



West Island Amateur Radio Club Bulletin

February 2013 Edition

Upcoming Meeting – February 18th 2013

This month's topic

“Building and Installing a New SteppIR DB 42: 250 lb on the air.”

Given by Gilles Renucci VE2TZT.

President's Message and Report

by Malcolm Harper, VE2DDZ

Hello all,

Golden Packet Project

Thank-you Dan VA2KEY for your great presentation on the Golden Packet Project. I think Dan is still looking for a second person to commit to the goal of extending the Golden Packet Project into Canada this summer. Get in touch with him if you are interested.

VE2RWI

Charles VE2RFI and Jeff VE2TBH have been putting in a lot of time to bring both repeaters back on line. Keith VE2XL and Jeff VE2TBH describe some of the history of the repeaters in an article later in this newsletter. This reminds me that we repeater users owe a large thank-you to all those who invest their time, knowledge, and energy putting and keeping these repeaters on the air. Charles will give us a repeater status update at the meeting, but I would like to say thank-you to those working with Charles on the WIARC repeaters: Jeff VE2TBH, George VE2NGH, Claude VE2YI, Leo VE2SI, Keith VE2MTL, Paul VE2OFH.

Radio is Dead. Long Live Radio.

Ken VE2KLF shares an interesting segment on radio. The January 26 episode of the Terry O'Reilly CBC radio show Under the Influence is titled Radio Is Dead. Long Live Radio. Ken draws our attention to a section where the Columbian government uses Morse code hidden in music programming to communicate with kidnapped soldiers. You can hear the episode over the internet at cbc.ca (<http://www.cbc.ca/undertheinfluence/season-2/2013/01/26/radio-is-dead-long-live-radio-1/>). The section on Morse code starts at 18:50. The episode is 27 minutes 33 seconds in total.

@rac.ca

We have been getting reports that the club email address, ve2cwi@rac.ca, has been somewhat unreliable. We may change the club email address away from an @rac.ca alias. Whether we change or not, you can report problems with @rac.ca email addresses to the RAC technology officer: Paul Burggraaf VO1PRB at vptas@rac.ca .

MonstIR Pro

Gilles VE2TZT will give a presentation of the building and installation of his new SteppIR DB42 antenna including footage of the antenna climbing up to the top the tower. This should be quite spectacular - Gilles points out the DB42 weighs about 250 pounds. This is probably why this model is also known as the MonstIR Pro. You can find more information about it at [steppir.com](http://www.steppir.com) - <http://www.steppir.com/db42-monstir-pro-yagi-antenna> .

February 18, 2013 Meeting Agenda

- 🕒 @rac.ca aliases
- 🕒 Cookies for the meetings
- 🕒 Repeater status update
- 🕒 Special Interest Groups (CW practice, SOTA, Solder Spot, ...)
- 🕒 Other business

- ⌚ Break (coffee, cookies, ragchew)
- ⌚ Building and Installing a New SteppIR DB42 : 250 pounds on the air - Gilles VE2TZT

See you on the 18th.

73,
Malcolm VE2DDZ

What Happened *Minutes of the January 2013 WIARC meeting*

by Keith Glashan, VE2MTL

Minutes of the WIARC Meeting January 21, 2013 *by Keith Glashan VE2MTL*

The meeting began at 19:56. Malcolm VE2DDZ presided and welcomed the 18 attendees. There was the usual roll call with call signs. The details of the meeting are as follows.

1. **Reg VE2AYU:** Keith VE2MTL reported that he normally picks up Reg each month and takes him to the meeting. However, when he tried to contact him this morning, he found out that he had been ill recently. On top of that he has moved to the Vivalis personal care facility. If you wish to visit him, he is in room 616 for the moment.

2. **Space Day:** Malcolm VE2DDZ, Bob VE2AXO, Ralph VE2GO, Andy VE2DNN, and Keith VE2MTL attended a breakfast last Wednesday by the LBPSB. During the event, it was announced that the 2 day format used for the last 10 years is being reconsidered. This year there will be no event at the St. Lazare airfield as we have experienced before. They did say that they value the concept greatly. They do not want to abandon it at all. On the contrary, they are considering several options, such as half day events involving the "partners" as we are called, and even spreading future events over several dates. They firmly believe that, today, education must take place in the classroom, in the community, and out in the industrial environment. In any event, they promised to advise us

about their decisions as soon as possible. Stay tuned.

