



The NEWSCASTER

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

December 2017

Facebook [Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club - VE4BB](#) Twitter [@ve4bbwarc](#)

VE4BB

Christmas Party

Date: **Tuesday, December 12, 2017**
Time: 7:30 PM (note the meeting date change)
Place: Dakota Collegiate - Cafeteria See You There
661 Dakota Street (At Beliveau Road)

Other Important Dates:

Newscaster: Deadline December 27, 2017

WARC: Monthly Meeting Dates
January 8, 2018
February 12, 2018

ARES: Tuesday, December 19, 2017
Sir Wm Stephenson Library
765 Keewatin Street -
Mark Havens VE4MWH -
Presentation on Internet Security

Other: Worked All Winnipeg Award
QSO Party
December 8 - 10, 2017

Spring Flea Market
Sunday, April 15, 2018

WARC Executive for 2017-2018...

President	Peter Toth	ve4tth@gmail.com
Vice-Pres.	John Romanec	ve4vjr@gmail.com
Treasurer	David Latour	ve4dla@gmail.com
Secretary	Gerry Sherman	ve4gks@outlook.com
Membership	Jessy Blanchette	ve4jbb@gmail.com
Programs	Roberto Urrea	va4.rul@gmail.com
Education	Roberto Urrea	va4.rul@gmail.com
Past President	David Latour	ve4dla@gmail.com
Public Information Officer....	Kurt Sargent	kurtsargent@gmail.com

Fallen from the President's Desk ...-

Christmas is almost here!

Be on the look out for a fat man who laughs a lot and brings presents! (No...it's not your truly either! I don't bring presents.) This jolly old guy is rumoured to spy on children late at night, and keep a detailed list of their activities! If that sounds suspicious, it is!

All kidding aside, on behalf of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club, I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

This year the club was involved with the annual field day event, two successful flea markets, as well as teaming up with Scouts Canada for their Jamboree On The Air. The participation with the Scouts, is an increase in radio related outings and is great fun for those that participated. If you have not participated in these activities, I would urge you to get in on the fun.

The outlook for next year is very good. The club is healthy financially, and we are continually teaching and graduating new Licensed Amateur Radio Operators to help grow this hobby of ours. We welcome those new Hams to the hobby, and encourage them to join the club that sponsors and runs those courses.

Those of you who are on HF, remember that during the Christmas season we Hams help out Old Saint Nick in his travels and with communicating to children world wide. So if you are inclined to help out, just scan the bands and you are sure to come across him somewhere in the ether in the air.

Speaking of HF, don't forget the annual RAC Canada Winter Radio Contest! The contest period for this year is 000 UTC to 2359 UTC, on December 30th, 2017! If you can participate, or man the station VE4RAC for a shift, that would be great. This is the final event that will close out the year long celebrations of Canada 150, our countries 150th birthday.

Merry Christmas, and may God bless you with a Healthy and Happy New Year.

Peter Toth

VE4TTH

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 Minutes October 2017
By Gerry VE4GKS

Meeting called to order 01:30

Introductions as usual

October minutes moved by Hamish seconded Ed Oakes

Education 18 students in Basic course, CW course starts in January

Financial report \$12,540 total, \$,8040 working.

No ARES report.

Peter 'TTH gave DX report.

High Altitude Balloon project – trophy planned for ham radio use in this project. Club donating \$200.00 to this project.

Roberto won \$16.50 on the 50/50 draw.

Meeting ended 02:10

Spotlight on Tom Mills VE4SE
By David VE4DAR

Now that he's retired from 39 years with the Winnipeg Fire Service, Tom Mills VE4SE has lots of time for coffee: at the Arches on Saturday and Sunday, on Waverley or any one of the 27 fire stations around town. However, that assumes that he's done everything on Ruth's (VE4XYL) "honey-do list" first."

"First I was in CB radio, until I discovered what you could do with Amateur Radio."

"I decided to get my ham ticket as a Centennial Project in 1967. I took a class at Tech Voc. The instructor was VE4HB ("half a banana"). Harvey Kimelman VE4HR and a priest were classmates."



