

Manitoba Repeater Society

The Repeater

Winter 2006

Distributed to all Current Members



President's Report by Ed, VE4EAR

Welcome to our final installment of the REPEATER for 2005. I hope that you can find a few moments of spare time in this busy season to sit back and catch up on the latest developments and future plans of the Manitoba Repeater Society.

This has been a very busy year with the MRS. We have seen several repeaters upgraded, new sites added, and plenty of maintenance on existing equipment. The technical team has worked hard to restore many linked sites to an operational status. Check out Gord's technical report for all the details.

The success that we have enjoyed this past year would not have been possible without the hard work of the volunteers, the cooperation between clubs, and the support of local businesses and government agencies. Thank you all!

Just when you think things couldn't get any busier, how about adding one more item to your "to-do" list. The end of the year also means its time to renew your MRS membership for another year. For your convenience, there is a form included with this newsletter. The monies generated by membership fees account for virtually 100% of our income and are essential if we are to maintain or improve our repeater network. If this is important to you, I hope you will consider re-newing your membership for another year. For those that have already done so, a great big Thank you!

On behalf of the MRS executive and myself, I want to extend to everyone a sincere wish for peace, happiness, health and prosperity this holiday season and throughout 2006.

Important Dates:

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

WARC: January 9th - Interference avoidance

WSC: 2nd. Thursday of each month - Breakfast

ARES: Dec 20th - Personal and Family Preparedness

Other: July 7,8,9 - International Hamfest
August 18& 19 - MARM Hamfest

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. 02:00 UTC	MB IRLP Net 147.27 MHz +
Wed. 9:00 pm	Six Meter net 50.238 MHz USB
Thursday 9:00pm	MRS Net 147.390 MHz +
Sunday 9:00pm	MRS Net 147.390 MHz +
Sunday 7:30 pm	VE4BDN net 146.940 MHz -
Monday 7:30 pm	VE4HS net 146.880 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

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>

The Repeater Advertising Rates:

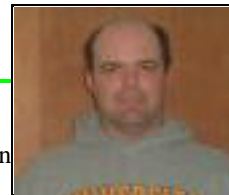
All advertising is black & white and must be submitted in electronic format.
full page \$75.00
½ page \$40.00
¼ page \$20.00
bus.card \$10.00

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

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



Year-end technical report:

We have been busy working on and planning the following projects:

- ☞ Starbuck upgrades
- ☞ VE4WRS IRLP/Phone patch
- ☞ Portage upgrades
- ☞ Link back to Brandon, installation at Bruxelles
- ☞ Link up soon to Morris
- ☞ Link antenna upgrades
- ☞ Link expansion to Minnedosa/Neepawa
- ☞ Comment on noises on the system

VE4MAN:

We decided earlier in the season to replace the VHF antenna at VE4MAN with a brand-new Comprod unit. The new antenna is designed much the same as the old antenna and should last many years. We were noticing some intermittent sensitivity and power output problems with the old antenna and considering it's age we thought it best to replace it. The new antenna was scheduled to go up in September, however due to a slight CBC labour circumstance tower maintenance was delayed and our new antenna is still waiting to be installed. As of now we haven't been given a new schedule, we have to wait till the professional riggers plan another trip up the tower.

-Link #2 was re-enabled to allow access to the western link. Some work had to be done to the radio to get it up to snuff since it has not been used for a few years.

-Link #3 was also serviced to re-enable the link to Morris. See below.

M.R.S. Current Executive

President	Ed Richardson	VE4EAR	254-8425
V/President	Wayne Ludman	VE4WKL	224 -1449
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
	Walter Bezpalko	VE4VB	284-3054
	Harm Hazeu	VE4HAZ	669-6425
	Phil Barton	VE4QB	253-0505
Past Pres.	Derek Hay	VE4HAY	257-1420

-All audio levels on the Starbuck controller were re-balanced during the above servicing to maintain audio quality throughout the linking system.

VE4WRS IRLP/Phone Patch

About a year ago the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club asked MRS about setting up an IRLP link and if we could supply a repeater. MRS has been looking at the possibility of setting up an IRLP link for some time but the ISP fees would have been a problem with our budget. With WARC sponsoring the ISP and setting up the computer side of an IRLP system, budgetary issues were solved and we decided to embark on a joint project with WARC.

