



# The Repeater

Spring 2004

Distributed to all Current Members

## Notice of Annual Meeting and Elections

**Date:** April 22nd, 2004

**Time:** 7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

**Place:** VE4WSC Club Rooms  
598 St. Mary's Road  
Winnipeg, MB

The agenda will include approval of the minutes of the semiannual general meeting, business arising, a treasurer's report, a report from our auditor, a membership report, and a technical report. These reports will be followed by new business, and finally, election of officers for the 2004/2005 season.

### Important Dates:

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

WARC: Apr. 19 - Cafeteria - Home Brew Night  
April 25 - Flea Market  
May 10 - Ed VE4YU "Digital Communications"

WSC: 2nd. Thursday of each month - Breakfast

Other - May 8 - CANWarn training session

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
Daily 14:30 UTC	MB Wx Net 3743 KHz
Weekdays 9:00	Seniors morning net 147.390 MHz
Wed. 9:00 pm	Six Meter net 50.238 MHz.
Thursday 9:00pm	MRS Net 147.390 MHz +
Sunday 9:00pm	MRS Net 147.390 MHz +

### President's Report by Ed, VE4EAR

Greetings everyone and welcome to the spring edition of the MRS newsletter. We hope you will sit back and spend a few moments catching up on the projects we have underway and some of the plans for the coming months.

Your executive has been busy over the winter months and is excited to announce that our technical training program for volunteers is well underway. Despite several postponements due to inclement weather, several "students" had the opportunity to visit one or more MRS repeater sites and learn first hand what makes this network tick. There are more sessions planned and new volunteers are always welcome. Check out the weekly nets for the latest information.

With spring fast approaching, that can only mean one thing, the Annual General Meeting of the MRS is just around the corner. We hope you will join us at 7:00 pm on April 22 at the WSCRC, 598 St. Mary's Road. The AGM is an opportunity to review the last year's technical progress, establish a budget for the upcoming year and of course elect a new executive. It's also your opportunity to bring forward new ideas and let us hear your feelings.

What would an AGM be without a couple of hot topics to discuss! First, the MRS executive has been approached by the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club concerning installing and operating an IRLP repeater in Winnipeg. Our initial response has been that we would be willing to provide the repeater hardware and site if WARC provided the necessary computer and ongoing Internet service costs. We would like to hear your thoughts and concerns on this subject before committing our time and resources to this project. Please let any member of the executive know your feelings on this matter and better yet, come out to the AGM for a full discussion on the matter.

Secondly, we have just learned that our Starbuck repeater site may be in jeopardy. CBC and who in the past has graciously provided space on their tower for our

### 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

.....  
**Industry Canada Amateur Centre**

Voice 1-888-780-3333 (toll-free)  
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E-mail: [spectrum.amateur@ic.gc.ca](mailto:spectrum.amateur@ic.gc.ca)  
Web: <http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/spectrum>  
.....

**The Repeater Advertising Rates:**

All advertising is black & white and must be submitted in electronic format.  
full page \$75.00  
1/2 page \$40.00  
1/4 page \$20.00  
bus.card \$10.00

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

.....  
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/>

equipment and antennas, own this site. Unfortunately our lease is up for renewal and CBC is now planning on charging us \$2400 per year for use of the site. This is very serious for us as the club finances may not be able to absorb that kind of cost and at the same time, the loss of the site would leave a serious hole in our network. Besides the wide area coverage of VE4MAN, the site is also a hub site for the linking system. Hopefully by the time the AGM arrives, the executive will have some good news to report as we try to resolve this problem. Again please stay tuned to the local nets for up to date news and of course please attend the AGM where this matter will be discussed in more detail.

In the past several months, MRS has begun a new initiative to welcome new hams to the hobby. All the volunteer examiners have been advised that all new hams are eligible for a balance of the year membership in MRS. By simply filling out a membership form and attaching a note from the examiner, they can enjoy the benefits of a MRS membership for the balance of the membership year.

As always, the AGM is an opportunity to elect a new executive. If you have an interest in joining the MRS executive, we would be glad to hear from you. Regrettably we will see Grant VE4HGD and Fred VE4FV resign from the executive after several years of much appreciated service and support. If you or someone you know is interested in running for an executive position, please contact Dick VE4HK as soon as possible.

So as spring draws near and we all emerge from hibernation, perhaps it is time to renew your interest in the hobby. Is it time to explore a new mode; satellite, digital, spread spectrum, or maybe even CW? How about building some new equipment; antennas, amplifiers, audio filters? Perhaps joining a new club or renewing a membership in an old one will put some spark back in spare time. Maybe you will find some reward in adopting a newcomer to the hobby and becoming a mentor for them. There are also plenty of volunteer opportunities with ARES, WARC and of course, our own technical committee.

