

# News caster

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

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Newsletter Editor  
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October 1995

## Grounding & Lightning Protection for the shack

Presentation by Rick Lord, VE4OV

Date: **October 16, 1995**  
Time: 7:30 p.m.  
Place: Sturgeon Creek Regional Secondary School

### Other Important Dates:

Articles: Oct 30 - Nov deadline  
Nov 28 - Dec deadline

WARC: Oct 22 Flea Market  
Nov 13 - Meeting

WSC: Oct 12 Breakfast - Norlander Inn  
Dec 14 - Xmas party

ARES: Oct 17 - Meeting

Other: Oct 10 - Blue Book updates

WARC: Executive for 1995-96

President:	Richard Kazuk	VE4KAZ
Vice-Pres:	Jeff Dovyak	VE4MBQ
Secretary:	Roxanne Byron	VE4ZF
Treasurer:	Rick Lord	VE4OV
Past Pres:	Barrett Filbert	VE4ABA
Program Chairman:	Rob Kaufman	VE4GV
Membership:	Keri Kazuk	VE4KER
Flea Market:	Jim Ross	VE4AJR

### Notes from your Editor: by Derek, VE4HAY

You can submit articles to me via the internet as: derek@facs.mb.ca or ve4hay@ve4umr.ampr.org or via packet as: ve4hay@ve4kv.#wpg.mb.ca.noam. I can also be reached on MWCS or at my home number 257-1420.

### Words from the President of WARC: by Richard, VE4KAZ

A funny thing happened to me on the way to Minneapolis to see the twins (no, not the baseball team, my cousin's newborn twins), I was appointed President by the newly elected WARC Executive — I guess that's what happens when you can't make it to a meeting. This year we hope to make the Club even bigger and better than last year with more and more information for all levels of hams and better door prizes for the draw at the monthly meeting, held on the second Monday of every month from October to June at Sturgeon Creek Collegiate, 2665 Ness Avenue, 7:30 p.m. So come out and meet your fellow hams and listen to the interesting programs that are presented by the Club's Program Chair Rob Kaufman VE4GV. Thanks to Rob for putting together the slide presentation of the Club's 1995 Field Day at Falcon Lake — great memories for those who were able to come out, and incentive for next year for those who couldn't.

Just a reminder that your WARC membership expired the end of September. Membership to WARC is \$15.00 for the year and membership entitles you to receive 10 issues of the News caster for the year to keep you informed of ongoing and up-and-coming events of the Club. Everyone renewing their membership before the close of the fall flea market in October will be entered in the draw for a new 2 meter Realistic mobile radio. Rick Lord VE4OV, our Treasurer, and/or Keri Kazuk VE4KER, our membership rep., will be glad to take your money (and your membership dues), and will issue you your new membership card.

And in case you weren't aware, every Saturday morning members of the ham community gather

informally between 7:00 and 10:00 in the morning at the McDonald's restaurant on St. James Street across from the Winnipeg Arena.

Hope to see everyone at the fall flea market and at our monthly meetings. If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas, please feel free to contact any member of this years Executive.

### **Winnipeg Senior Citizen's Radio Club.** **released by Adam, VE4SN (President - 95)**

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Members (all 155) should have received the special bi-annual mailing by now. It included a letter from the Prez, Adam, VE4SN, a questionnaire (complete with stamped return envelope to encourage ALL members to complete it and return it), and the first issue of "Sparks", an informative newsletter edited by Gil, VE4AG. "Sparks" was chosen by Gil, because our club operates from a former FIREhall, and also because a radio op was called "Sparks" in the old 'wireless' days.

Fast-scan TV is finally getting the finishing touches, with John, VE4CCW checking out the equipment, piece by piece, so the station can be given its final test soon.

Our Educational Program is nicely underway, under the leader- ship of Sandy Sandwith, VE4SZ. Presently the course of instruction for the Basic licence is being held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with added Code practice for many; while a course called "Introduction to DOS" is being taught by Harsha Godavari, VE4SAI, from 10 a.m. to noon, twice per week.

