



# The Repeater

Spring 2005

Distributed to all Current Members

## Notice of Annual Meeting

**Date: April 21, 2005**

**Time: 7:00 PM**

**Place: VE4WSC**

**598 St. Mary's Road**

The agenda will include approval of the minutes of the semi-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: April 11 - Monthly Meeting  
April 17 - Flea Market

WSC: 2nd. Thursday of each month - Breakfast

Other: June 19 - Manitoba Marathon

June - 25 & 26 Field Day

July 8-10 - 42nd. International Ham Fest

July 22-25 - Saskatchewan Ham Fest - Saskatoon

July 22-25 - RAC AGM - Saskatoon

Aug 19-20 - 10th. MARMFEST - Austin, MB

Nets: Daily 01:00 UTC	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 14:30 UTC	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 +

### President's Report

by Ed, VE4EAR

Greetings everyone and welcome to the spring edition of the MRS newsletter. We trust you have all made it through yet another winter and are now looking forward to spring. Hopefully "Oldman winter will release his grip on us soon! 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.

Despite the harsh conditions the past few months, most of our network survived the winter relatively unscathed. Check out Gord's technical report for all the details.

The club appears to be in a strong financial position and this is a good thing. We should have the resources this year to tackle some of the larger projects and expansions we have been planning. See Paula's financial report for more details.

With spring fast approaching, the MRS Annual General Meeting must be just around the corner. Once again we will be having our meeting in the WSCRC's facilities at 598 St. Mary's road on Thursday April 21 at 7:00 pm.. The AGM is an opportunity to review the last year's technical progress, establish a budget for the upcoming year and of course elect a new executive. It's also your opportunity to bring forward new ideas and let us hear your feelings.

The AGM is your opportunity to elect a new executive. If you have an interest in joining the MRS executive, we would be glad to hear from you. If you or someone you know is interested in running for an executive position, please contact Dick VE4HK as soon as possible.

The potential for spring flooding in the Winnipeg, Red River Valley and southeaster regions appears to be higher than normal. In the event that amateurs are called upon to volunteer their services, many of the MRS repeaters will become active carrying flood related communications. Please respect these nets and select alternate frequencies for your non-flood related communications whenever possible.

## 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](mailto:spectrum.amateur@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/>

Better yet, why not consider volunteering your services to one of the ARES groups. In the event of severe overland flooding, MRS may need to relocate one or more repeaters or may be asked to install a temporary repeater. Please monitor the nets and listen for opportunities to assist the technical committee should the need arise.

It appears that 2005 has some exciting opportunities and a potentially a few challenges in store for the MRS. I look forward to sharing both with you in the coming months.

## Membership Report

By Roy, VE4EN

Membership renewals and new members in the club are continuing to be received . A total of 110 members have paid for 2005, approx the same as most years. We would like to have the usual 150 paid members and I will be at the Flea market on April 17th to receive as many of you as possible. Again on April 21 at our Annual General Meeting, I will be taking memberships pre the meeting.

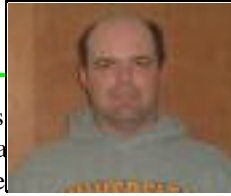
I would also like to get most of the members on email if possible. So please pass along your email address to us so that we can reduce the number of snail mailings as possible. Thanks for your support. Roy Maguire VE4EN Membership chairperson

If you have not renewed your membership this will be your last newsletter . For those who have already renewed, we thank you very much for supporting the repeater society.

## M.R.S. Current Executive

President	Ed Richardson	VE4EAR	254-8425
V/President	Wayne Ludman	VE4WKL	224 -1449
Secretary	Dick Maguire	VE4HK	256-3143
Treasurer	Paula Ehn	VE4MHZ	667-7818
Membership	Roy Maguire	VE4EN	669-1355
Technical	Gord Snarr	VE4GLS	746-2743
Directors	Yori Tsuji	VE4ACX	453-3786
	Walter Bezpalko	VE4VB	284-3054
	Allen Homenick	VA4AA	489-6518
	Ed Horton	VE4EIH	885-4084
Past Pres.	Derek Hay	VE4HAY	257-1420

## Technical Committee Submitted by Gord, VE4GLS



The MRS technical committee has been busy since the last report with a long list of upgrades and repairs to the current system, as well as planning for re-expansion out west. With all the repeaters and ancillary equipment running that allows our network to exist, there are often failures or malfunctions that we have to attend to in order to keep things running smoothly.

