



West Island Amateur Radio Club Bulletin

September 2014 Edition

Upcoming Meeting – September 15th 2014
This month's topic
“ Summer Activity Reports ”
Tell us how your summer's been

President's Message and Report

by Malcolm Harper, VE2DDZ (ve2ddz@ve2ddz.ca)

Hi all,

I hope that everyone had the best summer possible.

My summer was marred by news of the untimely death of Vernon Ikeda VE2MBS/VE2QQ. I remember Vern from the very first WIARC meetings I ever attended. He was always friendly, always welcoming to new radio amateurs and to old timers alike. Vern will be missed by many communities of hams. My condolences go out to his family and to his many friends.

Many of you I haven't seen since June. June of course we had another excellent field day event. Eamon VE2EGN did a terrific job of organizing, ably assisted I think by Dan VA2KEY and George VE2NGH. Many others pitched in in various ways creating the perfect mix of friends, food, and radio once again.

See Eamon's article later in the newsletter for details of our field day event. One change that struck me was the move to battery power instead of a portable generator. Dan organized sponsorship from Batteries Expert of Ile Perrot. They provided us with enough emergency battery power to operate twenty-four hours and to spare. We have included a copy of their business card later in this issue if you would like to see them for any of your battery needs.

With field day providing a great start to the summer, I spent a fair bit of time on the radio the past three months. Almost all my operating was portable with a number of Summits on the Air activations including the first ever activations from the Gaspésie. I also worked a few other QRP portable events.

I found that almost all my radio activities included at least some CW work. Not always because that's what I wanted to do - sometimes because that was the only way I could make contacts. I may not be getting better at CW very quickly, but I am on the air in CW a lot more now. A current goal of mine is to continue the CW activity through the winter. Last year I didn't work much CW at all from December through to April.

Terry VE2WTQ and I discussed the state of Radio Talk planning in mid-July. We concluded that we were too far behind in the planning to successfully present Radio Talk on the scheduled September 20 date. I wrote an email to the organizers' email list proposing that we postpone Radio Talk 2014 to a later date. None of the organizers disputed the need to postpone. That is the current state of the Radio Talk event - postponed to an undetermined date in the future.

I received an email from Jacques Hamel VE2DJQ in August with an update on the status of the Quebec Radio Museum. Of the three communities they approached in their search for a permanent home, two have turned them down. They had not heard from the third as of mid-August.

As far as I know (as of the last executive meeting) we have no volunteer to provide cookies for the September meeting. If no one steps up we will be cookieless.

September 15, 2014 Meeting Agenda

- Silent Key Ceremony - Vernon Ikeda VE2MBS/VE2QQ
- Radio Talk Discussion
- Quebec Radio Museum Discussion
- SIGs
- Other Business
- Break (coffee, ragchew, cookies?)
- Field Day Report - Eamon VE2EGN
- Mountaintopping Report - George VE2NGH
- Summer Activity Reports

See you on the 15th.

73,
Malcolm VE2DDZ

What happened Minutes of the June 2014 WIARC meeting

by Keith Glashan, VE2MTL (kglashan@yahoo.ca)

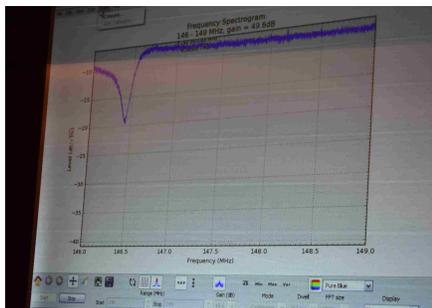
Minutes of the WIARC Meeting June 16, 2014 By Keith Glashan VE2MTL

The meeting began at 19:40. Malcolm VE2DDZ presided and welcomed 21 attendees. There was the usual roll call with call signs. The details of the meeting follow.

1. **Quebec Radio Museum:** Malcolm VE2DDZ reported that he had spoken recently to Jacques at the museum. The museum items located in those trailers are safe for now. However there are no long-term plans in place.

2. **Charles VE2RFI Project:** Charles VE2RFI gave a brief talk on a spectrum analyzer that he assembled using a \$20 TV dongle. These dongles were originally designed for European television use. He also built a noise generator for the project. The plans for the noise generator are found on handsvi.be. Charles added available software running under Python OS.

He gave real-time demos of various functions and showed how he was able to measure insertion loss. His talk included web links to cartoearoak.com, rtl-sdr.com, and handsvi.be/wordpress.



Charles VE2RFI spectrogram demo

3. **Mega SOTA:** Malcolm VE2DDZ talked about the upcoming Mega SOTA event which will take place in August. The dates are Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, August 29, 30th, and 31st. You can participate as an activator or as a chaser. He showed a video from last year's Mont Tremblant event and a second video from Mont St. Anne, located near Quebec City.

