



West Island Amateur Radio Club Bulletin

December 2014 Edition

Upcoming Meeting – December 15th 2014

This month's topic

“ Annual General Meeting (AGM) ”

It's your club, your voice and your future. Join us and cast your ballot.

President's Message and Report

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

Hi all,

Highlights of 2014 and Report to the Annual General Meeting

Repeaters: The VHF repeater has some problems with intermod and we plan to install a PL tone. The UHF repeater is working very well.

Sunday Evening Net:

Our regular Sunday evening information net rolls along very well on the VHF repeater. We average 10-15 check-ins each Sunday, September through June. In 2014 we saw Bram VE2XCS and Paul VE2OFH step down as regular net control operators in order to focus on other things. Thank-you very much Paul and Bram for the great work you put in over the years. Currently we have Marc-André VE2EVN, Harrison VE2HKW, and myself as regular NCOs, a rotation that is working very well.

Everyone should feel free to join in Sunday evenings at 8:00 pm local on VE2RWI, 146.91 MHz(-), if you're close to a 2m radio.

Newsletter: Bram VE2XCS does an excellent job with the monthly newsletter. This year we had two articles from outside the club. Bram translated an article by Martin Arsenault, VE2BQA: On the hunt for interference sources with Hydro-Québec. This was a very interesting article and a very timely find by Bram as the subject had just come up at a meeting and on the net.

Meetings: I know we all appreciated Andy, VE2DNN, providing the coffee and refreshments for the monthly meetings. Cookies for the meetings are provided by member volunteers.

Membership Fees: Membership fees increased from \$20 to \$25 annually for standard membership as of March 1, 2014.

New Members: We welcomed new members Michael VA2NDN, Bruce VE2GZI, Barry VE2TRN, Edward VE3VMF, and Bob VE2PDT during 2014. Many of them are already active in club activities.

WIARC Greeters: In order to ensure that visitors feel welcome at club meetings we acted on a suggestion of Gilles, VE2TZT. Ken, VE2KLF, Gilles, VE2TZT, and Bob, VE2AXO agreed to serve in the capacity of greeters and welcomers for WIARC. Thank-you all.

Basic Certification Course: For a number of years WIARC has offered a virtual course leading to basic certification. François VE2AAY ran the course over Skype with great success, a fact attested to by three members of the current executive. As we heard at the October meeting, François has designed an online course delivered through the RAQI website. Prospective amateurs now proceed at their own pace, initial results are very positive.

QSL Bureau: Bob VE2AXO, has arranged with the incoming QSL bureau to save on postage by having members cards forwarded to him. He will then distribute the cards at club meetings. Contact Bob for more information.

Field Day

June 2014 saw another excellent field day. I think this was the fourth multi-club field day in a row. Eamon VE2EGN organized the event, taking over from George VE2NGH. Thank-you George for the excellent work over the years. I won't reproduce Eamon's report, but some highlights follow.

After discussions at meetings, Eamon initiated a survey on field day operations. Acting on feedback from participants, we moved back to wire antennas on HF. Perhaps more significantly we went to 100% battery power so no more noisy generator. Dan VA2KEY organized sponsorship that saw Batteries Expert of Ile Perrot loan us 1400 Amp hours of battery capacity. Thank-you Dan and thank-you Batteries Expert.

Our location was again Centennial Park in Beaconsfield. This lovely location has lots of trees and is a popular spot for the public on June weekends which ensures lots of visitors. Visitors were welcomed and informed about amateur radio and our set-up by Barry, Harrison, and Eamon.

In the lead-up to field day Eamon organized tutorial sessions on HF operating and on using the logging software N1MM. We had new operators coached on HF phone and operators new to field day CW on-the-air.

We had another excellent event due to Eamon's hard work organizing and to everyone who pitched in before and during Field Day. Thank-you all.

Radio Talk 2014: In August Terry VE2WTQ and I discussed the state of planning for Radio Talk 2014, scheduled for September. We reluctantly concluded that there was not enough time before the event to accomplish all the necessary tasks. An email to the organizers' list produced no objections and we cancelled Radio Talk 2014. What will happen with Radio Talk in the future remains to be determined.

Monthly meetings

Our meetings over the last year have been packed with content. In addition to talks mentioned elsewhere we had excellent presentations throughout the year. At the January meeting Charles gave us *Tips for Setting Up Your First Ham Shack*.

February saw Bob, VE2AXO, tell us about *Setting Up and Using the ARRL Logbook of the World*.

