



Manitoba Repeater Society

Winter 2013

Distributed to all Current Members

President's Report

From the desk of Ed VE4EAR

Welcome to our 2013 winter edition of the MRS Repeater. I am feeling a bit like Old Saint Nick as I had to check my to-do list twice to avoid forgetting to help get this newsletter out. Thankfully the master elf caught the oversight.

During 2013 the MRS technical team made some progress with getting all the repeaters on line. Still the success rate was not 100% despite the tireless efforts the technical folks. Read more about the details in the technical report.

Southern Manitoba has seen a small but significant rise in the amateur population due to the success of training classes being run by WARC and others groups. MRS has also seen a rise in our annual membership numbers and we hope this trend continues.

While you are busy adding things to your last minute Holiday "To-do" list, please do not forget the renewal of your MRS membership. Payments can be made by cash or cheque through the mail or via PayPal and a credit card from our website. This secure system will allow you to make your payments with your credit card or direct from your chequing account. Just navigate to the "membership" page for more details and to take advantage of this ability.

As I reflect on 2013, there a couple items that stand out for me.

First, we all share this common hobby known as Amateur Radio. Some folks make it a casual past time affair; others have made it a significant part of their life. If you look around, you will likely see the same folks involved in many organizations. Club executives, Flea Market volunteers, ARES groups, public service events, Instructors and elmers. Please do not take these folks for granted and do remember to send a "Season's Greetings" or a "Thank You" their way the next opportunity you get.

A second observation, Networking is an important tool in this hobby. There are so many folks involved in this hobby in so many different aspects, chances are excellent that someone else has already conquered your latest challenge. Only by networking will you learn who could assist you, or better yet, who could YOU provide assistance to. There are people that can safely install antennas and towers, solder microchips, program controllers, build antennas, design QSL cards, teach CW, build satellite stations, digital mode experts and the list goes on. Then there is the non-Amateur radio skills that are abundant, carpenters, plumbers, welders, farmers, accountants, engineers, photographers and expert bunwich makers.

Perhaps each club should consider posting a list of each member's interests and skills they are willing to share. Just food for thought.

On behalf of the Manitoba repeater Society executive and myself, we would like to extend the warmest of season greetings to you and your family.

73

Ed Richardson
VE4EAR

Technical Report

From the desk of Ellis VE4AJO

VE4MAN The VHF repeater and the links are out of service. This is because of problems with the Polomar controller. Initial symptoms were low audio on the VHF repeater. After many attempts in inclement weather to resolve this problem in October it was felt best to bring the controller into the city and attempt repair here and return it to the site on a warm day. In the mean time a new controller similar to the controller at VE4WPG is on order for VE4MAN.

VE4PLP is functioning well and the links are serviceable both to VE4MRS and back to VE4MAN.

VE4MRS This repeater is working well if the interfering signal is not present. The UHF link radio to Brandon is down with a bad exciter card.

VE4WPG & VE4VJ are functioning well although with more tall buildings and construction planned the number of dead spot around Winnipeg seems to be on the increase.

VE4GIM continues to serve the Gimli area. It may have something to do with its location in the distillery.

Moving eastward to **VE4MIL** After the re-assembly of this repeater signals are very good on VHF from Milner Ridge. Links to and from the site are also great. **VE4FAL** at Falcon Lake is performing well. The link to Selkirk has been shut off because of an antenna failure.

VE4EMB at Hadashville is weak and due for replacement as anyone driving through the area will note.

VE4WRS has a great signal around Winnipeg from its new home. Hopefully the IRLP will be up and running soon.

Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy 2014

73
Ellis
VE4AJO

From EC

Jeff VE4MBQ

**MANITOBA ARES CANWARN PROGRAM
"REPORTABLE" WINTER WEATHER
REVISED DEC 2008
VERIFIED NOV 2013¹**

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.

