



West Island Amateur Radio Club Bulletin

December 2010 Edition

Upcoming Meeting - December 13th 2010

**This month's topic
"Annual General Meeting 2010"
Because every vote counts**

President's Message and Report

by Ken Fraser, VE2KLF

WI~ ARCS:

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2010 and REPORT to the Annual General Meeting

January-18: At the December 2009 Annual General Meeting George, VE2NGH acted as our nomination committee and Keith, VE2XL as President and Scrutineer. Ken, VE2KLF, Bob, VE2AXO and Keith, VE2MTL were acclaimed as President, Vice President and Secretary respectively. The members present held an election for the position of Treasurer and Malcolm, VE2DDZ received the majority of the votes. Andy, VE2DNN was thanked for his work as the previous incumbent.

Amateur Radio operations for the Haiti earthquake were discussed.

Bob, VE2AXO gave us a rundown on the use of Log Book of the World.

February-15: The Canadian Ski Marathon operated from Buckingham to Lachute this year (13 and 14 Feb) with some of our members assisting with the communications.

Three new amateurs come on the scene after completing François, VE2AAY Skype course: Claude, VA2CLX; Jean, VE2ODJ; and Bram, VE2XCS.

To escape our winter freeze Gilles, VE2TZZ left for the FO dxpedition and wound up in Tahiti for the duration.

Berny, VA2BP presented an excellent video of his sailing trip across the Atlantic with his son and amateur radio gear in tow.

March-15: Malcolm, VE2DDZ presented the final financial reports for 2009 indicating that the club assets and finances were in good shape.

Malcolm, VE2DDZ and George, VE2NGH kept us spellbound with their experiences running their satellite station at our 2009 Field Day. There were many practical pointers for future operations.

April-19: Reg, VE2AYU conducted a silent key ceremony in memory of Randy West, VE2ALD a long time member of our club.

Gilles, VE2TZZ presented a video on his dxpedition (February 7th to 27th) operating from a site in Tahiti with Jacques, F6BEE, Nigel, G3TXF and Phil, FO8RZ. He discussed the preparation software used to choose the final site for clear paths to North America, Europe and Japan. One of the CW contacts was using only using 50 mW over a 10,000 km plus link!

Bram, VE2XCS, one of the new inductees, decided to take on the editorship of our monthly bulletin.

May-17: Five submissions were presented at this “show and tell” meeting. Andy, VE2DNN demonstrated a couple of crystal sets and an audio filter kit. Dave, VE2DGC also brought an “old” working crystal set along with a large tetrode vacuum tube. Keith, VE2XL brought a fine collection of vintage photos of the 1998 club field day. Doug, VE2IDY brought in his home built HF antenna tuner. Finally Ken, VE2KLF showed a GPS crossed dipoles and ground plane antenna with a margarine pot radome he built based on an article in the October 2002 QST.

May- 26/27: Our club participated in the annual Science and Technology days as one of the partners for this Lester B. Pearson school board event. Once again the children enjoyed our FRS radios, and Morse code practice. We had proficiency certificates (an nice idea from Morrie, VE2BWS) for each student on one of the six keys and oscillators we provided. Kudos to all who helped with this educational event ... Malcolm, VE2DDZ provided the introduction to amateur radio to all the student groups who visited our booth (hangar at the Cooper’s Airfield in St Lazare) and was assisted by Johan, VE2SWE; Andy, VE2DNN; Keith, VE2MTL and Ken, VE2KLF. The “hands on” experience of CW practice was most appreciated by the visiting students.

June-21: Most of this meeting was taken up with the planning for Field Day 2010. The coordinator for our Field Day set up at the Morgan Arboretum was George, VE2NGH.

