI View and started the freeware version of MMSSTV to capture the SSTV images.



I used www.heavens-above.com to help predict the times when the ISS would be passing by overhead and made sure my FT-60R was tuned to 145.800 MHz. The nice thing about the strong signal from the ISS is that Doppler shift, which usually affects satellite communication, is minimal and there is little or no need to compensate by tuning high, on frequency, and then low as the station makes its nine minute arc overhead.

I've included a few samples of the images I copied and would be interested to know if anyone else copied the SSTV during this event.

The August 2013 issue of Monitoring Times contained my feature-length article on setting up an ISS APRS internet gateway station and you can read more about my amateur radio satellite operations, including hearing a recording of a school contact with the Duluth Children's Museum that my son and I recorded on my blog:

<https://radiofrequencyinternational.wordpress.com/2013/09/08/ariss-contact-duluth-childrens-museum/>

Contest Calendar

Extracted From

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

For May...

CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, May 13 and 1900Z-2000Z, May 13 and 0300Z-0400Z, May 14
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	1900Z-2030Z, May 13
NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, May 15
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, May 15
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW	1200Z, May 16 to 1200Z, May 17
Feld Hell Sprint	1600Z-1759Z, May 16 and 2000Z-2159Z, May 16
WAB 7 MHz Phone	1000Z-1400Z, May 17
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, May 18
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, May 20 and 1900Z-2000Z, May 20 and 0300Z-0400Z, May 21
NAQCC CW Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, May 21
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	1900Z-2030Z, May 21
NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, May 22
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, May 22
EU PSK DX Contest	1200Z, May 23 to 1200Z, May 24
Baltic Contest	2100Z, May 23 to 0200Z, May 24
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, May 27
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, May 27 and 1900Z-2000Z, May 27 and 0300Z-0400Z, May 28
UKEICC 80m Contest	2000Z-2100Z, May 27
NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, May 29
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, May 29
CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	0000Z, May 30 to 2359Z, May 31
SARL Digital Contest	1300Z-1600Z, May 31
QRP ARCI Hootowl Sprint	2000 local - 2400 local, May 31

Into June 2015...

RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	1900Z-2030Z, Jun 1
ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Jun 2
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Jun 3 and 1900Z-2000Z, Jun 3 and 0300Z-0400Z, Jun 4
NRAU 10m Activity Contest	1700Z-1800Z, Jun 4 (CW) and 1800Z-1900Z, Jun 4 (SSB) and 1900Z-2000Z, Jun 4 (FM) and 2000Z-2100Z, Jun 4 (Dig)
NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Jun 5
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jun 5

10-10 Int. Open Season PSK Contest	0000Z, Jun 6 to 2400Z, Jun 7
DigiFest	0400Z-1200Z, Jun 6 and 2000Z, Jun 6 to 0400Z, Jun 7 and 1200Z-2000Z, Jun 7
VK Shires Contest	0600Z, Jun 6 to 0600Z, Jun 7
Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	0600Z-0629Z, Jun 6 and 0630Z-0659Z, Jun 6 and 0700Z-0729Z, Jun 6 and 0730Z-0800Z, Jun 6
SEANET Contest	1200Z, Jun 6 to 1200Z, Jun 7
UKSMG Summer Contest	1300Z, Jun 6 to 1300Z, Jun 7
IARU Region 1 Field Day, CW	1500Z, Jun 6 to 1459Z, Jun 7
RSGB National Field Day	1500Z, Jun 6 to 1500Z, Jun 7
Alabama QSO Party	1600Z, Jun 6 to 0400Z, Jun 7

From Your RAC Midwest Director Derek VE4HAY

The Radio Amateurs of Canada is pleased to hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Martensville, Saskatchewan. The AGM event will be hosted by the Meewasin Amateur Radio Society and will be held in conjunction with the 2015 Saskatchewan Hamfest which is being held at the same location. All RAC members are encouraged to attend the Annual General Meeting.

- Date: Saturday, July 4, 2015
- Time: 10:30 am (Central Standard Time)
- Place: Northridge Community Centre, 901 3rd Street North, Martensville, Saskatchewan (see below for more information).
- Agenda items will include: Report of the President, Review of the 2014 finances, Appointment of auditors for 2015
- A Question and Answer period will follow the AGM proceedings.

This is your opportunity to hear what your representatives have been doing over the past year, to raise questions, and to make suggestions about how RAC is managed and where it is going in the future. The meeting will be attended by some of the members of the RAC Board of Directors and Executive and is open to all RAC members. In addition there will be a planned Webinar which RAC members can attend remotely. For more information about the 2015 Saskatchewan Hamfest please see the article below or visit:

<http://www.meewasin-ars.ca/hamfest.html>

D-Star's "D-Tip" Of The Month

Within your transmission in DV mode, your callsign is transmitted. Along with 4 spaces for you name if short enough, radio your using etc.

There is also 20 characters if you choose in the TX Message field. You can program your name, location, radio your using. Perhaps going into the system on a raspberry pi or hotspot combination.

Whatever you choose to fit with in the space.

If call or node routing you could use "use rx/cs to reply" for example.



William VE4VR & Dan VE4DRK installing the new computer for VE4WDR D-Star gateway.

Editors Comments...

By Mark VE4MAB

Thanks for all the great articles and photos submitted for The Newscaster!

It is YOUR articles that make this a great newsletter that keeps the Amateur Radio community well informed on what's going on in all aspects of the hobby.

When submitting your articles please indicate that it is for The Newscaster so that I know it was intended to be published.

The Newscaster is being sent out to WARC & MRS members. To ensure you don't miss an issue it is important to let your membership chair know if you change your e-mail address.

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"

The 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!

Friendly Manitoba IRLP Net

Net - 145.450 Mhz - (Node # 1066)

On - The Great Lakes Reflector #9611

Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

This net connects you with the world using the internet as the backbone!

D-Star Nets on the VE4WDR System using

UHF 444.575+ DV Port B and/or

VHF 145.490- DV Port C

TransCanada D-Star Net - Fridays at 8:00 pm

On "Free Star" Reflector 21 (XRF021BO)

HamNation D-Star Net Wednesday at 9:15pm

On "DPlus" Reflector 14 (REF014CL)

Ozark Mtn. D-Star Net - Sundays at 8:00 pm

On "DPlus" Reflector 1 (REF001CL)

More nets <http://www.dstarinfo.com/nets.aspx>

HF Nets

MB Evening Phone Net - 3747 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 AMC

ARES Manitoba Monthly Readiness Net

4TH Sunday of each month

4:00 PM - 4:10 PM -7,075 Khz

4:10 PM - 4:20PM -3,675 Khz LSB 5,375 USB

Manitoba IRLP Nodes - Use reflector 9003

Winnipeg VE4WSC (Node 1809) Pinawa

VE4PIN (Node 1981), Flin Flon VE5ROD

(Node 1750), DARC Swan River VE4SRR

(Node 1700)

The Newscaster is the Official Publication of **Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club**

Please send your submissions/comments to the editor Mark VE4MAB, - newscaster@WinnipegARC.org