Our fall Picnic, held at St. Vital Park on Thursday, Sept. 14, was a big success, with 120 in attendance (90 registered). The weather was favourable, although a bit windy. Bingo was held as usual, and VE4ROY set up a portable ham station for HF and VHF. Many contacts were made, both phone & CW, with Ed, VE4YU doing most of the operating. A nice contact was made with the YL running VE3OSC (Ontario Science Centre) in Toronto, and many members chatted with her. The food was terrific - hotdogs, hamburgers, hot buttered corn, veggies, fruits, along with coffee and soft drinks.

Next event is the Breakfast on Thursday, Oct. 12, to be held at the usual place - the Norlander Inn, 1792 Pembina Highway, beginning at 9 a.m.

The last General Meeting, held on Wednesday, September 20th, had few general members in attendance. Many not there said they didn't know

about it! Those wishing to keep up on VE4WSC announcements are advised to listen to the Seniors' Net, each weekday morning, at 9 a.m. on 147.39+ (VE4WPG), when pertinent bulletins are aired. Those able to come, and interested in keeping the club strong, should make these meetings mandatory.

Since we are now an Affiliated Club of RAC, members are advised to apply for, or renew, memberships in RAC through the Club, as we get a commission. Forms are available at the clubrooms.

Put this date on your calendar, NOW! December 14th - the date of the WSC Christmas Party. This year, location is the St. James Civic Centre, 2055 Ness Ave. Ample parking, WHEEL-CHAIR ACCESSIBLE (ground floor), and drop-off right at the front door. FREE lunch is being served (begins about 1 p.m.), and fellowship until 5 p.m. Lots of room for everyone, with sit-down at tables.

Three of our members had a wonderful 4-day Labour Day weekend at Wolfree '95 at Stephenfield Prov. Park (30 km west of Carman). Jim, VE4AJR, Vern, VE4VQ, and Gil, VE4AG, spent time showing Ham Radio set-up and operation (both VHF and HF) to Cubs and Scouts.

If you have something that you want published in the WSC News section, please contact Gil, VE4AG @ 888-2473 or @VE4KV.

### **Hints & Kinks** **by Ralph, VE4RY**

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If you don't have the proper crimping tool for those rings on Cable TV F-connectors, I find that small channel-lock water pump pliers or vise-grips do an acceptable job.

### **ARES Committee Report** **by Jeff, VE4MBQ**

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Eighteen Members provided amateur communications for three Terry Fox Runs that were held in Winnipeg Sep 17, 1995: AIR, AJR, AJG, AND, CDP, DAR, DDW, DJM, GWB, HAY, HK, KAZ, KLM, KU, MBQ, MJM, SJC, YU.

We tied in the three startlines (Lipsett Hall, The Forks & Harborview) which each had several outstations and the Terry Fox Foundation office downtown (which was also the location for net control). The event went smoothly and the communications were quite low key - as opposed to the traffic handled during the Marathon. Once again thanks to the WNR group for use of the VE4WNR repeater.

As advertised our September meeting was a "classroom" exercise on tactical message handling. The Training Committee members obviously put in a lot of effort to write a realistic emergency scenario. We identified several items in the exercise that requires some fine tuning, including revising out Tactical Message Form, identifying outstations by tactical call signs during an actual disaster, and most importantly getting all members to communicate in a standard format. Our next meeting on Oct 17, 1995 will feature a presentation by Tom Simpson of Transport Canada on Airport Emergency Planning.

Winnipeg Ares is always interested in hearing about community events that might benefit from utilizing amateur communications. We benefit by practising our communications skills in an orderly manner. If you learn of an organized event that could use our help please let me know.

## MINUTES FOR W.A.R.C. - SEPT 11, 1995

Meeting called to order at 17:35 by BARRETT VE4ABA. Introductions. 55 in attendance. The 1995/96 WARC executive was introduced.

Moved by VE4HAY and seconded by VE4AG that the minutes be accepted as printed in the Newscaster. CARRIED.

**OLD BUSINESS:** none

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Various pamphlets and information sheets were noted and displayed. Letter of agreement from Adam VE4SN on behalf of the WSCARC to loan WARC some of their equipment for field day in the care of Jim VE4AJR. Letter of thanks from Ed VE4YU on behalf of WARC to the WSCARC for the loan of equipment for field day.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Gary VE4YH reported a bank balance of \$4602.00 as of August 31, 1995. There is one outstanding account payable for hall rental for the Spring Flea Market. Gary has had no response to his attempts at contacting the hall administration.

**STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**FLEA MARKET:** Jim VE4AJR has a tentative date of October 22, 1995 at Waverley Heights from 0900 to 1300. All those willing to help at the Flea Market may contact Jim VE4AJR. Ruth VE4XYL and Tom VE4SE will be taking care of the food. Prices for the tables will be announced at the next WARC meeting.

**NEWSCASTER:** Derek VE4HAY requested articles for the October Newscaster.

**EDUCATION:** Rick VE4OV has send notices of the Ham Radio course to various groups and was interviewed on local TV about the course.

**PROGRAM:** No report available.

**NOTICES:** From Derek VE4HAY:

a) Deadline September 20/95 for anyone interested in ordering a 2M mobile rig as part of a group purchase. b) Blue Book coming out in the fall. Notify Bill VE4UB of any address changes or if anyone wishes to place an ad. c) Presented an article on amateurs and community involvement.

From Ed VE4YU: Bus trip to Dayton should be organized around mid October. Ed calculated approximate cost of \$486 per person of 40 people participate and \$540 if only 30 go. Ed has a copy of the 1995 Ham-vention book.

From Dave VE4EF: Dave will be attending the IARU conference and RAC board meeting scheduled for September 22 - 23.

From Derek VE4HAY: "VE4" Homepage on Internet set up by Derek. Includes information on all groups including vendors, manufacturers, and RAC. Derek put out a request for information on "number of accesses" to the page.

From Barrett VE4ABA: The MARM Hamfest was enjoyable with good prizes, fox hunt, dancing and he encouraged everyone to attend next year.

From Gary VE4YH: a) He received a cheque from RAC for WARC members renewing. b) Fund Raiser for WARC in form of group purchase of alarm equipment. Details in October Newscaster.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Dave VE4EF received a notice from RAC of NCDXF and IARU Transpolar project. The Calgary ARC unable to proceed with completion of project ie: approximately \$300 equipment and organization for event. Interest expressed. Dave will obtain details.

Ed VE4YU advised field day will be in the same location next year and the Falcon Lake Resort has been reserved again. Ed VE4YU encouraged WARC form Special Interest Groups as a means of keeping the varied interests together in one group.

Renewal of Membership prize to be drawn at the fall Flea Market. Details in the October Newscaster and at the October WARC meeting.

Dave VE4DAR thanked the 1994/95 executive for their efforts.

Barrett VE4ABA handed the running of the club to the 1995/96 executive.

Meeting adjourned at 20:31

Raffle prize: chest of drawers won by Otto VE4 OKP  
Door Prize: Shop Vac won by Arch VE4AA

## **PAINLESS PROJECT BOARDS**

**By Tom, VE4AKI**

If you are hesitating to undertake homebrewing some projects because of reluctance to produce the printed circuit board the following technique may be of interest to you.

This method of making boards was developed from an idea I got from an old 73 magazine from the early 70's. A product called Circuit -Stik, consisting of various P.C. board elements that could be applied to perforated board, were available for making your own P.C. type boards. Easy to apply, modify or repair this method looked attractive but alas this product is no longer available. One day I came across some self adhesive copper tape used in making stained glass and had a flashback to the ad in that old 73 magazine. Could this copper tape be used in the same way? A brief experiment on some old perf board scraps showed a lot of promise. I tried it on a small board for a battery charger and was very pleased with the results. The following is a brief description of the process.

The basic rules of P.C. board design are applicable with this technique. My first step is to make a not to scale preliminary layout using the schematic. Remember to keep inputs and outputs separate and make all external connections to the board near the edge where possible. Sometimes several attempts are necessary before you arrive at a layout which you think will work.

The next step is to redo this layout at full scale. This is the most critical step. A few guidelines are:

- 1] use graph paper with .100 inch spacing.
- 2] have all the components on hand and measure the spacing carefully.
- 3] don't forget mounting holes for components and for mounting the board itself.

