



West Island Amateur Radio Club Bulletin

March 2016 Edition

Upcoming Meeting – March 21st 2016

This month's topic

“ Baluns and Transmission Lines ”

Presented by Eamon Egan VE2EGN

President's Message and Report

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

Hi all,

I had a great time at the Canadian Ski Marathon in February. The conditions were rough on the skiers with rain on Saturday and ice on Sunday. There was a solid amateur radio contingent again this year. I saw François, VE2AAY on Saturday and heard James VE2KHC working another checkpoint both days. Dave, VE2FUD, was planning to ski the marathon as a Gold Coureur des Bois this year. I had my eye out for him, but I didn't see him.

There may be changes in store for the organization of the 2017 marathon and as of now it is unclear the role that amateur radio will play going forward.



Pictures of a young skier crossing the finish line

Bruce, VE2GZI sends along the information that home brew DMR repeaters are now a reality! More information is available at www.mmdvm.com. Bruce notes that one of the first MMDVM repeaters on the air world-wide was in Trois-Rivières.

After discussion at the executive we are putting out a call to the membership for two volunteers. The first position is to organize social events for the club, a social director if you like. Currently we have some socializing at the monthly meetings, but aside from that it is a long time between Christmas dinner and Field Day. We are looking for someone to step forward and organize further social events for the membership.

The second call is for a volunteer to handle selling items on behalf of the club. The club occasionally gets donations and we don't have an established way of disposing of the items to the benefit of the club. We are hoping for someone with some experience with modern sales channels, eBay and Kijiji for example.

I attended the February meeting of the Montreal Amateur Radio Club where Guy, VE2XTD, the new president of RAQI, was the speaker. His presentation concerned the proposed changes to the structure of RAQI and he addressed many of the questions that WIARC members raised during our discussion last month.

.My current feeling is that while the new structure will cost WIARC some more money annually, if the change puts RAQI on a sounder



Picture of the mobile radio setup

footing for the future then it is a good investment for us to make for amateur radio in Quebec. Guy will be

making a presentation and answering questions (in French I imagine) at the Laval-Laurentides Hamfest on Saturday, March 19.

We will continue our discussion of the state of the club at the March meeting. This month we'll discuss the meetings themselves. I'll be soliciting feedback on how the meetings are going, speaker topics, and so on. One thing in particular that we'd like feedback on is the cookies for the meetings.

We seem to be having trouble finding people to volunteer to bring cookies to the meetings. In February Keith, VE2XL stepped in at the last minute and brought the cookies. Andy, VE2DNN also bought cookies as part of the meeting supplies. Gilles, VA2EW gave us the highs and lows of station noise in February. Thanks Gilles! You make a complicated topic seem much simpler when you are presenting to the club.

This month's presentation may have tie ins with Gilles' February presentation. Eamon, VE2EGN will present Baluns and Transmission Lines. He has promised Andy, VE2DNN that he will explain the difference between a current balun and a voltage balun, I'm sure there will be much more as well. I am looking forward to having some of my other questions resolved.

March 21, 2016 Meeting Agenda

- Tips
- SIGs
- Reports
 - Discussion of club meetings
- Other Business
- Break (coffee, ragchew, cookies)
- Baluns and transmission lines - Eamon VE2EGN

See you on the 21st.

73,

Malcolm VE2DDZ

What happened

Minutes of the February 2016 WIARC meeting

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

Minutes of the WIARC Meeting February 15, 2016 By Keith Glashan VE2MTL

The meeting began at 19:33. Malcolm VE2DDZ welcomed the 23 attendees and started the meeting with usual roll call with call signs. Bram VE2XCS was unable to attend this evening. He will be absent for the next few months, until the end of the school year. The details of the meeting follow.

1. Tip Time Tips:

Gilles VE2TZZT provided a tip on stripping the insulation from COAX using a small copper pipe cutter. Malcolm VE2DDZ mentioned learning CW on air versus on a computer. He estimates the on air system to be 10 times more effective. He also suggested that you record your QSOs for a later recap.

2. Sunday Net News:

Malcolm announced that the Sunday evening net group has planned a luncheon get together for Saturday March 12, 2016 at 1 PM. The QTH will be Chenoy's. Hope to see you there.