It seems that 2004 has both exciting opportunities and a few challenges in store for the MRS. I look forward to sharing both with you in the coming months.

ORLANDO PENNER  
VE4JOP



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## **Semi - Annual General Meeting - Minutes**

### **August 16, 2003**

Marmfest, Austin, MB  
 Meeting began 3:02 p.m., VE4HAY presiding  
 Each member introduced him or herself

Minutes of 2003 Annual General Meeting approved as printed in Newsletter

Moved	VE4GWN
Seconded	VE4DAR
CARRIED	

#### **Treasurer's Report**

See Newsletter (previous)

#### **Membership Report**

Presented by VE4EN. Presently 150 members, which is down from 6 years ago.

VE4EN and VE4HAY requested that any members who wish to receive their newsletter via e-mail send their e-mail addresses to VE4HAY

VE4VZ recommended that MRS send an E-mail to remind members that dues are due

VE4HAY can do that. VE4HAY and VE4EN will work on the logistics of that.

#### **Technical Report**

See report published in newsletter

VE4VZ asked about coverage of VE4GIM at Hecla Island

VE4HAY and VE4HK pointed out that VE4ABA will be moving the VE4GIM antenna from a corner of the host building to the top of a 48 ft tower on top of the building, shortly.

VE4HAY reported that a new repeater at Manigotagan is working on 146.91-. It will be linked to VE4GIM in the future. The VE4MBR repeater in Selkirk is operating, and will be linked through VE4MIL shortly.

VE4HAY reported that the recent interference on VE4WPG is deliberate. Industry Canada is investigating. It appears to originate in the downtown area. He stated that the interference followed one user from VE4WPG to VE4UMR repeater and continued.

VE4GWN asked about the Portage link to Neepawa.

VE4HAY replied that the executive is working on the situation. There is a prospective site at Minnedosa for the Neepawa repeater. VE4HAY also discussed a possible link site at Austin.

VE4ALW described a serious problem in Portage. The group there requires an expensive insurance policy to remain on the water tower. The price is far too high for the local hams to cover. He suggested that MRS take over the

Portage repeater. The group has three weeks to make a decision.

Several possibilities were discussed, including simply abandoning the antennas and Heliac, moving to our Portage Hydro site, and moving to a government building in Portage, through VE4KK.

VE4DAR moved the following "I move that the executive develop a plan to train a minimum of 5 hams to do the technical work in the future"

Moved	VE4DAR
Seconded	VE4VZ
CARRIED	

#### **New Business**

No new business

#### **Statements by Special Guests**

BJ Madsen VE5BJ, RAC Midwest Director, spoke about the question of CW. Ratio is 2.5 to 1 in favour of keeping CW CARAB will probably decide this fall about CW. BJ feels that Industry Canada will make a decision to drop CW requirement, depending on American decision.

VE5BJ spoke to declining membership in RAC.

RAC is sponsoring radio in 1 school in Winnipeg to encourage young hams. Hands on experience etc.

There is a possibility that IC will allow 4 letter calls e.g. VE4RCMP, primarily for contesting and special event stations.

VE5BJ also spoke to joining RAC. Cost only 11 cents a day. There are no plans to increase membership dues.

#### **Upcoming Events**

WARC meetings second Monday of the month

VE4HAY spoke about upcoming Railway DXpedition on the Prairie Dog Central, September 20

VE4LB announced that Brandon has an IRLP link on 146.76, VE4IPL, code 1374

#### **No further business**

Adjourn - VE4EN 3:49 p.m.

### **Membership renewal time**

Please complete the membership form on the back page. Remember that the repeaters maybe open for all to use, but there is a real cost in Tweaking, Aligning and Maintaining each site. Not to mention paying for insurance on the sites. And for the most part each of the repeaters have been available 24 hours a day 365 days a week.

## Technical Committee

### Submitted by Gord, VE4GLS

After a rather usual winter we are beginning to get itchy again to catch up on that antenna work, repeater installation, and maintenance we put off because of the cold weather. Spring is in the air and it is nice once again to be able to venture outdoors without the fear of frostbite and hypothermia. The car even starts without being plugged in!

Over the winter period we noted some areas that require attention throughout the repeater system, and as the repeater rundown below indicates, we are planning several outings to try and fix these problems. Noise through the system has been a particularly bad annoyance and makes the system difficult to monitor.

