

Newscaster

The Official Publication of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club
The Manitoba Repeater Society
The Winnipeg Seniors Citizen's Radio Club

mailing address

W.A.R.C.
Attn: Newsletter
598 St. Mary's Road
Winnipeg, MB
R2M 3L5

March 1994

HOME - BREW NIGHT

Date: March 14, 1994
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Sturgeon Creek Regional Secondary School

NEWS FLASH

Please note: we are trying out a new location for the Flea Market this year

DATE: **APRIL 17, 1994**
TIME: **9:00 a.m. TO 12:00 noon**
PLACE: **WEST K. ARENA,
346 PERTH AVENUE**
ADMISSION: **\$1.00 EVERYONE**
TALK IN: **146.610 NEG. OFFSET**

SEE DETAILS INSIDE NEWSCASTER

Other Important Dates:

WARC: WAWA - April 9
Flea Market - April 17
Meeting - April 18
Marathon - June 19
Field Day - June 25,26
WSC: Breakfast- March 11
MRS: General Meeting - April 15
Other: Every Sat. & Sun. VE4TTU station in operation

Warc: Executive for 1993/94

President: Dave Panting - VE4EF
Vice-Pres: Barret Filbert - VE4ABA
Secretary: Dick Maguire - VE4HK
Treasurer: Gary Smith - VE4YH
Past Pres: Judy Norton - VE4JBN
Membership/Newscaster: Kay Quinn - VE4YF
Program Chairman: Rob Kaufman - VE4GV
Flea Market: Pat Giesbrecht - VE4PLG
Members at large: Scott Marshall - VE4WSM

Notes from your Editor: by Derek, VE4HAY

Well another month has passed, and very quickly I might add. Boy, I hate these short months, it seems like I just finished printing the last newscaster, and here I am doing it again. But at least with the help of a few people who write some articles, it gets easier each month. Which of course leads me to request a whole new batch for next month. So come on everyone, put that pen to paper and see what you can produce.

I would like to thank Kay for organizing the jacket purchase. I have had nothing but compliments about the colour and design. Well done Kay !!

Ok, so I want everyone to mark their calendars and start planning for a busy spring & summer. As you can notice by the dates on the left, I have only listed a few of the activities coming this summer. (Maybe some of you HF guy's can provide me with an article about Field Day, the reason for it and the fun of it.) This is just one of the great events of the summer. Please listen to the various nets for more fun stuff. And get involved. It's your hobby, make good use of it.

**Words from the President of WARC:
by Dave, VE4EF**

I was glad to see so many of you come out to the February meeting and pick up your lovely new WARC jackets. My thanks to Kay VE4YF for taking care of the whole scary business. Thanks also to Karl VE4KHS and his associates for their presentation on Packet Radio in Winnipeg.

At the March meeting we will be having another fitting for club jackets. For those of you who missed out on the first order, this is your opportunity to purchase your own classy WARC jacket. Please bring along your chequebook.

The presentation at the March meeting will be interesting, edifying and entertaining. It will also be a surprise. See you there!

**Winnipeg Senior Citizen's Radio Club.
by Bill, VE4WU Past President**

I guess it was bound to happen, our president Martin VE4AKA along with a number of others got fed up with the cold weather and joined the snow birds. I am informed he has been hard to get hold of as he is out on the golf course most of the time.

The computer classes are progressing well under the able instruction of Harsha VE4SAI and should prove to be quite popular. A great thanks to Muddy Waters Computer Society for their assistance.

On Sat Feb 19 & Sun Feb 20 Girl Guides on the air VE4GGC was hosted from our club under the guidance of Roy VE4ROY and a group of dedicated club volunteers. Although Roy was a little under the weather with the assistance of Frank VE4AHW and a fine group of club volunteers everything turned out very well, for which they are all to be commended.

Our last club breakfast was quite a success with a very good turn-out so don't miss this one which will be on Thursday March 11, 1994 at the Norlander Inn on Pembina Hwy @ 9:00 am.

