



Summer 2011

Distributed to all Current Members

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### **MARMFEST**

August 14, 2011 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**

Welcome to summer everyone and here is your latest edition of the MRS newsletter! Please take a few moments to grab a cool beverage of your choice, sit back and catch up on the projects the MRS has underway and some of the plans for the coming months.

As you will see elsewhere in this issue, the executive and technical groups have been busy repairing several of the links and repeater sites. We have recently made some repairs that have significantly reduced the noise on the system, much to everyone's delight.

Hopefully some of you will have ventured off your favorite repeater and have explored some of the DX opportunities awaiting for you on 6 and 2m. There have been some exciting 6m sporadic e openings from southern Manitoba down into the Caribbean and Central America. Even 2m enthusiasts have worked down into TN and KY. You do not have to have SSB or CW equipment to get in on the fun. You can always try to work 6m FM repeaters when the openings are really strong. Also not to be missed are the tropospheric ducting or "inversions" that are so common this time of year. Look for these

openings in the early morning or evenings predominantly. A great opportunity to work distant repeaters or simplex on FM.

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 13 at 14:00 hours 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.

With summer in full swing, there are bound to be travelers passing through and using the local repeaters. Please extend a warm welcome to them and do not hesitate to offer any assistance or suggestions that they may be looking for.

Enjoy the rest of summer!

73

Ed Richardson  
VE4EAR

## **Technical Report**

**From the desk of Ellis VE4AJO**

July 8, 2011

After the May push to get as much accomplished as possible before the flood; the system is functioning well. Major exceptions are the Bruxelles repeater VE4MRS. The visit at the end of May found the controller had failed. Any attempt to resurrect it has failed. . This past Monday July 5 the system was in operation minus VE4MRS with CANWARN and operated very well throughout the severe weather event.

At the June Executive meeting a new controller was chosen and ordered. This unit will replace the Palomar controller at VE4WPG. Once the technical crew is satisfied with the Sierra controller the Palomar unit will be install at Bruxelles Hopefully roads have dried up and we do not have to ford water on the road or slide around in mud to the site. VE4MRS and the link into Brandon are not running until the controller is replaced.

The unit chosen is a Sierra Controller. More information will be provided on this unit when we have worked through the manuals. It is compatible with the Palomar units. This is the first step in the modernization of the MRS repeater controllers.

The Manitoba Repeater Society is responsible for the maintenance on the VE4FAL repeater. There seems to be an issue in Kenora getting the link going between Falcon Lake and Kenora

The work schedule for this weekend (July 15 and 16) is a trip to VE4MAN on Saturday morning. A link radio to be replaced and a general look over of the site. Sunday Morning plans are to make a trip to VE4VJ and repair the VE4VJ receiver. At the time of writing the VE4VJ repeater is unserviceable although the transmitter is functioning very well.

I hope everyone enjoys the summer and uses the MRS repeater system from the resort areas of the Province.

See you all at Austin

## **Ode to the Missing Surge Protector**

By Dr. Eugene Ziegler

If a transient hits a pocket on a socket on a port  
And the bus is interrupted at a very last resort  
And the access of the memory makes your floppy disc abort  
Then the shocked packet pocket has an error to report.

If your cursor finds a menu item followed by a dash  
And the double-clicking icon puts your window in the trash  
And your data is corrupted 'cause the index doesn't hash  
Then your situations' hopeless and your system's gonna crash.

If the label on the cable on the table at your house  
Says the network is connected to the button on your mouse  
But your packets want to tunnel to another protocol  
That's repeatedly rejected by the printer down the hall  
And your screen is all distorted by the side effects of gauss  
So your icons in the window are as fickle as a grouse  
Then you may as well reboot and go out with a bang  
'cuz sure as I'm a poet, the sucker's gonna hang.

# MINUTES of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

## April 14, 2011 MRS Annual General Meeting

Meeting held at Norberry-Glenlee Community Centre

Meeting began 7:04 pm VE4EAR presiding

Each person in attendance introduced him or herself.

