



West Island Amateur Radio Club Bulletin

December 2016 Edition

Upcoming Meeting – December 19th 2016

This month's topic

“Annual General Meeting 2016 ”

Because it's your club, make sure you vote.

President's Message and Report

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

Hello all,

Highlights of 2016 and Report to the Annual General Meeting

Repeaters: Charles, VE2RFI, continues to maintain the UHF and VHF repeaters in fine shape; the VHF repeater in particular is attracting more traffic recently than it has for quite some time.

VHF Nets: Marc-André VE2EVN and Harrison VE2HKW continue as net control operators on the Sunday Evening Net. Dave VE2MPD has started a new net, the Montreal Weekly Wireless Net on Tuesday evenings.

Both nets feature socializing and radio discussions and are friendly to new hams.

You can join them if you are near a VHF radio on VE2RWI, 146.91 (-) MHz, T88.5. Both nets start at 8:00 pm local on their respective days.

Newsletter: The newsletter continues to gather compliments from the members. In addition to the monthly reports on the club meetings from our secretary Keith VE2MTL and formatting and production by Bram VA2XE, in 2016 we had articles from Eamon VE2EGN, and Keith VE2MTL, and photo essays from Malcolm VE2DDZ, and Bram VA2XE.

We welcome submissions to the newsletter; send them to Bram at ve2xcs@bell.net.

Facebook: If you are on Facebook, you can join the WIARC Facebook group set up by Bram VA2XE. Simply search for West Island Amateur Radio Club.

Meetings: I know we all appreciated Andy, VE2DNN, providing the coffee and refreshments for the monthly meetings. Cookies for the meetings are provided by member volunteers. You can sign up now for a month in 2017 – act quickly before all the slots are snapped up.

New Members: We welcomed new members Dave VE2FUD, Cedric VA2CNE, Lubo VA2GLM, Gerald VA2WAY, Eric VE2ECQ, and John VE2YNI during 2016.

Field Day

June 2016 marked the sixth annual multi-club field day, the fourth in a row at Centennial Park in Beaconsfield. Our Field Day operations were again ably coordinated by Eamon VE2EGN. Eamon has decided to move on to other challenges. Harrison VE2HKW has stepped forward to coordinate our 2017 operations. The first order of business is to determine a location. We don't expect to be able to use Centennial Park in 2017 because the dates for Field Day conflict with the Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day celebrations.

Since our transition from 1A to 2A in 2015 was so smooth, we decided to add a third HF station in 2016. The third station was added as a GOTA (Get On The Air) station. A number of hams made their first ever HF contacts on our GOTA station this year, some made their first ever ham radio QSOs. The coaching by experienced operators was much appreciated. So in total we had five stations: two regular HF stations, a GOTA station, a VHF/UHF station, and a satellite station.

Another addition this year was a Spiderbeam antenna for 10 through 20m. Thank-you Gilles VA2EW, for the loan of your antenna system.

For the third year in a row we were sponsored by Batteries Expert of Ile Perrot which allowed us to continue to run generator free. See them for any battery needs you may have. Thank-you Batteries Expert. Additional battery power to run the GOTA station, the VHF station, and the satellite station were supplied by Dan VA2KEY, George VE2NGH, and Malcolm VE2DDZ.

Another change for this year was regular, face-to-face, planning meetings in the months leading up to Field Day. Although the meetings became tedious at times, the consensus was that what we learned about working together at the meetings translated into a crew of people who worked smoothly together at the event. It is likely that we will continue the face-to-face planning meetings.

In terms of points, Field Day was a spectacular success. Out of all stations we were third in Canada and first in QC. Gilles, VA2EW, reminds me that you can't compare across classes, so I need to add that among the total of 376 2A stations world wide, we were 37th overall and first in Canada.

Monthly meetings

We continued monthly meetings full of content with a good mix of topics and presenters. The monthly meetings were quite well attended and saw active participation from members of the club.

At the January meeting Nigel VA2NM told us about *Scratch building the Small Wonder Labs SW30+ QRP Transceiver*.

In February Gilles VA2EW told us how to *Reduce local and home noise in amateur radio stations*.

March saw Eamon VE2EGN present on *Baluns and transmission lines*.

In April Bob VE2AXO showed a presentation from Michel Graveline, VE2WVG, on the experimental balloon group, *Ballon Radio Amateur du Quebec*.

