



West Island Amateur Radio Club Bulletin

June 2015 Edition

Upcoming Meeting – June 15th 2015
This month's topic
“ Field Day 2015 Preps ”
Planning is key for a successful Field Day

President's Message and Report

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

Hi all,

We had excellent presentations for show and tell at our May meeting. Thanks very much to Keith VE2MTL, Charles VE2RFI, Harrison VE2HKW, Bob VE2PDT, Dave VA2DGC, Vlad VA2TTA, and Andy VE2DNN for their willingness to come down to the meeting and inspire us with their varied and interesting projects.

Our brunch at the Manoir went well on May 23. We had about twenty attendees all having a good time. My only complaint was that I didn't get a chance to chat with everyone - I guess that means we'll have to do it again.

René VE2RI brought an engraved WIARC Field Day mug to the Brunch. We'll have one to show off at June's meeting along with information about how you can get your own version individualized with your own callsign.

The group Summits on the Air activation planned for Mt St Bruno was cancelled because of very poor weather predicted for our planned date. Most of the participants indicated an interest in rescheduling the event so we may yet show up in numbers with radios on Mt St Bruno this summer.

Great news: Eamon VE2EGN has let us know that he and Bob VE2PDT have received approval from Beaconsfield for our return to Centennial Park for our Field Day operations this year. We will again be mounting a joint operation with the Montreal Amateur Radio Club. I think discussions are ongoing as to whether we stay 1A or make the leap to 2A - and no, the plan is not for WIARC to run one HF station and for MARC to run the other one.

The best place to get definitive information about the 1A vs 2A debate and other topics (like the possibility of a GOTA station) is the June WIARC meeting. As has become usual, the main part of the June meeting will be devoted to Field Day planning.

June 15, 2015 Meeting Agenda

- Tips
- SIGs
- Reports
- Net brunch
- Group SOTA activation
- Field Day Mugs - René VE2RI
- Flash Talk - A 160m transmitting antenna - Gilles VE2TZT
- Other Business
- Break (coffee, ragchew, cookies)
- Field Day planning

See you on the 15th.

73,
Malcolm VE2DDZ

What happened

Minutes of the June 2015 WIARC meeting

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

Minutes of the WIARC Meeting May 18, 2015 By Keith Glashan VE2MTL

The meeting began at 19:35. Malcolm VE2DDZ welcomed the 23 attendees and started the meeting with usual roll call with call signs. The details of the meeting follow.

1. **New Members/Visitors:**

We had some visitors this evening. Cedric has attended before, but now has his call sign VA2CNE. Congratulations. Other visitors included René VE2RI, and Mike VE2RJJ. Peter VA2PBJ not only showed up for the first time, but also joined the Club. A warm welcome to all.

2. **Tip Time Tips:**

Charles VE2RFI warned about some imported PL259 connectors that were very difficult to solder. He suggested that the American versions are much easier to handle.

Sam VE2LJV mentioned a store on Park Ave. called Radio HOVSEP. He found it a most interesting spot, especially for very old equipment, and vacuum tubes.

3. **Sunday Net:**

Malcolm VE2DDZ mentioned that the Sunday evening net group will be meeting for breakfast next Saturday, May 23 at Le Manoir. All interested should gather there at 10 AM.

4. **SOTA News:**

Malcolm invited interested participants to a SOTA event on Saturday May 30 on Mont St. Bruno. All are invited. It is a moderate climb, but not extremely difficult. If you are interested, meet at Fairview shopping center by 9 AM. This should allow everyone to arrive at Mont St. Bruno by 10 AM. Look for an email with details.

5. **Field Day 2015:**

Eamon VE2EGN talked about the latest developments on next month's

field day. The date is June 27th and 28th. Centennial Park in Beaconsfield seems to be our most likely site. It should be fully confirmed next week.

There was a hint of using the Morgan Arboretum as back-up. He is still considering a 2A operation. He expects to be using battery power again as we did last year. He put out a plea for a couple of tents to be used for secondary operations and kitchen facilities.

Eamon suggested that if there is enough interest, he will hold practice sessions to go over logging software and other operating functions.

Charles VE2RFI has volunteered once again to be our head chef. There was also a suggestion of 6 meter operations sharing the satellite tent.

6. **Talk on Skype:**

Malcolm queried the group concerning last month's talk given over Skype. People thought it went quite well although the Wi-Fi could have been better.

7. **Repeater 146.910:**

Charles VE2RFI had no news to report concerning the repeater site. The tone board has still not been installed, but it is ready to go.

He expects that he will get up to the repeater side with JF VE2TBH very shortly. We will be using 88.5 Hz as our input tone.

8. **Break Time Cookies:**

This evening, the break time treats were provided by Ken VE2KLF. Thanks Ken. According to the volunteer sheet, Keith VE2MTL will provide treats for next month's meeting.