Minutes of August 14, 2010 Semi Annual General Meeting approved as presented in MRS Newsletter

Moved VE4HAZ  
Seconded VE4BAW  
CARRIED

No business arising from minutes

### Treasurer's Report

Presented by VE4HAZ. See accompanying copy

Move acceptance of Treasurer's Report

Moved VE4HAZ  
Seconded VE4MBQ  
CARRIED

2011 Budget, presented by VE4HAZ. See accompanying copy. VE4HAZ explained new membership structure.

Move acceptance of 2011 budget

Moved VE4HAZ  
Seconded VE4SE  
CARRIED

### Auditor's Report

VE4HAZ announced that the auditor's report will follow at a later date.

### Membership Report

Presented by VE4SYM. See accompanying copy

VE4DDW asked about previous total memberships.

VE4HAZ announced that membership was approximately 200 in 2000. Has stabilized at approximately 100 the past few years. (VE4HAZ was Membership Chairman until recently)

VE4SIG asked how many members paid with PayPal

VE4HAZ replied about 12

## Technical Report

Presented by VE4AJO. He announced that things were much the same as in Technical Report in newsletter. Noise on links suspected to be due to faulty UHF link antenna on Richardson Building. Awaiting delivery of 2 new replacement UHF beam antennas. VE4GLS is waiting to replace link radio from VE4CDN to VE4MAN. Morris elevator is extremely busy right now, moving grain before flood. It is difficult to get to VE4PLP site, due to flood. Cannot get to VE4MRS site at Bruxelles, due to muddy roads, and heavy snow.

Yves Remillard VE4DY asked why VE4MRS failed

VE4AJO responded electrical spikes, lightning strikes, power bumps etc.

VE4DY asked if it was windy at VE4MRS

VE4AJO replied yes. (Major wind farm just south of VE4MRS, at St. Leon)

VE4EAR noted that most of our equipment is aged. Needs replacement. MSR2000's are 20 years old.

VE4AJO advised that our MSR2000 repeaters are from RCMP and other agencies. Most were in continuous service.

VE4DDW asked in executive has a priority list

VE4AJO stated that the executive must balance memberships versus cost of equipment. Purchasing equipment is expensive

VE4AJO then announced that MRS is close to taking over operation of VE4FAL. Repeater has been turned over to MRS in principle. Technical Committee repaired VE4FAL antenna last fall. VE4PN worked back to Winnipeg, from Shoal Lake winter road, via VE4FAL.

The link to Kenora is down. The Kenora hams moved their repeater to a new site. The link should be back when that group can turn on equipment

VE4DDW asked about old repeaters

VE4AJO replied that we are getting rid of Mycor UHF link repeaters, and replacing with newer equipment.

VE4EAR announced that the executive has a priority list, which changes all the time. He then read items from a recent priority list.

VE4EAR continued that there is lots of travel involved driving to different sites. There are few volunteers. Volunteers are getting old. Technical Committee would appreciate help.

VE4SE asked the cost of a repeater

VE4EAR responded that a high end repeater would be \$10,000, a low end one \$3,000. We could use technicians, we can train.

A philosophical discussion followed.

VE4DY asked about effect digital TV would have on MRS

VE4AJO noted that when CBC goes digital, they will not need high power. They may remove their tower at Starbuck.

VE4EAR advised that CBC has structural concerns about Starbuck tower. There are access problems. CBC may abandon the site.

VE4EAR stated that MRS does not pay rent at any of our sites. Commercial rent can be \$1000.00 per month.

VE4EAR advised that VE4ACX was not available to attend the meeting tonight. He thanked VE4's ACX, VB, AJO, and ALW for their hard work, time spent on servicing and improving the repeater network, and money spent travelling to the distant sites.

VE4DY asked about "hybrid ring"

VE4EAR explained that a hybrid ring was a better quality duplexer, which offers better isolation

VE4DY asked if the hybrid ring was outdoors, exposed to elements

VE4EAR stated it was inside a building

End of Technical Report

## Election of Officers

Following members of executive offered to remain on the executive VE4's EAR, ACX, AJO, HK, HAZ, SYM, QB, ALW, and VB

VE4TRO decided to step down from the executive

Dave Stimpson VE4DJS offered to become a member of the executive. His application was accepted

No other nominations

Move nominations close

Move	VE4GWN
Second	VE4GKS
CARRIED	

## Special Guests

Geoff Bawden VE4BAW President of RAC, will discuss RAC issues prior to his presentation

Jeff Dovyak VE4MBQ speaking on behalf of ARES, thanked MRS for the cooperation of their members, and for the use of MRS repeaters.

