



# West Island Amateur Radio Club Bulletin

June 2011 Edition

**Upcoming Meeting - June 20<sup>th</sup> 2011**  
**This month's topic**  
**“Preparations for Field Day 2011”**  
*Lets get ready, time's running out soon!*

## President's Message and Report

by Ken Fraser, VE2KLF

>>> WI ~ ARCS <<<

### Around the QTH:

It is with a great sadness that I report the passing of my brother in law's XYL, Verla, VA3VMD (SK) on 2011-JUN-03. As I shall be attending her memorial service on June 25<sup>th</sup>, I cannot be at the tri-club field day this year. I wish all members a fun time and I assume the weather will co-operate.

### May 2011 MTG:

We said goodbye to an 'old' friend, Fred, VE2LSQ with a Silent Key Ceremony provided by our in house CW operator, Reg, VE2AYU. **R.I.P.** Fred. There were updates for our Field Day, Hamfest, the Solder Spot and the upcoming LBPSB Science and Technology days (please review the minutes for details). Our Show and Tell was a success concentrating on VHF and UHF J antennas and four gang UHF bow ties (with and with out reflector) for UHF DTV.

### Science and Technology Days:

The annual LBPSB Science and Technology days were held on 2011-May-25 and 26<sup>th</sup> at the St Lazare Airport. WIARC shared the grounds with 37 other "partners" (like Bombardier, Search and Rescue, RASC, McGill's Let's Talk Science/Chemistry/Environment, Aircraft groups, Police investigations, etc). From about 10:15 to 13:00 each day we saw groups of 15 – 20 students of some of the designated schools for about 15 minutes each. That meant that our club talked to six groups, each day which were, by no means, all of the students present. As in previous years, all of the students from grades 4, 5 and 6 (level 2 and 3) were very well behaved and attentive.

From past experiences WIARC found that the "hands on" approach is what interests these groups. We had about 6 – 8 keys and audio oscillators on hand for their Morse "workout". There really is not much time for much else. For those not at the Morse stations we had 4 pairs of FRS/GMRS radios for more fun. Most of the students opted for the Morse practice and received a certificate when they sent their names in code. There was an HT (2 m) with an upside-down J antenna in our hangar setup. We had plans to use the VE2RMP (VHF) node for IRLP which met with some success a few years ago, but we could not find the usual ladder to put the J on the hangar roof. It was a good thing we scrapped that before bothering Cliff, VE2YU. A few years back we had the RMP machine switched over from UHF to VHF for our IRLP run and it worked. Last year we tried to use RMP (UHF) with a 5 Watt HT and 70 cm J antenna on the hangar roof, but we found that in that location you need more power or a high gain antenna and lower loss coaxial cable.

As each group of students had a chaperon and/or teachers on board, we gave them the club brochures. Next year we should use two tables for the Morse stations to lessen the crowding and let our ops share in the teaching more easily. The brochures (club information) and Morse certificates need to be updated. Also, it would be wise to list the amateur radio training courses available from WAIRC, MARC, Internet and others for those who may be interested in obtaining the IC certificate(s). In lieu of the usual T-shirts, the club received a plaque thanking us for our participation. Thanks to the hams who helped make this another success: Andy, VE2DNN; Bob, VE2AXO; John, VE2SWE; Keith, VE2MTL; Ken, VE2KLF; Matt, VE2MTA; Paul, VE2OFH; Reg,

VE2AYU; Ron, VA2RJC and Sheldon, VA2SH. The rain showed up on the last hour of the last day. While the students had to bring their lunches, the “partners” were well fed by the LBPSB each day.

### VE2RWI UHF Repeater:

Your executive was reminded of the loss of VE2RM’s UHF frequency pair (70 cm) due to their UHF repeater being off the air for several years. The RM executive is asking all local hams to check for activity on 442.250 and 442.625 MHz output frequencies, which they are still listed for use on 70 cm. If one or the other shows no activity for 3 months, a new D –Star 70 cm repeater will be put on the air at the Rigaud mountain site.

Since VE2RWI 70 cm is currently off the air due to a failure at the Cote des Neiges site, our UHF frequency pair may be lost due to inactivity. Therefore your executive has authorized Jean-François, VE2TBH to follow up on the purchase of a surplus repeater system from RAQI. There has been some discussion of **IRLP** and **EchoLink** service for this repeater at club meetings. Since a high speed cable system is out of the question at the site, this operation can be implemented if someone is willing to provide the service at their QTH with a (secure?) radio link (220, 1296 MHz band?) to the site.

### Jun 2011 MTG:

Tentative agenda:

- Updates on Field Day plans ... VE2NGH, George
- Radio-Talk 2011 plans for November 2011 ... VE2WTQ, Terry and Morrie, VE2BWS
- Plans for the Solder-Spot ... VE2OFH, Paul
- UHF repeater
- Other business
- Coffee/drinks/cookies, and rag chew
- 50/50 draw

### Notes:

Please get on board with George, VE2NGH and the WIARC, MARC and CUARC committee plans for our contribution to the annual ARRL North American field day.

Please note that there are no club meetings in July and August. All activities, including the Info Net and Newsletter will return in September. Have a good summer!

**C U on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June – 2011 ... de .ken. VE2KLF**

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## ***What Happened*** ***Minutes of the May 2011 WIARC meeting***

by Keith Glashan, VE2MTL

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### ***Minutes of the May 2011 WIARC meeting by Keith Glashan VE2MTL***

The meeting began at 19:40. Ken VE2KLF presided and welcomed the 30 attendees. There was the usual roll call with call signs. First time visitor Herb VE2DJA attended this evening. Welcome Herb. Hope to see you again soon. The details of the Monday May 16, 2011 meeting are as follows.

