



West Island Amateur Radio Club Bulletin

May 2012 Edition

Upcoming Meeting – May 21st 2012
This month's topic
“Show and Tell”
Come and show off your projects to us

President's Message and Report

by Ken Fraser, VE2KLF

>>> WI ~ ARCS <<<

Tales from the QTH:

Following on from last month's epistle, the income taxes are in (all four of them) and eyes are now uncrossed. And, the lawnmower was sharpened, oiled and cleaned, as the lawn needed a long overdue haircut. Just for fun I removed the stump of a pine tree whose branches went to the chipper crew a week ago. The roots did not go quite to China, but close! As for the city of Beaconsfield, they should be happy as there are now two newly planted 2 m trees as a requirement for the removal of an old large sugar maple last fall. One of the new trees is a choke-cherry (the Latin name is on the label on the tree, Prunus Schubert I think), which should bear fruit in the future. The produce will, of course, find its way into C-C sherry if the bugs and other animules do not get there first.

Through all of this there was some thought about ham radio (not much time ... just thought). Realizing that our Show and Tell is upon us, the proverbial light bulb flashed before my eyes. Somewhere in all that “junk” in my basement lay uncompleted Norcal 38 specials or complete 30 m 5W transceivers from 1997. Well I found two of the completed kits to be put in a box with controls and turned on. Also on the transceiver board was a Tick2 iambic/straight keyer! And there were 3 Frequency Mites (2-30 MHz PIC based frequency counters with CW output of the spotted frequency) from 2000 ostensibly to be connected to the 30 m transceiver LOs. Now I have some work to get those kits off the ground, but, alas, not in time for the S&T on May 21. Unfortunately the coming long weekend is booked for cottage opening! ☺☺

APR 2012 MTG:

Please see the minutes for 2012-APR-16. Dan, VA2KEY along with Eamon, VE2EGN chuntering away from the background presented a summary of SOTA operations and plans for our local group. Now we know that “a chaser” is not necessarily a good stiff glass of weasel water! ☺

MAY 2012 MTG:

Tentative agenda:

- SOTA briefings
- Solder-Spot updates
- RWI-Repeater performance. The VHF repeater (146.91-) seems to have regained some performance, but it is not up to its usual full-quieting behaviour as in the past. J-F, VE2TBH will be checking the VHF system in the near future. Meanwhile the UHF repeater (443.05+) is off the air due to interference with the commercial user sharing the UHF antenna. This appears to have occurred after our UHF duplexer was moved (cabling or connectors). J-F intends to remove the UHF repeater to his QTH for repairs as on site fixes are not easy and traveling back and forth 30 km each way is expensive these days especially when you keep running into those orange and white cones!
- Sign up for volunteers for LBPSB Science and Technology Days (May 23 and 24) with set up on May 22. We need at least four hams on site for about 09:00 to 14:00 on the 23rd and 24th. Coffee and muffins are available around 09:00 and lunch is provided for the volunteers around 13:00-14:00. Google the St Lazare Airfield off of Ste Angeliqne in St Lazare. Written directions can be provided

- Other business
- Coffee/drinks/cookies, and rag chew
- Show and Tell 2012
- 50/50 draw

Notes: 2012 dues are now “due”! If you have not already settled your account, please see Malcolm, VE2DDZ. Tnx.

1. ___ Volunteers are needed for Field Day on the last weekend in June (23-24). It is being organized as a tri-club effort as last year using the MARC call VE2ARC. The location is at Pine Beach park as last year

C U on the 21st of May – 2012 ... de .ken. VE2KLF PS: I may be a tad late in returning from the cottage.

What Happened

Minutes of the April 2012 WIARC meeting

by Keith Glashan, VE2MTL

Minutes of the April 2012 WIARC meeting by Keith Glashan VE2MTL

The meeting began at 19:41. Ken VE2KLF presided and welcomed the 26 attendees. There was the usual roll call with call signs. The details of the Monday April 16, 2012 meeting are as follows.

1. Bert VE2WD SK: We were saddened to learn of the recent passing of Bert Widdop VE2WD. We were pleased to have Bert's daughter, Janice, as well as 2 of his granddaughters attend this evening. Reg VE2AYU conducted the silent key ceremony for him.

2. Solder Spot: Paul VE2OFH said that he has secured a QTH for the next "Solder Spot" project. It will take place at the Loyola church room used by MARC for their regular meetings.

3. VHF Repeater: Ken VE2KLF mentioned that there are still some problems with the reception on our 146.910 repeater. J-F VE2TBH is trying to find a convenient time to check things at the repeater site.

4. Field Day 2012: Paul VE2OFH announced that he has secured the loan of a tent from Bernie VA2BP.

He said that Jim VE2VE is to contact the city of Dorval for the use of Pine Beach Park again.

5. Science/Tech 2012: Ken VE2KLF once again reminded us to keep the annual Science and Technology event in mind. The dates are May 23rd and 24th.

6. IEEE & CW: Ken VE2KLF has received more information about the IEEE event. It seems that the organizers have not clarified the CW part of the event. At this point, we are not sure exactly what they want, and perhaps they don't know either. Stay calm, and stay tuned!

7. Show & Tell: A final reminder by Ken VE2KLF about next month's "Show & Tell" event. Big or small, all are welcome. Participants will receive up to 15 minutes of glory.

