



West Island Amateur Radio Club Bulletin

November 2011 Edition

Upcoming Meeting – November 21st 2011

This month's topic

Don Falle, VE2DFO will present

“The Design of 2 kW LDMOS Solid State Power Amplifiers for 50, 144 and 222 MHz ”

President's Message and Report

by Ken Fraser, VE2KLF

>>> WI ~ ARCS <<<

Tales from the QTH:

With temperatures plummeting and stories of large dumps of that cold white stuff being heard, local winter preparations got underway on OCT 29 and 30. First I checked out the snowblower with some oil spray and tightening all bolts (the starter motor fell off a few years ago and was fixed by adding lock washers). After chewing on a few hidden logs last year the auger is still in good shape. The engine oil level was full up! With some priming of the gasoline line the machine roared to life and now is ready to attack the cold white stuff!

Next I tackled the 5 kW alternator set (a gift from the 1998 ice storm) oil sprayed it and checked the engine oil. All was good and I dragged the starting 12 V car battery up from the basement to the back shed where all these items are located. After waiting for the gasoline to percolate to the engine cylinder, the alternator set came online. A test was then run under load (about 3 kW total) on both phases of the 120/240 V ac for 30 minutes and passed. Please note that only hi-test gasoline is used for all engines and I have had no storage or misfire problems. I occasionally add some stabilizer if there is an excessively long storage period. There are no Hydro problems either as the 120 V ac distribution goes to separate split phase outlets in the house (two 15 A circuits). One of the outlets is next to the basement sump pump! The alternator system is well grounded and there are breaker panels in the shed and in the house. Now as long as the old body is ready the machines are a go!

A footnote: Of course, if we are visited by another 1998 class ice storm, I better have copious quantities of gasoline stored as it is unlikely to be found at local gasoline stations ... even if you can get there, they have emergency power and have not run out of supplies ... In the 1998 storm my house was offline for 3 days which is not bad except that I have forced air electrical heating and things became quite cold by the third day! It is amazing what you can do with 30 candles burning brightly in the house. ;) Put that in perspective ... my brother-in-law was out for 30 days, but, at least, he had a wood stove.

Sep 2011 MTG:

Please see the minutes for 2011-OCT-17.

Oct 2011 MTG:

Tentative agenda:

- Update to Radio-Talk 2011 plans for November 26, 2011 ... VE2WTQ, Terry and/or Morrie, VE2BWS
- Solder-Spot ... VE2OFH, Paul
- Other business
- Coffee/drinks/cookies, and rag chew
- **Speaker:** VE2DFO, Don will present his designs for LDMOS solid-state power amplifiers (2 kW) operating on 50, 144 and 222 MHz. LDMOS = Laterally Diffused MOS transistor. The actual amplifier(s) will be on display.
- 50/50 draw

Notes: PLEASE BE ADVISED OF THE WIARC AGM tentatively set for 2011-DEC-12 NOT the third Monday. All executive positions are up for election or renewal as the case may be. We should have a date and venue for the WIARC Christmas Party by the November meeting.

C U on the 21st of November – 2011 ... de .ken. VE2KLF

What Happened

Minutes of the October 2011 WIARC meeting

by Keith Glashan, VE2MTL

Minutes of the October 2011 WIARC meeting by Keith Glashan VE2MTL

The meeting began at 19:45. Ken VE2KLF presided and welcomed the 25 attendees. There was the usual roll call with call signs. We welcomed first time visitor Anthony Vanelli who is one of the two students following the current Amateur Radio course given by François VE2AAY. We wish him success in his studies and hope to see him at our future meetings. The details of the Monday October 17, 2011 meeting are as follows.

1. Radio Talk 2011: Morrie VE2BWS continued with an update on the status of "Radio Talk 2011". Terry VE2WTQ could not be with us tonight. He explained that the speakers are now established for the event. Some mentioned were Paul VE2OFH on the "Solder Spot", Morrie VE2BWS with a multi media display on past Field Days, Jimmy VE2JWH on microwave technology, Roger VE2DBE on VHF and Radio Links, Sheldon VE2SHW on Radio in the 21st century, Blogging by Cliff VA2UTC, and a topic to be determined by Leo VE2SI. It was mentioned that Malcolm VE2DDZ and Bram VE2XCS will have a table at the South Shore Hamfest next week-end where they will hand out information flyers about "Radio Talk 2011". Morrie had a few "Radio Talk" buttons available. Hope to see them around town. Sometimes a little advertising goes a long way.

2. Solder Spot: Paul VE2OFH had no news this month. He promised to have some for us next month for sure. He did have time to recount some embarrassing mishaps he had with his

truck and a "detachable" HF antenna which was equipped with a large loading coil. Please contact Paul for particular details.

3. Ken's Anniversary: Ken VE2KLF described the activities that took place last week-end at McGill. It was the 50th anniversary of his graduating class. There were several events that he attended. He remarked that some of his fellow grads had not changed too much, but admitted that was not true for everyone. Nevertheless, a good time was had by all.

4. VE2RM: Ken VE2KLF went on to mention that the VE2RM group has undertaken a major cleanup. The old original shack has been finally torn down.