4. **Summer Meetings:** Although there are no official meetings during the summer months, we will open the doors and hold informal gatherings on the third Mondays of July and August. We hope to see you all there.

5. **W1AW/1 Activation:** Harrison VE2HKW asked if anyone might be interested in operating special event station W1AW/1 from Mitch Stern's

(W1JS) QTH in Essex Junction in Vermont this summer. Contact Harrison.

6. **Break Time Cookies:** Break time snacks were provided by Malcolm VE2DDZ. Thank you. According to the volunteer sheet, no one has yet volunteered to provide the treats for the September meeting. Anyone?

7. **Field Day 2014:** After the break, Eamon VE2EGN briefed the group on the final plans for field day. It will be held at Centennial Park this coming weekend but in a slightly different location from last year. MARC has purchased a new barbecue and will be providing it for use on field day. Battery power will be supplied by a company called Battery Expert from Pincourt. Eamon said he had a one page hand-out for public relations use.



Club paying keen attention to final FD details before the big event.

As well, there are two new field day banners featuring WIARC and MARC. We will be using an ICOM 751A for HF operations, and an ICOM 7000 for VHF operation on 6m. He also mentioned that the operator training program has been completed and operators are now ready to the task. By the way, there

will be no beams used this year, only long wire antennas.

8. **50/50 Draw:** The winner of the 50/50 draw this evening was Malcolm VE2DDZ, who donated his winnings to the Club. Thanks and Congratulations.

9. **Door Prizes:** This month, Bob VE2AXO had some recent issues of

QST magazine which were free for the taking. Thanks Bob.

10. **A Pun my Word:** A lot of money is tainted - It taint yours and it taint mine.

The meeting adjourned at 21:56. See you September 15th, 2014.

73, & good DX de Keith VE2MTL

2014 Field Day: Streamlined operation proves successful

by Eamon Egan VE2EGN (eamon.egan@gmail.com)

MARC and WIARC held a joint Field Day operation again this year. The 2014 Field Day saw a return to Centennial Park in Beaconsfield, making it two consecutive years in the same venue. The Concordia club did not participate this year.

Under a new Field Day coordinator, Eamon (VE2EGN), we tried out a number of new ideas compared with previous Field Day operations. In terms of Field Day operations, wire antennas were used exclusively for HF, eliminating the logistics, on-site work and risk of erecting the larger tower; and a smaller, lighter mounting arrangement was used for the 6m antenna. Eliminating the need for a (noisy) generator, the entire Field Day radio operation was conducted using battery power.



Pictures of batteries bank, operating tent and wire antenna strung up into the trees.

Because we would not be erecting a large tower and since our battery powered operation would be quieter, we thought it would be feasible to move into a more heavily used area of the park, nearer the waterfront. This area was optimal as it would give us better public exposure, and because it held more mature trees at an optimal density for supporting several wire antennas. Always conscious of our status as “guests” in a public space frequented by regular park users, we carefully planned the footprint of our operation to minimize closed-off areas and limit them to places where the general public would not typically want or expect to traverse.

We planned to use bow and arrow with attached monofilament to place supporting ropes in trees. Tests a week or so before Field Day demonstrated that Eamon’s \$25 Walmart kids’ bow did not have enough oomph to send the arrows high enough. However it turned out Marc-André VE2EVN had studied archery, and managed to retrieve his (much more serious) bow from his storage locker. On Friday night Eamon, George VE2NGH, Harrison VE2HKW and Marc-André VE2EVN converged on Centennial Park and Marc-André assembled his bow.

The bow had power to spare, and we quickly had some successes with a couple of trees using baling twine brought by Harrison (the perfect size for temporary antennas, as it is light enough to be pulled up directly by the monofilament). However the monofilament on Eamon’s spinning reel had a bit of trouble on a couple of the trees, breaking on a couple of occasions. A last minute trip to Canadian Tire secured a spool of 20lb monofilament along with a spool of mason’s twine, and we got back to the park without much daylight to spare. We found that since the 20lb line was a lot thicker than the thin stuff that was on the reel before, the amount we could fit on the reel was barely long enough to make it over one of the trees. We left Friday night with one or two more supporting ropes yet to hang, planning to finish the job first thing in the morning.

On Saturday morning we arrived and got the remaining ropes up in their trees prior to arrival of any members of the "general public" causing concern about stray arrows. Benefiting from a decent turnout of members interested in helping with setup, we activated the Field Day delegation plan, which included coordinators for setup of PR (Harrison and Barry, VE2TRN), antennas (George), tent and table setup (Malcolm, VE2DDZ), power sources (Dan, VA2KEY) and security perimeters (Marc-André). HF wire antennas included 40 and 80 meter sloping verticals used at previous Field Days, as well as a newly cut ladder line-fed 20m wire dipole. The PR team put up our Field Day banners (newly designed by Harrison), and a new PR gazebo.



