



# West Island Amateur Radio Club Bulletin

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## October 2013 Edition

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**Upcoming Meeting – October 21<sup>st</sup> 2013**  
**This month's topic**  
**“Linux in the Hamshack”**  
*given by Paul Iarrera VE2OFH*

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## President's Message and Report

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by Malcolm Harper, VE2DDZ

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I know that it is only five weeks between the September and October meetings, but it seems like ages ago that we sat discussing summer activities and going over last minute details for Radio Talk 2013.

### **Fall Basic Certification Course**

The Basic Certification Course run by François VE2AAY started up on October 3 with five local students. They will write the exam December 10.

This is the ninth time François has run the course virtually over the internet. François does an excellent job with the course, a fact that can be attested by the personal experience of three members of your executive. Best of luck for the course to all the students. We look forward to hearing you on the air.

### **Radio Talk 2013**

Radio Talk 2013 was a great day of radio. The presentations were once again a varied selection of radio topics: from remote control station operation to amateur radio in first person view remote control flying. The food was excellent - someone was heard to remark "I would come for the meal even if the presentations weren't so interesting".

One of the students of the Fall certification course came by in the afternoon. His ticket was the first one drawn for a door prize. Joey selected the book Amateur Radio for Dummies for his prize. Keith VE2MTL also won a door prize. He selected the Raspberry Pi (a single board computer) donated by WIARC. This has sparked a number of discussion between Keith, Dan VA2KEY, and Wayne VE2WRH about the RPi - we may have another special interest group (SIG) starting up.

Many hands make light work - a big thank-you to all the volunteers who put out so much energy to make Radio Talk 2013 a success. Planning is already under way for Radio Talk 2014.

### **New Sunday Net Control Operator**

Marc-André VE2EVN has joined the roster of regular net control operators for the Sunday night net. We now have five regular net control operators. Welcome aboard Marc-André. If anyone would like to try out the net control position just contact one of the regular control operators and we'll schedule you behind the mic for an evening.

### **October meeting**

Our main speaker for October will be Paul VE2OFH. Paul will bring us up-to-date on the current state of linux in the amateur radio world. Is it possible to set up your shack computer on linux? Why might you want to? What are your

software choices? What compromises do you have to make?

### Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting for the West Island Amateur Radio club will be held Monday, December 16 at Lakeside Heights Baptist Church starting at 7:30 pm.

### Membership Fees

The executive has discussed the current membership fees and is proposing an across the board increase of five dollars per category. This would increase the individual membership fee from \$20 to \$25 for most members.

### Christmas Dinner

The WIARC Christmas dinner is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, December 11 7:00 pm at the usual Casa Grecque location.

### October 21, 2013 Meeting Agenda

- Silent key ceremony for Roly D'Andrade VE2AGR
- Radio Talk 2013 report
- First aid course update
- Raspberry Pi SIG
- Other business
- Break (coffee, cookies, ragchew)
- Linux in the Hamshack - Paul VE2OFH

See you on the 21th.

73,  
Malcolm VE2DDZ

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## **What Happened** **Minutes of the September 2013 WIARC meeting**

by Keith Glashan, VE2MTL

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### *Minutes of the WIARC Meeting September 16, 2013 By Keith Glashan VE2MTL*

The meeting began at 19:56. Malcolm VE2DDZ presided and welcomed 27 attendees. There was the usual roll call with call signs. Among them was first time visitor, Patrik VE2UNO. Welcome! We hope it's the first of many. The details of the meeting follow.

1. **Field Day 2013:** Paul VE2OFH gave a brief synopsis of the Club Field Day 2013 efforts. He said that we claimed all the bonus points possible, made 451 CW contacts and 315 on Phone. He did remind us of the rain that plagued us most of the

week-end. As well he thanked the members who made the event so successful. Notwithstanding the ones who contributed the most in terms of equipment and effort, he did single out the ease in which the towers went up this year. This was largely due to the device that was designed and manufactured by Bernie VA2BP.

2. **Golden Packet:** Dan VA2KEY described his experiences during the Golden Packet event this summer. His contact point was Mount Katahdin, some 280 Kms. away. At 5,269 feet, it is the highest point in Maine. Unfortunately, the WX on Katahdin was severe to say the least. There was pouring rain and extreme winds. The operator was only able to operate for a few brief moments

and kept his antenna pointing south. He was in no position to experiment with Dan. Maybe next year ???

