



West Island Amateur Radio Club Bulletin

May 2015 Edition

Upcoming Meeting – May 18th 2015
This month's topic
“ Show & Tell ”
Come join us and strut your stuff

President's Message and Report

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

Hi all,

We had our first remote presentation at April's WIARC meeting and it went well enough that we will likely try it again in the future. I will be looking for your feedback about the pros and cons of remote presentations at the May meeting. Many thanks to Bert, VE2ZAZ for putting together a fascinating presentation on the Broadband Ham Net on the air in Ottawa. How hard would it be to put a central BBHN node on the Pointe-Claire water tower?

I want to remind members that if you have recent awards or certificates, we would be glad to present them to you at a club meeting. We did this in the past, but it seems to have fallen out of practice.

I have dates confirmed for activities in late May. The regulars of the Sunday Evening Information Net are getting together for lunch and eyeball QSOs.

10:00 am, Saturday, May 23, 2015
Le Manoir (<http://lemanoir1.com/>)
600 St Jean Boulevard
The SW corner of St Jean and Hymus
Pointe-Claire H9R 3J9 514 695 2071

Google map to the Manoir: <https://maps.google.ca/maps?q=Brasserie+Le+Manoir&hl=en&cid=13675463811679871541&gl=CA&t=m&z=16&iwloc=A>

There will be a group Summits on the Air activation of Mt St Bruno on Saturday, May 30. It is 3 - 4 km from the parking lot to the summit depending on the route taken. There is a climb of about 165 m. For comparison the trail at Rigaud is about 1.5 km with a 135 m climb so the Mt St Bruno trail is longer, but the average grade is lower.

Drop me an email (ve2ddz@ve2ddz.ca) if you are interested in attending either event and I will keep you in the loop as plans solidify.

Our annual show and tell meeting is one of my favourite topics. I am looking forward to seeing and hearing everything that club members have been working on.

May 18, 2015 Meeting Agenda

- Tips
- SIGs
- Reports
- Other Business
- Discussion of remote presentation

- Break (coffee, ragchew, cookies)
- Show and Tell
- Project presentations by members

See you on the 18th.

73,
Malcolm VE2DDZ

What happened

Minutes of the April 2015 WIARC meeting

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

Minutes of the WIARC Meeting April 20, 2015 *By Keith Glashan VE2MTL*

The meeting began at 19:39. Malcolm VE2DDZ welcomed the 24 attendees and started the meeting with usual roll call with call signs. Charles was not able to be here tonight. The details of the meeting follow.

1. New Members:

We had some visitors this evening. They were Rani, Steven, and Lyubomic. It is good to see newcomers who are interested in amateur radio.

2. Tip Time Tips:

Sam VE2LJV told us about a place to get batteries of all sorts. Visit onlybatteries.com. Then Gilles VE2TZZ said that if you are looking for some household or local QRM affecting your radio, use a pair of telephones to help you. Call one from the other and set one by the radio speaker. Carry the other around listening to the radio audio while probing the sources that you suspect may be causing the QRM. You will be able to monitor the effects from a distance.

Malcolm VE2DDZ described a PC application for paper QSL cards. Google 'download eqsl cards' then download and install the software. Bram VE2XCS mentioned 2 WSPR aps on the web. Afterwards, George VE2NGH warned that renting a 'Boom Lift' might run you \$1,200 a day. Ouch! Finally, Tony VA2TCB gave us the coordinates for Mike's, a great Ham store in Fort Lauderdale.

3. Sunday Net:

Malcolm VE2DDZ suggested that the Sunday evening group get together for a lunch on Saturday, May 23rd. Stay tuned for details.

4. SOTA News:

Malcolm VE2DDZ announced that all those interested in a SOTA activity to Mont St. Bruno should keep May 30th available. Again, watch for more info via eMail.

5. Field Day 2015:

Eamon VE2EGN mentioned that Pointe-Claire has suggested that we consider using Seigniory Park rather than Stewart Hall for field day 2015.

6. Solder Spot:

Eamon VE2EGN is considering a power pole distribution box project. This version will have some interesting features.

George VE2NGH added that a metal punch could cut out the holes required for such a project.

7. Flash Talk SSTV from ISS:

Bob VE2PDT showed us the pics he received from the ISS using slow scan TV. He received them on 2 meter FM. He used software for mmsstv from Hamsoft (Google it) and showed us 6 or 7 images he got recognising Yuri Gagarin's first manned space flight.

Alex VE2VEH added that an Eggbeater Antenna might provide easier reception of satellite signals.

8. Golden Packet July 18th:

Dan VA2KEY mentioned that he will be participating in this activity again this

summer. If you are interested, contact Dan.

9. Show 'n Tell:

A reminder. At the May meeting, we will have our ever popular Show 'n Tell. So get those projects finished up OR bring in what you have so far. Either way, it's time to strut your stuff.

10. Break Time Cookies:

This evening, the break time treats were provided by Vlad VA2TTA. Thanks Vlad. Keith VE2XL surprised us with extra ones as well. According to the volunteer sheet, Ken VE2KLF will provide treats for next month's meeting.

11. After the Break:

Our guest speaker for the evening was Bertrand Zauhar VE2ZAZ. Bertrand (Bert) addressed the audience via Skype. His topic was 'Mesh Networking and the Broadband-Hamnet'. In short, it is like a separate internet. In emergencies, commercial networks may not always be reliable. This net uses radio links. Bert talked about its uses including D-Star, Packet, and even an eMail service.



