



The Repeater

Spring 2009

Distributed to all Current Members

Notice of Annual Meeting and Elections

Date: April 14th, 2009

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 2009/2010 season.

Important Dates:

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

Sunday at 9:00 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

Can you believe it! We have made it through another Manitoba winter and spring is slowly making its presence felt. With spring comes the annual threat of flooding throughout much of the MRS coverage area. This year, the forecast appears to indicate a significant risk throughout the Red River Valley and MRS will be working to ensure the local repeaters in high risk areas are available and ready for ARES use if necessary.

As always, if an emergency net is activated on a repeater you are monitoring, please yield to the net and follow the instructions of the net control station. If a non-emergency net is scheduled for the same time an emergency net is running, listen for specific announcements providing possible alternate frequencies or times.

Our Annual general meeting is fast approaching. For complete details, see the information on the left side of this page. Hope to see you all there!

There has been some discussion on and off the repeaters regarding frequency coordination and frequency usage. The underlying issue and concern appears to be sharing of frequencies and avoiding interference. See the article elsewhere in this newsletter for more details.

The annual WARC flea market is fast approaching. Once again Yori and Walter will have a table set up with test equipment for verifying the operation of your V/UHF portable or mobile radio. Consider stopping by and having your radio checked. The performance of a radio left in a vehicle for several years, subjected to vibration, dirt, temperature extremes and general neglect, can deteriorate. How is yours doing? How is your deviation? Power output? Frequency accuracy? This may be a great opportunity to find out.

I am looking forward to an active and exciting year ahead for amateur radio and in particular, the Manitoba Repeater Society. I look forward to sharing some of these experiences with you.

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
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



As spring has sprung after a rough winter, we are a bit behind on some of the projects we were hoping to complete by springtime. We were hoping to get Starbuck up and running at 100% with new duplexers and some link radios but the weather was too cold and the certain planets didn't line up as we hoped. We will be working on this project as well as getting the VE4MRS system up at Bydens Hill operational again.

Since flooding looks to be a major issue in the Red River Valley we hope to hurry up on some our repairs and upgrades to cover the flood area via VE4VJ, VE4CDN, VE4MAN, and link to VE4TOM. If ARES is called to service and the repeater system is required for flood-related traffic, remember this traffic has priority and stand by until the traffic has been passed before using the system for normal chatter. Also leave breaks in your conversations to allow these flood stations to make contact etc.

We have been working on replacing several of our link radios with some newer GE MVP transceivers, we have run into some trouble converting them into full duplex repeater/link radios. The GE radios we have tried are easier to convert but they are few and far between. 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 power.

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

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- Starbuck MB

Operating at low power. We have a new PA available and will install ASAP depending on weather. We are also replacing the VHF duplexer filter and two link radios.

VE4CDN 145.27- 127.3Hz CTCSS 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+ Winnipeg, MB

Operating normally. All links are nominal. VJ has great range to the south, east, and north of the city. VE4WRS 145.45- IRLP and Phone Patch system, Winnipeg, MB. Both phone patch and IRLP are working well at this time. A UPS may have been installed to avoid this issue having to manually reboot the system after power failures.

VE4GIM 146.85- Gimli, MB

VHF repeater and UHF 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- Milner Ridge, MB

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

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

Currently disabled (RX noise issues). Link to east is not operational at this time. Link between Brandon and VE4MRS is likely functional but turned off due to noise. We will add a CTCSS squelch to alleviate the noise problem, it will be 127.3 Hz the Manitoba standard.

VE4PLP Portage 147.165+ Portage, MB

The repeater antenna has been installed and feedline re-allocated (Thank you Hydro!) for our use. Coverage is significantly better than when the repeater was at its original site. The link system at Portage is not working at this time. We hope to install two link radios later in the season to

re-establish the link to VE4MRS and Brandon once VE4MAN is upgraded.

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. Working on legal issues for the Morris site regarding installation of the antenna and feedline for the link system. Hopefully spring time this year.