Build or buy? "I bought used equipment at flea markets and a 3 element beam at Al Jebb's electronic store on Erin. He sold CB and ham radios."

Memorable moments? "Every call I received was exciting, especially when I spoke with the Russians."

What have you got out of amateur radio over the years? "I made friends with a wide variety of people around the world. It's brought me a lot of pleasure."

Particular interest in ham radio? All has been interesting. I like the idea of making contacts around the world. I've been very active volunteering with ARES.

Public service? Manitoba Marathons, St. John's Cathedral Boys' School snowshoe races and floods. (David's add-on: Tom has been a "ready hand" at many, many events and meetings. He's a joy to be with.)

Advice for new hams? "Try many modes; get advice from other hams."

Future for ham radio? "It seems to be expanding now. People are going back to the basics of Amateur Radio."

Many thanks for all your advice and help, Tom.

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Winnipeg ARES
Jeff Dovyak VE4MBQ
ve4mbq@rac.ca

Two (2) Wpg ARES members assisted Manitoba EMO Planning Officer Ian Boughton FRI 20 OCT in removing amateur antennas and supports from the roof of the downtown building that Public Safety Canada is a tenant in – earlier this year regional PSC leadership decided that VE4PSC should be decommissioned. Thanks to VE4s SIG & HAZ.

Thanks to Norman Coull VE4EH and Glen Napady VE4GWN who were Wpg ARES Duty Coordinator while I was away in early-NOV. Thanks to Wayne VE4WR who acted as Manitoba ARES Duty Coordinator mid-OCT and early NOV when I was in Ottawa.

Twenty-seven (27) Winnipeg ARES members and affiliates provided volunteer Amateur Radio communications for the Santa Parade SAT 18 NOV. Thanks to Shaun McLeod VE4AI for use of VE4DMR and several sessions of analog FM and thanks to Winnipeg ARES for use of VE4ARC (uhf). Thanks to Glen VE4GWN for reprogramming our dual-band loaner HTs to our latest Frequency List. Our 2017 Santa Parade volunteers were:

VA4s: DON and RAD

VE4s: VD, HK, DWG, AI, BOY, DAE, SBS, TSY, ANF, CLK, LIT, JBL, JAH, GWB, GWN, TRO, KAZ, JFK, WX, TTH, KEH, GMB, GIS, MWH and MBQ.



Santa Parade Net Controllers Dick VE4HK and Garry VE4VD - Photo Credit J. Dovyak VE4MBQ



2017 Mrs Claus Float - Photo Credit G. Frankel VE4VD

At the beginning of our Annual General Meeting 21 NOV donations for the Salvation Army Toy Mountain Campaign were collected. Our 2016-17 Financial Statement was approved by the membership as well as the 2017-18 Budget. In the past year we had two Exercises, eight Public Service events and twelve educational meetings. Officers for 2017-18 were elected by acclamation:

President	Jim Sutton VE4SIG
Vice-President	Kurt Sargent VE4GIS
Secretary	Dick Maguire VE4HK
Treasurer	Susan Collings VE4SYM.

A Memorandum of Understanding or MOU has recently been agreed to by the Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club Inc. and Winnipeg ARES Inc. This MOU sets out how Winnipeg ARES may leverage WSC membership or facilities if required in a communications emergency.

Our next General Meeting will be TUE 19 DEC 1900h at Sir Wm Stephenson Library 765 Keewatin Street. Mark Havens VE4MWH is scheduled to give us a presentation on Internet Security.

On-line registration for the Manitoba Marathon is open on the WARC web-site, please see the separate Manitoba Marathon article.

Manitoba Marathon
Jeff Dovyak VE4MBQ
ve4mbq@rac.ca

The 2018 Manitoba Marathon will be SUN 17 JUNE – this will be the 40th Anniversary!

We need a completed new registration form from each Amateur Radio volunteer every year regardless of what Amateur organization they belong to. New Amateur operators will be paired up with Amateurs experienced with the event. Amateur Radio volunteers must agree to abide by the Manitoba Marathon Code of Conduct for volunteers.