A reminder that the Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club 1st quarterly general Meeting will be held Tue March 15th, 1994 in the club rooms @ 9:30 am.

**Manitoba Repeater Society
by Derek, VE4HAY**

*NOTICE OF THE MANITOBA REPEATER SOCIETY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING*

Spring is coming, and that can only mean one thing. Every OM and YL's thoughts turn to the Manitoba Repeater Society's Annual General Meeting. Our Annual General Meeting will be held in mid April, probably the 15th, date and location to be announced.

A few members of the 1993/94 executive have decided to retire and miss out on all that fun. We are looking for a few good men, or ladies to replace them. If you are interested in running for office, please phone Dick VE4HK. If you know of someone else who would make a good candidate for office, phone VE4HK.

The upcoming year should be one of the best ever for the Repeater Society. We will finally finish our upgrading program. The system will enable a ham to talk all the way from Swan River to Fort Frances, with only a 2 meter handheld.

We invite all members of the Manitoba Repeater Society to attend the upcoming Annual General Meeting. This will be an ideal opportunity to ask questions of the executive. Members can also express their opinions on the direction of the Repeater Society.

Listen to the 2 meter nets on Thursday and Sunday for the exact location and time for the Annual General Meeting.

**Hints & Kinks
by Ralph, VE4RY**

Short lengths of metal tubing for PC board standoffs, etc. can be made to measure out of bare copper wire. Simply wrap the wire around a rod or nail and solder the entire surface.

When slipped off the form, the resulting 'tubing' is surprisingly strong. you will no doubt think of many other applications for your 'custom-made' tubing.

Anyone needing a phone number or address of a ham dealer may contact me: I have a copy of the CQ 1994 Equipment Directory.

VOLUNTEERS 'R' US: **By DAVE, VE4EF**

The 1994 Manitoba Marathon is being held on Sunday, June 19. This is a world class event which is supported each year by hundreds of volunteers. The Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club has supplied communications to the Marathon since its inception. This includes communications between aid stations, medical vehicles, route marshalls of general information as well as emergency traffic if required.

This year, our contribution will require approximately 60 licensed amateurs. For those of you who have helped in the past I hope to see you again. If you haven't helped out before and are interested in volunteering I will be happy to hear from you. All that you need is a 2 meter rig and an interest in helping out your community.

Homebrew Night **By Dick VE4HK**

Get your thinking caps on. Dig out those long lost tools. Rummage around in the old junque box for those perfect parts. Fire up the soldering iron. Yes, those words can mean only one thing. Homebrew Night is coming! Finally, an opportunity to do something with those oddball things you bought at the last Flea Market.

Get that amateur radio related project finished and bring it to the April WARC meeting. You could be the big winner of one of the three prizes the executive has acquired.

The crack team of judges has already been selected. Ralph VE4RY is slaving over a hot soldering iron day and night, building a secret project. Barrett VE4ABA, the big winner from 1993 said he may not compete, just to give someone else a chance.

I certainly hope Barrett changes his mind, after seeing his very professionally built corner reflector last year. It was a thing of beauty, and deserving of first prize.

The executive encourages everyone, from raw beginner, to old veteran (like me), to go for it. Build something that is useful for amateur radio, bring it out to Homebrew Night, and possibly win a prize. Remember, It is not always the most expensive or the biggest or the fanciest project that wins. Usefulness is also an important criteria.

Higher Speeds with the G3RUH 9600 baud Packet Radio Modem **by James Miller G3RUH**

The modem is capable of speeds up to 64000 baud. This limit is set by the maximum rate that the DAC chips can operate. This note describes how to achieve rates from 4800 to 64000 baud. The slowest speed is suitable for 12.5 kHz channelised radios. The highest speed suits radios that have broadcast FM bandwidth filters.