VE4MBR 147.06+/443.00+ Selkirk, MB

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

Pine Tree Intertie (Kenora and east)

The link between Falcon Lake and Kenora is operational most mornings but there is too much path loss for stable communications. Upgrades are planned to improve this link between NW Ontario and Manitoba.

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. One such unit is the RLC-DSP404 that supports up to 8 radio ports.

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.

We are in need of long lengths of 1/2" or 7/8" Heliac. LMR400 or LMR 600 is OK for jumpers or very short runs. If you know of roll ends or good quality used cable available please contact anyone on the board.

MRS Semi Annual General Meeting

August 16th, 2008

Meeting Held during MarmFest at Austin Manitoba
Meeting began 2:03 pm VE4EAR presiding' and each person in attendance introduced him or herself. Followed by VE4EAR making welcoming remarks.

Minutes of April 2008 AGM approved as emailed to members. Moved by VE4SE, Seconded by VE4AJO
CARRIED

Treasurer's Report

Presented by VE4HAZ. \$1590.31 in receipts. \$2200.00 expenses, mostly for installing antennas at VE4MAN, Balance in regular account as of July 31, \$2325.78, Savings account \$3000.00 for self insurance, and \$2000.00 to top up account to \$5000.00, which receives a better interest rate.

A member asked if insurance covered public liability and public damage. VE4HAZ answered that this insurance policy was for equipment replacement only. VE4EAR continued to state that MRS has another insurance policy, to cover PL/PD. It expires in October.

VE4AJO asked about bill to install antenna at VE4MRS Bruxelles. VE4HAZ replied that bill would not appear on July statement. Bill to be paid this month.

Membership Report

Presented by VE4HAZ. MRS now has 100 regular members along with 17 life members, Signed 3 members today.

VE4SE asked how this number compares with previous years. VE4HAZ answered this number is about the same as previous years.

Technical Report

Presented by VE4AJO. Technical Committee recently installed new Comprod VHF folded dipoles at VE4MAN and at VE4MRS sites. UHF link radio work is in progress. Link between VE4TOM in Winkler and VE4CDN in Morris is working well. Technical Committee is awaiting word from amateurs in Steinbach area concerning their repeater and a link to MRS system.

IRLP link is working well

We hope to finish our work before snow flies

VE4LB asked how to turn on VE4MRS at Bruxelles. VE4AJO explained correct codes

VE4EDE asked for a list of ON/OFF codes. VE4EDE advised to look on the MRS website under "Linking for Dummies":

VE4HAZ advised VE4HK to record in minutes for executive to investigate updated visor cards. VE4GHR

suggested e-mailing visor card info in .PDF format. VE4EAR advised 'CAN DO!' VE4GHR suggested that a system diagram be included with visor card. VE4EAR again stated that can be done.

New Business

VE4GWN asked whether MRS had plans to install a 6 meter repeater. VE4EAR responded "Not yet?" "Is there interest?" VE4GWN advised that many amateur radios are now capable of 6 meters. VE4EAR noted that there are many VHF and UHF repeaters in the area, most little used. Is there interest in 6 meter repeater? What about digital repeater? VE4VID stated that DSTAR handhelds are expensive. 6 meters might be worthwhile. VE4GHR suggested installing a 6 meter repeater in Portage la Prairie. Range would cover Winnipeg. VE4EAR agreed that 6 meter repeater could work out well in Portage

VE4GWN reiterated that DSTAR was expensive. Icom will donate a node to MRS, if 33 people purchase DSTAR radios (secretary note DSTAR radios typically cost approximately \$500.00 -800.00 each)

VE4EAR asked about MRS nets. VE4HK gave a brief explanation. VE4ALW suggested changing Net Control script to reflect more check ins from out of town stations, due to expanded linking system. VE4HK asked if "West of Winnipeg" and "North of Winnipeg" would help. VE4HK will observe the nets for the next few weeks, and make a decision.