Thanks to Mark VE4MAB for setting the volunteer template up and thanks to WARC for hosting it on their web-site. Our target is 90 Amateur Radio operators. Volunteer Registrations can be done thru:

http://winnipegarc.org/marathon_volunteer_form.html

The 2018 Amateur Radio Group Volunteer Briefing is TUE 12 JUNE 1900h Crescentwood CC 1170 Corydon Avenue (Map 24 D2 in the Sherlock Map Book). Although the briefing starts at 1900h we will begin distribution of race information, documentation, volunteer t-shirts and pre-arranged equipment loans at 1815h.

There will be an additional Medical Team briefing on another date for those assigning to the medical side (likely SAT morning before Race Day).

Basic Short Course 14 Succeeds

By David VE4DAR

WARC's Chief Instructor for the Basic Short Courses, Roberto Urrea VA4RUL, succeeded with his first course. Some of the challenges faced by Roberto were the loss of the modern classroom at Shaftesbury High School, tardy responses to his requests while setting up the course, and retirement of some instructors. Nevertheless, he persisted, beginning BSC 14 at the Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club on October 28, 2017.



Of the 18 students who began the course, three were refreshing their knowledge, and Andy VE4PER was an observer from Portage La Prairie intending to set up a course there. Others were from Brandon and rural Manitoba. The course ran four Saturdays. Bob Jacobs VE4RCJ examined the students on December 2, 2017.



Several students chose to write the exam at a later date. All nine who wrote the exam passed. Peter VE4PH was present handing out applications for their free first year membership in the Manitoba Repeater Society.

Let's give Roberto, his 6 instructors, and the WSC a big "THANK YOU!" Congratulations to our new colleagues. We look forward to hearing you on the air.

BSC 15 begins February 24, 2018. Registration information can be found on the WARC website:

http://winnipegarc.org/basic_course.html

CW Code Course 1 - Now Accepting Registrations

WARC is pleased to offer a hands-on CW training course for 2018. Learn to send and receive clear code. Learn the basics of operating on the HF bands as a real code warrior. Be confident as you sit down in front of your shiny new CW station.

The course will run from 9 January to 27 February, Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 7pm in the Seniors Club (598 St. Mary's Rd.) Expect about an hour per night, sometimes more, sometimes less.

Most nights students will have a chance to listen to real CW ops live on the radio (propagation allowing) and CW Ops Elmers will be available on some evenings live or by Skype. Remote operation may also be possible.

Register at - WinnipegARC.org/code_course_app.html Please use the form there even if we have already spoken. Payment of \$40 can be taken online, or by cash/cheque at the first lesson.

Prerequisite for this course is an amateur radio licence with HF privileges. Maximum number of students is 8, but a wait-list will be maintained.

No-code students will have precedence, but the rusty are welcome if they can bring their own paddles and keyers.

E-mail David VE4DLA at ve4dla@gmail.com for further information.

Manitoba Repeater Society

Manitoba Repeater Society memberships will expire on December 31, 2017. Many thanks to the 23 amateur radio operators that took the time to pay their 2018 dues well before the expiry date. The dues remain at \$40 for non RAC members, \$30 for RAC members and \$20 for members of the same household and only \$10 if they are also a member of RAC. Payments can be made online at <http://www.mb-repeater-society.ca> with PayPal. Or Print out the application and send it and a cheque to

Membership, Manitoba Repeater Society

c/o VE4WSC
598 St Mary's Road
Winnipeg Mb R2M 3L5

Membership dues are the only funds MRS has coming in, no government assistance is forth coming and it cost a lot of money to maintain YOUR system. When for example, we have to replace heliax or an antenna at a site, we are required by the site owner to hire professional tower climbers to do the job. That can run up to \$2500.00 because the climber needs certified backup.

Please help us keep our funds up by renewing in a timely manner.

