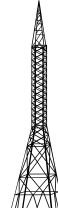


The Repeater

The Manitoba Repeater Society Inc.



Fall 2002

Distributed to all Current Members

Important Dates:

MRS: Thursday at 9:00 pm MRS Semi-Weekly Net
Sunday at 1:00 pm - MRS Semi-Weekly Net

WARC: Sept. Dec 9th. - Next meeting

WSC: Dec 8th - Open House - Talk to Santa
Dec. 10 - Xmas Party Assiniboia Christian Ctr.
Dec. 18 - Annual General Meeting - Open to All
June 9 - 20th Anniversary of WSCRC

Other -

On behalf of the MRS executive, I would like to wish everyone a very peaceful and safe holiday season. May you find the time to enjoy your family, friends, neighbors and of course your hobbies.

Treasurers report

By Paula, VE4MHZ

Opening Balance January 1, 2002 is		\$3754.12
As of November 14, 2002:		
Total Income is	\$4235.00	
Total Expenses is	\$3687.01	
Bank Balance is		\$4302.11

President's Report

by Ed, VE4EAR

Hello everyone! I can't believe it is time for another newsletter already. Summer and fall have flown by and by now everyone is likely started their holiday season preparations.

Your MRS executive has had a busy summer completing several maintenance projects that have been underway for quite some time.

The new antenna installation on the Richardson Building has finally been completed. The new tower gives us a more room for mounting additional antennas and provides a more rigid support for the existing ones. The result has been an improvement in link signal strength and improvements in the VE4WPG and VE4VJ repeater coverage areas.

On the negative side we have seen the loss of our VE4NEP site at Neepawa. The executive is hard at work trying to negotiate alternate sites with various parties. We hope to have some good news soon.

Please check out the rest of this newsletter for additional details on these past projects and news concerning upcoming activities and projects!

Item	2002 Budget	Year to Date Totals
Equip. Maintenance	1500.00	180.92
New/Replacement Equip.	1500.00	1400.00
Newsletter	400.00	411.52
Insurance	950.00	1045.00
Rentals	100.00	0.00
MTS	600.00	455.40
Licenses and Fees	50.00	0.00
Misc. Expenses (Bank Service Charges, Photocopying, Donations)	50.00	194.17
	<u>5150.00</u>	<u>3687.01</u>

Local Access nets

Daily 01:00 UTC	MB Evening Phone net	3760 KHz
Daily 01:30 UTC	Prairie Traffic Net (CW)	3660 KHz
Daily 02:30 UTC	Aurora #2 net	7055 Khz
Weekdays 9:00am	Seniors Morning Net	147.390 MHz
Wed. 9:00 pm	Six Meter net	50.240 MHz
Thursday 9:00pm	MRS Net	147.390 MHz
Sunday 1:00pm	MRS Net	147.390 MHz

M.R.S. Current Fee Schedule

Current & Renewal Members
\$25.00 per calendar year

New members only - Pro-rated quarterly

January to December \$25.00
April - December \$18.75
July to December \$12.50
October to December \$ 6.25

- First time members are no longer required to pay a one time only initiation fee of \$10.00 on top of the regular fee. Their membership fee is pro-rated for the first year only.

- Family membership is for each additional members residing at the same residence as the initial member.
\$10.00 each

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Industry Canada Amateur Centre
Voice 1-888-780-3333 (toll-free)
Fax: 1-613-991-5575
E-mail: spectrum.amateur@ic.gc.ca
Web: <http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/spectrum>

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The Repeater Advertising Rates:
All advertising is black & white and must be submitted in electronic format.
full page \$75.00
½ page \$40.00
¼ page \$20.00
bus.card \$10.00

For more information or to place an ad please contact any executive member.

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Comments or if you just want to reach us :

Newscaster Editor
Manitoba Repeater Society
C/O VE4WSC
598 St. Mary's Road
Winnipeg, MB R2M 3L5
<http://www.ve4.net/mrs/>

Technical Committee Submitted by Gord, VE4GLS

Most of the MRS linked repeater system is up and running well at the time of this report. Regretfully the VE4NEP repeater had to be taken down earlier this summer and is no longer on the system. We are looking for alternative locations for this repeater and have a couple of possibilities that may work out over the next few months.