The copper tape I use is 1/4" wide but it can be trimmed down to as narrow as 1/16" as it is applied. Pick a convenient starting point on your preliminary layout and redraw to full scale. Don't worry about the outside dimensions of the board at this time unless you are very restricted in size. I suggest you not try to squeeze the components any closer than you need. I like to keep all the runs following a rectangular format ie. following the lines of holes in the perfboard, and make the components run parallel with the edges of the board. This makes the layout easier to follow and the product looks better too. Study other board layouts in the magazines to get ideas of how the traces can be laid out.

Proceed from your starting point until you have all the runs laid out with their actual widths. When you have a "preliminary " final layout [to scale] go over it again to make sure you have not made any mistakes or forgotten any components. I often use a highlighter pen at this point as I check the layout to identify the traces clearly. The last step in making the layout is to mark the mounting holes and any other holes necessary for mounting components. Double check that you have left sufficient clearance at this point as an error here will have disastrous results. You can now draw in the perimeter of the board. Check that this size of board will fit your project. If all is OK at this stage you can proceed to making the actual board.

Perf board is the easiest to use but any thin rigid board that can withstand the heat of soldering could be used. I have made very small boards from old PC boards with the traces removed but this is a lot of extra work and doesn't look as good. I prefer to cut the perfboard to size and drill all holes before applying the copper tape. I also like to draw in [using a soft pencil ] the outline of all heatsinks , transformers etc. so I can avoid them as necessary.

Now you can start laying down the runs of copper tape. Only simple tools are necessary for this process. They are: 1] an Exacto knife with a thin pointed blade [ make sure it's sharp]. 2] a 6" steel rule or metal straight edge to cut against. 3] a small pair of scissors to cut the tape off the roll. 4] a needle for punching holes in the tape for component leads. A comfortable table with a firm surface and good lighting make this stage less fatiguing. By either measuring the scale layout or following the rows of holes [or both] start applying the tape. Press it firmly down on the board and trim it to size using the steel rule and knife. Overlap joints by at least the width of the tape. Cut each run to the correct width and length. If you are careful and have a steady hand you can create runs that are narrow and close together. If you make a mistake simply peel off the tape and lay down another. I find it convenient to perforate the tape for the component leads as I go along using a large needle and punching from the tape side.

This stage is not particularly difficult but requires concentration and can be tiring. Mistakes happen when you are tired so take breaks as necessary and check frequently as you go along. When you have all the traces laid out check the complete board over and make sure it is identical to your scale layout. If everything checks out you can proceed to the last step in this method. Even though the overlapped joints seem to be conductive I carefully solder the seams of the joints over using rosin core solder and a small soldering pencil. Watch that you don't fill any component lead holes in or

create any solder bridges. Keep heat to a minimum as too much will cause the tape to lift. Should this happen and a trace is damaged it can be repaired easily. Good soldering techniques are important here as well as installing the components on the board.

Your board is now complete and ready for "stuffing". Again, be careful and don't apply too much heat. Make sure all diodes and polarized components are installed correctly. Once the board is stuffed you can proceed to installing the board and completing the project.

This method of making project boards is not perfect but I have had good success with it. It has the following advantages:

- 1] inexpensive
- 2] convenient
- 3] easy to repair or modify
- 4] fabrication time about the same as conventional methods
- 5] cross-over are possible using Mylar tape as an insulator.

There are disadvantages though, the traces are somewhat more sensitive to excessive heat and making many narrow, close spaced runs is difficult. I believe it excels for simple boards for projects such as power supplies, battery chargers audio circuits, and even QRP transmitters.

So next time you are discouraged about a project because of the lack of availability of a P.C. board give this technique some consideration.

### **W.A.R.C. Flea Market** **by Jim VE4AJR**

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Hello there one and all, It's Fall flea market time once again and plans are in progress for the semi annual event. WARC is holding the fall flea market on October 22 (that is a Sunday for all you sleepy heads) at Waverly Heights Community Club, located at 1885 Chancellor Drive. For those of you who don't know where that is; Chancellor Drive runs off of Pembina Highway near the Canadian Tire store. Doors open at 10:00 AM for the public. Admission will be \$1.00 to everyone. We will be operating a canteen with coffee, drinks, donuts and hot dogs so we will be needing some volunteers. We also need volunteers for the door and to sell draw tickets. Volunteers please contact Jim Ross (VE4AJR) 256 6366. We only have thirty tables available and some are already gone so if you want one, first come first served. Tables are \$5.00 to members of WARC, MRS, and Seniors and \$10.00 to

non members. For table bookings contact Jim Ross VE4AJR or on PACKET at VE4KV. All help with planning, suggestions and staffing of the hall will be greatly appreciated.

