



West Island Amateur Radio Club Bulletin

December 2012 Edition

Upcoming Meeting – December 17th 2012

This month's topic

“Annual General Meeting 2012”

Your hobby, your club, your vote.

President's Message and Report

by Ken Fraser, VE2KLF

WI~ ARCS

Main Events of 2012 and Report to the Annual General Meeting

January-16

At the December 2011 Annual General Meeting Paul, VE2OFH acted as our nomination committee and Sheldon, VA2SH as President and Scrutineer. Ken, VE2KLF, Charles, VE2RFI, Keith, VE2MTL and VE2DDZ, were acclaimed as President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Bob, remained as QSL Manager/Director. Bram, VE2XCS remained on as Director/News Letter Editor. Wayne, VE2WRH remains as the webmaster/director. The Directorships are non-elected positions.

Stuart, VE2XX presented a talk on EME (Earth-Moon-Earth) systems with particular reference to his current installation in St Lazare. Ralph, VE2GO showed off his 1939 Amateur Radio Certificate and talked about some of his ham history.

February-20

As a new amateur radio group on Summits On The Air (SOTA) was forming, Eamon, VE2EGN presented the aspects and operations of SOTA in our newsletter. At the meeting Gilles, VE2TZT performed the SK ceremony for Andy Bannerman, VE2ABW. As Gilles had just returned from his VP6T Dxpedition on Pitcairn Island, he gave us a preliminary rundown on the VP6T operation. A week earlier the Canadian Ski Marathon completed and communications traffic was supported and monitored by some of our members. After the coffee break Bram, VE2XCS presented a Ham Nation Podcast which all present (judging by the chuckles) seem to enjoy. Thanks Bram.

March-19

Malcolm, VE2DDZ delivered the final financial report for 2011, which were audited by Vern, VE2QQ. Malcolm, VE2DDZ, gave a discussion of the plans for RadioTalk2012. Paul, VE2OFH; Terry, VE2WTQ and Morrie, VE2BWS were also part of the planning process for the combined WIARC/MARC effort. Charles, VE2RFI took the advanced certificate exam and passed with flying colours! Ken, VE2KLF announced that the annual LBPSB Science and Technology Days would be held on May 23 and 24th at the St Lazare airfield. Paul, VE2OFH announced that the 2012 Field Day (June 23 and 24) would again

be a combined effort of WIARC, MARC and the Concordia University club operating 1A under the call sign VE2ARC at Pine Beach Park, Dorval.

After the break, Gilles, VE2TZZ delivered the full account of his group's expedition to Pitcairn. The professional video and pictures were enjoyed by all. Tom and Betty Christian (VP6TC and VP6YL) assisted the DX group on the island, most probably descendents of the Mutiny on the Bounty fame. Well done Gilles!

April-16

With Reg, VE2AYU at the paddles, we honoured another WIARC member's passing with a SK ceremony for Herbert (Bert) Widdop, VE2WD. Bert's daughter, Janice and two of his granddaughters attended the ceremony.

After the break Dan, VA2KEY and Eamon, VE2EGN presented SOTA operating procedures and their impressions of recent SOTA activities with pictures of various mountain-topping efforts.

May-21

Dan, VA2KEY and Eamon, VE2EGN announced their next exploit for SOTA, Mont Garceau in the Laurentians scheduled for May 27th. Ken, VE2KLF mentioned that both our repeaters were malfunctioning, VE2RWI VHF and UHF. In fact the UHF machine was taken off the air due to interference to a commercial user on the shared UHF antenna. Repairs were waiting for Jean-Francois, VE2TBH and crew to pay a visit to the Cote des Neiges site. George, VE2NGH went over further details for 2012 Field Day. The 1A operation would have two towers HF and 6 m and the operators would have a separate tent. The food service and rag chew area was to be in the Pine Beach Park gazebo.

After the coffee break we had our annual Show and Tell:

- **Dave**, VA2DGC demonstrated his 1924 portable radio complete with #6 Cells.
- **Keith**, VE2MTL showed us his refurbished code practice audio oscillators from our Westminster school for use at Science and Technology days that week.
- **Charles**, VE2RFI illustrated his active offset (2 MHz) attenuator for fox hunting.
- **Malcolm**, VE2DDZ showed us two iambic keyer kits.
- **Eamon**, VE2EGN presented a work in progress on an iambic keyer project.
- **Ken**, VE2KLF dug up two partially completed kits from 1997, the Norcal 38 special (30 m superhet transceiver with an iambic keyer) and a Frequency Mite (frequency counter up to 30 MHz with a CW output).
- **Wayne**, VE2WRH displayed his USB-based Teensy 2.0 microcontroller development system.
- **Gilles**, VE2TZZ illustrated his homebrew holder/dispenser for coils of cable.

