



President's Message and Report

WI - ARCS:

And the DTV saga continues...

I took my Apex-Digital DTV tuner over to Keith's, VE2MTL QTH and we connected it to his old Wineguard TV antenna and we logged in 15 DTV virtual channels. That just confirmed that my Radio Shack high gain TV antenna had a problem. Keith popped over to my QTH the next day and climbed my tower to confirm that, indeed, one side of the twin-lead connection to the driven elements had fallen off. I got the pics (from the ground) to prove it with my 8x optical, 10x digital zoom camera. Fortunately it was a sunny day which gave good contrast and short recording time as I did not have my tripod. As I noted in the February bulletin, I shall dig a smaller antenna and preamp out of my junk pile in my basement as a temporary solution. As I mentioned in the last bulletin the Apex tuner has an RJ11 (not RJ45) jack on the back of the box for a 'smart antenna'. This interface is described in the EIA/CEA-909 standard which goes for around \$70 USD. Further searching came up with a crossed-dipole TV antenna DTA-5000 (by DX Antenna Co.) which follows the CEA-909 standard. Basically the DTA-5000 has a preamp and processor in the head which receives the channel request from the DTV tuner (up the coax) and proceeds to tune the dipoles and phase the array for optimum signal from that channel. The quality of service (QoS) signal can be derived from the signal strength and/or the Bit Error Rate (BER). This is what drives the search for the channel. I rather suspect the pilot carrier signal strength is the item used. At our HF lab at McGill my students and I were looking at the spectrum of analog TV channel 17 (Radio Québec) and there on the scan were channels 19 and 20, two DTV spectra. Indeed, there was a pilot carrier at 310 kHz in from the lower edge of the channel slot assignments.

February 2009 meeting:



Bob, VE2AXO receiving his well deserved diploma

Congratulations to Bob, VE2AXO who received the DXCC Award for RTTY from the ARRL. A formal presentation. *Cont'd page 4*

What's Inside

Message from the President

From the Editor's Key

RAC's New President

Global Simulated Test

What Happened...

Fressenden Radio Day

West Island Amateur Radio Club

Founded in 1972

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WIARC is you, our club members and:

President: Kenneth Fraser, VE2KLF

Vice-president: Bob Loranger, VE2AXO

Treasurer: Andy Foot, VE2DNN

Secretary: Keith Glashan, VE2MTL

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Newsletter Editor: Morrie Portnoff, VE2BWS

(Articles and your comments are always welcomed, please submit them before the first Monday of the month for publication in that month's edition to the editor's attention, chelsea13313@yahoo.ca)

Website: <http://shell.pubnix.net/~wiarc>
(Webmaster: Wayne Hodgins, ve2wrh@rac.ca)

Repeaters: VE2RWI VHF - 146.910 MHz (-)
VE2RWI UHF - 443.050 MHz (+)

(141.3 Hz CTCSS tone transmitted by both repeaters).

Monthly Meetings: Meetings are held the 3rd Monday of every month, except July at: Lakeside Heights Baptist Church, 275 Braebrook, Pointe-Claire (West Island part of Montreal). Visitors are welcomed!

UPCOMING MEETING

March 16, 2009

This month's topic

Pot Luck

From the Editor's Key

Good day my fellow WIARCians...

Well another month comith and goith which brings another edition of the WIARC Bulletin. With spring in the air some comes the hamfest season. Vern, VE2QQ has informed us that the Laval Hamfest has been cancelled. Which leaves the MARC one fast approaching. Hmm perhaps this is rumour that Vern is spreading...

Last month's WIARC meeting could have been called the Bob VE2AXO evening, with Bob receiving a well earned certificate and then entertaining us with a talk on a "Lunchtime DX'pedition". Thanks Bob!

73, Morrie Portnoff VE2BWS

Radio Amateurs of Canada has a new President

At the February 24th, 2009 Radio Amateurs of Canada Board teleconference meeting, President Dave Goodwin, VE3AAQ/VO1AU, announced that he was resigning his position effective immediately. Dave indicated that his decision was motivated by his inability to devote enough time to RAC affairs because of a recent increase in personal and professional responsibilities.