The VE4WRS simplex phone patch needed some upgrades and to make the IRLP easier to use we decided to replace the simplex radio with a newer Motorola MSR-2000 duplex repeater radio, which our club has acquired from Prairie Mobile. We also had to install some RF filtering and did a few modifications to the original phone patch for duplex operation.

Thanks to Dale VE4DRC and his experience setting up the VE4UMR IRLP system, the new VE4WRS setup went on the air last summer and has been busy with both phone patch activity and IRLP traffic. Remember when using the system it transmits on the same frequency but is duplex now; you need to program a -600 KHz offset.

VE4CDN

The link between Morris and Starbuck has been unavailable for several months now and we hope to have it re-established soon. Plans are to expand the linking system south from Morris to Winkler and to the Karlstad, MN (Superlink) system. To facilitate further linking, and to make this link work better we decided to run a duplex link between Morris and Starbuck. This requires some modifications to the existing link radio at the Morris end, and the addition of RF filtering (duplexers). We don't have a complete duplexer ready right now but we have parts on order and hope to have everything assembled early in the new year. We will be working on the link to Winkler once the Starbuck to Morris link is re-established.

VE4NEP (Minnedosa area)

In the new year we plan on working on adding the repeater close to Minnedosa, VE4NEP, to the link system. With the new link site at Bruxelles there should be a good path to this site located between Minnedosa and Neepawa in Randy VE4RHM's yard-site. This site should cover a fair distance along highway #16 and might be accessible from some points of Highway #1. The repeater is currently operating on 147.21- MHz as a stand-alone system.

Portage upgrades:

Further to facilitate the west link, we had to check and replace some equipment at the Portage VE4PLP link site. The radios were tuned up and one feedline had to be replaced due to failure. Also Yori set up a newer controller so we could add a third port to facilitate a future link to the Portage repeater VE4PTG, owned by the Portage Amateur Radio Club. We anticipate this link to be available sometime in the next year.

Link to Brandon:

One thing in our system we have missed for quite a while now is the link out to Brandon. The opportunity came up this fall to set up a link site at Bruxelles to re-connect Brandon to the MRS link system. With this opportunity coming up in the mid fall season we had to act quickly to install the required infrastructure; radios, feedline, antennae, etc., because the site is difficult to access during the winter season. Further to installing our equipment at the Prairie Mobile site, in payment for access to the site, we agreed to drywall the interior of the building at the site. It looks really great inside now!

Several trips were made out to the site at Bruxelles to get everything working. First was the dry walling and installation of the radio equipment. It was very windy and difficult to work on the tower so temporary antennas were installed much lower on the tower than we wanted. The weather held and we made a second trip two weeks later to re-install the antennas higher on the tower and added heliax. Weather was perfect that day with no wind and tower work went very well. We did have some antenna problems and had to replace one of the Larson antennas. Yori did some more radio fine-tuning. Another trip had to be made a couple weeks later to re-adjust one of the link radios and add a structural support bracket between the racks we installed.

Now we have most of the "bugs" out of the link system connecting Brandon, you might want to be able to turn on the link in the event it is off. The link can be controlled from either end, from the VE4TED side or VE4MAN and east. If you change the link state, please return it to it's original state when you are finished.

#48, 402 -will activate the link & send a CW message L2 on.

#48, 420 -will de-activate the link and send L2 off.

Directions:

1. As always, transmit and identify yourself and what you are going to do.
2. Key your mic and enter #48 on your keypad and unkey. You should hear a dial tone.
3. Enter the 3 digit command during the dial tone, then unkey. You have 8 seconds to enter the 3 digit command, which is as long as the dial tone lasts. You should hear the CW telemetry if you were successful.

The link can be controlled from any MRS repeater (except VE4WRS and possibly VE4EMB), and from Brandon using the VE4TED repeater.

Explanation:

- ☞ The "#" tells the controllers to pass the DTMF tones through the link system
- ☞ The "48" is the pre-access code for the VE4MRS controller at Bruxelles. (Each MRS controller has its own separate pre-access code.)
- ☞ The 402 and 420 are the link on/link off command macros. These activate a specific series of events in the controller (usually multiple commands) to turn on and off the link.

Net Control Stations; be aware that the link turns on before net times and off at 10:00 pm with current configuration. Check the web site at www.ve4.net/mrs for more information on the system.