May-23/24

WIARC participated in the annual Science and Technology days as one of the partners for this Lester B Pearson school board event at Cooper's airfield in St Lazare. Chaperoned groups of about 15 students passed through our exhibit (about 15 minutes for each group). As in previous years we had an introduction to CW practice for each student and FRS/GMRS radios as an introduction to half-duplex communication. The "hands on" experience of Morse code practice with our straight keys and audio oscillators was most appreciated by the visiting students who received certificates of proficiency for their effort. Thanks go to our volunteers for the 2012 edition: Keith, VE2MTL; Andy, VE2DNN; Ken, VE2KLF; Bob, VE2AXO and Ralph, VE2GO.

June-05

A few club members took in the Transit of Venus (across the sun) at the RASC observatory in the Morgan Arboretum. Ken, VE2KLF brought his extended family (grandchildren) and Keith, VE2MTL; Bob, VE2AXO; Malcolm, VE2DDZ were on site. Morrie, VE2BWS (RASC member) had his own set up with camera, telescope and laptop. There were a number of RASC members with their own telescopes and filters. The press covered the event and the RASC observatory was open for viewing. The beginning of the transit was clearly visible through filtered telescopes or binoculars. Unfortunately the observing ended when cloud cover moved in.

June-18

WIARC members acknowledged the cards of thanks received from Bert's VE2WD (SK) family. Our Sunday night Info Net participants held a lunch at the Manoir (St Jean) a week ago (Saturday). We all watched, in horror, as we observed Eamon, VE2EGN receiving the blessings of the local gendarmes at St Jean and Hymus! The speakers were all in place for RadioTalk2012 to be held on September 22nd in the St Ignatius Church hall. George, VE2NGH spoke about the final plans for Field Day at Pine Beach park starting at 09:00 local on June 23rd.

June-23/24

The weather conditions were perfect for Field Day at Pine Beach park. After 09:00 on June 23rd two towers were erected in record time, one for HF and one for 6 m beams and rotors. There was just enough breeze off lake St Louis to cool the operating tent and the gazebo and these conditions followed the next day until teardown. HF operations were good and a high score was amassed with help from our CW Ops. 6 m was dead during the contest, but thanks to Louis-Philippe, VA2LPQ we were entertained by a mystery FOX operator that sent gales of laughter through the operating tent! Bonus points were garnered from solar panel operation, satellite communications, training, official visitor, etc. Our crew was well fed by our resident food service guy, Charles, VE2RFI (chili m-m-m-m). We faired extremely well in the contest. Under the 1A class we were **first** in Quebec, **second** in Canada and **15th** out of 135 in North America. Thanks to all who made this event a roaring success, especially George, VE2NGH who cracked the whip!

September-17

Once again Reg, VE2AYU was handed the paddles to honour another WIARC member, Al Solway, VE2TAS (SK). Ken, VE2KLF and Keith, VE2MTL recalled working with Al, VE2TAS; Eldor, VE2HUG and Ike, VE2IKE in the construction of 5, 2 m, 4 element Yagis (an early version of what is now known as the Arrow antenna). Ken brought his antenna to the meeting. Paul, VE2OFH spoke briefly about the projects for the fall 2012 Solder-spot activities. With RadioTalk2012 on the horizon, Terry, VE2WTQ referred to the final details. Bernie, VA2BP filled us in on his son's and two other crewmembers adventure sailing through the Northwest Passage in a 31-foot sailboat (Belzebug2) ... a history first! Dan, VA2KEY described the summer activities of the SOTA group along with pictures of the various mountaintop-operating sites.

September-22

Ken, VE2KLF opened RadioTalk2012 at 09:00 and Terry, VE2WTQ emceed the proceedings of the combined WIARC/MARC conference. The following presentations were given:

- **Space Concordia and the Satellite Design Challenge** by Sébastien Parent-Charette, VA2AVR
- **A Century of Regulating Radio** by Bryan Rawlings, VE3QN
- **Dxpedition 2012 (Isle Pitcairn)** by Gilles Renucci, VE2TZZ
- **Digital Voice Modes in 2012** by Claude Everton, VE2YI
- **Amateur Communications on Laser Beams** by Jimmy Howard, VE2JWH
- **Ballon Radioamateur du Québec** by Michel Graveline, VE2WMG

The conference was catered by our chef extraordinaire, Charles, VE2RFI and crew (chili again, m-m-m). Malcolm, VE2DDZ, Morrie, VE2BWS and Francois, VE2AAY saw that things flowed smoothly and George, VE2NGH recorded the event video. From all accounts this event was a major success. The RAC AGM followed the conference. Most of the participants (including some RAC execs) then moved on to a diner in honour of MARC's 80th anniversary (WIARC's 40th) at the Bar-B-Barn on Sources road. To all who volunteered to run this event, un gros merci!

