



# West Island Amateur Radio Club Bulletin

## December 2015 Edition

### Upcoming Meeting – December 21<sup>th</sup> 2015

#### This month's topic

#### *“ Annual General Meeting 2015 ”*

#### *Drop the remote, go ahead and vote !!!*

### President's Message and Report

by Malcolm Harper, VE2DDZ ([ve2ddz@ve2ddz.ca](mailto:ve2ddz@ve2ddz.ca))

Hello all,

#### *Highlights of 2015 and Report to the Annual General Meeting*

**Repeaters:** Charles VE2RFI continues to work upgrading and maintaining the two repeaters. This year Charles installed an input tone (88.5 Hz) on the VHF repeater. The VHF repeater still has some quirks, for example occasional dropouts, which Charles is investigating. The UHF repeater is in top notch shape.

#### **Sunday Evening Net:**

Our regular Sunday evening information net has seen a decline in participation this fall, but still functions very well. Current net control operators are Marc-André VE2EVN, Harrison VE2HKW, and myself. The net remains a good blend of socializing and radio discussions and remains friendly to new hams. Our get together for lunch and eyeball QSOs in May was well attended and well enjoyed by all accounts.

Everyone should feel free to join in Sunday evenings, September - June at 8:00 pm local on VE2RWI, 146.91 MHz(-) T88.5, if you're close to a 2m radio.

**Newsletter:** Bram VE2XCS does an excellent job with the monthly newsletter. The minutes that Keith VE2MTL produces keep us well informed on meeting happenings.

This year Bram added regular columns on scanner frequencies and on smartphone apps. François VE2AAY, provided an excellent article on the design of the VLF transmitting station at Grimeton while Bram, Gilles VA2EW and I provided some photo essays. We welcome submissions to the newsletter; send them to Bram at [ve2xcs@bell.net](mailto:ve2xcs@bell.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. You can sign up now for a month 2016 – act quickly before they're all snapped up.

**New Members:** We welcomed new members Mike VE2MXU, André VE2HIL, Tony VA2TCB, Vlad VA2TTA, Peter VA2PBJ, and Marc-André VE2EVN during 2015. Many of them are quite active in club activities.

#### **Field Day**

June 2015 saw another excellent field day, the fifth annual multi-club field day, the third in a row at Centennial Park in Beaconsfield. Eamon VE2EGN was the coordinator ably assisted by George VE2NGH, Bob VE2PDT, Dan, VA2KEY and Charles VE2RFI. I won't reproduce Eamon's report (see the September newsletter), but some highlights follow.

The main change was moving from the 1A to the 2A class. The glitches from having two HF stations on the air simultaneously were few and far between and both stations were almost continuously active. It was absolutely a successful transition.

For the second year in a row we used wire antennas on HF and 100% battery. Dan VA2KEY again organized sponsorship that saw Batteries Expert of Ile Perrot loan us the needed battery capacity. Thank-you Dan and thank-you Batteries Expert.

Once again Eamon organized tutorial sessions on HF operating and on using the logging software N1MM prior to field day.

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.

This Fall Eamon surveyed field day participants for their opinions on various aspects of field day. We should see the results sometime early in the new year. Also early in the new year we will have a meeting to discuss and plan for the 2016 field day event.

### **Monthly meetings**

We continued monthly meetings full of content with a good mix of topics and presenters. The monthly meetings were quite well attended and saw active participation from members of the club.

In January we added a new item to the meeting agenda at the suggestion of Gilles, VE2TZT. *Tip Time* is for members to share handy tips with the rest of us.

At the January meeting Loftur Jonasson, VE2LJX introduced his *Automatic Magnetic Loop Antenna Tuning Controller*.

February saw Gilles, VE2TZT gave us *An Introduction to the Mysteries of Propagation*.

In March John, VE2EQL told us about *High Performance Wire Antennas*.

In April we had a presentation over Skype. From his home QTH in Gatineau, Bert VE2ZAZ gave us an overview of the Ottawa area implementation of a *Broadband Hamnet*. This will probably not be the last remote presentation we see at WIARC.

In May at our regular *Show and Tell* meeting we had excellent presentations from Keith VE2MTL, Charles VE2RFI, Harrison VE2HKW, Bob VE2PDT, Dave VA2DGC, Vlad VA2TTA, Andy VE2DNN, and myself.

As usual we used the June meeting for Field Day planning.

