



# West Island Amateur Radio Club Bulletin

## March 2015 Edition

### Upcoming Meeting – March 16<sup>th</sup> 2015

#### This month's topic

*“ High Performance Wire Antennas (160 to 6 meters) ”*

*Presented by John Grow, VE2EQL*

## President's Message and Report

by Malcolm Harper, VE2DDZ ([ve2ddz@ve2ddz.ca](mailto:ve2ddz@ve2ddz.ca))

Hi all,

One week ago I was in Saskatchewan where it was 47 below by the thermometer overnight, but yesterday and today are starting to feel like spring in Montreal. The Laval hamfest is only weeks away.

Thank-you Gilles for your excellent introduction to propagation at the February meeting. Now that we are on a good foundation we will have to continue our study. There is much to learn about the intricacies of propagation.

I heard a number of hams talking on the Sunday night net about the K1N dxpedition. There are interesting comments by W0GY about the relative rates of American and European Qs by the K1N dxpedition at [www.mdxc.org/k1n-interview-for-mdxc-by-w0gj](http://www.mdxc.org/k1n-interview-for-mdxc-by-w0gj)

After February's meeting I received an email from our newest member Michael, VE2MXU. He had to leave the February meeting before we were through as the meeting went overtime. We discussed the issue of long meetings at the executive and couldn't see a way to solve the problem. I think it is one of the drawbacks of an active, busy club. Perhaps you have suggestions as to what changes we could make. Bring any suggestions you have to the March meeting.

By coincidence both the WIARC executive and The MARC board discussed the state of Radio Talk at recent meetings. The feeling of your executive is that Radio Talk has not run its course. We should do everything in our power to get it up and running again and for the future. What I would like to do is form a committee of three people. This committee will be tasked with telling us what we need to do to get Radio Talk running as a long-term, year after year, event. I am currently looking for volunteers for this committee, if you would be willing to serve on this committee, please send me an email at [ve2ddz@ve2ddz.ca](mailto:ve2ddz@ve2ddz.ca).

Interestingly I have had a number of questions about wire antennas come my way recently. I am sure we will all learn a lot from John, VE2EQL at the March meeting: High Performance Wire Antennas (160 to 6 meters)

### **March 16, 2015 Meeting Agenda**

- Tips
- SIGs
- Reports
- Flash Talk - WSPR and WSPR Net - Bob VE2PDT

- Other Business
- Break (coffee, ragchew, cookies)
- High Performance Wire Antennas - John VE2EQL

See you on the 16th.

73,

Malcolm VE2DDZ

## *What happened*

# *Minutes of the February 2015 WIARC meeting*

by Keith Glashan, VE2MTL ([kglashan@yahoo.ca](mailto:kglashan@yahoo.ca))

### *Minutes of the WIARC Meeting February 16, 2015* *By Keith Glashan VE2MTL*

The meeting began at 19:46. Malcolm VE2DDZ welcomed the 28 attendees and started the meeting with usual roll call with call signs. The details of the meeting follow.

#### **1. New Members:**

We welcomed some new members this evening. They are Mike VE2MXU, and Mark VA2MM. Actually, Mark was a member of the club for many years and even served as our president. However he re-joined as of tonight. Welcome back, Mark. We also had guests tonight. They included Andre VE2HIL, Mario VA2TMP, Tony VA2TCB, and Vlad VA2TTA.

#### **2. New Examiner:**

Malcolm announced that Mark VA2MM has decided to become a WIARC sponsored examiner. Thank you, Mark for taking on this important responsibility.

#### **3. Tip Time Tips:**

Malcolm VE2DDZ had a tip about batteries power for computer use. He suggested using an automotive converter for computer use. This should provide for a quieter operation.

#### **4. Field Day 2015:**

Malcolm announced that Eamon VE2EGN has again agreed to head up

the club field day exercise this coming June.

#### **5. Commercial Auction:**

George VE2NGH talked about the commercial auction taking place next week in Mississauga. Apparently, it will be streamed online. He suggested that you register well in advance if you wish to participate. There are lots of interesting items available.

#### **6. Winter Field Day:**

Malcolm VE2DDZ showed lots of pictures of winter field day 2015. There were shots of the platform that was built for the occasion. Dan's ice fishing shelter game was featured in many Pics. There was lots of battery power available. They made a lot of contacts, and had a good time. Participants included Harrison VE2HKW, Bob VE2PDT, Dan VA2KEY, and Malcolm VE2DDZ.