June-28/29: Field Day this year was another success with more operators at the controls. We set up our 1A station in the Morgan Arboretum adjacent to the Conservation Centre. The weather was quite favorable this year and we came fifth in Canada with 1916 points in the 1A category. As Gilles, VE2TZZ, was occupied with the UMS club’s Field Day operations, he could not operate, but he did find time to help with the antenna set ups. George, VE2NGH and Sheldon, VA2SH made sure we were well equipped in the food preparation department with fridge, microwave and BBQ in operation. Thanks also to those helped us run over the full 24 hours. A nice touch this year was the participation of new members of the Concordia club. Again, bonus points were earned by the satellite station set up by Malcolm, VE2DDZ and George, VE2NGH with new antennas and software.

September-13: Ken, VE2KLF discussed the 6 m Wind Profiler radar on the South East end of the MacDonald campus with a bunch of 6 m, 3 element yagis pointing skyward. This beast studies wind profiles from 0.5 to 20 km above ground and has a peak power of 40 kW on 52.0 MHz!

James, VE2KHC was appointed Quebec director on the RAC board.

The rest of this meeting was concerned with volunteers and planning for our Hamfest on September 18th.

September-18: Once again our hamfest was held at the Shriner's Hall on Sources boulevard. The attendance was about sixty percent of last year's, but we still managed a small profit for our club. There were fewer fleamarket tables this year and interest in the auction was lacking due, in some measure, to the quality of items for the auction and the reduction in "build it yourself projects" ... the plug-n-play generation. Larry, VE2DO managed to auction most of the items that were on the auction tables. We thank all the volunteers who participated in running the hamfest. And let us not forget our one vendor, Sheldon, VE2SHW, Radio HF who provided the door prizes.

October-18: Malcolm, VE2DDZ produced interim financial reports for the 2010 Field Day and September Hamfest operations.

George, VE2NGH presented the final 2010 Field Day results for our exercise at the Morgan Arboretum.

Some discussion occurred on the WIARC WEB site set up. Wayne, VE2WRH has redesigned the pages and updated them to reflect current information and links.

Branislav, VA2BNE introduced us to genetic "communications" which proved to be very interesting to those members present.

November-15: Cliff, VA2UTC presented an excellent and enthusiastic talk on contesting with discussions of appropriate software and methods of recording and making contacts.

December-09: Our Christmas party is scheduled for the Casa Grecque located at 13081 Gouin Boulevard West in Pierrefonds at 19:00 local.

December-13: 2010 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given of the 2010 Annual General Meeting and Elections of the Executive for 2011. Nominations should be directed to Paul, VE2OFH and Sheldon, VA2SH will act as scrutineer and meeting president.

**Seasons Greetings and Best Wishes for
the New Year!**

C U on Dec 13th ... de .ken. VE2KLF

What Happened

Minutes of the November 2010 WIARC meeting

by Keith Glashan, VE2MTL

The meeting began at 19:50. Ken VE2KLF presides and welcomes the 25 attendees. We had the usual roll call with call signs. The details of the Monday November 15, 2010 meeting are as follows.

1. **Visitors:** There were a couple of visitors this evening. Mr. Robert Mose was a first time visitor and Dan Montpetit, who is one of the current Westminster students, attended as well. We hope to meet all the students soon.

2. **FD Results:** George VE2NGH announced that this year we came 4th in Canada for our Field Day efforts in the 1A category.

3. **RAQI News:** Ken VE2KLF mentioned that RAQI will no longer be publishing "Radioamateur du Quebec".

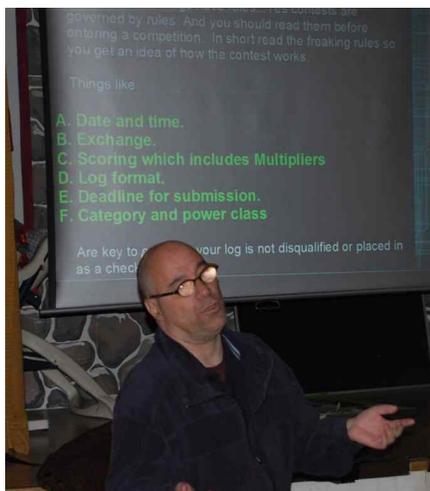
4. **Christmas Dinner:** All were invited to join for a Christmas dinner get-together. This year the date is Thursday December 9th at 7PM. The venue, the same as last year, is Casa Grecque, located at 13081 Gouin Blvd. West, in Pierrefonds. Don't forget to bring your own wine or beer.