October-15

Yet another ceremony was held with Reg at the paddles to honour Dr. Jim Lyons, VE2KN (SK) a WIARC member. Bob, VE2AXO was a close friend of Jim and worked with him on a number of radio projects. His daughter mentioned that he had a straight key with him in his coffin. By coincidence Ken, VE2KLF mentioned the passing of George McKell, VE2UGA (SK) of the Covey Hill club and attended George's funeral in Ormstown.

Francois's, VE2AAY Skype online course for the BASIC certificate started on Oct 04th with 14 students signed up. Ken, VE2KLF noted that the South Shore Hamfest scheduled for Oct 20th had a free table for WIARC. Notice was given for our AGM on Dec 17th with Paul, VE2OFH acting as nominating committee and Sheldon, VA2SH would serve as scrutineer and chair of the AGM. Malcolm, VE2DDZ updated the audience on recent activities of the SOTA group. A trip to Mont Tremblant was rained out and the group went to Mont Brome instead. See wiarc-sota.wikispaces.com for ongoing details. After the break Terry, VE2WTQ presented a summary of RadioTalk2012. Attendance (67) was up from the previous year and the venue (St Ignatius Church hall), although expensive, was quite satisfactory for the combined WIARC/MARC groups. Discussions were underway for RadioTalk2013. Finally Bernie, VA2BP brought the audience up-to-date on his son and crew's completion of the Northwest Passage. They had passed through the Bering straight and after that harrowing voyage, hove to around Nunivak island hoping to winter over in Kodiak (Northeast Pacific storm season).

November-19

In the newsletter Ken, VE2KLF described the visit to our Cote des Neiges repeater site with Charles, VE2RFI and Jean-Francois, VE2TBH. All the active electronics were found to be in order and therefore the VHF and UHF duplexers were the suspects of poor performance. As the new UHF repeater was functional, it was decided to bring home the UHF duplexer/multicoupler for a cable check and tune up.

Notice of the Dec 17th AGM was given. As Keith, VE2MTL was floating through the Panama Canal, Charles; VE2RFI assumed secretarial duties for the meeting. Malcolm, VE2DDZ advised the members present that SOTA operations would now include 6 m. Ken, VE2KLF reminded everyone present of the upcoming Christmas Dinner at Casa Greque on Gouin Blvd on Dec 12th. Dusty, VE2ADJ gave a short presentation on his HF mobile setup. After the break, George presented the final summary of the Tri-club 2012 Field Day. We operated under the IA class with the call VE2ARC garnering a total of 4,688 points. There were 615 CW contacts. As noted previously, this was a very successful event for the three clubs as our North American standing was 15th in 135 IA groups. Again who can forget the chili m-m-m. Thanks to all who volunteered for this activity. There were 9 graduates from our BASIC certificate course. Eight examinees received honour status in the exam. Thank you Francois, VE2AAY!

December-12

There were 19 attendees at our Christmas dinner. There appeared to be a deficit of XYLs and YLs! All enjoyed the event and the weather and parking co-operated.

December-17

Agenda:

- Solder-Spot updates by Paul, VE2OFH
- SOTA updates by Dan, VA2KEY and/or Malcolm, VE2DDZ
- Interim Financial Report by Malcolm, VE2DDZ
- Other business
- 50/50 draw
- Break

2012 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given of the 2012 Annual General Meeting and Elections of the Executive for 2013. Nominations should be directed to Paul, VE2OFH and Sheldon, VA2SH will act as scrutineer and meeting president.

After 12 years on the executive of WIARC (9 as President), Ken; VE2KLF leaves the executive to become the IPP (Immediate Past President). Malcolm, VE2DDZ has agreed to fill the President's position, which leaves the position Treasurer vacant. Charles, VE2RFI and Keith, VE2MTL have agreed to stay on. However, **YOU** will determine the final composition of the executive at the AGM

Seasons Greetings and Best Wishes for the New Year!

C U on Dec 17th ... de .ken. VE2KLF

What Happened *Minutes of the November 2012 WIARC meeting*

by Keith Glashan, VE2MTL

Minutes of the Nov 2012 WIARC meeting by Keith Glashan VE2MTL and Charles VE2RFI

According to Charles's notes, the meeting began at 19:40. Ken VE2KLF presided and welcomed the 22 attendees. There was the usual roll call with call signs. The details of the Monday November 19, 2012 meeting are as follows.

1. **Quick Notes:**

--Firstly, I must thank Charles VE2RFI for taking the minutes for me as I was unable to attend the meeting. I was busy examining the expansion to the lock system which is taking place in the Panama Canal. I will try to pass along my findings to you all at a later meeting. I actually found something in the canal lock operation that is "Radio" related. It is only simplex, and on top of that it is only one way communication. However, it is still "radio" and plays an important role. Curious? Stay tuned.