1. **Fred VE2LSQ SK:** Reg VE2AYU conducted the Silent Key ceremony for Fred VE2LSQ, who

passed away recently. A number of our members and members of MARC attended his funeral service. There were several members of various emergency services in attendance, some of whom had travelled from New York State. Fred may well have been the best known amateur in the Montreal area. Everyone knew him; everyone will miss him.

2. **Field Day 2011:** George VE2NGH gave a brief update on the plans for field day. Apparently the Pine Beach venue is a “go” but for a couple of technical issues. George confirmed our as 1A this year.

3. **Solder Spot News:** Paul VE2OFH commented on the success of the first meeting of the “Solder Spot”. He listed all those who gave instruction and support to the event. He said that they ran 1.5 hours overtime. However, since nobody complained, it bodes well for the future of the group. Stay tuned.

4. **Smiths Falls:** Vern VE2QQ had attended the Smiths Falls Hamfest and mentioned that it was well attended. He noted that there were 4 or 5 vendors present. As well, Vern had some information about possible future 60 meter amateur frequencies.

5. **Hamfest 2011:** Terry VE2WTQ and Morrie VE2BWS had a comprehensive presentation on the results of the survey taken a couple of months ago. It seems that they have really been doing their homework. I understand that have had several meetings. I know that Malcolm VE2DDZ was in attendance as well. There was a lot of discussion from the floor. The recommendation is that we “not” have an auction. Rather, they hope to convince us to host an information and demonstration type of event. They are suggesting a title of “Radio Talk 2011”. Other ideas being proposed are items such as a Keynote Guest Speaker, Solder Spot demos, Communication Vendors, Westminster School information, all to be held perhaps in November. The venue could be the Karnak location, here at Lakeside Heights Baptist church, or elsewhere. Everyone agreed that it would require a lot of people and time and committees and meetings and work to pull it off. Perhaps it is just what the doctor ordered. All amateurs are good talkers. Now is not the time to remain silent. Let’s hear from you.

6. **Space Day:** Ken VE2KLF asked for volunteers to sign up. We attracted 6 members on the spot, but I have my eyes on a couple more. This event takes the least amount of work, costs even less, and yet gives the participants the most fun, free coffee, free muffins, and free lunch.

7. **Show & Tell:** After the break, it was Show & Tell time. We had a total of 5 exhibitors. This time it turned out that each of them had some kind of an antenna to show. Keith VE2MTL had a 4 element bow

tie HDTV antenna that he found on the internet. See [www.about-hdtv.com](http://www.about-hdtv.com) for all the details and measurements. Charles VE2RFI also had a similar bow tie HDTV antenna, but his creation included a reflector to improve the directionality. See VE2RFI below.



*Charles, VE2RFI shows his DIY over the air HDTV 4 bay antenna.*

Wayne VE2WRH showed the J-pole antenna that he had made at the Solder Spot first meeting. It was a roll up 300 ohm wire portable antenna for 2 meters. Malcolm VE2DDZ called his 2 meter antenna a ‘Bicycle J-pole’. His clever design features a ‘roll-up’ J-pole mounted inside a plastic pipe which he clamps conveniently onto his bicycle. Finally, Ken VE2KLF showed 2 different J-poles. These were not of the flexible type. One was for 2 meters and the other 70 cm. His 70 cm model had some serious magnetic mountings. Ken plans to use the 2 meter one for operations at Space Day next week. For each of the projects, there were a number of queries from the floor, mostly about ‘gain’ and construction details. All in all, it was fun and entertaining. We shall hold events like this again some time in the future, in a building near you, so get going, start building. Next time it would be nice to see some other items to go with

antennas. Thanks to all who worked on the projects and “Showed and Told”.

Tonight, the winner of the 50/50 draw was John VE2SWE, who donated his cash prize to the Club. Thanks John.

This month, Ken VE2KLF provided some magazines as door prizes. Thanks again, Ken.

Something Punny - A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.

The meeting adjourned at 22:11. See you June 20<sup>th</sup> 2011.

73, & good DX de Keith VE2MTL

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## Free Flea Market Tables

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Flea-market tables available free to members. Members are reminded that there are always tables available at the regular monthly meetings. This practice was very popular years ago. Lately, it seems to have fallen out of practice.

So, if you wish to sell something, or clean out your basement, or do your spring cleaning early, you don't have to wait for the next Hamfest. Just bring those junk boxes, antenna parts, and old rigs to the next WIARC meeting and set up your table at the back of the hall. It's free. It's fun. It's win-win.

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## \$\$\$ Swap Shop \$\$\$

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If you like to advertise an item you wish to part with, please send an email to [ve2cwi@rac.ca](mailto:ve2cwi@rac.ca) before the first Monday of the month for publication in that month's edition to the editor attention.

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### 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](mailto:VE2CWI@RAC.CA)

**Executives:**

**President :** Ken Fraser, VE2KLF

**Vice-president :** Charles Robitaille, VE2RFI

**Treasurer :** Malcolm Harper, VE2DDZ

**Secretary :** Keith Glashan, VE2MTL

**Directors:**

**Editor :** Bram Paterson, VE2XCS

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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](mailto:VE2CWI@RAC.CA)

**Website:** <http://www.wiarc.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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.  
All are welcome to participate.