System repeater status (East to West):

VE4FAL, Freq. 146.64- MHz:

The Falcon Lake repeater is working normally with coverage from east of Richer almost to Kenora along the Trans Canada Highway. Some testing in late November indicated occasional noise bursts generated locally on the FAL system. The Technical committee(s) from both Pinetree and MRS are aware and hope to address this noise problem soon. Link #2 (402) is normally left off to separate the Pinetree System from the MRS system. This link can be brought up any time, but remember to take it down (420) after finishing your conversation.

VE4EMB, Freq. 147.36+ MHz:

The Hadashville repeater is not on the air at the time of writing this, but we hope to have it up before the end of the year. We plan on linking this repeater to Falcon Lake using the VE4FAL VHF output/input. Yori, VE4ACX, is working on a system that will allow this sort of linking to minimize disturbance to the FAL site, and multiplexing the signals on the EMB end allows the use of one antenna for both the repeater and the link. MTS (owners of the tower at Hadashville) limits our access to one antenna only.

M.R.S. Current Executive

President	Ed Richardson	VE4EAR	254-8425
V/President	Gord Snarr	VE4GLS	746-2743
Secretary	Dick Maguire	VE4HK	256-3143
Treasurer	Paula Ehn	VE4MHZ	667-7818
Membership	Roy Maguire	VE4EN	669-1355
Technical	Yori Tsuji	VE4ACX	453-3786
Directors	Grant Delaney	VE4HGD	783-2663
	Richard Sheridan	VE4ESX	237-1487
	Walter Bezpalko	VE4VB	284-3054
Past Pres.	Derek Hay	VE4HAY	257-1420

VE4MIL, Freq. 145.21- MHz:

The Milner Ridge repeater has been working flawlessly for the last six months or so. We plan on replacing the General Electric Exec II transceiver with one of the Motorola MSR-2000 repeater radios we have acquired, sometime next spring. This will increase the repeater's output from around 10 watts to 30 watts. This is part of our plan of slowly phasing out the old GE radios prevalent in our system.

VE4WPG, Freq. 147.39- MHz:

The Winnipeg repeater, located up on the Richardson Building in the downtown area, has been working well except for a few glitches and has had some major reconfigurations. Last month (October) a new antenna structure was installed up on the roof to consolidate our equipment onto the one tower. The setup is much neater and allows the VHF antenna to be placed higher off the roof. Thanks to all the members of the crew (see article elsewhere in this newsletter) who helped with the project. We have also been experimenting with some controller firmware at the WPG site because it is the easiest site for us to access. There may be some glitches during the next while as programming is being done, or links are not functioning as they should, etc. We hope to have this rectified soon.

VE4VJ, Freq. 443.5+ MHz:

Our UHF repeater, it has been replaced with a newer Motorola Micor repeater radio. An antenna problem was also fixed earlier in the year. This repeater is actually link #1 on the VE4WPG hub. It was previously used to link Winnipeg to Gimli and the Dauphin system (D.A.R.C.). (See below for notes on Gimli). The new radio and antenna repairs have increased it's range dramatically, even though the RF output to the antenna is only 1 watt (approximately). It covers a 50 km or more radius around the city, depending on topography. This link is normally connected with the rest of the system backbone and works as a normal repeater. Anyone with UHF capability is encouraged to try it out!

VE4WRS, Freq. 145.45 MHz (simplex autopatch)

(*35=up #35=down)

The autopatch is seeing less use with the proliferation of cellular telephones but it is ready to go when ever it is needed. It does work well and coverage is similar to VE4WPG since it is multiplexed into the same antenna

VE4GIM, Freq. 146.85- MHz:

The Gimli repeater has been working fairly well on it's own, however the link to the MRS backbone has been malfunctioning for over a year now. The problems were associated with the antenna issues at the WPG site (VE4VJ)

and link receiver trouble at the Gimli site. The technical committee has decided to replace the whole system at Gimli, putting in a Motorola MSR-2000 for VHF and a Motorola Micor UHF link transceiver. The link will no longer be using the VE4VJ frequency, so a new UHF frequency pair will be used to link to WPG on a separate link channel. The VHF antenna at the site will be relocated on top of a tower to increase range. This work should be completed by the end of November, however there may be a delay in getting the link going as we need to acquire another set of UHF duplexers for the transceiver at the Winnipeg end.

