

The *NEWSCASTER*

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

May 2021

Facebook Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club - VE4BB Twitter @ve4bbwarc

VE4BB

Logging software - David Latour VE4DL

http://winnipegarc.org/meetings.html

Date: Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Time: 7:30 PM An "On-Line" Meeting

https://join.freeconferencecall.com/treasurer523

In view of the current "Social Distancing" measures join WARC for this online meeting

Other Important Dates:

Newscaster: Deadline May 27, 2021

WARC: Monthly Meeting Dates 2nd Tuesdays

On-Line meetings until further notice

June 8, 2021 - Elections

September 14, 2021 - Welcome Back

October 12, 2021 - AGM

ARES: Tuesday, May 18, 2021

> Will be an on-line "Remote" Zoom meeting Winnipeg ARES members will

be advised by e-mail

Other: Many events are on hold due to the

ongoing Covid 19 pandemic.

Check the WARC web site for updates

WARC Executive for 2020-2021...

President John Romanec ve4vjr@gmail.com Vice-Pres. Drew Kwartel drewk1166@gmail.com Treasurer David Latour ve4dla@gmail.com

Secretary Vacant

Membership Jerry Volkers jerryvolkers@hotmail.com

Programs

va4.rul@gmail.com Education Roberto Urrea

Past President Colin Mantay ve4cem@rac.ca

Public Information Officer....

Vacant

From The President -

Greetings to everyone! Since my last message we were having an early spring with warm weather and all the snow was gone... then we got a snow storm, and the weather has been OK but not what we were hoping for. Here's to hoping that the next time I write the warm weather will have arrived and settled in and everything is green again.

It is interesting to note that although, because of Covid19, we are not able to offer the Basic Short Course, every week we are still getting requests from people to either write the exam or asking where or how they can study to write the exam! At last count we have 99 regular members and 14 additional "new ham" members. It really is quite remarkable! This is a good sign that our hobby is still going well and attracting new people. We owe a lot of gratitude to RAC and the Annapolis Valley Amateur Radio Club of Nova Scotia, and other clubs across the country, for their efforts in making online classes available for the Basic and Advanced certifications, and CW classes as well! It looks like this may well be the way of the future in offering classes and meetings. Even attendance for the Monthly general meetings appears to be gaining and maintaining strong numbers.

This leads me to reminding everyone that June 8 is fast approaching. What may be so important about that date you may ask? Well that is our last general meeting for this season at which time we hold our election of members to the executive positions. Anyone who is a WARC member in good standing is welcome to put their name forward for whichever position they feel best qualified for and interested in serving at.

As everyone knows – getting people to volunteer is a tough proposition, and for WARC to continue functioning well we need people in all positions so that others on the executive do not have to do double duty. The assistant positions are of incredible importance.

They serve a two-fold purpose. First, being an assistant allows you to see what is involved with that position without having to be completely responsible for it. You can learn by working alongside someone who has experience with it and see if it interests you.

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

Our Vision

Secondly, if for whatever reason, the person in the lead role is no longer able to carry out their duties there is someone able to step in. So please consider being a part of the WARC executive!

In the meantime, at the next general meeting on May 11, our very own Treasurer – David Latour VE4DL is going to give a presentation on "Introduction to Ham Radio Logging". There is A LOT of logging software out there, some good, some soso, some free, some cost \$, some are intuitive, some not so much, etc. So, for those who still use paper logs (and there is nothing wrong with that) or new hams who have not yet crossed this ham radio bridge – make sure to attend this presentation.

Till then...

73, John VE4VJR

Minutes

WARC General Meeting April 13, 2021

Call to Order 7:35

Introduction

RAC Report

Ed Richardson VE4EAR

- World Amateur Radio Day on April 18, 2021. Looking for volunteers to run VE4RAC but must be RAC member).

DX Report

- CR92U DXpedition to Mozambique in its final day today
- EK6RL Armenia will be active this weekend April 17, 18.
- KH9/WW6RG Wake Island will be on 17 & 20M SSB April 23, 27.

ARES Report

- Jeff Dovyak sent regrets and also to report there is no updates to the ARES report and on the MB Marathon from what was posted in this month's Newscaster.

Program\Presentation Home Brew Night

- Jerry Spring VE6TL gave several presentations on kits he's built and on a couple home brew projects of his.
- Gerry Sherman VE4GKS and Nick Verwymeren VE4NIC also gave presentations. Each will receive a Tim Horton's gift card.
- Following will also receive Tim Horton's gift cards for working a famous Ham from the list of 50 provided: Cary Rubenfeld VE4EA

Ed Řichardson VE4EAR

Gerry Spring VE6TL

Glen Napady VE4GWN

Previous meeting's minutes

- No comments.