3. **SOTA News:** Dan VA2KEY briefly stated that it has been too cold for SOTA events recently. Don't worry, they haven't given up, they're just warming up.

4. **CW Practice:** The Morse group met before the meeting started in a small room across the hall. As was announced, they began around 7:00 PM and continued until the meeting was about to start.

5. **Morse Runner:** Gilles VE2TZT gave a presentation on a piece of software called Morse Runner 1.68. This software installs on your PC and simulates on-air CW operations that one would experience under typical HF band conditions. You can simulate "pile-ups", QSB, QRN, QRM, or all of the above. CW speed can be controlled as well. As well, Gilles presented a second software application called RufzXP. It simulates contest conditions and is designed to improve your CW speed and proficiency. It increases speed as your proficiency increases. If your accuracy drops, the software will slow down the CW speed until you are able to copy accurately again. Both these pieces of software are realistic in their simulations of actual operating conditions. You have to hear it to believe it. Thanks, Gilles. It was quite timely, as some of the members are getting back into CW mode these days.

6. **WIARC Repeater:** Charles VE2RFI spoke about all the recent activity that has taken place at the repeater site and elsewhere as well. The UHF cavities were tuned up and returned to the site. Metro Com, who

share the antenna with us, were on-site to help test the installation. They determined that we were still causing RF to reflect back beyond an acceptable level. Charles suggests that we replace all the cabling used on the VHF cavities, and replace the complete set of UHF cavities entirely. An early estimation is about \$800.00.



Above a Pic of Dan VA2KEY appealing for Golden Packeteers.

After the break, Dan VA2KEY gave a presentation on APRS Golden Packet. Essentially, this is an event which takes place on the 3rd week-end in July, during which portable packet stations are setup to cover the 2,000 mile span of the Appalachian Trail, from Georgia to Maine. Currently, it takes 14 stations to complete the mission, which is to send a packet message from one end to the other. Dan has plans to extent the route into Canada for the first time. He would like to add a new link into New Brunswick on top of Mount Carleton. He has researched the feasibility and completed most of the ground work already. All Dan needs now are volunteers to join him to make it all happen. So if you like camping, hiking,

nature, scenery, radio, and mountain tops, this is for you. Interested? Contact Dan. Bon voyage.

Tonight, the winner of the 50/50 draw was Sam VE2LJV, who donated his winnings to the club. Congratulations and thanks, Sam.

This month, there were a few magazines provided by Keith VE2XL available for the taking. Thanks. Something Punny - Practice safe eating - always use condiments.

The meeting adjourned at 22:16. See you February 18th, 2013.

73, & good DX de Keith VE2MTL

out the attached membership form and either bring it with your payment to the February meeting.

Membership Renewal Notice

WIARC membership fees for 2013 are due at the start of January. If you like you can fill

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE VE2CWI REPEATER

by Keith VE2XL & Jeff VE2TBH

The original repeater was started by André Giguère VE2BPF in July 1975 at Ste-Marthe-sur-le-Lac, Québec. For a period of time the repeater was operated from André's home. In August 1975, it was operated at the home of John Mann VE2ADZ in Deux Montagne. In September 1979 a location was found on the mountain at St-Joseph-du-Lac. At one point there was consideration of operations in the church steeple. Possible problems with the insurance company, for the church, negated that location and André found a small shack in an orchard below the church. Power was available and a large discarded battery from a railway operation was installed in the event of a power failure. In July 1973 the license was transferred to Julien Trépanier VE2BPY until December 1979 when the repeater returned to the QTH of John Mann VE2ADZ.

The original equipment comprised of a Heathkit mobile two meter rig. The transmitter and receiver boards were separated and installed in separate brass shielding boxes. The antenna was installed on a pole alongside the shack.