Bert VE2ZAZ on Skype

He had prepared a first rate video with many slides showing the hardware and software required for the system. For

more info, visit broadband-hamnet.org. At the end of the presentation, Bert took several questions from the members via Skype. Thanks Bert for giving this presentation tonight. It was our first long distance one.

I think it forced the audience to pay closer attention than usual. I suspect that it worked better than some might

have expected. Now that we have broken the ice, perhaps we can do it more often. Thanks for all your efforts.

12. 50/50 Draw:
There was no 50-50 draw this evening. Sorry!

13. Door Prizes:
Keith VE2XL brought some magazines that were handed out as door prizes this

evening Thanks.

14. A Pun my Word:
A diagnostic - A person who doesn't believe in two gods.

The meeting adjourned at 21:29. See you Victoria Day May 18th, 2015.

73, & good DX de Keith VE2MTL

Monthly Meeting tips

Have you worked 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

Ham radio @pp of the month: WSPR

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

Beginning from now on, there will be two new columns in the newsletter each month. I will write a review about ham radio related applications available for IOS or Android and offer you new scanner frequencies each month for you to monitor at your leisure. I will be accepting any suggestions or comments you may have at ve2xcs@bell.net

This month, I found two cool WSPR apps.

WSPR World Watch (Android – Free) : This nice app features a world map with greyline zones included. Contacts are shown on a map according to the user's preferred band (ranging from 600m to 23cm).

Multiples filters are availables depending on your criteria (Call signs, Aurora, etc...). All info is updated to the minute and solar conditions are also provided.

Timers and alerts can be programmed, so you are sure to not miss any of the action. All in all, this app is very nice and sophisticated.

WSPRNet Viewer for WSRP (Android – Free) : This second app starts with a list of the most recent WSPR contacts and are displayed with gridcalls and frequency.

A thumbnail view allows you to see selected contacts displayed on a geographical map. Just like WSPR world watch, all lists are updated every second and multiples filters comes with the app, allowing you to see only the desired contacts.

This app will give you a simple, yet effective way to see WSPR propagations worldwide.

The HVU (HF, VHF or UHF) Scanner frequency of the month column

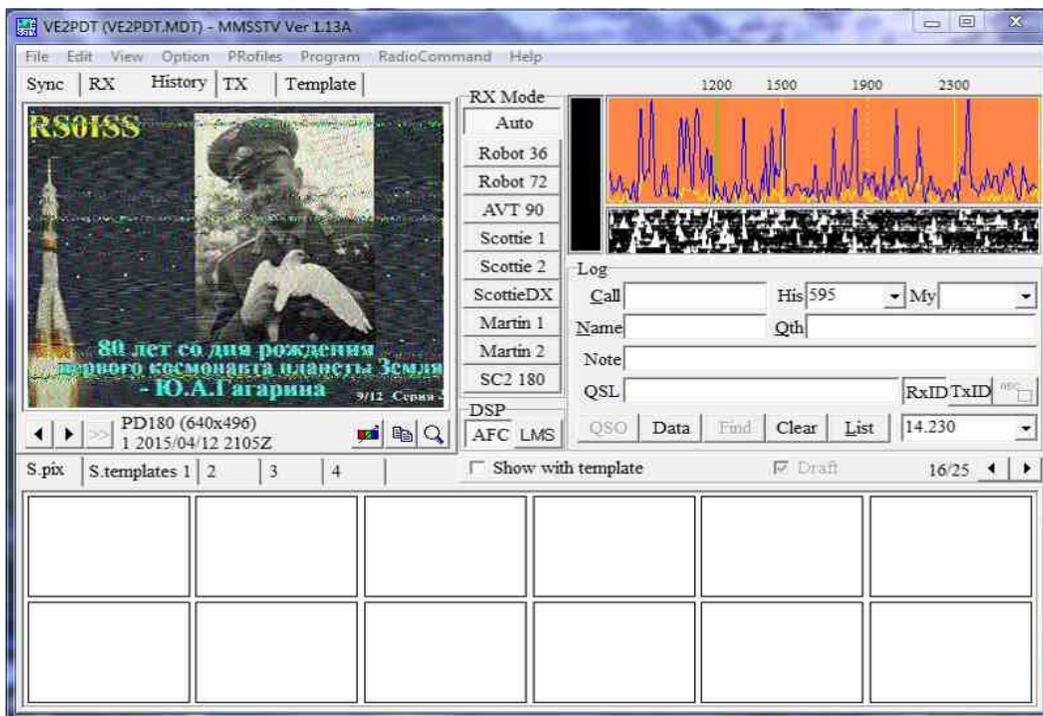
by Bram Paterson, VE2XCS (ve2xcs@bell.net)

Via Rail on-board frequency: 160.2000 MHz (No tone)
AMT Montreal-Rigaud: 161.1150 MHz (No tone)

These frequencies are used between the train conductor and other employees or trains. You can follow activity on-board and on the tracks, whether you are on the train or at home. Since these communications are in simplex, you will need to be near a CP or CN railroad track in order to listen in (Although, I am capable of receiving them from 5 Km away at my QTH).

ARISS SSTV Images: 80th Anniversary of Yuri Gagarin's birth

by Bob Goyetche, VE2PDT



View of MMSSTV. The software that Bob used to decode the SSTV downlink from the ISS.



Picture of Yuri Gagarin holding a dove

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

Weblink

Here is a link to the store provided by Tony VA2TCB in the minutes. <http://www.mikeselectronicsfl.com>

+++ 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

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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

News and comments are always welcomed; please submit them to the following address, VE2CWI@WIARC.CA

Website: <http://www.wiarc.ca>

Repeaters: VE2RWI VHF - 146.910 MHz (-) and 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.