Selkirk link:

We are still experiencing some noise on the link to/from Selkirk. This is proving very difficult to isolate the source, due to the vast coverage area involved. But we are working on it. One possible solution will be to put in a CTCSS tone on both ends of the link. This will not affect the user, just more work for the technical crew and another thing to go wrong in the future.

Pinetree Intertie:

Work is still being done on the Pinetree Intertie at Falcon Lake (VE4FAL). Most of the link radios were replaced in Ontario with newer models, but an ordering problem for the Falcon Lake site has caused delays on the Intertie of our system to theirs.

Link Antenna upgrades

We have been having problems with our older link antennae and hope to replace some of them shortly. We have slowly been replacing the Larson UHF yagi antennae that were installed on inaccessible sites such as on the CBC tower at VE4MAN and the Hydro tower at PLP, and at sites subject to icing conditions such as VE4GIM. One site most critical to upgrade now is the new installation at Bruxelles where extreme weather conditions are certainly an issue. Milner Ridge link antennae should be replaced soon too as the path between Falcon Lake and VE4MIL can be weak at times.

We plan on ordering 6 new antennae from a Quebec company, ComProd, who makes a very suitable product. Upgrades won't likely occur until we have some warmer weather maybe next spring. We are hoping the existing antennae will last the winter.

System noise

With an extensive linking system covering 8 or 9 repeater sites and a couple dozen link radios, noise occasionally creeps in and annoys us. We try and find the source, isolate the affected system, diagnose, and repair the problem as soon as we can. Noise sources are often difficult to identify, and sometimes when we do find the source we are unable to correct the problem. If you do hear persistent noise, please contact myself or one of the executive to make sure we are aware of the situation.

Special Credits:

Murray VE4RE - Supplying equipment, sites, and support for our club

Dale VE4DRC - Lots of work setting up and maintaining the VE4WRS IRLP system and dry walling at Bruxelles

And... - All the executives and Members who support and work at making the repeater system and club

Repeater listing/Status:

VE4WPG - 147.39+ MHz, Winnipeg, Richardson Bldg

Good

VE4VJ - 443.500+ MHz, Winnipeg (VE4WPG site)

Good

VE4WRS - 145.45- MHz, Winnipeg (VE4WPG site)

Good - Please use this repeater

VE4MAN - 146.61- MHz, Starbuck

Good - Link to VE4CDN not working properly

VE4CDN - 145.27- MHz, Morris. 127.3 Tone Squelch

Good - Please remember you the tone access. Link to VE4MAN not working properly

VE4MIL - 145.21- MHz, Milner Ridge

Good

VE4GIM - 146.85- MHz, Gimli

Good

VE4NEP - 147.21+ MHz, Minnedosa

Good

Pinetree Inter-tie via VE4FAL - 146.64- MHz, Falcon Lake

Currently down

EASTMAN ARES Looking for Volunteers

If you live in the RMs of Springfield, East St. Paul, West St. Paul, St. Clements or St. Andrews and would like to be an ARES member please contact Doug Henry, ARES District Emergency Coordinator for North East Manitoba by email at dhenry@skyweb.ca.

Treasurers Report
By Paula, VE4MHZ



The financial position of the Manitoba Repeater Society Inc. as of December 05, 2005 is as follows:

	Actual	Budget
Starting Balance as of January 1, 2005	\$5460.72	
Less Self Insurance Fund	-\$1,500.00	
Deposits:		
Memberships	\$2,808.75	
Donations	\$ 207.50	
Total Deposits	<u>\$3,016.25</u>	
Cash Available for Use	6,976.97	
Withdrawals:		
Equipment. Maintenance	\$ 418.27	\$1,000.00
New or Replacement Equipment	\$1,335.00	\$4,000.00
Newsletter	\$ 374.57	\$ 400.00
Insurance	\$ 588.00	\$ 600.00
MTS (phone patch)	\$ 496.99	\$ 600.00
Licenses and Fees	\$ 0.00	\$ 50.00
Misc.	\$ 140.28	\$ 200.00
Total Withdrawals	\$,3353.11	\$,6850.00
Actual end balance	\$,3623.86	

Manitoba Amateur Radio Repeater Council.
By Derek, VE4HAY

October 23, 2005 at approx 11:10 am the Manitoba Amateur Repeater Coordination Council (MARCC) was formed. Those in attendance were,

