

Winnipeg Amateur Radio Emergency Service
in conjunction with
Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club



MANITOBA MARATHON
18 JUNE 2017
AMATEUR RADIO REPORT
PSE-159

Jeff Dovyak VE4MBQ
JUN 2017

This report covers the ARES Amateur Radio component of 2017 Manitoba Marathon. Amateur Radio volunteers were asked for feedback and it has been integrated into the report. The format of this report is based on previous Manitoba Marathon ARES reports.

This report has four main sections:

- Planning/Preparation
- Operation
- Recovery
- Mitigation.

2017 PLANNING/PREPARATION

Winnipeg Amateur Radio Emergency Service (WPGARES) and Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club (WARC) have formally collaborated on a joint Marathon operation since approximately 2001. As previously reported, WARC is the umbrella or general interest Amateur Radio club in Winnipeg that previously organized Marathon communications 1980-2001. WPGARES is concerned with provision of emergency Amateur communications for the civil authorities in time of disaster or communications emergency.

The Marathon Radio Group (MRG) is currently chaired by WPGARES Emergency Coordinator Jeff Dovyak VE4MBQ. Technical advisors were:

Don Gerrard VE4DWG
Norman Coull VE4EH
Derek Hay VE4HAY
Mark Blumm VE4MAB
Mark Havens VE4MWH
Ellis Seddon VE4AJO
Dave Stimpson VE4DJS.

Recruiting for the 2017 Amateur Radio component began in earnest in DEC 2016, with notices in the monthly WARC publication "*The Newscaster*", verbal reports at WPGARES and WARC meetings, e-mails to last year's volunteers as well as general e-mails to Winnipeg ARES members. Web registration through Winnipeg ARES & WARC websites was required (hosted on WARC web-server) and served to provide a record that the Amateur Radio volunteer agreed to MB Marathon Code of Conduct.

The detailed agenda for the Amateur Radio briefing was reviewed by MRG members before being finalized as in past years – generally the previous year's agenda is updated and revised if necessary (revisions to 2018 agenda have begun). No specific MRG planning meetings were held prior to the 2017 Manitoba Marathon. Business was conducted via e-mail, at ARES & WARC meetings and during many informal Saturday morning coffee breaks over the fall, winter and spring.

Volunteer clothing and supply pick-up approximately three days before the Amateur briefing went well (no missing components in 2017). Approximately four (4) hours was spent checking and collating materials for the Amateur Radio briefing meeting.

Amateur Radio volunteers each receive significant documentation related to the coming communications task:

Three Booklets

1. 2017 Manitoba Marathon Amateur Radio Guide
2. 2017 Manitoba Marathon Course Station Maps
3. 2017 Manitoba Marathon Participant Guide

At least three loose pages

1. 2017 Manitoba Marathon Amateur Radio Briefing Agenda
2. 2017 Manitoba Marathon Amateur Radio Volunteer Roster
3. Marathon Alert Form.

Pre-printed forms are distributed for use at Net Control Stations*:

1. ARES Activity Logsheet
2. Care-Centre Report (transmitted every 15 mins to Chief Dispatcher at Comm Centre for situational awareness)
3. Course Conditions Reports (transmitted every 20 minutes by Doctor's Shadow regarding race "color" and whether or not course showers are to be run)
4. Modified "EMS Request via Amateur Radio Form".

*These forms were published as an Appendix to the 2014 Report.

No portable radios & accessories were loaned out at Amateur briefing.

Amateurs were assigned to positions in the same manner as previous years. Three Amateurs with no other assignment were assigned as a reserve operator for one of three course sectors (other reserve operators were placed into assignments before Race Day due to various volunteer drop-outs). The race course is best sectorized geographically into three areas:

- East of the Red River
- North of the Assiniboine River
- South of the Assiniboine River.

Comm Centre set up FRI 16 JUN took about two hours and involved four Amateurs.

Once again, Amateur Radio traffic vests jointly owned by WPGARES and WARC were loaned to non-ARES Amateur Radio participants so that they would be easily identified by various Marathon stakeholders.