3. Field Day News:

That it was some early news about Field Day 2016. We will be returning to the Beaconsfield Centennial Park again this year. We plan to operate 2A and there will be a GOTA station as well. There will be a focus this year on novice operating. It was announced that the club will provide dinner for Saturday evening only. There will be no lunch during the set up.

4. DMR Repeater 443.150:

René VE2RI mentioned that there is a new DMR repeater in Pointe Claire. It operates on frequency 443.150. Try it out.

5. Membership:

There was a question whether membership level is of serious

concern. Someone asked whether there are any hobby shows in the area. That might be a way of attracting future hams.

6. RAQI News:

Malcolm talked briefly on the new structure for RAQI. It seems that they may be planning to change from individual memberships to club memberships. It is suggested that there will be a \$300 charge per club and an additional \$2.25 per member. It is not fully understood what the complete picture it is. We should know more in the next few months. There was quite a lively exchange among the members.

7. HAMCON 2016:

Marc-Andre VA2EI reminded us about the upcoming HAMCON in Vermont. It is scheduled for February 27.

8. After the Break:

After the break Gilles VE2EW gave a detailed presentation on fighting local noise in the home QTH. He started off explaining that it's all about wires. There are antenna wires, Hydro wires, telephone wires, cable TV wires, modems, and Internet connections. Then he talked about the various types of radiation, man-made radiation from broadcast signals, natural phenomena, man-made QRM, as well as the uncontrolled mixing of singles which create multiple combinations of interference. His examples included electric motors and arcing. Then he mentioned active sources around the home including halogen lights, battery chargers, plasma TVs, power supplies, washing machines, computers, Ethernet related items, and light ballasts for fluorescent tubes. Added to that, there are sources outside the home such as Hydro Quebec arcing, city sodium lamps, your neighbours, and 12 V lighting. The second half of his presentation focused on locating the problems, curing some of them, and defending yourself as much as possible. He talked about hunting down the sources of interference. His suggested that you keep a schedule of the dates and times, as well the direction, and to note

the HF bands on which you experience the interference. He mentioned that you should record audio of the interference if possible. He explained how the ground loop mathematical formulas are very complex. Gilles warned that if you decide to call Hydro Quebec, you should be very sure of your facts. If you are not correct, you will lose credibility in their eyes. Much of the solution to these problems revolves around grounding. Gilles talked about this at length. He gave elaborate details on various grounding techniques. There were lots of diagrams in his presentation including several charts and graphs on BALUN's. This is a very complex problem to which there are no simple one step solutions. However, it was encouraging to know that some major issues can sometimes be resolved by simply changing a lightbulb. Thank you, Gilles for opening our eyes to a problem which at times probably plagues us all.

9. Break Time Cookies:

This evening, the break time treats were provided by Keith VE2XL. He insists that his wife June VE2XS did the cooking and he only provided the transportation. In any event, thanks June and Keith for saving the day, as no one had been scheduled. According to the volunteer sheet, Dave VA2DGC will be providing treats for next month's meeting. The 2016 cookie sheet still has no entries from April to December. Please step up, volunteer, and pick one.

10. 50/50 Draw:

There was no 50-50 draw this evening.

11. Door Prizes:

Keith VE2XL brought magazines for distribution. Thank you.

12. A Pun my Word:

Where do forest rangers go to "get away from it all"?

The meeting adjourned at 22:53. See you March 21st, 2016.

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.

Liked us on Facebook, follow us on twitter

by Bram Paterson VA2XE (ve2xcs@bell.net)

WIARC now has a new twitter page and will be providing up to date info to everyone interested. Click the link below to follow us on twitter.

<https://twitter.com/westislandarc>

We want to hear from you

by Bram Paterson, VA2XE (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

E-mail: VE2CWI@WIARC.CA

Executives:

President : Malcolm Harper, VE2DDZ

Vice-president : Charles Robitaille, VE2RFI

Treasurer : Bram Paterson, VA2XE

Secretary : Keith Glashan, VE2MTL

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Editor : Bram Paterson, VA2XE

QSL Manager : Bob Loranger, VE2AXO

Webmaster : Wayne Hodgins, VE2WRH

Immediate Past : Ken Fraser, VE2KLF

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 (+)
(88.5 Hz CTCSS tone both transmitted and received on the VHF repeater
and a 141.3 Hz CTCSS tone only transmitted on the UHF repeater).

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.