

# **West Island Amateur Radio Club Bulletin**

## **January 2009**

### **President's Message**

#### **WI ~ ARCS:**

**We are back!** Many thanks to the electors at the December 2008 AGM. Happy New Year to all and we hope 2009 will be an interesting year for our club. We will certainly try to keep things rolling and with your help it will be useful (and fun) to all members.

#### **QTH machinations:**

Needless to say the white stuff keeps filling up my driveways and I keep blowing it away with my trusty snowblower. I and my family had a long relaxing visit over New Year's at my brother-in-law's, Tom, VE3TWD and XYL, VA3VMD near Throoptown, ON. Tom has lots of real-estate for antennas and to collect snow. Fortunately not much of that fell while we were there. However he did purchase a brand new snowblower in anticipation of future white outs! There was not much time to play radio as all the relatives and grand children kept us busy ... did I say relaxing? Otherwise I am back at McGill starting up those final year design projects and running my High Frequency Engineering Lab. Has anyone checked out the new 38 metre location for CHU? The 7.335 MHz transmitter was moved to 7.850 MHz on 2009-JAN-01 to avoid the international broadcasters at the old frequency. I have been able to pick up the new frequency on my Sony 2010 brick with the 1.5 metre antenna on the brick. It was somewhat noisy, but quite readable when I was listening. As usual the 3.330 MHz transmitter is quite reliable in Montreal. I rarely hear the 14.667 MHz transmitter. We used to demodulate the timecode (30 – 40 sec interval after the minute) with a Bell 103 modem. NRC supplied the application software. That should be done with a sound card now.

#### **December 2008 meeting and AGM:**

Kudos go to Keith, VE2XL for receiving his DXCC certificate from the ARRL. Larry, VE2DO presented the certificate to Keith at the meeting. How many years did you say, Keith? ;) An interim financial report for 2008 was presented to the members present. A final report is expected to be available for the February 2009 meeting. Ken, VE2KLF gave a presentation on some of the final year Electrical and Computer Engineering design projects at McGill which appeared to be of interest to the audience. The rest of the meeting became the Annual General Meeting to hear the 2008 year reports and elect the executive for 2009. As you know from the lead in and the minutes, the 2008 executive was reelected for the 2009 session. Thanks go to Dave, VE2DGC who acted as the nominating committee and election secretary and to Keith, VE2XL who presided over the election as president and scrutineer.

#### **January 2009 meeting:**

More kudos go out to recent grads of Francois', VE2AAY Skype BASIC licence training course: Charles Robitaille, VE2RFI; Joseph Nasr, VE2JQE; Lee Tessier, VA2XTL; Steve Tessier, VA2UFP; and Peter Paizis, VE2PVP. All passed the BASIC exam with over 80% and are therefore HF qualified. Hopefully we shall eyeball them at future WIARC meetings. Please make them most welcome and assist with their further appreciation of amateur radio!

Our Info Net on VE2RWI on Sundays at 2000 local is proceeding very well as the new net controllers are mastering to operation quite well. Keep it up! There are more listening than participating. Let us drag more into the fray. Also, the old Trivia Net has been reincarnated by Wayne, VE2WRH and is on Fridays at 1700-1800 local (VE2RWI).

As for our finances, the Westminster Fund for education and training in the amount of \$2131.43 has been converted to a new GIC with interest accruing annually to the General Operating account.

The Lester B Pearson School Board's Science and Technology Days will be held on 2009-MAY-27 and 28 at the Cooper's Airfield in St Lazare. Our participation last year was a success and we have signed on for 2009. I attended a review of the videos of 2008 S&T days at a breakfast at the LBPSB offices in Dorval on 2008-DEC-12. I have asked for a copy of the video for presentation to our club at some point.

As this is our beginning meeting for 2009, we shall have a discussion with the members present for feedback of your ideas for meetings and events for 2009. Do you want to see/hear what topics, hands-on work, special interest groups, new events, etc (amateur radio related of course)??? What about resurrecting Nooners or other gatherings of small groups? Are there some topics some of our members would like act as guest speaker for? Tours? All is possible ... it only takes some 'elbow grease' and/or \$\$\$ . ;)

### **Reminders:**

Your membership dues for 2009 are now due ... as they say. Please make sure you fill in the membership form and obtain a signed receipt when submitting your dues to the TREASURER. The forms should be available at the meetings and are on the club's WEB site ([shell.pubnix.net/~wiarc](http://shell.pubnix.net/~wiarc)). Online submission of the forms has been turned OFF. Again, filled hardcopy MUST be given to the TREASURER.