There will be a dry run tomorrow, April 15, at the flood reception centre. Flood work is mostly quiet tomorrow. VE4EMO will be open between 7:30 am and 10:00 pm.

A discussion followed

## Notices for the Good and Welfare

VE4AJO announced that VE4ARC will be back on the air this week

VE4MBQ announced that Spotter Training for Canwarn is scheduled for late May in Minnedosa. He would prefer to move it to March, which is before possibility of flooding. In addition, late May is into severe weather season. Spotter Training may be moved to Winnipeg.

VE4GKS asked about security clearances to go to Weather Office

VE4MBQ stated that Weather Office requires birthdates for certain applicants. It is a long explanation. Requested that Net Controllers bear with him.

VE4MAB announced the WARC Flea Market coming up on April 17. May WARC meeting will be a PowerPole presentation. PowerPoles connectors will be available for members to attach to their radios. DSTAR handheld will be drawn for at the Flea Market.

VE4EAR reminded those present about the MRS table at the Flea Market. Bring your radios to the MRS table for testing. Remember to bring the manual for the radio. Check out CTCSS etc.

VE4MBQ noted that our systems are aging. Costly to replace. Suggested approaching Public Safety Canada for funds for our number one priority. He will attempt to get name of contact person.

VE4EAR and VE4HAZ noted that a fee increase was incorporated in the 2011-12 budget.

Move that MRS increase membership dues by \$10.00 to \$35.00 annually for members, and by \$10.00 to \$15.00 annually for family members. RAC members to receive a discount of \$10.00 per member or family member. New fee structure is to take place immediately.

Move	VE4HAZ
Seconded	VE4GWN

No discussion. Motion CARRIED

Adjourn business meeting 8:18 pm VE4HAZ

Coffee break

Presentation began 8:30 pm

Geoff Bawden VE4BAW, president of RAC, answered several questions about RAC. He announced that the RAC Report would be e-mailed bi-monthly, in months when TCA is not published. Members can go to RAC website to sign up for RAC Report.

VE4BAW stated that big changes are coming to RAC sections. One will be to add a Public Information Officer (PIO) to each section. It is important to be in contact with politicians and other public officials.

VE4BAW then gave a very interesting and useful presentation on solar power, both for general use, where hydro power is not available, and specifically for amateur radio use.

Meeting ended 9:20 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 IRLP Net 0200 UTC Wednesday 145.450 MHz VE4WRS

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

Aurora Net Daily 2330 UTC 7055 KHz  
Daily 0230 UTC 7055 KHz

WSCRC: Breakfast 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of month at Garden City Inn

WARC: Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of month 1900 hrs at Dakota Collegiate

ARES: Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> 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	Sue	VE4SYM	ve4sym 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

<b>First time New Members</b>	<b>Pro-rated quarterly</b>
January to December	\$35.00
April to December	\$28.75
July to December	\$22.50
October to December	\$16.25

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

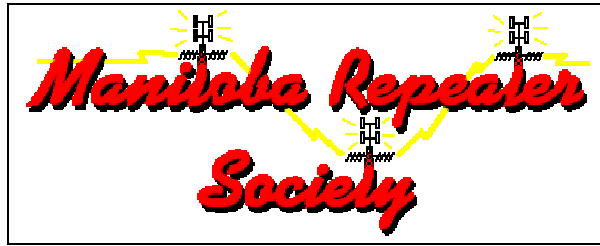
**If a member of RAC \$10.00 is refunded**

## The Repeater Advertising Rates

All advertising is black and white and must be 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 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> )

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Club use only</b>
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**

**First Time Member Pro-Rated**  
**Jan to Dec \$35.00   Apr to Dec \$28.75   Jul to Dec \$ 22.50**

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: \_\_\_\_\_