VE4ALW - Portage ARC and the VE4PTG repeater, VE4WR - the VE4EDU repeater and speaking for the Dauphin ARC, VA4GD - Pinawa Repeater group and the VE4PIN, VE4INT repeaters, VE4KQ - Manitoba Amateur Radio Museum, Brandon ARC and the VE4AGA, VE4KIL, VE4VHF, VE4BDN, VE4INF, VE4TED, VE4HS, VE4MTR repeaters , VE4ACX - the VE4TWO repeater , VE4HK - Winnipeg ARES and the VE4ARS repeater , VE4SBS - Pathfinders ARC and the VE4FIL repeater, VE4ALP - Pathfinders ARC and the VE4FIL repeater, VE4RRB - the VE4UHF repeater, VE4EAR - Manitoba Repeater Society and the VE4CDN, VE4MAN, VE4PLP, VE4NEP, VE4GIM, VE4MIL, VE4EMB, VE4WPG, VE4VJ, VE4WRS repeaters.

The meeting was chaired by VE4HAY representing Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC).

- ✓ VE4HAY talked about the passing of the previous Frequency Coordinator, Tom, VE4MJ/VE4TOM. As such there was no one to coordinate repeaters in VE4 area. It was expressed that RAC would like to see

councils formed which can be maintained well into the future. Such a council has been up and running in British Columbia for many years.

- ✓ At the RAC Annual General Meeting, VE4HAY talked to a representative from the BC council and it was agreed that if VE4's wanted to form a council they could borrow the format, bylaws, policies etc... from the BC council, so that they did not have to re-invent the wheel.
- ✓ VE4HAY did this and over the summer worked on the documents and converted them to a model that VE4's should be able to work with.
- ✓ VE4HAY conferred with the Manitoba Repeater Society on how VE4's may want to have their council set up.
- ✓ It was suggested that the VE4 model will be a no fee model with one representative from any repeater or club being part of the group. 99% of the work involved would be done via e-mail to eliminate the need to collect fees and hold meetings. While this process is a little slower, it is still very efficient.

VE4HAY then asked for a simple vote by those in attendance if they felt such a council should be formed, and everyone agreed.

- ✓ A private list server has been set for the group.
- ✓ A Web page is in the process of being set up
- ✓ VE4HAY & VE4EAR will meet with Industry Canada to present the Memorandum of Understanding once approved by the group.
- ✓ All previous notes from VE4MJ/VE4TOM have been lost. In order to create a proper database VE4HAY to ask Industry Canada for a listing of licensed repeater in VE4 the area, and then contact each group for missing items and reserved repeater pairs

Some technical items where brought up like

- ✓ Will beacons be included in the council function - YES all fixed frequencies (repeaters & Beacons, etc..) should be under the council
- ✓ Will the council deal with interference - YES they will as best as they can
- ✓ All the 2 meter repeater pairs are used - Thought must be given to using 15 KHz spacing
- ✓ Using a standard tone of 127.3 (PL, CTCSS) for Manitoba
- ✓ Coordinating with North Dakota, Minnesota, Saskatchewan, and NW Ontario

The meeting ended at about 11:30 - with no date set for any future meetings (all communication to be done by e-mail)

Membership Report

By Roy, VE4EN

Membership has remained very steady the past three years at approx. 150 paid, and about 18 Life members. With the completion of linking to Brandon this month, we would like to encourage more country amateurs to consider joining MRS to assist us in our linking projects. The fee has remained at \$25 per year with additional family members at the same household at \$5 each.

Manitoba Repeater Society

Members Survey Results

The Manitoba Repeater Society Inc. is a group of Amateur Radio Operators who are dedicated to improving communications through FM and Repeater operation in Amateur Radio. The Society maintains the following ten repeaters; VE4CDN, VE4MAN, VE4PLP, VE4NEP, VE4GIM, VE4MIL, VE4EMB, VE4WPG, VE4WRS, VE4VJ. Many of the repeaters that the society maintains are linked or linkable to each other, or to other repeaters operated by other clubs.

Over the years the focus of the society has been on first establishing stand alone repeaters and then the linking of these repeaters in an effort to bring the amateur radio population closer together by expanding their ability to communicate further and with better clarity. In an effort to provide information for its members, the executive of the society hold issues three newsletters a year with that describe the current status of they repeaters and ongoing projects. In addition, the society holds meetings twice a year, where the members are able to hear about the society and to voice any concerns or wishes they may have.

