



The Repeater

Summer 2007

Distributed to all Current Members

Notice of Semi - Annual Meeting

Date: August 18th, 2006

Time: 2:00 pm

Place: MARM grounds

The agenda will include approval of the minutes of the annual general meeting, business arising, a treasurer's report, a membership report, and a technical report. These reports will be followed by new business.

Important Dates:

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

WARC: Summer 2008 - Wpg Hamfest / RAC AGM

ARES:

WSC: 2nd. Thursday of each month - Breakfast

Other:

Nets: Daily 19:00 Local 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 08:30 Local 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 -

President's Report by Ed, VE4EAR

Greetings everyone and welcome to our summer edition of the MRS newsletter. I hope everyone is enjoying weather now that it has finally stopped raining! Please take a few moments to sit back and catch up on the projects the MRS has underway and some of the plans for the coming months.

With the recent weather trend towards hot humid air, propagation on VHF and UHF has been affected tremendously. This affect is often called ducting or inversion. The cause is the reversal of positions of the cold and warm air masses. We often see this phenomenon in summer or in spring, but it can happen anytime a cooler body of air is trapped closer to the ground than the warmer air. The result is that VHF and UHF radio signals can propagate much further than their normal line-of-site. Here in southern Manitoba, it means that repeaters that are normally on the fringe of reception are now full quieting. Repeaters in North Dakota, Minnesota, Northwestern Ontario and Saskatchewan may become usable here. This obviously leads to interference as multiple repeaters all share the same frequency, when you transmit on your favorite local frequency, your signals are received hundreds of kilometers away. The distant repeater transmits on the same frequency as the local one causing interference.

This problem is not limited to the amateur bands. Commercial VHF, UHF and even 800 MHz signals are all effected. Fortunately the commercial operators have realized that the use of CTCSS or DCS tone squelches helps to minimize the keying of repeaters by distant stations, not intending to do so. Don't be surprised if all the local VHF and UHF repeaters implement tone squelch in the near future.

Wayne Ludman, VE4WKL, has notified the MRS executive that he will not be able to complete his term as member of the executive. On behalf of the executive, thank you Wayne for the time and effort! Wayne's position will be filled at the next general meeting.

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://strategies.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/>

While making plans on how to spend the rest of your summer, please try and include the MRS Semi-Annual General Meeting, scheduled once again for the MARM Fest. This event will be held on August 17 – 18 at the Manitoba Agricultural Museum in Austin. The actual MRS semi-annual general meeting will take place on August 18th at 14:00 in building H. This meeting is your opportunity to review what has been going on and what the plans are for the rest of the year. It's also an excellent opportunity to bring forward new ideas and let us hear your feelings.

Enjoy the rest of summer!

Minutes of Semi-Annual General Meeting April 19th, 2007



Meeting held at Winnipeg Seniors boardroom, starting at 7:04 P.M., Ed Richardson VE4EAR presiding

VE4EAR welcomed all present to the meeting
Each person introduced him or herself

Minutes

Of the August 19 Semi Annual General Meeting approved as presented in Spring 2007 The Repeater newsletter. - Moved, VE4GWN, Seconded VE4SE - CARRIED

Treasurer's Report

Presented by Harm Hazeu VE4HAZ. See reports published in Spring 2007 The Repeater newsletter
See accompanying letter from Sue Collings VE4SYM, who audited MRS books for 2006/07 fiscal year. She stated

M.R.S. Current Executive

President	Ed	VE4EAR	ve4ear AT rac.ca
V/President	Al	VE4AJO	ve4ajo AT rac.ca
Secretary	Dick	VE4HK	ve4hk AT rac.ca
Treasurer	Harm	VE4HAZ	ve4haz AT rac.ca
Membership	Wayne	VE4WKL	wludman AT shaw.ca
Technical	Gord	VE4GLS	ve4gls AT rac.ca
Directors	Yori	VE4ACX	453-3786
	Walter	VE4VB	284-3054
Past Pres.	Bill	VE4ALW	williamr AT mts.net
	Phil	VE4QB	fphilb AT mts.net
	Derek	VE4HAY	ve4hay AT rac.ca

that books were in good order. Move acceptance of Treasurer's Report - Move VE4HAZ, Second VE4QB - CARRIED

Auditor's Report

Read by VE4HAZ, Move acceptance VE4HAZ, Second VE4ALW - CARRIED

Membership Report

Presented by Roy Maguire VE4EN. Approximately 80 members for 2007. This is down slightly from normal. It should improve.

