

The **NEWSCASTER**

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

January 2018

Facebook Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club - VE4BB Twitter @ve4bbwarc

TBA

Date: Monday, January 8, 2018 Time: 7:30 PM Place: Dakota Collegiate - Cafeteria *See You There* 661 Dakota Street (At Beliveau Road)

Other Important Dates: Newscaster: Deadline January 31, 2018

- WARC: Monthly Meeting Dates February 12, 2018 March 12, 2018
- ARES: Tuesday, January 16, 2018 Sir Wm Stephenson Library 765 Keewatin Street -Call-Outs and Equipment
- Other: Spring Flea Market Sunday, April 15, 2018

Manitoba Marathon Sunday, June 17, 2018

WARC Executive for 2017-2018...

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Manitoba Repeater Society

Happy New Year to All!

VE4BB

2017 Memberships are now expired!

Manitoba Repeater Society memberships for 2017 have now expired. Thank you to everyone that has renewed so far.

If you are not sure of your status, go to The Manitoba Repeater Society web site http://mb-repeater-society.ca click on the "Current Members" button then click on the second "Current Members" link you will find on the page. The link shows Callsign, Name, and Membership expiry date.

If you do not see your name and callsign listed, your dues were not paid for 2017. After Jan 31, 2018, only memberships for 2018 will be listed. Grads of the Basic Short Course from March 2017, we hope your free period was enjoyable. It also expired on December 31, 2017.

To renew your membership please go to http://www.mb-repeater-society.ca and pay by PayPal, fill out the application and send it along with a cheque to

Membership Manitoba Repeater Society c/o VE4WSC 598 St Mary's Rd, Winnipeg Mb R2M 3L5

You can also drop by VE4WSC and drop your renewal off and of course any member of the MRS Executive will be happy to accept your renewal

May your 2018 be Healthy. Happy. and Prosperous

73 de

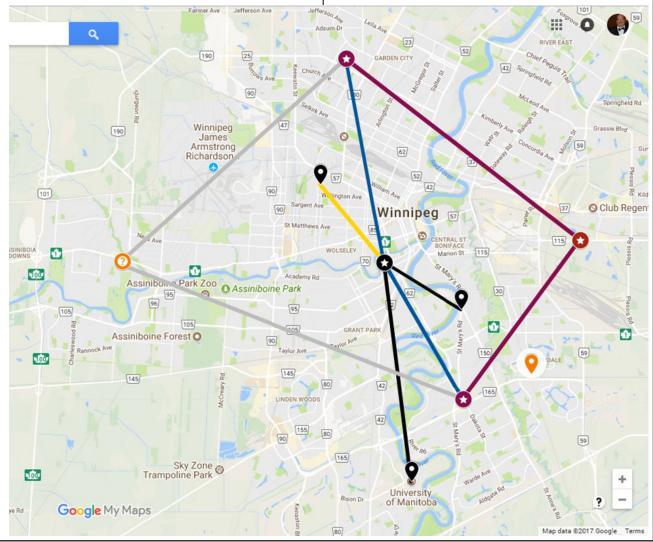
Pete VE4PH

MRS Membership Chair

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

2 VA4WAN Update	
By Derek VE4HAY	WSC – Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club – No AP at this time
The VA4WAN is a project of the Winnipeg Digital Repeater group, to provide an intra network (intranet) of digital connectivity. The group has been busy ex- panding and stabilizing this IntraNet over this past summer and well into the fall.	<i>Future</i> STJ – Spring 2018 installation planned for Country Club Road & Portage Ave. 2.3Ghz AP WOD – in Woodlands MB, this site should be on the air
Current sites with access points are; 55N – 55 Nassau with 2.3Ghz & 5.8Ghz access points (AP)	spring 2018 2.3GhzAP SLK – Selkirk MB on Eaton Ave is being planned out for a spring 2018 install 2.3 Ghz AP
STV – Near Dakota & Bishop Grandin – 2.3Ghz AP	VA4HAY – planning on providing a local area 5.8Ghz AP winter 2018
TRA – Prairie Mobile Communications on Dugald ave. 2.3Ghz AP	<i>Routing the IntraNet</i> 55N is our main hub site, with a connection to our in-
INK – On Marbury in the Maples 2.3Ghz AP	ternet service provider (Les.net). Most of radios and backhaul are at this site. We have two high speed con-
WST – On the bread plant, near Richard & Erin 2.3Ghz AP	nections from here. One going north to INK and one going south to STV. These sites then both connect to TRA and will both connect to STJ (this spring), form-
U of M – University of Manitoba Engineering Bldg 2.3 Ghz AP	ing a complete loop around the city. If any of these links are broken, we can still pass traffic via different



