



# West Island Amateur Radio Club Bulletin

June 2010 Edition

**Upcoming Meeting - June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010**  
**This month's topic**  
**“Field Day”**  
**Discussion concerning Field Day 2010**

## President's Message and Report

by Ken Fraser, VE2KLF

**WI ~ ARCS:**

**May 2010 meeting:**

We had an interesting and entertaining Show and Tell with five exhibits on the floor. Please see the details in the minutes and thank you to all the exhibitors: Keith VE2XL, Dave VE2DGC, Doug VE2IDY, Andy VE2DNN and Ken VE2KLF.

**Lester B Pearson School Board, John Scholefield Science and Technology Days:**

Once again we assisted with the LBPSB Science and Technology Days on May 26 and 27 as one of the “partners” (out of about 32) providing some ideas to primary school children about science and engineering. The event was held at the St Lazare airport (Cooper's Airfield) and the weather was most agreeable (if a little hot on the first day). We had our customary place in a hangar on the West side of the airfield (WIARC has been participating in this community service for 3 to 4 years now and it is most appreciated by the students and teachers of the LBPSB schools ... see the note below.) From past set ups we decided to invoke the KISS principle (Keep It Simple Stupid) and this works! We had one HF transceiver with a 20 m dipole about 7 m off the ground which worked surprisingly well ... on 20 m. We tried a UHF (5W) hand-held with a 70 cm J antenna on the hangar roof to link to VE2RMP for IRLP service. With the 70 cm J antenna on the East side of the hangar metal roof, we were barely able to trip RMP-UHF. We then checked in with Google Maps and found that the antenna should have been on the West side of the roof and we placed it at the peak of the roof. The runway is at 20 degrees which is almost North-South. There was a two S unit improvement, but, alas, not enough to operate the IRLP link. Of course the increased cable loss at UHF was a major factor. On the way along Route 340 and 40 from the airport with the 70 cm J antenna (mag-mount from old 3.5/5.25 floppy drive rotors) on the car, the signal from RMP-UHF was much better ... especially where there were fewer trees! So we settled for 2 m operation with the 5W hand-held and a 5/8ths mag-mount vertical on the hangar roof.

Again it turns out that the HF and VHF setups were of little interest by the visiting students. This was similar to previous years (Walter Cronkite's ARRL video did not get a glance last year). The students visit in groups of 15 – 20 with “ambassadors” and teachers. This year we had 6 groups each day from Meadowbrook, St Paul's, Westcroft, and Beaconsfield High schools. What ran the event for us and the students was HANDS ON operations. We provided 5 Morse code oscillators and straight keys and 3 pairs of FRS/GMRS hand-held transceivers. This went down well for the participating students as they only had 10 – 15 minutes at each exhibit on the grounds. The Morse code setups involved practice of the alphabet/number set with a proficiency certificate given to each student who could key their names. Needless to say we had a great teacher on our side, Malcolm VE2DDZ who gave the intro to amateur radio to each student group. Also a great thank you the WIARC volunteers who helped with the set up, brought their equipment on May 25 and ran the operations on May 26 and 27: Andy VE2DNN, Johan (John) VE2SWE, Keith VE2MTL and Ken VE2KLF. Alex VE2VEH and Stan VE2QXP were seen manning an aircraft exhibit and Gunter VE2BHH and Sigrid were photographing the exhibits. It was great fun meeting the students and teachers. Hopefully we can coax a few more volunteers out of the woodwork next year!

**A huge Thank you!**

Julie Royal [jroyal@lbpsb.qc.ca]

Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 13:01

To all our valued partners and friends,

Once again, we send a heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you who came to our space days and worked with the many students to share your expertise with them so that they could learn more about science, technology and math and engineering and how it is applied in the world outside the classroom.



*Malcolm VE2DDZ welcomes students to WIARC exhibit.*

The teachers and administrators have all shared with us the huge value this brings to their students as it inspires them in their classroom studies. We have had tremendous feedback on the success of these days. We thank you, our partners for all you do for our students, for space day, as well as throughout the school year. We could not do our program without you!