Noise on the system is a constant battle in that we have to find out where the source is and correct the problem as quick as possible providing it is something within our control. One of the noises we were hearing last summer and fall was sourced at Gimli. We were expecting to find it was being produced somewhere inside the distillery plant or somewhere nearby. Luckily we were at the site to do some upgrades when we found a loose antenna loop; a clamp had come loose causing a bad connection. Barrett VE4ABA was able to find some new Allen screws in Gimli and fixed the clamp, which in turn fixed the noise.

At the Morris repeater site we were not so lucky. When we installed the new MSR and controller all was well until Monday morning when the elevator fired up. All of a sudden a very loud AC noise was heard on the repeater's input, only present when the repeater was transmitting. I was able to drop the power to about 1 watt to where the interference would not cause the squelch to open but in doing so really limiting the repeater's range. In trying to diagnose the problem I took a handheld radio around the elevator to try and find the source. At full (25w) output the noise seems to be heard everywhere along the elevators wiring, even fairly strong outside the plant. I was unable to determine the exact source, speculating that it is caused somewhere in the control circuit that is run by computers that controls and senses the grain flow throughout the elevator. The technical committee decided the only way around this problem was to install a CTCSS squelch on the VHF input so there would have to be a 127.3 Hz tone present to open the repeater's squelch. So far this is the only MRS repeater requiring an access tone. The tone squelch works well and does its job, the only evidence of its operation is a very quick noise burst when you un-key

VE4FAL was another site where there was a noise problem. It was suspected for some time that the VHF receiver may be acting up picking up spurious noise from the cell tower on which it is situated. We discussed this problem with the Pinetree group and decided to change out the VHF radio. This swap seems to have corrected most of the problem. There is still some noise but it is very

intermittent and difficult to determine the source, sometimes hours go by between bursts.

The MRS currently has 6 repeaters connected together at all times, plus whatever is linked up to the east through the Pinetree system (VE4FAL and east). Along with that there are 10-12 link radios always listening. It is easy to see how difficult it is to determine and remove all noise sources...

### Expansion plans!

Yes we are still hoping to get the link to Brandon working again. This will involve another 8 link radios 3 controllers, lots of link antennas and feedline, and lots of work!

The plan is to use the VE4PLP site to link VE4MAN to VE4MTR (MARM), then MTR to NEP at Minnedosa, then NEP to TED in Brandon. Also on the list is plans to link the local repeater at Portage La Prairie VE4PTG to the system as well. We may be linking the VE4MTR repeater to the system too depending on our discussions with the group at the Austin Amateur Radio Museum station. This is the plan we are currently implementing, things could change so there may be updates.

Yori has been working on an old Palomar controller that has a dead CPU and is setting it up as a dumb controller; no DTMF control etc, for installation at the Hydro tower at Portage. We have one good Palomar for Austin so we are looking for a controller for the Minnedosa site.

### Upgrades:

We are looking into replacing the VHF antenna at Starbuck VE4MAN and replacing some link antennas at Milner Ridge as well as at other sites.

The old antenna at VE4MAN was used when it was installed about 20 years ago. We've noticed some sensitivity problems at this site and with reflectometer readings taken last year we think it's time for a new antenna. A new antenna from Comprod, A Quebec manufacturer, would cost around \$1200 plus shipping and installation. We have to hire CBC tower crew personal to replace the unit since it's their tower and they have rules and I don't feel like hanging around at the 600' level anyway. The feedline was new in 1997 so it should be OK.

The link antennas would be from the same company and are very nicely built 6 element yagis with folded di-pole driven elements. They are welded together using high grade aluminum, pretty much bullet proof. We are already using these at VE4MAN for linking. They will replace the 8 element Larsen antennas that are over 10 years old that we are having trouble with. Comprod manufactures their

antennas for the particular frequency they are to be used on to maximize gain and directionality, and they usually give a discount for amateur use.

