



Summer 2010

Distributed to all Current Members

MARMFEST

August 14, 2010 Austin, Manitoba Home of the Manitoba Amateur Radio Museum

The SEMI - ANNUAL Meeting of the MANITOBA REPEATER SOCIETY will be held 1400 hours. Come out and hear all the news of the MRS and make your views known

President's Report

From the desk of Ed VE4EAR

Happy summer everyone and welcome to the latest edition of the MRS newsletter! Hopefully you are finding your summer full of all the things you love to do, and I trust that includes some quality radio time.

The technical team has been hard at working making some tweaks and repairs to some of the sites. Check out the technical report for more details.

A number of new amateurs received their licenses this past June. They have all been invited to join MRS so if you hear them on the repeaters, please do not hesitate to say "hello" and introduce your self.

Hopefully it is not too late, but have you checked your lightning protection on your home station lately? June and July may be the peak months for lightning activity but it can happen year round (yes even in January!) I just witnessed what happens at a commercial site when things are done right, and things are done wrong. The site in question has 10 800 MHz repeaters, 7-400 MHz repeaters and a VHF repeater. These are located on a 350

foot tower with the antennas right at the very top and some a short ways down. The tower also has 4 of the 2.4 and 5.8 GHz wireless network access points installed at the 120 foot level. Well the tower took a direct lightning hit and all the radio repeaters, controllers and interface equipment survived without a problem. Unfortunately, the network equipment both on the tower and connected to the terrestrial fiber suffered severe damage, as did an MTS telephone circuit. The blackened cat5 connectors attest to the current that passed between circuits. Obviously someone will be looking at their grounding strategy again. Too bad it took the loss of \$40,000 worth of equipment and the loss of service for several days to make someone aware of their deficiencies.

Did you know that if you have a 50' tower in Winnipeg, it will on average be struck by lightning once every 15 years? Are you feeling lucky? How is your grounding system?

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 14 at the Manitoba Agricultural Museum in Austin. As always, 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!

73

Ed Richardson
VE4EAR

Technical Report

From the desk of Ellis VE4AJO

Summer 2010

TECHNICAL REPORT

Many thanks to VE4GLS for his many years of dedicated support of the Manitoba Repeater Society. Gord served the MRS for 13 years and brought solid technical management to the Repeater system.

Up until about July 2 2010 the MRS system was running very well. We survived the installation of tone access on VE4VJ and VE4MAN. All reports indicate understanding of tone Access and tone Squelch. For those whose rigs may only have tone squelch next trip to VE4MAN the tone will be applied to the output for Tone Squelch to function.

July 2 2010 storm in the Bruxelles area knocked out the power to the site on Buyden's Hill. It also did damage to the Palomar controller at the site – destroyed the PTT chip on

the card in the controller. Controller was removed to Winnipeg for service Saturday on the way to the IHF.

Reporting by site.

VE4MIL Operating well Trip tentatively scheduled. Link to VE4FAL may need looking at. VE4GLS visited VE4FAL and cleaned up some of the potentiometers and waved his wand over the equipment.

VE4WPG & VE4VJ Both machines require tone access with VE4WPG having tone squelch. There is some interference on VE4WPG when connected to the UHF links. This noise is only heard on the east links, VE4MIL/VE4GIM and east. It does not appear to the west. Possible cause is related to the UHF receiver at WPG which receives from VE4MAN.

VE4MAN & VE4CDN Both sites working well. Tone Access added to VE4MAN this spring as well as linking unit to Morris. Link radio to Portage is scheduled for replacement. We are awaiting permission to install Antenna and feed line at Morris for link to Winkler.

VE4PTG Portage Good reports but seems to have degraded in the last while. Site to be serviced soon.

VE4MRS July 17 the controller was re-installed at VE4MRS along with Tone Access and Tone squelch The tone decoder seems to have experienced premature failure. No tone is required to access this repeater. July 24 the problem with the Tone Access was corrected. . Tone is not the standard 127.3 Hz . For technical reasons 141.3 was chosen for this repeater.

