



West Island Amateur Radio Club Bulletin

April 2012 Edition

Upcoming Meeting – April 16th 2012

This month's topic

“Summits on the Air (SOTA)”

*Presentation Given by Dan Montpetit VA2KEY and Eamon Egan
VE2EGN*

President's Message and Report

by Ken Fraser, VE2KLF

>>> WI ~ ARCS <<<

Tales from the QTH:

Upon checking past records of local maple syrup production, the time came (just before composing this message) to pull the spiles out of the trees and close the 2012 season. Needless to say that this season was a bust with very little production. The weather became too hot for a long period! Now I can stop procrastinating and proceed to those “Les Miserables” of income tax production. ☹

I attended the vistingation on March 26 (at Rideau Gardens) and funeral service (at St Barnabas church in Pierrefonds) on March 27 for Bert, VE2WD. Keith, VE2MTL was with me for the visitation where we met Bert's daughter Janice and his granddaughters. Bert was a pilot with the RCAF during WW II. As it turns out the rector for Bert's funeral service was my church's incumbent, Archdeacon Michael Johnson (St Barnabas is currently looking for a new rector) and our organist was at the St. Barnabas console!

Like I noted above, it is time for taxes, then I can get back to planting, trimming and amateur radio ... ☺ The green stuff is putting on a show in the lawns, time sharpen the mower!

MAR 2012 MTG:

Please see the minutes for 2012-MAR-19. For those of you who could not make it, you missed another excellent video and slide presentation by Gilles, VE2TZT on the VP6T dxpediton to Pitcairn Island. Not only did the slides capture an amazing experience, but also they were cleverly augmented by videos of the action on the site. Thank you Gilles for bringing your VP6T group's escape from winter to our members.

APR 2012 MTG:

Tentative agenda:

- SK Ceremony for Bert, VE2WD
- Solder-Spot updates
- RWI-VHF Repeater performance. The Tx output appears to be down, but no precise measurements have been made. This goes along with the erratic performance of the Rx sensitivity. If that is not traced to connections in the radio room or the duplexer, the antenna and feedline may have to be checked. That requires a professional rigger and the temporary turn off of other commercial services on the tower, \$\$\$\$. Some of you over-the-air DTV viewers may have noticed the turn off of DTV services at 00:00 hours local on the Mount Royal TV tower during the week of April 2!
- Other business
- Coffee/drinks/cookies, and rag chew
- SOTA Operations by Dan, VA2KEY and Eamon, VE2EGN
- 50/50 draw

Notes: 2012 dues are now “due”! If you have not already settled your account, please see Malcolm, VE2DDZ. Tnx.

1. ___ Time to start thinking about our annual “show and tell” that has been tentatively assigned to the MAY 2012 meeting. Drag out those recent or otherwise ham radio creations, humourous or serious, and give us a short demonstration. There is certainly room for the Solder-Spot groups! Be on your best behaviour as we shall probably record the event with pics and maybe a video.

2. ___ Volunteers are needed for our exhibit at the annual Lester B Pearson School Board's Science and Technology days on May 23rd and 24th at the St Lazare Airfield. Set up will be on May 22nd during the day usually. Students will be visiting the exhibits in-groups of 15 or so from 10:00 to 13:00 approximately on the 23rd and 24th and volunteers must be on site by 09:00. Breakfast coffee with muffins and lunch are provided.
3. ___ Volunteers will also be needed for Field Day on the last weekend in June. It is being organized as a tri-club effort as last year using the MARC call VE2ARC.

C U on the 16th of April – 2012 ... de .ken. VE2KLF

What Happened

Minutes of the March 2012 WIARC meeting

by Keith Glashan, VE2MTL

Minutes of the March 2012 WIARC meeting by Keith Glashan VE2MTL

The meeting began at 19:40. Ken VE2KLF presided and welcomed the 22 attendees. There was the usual roll call with call signs. The details of the Monday March 19, 2012 meeting are as follows.

1. **Financials 2011:** Malcolm VE2DDZ presented the final financial reports for 2011 to the membership. These were attached to the members' bulletin that they recently received. He projected them onto the screen for our review. Vern VE2QQ had recently audited our books and found them in good order. Thanks Vern.

2. **Solder Spot:** Paul VE2OFH said that he needs a QTH for the next project. It will take 3 consecutive Saturdays. So if you know of a place that can accommodate about 15 guys, give Paul a call. It was suggested that our own meeting location at the church may be just what they need. Paul will find out if it is available.

3. **SOTA:** Eamon VE2EGN said that new SOTA provisional summits are to be announced soon. These will be added to the data base.

4. **Radio Talk 2012:** Malcolm VE2DDZ announced that this year's version of Radio Talk will include participation with the MARC club. He suggested a date of Sept 22nd which corresponds to the RAC conference planned for that week-end.

5. **Field Day 2012:** Paul VE2OFH announced that he had accepted to take charge of the field day activities

this year. Here are some brief facts that he outlined. It will be a tri-club event like last year. We would operate under the VE2ARC banner. He is looking for a 6 meter beam. He is hoping for Pine Beach Park again. He plans to use a tent or tempo and not the gazebo. The dates are June 23rd and 24th. Charles VE2RFI will be our cook. Lots of volunteers needed. More news next month. Please plan to help out.