1. Verified with James Cummine Severe Weather Program Manager PASPC and Natalie Hasell Warning Preparedness Meteorologist 27 NOV 2013.

HISTORY OF MRS

The first repeater activity started around 1968 when Herb Klassen VE4HK, Marty Greenwood VE4XJ and Jack Binkley VE4HI set up a repeater at Herb's QTH in East Kildonan using two space antennas. As no duplexer was used, results were not too spectacular but it was a start and the boys looked for a better location that would give height and added coverage. It was decided to approach Tom, VE4TC at Birds Hill for permission to install the repeater at his high location. A meeting was held at Tom's and about 8 hams attended. Tom agreed to let them begin installation while more support was solicited. Some \$250.00 was raised from 18 –20 interested hams. A shack was built of plywood and a trench was dug. Coax was purchased and then things came to a halt. For whatever reasons nothing was done for almost a year and Tom asked them to fill in the trench. In early 1970 a meeting was held to see if Winnipeg could support a 2 meter repeater.

Continued next issue of The Repeater

VE4MRS Bruxelles looking towards St Leon



**August 10, 2013 MRS Semi Annual General Meeting
Meeting held during MARM fest, Austin, MB**

Meeting began 2:00 pm VE4EAR presiding

VE4EAR welcomed all in attendance, followed by each member introducing him or herself

Minutes of 2013 Annual General Meeting approved as published in summer Newsletter

Moved VE4GWN
Seconded VE4GKS
CARRIED

No business arising

Treasurer's Report

No report VE4HAZ absent. VE4EAR reported that MRS is in good shape financially

Membership Report

VE4DRK reported membership is plus or minus 116

VE4EAR noted that is up about 10% from last year. He continued by thanking VE4DAR for training lots of new hams, and welcome to newcomers.

Technical Report

Presented by VE4AJO

- most information is in the Newsletter
- our main thrust has been VE4MAN. CBC removed about 100 meters from the top of the Starbuck tower. VE4MAN VHF antenna was moved down 100 meters from 600 foot level. The elevator in the tower has been removed. New antennas and Heliacx cables have been added. The Starbuck tower should be there for a long time.
- VE4MIL at Milner Ridge, radio equipment was removed November 2012, because the building and transformer were on their last legs. VE4HAY negotiated a new site for our repeater on the Sunrise School Division tower, which is nearby. The equipment is in good shape. The links to Selkirk and to Falcon Lake need work

- VE4EMB at Hadashville. Technical Committee is looking into linking VE4EMB into VE4FAL at Falcon Lake.
- VE4GIM at Gimli is working well
- VE4PLP at Portage la Prairie. There is no ID on the controller. It cannot be reprogrammed. We are considering purchasing a new controller for that site, or move the controller at VE4MAN to Portage, and install a new Sierra controller at VE4MAN
- VE4FAL at Falcon Lake is good
- VE4CDN at Morris is good
- VE4WRS in Winnipeg, the IRLP is expected to be operational by September 1

MRS repeaters should be in good shape by winter. Require one more trip to VE4MRS at Bruxelles , and one more trip to VE4MIL at Milner Ridge, before winter.

VE4KEH asked if the link from VE4MRS at Bruxelles to Brandon was working

VE4AJO responded yes, with an explanation. Suggested that users pause before speaking to western links

VE4TRO asked about VE4MIL and links to the east.

VE4AJO answered that links to the east are not working. Require another trip.

VE4AJO apologized for not using BCC when e-mailing the Summer Newsletter.

End of Technical Report

New Business

VE4EAR advised that MRS executive is looking into placing a repeater in Steinbach. We require a reasonable site. The executive is also busy replacing link radios. Unheated repeater sites cause radios to drift, which causes problems with the links. The executive is considering using the Internet for linking. Cost and Internet access at some of our remote sites are problems. There are lots of plusses to Internet linking.

VE4OK asked about backup power at our sites.