Pete Haertel VE4PH
MRS Membership Chair



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>

**MRS Memberships Expire December 31
You Can Renew Today On-Line**

The Benefits of Memory Art Boyars VE4VTR/K3KU

I've been flailing around trying to fix HF RF-in-the-shack problems in my Maryland home station. The major manifestation is RF-in-the-mic, especially when I try to use computer-recorded messages for contesting. The problem is not surprising, as I'm playing the hand I was dealt. My only antenna is a 200-foot dipole, fed with ladder line and matched – fortuitously – by my transceiver's internal tuner. My basement shack does not have a good RF ground system.

A friend suggested that a choke balun might help. He loaned me one he had built: 16 turns of RG 58 on 4-inch diameter PVC pipe. It worked, sort-of. I think. Maybe. The RF-in-the-mic seemed lower on some bands, but the antenna matching fell apart. I couldn't get a match at all on one band. Technical note: a simple dipole fed with high-Z transmission line and an antenna tuner looks like a good approach for a multi-band antenna, but you can get some weird impedances at the bottom end of the feedline, and it can vary wildly with feedline length.

Taking a non-scientific approach, I decided to try a longer coil and see what happened. (Actually, this was a good systems approach. It would take me much less time to build the new coil and try it than to learn how to do the analysis.) I had 40 feet or so of 50-year old RG 58 and the needed connectors. I set myself to getting out to the home supply store to get a couple of feet of 4-inch PVC pipe.

As I was readying breakfast the next morning I was prompted to remember what I had written about VE4YU (SK) for the Discover the HF Experience presentation in Winnipeg in April 2016. (See Cary VE4EA's write-up of the presentation and my Remembrance of Ed Henderson, VE4YU in the Winnipeg ARC Newscaster for May 2016 winnipegarc.org/newscaster/warcnews1605.PDF)

Of course! I don't need any PVC pipe. Just finish off the oatmeal, and I'm all set.



And so I did. Here's the finished product. The antenna matching still works on all bands; it's even a little improved. Unfortunately, the RF-in-the-mic is still there. I'll bet VE4YU could have told me what to do. 73, Old Man.



Contest Calendar

Extracted From

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

December 2017

NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Dec 8
QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Dec 8
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Dec 8
ARRL 10-Meter Contest	0000Z, Dec 9 to 2400Z, Dec 10
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Dec 9 to 2400Z, Dec 10
International Naval Contest	1600Z, Dec 9 to 1559Z, Dec 10
AWA Bruce Kelley 1929 QSO Party	2300Z, Dec 9 to 2300Z, Dec 10 and 2300Z, Dec 16 to 2300Z, Dec 17
QRP ARCI Holiday Spirits Homebrew Sprint	2000Z-2359Z, Dec 10
CQC Great Colorado Snowshoe Run	2100Z-2259Z, Dec 10
4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Dec 11
NAQCC CW Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Dec 13
QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Dec 13
Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Dec 13
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Dec 13 and 1900Z-2000Z, Dec 13 and 0300Z-0400Z, Dec 14
NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Dec 15
QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Dec 15
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Dec 15
Russian 160-Meter Contest	2000Z-2400Z, Dec 15
AGB-Party Contest	2100Z-2400Z, Dec 15
OK DX RTTY Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Dec 16
Feld Hell Sprint	0000Z-2359Z, Dec 16
Padang DX Contest	1200Z-2359Z, Dec 16
Croatian CW Contest	1400Z, Dec 16 to 1400Z, Dec 17
ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW	1800Z-2359Z, Dec 17
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Dec 18
QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Dec 20
Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Dec 20
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Dec 20 and 1900Z-2000Z, Dec 20 and 0300Z-0400Z, Dec 21
NAQCC CW Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Dec 21
NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Dec 22
QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Dec 22
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Dec 22
RAEM Contest	0000Z-1159Z, Dec 24
DARC Christmas Contest	0830Z-1059Z, Dec 26
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Dec 27
QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Dec 27
Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Dec 27
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Dec 27 and 1900Z-2000Z, Dec 27 and 0300Z-0400Z, Dec 28
NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Dec 29
QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Dec 29
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Dec 29
RAC Winter Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Dec 30

Amateur Radios, Antennas, and more ...
Winnipeg ICOM Dealer...

Micro-HighTech Communications Ltd.

