

The NEWSCASTER

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

December 2021

Facebook Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club - VE4BB Twitter @ve4bbwarc

VE4BB

WARC Christmas Supper

Date: Tuesday, December 14, 2021

Time: 7:30 PM An "In Person" Meeting

Windsor Park United Church,

1062 Autumnwood Dr (at Cottonwood Rd.)

Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Double Vaccinated is required

Other Important Dates:

Newscaster: Deadline December 30, 2021

WARC: Monthly Meeting Dates 2nd Tuesdays

December 14, 2021 - Christmas Supper

January 11, 2022 - TBA

ARES: Tuesday, December 21, 2021

Annual General Meeting

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

be advised by e-mail

Other: Need to renew your

WARC membership??

http://winnipegarc.org/join.html

WARC Executive for 2021-2022...

President Drew Kwartel drewk1166@gmail.com Vice-Pres. David Latour ve4dla@gmail.com Treasurer David Latour ve4dla@gmail.com Secretary Scott Campbell

scottcampbell1978@hotmail.com

Membership Jerry Volkers jerryvolkers@hotmail.com Education Roberto Urrea va4.rul@gmail.com

Director Daniel Flather VA4EEF
Director Cary Rubenfel VE4EA

Past President John Romanec ve4vjr@gmail.com

Public Information Officer.... Vacant

For Our December General Meeting

WARC Christmas Dinner

As previously announced, our Christmas dinner will be held on December 14, 2021. The dinner will be held at Shooters Family Golf Centre and Restaurant located at 2731 Main Street. As always you can expect some festive games and fun prizes as well as great company. Please feel free to bring your significant other or a friend to join us in our Christmas fun.

WARC is holding a raffle to be drawn at our January 2022 meeting...

Tickets will be \$10 each and the prizes will be as follows:

1 Icom IC705 HF Transceiver,

1 Alinco DJ-MD40T, UHF FM digital/analog handheld Transceiver,

Also 2 prizes of 1 each of

Alinco DJ-MD5XT Dual band DMR Color LCD w/GPS Transceivers.

Radio World gift certificates.

For info write to info@WinnipegARC.org

D-Star and DMR in Winnipeg!!

The Winnipeg Digital Repeater Group is conducting a membership drive! All members new and those who have renewed their memberships will have their name added to a draw for two (2) prizes.

-First Prize is an Anytone 878 UV Plus, Bluetooth Dual Band DMR portable radio.

-Second Prize is a free 1-year membership donated by the WDRG

To add to the excitement, for each additional \$25.00 donation your name will be entered again into the draw, but you must be a member.

Membership is \$25.00 for RAC members and \$35.00 for Non-RAC members

To renew your WDRG Membership or to join visit https://ve4wdr.org/membership.html

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

2 **Minutes**WARC Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, November 9, 2021

Call to Order

Meeting call to order by Club President Drew Kwartel at 19:32.

Introductions, encourage newbies and guests to declare

Attendance was 18 in person and 5 online.

Presentation to follow - "Setting up an Amateur Radio Station" by Jerry Spring VE6TL

Minutes

None recorded from last general meeting

Previous Business

Melissa is the contact for the Christmas Banquet tickets. This is advertised on the various 2m nets including morning nets, MRS swap and shop, etc. Request to contact Melissa after 4 pm was made.

John has announced the annual fund raising raffle with tickets sold for \$10 each. Sold at meetings and by contacting ve4vjr@gmail.com or info@winnipegarc.org. Draw date is January 11, 2022 at the WARC General Meeting. Prizes are listed as follows:

Icom IC-705, Alinco DJ-MD40T UHF FM HT, Alinco DJ-MD5XT DB DMR HT (2), \$100 Radio World gift card (2).

Treasurer's Report

Chequing		PayPal	
Opened		Opened	
the month	\$ 4,488.87	the month	\$ 854.16
Deposits	\$ 1,529.00	Deposit	\$ 609.00
Expenditure	s \$ 2374.35	Fees	\$ 54.20
Balance	\$ 3,693.52	Balance	\$1,408.96

Membership Report

Jerry not present - No membership report

Programs

No new announcements

Education

Roberto not in attendance. Drew mentioned possible February Basic Course

ARES

Posted in Newscaster

RAC

No RAC report

DX Report

No DX report

New Business:

Club President Drew Kwartel (Left) presented the Annual Oscar Award to Ruth Mills VE4XYL This award is presented to an operator with Outstand Service Concerning Amateur Radio.