Move acceptance VE4EN, Seconded VE4AEW - CARRIED

Technical Report

- ✓ VE4GLS reported the following
- ✓ VE4MRS repeater at Bruxelles is down due to lightning strike. We will repair it when we get time. Site is inaccessible at this time.
- ✓ VE4MAN will be getting a new Comprod 4 bay folded dipole VHF antenna soon
- ✓ VE4GIM may be moved to Prairie Mobile Communications tower at Winnipeg Beach. The path between Winnipeg and Gimli should improve. The tower is about 5 miles closer, and is taller than the present site. There are still some issues to resolve
- ✓ VE4CDN link is still down. There are 3 link radios to install. Hopefully, this spring.
- ✓ VE4WRS IRLP is busy. It is working well
- ✓ VE4NEP repeater was taken down. It was located on a farm which was sold. One condition of sale was that the repeater must be taken down.
- ✓ VE4MIL The power failure problems appear to be from someone using our circuit for power tools etc. We are considering replacing the circuit breaker.

VE4GLS thanked Yori Tsuji VE4ACX and Walter Bezpalko VE4VB for all their work on the repeaters.

Current state of the system

- ✓ There is no link to the west. Link at Bruxelles is out. See above
- ✓ The path between Winnipeg and Gimli is intermittent
- ✓ The path to Ontario is good through VE4FAL

VE4DY asked if the lightning strike at Bruxelles damaged the building. VE4GLS replied that the antenna was damaged. The tower and building are okay. VE4HS, owned by Brandon Club, was damaged. It has been replaced by now. The UHF repeater has been repaired.

A discussion concerning Bruxelles site ensued

Plans for upcoming year

The Technical Committee intends to install a stand alone repeater at Bruxelles. It should offer good coverage. Call sign VE4MRS, frequency 145.31 negative offset. VE4VB is setting up the repeater radios. We require duplexers. We plan to link VE4CDN in Morris to VE4TOM in Winkler this season. It will offer expanded coverage west to Manitou and the USA.

VE4GWN asked if VE4TOM will be hard linked. , VE4GLS replied yes, through VE4CDN

VE4GLS described a possible repeater at Steinbach. He met with a local group recently. They asked MRS to sponsor them. The Steinbach group would look after simple maintenance VE4GWN suggested contacting the local Steinbach Credit Union. They have a very tall tower. VE4GLS stated that the water tower is 80 ft taller. MRS has spare equipment to use.

VE4GLS advised that executive is looking at replacing VE4NEP with a tower at Basswood, MB, approximately 10 miles west of Minnedosa. The tower is 800-1000 ft, and is believed to be for CKND TV rebroadcast transmitter. VE4BAS is through Prairie Mobile Communications. Might link to MRS and to Dauphin club. Discussions are ongoing.

VE4GWN asked about link to Portage la Prairie club repeater. VE4GLS replied that VE4ALW has necessary equipment. VE4ACX is servicing the equipment. VE4ALW added that the Portage club is ready whenever MRS is ready. They have installed a new mast on the Provincial building. He had good line of sight from this building to the Manitoba Hydro tower which houses MRS link repeater.

VE4EAR solicited volunteers to assist Technical Committee. VE4VZ offered to service MRS equipment

New Business

VE4VZ suggested that MRS make a presentation at Field Day. VE4EAR stated that the executive will discuss that and get back. He asked VE4VZ how many attended Field Day VE4VZ replied 150-175 people.

Notices for the Good and Welfare

VE4EAR presented a plaque to Roy Maguire VE4EN, thanking him for serving on the executive from 1991 to 2007.

VE4ACX wishes to test VE4RRC repeater at Red River Collegiate downtown campus, to determine if it interferes with VE4TOM, on the same frequency

VE4VZ asked if MRS would be using the repeaters stored on the third floor of the Seniors. VE4ACX replied yes

VE4ALW mentioned that Wayne Warren VE4WR will have VE4EDU back on the air soon.

VE4GLS noted that VE4UMR repeater and club rooms might be gone soon

VE4EAR made a Frequency Coordinator report as follows

- ☞ committee receives many requests for repeaters
- ☞ VHF is full, which makes coordinating difficult
- ☞ Cannot keep frequencies open for groups which have an assigned frequency, but no repeater in operation
- ☞ may be necessary to switch to 15 KHz spacing.
- ☞ Possible PL tones required. Most current 2 meter transceivers capable of PL
- ☞ Consider UHF band

VE4VZ asked if UHF would be preferable for Winnipeg and Brandon. VE4EAR advised it would be preferable

VE4VZ announced that Field Day was at Birds Hill Park, same site as last year. There will be a demonstration of Amateur TV and of Satellites at Field Day

VE4ACX asked if linking repeaters were coordinated. VE4EAR replied yes. He contacted most groups using simplex for linking to request they apply for coordination. It is coming slowly

Election of Officers

The following were acclaimed to office

Yori Tsuji VE4ACX
 Ellis (Al) Seddon VE4AJO
 Bill Simm VE4ALW
 Ed Richardson VE4EAR
 Gord Snarr VE4GLS
 Harm Hazeu VE4HAZ
 Dick Maguire VE4HK
 Phil Barton VE4QB
 Walter Bezpalko VE4VB
 Wayne Ludman VE4WKL

VE4EAR presented 'THE QUIZ' and a choice of 2 prizes for the big winner. VE4GWN submitted the winning entry. He chose a soldering iron

VE4HK won the attendance draw, a digital multimeter

VE4EAR and VE4AJO completed the evening with a presentation on repeaters and controllers.