We had our first training seminar for the amateurs who volunteered to be part of our new trainee program. VE4AA Al, VE4EDE Ed, VE4EIH Ed, and VE4KEH Kent had a look at the VE4NEP equipment for a demo on how to set up the DC power, audio and basic RF circuitry on a very basic repeater. Thanks to Yori VE4ACX for the technical direction and Burt VE4AND for setting up the use of the room that evening at the Winnipeg Seniors Club. We will have to wait for the snow to melt and the area to dry at the new repeater site at Minnedosa where the VE4NEP equipment will be installed. Look for this site to go on line sometime in late spring or early summer.

#### *State of the system from East to West.*

#### **VE4EMB, Freq. 147.36+ MHz:**

The Hadashville repeater is working well. The link to Falcon Lake is set up and working. There is now complete coverage from Portage to well past the Manitoba/Ontario border using the MRS linked repeater system.

#### **VE4MIL, Freq. 145.21- MHz:**

The Milner Ridge repeater has been working flawlessly with the new Motorola MSR-2000 transceiver. There was no need to turn on the heater over the cold weather in January so this is now our most minimal maintenance site!

#### **VE4WPG, Freq. 147.39- MHz:**

The Winnipeg repeater system has been working well. The link to Gimli is almost 100% but we do have occasional path loss due to the long distances involved. We have noted some noise coming in through Link #3 that seems to be generated locally. This may be looked at when switching out the VE4VJ transceiver.

#### **VE4VJ, Freq. 443.5+ MHz:**

This is Link #1 on the VE4WPG controller. The new UHF transceiver is ready to go into this site and will likely be installed by the time you read this. We replaced the

Motorola Micor repeater with a GE Exec II radio that should sharpen the receive a bit, but should increase the output rather dramatically from about 700mW to about 25 watts or about 15 dB! I expect with the height, power, and antenna gain it should be copyable using a good mobile station from the US border to Gimli, Austin to Hadashville with average conditions.

#### **VE4WRS, Freq. 145.45 MHz (simplex autopatch) (\*35=up #35=down)**

The auto patch is seeing less use with the proliferation of cellular telephones but it is ready to go whenever it is needed. It does work well and coverage is similar to VE4WPG since it is multiplexed into the same antenna. There has been talk of adding an IRLP system and changing to full duplex through a joint effort involving the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club. This will likely be discussed at the General Meeting coming up in April. Please attend if this interests you!

#### **VE4GIM, Freq. 146.85- MHz:**

The Gimli repeater seems to be working very well other than intermittent noise that has been plaguing the system as of late. Yori and I took a trip up to Gimli in the early part of the year to investigate the source but as Murphy would have it, all was quiet when we arrived. We checked for noises on the input using a separate receiver but nothing was heard, but several amateurs in the area have reported hearing the noise (on the repeater's input frequency) when it does occur. If we cannot find the source of the interference we will likely have to resort to adding a CTCSS (PL) squelch to keep the interfering signal from making noise when the repeater is not in use locally.

Plans are in the works to raise the antenna up onto the tower at the top of the building structure, which should increase the repeater's footprint somewhat. There may be a future link added to a repeater in Manigotagan.

#### **VE4MAN, Freq. 146.61- MHz:**

Seems to be working well but there has been some reports of poor receiver sensitivity (signal dropout) from mobile and base stations that would normally be full quieting. We plan on visiting this site over the next month and look into this problem. It may be excessive moisture in the cabinet where the duplexer filtering is located.

#### **VE4CDN, Freq. 145.27- MHz:**

The Morris repeater has been working well considering its output is still rather QRP at around 1-2 watts. We do have a new exciter and receiver for this site and plan to change them out soon. A new folded di-pole style UHF link antenna was added last November to increase path stability for the link. The VHF antenna requires servicing but will have to wait till the weather warms up later in the spring.

We may consider installing a new VHF antenna at this site.

#### **VE4PLP (link repeater):**

The Portage La Prairie site is still there, ready to link to something out west that doesn't exist right now. Whether we will be utilizing this site for linking out west or not depends on path testing planned for later this summer. 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 any equipment installed. A link to VE4PTG may be in the works but there are some technical details to work out here first.

#### **VE4NEP, Freq. 147.21+ MHz:**

The (formerly) Neepawa repeater has been retired for now, but we are looking into installing it at Minnedosa in the spring as a stand-alone repeater. We have a new cabinet for the site, and we hope the antenna and feedline will work acceptably. Eventually we will be including this repeater with the rest of the link system as the rest of the "puzzle" comes together.

#### *Mutual Agreement links & systems*

#### **VE4FAL, Freq. 146.64- MHz:**

Servicing at this site is shared between the Lake Of the Woods Amateur Radio Society and MRS. Some upgrades are planned for this repeater shortly to improve the linking and VHF repeater coverage.

