



## President's Message and Report

### WI ~ ARCS:

With undergraduate enrolment in Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) at McGill up slightly this term I am back at the grind. There are about 150 students in my final year design project and thesis courses. This session (Fall 2009-Winter 2010) we are trying a new approach with some of the design projects. We have set up project groups involving 8 to 12 students in ECE, Mechanical, Law and Management in each group. This would be typical of an industrial situation where the engineers come up with the design and prototypes. The lawyers worry about the intellectual property and required standards involved and the management portion takes on the marketing of the widgets. We are fortunate to have Future Electronics (FE) as a sponsor for this endeavour. The projects FE has put forward deal with LED lighting systems for subways, etc. and energy conservation systems. This is indeed a very interesting operation as those students embarking on these projects will be given lectures in the engineering aspects, legal procedures, marketing and advanced written and oral communication of the project to their peers, supervisors and clients in addition to the normal requirement. I should have some feedback in December 2009 and April 2010.

### September 2009 meeting:

I would like to thank Morrie, VE2BWS for his slide presentation of our Field Day 2009 and life on St Laurent Boulevard. It was the same excellent quality as his collages in the September bulletin.

For the rest of the evening a potpourri of amateur radio subjects arose from the floor covering topics from Yagi antenna design, field day operations and WWVB synchronized wristwatches. I used to work with these time standards many eons ago. We had WWVL (20 kHz), WWVB (60 kHz), the Omega (around 10 kHz), Loran-C (at 100 kHz) navigation systems available locally and line 10 Odd of the NTSC TV broadcasts (TV network synchronization was locked to a network atomic clock). This latter method was used during the broadcast of the famous Russian-Canada hockey game (we won) and we could observe the network switching from local commercial to network by the change in slope of the time delay accuracy plot. The network stability was better than I part in  $10^9$  when compared to our local standard and inferior to this long-term stability when on local crystal clock. Of course the Omega navigation system has long since gone, but Loran-C is still active. Needless to say GPS has made most of these terrestrial systems obsolete. Most of the naval VLF transmissions are also locked to atomic clocks.

### Hamfest 2009:

Our Auction and Fleamarket was enjoyed by all that attended (about the same as last year give or take one body). We managed a net profit to the club of about \$412. However the downside showed fewer fleamarket tables and certainly quite a drop in the auction lots. Are we running out of basements/garages to dump? As noted in the minutes of the September meeting, I would like to thank all who volunteered their time to help make our hamfest a success, in particular Sheldon, VE2SHW and his crew and certainly the coffee, doughnut and muffin managers!

### October 2009 meeting:

We note that Paul Valois, N1ELL is SK. This gentleman was the operator of the VE2REX machine on 146.685- (100 Hz). There is a write up on Paul in the CHARC Fall bulletin and those who attend the CHARC breakfast at 08:30 on Saturday, 2009-OCT-17 at the Hemmingford Legion hall may receive further information.

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# West Island Amateur Radio Club

Founded in 1972

## Mailing Address

P.O. Box 884  
Pointe-Claire, Quebec H9R 4Z6

## E-mail:

ve2cwi@rac.ca

## WIARC is you, our club members and:

**President:** Kenneth Fraser, VE2KLF

**Vice-president:** Bob Loranger, VE2AXO

**Treasurer:** Andy Foot, VE2DNN

**Secretary:** Keith Glashan, VE2MTL

**Accredited Examiners:** Larry Dobby, ve2do@rac.ca

Stuart Truba, ve2xx@rac.ca

**Newsletter Editor:** Morrie Portnoff, VE2BWS

(Articles and your 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, chelsea13313@yahoo.ca)

**Website:** <http://shell.pubnix.net/~wiarc>

**(Webmaster:** Wayne Hodgins, ve2wrh@rac.ca)

**Repeaters:** VE2RWI VHF - 146.910 MHz (-)  
VE2RWI UHF - 443.050 MHz (+)

(141.3 Hz CTCSS tone transmitted by both repeaters).

**Monthly Meetings:** Meetings are held the 3rd Monday of every month, except July at: Lakeside Heights Baptist Church, 275 Braebrook, Pointe-Claire (West Island part of Montreal). Visitors are welcomed!

## UPCOMING MEETING

Oct. 19, 2009

This month's topic

"Open  
Discussion"

## From the Editor's Key

*Good day my fellow WIARCians...*

Well it is a holiday weekend and once again I am putting together our Bulletin. A happy Thanksgiving to all! Summer appears to be over as the temperature is dropping faster than turkeys in the ovens this weekend. Also the hamfest season has passed with the conclusion of Carp and more importantly OURS. Hopefully you made some new acquisitions to show off at our next show and tell. Personally I picked up a Trio SW Communication Receiver (9R-59) from Carp. Like many hamfest acquisitions it needs some tender loving care to bring it to life. To compliment this fine piece of communications equipment I purchased from Al at our hamfest a speaker of suitable vintage.

The topic of discussion of the use of handheld devices while operating a motor vehicle is a timely one. Thank you, James for keeping us informed. The rules and regulations are well known for cell phones but for mobile radios it is another issue. So come to our next meeting to get the latest news on this important issue. Regardless of the rules... driving safely is number one!