Repeater and link radio working well.

VE4WRS IRLP & Phone Patch. With the addition of a UPS unit to the computer and the update to the linux OS the IRLP is running without incident. Phone Patch is seldom used and will refuse calls with a one (1) in the exchange number i.e. 714- XXXX With the impending change in Area codes and dialing in Manitoba the Phone Patch will be reviewed later

Summer and Fall is the holiday season and the time work is completed on the system. And again this year work will continue until after freeze up no doubt. The wet spring and muddy back roads has slowed the work.

Many thanks to the Technical Crew who donate time and transport to the installation and repair of the MRS linked repeater system.

AROUND WINNIPEG

From the desk of Dick VE4HK

The Manitoba Repeater Society Inc. and Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club Inc. stored all our equipment on the third floor of the Winnipeg Seniors for many years. In the spring of 2009, the City of Winnipeg told the Seniors that all the gear on the third floor had to be moved out.

MRS and WARC have shared a storage locker at Storageville since. Last spring, the executives of both clubs decided to purchase a 20 foot sea storage container to keep our equipment. A container costs \$2300.00-\$2700.00. Insurance is \$200.00 annually. The storage locker costs about \$125.00 per month. The container will pay for itself in less than 3 years.

The storage locker is 5 ft x 15 ft x 8 ft. The sea container is 20 ft x 8 ft x 8 ft. Both clubs will have a lot more room for our property. We can also install shelving to make better use of the container. We will more than double the storage space for our equipment .

I approached Murray Ronald VE4RE, owner of Prairie Mobile Communications to ask him for permission to keep the container in the back of his shop on Dugald Road. He did give us permission in writing in June.

Next step was to get insurance in place. This also took some time to arrange. The next step will be to place vapour barrier and a couple of inches of crushed concrete where the container will go. Add 4 railway ties and the container, and we will be ready to move everything from Storageville.

We expect to have everything complete and moved in by the end of August.

MINUTES of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Meeting held at Norberry Glenlee Community Club April 13 2010

Meeting began 7:03 pm VE4EAR presiding

VE4EAR welcomed those in attendance. Each member introduced him or herself

Minutes of semi annual general meeting approved as e-mailed to membership

Moved VE4GWN

Seconded VE4YD

CARRIED

No business arising

Treasurer's Report

Presented by VE4HAZ.

Move acceptance of Treasurer's Report
Moved VE4ALW
Seconded VE4VID
CARRIED

An auditor's report will follow at a later date

Membership Report

Presented by VE4HAZ. Currently 103 members, including life members, and clubs. Should be better than last year, after upcoming Flea Market. Many people pay up at Flea Market

Technical Report

Prepared by VE4GLS. Presented by VE4AJO.

VE4VID asked the output power of VE4WPG

VE4AJO replied about 35 watts

A discussion ensued regarding antennas, location, etc of receiving station

VE4YYL asked who to contact, if IRLP not working

After some discussion, it was decided to contact a member of the MRS executive. The executive would then arrange to have the problem looked after

VE4EAR thanked VE4AJO, VE4ACX, VE4ALW, and VE4GLS for their tremendous work on the repeaters

VE4HK requested assistance from the membership for the Technical Committee

New Business

VE4EAR noted that MRS now accepts PayPal to pay for memberships. He asked if anyone had used PayPal to pay for membership

One or two members had done so

VE4HAZ stated that eight or ten had paid their memberships with PayPal. It works well. There is a short time lag, before we see money. Users can use their credit card to pay PayPal

VE4EAR asked those in attendance for any comments on PL tones (127.3 KHz) as used on VE4WPG

VE4GKS advised that his 2 meter radio could not get certain tones

VE4EAR advised that all tones used in Manitoba are standard in all 2 meter radios

VE4EAR stated that the MRS web page has latest bulletins, and the newsletter. A new look is coming for the website

VE4HK advised that VE4GLS and VE4MHZ will stay on as webmasters for the time being

VE4EAR noted that he was Frequency Coordinator for Manitoba. While it is not a legal requirement, all repeaters in Manitoba should be coordinated. VE4EAR works with coordinators in Ontario, Saskatchewan, North Dakota and Minnesota to ensure as little interference as possible between repeaters

He went on to request that members who notice a new repeater "pop up" let the executive of MRS or VE4EAR know about it.

