



President's Message and Report

WI ~ ARCS:

Well the scent of snow is in the air... so much for global warming. A week ago I flushed the water out of the cottage and put in the antifreeze for its winter snooze. This weekend was the oil change and spruce up of the local snow blower... to hell with the leaves for this round as mother nature will do her thing. Next week it is the generator's turn if nothing else, like snow, gets in the way! Oh, did I mention the oral exam period at work. There are 63 project and thesis groups this term (150 or so student orals). So much for amateur radio.

October 2009 meeting:

A discussion started on a previous Sunday Info Net on the issue of cell phone usage by the driver of a vehicle while mobile continued on the floor of our meeting with some new points contributed and old ones rehashed. This was in the context of new legislation governing this operation especially with regards to mobile amateur radio operators. Taking a look at the increasing complexity of new car dashboards and other added features such as GPS a driver has to consider very carefully the task at hand --- driving the vehicle! Inevitably multitasking IS the bottom line whether it is hands-free or not. Give the wheel to the XYL and you can be the co-pilot! The only exception to this "rule" should be those commissioned to operate under emergency conditions ... police, fire, ambulances, military AND amateurs under call up emergencies. Please note that this is the writer's opinion speaking from experiences and some recent studies on multitasking. Yes some are better at it than others, but it is still a driver distraction. My twenty five cents...



Photo by: Keith VE2MTL

restricted frequency range of .005 – 180 MHz. Next to Spectrum analyzers this is a very useful device to observe the impedances and transmissions of various amateur radio gear. In engineering terms the device measures the scattering parameters of any two port network connected to it. One does not really need to know the concepts of scattering parameters as the software will translate the measured S parameters into more familiar things such as VSWR, reflection coefficients, return loss, forward gain/loss, reverse transmission (gain/loss) over the frequency range(s) of interest. The output traces are actually a series of discrete sampled points of the frequency range(s) of interest and thus can be stored in local memory for future processing, e.g., comparing the old data to a new set. Gilles demonstrated some of the capabili-

For the remainder of the meeting our surprise speaker, Gilles, VE2TZT presented a demonstration of his latest toy... a Vector Network Analyzer from Array Solutions, model 2180. The term vector is important as it means the device is able to measure the magnitude AND phase of a device under test. A SWR meter measures magnitude only by definition. Having used the \$35 – 50 K such machines at work, it is a definite asset to the amateur radio work bench although at the \$1 – 2 K range for the 2180 it has a somewhat

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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

Nov. 16, 2009

This month's topic

"Open
Discussion"

From the Editor's Key

Good day my fellow WIARCians...

As I put together this Bulletin I am having mixed feelings... I have informed the Executive of our club that effective January I will no longer be doing the Bulletin. After many years of doing this with great pleasure, the time has come to pass the torch or rather the keyboard. My decision does not reflect on any negative issues with the club or its executive. It is just time for a break. I will continue to be active in club events as I have been in the past. So it is time for some other member to take on the challenge of doing this. It is not hard, in fact I would be glad to come over to your computer and help set you up. Thanks for everyone's support over the past years.

73, Morrie Portnoff VE2BWS

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ties of this instrument by looking at some filters (transmission) and a 2 m, 3 element "tape" Yagi antenna terminal impedance. Of course, the antenna IS coupled to its environment (depending on distance) and those variations did show up (Gilles was part of the antenna. Normally these tests would be carried out in an anechoic chamber [mucho \$\$\$]), but he was able to show tuning of the antenna by adjusting the hairpin matching impedance. Please note that these instruments come with a precision 50 Ohm load, short and open circuits for calibration. This is required in any setup procedure to establish phase reference and correct for errors inherent in the instrument's measurement process. We look forward to higher frequency capability and other improvements to these amateur radio VNAs. I, for one, cannot afford the \$35 - 100 K layout (unless my Loto ship comes in) and therefore these instruments such as the 2180 are an affordable and important breakthrough for the workbench. Thank you Gilles for a demo well done!