#### **Joint MRS and WARC IRLP project:**

We have a radio and filtering ready to go. There will have to be some major renovations up at the WPG site to make room for a MSR radio and computer. There shouldn't be much trouble setting everything up once things come together. The biggest slowdown on this project has been conflicting schedules for those working on the project. I expect to see something happening within the next few weeks. (mid April?)

#### **Quick rundown of the repeater status as of March 05...**

##### *VE4CDN, Morris;*

New Motorola MSR radio and new Link Communications RLC-4 controller was installed late 2004. Had interference problems with local elevator control system, installed CTCSS squelch (127.3 Hz) so full power could be maintained. New system works great, sensitivity drops a bit during the daytime due to interference. Some audio adjustments may be required and may be done by printing time.

##### Local access codes:

\*500 to turn on the link

\*505 to turn off the link

##### Remote access codes:

#47 500 turns on the link

#47 505 turns off the link

We are hoping to set up two more links out of Morris since the controller does support three links and one repeater... The two proposed links will likely be to VE4VRG in the Winkler area and to KA0NWV/R at Karlstad Minnesota. I am hoping to get the VE4VRG link working this year, especially for Canwarn season!

##### *VE4EMB, Hadashville;*

Working fine, link signal is noisy at times from VE4FAL. May require more filtering.

##### *VE4FAL, Falcon Lake;*

This site has been serviced in mid February; the Motorola Progress transceiver was replaced with a GE Exec II for VHF. There are still two Progress UHF radios that may eventually be replaced, but are working acceptably for the time being. The change out has resulted in much less noise through the system. VHF coverage might be down just a bit as the power output is a bit lower.

##### *VE4GIM, Gimli;*

We accessed this site last fall to raise the antennae to a tower located on the elevator head at the top of the building. This improved VHF coverage in the area. A loose fastener on one of the antenna loops was tightened, it was likely the noise source. The site is much quieter now!

##### *VE4MAN, Starbuck;*

So far the Starbuck repeater is still around, no word from the CBC so far to indicate it will be moving. We certainly hope we can maintain this site! We have talked about replacing the VHF antenna, which we suspect is causing some intermittent sensitivity issues on it's VHF receiver side. We are in the process of setting up a budget for replacing this antenna some items for other sites we plan on having a vote on this at the General Meeting held in April.

##### *VE4MIL, Milner Ridge*

All seems to be working fine at this site with great coverage into the northern Whiteshell and Lac du Bonnet areas. Thanks to Grant VE4GD who checks up on this site once in a while.

##### *VE4NEP, Minnedosa/Neepawa;*

Still working fine. Not much activity on this repeater however without the link. We are planning to work on connecting to this site via Portage and Austin.

##### *VE4VJ, Winnipeg UHF;*

New Motorola MSR on this repeater (link #1 on WPG controller. VJ is now back in full force with about 25w output and great sensitivity. The footprint has about a 50-60 km radius now with a modest mobile setup.

##### *VE4WPG, Winnipeg;*

Working great. No problems reported lately on our busiest repeater. Interference is sometimes an issue at this site due to its popularity. If you hear malicious interference please try to ignore it. If it is persistent listen on the reverse (repeater's input frequency) to try to determine how close it is to your station. Write down the signal strength, time the interference occurred, and frequency you hear it on (if you have a directional antenna please indicate direction of the source as well). Report to me at: ve4gls(at)rac.ca.

##### *VE4WRS, Winnipeg: Auto patch / IRLP;*

Working fairly well but we have had some complaints that the phone patch is difficult to hang up. We will be replacing this system with an MSR full duplex radio to facilitate connection to an IRLP system, a joint WARC and

MRS project. A time line hasn't yet been formulated for this changeover but it may occur sometime in the spring.

Extra filtering will be installed to facilitate duplexing the system that may affect signals on the VE4WPG repeater by a couple of dB. The plan is to maintain a phone patch on this frequency, switching it off when the IRLP becomes active.

**PineTree Linking System;**

The linking system east of Falcon Lake is in the midst of some changes that should improve reception in existing coverage areas and add some new areas to the existing coverage. New link radios are being installed at Kenora, Sioux Narrows, and farther east.