VE4GWN suggested that MRS publish an "IRLP Etiquette" article in an upcoming newsletter. Some amateurs are accessing a series of IRLP nodes, but not identifying their station.

VE4EAR agreed that was a good point

VE4AJO requested that, if the listener knows who is not identifying, that person should be told to identify.

VE4GWN offered to find some information on IRLP

VE4GWN spoke on behalf of ARES. Canwarn spotter training will take place in Steinbach on May 15. See attached report

VE4GWB stated that the WARC Flea Market is on April 18.

Election of Officers

VE4GLS retired from the executive.

Two positions to fill

Sue Collings VE4SYM and Fred Collings VE4TRO offered to run for office

No election necessary, since executive now has 10 officers

Members of executive for 2010-2011 VE4's EAR AJO, ACX, ALW, HK, HAZ, QB, VB, SYM TRO. Past President continues to be VE4HAY

Upcoming Events

VE4HK spoke about the WARC Flea Market on April 18

VE4GWN advised that the Manitoba Marathon is coming up on June 20. About 10-15 volunteers required. Would like 3 volunteers in different areas of the city, who can travel quickly, in case of a no show on race day.

Adjourn 8:02 VE4HAZ

VE4EAR made a most entertaining and educational presentation, entitled DIGITAL VOICE MODULATION AND FUTURE USES IN AMATEUR RADIO.

VE4HK asked the membership present whether they were happy with the meeting room.

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Adjourn 9:10 pm

M.R.S. Current Executive

President	Ed	VE4EAR	ve4ear AT rac.ca
V/President	Ellis	VE4AJO	ve4ajo AT rac.ca
Secretary	Dick	VE4HK	ve4hk AT rac.ca
Treasurer	Harm	VE4HAZ	ve4haz AT rac.ca
Membership	Sue	VE4SYM	ve4sym AT rac.ca
Technical			
Directors	Yori	VE4ACX	453-3786
	Walter	VE4VB	284-3054
	Bill	VE4ALW	williamr AT rac.ca
	Phil	VE4QB	fphilb AT rac.ca
	Fred	VE4TRO	
Past Pres.	Derek	VE4HAY	ve4hay AT rac.ca

M.R.S. Current Fee Schedule

Current & Renewal Members \$25.00 per calendar year

First time New Members	Pro-rated quarterly
January to December	\$25.00
April to December	\$18.75
July to December	\$12.50
October to December	\$6.25

Family Membership is for each additional members residing at the same residence as the initial member is \$5.00

The Repeater Advertising Rates

All advertising is black and white and must be in submitted in electronic format

Full Page	\$75.00
½ page	\$40.00
¼ page	\$20.00
Business Card	\$10.00

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



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL
 (Please note: membership year is January 1st to December 31st)

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

Call Sign _____
 Surname _____
 Preferred First Name _____
 Mailing Address _____
 City _____ Prov _____
 Postal Code _____
 Home Phone _____
 Work Phone _____
 E-mail Address _____

Club use only
Date _____
\$ _____
Cheque/Cash/Money Order
Recpt _____
Card Issued _____ Year _____

Renewal New New Ham RAC Member

First Time Member Pro-Rated
 Jan to Dec \$25.00
 Apr to Dec \$18.75
 Jul to Dec \$ 12.50

Class of Member: Regular \$25.00 Addn'l Family Member \$5.00

Newsletter by E-mail or Snail Mail

Would you be willing to help out on work at various repeater sites? YES NO

Optional Information:
 Current Occupation: _____
 If Retired Former Occupation: _____
 Skills: _____
 Other Clubs to which you belong: _____