Adjourn 2:35 pm VE4GWB

Manitoba - new Section Manager

Radio Amateurs in Manitoba will be pleased to know that the Manitoba Section Manager position has finally been filled.

Jan Schippers, VE4JS, of Winnipeg, has been elected to fill the remainder of a two-year term that began on July 1, 2008. A licensed Amateur since 1972, Jan ran unopposed, thus removing the need for a balloted election, replacing SM Rob Boux, VE4RRB, who did not stand for re-election.

Congratulations and thanks to Jan for accepting the challenge, as well as thanks to Rob for his many years of service to the RAC Field Organization

Treasurers Report
By Harm, VE4HAZ

Manitoba Repeater Society 2008 Financial Report

The financial position of the Manitoba Repeater Society Inc. as of December 31, 2008

Opening Balance as of January 1, 2008	\$5932.61
Self Insurance	<u>\$(500.00)</u>
Subtotal	\$5432.61
Income:	
Memberships	\$1645.00
Donations	\$290.00
Interest	<u>\$3.45</u>
Total income	<u>\$1938.45</u>
Cash Available for Use	<u>\$7371.06</u>
Expense	
Equipment Maintenance	\$3339.89
Equipment Reserve	\$481.35
Test Equipment	\$0.00
Newsletter	\$35.20
Insurance	\$125.00
phone patch	\$557.86
License and Fee	\$0.00
Misc.	\$143.32
Website	<u>\$165.00</u>
Total Withdrawal	\$4847.62
Transfer to Savings	(\$2000.00)
Ending Balance December 31, 2008	\$523.44

Transferred to Self Insurance	\$500.00
Savings Account (Self Insurance)	\$2500.00
Transferred from Chequing	\$2000.00
Interest	\$11.46
Service charge	<u>\$(0.75)</u>
Savings Account	\$4510.71

Manitoba Repeater Society 2009 Budget

To be approved at the April 2009 AGM

Starting Balance as of January 1, 2009	\$ 5034.14
Estimated membership income for 2009	2500.00
Total Estimated Funds Available for 2009	\$7534.14

Equipment Maintenance	\$ 2700.00
Equipment Reserve	\$ 1000.00
Test Equipment	\$ 1200.00
Newsletter	\$ 200.00
Insurance	\$ 200.00
MTS (phone patch)	\$ 600.00
Licenses and Fees	\$ 50.00
Misc. Expenses	\$ 400.00
Web hosting	\$ 160.00
Total Budget	\$ 6510.00

Note – Excess funds not required for the normal operation of the Society is being held in a high interest account.

Membership Report
By Harm, VE4HAZ

The membership to date up slightly from 2008 at this time. We currently have 106 members. This up by six members from 100 members at this time last year. This breaks down as 17 life members, 3 sight impaired members and 86 regular members. We also have 8 clubs on our mailing list which we keep in contact with. We will have a table at the Spring Flea Market, so please stop by if you have not renewed your membership. Or you could 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 by renewing early. If you get your newsletter by e-mail, then you should have received your membership card in a pdf format by e-mail. If you receive your newsletter by snail mail you should have your membership card attached to it. 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.

WARC Flea Market

Sunday, April 19, 2009
Heritage Victoria Community Club,
950 Sturgeon road (just north of Ness AVE.)

9:30 am for coffee, muffins & eyeball qso's
10:00 - Vendor doors open for set up
10:30 - Buying begins at 10:30 sharp
Prize draws begin at 12:30 pm

To book your table please contact Ruth ve4xyl
837-6915, or ve4se@mts.net
Tables are \$5.00 for members of WARC,
\$10.00 for commercial vendors and non members

Admission at the door \$3.00
Talk in on ve4wpg 147.39 MHz + offset

Contact Dick ve4hk 256-3143 ve4hk@rac.ca,
ve4wpg repeater or coffee on Saturdays for further
information

****No parking on Sturgeon Road!****

Radio Course being offered

The Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club (WARC) will be conducting a

Basic Amateur Radio Operator Course

Red River College, Princess Street

April 7 - June 25, 2009.