Dick VE4HK has announced a toy mountain drive. Email donations are also accepted.

Meeting adjourned by Drew at 21:01.

For more information on the "OSCAR Award" and to view a list of past recipients visit ... http://winnipegarc.org/awards.html

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

Winnipeg ARES Jeff Dovyak VE4MBQ ve4mbq@rac.ca

Our Annual General Meeting was held virtually 16 NOV. The 2020-21 Financial Statement was approved and the 2021-22 Proposed Budget was accepted. The President and Treasurer were re-elected by acclamation, congratulations to Kurt Sargent VE4GIS and Susan Collings VE4SYM.

There was no nomination received for Secretary and as of this writing the 2021-22 Executive has not appointed a Secretary.

Thanks to Dick Maguire VE4HK for coordinating our response to the Salvation Army Toy Mountain campaign. The Winnipeg ARES response was initiated by Tom Mills VE4SE. Thanks also to all Amateurs who provided a donation.

Our next General Meeting will be TUE 21 DEC, held virtually – members will receive an e-mail with log-in information.

3	CWops Mini-CWT Test 1300	Z-1400Z, Dec 15
Contest Calendar		7Z-1400Z, Dec 13
Extracted From	Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest 0000	
http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/		
1		0Z-0300Z, Dec 17
D 4 4004		Z-0400Z, Dec 16
December 2021		Z-0800Z, Dec 16
NCCC RTTY Sprint 0145Z-0215Z, Dec 3		Z-1900Z, Dec 16
QRP Fox Hunt 0200Z-0330Z, Dec 3		5Z-0215Z, Dec 17
NCCC Sprint 0230Z-0300Z, Dec 3		Z-0330Z, Dec 17
K1USN Slow Speed Test 2000Z-2100Z, Dec 3	NCCC Sprint 0230	Z-0300Z, Dec 17
ARRL 160-Meter Contest 2200Z, Dec 3 to 1600Z, Dec 5	AGB-Party Contest 1600	Z-1700Z, Dec 17
UFT Meeting 0500Z-0800Z, Dec 4	Russian 160-Meter Contest 1800	Z-2200Z, Dec 17
and 1500Z-1800Z, Dec 4		Z-2100Z, Dec 17
and 0700Z-1000Z, Dec 5		Z-2400Z, Dec 18
Wake-Up! QRP Sprint 0600Z-0629Z, Dec 4		Z-2359Z, Dec 18
and 0630Z-0659Z, Dec 4		7Z-2359Z, Dec 18
and 0700Z-0037Z, Dec 4		to 2359Z, Dec 19
and 0730Z-0800Z, Dec 4		to 1159Z, Dec 19
PRO CW Contest 1200Z, Dec 4 to 1159Z, Dec 5	Croatian CW Contest 1400Z, Dec 18	to 1400Z, Dec 19
Two-Meter Classic Sprint 1300Z-1330Z, Dec 4	Stew Perry Topband Challenge 1500Z, Dec 18 to 1500Z, Dec 19	
INORC Contest 1400Z, Dec 4 to 1359Z, Dec 5		
FT Roundup 1800Z, Dec 4 to 2359Z, Dec 5		Z-2359Z, Dec 19
K1USN Slow Speed Test 0000Z-0100Z, Dec 6	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	
OK1WC Memorial 1630Z-1729Z, Dec 6		to 0100Z, Dec 20
Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	K1USN Slow Speed Test 0000	Z-0100Z, Dec 20
0100Z-0159Z, Dec 7	OK1WC Memorial 1630	Z-1729Z, Dec 20
ARS Spartan Sprint 0200Z-0400Z, Dec 7	Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	,
RTTYOPS Weeksprint 1700Z-1900Z, Dec 7		Z-0159Z, Dec 21
NAQCC CW Sprint 0130Z-0330Z, Dec 8		Z-1900Z, Dec 21
QRP Fox Hunt 0200Z-0330Z, Dec 8		Z-0200Z, Dec 22
Phone Weekly Test - Fray 0230Z-0300Z, Dec 8		7Z-0330Z, Dec 22
CWops Mini-CWT Test 1300Z-1400Z, Dec 8		Z-0300Z, Dec 22
VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest 1700Z-2000Z, Dec 8		7. 2000Z, Dec 22
CWops Mini-CWT Test 1900Z-2000Z, Dec 8		7.0400Z, Dec 22
CWops Mini-CWT Test 0300Z-0400Z, Dec 9)Z-0400Z, Dec 23
CWops Mini-CWT Test 0700Z-0800Z, Dec 9		Z-0800Z, Dec 23
RTTYOPS Weeksprint 1700Z-1900Z, Dec 9		Z-1900Z, Dec 23
NCCC RTTY Sprint 0145Z-0215Z, Dec 10		5Z-0215Z, Dec 24
QRP Fox Hunt 0200Z-0330Z, Dec 10		Z-0300Z, Dec 24
NCCC Sprint 0230Z-0300Z, Dec 10		Z-2100Z, Dec 24
K1USN Slow Speed Test 2000Z-2100Z, Dec 10	Gedebage CW Contest 1200Z, Dec 25	to 1159Z, Dec 26
PODXS 070 Club Triple Play Low Band Sprint	RAEM Contest 0000	Z-1159Z, Dec 26
0000Ž, Dec 11 to 2359Z, Dec 13	DARC Christmas Contest 0830	Z-1059Z, Dec 26
ARRL 10-Meter Contest		Z-0100Z, Dec 27
0000Z, Dec 11 to 2400Z, Dec 12		Z-1400Z, Dec 27
TRC Digi Contest 0600Z, Dec 11 to 1800Z, Dec 12		Z-1729Z, Dec 27
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon		Z-2000Z, Dec 27
1200Z, Dec 11 to 2400Z, Dec 12	Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	, E 2000E, Bec 27
ARI 40/80 Contest 1300Z, Dec 11 to 1300Z, Dec 12		Z-0159Z, Dec 28
International Naval Contest		7Z-0137Z, Dec 28
1600Z, Dec 11 to 1559Z, Dec 12		
		7.03307, Dec 28
QRP ARCI Holiday Spirits Homebrew Sprint		7.0330Z, Dec 29
2000Z-2300Z, Dec 12		7.1400Z, Dec 29
CQC Great Colorado Snowshoe Run		Z-1400Z, Dec 29
2100Z-2259Z, Dec 12		Z-2000Z, Dec 29
K1USN Slow Speed Test 0000Z-0100Z, Dec 13		Z-0400Z, Dec 30
4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint		Z-0800Z, Dec 30
0100Z-0300Z, Dec 13		Z-2359Z, Dec 30
OK1WC Memorial 1630Z-1729Z, Dec 13		Z-1900Z, Dec 30
Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	NCCC RTTY Sprint 0145	5Z-0215Z, Dec 31
0100Z-0159Z, Dec 14		Z-0330Z, Dec 31
RTTYOPS Weeksprint 1700Z-1900Z, Dec 14		Z-0300Z, Dec 31
QRP Fox Hunt 0200Z-0330Z, Dec 15		Z-2359Z, Dec 31
		Z-2100Z, Dec 31
3		, 20001

