



WEST ISLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB – BULLETIN

April 2009 Edition

President's Message and Report

WI - ARCS:

March 2009 meeting:

First let me apologize for the church door key fiasco. However that was not of our doing and, after calling the three numbers we had for the church with no answers, we called one back and was told that the church janitor had the answer. It seems the locks were changed three days before our March meeting without informing the renters! The janitor arrived around 20:15, provided a new key and our meeting was underway around 20:45 for those who did not jump ship.

As the 2008 Field Day postings finally appeared in TCA (which noted that WIARC was first in Canada for the 1A category), we had a short discussion on that event and preparations for 2009. Gilles, VE2TZT has suggested that we try the 2A category this time around running CW and SSB simultaneously. Since this is the most common category, achieving last year's performance will be a challenge, but interesting for all on site.

I gave a short rundown on some of my DTV experiences and associated "smart antenna" systems. I also brought along some pictures of my broken (@X%\$#) Radio-Shack log periodic TV antenna. I have another one lying around which I intend to cut off the UHF corner reflector, add a pre-amp and stick the assembly partway up my tower for further tests. Almost all of the DTV channels are located on the channel 14 to 52 UHF slots (except for ABC – Ch 22 on 13) in our area and in a SSE direction. My 2 m double J is also on the tower, but so far the TV pre-amp has survived the 2 m/70 cm (and harmonics) Tx power of 5W! This could definitely be a problem with a "smart antenna" on the same tower... especially with 100W from the HF rig. I am waiting for the warmer weather and some free time!

April 2009 meeting:

Rumor has it that there will be some technical marvel discussed at this meeting. Right now I must post this to our bulletin editor. Please standby for further Flash bulletins.

Reminders:

Get those Show and Tell efforts underway! The showing is planned for the May meeting!

The Lester B Pearson School Board's Science and Technology Days are May 27 and 28 at the St. Lazare Airfield (Cooper's). As WIARC has signed on again to participate, we are looking for volunteers and suggestions for setups. There will be a DVD presentation of the 2008 Sci & Tech days at the May meeting.

The 2009 Field Day will happen on June 27 and 28th. Volunteers and Ops are needed to share the full 24+ hour run. The venue will probably be the Morgan Arboretum again, but this has to be confirmed.

Your membership dues for 2009 are now due. 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 Apr 20th ...

de .ken. VE2KLF

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West Island Amateur Radio Club

Founded in 1972

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WIARC is you, our club members and:

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(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

April 20, 2009

This month's topic

Gilles, VE2TZZ will enlighten us on his new PSK31 system

From the Editor's Key

Good day my fellow WIARCians...

Well firstly let me wish you all a belated Happy Passover and Easter to all my WIARCian friends. I believe in last months Bulletin I negeted to congratulate us and specifivcally Gilles, VE2TZZ on our 1st place finish in last years Field Day for the 1A catagory. Way to go... of course with finishing first there is only way to go... so this year we have to try that much harder to maintain our ranking. We have had a number of new hams get their licenses in the past year and I invite them to participate in the Field Day as it is a great way to get on the air and learn from the masters, plus it is a lot of fun!

73, Morrie Portnoff VE2BWS

Joe Ship, VE2JS... Silent Key

It is with sadness that I must report the passing of Joe Ship, VE2JS. Many will remember Joe for having been the owner of the VE2RJS UHF repeater in Montreal and for being active on the local repeaters.

Our thoughts and praryers are with Joe's family and many friends.

Here is the announcement published today in the Montreal Gazette:

"SHIP, Joseph (Joe) After a long and courageous battle, on Tuesday, April 7, 2009. Best friend and loving husband of Hattie for fifty-eight years. Proud and devoted father of Fern and Debby. Brother of Moe (Isabel). He will be sadly missed by his family and friends. Heartfelt thanks to Dr. April Shamy and Dr. David Hornstein for their exceptional care and compassion, as well as the staff of 7NW, ICU and the 7th and 8th floor Oncology at the Jewish General Hospital. Funeral service from Paperman & Sons, 3888 Jean Talon St. W., on Sunday, April 12 at 10 a.m. Burial at the Beit Abraham Congregation Section, Kehal Israel Cemetery, D.D.O. Shiva on Thursday, April 16 and Friday, April 17, at 5637 Melling Ave., C.S.L. Contributions in his memory may be made to the "Joe Ship Memorial Fund" c/o the Jewish General Hospital Foundation."



Ken VE2KLF chatting with Henry VA3OV at the March meeting

Photo by: Keith VE2MTL

What Happened Minutes of the March WIARC Meeting

by Keith Glashan, VE2MTL

The meeting began at 20:49. Yes, we set a new record for all time late starting of a WIARC meeting. It seems that the Church changed the lock on the front door on Friday the 13th (go figure) and did not advise us nor supply Ken with a new key. After 4 phone calls, we were finally able to raise someone, who new someone, who had a key. She arrived and allowed 13 survivors to enter. There had been another half dozen others who had waited for quite a while before succumbing to the cold. Once we thawed out, Ken VE2KLF presided and officially welcomed 13 attendees. Our apologies to everyone who attended, or at least tried to attend the meeting. We hope they won't change the lock next month. I should note, however, that we had a visitor this evening. Henry VA3OV, drove from Hawkesbury to attend our meeting tonight. Actually, Henry is a member of the Club and has been for many years. He used to live in the West Island and had a VE2 call. Many of you would have heard him on the Sunday evening net recently. He puts out a great signal from the top of his 70 foot tower. Thanks for making the effort to visit us. It was nice to see you, Henry. The details of the Monday March 16, 2009 meeting are as follows.

