



West Island Amateur Radio Club Bulletin

June 2012 Edition

Upcoming Meeting – June 18th 2012
This month's topic
“Preps for Field Day 2012”
Good preparation makes for a good Field Day

President's Message and Report

by Ken Fraser, VE2KLF

>>> WI ~ ARCS <<<

HAM HAPPENINGS:

Science (or Space) and Technology Days run by the Lester B Pearson School Board at the St Lazare airfield had good weather for the two day event (this year May 23 and 24). WIARC participates in this annual operation as one of the 35 or so Partners providing this extracurricular moment in the education of Cycle 2 and 3 students (grades 3, 4, 5 and 6). They come to your exhibit in chaperoned groups of about 20 students. From past experience, WIARC gave a short talk to each student group and then let them operate on 10 CW straight key and audio oscillator stations and play with 8 FRS/GMRS radios (hands-on experience works!). They practice keying their names in CW and receive a form when complete. Each group of students are at your exhibit for less than 15 minutes and this year WIARC entertained about 200 or so of them. A thank you to Keith, VE2MTL (teacher extraordinaire); Ken, VE2KLF; Andy, VE2DNN; Bob, VE2AXO and Ralph, VE2GO who made this event another success. Julie Royal (from LBPSB) has emailed a thank you letter to all partners. We could use more participation from the club members, however we realize that this event occurs on two week days.

Yours truly decided to bring the extended family to the Morgan Arboretum for the Transit of Venus on June 05 PM. Amongst the 300 or so that showed up were notables from the ham community. There, in plain view, near the RASC observatory, was Keith, VE2MTL; Malcolm, VE2DDZ; Bob, VE2AXO and Morrie, VE2BWS (with his own telescope, camera and laptop). I observed the beginning of the Transit on an RASC member's telescope with a reflecting plate. Glasses were provided for the general public. Unfortunately the clouds moved in along with the mosquitoes and the crowd dispersed. CTV made a short clip of the event ... nice pic of the back end of MTL. ☺ My grandchildren were more interested in the insects, trees and tall grass. I also had a short chat with Chick Taylor (RASC, LBPSB, and ARBO) who we also saw at Science and Tech Days! See U in 105 years for the next one! Yeah right! ☺

On Saturday, June 10th there was a fairly good turn out of those who frequent the Info Net (on Sundays PM) to a brunch at Le Manoir in Pointe-Claire. Thank you Malcolm, VE2DDZ for setting up this event. Lots of ham discussions were heard across the tables in the outdoor section of Le Manoir along with the good food served up. Hopefully this becomes an annual or more frequent event as the discussions on the Sunday Info Net are quite interesting with a good number of check-ins.

MAY 2012 MTG:

Please see the minutes for 2012-MAY-21. For our annual Show & Tell there were eight club members presenting a wide range of items (ham related of course) from an old receiver, keyers, antennas, DF field meter, offset attenuator, microcontrollers, transceiver, frequency counter with CW output and a spooler (for wires and cables) ... well done and interesting efforts.

JUN 2012 MTG:

Tentative agenda:

- SOTA and/or Hill-topping briefings
- Solder-Spot updates

- RWI-Repeater performance. The VHF repeater (146.91-) seems to have good times and bad times (we had to use VE2BG for one Info Net so far). Repairs to the VHF and UHF repeaters are still waiting some time available by our technical crew.
- Other business and summer operations (next club meeting – 2012-SEP-17).
- Coffee/drinks/cookies, and rag chew
- Field Day preparations and organization
- 50/50 draw

C U on the 18th of Jun – 2012 ... de .ken. VE2KLF

What Happened Minutes of the May 2012 WIARC meeting

by Keith Glashan, VE2MTL

Minutes of the May 2012 WIARC meeting by Keith Glashan VE2MTL

The meeting began at 20:01. Ken VE2KLF presided and welcomed the 25 attendees. There was the usual roll call with call signs. We were surprised to see Benoît Fleury VA2BEF in attendance after an absence of about 20 years. Benoît served on the executive as treasurer in 1989. At that time his call sign was VE2JBF. Welcome back Benoît. I hope we don't have to wait another 20 years. The details of the Monday May 21, 2012 meeting are as follows.

1. **SOTA News:** Dan VA2KEY and Eamon VE2EGN announced that the SOTA group is off mountain climbing again. This time it's to the top of Mont Garceau. The event takes place next Sunday May 27th. By the time you get this bulletin, they should be back down and you should have made a contact with them. Check the SOTA web site for up-to-date activity WIARC-SOTA.WIKISPACES.COM.