In March Bruce Given, VE2GZI, presented *The revival of DVRPTR D-Star Project*. These robust and low-cost boards are a great incentive for many hams to start experimenting with digital modes.

April was our annual show and tell meeting. We saw excellent presentations from Charles VE2RFI, Bob VE2AXO, Eamon VE2EGN, Marc-André VE2EVN, Edward VE3VMF, Harrison VE2HKW, Bram VE2XCS, Andy VE2DNN, and me. It's great to see that the spirit of tinkering and making is alive and well in our club.

In May Leo Nikkinen, VE2SI gave a fascinating talk about *Impedance Matching and Power Transfer*. I know I had some misconceptions corrected.

The June meeting featured planning for Field Day.

The September meeting was taken up with summer activity reports from Eamon, VE2EGN on Field Day; George, VE2NGH, Dan, VA2KEY, and Eamon on VHF/UHF mountain topping; Harrison, VE2HKW and Marc-André, VE2EVN on working as W1AW in Vermont; I reported on summer SOTA activations and the Montreal SOTA Megactivation event. In October, François, VE2AAY, brought us up-to-date on the Amateur Radio curriculum changes at Industry Canada as well as briefing us on the new on-line licensing courses at RAQI that he built.

The November meeting had a report of the group SOTA activation to Montagne de Rigaud.

Some of the flash talks we saw were: Dan VA2KEY on winter field day plans in January and report in February; Andy VE2DNN on a beautiful three knob radio he has refurbished also in January; Keith VE2MTL on converting a telephone table to a ham station in February; I gave a Canada Ski Marathon report in February and an overview of the Regina Amateur Radio Association club station in March; Keith VE2XL reported on a return visit to the W1AW headquarters station in May; and Charles VE2RFI showed us how to use a \$20 TV dongle as a cheap spectrum analyser in June.

Summer Get Togethers: For the second summer we opened the church on the third Monday of July and August for members to get together if they wished. We had no presentations planned and promised no refreshments. Many members turned up and took advantage of flea market tables, socializing, and an opportunity to show off and discuss projects in progress.

Vernon Ikeda VE2MBS/SK: Vern's passing in the summer was a shock. I remember Vern from my very first WIARC meetings. I will miss him.

Silent Keys: We also lost Don Dashney VE3RM/VE2SH, Yvon Patenaude VE2NIL, and Nicholas Ostopkevich VE2NAO this year.

Other Activities:

HF Antenna Shootout: Eamon VE2EVN, Dan VA2KEY, Harrison VE2HKW, and I participated in HF Antenna Shootouts. Very interesting thinking went into the design of the shootouts which used the Reverse Beacon Network to compare the effectiveness of the competing antennas.

Winter Field Day: Dan VA2KEY, Harrison VE2HKW, Eamon VE2EGN, Sheldon VA2SH, and I participated in the SPAR Winter Field Day event in January. Although the temperature dropped to -22 C there are plans to repeat the outing in 2015.

Summits on the Air: This fall saw Marc-André VE2EVN, Harrison VE2HKW, Dan VA2KEY and I participate in the third annual VE2SOTA Megactivation, this year in the Montreal area. On November 8 ten WIARC members, friends and family went on an activation of Montagne de Rigaud. Afterwards we followed it up with an afternoon lunch at the Willow Inn in Hudson.

Canada Ski Marathon: The Canada Ski Marathon has been using amateur radio volunteers for communications support for 41 years. For the 2014 running of the marathon, François VE2AAY, Dan VA2KEY, and I volunteered at the event.

PEC Presentation: Keith VE2MTL, Charles VE2RFI, Bram VE2XCS and I made a presentation on amateur radio to the students of the Pearson Electrotechnology Centre in March. In addition to some good PR about ham radio, we got a tour of the centre including the telephone museum and all of the school's labs. PEC offers very practical, hands-on instruction. It was good to see the centre and also to make contacts with the teachers.

Coming up in 2015

Solder Spot Reboot: Eamon VE2EGN is spearheading a renewal of Solder Spot build group, dormant now for over a year. Currently there is ongoing brainstorming about potential projects. As Eamon noted on the net last weekend, Solder Spot is organized as a do-acracy, which I take to mean that the doers determine the direction of the group.

DSP Study Group: One project that I will be pursuing in the New Year is a group to study digital signal processing. Potential strategies include working from online resources, exploring software such as GnuRadio, or experimenting with DSP development boards.