5. **AGM in December:** The meeting in December will be our AGM. Therefore we called for a volunteer to chair the nominating committee. Thanks, Paul VE2OFH for accepting the position this year. As well, Sheldon VA2SH accepted the position of scrutineer. Thanks, Sheldon. Remember, all elected positions are eligible for nomination each year. So, if you wish to nominate someone for an elected position, contact Paul at 450-969-1291 or at PIAR@GICIP.COM. Paul will have the necessary forms.

6. **Next Meeting:** This year, the 3rd Monday in December will be the 20th and falls in Christmas week. It was decided to hold the meeting on

the 2nd Monday instead. So, mark your calendars for the next WIARC meeting, the Annual General Meeting, Monday December the 13th.

7. **Speaker Cliff VA2UTC:** After the break, Cliff Tooher VA2UTC gave a talk titled "Contesting 101". First he introduced the various types of contests such as DX, Zones, Grid Squares, Islands, All States, etc. Then he talked about the various modes which certain contests cater to such as CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK, EME, and others.



Cliff Tooher VA2UTC giving talk on Contesting

He mentioned the 3 major ones as being the ARRL International DX contest held in February, the ARRL sponsored IARU World HF contest held each July, and the CW World Wide DX contest which takes place each October. Finally, there are regional types such as All Asian, Work All Europe, RAC Canada Day, and even Field Day. Then Cliff got down to the actual participation activities starting with gaining points and maximizing through the use of multipliers. He suggested that you should research the contest before you jump in. In other words, make sure your schedule affords you the appropriate time. Do you have enough time? Ask yourself if your

station has the capabilities to participate. Are you really personally interested in the designated contest activity? He explained that there are over 100 contests held each year, so perhaps you should pick and choose. He recommended the "Search & Pounce" method for low power stations, and the "Call and Drive a Pile Up" suitable for stations with higher power. Cliff brought up the subject of Contest Etiquette. Firstly, listen a while to get the gist and rhythm of the contest. Make sure you know the format and rules. Then, no rag chewing please, even if tempted. In the final part of his presentation, he talked extensively on Logging. He reminded us that paper logs must have an accompanying dup sheet. Today, most hams use computer logging, so he talked about exporting Cabrillo files at the end of the contest. He mentioned 5 'Logging Software' programs, Writelog, Genlog, CT, SD, and N3FJP. He said they all run on Windows and that the first 4 are freeware. He strongly advised that you update your software annually to maintain the latest countries, zones, and abbreviations. He concluded his talk by saying that above all, "Have fun in the contest and who knows, you might even win an award". Afterward, there were several questions and comments from the floor. Everyone seemed to enjoy the presentation immensely. This topic covers so many areas and most of us seem to take it all for granted. Thanks, Cliff for a thoughtful, well rehearsed, and well presented show. If you want to return with another topic in the future, WIARC will certainly welcome you gratefully. Well done.

This month the winner of the 50/50 draw was Bob VE2AXO. Congratulations and thanks for donating your winnings to the club.

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

Something Punny - In democracy
it's your vote that counts. In
feudalism it's your count that votes.

The meeting adjourned at 21:54.
See you Dec 13th 2010.

Remember, it's the 2nd Monday this
time.

73, and good DX de Keith
VE2MTL



AGM 2010



This year Annual General Meeting will be held on December 13th 2010

\$\$\$

WIARC Membership 2011

\$\$\$

Membership dues for 2011 are due soon. If you would like to pay at the December meeting you can
download a membership form from the WIARC website, <http://wiarc.ca/faq/join.pdf>



WIARC Annual Christmas Dinner



Where: Casa Grecque located at 13081 Gouin W. Blvd. in Pierrefonds

When: December 9th at 7h00 PM

Bring your own wine or beer.

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 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.