



April 2010 Edition

Upcoming Meeting - April 19th, 2010
This month's topic
"TX4T Dx'pedition in French Polynesia"
Given by Gilles VE2TZT

President's Message and Report

by Ken Fraser, VE2KLF

WI ~ ARCS:

Greetings from the bush (b-i-l's QTH, VE3TWD) de VE2KLF/P/VE3 North of Prescott, ON. The Easter weekend has been great with much rays and a lot of R&R. Nothing but birds and frogs peeping and the mosquitoes have not revved up yet! A few turkey vultures and hawks are circling in the sky, but I am not dead yet! Unfortunately as the house is connected to and close to a rural power line, the noise on HF is up there.

March 2010 meeting:

George, VE2NGH and Malcolm, VE2DDZ held us spellbound with an excellent presentation on amateur radio satellite communications complete with sound clips and equipment from their 2009 Field Day effort. We learned how to operate cross-band (mainly UHF/VHF or UV mode) and how acquire the birds. Tracking methods (manual), antenna polarizations and Doppler shifts were also covered. We are counting on their experiences to generate interest in this aspect of amateur radio. George has said that they wish to experiment with fixed ground antennas on the next go around. We are hoping that some will assist with these efforts and add to the Field Day fun. WELL DONE and thank you George and Malcolm.

April 2010 meeting:

Please join us as Gilles, VE2TZT presents his DXpedition efforts, TX4T, from Tahiti (FO) in February 2010.

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 26 and 27 at the St. Lazare Airfield (Cooper's). As WIARC has signed on again to participate, we are looking for volunteers and suggestions for setups. Setup on the site will be on May 25.

The 2010 Field Day will happen on June 26 and 27th. Volunteers and Ops are needed to share the full 24+ hour run. Suggestions for a venue are open and please give your ideas to the executive, but the selection must be made before the next meeting in May. We need a site with public access, free parking and allows BBQs and, of course, 24 hour operation, not-to-mention good HF possibilities like high trees or fields for towers. Nearby access to toilets is a must have.

C U on Apr 19th ... de .ken. VE2KLF



What Happened Minutes of the March 2010 WIARC meeting

by Keith Glashan, VE2MTL

The meeting began at 19:54. Ken VE2KLF presides and welcomes the 25 attendees. There was the usual roll call with call signs. The details of the Monday March 15, 2010 meeting are as follows.

1. **Visitors:** I won't say that there were any visitors tonight. However I will mention that there were 3 new Hams present who graduated from the 'Skype' course held in the fall of 2009. They were Claude VA2CLX, Jean VE2ODJ, and Bram VE2XCS. There were warm welcomes for all three. I expect we'll see more of them in the future. Congratulations on your personal achievements.

2. **TX4T Dx'pedition:** Gilles VE2TZZ returned recently from his Dx'pedition to FO land – French Polynesia. He said a few words to the group on his trip. However, he promised to fill us in on all the details as our guest speaker for April.

3. **Laval Hamfest:** Ray VA2RY commented on the upcoming Laval-Laurentides Hamfest. They have offered a free table to the Clubs in the Montreal area. We need some bilingual volunteers to help out if we wish to participate. Anyone interested should let the executive know ASAP.

4. **Club Finances:** Malcolm VE2DDZ presented the final financial reports to the membership. He had spread sheets for all to view. There were a few questions, but no problems. Thanks, Malcolm.

5. **Web Site:** Wayne VE2WRH was able to make it to the meeting tonight. He had a few comments about updating the Club web site and invited suggestions that might be included in its redesign.

6. **VE2JQE:** Joe VE2JQE recently



received his advanced license. Congratulations Joe.