#### **General comments:**

#### *Bruexelles Hill:*

During the last few months Bruce Johnson VE4KQ has been working on acquiring tower space on the MTS tower east of Bruexelles for Amateur radio use. We may be able to utilize this site for linking to Brandon and Minnedosa.

The top of the hill is about 1700' above sea level, and MTS has a 300' tower right on the top. There should be a clear path to Starbuck and Brandon from less than 100' up on the tower for UHF linking. The Brandon Amateur Radio Club, Manitoba Amateur radio Museum group, and International Hamfest Committee are also involved in this joint venture.

We may install a VHF repeater here as well which would be linked to the backbone. The footprint from a repeater here would be similar to the existing VE4HS repeater located about 1 km north of the MTS site.

We are hoping to hear from Bruce soon regarding access to this site. Thanks for all the work you've put into this endeavor so far Bruce, and we are all hoping it works out for us!

Special thanks once again to Murray Ronald for donating two multi-link controllers to MRS! The controllers will fit very well into our expansion plans and we hope to be installing them at new sites soon. One of the controllers is a Palomar RBC-700, which is the same model we have currently in use at Starbuck, Winnipeg, Milner Ridge, and Gimli. The other is a Link Communications RLC-4, which I have been working on programming for to emulate the Palomar setup. Once in the system it should work the same as the other controllers, with a few extra functions.

With the above upgrades and new sites, we will be looking into acquiring the following equipment. If you have or know of anyone who might be able to help us please contact me or have them do the same.. (in order of priority):

1. UHF cavities or res-locks (duplexer configuration) tunable to ham bands
2. UHF transceivers - tunable to ham bands and capable of full duplex linking and high duty cycle 5-25w
3. VHF base antenna's that will work in the Ham bands for 144-148 MHz repeater service
4. Feedline; 7/8" and 1/2" Andrews, LMR 600 & 400, connectors (roll ends etc)
5. UHF Beam antennas - tuned to 440-450 MHz; Sinclabs / Comprod folded dipole driven type
6. MSR 2000 VHF 30-50w transceivers if any come available. We have been switching over to these transceivers.
7. Large outdoor weatherproof cabinets for housing repeater equipment
8. Repeater controllers~ Link COM RLC-3 and similar (Palomar)
9. Tone encoders & decoders, specifically 127.3 Hz if possible
10. Serial interface card for Palomar controller

We do have an equipment budget and we will be looking into sourcing the listed equipment as needs arise. Any donations or pricing opportunities will be greatly appreciated!

### **Aerial Picture of Repeater Sites**

The Executive of the Manitoba Repeater Society is looking for an amateur who is a pilot and would be willing to take digital pictures of our repeater sites for inclusion in our manuals and for our records. If you are interested, please let anyone on the executive know and we will send you the coordinates of the sites so you can take the pictures at you leisure.

**Year End Treasurers Report**  
**By Paula, VE4MHZ**

**2003 Year End Financial Report**

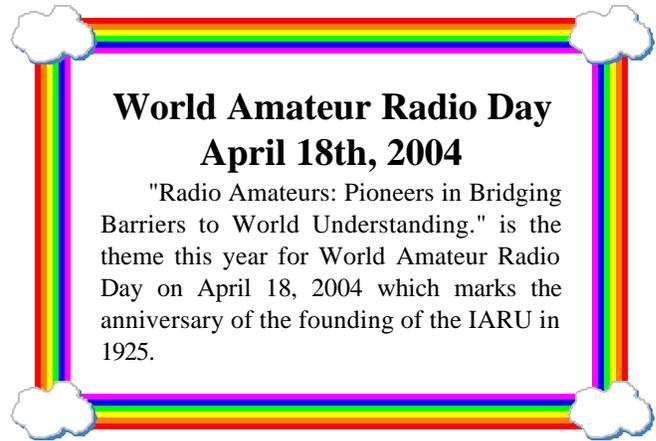
The financial position of the Manitoba Repeater Society Inc. as of December 31, 2003 is as follows:

Starting Balance as of January 1, 2003	<b>\$ 4672.38</b>
<b>Deposits:</b>	
Donations	\$ 700.00
Memberships	\$ 3787.50
Total Deposits	\$ 4487.50
<b>Withdrawals:</b>	
1 MRS 2000	\$ 1200.00
Various used repeater radios	\$ 140.00
Equipment maintenance	\$ 384.47
Newsletter	\$ 332.94
Insurance	\$ 511.00
MTS (phone patch)	\$ 552.07
Incorporation Fee	\$ 20.00
Misc. – Photocopying	\$ 66.69
Donation to WSC	\$ 50.00
Bank Service Charges	\$ 47.40
Total Withdrawals	<u>\$ 3304.57</u>
(budget is for \$5850.00)	
Actual end balance as of December 31, 2003	<u><b>\$ 5855.31</b></u>