Numerous meetings on how to route our network have been held and conscientious plan is finally being developed. This is anticipated to be deployed over the winter. Users should not experience any loss of the network (if this is done correctly) and in fact should notice a slight increase in speeds, as most of the broadcast traffic will disappear in favour of OSPF (Open Shortest Path First) routing.

Websites

VA4WAN is currently hosting web pages for the Manitoba Repeater Society, the Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club, the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club and the Winnipeg Digital Radio Group. Saving each of these organizations the cost of yearly domain registration and web site space. Through the graciousness of a local ham VE4RLK, the web sites will be moved into a commercial data centre with a 10gb connection directly to the internet. The same data centre that is hosting the Radio Amateurs of Canada site. If any other amateur radio group would like web space, please contact us and we can make arrangements.

Telephone

An Asterisk server had been running on our network for over a year and is proving to be very versatile and useful for the group. Asterisk is an open source framework for building communications applications. Asterisk turns an ordinary computer into a communications server. Asterisk powers IP PBX systems, VoIP gateways, conference servers and other custom solutions. There are a number of local hams who have telephones connected to this server, allowing them to make and receive telephone calls from all over Canada & the USA. Connections can be either hard (actual phones or systems) or soft (an app on a smart phone). A couple of the connections are to office type Private Branch Exchanges (PBX), while others are to Analogue Terminal Adapters (ATA) connected to a plain old telephones or direct to IP phones. The main telephone number is 204 -666 hams (4267). When Asterisk answers an incoming call, the caller is directed to an IVR (interactive voice response) system where you can dial any extension directly or search the directory by the callsign prefix of the user and be connected to the user at that point. Hams in other provinces have inquired about connecting to the Asterisk server as well.

Video

We have a few cameras (4) connected to the network at this time and plans are to connect more as we gain access to sites. Anyone viewing the camera can see current weather conditions and traffic. A couple of the camera sites have been picked up by the Weather Network and images displayed on their weather features.

Repeaters

Four repeater systems are connected to the network at this time - DMR, D-Star and two IRLP stations. MRS also did a short trial on linking their analogue repeaters as well. Plans are in place to link VE4CNR to the VE4TOM repeater in Winkler.

VE4WSC

The Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club is a huge supporter of this project. They are providing us with valued storage of equipment and an area to work and test radios. They are also a backup server site (although it is not actually backing up yet). VE4WSC is utilizing the network for their telephone system as well as for their internal intranet. They are using the connection for IRLP, Remote control of a Base HF station, and for a WSPR beacon. Plans are also in the works for connection to a Winlink system that will be installed.

Trial and error

Without proper testing equipment that is capable of spectrum analysis, we have been able through trial and error to determine which components work in a high RF environment (55N & STV) and which radios do not. We still have a couple of radios to swap out to help stabilize the network in this regard. If anyone has any equipment that can test radios for frequency and antennas resonance in the 2.3Ghz and 5.8 Ghz band, please contact us. We really need help in this regard.

While I can say the group has experienced a number of hick-ups along the way, we have learned as well. High RF environments is a definite learning experience and is continuing to taunt us as we overcome one hurdle only to be challenged by another. We have found an electrical wiring issue at our main host site, which our landlord was grateful for finding. This fault took us off the air a number of times, until it could be tracked down, but we appear to now be stable. While we are not operating at 99.99% uptime, we are somewhere in the high 90% area and improving every day.

Connections

VA4WAN can offer very basic support to get anyone on the air. And have some surplus radios and antennas for sale if anyone is interested. We can also direct you on what to buy if you are looking for new or slightly used equipment. We are not at this time offering any static IP's, but there is the strong possibly that we can give you a small subnet of addresses if it is really needed. Shortly we will have a captive portal in place, which will require all users to agree to usability terms, before they can get full access to the network. Similar to what you agree to when using a hotel Wi-Fi system. The project is not intended to be your main access to the internet, but rather a backup access point. Or one where you can do your ham radio activity without affecting your home network.

