



West Island Amateur Radio Club Bulletin

January 2014 Edition

Upcoming Meeting – January 20th 2014
This month's topic
“ Setting up your first hamshack ”
An introduction on starting in amateur radio
Given by Charles Robitaille, VE2RFI

President's Message and Report

by Malcolm Harper, VE2DDZ (ve2ddz@ve2ddz.ca)

Hi all,

The very best of 2014 to everyone.

Membership fees

You should note that membership fees for 2014 are now due. If you renew prior to February 28, the rates remain at the old rate. Renewals after March 1 will be at the new \$25 annual rate.

New call signs

The hams from the Fall Basic Course have received their call signs. Listen for Michael Bianco VA2WBM, Dean Nobes VA2IPH, Bryan Jones VA2TXH, and Shawn Schmalzle VE2SUS on the air and give them a warm welcome to the hobby. I have heard Shawn on two metres already.

Dedication

We inadvertently scheduled our Christmas dinner for the same date as the Fall Basic Course examination. François VE2AAY, Andy VE2DNN, and Larry VE2DO showed their dedication when they forwent the dinner for the exam.

Setting up your first hamshack

At the January meeting Charles VE2RFI will tell us the dos and the don'ts for setting up a hamshack.

Winter Field Day

Dan VA2KEY and a group of local hams plan to set up portable operations for the SPAR Winter Field Day event. Dan will tell us some of their plans in a flash talk.

Canadian Ski Marathon

Saturday and Sunday, February 8th and 9th will be the 48th running of the Canadian Ski Marathon and the 41st year that amateur radio has provided communications support. Although the official CSM radio sponsor is the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club, WIARC has traditionally provided some of the radio volunteers. If you would like to volunteer as a radio operator, you can find more information at <http://www.radio-1.ca>.

Field Day

Eamon VE2EGN has prepared a survey to gather opinions about WIARC's field day operations. Please take the time to complete the survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5NF7PTS>.

January 20, 2014 Meeting Agenda

- Flash Talk - Dan VA2KEY - winter Field Day Operations
- SIGs
- Other business
- Break (coffee, cookies, ragchew)
- Setting up your first hamshack - Charles VE2RFI

See you on the 20th.

73,
Malcolm VE2DDZ

What Happened Minutes of the December 2013 WIARC meeting

by Keith Glashan, VE2MTL (kglashan@yahoo.ca)

Minutes of the WIARC Meeting December 16, 2013 By Keith Glashan VE2MTL

The meeting began at 19:55. Malcolm VE2DDZ presided and welcomed 18 attendees. There was the usual roll call with call signs. The details of the meeting follow.

1. **Paul MacDougall VA2YQ/SK:** Malcolm VE2DDZ announced the recent passing of Paul MacDougall VA2YQ. Paul was a member of MARC and many WIARC members remembered his frequent participation at local Hamfests.

2. **Repeater 146.910:** Charles VE2RFI ordered new cables for the .910 repeater and has sent the cheque. The VHF repeater seems to be working well for the moment. Al VE2WRI mentioned that he was able to use it successfully from his QTH in Pincourt. In recent years, he has often experienced difficulties.

3. **Echolink:** Dan VA2KEY and Joe VE2JQE have plans to install Echolink on our 146.910 repeater. Keith VE2MTL has donated a 2 meter rig for the project. It is all in the early stages of development. Much testing will be carried out to insure reliability. More news next month.

4. **Antenna Shootout:** Eamon VE2EGN carried out his plans for his antenna testing project called 'HF Antenna Shootout'. He and three

others went to Clearpoint School to carry out their experiments. They ran tests against HF skimmers. It seems that a good time was had by all. And, they got some testing done too! Please follow the links on the WIARC web site or you can find it using Google. Search for 'WIARC-SOTA'.

5. **Field Day:** Eamon VE2EGN announced that he will be sending out a survey in connection with Field Day 2014. Please take the time to respond thoughtfully. It will help make the event even more successful than it has always been.

6. **SOTA:** Malcolm VE2DDZ mentioned the recent trip to St. Bruno. This time, Marc-Andre VE2EVN planned the event. Lots of HF contacts logged.

7. **Solder Spot:** Paul VE2OFH has no activities planned for the moment. He is hoping that someone else might have some ideas and take up the challenge. Anyone?

8. **ARRL-DXCC:** Gilles VE2TZZT has accepted an appointment from the ARRL to be the bilingual "Checker" for Quebec. Gilles recommended that amateurs bring cards to him for validation. This is much safer than mailing large packets of those valuable cards. Please contact Gilles to get information on presenting your cards. Thanks Gilles for accepting this volunteer position.

9. **Finances 5 Yr. Summary:** Dan VA2KEY presented slides showing the

club finances summarized over the last 5 years.

10. **Membership Fees:** It was proposed that we raise the membership fees basic rate from \$20 to \$25. The rate for other family members will remain at \$10. The \$15 youth membership will stay as is. There will be no further special membership rates. All this takes place effective March 1st, this year.

11. **Break Time Cookies:** Break time snacks were provided by Charles VE2RFI. He provided a wide variety of Christmas cookies. There were not many left over. Thank you, Charles. According to the volunteer sheet, Eamon VE2EGN will be providing the treats next month. We need volunteers to provide snacks for our meetings in 2014. Please see Keith VE2MTL so he can enter your name on the list. So far, we only have a couple of months covered. And, February isn't one of them!