After the break, Malcolm VE2DDZ and George VE2NGH gave a combined talk on satellite communications. As you may remember, they teamed up last June to operate satellite contacts at our Field Day 2009. They talked about the contacts they made during last year's event. They even had audio that they recorded. They brought along a lot of equipment, including their VHF/UHF rig and antenna equipped with a camera tripod mount and protractor. The talk was not limited to their Field Day experiences. They gave us a history lesson on all satellite technologies going back to

Sputnik. They explained how Amateur satellites were among the very first communication devices to orbit the planet. They discussed the various orbits that are used these days. This covered low earth orbits, medium altitude orbits, and high orbits. They touched on geostationary orbits, elliptical orbits, and polar orbits. They explained what each type of orbit is used for. We learned where the GPS satellites are located, and how weather satellites move. A large section of the presentation was devoted to antennas designed for satellite use. They explained the particular problems you might have when working satellites. They showed some of the various antenna designs, and the pros and cons associated with them. It was a most informative and comprehensive presentation on the subject. Thanks, fellows. I hope you have aroused some interest from the members, and get some of us turning our attention into that area of the hobby. Great presentation.

This month the winner of the 50/50 draw was Wayne VE2WRH. Congratulations.

This month, there were magazines and books for the taking, compliments of Ken VE2KLF and Reg VE2AYU. Thanks!

Something Punny - A small boy swallowed some coins and was taken to a hospital. When his grandmother telephoned to ask how he was, a nurse said, 'No change yet.'

The meeting adjourned at 22:09. See you April 19th 2010.

73, and good DX de Keith VE2MTL



Former WIARC Member aids Haiti

CLARA MEMBER (ex WIARC) AIDS HAITI

Margaret Archibald, VE2ZOO has had her ham license since she was 12 and she has been a CLARA (Canadian Ladies ARA) member most of that time. The peak of her ham activity was 1994, when she was 14 and we as members of the West Island ARC of Montreal all went to St Paul Is., 15 miles off the coast of Nova Scotia as CY9CWI. Margaret became very good at working 20-meter pile-ups!

In 2007 Margaret invested her life savings in a 1970s 50-foot steel schooner, **SV Drummer**. She laboured for three winters in a central Florida boatyard, overhauling it from stem to stern. Drummer was finally launched into the muddy Caloosahatchee River in early December 2009. As HF radio is a valuable long-distance aid to blue-water cruisers, we gave her our trusty Icom IC-735 transceiver, the same radio she used on St. Paul Is. in 1994. I (Fred) installed it, a manual tuner, and a 34' vertical sidestay antenna in December. Drummer is all steel, so sitting in a salt ocean a good ground is not a problem, although electrochemistry meant that the grounds are all AC, through HV capacitors! A large solar panel keeps Drummer's 4 batteries charged when she's sailing and the diesel auxiliary is off. As a reward for installing all the electronics and electrics I went on **Drummer's** first fully rigged sail since she went into storage in Glades Boatyard 20 years before!

Margaret, with her crew Chrissie and Nathan, cast off in January, sailed down the Caloosahatchie River out to Sanibel Island, off Ft. Myers. By February 12, 2010, after Haiti's earthquake, **Drummer** was moored off Key West with other blue water cruisers and friends of Chrissie's. Margaret and Chrissie learned of a Key West group, the "Conch Republic Navy" that was organizing sailboats to deliver aid to a little port in Haiti. Many Haitian ports are too shallow for large boats, and many have received little or no assistance. Margaret volunteered, loaded two tonnes of relief supplies in Key West, then sailed on to Nassau, then George Town, Exeuma (Bahamas) to await the rest of the flotilla.

The flotilla loaded 18 tonnes of supplies, including rice, beans, cooking oil, flour, dried milk/formula, tools, crutches, splints, and other medical supplies, wind turbine parts, clothes, tents, and 2000 pairs of shoes. Many Christian and other local organizations and many individuals in Key West and in the Bahamas readily donated what they could to the people of Haiti. Drop boxes for collection were filled to overflowing in Key West and local doctors donated medical supplies. The project was also coordinated in Haiti by the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti and the Wesleyans. Boats and supplies were all volunteered and organized by individuals and local groups, giving the whole operation a Dunkirk-like flavour.