8. Swap Shop: It is good to see items for sale at our meetings. This practice had dropped out of favour for several years, and it should be recognized and encouraged. You needn't wait for the next Hamfest to clear out your basement. As an attendee, you are welcome to speak up and address the attendees about some of the valuable items you may have brought in. As well, if you are looking for some bits or parts or pieces, you are welcome to stand up and put out a request.

9. SOTA: After the break, Dan VA2KEY and Eamon VE2EGN gave a comprehensive presentation on SOTA and all related activities. Although they had touched on the topic at previous meetings, we were treated to a much more detailed presentation this evening. Firstly, it is an organisation which is administered in the UK. This group sets the rules governing points, and awards. They recognize summits and assign the appropriate point values. Dan explained the 2 types of participants. There are "activators" who are the hikers who actually climb the mountains. They carry all the radio gear up to the summit, set it all up, and put out the "CQ" calls. Dan and Eamon did note that you don't get any points for climbing mountains. You get points only if you make contacts. To "activate" a summit, it is necessary to make a minimum of 4 radio contacts. Consequently, you really need some stations to talk to. Sometimes it can be difficult to find someone on frequency, and you really don't have all day or the battery power either. That's where the second type of participant comes in. These are called "chasers". Apparently, it is quite common to have a few radio buddies available on frequency whenever a SOTA group goes out. Dan explained that to be fair, the chasers get points too. Both activators and chasers are eligible for awards. Dan mentioned that awards are available for 100, 250, 500, and 1000

points. A typical summit can have a point value of between 1 and 10. Each participant registers with www.sotawatch.org and enters frequencies, call sign, the mountain QTH, date and time. Each individual earns his own points; i.e. makes his minimum 4 contacts. You don't get extra points for making more contacts, or by using other bands, or other modes. There are no multipliers in this business. You only get the established summit value. However, there are bonus points for seasonal considerations. They showed us the equipment they use for this activity, including radios, antennas, and batteries. Dan and Eamon had prepared a computer presentation which included many pics of their experiences on Mont Rigaud, Mont St. Hilaire, and Mont St. Bruno. Thank you both so much for a fine

presentation. You made these "mini dx'peditions" seem so attractive. It is certainly a healthy activity and seems well within reach of most amateurs. If you would prefer to be a chaser, just contact (land line) Dan or Eamon. They need YOU. Once again, thanks fellows. Keep on climbing, take more pics, and keep us informed.



Above, a picture of Eamon VE2EGN and Dan VA2KEY giving their SOTA presentation.

Tonight, the winner of the 50/50 draw was Eamon VE2EGN who donated his winnings to the Club. Congratulations and thanks, Eamon.

This month, Ken VE2KLF brought a couple of books which he donated as door prizes. Thanks, Ken.

Something Punny - A calendar's days are numbered.

The meeting adjourned at 21:33. See you May 21st, 2012.

73, & good DX de Keith VE2MTL

Quebec Provincial Hamfest

QUEBEC PROVINCIAL HAMFEST MAY 20 2012

Sponsor: Sorel-Tracy VE2CBS ARC

Start date: Sunday, May 20, 2012

End date: Sunday, May 20, 2012

Location :Sorel-Tracy Québec 70km from Montreal 1½ hour from the US border

Colisée Cardin de Sorel-Tracy, 200 Victoria st, Sorel-Tracy Qc J3P 7K1

Directions to location: Highway 30 east from Montréal

Highway 20 road 122 from the east and south

Opening times: Sellers set up: 6 AM

Doors open to Public: 9 AM to 12 PM

Cost: Admission: \$8 per person. Vendors: \$15 per table, includes 1 admission.

Early bird admission at 6AM 15\$

Talk-in frequency: VE2RBS 145.370- T 103.5 VE2RBS 442.150+ T 103.5 VE2FCT DSTAR 146,985- (VE2FCT C VE2FCT G)

Eastern Canada's Largest Amateur Radio Flea Market. Door prizes, 2 major raffle for one Icom IC-2300H from Radioworld and one Icom IC-2300H from Elkel , commercial exhibits, QSL Bureau, 50/50 Draw, food and refreshments.

More than 100 tables of amateur radio

and electronic equipment bargains. Free parking and RV parking (No service) on site open on Friday May 18 2012.

special callsign VC2CBS30 and contest from may 1st to may 31 2012,

Saturday May 19 2012 Owls network banquet 6 pm in La Bouf-Tifail restaurant open to all.

For more info: Table reservations and info contact: Luc Leblanc 450-743-8676

SKYPE VE2DWE

Email contact: ve2cbs@raqi.ca

Webpage: <http://www.hamfest.qc.ca/>

For Sale

7" Portable Flat-screen LCD TV with internal Lithium-Ion battery pack that last up to 6 hours. TV is equipped with a digital (ATSC), analog (NTSC) and FM tuner. Can be hooked up to cable or via OTA antenna. Has an aspect ratio of 16:9 and includes a 1 day on-screen schedule (OTA channels only). Come with remote control, AC adapter, telescopic antenna, user manual and car charger. Great for watching TV while mobile or in the outdoors. Also useful for on the spot TV antenna alignment for optimal signal. Asking 75\$. Contact Bram, VE2XCS at ve2xcs@bell.net

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 \$\$\$

To advertise items for sale, send details to Bram VE2XCS, the newsletter editor at ve2xcs@bell.net. He will gladly include them in the next bulletin. Please remember to include all pertinent information relating to the item you wish to sell.

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

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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.