



Summer 2009

Distributed to all Current Members

Notice of Semi – Annual Meeting

Date: August 15, 2009
Time: 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Place: Heritage Bldg.
MARM Fest

The agenda will include approval of the minutes of the annual general meeting, business arising, a treasurers report, a membership report, and a technical report. This will be followed by new business.

President's Report

From the desk of Ed VE4EAR

Happy summer everyone! I hope that everyone is finding time to enjoy the weather, although a little warmer would be more to my liking. I hope you take a few moments to sit back with this edition of the “repeater” and catch up on the events that your MRS is involved with.

This is the first edition of the newsletter produced by Ellis Seddon, VE4AJO. Ellis has stepped up to fill the huge void left by Derek Hay, VE4HAY. Derek as you likely know has been publishing our newsletter and that of several other organizations for an extremely long time. Derek is now pursuing a new role with RAC and there just isn't the time available in his schedule to hound people for articles, edit, publish and distribute the newsletters. Thanks for all the hard work over the years and we wish you all the best in your RAC endeavors.

This edition of the newsletter will likely be the first edition that the latest crop of new graduates of the WARC basic Amateur course will receive. As new licensees, they will receive a free membership in MRS for the first year. If you know of a new licensee, please let them know about MRS and we can get them set up with their own membership.

Speaking of new licensees, I believe the responsibility to welcome them to the amateur radio fraternity is the responsibility of each one of us. As many of these new licensees start out, 2 meters and repeaters may be their first on-air experiences. If you hear a new call sign on a local repeater, why not jump in and welcome them to the hobby. They will likely be nervous so be a “good ham” and guide the conversation, ask questions, be courteous, and do not be critical of little mistakes. Set an example and the new comers will emulate what they hear.

As we are in the middle of the summer vacation and traveling season, don't forget your ambassador duties. With the multitude of travelers passing through the city and province, do not hesitate to issue a warm welcome to visiting amateurs when they appear on the local repeater.

Please do not forget about the upcoming semi-annual general meeting. Continuing with the tradition started several years ago, this meeting coincides with the MARM FEST held in Austin Manitoba. Please plan on coming out and spending an enjoyable day with the flea market, ladies program, a great meal and of course all your radio friends.

Please see Gord's articles for the latest updates on the status of each repeater. We are still encountering site access restrictions to the VE4MAN site at Starbuck. This has made repairs and maintenance difficult to arrange.

As the (hopefully) hot days of August approach, I hope you find time to get your antenna systems in order. Don't be shy. Introduce yourself to a new ham! Their zeal and infectious interest in the hobby may be just the thing to re-ignite an interest in the hobby for you!

Enjoy your summer!

Technical Report

From the desk of Gord VE4GLS

Summer is finally here and all the free time to work on the repeater system is... well... hiding somewhere between work and holidays. We did have another repeater building meeting at the Senior's Club earlier this month in preparation for getting the PLP links up and running.

We are still a bit in limbo however with the Starbuck (CBC) site as they are having tower issues and eventually plan on replacing their tower structure where our VE4MAN repeater is located. The schedule is unknown at this time and there are access restrictions at the site with mostly wind and ice constraints. We also have to schedule our visits there with CBC so they know who is there, when we leave. These restrictions haven't been a major problem for us so far, just a phone call or two ahead of time takes care of this and CBC has been good to deal with.

We are hoping to get the link system working back to Brandon this year, hopefully in fall. Upgrades at Starbuck, Portage and Buydens Hill are being worked on to facilitate the link out west. We have most of the equipment we need on hand which needs to be tuned and installed as time allows.

VE4MAN 146.61- Starbuck MB

A new PA was installed in May and worked well till July when it went down. Due to access restrictions at the site it is difficult to access our equipment at the CBC site on short order and the weather has been uncooperative. We need to diagnose this failure carefully to avoid further failures so we will have to spend some time on this problem. Latest word is the transmitter is working again so it may be intermittent. We are also replacing the VHF duplexer filter and two link radios as soon as possible.