### **Product Review - MFJ FlexiDucks:** **by Alexander, VE4APN**

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Last Wednesday, August 13, 1995, I took a jab at testing the new MFJ 1717 144/440 FlexiDuck against a Diamond RH 77C 144/440 flexible antenna. In the process I also compared the MFJ 1716 dual band FlexiDuck, a replacement antenna for stock ducks supplied with handy talkies. With the co-operation of Mike VE4TCH and with Larry VE4CPU observing we tuned our HTs to the same trunking frequency (VE4RY's "Hints and Kinks") to test received signal strength. Using two radios in a fixed position for comparison - Yaesu 530 and Kenwood TH26AT - we checked the S scale readings \* with ducks supplied with each radio by the manufacturer. Both radios were consistent at 4 squares. When the RH 77C was installed both radios gave full scale readings however the Diamond tended to waver back and forth a couple of squares. When the MFJ was put on, it a solid full scale reading. The wavering with the RH 77C could be due to slight difference in overall length of the two ducks. MFJ 1717 is 15 1/4 inches long and the Diamond RH 77C is 15 inches long. The results with the shorter MFJ 1716 FlexiDuck were also consistent, both radios read six squares. The long MFJ 1717 FlexiDuck appears to be at least equal in performance with the Diamond RH 77C. Clearly the receiving performance of both the long and short MFJ FlexiDucks is superior to stock antennas supplied with the Yaesu and Kenwood HTs and a bargain to boot.

\* S scale readings are relative, theoretically 6db gain or loss between squares according to VE4RY. What ever it means hi,hi :->

### **Proof Bill Gates is the Devil** **retrieved from packet by Chris, VE4SET**

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*Author: Arunsalam Yogeswaran at HQ3*

It is kind of a recurring theme around here--Bill Gates is an enemy to mankind. I do not hold such beliefs personally, but it is amusing to see how much effort some folks go to support their belief.

#### **Proof that Bill Gates is the Devil:**

The real name of "the" Bill Gates is William Henry Gates III. Nowadays he is known as Bill Gates (III), where "III" means the order of third (3rd.)

By converting the letters of his current name to the ASCII-values and adding his (III), you get the following:

B 66  
I 73  
L 76  
L 76  
G 71  
A 65  
T 84  
E 69  
S 83  
+ 3

666

### WARC Members renewing RAC membership

Please ensure that you quote WIN102 when renewing or beginning your RAC membership. The Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club receives a commission from RAC each time a member uses WIN102.

Some might ask, "How did Bill Gates get so powerful?" Coincidence? Or just the beginning of mankind's ultimate and total enslavement???. Before you decide, consider the following:

#### MS - DOS 6.21

77+83+45+68+79+83+32+54+46+50+49 = 666

#### WINDOWS 95

87+73+78+68+79+87+83+57+53+1 = 666

Coincidence? You decide...

### MARMFEST DRAW WINNERS by Ruth, VE4FG

Hello to all, Hope you had a great time at the Austin MARMFEST. The winners of the MARM Fundraiser Draw are as follows:

First Prize .. Blaine Angers, Prawda, MB.

Second Prize .. Hill Taylor, VE4TP, Winnipeg, MB.

Third Prize .. Norm Derworiz, VE4NG, Winnipeg, MB.

This information was supplied to me by Dave, VE4XN. Maybe the rest of us will win next time.

### Local Held Messages on Packet by Doug, VE4KV

I'm testing a new hold feature for locally generated messages. If you send a bulletin, it will be hidden until I can check and release it. Don't panic if it seems to

disappear once you send it. No, you will not be able to read what you sent until I clear it.

### RAC NEWS BULLETIN INTERNET EDITION - 21 September 1995 Issued at RAC Administrative Office

#### STATE OF RAC

Over the summer, the President of RAC was on a tour of Atlantic Canada (I know it was not the Maritimes because he also went to Newfoundland!). At each stop, Moncton, Halifax and St. John's, VE7RD discussed the state of amateur radio in Canada and more specifically how well RAC is doing in a new world.

