



# West Island Amateur Radio Club Bulletin

## October 2017 Edition

### Upcoming Meeting – October 16<sup>th</sup> 2017

#### This month's topic

*“ Myths and reality around RF wide band toroid transformers ”*

*Presented by Gilles Renucci, VA2EW*

### President's Message and Report

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

Hi all,

Wow, great success with the Chinese auction at the September meeting. Thanks to Keith VE2XL for the idea and to Keith and Charles VE2RFI for the donated items. We raised enough money to renew our AMSAT membership plus some change. Congratulations to everyone who won one of the auctions, you got a great deal. We will probably see more of these type of fundraisers in the future.

We have tentatively scheduled the WIARC Christmas dinner for Wednesday, December 6. I realize that it is hard to think about Christmas with the unseasonably warm fall we've been having, but even so, pencil the date in on your calendars and we'll try to confirm it at the October meeting.

Thanks to Dan VA2KEY, Charles VE2RFI, and Gilles VA2EW for the great reports at the September meeting. I'd like to remind members that if you have a topic that you'd like to present at a club meeting, you are welcome to give a "flash talk" - a short (maximum 15 minute) presentation. Just let me know of your interest and I will schedule it in.

This month we'll hear from Gilles about the first place plate for North America that he and his team won in the 2016 CQ World Wide WPX Contest. We'll also hear from Vlad, VE2QA, about the Islands on the Air operations he was involved in this past summer.

After the break Gilles VA2EW will present on wide band toroid transformers. It promises to be very enlightening, he will touch on how they actually work, applications to antenna transformers, baluns, feedline/coax transformers, splitter/combiners and high power transistor amplifiers.

We will also have a couple of brainstorming sessions at the October meeting. I'll be asking for ideas for door prizes for the Christmas dinner and I'll also be asking for ideas for presentation topics for the New Year.

#### **October 16, 2017 Meeting Agenda**

- Radio Tips
- CQWW WPX North America Multi-Single First Place Plate – VA2EW
- Reports
  - Islands on the Air Contest – VE2QA
  - Group SOTA activation – VE2DDZ

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# President's Message and Report

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

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- Other
- Christmas dinner door prizes
- Presentation topic ideas
- Break (coffee, ragchew, cookies)
- Presentation: Myths and reality around RF wide band toroid transformers - Gilles VA2EW

See you on the 16th.

73,  
Malcolm VE2DDZ

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## What happened

### Minutes of the September 2017 WIARC meeting

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

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#### What happened

##### *Minutes of the WIARC Meeting September 18, 2017* By Keith Glashan VE2MTL

The meeting began at 19:48. Malcolm VE2DDZ welcomed the 26 attendees, and opened the meeting with the usual roll call with call signs. The details of the meeting follow.

#### 1. Visitors:

Dave VE2MPD made a surprise appearance tonight. Most of us have known Dave, or talked to him 'on-air' for many years. Sharad Chopra attended the meeting this evening. He is a friend of Bram VA2XE. Being in the masters program in aerospace engineering at Concordia, he is interested amateur satellite communications. We also had a visit from Birgit, a short wave listener. She is looking to expand her radio horizons. We hope to see them again soon.

#### 2. Tip Time Tips:

Eamon VE2EGN recommends the Function-Generator app for Android. It can generate audio frequency wave

forms. He finds it useful. Malcolm VE2DDZ talked about a SOTA event when his Morse code key failed. He discovered corrosion on the contacts. He solved the problem using carbon-based grease which is conductive. There is one produced by a company called MG chemicals.

#### 3. Chinese Auction:

Keith VE2XL conducted a Chinese auction with the proceeds going to finance a Club membership in Amsat. He also donated 2 items for the auction. Wayne VE2WHH won the bid on his antique radio replica. His variable voltage power supply was taken home by Malcolm VE2DDZ. As well, Charles VE2RFI/MK provided a few items. Harrison VE2HKW won an eight bay TV antenna supplied by Charles VE2RFI.

Charles also brought some cable pieces with silver connectors. That auction was won by Bram VA2XE. Harrison VE2HKW also won a bag of Motorola crystals, and Keith VE2XL himself won an important radio manual. In total, we raised enough to pay for the Amsat membership. Success! Perhaps we may do it again.