2. **Solder Spot:** Paul VE2OFH said that the activities have been going so well that they have added an additional project. It is an iambic CW keyer. Paul suggested that with the sudden growth of interest in CW, we might be looking at a need for a Morse Code course in the near future. Web site SOLDERSPOT.CA.

3. **UHF & VHF Repeaters:** Ken VE2KLF mentioned that we had to take the UHF repeater off line because of interference it was causing to our commercial partner who shares the antenna with us. J-F VE2TBH will be taking it to his QTH for a complete examination. There are still intermittent problems with the reception on our VHF 146.910 repeater. Some days are better than others. No news on that one for the moment.

4. **VP6T QSL Cards:** Gilles VE2TZZ presented QSL cards personally to all the members present who had made contacts with his recent VP6T Dx'pedition. Congratulations to all you Dx'ers.

5. **Transit of Venus:** Morrie VE2BWS announced that a transit of Venus will take place on June 5th at 6:03 PM. If you would like to witness this event, you are invited to the conservation centre of the Morgan arboretum. For that evening, entrance will be free to all visitors. There will be a short explanatory lecture starting at 5PM. After this you are invited to view the cosmic event through their new 14 inch telescope. If you are unable to attend this time around, not to worry, the next one will be in 105.5 years – on December 11,2117.

6. **Smiths Falls Hamfest:** Keith VE2XL announced that he had recently attended the Smiths Falls Hamfest and found it to be the best one ever. They had moved the event to the local arena. Keith said that there were 100 tables in the much larger venue.

7. **Field Day 2012:** George VE2NGH confirmed that the Pine Beach location would be used again. He outlined the many noteworthy points that are already decided upon. First this year's call sign will be VE2ARC. There will be a radio tent in use as well as the gazebo. There will be 2 towers, one for HF and the other for 6 meters. The date of course is June 23rd & 24th. Keith VE2MTL agreed to handle publicity once again and to contact Steven VE2SMF at the Gazette. There was a lot of round table discussion about items such as coax CRT's BBQ's and other necessary items. If you have items to loan for FD 2012 be sure to bring them to the next WIARC meeting on June 18th.

8. **Science/Tech 2012:** We circulated a sign-up sheet for the "Space Day" event. Ken VE2KLF once again reminded us that set up is tomorrow followed by the actual event days May 23rd and 24th.

9. **IEEE & CW:** Ken VE2KLF said that the IEEE event may not include a CW part after all. Once again, stay calm, and stay tuned!

10. **Show & Tell:** After the break, it was Show & Tell time. Dave VA2DGC started things off with his 1924 Portable Radio. He even had the batteries for it. Dave figures that it was originally sold for about \$18.00.

Next, Keith VE2MTL showed the results of his project to clean up the pile of oscillators and head phones that were originally used by the Westminster Club

for CW training. They now operate on AA batteries and



Picture of Dave's VA2DGC 1924 Portable Radio

are protected in proper project boxes. They are now especially suitable for the annual 'Science & Technology' event. Then, Charles VE2RFI showed us his recently built 2 MHz offset attenuator for Fox hunting. He also had a recently created oscillator with its utility amp and iambic keyer. Malcolm VE2DDZ had 2 Iambic keyer kits. He also had a Tiny Trak with keyboard and APRS equipment. Eamon VE2EGN showed us his work in progress iambic keyer project. Ken VE2KLF had recently discovered an

old project of his dating back to 1997. It was a NorCal "38 Special". The "38 Special" was a 30 Meter Superhet Transceiver QRP kit. It even included an iambic keyer on board. Ken, now you'll have to give us a real time demo of it on-air. Wayne VE2WRH displayed his Teensy 2.0 USB development board. The Teensy is a complete USB-based microcontroller development system. Finally Gilles VE2TZZ displayed his home designed and home built dispenser for COAX cables. FYI all parts can be found in your local big box hardware store plumbing



Picture of Wayne showing his microcontroller.

department. FB Gilles and thanks to all the Show and Tellers for 2012.

Tonight, the winner of the 50/50 draw was Wayne VE2WRH. Congratulations.

