



West Island Amateur Radio Club Bulletin

April 2015 Edition

Upcoming Meeting – April 20th 2015
This month's topic
“ Mesh Networking and the Broadband-Hamnet ”
Presented over Skype by Bertrand Zauhar, VE2ZAZ

President's Message and Report

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

Hi all,

A big thank-you to John, VE2EQL for passing along your excellent ideas on multi-band wire antennas at the March meeting. There is no excuse now not to be on HF and I know a number of hams who are working away on wire antennas.

Spring is certainly here, the past two weekends I've mixed bicycling around the West Island with snowshoeing on summits in the townships. Here are some activities coming up this spring, some for sure, some tentative. We may have another lunch time get together in May organized by the regulars of the Sunday Evening Net. We will probably have a group Summits on the Air (SOTA) activation to Mont Saint Bruno in late May. I hear that George, VE2NGH and Eamon, VE2EGN are working on a SolderSpot project that may see the light this spring. We will certainly have our usual joint Field Day extravaganza with MARC June 27 and 28. The location is still to be determined, but we expect to hear from Pointe-Claire regarding our application to use the Stewart Hall site any day now.

I have been wanting to hear Bert, VE2ZAZ talk for some time now. He has a number of projects on his website (ve2zaz.net) that I find very interesting, check them out. But he lives in Ottawa and that is a long drive for him to come to Pointe-Claire to give us a presentation. I ran into Bert at a hamfest a year or so ago, he suggested that we might get around the travel problem by having a virtual presentation instead of a physical presentation. Last fall when I saw that Bert was involved in the Ottawa area Broadband Hamnet I approached him to give a talk, virtually, which he will do on April 20.

A Broadband Hamnet (BBHN) is an independent communications network built on mesh networking principles. It usually uses commercial 2.4 GHz networking and computer equipment, combined with some of the advantages (and limitations) of amateur licensing. Some of its potential applications and uses are emergency communications, public service communications, and of course experimentation and learning. It has grown out of the amateur High Speed Multimedia experimentation and applications.

It would be great if we could use a BBHN implementation for Monday's presentation but no (or not yet anyway). We will use commercial network linking through cell and internet. I will download Bert's slides to my computer. We will establish a Skype link between my computer at the meeting and Bert's computer at his QTH. Certainly we will have two way audio, if bandwidth permits we will have one or two way video as well. Bert will give his presentation, I will advance the slides as directed, and hopefully everything will work seamlessly - we will see if it does.

April 20, 2015 Meeting Agenda

- Tips
- SIGs
- Reports
- Flash Talk - Linux in the Hamshack podcast - Harrison VE2HKW

- Other Business
- Break (coffee, ragchew, cookies)
- Mesh Networking and the Broadband-Hamnet
- A overview of today's implementation of an Amateur Radio computer Mesh Network by Bertrand Zauhar, VE2ZAZ

See you on the 20th.

73,
Malcolm VE2DDZ

What happened

Minutes of the March 2015 WIARC meeting

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

Minutes of the WIARC Meeting March 16, 2015 *By Keith Glashan VE2MTL*

The meeting began at 19:36. Malcolm VE2DDZ welcomed the 31 attendees and started the meeting with usual roll call with call signs. The details of the meeting follow.

1. New Members:

We had some visitors this evening. They were Suzanne VE2SZN, Cedric (no call), and Nathalie (no call). We also welcomed new members André VE2HIL, Tony VA2TCB, and Vlad VA2TTA.

2. Tip Time Tips:

Sorry! No tips this evening.

3. Raspberry Pi:

It has been suggestions that a Raspberry Pi group might be formed from among our members. About 10 members identified themselves as owning a "Pi" at present. There was nothing decided this evening, but perhaps a special interest group might be in the near future.

4. Field Day 2015:

Eamon VE2EGN talked briefly about field day 2015. He wondered whether we should use the Beaconsfield location again.

5. Commercial Auction:

George VE2NGH talked about the commercial auction that he attended recently, and especially about the items that he bought. He also talked about the hundreds of items that he

did not buy. It was a special auction of commercial radio equipment.

6. Radio Talk:

Malcolm VE2DDZ spoke briefly about a 'Radio Talk' revival. It seems that the MARC radio club is also interested in its future. Everyone agrees that 'Radio Talk' is a great idea. Now, it is a matter of just making it happen.