To implement a higher speed you need to:

1. Increase your TXData rate (!)
2. Increase the associated TXClock
3. Change some analogue filter components proportional to the speed increase.

It is not necessary to change either of the eproms. If you are going for a higher speed, it is likely that the radios involved are "specials" and you will already have wide bandwidth and flattish group delay, so the loopback selection 0 from the standard ROM will be OK.

The table below suggests the best conditions for different speeds. Component references are for my own PCB card. Clones are different.

Comp	Data Rate - Baud				
	4800	9600	19200	38400	64000
R6	220k	100k	47k	22k	15k
R16	100k	100k	100k	47k	15k
R17	82k	82k	82k	39k	12k
R18	39k	39k	39k	18k	5k6
R19	27k	27k	27k	15k	3k9
R21	100k	100k	100k	47k	15k
R22	56k	56k	56k	27k	8k2
C18	4n7	4n7	4n7	1n	680p
C20	220p	100p	47p	22p	12p
C27	2n2	1n	470p	470p	1n)
C28	2n2	1n	470p	470p	1n)
C29	6n8	3n3	1n5	470p	470p) 2% or
C30	220p	100p	47p	47p	100p) better
C31	1n	470p	220p	220p	470p)
C32	2n2	1n	470p	220p	150p)

Deviation +/- 1.5 3 6 12 20 kHz) In FM
IF Bandwidth 8 15 30 60 100 kHz)service

These modifications have been tested in both amateur and commercial service. All comments gratefully received, and added to the database.

ANTENNAS 'WERE' US: BY THE FOXTROTTS (ECHO AND ZULU)

Last time I wrote about the 80 meter Bazookas that Greg VE4GH and I put up around Christmas time. You may recall that my antenna was destined for greatness because it was put up on the coldest day of the year. Unfortunately, things have not worked out quite the way they were supposed to. Although I have heard quite a few countries on 80 meters and have even worked a few, there is the odd little problem. Take for instance the night I was trying to work San Marino (T7). I called a few times but for some inexplicable reason the other operator did not answer me so I turned on my trusty linear amplifier and prepared to wade into the pile up. I keyed my transmitter and took a deep breath during which time my computer screamed in agony and reset itself, my wife screamed because the TV went blank, and the answering machine had the electronic equivalent of an epileptic fit. The neighbours haven't spoken to us since (but then they didn't speak to us before so it's hard to tell).

One of the joys of our hobby is that after you have designed the antenna, built it, and installed it then you can try and figure out how come it's causing RFI to every electronic device you own. Each RFI situation is unique and must be approached with an open mind. Since we are increasingly surrounded by solid state electronic devices which are susceptible to interference, this is a situation that will be faced by all hams sooner or later. I intend to fix my odd little problem with RFI and will keep you posted. In the meantime, I think I will go and unplug my son's electric train set!

VE4CNR REPEATER RECEIVER By Ralph, VE4RY

Hello, fellow users. I decided Saturday to move the antenna (J-pole) back inside the building to keep the stationary engineer happy about having a window open for the mount I had made.

The antenna is now INSIDE the elevator penthouse, mounted about 2 feet away from a metal rack. This just may give the proper lobes for our friends at Beausejour to be able to access the machine. It should improve our coverage to the east somewhat at the expense of the north. It is in line with several windows, but who knows what reflections abound in that room.

I also feel that the static from the elevators is unavoidable and moving the antenna outside had little, if

any effect on operations. The good news is: progress is being made at a rapid pace on the roof project and a new, outdoor antenna should be in place by the end of March.

WORKED ALL WINNIPEG AWARD QSO PARTY by Dick VE4HK

The fourth annual Worked All Winnipeg Award QSO Party is scheduled for Saturday April 9, from 9 am till 5 pm local time.

Primary frequencies are 14.250 MHz on 20 meters and 21.345 MHz on 15 meters. If you want to use another frequency, such as the CW portion of 20 meters, 2 meter SSB, or even EME, go right ahead!