John Mann ex VE2ADZ, VE2UM now VE7DMQ and the author spent part or most working days meeting to talk about various matters including amateur radio. In 1980 André had decided to give up' the Repeater VE2RAU (31/91) and relinquished the license and equipment to John Mann for him to operate from his residence in Deux Montagnes. After a period of time John also decided to relinquish the operation but was loath to see the operation and the frequency go to some other location. Also critical at that time was the scarcity of good repeater frequencies. The discussion closed on the basis that the repeater was to be made available to the West Island Amateur Radio Club. The matter was referred to the general meeting of the Club. The details and offer were brought to the Club and are recorded in the June 1981 WIARC Bulletin. The club moved and accepted the responsibility for the operation of the repeater.

Don Jarvis VE2DWG became the custodian and operator of the repeater, operating initially from his QTH. Eventually Don was able to get equipment space at his place of work (Farinon). About this time several club members, and one visitor from Ontario Frank VE3FT, assembled at Farinon, and under the capable direction of Don VE2DWG and Bob Pepper VE2AO, to install an antenna system and assemble coax cables and connectors for the cavities.

On March 20/1982 Don wrote to the then president of WIARC, Keith Ballinger VE2AQU, outlining the criteria for the continuation of the repeater. Improvements were made, people got involved and the coverage and reliability of the repeater improved. In July of 1986 VE2QO reported that the repeater had moved to a new site. This was probably when Don Jarvis moved from Farinon to SRT Telecom. In August 1986 the bulletin report said that the activity and coverage had improved since the relocation to a new site. In February 1989 The WIARC Bulletin header shows the repeater call letters as VE2RAU but the call letters were now VE2CWI. The repeater was the main discussion topic, calling for improvements and that a commercial type repeater had been acquired and that it was soon to be ready for service at a new location at Queen Mary and Décarie. The efforts of the two Marks, VE2PTT and VE2HVW, and others were acknowledged. The repeater was being readied at a "SECRET LOCATION"!!!!. in St-Laurent. The June 1989 Bulletin reports the new repeater installed at the new location. In January 1991 the packet involvement was reported, that is another facet that someone else can report on.

In April 1991 the Bulletin reported problems with the repeater transmitter and that the transmitter was being replaced. In the December 1994 Repeater VE2HVW & VA2MM had a lengthy article on the repeater operations and the move to a new site, with improved coverage, performance and reliability. The chosen site was on Côte-Des-Neiges at the Rockhill apartments, across from the cemetery. The new location improved coverage tremendously being much higher. It is certainly difficult to miss the twin derrick style antenna towers next to the Oratoire St-Joseph from just about anywhere in Montreal, on which we are fortunate to have our antennas.

Sometime between 1994 and 1997, the packet radios were taken out of operation, partly because of the lack of interest to support them, which one might attribute to the growing excitement for the Internet.

In 1997, after an important failure of the power supply and much deliberation, both the VHF and UHF repeaters were completely replaced with newer equipment, finally getting rid of all tube technology. Bruno VE2VK and Jean-François VE2TBH spent many hours putting together the 2 systems based on GE Mastr Exec II radios. The repeaters offer basic FM service, output tones, no phone patch, battery backup and of course the great coverage that the Côte-des-Neiges site affords.

In 2011, after almost one year of operating the UHF repeater at ¼ Watt output because of a failed linear amplifier, the UHF repeater was replaced by a 2000 vintage Motorola Radius R1225. This brings us into a more modern age. All the programming is now done via a computer port. There are no pots nor cans to adjust, even for radio alignment.

Our repeater is the result of a lot of effort and support from many in the West Island Amateur Radio Club.

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 : Malcolm Harper, VE2DDZ
Vice-president : Charles Robitaille, VE2RFI

Treasurer : Dan Montpetit, VA2KEY
Secretary : Keith Glashan, VE2MTL

Directors:

Editor : Bram Paterson, VE2XCS
QSL Manager : Bob Loranger, VE2AXO

Webmaster : Wayne Hodgins, VE2WRH
Immediate Past : Ken Fraser, VE2KLF
President (IPP)

Accredited Examiners:

Larry Dobby, VE2DO@RAC.CA

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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 (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.