7. Our Meeting Format:

Malcolm mentioned that there has been some talk about the fact that some meetings finish quite late. This is of special concern to those who get up early the next day for school or work. One suggestion is to start earlier. Another was to put the coffee break at the end of the meeting. Then it was suggested that the time allotted to the guest speaker could be shortened. It was agreed that for now, we should at least start on time and tighten up the schedule as much as possible.

8. WSPR:

Bob VE2PDT spoke on WSPR. It stands for Weak Signal Propagation Reporter. It is a digital mode developed by Joe Taylor K1JT. It shows you how far your signals are being heard. Bob made a very interesting presentation on the topic. He had several slides showing the software and hardware that is required. It is a two way QRP digital communications package which allows you to record and report on the signals that you are hearing as well as transmit your signal to all parts of the globe. When you log onto the website you can see who has heard your station and you get your report. Very good work Bob.

Thanks for presenting this new topic to us this evening.

9. HAM-CON Colchester Vt.:

Marc-Andre spoke about the Hamcon event which took place at the end of February. As well John Grow VE2EQL had attended and mentioned QRP equipment and a talk on antennas given at the event.

10. Repeater News:

Charles VE2RFI reported that we had received a tone board for the repeater but it has not yet been installed.

11. Break Time Cookies:

This evening, the break time treats were provided by Sam VE2LJV. Thanks Sam. According to the volunteer sheet, Vlad VA2TTA will provide treats for next month's meeting.

12. After the Break:

Our guest speaker for the evening was John Grow VE2EQL. John Grow VE2EQL spoke on high performance wire antennas.



Guest John Grow VE2EQL

He first talked about beam antennas, how much they cost, and how they require rotators and other expensive items. They take up a lot of space and may even

require special insurance. Then he talked about long wire antennas and the various launching methods that he has used over the years. He talked about slingshots, fishing reels, and even pneumatic tennis ball launchers. He outlined the antenna materials that are required for long wire antennas. They are much cheaper to build and can perform equally well. You require copperweld, or multi stranded wire, insulators, and preferably some ladder line. You will require a tuner, if one is not already built into your rig. If you wish bring the signal into the shack using coax, he recommended using the highest power 4:1 balun you can get. John pointed out that your biggest concern is the height of the antenna. On the high frequencies, you will get low take off angles. Low frequencies tend

to give you high angles of radiation because you can never get long wires up high enough. He suggested that you consider an antenna for NVIS, Near Vertical Incidence Skywave. Look it up on the net. Very interesting. John emphasized the need to use ladder line instead of coax because of its far superior performance. Using ladder line will improve your output power significantly. He did caution, however, that you must keep those wires away from metal objects. John had handouts for us all. These included links to various web sites with instructions for building various wire antennas. For those with limited real estate, he suggested a 44 foot centre fed antenna which can be used from 40 meters to 6 meters. Thank you, John, for giving this presentation tonight. It was concise, right to the point, full of common sense

practical solutions, and very entertaining. Good 'Stand-up' and lots of information too. Thanks.

13. **50/50 Draw:**

The winner of the 50-50 draw this evening was George VE2NGH. Congratulations!

14. **Door Prizes:**

There were several door prizes this evening. A variety of magazines were provided by Bob VE2AXO, Dave VA2DGC, and Malcolm VE2DDZ.

15. **A Pun my Word:**

Atheism is a non-prophet organization.

The meeting adjourned at 21:36. See you April 20th, 2015.

73, & good DX de Keith VE2MTL

Monthly Meeting tips

Did you work on a ham radio project lately ? Did you discover a solution to a problem that may be helpful for your fellow WIARC members ? Then come and share your tips at our monthly meetings.

A short amount of time will be allocated at the beginning of each meeting for members to share tips. Please let the club's executive know ahead of time so we can manage the meeting schedule accordingly, by sending an email at ve2cwi@wiarc.ca

We want to hear from you

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

Do you have an idea or story that you want to share with your fellows WIARC members. We want to hear from you. Please send your article to the newsletter editor at the beginning of the month to the following email address: ve2xcs@bell.net

+++ 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

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QSL Manager : Bob Loranger, VE2AXO

Webmaster : Wayne Hodgins, VE2WRH

Immediate Past : Ken Fraser, VE2KLF

President (IPP)

Mark Morin,

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.