**History of The  
 Winnipeg Repeater Society**

I am looking for information on the history of Winnipeg Repeater Society, from 1968 until 1990. I am looking specifically for dates that VE4GIM in Gimli, VE4NEP in Neepawa, VE4CDN in St. Jean, and VE4BMR in Baldy Mountain first went on the air. I would also like to know exactly when the 2 meter nets began. Any other details of important events in the history of WRS would be appreciated. (Manitoba Repeater Society was originally known as Winnipeg Repeater Society)

Contact Dick VE4HK on VE4WPG repeater, at the Golden Arches most Saturday mornings, at WARC meetings, phone 256-3143, or [ve4hk@rac.ca](mailto:ve4hk@rac.ca)



**Interim Treasurers Report**  
**By Paula, VE4MHZ**

The financial position of the Manitoba Repeater Society Inc. as of March 1, 2004 is as follows:

Starting Balance as of January 1, 2004	\$5855.31
<b>Deposits:</b>	
Memberships	<u>\$1030.00</u>
Total Deposits	1030.00
<b>Withdrawals:</b>	
Patio Blocks (VE4MHZ)	\$ 19.88
Newsletter (VE4EN)	\$ 61.39
MTS (phone patch)	\$ 88.01
Bank Service Charges	<u>\$ 7.90</u>
Total Withdrawals	<u>\$ 177.18</u>
Actual end balance as of March 1, 2004	<u><b>\$6708.13</b></u>

**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	Gord Snarr	VE4GLS	746-2743
Directors	Yori Tsuji	VE4ACX	453-3786
	Grant Delaney	VE4HGD	783-8111
	Wayne Ludman	VE4WKL	224 -1449
	Walter Bezpalko	VE4VB	284-3054
	Fred Venema	VE4FV	452-4046
Past Pres.	Derek Hay	VE4HAY	257-1420

**2004 Manitoba Marathon Volunteer Request**  
**By Robert, VE4RST**

Hi, my name is Robert Stegmaier, VE4 RST. Another holiday season has come and gone and although the weather is still cold it is time once again to look forward to the coming summer. One of the major events in this upcoming season for Amateur Radio is the 2004 Manitoba Marathon. Last years marathon was a great success. Support for the runners through the presence of Amateur Radio provided for a smooth running event as well as prompt emergency communication when needed.

With all of this in mind it is time again to think about, generously, giving up a portion of your Fathers Day to volunteer for the marathon. We are asking for your co-operation in volunteering early this year so that the 2004 organizing committee can get a feel to the amount of amateurs and helpers that will be staffing the event. This way the committee can plan not only to fill all of the regular posts, but, hopefully expand our communication ability.

This years Manitoba Marathon will be held on Sunday, June 20th with your commitment being from about 7 in the morning to about 2 in the afternoon. There is also a pre-event meeting, the week prior to the marathon, where individual station information packets are discussed and distributed. As perks for volunteering for the marathon, T-shirts, tickets for the pasta feast and an open invitation for the post event BBQ are usually provided.

So, open your calendar, ask your significant others and consider volunteering for this years event. If you have given of your time in the past or have any posts that you would prefer to be stationed too, the organizing committee will try its best to comply. The earlier we can hear from you the better.

The Race Director of the Manitoba Marathon has stated many times that the marathon could not run as smoothly and as safely as it does without the dedicated commitment of the Radio Amateur community. Please help us make this event not only an exercise in communication but also an ongoing tradition in amateur radio.

You may contact me in one of two ways:

E-mail [ftphysio@mb.sympatico.ca](mailto:ftphysio@mb.sympatico.ca)  
 Phone 982-9600 (if answering machine leave message)

Please indicate

- † If and when you last volunteered for the MB Marathon
- † Your call sign and your name
- † Your, last position posted at the marathon and if you wish to volunteer there again. (if applicable)

- † Your phone number and preferred time of contact
- † If you wish to be posted with someone in particular
- † Your T-shirt size
- † Your full mailing and e-mail address