*73, Morrie Portnoff VE2BWS*

### *President Message from Page 1*

The Skype Basic Operator's certificate training course is now underway with 5 attendees according to François, VE2AAY.

Since no speaker has come out of the woodwork as of this report, let us do the potpourri thing again. Bring your items to discuss. One topic that has seen some email traffic recently has to do with the use of communication devices while driving/mobile. James, VE2KHC and Ray, VA2RY are keeping tabs on this subject. It appears that amateur radio systems are a no-no, unless there is an authorized emergency status afforded the operator. It is time to give the driving over to the XYL or your harmonics. ;)

### Reminders:

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on December 21st 2009. At this meeting any annual reports will be received and election of the executive for 2010 will be held. We are therefore requesting volunteers for the Nominating Committee and Scrutineer for the election.

*C U on October 19th...  
de .ken. VE2KLF*

## 2009 Apple Hill JOTA

October is here again and this year is the 52nd edition of the Scout JOTA/JOTI. To be held on the 3rd weekend of October (17th - 18th). The Scouts and Cubs of Eastern Ontario's Voyageur region as well as Scouts from South western Quebec will once again be commencing at Apple Hill Scout camp for the 8th Annual Apple Hill Scout camp JOTA. For the last couple years we have had the help of the Prescott-Russell ARES Group to give a hand to the Dixon gang (Greg, VE2GG, John VE3DIX and KEN, VE2KFD) with Operations. Of Course that doesn't mean we don't need more operators. As with previous years your participation is more than welcome not only for working the rigs but informing the Scouts of the Amateur Radio Community and the public service they provide. If you think you might be able to help out please contact John Dixon at [jdacamp-er@yahoo.com](mailto:jdacamp-er@yahoo.com)

Directions : follow hwy 20 to the 401 take the Lancaster exit, north on the 34 to Alexandria turn left on the 43 (4th traffic light, Scotiabank building on north west corner) continue for approx 15km to Apple Hill, turn left on the city rd 20 and left on Hughie Munro (Fire Hall on south east Corner) travel approx. 1+ km east and look for scout camp on left side just at the knoll.

*Submitted by John Dixon VE3DIX*

# What Happened

## Minutes of the September WIARC Meeting

by Keith Glashan, VE2MTL

The meeting began at 19:49. Ken VE2KLF presides and welcomes the 17 attendees back from a restful summer break. Because our Hamfest/Auction is scheduled for next Saturday the 19th, we moved the meeting to the 2nd Monday this month. We felt it was important to have a get-together before the event so that we could settle all the details in advance. There was the usual roll call with call signs. The details of the Monday September 14, 2009 meeting are as follows.

**1. CRADI Hamfest:** It was announced that the CRADI Hamfest (Drummondville) will be held on Saturday, September 26th.

**2. Hamfest:** Since it is our top priority for the moment, Ken VE2KLF got right into the details. As usual we need a number of volunteers to handle the various tasks. The members were very cooperative and little or no arm twisting was required. The volunteers were as follows:- Larry VE2DO the Auctioneer, Fred VE2LSQ on 'Talk-In', Ken VE2KLF and François VE2AAY on the Accounts Table, Morrie VE2BWS and Bernie VA2BP on the Admissions Table, Keith VE2MTL and Terry VE2WTQ in the Kitchen, and Keith VE2MTL for the Sound System. VE2MTL was asked to email all the volunteers to confirm everyone.

**3. Information Net:** The Info Net has restarted. There were 11 that checked-in on Sunday September 13th.

**4. YAGI:** There was an open discussion on building an economically sized 20 meter Yagi. I am not sure just how it got started, but there were many contributors with various comments and suggestions. It was good to see that the members feel free to contribute to the success of our meeting. Perhaps it was for this exact purpose that the Club was formed in the first place.

**5. Westminster:** It was announced that François VE2AAY will be starting his 'On-Line' radio course on October 6th. It is held twice a week and uses SKYPE. He is looking for more students. Please ask prospective students to e-mail VE2CWR@RAC.CA to receive details directly from Francois.

**6. CW Code Practice:** Andy VE2DNN put out an invitation to any member who may be interested in practicing CW using 2 meter radio. He invited them to see him during the break. By the end of the evening, he already had one interested party. Give Andy a call and join in the fun.

After the break, Morrie VE2BWS showed two FotoMagico (Macintosh) presentations that he created recently. The first was titled "The Main". It was an interesting look at St. Lawrence Blvd. and the activities of life that go on there. The second was of the WIARC Field Day 2009. He turned the many Pics that were taken last June into a complete perspective of the many Field Day activities. Both presentations were without narration, but did include music in the background. I must say that both were of the highest calibre. Morrie always produces quality work and tonight's entertainment was no exception. Thanks, Morrie.

Keep them coming.