In May at our regular *Show and Tell* meeting we had excellent presentations from Bram VA2XE, Charles VE2RFI, René VE2RI, Bob VE2PDT, Andy VE2DNN.

As usual, we used the June meeting for Field Day planning.

At the September meeting Space Concordia brought us up to date on their many, many projects. In

addition Keith VE2XL was presented with his 60 year pin for 60 years as an ARRL member.

In October Leo VE2SI presented *An Introduction to Test Equipment for the Beginning Ham*.

At the November meeting we had a video presentation: *The Arthur A. Collins Legacy: A Culture of Innovation* courtesy of Dave VA2DGC.

Throughout the year we heard flash talk presentations from Stan VE2QXP, René VE2RI, Malcolm VE2DDZ, and Marc-André VE2EVN. We used to have many more flash talks throughout the year. If you have something you would like to present to the club that you could present in ten minutes or less, just let any member of the executive know.

Summer Get Togethers: We opened the church on the third Monday of July and August for members to get together if they wished. We had no presentations planned and promised no refreshments. Many members turned up and took advantage of flea market tables, socializing, and an opportunity to show off and discuss projects in progress.

Examiners: We have two club sponsored examiners: Larry VE2DO and Mark VA2MM.

Silent Keys: Ex-Wiarc member Owen Dowd VE2CS passed in the spring. A great shock to us all was the sudden death of Bob VE2PDT in November. Bob was very active in the club and will be missed.

Other Activities

CQ Worked All Prefixes SSB Contest: WIARC members Gilles VA2EW and Vlad VE2QA, along with Victor VA2WA, came in first place in the multi-single category in North America in the 2016 CQ WPX SSB thereby winning the North America plate. Congratulations.

Chillycon: Dan VA2KEY, Harrison VE2HKW, Bob VE2PDT, Marc-André VE2EVN, and George VE2NGH participated in the ChillyCon QRP get together at Rideau River Provincial Park in September.

Summits on the Air: On May 21, 9 WIARC members and guests went on an activation of Mont St-Gregoire followed by a picnic lunch at the trail head. We all enjoyed a day of great weather and radio. Unfortunately, Mother Nature didn't cooperate for our annual group activation of Rigaud in October, so we had to cancel this year.

Canada Ski Marathon: The Canada Ski Marathon has been using amateur radio volunteers for communications support for 43 years. For the 2016 running of the marathon François VE2AAY and I volunteered at the event.

Information Net Lunch: Another one of the irregular *Info Net Lunch and Eyeball QSO* sessions was held on Saturday, March 12 at Chenoy's. A good time was had by all.

Fessenden Day: On July 30th, the Knowlton Museum celebrated the 150th anniversary of Reginald Aubrey Fessenden's birth. A number of WIARC members joined other hams for socializing and a trip through the museum.

Your Executive: It has been a pleasure serving with your current executive Charles VE2RFI, Bram VA2XE, and Keith VE2MTL. They do a lot of work behind the scenes that we don't see. Bram has

indicated that he will be stepping down as treasurer. Charles and I have indicated that we would like to move to other challenges if replacements for Vice-President and President can be found.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting for the West Island Amateur Radio club will be held Monday, December 19 at Lakeside Heights Baptist Church starting at 7:30 pm.

In addition to the usual reports and elections for executive the current executive will present a motion that WIARC join RAQI as a club member. See later in this newsletter for the exact wording of the motion. I want to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2017.

73 and good dx,

Malcolm VE2DDZ

What happened

Minutes of the November 2016 WIARC meeting

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

Minutes of the WIARC Meeting November 11, 2016 By Keith Glashan VE2MTL

The meeting began at 19:47. Malcolm VE2DDZ welcomed 24 attendees, a good showing because today, we had the first serious snow fall of the season. Tonight, Colin Roberts attended for the first time. He has recently contacted Francois VE2AAY about becoming licensed. He is eager to learn about all the capabilities of radio. We opened the meeting with the usual roll call with call signs. The details of the meeting follow.

1. Bob VE2PDT/SK: The entire Club was shocked by the sudden passing of Bob VE2PDT on November 10th. Tonight we held a "Silent Key" ceremony in his memory. Many members shared their experiences with him. Although he had only been a member for just over two years, he participated in all the club activities and left a lasting impact on us all.