The brain trust in charge of organizing the QSO Party felt that we should QSY up into the American portion of the 20 meter band, so that the lower class W's and K's could take part. That should make Winnipeg'ers more popular than ever.

If you can spare any amount of time on Saturday, April 9, please fire up the old rig and get on the air. Any amount of time, from a few minutes to a few hours will help. I want to have the largest contingent of hams for the QSO Party, in 1994! This may mean that McDonalds will be missing a few faces that Saturday morning!

I encourage all Winnipeg hams who are active on HF to "talk up" the Worked All Winnipeg Award and the QSO Party, every time you are on the air. Every contact you make is great advertising. Our lovely certificate, along with the literature that I send out to each applicant for the award, is publicity for our city.

Some people are under the impression that hams can try for the Worked All Winnipeg Award only during the WAWA QSO Party. Nothing could be further from the truth! Candidates are eligible to collect QSO's 365 days of the year. All they have to do is follow the rules as laid out below.

The rules for the Worked All Winnipeg Award are as follows

- Stations within Manitoba, including the City of Winnipeg, must work at least 25 different Winnipeg stations.
- Stations outside Manitoba, but within the North American continent, must work at least 15 different Winnipeg stations.

- Stations outside North America must work at least 10 different Winnipeg stations.

Any band or mode may be used, but all contacts must be direct, not through a repeater. QSL cards are not required, but a certified copy of the log must be mailed in, along with the signature of two other hams who have checked the log. The cost for the award is \$2.00, or 6 IRC's. Mail application to WORKED ALL WINNIPEG AWARD, c/o Dick Maguire VE4HK, 598 St. Marys Rd. Winnipeg, MB, Canada R2M 2L5

If you have any questions, please call Dick VE4HK at home, or on 146.76 MHz VE4CNR repeater.

RRRA HAMFEST 94 FARGO,ND **by RON PEASEY**

The following info received via packet from Brian, N0TYC The date of the RRRA Hamfest '94 is Sat. March 12. Hours are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The location is the Commercial Exhibits Building on the Red River Valley Fairgrounds in West Fargo, ND. The easiest way to get there from I-29 is going to be the head west on the Hwy 10/Main Ave Exit. Talk-In will be on the RRRA repeater 146.76 or 444.875.

Pre-registration should be sent to: RRRA Hamfest '94, PO Box 3215, Fargo, ND, 58108-3215. Tickets paid for by March 1,1994 are \$5 US. After that date they are \$6 US. If you'd like tickets returned to you by mail, you must include a self-addressed stamped envelope and the request (with payment) must be received by March 1. Make checks payable to Red River Radio Amateurs and payable in US funds. Fleamarket tables are \$5. You do still have to purchase an admission ticket, even if you are exhibiting. If you are a commercial vendor, we have different rates for you.

The facility this year is a dramatic improvement over last year. It is much bigger and we will allow drive-in setup for exhibitors Friday evening. As to hotels, there are many to choose from. Nicer hotels include the Holiday Inn - 701-282-2700, Hampton Inn - 235-5566, Best Western Doublewood -235-3333, and americinn - 800-634-3444. There are also a bunch more. Cheaper but still reasonably priced are Super 8 -282-7121 and Select Inn - 282 6300. Again there are a bunch more and also some really cheap motels I don't know much about. Anyway, hope all of this helps and that we see some of you on March 12th.

Manitoba Kenwood Dealer **by Garry Kroeker**

AERIAL COMMUNICATIONS, is happy to announce the addition of the complete line of Kenwood Amateur Radio line to it's existing line of Kenwood land mobile radio service. As an introduction of the amateur line we're offering a time limited special on the full line!!