Due to these changes, there might be some communications outages while changeovers are occurring, and testing once they have been completed. The link from Manitoba to NW Ontario has been left on most of the time so we can stay in touch with our friends just east of us.

**Email Bulletins:**

I have been sending some updates, system status, and other MRS related information to members via email. If you would like to be added to the list please email me through the RAC email service. If you want to be dropped from the list please read the instructions on the bottom of the email. This is a very fast and effective way of distributing information quickly. Any important information will be announced during the MRS nets biweekly, and I am often available during these nets to answer any questions you may have about the system.

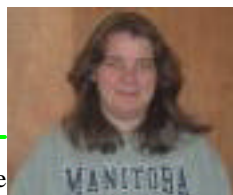
**Special Thanks to:**

Murray Ronald VE4RE, for supplying equipment for critical upgrades on our system

Yori VE4ACX, many hours of driving, diagnosing, repairing, and setting up our repeater system..

And to everyone who has supported the MRS as members and helping out in several of our endeavors!

**Treasurers Report  
By Paula, VE4MHZ**



The financial position of the Manitoba Repeater Society Inc. as of the December 31, 2004 year end is as follows:

**Starting Balance as of January 1, 2004 \$ 5855.31**

*Deposits:*

Donations	\$ 100.00	
Memberships	<u>\$ 2903.75</u>	
Total Deposits		\$ 3003.75

*Withdrawals:*

New Equipment	\$ 912.00	
Equipment maintenance	\$ 659.53	
Newsletter	\$ 460.35	
Insurance	\$ 588.00	
MTS (phone patch)	\$ 526.73	
Incorporation Fee	\$ 20.00	
Miscellaneous	<u>\$ 231.73</u>	
Total Withdrawals		\$ 3398.34

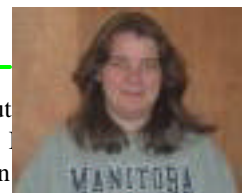
Note: budget was for \$6850.00

**End balance as of December 31, 2004 \$ 5460.72**

Outstanding Cheques	+\$ 58.29
Self Insurance Fund	<u>-\$ 1000.00</u>

**Total Estimated Funds Available for 2005 \$4519.01**

**2005 Proposed Budget  
By Paula Ehn, VE4MHZ**



In 2004, we brought in about \$400.00 less than what we spent. We estimated our income to be \$4000.00 in 2004 but it was almost \$1000.00 less. We also under spent our 2004 budget by \$3452.00.

Starting Balance as of January 1, 2005	\$ 5460.72
Estimated income for 2005	\$ 3000.00
Self Insurance Fund	<u>-\$ 1000.00</u>
Total Estimated Funds Available for 2005	\$7460.72

*Budgeted Expenses*

Equipment Maintenance	\$ 1000.00	
New or replacement Equipment	\$ 4000.00	
Newsletter	\$ 400.00	
Insurance	\$ 600.00	
MTS (phone patch)	\$ 600.00	
Licenses and Fees	\$ 50.00	
Misc. Expenses	<u>\$ 200.00</u>	
Total Budget		<u>\$6850.00</u>
Estimated Surplus		<u>610.72</u>

## Interference Hunting Using a Portable Radio

### By Gord, VE4GLS and Paula, VE4MHZ

You want to help find some repeater interference and don't have a fancy base or mobile rig. You only have a handheld transceiver (HT) with a rubber ducky. What can you do to help find the interference? Plenty!

To find interference caused by lower powered stations or weak signals, HT's are the best radios to hunt with. They are easy to carry around and the antenna can easily be shielded or removed to attenuate the signal. There are many techniques you can use to hunt a radio signal with an HT. Here we will only be talking about the most commonly used ones that don't require you to build any extra equipment like attenuators.

The first thing you need to do is take your HT to a fairly open spot like an empty parking lot, corner park, front/back yard etc. You need to be away from things that might reflect the signal like parked cars, buildings, chain link fences, etc. No, standing in the middle of your front street is probably not the safest or smartest place to be.

Next take a look at your HT's S-meter and see if you're getting a full strength reading. If you're not getting a full strength reading, the signal is either far away from you or very weak. These are easier to hunt and get a rough bearing on. Full strength signals need to be attenuated to bring the signal down low enough to get a bearing.