Adjourn VE4GWN 9:06 P.M.

Technical Committee **Submitted by Gord, VE4GLS**



It has been a busy summer for most of us, so we are finding it difficult to find time for our hobby. No fun when that four letter word "work" gets in the road.

The major ongoing projects right now are getting the Starbuck repeater hub up and running properly again and getting the Bruxelles repeater going.

We found problems with two of the three link systems at the Starbuck site. The problems are mostly feedline or antenna related. We are not qualified to climb the tower to check it out so we have to rely on professional riggers to do our work. We have been trying to get the VHF antenna replaced for a year and a half already and still waiting. Now we found the link problems that also require hiring the riggers so we have to run on their schedule. All the rain and wet weather this spring and early summer has left them behind in their jobs and ours doesn't get as much priority as others such as Servicing TV and FM transmitter sites for example. Yori was able to repair the west link radio and re-adjust the controller at Portage to get the link going again to Brandon. The link seems to be working well.

The link between Starbuck and Winnipeg is severed until radio and hardware repairs can be made at VE4MAN. This is part of the major repairs required at the site. We checked the UHF lines with a TDR (Time Delay Reflectometer) which showed an open circuit at or very close to the antenna. Both WPG and CDN links showed the same reading. We expect a problem at the antenna connection or faulty antennae. The riggers agreed to look at these antennae for us; we have spare replacements if needed.

VE4EMB, 147.36+ MHz, Hadashville

-Hot-linked to VE4FAL. Reports are that the link is noisy one-way from FAL at EMB.

VE4MIL, 145.21- #42 Milner Ridge

MRS - Help Wanted

The Manitoba Repeater Society Inc. is looking for technical assistance on our repeaters. Some background in radio electronics and electronic diagnosis and repair is preferred. Our Technical Committee members can train on our specific requirements, but we cannot train from scratch. Contact Dick VE4HK, Gord VE4GLS or Derek VE4HAY to volunteer.

-Working fine.
 -Work was done at the site to fix the AC power problem we had earlier this year.

VE4GIM, 146.85-, #44 Gimli

-Working fine but the link is intermittent at times due to path fade. We need to check up on the link antennae and feedlines for problems.
 -Yori repaired the link radio at VE4WPG, it is now transmitting again.

VE4VJ, 443.500+, #45 Winnipeg

-Working excellent! Great range and easy to work within 50 km or so of the city from a mobile. This system is under utilized for the coverage it has. UHF has less intermod and other interference when downtown. It is a great backup for VE4MAN until that system is repaired.

VE4WRS, 145.45-, Winnipeg

-Both IRLP and phone patch are working well. Made some improvements to the IRLP/phone patch systems earlier this year so they get along a bit better.

VE4WPG, 147.39+, #45 Winnipeg

-Our most used repeater.
 -Make sure the frequency is clear before bringing up the "link", and please ID. We seem to get the occasional complaint about this. Please set a good example for others.
 -L2 to Starbuck has nothing to connect to until upgrades at VE4MAN can be completed.
 -L3 working fine, connects to VE4MIL
 -L4 working, see VE4GIM above.

VE4MAN, 146.61-, #46 Starbuck

-Operating at reduced output and receiver sensitivity until service can be performed.
 -Requires antenna replacement and duplexers.
 -Requires antennae or connector service for L1 to WPG and L3 to CDN
 -Difficult to schedule repairs, tower riggers catching up from wet early summer season. Hope to have the repairs done later this summer.

VE4CDN, 145.27-, #47 Morris

-Working fine as a stand-alone system since 2005. Covers from Winnipeg South Perimeter to well south of the Canada/US border. Requires a 127.3 Hz tone for access.
 -The link is installed but disabled until the VE4MAN site (L3) is repaired.
 VE4PLP, UHF link site, S of Portage La Prairie

-2 back-to-back UHF radios facilitate linking to Bruxelles site
 -UHF link planned to connect to VE4PTG repeater in Portage eventually.