VE4MAN, Freq. 146.61- MHz:

The Starbuck repeater system has been working well as of late. There has been some trouble with the VHF receive sensitivity causing intermittently poor signals from weaker stations especially on the fringe of coverage. We do have a Motorola MSR series repeater transceiver slated to be installed at VE4MAN, but we need a new cabinet as the existing enclosure is too small for the new radio. We have one lined up but it is taking time... We won't likely get the new radio installed until next spring or when the existing radio fails (which ever comes first). Link #2 to PLP has been disabled until we find a new site for VE4NEP.

VE4CDN, Freq. 145.27- MHz:

The Morris repeater has been working fairly well despite it's low 1-2 watt output. There was a link receiver failure earlier this fall which required replacement of the existing Motorola Micor's receiver section. The link was down for a couple of weeks and is now working again thanks to Yori's expertise and parts department! The duplexer cavity filters for the VHF output need servicing to get the power back up to where it should be (10W - 20W). One of the cans on the TX side appears to be shorted and might have to be disassembled, cleaned, and re tuned to get it up to 100%. The link transceiver transmitter at Starbuck (link #3) to Morris is experiencing intermittent dropouts. This problem seems to show up as the link transmitter warms up and improves as the radio stabilizes. This will require a trek to the MAN site to correct; likely a problem with the exciter output transistor biasing. It needs a bit more power to keep the UHF power amplifier keyed.

VE4PLP (link repeater):

The Portage La Prairie site is still there, ready to link to something out west that doesn't exist right now. A link to the Portage repeater VE4PTG is on the to-do list for this site to further cover the Trans-Canada Highway and area in Western Manitoba. We plan on replacing the existing controller with our last Palomar RBC series controller to allow this site to function as a hub for better linking capability. This site has a new cabinet that was installed last spring. This cabinet will allow at least one more radio (link or

repeater) and its power supply. Manitoba Hydro (who allows us access to their site) just installed a new generator capable of 40+ kW, so we should almost have enough backup for our equipment.

VE4NEP, Freq. 147.21+ MHz:

The (formerly) Neepawa repeater is still fully functional and all ready to go in my shop at Morris... Regretfully our repeater had to be taken off line. The owner of the site no longer had use for that particular location and the tower was dismantled. We were hoping to obtain access to the Manitoba Conservation repeater site a bit down the road but they already have their tower loaded up to capacity. We are currently looking for a new home for this repeater system to cover the Highway 16 and Highway 1 areas up to Carberry and Neepawa. We would also like to reestablish a link to Brandon's VE4TED repeater so the Brandon amateurs can access our repeater system.

Current Projects

The MRS has acquired a site (formerly the MDECG digi repeater) near Minnedosa to also include in the system once the VE4NEP problem is taken care of. Of course this will be in the distant future (next year?) as the priorities are to get the existing system running at 100% with the new Motorola MSR repeater radios, updated Palomar firmware, etc. We have no equipment at the Minnedosa site other than a tower so we will need a repeater transceiver, link radio(s), power supplies, filter cavities, feedline, etc., some which we have and others yet to acquire before getting a signal on the air.

The MRS Technical Committee needs technicians to help with setting up and maintaining the system. Some of our rural repeater locations are very remote so traveling time and fuel expenses are a major factor in servicing these repeaters. One person capable of maintaining one or two sites would be very helpful, especially for our repeaters west of Portage. Some test equipment would be an asset but not a requirement, and preferred to have an advanced amateur license qualification. Please contact Yori or myself (ve4gls@rac.ca) if you are interested.

Mutual Agreement Systems

PineTree

Check this web site for some great Pics on the Change of the Antennas on top of the Richardson Bldg.
<http://www.members.shaw.ca/ve4tjr/>

News from the Net

IARU Administrative Council WRC-03 Preparations

Preparations for next year's World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-03) dominated discussions during the annual meeting of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Administrative Council. The gathering, November 7-8 in San Marino, reviewed WRC-03 agenda items of importance to amateurs, including harmonization of amateur and broadcasting allocations in the vicinity of 7 MHz. Several of those attending the San Marino session will head directly to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Conference Preparatory Meeting in Geneva November 18-29 (see below).