Business

- No comments.

Treasurer's report

As of March 31, 2021:

On Books

March 1: \$ 5207.35 In: \$ 251.02 Out: \$ 141.75 Balance: \$ 5346.62

PavPal

March 1: \$ 270.81 In: \$ 190.00 Out: \$ 17.27 Balance: \$ 437.56

Bank

March 1: \$ 3920.75 In: \$ 110.00 Out: \$ 150.33 Balance: \$ 3880.42 Outstanding:\$1 161.53 \$ 5041.95

Rainy Day Fund

March 1: \$ 6017.16 In: \$ 1.04 Balance: \$ 6018.20

Membership report

Numbers are 99 paid-up members including 13 free new hams. Let's welcome the newest:

VE4SAR Erik Le Mesurier VE4KAB Ken Barchuk VA4KAS Kent Stewart

Recent Silent Keys: Ed Jiggnes VE4EJ John Foster VE4JNF

Education report

- No in person classes till at least spring 2022.

New Business

- No new business.

Adjourn

8:55

PROFESSIONAL IMPRESSIONS CREATED HERE
204.899.3350

1798 St Matthews Ave Winnipeg, MB R3H 0A5 Discount for "WARC" members

Print It On is offering WARC members a 15% discount on any size qty of QSL cards.

Be sure to present your membership card.