As communicators it is disheartening to just barely have a quorum at our meetings (some meetings we did not even have a quorum) in recent years. The executive of the society therefore feels that if the members are not concerned about the direction the society is taking, then everything must be OK. This however, is not how the current executive wishes to proceed. We would like a little more guidance on where you, the members of the society, want to take the organization now and in the future. We realize that everyone has their own thoughts and to get a group of 150+ people to agree on one certain direction is next to impossible. We have however, come up with the following survey, which your executive hopes will provide a focus for the Manitoba Repeater Society to follow.

There were 31 respondents to the survey. Some respondents did not answer all the questions, so the results

will show the results only for the respondents who did answer that question.

Do you feel the current executive is properly guiding the Manitoba Repeater Society with its mandate of "improving communications through FM and Repeater operation in Amateur Radio"?

29/29	Yes
0/29	No

Should the goals of the Manitoba Repeater Society be changed to reflect the technology of today and the near future?

21/28	Yes
7/28	No

If you think the goals need to be changed, please rank the following on a scale of 1- 10 (1= least important, 5 = Would be nice , but it does not matter, 10 = most important)

Average		Avg. if we remove those who answered 1 to every question
5.10	FM Repeater - Standalone	5.96
7.45	FM Repeater Linking	8.79
3.31	Digital Repeater	3.79
2.28	SSB repeaters	2.54
1.79	ATV repeaters	1.96
2.93	6 Metre repeaters	3.33
2.34	10 Metre repeaters	2.63
2.52	2.4 GHz repeaters	2.83
5.46	Wide Area linking - via IRLP, Echo link etc...	6.21
6.83	Local Area linking - MB & close neighbour's	8.04
4.46	Urban Linking	5.22
6.10	Rural Linking	7.17
1.10	No Linking	1.13
2.07	Other	2.29
	monthly meetings	
	completing linking project out west	
	Lets work on getting the links noise free!! CTCSS?	
	Education on Repeaters	

In the past, the first efforts of the executive has been to maintain each repeater site as a standalone site. Next, we provide linking from that site to other sites. The objective was to provide coverage in Winnipeg, the surrounding area, and further points, where the members of the society might travel (Gimili, Whiteshell, Highway 75, Highway 1 East & West, Highway 16 West). This goal had been very hard for the society to meet. It has been very difficult to maintain the repeaters sites and to provide the linking. Do you agree with the trying to maintain this goal?

28/29	Yes
1/28	No

The past few years the society has lost access to sites or has been restricted in access to sites. Great efforts have been made trying to re-establish linking paths only to fall flat. In today's world of legal requirements and liability issues, it is getting harder and harder to secure reasonable access to shared commercial sites. Are you in favour of the effort to keep trying to gain access to commercial sites (which provide greater antenna high) and accept the fact that access will be limited and costly (professional tower climbers might be required) or to accept lower towers (possible owned by the Manitoba Repeater Society or other hams), which provide for less coverage area and ultimately more equipment to maintain.

- 10/28 Prefer Commercial sites - with limited access
- 18/28 Prefer non-commercial less coverage site - with greater access

Our linking from Winnipeg to the West was hampered by the loss of the VE4NEP site near Neepawa. The Society was asked about 2 years ago if they would like to take over one or more of the old Digital packet sites. A repeater was established in the last year, near Minnedosa, using the callsign of VE4NEP in an effort to provide something for the hams in the area due to the loss of the old Neepawa site. It was also thought that this site could be used to re-establish the linking system into Brandon. However the distance of the link from Minnedosa to the East was to great for just one hop, so an effort has been made to establish something in the middle. The Hams at the Amateur Radio Museum were approached to gain access to their site for linking purposes. In addition they were asked if they would like to link in their repeater to the MRS system. Hopefully, this would provide a linking point to VE4NEP. At the same time an effort was made to try to gain access to a commercial site near Bruxelles, which would provide a great point for linking due to its elevation. We waited for over a year only to find out we could not have access to the commercial site. Just as we were planning to go to the Radio Museum, access to another commercial site near Bruxelles has surfaced, which if we are allowed access will provide a better path for linking. Do you feel the executive is sacrificing member's access to the repeater system by waiting for sites with better access and antenna height over quicker access, less coverage and more hops ?