VE4EAR replied that some sites have backup power, most don't. Backup power can be expensive

VE4CY asked about the old link to DARCI system at Woodlands

VE4EAR noted that VE4MRT contacted MRS some time ago about linking their system to ours, but nothing is presently happening

VE4AJO asked about the autopatch on VE4WRS

VE4EAR answered hopefully soon, but it depends on usage.

VE4KEH asked if VE4WRS has backup power

VE4EAR replied "Yes it does"

VE4OAK asked if the Filipino group is linked to MRS system

VE4EAR answered not at this time

VE4DAR announced that the next WARC Basic Amateur Course will begin Saturday, September 21. It consists of 4 classes, and write on the final day. Cost \$65.00, including the book. Instructors are VE4CY, VA4AJG, VE4VB and VE4JS

VE4HK announced the WARC Fall Flea Market is scheduled for October 20, at Heritage Victoria Community Centre.

VE4EAR noted that the MRS website has been refreshed. It is more user friendly. Check it out

No further business

Adjourn VE4GWN 2:32 pm

The Repeater

INFORMATION & REMINDERS

MRS: Thursday at 2100 MRS semi – weekly net 147.390 MHz VE4WPG
Sunday at 2100 MRS semi – weekly net 147.390 MHz

BARC: Sunday at 1930 146.940 MHz VE4BDN
Monday at 1930 146.880 MHz VE4HS

WSCRC: Weekdays 0900 daily 147.390 MHz VE4WPG

MB Evening Phone Net Daily 1900 3747 KHz
MB Morning Weather Net Daily 0830 3743 KHz

Aurora Net Daily 2330 UTC 7055 KHz
Wednesday & Sunday 0230 UTC 7055 KHz

WSCRC: Breakfast 2nd Thursday of month at Garden City Inn

WARC: Meeting 2nd Monday of month 1900 hrs at Dakota Collegiate

ARES: Meeting 3rd Tuesday of month William Stevenson Library

Industry Canada Amateur Centre

Voice: 1-888-780-3333

Fax: 1-613-991-5575

E-mail: spectrum.amateur AT ic.gc.ca

<http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/spectrum>

Comments or if you wish to reach us:

The Repeater Editor

Manitoba Repeater Society

C/O VE4WSC

598 St. Mary's Road

Winnipeg, MB.

R2M 3L5

Or

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

M.R.S. Current Executive

President	Ed	VE4EAR	ve4ear AT rac.ca
V/President	Bill	VE4ALW	williamr AT rac.ca
Secretary	Dick	VE4HK	ve4hk AT rac.ca
Treasurer	Harm	VE4HAZ	ve4haz AT rac.ca
Membership	Dan	VE4DRK	ve4drk AT rac.ca
Technical	Ellis	VE4AJO	ve4ajo AT rac.ca
Directors	Yori	VE4ACX	453-3786
	Walter	VE4VB	284-3054
	Phil	VE4QB	fphilb AT rac.ca
	Dave	VE4DJS	
Past Pres.	Derek	VE4HAY	ve4hay AT rac.ca

M.R.S. Current Fee Schedule

Current & Renewal Members \$35.00 per calendar year

Family Membership is for each additional members residing at the same residence, as the initial member is \$15.00

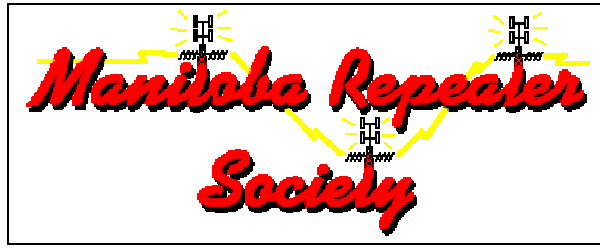
If a member of RAC \$10.00 is refunded

The Repeater Advertising Rates

All advertising is black and white and must be 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 RAC Member If RAC member \$10.00/member refunded

Class of Member: Regular \$35.00 Addn'l Family Member \$15.00

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: _____