Into January 2022

AGB New Year Snowball Contest 0000Z-0100Z, Jan 1 SARTG New Year RTTY Contest 0800Z-1100Z, Jan 1 AGCW Happy New Year Contest 0900Z-1200Z, Jan 1 WW PMC Contest 1200Z, Jan 1 to 1200Z, Jan 2 AGCW VHF/UHF Contest 1400Z-1700Z, Jan 1 (144) and 1700Z-1800Z, Jan 1 (432) **ORP ARCI New Years Sprint** 1500Z-1800Z, Jan 1 **Original QRP Contest** 1500Z, Jan 1 to 1500Z, Jan 2 ARRL Kids Dav 1800Z-2359Z, Jan 1 **K1USN Slow Speed Test** 0000Z-0100Z, Jan 3 **OK1WC Memorial** 1630Z-1729Z, Jan 3

**** Good Luck In The Contest ****

Confessions of a Casual Contester Vol. 2 Issue 5 From the shack of DavidVE4DL

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.....

Well, it WAS up. For all of 4 days, until the winter storm struck. While it was up, the DX-CC fan dipole was all it was said to be. It was the mast that failed me – seven sections of military surplus fiberglass poles guyed at the 2nd and 5th junctions. Snapped at the lower guy. Sigh. A few days later, I was up on the roof, chipping the coax and mast sections out of the ice with a hatchet (an indispensable tool for any ham.) The choke had been submerged in icy water for that time, so I had to open it (about a pint of ice water in the lap) and dry it. One connection had to be re-soldered. Up it all went again, but now a 16 feet shorter mast and no guys but the antenna itself. Standing proud after a second ice-storm.