Chief Instructor - Albert Sousa, VE4AS.

The course will be held at the Princess Street (downtown) campus of Red River College, Tuesday and alternate Thursday evenings, 1800 - 2100 hours.

Cost of the course is \$150.00, which includes the textbooks published by Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC).

The course is in RRC's catalogue as "PDEV-1018 Amateur Radio Operator Introduction". Further information is available by telephone at 694-1789 or at this website:

<http://me.rrc.mb.ca/Catalogue/Course.aspx?RegionCode=WPG&ProgCode=PERPP-NA&CourseCode=PDEV-1018>

All of the instructors are licensed amateur radio operators. Successful students should be qualified in time for Field Day!

Registration will be open in early February and will be posted in the Continuing Education Spring 2009 catalog as well as online.

News from the Net

RAC new Vice President for Field Services

The Radio Amateurs of Canada Board of Directors has appointed Sue Cooke, VE3SUH, as Vice President for Field Services. She will act as VPFS for the remainder of a two-year term which ends December 31, 2009, or until a permanent replacement is identified and appointed, whichever comes first. Former VPFS Bob Cooke, VE3BDB, resigned from that post to accept appointment as the RAC President. Both appointments were made at a Board meeting on February 24, 2009. Sue brings to the VPFS position a wealth of experience in administration, having spent 30 years with the Ontario Government service. She has been a licenced Radio Amateur for nearly ten years and her operating qualifications include Morse Code. Sue's previous

service with RAC embraces three years as an Assistant Director in Ontario South Region, two years as an Official Bulletin Station and a two-year term as RAC's Corporate Secretary. She is a RAC Certified Emergency Co-ordinator, having successfully completed the CEC exam.

Fessenden Radio Day

Sunday, June 14, 2009 - Time: 11:00 to 15:00 EDT (15:00Z-19:00Z)

Operating frequencies:

15M, 21250 in SSB

20M, 14175 "

40M, 7075 "

80M, 3775 "

CW frequencies 25 KHz up from the band edge

Global Simulated Emergency Test

The date for the Global Simulated Emergency Test (GlobalSET), sponsored by IARU Region 1, has been altered to coincide with World Amateur Radio Day which takes place on Saturday, April 18th. The theme for the day of "Amateur Radio: Your Resource in Disaster and Emergency Communication" is an ideal opportunity to showcase the work of emergency communications groups around the world. --- *QRZ.com*

What is Frequency Coordination?

By Ed, VE4EAR

As a licensed amateur radio operator, you are entitled to use any frequency, mode, or power authorized by your license. You are however not permitted to deliberately interfere with the operation of another station. Generally, amateurs follow established bandplans that outlines suggested usage's for each frequency. In Canada, RAC has worked with amateur groups across the country to establish these bandplans for all HF and V/UHF bands. See the RAC website for a complete listing at <http://www.rac.ca/service/bandplans/>. Again these are not legal restrictions, but suggestions that have been widely adopted.

Particularly in the VHF and UHF bands, amateurs have established repeaters for the benefit of many local amateurs. These repeaters operate on a pair of frequencies and they do not change. Coverage areas of each repeater can be predicted before the equipment is installed

To avoid chaos and to keep order in the way frequencies are used, local frequency coordinating bodies have been established in each province or area. These are

volunteer bodies that work with potential repeater operators to find available frequencies and coordinate them with adjoining areas. These groups are recognized by RAC and by Industry Canada and they try to act as local impartial organizations.

The process of coordinating a frequency starts at the early planning stages of a new repeater. The club or individual wishing to install the repeater supplies the frequency coordinator with the technical details of the proposed system. Such things as power output, antenna height, antenna gain, latitude and longitude of the proposed site are all required.