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Contact Calandan	FISTS Sunday Sprint 2100Z-2300Z, May 16
Contest Calendar	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest
Extracted From http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/	2300Z, May 16 to 0100Z, May 17
	K1USN Slow Speed Test 0000Z-0100Z, May 17
May 2021 MIE 22 Contact 22007 May 442 02007 May 5	OK1WC Memorial 1630Z-1729Z, May 17
MIE 33 Contest 2300Z, May 4 to 0300Z, May 5 Phone Weekly Test - Fray 0230Z-0300Z, May 5	Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest
Phone Weekly Test - Fray 0230Z-0300Z, May 5 CWops Mini-CWT Test 1300Z-1400Z, May 5	0100Z-0159Z, May 18 RTTYOPS Weeksprint 1700Z-1900Z, May 18
VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest 1700Z-2000Z, May 5	Phone Weekly Test - Fray 0230Z-0300Z, May 19
RSGB FT4 Contest Series 1900Z-2030Z, May 5	CWops Mini-CWT Test 1300Z-1400Z, May 19
CWops Mini-CWT Test 1900Z-2000Z, May 5	CWops Mini-CWT Test 1900Z-2000Z, May 19
CWops Mini-CWT Test 0300Z-0400Z, May 6	RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data
RTTYOPS Weeksprint 1700Z-1900Z, May 6	1900Z-2030Z, May 19
NRAU 10m ActivityContest 1700Z-1800Z, May 6 (CW)	NAQCC CW Sprint 0030Z-0230Z, May 20
and 1800Z-1900Z, May 6 (SSB)	CWops Mini-CWT Test 0300Z-0400Z, May 20
and 1900Z-2000Z, May 6 (FM) and 2000Z-2100Z, May 6 (Dig)	RTTYOPS Weeksprint 1700Z-1900Z, May 20 EACW Meeting 1900Z-2000Z, May 20
EACW Meeting 1900Z-2000Z, May 6 (Dig)	NCCC RTTY Sprint 0145Z-0215Z, May 21
SKCC Sprint Europe 1900Z-2100Z, May 6	NCCC Sprint 0230Z-0300Z, May 21
NCCC RTTY Sprint 0145Z-0215Z, May 7	K1USN Slow Speed Test 2000Z-2100Z, May 21
NCCC Sprint 0230Z-0300Z, May 7	YOTA Contest 0800Z-1959Z, May 22
K1USN Ślow Speed Test 2000Z-2100Z, May 7	Hamvention QSO Party 1200Z-2400Z, May 22
SARL VHF/UHF Digital Contest	EU PSK DX Contest 1200Z, May 22 to 1200Z, May 23
0500Z-0700Z, May 8 (6m)	
and 0700Z-0900Z, May 8 (2m)	
and 0900Z-1100Z, May 8 (70cm)	1 - · · · · ·
and 0500Z-0700Z, May 9 (6m) and 0700Z-0900Z, May 9 (2m)	OK1WC Memorial 1630Z-1729Z, May 24 Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest
and 07002-09002, May 9 (211) and 0900Z-1100Z, May 9 (70cm)	0100Z-0159Z, May 25
VOLTA WW RTTY Contest	RTTYOPS Weeksprint 1700Z-1900Z, May 25
1200Z, May 8 to 1200Z, May 9	SKCC Sprint 0000Z-0200Z, May 26
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	Phone Weekly Test - Fray 0230Z-0300Z, May 26
1200Z, May 8 to 2400Z, May 9	CWops Mini-CWT Test 1300Z-1400Z, May 26
CQ-M International DX Contest	CWops Mini-CWT Test 1900Z-2000Z, May 26
1200Z, May 8 to 1159Z, May 9 Arkansas OSO Party 1400Z, May 8 to 0200Z, May 9	CWops Mini-CWT Test 0300Z-0400Z, May 27
Arkansas QSO Party 1400Z, May 8 to 0200Z, May 9 50 MHz Spring Sprint 2300Z, May 8 to 0300Z, May 9	RTTYOPS Weeksprint 1700Z-1900Z, May 27 EACW Meeting 1900Z-2000Z, May 27
WAB 7 MHz Phone 1000Z-1400Z, May 9	RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW
K1USN Slow Speed Test 0000Z-0100Z, May 10	1900Z-2030Z, May 27
4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	NCCC RTTY Sprint 0145Z-0215Z, May 28
0000 Z -0200 Z , May 10	NCCC Sprint 0230Z-0300Z, May 28
OK1WC Memorial 1630Z-1729Z, May 10	K1USN Slow Speed Test 2000Z-2100Z, May 28
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	Feld Hell Sprint 0000Z-2359Z, May 29
1900Z-2030Z, May 10	CQ WW WPX Contest, CW
Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest 0100Z-0159Z, May 11	0000Z, May 29 to 2359Z, May 30 Day of the YLs Contest
RTTYOPS Weeksprint 1700Z-1900Z, May 11	b0001Z, May 29 to 2359Z, May30
Phone Weekly Test - Fray 0230Z-0300Z, May 12	K1USN Slow Speed Test 0000Z-0100Z, May 31
CWops Mini-CWT Test 1300Z-1400Z, May 12	QCX Challenge 1300Z-1400Z, May 31
VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest 1700Z-2000Z, May 12	OK1WC Memorial 1630Z-1729Z, May 31
CWops Mini-CWT Test 1900Z-2000Z, May 12	QCX Challenge 1900Z-2000Z, May 31
CWops Mini-CWT Test 0300Z-0400Z, May 13	D. C 1 DMD in HZ-rain as
QRP Minimal Art Session 1600Z-2200Z, May 13	D-Star and DMR in Winnipeg
RTTYOPS Weeksprint 1700Z-1900Z, May 13	1 1 6
EACW Meeting 1900Z-2000Z, May 13	Are you looking for crystal clear communications with
NCCC RTTY Sprint	simple and reliable linking to other systems world- wide? Well, enjoy crystal clear digital communica-
K1USN Slow Speed Test 2000Z-2100Z, May 14	tions on cutting edge digital technology!
NZART Sangster Shield Contest 0800Z-1100Z, May 15	tions on cutting eage aigital technology.
and 0800Z-1100Z, May 16	Join the Winnipeg Digital Repeater Group Inc. and
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW	feel freedom of worldwide communications on
1200Z, May 15 to 1200Z, May 16	crystal clear networks
Feld Hell Sprint 1600Z-1759Z, May 15	
and 2000Z-2159Z, May 15	The future is digital! http://www.ve4wdr.org
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We regret to inform everyone that once again the Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club is closed to the public & membership until after the May long weekend.

Special arrangements can be made if anyone is working on a special project within the clubhouse to ensure isolation from anyone else.

Lord Derek Hay

The Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club is looking for volunteers to be Duty Officers. Please contact Calvin Winter (VE4AJ) at VE4AJ@RAC.CA

The morning net is looking for net controllers to help out when required.
Please contact Calvin Winter (VE4AJ) at VE4AJ@RAC.CA

Winnipeg ARES Jeff Dovyak VE4MBQ ve4mbq@rac.ca

Our General Meeting was held remotely 20 APR. We are still looking for a Secretary for our Executive.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there will be no Spotter training this year. There will be a test of the National Public Alerting System WED 05 MAY, likely at 1355h.

Our next monthly meeting is TUE 18 MAY 1900h on Zoom, hosted by Pietra VE4PXL, Wpg ARES members have been advised by e-mail. We may have a guest speaker from the City of Winnipeg Emergency Program speaking on Winnipeg Ready.