Since 1992, there has been an increase of 35% in the number of licensees in Canada. Unfortunately this rapid increase has not translated in a similar increase in the membership of RAC. RAC is still expected to look after the interests of all the hams in Canada, but does not have the funds necessary to do so. Only 18% of the total Amateur operators in Canada belong to RAC.

This situation may become a very interesting one if Industry Canada "devolves" many of its responsibilities to RAC. Some excerpts of the speech given in Atlantic Canada are food for thought, not only for the present RAC members, but for ALL the ham operators in Canada.

"...Times are changing! The highly competitive global telecommunications economy is flourishing and expanding so rapidly, and it is so complex that one cannot keep up with its demands. Capital investments in the billions of dollars are creating huge markets for the Cellular Radio, Personal communications Systems, and other wireless technologies, satellite services, and links to the information highway, all use the radio spectrum. We Amateurs currently use a large chunk of that spectrum. Our bands are extremely valuable assets in a world in which the spectrum is limited and crowded. To top it off another challenge confronts us.

We can no longer count on Government to be our mentor. The days are gone when the officials and inspectors were amateurs themselves and took a special interest in amateur radio. While many officials are helpful, we are essentially on our own now.

Government budgets are cut, department officials and staff are forced to focus on new and increasingly complex spectrum management issues..."

If we want RAC to keep on representing all the Amateur operators in Canada, it will become essential to recruit new members and simultaneously increase the

annual fees. In some countries the fees are now over \$100; we are getting a bargain!

RAC's revenues are now \$346,000 and the expenses are \$350,000. That is, in my view, tight budgeting! There is no comparison with the ARRL where the budget is in the millions and the size of full time staff is one hundred times greater than the present full time staff at RAC Headquarters.

Get out there and beat the bushes, "voluntarily coerce" new members to join RAC, and do not put your renewal notice at the bottom of the accounts payable pile.

*(ED. For more info on RAC please contact the Regional Director - Dave, VE4EF)*

### **SALTY ANTENNA!**

When I read about this antenna in "The Racoon Times" from Iroquois, ON, I was thinking that it was the April issue. NO! It was a real story. The article was written by Gord, VE3UGW, and describes how to build a broadband 2 metre ground plane antenna by filling a piece of radiator hose with a saturated salt solution. Experimentation is not dead! Do NOT contact the editor for more info, write to VE3UGW for the real story...

### **QRP RECORD!**

Last December 26, a new QRP record on 7.050 MHz was set by AA4XX and KA3WTF. AA4XX was able to communicate over a distance of 424 miles using 221 microwatts of power. The antenna was a three-wire beam. The miles per gallon, sorry miles per watt, were calculated to be 1,900,000 per watt. Who says you need 500 Kw and a 25 Db antenna to communicate! (QST Sept/95)

### **UPCOMING IN TCA**

The cover story of the October issue of The Canadian Amateur features an article on Canadian Amateurs involved with the MSAT satellite - a breakthrough in mobile communications.

There is also a sunspot cycle update. With indications that we are nearing the end of the current cycle, improved HF propagation may be on the horizon. An article explaining intermod interference, plans for a simple, effective, Dxpediton or portable HF antenna, a progress report on the new International Amateur Radio Permit, an announcement of elections for three RAC Directors, a Field Day scrapbook, a list of famous hams, and a list of ways to tell when it is time to retire from Amateur Radio, are also included in the October 1995 TCA.

All this plus, letters, Silent Keys, regular columns, DX and contest reports, HF propagation forecasts, special event stations, packet radio, Club News, YL News, QUA, ARES, Public Service, Section News, This Month in History, bench and homebrewing tips,

antenna design, shortwave listening, coming events and the Swap Shop - all in the October issue of The Canadian Amateur, coming to your mailbox soon.

### **E-MAIL AND PACKET EDITOR**

Steve Cutway VE3GRS. If you would like to receive this bulletin via E-mail send your request to: <cutways@quecdn.queensu.ca>

### **Internet News Relayed by Paula, VE4MHZ**

#### **JUN'S Electronics is Now on the Internet !**

The URL is; <http://www.juns.com/radio>

You are encourage to use the "Guest Log" feature as Jun's will be offering specials for the Internet users who have logged into the Guest Log with their Email address.