#### 4. Golden Packet:

Dan VA2KEY spoke about the 2017 version of the golden packet event. The packet path is from Springer SPRNGR in Georgia, following the Appalachian Trail to Mt. Katahdin KATHDN in Maine. There are 15 stations involved. This year station 13 on Mt. Washington MTWASH was unable to participate, so the Sugarloaf SUGRLF team 14 took their place. This left SUGRLF unmanned. Dan VA2KEY and Bram VA2XE activated Mt. St. Joseph MTSTJO filling in as station 14 and providing the final hop to KATHDN. WIARC to the rescue.

#### 5. Canada 150:

Gilles VA2EW spoke about this year's Canada 150 event, sponsored by RAC. It is a 6 month long contest. For details, please visit the RAC web site.

#### 6. SOTA News:

Malcolm announced our annual group SOTA to Mont-Rigaud. This year it will be held on October 14. See you all there.

#### 7. Repeater News:

Charles VE2RFI spoke about some Technical adjustments he made over the Labour Day weekend to both the VHF and the UHF repeaters. By the way,

Charles suggests that members should be on the lookout for new UHF cavities and cabling, as the old ones are impossible to tune accurately. Thanks, again Charles for all your efforts. While on the subject of repeaters, Dave VE2MPD mentioned that there is a new repeater in Montreal. It operates on 444.150+5MHz. The TSQ is 103.5Hz. He suggested that you Google K3SL/VE2 for further details. Finally, James VE2KHC mentioned that this Saturday is clean-up day at the Rigaud repeater site. Volunteers were advised that it starts at 10 AM.

**8. After the Break - Summer 2017:** The subject of the talk this evening was 'Members Summer Activities'. Malcolm spoke first about his trip to

Prince Edward Island where he activated both of the Island's summits. He travelled to various parts of the country between June 30 and September 16. In total he completed 436 QSOs for 140 points on 24 mountains. Malcolm had hundreds of slides to show us. I don't think we actually saw every one that he had taken, but we saw a lot. This hobby surely provides a lot of beautiful scenery. Then, Gilles VA2EW took the floor and described his visit to K3LR, a large contest station. The station supports all bands and multi operators. He too had many slides of his visit. The station comprises 4 towers with the tallest almost 300 feet in height. All these towers support stacked beams on all bands. It is definitely a station to die for. When asked who had the money to put all that equipment together, he

mentioned that there is some rumour that the owner used to be a lawyer. Thanks fellas for your efforts in preparing your presentations this evening.

**9. Break Time Cookies:**

Charles VE2RFI/MK provided the treats for tonight's meeting. Thanks. We still need volunteers for the October meeting, as well as November and December.

**10. Door Prizes:**

This evening, Keith VE2XL brought an Amsat magazine to offer as a door prize.

**11. A Pun my Word:**

Man who leaps off cliff jumps to conclusion.

The meeting adjourned at 22:36. See you on October 16, 2017.

73, & good DX de Keith VE2MTL

## We want to hear from you

by Bram Paterson, VA2XE ([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)

## 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.

### ++ Free Flea Market Tables +++

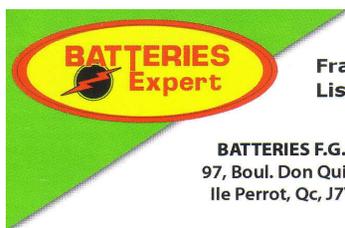
A reminder that tables are available at our monthly meetings.

### \$\$\$ 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.

## Our Sponsors



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Members can also post ads in the newsletter  
Contact the club's executives committee for  
more information

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## Footnotes About Us

### The West Island Amateur Radio Club was founded in 1972

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**Twitter** — <https://twitter.com/westislandarc> **Facebook** – <https://www.facebook.com/groups/437310523122118/>

#### Executives:

**President :** Malcolm Harper, VE2DDZ

**Vice-president :** Gilles Renucci, VA2EW

**Treasurer :** Harrison Kyle, VE2HKW

**Secretary :** Keith Glashan, VE2MTL

#### Accredited Examiner:

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#### Directors:

**Editor :** Bram Paterson, VA2XE

**QSL Manager :** Bob Loranger, VE2AXO

**Webmaster :** Wayne Hodgins, VE2WRH

**Past President:** Ken Fraser, VE2KLF

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 (+)  
(A CTCSS tone of 88.5 Hz is required on the inputs of both repeaters in order to access them. The repeaters also transmit the same tone on their output frequencies)

#### 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.