2. **WIARC AGM:** A final reminder about our annual AGM and election taking place at our next meeting on December 17th, 2012. If you wish to nominate someone for an executive position for 2013, please contact Paul VE2OFH, chair of the nominating committee.

3. **Solder Spot:** Paul VE2OFH announced that an advanced project is underway at the moment. The boys are building a band pass filter.

4. **SOTA News:** Malcolm VE2DDZ announced plans to include 6 meters in future SOTA adventures.

Remember, the SOTA web site is WIARC-SOTA.WIKISPACES.COM.

5. **UHF & VHF Repeaters:** Jeff VE2TBH, Ken VE2KLF, and Charles VE2RFI, visited the repeater site. They removed the UHF cavities and are now in the process of tuning them and checking all cabling. Paul VE2OFH reported that the VE2BG repeater problems are in the area of the heliax and the antenna. Paul also reported that the VE2RED repeater may soon be back on the air, perhaps at the Bonnavista site.

6. **XMAS Dinner:** Ken VE2KLF reminded us that our annual Christmas get-together will take place on Wednesday December 12th at the Casa Greque restaurant on Gouin Blvd. It is the same QTH as the last couple of years. It kicks off at 7 PM. An invitation will be circulated by e-mail with the details.

7. **Dusty on HF Mobile:** Dusty VE2ADJ gave a presentation on his HF mobile set-up. He uses a 102 inch whip antenna and a tuner that he adapted for use in his automobile. He operates HF down to 40 meters. Sorry I wasn't able to attend the presentation. I would like to see his installation sometime soon. Thanks Dusty for taking the time to show us your project.

8. **Speaker VE2NGH:** After the break, George VE2NGH spoke on the results of last June's tri-club Field Day effort. If you look under the call VE2ARC you may find that we gained a total of 4,688 points. We made 615 CW contacts. This all resulted in these amazing standings. We were first in Quebec in all classes. We were second in Canada in the 1A class. We were 15th in all North America in the 1A class.

Congratulations, all around. That was fantastic. I don't think anyone expected those results. Nothing succeeds like success. So next time around, let's get out there and show everyone again that FD 2012 was no fluke. Who suggested that it was because of the cooking?

Tonight, the winner of the 50/50 draw was Ken VE2KLF, who donated his winnings to the club. Congratulations and thanks, Ken.

This month, there were 2 items donated by Jeff VE2TBH which were given away as door prizes. Malcolm VE2DDZ took home a 12 volt fan and Grafton VE2KES received a battery charger. Thanks Jeff.

Something Punny - A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.

The meeting adjourned at 21:50. See you at the AGM December 17th, 2012.

73, & good DX de Keith VE2MTL

Happy Holidays

and have good new year

from your newsletter editor

*Bram Paterson
VE2XCS*

73

WIARC AGM

Notice is given to all members to attend the Annual General Meeting and Elections of Officers to be held during the regular monthly meeting on December 17th, 2012



Cookies needed for Coffee break



WIARC is looking for someone to provide cookies for the coffee breaks held at each monthly meetings on a every third month basis. If you would like to volunteer, contact any member of the executive.

Membership Renewal Notice

WIARC membership fees for 2013 are due at the start of January. If you like you can fill out the attached membership form and either bring it with your payment to the December meeting or mail it in to the address on the form.

2012 WIARC Virtual Radio Class New Graduates

The virtual radio class of 2012 produced 7 new amateurs, they are: Marco Montesano (Vaudreuil-Dorion), Alex Wenzl (Vaudreuil-Dorion), Barry Horne (Rigaud), Marc Vieira-Cardinal (Candiac), Aronhióta's "Thomas" Deom (Kahnawake), Mariusz Zienkiewicz (Lachine) and Kevin Wright (Montreal).

Joining us for the examination were two individuals who had studied on their own: Charles Doole (Montreal) and Nguyen Khoi Tran (Montreal).

All of these gentlemen, but one, were received with honours.

Khoi comes to us by way of McGill University and is involved in High-Altitude Ballooning

http://raqi.ca/braq/histo/braq12-8_Mchab_1/braq12-8_McHAB_1.htm

To all, I say welcome to the hobby ! To you faithful readers I say "These OM's need exposure to the practical side of radio !"

François VE2AAY

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

Directors:

Editor : Bram Paterson, VE2XCS

QSL Manager : Bob Loranger, VE2AXO

Treasurer : Malcolm Harper, VE2DDZ

Secretary : Keith Glashan, VE2MTL

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 (Temporarily on 146.76 PL 103.5 Hz - VE2RMP) Club Repeater

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

All are welcome to participate.