March Specials

HF Transceivers

TS950sdx	Deluxe Base Station	\$4775.00
TS850sat	Deluxe	\$2175.00
TS450sat	Base/mobile	\$1580.00
TS140s	Base/mobile	\$1099.00
TS50s	Super -compact mobile	\$1225.00
TS690s	Base/mobile c/w 6 mtr	\$1725.00

VHF/UHF

TM241a	VHF Mobile 50W	\$ 430.00
TM732a	V/UHF Mobile	\$ 776.00
TM742a	V/Uhf Tribander	\$ 948.00
TS790a	V/Uhs/Satellite	\$2211.00

HT's

TH22a	New VHF Mini	\$ 337.00
TH28a	VHF & UHF Rx	\$ 431.00
TH48a	UHF	\$ 457.00
TH78a	VHF/UHF	\$ 639.00

(all taxes extra)

Get the best of both Worlds... Great Prices & no hassels. Warranty Service !! Call us now or anytime -- 7 Days a week.

The anTENna Commandments **By Ralph, VE4RY**

- 1: The higher the better, except for rare occasions when you are at the base of a mountain. The signal refracting over the top of the mountain remains close to and perpendicular to the ground, and at least on two meters you get a better signal at ground level.
- 2: Ground-independent antennas are almost always the best. The only place a 5/8 may out perform a J-pole is on the roof of a semi-trailer.
- 3: There is no such thing as 'one-way skip'; reciprocity rules!
- 4: Even though ten meters may seem dead at times, give a CQ: there are interesting aurora effects and

occasionally there will be someone to answer you. We used to have a 9PM net in Winnipeg and were surprised one night to find a half dozen hams check in from Denver, even when the band was dead.

- 5: On HT's the longer the antenna, the better, up to 1/2-wavelength. The 5/8 isn't as good because it depends on ground counterpoise.
- 6: A tuner won't improve your signal if the SWR is already lower than 1.5-1.
- 7: Going from 100W down to 20W output power will hardly be noticed at the other end.
- 8: Going from 100W to 1KW will only increase the receiver's S-meter reading by 1-1/2 S-units.
- 9: Most two meter antennas work quite well on the third harmonic: UHF. The angle of radiation is at 45 degrees, however.
- 10: Everyone forgets that on a G5RV antenna at 20 meters, there are, besides the four lobes of gain, also four lobes of NULL in between the lobes. And while the lobes may be +3dB, the nulls are -20dB. So if the lobes correspond to your desired directions of operation, fine. A straight dipole out-performs a G5RV sometimes. Personally, I prefer non-resonant lengths (like 42 feet per side) to give a more omni-directional pattern and less 'off the ends' gain on 10 and 12 meters.

Bonus[unlike the original Ten Commandments, rebuttals are welcome here.

Flea Market **by Pat VE4PLG continued**

Hello one and all. This spring we are going to try a new location for the flea market. As we said before it will be held at the West Kildonan Arena located at 346 Perth avenue so if you go to Waverly Heights CC you will be quite lonely. We are wanting your support and feedback on this flea market so please come out to support amateur radio and drop a comment in the box that will be near the refreshment area. We would appreciate your comments good and bad, otherwise we have no idea whether you like what we are doing or not!

If your comments are favourable we will look at getting the arena again for the fall flea market. The only problem that we can see is that if we get the arena in the fall we may have to move the date of the flea market ahead two to three weeks because the ice will be going in the first week of October. We chose this location

because Waverly Heights was proving to be way too small for our needs. The new location has plenty of parking both at the community centre and the high school right beside it. The West Kildonan Arena is about twice the size of Waverly Heights. Now that we have a bigger location we are asking you all to come out and support amateur radio and re-aquaint yourselves with old friends and meet some new ones in the process. The arena is also wheelchair accessible. This location was also chosen because we have gotten so tired of looking at other places and besides it is right across the street from me. Hi Hi! This location also has easy access from Main Street, Salter Street, and Jefferson Avenue; other ways of getting to the arena will be given to you on the talk in frequency on 146.610 negative offset. Tables are \$5.00 each and \$2.50 for half a table. For those wanting tables contact me or Dan VE4SYG on two meters on 147.390 positive offset or by phone at 338-0511.