I apologize for anything I may have missed in the report; it's difficult to keep track of all the doings in such an active club.
Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting for the West Island Amateur Radio club will be held Monday, December 15 at Lakeside Heights Baptist Church starting at 7:30 pm.

It has been a pleasure serving with your current executive Charles VE2RFI, Bram VE2XCS, and Keith VE2MTL. They do a lot of work behind the scenes that we don't see. It is indeed appreciated.

I want to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2015.

73 and good dx,

Malcolm VE2DDZ

What happened

Minutes of the November 2014 WIARC meeting

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

Minutes of the WIARC Meeting November 17, 2014 By Keith Glashan VE2MTL

The meeting began at 19:48. Malcolm VE2DDZ was absent tonight, so Charles VE2RFI chaired the meeting. He welcomed the 20 attendees and started the meeting with usual roll call with call signs. The details of the meeting follow.

1. Christmas Dinner:

The first item of business this evening was the plans for our annual Christmas dinner get together. We had not yet decided on a venue for the event. There were several suggestions including Scarolie's on St. John's Boulevard, Grill Sélect on Kirkland Blvd., Del Friscos, and Porte Grecque both on Sources Blvd. The executive will be doing some research in the next very short while and will email their decision on the venue to the membership. Everyone agreed that the best date would be on a Wednesday, probably December 3rd. Charles asked for a show of hands and 17 of the 20 members in attendance showed an interest in attending this event. Larry VE2DO made a motion that the club provide \$100 worth of door prizes at the dinner this year. The motion was seconded by Dave VA2DGC. There was a vote by a show of hands. There were eight votes for the motion. There were four votes against the motion. That left eight abstentions. The motion carried.

2. SOTA:

There are no regular SOTA activities in the works at present. The recent Mont Rigaud event was featured after the break.

3. AGM:

George VE2NGH has agreed to chair the nominating committee for our annual general meeting. It will be held during our next regular meeting

on Dec. 15, 2014. Please submit your nominations to him.

4. HAMCON Colchester Vt.:

Harrison VE2HKW was supposed to talk on the subject this evening, but was not able to attend due to the bad weather. However, it was reported that it will be held on February 28, 2015. If you are looking for a ride to the event you should contact Harrison at ve2hkw@gmail.com.

5. VE2RMP News:

Andy VE2DNN reported that the RMP repeater will be moving to a site near St. Joseph's oratory.

6. Sunday Night Net:

Ken VE2KLF reported that we have been averaging 15 check-ins each week. There are three net controllers. If you wish to become a net controller, please contact one of the controllers and make arrangements directly with them. You can catch them on any Sunday evening.

7. Break Time Cookies:

This evening, the break time treats were provided by Terry VE2WTQ. In addition, Joe VE2JQE surprised us, and brought some Tim Bits with him. Thanks Terry and Joe. According to the volunteer sheet, Charles VE2RFI promises to provide his usual Christmas style treats for the December AGM evening.

8. After the Break:

Charles showed Malcolm's slides of the Mont Rigaud SOTA event held on Mont Rigaud Saturday, November 8th and included the slides taken by Marc-Andre VE2EVN. Everyone seemed impressed with the HF Portable Vertical Ventenna antenna used by Bob VE2PDT. It comprises a variety of elements which connect together in different combinations to cover the various bands. Harrison VE2HKW attempted to set up a Wi-Fi link with Dan VA2KEY who was some distance away. Apparently it was not so successful. Andy VE2DNN discussed the radio that he had prepared

for the event. He explained that he had a couple of problems with the power supply wiring. After the event, he went home and reengineered his radio set up. He brought it with him this evening. He designed a completely new set up. It is compact, flexible, and it works. It also includes a wooden surface which is used as a writing desk. These features are all integrated to provide a well-balanced, easy to use, and almost hands-free environment. If you like good design, then this fills the bill. Congratulations Andy. Well done.



Andy's new portable set up.

There were 10 participants who climbed to the summit. Although, it was quite cold, everyone still enjoyed themselves. Malcolm VE2DDZ, a man of great experience at these events, provided hot chocolate for everyone. The outing was followed by the now familiar trip to the Willow Inn in Hudson for lunch.

9. 50/50 Draw:

The winner of the 50-50 draw this evening was Ken VE2KLF, who donated his winnings to the Club. Thanks Ken.

10. Door Prizes:

This month, there were no door prizes. Sorry!

11. A Pun my Word:

Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.

The meeting adjourned at 21:44. See you December 15th, 2014.

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.

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.