- 9/28 Yes
- 19/28 No

Portage La Prairie has only a few hams living in the area. There is a very simple repeater established in Portage, VE4PTG, which is having technical and financial difficulties staying on the air. The Manitoba Repeater Society was approached to link to this club repeater by the few hams who maintain the repeater. From a mobile coverage point of

view, VE4WPG & VE4VJ disappear just East of Portage, while VE4MAN disappears just West of Portage. The repeater at the Radio Museum comes in just at the West edge of Portage. Assuming that MRS links into the Museum, there is really no need to link the VE4PTG site. However, for non mobile use or for hams in Portage with handhelds, linking would be a definite asset to them. At the same time, MRS has a UHF link point just a couple of miles south of Portage, where a VHF repeater could be set up. Should MRS contribute finances and technical support to the VE4PTG repeater to bring it into the linking system.

- 11/28 Bring in the VE4PTG to the linking system
- 13/28 instead establish VHF repeater at VE4PLP
- 4/28 the area does not need a VHF repeater

Once the linking system is re-established to Brandon, (using one of a few different paths available to us), should the Repeater Society continue to expand West either, out of Brandon along Highway 1 or out of Minnedosa along Highway 16, realizing that we do not have any members or even potential members out that way?

- 9/28 Yes
- 19/28 No

Icom and Alinco now offer Digital radio modules. We all know that the world is moving to digital where ever possible. Digital TV, Digital broadcast radio, etc... While no real standard exists for Amateur radio, should the Manitoba Repeater Society establish a digital repeater for those hams who have or are thinking of getting a digital radio

- 13/27 Yes
- 14/27 No

Do you now have or are you thinking about purchasing a Digital radio (Icom , Alinco or other), but have not done so due to lack of others you could communicate with on digital mode?

- 11/29 Yes
- 18/29 No

The Manitoba Repeater Society holds meetings twice a year. One in Winnipeg and one at the Radio Museum in Austin Manitoba. These meetings have been poorly attended by the members. Only about 10-15% of the members show up. What is the main reason you have not attended any of the Manitoba Repeater Society meetings in the last 3 years?

- 22/29 I attend the meetings as best as I can
- 3/29 Timing of meetings is no good for me (harvesting, snowbirds, vacation, etc...)
- 2/29 I feel the executive is providing the direction I desire and my presence would not help
- 1/29 Access to meeting site
- 1/29 To far to drive for either meeting

What would you like to see at the meetings that would assist you in attending?

- 12/29 I would like to see any presentation
- 7/29 I would like to see a presentation on repeater Linking
- 6/29 I think the meetings are just fine as they are.
- 2/29 I would like to see a more social atmosphere - food & drink
- 2/29 I would like to see presentation on VHF, UHF usage

The current executive has had some of the same members on it for many years now. Some people feel that continuity is important, while others feel that a turnover brings in new ideas and a new vision. Do you think having the same executive for long periods is a problem?

- 5/29 Yes
- 22/29 No

Would you be interested in being on the executive of the Manitoba Repeater Society?

- 10/27 Yes
- 15/27 No

The Manitoba Repeater Society is constantly looking for technicians to help maintain and repair our equipment. If you are so inclined would you be willing to help out in this area?

- 12/26 Yes
- 14/26 No

If you live near one of the Society's radio sites, would you be willing to take over maintenance of the site in an effort to provide greater service and up time?

- 11/26 Yes
- 15/26 No

Remember that your executive is comprised of volunteers who are doing their best to maintain the system and to expand it. With today's personal timetables, it is getting harder & harder to put in the times required. As a member, are you willing to have the system operating at less than 100% for extended periods of time, until executive members are able to look at a problem?

- 24/28 Yes
- 4/28 No

The Manitoba Repeater Society sends out their newsletter by e-mail and snail mail 3 times a year. In recent years, a push has been made to send as many out by e-mail as possible to save the mailing & production costs. If you are not receiving the newsletter by e-mail, why not?

- 26/29 I receive the newsletter by e-mail already

- 1/29 I like the hard copy version and I do not have a printer to make hard copies
- 1/29 I do not like reading the newsletter on the screen
- 1/29 I do not have an e-mail account

The Manitoba Repeater Society maintains a web site, which had for download, manuals, guides, applications, maps, pictures, current status of repeaters and other information of interest to members and Ham's. The site is located at <http://www.ve4.net/mrs>. Did you know this site existed?