Feedback from Wayne, VE2WRH tells us that the new time for the Trivia Net has been successful. Drop in for some fun ...19:00 - 20:00 local on Tuesdays, our repeater, 146.910- MHz.

November 2009 meeting:

Please join us and our two satellite 'communicateers', George, VE2NGH and Malcom, VE2DDZ, as they describe their 2 m/70 cm tracking station they used at our Field Day at the end of June 2009. They earned us points for the 5 or more satellite link ups with this portable station. Learn how to track and acquire the satellites and what constitutes a typical portable tracking base station. (EDITOR'S NOTE: This has been rescheduled for a future date to be announced.)

Reminders:

The new time for the club's Trivia Net is Tuesdays at 19:00-20:00 local on VE2RWI, 146.910- MHz. Net control is Wayne, VE2WRH.

Our Christmas party will be held on Wednesday, 2009-DEC-02 at Casa Grec on Gouin.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on **December 14th, 2009**. At this meeting any annual reports will be received and election of the executive for 2010 will be held. Please note that this is the **SECOND** Monday of the month.

*C U on November 16th...
de .ken. VE2KLF*

What Happened

Minutes of the October WIARC Meeting

by Keith Glashan, VE2MTL

The meeting began at 19:52. Ken VE2KLF presides and welcomes the 17 attendees. There was the usual roll call with call signs. The details of the Monday October 19, 2009 meeting are as follows.

1. First Timers: Doug Yeudall VE2IDY from Beaconsfield attended the meeting for the first time. Doug was licensed a couple of years ago, having taken the Francois VE2AAY course. I hope we start seeing him on a regular basis. As well, we had a visitor who is currently taking the "On-Line" radio course with Francois. His name is Georges Nydam a resident of Pointe-Claire. Good luck with the course, George. As a side note, all students taking the course are automatically members of the club, so it would be nice if we could see all of them at every meeting.

2. Nominating Committee: Ken VE2KLF asked for a volunteer to chair the nominating committee for the AGM elections coming up in December. For some reason, perhaps because the attendance was low this evening, there were no immediate takers. I am sure that the position will be filled shortly. Although there is usually very little work associated with this function, it is nevertheless an important and necessary one. This position must be filled in order to be in compliance with the legalities associated with operating our organization.

3. Covey Hill: Andy VE2DNN reported on the status of the Covey Hill repeater.

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 Tuesday evening beginning at 7 PM until 8:00 PM

The owner of the repeater site tragically passed away recently. He was Paul Valois N1ELL who was a USA resident. There are other commercial activities associated with the site. All this is mixed up with some considerable complications associated with the succession. Apparently the members of the Covey Hill Club are not too worried for the moment. It was also noted that their membership has been declining. The repeater continues to run.

4. Christmas Dinner: The date and time for our annual Christmas dinner was announced. This year it will be held on Wednesday December 2nd at 7PM. The venue will be the same as last year. It is Casa Greque, located at 13081 Gouin Blvd. West, in Pierrefonds. They have a varied menu to suit any taste. Don't forget that you can bring your own wine or beer. Hope to see you and your XYL too.

5. Trivia Net: Since the trivia has been suffering from a lack of attendees, it was felt that perhaps a different day of the week might help. Wayne has been running it on Fridays at 5PM. He has agreed to try Tuesday evenings at 7PM. Let's hope it will be more successful at that time.

6. Cell Phone Regulations: Needless-to-say, that whenever you get a bunch of Hams talking about Cell phone usage while driving, vs. amateur radio usage while driving, you're bound the get opinions, suggestions, and controversy. Tonight was no exception. There was hardly a member who didn't have a point or two to make. They touched on HT's vs mobile rigs, DTMF mics, non-DTMF mics, blue tooth, hands free, Ontario rulings, 3 year waiting period, hear-say, Federal radio licensing vs. Provincial motor vehicle act, phone patches, the current lack of phone patches, GPS devices, drinking coffee, combing hair, shaving, applying make-up, responding to Police officers, individual Police officer's interpretation, court challenges,

RAC, RAQI, and probably others. It was fast and furious. Stay tuned. Don't go away folks. There's a lot more to come, for sure.