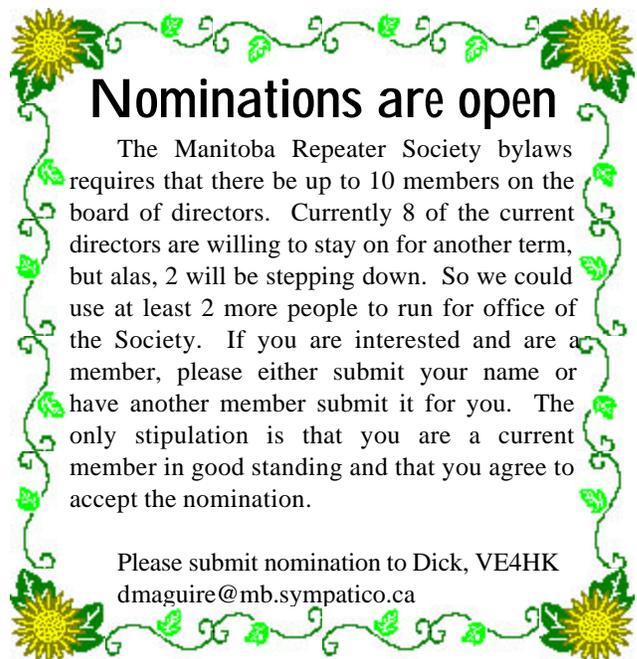
**2004 Proposed Budget**  
**By Paula Ehn, VE4MHZ**

In 2003, we brought in about \$1100.00 more than we spent. We also under spent our 2003 budget by \$2545.00. We've cut insurance costs by about \$500.00.

Starting Balance as of January 1, 2003	<b>\$5855.31</b>
Estimated income for 2004	\$ 4000.00
Less Self Insurance Fund -	\$ 500.00
Total Estimated Funds Available for 2004	\$ 9355.31

I would like to increase the budget item for New or Replacement Equipment substantially because of the upcoming expansion of the linking system back out west and to help us replace aging equipment.

Equipment Maintenance	\$ 1000.00	
New or replacement Equipment	\$ 4000.00	
Newsletter	\$ 400.00	
Insurance	\$ 600.00	
MTS (phone patch)	\$ 600.00	
Licenses and Fees	\$ 50.00	
Misc. Expenses \$	200.00	
Total Budget		<u>\$ 6850.00</u>
Proposed End of year Balance		<u><b>\$2505.31</b></u>



## Nominations are open

The Manitoba Repeater Society bylaws requires that there be up to 10 members on the board of directors. Currently 8 of the current directors are willing to stay on for another term, but alas, 2 will be stepping down. So we could use at least 2 more people to run for office of the Society. If you are interested and are a member, please either submit your name or have another member submit it for you. The only stipulation is that you are a current member in good standing and that you agree to accept the nomination.

Please submit nomination to Dick, VE4HK  
[dmaguire@mb.sympatico.ca](mailto:dmaguire@mb.sympatico.ca)

## Tips For Better Amateur Radio Communicating By Dick, VE4HK

### Identifying Correctly

According to Industry Canada, amateurs must identify with their full call sign at least once every half hour. There is no requirement to identify the other stations during contacts. It is not necessary to identify after each transmission.

It is very important to give your call sign correctly. Use your full call sign, not just the suffix. E.g. VE4HK, not HK or 4HK. This is an Industry Canada requirement.

The only exception to this rule is when checking in to a net, or when attempting to contact a DX station during an HF pileup. It is acceptable to use your suffix, such as HK or Hotel Kilo to report in. When acknowledged by the Net Controller, or the DX station, you must then use your full call sign. Abbreviating your call sign simply speeds up the net.

For more detailed information refer to <http://strategis.ic.gc.ca> specifically RIC 2 Station Identification

### Using Phonetics

Some authorities recommend against using phonetics on VHF frequencies. I strongly disagree! It can be very difficult to discern between B, C, D, E, G, P, T, V and ZEE, between M and N and between F and S. Not everyone enunciates clearly. When talking to an unfamiliar station, it is wise to use the proper ICAO phonetic alphabet. This ensures your call sign, and the other station's call sign have been received correctly. Using the ICAO phonetic alphabet is also important when your signal, or the signal of the other station is marginal.

It is acceptable to use other fun phonetics, once communication has been established. An example would be Mike VE6MPB. He uses VE6 Many Parts Broken. As he says, you never forget that call sign. Just keep it clean.

### Break Break

"Break Break" should only be used in a real emergency, similar to where "Mayday" would be used. An example would be when witnessing a serious car crash, where occupants are badly injured. A minor fender bender would not rate "Break Break"

There are no Industry Canada regulations concerning "Break Break". It is simply accepted practice by amateurs throughout North America to use "Break Break" for an emergency,

### Tactical Call Signs

Amateurs participating in Amateur Radio Emergency Service exercises, or the real thing, typically use tactical call signs which identify their location, or their function. Some

examples include, Winnipeg EOC (Emergency Operations Centre), Mile 16 water station, (during the Manitoba Marathon), or bicycle 2 (during Terry Fox run) etc. Stations must identify with their call sign at least every half hour.