To get a rough bearing, use your body to shield your HT's antenna and hold your HT close to your body in such a way as to still be able to see the S-meter. Now slowly turn in a circle and watch the S-meter. If the S-meter reading changes, the strongest signal will be from the direction you're facing and the weakest signal will be from the direction you have your back to.

If you're still getting a full strength signal all around, try turning your HT so your antenna is horizontal, use the body shield and turn in a circle again. Most VHF signals have a vertical polarity. Turning you HT and antenna horizontally will cut the signal down a small amount.

Another way to cut the signal strength is to remove your antenna and use your body to shield the radio and turn in a circle. Remember to put your antenna back on before you transmit!

Still getting full strength all around? If your HT is a dual-band HT that can receive UHF signals, why not try all the techniques above but with the 3rd harmonic? All frequencies have harmonics. To get the 2nd harmonic of a

frequency, you take that frequency and multiply it by 2, for the 3rd harmonic, you multiple it by 3, etc. For 2m frequencies, the 3rd harmonic lies conveniently in the UHF band.

For example, take the input frequency of VE4WPG repeater and find the 3rd harmonic:

$$147.990 * 3 = 443.970 \text{ MHz}$$

If you are receiving a signal on the 3rd harmonic you must be quite close to the transmitter in question, likely within a few meters. Removing your antenna can aid in locating the transmitting antenna, radio, or whatever apparatus is radiating the RF energy.

Keep your safety in mind. If the emissions are malicious in intent you shouldn't likely be this close to the source, use your common sense.

As with anything, practice is perfect. Organized fox hunts are a great way to hone your RDF'ing abilities. Many clubs and ham fests have regular hunts in several categories. The International Peace Gardens Ham fest has fox hunts usually in mobile and portable categories. Anyone can join in as long as they have a receiver to pick up the "fox", if you don't transmit you don't even need a ham license. What a great way to introduce the hobby to someone!

## News from the Net

### *Industry Canada Response to RAC Recommendations on Morse Code and Related Matters.*

Industry Canada has analyzed the responses to the public consultation called under Canada Gazette Notice DGRB-003-04. A summary of the comments received and the individual replies are now available on the Industry Canada web site at

<http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/insmt-gst.nsf/en/sf08280e.html>

Amateurs should note that while the responses heavily favoured deletion of the Morse Qualification as a requirement for access to the HF bands, Industry Canada still has to make and announce a decision on Morse retention or deletion. **Until a decision to delete Morse is announced, amateurs who do not hold the Morse Qualification may not operate on the HF bands below 30 MHz.** -- RAC bulletin 005-01

For complete listing of the comments check this link;

[http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/insmt-gst.nsf/vwapj/comments-dgrb-003-04.pdf/\\$FILE/comments-dgrb-003-04.pdf](http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/insmt-gst.nsf/vwapj/comments-dgrb-003-04.pdf/$FILE/comments-dgrb-003-04.pdf)

(Note to holders of the BASIC certificate - you can not operate on HF Yet. Please wait until Industry Canada make a decision)

## Minutes of Semi Annual Meeting

### August 21, 2004 - Austin MB



Meeting began 2:41 p.m. Derek VE4HAY presiding

Each member introduced him or herself. 25 members present

Minutes of Annual General Meeting approved as printed in Newsletter

Moved Ed VE4OAK, Seconded Bert VE4AND  
CARRIED

#### *Treasurer's Report*

Paula VE4MHZ absent. Report presented by VE4EN. Approximately \$4000.00 in bank. VE4HAY announced that the budget was on track, as per previous years at this time.

#### *Membership Report*

Presented by Roy VE4EN. Approximately 150 members currently. This is close to normal for the past few years at this time.

#### *Technical Report*

Presented by VE4HAY on behalf of Gord VE4GLS. See accompanying report. Questions and answers

☛ When will Minnedosa be linked to the system - VE4HAY explained about CBC Starbuck tower issue, Bruxelles situation etc. No plans to link until these issues are cleared up.