9. **After the Break:**

It was our annual Show 'n Tell evening and, as usual, we had a number of participants. Malcolm showed a lightweight portable six element 2m antenna that he uses for SOTA outings. It is a German design by DK7ZB. Then Keith VE2MTL showed some of the

features of a ground plane antenna for 2m that he had constructed some years ago. It was given away at the end of the meeting. Charles VE2RFI showed us a float charger of an interesting design. Harrison VE2HKW had a folding copper cactus 2 meter J-Pole. It is a wonderful design using stretch cords internally to keep the parts together during operation. As well he had Yaesu interface to an ICOM radio which he had fixed up recently.

Bob VE2PDT showed a WSPR beacon he built from a kit with GPS onboard to automatically calculate grid squares. Dave VA2DGC had a component tester which can automatically detect and test all sorts of components such as transistors, MOSFETs, inductors and capacitors. Vlad VA2TTA showed a transformer he uses for beverage antenna usage.

Finally, Andy VE2DNN showed a 20 meter antenna he uses with a QRP rig. It is a dipole using ferrite beads right up to the feed point. It is reported to perform well right across the band. He uses it as a vertical dipole at his country QTH. Congratulations to all those who participated and a big thank you as well. Keep the projects coming and don't feel that you have to wait until next year to strut your stuff.

10. **50/50 Draw:**

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

11. **Door Prizes:**

No real door prizes this evening. However, a DVD on Network Security was included with the 50/50 winnings. Thanks.

12. **A Pun my Word:**

What would it be like if there were no hypothetical questions?

The meeting adjourned at 21:21. See you June 15th, 2015.

73, & good DX de Keith VE2MTL

Monthly Meeting tips

Have you worked on a ham radio project lately ? Did you discover a solution to a problem that may be helpful for your fellow WIARC members ? Then come and share your tips at our monthly meetings.

A short amount of time will be allocated at the beginning of each meeting for members to share tips. Please let the club's executive know ahead of time so we can manage the meeting schedule accordingly, by sending an email at ve2cwi@wiarc.ca

Ham radio @pp of the month: SOTA Logger Lite

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

This month's app review focuses on SOTA. It's called SOTA Logger Lite and is available for phones and tablets running Android. The app is pretty straight forward. All you need to do is enter the summit reference, your contact's callsign, the frequency and time you made your QSO and voilà, SOTA Logger lite does the rest.

It will quickly compile all your QSO's in a list and offer you an RST and comment field for future reference. Unfortunately the *SPOT ME* option is only available when you purchase the Premium version.

Follow this link to the Google Play store. http://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=appinventor.ai_sdenison83.SOTALogger_lite&hl=fr_CA

The HVU (HF, VHF or UHF) Scanner frequencies of the month column

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

This month's topic is Law enforcement communications. As most of you may already know, many police departments across north america are switching from analog radios to digital ones. A lot of departments are already or are going to be using encryption. The following list is a compilation of the last police departments in the Montreal area to be using analog.

So don't miss out on the action before the police channels go silent.

Sûreté du Québec (Montreal Metro)
154.2200 (167.9 PL) SQ Montreal Highway Patrol
154.7400 (186.2 PL) SQ Laval Highway Patrol

SPVM
410.1125 (203.5 PL) SPVM West
410.2625 (203.5 PL) SPVM CCTI (HQ)
410.3625 (203.5 PL) SPVM South
410.4875 (203.5 PL) SPVM North
410.6125 (203.5 PL) SPVM East
410.7875 (203.5 PL) SPVM Subway
410.9125 (203.5 PL) SPVM General
410.6625 (203.5 PL) SPVM Simplex

A few years ago, the city of Montreal purchased a 700 MHz Trunked Motorola P25 Phase I system they called SERAM. Currently, most radios in service by the Montreal Police (SPVM) are analog. Only a few police precincts and divisions are using digital units. The analog radio system is patched with their new digital radio system in order to allow them to communicate with one another. The new system is now shared among police, fire, public works and other municipal services. All police related communications on the digital system are encrypted. For now, you can only listen to the analog system. After that, nothing. NO SCANNER WILL DECODE these encrypted communications. However, most of the communications from the Montreal Fire Department are non-encrypted. If you want to listen to all the action 24/7 from the Montreal Fire Department Dispatch, visit the following link. <http://www.broadcastify.com/listen/feed/8787>.

We want to hear from you

by Bram Paterson, VE2XCS (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

+++ 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

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President

News and comments are always welcomed; please submit them to the following address, VE2CWI@WIARC.CA

Website: <http://www.wiarc.ca>

Repeaters: VE2RWI VHF - 146.910 MHz (-) and 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.