The frequency coordinator performs several calculations to determine probable coverage areas and possible interference situations. Once the coverage area is determined, a possible frequency from the available pool is selected. All other amateur and commercial transmitters within 5 kilometers are determined and a series of intermodulation studies are performed. This helps to predict potential interference to or from the proposed repeater and all the existing radio sites. If the frequency passes these tests, the frequency coordinator transmits the proposal to the frequency coordinators in adjacent jurisdictions. For example in Southern Manitoba, information is sent to the groups in Northwestern Ontario, Minnesota, North Dakota and Saskatchewan. These groups have 30 days to comment

on the proposal. If no valid objections are received during this time, the frequency is considered coordinated and the applicant is informed of the new frequency.

Coordination is only viable for repeaters. Home stations, APRS nodes and portable operations can not and will not be coordinated. The frequency coordinator will make suggestions if asked, concerning the establishment of a fixed station, such as an APRS or auto-patch.

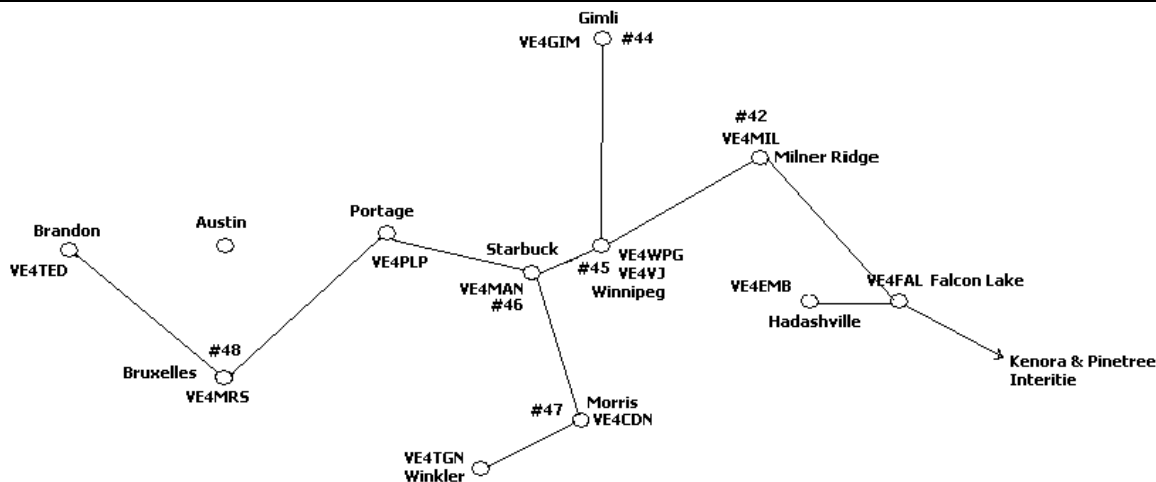
In Manitoba, the frequency coordinating body is the Manitoba Amateur Repeater Coordinating Council. (MARCC) For more details, see their website at <http://www.mts.net/~warc/marcc/>

QTX~
By Derek, VE4HAY



Did you know:

- ☛ Camp 807 is being held in Atikokan this year. Plans are well underway, and we'd love to see you there! Please check-out www.ve3fyn.ca/Camp807 for details.



LINK MAP	
VE4TED	146.730
VE4MRS	145.310
VE4PTG	147.165
VE4MAN	146.610
VE4CDN	145.270
VE4WPG	147.390
VE4GIM	146.850
VE4MIL	145.210
VE4EMB	147.360
VE4TGN	147.330
VE4FAL	146.640
VE4VJ	443.500



Attn.: Membership
 Manitoba Repeater Society
 C/O VE4WSC
 598 St. Mary's Road
 Winnipeg MB R2M 3L5

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>Club use only:</p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p>\$ _____</p> <p>Cheque / Cash / Money Order</p> <p>Rept. _____</p> <p>Card Issued: ___ Year _____</p>		

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

<p>Pro-rated-new members only</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> <p>How do you wish the Newsletter to be delivered:</p> <p>(please circle one only) E-mail or Snail-mail</p>
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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: _____