Goals

• One of our goals is to utilize our secondary access in some of the microwave bands. If we don't use these we may lose them. Right now in Geneva there is movement to grab a chunk of the 5.8-5.9Ghz frequency for use by Commercial wireless providers.

• Utilize the class A IP address assignments that hams were granted back in the 1970's. Commercial interests have been eyeing this address block for years, until IPv6 came out. Once again it is a use it or lose it scenario.

• Provide a viable Inter-Network platform for local amateur radio operators to use and build projects or systems on.

Provide backup data communications that can be used in the event of an emergency or disaster. Continued...

The Future

We are looking for Amateur Radio operators who are looking for digital connectivity projects or systems. Asterisk as mentioned above is a great project. But what else do Hams want to do with the network? Think about it and bring us your ideas. We are even looking at a ways to work with an Internet of Things Lora network. Who knows what the future will bring and how we can work with it.

Contact us http://va4wan.ampr.org/ va4wan@gmail.com 204-666-hams (4267) ext. 4999

Sponsors

Thank you very much to our sponsors

Les.Net - Providing our Internet access and routing

Lount Corp – Roof top space at 55N

Prairie MobileComm – tower space at TRA

FastNet Communications – Co-location at INK

MB Housing – Roof top space at STV, STJ, SLK

UMARS – roof top space at U of M

Lucerne Bread – Roof top space at WST

VE4WSC – providing storage, and workroom space to test and build the project.

Spotlight On Rick Lord VE4OV By David VE4DAR

I interviewed busy Rick Lord VE40V in his office at Probe Electronics. Rick told me he got interested in amateur radio as a teenager listening to Short Wave Radio. "I was fascinated by propagation. Then, my friend, Dave Place told me about amateur radio. His brother, Ron VE4PL, was the first ham I met. Ron's station was an inspiration."

"After I became an electronics engineer, I studied on my own to get my ticket in 1974. I had no Elmer. I had learned CW as a kid with Dave Place VE4PN."

"I bought older tube-operated equipment and modified it. My first 2m rig was a Motorola 43GGV, a modified taxi radio so big, it lived in the trunk. The head was in my car. It had only two channels. I met most of my ham friends through that radio in the early 70's."

"Today I have all commercial equipment: an Icom 761, 2 handhelds, and a 2 m base. I built all my own antennas. I just finished rebuilding a Heathkit HW32." Memorable contacts? "I specifically remember all the "firsts": first CW contact, first 2m contact, first DX contact, and my first Satellite contact. I was a serious 160m SSB Contester, winning first place for Manitoba for a lot of CQ 160m SSB contests. It took me 6 years to get the Worked All States (WAS) on 160m SSB!"



What have you gotten out of ham radio? "So much fun that I'd be happy if every ham got even 10% of what I've gotten. My hobby has helped my career in electronics and my career has helped my hobby."

Any particular interest in ham radio? "I've been involved in electronics, antennas, teaching students, and representing amateur radio at the provincial and national levels."

Public service? "I've been on WARC's executive and RAC's Midwest Director for 7 years. I've taught about 200 hams over the years. I've been less involved with ARES, and more on the administration of our hobby."

Advice for new hams? "Join clubs and RAC. Don't just hide behind the microphone, and don't just send CW to the far side of the world. Do something. Volunteer. Become involved with the people. Keep learning about the new forms of technology; for example, satellites and balloon launches."

Future of amateur radio? "It used to be very difficult to get into. Now it's more accessible. It will become more community centric such as ARES; doing more for society; turning away from the technical roots and becoming more communicators.

Ham Radio is going toward Arduinos, Raspberry Pies, and programmable micro circuits. Now is a good time to be an experimenter. I am very hopeful that Ham Radio will be successful and continue into the future."

Winnipeg ARES Jeff Dovyak VE4MBQ ve4mbq@rac.ca

Thanks to Mark Havens VE4MWH who gave us a very detailed presentation on Internet Security at our December General Meeting. In preparation for renovations, Amateur Radio gear at the City of Winnipeg Emergency Operations Centre has been placed into storage at the EOC – VE4EOC may be off the air for a while.

