



President's Message and Report



Gilles VE2TZT



Keith VE2XL



Charles VE2RFI



Dave VEDGC

Photos by: Morrie VE2BWS

WI ~ ARCS:

May 2009 meeting:

We had four submissions to our Show and Tell night. Gilles, VE2TZT, ticked off by some Hydro line noise near his QTH, built a 3 element measuring tape Yagi for 2 metres and, when that proved to have too broad a major lobe to give an accurate position of the noise source, he put together an 8 element Quagi for 70 cm which was able to pinpoint the source of the noise for Hydro Quebec. It turned out to be one of the high voltage 3 phase lines had broken away from its insulator on a pole and was arcing to the frame of the pole. Keith, VE2XL modified an old CB SWR/Power meter for amateur radio use and also showed a transistor tester he had constructed from a QST article. Charles, VE2RFI demonstrated his portable (backpack) adjustable dipole with balun. And our resident historian, Dave, VE2DGC brought his trusty Ford T spark coil with spark gap transmitter and short antenna. At the momentous range of about 1 to 1.5 metres an ancient coherer sprang to life by ringing a bell which, I presume, vibrated or reset the coherer. Congratulations to all Show and Tellers for some practical and historical entertainment!

LBPSB 2009 Space and Technology Days:

On May 27th and 28th your club was one of 30 to 35 partners providing an educational environment for some of the Lester B Pearson School Board's elementary school children. I would guess there were about 300 – 500 students at the St Lazare airport over the two days. They were chaperoned in groups of about 20 students. Our club had its usual spot at the South end of the large, open hangar. Andy, VE2DNN provided the HF transceiver and antennas while George, VE2NGH provided the VHF/UHF all mode transceiver with a J antenna provided by yours truly. The VHF transceiver, mostly manned by Johan, VE2SWE was connected to VE2RMP locally for the IRLP link. Thank you Cliff, VE2YU for arranging the 2 metre IRLP for the two days. When the children passing through heard that we were linked to Hollywood, CA, they wanted to talk! The GMRS/FRS radios (4) provided some fun for the students. One group on the FRS radios was observed performing the current Iced Coffee commercial from TV complete with the speech interruptions mimicking communications failure!

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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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Vice-president: Bob Loranger, VE2AXO

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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

June 15, 2009

This month's topic

"Field Day Prep"

"WIARC Hamfest Prep"

From the Editor's Key

Good day my fellow WIARCians...

The summer must be approaching as Field Day is just a few weeks away. For me this is a highlight of the year for my amateur radio activities. Two days of fun and friendship! As usual we need all your support... so come on out to the Morgan Arboretum and help in any way you can. Since this is the last Bulletin until September, don't forget about our Hamfest/Auction in September. Get your radio related stuff ready to sell and figure out what is on your "wish list". Last month Terry, VE2TQ, Malcolm VE2DDZ and myself headed off to the Sorel Hamfest. First we met up with Vern VE2QQ and Jim VE2VE and others at the local Timmies. Once there, we met up with numerous WIARC HAMS and had a great day. One of the best Hamfest I have attended due to the group presence. Thanks guys!!! Cheers for now and see you at all of our events... HAVE A GREAT & SAFE SUMMER!

73, Morrie Portnoff VE2BWS

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Our resident educator, Malcom, VE2DDZ met each group in turn and gave a short explanation of amateur radio including how to operate the FRS radios (Half-duplex) or what is the PTT for? When asked, "What is the first thing you must do to use the FRS radio?" A few amusing replies were heard: "Do not drop the unit and do not use bad language!!" The ARRL and WIARC videos playing in the background attracted little attention. However, what proved to be the main item of interest, as last year, were the Morse code stations (Keys and audio oscillators) as it is new to them AND a hands-on experience! Morrie, VE2BWS provided a nice touch in paper form with the International Morse symbols and a Certificate of Morse Code Proficiency when the students wrote and keyed their names in Morse. We had seven stations on hand this time and they were running continuously. The boys tend to be the knob twiddlers (volume and frequency were available) while the girls take on the challenge of the symbol set and have to be dragged away when the bell rings to move on to the next exhibit.

Thanks also go to Keith, VE2MTL, Ray, VA2RY and Ed, VE2EZJ for helping with the setup and the children. Gunter, VE2BHH and Sigrid were there snapping pictures of the exhibits and I shall bring his pics to the next meeting. This service to the community is always educational AND a lot of fun!

June 2009 meeting:

We shall be discussing the Field Day arrangements and filling in the operator roster along with volunteers for set up, teardown and food. Posters, brochures, event indicators, maps and general publicity have to be worked out.

We shall also need to discuss the organization of our Hamfest on September 19, which occurs BEFORE the September monthly meeting as no meetings are planned over the summer months!

Reminders:

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 been made to run 2A.

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

There will be no newsletters for July and August as those meetings have been cancelled for the summer months. The next club meeting will be on September 21, 2009.

C U on June 15th de .ken. VE2KLF

What Happened

Minutes of the May

WIARC Meeting

by Keith Glashan, VE2MTL

The meeting began at 20:01. Ken VE2KLF presides and welcomes all 20 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 Victoria Day Monday May 18, 2009 meeting are as follows.

