



The Repeater

Winter 2008

Distributed to all Current Members

Membership Re-newal time

The entire Board of
Directors extend to you,
our best wishes for a
Merry Christmas and an
interesting **New Year**

Important Dates:

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

WARC:

WSC: 2nd Thurs. of month - Breakfast Garden City Inn

ARES:

Other:

Nets: Daily 19:00 Local	MB Evening Phone net 3747 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	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

Welcome to your final edition of the REPEATER for 2008. 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.

With cold weather arriving suddenly after a fairly mild fall, we are starting to see some breakdowns in equipment. Full details are covered in the technical report elsewhere in this issue. While a repeater breakdown is an inconvenience to everyone, please consider that access to the site may be restricted or difficult to get to at this time of year. Repairs can, and do take time and we appreciate your patience.

MRS was fortunate enough to acquire several MSR2000 repeaters and cavity filters from Ontario Provincial Police sites that were being decommissioned. We are now working to determine how best to utilize this hardware.

Talks have started between the MRS and a group of amateurs in the Steinbach area of the province. They are looking to acquire a site and there may be a VHF and UHF repeater for this area in 2009. This is definitely one area of the province that has been lacking in V/UHF repeater coverage.

It appears that the WARC Hamfest that took place this past summer was an resounding success. Unfortunately for MRS, this meant there would be no annual fall flea market and the accompanying opportunity to begin our annual membership renewal campaign. I hope you will take this opportunity to renew your membership as your contributions are the only source of income we have to keep the repeater network operational. If you find the repeaters, the links, the nets, the swap & shop or just the ability to rag chew with local amateurs valuable, we hope you will renew your membership. For your convenience, we have even included a handy renewal form with this newsletter.

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 2009.

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 AT ic.gc.ca](mailto: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/>

Technical Committee Submitted by Gord, VE4GLS



As of mid-December, most of our system is up and running except for a few glitches that continue to trouble the system. All systems (except for Hadashville) east of Winnipeg are working well. The link between Falcon Lake and Kenora is operational but there is still occasional path loss so it usually only works in the morning and evening. To the west however we have had recent problems with the Starbuck and Portage systems, which have left the link to Bruxelles and Brandon unavailable. Starbuck also lost its VHF power amplifier. The signal on 146.61- is much weaker than normal but the repeater is still usable where it can be heard. The 145.31-repeater at Bruxelles is operational but is picking up some bad site noise from local digital services. We may have to install a CTCSS squelch to try to compensate, likely the standard Manitoba tone of 127.3 Hz, so you would have to transmit this tone in order to access this repeater, same as the Morris repeater.

We have been working on replacing several of our link radios with some newer GE MVP transceivers. These units are lower power but more stable than the Motorola Micor radios that are now failing due to age. The GE radios also have a smaller physical footprint so they take up a bit less space, leaving more room in the cabinets for better filtering, etc. The lower power output is not a problem with most of our sites; some of our link paths are good enough to run milliwatts, and the 5-10 watt output will be ample. We still have a few Motorola MSR-2000 UHF transceivers that are capable of 30-40 watts available for longer paths. The Motorola MSR-2000 radios seem to work well in our system with good receiver audio response and ample transmitter

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	Harm	VE4HAZ	ve4haz AT rac.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

power. We are having a bit of trouble with the MVPs getting the audio properties to match the old Micor type response. Yori is working on a workaround for this and we should have some of these radios installed and running soon.

Current Status

Quick repeater status rundown; you can also see this info on the web at:

<http://www.mb-repeater-society.ca/status.html>

VE4MAN 146.61 #46 - Starbuck MB

Operating at low power. We may have a new PA available and install it during Christmas holidays, depending on weather. We are also replacing the VHF duplexer filter and two link radios.

VE4CDN 145.27- 127.3 Hz CTCSS # 47 - Morris, MB

Operating normally on VHF. Link to Starbuck unavailable at this time; link may be available after link radios replaced at Starbuck. Hoping to install the link to Winkler (see below) soon.

VE4WPG 147.39+ and VE4VJ 443.500+ #45 - Winnipeg, MB

Operating normally. All links are nominal. VE4VJ has great range to the south, east, and north of the city.

VE4WRS 145.45- IRLP #1066 and Phone Patch system, Winnipeg, MB

Both phone patch and IRLP are working well at this time. We did have a glitch caused by a momentary power failure that caused an IRLP outage a few weeks ago. The computer needed to be manually started. A UPS may be installed to avoid this issue in the future.

VE4GIM 146.85 # 44 - Gimli, MB

VHF and link are working well. Link is on most of the time to the rest of the system.

VE4EMB 147.36+ Hadashville, MB

Not working properly. Antenna and feedline problems are causing noise on the repeater input, and decreased range on output. Link is VHF combined with the repeater in/out frequencies so link isn't working properly either. We are looking into moving this repeater to a site farther north.

VE4MIL 145.21 # 42 - Milner Ridge, MB

Operating normally. Links all operational. Good coverage in eastern Manitoba north of the Trans Canada highway.