All Amateur Radio operators operating on the Medical Net were invited to the Medical Team briefing SAT 17 JUN – the majority attended. Five dual-band portable radios were cached at Care Centre (since Care Centre portion of Medical Net is UHF), at least one was put into use.

Planned again that if EMRs available, staff each of two Medical Supply vans with one EMR each to allow that vehicle to transport injured or ill ambulatory runners to Care Centre.

With move to Investors Group Field (IGF) for 2017, we wanted to ensure that UHF communications into Care Centre (field level IGF) was viable. Initial testing of UHF communications into field level IGF done 28 FEB. Additional on-site testing with portable UHF repeater done 26 MAY.

Physician-in-Charge concerned that with all the concrete around exterior of IGF that Wet Bulb Thermometer (WBGT) readings might not correlate with true course conditions. WBGT set-up at Mile 25 Hospitality Station with two ARES volunteers dedicated (this is critical information). Communication routes: Amateur Radio, event Trunked Radio and cellular.

Amateurs unable to attend ARES briefing were asked to notify Coordinator who was attending to get their stuff – not everyone did.

Not enough spare operators recruited despite mentions at Amateur Radio meetings, newsletter articles, on-air solicitations and e-mails.

New site for ARES briefing a marked improvement over previous site.

Many Amateurs arrive at ARES briefing at least 30 minutes early.

Amateur Test Net THU eve prior to race day – many Amateurs new to Marathon participated but not all. Not all experienced Amateurs had radios programmed correctly and by skipping the Test Net did not find out until race day.

Should stress during ARES briefing that race day cellular are to be “on” and not on “silent”.

Comm Centre set-up requires full verification of proper radio functioning.

Should stress at ARES briefing that operators in course vehicles should have fully functional handheld portable radio (HT) and an antenna adapter and borrow an HT from ARES if not in possession.

Apparently some confusion between on-air and on-location times.
Some Amateurs complained post-ARES briefing that they could not hear what all speakers were saying.

Noisy at Barbour Arena during final pre-race Tech Team meeting – difficult to hear over noise of HVAC system and noisy children.

2017 OPERATION

The 2017 operation ran from approximately 0530-1330h. Ultimately, **seventy-eight** (78) Amateur volunteers (final roster at end of this section) were assigned to each Hospitality Station, Relay Exchange Zone, five Course Vehicles (Lead Full, Lead Half, Course Closing, 2 Sweep Vans), Start Line, Medical Vehicles (1 Medical Transport, 2 Therapy, 2 Medical Supply), Hospitality Net Control, Medical Net Control and Care Centre. **Seven** (7) non-Amateur volunteers supported our operation. Of the 78 Amateur Radio volunteers involved, **eight** (8) were new or “newer” Amateurs that were partnered with Amateurs with previous Manitoba Marathon experience.

Ultimately all Amateur Radio volunteers but one who had Race Day assignments showed up as expected (and that position was covered off with a back-up operator).

The operation was carried out on two closed, directed Amateur Radio nets using tactical call-signs; Hospitality Net and Medical Net. These nets have been described in more detail in previous Marathon reports. ARES operators also served as Net Control operators for the Marathon *FleetNet* radio on-course Medical Net (mainly for Bike Medics).

The UHF repeater built by Yori Tsuji VE4ACX continues to work great on Race Day as did the tie-in to the VHF Medical Net (even after change to alternate frequency).

Hospitality Station operators had the ability to use VHF **or** UHF to communicate with Hospitality Net Control.

Each Therapy Van had four spare portable radios for back-up use by Hospitality Net Amateurs – none were deployed.

The actual Amateur operation unfolded almost as expected, however there were occurrences that should, if at all possible, be eliminated next year.

Apparently IGF security staff did not open Gate 1 (Care Centre access) at advertised time, opened approximately 30 minutes late.

Amateurs Operators in at least one Medical Supply vans were not familiar with supplies being carried.

Apparently, some ARES members at Care Centre saw things that could have been easily improved if their vehicles were close by instead of across the street and relatively far away (mainly assistance to other components including supplying fuses, cords & cables).

Cannot assume 12 VDC outlet in “unseen” vehicles will power 50 watt mobile – outlet established in MED1 would not support current drain (10 Amps) of 50 watt 2m mobile.