1. Science & Tech Day: Ken VE2KLF reminded the group that the Science and Technology event is only a week away. He reminded the members about the Tuesday the 26th set-up date and the 2 day event on May 27th and 28th. Ken showed a video of last year's event. Some volunteers asked for driving directions. Ken said he would e-mail these to them. Morrie VE2BWS said that he would provide 500 CW handout sheets for the kids. Andy VE2DNN will be providing an HF rig. George VE2NGH agreed to provide a VHF rig. Malcolm VE2DDZ and Keith VE2MTL will bring a couple of sets of GMRS radios. There was a general appeal for CW keys and oscillators. These are popular with the students because of their 'hands-on' appeal. The more we have, the better. Volunteers should be at the Cooper's St. Lazare airport site by 9AM each day.

2. WIARC Ads: Again, Keith VE2MTL reported that there were Gazette and Suburban newspaper announcements published about the club meeting tonight. Again, it seems that the Chronicle was unable to print our entry. Keith tried to contact the editor of the Chronicle but did not get a reply to his phone message. Any ideas?

3. QSL for KX4P: Keith VE2MTL was reminded to send a copy of last month's bulletin to KX4P who just happened to be a participant in last month's PSK31 demonstration.

4. Hamfest Details: Vern VE2QQ requested that he receive the details of our fall Hamfest. As many of you know, the date was moved back a week to September 19th this year. The Karnak temple on Sources Blvd. was booked on the 12th, hence the postponement. Actually it all works out for the better, since there is no longer any conflict with CARP Ottawa Amateur Radio Club hamfest date.

5. Field Day 2009: Gilles VE2TZZT talked briefly about his plans to operate 2A at this year's field day event. He said that he would try to keep one station on CW and the other on Phone. It would be nice to try RTTY and PSK31 if anyone would like to help out.

6. Deerfield: Andy VE2DNN gave a quick rundown on his reaction to the Deerfield Hamfest which occurred on May 1st and 2nd. He added that he had some CW equipment for sale. Give him a call if you are interested.

7. Something Pun'y: Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.

After the break, Ken VE2KLF hosted our 'Show & Tell' event. Gilles VE2TZZT presented a 3 element VHF beam and an 8 element Quagi (2 & 6). He had built both in order to find the source of some annoying power line interference near his QTH. Incidentally, he was successful in locating a grounding problem for Hydro Quebec. What is the usual fee for diagnostic services of this nature?

Next up was Keith VE2XL who showed a meter that he built by first recycling an old CB meter, then by adding a 2nd meter to it, and finally by modifying it for amateur use. Now that's a 'Green' project for sure. As well he

showed a transistor tester that he built from some 1975 QST plans.

Third man up was Dave VA2DGC. He showed an antique Marconi receiver. As well Dave had a spark coil which he used as a transmitter. He asked that all members with 'Pace Makers' leave the room. Then he attached the battery. He pressed the button, sparks flew, radio waves waved, and the bell rang. The crown leapt to their feet and cheered uncontrollably. Congratulations Dave. Well done!

Last up was Charles, otherwise known as VE2RFI. Since Charles is relatively new to the hobby, he recognized that he would need a variety of antennas in the future to handle all the various bands. Therefore tonight he presented his small but versatile 1 to 1 balun to which he will be attaching different lengths of wire thus creating dipoles as required. Thank you Charles. Very resourceful, compact, portable, and also 'Green'.

Thanks to all those who shared their efforts with us tonight. We were impressed with the variety of the projects, and above all, we were well entertained. Remember we do 'radio' for the 'fun' of it. If you're not having fun, then it's time to move on.

Once again, this month the winner of the 50/50 draw was George VE2NGH. And again he donated his winnings to the Club. Thanks George.

This month, both Ken VE2KLF and Andy VE2DNN had a number of magazines free for the taking. Thanks fellows.

The meeting adjourned at 21:57 EDT. See you in June.

73 de Keith VE2MTL

Scenes of LBPSB Science & Tecnology Day 2009

Once again we had a great presence at the LBPSB's Science and Technology Day. As reported to me by Andy VE2DNN the students had a great time. We had a table full of practice oscillators which were very popular with students, as they keyed in their names and then filled them in the "Official WIARC Morse Code Certificate". We even made a contact via HF with Dave G10AQD in Ireland, whom Andy reported was a real source of inspiration for the students. Well done guys!

Morrie VE2BWS

West Island Amateur Radio Club (WIARC)
Morse Code

Morse Code was developed by Samuel F.B. Morse more than 160 years ago. Since then it has been used by amateur radio operators (also commonly known as HAMs) as a way of communicating. An example of Morse Code is:

H e l l o

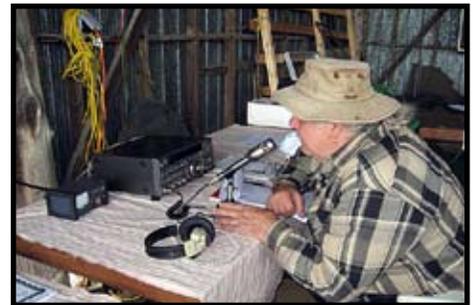
The Morse Code Urban Legend
 The Morse Code "SOS" ... means "Save our Souls" or "Save our Ship". In fact "SOS" does not mean anything. It was developed as an international distress signal because it is easy to send and understand during poor and stressful conditions such as a storm or sinking ship. Now you know...

Fullstop
Comma
Query

Diploma in Morse Code
 Congratulations to _____
 (Print your name)

on the successful participation during the Lester B. Pearson School Board's Science and Technology Day
 by the
 West Island Amateur Radio Club (WIARC)
<http://shell.pubsnet.net/~wiarc/>
K. Traver
 K1RAN VE2DF
 WIARC President
 Date _____

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Photos by: Andy VE2DNN and others...

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

Saturday July 11th – Ontario Hamfest 2009 – Milton, Ontario