VE4MRS 145.31 # 48 - Buydens Hill (Bruxelles), MB (Prairie Mobile)

Limited operation due to receiver interference. Link to east is not operational at this time. Link between Brandon and VE4MRS is likely functional but turned off due to noise. We may add a CTCSS squelch to alleviate the noise problem.

Linking Sites

VE4PLP Portage 147.165+ Portage, MB

Repeater not available yet. The antenna is yet to be installed on the tower sometime over the winter or next spring, as weather allows. The link system at Portage is not working at this time. We hope to install two link radios when the repeater is installed, which should re-establish the link to Brandon.

Links to Other Systems

VE4TOM 147.33+ Winkler, MB (Prairie Mobile)

Working great. Link is installed to connect to Morris. Have to install the link radio, feedline, and antenna at the Morris end to complete the link to this site.

VE4MBR 147.06+/443.00+ Selkirk, MB

Link was working as of last report. VE4MBR links through the VE4MIL repeater system.

Current projects

The MRS is looking for new controllers to eventually replace the current Palomar multi-port systems with. We are looking at several options including Link-Comm, Pacific Research, and Computer Automation Technology units. The newest controller we have is the one at Morris, a Link-Comm RLC-4 which has worked well. We are looking for something that has multi-link capabilities, no de-emphasis or pre-emphasis in the audio circuitry, Motorola type squelch system with audio delay, remote audio and squelch adjustments, and easy to interface to our transceivers.

As always we are looking for volunteers to help maintain our system. If you are interested in helping us out please let us know. We often need someone to help transport equipment, set up, tune, and even do some minor tower rigging. We can do some on-the-job training but some experience in this field would be most helpful.

Members of the Executive do most our technical repeater servicing, with direction from Yori and Walter, our repeater gurus. This last year we have seen major increases

in fuel cost which is on the decline again now. MRS has funding available to cover these costs as approved. It should be made aware that MRS rarely pays for these transportation costs; the individual executive members usually pay for gas out-of-pocket for their vehicles when traveling to remote repeater sites, so your membership dollars go to running and maintaining the MRS system rather than fuel. Carpooling helps minimize these costs but this year with many trips involved fuel expenses were higher than normal. Special thank you to those who supplied transportation and/or serviced our remote sites!!!

Treasurers Report
By Harm, VE4HAZ

The financial position of the Manitoba Repeater Society Inc. as of November 30, 2008 is as follows:

Balance as of Jan 1, 2008	\$5932.61	
Self Insurance	(\$ 500.00)	
Subtotal		\$5432.61
Receipts:		
Memberships	\$1645.00	
Donations	\$ 290.00	
Interest	\$ 3.44	
Total Receipts:		<u>\$1938.44</u>
Cash Available for Use		\$7371.05
Withdrawals:		
Equipment Maintenance	\$3339.89	
Equipment Reserve	\$ 481.35	
Test Equipment	\$ 0.00	
Newsletter	\$ 35.20	
Insurance	\$ 125.00	
MTS (phone patch)	\$ 511.37	
Licenses and Fees	\$ 0.00	
Misc.	\$ 143.25	
Web hosting & set up	\$ 165.00	
Total Withdrawals		\$4801.06
Transfer to Savings		<u>-\$2500.00</u>
Balance Nov. 30, 2008		\$ 69.99
Savings Account (Self Insurance)	\$2000.00	
Transferred from Chequeing	\$ 500.00	
Transferred from Chequeing	\$2500.00	
Interest	\$ 10.46	
Savings Account		\$5010.46

Membership Report
By Harm, VE4HAZ

The membership for 2008 was down slightly from 2007 to finish the year at 118 members. This breaks down as 17 life members, 3 sight impaired members and 98 regular members. We also have 8 clubs on our mailing list which we keep in contact with. The slight decrease is encouraging, however because there was no Fall Flea Market our numbers for 2009 are down from last year at this point in time. Please take the time to fill out the membership form (found elsewhere in the newsletter) and mail it in as soon as possible. Remember that the funds are required to maintain and replace existing equipment and if possible to improve the system. Thanks for your support over the past year. If you have any questions or concerns about your membership or about membership in general, do not hesitate to contact me at ve4haz[at]gmail[dot]com.

Discussion Point -
The hidden costs of repeaters

Increased site rental charges for amateur repeaters are forcing clubs to consider whether to pay more, relocate or close repeaters. The days of using simple gear for a repeaters are quickly ending. Increasingly site owners demand modern commercial specification transceivers. This is to avoid interference but also increases rack mount capacity so more paying customers can be accommodated. Diplexers, splitters, filters and other plumbing, power bills and licence fees also add to the cost. Antenna work almost universally needs a fully insured qualified rigger that charges thousands of dollars a time.

Whether it's an analogue FM or the latest D-STAR repeater, they seem to get minimal use. Should there be some repeater rationalization in both the heavily populated regions and country areas?

