



West Island Amateur Radio Club Bulletin

November 2010 Edition

Upcoming Meeting - November 15th 2010

This month's topic

“Contesting 101: A Guide For Hams Who Want To Participate In Radio Sport”

Given by Clifford Tooher VA2UTC

President's Message and Report

by Ken Fraser, VE2KLF

WI ~ ARCS:

Around the QTH:

The house renovations have restarted with the installation of a replacement counter top in the kitchen by another company. The “new” company found about 4 more foul ups in the installation by a previous company and we are pleased with the result. Now there is light at the end of the tunnel! I have to stick around while the contractors work to make sure there are no further SNAFUs. I am throwing in the update to the attic insulation as well, which should lower the Hydro consumption. At the same time I have started to purge the basement so that I can find my equipment and reorganize things. This has started with my XYL's company records that shredded to 25 or so garbage bags of mutilated paper --- gone! Oh yes, remember those Elderberry sherry bottles mentioned in the last bulletin ... they checked out at 15 +/- 1 % alcohol on my vinometer! They are carefully being put back into storage for future consumption!

October 2010 meeting:

Branislav, VA2BNE, slightly off electronics, but nevertheless “communications”, kept everyone awake with a discussion on how our genes communicate with each other and deal with viral and bacterial invasions in our bodies. It might have helped to have some introductory courses in genetics, but Branislav managed to cover a difficult subject quite well, if the many questions during the question period at the end of the talk are any indicator. As I mentioned in the last bulletin, much of the software for detection methods (and the processing of the data) are, and have been, developed by electrical and computer engineers. This is what some of my undergraduate students have been involved in lately along with such things as the processing of brain/body scans by massaging the data (digital signal processing) and the improvement of the interpretation of the results. Many thanks Branislav for a very entertaining topic.

WEB Site:

From the discussion at the October 2010 general meeting, your executive examined the current WIARC WEB pages and noted some updates and removals that will be fixed. However, using the site as a communication point is not in the cards unless there are volunteers out there who can set up and maintain such an operation with appropriate security. I noted that at the last CHARC (Covey Hill) general meeting the subject of a WEB site was discussed AND dropped for lack of volunteers and/or interest!

November meeting topic:

Cliff, VA2UTC will discuss contesting on the bands OR “A Guide for Hams who want to Participate in Radio Sport!”

Notes:

1. Our annual Christmas party will be at the same place as last year, Casa Grecque, 13081 Gouin Blvd West in Pierrefonds on THURSDAY, 2010-DEC-09 at 19:00. Bring your own beer or wine!
2. The WIARC Annual General Meeting will be held on the 13th of December 2010, **NOT Dec 20th**. We require a Nominating committee and an Election scrutineer for the process. One volunteer is necessary for each position although there may be more than one person on the Nominating committee.

This will be on the agenda of the November 2010 meeting.

Please note that the members present at the AGM elect ALL executive positions.

All of the current executives have indicated that they can continue in 2011 except for Bob, VE2AXO who wishes to step down due to other commitments. Therefore the club is, at least, looking for a new VP.

C U on the 15th of November...

de .ken. VE2KLF

What Happened Minutes of the October 2010 WIARC meeting

by Keith Glashan, VE2MTL

Minutes of the October 2010 WIARC meeting by Keith Glashan VE2MTL

The meeting began at 19:52. Ken VE2KLF presides and welcomes the 22 attendees. We had the usual roll call with call signs. The details of the Monday October 18, 2010 meeting are as follows.

1. **Visitors:** A couple of students from the Westminster course came to the meeting this evening. François VE2AAY had invited them all to attend if possible. However, only one was able to stay for the meeting. His name is John Hebert and has a fair amount of operating experience on commercial bands. He is looking forward to the world of Amateur Radio. Welcome John. We hope to meet all the students soon.

2. **Financial Report:** Malcolm VE2DDZ presented reports on the Field Day and Hamfest results.

3. **Hamfest Attendance:** There was general talk about the poor

attendance experienced at our recent Hamfest.

4. **Web Site:** There were several suggestions and contributions from the floor concerning our new Web Site. There are items that need updating from time to time. Some older things might be deleted. The new format of our Site is a good first step, but there needs to be some refinements. Perhaps the Web Site does not get the attention that it deserves. I suppose that we are Radio guys first, and Web guys last. Now that we are in the "On-Line" age, we will have to change our focus. The executive promised to take steps to improve it.

5. **Field Day Wind-up:** George VE2NGH took the floor and tidied up the final details of the 2010 Field Day that he co-ordinated so well last June. He mentioned that the stress this year was on participation more than points. He said that his final report totalled 1916 points. For the participation aspect, he talked about the Concordia fellows who came to our Hamfest and operated enthusiastically. It was great

to see that. As a matter of fact, the Concordia group has since decided to try their own Field Day in 2011. Good work George. You can't do better than that.



***Branislav VA2BNE giving
presentation on "Genes"***

6. **Speaker Branislav VA2BNE:** After the break, Branislav VA2BNE gave a talk titled "Communications - It is in the Genes." Granted, the "Communications" that he presented were not the usual Radio types that we normally enjoy. However, communications it is. Branislav is a micro-biologist and was able to show many parallels to radio communications. First he defined the words 'Communications' and

'Message'. Then he showed the basic building blocks of DNA – deoxyribonucleic acid. Branislav had power point slides of strands of DNA and showed the A T G and C building blocks. He explained the function of the communications medium called messenger RNA or ribonucleic acid. He told us about the complexity of proteins, how they are used, and the variety of types. He explained that, in nature, the most common form of communications is via chemicals. Not sight and sound as we are accustomed to. He even talked about symbiosis, the interaction between different biological species, and how they use chemical

messaging. Branislav even discussed the relationship between plants, fertilizers, and bacteria. Finally he touched on some of the medical treatment applications such as cancer medicines. So it turns out that we are all a lot more chemistry than we ever thought. The talk was very well received. There were several enthusiastic questions. I expect the majority of the members had very little knowledge of the topic before tonight and were stunned at the science of it all. Thanks, Branislav for opening up a whole new world to us this evening. What a future this science promises. It will take a while for us to absorb it all. You will have to give us more to think about. Not right now, but perhaps in a

few months. Many thanks for a most interesting topic.

This month the winner of the 50/50 draw was Ralph VE2GO. Congratulations and thanks for donating your winnings to the club.

This month, there were magazines available as door prizes.

Something Punny - A backward poet writes inverse.

The meeting adjourned at 22:15. See you Nov 15th 2010.

73, and good DX de Keith VE2MTL

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

Vice-president: Bob Loranger, VE2AXO

Secretary: Keith Glashan, VE2MTL

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

Newsletter Editor

Bram Paterson, VE2XCS

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://www.wiarc.ca>

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.