



West Island Amateur Radio Club Bulletin

February 2015 Edition

Upcoming Meeting – February 16th 2015

This month's topic

“An Introduction to the Mysteries of Propagation”

Presented by Gilles Renucci VE2TZT / VA2EW / F6FFM

President's Message and Report

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

Hi all,

I have had a very busy (radio-wise) start to 2015 - January saw Winter Field Day operations with Dan, VA2KEY, Harrison VE2HKW, and Bob, VE2PDT. As I write this I am getting ready for a volunteer stint at the Canadian Ski Marathon. Now if only the weather will break for long enough to get in some SOTA activations I'll be very happy.

It may seem as though we are frozen into a long winter, but spring and the hamfest season is right around the corner. I will attach a notice of the Laval Hamfest when I send out this newsletter by email. Also later in the newsletter is information about the HAMCON hamfest coming up in South Burlington, VT.

We had an excellent presentation in January from Loftur, VE2LJX; if you missed it, you missed a treat. When we discussed it at the executive, the unanimous opinion was that we should ask Loftur back sometime so we can learn more about his other projects. Thank-you Loftur.

I am looking forward to February's talk from Gilles, VE2TZT: "An Introduction to the Mysteries of Propagation". Propagation is something I wish I knew more about and I'm sure Gilles will set me on the right path.

Gilles suggested adding a new section to the regular Monthly agenda: Tips. In January we had our first "Tips": from Gilles on minimizing capacitance when winding a coax choke; from Samuel, VE2LJV on a metal work company; and from Gilles again on a good local source for metal. See later in the newsletter for their recommended sources.

If you have a tip you would like to share, please bring it up at a club meeting - we'd love to hear about it. Tips should be five minutes maximum, just let me know before the meeting when you have something.

Flash talks continue - we had a great one from Nigel, VA2NM. He demonstrated his "Poor Ham's Scalar Network Analyser". This project, in active development, is worth keeping an eye on. I hope Nigel will keep us up-to-date as it progresses. If you can't wait for updates from Nigel, check out the PHSNA Yahoo group for breaking news on the project.

Hamfest season is right around the corner. I will attach the notice of the Laval Hamfest when I send out this newsletter by email. Later in the newsletter is information about the HAMCON hamfest coming up in South Burlington, VT.

February 16, 2015 Meeting Agenda

- Tips
- SIGs
- HamCon road trip proposal - Harrison VE2HKW
- Operating reports

- Other Business
- Break (coffee, ragchew, cookies)
- An Introduction to the Mysteries of Propagation - Gilles VE2TZT

See you on the 16th.

73,
Malcolm VE2DDZ

What happened

Minutes of the January 2015 WIARC meeting

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

Minutes of the WIARC Meeting January 19, 2015 By Keith Glashan VE2MTL

The meeting began at 19:42. Malcolm VE2DDZ welcomed the 27 attendees and started the meeting with usual roll call with call signs. We had some visitors this evening. One was Michael who is currently taking the MARC amateur radio course. He was accompanied by Frank, his father and driver. And again, Harrison VE2HKW brought his brother Sullivan. The details of the meeting follow.

1. Tip Time Tips:

Gilles VE2TZT has suggested that we include a new agenda item at the meeting for tips. In future, at this point in the meeting, anyone with handy tips for the members is welcome to present them. Gilles started things off by presenting a tip on the wrapping of a toroid. He suggests that half of the wraps take place on the bottom of the toroid and the other half take place at the top. It is easier to wrap the required turns this way, and you will be increasing the effect by approximately 20%. Thanks Gilles.

2. Flash Talk by Nigel:

Nigel VA2NM spoke on a project of his that he called "a poor Ham's spectrum analyzer". He had slides on diagrams and schematics for the

construction of this device. He also had the working model on the table for demonstration purposes. At present, his device consists of several components all wired together. In future, he hopes to have all components combined in a single box.

3. Sam VE2LJV on DBM:

Sam VE2LJV commented on and recommended a small company he dealt with on Saint Patrick St. in Montreal. The name is DBM. He recently bought some 1/8 inch aluminum from them for one of his projects. They also did some bending for him. He told us how pleased he was with the service he received.

4. Winter Field Day:

Winter FD will be Saturday and Sunday, January 24th and 25th, in a format similar to last year.

5. Canadian Ski Marathon:

The CSM will take place February 7th and 8th. This year they are going from east to west.

6. Quebec Radio Museum:

Malcolm reminded everyone about the recent news that the Québec museum will wrap up operations for good. It's a sad day for the museum and for all amateur radio.

7. Solderspot:

Eamon VE2EGN reported that he has not received any response from the members concerning future Solderspot endeavours. He is looking for a location

and project suggestions. He can be contacted at ve2egn@gmail.com.

8. HAM-CON Colchester Vt.:

Harrison VE2HKW reminded everyone about the Ham-Con event coming up on February 28, 2015. Don't forget, you can contact Harrison if you need a ride at ve2hkw@gmail.com.

9. SOTA:

Malcolm VE2DDZ reported on his recent SOTA outing. He climbed Mont Tremblant on December 20. He provided lots of pictures and commented about the four peaks on the mountain. He mentioned that snowshoes are a must. He made about 30 contacts. Before his camera froze, he had taken enough pics to provide interesting and beautiful landscapes for us to see. Being the shortest day of the year, the stay on the mountain was a brief one. He had to get up there and back down before dark.