1. Field Day: The March/April issue of TCA had our club listed as the top point getter in Canada for last year's Field Day result in the 1A category. This spawned a short review of last year's event.

2. DTV: Ken VE2KLF showed off his new Acer EEE computer's stuff with some slides on the latest facts on Digital Television (DTV) frequencies and converter boxes. Ken and Keith VE2MTL have recently acquired Apex converters and are so far quite pleased with them. Ken discovered that the source of his

marginal performance was a broken connection in the UHF section of his antenna. He had pics of the problem for all to see. Nevertheless, he has been able to get a couple of stations. However, Keith is currently receiving 15 different signals at his QTH in Kirkland. This includes the sub-channels. There are up to 6 sub-channels possible with each channel. For example, you should be able to get 33-1, 33-2, 33-3, and 33-4 in the West Island area. Ken had other interesting slides on the 'Smart Antenna'. This antenna may be most useful for the new DTV. It uses 2 dipoles crossed at 90 degrees. With the aid of the logic circuits, which comes with it, it electronically rotates the antenna for best reception. No moving parts. Clever!

3. Sunday PM Net: Malcolm VE2DDZ, commented on the recent excellent response to the Sunday Night WIARC net. He said that he had 19 'check-ins' on Sunday March 15th. Way to go gang. Come one, come all. It's your net. Let's keep it up.

4. ARES: James VE2KHC, talked about recent developments with respect to ARES. It seems that there are some new training courses that are now required if you want to participate in an emergency operation. These courses are associated with CSST and without them, there are insurance and liability concerns. James is hoping to supply the names of some Hams and negotiate the matter of training sessions. We hope James will be able to keep us up-to-date on all of this.

5. Field Day 2009: There was an open discussion about this year's Field Day. Still 3 months away, but yet there was a lot of ideas concerning our participation this year. Several questions were posed concerning things such as the QTH for the event. Morgan Arboretum again?

Will we be operation as 1A or 2A this year? One for CW and one for voice? Tents or trailer? Operators? Let's make it happen. June 27 and 28 this year. More to discuss next month.

6. Something Pun'y: A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.

Because we had such a late start tonight, it was already around 10 PM by the time we finished our coffee break. No speaker tonight. Time enough only for the 50/50 draw.

This month, the winner of the 50/50 draw was Joe VE2JQE.

This month Andy VE2DNN supplied a number of magazines free for the taking. Thanks, Andy.

The meeting adjourned at 22:06 EDT. See you in April.

73 de Keith VE2MTL

Memorandum of Understanding - RAC and Canadian Red Cross Society

March 31, 2009

A renewed Memorandum of Understanding has now been signed-between RAC and the Canadian Red Cross Society. All Amateursinvolved with the Amateur Radio Emergency Service should makethemselves aware of the content of this document, as it spells out certain obligations by ARES volunteers and by the Red Cross. English and French versions may be seen online at <http://www.rac.ca/fieldorg/download.htm>.

RAC Bulletin

How Many Radios are to Many?



Emergency Frequencies Declared for Italian Earthquake

April 6, 2009

An earthquake that registered between 5.8 and 6.3 magnitude struck L'Aquila, the capital of Italy's Abruzzo region, about 104 km northeast of Rome, early Monday morning. News reports say the quake has killed more than 90 people, with at least 50,000 left homeless. According to cluster spots, 7045 KHz and 3640 kHz are being used as emergency frequencies, so please keep these frequencies clear.

(From the ARRL web site)

DXPedition to Nauri

My name is Dani, callsign EA4ATI and 9M2TI now in Malaysia.

I am preparing a dxpedition for this year to Nauru (C2) in the Pacific and I am looking for operators and funding. I have previous experience on XT2ATI, XT2TI, HP2PL, Z39A, 6W1EA, 6W1/EA4ATI, HP1/EA4ATI, HI5/EA4ATI, HI3CCP, HI3C, 3XY9B, etc.

I am still preparing the dxpedition and tentative dates will be either from 16th to 30th of May or last two weeks of June, travelling through Australia. Due to limited flights, the dxpedition will be for two weeks.

I am preparing the logistics with a friend from Nauru that I met in Malaysia during a ITU workshop last November, but we will probably stay in the Od'N Aiwo hotel, that has been the location of previous dxpedition to Nauru (C21BH, C21SX, C21XF, etc).

The composition of the team is not finished yet, we are trying to have CW, RTTY and SSB operators. C21RK (Ruben) will also be part of the team. We will also operate on 6m and 60m. It will be first operation ever on 60 m from C2.

We have created a website: <http://c21ti.madrone.net/index.php?newlang=english>, but it is being updated by our webmaster.

The estimated budget for the dxpedition is 14,500 USD.

A study of propagation with a proposed bands plan for the dxpedition will be posted of the web. This study will be done by the Technical University of Malaysia.

WIARC NETS

Information Net each Sunday evening on the 146.910 Club repeater starting at 8 PM running for approximately an hour. All are welcome to participate.

Also, there is a Trivia Net held each Friday evening beginning at 5 PM until 6:30 PM

I have not estimated yet the target QSO's, but anyway it won't be less than 20,000.

We have a yagui beam antenna (10-15-20), several dipole antennas, a couple of transceivers, two HF amplifiers, a satphone for data connection and we are looking for additional antennas.

Thanks a lot and any kind of support will be welcome.

All the best,

73's Dani, EA4ATI & 9M2TI