After the presentation by Morrie, once again there broke out round table talks on a variety of subjects. Some members talked about experiences while on summer vacations. There were reports on last week's CARF Hamfest. There were chats about our Field Day efforts. Included was some technical talk on the new clocks and watches that receive the 60 kHz digital signals from Fort Collins, thus correcting the timepieces on a routine basis. Gilles VE2TZT mentioned that there is a similar clock in his QTH that was purchased in Europe and continues to receive the 70 kHz transmissions all the way from Germany. That's real DX. It seemed that no one was in a hurry to leave. Perhaps we have hit on something. Let's keep it up.

This month the winner of the 50/50 draw was Al VE2WRI.

This month, once again, Ken VE2KLF had a number of magazines free for the taking. Thanks.

Something Pun'y - Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.

The meeting adjourned at 21:39 EDT. See you at the Auction and in October.

*73 and good DX de Keith VE2MTL*

### WIARC NETS

Information Net each Sunday evening on the 146.910 Club repeater starting at 8 PM running for approximately an hour. All are welcome to participate.

Also, there is a Trivia Net held each Friday evening beginning at 5 PM until 6:30 PM

“ Amateur Radio exists as a frequency spectrum user because it qualifies as a service. Its continued existence depends to a great degree not on the service it has performed in the past, or on its simple potential for service, but on what service it is performing now and will continue to perform in the future.” (RAC Website)

# Military Radiolocation System to Operate on 70cm

As described in Schedule I of RBR-4, amateur usage of the 430-450 MHz (70 cm) band is on a no-protection, non-interference basis. Amateurs may not cause interference to nor be protected from interference from stations licensed in other services operating in that band. The same is true in the United States, and amateur operations on this band in a number of areas of the United States have power limits imposed on them in order to avoid interference to radiolocation services operated by the US military.

Industry Canada has informed RAC that it has authorized the Department of National Defence to use a digital system called Enhanced Position Location Reporting System (EPLRS) on these frequencies. The EPLRS system consists of mobile, fixed, transportable and airborne stations that use 5 MHz-wide spread spectrum channels to provide strategic telemetry information for military platforms. This authorization is on a no-protection, non-interference basis, which

means that no new restrictions will be imposed on Canadian amateur operations in this band as a result.

Industry Canada has informed RAC that there is a slight potential for interference to amateur radio systems, typically in the form of a minor audible clicking noise. If Canadian amateurs encounter such interference, they are requested to report it to RAC at <regulatory @ rac.ca>. The information reported should include the geographical location, date, time, frequency and mode being used by the amateur station, and a description of the interference.

Questions or concerns regarding the planned implementation of EPLRS may be sent to <regulatory @ rac.ca>.

*Richard Ferch, VE3KI  
Vice President, Regulatory Affairs - Radio Amateurs of Canada  
RAC Bulletin 2009-032E - Military radiolocation system to operate on 70 cm. 2009-10-07*

## Article 439.1 Code de la sécurité routière

Greetings! I have enclosed the reply from SAAQ to RAQI (attached with the electronic version of this bulletin) pertaining to operating amateur radio equipment while driving in Quebec. The SAAQ does not exempt ham operators – hence before warned that it is at the police discretion if you should receive and ticket. Please forward to others!!

### “CBs Are Authorized

Use of devices that have been installed in the vehicle dashboard or are mounted on the dashboard and only the microphone or receiver is held in the hand are not prohibited.”

“The law bans use of any type of device with a telephone function that can connect to a telephone network, whether or not it has been activated.

### These include:

- conventional cell phones;
- wireless information devices (BlackBerry);
- cell phones with a transmitter-receiver function (walkie-talkie), such as the TELUS Mike or cell phones that are linked to the 10-4 service provided by Bell. This type of device is prohibited, even if the cell phone function has been deactivated”

“Simply holding this type of device in your hand while driving, regardless of use, is an offence.

A “hand-held device” means one where the entire device is held in the hand to make a call.

### The Meaning of the Expression “While Driving”

A driver who brings his or her vehicle to a stop in compliance with road signs and traffic signals or due to an

obstruction of traffic continues to drive the vehicle.”

### Source SAAQ

The full story can be found at the RAQI website: <http://www.raqi.ca/node/143>

It appears that some fellow hams have been ticket for use of their radio equipment while driving in Quebec.

My suggestion is to turn-off the backlit option on the DTMF microphone so that it does not appear as a cellular telephone. RAQI is suggestions that you replace the DTMF microphone with a non-DTMF microphone.

*73 de James, VE2KHC*

## QSLers Take Note

This is a heads up to all DXers. If you do a lot of QSLing and regularly use IRCs (International Reply Coupons) you should be aware that the old-style IRC - the Michelangelo two fingers about to touch - has recently been replaced (as of July 1st 2009) by a new coupon - the Nairobi model IRC.

The old Michelangelo style IRC will be accepted for redemption at post offices around the world until December 31st 2009. However, anyone with a stockpile of this older IRC version should make plans to use those up ASAP - i.e. cash them in for international stamps for out-going QSLs. If you plan on including one of these older IRCs in a request for a return QSL, you should get those off in the mail before the end of September so that the recipient has time to cash them in at their end for return postage.

*From Howard Dickson, VE1DHD (RAC Website, 2009-09-30)*