



# WEST ISLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB – BULLETIN

May 2009 Edition

## President's Message and Report

### WI ~ ARCS:

Here I sit at my brother-in-law's, VE3TWD, (Tom) typing this epistle while torrents of rain are falling all around. We just returned from the Smith Falls hamfest where I picked up another piece of junk, but it was a free-bee ... a 3.7 B 4.2 GHz slightly used down converter. Why, I do not know ... it must be curiosity at best! It looks like the 25th edition of the hamfest went quite well, but I did not come away with any of the door prizes or the 50/50 draw (an HT). :( The RAC booth was rather disappointing this year ... a small vestige of last year's. However many of the usual vendors were there ... HF Radio, Elkel, MacFarlane, Maple Leaf Communications, Durham Radio, etc. Alex, VE2VEH was selling those wireless mice which were going like hot cakes! There were a lot of high priced rigs and test equipment on the tables (I saw number of FT 101s and a beautifully refinished SP-600). On the other hand there was a real pile of junk on one table (looking for parts) that looked like it came out of a plane that crashed, burned and buried itself 10 feet into the mud. ;)

For those of you who were wondering where the Trivia net went over the past month, Wayne, VE2WRH has been in the hospital over past month. He says that he is on-the-mend and the Trivia net will be back on its Friday 17:00 B 18:30 slot.

### April 2009 meeting:

Once again Gilles, VE2TZZ put on a great show. This was a full PSK31 station which actually resulted in number of contacts at the demonstration. He was running on 40 metres with a hastily erected sloper outside in the wind (the support fiber glass pole fell over a couple times with the resultant rapid rise in SWR). There were also some problems (common mode current loops) when the video projector was turned on, but after some jiggling of wires and toroids the interference disappeared. We plan to send a copy of this bulletin to John, KX4P one of our contacts at the meeting. Thanks for the contact John. It proved to be a great live demo to those at the meeting. Bravo, Gilles for an excellent, functional and practical demonstration of the PSK31 digital mode!

### May 2009 meeting:

It is Show and Tell time! Bring your pet projects (amateur radio related, of course) and a good dose of entertainment AND humour!

### Reminders:

The club is looking for volunteers for the LBPSB Science and Technology days at the St. Lazare aerodrome: Setup May 26th and meet the students on May 27th and 28th about 08:30 B 14:00 each day.

Field Day is coming up on the 27th and 28th of June. We have reserved our place at the Morgan Arboretum again. A decision has yet to be made whether we run 1A again or 2A.

Our hamfest/auction is slated for Sept 19th at the Karnak Shriner's Hall on Sources.

C U on May 18th

*de .ken. VE2KLF*

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# West Island Amateur Radio Club

Founded in 1972

## Mailing Address

P.O. Box 884  
Pointe-Claire, Quebec H9R 4Z6

## E-mail:

ve2cwi@rac.ca

## WIARC is you, our club members and:

**President:** Kenneth Fraser, VE2KLF

**Vice-president:** Bob Loranger, VE2AXO

**Treasurer:** Andy Foot, VE2DNN

**Secretary:** Keith Glashan, VE2MTL

**Accredited Examiners:** Larry Dobby, ve2do@rac.ca  
Stuart Truba, ve2xx@rac.ca

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

May 18, 2009

This month's topic

"Show and Tell"

Bring your radio projects...

## From the Editor's Key

*Good day my fellow WIARCians...*

Spring is in the air, well at least today... tomorrow whom knows. We are now entering the prime Ham season (no Swine Flu jokes). The LBPSB Science & Technology Day is next week and Field Day is next month. Both events require your support and participation. Remember we finished FIRST last year in Field Day. Lets defend our record. Just because the Montreal Canadians can't be the Champs no reason we can't. Finally while doing your spring cleaning, collect all your radio stuff for our annual hamfest/auction.

Cheers for now.

73, Morrie Portnoff VE2BWS



Gilles VE2TZT gives his presentation on PSK31 at last month's meeting.

## Canada Day Contest July 1, 2009

This is a reminder that the 2009 edition of the Canada Day Contest will be held on July 1, 2009. For more information please download the pdf file with the rules at:

<http://www.rac.ca/service/contesting/files/2009%20Canada%20Day%20Rules%20-%20English.pdf>

RAC News Service – RAC Bulletin 2009-014E



# What Happened

## Minutes of the April WIARC Meeting

by Keith Glashan, VE2MTL

The meeting began at 19:38 (almost exactly on time). Ken VE2KLF presides and welcomes all 21 attendees. There was the usual roll call with call signs. A nice enthusiastic crowd considering that we are once again in Stanley Cup season. The details of the Monday April 20, 2009 meeting are as follows.

**1. WIARC Ads:** Keith VE2MTL reported that there were 2 newspaper announcements published about the club meeting tonight. He had sent in the necessary information to the Gazette West Island section, the Suburban, and the Chronicle. These are considered public service announcements are published free of charge. However, as such; there can be no guarantee of publication. It seems that the Chronicle was unable to print our entry this month. Keith contacted the editor of the Chronicle in case there was any problem at our end. He and the editor will watch closely next month.

**2. MARC Hamfest:** Vern VE2QQ reported on the recent Hamfest put on by MARC. He said they had about 180 admissions at the gate. He said it was very successful. There were many WIARC members in attendance, all contributing to their success.

**3. Science & Tech Day:** Ken VE2KLF reminded the group that the Science and Technology event will be held on May 27th and 28th this year with the 26th used for set-up. As in previous years, it will be held at Cooper's airfield at St. Lazare airport. Participants are reminded that you must be on the site by 9AM each day. Volunteers should mark their calendars.

