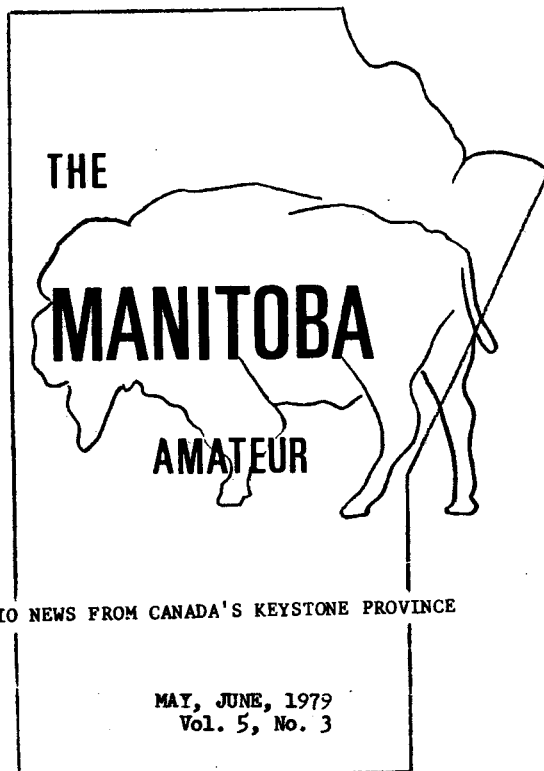


Amateur Radio League of Manitoba

Incorporated

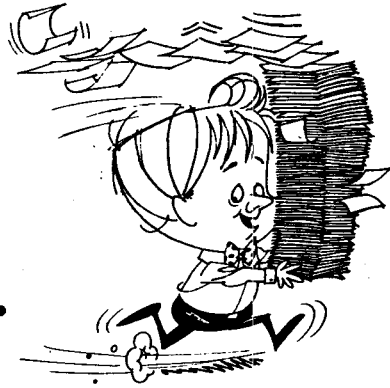


The Amateur Radio League of Manitoba Inc.

The object of the League is the advancement of Amateur Radio within the Province of Manitoba, Canada, by such means as may be appropriate, including the holding of conferences, exhibitions, hamfests, contests and the making of representations of behalf of the League and its members to government or other authorities, groups or individuals.



Editorial.



SYMPOSIUM BEARS FRUIT.

The worth of the now annual meetings between the DOC and CARF is now beginning to prove itself. The DOC is now about to publish in the Canada Gazette some of the suggested changes that came about as a result of the Symposium held in Calgary last Fall and which I attended. Interested parties have some 60 days to comment on the proposals. A number of the suggested changes to the regulations are only housekeeping in nature and merely reflect updating in equipment such as recognizing in the regs that modern rigs have built-in metering devices. Amateur class operators would be permitted access to another band, 160 meters and FSK teletype operation would be permitted on that band. As recommended in this column several months ago, the DOC has agreed to expand the 40 metre phone band to include 7050 and 7100 kHz, in addition to the present allocation of 7150 to 7300 kHz. It is difficult to see why anyone would oppose any these proposals. More importantly, however, is the recognition this gives to the vehicle of the Symposium. Never before have Amateurs ever had such access to DOC to let them take the actual pulse of the Amateur Radio fraternity. It also means that as these Symposiums become more and more important to Amateur Radio and its influence with DOC the more prepared are our delegates going to have to be. For example, might some club try to launch a policy in Canada, and if it sent enough delegates might be in control of the Symposium. This is a real danger for the Symposium is dominated by delegates from the area the Symposium is being held in. However, if our delegate(s) are well prepared on the issues, it may be possible for our opinion to be heard. Imagine now how foolish those look who are opposed to CARF. They can still try to defeat CARF (and their fellow amateurs) by opposing their wishes with a brief sent to DOC in the next 60 days. This may or may not be too late, but like the ostrich who sticks his head in the sand, to say that CARF does not exist, and that the Symposiums are useless, here is concrete proof to the opposite. You only harm yourselves when you ignore this important avenue to DOC. We must continue to attend, and we must be prepared to put forward the views of the majority of Manitoba hams since DOC are obviously listening. The 1979 Symposium it has been decided will be held in Quebec under the auspices of RAQI. The following year, 1980, the Symposium will likely be held in the West again, and ARIM will be in the front running to host this prestigious affair. Let us hope when the time comes that we are prepared to approach it with a very positive frame of mind. Direct action is now being taken as a result of one Symposium. What should be taken up with DOC this year. Suggestions from clubs and individuals for topics to be included in the agenda should be sent to CARF no later than the end of June. CARF has suggested a few just to get things going such as Antenna regs. (municipalities vs. DOC on antenna height), having minimum susceptibility standards for manufacturers in the case of RFI, more on packet radio regs., and improvement of exams and training, etc. Depending on your response now, plus that of our club, we may see one year from now, similar proposals to the above being put into law. This is serious business, and those of you who thought CARF was a joke and the Symposiums a tea party had better start laughing out of the other side of your face.