12. **WIARC AGM:** After the break, we commenced the formal part of this evening's program, the Annual General Meeting. Paul Iarrera VE2OFH, acting as chairperson for the AGM, welcomed everyone in attendance. Dan VA2KEY presented the interim financial report for 2013. Malcolm VE2DDZ presented details of this year's activity as were published in the December bulletin. Paul was presented a single nomination sheet containing only three nominations. Dan VA2KEY had decided to step down from his position as treasurer. Paul asked if there were any other nominations from

the floor. Dan VA2KEY nominated Bram Paterson VE2XCS, who accepted the nomination. As there was only one nomination for each of the positions of president, vice-president, and secretary, Paul VE2OFH declared the positions acclaimed. Therefore the executives for 2014 will be; Malcolm Harper VE2DDZ president, Charles Robitaille VE2RFI vice-president, Bram Paterson VE2XCS treasurer, and Keith Glashan VE2MTL secretary. Malcolm VE2DDZ put forth a motion that a show of gratitude be made to formally acknowledge Dan's service to the board as treasurer. The motion was

seconded by Paul VE2OFH. The vote was unanimous. Finally there was a motion to close the AGM by Ken VE2KLF which was seconded by Sam VE2LJV.

13. **50/50 Draw:** There was no 50/50 draw this evening.

14. **Door Prizes:** This month, there were no door prizes.

15. **A Pun My Word:** She was engaged to a boyfriend with a wooden leg, but broke it off.

The meeting adjourned at 22:10. See you January 20th, 2014.

73, & good DX de Keith VE2MTL

Membership Dues

The membership dues will rise from 20\$ to 25\$ effective march 1st 2014.

Thanks

Your WIARC executive committee.



West Island Amateur Radio Club – Founded 1972
P.O. Box 884, Pointe-Claire, Québec. H9R 4Z6

Minutes, Annual General Meeting December 16th, 2013

Held at Lakeside Heights Baptist Church, Pointe-Claire

Attendance:

Executive:

Malcolm Harper	VE2DDZ	president
Charles Robitaille	VE2RFI	vice-president
Dan Montpetit	VA2KEY	treasurer
Keith Glashan	VE2MTL	secretary

Members:

A quorum was established as 18 members minimum required for this AGM. Eighteen (18) regular members were present.

Agenda:

♣ Review of nominations

Election of new executive

Presentation of interim financial report

♣ President's annual message

Other business

Minutes:

1. Welcome:

Paul Iarrera, VE2OFH acts as Election scrutineer and welcomes the members.

2. Nominations: Presented by the chairperson of the nominating committee Paul Iarrera, VE2OFH.

One nomination form is received from the floor with 3 names:

Malcolm Harper, VE2DDZ is nominated as president.

Charles Robitaille, VE2RFI is nominated as vice-president.

Keith Glashan, VE2MTL is nominated as secretary.

One nomination is received from the floor with 1 name:

Bram Paterson, VE2XCS is nominated as treasurer by Dan Montpetit VA2KEY.

No other nominations are presented by members.

3. There is a motion to close the nominations:

Proposed: Larry Dobby VE2DO, Seconded: Bob Loranger VE2AXO. Vote: unanimous.

WIARC repeater site maintenance

by Bram Paterson, VE2XCS (ve2xcs@bell.net)

On December 29 2013, Charles VE2RFI and Bram VE2XCS went to the VE2RWI repeater site to perform upgrades on the repeater. As most of you know, the coaxial systems linking the both repeaters to their antennas haven't been change in quite a long time and we're pretty degraded.



Both VHF and UHF repeater's coaxial cables we're linked by barrel connectors (which adds losses in the cable system). Charles and the club's executives determined that the repeaters needed new cables and an order was placed at a ham shop in Ontario. The new coaxial cables are four 25' runs of RG-214. The advantage of using RG-214 over RG-213 is the double shielding that allows better attenuation from any intermod floating around the site from entering the antenna system feeding both repeaters. This new upgrade allows both VHF and UHF repeaters to gain at least 2 dB on receive and transmit. We also replaced two cables on the UHF cavity system.



Photos of Charles VE2RFI replacing and re-soldering a PL-259 connector, Charles is also powering on a newby repeater after performing maintenance duties on the UHF cavity system.

While testing the SWR coming out of the VHF multicoupler we noticed that the notch filter was out-of-tune. Further in our investigation of the high SWR showing up on Charles SWR meter, revealed that one of the cable linking the circulator to the VHF repeater had a incorrectly soldered on PL-259 connector. A little bit of solder and a hot soldering iron solved that problem. (**See pictures above**).

With all these repairs made, the VHF repeater is putting out a full 25 watts into the cans and a nice 10 watts up the antenna (mind you that our VHF antenna has a gain of at least 6-8 dB).

All in all, we estimate that the VHF repeater has an ouput of at least 30 watts coming out the antenna and 45 watts coming out the UHF antenna. Also while at the site, we changed the lights bulbs and did some cleaning.

A special thanks goes out to Charles VE2RFI who's hard work benefits all the user of the club's repeaters. Charles has been to the site at least 13 times since the beginning of 2013. Thanks Charles for your dedication.

We also would like to thank Brian VE2II and Stan VE2QXP who guided us by providing signal reports during the work on both repeaters.

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@WIARC.CA

Executives:

President : Malcolm Harper, VE2DDZ

Vice-president : Charles Robitaille, VE2RFI

Treasurer : Bram Paterson, VE2XCS

Secretary : Keith Glashan, VE2MTL

Accredited Examiners:

Larry Dobby, DOBBY@AEI.CA

Directors:

Editor : Bram Paterson, VE2XCS

QSL Manager : Bob Loranger, VE2AXO

Webmaster : Wayne Hodgins, VE2WRH

Immediate Past : Ken Fraser, VE2KLF

President (IPP)

Stuart Truba, EME70CM@YAHOO.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 VE2RWI Repeater

Information Net each Sunday evening at 8PM running for approximately an hour.
All are welcome to participate.