The Administrative Council reviewed and refined IARU strategy for WRC-03. Other WRC-03 agenda items of concern to the amateur community include possible revision of Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations. Article 25 includes the current requirement to demonstrate Morse code proficiency. In San Marino, the Council reaffirmed its policy supporting the removal of Morse code testing as an ITU requirement to obtain an amateur license to operate on frequencies below 30 MHz. -- *ARRL*

WRC-03 ISSUES TO GET FIRST WORLDWIDE AIRING AT CPM

Amateur Radio will be represented as preparations for World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) take a big step forward November 18. That's when the WRC-03 Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM) <> convenes for two weeks in Geneva. Sumner says that only a small portion of the paper pile-- such as the question of a worldwide 300-kHz allocation in the vicinity of 7 MHz-- directly affects Amateur Radio, however.

Other amateur issues include a request to allocate up to 6 MHz of spectrum for so-called synthetic aperture radars (SARs) from 420 to 470 MHz to be operated under the Earth Exploration Satellite Service (Active). The ARRL and the IARU oppose SARs in the most active portions of the amateur 70-cm band. CPM delegates also will deal with the amateur allocation in the vicinity of 5 GHz, which is facing growing competition from so-called Radio Local Area Networks (RLANs) and other unlicensed services.

Article 25, which-- among other things-- deals with the requirement to demonstrate proficiency in Morse code to operate below 30 MHz, has been another high-profile issue for amateurs. It's virtually certain that a Morse examination will no longer be a requirement. But the updated Radio Regulations could include language making clear that administrations may continue to require code tests if they wish. -- *ARRL*

IARU News

The Administrative Council of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) held its annual meeting on 7-8 November 2002 in San Marino, prior to the Conference of IARU Region 1. The dominant topic was the review of preparations for next year's ITU World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC), which has on its agenda a number of items of importance to the amateur services. At its San Marino meeting the Administrative Council took the following actions

A working document on the present and anticipated future requirements for radio spectrum allocations to the amateur and amateur-satellite services was reviewed and updated, particularly to reflect progress made by member-societies in achieving access for amateurs in the LF band in the range 135-200 kHz.

It was noted that a memorandum of understanding has been signed by the European and Inter-American telecommunications organizations (CEPT and CITELE respectively) that may assist in the further development of an international roaming license for radio amateurs. This is an example of the growing importance of inter-regional cooperation and sharing of information, including the desirability of regional IARU Executive Committee meetings having representation from the other regional organizations.

The Council affirmed its policy on Morse code as adopted in Guatemala City in October 2001, supporting the removal of Morse code testing as an ITU mandatory requirement for an amateur license to operate on frequencies below 30 MHz.

Council approved the suggestion from Region 1 for the theme of World Amateur Radio Day, 18 April 2003, as "Amateur Radio supporting technology education in the classroom." World Amateur Radio Day marks the anniversary of the founding of the IARU in 1925. --ARRL

ACA 420-430 MHz

The Australian Communication Authority has released a paper on the 420 to 430 MHz band, and the future does not look good for continued Amateur access to the segment. It points out that the International Telecommunications Union is studying allocations to meet the future needs of disaster relief organizations, including Fire, Police, and Ambulance services. VK is a strong supporter of harmonized allocations. The matter will be discussed further at the World Radio Conference being held in June 2003. -- WIA *Qnews*

Transatlantic VHF contact a no-go:

Groups of amateurs from Germany, Canada and Ireland had no luck in their attempt to make the first two-way transatlantic VHF contact in conjunction with this week's Leonid meteor shower. The effort was, in part, a quest for

the Brendan Trophies <http://www.irts.ie/brendan.htm> offered by the Irish Radio Transmitters Society <http://www.irts.ie/>. One group was on the Irish coast, while the other operated from Society of Newfoundland Radio Amateurs (SONRA) club station <http://www.sonra.ca> VO1AA, located at Signal Hill National Historic Site of Canada. --ARRL

IARU Region I Conference concludes in San Marino.