Note: by entering an Email address, the user's address will only be used for Jun's internal use. The Email address WILL NOT be given to any other organization or group. The Email address information will become a database for future announcements of Jun's Electronic Home Pages and promotions.

*(ED. This page has been added the VE4 CallSign Area home page under manufacturers & vendors at <http://www.freenet.mb.ca/iphome/a/amradio/index.html> )*

### **CLIMB ABOARD FOR THE 1996 DAYTON HAMVENTION!** by Ed VE4YU

Have you ever been to the spectacular DAYTON HAMVENTION or if so, would you like to go again in MAY 1996?

The Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club is investigating the possibility of chartering a bus to go to Dayton next year. If the response and support is out there we will organize the trip and accommodations at a very reasonable price. We must have at least 35 people who will be willing to commit themselves with a deposit of approximately one half the cost by December 1995. The main reason is that lodging is at a premium, especially for large groups, since about 35,000 hams attend the event. If you haven't reserved a room by January you will have a problem.

Great places to visit are the Indianapolis Speedway and the Air Force Museum (nearly 300 aircraft and rockets - over 200 inside!) and the home and workshop of the Wright brothers.

### Proposed schedule for the 1100 mile trip would be:

- %Departure from Winnipeg Wednesday May 15 at about 4pm
- %Arrival in Indianapolis or Dayton Thursday May 16 at about noon
- %Thursday night in a motel in either Indianapolis, Indiana or Dayton, Ohio
- %The Hamvention officially starts at Noon on Friday so this allows you to
- %Be fully rested for a busy weekend! Event closes at about 4PM Sunday.
- %Two nights in a downtown Dayton motel (near the banquet sites)
- %Departure from Dayton ..... May 19 at about 5PM
- %Arrival in Winnipeg ..... May 20 at about 1PM

### Here is a rough idea of the cost in Canadian dollars:

- %Bus & driver charges about \$185.00 per person (38 people)
- %3 nights accommodation (2 per room) about \$ 330.00 (2 persons) or \$165.00 each
- %General admission is about \$15 US or \$21 CAN
- %Grand banquet or DX banquet are about \$25 US/\$35 CAN each
- %Food (guessed at \$25.00 per day for 5 days) would be about \$125.00
- %Total cost (except for purchases should be about \$550.00 Canadian

If you are interested in this trip let me know by Nov 13 (WARC meeting) so we can determine if enough interest is shown. Be prepared to have a deposit of \$175.00 ready to guarantee your seat. Contact Ed VE4YU at 694-0667 or via packet VE4YU@VE4KV

### The Patient Who Couldn't Speak by Dennis W. Ross, M.D.

*(extracted from The Saturday Evening post Sep/Oct, 92)*

Years ago, I was one of a group of medical students on a neurology ward at the Veterans Administration Hospital in San Francisco. While at the bedside of one patient, half listening to the professor drone on about a rare neurologic syndrome, I distinctly heard someone call for help. Looking around I could see no one calling and none of my colleagues seemed to have heard anything. A minute later I heard it again, and this time found the source. A patient across the room was sending Morse Code with a spoon on the

bedside table. I walked over to this patient. The nurse told me that he was aphasic (unable to speak) because of a stroke four days earlier. I started sending code to him with the spoon, in a rush he poured out his storey to me, at first sending to fast for me to follow.

Harry was retires from the Merchant marine, now living in a old sailors' home "on the beach" in San Fransisco. He was a large man who looked older than his reported age of 69. He didn't have the weather-beaten look one imagines in old sailors. He explained to me that this was because he'd always been a radio operator, inside a small, dark room away from the elements. He told me that since his stroke, he's felt as if he were trapped in the radio room with the door locked from the outside. The receiver was still working, but the transmitter was broken. He couldn't talk back to anyone. He'd given up hope of being "rescued." Paralysis of his right side prevented him writing any messages.

