West Island Amateur Radio Club Bulletin

January 2013 Edition

Upcoming Meeting – January 21st 2013
This month's topic
"Golden Packet APRS"
Given by Dan Montpetit VA2KEY.

President's Message and Report

by Malcolm Harper, VE2DDZ

Hello all.   I hope everyone had a healthy and happy festive season.

Ken VE2KLF let the executive know about a segment on Ham Radio that aired on CBC television January 8, 2013. The segment, titled *Only In Canada ... Ham radio revisited*, is available for viewing at the CBC website.   I was delighted to see amateur radio recognized in the mainstream media. I was disappointed though to see that the spin placed on amateur radio was "an old technology used by old people". Old technology is one part of ham radio, but only one part. When I look around at what we in WIARC and other local clubs are doing I see satellite operations, high speed multimedia, digital modes using very advanced algorithms, software defined radio, moon bounce, and many, many other radioactive activities and interests.

There is a new special interest group in WIARC, a number of hams learning morse code. Morse code is an old technology (predating radio itself by about forty years), but at the same time that we are learning morse code we are using keyers built using programmable microcontrollers, and feeding the signals to and from radios designed using SDR techniques. Even the very old in amateur radio is combined with the very new. We'll have an update from this group at the January meeting.

Also at the January meeting:

Repeaters
Charles VE2RFI and Keith VE2MTL, ably assisted by Jeff VE2TBH, George VE2NGH, and Claude VE2YI have been working hard to get both the VHF and UHF repeaters back in good working order. Charles will report on progress to date and what remains to be done.

LBPSB Science and Technology Days
WIARC has been a "partner" at the two day event since in 2007. After last May's event we seriously have to reconsider our participation. Do we have enough volunteers who are available for two week days in May? Keith VE2MTL will lead a discussion of our future participation in the event.

APRS and the Golden Packet Project
The Golden Packet is a project to pass an APRS packet via VHF links the length of the Appalachian Trail in the United States. Dan VA2KEY will inform us about the project and its history. He'll also tell us about his proposal to extend the Golden Packet project into Canada.

January 21, 2013 Meeting Agenda

- Science and Technology Days Participation
- CW Study Group

- 🕐 Repeater status report
- 🕐 Other SIGs (Solder Spot, SOTA, etc)
- 🕐 Other business
- 🕐 Break (coffee, cookies, ragchew)
- 🕐 APRS and the Golden Packet Project - Dan VA2KEY

See you January 21.

73 de Malcolm VE2DDZ

What Happened
Minutes of the December 2012 WIARC meeting

by Keith Glashan, VE2MTL

Minutes of the Dec 2012 WIARC meeting
by Keith Glashan VE2MTL

The meeting began at 20:00. Ken VE2KLF presided and welcomed the 17 attendees. There was the usual roll call with call signs. The details of the Monday December 17, 2012 meeting are as follows.

1. **Solder Spot:** Paul VE2OFH announced that they are still working on the band pass filter project. This project will take several more months to complete. Some of the participants are making filters that are customized to their personal requirements. Web site SOLDERSPOT.CA.

2. **SOTA News:** Dan VA2KEY briefed us on their recent assault on Mont Sutton which took place on December 8th. On this occasion the higher elevations yielded icy conditions which made climbing slippery. There were a few falls of which two resulted in injuries. Although the injuries were not extremely serious, it was decided to cancel the event and call it a day. They may try the mountain again later on, using crampons. Web site WIARC-SOTA.WIKISPACES.COM.

3. **VE2RED:** The VE2RED repeater is still not back on the air. The repeater has now been equipped with EchoLink. It is all ready to go, except the QTH is still uncertain.

4. **CW Anyone?:** Malcolm VE2DDZ announced that he and several others are interested in improving their CW skills. He suggested that they might try holding face to face practice sessions before our regular monthly meetings and before the MARC meetings as well. Besides this the group would try to meet "on air" weekly using one of the local repeaters. Malcolm said that all interested parties are welcome.

5. **WIARC AGM:** After the break, once again we commenced the formal part of this evening's program, the Annual General Meeting. Sheldon VA2SH, acting as chairperson for the AGM, welcomed everyone in attendance. Malcolm VE2DDZ presented the interim financial report for 2012. Ken VE2KLF presented details of this year's activity as were published in the December bulletin. Finally, Sheldon VA2SH accepted nominations for election from Paul VE2OFH, the chairman of the nominating committee. Paul presented a single sheet holding the nominations. Sheldon asked if there were any other nominations from the floor. There were none. As there was only one nomination for each of the positions of president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary, Sheldon VA2SH declared the positions acclaimed. Ken Fraser VE2KLF had decided to step down after serving 3 terms as vice-president and the last 9 terms as president. In replacing Ken, Malcolm Harper VE2DDZ had accepted the nomination and was elected president. Charles Robitaille VE2RFI was re-elected and remains vice-president. Dan Montpetit VA2KEY had accepted the nomination and was elected treasurer. Keith Glashan VE2MTL was re-elected and remains secretary.

Malcolm VE2DDZ put forth a motion that a show of gratitude be made to formally acknowledge Ken's 12 years of service to the board as vice-president and president. The motion was seconded by Paul Iarrera VE2OFH. The vote was both unanimous and enthusiastic. Finally there was a motion to close the AGM by Bob VE2AXO which was seconded by Keith VE2XL.