Some interesting papers discussed at the Conference included one by the OVSV Radio society of Austria which discussed the practice of split frequency operation as used by Dxpeditions and rare stations. OVSV says in the absence of a recommended maximum split, stations are using up to 50 kHz or even more! OVSV recommended 5 kHz. -- WIA

Amateur Internet Linking Systems (AILS) Fact Sheet

The Amateur community has reviewed the just released consumer information paper and have expressed concerns to the ACA/WIA Liaison Committee on a number of issues arising from the paper. The WIA view is that retransmission of Novices by linked repeaters on non-Novice bands is not an unearned privilege of any significance or practical value, especially as there are very few Australian linked repeaters operating in non-Novice bands. This is even more the case with links to overseas repeaters that cannot even be heard in Australia and cannot be expected to comply with Australian license conditions. The most workable solution to an increasingly complicated problem, as AILS becomes more common, would be to simply take the view an amateur station, operating through a repeater or AILS mode, is complying with the conditions of the authorizing license (like any other amateur), by transmitting on frequencies authorized by the station license. These views have been articulated in a recent letter sent to the ACA by the WIA/ACA liaison committee. The ACA's response is expected shortly. --WIA

INTERFERENCE TEMPERATURE

Robert F. Gonsett, W6VR, Editor THE CGC COMMUNICATOR SAYS TO WATCH FOR "WHITE SPACES" AND DON'T FORGET TO TAKE THE "INTERFERENCE TEMPERATURE"

The FCC's Spectrum Policy Task Force has presented its recommendations to modernize the Commission's rules that guide how the nation's spectrum is managed, and to evolve from a traditional government-based "command and control" model to a more flexible, consumer-oriented approach. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, reporting on ARNewsline says, "New FCC policies will take advantage of all empty and under used spectrum, possibly by using

time sharing techniques. Recent tests conducted in five major US cities show that there are many under utilized spectral parcels available for sharing. What is evident is that the FCC is looking at ways to better utilize every hertz from DC to light and beyond. And if a mandatory sharing of most spectrum is put in place there's a good chance that all hobby and personal radio -- including ham radio -- will be sharing in some future yet to be established all-digital domain." The Commission has not, of course, endorsed any part of the report as yet, there may be some vigorous debate ahead.

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-228242A1.doc -- WZA

BEACON CAUSES QRM

Now the story of a UHF beacon with a signal that was a bit to good. Within 48 hours of turning on his new 1296,300 MHz beacon in Derry, New Hampshire, Ed Parsons K1TR, received a phone call and a signal report from the Chief Engineer at the Millstone Hill Observatory in Westford, MA. This would turn out to be the first, last and only QSN report the beacon would receive. The good news: the observatory hearing it loud and clear! The bad news: The observatory was hearing it loud and clear. So loud that the engineer told K1TR that the beacon's signal was impacting the observatory's capability to track satellites in certain directions. Also, that the recipient of the satellite tracking information, the US Air Force, would not be pleased. It seem that the Air Force radar uses about 8 MHz of spectrum centered at 1295 MHz. They use an 80-foot dish for an antenna. The K1TR beacon was less than 30 miles line of sight from the observatory. So now Ed's 23 cm beacon is off the air while he finds a new home for it. --SARL

Digital Radio Mondiale

Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM) is a project aimed at revitalizing the short-wave, medium-wave and long-wave broadcast bands. This is achieved by using digital signals to provide to provide listening quality close to that of FM broadcast. Radio amateurs and short-wave listeners can become part of the DRM Software Radio Project. They may also be among the first to access the initial DRM programs when test transmissions begin in the near future. The project works by adding an extra down-converter board to existing receivers and using the DRM software to decode the signal via a PC sound card. Radio amateurs and short-wave listeners wishing to get involved in the project should visit <http://www.drmtx.or> -- IRTS

DARC Membership Vote on Morse Code Requirement as an Examination Criteria for HF Access

A postal vote has been taken within the DARC membership. The questions where if being in favour with the existing situation (5 wpm obligatory Morse code examination for hf access) or abolition of this hurdle. The evaluation under legal control brought the following result:

- 17455 answers have been received
 - 8530 voted in favour of keeping the existing situation
 - 7781 are in favour of abolition
 - 1133 votes are nullify
 - 11 abstained
- DARC

CANWARN Report **Jay Anderson, Manager**

*Warning Preparedness Program
Prairie Storm Prediction Centre*

The 2002 Severe Thunderstorm Season

It was a quiet year for summer severe weather, especially in Manitoba. It seemed through the summer as if the moisture couldn't quite make it into the province from the south, and the upper flow wouldn't go around to its most favourable direction from the southwest.

Hail seemed to be the most frequent severe weather visitor with 24 reports of nickel size or larger in the province. Four reports of golf ball hail were received, one of them at Winnipeg. Most phone calls reported quarter or loonie-sized hail, but damage seems to have been fairly light, except for a few crops late in the season.