So MarkII is not just lower, it is less peaked as an inverted-vee. What I have noticed is that I hear fewer stations than on the 16' taller 90° Vee of the MarkI. Is this just the nature of the configuration? Of the height above ground? (25' vs 41') I don't know enough to answer my own question, but some Dear Reader must.

Which brings me to contesting again – both Sweep-stakes SSB and CQ WW CW have come and gone. The MarkII is a better contesting antenna than the GAP Titan, hands down. I suspect the MarkI would have been even better. Maybe in the spring a new tall mast can be installed? Not in winter, that's for sure. In Sweeps I doubled my score over last year, and in CQ WW I quadrupled 2020's effort. Wow.

A much quieter antenna than the vertical, so a lot less fatigue from the hiss and crash. That means running more RF gain, and working weaker stations, in theory.

In practice, there were no weak stations. Loud, Painful and Throw the Headset, but very few Quiet. This puzzles me also. I could work 90% of stations I heard, so I was busy enough. The 10% were mostly distant stations under KW assault, no chance of my 100W being heard, anyway. In CQWW I only managed 20 countries, Europe being almost totally absent from my headphones. Picked up a lot of islands in the Atlantic, Alaska and Hawaii, some Central America. Not like last year at all, where DX made up 30% of my much smaller total.

My logger tells me I spent something like 16 hrs in the chair. About half S&P and half running. This was the first year I could work all 5 bands, but 10m was completely silent for me, so I spent little time there – just enough to prove it vacant. It was a pleasure working 15 and 80 for the first time for real. Previous efforts were token affairs against bad antennas. 20m is still king.

One thing that stood out is that I've been neglecting my CW practice, and it showed in being slow to copy some call signs. I have to get back to my instant recognition and slow characters practices from CW Academy. Regularly. Without fail. (faint, ghostly laughter) I have also been neglecting my SKCC work since September. Sigh. K3Y Event is coming in January, and I'm in no shape to be a Special Event station yet. I need an Adrian.

My straight key is a VizKey Camelback, and I doubt I'll ever buy another key. It is comfortable, attractive, solid and set-and-forget. I can run close to 20wpm when in practice (13 when not....). My paddles are now a Vibroplex Vibrokeyer – I've spoken of it before. I'm still tweaking it each session, but it's good at 27wpm now (close to my reaction time, getting old.) In contests I set my winkeyer to match this speed, so if I have to grab the paddles for something out of the usual, it sounds the same. I hear at about 35. Maybe. Slower than 17 also gives me big trouble (my mind wanders between characters.)

RAC Winter Contest is up in 3 weeks, looking forward to putting in real time and getting real results. Last time I was part of VE4RAC, but this contest I'm on my own, to not drag their score down with my ineptitude. See you in the æther!

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

Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club

The Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club is looking for ...

Duty Officers and for a Net controller for Saturdays.

Please contact Calvin VE4AJ at ve4aj@rac.ca for more information.

Windows 11 Opinion by Gerry VE4GKS

I have quite a bit of time on my hands, and have been reading some of what is on the internet concerning Windows 11. From all reports, it seems that this piece of hard drive pollution should be consigned to the hole under that little house out behind the barn (the one with the moon on the door). It seems to be rather picky about which CPUs it will run on, requires a Microsoft account, and TPM 2.0. How much e-waste will this create in terms of unusable hardware? What will be the cost to individuals to upgrade to the latest hardware, especially with the current chip situation? The obvious solution is to go to Linux. One of my laptops (I have a few), a Lenovo W540, has an Intel I7 CPU, 32 Gb. of RAM and a 1 terabyte SSD, yet it is inadequate according to Microsoft. I have Linux on my Lenovo T410, and also on a little netbook that can only hold 11/2 Gb. of RAM and has an Intel Atom 32-bit CPU. Linux is free, and has an excellent choice of programs. It has the capability to run Windows programs, if there isn't a Linux version or equivalent. Many programs have Linux and Windows versions.