Dave became RAC President on Jan 1st, 2008 at the end of President Earle Smith's tenure. All attending the teleconference thanked Dave for the time he could devote to RAC's affairs both as a Director and then as President.

At the same teleconference meeting, the RAC Board elected Bob Cooke, VE3BDB, to be the RAC President until the end of the current term on Dec 31, 2009.

Bob has a long history of working with RAC. His involvement started in the early 1990s as an Assistant Director and he was elected and served as RAC Ontario South Director from November 2001 to January 2005. He was then elected by the RAC Board as Vice president for Field Services, serving from January 2006 to February 2009 when he resigned to accept the appointment as President.

*Daniel A. Lamoureux, VE2KA,
Vice President for International Affairs
Radio Amateurs of Canada*

Global Simulated Emergency Test (GlobalSET)

The date for this event, sponsored by IARU Region 1, has been altered to coincide with World Amateur Radio Day on April 18th. The theme for the day of "Amateur Radio: Your Resource in Disaster and Emergency Communication" is an ideal opportunity to showcase the work of emergency communications groups around the world.

The timing of the event remains at 1100-1500 UTC but in a change for this and future events, the focus will be on generating and relaying messages in a common format across country borders rather than the information gathering about capabilities which has taken place in the past.

More information will be posted on www.iaru-r1.org and www.raynet-hf.net as it becomes available.

Susan Cooke, VE3SUH, Acting Vice President Field Services, Radio Amateurs of Canada

What Happened

Minutes of the February WIARC Meeting

by Keith Glashan, VE2MTL

The meeting began at 19:48. Ken VE2KLF presides and welcomes all 24 attendees. The details of the Monday February 16, 2009 meeting are as follows.

1. DTV: Ken VE2KLF opened the evening with an update on Digital Television, DTV, which will come into effect tomorrow night on certain American channels. He explained the various converter boxes which are just now reaching the Canadian market. This spurred discussion from the floor about the experiences of several members.

2. Covey Hill AGM: Ken VE2KLF and Andy VE2DNN reported that they had recently attended the Covey Hill AGM. It was held at the Hemingford Legion. They said that a good time was held by all.

3. Canadian Ski Marathon: It seems that there were not many members who attended the CSM which took place on the week-end of Feb. 7th and 8th. This year the event ran from Lachute to Buckingham. Vern VE2QQ said that it seemed that communications were rather overwhelmed. The result was that they were not quite up to their usual high standards.

4. Century Award VE2AXO: Ken VE2KLF made a presentation to Bob VE2AXO. Bob received the ARRL DXCC Century Club Award for RTTY. Bob had completed the required number of contacts and applied to ARRL for this recognition. To qualify, an amateur must show that he has confirmed contacts using RTTY with other amateurs from 100 different countries. Congratulations, Bob on this personal milestone.

5. Financial Report: Andy VE2DNN presented his completed financial report for 2008. Final year-end details needed to be added and he was able to present

the finals tonight.

6. From Vern VE2QQ: Vern VE2QQ gave a quick run down on the recent birthday party held for Don Dashney VE3RM. At the same time he mentioned that the next MARC meeting will be held Feb. 25th. Thanks, Vern.

7. Survey: Ken VE2KLF introduced a survey form for the members to fill in. These were handed out and most were returned by the end of the evening. The objective is to find out what kind of radio activities are of interest to our members. Then we may be able to focus on these areas when planning events or topics for speakers at club meetings.

8. Morrie Editor: Morrie VE2BWS explained that it is becoming more difficult to find the time to put the monthly WIARC bulletin together. He explained that it is not a simple 'cut and paste' operation. Although he enjoys it, he says that to do a first class job of editing, he needs submissions well in advance of the publishing date. Sometimes materials for publication did not arrive early enough and Morrie had to resort to a simpler format for our newsletter. We are taking steps to resolve the timing difficulties. I know that everyone recognizes that the high quality of our bulletin is due to Morrie's skills, talents, and labours. The bulletin of the past jumped from a straight forward Word document to the professional publication that you have been enjoying in recent years. Morrie said that although he would try his best to carry out these duties, he is inviting anyone else who would like to help out to step forward. Why not give it a try. I'm sure Morrie would help you with the software, etc. Perhaps the word co-editor or assistant editor could be used. Think about it. It's your Club and your bulletin.

