



West Island Amateur Radio Club Bulletin

March 2013 Edition

Upcoming Meeting – March 18th 2013

This month's topic

“*Space Concordia Satellite Project*”

Given by the students of Concordia University

President's Message and Report

by Malcolm Harper, VE2DDZ

Hello all,

MonstIR Pro

Thanks to Gilles VE2TZT for a very impressive presentation about the installation of his new antenna. I think the line that sticks with me the most is when Gilles was talking about the difference the new antenna makes, he told an anecdote about busting a pileup of European stations into Africa and commented "You feel like you have a bazooka".

AMSAT FOX Project

Keith VE2XL reminded me after the January meeting that AMSAT-NA is fundraising for the FOX project. The FOX-1 design is a FM repeater-type satellite (U/V). The first FOX-1 cubesat is scheduled for launch this September. The purpose is to partly replace Echo, AO-51, which went QRT (silent) December 2011.

There are other FOX-1 type satellites in the planning. FOX-2, further in the future, will have more capabilities. The FOX project is a very worthy project if you have some spare money to support amateur radio in space. More information is available at the AMSAT website http://ww2.amsat.org/?page_id=26 . There is a donation box at the bottom of that page.



Photo of ConSat-1

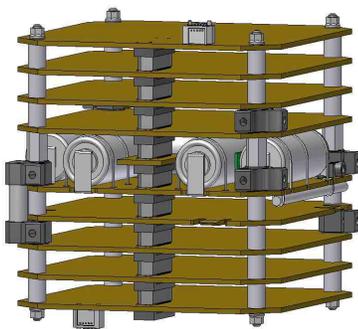


Photo of FOX-1 PCB Stacking

Space Concordia

This team of students from Concordia University gave a very interesting presentation at Radio Talk 2012 in September. Since then their plans have become more concrete. They won the Canadian Satellite Design Challenge. This means their cubesat will be launched. They will give us an update on their project at the March meeting. I am looking forward to finding out about launch windows and also how they plan to use hambands for communication with the satellite. There is more information at <http://spaceconcordia.ca/> .

March 18, 2013 Meeting Agenda

- 🕒 Repeater status update
- 🕒 Special Interest Groups (CW practice, SOTA, Solder Spot, ...)
- 🕒 Field day update
- 🕒 Other business
- 🕒 Break (coffee, cookies, ragchew)
- 🕒 Studying the South Atlantic Anomaly from space - Space Concordia

See you on the 18th.

73, Malcolm VE2DDZ

What Happened *Minutes of the February 2013 WIARC meeting*

by Keith Glashan, VE2MTL

Minutes of the WIARC Meeting
February 18, 2013
by Keith Glashan VE2MTL

The meeting began at 19:37. Malcolm VE2DDZ presided and welcomed the 25 attendees. There was the usual roll call with call signs. The details of the meeting are as follows.

1. **Barry VE2WTB:** It should be noted that Barry VE2WTB was in attendance for the first time. Barry has just recently completed the radio course last fall given by Francois VE2AAY. Welcome Barry, and congratulations. We hope to see you on a regular basis.

2. **Reg VE2AYU:** Keith VE2MTL reported that he had just visited Reg on the way to the meeting tonight. He found him to be improving and in good spirits. Visitors are most welcome at his Vivalis residence. You will find him waiting for you in room 616.

3. **Quick Notes:**

--Malcolm VE2DDZ announced that we have a new e-mail address VE2CWI@WIARC.CA. It seems that there have been a few occasions recently when e-mails were rejected

with the @RAC.CA suffix. We all need reliable e-mail services. Many members agreed that they had experienced similar rejections in their own activities.

--A sheet was circulated and members volunteered to bring cookies to the monthly meetings. We only need 10 volunteers per year. At that rate, you only get a turn about once every 3 years. Next month, Sam VE2LJV has undertaken to provide the goodies. Thanks, Sam.

--George VE2NGH mentioned that we might start planning for field day 2013 June 22nd and 23rd. He proposed the same Pine Beach QTH as last year. George is suggesting a 2A tri-club operation this year.

--Dan VA2KEY said that there has been no SOTA activity to report on this month.