#### **7. Canadian Ski Marathon:**

Malcolm attended this year's Canadian ski marathon, which ran the week-end of February 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. As usual, he had several pics to show us. The event started in darkness as was evidenced in some of his pictures. Francois VE2AAY attended. (He never misses!)

#### **8. Farm Tractor Rebuild:**

Harrison's brother, Sullivan, described how he rebuilt a 1949 John Deere tractor. He overhauled the entire engine, changed much of the lighting, installed new gauges and has it running in tiptop shape. It looks like it will be good for

another 65 years. Malcolm had some wonderful pictures to back up his claim.

#### **9. HAM-CON Colchester Vt.:**

Harrison VE2HKW reminded us again about his transportation offer at the end of the month. And, don't forget your passport. Contact [ve2hkw@gmail.com](mailto:ve2hkw@gmail.com).

#### **10. Break Time Cookies:**

This evening, the break time treats were provided by Dave VA2DGC. Thanks Dave. According to the volunteer sheet, Sam VE2LJV will provide treats for next month's meeting.

#### **11. After the Break:**

Gilles VE2TZT gave a talk on propagation. Now, I must warn you that the subject is very complex and takes into account several parameters. Gilles talked about wavelengths, and how the sun produces all sizes of waves, from gamma rays through to VLF. He



*Gilles VE2TZT on Propagation.*

discussed reflection and critical angles. He talked about lowest angle, recombining, least loss, greatest distance, day vs night, factors affecting ground

reflection versus absorption, i.e. over water, and sandy deserts. He discussed the formation of the earth's ionized layer. He had many details slides and even included audio files. I don't have the time nor the space to describe all that Gilles presented. Propagation is a vast subject. The presentation ran later than any meeting that I can remember over the last 25 years, because there was so much material to cover. It is a subject most critical to amateur radio and radio in general. The takeaway on this subject is that we all should do a little research and learn as much as possible about it. Propagation

controls our radio amateur lives, and can never be ignored. We just have to work with it, try to understand it, and use it to our advantage when possible. Thank you, Gilles for a wonderful presentation. It held the attention of all the attendees tonight. Propagation of radio waves is a subject which could easily occupy several evenings' talks. Perhaps you should plan to come back in the future with further information on the topic. Thanks again Gilles, and good DX.

**12. 50/50 Draw:**

The winner of the 50-50 draw this evening was Mario VA2TMP. Congratulations!

**13. Door Prizes:**

This month, there were no door prizes. Next month?

**14. A Pun my Word:**

The cardiologist's diet states - If it tastes good, spit it out.

The meeting adjourned at 22:47. See you March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

73,

♀

*good DX de Keith VE2MTL*

## High Performance Wire Antennas ( 160 to 6 meters ) by John VE2EQL

This talk discusses some of wire antennas that have been used at John's VE2EQL QTH. Every antenna discussed can be built by any ham, beginner or experienced alike. The only items that you need are wire and insulators and ladder line (homebrew or manufactured). Antenna types are Extended Double Zepp, Off-center Feed Dipoles, Broadband types and Vertical Antennas. Get unbelievable results without spending a lot of money on a tower, beams and rotors. Handouts will be available.

## Upcoming Hamfests

Laval-Laurentides - Saturday, March 28 – [www.ve2crl.qc.ca](http://www.ve2crl.qc.ca)  
Montreal Amateur Radio Club - Saturday, April – [www.marc.qc.ca](http://www.marc.qc.ca)

## We want to hear from you

by Bram Paterson, VE2XCS ([ve2xcs@bell.net](mailto:ve2xcs@bell.net))

Do you 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](mailto: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](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

**Treasurer :** Bram Paterson, VE2XCS

**Secretary :** Keith Glashan, VE2MTL

#### Accredited Examiner:

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

#### Directors:

**Editor :** Bram Paterson, VE2XCS

**QSL Manager :** Bob Loranger, VE2AXO

**Webmaster :** Wayne Hodgins, VE2WRH

**Immediate Past :** Ken Fraser, VE2KLF

#### President (IPP)

Mark Morin,

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.