10. Sunday Net News:

The Sunday night net held a breakfast/lunch get-together Jan 10th, 2015 at a local "restaurant". There were pictures in the January bulletin. As you can see from the pictures, everyone seemed to have a good time. Join them each Sunday at 8PM on 146.910 MHz(-).

11. Break Time Cookies:

This evening, the break time treats were provided by Joe VE2JQE and Keith VE2XL brought some additional home-made ginger snaps made by his XYL June Baker VE2XS. Thanks Joe and June. According to the volunteer sheet,

Dave VA2DGC promises to bring treats for the February meeting.

12. After the Break:

After the break, Loftur Jonasson VE2LJX gave a presentation to the group on his magnetic loop antenna project. These antennas are really just a resonant circuit using an oversized inductor and an adjustable capacitor.



WIARC guest speaker Loftur VE2LJX Showing his equipment.

They use extremely high voltage across the capacitor, easily greater than 5kV using a 100 watt transmitter. The loop has a very high Q, which results in very narrow bandwidth. That means you must re-

tune on every change of frequency. Therefore, Loftur talked about the automatic tuning device he uses to get the best SWR. The tuning controller can communicate with many modern rigs such as Elecraft K3 and KX3, the ICOM recent CI-V, the Kenwood TS-480, the Yaesu FT-2000, and many others. These rigs provide frequency information which is then used by the controller to automatically tune the antenna without pressing the PTT. The automatic tuner interpolates the settings according to previously stored values and instantly re-tunes the antenna. One of the main advantages of this antenna is that it takes very little space. He had several slides to show us, including pictures, drawings and charts. You should visit his web site using the following link. It is a most comprehensive article on the subject. It contains all the details of tonight's presentation and more.

<https://sites.google.com/site/lofturj/o-automatically-tune-a-magnetic-loop-antenna>.

Thank you Loftur, for presenting this to us this evening. Your talk was very informative and especially well done. You are more than welcome to return and discuss any future projects you take on. Thanks again.

13. 50/50 Draw:

The winner of the 50-50 draw this evening was Charles VE2RFI, who donated his winnings to the Club. Thanks, Charles.

14. Door Prizes:

This month, Stan VE2QXP took home a door prize provided by Malcolm VE2DDZ. Thanks.

15. A Pun my Word:

Jokes about German Sausage are the wurst.

The meeting adjourned at 22:01. See you February 16th, 2015.

73, & good DX de Keith VE2MTL

Pics from the 2015 Winter Field Day

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



Beginning the 2015 Hamfest Season: Ham Con 2015

by John Grow, VE2EQL

Check out HAM-CON 2015. The only hamfest in Burlington, Vermont on February 28th. Canadian Money at the door accepted at par (You must show your driver's license). <http://www.ranv.org/hamcon.html>

For the QRP'ers in the Group. QRPme of Tuna Tin kits Rex Harper W1REX will be at the hamfest with a truck load of kits to sell. Check out <http://qrpme.com> There will also be many members of the New England QRP club present. <http://www.newenglandqrp.org>

After the door prize drawing, head over to the Windjammer Restaurant, just next door for a group lunch. Details at <http://www.windjammerrestaurant.com>

I hope to see many VE2 and VA2 hams on the 28th.

John Grow VE2EQL

Tips from fellows WIARC members

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

Sources recommended by Club Members (as Tips during our January meeting):

For metal fabrication Sam, VE2LJV recommends:

DBM Aluminium and Ornamental Metal

7330 rue St Patrick

Lasalle H8N 2W7

Phone: Eric Cowan 514-364-9658 or 514-838-0056 (cell)

www.dbmaluminium.com

For metal supplies Gilles, VE2TZT recommends:

RAPIDO Métal Inc.

11825 Adolphe-Caron

Montréal QC H1E 6J8

Phone: 514 352 1612

www.rapidometal.com

\$\$\$ Swap Shop \$\$\$

by Bram Paterson, VE2XCS (ve2xcs@bell.net)

Icom 756 PRO III, SM125 (PS), SM20 (desk mike), HM36 (hand mike)

Contact: Bob Loranger at VE2AXO@arrl.net

2015 Memberships Are Now Due

Memberships for 2015 are due January 1st. Fill out the form distributed with this newsletter and bring it by the January meeting (or drop it in the mail, or give it to any member of the executive).

We want to hear from you

by Bram Paterson, VE2XCS (ve2xcs@bell.net)

Have an idea or story that you want to share with your fellows WIARC members. We want to hear from you. Please send your article to the newsletter editor at the beginning of the month to the following email address: ve2xcs@bell.net

+++ 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.

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@WIARC.CA

Executives:

President : Malcolm Harper, VE2DDZ

Vice-president : Charles Robitaille, VE2RFI

Treasurer : Bram Paterson, VE2XCS

Secretary : Keith Glashan, VE2MTL

Accredited Examiner:

Larry Dobby, DOBBY@AEI.CA

Directors:

Editor : Bram Paterson, VE2XCS

QSL Manager : Bob Loranger, VE2AXO

Webmaster : Wayne Hodgins, VE2WRH

Immediate Past : Ken Fraser, VE2KLF

President (IPP)

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.