- 27/29 Yes
- 2/29 No

If you have visited the Manitoba Repeater Society web site, did you find the information useful?

- 28/28 Yes
- 0/28 No

Recently, the Manitoba Repeater Society, established a e-mailing service (maintained by a fellow ham) to keep members informed of current changes to the system. The Manitoba Repeater Society technical chairperson could send one message to the service, which in turn, forwards the e-mail to all members on the list. Anyone who was receiving the newsletter by e-mail at the time was added to this service. It is hoped that this service would keep members informed between newsletters. Do you think such a service is worth the effort involved?

- 23/27 Yes, I like the service
- 1/27 No, it is just another piece of junk mail
- 3/27 I have e-mail but, have never received any e-mail from the service, yet I get the newsletters by e-mail
- 0/27 I do not have e-mail but agree with such a service

Joint IRLP project - VE4WRS

By Derek Hay

As most of you know the joint IRLP project between MRS & WARC is on the air. It is utilizing the VE4WRS repeater on 145.450 MHz - 600 Khz offset. This is the MRS autopatch system

Please note that autopatch is now a semi-duplex operation. So you must use an offset. When using the autopatch, please note that both sides of the conversation are now broadcast over the air. Previously only the telephone side was broadcast, and the radio could be heard if you were in range of the transmitter.

To use the IRLP portion of the system simply enter in the 4 digit code you wish to connect to. (<http://www.irlp.net> and look at the node listing). When you are done, enter 73 to drop the connection.

The autopatch can not operate at the same time as the IRLP system. So if someone wants to use the autopatch for emergency purposes, please yield the system to them (shut down the IRLP connection first). Like wise if you are in the middle of a long QSO, please ask your other party if they can wait for the Autopatch call. Shut down the IRLP connection, ask the party to make the autopatch call, and then re-establish your connection with your first party. Please do not monopolize the repeater by not letting autopatch calls go through. At the same time please do not request the use of the autopatch for a frivolous call. (taking into account that you are mobile and may need to make an arrangement). Common courtesy by all Ham's should be considered.

Please note that due to a slight technical problem, once the autopatch has been used, the IRLP is not available for 9 minutes. This is being worked on and hopefully we will have a fix for this soon.

Just a reminder that the WARC co-sponsored IRLP repeater VE4WRS, 145.450 MHz negative offset is a fully open repeater. You are in fact encouraged to use this repeater as much as possible. Please make sure you have it your memory banks and are in fact monitoring it. The reason for this, is that we want to make sure that someone is always around monitoring and using the repeater for when an IRLP connection happens.

Just think about when you are out traveling or on holidays and want to connect to your friends back in Winterpeg. You jump on the local IRLP repeater near your vacation hot spot, dial in Winterpeg, and no one comes back to you. What a waste of time. You could have been basking in the sun, sipping another rum punch of some sort. But just think

about how great it would have been to actually connect with a fellow ham in Winnipeg. Just imagine how much

fun it would be to get caught up on all the news, find out what you have been missing, and then finish it off with talk of your sunny 24 degree days and warm water. So please make this one of your regular repeaters and lets see more activity on it.

A complete guide on IRLP is on the MRS web site.

Frequency Coordinating & MARCC Update By Ed, VE4EAR

An initial meeting of several repeater owners/operators was held on October 23 during the WARC flea market in Winnipeg. At that meeting it, the formation of the Manitoba Amateur Repeater Coordination Council (MARCC) was unanimously approved. The purpose of MARCC is to act as a frequency coordinating body for amateur operators in Manitoba. The group will liaise with similar groups in Ontario, Saskatchewan, North Dakota and Minnesota. Membership is free and is open to all current and future repeater, beacon and fixed frequency operators in Manitoba. MARCC is recognized by both RAC and Industry Canada and should be the first point of contact when planning a repeater or beacon, or for settling a dispute. Please visit the web site at <http://www.mts.net/~warcc/marcc/> for more information.

Editors Ramblings By Derek VE4HAY

Dear Santa,

I have been good this year. I have joined all the local Ham group. As well as fully support RAC. Thank you for the HF privileges, you sent mid year. I am very grateful. For Christmas can you now please send me an HF rig.