Are those repeater and beacon users who expect a high level of service and reliability aware, or give much thought to, the enormous financial costs and volunteer man-hours involved? Extracted from the WIA weekly bulletin

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.

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

CANWARN

By Jeff, VE4MBQ, DEC Manitoba ARES

CANWARN Spotter Training for new and experienced Spotters will be in Steinbach, early APR 2009 (tentatively SAT 4 APR). Anyone interested should notify their local ARES Coordinator by 1 MAR so that we can prepare sufficient information packages and ensure that we have a proper size room. Perhaps some local Amateurs will want to organize a group lunch ?

In consultation with Rob Paola, Weather Preparedness Meteorologist at PASPC we have revised the list of "Reportable" Winter Weather elements:

**"REPORTABLE" WINTER WEATHER
- REVISED DEC 2008**

- ☁ LOW VISIBILITY (<1 KM FOR SNOW OR BLOWING SNOW, <1/2 KM FOR FOG)
- ☁ FREEZING RAIN or FREEZING DRIZZLE or ICE PELLETS
- ☁ SNOWFALL ACCUMULATIONS OVER 5 cm
- ☁ RAIN THAT CHANGES TO SNOW or FREEZING RAIN (or Vice Versa)

Spotters are encouraged to pass along any reports of power outages or dangerous roads due to weather conditions.

There will not generally * be an amateur net in operation, so phone your report in via the 1-800 number received at Spotter Training. The PUBLIC number is 1-800-239-0484

* CONSIDER PARTICIPATION IN:
MMWX NET 3743 KHz LSB approx. 0830h local
MMWX Net Manager may collate severe winter weather reports and forward to PASPC.

QTX~

By Derek, VE4HAY

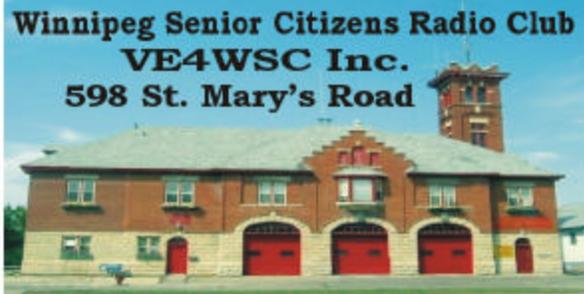


Did you know:

- ☞ CAMP 807 will be hosted at Atikokan in 2009. This notice from the Secretary of the Fort Frances region ARC
- ☞ Santa, please bring me this - Here an interesting link about a huge antenna project. The scale of this project takes my breath away. Maybe something for Hi Q. <http://www.1982crew.com/PHP-Nuke/PDF/K9LTN.pdf>

- ☞ In case you missed the tour we had at the university of Manitoba last month, here is a link to some pictures that were taken - http://www.pbase.com/sousaa/warc_field_trip
- ☞ Even more photo's are viewable on Mark's photo site <http://www.flickr.com/photos/mblumm/sets/72157609801775585/show/>
- ☞ VE4GWN sent in these web site for zone maps etc. <http://www4.plala.or.jp/nomrax/hammaps.htm>
- ☞ That Santa has been secretly asking your spouse what you want for Christmas, and they don't know what to say. So how about a hint...

**Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club
VE4WSC Inc.
598 St. Mary's Road**



**WSCRC invites everyone to
come up for a coffee & take a
tour of our great club facilities.
We encourage Retired Seniors
to become members!
Tell your friends!**

**Visit our club or call 233 - 3122
Monday - Friday 9AM - 2PM**



Attn.: Membership
 Manitoba Repeater Society
 C/O VE4WSC
 598 St. Mary's Road
 Winnipeg MB R2M3L5

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

(Please note: membership year is January 1st to December 31st).

<u>Call Sign</u>	<u>Surname</u>	<u>Preferred First Name</u>
<u>Mailing Address</u>		
<u>City</u>	<u>Prov.</u>	<u>Postal Code</u>
<u>Home Phone</u>		<u>Work Phone</u>
<u>E-mail Address</u>		
<p><u>Club use only:</u></p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p>\$ _____</p> <p>Cheque / Cash / Money Order</p> <p>Rcpt. _____</p> <p>Card Issued: ___ Year _____</p>		

Renewal
 New
 New Ham (FREE if licensed in current membership year)

<p><i>Pro-rated-new members only</i></p> <p>Regular January to December \$25.00</p> <p>April - December \$18.75</p> <p>July to December \$12.50</p>	<p>Class of Member: (please circle one only)</p> <p>Regular \$25 / Addn'l Family Member - \$5</p>
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How do you wish the Newsletter to be delivered:
 (please circle one only) E-mail or Snail-mail

Would you be willing to help out on work performed at the various repeater sites. Yes No

Please list your technical abilities or available equipment that would help out the Repeater Society: _____

Please indicate any other clubs you belong to:

WARC ARES WSC RAC Other: _____

Optional Information:

Current Occupation: _____

If Retired: Former Occupation: _____

Skills: _____