*Students practicing their CW skills.*

Please share this note with all of your colleagues who came to space days who we may not have contact information for.

Please let us know if by chance you did not get a space day T shirt, or you would like to have an additional one.

Best regards and Heartfelt thanks,

Nancy & Julie

Julie Royal

"Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened" Dr. Seuss

Lester B. Pearson School Board  
Pearson Interactive Community Partnership  
Quebec Entrepreneurship Contest

## June 2010 meeting:

This meeting will be mainly concerned with the final plans and organization for our 2010 Field Day operations. Please let the Field Day coordinator [George] what you intend to volunteer for (and when); operator, set up, tear down, food, etc. Unfortunately Ken, VE2KLF will not be presiding at this meeting due to a Convocation ceremony for my daughter (PhD) occurring at the same time.

## Reminders:

**1.** The annual North American Field Day will occur on June 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Please see George, VE2NGH as he has agreed to act as coordinator for this event. At this point it looks like the location will be the Morgan Arboretum, but that has to be confirmed. There is now a requirement for liability insurance for the use of this site which, after a few delays and inquiries, we have!

**2.** The Shriner's Karnak hall has been reserved for 2010-SEP-18 for our annual hamfest. Keith, VE2MTL will be taking requests for tables. Please look in your junk pile (collection of goodies) for items for the auction and we will be looking for volunteers for food services, admission table, runners, set up and clean up, etc. Here is the official notice:

event\_name = WIARC Fleamarket and Auction

sponsor = West Island ARC

date = 2010-SEP-18

location = 3550 Boulevard des Sources, Dollard des Ormeaux, QC

directions = From route 40 go North on Sources boulevard. The Shriner's Hall is on the West side of Sources just North of Brunswick boulevard. A map will be on the WEB site.

opening\_times = Vendors 08:00 hrs; Public 09:00 hrs; Auction 09:30 hrs EDT.

cost = Admission \$5; Tables \$15 (includes one admission).

talkin = VE2RWI 146.910(-) no CTCSS tone on input

description = Coffee, doughnuts, etc. on site. There are no stairs for the entrances. Parking and access is at the rear of the Hall which is one street West of Sources boulevard.

more\_info = ve2cwi@rac.ca or ve2klf@rac.ca

webpage = wiarc.ca

**3.** There will be no bulletins or general meetings during July and August. The next bulletin will appear in early September and, as the Hamfest is on Sept 18<sup>th</sup>, the next general meeting should be on Monday, Sept 13<sup>th</sup> 2010, which will deal with final preparations for our Hamfest.

**de .ken. VE2KLF**

# What Happened

## Minutes of the May 2010 WIARC meeting

by Keith Glashan, VE2MTL

The meeting began at 19:43. Ken VE2KLF presides and welcomes the 21 attendees. There was the usual roll call with call signs. The details of the Monday May 17, 2010 meeting are as follows.

1. **Space Day:** There was a final appeal for volunteers to help out with the upcoming 'Science & Tech Days'. A volunteer sheet was circulated around the room.

The event takes place on May 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> with the 25<sup>th</sup> set aside for set-up. Again it is held at Cooper's airfield in St. Lazare.

Participants are asked to be on the site by 9AM each day. CW keys and oscillators are a popular part of our exhibit.

2. **Field Day 2010:** Once again, there was a discussion about Field Day 2010 June 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

The main issue still was the QTH for this year's event. It was decided that we would see if the Morgan Arboretum was available for us. George VE2NGH graciously volunteered to be the field day director for this year. Thanks George.

3. **BG Repeater:** This month, George VE2NGH gave yet another report on the continuing problems with the VE2BG repeater.

He explained how the centre conductor had receded into the coax. Secondly, he had to go to Lachute to get a replacement PA. Then there were some receiver problems.

Apparently George worked all night, getting home at 5:45 AM. Thanks once again George.

4. **146.910 Repeater:** Our own repeater site is under new management. A company called Crown Castle operates radio tower sites around North America.

They contacted Keith VE2MTL last fall and again recently. They want to know whose equipment is on the site and asked us to provide an inventory. We don't know if the lock on the radio room has been changed or not.

