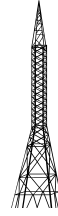


The Repeater



The Manitoba Repeater Society Inc.

Winter 2001

Distributed to all Current Members

M.R.S. Current Executive

President	Ed Richardson	.....	VE4EAR
Vice president	Gord Snarr	.....	VE4GLS
Secretary	Dick Maguire	.....	VE4HK
Treasurer	Paula Ehn	.....	VE4MHZ
Membership	Roy Maguire	.....	VE4EN
Technical Chair	Yori Tsuji	.....	VE4ACX
Members at Large	Grant Delaney	.....	VE4HGD
	Richard Sheridan	.....	VE4ESX
	Walter Bezpalko	.....	VE4VB
Past President	Derek Hay	.....	VE4HAY

Membership renewal time

Please complete the membership form on the back page. Remember that the repeaters maybe open for all to use, but there is a real cost in Tweaking, Aligning and Maintaining each site. Not to mention paying for insurance on the sites. And for the most part each of the repeaters have been available 24 hours a day 365 days a week.

Important Dates:

MRS: Thursday at 9:00 pm MRS Semi-Weekly Net
 Sunday at 1:00 pm - MRS Semi-Weekly Net

WARC: Jan. 14th Meeting - Home Page creation

WSC: Dec. 12th - Christmas Party
 Dec. 19th - Annual Meeting

ARES: Dec. 18th -

President's Report

by Ed, VE4EAR

Hello everyone! Well summer is over, fall is almost done and you know what that means... antenna installation season is almost here! I hope everyone had a great and enjoyable summer and now you can find the time to relax and enjoy this great hobby of ours.

Your MRS technical group has been busy with upgrades and improvements at several of the repeaters sites. There is a new repeater at VE4WPG and a second one will be installed at VE4MAN shortly. Both of these are commercial duty MSR2000 repeaters. I am sure that the improvement on VE4WPG has been noticeable and appreciated by all.

As always, your executive is looking for feedback. If you encounter a problem, see something that could be improved or just want to get involved, let us know.

Please check out the rest of this newsletter for details on the new repeaters and upcoming activities and projects!

On behalf of the executive, I would like to extend the warmest greetings and best wishes for a safe and happy Holiday season.

News from the Winnipeg Seniors' Radio Club

by Gil Frederick, VE4AG

By the time you read this, the SPARKS Newsletter will have been published and a copy mailed to all members. It features notices of both the Christmas Party and the Annual General Meeting, an 'In Memoriam' page for Bert, VE4AP, and a nostalgic article by Paul, VE4PXP. The Phoning Committee has been active passing along this event information as well.

There was excitement at the Club on Sunday, November 18, when we hosted visitors, as part of the St. Vital Biz Community Christmas Party for the children (and parents) of the area. Our members acted as Santa's helpers, some out

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

.....

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 Fax: 1-613-991-5575
 E-mail: spectrum.amateur@ic.gc.ca
 Web: <http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/spectrum>

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The Repeater Advertising Rates:
 All advertising is black & white and must be submitted in electronic format.
 full page \$75.00
 1/2 page \$40.00
 1/4 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/>

on the street, and others on the 2-metre rigs in the clubrooms, giving the kids a chance to tell what they wanted for Christmas.

This year, we had 608 visitors (311 children and 297 adults) come through our premises, to see the equipment, talk on the radio, or have a cookie and/or candy cane. Those helping at the Club were (according to the sign-in book) – Alf, VE4ALF; Harsha, VE4SAI; Adam, VE4SN; Gil, VE4AG; Lila, VE4LIL; Colin, VE4JCM; George, VE4GOM; Bob, VE4RJH, with his XYL Iris; Rolf, VE4VZ; Bob, VE4RCJ; Paul, VE4OPC; Bert, VE4AND, and Albert, VE4AX. Thanks all, for making this a success.

The Christmas Party will be held on Wednesday, December 12, at the Assiniboia Christian Centre, Portage Ave. at Rouge Rd. Tickets are \$15.00 each, and are available at the Club from any Duty Officer or Executive member. If you cannot get to the Club, please call 233-3122 to make arrangements to get the tickets to you. And, please, get your tickets as soon as you can – we want to make sure we have a good turnout, and early ticket sales mean so much to the convenors. Many members are hard at work to have a program that will excite everyone, and there will be great door prizes as well. And the meal will be more than just the usual turkey dinner – the caterer is noted for the quality of his meals. The premises are wheelchair friendly (outdoor ramp, elevator and washroom). So plan on coming – and do buy your tickets NOW.