I brought to the hospital an old Vibroplex Sidewinder telegraph key, which was Harry's favourite for sending Morse code Harry had spent a good part of

Only the young medical student could hear & understand the old sailor's call for help.

on oceangoing freighters as a radiotelegraph operator. He told me a story of something that had happened at sea several days before the attack on Pearl Harbour. harry surmised that there was a large number of Japanese ships in the Pacific. His merchant vessel wasn't far from the Japanese fleet and heard the low-power radio exchanges between large numbers of vessels using the variant Morse code of the Japanese. He tried to inform West Coast and Hawaiian naval authorities of the impending attack. Harry proudly displayed a book one of his friends had brought from the old sailors' home that told this storey.

Daily visits by the medical staff amused Harry and me because for a while we became the centre of attention. A group of doctors would surround his bed and watch me write down Harry's Morse code messages to the outside world. As time passed, however, there was little change in Harry's neurologic deficit. and like all things., the novelty wore off. harry never regained his ability to speak, but he was verbose in Morse code for all the days I was able to follow him.

While Harry as in the hospital, I got to know him much better than any other patient on the neurology service. years later I remember his stories, when I've forgotten everyone else on that ward. Ironically, this patient was classified as "unable to communicate" and considered a special problem for nursing -care placement. I don't think aphasia was a serious problem for Harry. he was accustomed to many nights at sea,



talking via Morse code to his friends on other ships and ports around the world. I believe Harry and I communicated better in Morse code than we would have by voice. I knew his medical history more thoroughly than if I had interviewed him the conventional way. Even though Harry could hear without a problem, I began speaking to him only in Morse code. It seemed more appropriate and gave a private and personal nature to our conversations, not to possible when talking on a large, open ward.

The other doctors and the nurses who couldn't understand Morse code treated Harry as if he were deaf or spoke a foreign language. I'd been taught that aphasic stroke don't limit a person's hearing. Despite proof of that in Harry, people would tell me a question to ask of my patient. Then they'd be surprised when he started sending his answer in Morse code before I had sent any code myself.

"He'd been tapping away with a spoon for days, even though he given up hope of being rescued."

#### Communication on a Different Level

There's a special nature to communications via Morse code. At night when I wear headphones and listen to code over the shortwave radio (usually with my eyes closed), I feel that I'm communicating without talking or hearing voices. After a long day of talking to people and hearing many voices, it's a pleasant feeling. An hour or so after I put on the headphones and Morse fills my ears, I have the feeling that I'm using a more primitive part of my brain. The message seems to come to me in a whisper or even to represent something I'm remembering rather than hearing. I no longer formulate what I want to say and then translate it into code for my fingers to send. The thoughts just come out. The syntax of my message changes and doesn't resemble transcribed speech. I'm not sure where the speech comes from when I enter this relaxed state of communication. It doesn't feel like it's coming from the conventional speech centers in the left temporal lobe of the brain.

I'd like to be able to give a telegraph key to the captain in Jack London's novel *Seawolf*. In the final pages, the captain is shipwrecked and marooned on a distant shore. He also suffers progressive neurologic collapse. As the captain's sensory functions shut down one by one, I'd like to see if he could still communicate in Morse code.

Talking via shortwave radio blinds both parties to the cues that go with face-to-face communications. The radio makes the other person invisible; the code takes away accents and conventional patterns of speech. The listener can't judge whether the other person is well-dressed or well-educated before the

conversation starts, as we so often do in conventional communications. Radio also places the other party of the conversation at a distance. The psychological space that surrounds us isn't invaded by the person on the other end of the conversation. I read of a medical student who had much more meaningful conversations with her pathology professor via ham radio and Morse code at night than during the day-time teaching sessions. This doesn't surprise me. Morse code is a social equalizer and a more intimate way of talking.

Radio conversations in Morse code differ from spoken communication in that you can't be interrupted, unless you're using full break-in, as do skillful traffic handlers. Normally, your part of the conversation doesn't end until you throw the switch. Only then can the other person speak, and he can't be interrupted until he passes the communication back to you. Morse communications are succinct.

Written and spoken language is more formal and structured than the abbreviations used in Morse code.

Morse code may be declining as a means of communication. Exchanges of computer-generated code may soon replace manually sent dots and dashes pounded out by a well-rounded fist balanced atop the plastic knob of the telegraph key. My experience with Harry makes me think about how little we know about the nature of human communications.

### Burglar Alarm Group Purchase By Gary, VE4YH

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