5. MARC News: Vern VE2QQ reminded the members that MARC has confirmed Apr 14th, 2012 as the date for their Hamfest and Flea market.

6. Oktoberfest: Unfortunately, the Morgan Arboretum Oktoberfest event, scheduled for last week-end, had to be cancelled due to the weather.

7. Pitcairn Dx'Pedition: Gilles VE2TZT announced that he and his DX team will be off again, this time to Pitcairn Island. They plan to operate for two weeks starting in mid January 2012. He explained that there are only 50 inhabitants and there is no airport on the island. Visitors must travel by boat from the nearest island, Mangareva which is 500 kms to the west. Gilles and the other four operators will use only a spider beam on 3 elements because of the weight restrictions they will face. He said he would fly from here to Los Angeles and on to Tahiti. From Tahiti air services to Mangareva can be somewhat inconsistent. There they will meet up with the boat operator. Gilles

and his group have allowed a full week for travelling each way. The upside of it all is that they forecast making about 50,000 contacts.



Mangareva Airport and Shuttle boat (From Google Earth)

8. Steven VA2SMF: After our break, Steven VA2SMF took to the floor as our guest speaker for the evening. Steven wrote an article for The Gazette at the end of August this year in anticipation of the changeover to digital TV by the Canadian broadcasters. He gave an interesting presentation on the subject and included several slides. He started with the radio spectrum itself, showing exactly where the old and new frequencies are located. He explained how sub-channels are being used in the USA but not in Canada as yet. He mentioned that as the space on a channel gets divided, there is less room for the highest definition programming. Steven touched on the 5 or 6 formats that are being used throughout the world, much like VHS and PAL. He explained why the change to digital was deferred for another year in some of the smaller market areas in Canada. Misconceptions about antennas for HDTV were clarified. Except for a couple of channels, most broadcasting over the air is on UHF. According to Steven, stations can use only 10% of the previous output power and still enjoy the same coverage. There were many questions from the floor concerning stations in the Montreal area, physical channel numbers, and comments about local coverage over air. Thanks,

Steven, for a well prepared presentation. We learned just how complex the new digital TV really is. We look forward to other topics. Let us know. Best 73's.

Tonight, the winner of the 50/50 draw was Malcolm VE2DDZ, who donated his cash prize to the Club. Thanks and congratulations.

This month, Charles VE2RFI provided some magazines as door prizes. Thanks Charles.

Also, this month, Ken's XYL Anne provided date squares and ginger snaps for us. Unfortunately, Ralph's XYL Margaret, who has been providing 'goodies' for several years recently broke a bone in her foot and is

convalescing.

Something Punny - The professor discovered that her theory of earthquakes was on shaky ground.

The meeting adjourned at 22:14. See you November 21st 2011.

73, & good DX de Keith VE2MTL



The West Island Amateur Radio Club presents...

RADIO TALK

2011

and much MORE...

HF Radio VHF Radio D-Star UHF Radio

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Amateur Radio Repeater

Satellite Radio Antique Radio Displays

Radio Demonstrations

www.radiotalk2011.wordpress.com

Come and hear how radio is alive and well in our modern society. Whether it be commercial radio (AM/FM) or HAM/Amateur Radio, the technology has evolved as has the medium.

"The medium is the message."
Marshall McLuhan

"The spoken word was the first technology by which man was able to let go of his environment in order to grasp it in a new way."
Marshall McLuhan

Saturday November 26th 2011

Doors Open at 9AM

Presentations begin at 9:30AM

\$5 at the door (Children under 16 years are free when accompanied with an adult)

Lakeside Heights Baptist Church
275 Braebrook
Pointe-Claire



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Free Flea Market Tables

Flea-market tables available free to members. Members are reminded that there are always tables available at the regular monthly meetings. This practice was very popular years ago. Lately, it seems to have fallen out of practice.

So, if you wish to sell something, or clean out your basement, or do your spring cleaning early, you don't have to wait for the next Hamfest. Just bring those junk boxes, antenna parts, and old rigs to the next WIARC meeting and set up your table at the back of the hall. It's free. It's fun. It's win-win.

\$\$\$ Swap Shop \$\$\$

Icom IC-R70 HF receiver in mint condition with power cord and copy of instruction manual. Also has 12V DC option installed. In great working order. \$225.00 Contact: Dave VA2DGC at deforestradio@hotmail.com

To advertise items for sale, send details to Bram VE2XCS, the editor at ve2xcs@bell.net. He will include them in the next bulletin.

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

Executives:

President : Ken Fraser, VE2KLF

Vice-president : Charles Robitaille, VE2RFI

Treasurer : Malcolm Harper, VE2DDZ

Secretary : Keith Glashan, VE2MTL

Directors:

Editor : Bram Paterson, VE2XCS

QSL Manager : Bob Loranger, VE2AXO

Webmaster : Wayne Hodgins, VE2WRH

Accredited Examiners:

Larry Dobby, VE2DO@RAC.CA

Stuart Truba, VE2XX@RAC.CA

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>

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.