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

We plan on adding full CTCSS to both these repeaters. Tone will be the Manitoba standard of 127.3Hz. This may occur shortly after the MARM Hamfest and our general meeting there. We are taking these steps to help diminish noise problems on the system. Otherwise both repeaters are 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 will be installed to avoid this issue having to manually re-boot 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. Have had no reports of trouble from Gimli. If you notice a problem with the system please advise MRS

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 and link isn't working properly either. We may disable the linking part of the repeater to try to fix the trouble temporarily. 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)

Back on-line after winter. Link to east is not operational at this time. Link between Brandon and VE4MRS is likely functional but usually off. We will add a CTCSS squelch to alleviate the noise problem, it will be 127.3Hz the Manitoba standard. We may replace the VHF radio, it took a lightning strike two years ago and the receiver hasn't been 100% since. We hope to work on this site later this summer.

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 it's former 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.

Other affiliated sites:

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.

The MRS is looking at new controllers to eventually replace the current Palomar multi-port systems. We are looking at several models 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.

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
Prairie Traffic Net CW	Daily 0130 UTC	3660 KHz

Aurora Net	Daily 2330 UTC	7055 KHz
	Daily 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

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Or

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

M.R.S. Current Executive

President	Ed	VE4EAR	ve4ear AT rac.ca
V/President	El	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
	Bill	VE4ALW	williamr AT rac.ca
	Phil	VE4QB	fphilb AT rac.ca
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

April 14, 2009 MRS Annual General Meeting

Meeting held at Winnipeg Seniors Boardroom

Meeting began 7:10 pm VE4EAR presiding
VE4EAR welcomed all to the meeting
Meeting then began with introductions
Minutes of Semi Annual General Meeting approved as published in Newsletter
 Moved VE4SE
 Seconded VE4GWN
 CARRIED
No business arising

Treasurer's Report

Presented by VE4EAR on behalf of VE4HAZ. See accompanying report
VE4AEW asked about a discount on telephone service. The Winnipeg Seniors are receiving such a discount
VE4EAR advised that the executive will investigate and report back to the membership
Move acceptance of Treasurer's Report
 Moved VE4AEW
 Seconded VE4QB
 CARRIED

2009 Budget presented by VE4EAR. See accompanying report
A question from the membership concerning if WARC was paying their share of costs for storage locker
VE4HK replied that WARC will be paying half the cost for storage locker. Cost approximately \$60.00 for each group. Will have exact costs after Saturday. VE4HK meeting with VE4HAZ to set up automatic withdrawal from our account. WARC will then pay their half, every three months
VE4SYM noted that WARC is not yet paying their share.
VE4SYM asked if storage locker was accounted for in budget
VE4EAR replied not yet, will add \$720.00 line item to budget. We will still be within budget
VE4SE asked what name was phone at VE4WPG under?
VE4EAR advised MRS
VE4HK detailed the move of WARC and MRS equipment to Storageville
A discussion ensued
Move adoption of budget with addition of \$720.00 line item for equipment storage
 Moved VE4GWN
 Seconded VE4DY
 CARRIED

Auditor's Report

No Auditor's Report. It will appear in next Newscaster

Membership Report

Presented by VE4HK. See attached copy

Technical Report

Presented by VE4AJO
VE4WPG working well. Recommend turning on tone squelch in downtown Winnipeg to reduce noise.
More repeaters will be equipped with tone squelch in future
VE4WRS phone patch/IRLP healthy. Suffered one power bump, which put IRLP off line, until VE4DRC reset computer. A UPS is scheduled to be installed on the computer
VE4GIM working well. Link good
VE4MIL working well. Lake of the Woods group working on their equipment to reduce noise coming through.

VE4MRS VHF is turned off due to excessive noise

VE4PTG VHF was fired up on 147/165 MHz. Range covers to Eli to the east. And at least Austin to the west/It is at 240 ft level on Manitoba Hydro tower. Uses 4 bay Comprod antenna. Favours west.. This repeater will be upgraded when we can get down the road to the tower.