Pics of Harrison VE2HKW at the PR booth, Satellites ops tent and Malcolm VE2DDZ setting up antennas

Dan backed his trailer onto the operating site, carrying a power plant consisting of 7 200A-h AGM batteries, on loan from Batteries Expert in Île Perrot. The radios and logging computers were set up with no major incident except for missing computer accessories, which Dan scrambled home to find spares for. We managed to get on the air by around 2:30pm, (only) about ½ hour "late".

HF operations featured veterans of past Field Day operations, as well as number of less experienced operators, both on CW and phone, with some generous mentoring from Gilles VE2TZT. Several operators, Eamon, Dan and Malcolm, worked Field Day CW for the first time. VHF operations on 6m only yielded a few contacts, due to poor band conditions during the operating period.



Pictures of Dan VA2KEY, Gilles VE2TZT and Eamon VE2EGN, also Charles VE2RFI renowned Chili.

Malcolm set up his satellite station some distance towards the lakeshore from the main operations tent, and managed one satellite QSO.

The weather was nice throughout the event, and the position of our setup, close to the waterfront and the playground, put us in closer contact with park users. The PR gazebo was set up near the parking lot to greet any interested visitors, and a new handout was available describing ham radio as well as the Field Day event. Harrison, Barry and other participants ensured that the PR tent was well manned.

The new BBQ bought by MARC for Field Day, and assembled and burned-in by Dan proved its worth in the cooking area, and its side burner made it easier for Charles VE2RFI to heat up his famous Field Day chilli and for Paul VE2OFH to cook Sunday breakfast. Charles's chicken and burgers and homemade coleslaw were also appreciated by all partaking.

The food operation functioned without any local AC power connection, as Charles was able to bring the coffee pot to the Centennial Hall balcony, plug it in, and carry it back after brewing was complete.



Picture of the supper time gathering.

Tear-down was uneventful. Overall, the use of wire antennas and a more modest VHF beam mounting scheme reduced the stress level during setup and tear-down, and made for a more modest-looking operation footprint. Our results were compiled by George and submitted to ARRL. This year we claimed a score of 1754 QSO points plus 850 bonus points, giving us a total of 2604 points. This score is lower than last year's, and reflects poorer 6m band conditions, as well as this year's emphasis on training new operators. Several participants expressed great satisfaction with this year's operation, citing a more relaxed atmosphere and greater level of participation of more members. Building on this year's innovations, we should be able to build a stronger Field Day presence and operation in the next few years to come.

\$\$\$ SWAP SHOP \$\$\$

Power supply 10 amp continuous 30 amp peak price \$35.00

Two midland commercial xtal controlled transceivers for 2meters. Price \$15.00 each.

One Realistic TRC-9a 3 channel cb radio no crystals. Price \$5.00

One Ramsey 2 meter RF amplifier kit. Price \$10.00

One Citizen 40 channel PLL cb transceiver with microphone. Price \$10.00

Yaesu NC-15 charger price \$10.00

Yaesu NC-3A charger price \$10.00

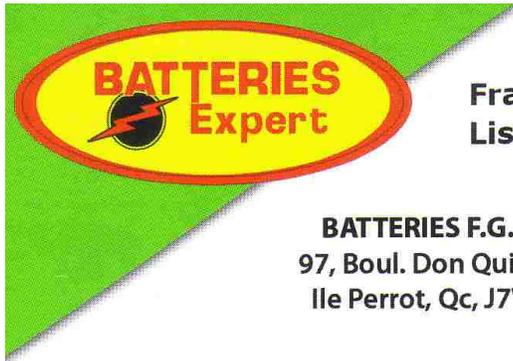
Yaesu NC-3 charger price \$10.00

All prices negotiable.

Dell Optiplex 745 desktop computer. 1g RAM (533 MHz DDR2 SDRAM), 3.0 GHz cpu 800 MHz bus. 80 g. hard drive with Win 7 installed. Small form factor computer with separate power supply very quiet.

Price is \$85.00

Contact Samuel VE2LJV at samuel.galet@sympatico.ca (Sam also needs help programming a Radio-Shack Pro-96)



**François Montplaisir
Lise Marenger**

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+ 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

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Secretary : Keith Glashan, VE2MTL

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Webmaster : Wayne Hodgins, VE2WRH

Immediate Past : Ken Fraser, VE2KLF

President (IPP)

Stuart Truba, 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

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 VE2RWI Repeater

Information Net each Sunday evening at 8PM running for approximately an hour.
All are welcome to participate.