The September meeting was taken up with summer activity reports from Eamon, VE2EGN on Field Day; Vlad VA2AN on a visit to his friends contest station, flying in by helicopter; Charles VE2RFI demonstrated his portable vertical antenna to be used for mountain topping; Gilles VA2EW on the Contest Club Ontario barbeque; myself on SOTA activations.

In October, Glenn MacDonell of Radio Amateurs of Canada brought us up-to-date on the state of amateur radio in Canada, the current state of RAC, and his vision of the organization going forward.

At the November meeting Mark VA2MM took us through the iterations of his *Remotely Operated Station*.

Some of the flash talks we saw were: Nigel VA2NM on a Poor Ham's Scalar Network Analyzer in January; In February we had a reports on Winter Field Day operations and on Canada Ski Marathon operation; Bob VE2PDT reported on using WSPR in March and showed us SSTV images he captured from ISS transmissions in April; Gilles VA2EW on his 160m transmitting antenna in June and on stacking a second SteppIR on his tower in September;

**Summer Get Togethers:** 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.

**Examiners:** Mark VA2MM joined Larry VE2DO as club sponsored examiner. This was prompted by an interest in amateur radio on the part of some of his students. Five have so far attained their basic qualification.

**Silent Keys:** We lost Peter Cheasley VE2TPR, Thain MacDowell VE2NI, and Joe Cassidy, formerly VE2QG this year.

### **Other Activities**

**Chillycon:** Dan VA2KEY, Harrison VE2HKW, Bob VE2PDT, Marc-André VE2EVN and Bram VE2XCS participated in the ChillyCon QRP get together at Rideau River Provincial Park in September.

**Winter Field Day:** Dan VA2KEY, Harrison VE2HKW, Bob VE2PDT, and I were back at Harrison's QTH for the 2015 edition of the annual Winter Field Day. It was a great time for the second year in a row.

**Summits on the Air:** On November 7 nine 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 42 years. For the 2015 running of the marathon François VE2AAY and I volunteered at the event.

**Your Executive:** Bram VE2XCS started studies at Cégep de Saint-Laurent this fall and received two amateur radio scholarships to support his studies. Congratulations Bram.

## Coming up in 2016

**State of the Club:** Two things that have come up this fall are questions about the state of and the future of the club. For example, is the club's mission statement still appropriate? What is the purpose or purposes of the club? Are we facing trouble with declining membership? There was a certain amount of consternation seeing only forty names on the membership list circulated this fall. What about finances? Can we afford to continue our current activity levels?

I think we should start thinking and talking about these issues. Perhaps we'll decide that there is nothing that needs changing. Perhaps we'll decide that we need to change some things to address the changes happening in the club.

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 21 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 2016.

73 and good dx,

Malcolm VE2DDZ

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# What happened

## Minutes of the November 2015 WIARC meeting

by Keith Glashan, VE2MTL ([kglashan@yahoo.ca](mailto:kglashan@yahoo.ca))

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

The meeting began at 19:39. Malcolm VE2DDZ, or perhaps I should say VE2NR, welcomed the 21 attendees and started the meeting with usual roll call with call signs. The details of the meeting follow.

#### 1. Tip Time Tips:

Gilles VA2EW brought a roll of wire wrap used in gardening and other places around the home. He cuts off

lengths to be used as tie wraps for wires around the shack. As well, he showed some handy Christmas clips, normally used along a roof edge to hold lighting. He finds them useful for hanging antenna wires.

Andy VE2DNN reminded us that there are about 400 million short wave radios in the world. Still an important media, and a reminder to us that someone is out there and is listening.

Ken VE2KLF solved an intermittent problem with a PTT by bending the plug pin a little. It made for a better contact

and solved his problem. Thanks, everyone.

#### 2. SOTA News:

Malcolm showed several pics of the Rigaud SOTA event held on Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>. There were 9 participants.

Ron VA3BTD joined them from the Ottawa area. As well there were 3 young fellows from the Montreal area, Rudy, Noel, and Patrick.

The weather cooperated; lots of contacts were made, and all promised to do it again. Sounds like success.



*Eight plus a photographer.*

Then Marc-Andre VE2EVN invited us to the Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> St. Bruno event. Located in a provincial nature park, it is an easier climb than Rigaud, though slightly longer.

### 3. **Field Day Survey:**

Be advised that Eamon VE2EGN has closed his survey as of tonight. Thanks to all who participated. The results should be available next month.

### 4. **Christmas Party:**

A reminder about the reservation at L'Academie restaurant for Dec 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM. It is a "Bring your own wine/beer place". There will be door prizes too. See you there.

### 5. **Great Britain Radio Society:**

On the web, there is a promotional video produced by the Radio Society of Great Britain.