VE4MRS, 145.31- #48 Buydens Hill (Bruxelles)

-Repeater installation pending, hopefully before MARM hamfest.
 -Waiting for VHF antennae to be replaced, the existing antenna took a bad lightning strike that destroyed it.
 -Link radio was replaced late spring, link to Brandon now works.

VE4NEP, 147.21+, #50 Minnedosa/Neepawa

-Was removed this spring. The land it was on was sold. No current plan for it's re-installation.

Pinetree Inter-tie

VE4FAL, 146.64-, #40 Falcon Lake (Pine-tree Intertie)
 -VHF working very well
 -UHF link to the east is intermittent

Special Credits:

Murray VE4RE and staff at Prairie Mobile for Supplying equipment, sites, and support for our club
 Yori VE4ACX and Walter VE4VB - All the many hours of traveling, tuning, building, modifying, and hauling equipment for repair and service on our extensive network. These are the real technicians behind MRS!

MRS Web Site:

Sorry our web page has been unavailable for some time now. We are looking into getting it going again through a new domain or server.

Looking for a few good HAM's

Are you a member of RAC yet?

If not maybe it's time you looked once again at joining. You know you looked at joining in the past, but put it off for some reason. Maybe it was the cost of membership. But have you considered the savings alone on liability insurance for your tower. That's right as a RAC member you automatically are covered for Liability insurance on your tower. Talk to your insurance agent, figure out what it costs you on your policy. And compare it to the cost of a RAC membership.

Treasurers Report
By Harm, VE4HAZ

The financial position of the Manitoba Repeater Society Inc. as of June 30, 2007 is as follows:

Open January 1	\$6266.38	
Less Self Insurance	<u>\$2000.00</u>	
Subtotal		\$4266.38
Receipts:		
Memberships	\$1968.75	
Donations	<u>\$ 85.00</u>	
Total Receipts:		<u>\$2053.75</u>
Cash Available for Use		\$6320.13
Withdrawals:		
Equipment Maint	0.00	
Equipment Reserve	\$ 177.79	
Test Equipment	\$ 0.00	
Newsletter	\$ 80.74	
Insurance	\$ 0.00	
MTS (phone patch)	\$ 281.46	
Licenses and Fees	\$ 20.00	
Misc	\$ 130.64	
Total Withdrawals		- \$690.63
Add back Self Insurance		<u>\$2000.00</u>
Ending Balance June 30, 2007		<u>\$7629.50</u>

INDUSTRY CANADA ANNOUNCES NEW TOWER POLICY

On June 30, the Canada Gazette carried notice of the new tower policy released by Industry Canada. The new policy is CPC-2-00-03, Issue 4, "Radiocommunication and Broadcasting Antenna Systems", which outlines the procedure for the installation of antenna towers. The new procedure comes into effect January 1, 2008. The document can be downloaded from <http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/antenna>

The procedure is mainly aimed at commercial towers such as those used by cellular, paging and broadcast companies, but large amateur radio towers, greater than 15 m above ground level, will also be affected. Radio Amateurs of Canada will be assessing Issue 4, and will provide an analysis in a few weeks.

Amateurs proposing new tower structures should carefully review this new procedure.

We are in need of long runs of 7/8" Heliac or LMR-400 transmission cable. If you know of roll ends or good quality used cable available please contact anyone on the board.

WARC - Help Wanted

The Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club Inc. is looking for one or more volunteers to take over administration of the IRLP system that is shared with Manitoba Repeater Society. Duties and capabilities include, but are not limited to the following

- login procedures
- audio alignment procedures
- other basic file management pertaining to IRLP
- basic computer skills are required
- must be able to run remote login software at home on a secure network/system. SecureCRT is recommended
- command line entry & GUI LINUX RedHat 9+
- ability to maintain strict security with passwords, IP addresses etc
- some experience setting audio levels, FM deviation,
- some knowledge of repeater setup and maintenance
- must be able to be allowed physical access to the VE4WPG secure site.

Contact Derek VE4HAY if you are interested in applying for this position

QTX~
By Derek, VE4HAY

Missed the Manitoba kids talking to the space shuttle, check it out on this web site - <http://www.msig.ca>



Speaking of web sites. Check this one out for great videos on Amateur radio <http://www.amateurlogic.com>

The Manitoba Repeater Society Inc semi annual general meeting is Saturday, August 18, 2:00 pm in the main building.

All members of MRS, prospective members and interested amateurs are cordially invited to attend.

Dick VE4HK, is the Secretary of MRS. He requests that any member who wishes to present a motion give Dick a copy prior to the meeting. The motion can be e-mailed to ve4hk@rac.ca, snail mailed or dropped off to Winnipeg Seniors Radio Club, or hand delivered to Dick. This is simply to ensure that the motion is recorded accurately for the minutes of the meeting.