2. Tip Time Tips:

Not exactly a 'Tip', but it was suggested that it would be nice if

certain repeaters were monitored 24/7 for emergencies. This would apply especially to areas where no cell service was available. Dedicated frequencies would be required for this purpose.

3. VB2W DXpedition:

Marc-André VA2EI gave a flash talk on his recent VB2W CQ WW SSB 2016 Zone 2 DXpedition to Waskaganish Que. It was a 2 Day drive from Montreal stopping at Amos, the halfway point. His final destination was Fort-Rupert. It is located on a bay, off the South East side of James Bay. He went with Martin Houle VA2AMH, Marc-André Boucher VE2MBT, and Pascal Carrier VE2WHZ. He had lots of pictures and descriptions of their experiences both at the site, and on the road. Unfortunately they experienced poor radio conditions. It seems that northern lights and RF don't mix. Or, perhaps they mix too well. However, all the attendees seem to enjoy the trip to the northern parts of Quebec. Only a 2 day drive, but a whole world away.

4. Repeaters News:

Both still working satisfactorily. Charles VE2RFI plans to take the UHF repeater off the air and take it to his place of business for a tune-up. No date scheduled. Stay tuned.

5. Vimy 100 Special Event:

Charles VE2RFI announced that he has now been given the responsibility to coordinate radio activities for all of Quebec for the VIMY special event held January 8th - 14th 2017.

Quebec amateurs will be using the call sign VE100VIMY/VE2. If anyone wishes to operate for a period during the week-long event, he should contact Charles. Only one station can be on the air at a time while using the VIMY event call.

6. Christmas Dinner:

The Club Christmas dinner will take place Wednesday, December 7 at 6:30 PM. The location, same as last year, is L'Academie restaurant near the old future shop store in Pointe Claire. Remember BYOB.

7. Field Day 2017:

Harrison VE2HKW has accepted to be the coordinator for field day 2017. We have not established a site for the event and are looking for ideas. Anyone?

8. AGM 2016:

Next meeting, December 19, 2016 will be our AGM. It always takes place during the last meeting of the year. Unfortunately Bram VA2XE will be

stepping down from the position of treasurer. However, he will remain as our newsletter publisher. Eamon VE2EGN has accepted to lead the nominating committee to find a replacement for Bram. As all positions are always open for nominations, don't hesitate to contact Eamon with yours.

9. RAQI Changes:

Malcolm VE2DDZ announced the new structure of RAQI. It will now entertain club memberships rather than individual memberships. This means that all members of clubs that join RAQI would enjoy member privileges. The fee to the clubs would go up somewhat. This year the club fee would be \$294. Next year, being a full year the rate would be \$394.

10. After the Break:

After the break, Dave VA2DGC introduced and showed a 20 minute

video on the life and work of Arthur A. Collins. It described in detail his accomplishments, and many contributions to the world of radio, amateur, commercial, and military. The movie included facts about the Collins radio that sent the first messages back from the moon. The video was very enlightening. Thank you, Dave for bringing it along tonight. If you have others, I am sure the members would like to see them as well. Hope to have a repeat performance soon.

11. Break Time Cookies:

This evening, the break time treats were provided by Bob VE2AXO. Thanks. According to the volunteer sheet, Charles VE2RFI will be providing his now famous Christmas baking items for next month's meeting.

I must remind you that we need volunteers for 2017. If you would like to provide treats next year, I have a

blank sheet prepared. See me at the December meeting. I will give you your first choice! Anyone for January? Hello ! Anybody home?

12. 50/50 Draw:

There was no 50-50 draw this evening.

13. Door Prizes:

This evening, Ken VE2KLF, Keith VE2XL, and Malcolm VE2DDZ provided take away magazines and books. Thanks fellows.

14. A Pun my Word:

Santa Claus has the right idea. Visit people only once a year.

The meeting adjourned at 22:21. See you December 19th, 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.

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 +++

A reminder that tables are available at our monthly meetings.

\$\$\$ 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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E-mail: VE2CWI@WIARC.CA

Twitter — <https://twitter.com/westislandarc> **Facebook** - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/437310523122118/>

Executives:

President : Malcolm Harper, VE2DDZ

Vice-president : Charles Robitaille, VE2RFI

Treasurer : Bram Paterson, VA2XE

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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.