SO PLEASE COME OUT AND SUPPORT AMATEUR RADIO !

Kenwood BP1 12V Nicad **By Harold, VE4BH**

BC>Hi there! Does anyone know of a place that rebuilds these Nicad Batteries. This is a 12V unit for my TH205AT Hand-Held?

If you can get the case open without destroying it, you can get new nicads at Active Battery, 1040 Arlington, Wpg. ph 774-7561. They can make up any configuration of cells that you require. If they are not too busy, they will even weld while you wait. I have found their prices to be better than any of the US companies as well.

MINUTES FOR W.A.R.C.

WARC GENERAL MEETING MONDAY
FEBRUARY 14, 1994

Meeting began 0738 pm VE4EF presiding
VE4EF made a few welcoming remarks
Each member and guest introduced him or herself

Minutes of January meeting were approved as published in Newscaster
moved VE4JR seconded VE4AAI CARRIED

Correspondence
Some memberships

Letter from Corinne Tellier requesting information on her problem receiving a short wave station in France. VE4HK phoned her, made some suggestions. Ms. Tellier was satisfied with the response.

Treasurer's Report

Expenses Jackets, envelopes, postage. Full report next month. No questions

Committee Reports

Ham Classes: VE4OV has 21 students, including 5 YLs VE4OV advised that the best CW tape is Genesis, from 73 magazine. He has copies available for about \$23.00 each. VE4OV is also a designated examiner for both CW and theory.

RAC Convention: VE4OV advised that the convention will be July 29, 30, and 31, in Calgary.

Flea Market: VE4PLG has put in many hours of work to find a bigger location. She managed to negotiate a good price for the West Kildonan Arena, which is conveniently located across the street from her house. The arena has lots of space on the hockey rink to set up tables. There is room for at least 40 tables. The ice will be out by Flea Market time. There is abundant parking.

The Flea Market will be April 17. Set up will be from 7:30 until 9:00 am. Flea Market from 9:00 am until Noon. Talk in VE4MAN 146.61 MHz . VE4PLG requested feedback from everyone who attends the flea market. VE4MP suggested that we hold an auction, of high ticket items only, with the flea market. (he did not offer to be the auctioneer)

Marathon. VE4EF noted that the Marathon is coming on Fathers Day. He solicited for volunteers, and said that an article will be in the March Newscaster.

VE4TTU - VE4SN, sitting in for VE4YU, reported that VE4TTU was very active, with lots of volunteers. VE4TTU also suffered from the generally poor conditions on HF. Thanks to volunteers VE4s VQ, GF, YU, QEW, ABA, DWG, AJR, MJM, PJ, AAI, GV, PLG, SYG

There were no Notices for the good and welfare of the club

VE4EF announced that our new jackets have arrived and would be distributed during coffee break.

VE4HK made a brief announcement re WAWA QSO Party, April 9.

VE4HAY solicited more articles for the Newscaster

VE4EF advised that WARC would probably be commencing CW practice on an MRS repeater soon, probably VE4WPG

VE4AJR mentioned the theft of some ham radio gear from VE4ACX truck during the January meeting. VE4EF advised everyone to take appropriate precautions when their vehicle was parked.

VE4EF announced that he had registration forms for RAC and CLARA Contest.

adjournment for coffee

During coffee break, VE4YF, VE4JBN and VE4HK collaborated to hand out jackets to everyone who purchased one. Aside from a few small glitches, everyone was very satisfied with the jackets. They are a dark shade of blue, with a green stripe across the breast, then around the back. The name was on one sleeve, the call on the other. "Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club Inc" was embroidered on the breast. Kay VE4YF is to be congratulated for her hard work bringing these jackets to reality!