Tornadoes were in especially short supply, with only two definite and two possible. Both of the definite tornado sightings lasted for only a few seconds and apparently caused no damage. One of the two possible tornadoes was more aggressive, knocking down trees for over a kilometer, blowing down a building wall, and rolling a large 200-gallon fuel tank. Tornadoes were more numerous in Saskatchewan where 14 likely and three unconfirmed funnels were spotted - very nearly a normal year's count. In Alberta, the count was way down, with only three definite and one possible.

Winds were noteworthy across Manitoba and Saskatchewan during the year, with a spectacular windstorm on June 29 that brought a marvelous collection of roll and shelf clouds across Saskatchewan and into western Manitoba. Winds were measured at 138 km/h at the start of the storm in southwest Saskatchewan, but much of the energy had evaporated by the time the storm crossed into Manitoba. Wind speeds likely remained below 120 km/h. Birtle Museum lost its roof as the derecho (a long-lasting windstorm) passed, and additional damage was sustained at Riding Mountain and Elphinstone. Damaging winds (over 90 km/h where estimated or measured) struck on 12 days. As is

usually the case, Manitoba trees paid the price, but a Devil's Lake, a car was lifted off the road.

Rain was also a large player in the Manitoba weather, though not so noticeable as the more dramatic events. The most significant event by far was the two-day rainfall on June 8-10 that reached 300 mm in the extreme southeast of the province, near Minnesota's Northwest Angle. The flow from this storm kept the Roseau River watershed filled to the brim for the first half of the summer. On the Winnipeg River, Hydro had to use the full capacity of the spillway at Pine Falls to dump much of the water coming from Lake of the Woods. To add to the woes of the Southeast, Steinbach was flooded by 120 mm of rain in 12 hours on July 4. On August 26, a site in western Manitoba received 100 mm of rain in 30 minutes.

Four reports of severe weather were received from CANWARN members during the summer, a small increase from last year. This continues the trend of a gradually increasing influence of CANWARN members to the protection of Manitobans from severe thunderstorms.

Member Recognition Reward Program



While the new membership campaign ended on August 30, 2002, RAC will continue to have an ongoing membership campaign!

Besides attracting new members, RAC will recognize and reward those members who continue to renew their annual memberships on time by providing them with incentives. Those incentives will include quarterly draws, featuring prizes which will vary, depending upon dealer participation. While there could be more, we are promising at least twenty-five (25) prizes four times a year. However, the more members that RAC has, the more prizes that can be offered.

Here's how it will work: anyone who has been a RAC member for at least one year immediately preceding will be entered automatically into the draw during the quarter in which his/her membership expires.

For example, if a membership expires in August, a renewal notice is sent out by RAC in early June, advising of a "return date" which will be in advance of the renewal date. The member must respond by renewing on or before the "return date" in order to be eligible for the incentive draws. If not received by that date, the renewal will not be considered for the draw.

The intent of this program is to encourage annual membership renewal on time. It also, importantly, rewards those loyal members who have continued to renew RAC membership and thereby support Amateur Radio in Canada, year after year. Even with a "return date" slightly in advance of the normal renewal date, the renewing member will still have from six to eight weeks to reply and the renewed membership will still be for one full year. The early return date is needed to allow RAC HQ staff to deal with the membership processing in advance of the next issue of TCA, thus ensuring that magazine delivery to the member is uninterrupted.

Those members who joined RAC during the recent membership campaign, thereby having a chance at the eighty-one (81) prizes in that effort, will not be eligible for the new Reward Program until renewal after one full year of membership. Watch for the program to begin soon!

This is an exciting time in RAC's history and, truly, there NEVER has been a better time to join or to renew. Radio Amateurs of Canada is pressing forward with innovative ideas and contemporary thinking. Our email and telephones and postal boxes are open for your active participation. We want to hear from you so that we may give Radio Amateurs the best service and representation possible.

"We're ALL about Amateur Radio!" And we thank YOU for continuing to be part of it.