We plan to visit the site to find out. In case we become unwelcome, perhaps we should keep our eyes out for an alternate location.

5. **WIARC.CA:** Our new web site WWW.WIARC.CA is alive. It was decided that the bulletin would be made available on the web site one month after our regular publication.

6. **AMSAT:** It was noted that the club has purchased a membership to AMSAT.

After the break, we had a 'Show & Tell' session. There were 5 members who had items for this evening. Keith VE2XL showed a fine collection of vintage photos taken at the 1988 club field day. This was accompanied by the telling of some great old stories associated with field days and members from the past.

Dave VA2DGC brought a wonderful old crystal set from the 1920's - still working of course. As well he showed us a LARGE tetrode vacuum tube.

It is a very impressive tube measuring approximately 18 inches in height. Doug VE2IDY brought in his home built HF tuner. Neat work, and all built in his home.

Andy VE2DNN showed a crystal set he had built some time ago for the 1998 WIARC contest, and also a second crystal set. Besides that, he presented a project in progress, an audio filter which he purchased in kit form. We hope to see it in its completed state soon.

Finally, Ken VE2KLF had a GPS antenna which he built from plans which can be found in QST October 2002 page 36.

Thanks go out to all 5 participants for making the evening so entertaining. It seems that there is always a keen interest from the audience whenever someone gives a demo on some old or new piece of electronic gadgetry.

So please don't wait for the next 'Show & Tell' night. We can always find 5 minutes during our regular meeting for you to 'show us' and 'tell us'.

This month the winner of the 50/50 draw was Ken VE2KLF - again! Congratulations and thanks for donating your winnings to the club.

This month, there were magazines for the taking, compliments of Ken VE2KLF. Thanks again Ken!

Something Punny - It's not that the man did not know how to juggle; he just didn't have the balls to do it.

The meeting adjourned at 21:32. See you June 21<sup>st</sup> 2010.

73, and good DX de Keith VE2MTL

---

# WIARC Information Net Report

by Malcolm Harper, VE2DDZ

---

From Sunday September 13, 2009 through the end of May we held a regular net on the club's 2 metre repeater VE2RWI at 146.91 MHz. We held 37 nets, every Sunday except Thanksgiving Sunday. The regular net control operators were Al VE2WRI, George VE2NGH, and Malcolm VE2DDZ. Fifty-one individual hams and shortwave listeners checked in a total of 462 times to the net, a mean of 12.5 check-ins per week.

The net starts at 8 pm local and has three parts: a list of events (club announcements, hamfests, and other notes); a swap net; and a discussion or rag chew. In general everyone on the net is cordial and pleasant. We did run into some QRM very occasionally. This spring some operators started having problems getting in to the repeater.

One very nice thing about the net is the number of new hams participating. At least eight of the hams regularly checking in have had their calls less than five years (including two of the control operators). Two of the new hams (from the MARC course winter 2009) tried out being net control operator: Lianne VE2DZY took over for the April 11 net and Mike VE2MTU took over April 25. Both did a great job, in particular Lianne handled some nasty QRM like a pro.

The net will shutdown for the summer. Our last net will be Sunday, July 4. The net will resume on the first Sunday following Labour Day, September 12, 2010. We will be holding a BBQ on Saturday July 3 or Sunday July 4. Further details will be available on the net.

---

## A note from Malcolm, VE2DDZ.

A big thank you goes out to Morrie VE2BWS for producing on such a short notice the morse code proficiency certificates we used at the Science & Tech Day.

---

## 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

**President:** Kenneth Fraser, VE2KLF

**Treasurer:** Malcolm Harper, VE2DDZ

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

**Secretary:** Keith Glashan, VE2MTL

**Accredited Examiners:** Larry Dobby, VE2DO@RAC.CA and Stuart Truba, VE2XX@RAC.CA

#### Newsletter Editor

Bram Paterson, VE2XCS

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>

**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

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 Club Repeater

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

Trivia Net each Tuesday evening at 7PM.

All are welcome to participate.

---