Lots of local interference around IGF on input of portable repeater race day – solved by moving to alternate frequency. Lots of foot traffic near portable repeater location.

Time wasted for Course Closing vehicle volunteers, difficulty locating designated person at IGF with vehicle keys.

Stationing of WBGT at Mile 25 with dedicated Amateurs (i.e. different than Mile 25 Hospitality Amateur volunteers) did not appear to be problematic. Primary communications worked as planned.

Confusion regarding responsibility for picking up on-course medical kits & coolers.

Hospitality Stations with no assigned medical volunteers might not receive medical supplies and therefore no course closing flagging material.

Sweep Vehicles did not have bottled water to provide runners that had exited and were getting a ride back.

At least one sweep vehicle was transferred to Medical Net when Hospitality Net was closed without being informed what “channel” Medical Net was using (Medical Net had switched frequencies early on in the day).

Vehicle Access for IGF Gate 1 as briefed did not work (booklet page 20, para 8, 2nd sentence). Marshals & security staff made no attempt to stop pedestrians when clearly marked course medical vehicles were attempting to access or exit IGF Gate 1 area.

It was very gratifying to see ARES logo on “jumbotron” at IGF.



Photo Credit Mark Blumm VE4MAB

Volunteer Hospitality station at IGF (commercial kiosk) closed before all volunteers back at IGF (Course Closing van volunteers).

Net	Assignment	Secondary Assignment	Call Sign	First Name	Last Name
Hospitality	Mile 2		VE4PH	Pete	Haertel
Hospitality	Mile 2		VE4PEH	Patricia	Haertel
Hospitality	Mile 4		VE4BOY	Juanito	Alambra
Hospitality	Mile 4		VE4DAE	Emelyn	Hingada
Hospitality	Mile 6		VA4CAT	Catherine	Suarez
Hospitality	Mile 6		VA4DON	Don	Suarez
Hospitality	Mile 8		VE4DTF	David	Freemantle
Hospitality	Mile 8		VE4EBC	Josh	Reimer
Hospitality	Mile 10		VE4CEL	Cecilio	Mendoza
Hospitality	Mile 10		VE4TSY	Paul	Copio
Hospitality	Mile 12		VE4SBS	Sunday	Satiada
Hospitality	Mile 12		VE4LYN	Lynn	Satiada
Hospitality	Mile 14		VE4WDZ	Wyatt	Zacharias
Hospitality	Mile 14		VA4RAD	Brendan	Christianson
Hospitality	Mile 16		VE4GLS	Gord	Snarr
Hospitality	Mile 16		VE4MHZ	Paula	Ehn
Hospitality	Mile 18		VE4JDH	Hamish	Donaldson
Hospitality	Mile 18		VE4GCV	Jerry	Volkers
Hospitality	Mile 19		VE4VB	Walter	Bezpalcko
Hospitality	Mile 19		VE4AI	Shaun	McLeod
Hospitality	Mile 20		VE4JAL	Alejo	Sofronio
Hospitality	Mile 20		VE4MMD	Milan	Duque
Hospitality	Mile 21		VE4DBV	Drago	Lambeta
Hospitality	Mile 21		VE4WX	John	Erwin
Hospitality	Mile 22		VE4MMG	Mariska	Maguire
Hospitality	Mile 22		VE4NJR	Nikolaus	Reichert
Hospitality	Mile 24		VE4HK	Dick	Maguire
Hospitality	Mile 24		VE4K GK	Ken	Kennedy
Hospitality	Mile 25		VE4NQ	Brian	Pettapiece
Hospitality	Mile 25		n/a	Betty	Pettapiece
Hospitality	Mile 25		VE4BIT	Sergii	Polischuk
Hospitality	Half Marathon		VE4DJS	Dave	Stimpson
Hospitality	Half Marathon		VE4RIC	Rick	Shumilla
Hospitality	Half Marathon		n/a	Max	Perchaluk
Hospitality	Half Marathon		n/a	Mary	Perchaluk
Hospitality	Relay 1		VE4VZ	Rolf	Bandlow
Hospitality	Relay 1		VE4GWB	Garth	Blum
Hospitality	Relay 2		VE4RJR	Delfin	Rosario
Hospitality	Relay 2		VE4ANF	Bing	Fernandez
Hospitality	Relay 3		VE4CEU	Fely	Garcia
Hospitality	Relay 3		VE4PPG	Primen	Garcia
Hospitality	Relay 4		VE4HQ	Tom	Blatch
Hospitality	Relay 4		VE4CEM	Colin	Mantay
Hospitality	NCS		VE4HAY	Derek	Hay
Hospitality	NCS		VE4AJO	Ellis	Seddon