### How to join a conversation on the air

When joining a conversation already in progress, wait for a break in the conversation, and insert your call sign. This is standard procedure throughout North America. E.g. VE4TMC speaks, then turns the conversation over to VE4XAX. Between transmissions insert "VE4HK".

### Who do I turn it over to?

When in a conversation with a group of hams, make sure to state clearly which station is to take over the conversation. There are two simple ways to do this. Use either the call sign of the station, or the person's name. E.g. Over to you, Dick, or VE4HK, this is VE4XAX.

This will prevent doubling and tripling etc. There will not be annoying squeals and squawks, when two or three people all talk simultaneously.

### Listing multiple call signs

When a group of stations are conversing, and the transmitting station lists off a group of stations, the FIRST station mentioned is designated to begin transmitting. E.g. VE4XAX, VE4ZAZ, VE4TMC, VE4YYY this is VE4HK. VE4XAX is the station designated to continue the conversation.

### Pauses between transmissions

Always allow a 1 second pause between transmissions. This allows another station to break in. It is also possible that a low power station, such as a handheld is trying to break in to report an emergency. That station will not be heard over a mobile or a base station, if no there is no pause.

### Portable Stations

Industry Canada defines a portable station as one which is away from the home location This means that if a ham is operating from his living room, or his yard, for example, he is not portable. If the person steps into the neighbour's yard, he is portable. Operating from a hotel room, in another city would be portable.

### Q signals

In a word, don't use Q signals on VHF. It is better to use plain language. This is especially important, when doing an exercise or a in real emergency, when dealing with "civilians".

Q signals come from the earliest days of radio. They served an important purpose in the beginnings when only CW was used. Each word had to be spelled out in full. It

was much easier to send or receive QRZ, for example, rather than spelling out "Who is calling me?" character by character. Q-Signals are invaluable when working a DX station who does not speak English. Q-signals are the universal language.

### Kerchunking

Kerchunking a repeater is keying your microphone on a repeater frequency, without identifying, to see if a) the repeater is working, or b) if your radio is working.. It is against Industry Canada rules to transmit without identifying. It is annoying to hams monitoring a repeater. In a word don't kerchunk a repeater.

Special thanks to Sandy Sandwith VE4SZ for his assistance

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT Nov. 2003

### Roy Maguire VE4EN

New Members and renewals have brought our paid membership to a total of 140 to date. There are also 17 Life members and 3 specials, which brings the total to 160. With the annual meeting and the Flea Market in April we will probably exceed last years total of 151 plus the life and special members.

If you have not already re-newed your membership, please download our membership application from our website <http://ve4.net/mrs/> and sent it to the address on the application. Or come out to the Spring Flea Market, where we will be happy to assist you on re-newing your membership.



2005 SASKATCHEWAN CENTENNIAL  
HAMFEST  
Co-hosted by  
Meewasin Amateur Radio Society  
Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club

July 22, 23, and 24th

The web site is just getting started but you will soon be able to get the beginnings of the info.  
<http://www.saskhamfest.com/>

## CANWarn

### By Jeff, VE4MBO

A CANWARN Spotter Training session will be held in Winnipeg on Saturday 08 MAY 2004 at PSPC Training Room, 4th Floor 123 Main Street (Union Station). Basic Spotter and Refresher Training will run 0900-1200h. Lunch is at The Old Spaghetti Factory at The Forks from 1200-1315h. Those that took in the lunch last year enjoyed both the fellowship around the table visiting with Amateurs from different areas as well as the lunch itself. The group lunch (one selection from choice of 4 entrees with salad, Sourdough Bread, Spumoni Ice Cream & Coffee, Tea or Soft Drink) price is only \$10.50 per person including gratuity and taxes. We need to have at least 20 people to get this price. The choice of entrees is Manicotti, Lasagna, Veal Parmigiana, or Chicken Penne. The afternoon session will be on Advanced Spotting Techniques 1330-1600h. We will keep a radio on simplex 147.42 MHz for approximately 15 minutes after the start of each session if you are running late (the doors are locked).

You don't have to be an ARES member to either participate in Spotter Training or be a CANWARN Spotter but we do administer CANWARN thru ARES. If planning to attend please let your local ARES Coordinator know before SUN 25 APR, don't forget to specify your lunch choice if you are planning to join us for lunch. Last year's lunch at the Old Spaghetti Factory worked very well, they were not only expecting us but ready for us (unlike the 2002 fiasco at Brannigans).