73 Santa, and have a safe flight.

Accredited Examiners					
Callsign	Name	Address	City	Phone	E-mail
VE4QK	RICHARD	P.O. BOX 1011	BEAUSEJOUR	(204) 268-1702	VE4QK@MTS.NET
VE4SR	RON	P.O. BOX 454	BIRTLE	(204) 842-3753	samvideo@escape.ca
VE4STU	STUART	247 BOSSONS AVE.	DAUPHIN	(204) 638-5237	
VE4AMW	ALBERT	6 BOUNDARY AVENUE	FLIN FLON	(204) 687-3964	albertw@mts.net
VE4SA	SHAWN	BOX 66	GILLAM	(204) 652-6247	
VE4AEY	PAUL	BOX 109	KOMARNO	(204) 278-3517	ve4aey@ve4yumr.ampr.org
VE4NRS	RONALD JAMES	MANTAGO BAY	MANIGOTAGAN	(204) 793-1802	ellietaaylor22@hotmail.com
VE4JA	John G (JACK)	P.O. BOX 1288	RUSSELL	(204) 773-2335	ve4ja@mb.sympatico.ca
VE4UB	WILLIAM	744 CHRISTIE AVENUE W.	SELKIRK	(204) 785-2701	ve4ub@rac.ca
VE4MAR	MARGARITO	1103 STRATHCONA STREET	WINNIPEG	(204) 779-4616	ve4mar@rac.ca
VE4OV	RICHARD	23 HARBOUR BAY	WINNIPEG	(204) 275-6980	rick-lord@shaw.ca
VE4SZ	LOWELL	459 ADSUM DR	WINNIPEG	(204) 633-2877	ve4sz@rac.ca
VE4SN	ADAM	26 MORRISON ST.	WINNIPEG	(204) 339-3316	ve4sn@rac.ca
VE4SW	KEN	1012 LONDON STREET	WINNIPEG	(204) 371-1572	kbar@mts.net
VE4WK	WITOLD	UNIV. OF MAN. ELECT. AND COMP	WINNIPEG	(204) 233-3671	kinsner@ee.umanitoba.ca
VE4WR	WAYNE	408 HILLARY	WINNIPEG	(204) 888-0823	wwarren@minet.gov.mb.ca

Manitoba Repeater Society

2006 Project & equipment requirement needs.

Project #	Description	Equipment	Cost
1	Link 3 transceiver VE4MAN	Used GE Exec II UHF	Stock
1		Crystal for above	done
1		Misc parts	\$100
2	IRLP at VE4WRS	Misc parts	Done
3	VE4MAN VHF Antenna	Sinclair 210-C4 VHF antenna	Done
3		Labour to install	\$500.00
3	Remove old Cabinet at 800'	Labour at same time as above	\$100.00
3	Antennae shipping	via VE4DS expedited freight?? :)	Done
4	VE4PLP - link to VE4PTG	Install damaged Palomar controller	Done
4		Used UHF link radio semi duplex	\$0
4		Crystal for above	\$35.00
4		Omni or home made beam antenna	\$20
4		6' of Transmission cable & Connectors	
4		UHF Duplexor if requ'd	N/A
4		Power supply	stock
4		Cabinet	stock
4		Misc parts	\$20
5	VE4MIL upgrade	Replace 3 UHF antennas	\$370
6	VE4MRS upgrade,	Replace 3 link antennas	\$550
7	VE4NEP upgrade	Install stock RBC-700 Palomar controller	\$0
7		Install MSR-2000 VHF radio	stock
7		Install MSR-2000 UHF radio	\$100
7		Install new UHF duplexer (if requ'd)	\$400
7		Install 1 run of Transmission Cable for link	\$500
7		Install 1 UHF link antenna	\$185
7		Install 1 power supplies	Stock
7		Insulate & Seal Cabinet	\$100.00
7		Misc parts	\$100
8	VE4CDN Link to VE4VRG	Install UHF link radio to Winkler	\$50
8	VE4CDN link to KA0NWV	Install UHF link radio to Karlstad	\$50
8	½ duplex linking, no filtering requ'd	Install 1 run of transmission cable <100'	\$500
8		install 2 UHF beams	Stock??
8		Install Power supply ?	stock
8		Install Power supply	stock
8		2 VHF/UHF diplexers	\$200
8		Misc parts	\$100
Total			<u>\$3,980</u>

Transmission cable is an unknown. Some will be able to come from stock while some will have to be purchased (used)

Misc parts will come from stock or purchased as needed.