After the break, Gilles VE2TZZ gave a most interesting demonstration and explanation of his recently acquired Array-Solutions network analyzer. "Google" it and read all the details. In short, the analyzer has a USB output and with the use of software, the computer takes multiple readings simultaneously and displays all sorts of graphical outputs. Gilles connected a 3 element Yagi 2 meter antenna to the analyzer. The computer displayed SWR and phase information instantly across the entire band. He was able to make incremental adjustments to the Yagi and have results instantly on the screen. Gilles demonstrated many of its capabilities including calibrating coax cable and filters from 5 KHz to 180 MHz, even antenna switches, and basically almost any piece of radio related gear. It is a very impressive combination of hardware and software. Gilles admitted that he has just begun to become familiar with its capabilities. I think we should expect a return visit on this subject as Gilles discovers more and more uses. Thanks, Gilles. Keep us informed.

This month the winner of the 50/50 draw was Malcolm VE2DDZ. He donated his winnings to the Club. Thanks Malcolm.

This month, Keith VE2XL, had a number of great, older issues of CQ magazines free for the taking, and once again, Ken VE2KLF had a number of modern magazines as well. Thanks to both of you.

Something Pun'y - A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it.

The meeting adjourned at 22:00 EDT. See you November 16th.

73 and good DX de Keith VE2MTL

Laval Hamfest 2010

The Club Radio Amateurs Laval-Laurentide is pleased to announce that our Hamfest will be held on March 27th 2010 at:

Polyvalente George-Vanier
3995 Boul. Levesque est
Laval, Quebec.

Talk-in on VE2REL on 147.315+
or 447.725- tone 103.5

Doors will open for vendors at 7:30
and the public at 9:00

Table reservations can be made by
email:

hamfest2010@ve2crl.qc.ca, or by
phone at 514-708-8033

Cost 5\$ / Tables 10\$

Thank you to our commercial ven-
dors: Radioworld, Radio HF, Elkel

Ray VA2RY
Club radio amateurs Laval-Laurentides

WIARC AGM 2009

The annual Annual General meet-
ing (AGM) of the West Island Amateur
Radio Club will be held on Monday,
December 14th.

George VE2NGH, has accepted
the role of Chair of the Nominating
Committee and will oversee the pro-
ceedings.

All nominations for positions should
be directed to him.

“ Amateur Radio exists as
a frequency spectrum
user because it qualifies
as a service. Its continued existence
depends to a great degree not on the
service it has performed in the past,
or on its simple potential for service,
but on what service it is performing
now and will continue to perform in
the future.” (RAC Website)

Jim Costello VE2EXQ SK

One of our long standing members has passed away.

Jim Costello VE2EXQ SK Jim's funeral service will be held on Monday Nov
16th, 2009

QTH - Rideau Memorial Gardens, 4275 Sources Blvd.

Visitation from 12:00 until 2:30 Monday afternoon with the funeral
service following.

Tropical Storm Ida

I have been just advised that IARU Region 2(C) has begun to operate in emer-
gency net mode, as Tropical Storm Ida enters the Yucatan Channel as a category
one storm with sustained winds of 120kph. Several 40M nets will be activated,
and Hams in the region will be monitoring the Hurricane Watch Net on 14,325
Mhz. Forecasters expect the storm to enter the Gulf of Mexico today and decrease
in intensity.

All Region 2(A) ARES members are encouraged to monitor the Hurricane
Watch Net and 7,060 Mhz +/- as much as possible during the remainder of today
and evening in case assistance is required.

Doug Mercer VOIDTM (RAC CEC)
Vice President Field Services
IARU Emergency Communications Coordinator Region 2(A)

WIARC Christmas Party

When: Wednesday, Dec. 2nd

Where: Casa Greque

13081 Gouin Blvd. West, Pierrefonds

Time: 7PM

Please note: You may bring your own wine
or beer.