Richard Kazuk VE4KAZ is recruiting volunteer operators for Scouts Canada Klondike Derby SAT & SUN 03, 04 MAR at Camp Amisk. Duty time is approximately 0830-1630h both days. To register please email Richard VE4KAZ, ve4kaz@rac.ca Subject Line: 2018 Klondike Derby, include full name and call-sign in your e-mail and indicate whether you are registering for both days or just SAT or just SUN. This is an allweather event.

CANWARN Spotter Training will be in Winnipeg this year, SAT 24 MAR, location to be determined. If interested, please contact VE4MBQ.

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

Our next General Meeting will be TUE 16 JAN 1900h at Sir Wm Stephenson Library 765 Keewatin Street. The writer is scheduled to give us a presentation on Call-Outs and Equipment.

Manitoba Marathon Jeff Dovyak VE4MBQ ve4mbg@rac.ca

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

Volunteer Registration went live in early December, although we have had some registrations, we still need seventy (70) Amateur operators. We always pair a new Amateur up with someone who has done the Marathon at least once so new Amateurs should not be hesitant to get involved. On-line registrations can be done thru:

http://winnipegarc.org/marathon volunteer form.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*

Letter to the Editor By David VE4DAR

Note: After reading the multi-page article about Winnipeg's Fire Paramedic Service in the Winnipeg Free Press, I wrote the following Letter to the Editor. It was published a few days later omitting paragraphs 2 and 3.

Re: Alarming Approach, Saturday, December 23, 2017 Many thanks for the comprehensive article on the WFPS; lots of relevant info well presented. However, I've got some add-ons.

My prejudice revealed:

WFPS from the old #12 Station on Grosvenor saved my life in January 2000 when I was having an MI. Having heart attack symptoms, I called 9-1-1. Arriving fire fighters assessed me and began treatment. Then paramedics arrived and transported me to hospital. On the way I was given "the paddles." I am very grateful to the WFPS integrated and prompt service, the hospital care, and the ReFit Post Cardiac Program. Death for me was only minutes away.

Remember Y2K?

Many systems were predicted to collapse. The Winnipeg Fire Department and Manitoba RCMP requested communication systems back-up from the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). ARES assigned volunteer Amateur Radio Operators to each fire station and to isolated RCMP stations for New Years Eve. I worked out of #4 on Osborne, riding a pumper with my handheld radio in contact with Fire Dispatch. I only mention this because one our calls was to a heart attack. A week later, I had mine!

What appears missing from your article is Winnipeg's need for "running reserve." How well would WFPS be able to respond to disasters with capacity limited by frozen or reduced budgets? Consider a school bus crash; major fire; or train derailment spilling toxic materials near the baseball stadium during a game. Remind yourself how many airplane crashes we've already had in Winnipeg. I fear lunatic-caused mass casualty incidents requiring emergency or disaster responses.

Regarding low fire stats, how many of the fire stations are located in areas that are just being populated? I would expect low fire numbers among low, but growing populations.

Thanks for your good work.

David Rosner December 24, 2017.