As the President of WARP it is my last official act to present to DARF a money order in the amount of \$1,396.96, with the hope that this will be of some benefit to all Canadian Amateurs. -- Regards: Chris Setla, VE4SET

Winter CanWARN Reportable Weather Submitted by Jeff, VE4MBO

As there will not generally be a CanWARN net in operation this winter, all members are requested to phone your report in via the number you received at Spotter Training. All non-CanWARN members should use the public number 1-800-239-0484. The following weather conditions are reportable;

- * Low Visibility
- * Freezing Rain or Freezing Drizzle
- * Snowfall accumulations over 6-8 cm
- * Rain that changes to snow (when temps near zero)

VE4WPG tower on the Richardson Building

By Dick, VE4HK

Several years ago, MRS upgraded our repeaters on the Richardson Building, by attaching two heavy duty 20 foot masts to the parapet on the roof, to support all the antennas. The system worked well for a few years, but began to sway in the wind. It was time to improve the antenna support structure.

About a year and a half ago, the executive approached the managers of the Richardson Building, to secure permission to make the change. The management agreed, but required stamped engineering documentation showing exactly what we intended to do. Rick Lord VE4OV recommended a professional engineer to do the work.

Ed Richardson VE4EAR acquired an eight foot section of commercial tower. Once we had the tower in our



New Tower on top of the Richardson Bldg. VE4GWN & VE4HK helped in the install. Left Mast - Bottom UHF yagi to VE4MAN, Top, 8 bay UHF for VE4VJ. Middle mast - Bottom UHF beam to VE4MIL, Top UHF Beam to VE4GIM. Right Mast - VHF 2 bay for VE4WPG & VE4WRS

possession, the engineer eventually produced the necessary paperwork. Simply getting the signed documentation was quite a story, in itself. Once we had the papers, we submitted them to the Richardson Building engineering staff.

The Reader's Digest version of what happened next is that the staff of the Richardson Building lost the paperwork a few times, had us replace the lost paperwork, went on extended holidays, and several other horror stories. Eventually, everything was in place. The installation was approved! Two weeks later a crew was on the roof.

Dick VE4HK, Ed VE4EAR and Yori VE4ACX attached the tower section to the roof on Saturday, October 12. That job took close to 6 hours. The weather was fairly cool, with a 40-60 km/h wind. We found out that the tower must be painted, or it may have to come down. Luckily, Yori brought a couple of cans of grey cold galvanizing paint. We sprayed until we ran out of paint. Yori and I returned on Wednesday evening to finish up the spray painting.

The performance on VE4VJ has been degraded for some time. The problem was narrowed down to the antenna. We installed a temporary VE4VJ antenna on Saturday, while Yori repaired our antenna.

Saturday, October 19, Yori and I met Tom VE4SE, Glen VE4GWN and Tim VE4TJR at the Richardson Building for the final stage in our epic saga. The group removed the various antennas on the masts, and moved them over to the new tower. We reinstalled the 8 bay VE4VJ antenna. The Helix cables were rerouted in a much tidier way from the parapet down and along the wall, then into the repeater room. Everything went very smoothly that day. The tower is rock solid. I stood on the top and shook. The tower moved only an inch. The crew again spent about 6 hours on the roof.

Many people have reported improved coverage on WPG since the changeover, especially in St. James and Charleswood. Gord VE4GLS reported he can copy VE4VJ, on UHF, from his tractor just north of Morris. The link to VE4GIM is much better. The linking antenna to VE4MAN is now outside the building on another mast. Everything we did should ensure much better coverage, once everything is completed.

The view from the roof of the Richardson Building can be described in 1 word "SPECTACULAR". Look at Tim VE4TJR's website <http://www.members.shaw/thrind> for some wonderful pictures of downtown Winnipeg, the baseball park, and, of course, the new, improved tower/antenna assembly

Defense of Amateur Radio Fund (DARF) **From: Winnipeg Amateur Radio Packet (WARP)**

First a bit of history:

The first meeting of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Packet group was held in April of 1993. It started as an unofficial group of packeteers dedicated to keep the present network running and to provide support services to the various mailbox systems. In October, 1994 the first annual meeting was called and the group officially was born. The main function of W.A.R.P. was to increase the awareness and technical expertise of those interested in or who are currently using packet radio in the Winnipeg Area. Secondly, through membership funds, to enhance the packet network through high speed backbones, user ports, and increased network connectivity.

Over time interest in packet radio declined until in late summer of 2002 the surviving executive members of WARP decided that it was time to cease operations and dispose of the remaining assets. One of the founding principles of the club was that on dissolution, any remaining funds would be donated to an Amateur Radio organization selected by the club executive at the time.

