



# MIDWEST NEWSLETTER

April 2008

## From the Clubs:

**Beausejour Amateur Radio Club** ..... Contact Richard Holder - VE4QK  
Operates an APRS Node digipeater - Net frequency is at 146.505  
Net is Tuesday evenings @ 9:00 - Club meetings on second Wednesdays at RC Legion Clubrooms at 7:30 pm.

**Brandon Amateur Radio Club** ..... Contact Dave Snyder - VE4XN  
Club call VE4QD. Repeaters: VE4BDN 146.34/94 VE4TED 146.13/73 VE4HS 146.28.88  
VE4CTY 146.04/64 and 443.700/448.700  
Meetings held first Thursday monthly (except July & August) at Forbidden Flavours 1060 18th St at 7:30 pm  
Website: <http://www.brandanarc.ca>

**Dauphin Amateur Radio Club** ..... Contact Jack Adams - VE4JA  
Repeaters: VE4SRR 146.34/94 VE4BMR 147.63/03 VE4BVR 147.84/24  
VE4SHR 146.10/70 VE4LDR 146.37/97 VE4SIX 145.13/43  
Meetings held third Fridays at Union Office in Dauphin (except July & August) IRLP NODE 1700  
- EchoLink VE4BVR-R - check out <http://www.mts.net/~ve4stu> for club details.

**Eastman Amateur Radio Club** ..... Contact Doug Henry - VE4TG  
East Selkirk, MB. Club meetings first Wed of each month at 19:30 local at Gaffer's Restaurant in Lockport.  
Further information by e-mail to [ve4tg@qsl.net](mailto:ve4tg@qsl.net)

**Flin Flon Repeater Club** ..... Contact: Rod Rutherford - VE5ROD  
Club serves members in Flin Flon, MB, Creighton, SK and The pas, MB  
Three linked repeaters provide large radius of coverage. IRLP NODE 1750

**InterLake Amateur Radio Club** ..... Contact: Paul Arsenault - VE4AEY  
Repeaters: VE4TEU 145.41 VE4ARC 146.230  
Meetings each first Tuesday @ 7:30 pm - Green Acres Art Centre, Teulon, MB

**International HamFest** ..... Contact: Richard Holder - VE4QK  
Repeater: VE4IHF/WØ 146.25/85  
Hamfest is held on second weekend in July, annually, at the International Peace Garden

**LakeLand Amateur Radio Association** ..... Contact: Randy Canning - VE5QU  
Repeater: VE5IOU 146.22/82 linked to VE5LAK 146.01/61  
Meetings are held Saturdays at 9:30 am in the Cottage Country Restaurant, Christopher Lake

**Manitoba Amateur Radio Museum** ..... Contact: Dave Snyder - VE4XN  
Repeater: VE4MTR 146.31/91 Station Callsign VE4ARM see WEBSITE: <http://www.marminc.ca>  
Museum is open 9:00 am to 5:00 pm daily, from May 12 to September 30.

**Manitoba Repeater Society Inc.** ..... Contact: Ed Richardson - VE4EAR  
Check out their "Survivor Guide to 2 metres" .... a great resource for new hams!  
Semi-annual meeting is held at MARMfest. See: <http://ve4.net/mrs/> for hamfest details.

**Manitoba Satellite Interest Group** ..... Contact: Stefan Wagener - VE4NSA  
Promoting the use of Amateur Radio and satellites in education.  
See: <http://www.msig.ca>

**Meewasin Amateur Radio Society** ..... Contact: Devon Racicot - VE5DWR  
See their complete directory of Sask. Repeaters at <http://www.qsl.net/ve5ufo>

**Melfort Amateur Radio Club** ..... Contact: Bayne Opseth - VE5BKO  
Repeater: VE5MFT 146.28/88 Coffee gathering Saturday mornings at Crossroads Restaurant - 10:00 am or so  
The Melfort (VE5MFT) and Nipawin (VE5NIP) and Tisdale (VE5FXR) repeaters are now linked together.

**Moose Jaw Amateur Radio Club** ..... Contact: Brenda MacKenzie - VE5TRG  
Repeater: VE5CI 146.34/94 - This club publishes a very nice newsletter. See: <http://www.geocities.com/ve5ma/>

**Nipawin Amateur Radio Club** ..... Contact: Andrew Clark - VE5VAC  
Repeater: VE5NIP 146.19/79 (linked to) Snowdon Repeater: VE5NDR 147.09/69 and Melfort (VE5MFT) and  
Tisdale (VE5FXR)  
Club WEBSITE at <http://nipawinarc.netfirms.com>

**Regina Amateur Radio Association** ..... Contact: Bart Ritchie - VE5CPU  
Repeaters: VE5WM 146.28/88 VE5TH 147.12/72 See <http://www.gpfn.sk.ca/hobbies/rara/index.html>  
Meetings second Wednesday each month, at the Imax Board Room, Sask. Science Centre

**Sask-Alta Radio Club (Lloydminster)** ..... Contact: Bill Till - VE5FN  
Repeaters: VE5RI 146.34/94 & VE5YLL 144.69/145.29 IRLP NODE VE6YLL - 1480 linked to VE5RI  
Club WEBSITE at <http://www.lloydminster.org/sarc>

**Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club (since 1931)** ..... Contact: Ron Sather - VE5RMS  
Repeaters: VE5SK 146.04/64 & APRS digipeater 144.390 simplex  
Meetings second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm - Alvin Buckwold School  
The club co-sponsored Saskatchewan's Centennial Hamfest in July 2005 see: <http://www.qsl.net/ve5aa/>

**Selkirk Amateur Radio Club <> Triple S Communications Group** ..... Contact: Bill Bowman - VE4UB  
Repeaters: VE4MBR 147.06/66 T3A & 443.000 T3A and 147.570 simplex T3A  
The VHF repeater is linked to the Pinetree Intertie & Manitoba Repeater Society  
Club Website is at <http://www.ve4sss.ca> and meetings are sporadic.