The Annual General Meeting – the most important Club meeting of each year- will be held on Wednesday, December 19, beginning at 10 o'clock in the morning. This meeting is for ALL club members, a chance to use your voice, make motions, and vote. We will be electing the new Board (19 to be elected), Executive and Auditors for the year 2002. Also, there are a few necessary changes in our Club Rule Book that must be voted on. (see this issue of Sparks). Committee year-end reports will be presented, and you can ask questions; and if you wish to be active in the Club during the next year, you are encouraged to let your name stand for nomination to the Board (see or call Ed, VE4YU), or to volunteer for work with one of the Committees that will be re-constituted for 2002. There is a place for you in your club, and you will be most welcome. If you haven't managed a visit to the Clubrooms yet this year, please do come and see all the changes that have been made with the extension of our facilities (new rooms, new station setups, operating enhancements with computers, etc.). And the Club now sports a Yamaha dual-keyboard organ – just the thing to liven the place up a bit! Any member is welcome to use it – anyone for a sing-song? So, come back once more, have chats with other members who regularly show up, and

have a cup of the best coffee in Winnipeg, and still only 25c per cup!

The Monthly Breakfast will not be held in December – the Christmas Party is in lieu of – but there will be a breakfast in January on the 9th – location to be determined.

George, VE4GNG, has reported that the Monthly breakfasts continue to be well-supported, with average attendance over the year of 33.

The December issue of Blips ‘n’ Blurbs (Vol. 5 No. 12) is available to members, with pick up at the Club. This issue has a ‘warm and fuzzy’ theme. George would like contributions for the January issue, so find something (or write something) of interest, and give it to George, put it in the B ‘n’ B box near the sign-in book at the Club, or e-mail it to VE4WSC at ve4wsc@mb.sympatico.ca

BLUE BOOKS are going fast – maybe a dozen left Get yours now while they remain in stock. Ask any Duty Officer or member of the Executive. Price is still \$10.00.

Now to the subject of Club name badges: The Company which has been producing our badges is moving to Calgary on December 15, which means that if we continue to use them as the supplier after that date, there will be a postage cost added (partly offset by the absence of a Provincial sales tax). If any member, old or new, would like to order a regular pin badge at the current price of \$5.50 (taxes included), would you please get your order to Gil, VE4AG, by Sunday, December 9.

With the change-over from Pangea to Sympatico servers, the Club’s homepage on the Web is not fully constituted or up-to-date. Until this is done, for the latest updates, please go to

<http://www.autobahn.mb.ca/~gilfre>

and click on the VE4WSC section.

And, again, just a reminder that the Club needs your donation to help in meeting its goals, please be generous.

And, on behalf of WSCRC, we close with the warm wish for Peace, Security, Happiness and Health for you all – And may this Holiday Season be your best yet.

Treasures report
By Paula, VE4MHZ

The financial position of the Manitoba Repeater Society Inc. as of November 30, 2001 is as follows:

Starting balance as of January 1, 2001		6534.63
Memberships	2632.50	
Auction Funds	<u>779.67</u>	
Total Revenue		3412.17
2 MSR2000's including crystals	2568.40	
Other equipment purchases	1548.76	
Newsletter (not including this one)	383.78	
Insurance	890.00	
MTS Phone Bills	501.05	
RAC membership (2001 & 2002)	79.90	
Donation to WSC for use of facility	50.00	
Misc. (Bank Service Charges)	43.45	
Total Expense		<u>-6065.34</u>

Actual bank balance as of November 30, 2001 3881.46

Minutes of Annual General Meeting
August 18th, 2001
By Dick, VE4HK

Meeting began 2:09 pm at Austin Manitoba. MARMfest, VE4HAY presiding. Each person present introduced themselves.

No quorum. Meeting continued

Treasurer’s Report

No report, Paula VE4MHZ Treasurer absent

Membership Report


VE4EN announced that membership was presently 195, which is consistent with past few years

Technical Report

See article in Newsletter

- ☛ VE4WPG controller is causing problems by locking up. Some firmware has been changed. The new tower for the Richardson Bldg. is ready to go. The executive is waiting for VE4ESX wife to produce required specifications for Richardson Bldg. engineering staff
- ☛ VE4MIL site was struck by lightning, which damaged the power lines. The staff at Milner Ridge replaced the cables, but problems persist
- ☛ VE4EMB/VE4CDN. The technical staff is building ID cards and filters for linking project
- ☛ Autopatch code has been changed to *35
- ☛ Other Technical News - The executive is working with Manitoba Digital Emergency Communications Group to

co-locate repeater sites. The executive will be replacing some Larsen UHF linking antennas with Comrad antennas. The Larsens are affected by water and grain dust. The executive has an opportunity to purchase 2 MSR2000 Motorola 2 meter repeaters from Prairie Mobile (VE4RE). The price is about half the going price (\$1200.00 ea).

