



# West Island Amateur Radio Club Bulletin

October 2010 Edition

**Upcoming Meeting - October 18<sup>th</sup> 2010**  
**This month's topic**  
**“Communications” It's in the Genes**  
**Given by Branislav Babic VA2BNE**

## President's Message and Report

by Ken Fraser, VE2KLF

**WI~ ARCS:**

### **Around the QTH and the neighborhood:**

What is a kitchen renovation if you do not extend it to the rest of the house (save for the bathroom and basement)? We now have resurfaced wood floors, new baseboards and moldings along with the necessary complete repaint of all rooms! This all necessitated going 'portable' at my daughter's in Pointe-Claire for two weeks. But, we are now back in the house ... the 20 foot furniture storage container has been returned and the 'great toss out' has begun!

The mini-flood on September 30<sup>th</sup> started things rolling when I tried to find the sump pump to bail out the sump. That was one of the items on the 'to do' list, but now it was urgent as the water in the sump (normally dry) was within 5 cm of the basement floor. At 01:00 in the AM I discovered the reasons for the pump being offline ... the receptacle for the 120 VAC power was defective and the screen on the outlet line was partially blocked with gravel from a deck construction last fall. Removing the outlet screen solved that at 02:00! The receptacle will be replaced, since it is a standard dual unit which in this case is running split phases. I was able to use the other phase or half of the receptacle to get the pump up and running. In real emergencies (no Hydro) there is another split phase dual receptacle nearby which runs from the 5 kW backup alternator and that is on the short list of things to be checked before the SNOW flies. Now this story does have a happy ending! While finding the sump pump, I had to clean out empty jam jars and wine bottles. But some of those 'wine bottles' were not empty and had 25 year old Elderberry sherry in them which I brewed 26 years ago ... num-nums! I stood by yesterday while the recycling truck hoisted the empty jars, bottles and paper in the my full 4 foot blue bin into the truck and saluted ... "that was easy"! We made a small dint in the basement.

### **September 2010 meeting:**

It appears that a number of members did not see the change of meeting date or were petrified of our upcoming hamfest! ;-) I think we broke the Guinness book of records for lowest attendance. However, we did manage to plan the hamfest accordingly.

I did mention the Wind Turbulence and Tracker Radar out at MacDonald College run by McGill's Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences department. One of the links is in the minutes, but there are other links to papers on the subject of wind tracking radars. Alex, VE2VEH has provided a couple which is natural as the airports do use the reports from the tracking radars. This particular radar operates in OUR 6 meter band on 52.0 MHz with a peak power of 40 kW and a repetition rate around 3 – 10 kHz. I have yet to find the pulse width(s), but you should be able to hear the backscatter and/or side lobe leakage on your 6 m receivers (a sensitive spectrum analyzer would be useful here). You can see the 6 m, 3 element yagis, phased array on Google just North of the Mac Market shed and South of route 20. I dropped by for some goodies from the Market on October 6 and waved at the array (pointed straight up, of course). There is some question on how Industry Canada allocated the 52.0 MHz to this research use, but I suspect the words "research and public safety" are in there somewhere. The question has been sent to our gurus at RAC. By the way, the same department runs the S band weather radar near the Morgan Arboretum or "golf ball" as it is sometimes referred to. There is also a 915 MHz Radio Acoustic Sounder System (RASS) on top of Burnside Hall downtown which can study things like wind shears and other items. You can see some of the reports from these radars daily on the AOS web site and elsewhere.

### **WIARC Auction and Flea market:**

Briefly, we survived with an attendance of 60 % of last years and realized a small net profit. The number of flea market tables could have been higher, but the quantity and quality of the auction and flea items were down. I suspect the "plug-and-play" generation is

catching up with us, but despite this, most of the auction items went to a happy home. Thanks to Larry, VE2DO for running the auction and all the volunteers who assisted with the food services, accounts table, admissions, talk-in, HF Radio, etc ... And to those who came to enjoy the fun.

**October meeting topic: "Communications" It is in the genes! By Branislav, VA2BNE.**

How do biological cells (not cell phones) communicate? This and other biological topics are hot topics in electrical engineering research these days.

**Reminders:**

1. A date is in the process of being selected for our annual Christmas party.
2. The WIARC Annual General Meeting will be held either on the 20<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> of December 2010. We require a Nominating committee and an Election scrutineer for the process. One volunteer is necessary for each position although there may be more than one person on the Nominating committee.

STAY TUNED!

**C U on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October ...**

de .ken. VE2KLF

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## ***What Happened***

### ***Minutes of the September 2010 WIARC meeting***

by Keith Glashan, VE2MTL

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***Minutes of the September 2010 WIARC meeting***  
***by Keith Glashan VE2MTL***

The meeting began at 19:55. Ken VE2KLF presides and welcomes the 12 attendees. That's right only 12, counting the executive. We have to assume that many members missed the meeting because it was held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday this time. However, we had the usual roll call with call signs. The details of the Monday September 13, 2010 meeting are as follows.

1. **Visitors:** One visitor, Dave McDonald, attended the meeting this evening. Welcome Dave.

2. **Field Day Results 2010:** Malcolm VE2DDZ mentioned that George VE2NGH had sent ARRL the results of the Club's effort at Field Day last June. ARRL should be publishing the complete results shortly.

3. **McGill Antenna Farm:** Ken VE2KLF talked about a field full of 6

meter Yagi's out at the McDonald College campus just behind the vegetable market. His investigation determined that it is a weather radar installation operating around 52.0 MHz. The system measures atmospheric turbulence. See [www.mardoc-inc.com](http://www.mardoc-inc.com) for more info.

4. **Field Day Expenses:** Malcolm VE2DDZ gave a short report on our Club's Field Day expenses.

5. **VE2RED QRM:** It has been reported that normal transmissions on VE2RST (145.490) are being rebroadcast on VE2RED (147.270). Any ideas? Anyone?

6. **VE2KHC:** James Keep VE2KHC has been appointed Quebec director for RAC. Congratulations James.

7. **VE2TBH Repairman:** Ken VE2KLF detailed the repairs that JF VE2TBH carried out on the Club repeater at the end of June. It has been running all summer without complaint. Once again, many thanks for the timely repair job.

8. **Hamfest/Auction:** After the break, there was a discussion of the plans for the Hamfest which is now only a few days away. There was an appeal for volunteers and the appropriate sheet was circulated. As usual, we have a complete slate of volunteers to cover all operations for the event. Because some were absent tonight, Keith VE2MTL will be contacting Terry VE2WTQ to solicit his assistance in the kitchen, and Ray VA2RY to see if he can handle the talk-in.

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

This month, there were magazines available as door prizes. Thanks Ken.

Something Punny - The man who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.

The meeting adjourned at 21:33. See you Oct 18<sup>th</sup> 2010.

73, and good DX de Keith VE2MTL

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## WIARC welcomes new members

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Two new hams have joined the club this month. Here are their names and call signs  
Henry Vidad (VE2HLV) and David McDonald (Call sign to be announced)

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## A special thank you from everyone at WIARC

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Picture is Vincenzo, son of VE2GCE (Tino). This sharp and diligent young man was the only "runner" at the WIARC Hamfest/Auction last month. Many thanks for a job "Well done" from everyone at WIARC.

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## Footnotes About Us

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### 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.