Manitoba Marathon Jeff Dovyak VE4MBQ ve4mbq@rac.ca

The 2021 Manitoba Marathon will be held SUN 05 SEP (not Father's Day).

To minimize impact on the city, the Marathon will just be held on the Half-Marathon course – for Full Marathon, participants will run the course twice. Not much other solid info yet on MB Marathon due to frequently changing COVID-19 precautions but please save the dates:

1900h TUE 31 AUG for volunteer kit pick-up/briefing – or just equipment pick-up 1900h WED 01 SEP possible virtual briefing.

Walter Bezpalko: Nominee for WARC Oscar Award, April, 2021 (posthumously)



As someone who had the pleasure of knowing Walter for the last 20 years or so, it came as no surprise to me that he would be selected for this award. Many of you were lucky enough to know him and maybe even benefit from his endless passion to keep all our radios working, in tiptop condition. Most repair services were performed free or at his cost. He was most happy

when he could "revive" an otherwise dead piece of equipment. To this end he attended the Dayton Hamvention looking for broken stuff he could bring home and revive which he did for years. He only missed one Dayton trip in all this time. He would also buy new radios there to be sold in his friend's store, back here in Winnipeg. Murray Ronald, of Prairie Communications and Walter went back many years together. Both of these men have contributed so much to the hobby. Walter owned and ran VE4CNR, and VE4RAG repeaters. He gave freely of his time and expertise to me and I considered my self very lucky to have such a resource and also a close friend. We would meet for daily coffee with the "group" on Waverley St. first at Robins and later at Timmies. This rag chew was a prelude for us as we both carried on over at REH FIT everyday after coffee to get some exercise and keep fit.

Walter proudly announced, he had worked in many different parts of the world before coming to Winnipeg, Europe, South Africa, and South America. He fondly recalled his days as a commercial pilot in Venezuela. He worked for CNR here in their radio communications shop.

He went on in retirement working part time, servicing radios, at Prairie Comm. This he eventually gave up to fully retire, almost. He became a landlord renting out the other half of his two-story duplex. This also came to a stop. But he continued to fix radios for friends.

Walter enjoyed sharing his radio knowledge, both as a teacher and as a friend. One of his enduring claims was to remind all who listened..."an antennae got no gain you know!" He would then elaborate on this point. Walter has earned this Oscar Award.

I congratulate the WARC executive for their recognition

Editor's note:

Walter VE4VB was featured in the April 2017 issue of The Newscaster in the "Spotlight On Hams" Column written by David VE4DAR.

To access the issue visit...

http://winnipegarc.org/newscaster/warcnews1704.PDF

Confessions of a Casual Contester #12-B From the shack of DavidVE4DLA

I am not now, nor ever have been, a Contester. I don't see myself becoming a Contester either, if one defines the term to include round-the-clock operations, intravenous fluids and diapers, and frequent relays of cold, one-hand meals. Not my thing, at all. BUT......

I enjoy CW. I like the challenge of copying a little above my usual speed. I like the mystery aspect of unexpected contractions and 'slang' (sometimes it's really annoying though.) Takes me back to grade school, passing notes in class without any vowels. Kids today think they invented this style for smartphones. I tell you, it was happening in Plato's classes.

What nobody warns you about is the rabbit hole a new CW op is about to fall down, that will lead to empty bank accounts and sleepless nights wandering swap shops and eBay. Waiting for the delivery person with sweaty palms and staring eyes....

Keys. Glorious keys......

- Brass. Stainless. Steel. Pot metal. Silver or gold or platinum-plated.
- Straight. Semi-automatic. Cooties.
- Paddles, dual and single lever. Vertical. Horizontal. Switchable. Ganged. With or without integrated keyer.
- Spring, torsion or magnetic return
- Capacitive. Whistle.
- Expensive. Absurdly expensive. Almost affordable. But rarely inexpensive.

Like a lot of people, my first real key as one of the many many J37/38 clones produced around the world. Mine was not metal and galvanized steel with no bearings at all, not even needle bearings (except by courtesy blunt trunions in a shallow cup.) It had a replacement spring from somewhere and miss-matched adjustment screws. But it worked. It did. At 4-5 wpm, a hammer and anvil works, too. It arrived in the post one day, without warning, addressed from a friend/elmer in MA. A year later it was in the hands of another grateful newcomer, and I moved on to a Nye Speedkey. Briefly. Like sending with a spoon in a bowl of porridge, it was. That one found its way to a flea market. Then I went wild – I found a capacitive paddle set that could work like a cootie with the right keyer, so that's what I did (P1PAD, now out of business) and very happy I was.