 VE4NEP - VE4LB announced that the controller timer at VE4NEP was coming on at the wrong times, approximately 8 am. It should come on just before 1 pm on Sunday, and just before 9 pm on Thursday. It is currently not coming on at all. The executive will reprogram the controller

Adjourn - VE4EN 2:23 pm

Technical Committee Submitted by Yori VE4ACX

VE4CDN

Gord, VE4GLS is always tweaking, and probing this repeater, to ensure that it is operating in top condition. The main problem we have with this site is the link back to VE4MAN. We think we have identified what needs to be fixed and hope to have this done by the time this newsletter come out.

VE4MAN

We checked the transmission cables and the antenna with a borrowed Time Domain Reflectometer and discovered that we had two back antennas on the links. One to VE4CDN and the other to the intermediate link near Portage. We have rounded up three modified (so this will not happen again) replacements for all the link antennas on this site. These replacements should be on the tower and in use by the time you read this newsletter.

VE4NEP

We have heard report that there seems to be a problem with the audio pass thru when operating on the local repeater only. We still need to confirm this and repair if necessary.

VE4GIM

Lack of reported problems, would indicate that this repeater is working properly

VE4MIL

The whole system was carted into Winnipeg in the summer to try and determine why it fails one day after we leave the site. It has since been replaced and it failed again,

a week later. We have now corrected that problem and with fingers crossed, it is still holding out as this newsletter is produced. At the same time, tests with the Time Domain Reflectometer indicated more antenna problems, and these were also corrected.

VE4EMB

This site has been off the air while we set it up for a link to VE4MIL. We need to build a audio notch filter for the ID coming down the link and also build a ID'er board set to the proper audio frequency for filtering at the other end of the link We hope to have it back air within the month

VE4VJ

This repeater once again is working just fine. However with that said, we are preparing a more reliable, commercial repeater that is capable of 24/7 operation as compared to the mobile transmitter that we are currently using. The new repeater will have slightly more power output as well. This will be installed sometime over the winter or spring.

VE4WPG

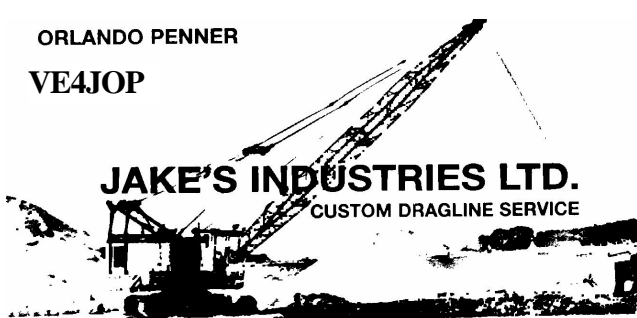
A new to us (used) repeater was installed at this site to replace the mobile transmitter that was here. The mobile was always running hot due to the use this site gets. The replacement is an Motorola MSR2000, that was acquired from Prairie Communications. And we would like to thank Murray, VE4RA for finding this repeater for us. Please see article elsewhere in this newsletter on the install of the repeater.

VE4WRS

Once again no complaints on the patch. Is anyone still using the patch these days, or has cellular taken over. Well at least the site is ready for when you need it during an emergency.

ORLANDO PENNER
VE4JOP

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RAC Bulletins

www.rac.ca/~racnews/othernotices/racbullemail.htm

RAC Bulletin 01-081E

CARAB 17 Meeting in Ottawa

The semi-annual fall meeting of the Canadian Amateur Radio Advisory Board (CARAB) took place in Ottawa on November 13, 2001. It was attended by representatives from RAC and Industry Canada.

The following were some of the highlights of the meeting:

☞ An Industry Canada document pertaining to the examination of disabled candidates will be ready for incorporation into an RIC by January 31, 2002. This document, based on a proposal from RAC, will provide guidance to medical doctors when asked to justify an exemption for disabled candidates for the Amateur Radio examination process.

☞ A list of Accredited Examiners has been provided by Industry Canada and is now available on the RAC web site. The list is sorted by both city and name.

☞ RAC again raised concern over the continuing errors and printing problems associated with Industry Canada's amateur radio examination generator software. Industry Canada is looking into the problems and hopes to rectify the situation shortly.

☞ RAC and Industry Canada entered into discussions regarding the development and maintenance of the Amateur Question Banks (RIC 7 and RIC 8) and the examination generator software. It is hoped that RAC may be able to play a viable role in both programs.

☞ Industry Canada provided a follow up report on the proposed 'Prudent Avoidance Policy' in the City of Toronto. Health Canada's Safety Code 6 provides guidelines for Radiofrequency Fields Safety. There is a need to establish protocols to provide a model for municipalities to utilize.