☛ Albert VE4AJB asked about using Voice over Internet (VoIP) (at TD Centre, across from Richardson Bldg) to connect IRLP to telephone line. This will save a great deal of money for MRS - VE4HAY advised that MRS executive plans to stay with MTS for time being. Executive intends to get IRLP system working properly before making other changes. May change later. Money saved can go into our self insurance fund. - Tom VE4SE further explained that WARC/MRS agreement for IRLP is on a trial basis. Not good idea to change from MTS phone system for now.

☛ VE4AJB asked if there were any other suitable towers in the vicinity of VE4MAN, in case we lose the site - VE4HAY and VE4EN replied they know of none - VE4AJB recommended working with other commercial users on CBC towers, to save money. - VE4HAY replied that there are many other amateur repeaters on CBC towers across Canada. We feel that CBC now realizes that they made a mistake by attempting to charge amateurs for use of their

transmission towers. The feeling is that CBC will eventually simply let the attempt to charge amateurs drop.

☛ Ed VE4EDE asked for schedule to have IRLP on MRS repeater operational - VE4HAY replied it should be operational by spring. MRS is essentially ready, waiting for WARC - Glen VE4GWN announced that WARC requires a specific sound card, then they will be ready - (Ron VE4RDJ spoke to gentleman from Southwest Telephone, one of the flea market sellers, and received several sound cards, which VE4GWN will turn over to Bob VE4ZAP)

End of Technical Report

#### *New Business*

Presented Notice of Motion regarding changes to bylaws, essentially changing notice of meetings etc from 30 days to 7 days. (see attached copy)

☛ VE4EDE stated that 7 days was not always enough notice due to slow Post Office. - VE4HAY advised that there probably would be at least 14 days notice. He went on to say that MRS also uses 2 meter nets, Internet, WARC newsletter, and other means to give adequate notice of upcoming meetings.

☛ VE4GWN recommended giving Randy VE4RHM a free MRS membership, since the Minnedosa repeater is located on a tower on his farm - VE4HAY stated that the MRS executive will discuss that.

#### *Notices for the Good and Welfare of the Club*

☛ VE4HAY announced that Adam VE4SN has a nomination form on behalf of Bj Madsen VE5FX, Midwestern Director for RAC. Please sign this form

☛ VE4HAY announced upcoming meetings include WARC Flea Market, October 17 at Heritage Victoria Community Club

☛ Adam VE4SN announced that amateur radio classes begin in September. He asked if graduating hams still received free first year membership in MRS. - VE4HAY replied yes, but applies only to brand new hams

☛ VE4HAY discussed RAC proposal to Industry Canada. Plan is to drop CW completely as a requirement, and add a new Intermediate class of licence. Would add to present classes Basic and Advanced. Intermediate class would permit HF privileges. Would require pass mark of at least 80% for Intermediate licence

Adjourn VE4EN 3:20 pm

## Notice of Bylaw change

I hereby make motion for a request for bylaw change  
Currently the bylaws read;

3 . I - A member of the Board of Directors may be removed at an AGM, a semi-annual general meeting, or at a special meeting. Thirty (30) days notice of such a meeting together with the purpose of the meeting, must be given. A two-thirds (2/3) majority of MRS members present must vote in favour of the removal. Another qualified member of MRS can be elected, by a simple majority of members present, to fill the vacancy for the balance of the term.

14 .D - Dues shall be set at the Annual General Meeting. The Secretary is responsible for ensuring that notice of any required dues increase is published at least thirty (30) day in advance of an Annual General Meeting.

16 . C - Annual, Semi-Annual or Special meetings of the members shall be held at a place, date and time selected by the Board of Directors. The executive shall give at least thirty (30) days notice of such meetings, either via the 2 metre nets on MRS repeaters, or by mail.

to be changed to

3 . I - A member of the Board of Directors may be removed at an AGM, a semi-annual general meeting, or at a special meeting. At least seven (7) days notice of such a meeting together with the purpose of the meeting, must be given. A two-thirds (2/3) majority of MRS members present must vote in favour of the removal. Another qualified member of MRS can be elected, by a simple majority of members present, to fill the vacancy for the balance of the term.

14 .D - Dues shall be set at the Annual General Meeting. The Secretary is responsible for ensuring that notice of any required changes in dues~~increase~~ is published at least seven (7) day in advance of an Annual General Meeting.