The Canadian Ski Marathon (CSM) will be held on February 07 and 08 this year (there are preparations on Feb 06 as well) going from Lachute to Buckingham this time. Their WEB pages are at [radio.admin2.ca](http://radio.admin2.ca). Should you wish to volunteer for the communications support (checkpoints) for this annual event, please email [radio1@admin2.ca](mailto:radio1@admin2.ca). There should be CSM traffic on VE2RM (147.000- MHz) on Saturday, Feb 07 for those who wish to listen in. There are other simplex links and repeaters along the trail to keep the event flowing and collect data.

*C U on Jan 19<sup>th</sup> ... de .ken. VE2KLF*

# What Happened

*Minutes of the December 2008 WIARC meeting  
by Keith Glashan, VE2MTL*

The meeting began at 19:51. Ken VE2KLF presides and welcomes all 23 attendees. The details of the Monday December 15, 2008 meeting are as follows.

1. **Visitor:** We had a first time visitor in attendance this evening. Charles Robitaille will be writing his Ham ticket exam tomorrow night. He has been following the course with Francois VE2AAY. He decided to attend a meeting and get to know some of us. If successful, he hopes to get the call sign VE2RFI. Good luck Charles – or better still ‘73’ Charles.

2. **Thank the Exec:** Reg VE2AYU publicly thanked the Exec for their endeavours this past year and especially for keeping the members up-to-date with the latest hi-tech developments

3. **Century Award:** Larry VE2DO made a presentation to Keith VE2XL. Keith received the ARRL DXCC Century Club Award. This is given out to amateurs who have confirmed contacts with other amateurs from 100 different countries. Larry pointed out that although some amateurs achieve this accomplishment in somewhat short order, it can also take many years. As well, many of us never reach this goal. Congratulations, Keith on this milestone.

4. **Interim Financial Report:** Andy VE2DNN presented his interim financial report for 2008. Final year-end details need to be added to the report. The final one will be published early in the New Year. George VE2NGH will see if his brother, an auditor, would audit our books for us this year.

5. **Sunday Net:** Ken VE2KLF commented that the resurrected Sunday evening net has been well attended lately. He thanked the new team of hosts for their efforts.

6. **McGill Projects:** Ken VE2KLF showed many slides highlighting several of the undergraduate projects going on currently at McGill. One was on the Space Elevator. Another is a study of infant post-operative apnea detection and validation. There may be connections to sudden crib deaths that occur occasionally. Another project is titled the McGill hybrid racing team. Another is on connecting large offshore wind farms to the electric grid. There was the Lunar Excavator, using robotics, employing vision systems to be able to recognize rocks and dig up loose material. Ken had XL slides on many others projects covering subjects from medical to musical. Thanks Ken. Good show.

7. **New Advanced Graduates:** Vern VE2QQ introduced the two members who recently passed his advanced course. They are Malcolm VE2DDZ and George VE2NGH. Congratulations to both.

8. **From the Floor:** Vern VE2QQ announced that the date for the MARC spring

Hamfest has been set for April 11, 2009.

**9. Something Pun'y:** A butcher backed into the meat grinder and got a little behind in his work.

After the break, Keith Baker VE2XL took the chair and presided over the election of officers for 2008. Keith asked Dave Cheney VA2DGC, the chair of the nominating committee this year, if he had received any nominations for the four principal positions. Dave announced that he had not received a single nomination for any of the elected positions. Keith asked if there were any other nominations from the floor. There were none. Since the current executive expressed a willingness to continue in their current positions for another year, he declared the positions acclaimed. The current executive will remain as follows. Ken Fraser VE2KLF for President. Bob Loranger VE2AXO for Vice-President. Andrew Foot VE2DNN for Treasurer. Keith Glashan VE2MTL for Secretary. Larry VE2DO made a motion for dismissal. It was seconded by Vern VE2QQ.

For the third month running, Ken VE2KLF won the 50/50 draw, and again donated his winnings to the Club. Once again, thanks Ken.

As usual Ken VE2KLF had a number of magazines free for the taking.

The meeting adjourned at 21:52 EST. See you in January 2009. Happy New Year!

73 de Keith VE2MTL

## **A Message from the Editor**

As you can see the bulletin has a reduced format. This is due to a busy work schedule that does not allow me to devote the time needed to produce the WIARC Bulletin as in the past. Therefore I am opening up the editorial ship to the membership at large. I will continue to forward messages to our members as they come in the form of the familiar "WAIRC Flashes". But the content of the Bulletin may be reduced depending on my time availability. Therefore I urge a member to step forward to take over the Bulletin.

Morrie VE2BWS

## **Next meeting, January 19th**