Industry Canada representatives reiterated that IC is prepared to discuss and take action on documented cases of flagrant disregard for regulations. The amateur community must demonstrate to the local Industry Canada offices that such action is necessary, however. For further information visit: <http://www.rac.ca/faqgovt4.htm>

☞ Industry Canada presented a status report on new reciprocal operating agreements. A Canadian proposal is being considered by the Thai government. Hong Kong has also entered into discussions and is awaiting a response from Canada. Several other countries have shown little interest in setting up reciprocal operating agreements with Canada at this time. Unless policies change, nothing further can be done.

☞ Discussion took place concerning the CARAB terms of reference and participation. Industry Canada emphasized

the importance of having a strong national representative voice for all amateur radio operators in Canada. Industry Canada indicated that it would be open to modification of the terms of reference of CARAB if the current provisions were inadequate for RAC's needs.

Complete details of the meeting will be provided at a later date in the CARAB 17 Minutes and posted on the Industry Canada website at

<http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/SSG/sf01778e.html>

RAC Bulletin 01-83E

RAC Executive for 2002-2003

On Sunday, November 25, 2001, the RAC Nomination Committee met by teleconference under the direction of Chair Robert Kirkpatrick VE9VAR, to elect the Executive officers for the 2002-2003 term. The results of the elections follow:

President:	William Gillis	VE1WG
1st Vice President:	Joe MacPherson	VE1CH
V/P Regulatory Affairs:	James Dean	VE3IQ
V/P Gov't /International Affairs:	Kenneth Pulfer	VE3PU
Vice President Industrial Liaison:	Don Rowed	VE3KII
Vice President Field Services:	Pierre Mainville	VA3PM
Treasurer:	Bill Rothwell	VE3FGW
Secretary:	Dawn MacKay	VE1MAK

The RAC Board of Directors extends sincere thanks to the outgoing Executive members for their dedication to and participation in the organization during their time in office. The newly-elected Executive will assume their positions on January 1, 2002.

Dawn S. MacKay VE1MAK
Corporate Secretary
Radio Amateurs of Canada

Manitoba ARES CANWARN Program 2001 **By Jeff, VE4MBQ**

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There WILL NOT generally be an amateur net in operation, so phone your report in via the number you received at Spotter Training. The PUBLIC number is 1-800-239-0484



Coverage to the East
Extracted from the Dryden ARC page

- Dryden - VE3DRY 147.240+ linked
- Ignace - VA3IGN 147.180+ soon linked
- Sioux Lookout- VE3YXL 146.850- linked
- Red Lake- VE3RLD 147.000+
- Upsala- VE3TBB 145.470- linked to Thunder Bay
- BearPaw- VA3BPL 145.250-
- Fort Frances- VE3RLC 146.820- linked
- BlackHawk- VE3RBK 147.060+ linked
- Sioux Narrows- VA3SXN 145.170- linked
- Kenora- VE3LWR 147.030- linked

Editors Comments
By Derek, VE4HAY

What a busy year this has been. For someone who has retired from the executive of the MRS, I seem to be very busy with MRS functions. From preparing this newsletter to the helping at the various sites when they go down, to driving across the province for meetings and functions, whatever I can do to help out. Not that I am complaining, I'm not. I do this because I like the hobby, I like the friends I have made in the hobby, and yes the warm and fuzzy feeling of volunteering when needed. So each year end I look back at what I have done for the year, and a smile starts to come over me. I could have done more, but, hey I need to leave something for you guys (and gals) to do.

Local Access 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
Weekdays 9:00am	Seniors Morning Net	147.390 MHz
Thursday 9:00pm	MRS Net	147.390 MHz
Sunday 1:00pm	MRS Net	147.390 MHz

Everyone likes to use the repeaters. The linking allows for keeping in touch locally and across the province. The audio quality is close to that of the telephone system, that is providing, you are not using a handheld at the fringe of its range limit. If you were to step back and think about, the system, even with its flaws and drop outs every once in a while, is still pretty dam good. Now consider that it is held together by volunteers who must find the time among their busy private lives and family, the system is excellent. Just remember that this is a hobby. And if you have the time, why not get involved, volunteer next time a repeater goes down, if only to drive to Milner Ridge to Portage. 73 to all.

Application for Membership

Attn. MRS Membership Chairperson
C/O Winnipeg Seniors Citizens Radio Club
598 St.. Mary's Road
Winnipeg, MB R2M3L5

Name: _____ Call Sign _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Prov: __ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

\$25.00 Members - (New Members see fee schedule)

\$10.00 Addn'l Family Member residing at the same residence As the initial member.



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