The Summer Severe Weather CANWARN season this year is 17 MAY to 13 SEP. Controllers for VE4WWO are on call 0930-2130h daily during that 17 week period. CANWARN can be activated by:

Severe Wx Forecaster PSPC  
On-Call VE4WWO Controller  
ARES EC in the field

If you observe "reportable" weather (see next paragraph) when there is no Net in session, telephone in your report via the 1-800 # provided at Spotter Training. The Public Number is 1-800-239-0484. Summer Severe Weather reports should focus on:

ANY Tornadoic event or Funnel Cloud  
Rotating Wall Cloud  
Hail >20mm diameter (5cent piece)  
Winds >90Km/h  
Rain >50mm/h  
Rain >75mm in 2-3 hrs

Try to remember to identify yourself either as a CANWARN Spotter or an Amateur Radio Operator (if you are not a Spotter) when reporting by telephone

## Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club

By Adam, VE4SN,  
Past President.



One has to really marvel at the way time moves along. Here we are almost through the second month of the year 2004 and it seems to me that it was only days ago that the Christmas tree was put away and the final sounds of Jingle Bells faded away. In the same manner, things are moving along as they should at our Club. We have established the time, the place and the goodies for our next Christmas Luncheon, we are preparing things for our annual picnic at St. Vital Park and we are planning other social events for enjoyment by our membership.

Our Breakfast gathering at Garden City was again enjoyed by those who attended, (22 in all), and the lucky winner of the free one was Gil Frederick VE4AG, whose number was drawn by none other than his XYL, Beryl. Although cries of "Fix, fix" echoed around the room, Gil's only comment was..." Well, it's about time!" Congratulations Gil, see you at the next one in March!

The CW training at the club is more than halfway complete and we have already tested and passed three students. One of those making the grade was our 10 year old ham, Aruni Perera VE4WMK, whose receiving and sending of Morse code was flawless. Also passing the exam was Aruni's dad Kuma VE4WKP and Wayne Mooney VE4RWM who was leaving for the warmer climes of Hawaii and wanted to get his CW before he left.

Congratulations to all three of you and good hunting on HF!

Once again our club was honoured by the visit of a dignitary. On Wednesday, February 18th, Jim Rondeau, the provincial Minister of Healthy Living (plus a couple of additional portfolios), addressed the membership after our regular monthly Executive Board meeting. His topic was on how to develop a healthy lifestyle from babyhood to senior citizen status. It was very informative and interesting.

The weekend of February 21 and 22 was when our club hosted the annual GOTA event.

Although only 12 Girl Guides showed up in total for both days, they did enjoy talking to their peers in other cities using ham radio. Conditions for HF were not the best but we did manage to contact a station in England and of course two or three in Canada. Much better communications was achieved on IRLP and Echo Link.

Once again our club is planning another Chili Cookout to be held in the clubrooms. Right now, we need more

entrants for the chili contest so come on all you cooks and wannabees, dig up your favourite recipe and join the fun. The affair is planned for sometime in March although nothing is set for sure as yet. More on this later.

That's it for now and let's all of us hope for an early spring!

## RAC Regional Director Report

By Bj. Madsen - VE5FX

☞ The new executive at RAC continues to have some unfilled positions:

- We need to have a Treasurer
- We need to have an Honourary Quebec

☞ Aruni Perera - VE4WMK - who obtained her BASIC license last summer at the age of 9 years, now has her CW endorsement and is beginning to study for her Advanced License.

☞ The ARRL has asked the FCC to create an entry-level Amateur Radio course, to include limited HF privileges, without a Morse code requirement.

### Statistics:

- ☞ There are 1555 VA/VE4 callsigns, representing 3% of Canadian hams.
- ☞ of these, 200 are RAC members, representing 13% support for the National organization
- ☞ There are 1227 VA/VE5 callsigns, representing 2.4% of Canadian hams
- ☞ of these, 198 are RAC members, representing 16% support for the National organization.

Those who are **not RAC members** should be very thankful to those who are members, for funding the retention, protection and advancement of Amateur Radio in Canada on their behalf!

## Editors Ramblings

By Derek VE4HAY

Oh, how I like newsletters with enough content to fill all the pages, leaving me just a few lines to finish off the last page. Sort of looks like it is a planned thing.

I am stepping down as the Section Manager for Manitoba, and I would like to hear from anyone who would like to take over the position. If you are in the least bit interested, please get in touch with me and I can let you know what it entails--- very little really. 73