VE4AJO described situation at VE4MAN, with Starbuck tower being overloaded. NO ONE is allowed near the tower at present. There are mechanical and structural problems with tower. We are in a "wait and see" situation. Lots of changes coming. We may be forced to abandon the site. We may move VE4MAN station to VE4PLP site.

VE4EAR described the fees wanted by CBC, and the work amateurs did to convince CBC to drop fees for our repeaters. All other users on CBC towers across Canada pay hefty fees.

VE4AJO noted that VE4CDN is working well, and has CTCSS installed.

He noted that CKX station in Brandon is for sale. If no buyer by end of August, will be shut down.

VE4MAN is not the only tower in trouble.

VE4GWN recommended that MRS executive point out proper etiquette for using phone patch and IRLP link. Must identify properly.

A discussion ensued about etiquette

VE4AEW asked about the link between VE4MAN and VE4CDN.

VE4AJO reminded him that no one is allowed anywhere near Starbuck tower

VE4HK asked if anyone had MRS equipment to go to Storageville

No response

VE4DY asked if storage locker was temperature controlled

VE4HK replied that temperature was ambient

VE4HK answered some concerns about security etc around our locker. We have keys to locker, security cameras in place, fenced, password to enter, etc.

End of Technical Report

New Business

VE4EAR asked if any members present were interested in a 6 meter repeater.

A discussion followed

VE4GWN asked how many people responded to question of 6 meter repeater at semi annual general meeting

VE4EAR replied 3 people responded, all in favour. VE4EAR pointed out that we would need all equipment necessary to put up a 6 meter repeater. VE4EAR will have an article in the next Newsletter, evaluating a 6 meter repeater, with pros and cons.

Further discussion re 6 meter repeaters

End of New Business

Election of Officers

Conducted by VE4HK

VE4HK contacted several potential members to join the executive. All declined for 2009-2010 session

Therefore current members of the executive are declared elected by acclamation

Members for upcoming season are VE4's EAR, GLS, HAZ, ALW, AJO, VB, ACX, HK, and QB.

VE4HAY continues as Past President.

Notices for the Good and Welfare of the Club

VE4EAR thanked all members of the executive for their hard work . He explained that these members had spent a lot of time and money travelling to the different sites to repair and maintain the equipment.

VE4AEW thanked the Manitoba Repeater Society Inc for allowing WSC to use MRS repeaters for the Morning Net.

VE4GWN, president of Winnipeg ARES thanked MRS members for their cooperation by not using MRS repeaters while flood operations were taking place.

VE4AJO presented an announcement from VE4MBQ concerning flood operations. See attached copy
VE4HK announced the WARC Flea Market April 19
No further business
Adjourn 8:17 pm VE4AND

EDITOR'S NOTES

As I work on The Repeater this morning –July 23 - there is an inversion appearing in the 2 meter band. Set your squelch low and listen after the tail drops on the local repeater. Often you will hear another far off repeater as this morning when the OM from Jamestown checked in to the morning net. This is the fun season for 2 meter operators who are fortunate enough to have an outside antenna up high. Another idea is to always check 146.52 simplex. With these conditions of the warm air overriding the cooler air at the surface distant station mostly to the south and west can be worked with very good signals. DX can be worked on 2 meters even when HF is very poor. Mornings and evenings are the best times to try.

These inversions can create problems for net operations on local repeaters. Courtesy and the willingness to move to other repeaters are fundamental to good operating practice.

RAC HALL OF FAME

2007 Murray Ronald	VE4RE
2002 Thomas Boissonade Jones Atkins	VE3CDM
1999 Dave Snyder	VE4XN
1998 Allan Davies	VE5AQ
1997 Bill Wilson	VE3NR
1996 Frederick Oliver Hammond	VE3HC
1995 William Wentworth Loucks	VE3AR
1993 Noel Beattie Eaton	VE3CJ sk
1992 Arthur Edwin Blick	VE3AHU
1989 Douglas Mac Donald Lockart	VE7APU

<http://www.rac.ca/en/rac/programmes/hall-of-fame/>