I had more weird ideas- I was thinking in terms of copying in handwriting, so I learned to send left-handed cootie with a pencil in my right. I actually accomplished this feat to the tune of 12 wpm, which is my max legible writing speed. I still have this arcane device, currently used as an iambic paddle in my remote shack, hooked to my ORB. In this incarnation, I run it right-handed.

Life happened and I was away from the radio a while.

Surfing one night, I found that VizKey had changed hands and was back in business. An American ham manufacturer of quality keys and bugs. I jumped at a Camelback straight key and boy, was I right. A fabulous key, obviously expressly made for my sending

WARC Cable Shop & Merch Mart Open For Business!

RG213 Coax - \$1.30 a foot RG-8X Coax - \$0.90 a foot

Cut to length & terminated with PL259 \$12 extra Flexweave 14ga antenna wire - \$0.60 a foot. All items are American-made and high quality.

WARC Members can order cables by emailing cableshop@winnipegarc.org and we'll quote the price and invoice them. PayPal, EMT or cheque only.

Also available in the Mart:

WARC baseball caps - \$20 WARC ID badges - \$10 WARC coffee mugs - \$12 http://winnipegarc.org/shop.html

style, because I find it effortless and easy to adapt to. I can send up to about 22 wpm in practice (10 in my usual state of neglect.) It's attractive too, so what's to complain about? I did swap in a Navy knob for the original, though. This is my last straight key, no question at all.

One day I decided that I would try teaching code for the Club, using some crazy theory that learning at speed with paddles was the way to go, so I did that. People actually signed up for it. People actually learned CW. I was amazed! The Club had bought the MFJ clone Bencher paddles for the class. My first experience with paddles also. I learned to use them, but I did not learn to like them. I kept looking around for something better.

I have a Kenwood TS-590S, so when I found a used Vibroplex Vibrocube in the 70th Anniversary livery, I picked that up for not a lot. It's an interesting set of iambic paddles, that's for sure. I find them much easier to adjust and use than the MFJ paddles, and more comfortable to use. They hold the adjustment perfectly. I like them, but I will keep looking at other makes/styles until I find one that is best suited to me. I'm looking at single-lever paddles, currently.

But it isn't contesting. Nope. Not at all.

Amateur Radios, Antennas, and more ...

Winnipeg ICOM Dealer...

Micro-HighTech Communications Ltd.

2217 Henderson Hwy, East St. Paul, MB (Just south of perimeter Hwy)

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

> E-Mail Steve at Steve@microhightech.ca

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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

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

WARC's June 8, 2021 General Meeting "ELECTION NIGHT 2021"

Thanks to the CURRENT AND PAST EXECUTIVES for their service to the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club!

Now it's time to elect the Executives to serve on the Board for the 2021-2022 year. When you browse the Executives list on the WARC web site you will see the many members who have spent many years serving your club. Now it's your turn!

Per the WARC By-Laws - 6 or more Board Members are elected at the June meeting and the board will then appoint President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and 2 or more Directors at Large.

Your current executive...

1-President - John Romanec VE4VJR

2-Vice-President - Drew Kwartel VE4DRW

3-Treasurer - David Latour VE4DL

4-Secretary - Currently Vacant

5-Director at Large &

Membership Co-Ordinator - Jerry Volkers

6-Director at Large &

Education Co-Ordinator - Roberto Urrea VA4RUL

WARC is also seeking members to "Assist" the Treasurer, Secretary, Membership, and Education Chairs.

It's not hard, and not a lot of time each month. Consider tossing your name in the hat and take Your Turn

VHF Nets

MRS Nets VE4WPG 147.390 Mhz + (127.3) & VE4VJ 443.500 Mhz + (127.3) (WPG is normally hot linked to VJ)

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!

The Newbie Net 147.390 Mhz+ Saturdays at 10:00 am

A net for new hams to participate in a Net and get on the air!

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 5 (XRF005BO) Also on VE4DMR Timeslot 2 Talkgroup 302050

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 (REF091CL) 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 0130 UTC

Aurora Net (Afternoon) 7055 Khz Daily at 2330 UTC Aurora # 2 Net (Evening) 7055 Khz Daily at 0230 UTC

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

running YOUR club!

To get your name on June's "Ballot" send an e-mail to info@WinnipegARC.org by June 1, 2021!!

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