Contest Calendar

Extracted From http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/

T 2018

January 2018	
NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Jan 5
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 5
PODXS 070 Club PSKFest	0000Z-2400Z, Jan 6
WW PMC Contest	1200Z, Jan 6
	to 1200Z, Jan 7
Kid's Day Contest	1800Z-2359Z, Jan 6
ARRL RTTY Roundup	1800Z, Jan 6
	to 2400Z, Jan 7
EUCW 160m Contest	2000Z-2300Z, Jan 6
	and 0400Z-0700Z, Jan 7
Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 10
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Jan 10
	and 1900Z-2000Z, Jan 10
	and 0300Z-0400Z, Jan 11
NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Jan 12
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 12
YB DX Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Jan 13
Old New Year Contest	0500Z-0900Z, Jan 13
UBA PSK63 Prefix Contest	1200Z, Jan 13
	to 1200Z, Jan 14
SKCC Weekend Sprintatho	
	to 2400Z, Jan 14
North American QSO Party	
	to 0559Z, Jan 14
NRAU-Baltic Contest, SSB	0630Z-0830Z, Jan 14
DARC 10-Meter Contest	0900Z-1059Z, Jan 14
NRAU-Baltic Contest, CW	0900Z-1100Z, Jan 14
Midwinter Contest	1000Z-1400Z, Jan 14
Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 17
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Jan 17
	and 1900Z-2000Z, Jan 17
	and 0300Z-0400Z, Jan 18
NAQCC CW Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Jan 18
NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Jan 19
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 19
LZ Open Contest	1800Z-2200Z, Jan 19
Hungarian DX Contest	1200Z, Jan 20
	to 1159Z, Jan 21
North American QSO Party	y, SSB 1800Z, Jan 20
	to 0559Z, Jan 21
ARRL January VHF Conte	
	to 0359Z, Jan 22
WAB 1.8 MHz Phone	1900Z-2300Z, Jan 20
Feld Hell Sprint2000)Z-2359Z, Jan 20 (EU-AF)
	and 2300Z, Jan 20
	0259Z, Jan 21 (ENA-ESA)
	559Z, Jan 21 (ENA-OC-AS)
Classic Exchange, CW	1300Z, Jan 21
	to 0800Z, Jan 22
	and 1300Z, Jan 23
	to 0800Z, Jan 24
Run for the Bacon QRP Co	
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Jan 24
NAQCC CW Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Jan 24
Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 24
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Jan 24
	and 1900Z-2000Z, Jan 24
	and 0300Z-0400Z, Jan 25
NGCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Jan 26

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/		
NCCC Sprint CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 26 2200Z, Jan 26	
CQ 100-Meter Contest, CW	to 2200Z, Jan 20	
Montana QSO Party	0000Z-2400Z, Jan 27	
REF Contest, CW	0600Z-2400Z, Jan 27	
t	o 1800Z, Jan 27	
L BARTG RTTY Sprint	1200Z, Jan 27	
~F	to 1200Z, Jan 28	
UBA DX Contest, SSB	1300Z, Jan 27	
,	to 1300Z, Jan 28	
Winter Field Day	1900Z, Jan 27	
•	to 1900Z, Jan 28	
Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 31	
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Jan 31	
	and 1900Z-2000Z, Jan 31	
	and 0300Z-0400Z, Feb 1	
UKEICC 80m Contest	2000Z-2100Z, Jan 31	
Into February		
NRAU 10m Activity Contes	t	
J.	1800Z-1900Z, Feb 1 (CW)	
and	d 1900Z-2000Z, Feb 1 (SSB)	
an	d 2000Z-2100Z, Feb 1 (FM)	
an	d 2100Z-2200Z, Feb 1 (Dig)	
NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Feb 2	
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 2	
	400Z, Feb 2 to 0200Z, Feb 4	
Vermont QSO Party 0	000Z, Feb 3 to 2400Z, Feb 4	
10-10 Int. Winter Contest, S		
	to 2359Z, Feb 4	
	200Z, Feb 3 to 1200Z, Feb 4	
Black Sea Cup Internationa		
Mexico RTTY Internationa	to 1159Z, Feb 4 l Contest 1200Z, Feb 3	
	to 2359Z, Feb 4	
FYBO Winter QRP Sprint	1400Z-2400Z, Feb 3	
Minnesota QSO Party	1400Z-2400Z, Feb 3	
British Columbia QSO Part		
	to 0400Z, Feb 4	
	and 1600Z-2400Z, Feb 4	
AGCW Straight Key Party	1600Z-1900Z, Feb 3	
FISTS Winter Slow Speed Sprint		
-	1700Z-2100Z, Feb 3	

North American Sprint, CW 0000Z-0400Z, Feb 4 RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB 1900Z-2030Z, Feb 5

Good luck in the contest



204.899.3350 1798 St Matthews Ave Winnipeg, MB R3H 0A5

They can provide 15% discount on QSL cards.

Discount for

"WARC"

members

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!

Editor's Note:

Thanks to all the contributors to The Newscaster who make it a valuable resource to the amateur radio community.

The deadlines are always posted on the first page so you won't miss having your articles, time sensitive info etc published in future issues of The Newscaster.



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)

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