News from the Winnipeg Seniors' Radio Club **by Gil Frederick, VE4AG**

Upcoming Events that we wish to bring to your attention are as follows:

OPEN HOUSE at the CLUB - on SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

From 12 noon to 3 p.m., we will have members welcoming parents and children, mostly from the area around the Club. But we invite people from anywhere, town and country, to come and see what is actually on the 2nd floor of the old fire hall on St. Mary's at St. Anne's in St. Vital that is part of the life of senior citizen Hams.

- * Children will be encouraged to talk to Santa by radio-
- * attendees will be given a tour of the facilities, and the antique collection (electronic and computer).

* Light refreshments will be available.

If you would like to help, your attendance at this time would be very welcome.

CHRISTMAS DINNER and Party: on TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10.

It takes place again at the Assiniboia Christian Centre, 3390 Portage Ave. at Rouge Road, and there is ample parking, and total facilities to handle wheelchairs, etc. It is held in the Gym, with lots of space to move around. Come anytime after 11 a.m. - dinner will be served from 12 noon onwards. This is your time to come and socialize with members that you only see once a year!

- * The turkey dinner will be everything you expect in a full-course meal - there will be musical entertainment, and a sing-a-long.
- * TICKETS, which are \$15 each, are available from a Duty Officer at the Club, or an Executive member; we can even arrange delivery if that is desired.
- * But PLEASE, get your tickets NOW!!! We have to have the count for the caterers very soon now.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

This takes place on WEDNESDAY, December 18 - beginning at 10 a.m.

This is the BIG meeting for ALL members. We vote for the new Board for 2003, receive Committee reports, and conduct whatever other business comes to the floor in the form of a motion. All members have a voice input, and voting rights in all proceedings. This is YOUR club - this is the General Meeting - so please try and come out. Hope to see you there.

For those unable to make it up the stairs - or for other reasons, you will have a full report of what went on, in the SPARKS newsletter, coming out in late January.

The current 'Sparks' has been distributed. It includes the above notices, a complete list of members as of Nov. 20 - and an article about Hams in a medical rescue operation, from the Red Deer (AB) Express.

We welcome a new (old) member. Ernie Flight, VE4FE, who years ago when he lived in Winnipeg was VE4EO - as an active member of the Club once again. And thanks to Roy Coldwell, VE4ROY, and Ray Bond, VE4BND, who have been added to the roster as duty officers.



The Basic course class of 14 will have written their exams by the time you read this, and we hope we have that many new Hams joining our ranks.

3 of our members, Bert Andrews-VE4AND, Vern Dutton-VE4VQ, and Gil Frederick-VE4AG, attended the Memorial Service for a founding member, Gar Evans, ex-VE4AND, who died in late November.

And from the entire membership of the WSCRC, we send our very best wishes for a Happy Christmas to all.-

Membership Committee
By Roy, VE4EN

It's membership renewal time. Below is our membership application. Please take the time to complete it and mail with your fee. We are encouraging all members to receive their newsletter by e-mail to help keep our costs down and to provide you with a better newsletter. The e-mail version is in colour and has linkable hypertext where provided. If you still want a hard copy version then please print on your colour printer, for a much more superior image than if we were to photocopy in black & white.

Editors Ramblings
By Derek VE4HAY

Did you Know

Royden, VE4RTB has earned 2 Bronze (100 points each) for the Canadian Provinces Award. Roy is doing the award differently than most other operators. He applies for the award exclusively on individual bands. So far he has earned the award on 80m, 40m, 20m. Fine effort Roy. For more info on the award please check <http://www.tpn7055.ca/cpa.html>



Application for Membership

Attn. MRS Membership Chairperson
C/O Winnipeg Seniors Citizens Radio Club
598 St. Mary's Road
Winnipeg, MB R2M3L5

Name: _____ Call Sign _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

\$25.00 Members - (ending Dec 31, new members pro-rated)

_____ \$10.00 Addn'l Family Member

_____ Total

Family membership is for each additional member residing at the same residence as the initial member.

Newsletter and any notices will be e-mailed if address provided

Calendar Year Ending: _____
Certificate Required: _____
Membership card required _____

M.R.S. Current Fee Schedule

Pro-rated quarterly-new members only
Membership expires Dec 31 of current year

	<i>Regular</i>
January to December	\$25.00
April - December	\$18.75
July to December	\$12.50
October to December	\$ 6.25