3. **SOTA:** Malcolm VE2DDZ described this summer SOTA events to Mont Ste. Anne on July 20<sup>th</sup> and the Sunday climb up Mont St. Joseph in the Lac Megantic region. He also reminded us that next year, Mega SOTA will be held in Montreal.

4. **Solder Spot:** Sam VE2LJV mentioned the lectures on Antennas that he recently attended. These were given by Gilles VE2TZZ on 4 Saturdays. They comprised 19 hours of lectures, covered all types of antennas, software for simulating, effects of height and terrain, and take-off angles. There were 10

attendees. Sam gave it full marks. Congratulations Gilles!

5. **Lac Megantic:** Andy VE2DNN was visiting in the Lac Megantic region in late August and described how well the disaster area has been cleaned up. He said that a single rail car has been left as a memorial. He did note that there were several visitors in the area.

6. **Quick Notes:** Gilles VE2TZZT recalled his experiences in a preparation exercise for the WRTC competition to be held next year. He said there were about 30 stations involved in the practice session, but expects 60 stations to participate in the actual contest.

Sam VE2LJV commented on his recent trip to the CARP Hamfest. He said he was really impressed.

Francois VE2AAY is ready for this year's SKYPE amateur radio course. This will be his 9<sup>th</sup> year. He will begin on Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> and plans to hold the exams on Dec 10<sup>th</sup>.

Jan VE2JL noted the passing of Wayne Green W2NSD. Wayne started '73 magazine back in 1960.

7. **Flash Talk:** In June, Ralph VE2GO gave a Flash Talk about one of his projects from his time with Northern Electric. He noted that I reported the Prime Minister at the time was John Diefenbaker. My fault, it was Louis St. Laurent. Thanks, Ralph!



*Above a Pic of Terry VE2WTQ encouraging volunteers for Radio Talk 2013.*

8. **Break Time Cookies:** Break time snacks were provided by Dave VA2DGC. Thanks, Dave. Now,

according to the volunteer sheet, Bob VE2AXO will be providing the treats next month.

9. **After the Break:** Our feature presentation this evening was given by Terry VE2WTQ who gave a final word on the preparations for Radio Talk 2013 next Saturday. He explained that the six speakers were ready as well as several exhibitors. All that remains is that we members show up for set-up on Friday night and again bright and early on Saturday morning.

10. **50/50 Draw:** Charles VE2RFI won the 50/50 draw and donated his winnings to the club. Thanks Charles.

11. **Door Prizes:** This month, Andy VE2DNN again provided some magazines as door prizes. Thanks.

12. **A Pun My Word:** Alcohol and calculus don't mix, so don't drink and derive.

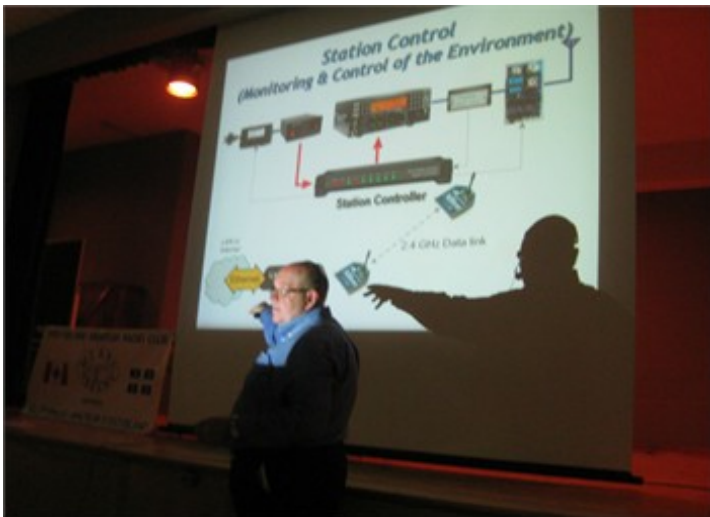
The meeting adjourned at 22:10. See you October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013.

**73, & good DX de Keith VE2MTL**

## RadioTalk 2013 Photos

by John Grow, VE2EQL





## 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](mailto: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@WIARC.CA](mailto:VE2CWI@WIARC.CA)

#### Executives:

**President :** Malcolm Harper, VE2DDZ

**Vice-president :** Charles Robitaille, VE2RFI

#### Directors:

**Editor :** Bram Paterson, VE2XCS

**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, [DOBBY@AEI.CA](mailto:DOBBY@AEI.CA)

Stuart Truba, [EME70CM@YAHOO.CA](mailto:EME70CM@YAHOO.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](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 VE2RWI Repeater

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

All are welcome to participate.