After a most enjoyable coffee break, Karl VE4KHS presented a very interesting and educational program on packet radio. His very capable assistants were Micheal VE4MJM, Jim VE4CY, and Doug VE4KV. I am certain that everyone present for Karl's demonstration learned more about the wonders of packet radio.

adjournment 0952 VE4EN

HowTo.NTS (Part-1)
by W6CUS Am. Red Cross, Richmond,
CA #:2210 Z:94804

Sending NTS messages on packet is simple and easy. If you have a friend that is already on packet and wish to send him or her a message, all that is necessary to know is that friend's home bbs (where he/she checks for mail and bulletins regularly. The format on any linked w0rli type bbs is simply; "SP Callsign @ BBS callsign". An example of sending a personal message to my friend Robby, N6LAM, who uses WD6BFC BBS would be: "SP N6LAM @ WD6BFC". This message would be automatically forwarded from my local BBS to WD6BFC BBS and when N6LAM checked into the WD6BFC BBS in Redding he would see that mail was waiting for him. The "P" in "SP" makes the message personal so that only the originator and addressee can read it and it is not listed with the "L" command to others. This is a recommended practice as it saves congestion on busy BBS channels by not having to list irrelevant data. Now comes NTS. What if you want to send a message to a ham friend who is not on packet? He can't pick the message up at a BBS. No one else can kill the message if

it's sent to his callsign unless he/she kills it (or you do). Also what if you wanted to send a message to a non-ham (radiogram)? What if there is a disaster and the local disaster agency asks you if you can send thousands of radiograms out to relatives and friends of victims telling them that they are alright? This is where the National Traffic System (NTS) radiograms can do the job i.e., as a public service. WORLI devised a way where third party traffic could be deleted by traffic handler. It is the "T" option. If you send a message "ST" then it can be read and killed by anyone. The message may be killed by typing "KT ####" where #### is the message number. Thus third party traffic is allowed to be deleted after it is safely in the hands of a traffic delivering or relay station even though the message is not sent to that person's own callsign. Let's now see how to actually use NTS and send a message. Remember that the existing packet bbs system works fine for ham to ham communications as long as both hams are on packet and know each other's mailbox. Otherwise the message must be sent to special designators and in NTS format. It is important to use the accepted and nationally recognized designators if we are to not delay the traffic needlessly.

USE THE ACCEPTED DESIGNATORS

Use valid designators. See the file `desig.nts` on most WestNet BBS. Currently the nationally recognized and supported designator is the 5 digit zip code in the "to" column with the "ntsxx" abbreviation in the "@" column. (Note that xx are the standard Post Office abbreviations found in the ARRL Net Directory for States and Provinces). @NTSXX can be left out of any Calif bound traffic if sent within California and is only helpful for out of state traffic. Some examples for sending NTS traffic are:

ST 60625 @NTSiI
QTC 1 Chgo Il 312 453 ST 94610
QTC 1 Oakland CA 415 763 ST 06111 @ NTSCT
QTC 1 Newington CT 203 666 ST 91006
QTC 1 Arcadia CA (no phone)

If you do not know the zipcode and do not have a post office zipcode book, then the message may be sent to ntsxx @ ntsxx as we assume that everyone will know the State or Province. Messages sent with inadequate addresses and without phone numbers are not encouraged and delivery may be delayed or impossible. Remember that there is a ham on the other end who will have to deliver the message and we should make his/her job as easy as possible. The title should indicate the destination city of the message as well as contain the first 6 numbers of the telephone number so that some delivery stations may be able to ascertain their ability to

deliver without having to read the text. NTS designators for packet depend on a complex system of HF/VHF GateWays, NTS officials, linked VHF systems, BBS software support, and other groups to agree upon more efficient methods and designators. This system is constantly evolving and is subject to change. For the current list of supported NTS designators, see the file `DESIG.NTS` found in most WestNet BBS. It is expected that the 5 digit zipcode @ ntsxx format will be supported for quite some time.

Continued Next Month

NEWS FLASH

Please note: we are trying out a new location for the Flea Market this year

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