Amateur Radio Poster	2017 Manitoba Marathon			18 JUN 2017
Hospitality	Lead Vehicle Full		VE4GIS	Kurt Sargent
Hospitality	Lead Vehicle Half		VE4JS	Jan Schippers
Hospitality	Closing Vehicle Driver		n/a	Gail Lamoureux
Hospitality	Closing Vehicle Driver/Operator		VE4UK	Denis Bosc
Hospitality	Closing Vehicle Assistant		n/a	Clorisce Lamoureux
Hospitality	Sweep 5 RadioOperator		VE4KTZ	Doug Kiz
Hospitality	Sweep 5 DRIVER		VE4MWH	Mark Havens
Hospitality	Sweep 7 Radio Op		VA4VMM	Vera
Hospitality	Sweep 7 Driver		VA4RWT	Gary Goodman
Hospitality	Start Line		VE4TTH	Peter Toth
Medical	Medical NCS		VE4EH	Norman Coull
Medical	Medical NCS		VE4HAZ	Harm Hazeu
Medical	Wet Bulb -1		VE4NCH	Pat Verbaschott
Medical	Wet Bulb-2		VE4JNF	John Foster
Medical	Don's Shadow		VE4GWN	Glen Napady
Medical	Intake/Triage Area		VE4ACX	Yori Tsuji
Medical	Intake/Triage Area-2		VE4YYL	Rosi Napady
Medical	Dawna Marie's Shadow		VE4SIG	Jim Sutton
Medical	Dr Morham's Shadow		VE4ESX	Richard Sheridan
Medical	Med 1 - radio		VE4STS	Bob Myatt
Medical	Therapy 5 - driver		VE4MBQ	Jeff Dovyak
Medical	Therapy 5 - radio		VE4KAZ	Richard Kazuk
Medical	Therapy 6 - driver		VE4MAB	Mark Blumm
Medical	Therapy 6 - radio		VE4BAW	Geoff Bawden
Medical	Supply 7 - driver		VE4QV	John Pura
Medical	Supply 7 - radio		VE4SCH	Dario Schor
	Supply 7 Medic		VA4PNO	Jack Peters
Medical	Supply 8 - radio		VE4SYM	Susan Collings
Medical	Supply 8 - Driver		VE4TRO	Fred Collings
	Supply 8 Medic		n/a	Zach Novak
Medical	VE4WVO		VE4LDI	Diane Perry
Medical	Ski Patrol Dispatcher		VE4DWG	Don Gerrard
Medical	Ski Patrol Dispatcher		VE4MMW	Nicki Albus
Medical	Back-Up		VE4TTH	Peter Toth
Medical	Back-Up			
Spare3	East of the Red		VE4GKS	Gerry Sherman
Spare2	North of the Assiniboine		VE4SE	Tom Mills
Spare 2a	North of the Assiniboine		VE4XYL	Ruth Mills
Spare1	South of the Assiniboine			
Spare 11	2nd South of the Assiniboine			
Spare 33	2nd East of Red			
Spare 22	2nd North of Assiniboine		VE4AFL	Ken Laidlaw
Post Event	Logistics			Rhonda Dovyak

ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING
MANITOBA MARATHON AMATEUR RADIO OPERATIONS
(loaned equipment or facilities, recruited volunteers)

Winnipeg ARES
Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club
Manitoba Repeater Society
Pathfinders Amateur Radio Club
South-Central ARES.

Winnipeg ARES-owned equipment was used for the temporary Amateur Radio base radio stations at the Comm Centre in addition to one Net Control Operator's personal transceiver. As previously mentioned five dual-band portable radios were cached at Care Centre and eight portable radios were available on-course.