--Paul VE2OFH announced that he would likely be soon announcing a SOLDERSPOT Power Pole project.

--Radio Talk was mentioned by Terry VE2WTQ. He is looking for ideas, comments, and suggestions.

--Finally, Malcolm suggested that the Sunday PM net return to 146.910 for next week. It will be a test of the

refurbished VHF repeater equipment. We have been using VE2RMP for the last while. Malcolm mentioned that there were 17 check-ins yesterday. A good number in terms of today's membership, but history reminds us that in the 1990's having 50 check-ins was not uncommon.

4. **WIARC Repeater:** Charles VE2RFI spoke again about the recent activity that has taken place at the repeater site. He and J-F VE2TBH have discovered and corrected 'shorts' in the cabling, as well as other 'short'-comings in other areas of the VHF repeater. Charles plans to replace other pieces of cable, some of which are spliced using a barrel connector. J-F VE2TBH gave a recounting of the history of the old repeater equipment as well as a history of the maintenance and repairs. He used a blackboard to diagram the connections used with the cavity multicouplers. He explained just how critical cable lengths are when sharing an antenna with another party. When we were alone on the antenna, such minor errors were of little significance and things operated well. Metro Com, who shares the antenna with us, determined that we were causing RF to reflect back into their equipment, thus pointing out our problem. Charles still has loose ends to finish up and suggested that he

would be back to the repeater site this week. As a side note, he mentioned that the padlock, normally found on the radio room door was missing during a recent visit. Charles has purchased a new one, put a copy of the key into the 'lock box' located at the front door, and has communicated with all the appropriate users of the room, as well as the building authorities.

5. **After the Break:** Gilles VE2TZZT gave a lengthy presentation on his new SteppIR DB42 purchase, preparation, assembly, and final installation. He had installed a smaller version a few years ago, but decided to upgrade to this newer and much larger model. This one weighs 250 pounds. For those unfamiliar with the SteppIR system, the element lengths are adjusted automatically according to the operating frequency thus freeing the need for normal tuning. The DB42 indicates a boom length of 42 feet. Gilles started out by saying that a project of this magnitude will be far more than an evening or two. This task will be carried out over a

number of weeks. Once ordered, the shipping from the USA took 25 days. The antenna was delivered in 11 boxes, containing 1,033 parts. He set up special stands on his lawn to lay out the complex boom assembly. Gilles mentioned that preparing the boom is the majority of the assembly. All the mechanical parts are installed on the boom. The tubes which contain the elements are a rather minor part of the project. Gilles decided to use 4 different colours of camouflage paint on the boom to reduce its visibility. He used his torque wrench, coated parts with special galvanizing paints, and even built metal boxes to protect



Above a Pic of Gilles VE2TZZT's newly installed SteppIR DB42.

some of the parts from the elements and local critters. Finally he designed and built a device to aide in raising the 250 pound antenna up onto the mast. Thank you, Gilles, for a wonderful presentation. It is most evident that you had a show in mind when you started on this project, as you covered all aspects of it, and with such detail.

Tonight, for some reason, there was no 50/50 draw. Too busy renewing memberships. You'll just have to wait until next month.

This month, there were quite a few magazines provided by Keith VE2XL and Ken VE2KLF available for the taking. Thanks.

Something Punny - Shotgun wedding - A case of wife or death.

The meeting adjourned at 22:35. See you March 18th, 2013.

73, & good DX de

Keith VE2MTL

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.

Picture of the month



Photo of Charles VE2RFI working on the VE2RWI repeater's multicoupler. A big thanks goes out to Charles VE2RFI, J-F VE2TBH, George VE2NGH, Leo VE2SI, Keith VE2MTL and Claude VE2YI for the good work.

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

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QSL Manager : Bob Loranger, VE2AXO

Treasurer : Dan Montpetit, VA2KEY

Secretary : Keith Glashan, VE2MTL

Webmaster : Wayne Hodgins, VE2WRH

Immediate Past : Ken Fraser, VE2KLF

President (IPP)

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 146.910 MHz VE2RWI Repeater

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

All are welcome to participate.