16 . C - Annual, Semi-Annual or Special meetings of the members shall be held at a place, date and time selected by the Board of Directors. The executive shall give at least seven (7) days notice of such meetings, either via the 2 metre nets on MRS repeaters, by e-mail or by mail.

The purpose for this is so that Notice can be given and people do not get the chance to forget about the meeting. 30 days is to much notice. The "AT Least Seven (7) Days" means it can be more than 7 but not less than. This gives the newsletter editor time to produce the newsletter as well as the executive time to stuff and mail the newsletters. For members receiving their newsletter and to have the meeting

a month away, they tend to forget about it. a shorter period is much more reasonable. and with the advent of E-mail the delivery is almost instantaneously.

Moved by Derek , VE4HAY  
Seconded Al, VA4AA

## RAC Midwest Director's Report By BJ Madsen, VE5FX

The RAC Board of Directors have decided to hold the 2005 RAC Annual General Meeting at the Saskatchewan Centennial Hamfest 2005, to be held in Saskatoon on July 22 - 24. Various RAC officials will be in attendance, including Chairman Smith (VE6NM) and General Manager Debbie Norman (VA3RGM). Debbie is bringing along a quantity of RAC merchandise. This will be an excellent opportunity for you to stop by and chat with the lady who solves the problems at the RAC offices. See the HamFest WEBSITE for details: <http://www.saskhamfest.com>

The Director for Southern Ontario, Bob Cooke (VE3BDB), has resigned effective January 15. An interim Director has not yet been appointed to fill his remaining term.

At the Board of Directors' meeting to be held this spring, I intend to initiate discussion on the merits of a "Foundation License", similar to that which has been in effect in Great Britain for some years. This is an 'entry level' license, the syllabus for which can be found at <http://www.rsgb.org/foundation/syllabus.htm> . If you have thoughts about such an undertaking, I welcome you to share them with me.

I have applied for a special prefix for Saskatchewan for the month of July, to commemorate the Centennial of the province. I requested XL5/XM5, but Industry Canada may well assign a different prefix. Time will tell. I have not yet heard from them.

Professor Townsend's report on towers has been posted to Industry Canada's "Strategis" WEBSITE. It runs to some 250 page. This report has the potential to have an impact on Amateur Radio structures.

What is your E-mail address? If you still do not have an @rac.ca address, it is high time that you considered it. We all know one another's callsigns, right? Remembering E-mail addresses becomes a 'no-brainer' when all of us get the @rac.ca address. It is free. It is available to RAC members and non-members alike. Simply log onto the RAC WEBSITE at <http://www.rac.ca> and follow the directions. Simple.



## The Manitoba Repeater Society

### Is looking for a few good people to become active on the Board of Directors.

- ☛ Have you ever been interested in how the repeaters actually work.
- ☛ Have you thought about putting back in the club just a little bit of what you have gotten out of it.
- ☛ Are you a person who like to make a difference
- ☛ Have you thought of being on the board, but just need that extra push to step forward.

Well now is your chance. And here are the rules to get involved;

From the bylaws, 3 (d)

d) (1) Qualified members of MRS may be nominated for the Board of Directors at the Annual General Meeting. Members nominating such a candidate must ensure that the member is willing to stand for office before nominating him/her. To be eligible to stand for office, a person must be a member in good standing for at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

\*\*\* Ammended 99.08.21 \*\*\*

(2) Nominations for election to the board of directors shall only be accepted in writing up to the time nominations are closed at the annual general meeting and with the signature of the nominee.

The executive meets once a month, where the state of the repeaters is discussed, and plans are made to repairs, expansion, and upgrades. Typically the executive are the ones doing this work, but from time to time, we also get the general membership involved. So if you are interested, please submit your name in writing to Dick, VE4HK.

## Editors Ramblings By Derek VE4HAY



Have you checked out the MRS web site lately. <http://ve4.net/mrs>

Maybe you should as the site has added a number of documents you might be interested in.