2017 RECOVERY

Amateurs at Hospitality Stations are supposed to turn loaner ARES vests over to Course Closing Vehicle as it passes by – not all do creating extra work for Coordinator.

All borrowed radio equipment returned by 27 JUN. All but one “loaner” vests returned by 27 JUN, the last one is accounted for.

Thanks to Rhonda Dovyak for laundering the “loaner” ARES-WARC vests.

Approximately five issues came up during face-to-face debrief 27 JUN over what was submitted by e-mail to Coordinator.

A summary report will be submitted for publication in the SEP 2017 WARC newsletter.

2017 MITIGATION

(i.e. LESSONS LEARNED/CONCERNS/SUGGESTIONS)

ARES volunteers were asked to notify Coordinator by e-mail by 20 JUN, a debrief session was also held 27 JUN:

Maintain on-line volunteer registration thru WARC web-site.

Remind all Amateur volunteers to notify Coordinator if not attending briefing.

A Public Address System is suggested for next year's ARES briefing.

Attempt to recruit additional back-up operators.

Marathon staff should encourage IGF staff to open Gate 1 at advertised time or change time that is briefed to volunteers.

Need more fool-proof vehicle key pick-up plan at IGF for Course Closing vehicle [already communicated].

Relocate portable repeater location at IGF to one with less foot traffic (ARES Technician considering near Section 125). Start off on alternate frequency, try to solve interference problem on primary frequency.

Encourage participation in THU evening test net for all Hospitality Net participants [already added to 2018 briefing agenda].

Remind Amateur Volunteers not to show up early at briefing or to just stay with vehicle until designated time (material distribution supposed to begin at 1815h, people were waiting as of 1740h).

Stress during ARES briefing that race day cellular should be "on" with ringer "on" [already added to 2018 briefing agenda].

Tech Team members should be ready to provide concise briefing regarding their component. Small children should be left at home. Perhaps a Public Address system should be utilized?

Provide different Amateur Radio gear for Hospitality Net Control (e.g. ARES Mobile Kit 10). Consider having a tripod, mast and directional antenna available for Hospitality Net use on Comm Centre set-up day (ARES would need to borrow a UHF Yagi antenna). Assign an Amateur away from Comm Centre to assist in FRI afternoon communication checks. Color code feedline connectors [already done].

Amateurs in Medical Supply vans should familiarize themselves with supplies on board before going out on course [note in 2018 ARES booklet already].

Marathon staff should consider allowing ARES volunteers for Care Centre to park in west parking lot of IGF so that they are close to equipment carried in personal vehicles.

If possible provide DC “powerpacks” for operators in course vehicles that are unseen until Race Day. Encourage all volunteers to have a functioning HT and spare battery packs – borrow from ARES if necessary (we had at least 13 “loaner” HTs at the event, only one was signed out). Amateurs in vehicles should each carry an antenna adapter to allow mobile antenna connection to their HT [reminder note already in 2018 briefing agenda].

Stress at ARES briefing that on-air and on-location times Race Day are the same [already noted in 2018 briefing agenda and 2018 ARES booklet].

Remind operators to notify Coordinator or Hospitality Net Control if unable to participate suddenly [already in 2018 briefing agenda].

Medical Chair on/or Operations Manager to establish who is responsible for on-course Medical Kit & cooler pick-up and return and to what location [already communicated].

Medical Chair and/or Operations Manager to consider providing Course Flagging materials to Amateurs at Hospitality Stations without medical volunteers [already communicated].

Provide Sweep Vans with bottled water (medical vehicles each had a “flat” of bottled water).

Comm Centre Net Controllers must advise field operators what “channel” another net is functioning on before directing field operator to change frequencies. Marathon frequencies are channelized.

Course vehicle access for IGF Gate 1 must be reconsidered by Marathon staff.

Volunteer Hospitality Station at IGF should remain open until Course Closing vehicle volunteers back at IGF or meals should be set aside for them [already communicated].

Remind Amateurs at ARES briefing to turn over “loaner” equipment to Course Closing vehicle as it passes by [already added to briefing agenda, again].

Keep doing face-to-face debrief for ARES volunteers.