



West Island Amateur Radio Club Bulletin

March 2012 Edition

Upcoming Meeting – March 19th 2012
This month's topic
“VP6T Dx'Pedition to Pitcairn Island”
Given by Gilles Renucci VE2TZT / VA2EW

President's Message and Report

by Ken Fraser, VE2KLF

>>> WI ~ ARCS <<<

Tales from the QTH:

Well with all those CMEs and high **k** indices my work this week turned to maple syrup production. From the first 14 L of sap I have about 1.5 L of the golden stuff stashed away so far (yum). Hopefully the sap production will last a few weeks more. When the moths turn up doing the backstroke in the collection cans, it is time to quit. Unfortunately with overcast nighttime skies I did not get to view the auroras. However that was compensated for by the viewing of the transits of Venus, Jupiter and Mars (missed Mercury and Saturn as I was conjuring up some z-z-z-s or working during their transits). The skies did clear on a few of those frosty nights so necessary for sap production!

I heard the Croatian DX Club, 9A1A during one of the contests. Now there is an antenna farm if ever there was one! Unfortunately as I was nodding off at the time, I did not fire up my QRP rig (FT817) at the time for a contact. ☺

As you can see from the agenda items below, we are putting things on track for a number of club events for the rest of 2012. As I am a Life Member of the IEEE, I received a request from the IEEE Montreal section concerning an Instrumentation and Measurement Society of the IEEE conference to be held in Montreal on June 19th. They want to run a “CW competition” for about 30 to 60 minutes as part of the conference events. Therefore we will probably be looking for some volunteer(s) for this event. The details are a little fuzzy at the moment. We were informed that Mark PECEN, VP R&D Research In Motion, VE3CPK/KC9X will be there to help with this event.

Back to maple syrup and taxes ... (the latter is definitely not in the sweet category...) ☺

FEB 2012 MTG:

Please see the minutes for 2012-FEB-20. Bram, VE2XCS ran a podcast from the Ham Nation group which had a good article on indoor antennas plus other ham related matters. Please visit the Ham Nation WEB pages (<http://twit.tv/hn>) for this and other videos that last usually around 60 minutes. Expect a slow, round table discussion with Bob Heil and other hams.

MAR 2012 MTG:

Tentative agenda:

- Final Financial report for 2011
- Solder-Spot updates
- SOTA updates.
- Discussion of Plans for Field Day, RadioTalk2012 and LBPSB Science & Tech days.
- Other business (IEEE, IMS Conference, Montreal, June 19, 2012, Amateur Radio competition proposal)
- Coffee/drinks/cookies, and rag chew

- [VP6T dxpedition 2012 presentation](#) by Gilles, VE2TZT
- 50/50 draw

Notes: 2012 dues are now “due”! If you have not already settled your account, please see Malcolm, VE2DDZ. Tnx.

Time to start thinking about our annual “**show and tell**” that has been tentatively assigned to the MAY 2012 meeting. Drag out those recent or otherwise ham radio creations, humourous or serious, and give us a short demonstration. There is certainly room for the Solder-Spot groups! Be on your best behavior as we shall probably record the event with pics and maybe a video.

C U on the 19th of March – 2012 ... de .ken. VE2KLF

What Happened

Minutes of the February 2012 WIARC meeting

by Keith Glashan, VE2MTL

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The meeting began at 20:08. Ken VE2KLF presided and welcomed the 20 attendees. There was the usual roll call with call signs. The details of the Monday February 20, 2012 meeting are as follows.

1. **Andy VE2ABW SK:** We were saddened to learn of the recent passing of Andy Bannerman VE2ABW. Keith VE2XL spoke briefly about his life and his military service. Gilles VE2TZT performed the silent key ceremony for him.

2. **Solder Spot:** Paul VE2OFH was unable to attend this evening. However, Eamon VE2EGN said that he had already completed the 40 meter receiver project.

3. **SOTA:** Malcolm VE2DDZ showed us his 20 ft. telescopic mast. It is very light in weight. Although used for fishing, he hopes it would be a suitable piece of equipment for SOTA purposes.

4. **Gilles VE2TZT dx VP6T:** Gilles VE2TZT, having just returned from his Dx'pedition in the South Pacific, talked about some of the highlights of his trip. He and his group made about 56,000 contacts in the 10 days they spent on Pitcairn Island. That was the fun part. Then there was the 500 km sea voyage in a 45 ft sail boat to and from Pitcairn. I think I heard

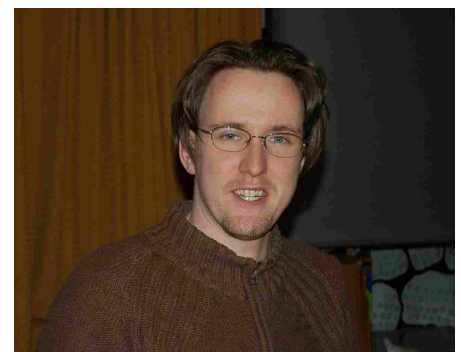
him mention a storm on the return and something about seasickness. In any event, Gilles will be giving us all the details at an upcoming meeting where he will be able to give a full presentation and include lots of pictures.

5. **Ski Marathon:** Ken VE2KLF reported that he had heard some of the traffic on VE2RM but he noted that much of the communications was on simplex frequencies. On a list of attendees which I found “on-line”, I did notice one familiar call; François VE2AAY. Other than that, I don't have any other information for you at this time.

6. **Advanced License:** Although there was nothing formally mentioned at the meeting tonight, I did hear during the coffee break, that Charles VE2RFI has quietly been studying for his advanced ticket. If you think you have heard RFI before, just wait. You ain't heard nothing yet. Stay tuned for a future news bulletin. Good luck Charles. By the way, does anyone have a linear for sale?

5. **Bram VE2XCS:** After the break, Bram VE2XCS presented a Ham Nation Podcast which he had downloaded from the internet. It was Ham Movie time at WIARC. The episode showed several operators “Rag Chewing”, telling Ham stories, and talking about their personal entries into the hobby. They also talked about early antennas. Not all that earth shattering, but just good old plain “Ham Radio” fun stuff. The show ran about 1 hr and 15 mins. There are many such

podcasts that you can find at the following address: <http://twit.tv/hn>. There are new podcasts presented by Ham Nation live every Tuesday evening at 9:00 PM. Look out for them. Thanks, Bram for the show. Well done. You have given us all yet something else to do Tuesday evenings.



Bram VE2XCS giving his presentation at the meeting

Tonight, the winner of the 50/50 draw was Eamon VE2EGN. Congratulations.

This month, Ken VE2KLF brought a couple of old ARRL Handbooks that he sold for very low prices. The proceeds were donated to the Club. Besides these items, Ken also provided several magazines free for the taking. Thanks once again Ken.

Something Punny – Remember, a will is a dead giveaway.

The meeting adjourned at 22:20. See you March 19th, 2012.

73, & good DX de Keith VE2MTL

Free Flea Market Tables

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.

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

To advertise items for sale, send details to Bram VE2XCS, the newsletter editor at ve2xcs@bell.net. He will gladly include them in the next bulletin. Please remember to include all pertinent information relating to the item you wish to sell.

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

Executives:

President : Ken Fraser, VE2KLF

Vice-president : Charles Robitaille, VE2RFI

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Editor : Bram Paterson, VE2XCS

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Treasurer : Malcolm Harper, VE2DDZ

Secretary : Keith Glashan, VE2MTL

Webmaster : Wayne Hodgins, VE2WRH

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Larry Dobby, VE2DO@RAC.CA

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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

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 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.
All are welcome to participate.