9. Something Pun'y: No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.

After the break, Bob VE2AXO gave a presentation on what was termed a Lunch time DX'pedition. Bob had several slides of XE1KK/XF1 and his experiences. He name is Ramon Santoyo and he operated QRP producing 5 watts from a Yaesu FT-817ND rig with a 7AH 12 volt battery. His event took place Dec. 31 2008 and Jan. 2nd 2009. Bob showed him sitting on a beautiful beach on IOTA island NA-124 in Baja California. He used a small Opek HVT-400 vertical on 20 meters stuck in the sand but a few feet from the water. The whole point of this exercise is whether you can make enough contacts to make it worthwhile. Well, it seems that he proved that it was indeed possible and rewarding. Ramon made 24 QSO's in one location and 100 on a second island. He received many 'Thank-you's' for making those IOTA islands available. If you were unable to attend the meeting, you can Google 'Ramon Santoyo XE1KK lunch time' and it will turn up the PDF of his event. Thanks Bob, for a reminder of the wonderful world of Radio during the warmest days of summer. Something we all appreciate in February.

After a month off, Ken VE2KLF has begun another winning streak. He won the 50/50 draw, and again donated his winnings to the Club. Once again, thanks Ken.

As usual Ken VE2KLF had a number of magazines free for the taking.

The meeting adjourned at 21:51 EST. See you in March.

73 de Keith VE2MTL



Bob, VE2AXO talks about the "Lunch Time DX"pedition.

present. A copy of that form is attached to this bulletin for those who were not at that meeting and would like to contribute their interests and comments. Please make sure that our VP, Bob, VE2AXO receives them either at the next meeting or by mail to the club's mailbox.

Your membership dues for 2009 are now due ... as they say. Please make sure you fill in the membership form and obtain a signed receipt when submitting your dues to the TREASURER. The forms should be available at the meetings and are on the club's WEB site (shell.pubnix.net/~wiarc). Online submission of the forms has been turned OFF. Again, filled hardcopy MUST be given to the TREASURER, VE2DNN, Andy.

C U on Mar 16th ...

de .ken. VE2KLF

Fessenden Radio Day - Sunday, June 14, 2009

Location: The Brome County Historical Society Museum, 130 Lakeside Sreet, Knowlton (Lac Brome), QC J0E 1V0

<http://ville.lac-brome.qc.ca/musee.php?lang=en>

Time: 11:00 to 15:00 EDT (15:00Z-19:00Z)

Other: The museum exhibits are open from 11 AM to 4:30 PM, out on the same Sunday, the annual fundraising Spring Antique Flea Market will be held outside on the museum grounds. Many Vendors set up their tables and tents by sunrise, but the grounds are huge and lots of space for tables. A canteen will provide visitors with coffee, soft drinks, sandwiches etc. all day and many restaurants are located within a walking distance.

Operating frequencies: 15M, 21250 in SSB / 20M, 14175 / 40M, 7075 / 80M, 3775

CW frequencies 25 khz up from the band edge... More information to follow

Cont'd from page 1

entation was made at the meeting. A survey form was presented to all present as mentioned below and the responses were gathered for further guidance and action. Morrie, VE2BWS our editor mentioned that he was having difficulty getting the full bulletin out on time due to workload and the delays in article submissions. Since I am one of the culprits, the executive have taken steps to get the articles out in a more timely fashion (I am being flogged with wet noodles). Andy, VE2DNN presented the final financial summary for the 2008 year.

March 2009 meeting:

Since this message for the bulletin is going out early to keep our editor happy, a speaker or event has not been set up as of this writing. Should none materialize before the meeting, we will have a good rag chew on topics of interest to those present. Then you can turn GREEN on the following day!

Reminders:

Survey forms to gather members interests (in amateur radio) for possible upcoming events in our future meetings were filled out at or last meeting by those