**4. Sunday Net:** George VE2NGH and Malcolm VE2DDZ reported on the suc-

cesses and shortcomings of the Sunday evening net. Although it has been well attended for the last several weeks, it may need a little more structure. It was suggested that a telephone gateway be established so that SWLs or other non-hams can participate. It was decided that a separate meeting will be held to discuss these matters.

**5. Trivia Net:** It seems that the Friday 5PM Trivia net is not going too well. It has been poorly attended lately. Ken suggested that participants used to be mobile when it was held many years ago. It may have been more convenient to join in when we were all working and travelling home by car during the 5 o'clock rush. It was suggested that another day or time be considered. Again, these are matters for a separate meeting. And as usual, suggestions are always welcome. Anyone?

**6. Ares - Canwarn:** There was a round table discussion on the status of emergency services in our general region. Many members joined in with opinions and suggestions. Topics included Canwarn vs. Ares, Ontario vs. Quebec, where English courses are available, where French courses only are available, call up lists, training course requirements, and RAQI. I guess we covered everything.

**7. Something Pun'y:** A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.

After the break, Gilles VE2TZZ gave a presentation on PSK31. Gilles not only had a computer full of slides and charts, but also brought a complete 40 meter station along with him. This included a tall mast with a dipole antenna in a sloper configuration. He

projected the PSK 'Waterfall' on the big screen for all to see. PSK31 can cover a spectrum of up to 3K depending on the filter you are using in your rig. Gilles was using 7035 thru 7037 for the demo. We were able to copy stations from the USA, Brazil, Labrador, and Venezuela. We had a 'QSO' with KX4P, John, operating from Virginia. He was using a Yaesu FT-2000, with 25 watts, and a 40 meter vertical. He was pleased to hear that he was participating in our club meeting tonight, and passed along his good wishes. Then Gilles gave a talk on the origin of PSK31. He explained that it stands for Phase Shift Keying at 31.25 bits per second. He also covered some of the technical aspects and the coding structure of the characters. He explained the set up of the audio hardware, the radio, and the software that he uses. Gilles and our contact this evening were both using DigiPan software. He talked about the pros and cons of PSK31 vs. CW. As well, he compared the advantages of one over the other. Thanks Gilles, for a 'Real Radio' show tonight. It was obvious that you put a lot of effort in preparing and transporting all that equipment, not to mention the set-up at the church, and tearing down, etc. It's not often that we get to actually make a contact during one of our meetings. Well done!

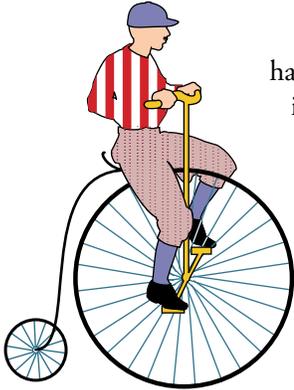
This month, the winner of the 50/50 draw was George VE2NGH. George donated his winnings to the Club. Thanks George.

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

The meeting adjourned at 22:20 EDT. See you in May.

73 de Keith VE2MTL

# Rideau Lakes Cycle Tour 2009 - Radio Support Ops Needed - June 6-7, 2009



Looking for volunteer radio operators to assist in providing radio support for this event. The RLCT has been run annually for over 25 years by the Ottawa Bicycle Club. It involves over 2000 cyclists, riding from Carleton University to Queens University and back in one weekend, a one way distance of 177 km! Amateur radio teams from Ottawa, and the Lanark and Frontenac ARES groups have been providing support along the entire route providing vital linkages between various check-points, support vehicles, and to engage emergency services to deal with accidents and incidents, of which there are, unfortunately, several every year.

Operators will be deployed from Carleton University west to Blacks Corners, south of Carleton Place. All operations are done using 2 metres. Experience is not necessary.

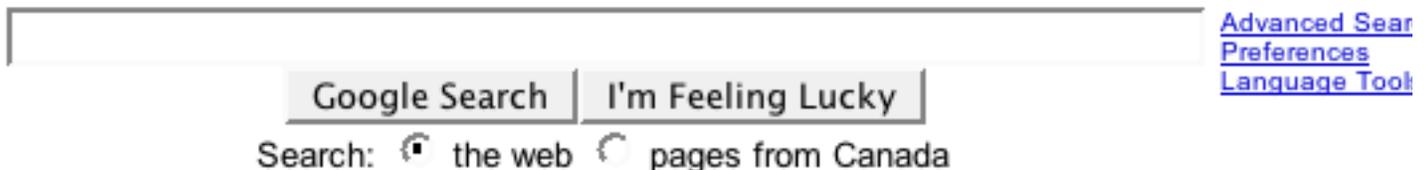
Newcomers are welcome. Anyone interested, please contact Gordon Mein, VE3FRB at: [ve3frb@rac.ca](mailto:ve3frb@rac.ca).

More information can be found on the Ottawa Valley Mobile

Radio Club site at: <http://www.ovmrc.on.ca>

Vernon Erle Ikeda - VE2MBS/VE2QQ  
Service des nouvelles RAC  
RAC News Service

## Google Honours Samuel F. Morse



On the anniversary of Samuel F. Morse's birthday, April 27th (born April 27, 1791), Google honoured Morse for his noteworthy contribution of the Morse Code. The above screen grab was displayed when one went to [www.google.ca](http://www.google.ca).

### 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

### HAMFEST Dates

Saturday, May 23rd – CNIB Hamfest Toronto, Ontario

Sunday, May 24th – Hamfest du Québec 2009 – Sorel-Tracy, Québec

Saturday, June 6th – Central Ontario Fleamarket and Hamfest – Fergus, Ontario

Saturday, June 13th – London Vintage Radio Club Outddor Flea Market – Guelph, Ontario

Saturda,y July 11th – Ontario Hamfest 2009 – Milton, Ontario