**Swift Current Amateur Radio Club** ..... Contact: Ray Gowan - VE5XRA  
Repeaters: VE5SCC 146.28/88 VE5SCR 146.19.79 VE5TOM 146.07/67

**Weyburn Amateur Radio Club** ..... Contact: Brian Pegg - VE5BNE  
Repeater: VE5WEY 146.10/70 - Breakfast meetings Saturdays, 8:30 am - MainTrack Restaurant

**Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club** ..... Contact: The President  
c/o Wpg. Senior Citizens' Radio Club - 589 St. Mary's Road - 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor - Winnipeg - R2M 3L5  
[ve4bb@rac.ca](mailto:ve4bb@rac.ca) See WEBSITE <http://www.mts.net/~warc/>

**Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club VE4WSC Inc.** ..... Contact: Gil Frederick - VE4AG  
598 St. Mary's Rd - Winnipeg - R2M 3L5 - open Mon - Fri 9:00 - 3:00 e-mail: [ve4wsc@mts.net](mailto:ve4wsc@mts.net)  
Check out the WEBSITE at <http://www.mts.net/~ve4wsc>

Please note that the **RAC Events Page** <http://rac.eton.ca/events/> has been updated by webmaster Neil Herber VE3PUE. It looks much better, now, and is very easy to use. Let Neil know if you have an event that you would like to include.

**RAC's Board of Directors' Meeting** was held at Cornwall, ON from May 1 - 4, following the CARAB meeting with Industry Canada which took place in Ottawa on May 1. I will give you some of the highlights from both of these events:

RAC's new **VP of Technical & Administrative Affairs**, Jim Hay (VE2VE) has been doing a lot of work to improve the RAC WEBSITE and the E-mail reflector. There are currently 9819 E-mail aliases and the site itself gets nearly 2000 hits per day. It currently provides about 100x the bandwidth capacity that it had previously.

**From Industry Canada's current statistics:**

- 57077 individual Amateurs in Canada (less than 125 years of age)
- 1427 clubs in Canada
- 1322 new certificates were issued
- 383 notices of deceased Amateurs were received
- 1241 exams were given by Accredited Examiners and 70 by Industry Canada
- there are 323 Accredited Examiners across Canada.

RAC complained about the inaccuracy of Industry Canada's database and was told that, for IC to respond to an SK notice, they MUST have at least an obituary. A letter from the family would be better to allow them to release the callsign back into the pool. Callsigns are currently designated to an individual for 125 years. IC maintains that there is really no way for them to improve the accuracy of their database.

So, **if you are aware of a Silent Key**, please send the information to me so that I can inform IC and be sure to include an obituary notice. They won't just take our word for it!

The **Antenna Structure** issue was discussed with IC and the short of it is that structures of 15 metres or shorter are "off the table", meaning that neither IC nor municipalities are to be concerned about them. IC was strongly reminded to make sure that their cross-Canada offices all understood this and react similarly to complaints (which have no merit) from individuals or municipalities.

The **BASIC Study Guide** will continue to be available but is being considered for replacement, which will happen within the next year.

The **Norman Estate judicial hearing** will take place on June 17, 2008. The state of RAC's finances will be better known after this is announced. Currently, RAC is in an improving state, financially, but a lot of improvement is needed. Of Canada's 56800 Amateurs, only 4945 are RAC members, representing an average of 8.7% nationally. The ARRL, for example, is at about 25% with a MUCH larger pool to work with.

RAC will be asking IC for permission to use **band space** at 135 KHz, 500 KHz and 5-5.5 MHz

I made a presentation to both Industry Canada and the Board meeting on the **Restructuring of Amateur Radio in Canada** issue. I will be making this same presentation at the Winnipeg Hamfest this summer.

**Manitoba HF Swap&Shop** Web page, run by Jim - VE4AGS - can be found at:  
<http://www.mbhswapnet.ca/index.php>

**MARMFEST** - August 15 - 16 at Austin Manitoba's Agricultural Museum which also hosts the Amateur Radio Museum. See <http://www.marminc.ca> for details.

**Peace Gardens 45<sup>th</sup> International Hamfest** - July 11, 12 & 13 at the International Peace Garden south of Brandon, MB. See <http://www.mts.net/~holderr/ihf.htm> for details.

**Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club Hamfest** - August 8, 9 & 10, 2008.

Hilton Suites - Winnipeg Airport - 1800 Wellington Avenue - Winnipeg - MB - R3H 1B2

Book tollfree at 1-800-445-8667 (mention the Winnipeg ARC for preferred rates)

See <http://www.mts.net/~warc/hamfest> for details.

This Hamfest will host the RAC Annual General Meeting as well as a RAC Forum, displays and sales table.

Several representatives from RAC will be present, both Directors and Executive

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**From: Bj. Madsen - VE5FX**

**RAC MidWest Regional Director**

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Voice: 306-873-4346

E-mail: [ve5fx@rac.ca](mailto:ve5fx@rac.ca)

**Assistant Directors:**

Adam Romanchuk - VE4SN

Derek Hay - VE4HAY

Richard Holder - VE4QK

Bill Till - VE5FN

Devon Racicot - VE5DWR

**Section Managers:**

Manitoba: Robert Boux - VE4RRB

Saskatchewan: Joan Bahnman - VE5JML