6. **Charles VE2RFI:** Charles VE2RFI wrote the advanced exam recently under the supervision of examiner Sheldon VA2SH. I am pleased to announce that he was found well qualified. We have another advanced member in the club. Congratulations to Charles. Well done. Thanks also to Sheldon for his assistance.

7. **Science/Tech 2012:** Ken VE2KLF reminded us that the annual Science and Technology days are fast approaching. This year's dates are May 23rd and 24th. Members are encouraged to participate. We always enjoy this informal event. Plan to join us this time.

8. **IEEE & CW:** Ken VE2KLF told us that we have been asked by the organizers of this year's event to participate by way of some kind of CW competition. It will be held June 19th. Apparently one of the VP's of RIM (Research in Motion) is involved and is a Ham as well. Not much info for the moment. Ken hopes to learn more by next month's meeting.

Gilles VE2TZZ dx VP6T: After the break, Gilles VE2TZZ, gave a detailed presentation on his recent experiences with the VP6T Dx'pedition to Pitcairn Island. He had about 300 pics and several videos. The whole show was

most professional. He covered every detail of the adventure, from the air travel, the ocean voyages, the local inhabitants, the set-up, operating pile-ups, packing up, and travelling on the island in ATV's. There were great shots of the Island's rugged terrain and Gilles even had footage of a serious tropical storm. He started the evening with the history of the island and the Bounty story. He had several pics and gave credit to 2 local hams who helped them out a lot. They were Tom Christian VP6TC and Betty Christian VP6YL. He showed pics of all the antennas they used. Most of them were dedicated to a single band. Gilles had extensive videos, all with audio of the pile ups; both on SSB and CW. He and his group made about 56,000 contacts in the 10 days they spent on Pitcairn Island. By chance, they were there on January 23rd which is Bounty Day on Pitcairn Island. It is celebrated there each year in commemoration of the burning of the Bounty by the mutineers in 1790. Model replicas, made by the islanders, are burned on the beach at Bounty Bay.



**Picture of Gilles VE2TZZ giving his
VP6T presentation.**

Everyone on the island participates without exception. There is singing of hymns and partying. Gilles described it as a very moving experience. Gilles,

tonight's presentation was truly remarkable and so professionally done. It is evidence of the detailed planning that must have gone into this dx'pdition. The pictures covered every detail so nicely that it looked as if you had brought a camera crew with you just for the task. Thank you so much.

Tonight, the winner of the 50/50 draw was Henry VA3OV who donated his

winnings to the Club. Congratulations and thanks, Henry.

This month, it seems that Ken VE2KLF has been doing some housekeeping so he brought a couple of books that were bought by George VE2NGH. Ken turned the proceeds over to the club. Now, that's recycling!

Something Punny - He broke into song because he couldn't find the key.

The meeting adjourned at 22:18. See you April 16th, 2012.

73, & good DX de Keith VE2MTL

VE2-ML-003 (Mt. St-Hilaire) SOTA Activation



Picture of our club's mountaineers (Bernie VA2BP, Eamon VE2EGN, Malcolm VE2DDZ & Dan VA2KEY) climbing up Mt. St-Hilaire on Saturday March 31st 2012 for a SOTA activation. Picture was taken by Bram VE2XCS.

For more pictures visit the following website :

<http://ve2xcs.weebly.com>

For Sale

7" Portable Flat-screen LCD TV with internal Lithium-Ion battery pack that last up to 6 hours. TV is equipped with a digital (ATSC), analog (NTSC) and FM tuner. Can be hooked up to cable or via OTA antenna. Has an aspect ratio of 16:9 and includes a 1 day on-screen schedule (OTA channels only). Come with remote control, AC adapter, telescopic antenna, user manual and car charger. Great for watching TV while mobile or in the outdoors. Also useful for on the spot TV antenna alignment for optimal signal. Asking 80\$. Contact Bram, VE2XCS at ve2xcs@bell.net

VP6T / TX6T QSL Cards

An easy way to get those VP6T and TX6T QSL cards

Gilles, VE2TZT has offered to get the QSL cards for those who contacted VP6T, TX6T and TX6T/P earlier this year. Information required: Your call sign, the call sign you worked, band/ frequency, mode, date and time (UTC). The deadline is April 24. Send it to VE2TZT@videotron.ca

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. This practice was very popular years ago. Lately, it seems to have fallen out of practice.

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@RAC.CA

Executives:

President : Ken Fraser, VE2KLF

Vice-president : Charles Robitaille, VE2RFI

Treasurer : Malcolm Harper, VE2DDZ

Secretary : Keith Glashan, VE2MTL

Directors:

Editor : Bram Paterson, VE2XCS

QSL Manager : Bob Loranger, VE2AXO

Webmaster : Wayne Hodgins, VE2WRH

Accredited Examiners:

Larry Dobby, VE2DO@RAC.CA

Stuart Truba, VE2XX@RAC.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 Club Repeater

Information Net each Sunday evening at 8PM running for approximately an hour.

All are welcome to participate.