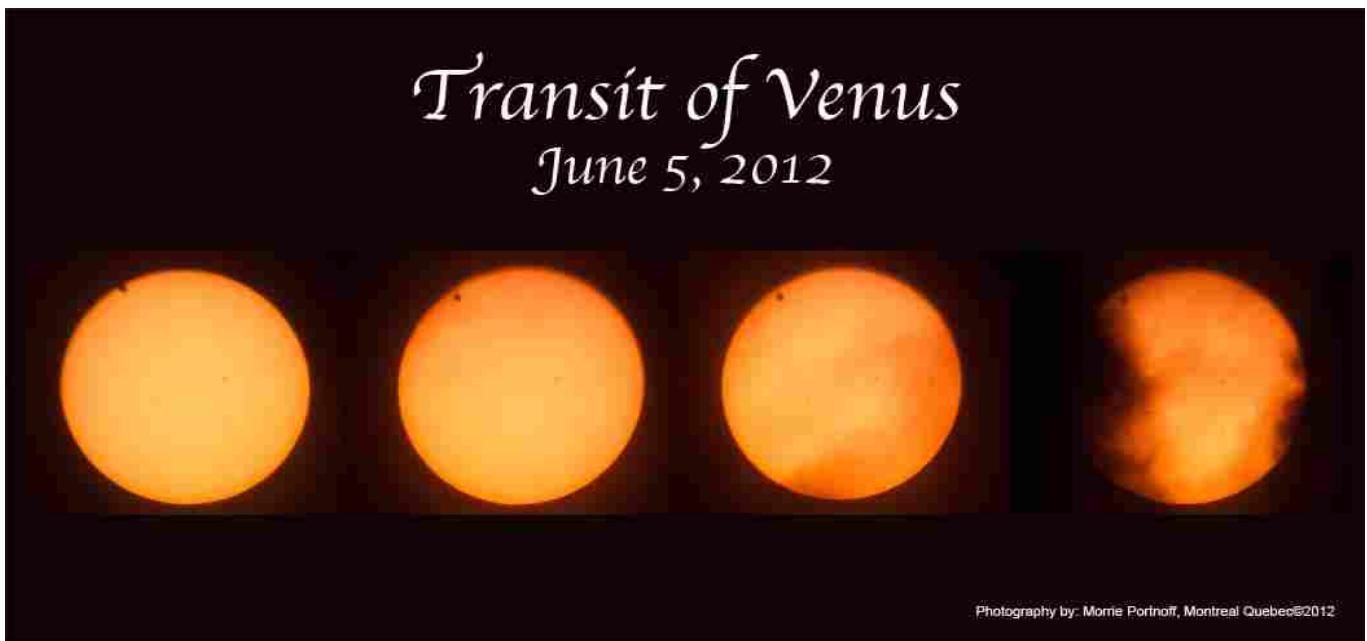
This month, Ken VE2KLF brought a couple of magazines which he donated as door prizes. Thanks, Ken.

Something Punny -. A boiled egg is hard to beat.

The meeting adjourned at 21:50. See you June 18th, 2012.

73, & good DX de Keith VE2MTL

The Transit of Venus



A picture for all astronomy lovers provided by Morrie Portnoff VE2BWS. Picture shows the transit of Venus in front of the sun. The event occurred on June 5 2012, unfortunately it got cloudy 30 min. after the beginning of the eclipse.

WIARC Information Net Summer Break

The WIARC information net will be ending this year for summer break on Sunday July 1st 2012 and will resume on Sunday September 2nd 2012. We hope to hear you all back on the air in September 2012, once the summer break will be over.

If you have any comments or ideas for the information net that you think of this summer, please let our net control operators know, by sending them an email. We love to hear from you. Or if you would like to be a guest net control operator for an evening, we will gladly accommodate you. Just send an email to any of the net control operators.

Malcolm VE2DDZ (ve2ddz@rac.ca), Paul VE2OFH (piar@gicip.com) or Bram VE2XCS (ve2xcs@bell.net)

Have a good summer and good DX.

Malcolm VE2DDZ, Paul VE2OFH and Bram VE2XCS

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

Treasurer : Malcolm Harper, VE2DDZ
Secretary : Keith Glashan, VE2MTL

Directors:

Editor : Bram Paterson, VE2XCS
QSL Manager : Bob Loranger, VE2AXO

Webmaster : Wayne Hodgins, VE2WRH

Accredited Examiners:

Larry Dobby, VE2DO@RAC.CA

Stuart Truba, VE2XX@RAC.CA

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.