- ☛ Our Bylaws
- ☛ Back Issues of our Newsletter
- ☛ A link to the hard copy of our semi-weekly swap & shop listings
- ☛ Our Hobby Amateur Radio – A guide to Amateur Radio
- ☛ Linking for Dummies – a guide to how the linking system works for users
- ☛ Our current linking diagram
- ☛ 2-Meter Survival Guide for the New Amateur
- ☛ Auto-Patch user instructions
- ☛ Pine Tree Inter-tie manual (revised 2005)
- ☛ Data & Codes for accessing the linking system – along with pictures of some sites
- ☛ A listing of the Current status of the system and any projects that are happening
- ☛ A contact list of the board of directors of the M.R.S. - Should you have any questions.

If you want to see the technical committee in action ,check out some of the photo's on the following web sites  
<http://hayfamily.photosite.com/HamRadio/>  
<http://gnapady.photosite.com/>

In the technical report Gord, VE4GLS gave word of upgrades and expansion of the linked repeater system. Yes, plans are under way to once again expand into the western side of the province. The ground work was laid last year with the installation of the VE4NEP repeater just south of Minnedosa. Now we need to link that site up to the rest of the system. This is a pretty big project, and we will work at it in sections, as time permits and funds are available. And along set up the facilities for the VE4PTG repeater and the VE4MTR repeater to also link into the MRS system These repeater will still be fully controlled by their respected owners, but MRS will setting up out side of the system to allow them to link to us. Come out to the meeting and see what these plans are.

The Manitoba Repeater society can save money on our insurance premium, provided we know if you are A RAC member or not. The more of our members who are also RAC members the lower of insurance premium. So please advise us if you are a RAC member. Current privacy laws, do not let us search for this info, and RAC will not release it to us. So we are counting on you to let us know so we can keep out costs down.

# Manitoba Repeater Society

## 2005 Project & equipment requirement needs.

Project #	Description	Equipment	Cost
1	Link 3 transceiver VE4MAN	Used GE Exec II UHF	Stock
1		Crystal for above	\$ 35.00
1		Misc parts	
2	IRLP at VE4WRS	Misc parts	
3	VE4MAN VHF Antenna	Sinclair 210-C4 VHF antenna	\$ 1,321.45
3		Labour to install	\$ 500.00
3	Remove old Cabinet at 800'	Labour at same time as above	\$ 100.00
3	Antennae shipping	via VE4DS expedited freight?? :)	\$ 450.00
4	VE4PLP - link to VE4PTG	Install damaged Palomar controller	stock
4		Used UHF link radio semi duplex	stock
4		Crystal for above	\$ 35.00
4		Omni or home made beam antenna	\$ -
4		6' of Transmission cable & Connectors	stock
4		Duplexor/Res lock	N/A
4		Turn Existing UHF antenna to VE4ARM	bottle of rye
4		Power supply	stock
4		Cabinet	stock
4		Misc parts	
5	VE4MIL upgrade	Replace 3 UHF antennas with higher gain	\$ 517.50
6	VE4ARM/VE4MTR	Install used rack from stock	Stock
6		Install Palomar controller	Stock
6		Link in Existing VHF repeater	Stock
6		Install 2 used UHF link radios	Stock
6		Install new UHF Res Locks	Stock
6		Install 2 runs of Transmission Cable	
6		Install 2 UHF link antennas from stock	\$ 400.00
6		Install 1 power supply	Stock
6		Misc parts	
7	VE4NEP	Install Controller	\$ 500.00
7		Connect Existing VHF radio	stock
7		Install 2 used UHF link radios	
7		Install new UHF Res Locks	
7		Install 2 runs of Transmission Cable	
7		Install 2 UHF link antennas from stock	Stock
7		Install 1 power supplies	\$ 150.00
7		Insulate & Seal Cabinet	\$ 100.00
7		Misc parts	
8	VE4CDN Link to VE4VRG	Install UHF link radio to Winkler	
8			
8		Install run of transmission cable	? Stock
8		install UHF beam	stock
8		Install Power supply	stock
8		Misc parts	
9	VE4CDN Link to USA	Install UHF link radio to ???	
9		Duplexor/Res lock	
9		Install 2 diplexors (combiner/splitter)	\$ 120.00
9		install UHF beam	stock
9		Install Power supply	stock
9		Misc parts	
Total			\$ 4,108.95

Transmission cable is an unknown. Some will be able to come from stock while some will have to be purchased (used)

Misc parts will come from stock or purchased as needed.