2223 Henderson Hwy, East St. Paul, MB
(Just south of perimeter hwy)

Ph. (204)-783-1885 Fax (204) 779-7522
Contact George Hill, VE4GDH

Visit their web site..

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

Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z, Dec 30 to 1500Z, Dec 31
Original QRP Contest	1500Z, Dec 30 to 1500Z, Dec 31
Bogor Old and New Contest	1200Z-2359Z, Dec 31

Into January 2018

AGB New Year Snowball Contest	0000Z-0100Z, Jan 1
IQRP Quarterly Marathon	0800Z, Jan 1 to 2000Z, Jan 7
SARTG New Year RTTY Contest	0800Z-1100Z, Jan 1
AGCW Happy New Year Contest	0900Z-1200Z, Jan 1
AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	1400Z-1700Z, Jan 1 (144) and 1700Z-1800Z, Jan 1 (432)
QRP ARCI New Years Sprint	1500Z-1800Z, Jan 1
ARS Spartan Sprint	0200Z-0400Z, Jan 2
Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 3
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Jan 3 and 1900Z-2000Z, Jan 3 and 0300Z-0400Z, Jan 4
UKEICC 80m Contest	2000Z-2100Z, Jan 3
AWA Linc Cundall Memorial CW Contest	2300Z, Jan 3 to 2300Z, Jan 4 and 2300Z, Jan 6 to 2300Z, Jan 7
NRAU 10m Activity Contest	1800Z-1900Z, Jan 4 (CW) and 1900Z-2000Z, Jan 4 (SSB) and 2000Z-2100Z, Jan 4 (FM) and 2100Z-2200Z, Jan 4 (Dig)

Good luck in the contest



Are you a
RAC member??

<http://www.rac.ca>



204.899.3350

1798 St Matthews Ave
Winnipeg, MB R3H 0A5

**Discount for
"WARC"
members**

They can provide 15% discount on QSL cards.

For example, the current price for an order of 400 QSL cards size: 5" x 3.5", double side, full-colour on 100lb gloss cover is \$81.99.

With your 15% discount, the total would be \$69.69 before tax (please note that prices are subject to change due to paper cost etc.). The discount is on any size and any qty of QSL card.

Be sure to present your WARC membership to receive the discount!

CQ Winnipeg Simplex QSO Party December 8th to 10th !!

From December 8th to 10th set your VFO's to 146.520 for the Worked All Winnipeg QSO party number.....wait, have not kept count, anyway, let's see what our 2 meter rigs can do without a repeater!

From your home QTH on a base antenna, mobile or a portable with a 17" rubber duck try and log 25 (or more) contacts within the city of Winnipeg.

You are not limited to 2 meters. Any contact made direct between two stations without a repeater counts.

Any band, mode, even D-STAR & DMR.

Talk amongst your fellow digital enthusiasts to arrange contacts in DV simplex mode. For D-STAR set your radio to 145.670 or 446.100 in DV mode and UR field to CQCQCQ. For DMR, program your radio with 446.500, colour code 1, time slot.

No QSL cards needed. A copy of your log book with two other Hams who have checked your log and mail (unless you run into VE4HK at coffee) it with \$2.00 to cover the cost of the certificate and postage to:

"WORKED ALL WINNIPEG AWARD"
Custodian, Dick Maguire VE4HK
c/o Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club Inc.
598 St. Mary's Road
Winnipeg, MB
R2M 3L5

Good luck in the contest

Complete rules can be found at:

WinnipegARC.org/awards.html

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 and Dick's "Swap & 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!

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 Local Time (CT)**

**Prairie Traffic Net (CW) 3660 Khz
Daily at 01:30 UTC**

**Aurora Net (Afternoon) 7055 Khz
Daily at 23:30 UTC
Aurora # 2 Net (Evening) 7055 Khz
Daily at 02:30 UTC**

**MB Wx Net 3743 Khz
Daily at 8:30 Local Time (CT)**

***The Newscaster* is the Official Publication of **Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club**
Please send your submissions/comments to the editor Mark VE4MAB, - ve4mab@outlook.com**