Principally, it features young amateurs enjoying the hobby. Malcolm was able to download the 6 minute program and presented it on screen for us. If you missed it, you can easily find it on-line.

### 6. **AGM:**

The annual WIARC AGM will take place next month. Gilles VA2EW

agreed to chair the nominating committee. Please submit your nominations to him. Ken VE2KLF, agreed to be the election scrutineer.

### 7. **Break Time Cookies:**

This evening, the break time treats were provided by Ken VE2KLF. Thanks Ken. As well, extra treats were provided by June VE2XS. Thanks again June. And, thanks Keith VE2XL for the transport.

According to the volunteer sheet, Charles VE2RFI will provide treats for next month's meeting.

I will be distributing a new sheet for the 2016 year. It would nice to see a new bunch of volunteers step forward.

### 8. **After the Break:**

This month, we were thoroughly entertained and impressed with the presentation by Mark VA2MM on his remote station set-up. Mark started off by explaining that he had envisioned a fairly straight forward and relative inexpensive system. However, as can often be the case, things got complicated. He explained that his cottage in Temiscaming lacks reliable AC and Internet connection. He therefore had to develop systems that could restart automatically. Otherwise it would mean a 15 hour round trip. Mark originally used an IC-706 with the removable head located at his home QTH providing all the functionality required.

Over time this evolved to an Elecraft K3 in his remote location controlled with a K3/0 in Montreal. The rest of his equipment and software is there to

provide the link and support the irregular infrastructure at the cottage.

He said he uses remote QTH Software for Raspberry Pi for rotor control and antenna selection. His signal goes out on an Elecraft KPA500 linear using a KAT500 automatic tuner. Mark would not, or could not tell us the total cost of the entire operation. He did say that he was pleased to get some really good deals on some used equipment.

He presented a video of one of his recent QSO's. He ended by taking questions from the floor. As you can imagine, there was great interest and lots of questions.

He admitted he is probably not through quite yet. There can always be more things to add. Many thanks, Mark. Very well done. Please return and update us on any future enhancements.

### 9. **50/50 Draw:**

The winner of the 50-50 draw this evening was Charles VE2RFI who donated his winnings to the Club. Congratulations and thanks.

### 10. **Door Prizes:**

There were no door prizes taken home tonight.

### 11. **A Pun my Word:**

The main reason that Santa is so jolly is because he knows where all the bad girls live. HiHi (HoHoHo).

The meeting adjourned at 22:00. See you December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015.

73, & good DX de Keith VE2MTL

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## **Monthly Meeting tips**

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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](mailto:ve2cwi@wiarc.ca)

## WIARC Annual Membership Dues

Memberships for 2016 are due January 1. Fill out the form distributed with this newsletter and bring it by the January meeting (or drop it in the mail, or give it to any member of the executive).

## We want to hear from you

by Bram Paterson, VE2XCS ([ve2xcs@bell.net](mailto: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](mailto:ve2xcs@bell.net)

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

Due to my end of semester exams, I haven't had much time to scan around the bands. However, I did manage to find two new frequencies for you, my fellow WIARC members. These are frequencies are in the HF band.



*Picture of a USAF C-17A Globemaster III, often heard on the US frequency*

US Air Force EAM 11.175 (USB) & CanForce (CFB Trenton) 11.232 (USB)

During the night they use HF frequencies in the lower bands. The frequencies listed above are used in conjunction with the local VHF civilian air band (108-136 MHz - AM) and military air band (225-380 MHz - AM).

### +++ 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](mailto: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](mailto:VE2CWI@WIARC.CA)

#### Executives:

**President :** Malcolm Harper, VE2DDZ

**Vice-president :** Charles Robitaille, VE2RFI

**Treasurer :** Bram Paterson, VE2XCS

**Secretary :** Keith Glashan, VE2MTL

#### Accredited Examiner:

Larry Dobby, VE2DO [DOBBY@AEI.CA](mailto:DOBBY@AEI.CA)

Mark Morin, VA2MM [mark@partout.ca](mailto:mark@partout.ca)

#### Directors:

**Editor :** Bram Paterson, VE2XCS

**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](mailto:VE2CWI@WIARC.CA)

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

**Repeaters:** VE2RWI VHF - 146.910 MHz (-) and VE2RWI UHF - 443.050 MHz (+)  
(88.5 Hz CTCSS tone both transmitted and received on the VHF repeater  
and a 141.3 Hz CTCSS tone only transmitted on the UHF repeater).

#### Monthly Meetings

Held the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.