Word went out in the "Conch Republic Navy" of Key West that Margaret was an experienced ham operator. She hadn't operated since she was 14, but apparently, Margaret had more ham know-how than anyone else in the flotilla! After various delays waiting for all the boats to load and arrive, the flotilla left George Town for Haiti on March 2nd. It included the schooners **Liberty**, **Wolf** (Cap't. Finbar), and **Drummer** (Cap't. Margaret), and other sailboats **Hiatus**, **En Cavale**, **Conch Republic**, and **Tranquility**, all members in good standing of the "Conch Republic Navy". OceanWatch boats **Wild Woman** (Cap't. Judy), and **De Capo**, were also involved.

The flotilla's departure date, course, and arrival port were kept as secret as possible for fear of hungry and piratical people with boats. Margaret radioed in most days on the Waterway Net (7268 kHz) or the Maritime Service Net (14300 kHz), or both. These nets were very good about relaying messages when needed. It was very nice to talk to her on **Drummer** from our station at 25 Canard St. here in Nova Scotia!

March 9 and Margaret arrived in the small Haitian port. The first boat, the **Wolf**, arriving on the 8th, had found chaos, with hungry people packing the beach, and **Wolf's** cargo did not go to the right people: they watched helplessly as the landed cargo was snatched by marauders. When **Drummer** arrived, a local Episcopal priest, Pere Soner, and the police chief were there. Margaret's cargo, about 2 tonnes, was unloaded from **Drummer** into dugout canoes, and was directed to the proper people.



West Island Amateur Radio Club Bulletin

There were tense hours on March 9th when we tried without success to reach her by HF radio to relay a message about off-loading, and there were satellite phone reports that no one had heard from **SV Drummer**. This was during the CLARA contest, so there was a while during prime contest time that I (Helen) was not able to give out the mystery op points!

Margaret asked me on the radio to phone the mother of one of her crew (Nathan) to tell her that he was safe but I got the phone number wrong in the static & crackles. Darn! I'd love to have passed that message!

Margaret was in Haiti at the same time as Governor General Michaëlle Jean, but Mme. Jean was on a much bigger boat and drew much more media attention. The Florida media were quite interested in the flotilla, but they were not encouraged to publicize the event because of the danger of piracy.

The organizers said good things about Margaret, because of all the captains, she was the one who could use amateur radio to keep those back in North America apprised of their progress. Margaret became well-known to the ops on both the Maritime Service and Waterway nets, so we knew if she ever called that someone would hear and pass any messages from her when we did come on: we thank them for their assistance!

For more about Margaret's boat, Google **SV Drummer** – Junk. Margaret is the brunette-blonde, Chrissie has the dark hair!

de Fred VE1FA (ex VE2SEI) es Helen VA1YL (ex VE2YAK)

Footnotes About Us

The West Island Amateur Radio Club was founded in 1972

Mailing Address - P.O. Box 884 Pointe-Claire, Quebec H9R 4Z6 **E-mail:** VE2CWI@RAC.CA

President: Kenneth Fraser, VE2KLF

Treasurer: Malcolm Harper, VE2DDZ

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Accredited Examiners: Larry Dobby, VE2DO@RAC.CA and Stuart Truba, VE2XX@RAC.CA

Newsletter Editor

Keith Glashan, VE2MTL (for now)

Articles and 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, VE2CWI@RAC.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

Held the 3rd Monday of every month, except July & August at: Lakeside Heights Baptist Church, 275 Braebrook, Pointe-Claire (West Island part of Montreal). Visitors are always welcomed.

WIARC NETS on the 146.91 Club Repeater

Information Net each Sunday evening at 8PM running for approximately an hour.

Trivia Net each Tuesday evening at 7PM.

All are welcome to participate.