Above a Pic of Sheldon and Paul conducting the WIARC AGM formalities.

Tonight, the winner of the 50/50 draw was Joe VE2JQE, who donated his winnings to the club. Congratulations and thanks, Joe.

This month, there were no door prizes. Sorry.

Something Punny - Dijon vu - the same mustard as before.

The meeting adjourned at 21:34. See you January 21st, 2013.

73, & good DX de Keith VE2MTL

WIARC membership fees for 2013 are due at the start of January. If you like you can fill out the attached membership form and either bring it with your payment to the January *meeting or mail it in to the address on the form.*

Cookies needed for Coffee break

WIARC is looking for someone to provide cookies for the coffee breaks held at each monthly meetings on a every third month basis.

If you would like to volunteer, contact any member of the executive.

Canadian Ski Marathon 2013

Once again the Canadian Ski Marathon (CSM) is spooling up. This year is the 47th anniversary for the CSM. This will be the 40th year for Amateur Radio supporting the event.

The CSM depends on ham radio volunteers to provide important and timely safety and logistical communication for the benefit of the skiers. The amateur radio CSM web page (http://www.radio-1.ca) is up and running with 2013 information. The event runs between Lachute and Buckingham in western Quebec - snow or shine.

If you would like to volunteer this year, please email Harold Hamilton VA3UNK (radio1@admin2.ca, va3unk@rac.ca, va3unk@gmail.com). Although they don't promise anything, assignment requests are generally first-come, first-served.

The Canadian Ski Marathon runs the second weekend in February (the 9th and 10th this year).

WIARC Fall Course 2012 Graduates's Callsigns

Congratulations to the Hams from the WIARC Fall Certification Course.

VE2XXI Marco Montesano (Vaudreuil-Dorion)
VA2FPV Alex Wenzl (Vaudreuil-Dorion)
VE2WTB Barry Horne (Rigaud)
VA2MVC Marc Vieira-Cardinal (Candiac)
VA2NWA Aronhióta's "Thomas" Deom (Kahnawake)
VA2MZS Mariusz Zienkiewicz (Lachine)
VA2WCD Charles Doole (Montreal)
VE2KPW Kevin Wright (Montreal)

Let's give them all a warm welcome when we hear them on the air. It looks like their instructor, François VE2AAY, has done an excellent job once again. VA2NKT Nguyen Khoi Tran (Montreal) received his certification at the same examination session after studying on his own. He is a member of the McGill balloon group.

CW practice
by Eamon Egan, VE2EGN

Some WIARC and MARC members are running CW practice sessions. The goal of the sessions is to get us interested in learning and using Morse Code, to give us an incentive to learn it, and provide us an opportunity to practice and improve our skills. We will also be able to spend a bit of time addressing general questions about Morse and CW operations.

We will initially hold these sessions in two venues:

1. During the 30 minutes of "informal" time before the "official" start of each MARC and each WIARC meeting (starting at 7:30pm for MARC and at 7:00 pm for WIARC). Just show up and optionally bring your preferred Morse practice device (key, keyer, oscillator). If you don't bring one, a paddle or straight key will be available for you to use when it's your turn to send.

2. For 30 minutes following the Sunday night net, on the VE2BG repeater (147.06 (+)). For this, we recommend you use one hand to key your 2m microphone near your code practice oscillator or HF radio monitor speaker, and the other hand to send Morse from a paddle or straight key. If there are only a few people on the repeater showing an interest, we may move the practice to another medium.

During the sessions, we will take turns sending among anyone who is interested. Everyone else will copy what is sent. You may choose whatever you feel like to send. In the in-person sessions, practice texts for sending will be optionally provided.

These sessions will not teach Morse from ground up, since it is simply too inefficient to do this in a group a few times a month. Some preparation will be required in order to benefit. Ideally you should be able to send and receive the letters and numbers and preferably some punctuation, at a minimum rate of 5 wpm. We will be starting somewhere between 5 and 10 wpm, depending on the speed level of whoever shows up. Even if you are not sure whether you are "up to speed", or if you are missing or rusty on parts of the code, please come check it out and try your hand at copying or sending.

An extremely effective and simple tool can be found http://c2.com/morse/, which will help introduce all the symbols and then start building up your speed. Dan VA2KEY will attempt to make available a selection of CW learning software (Windows) and files over wifi at the next WIARC meeting.

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 :	Malcolm Harper,	VE2DDZ	**Treasurer :**	Dan Montpetit,	VA2KEY
Vice-president :	Charles Robitaille,	VE2RFI	**Secretary :**	Keith Glashan,	VE2MTL

Directors:

Editor :	Bram Paterson,	VE2XCS	**Webmaster :**	Wayne Hodgins,	VE2WRH
QSL Manager :	Bob Loranger,	VE2AXO	**Immediate Past : President (IPP)**	Ken Fraser,	VE2KLF

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 (Temporarily on 146.76 PL 103.5 Hz - VE2RMP) Club Repeater
Information Net each Sunday evening at 8PM running for approximately an hour.
All are welcome to participate.