I am willing to Elmer anybody on a one-on-one basis to enable them to get started with Linux. Obviously, I can't turn somebody into an expert in a few hours. If you are interested in some personal coaching and making the switch, email me at ve4gks@shaw.ca, and we can set up arrangements for you to come to my apartment. I will make a system available so you can play with it for an hour or so, then we can boot your system into Linux (without actually changing anything) and you can see what it is like on your hardware. If all is well, we will make up a boot USB stick and install Linux. You will have a choice of a total Linux install, or a dual-boot install that will let you choose either Windows or Linux.

I don't drive any more, and my mobility is a medical scooter, so you will have to come to my apartment. It is a small one, so I can only work with one person at a time, unless two are from the same household. I am in the Ellice-Sherbrook area.

Gerry Sherman VE4GKS



Found on the World Wide Web By Gerry VE4GKS

Here is an interesting web site I came across...

https://zone-check.eu/

When you go to it, it opens Google Maps in "map" view, and shows the ITU & CQ zone and the Maidenhead co-ordinates at the mouse pointer. It is possible to zoom in on a given area. If you zoom in, and then give an address, the Maidenhead zone is highlighted. I haven't explored all the features, but it looks like a very useful site.

Gerry VE4GKS

Manitoba Amateur Radio Museum— MARM by

In early October of 2021 it was decided by the MARM (Manitoba Amateur Radio Museum) Executive to name the Display Building "The Dave Snydal Building" to commemorate his founding of the Museum and decades of love for the Amateur Radio hobby.



Dave VE4XN has operated a ham station during the annual Manitoba Thresherman's Reunion & Stampede south of Austin, Manitoba for over 40 years.

Dave is the Founder, Curator and Secretary-Treasurer. MARM was incorporated in 1990 and officially opened on July 23rd,1992.

Last July, at 95 years old, Dave decided to step down. Bruce Johnson VE4KQ has taken over responsibilities.

You can learn more at ...

http://marminc.ca

Manitoba Repeater Society – update By Derek, VE4HAY

On behalf of the Board of the Manitoba Repeater Society, we wish you all the best this Christmas Season and happy playing radio in the New Year.

The Annual General Meeting of the Manitoba Repeater Society was last month, and the elected board meet this past week and elected those members elected by the membership to the various positions on the board at their first board meeting. They are;

President: Derek Hay ve4hay ve4hay@gmail.com Vice Pres: Brendan Christianson va4rad bchristian204@gmail.com

Secretary: Jim Sutton ve4sig ve4sig@gmail.com Treasurer: Dan Keizer ve4drk@gmail.com

Past-Pres: Vacant

Tech Chair: Bill East ve4aaz beast@pcs.mb.ca Membership Chair: Michele Keizer ve4dkc info@mb-

repeater-society.ca

Member At Large: Robert Keizer ve4rlk robert@keizer.ca

There is room for appointing anyone who would like to come onto the board anytime during the year. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact anyone board member.

The board jumped quickly into planning which repeaters will get first priority on servicing. The technical committee is planning on meeting every Tuesday evening to effect repair and plan their work.

- 1. VE4MAN reinstall of the repeater that was rebuilt, and the MAN≪WPG link radio still needs repair and reinstall.
- 2. VE4EMB reinstall the remote link radio and a new cabinet to hold the repeater & APRS. Adjust the CW-ID so that it does not go out over the links. To be done before the really cold winter shuts us out.
- 3. VE4WPG determine why the MIL > WPG link radio is not receiving. Reposition the 900Mhz radio for better IP linking. Install the IP > RF interface and controller. Download the controller configuration and re-establish the macros that have been used in the past, including proper linking commands.
- 4. VE4MIL determine the issue with the MIL > FAL link not being heard at VE4FAL. Install and configure the IP linking equipment.
- 5. VE4GIM Reinstall repeater as soon as we get the work permit from the host site.

Also, a friendly reminder that all membership expire on December 31, so if you have not renewed yet, please do so, using this link. http://mb-repeater-society.ca/? page_id=144 We are in the process of setting up a Interac payment link. But if you complete the application, save and manually email it to us, and then send an interact payment to VE4WRS@gmail.com, it will save us paying a fee to PayPal to process the transaction.

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 (XRF103BO) 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

DMR Nets on the VE4WDR System ... Astronomy Net

Wednesday @ 20:00 local time Time Slot 2, 31012 **Northstar Net** Saturday @ 21:00 local time Time Slot 2, 31273

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)