73, Malcolm, VE4MI, Editor.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

by Noel, VE4CF.

By now, nobody needs another reminder that the tragic Red River flood of 1979 has occurred; however, as has happened in so many similar instances, so many examples of good citizenship and unselfish humanitarianism emerge, that my faith in the friendliness and consideration of Manitobans is once more confirmed. The best example was the real and immediate response of VEs to the need for a complete and timely communication network to be set up in support of the Emergency Measures Organization (EMO). With the marvellous coverage afforded to the stricken area by the two Winnipeg repeaters, ham communications quickly took their place as the only viable system able to handle a task of this enormity. Swinging quickly into action, the SEC, Brian VE4TR, ably assisted by Doug VE4JP organized a network of volunteer stations to cover areas as the need arose. In the initial phases, cars were able to take people to the towns of most critical need: Morris, Letellier, St. Jean and Emerson. As the emergency progressed, helicopters were pressed into service to position operators at the various locations after road became too hazardous. Stations were manned for 24 hour shifts by operators, many of whom had to take time off from their official employment to make themselves available. With net control stations set up initially at VE4UM and later at Fort Osborne Barracks, the main emergency headquarters, as VE4BB a solid like was maintained with the affected region. Winnipeg's "ragchew" repeater VE4MAN gave a little trouble during the period and lowered the flexibility of the network a little, but WFG, under good control, really filled the bill for passing messages. Common sense operator skill in using simplex for point to point traffic reduced the load on WFG to some degree, and monitoring of 80 metres helped in its own way. The co-operation of stations in using the net control station properly was the key to success of the operation. There are certainly many lessons which have been learned even this far by the energy and dedication of VEs. It is clear that the need for an efficient communications network for emergency situations is vital. It is clear that EMO did not possess that mean by itself. In my humble opinion, Citizen's Band (GRS) did not have the operator experience, the training or the equipment to handle a requirement of this kind. The military networks appeared to be fully committed to assisting their own personnel, their helicopter movements and logistic support. The equipment supplied by amateurs in an unselfish way for the use of any amateur was certainly one of the high points of the operation. Even the most expensive 2 meter gear was willingly left in position for the good of the operation. Too many of our fellow Manitoba hams donated their precious time and equipment to be easily mentioned here. I'm sure there will be better written tributes to these people who deserve the greatest of compliments; however, there are just a couple of things we must never forget. A great deal of initiative was asserted by the ham community to get this show on the road. A lot of people stuck their neck out to get in there and "get it done." Let's pledge ourselves to support this type of activity by the active assistance of your SEC. We may be able to do very little about the losses sustained by the residents of the Valley, including our SCM VE4PG, but at least we can commit ourselves to provide the same support as willingly for any future emergency. Well done Manitoba hams. 73.

EDITOR STEPS DOWN.

Due to more duties from my employer I can no longer edit the MANAM. I would like to thank all those who over the past years have sat down and taken their time to send me some news item. It has been very much appreciated. Where would we be without our regular contributors? I hope that you all will continue to support the MANAM in the future. The September issue (deadline Sept. 15) will be put out by John Bell, VE4OL, 453 Rita Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3J 2Y7.

NEWS RELEASE

CANADA DAY CONTEST.

The Canadian Amateur Radio Federation is sponsoring a new, one-day contest, called the "Canada Day Contest." Open to all Amateurs everywhere, the contest is to promote contacts with Canadian stations on all bands and to facilitate the working of Canadian stations for those Amateurs trying for the "Canadaward," which is a separate contest.

The one-day event will mark the celebration of Canada's founding on July 1, 1867. Old-timers will remember it as "Dominion Day." The period is from 0001 to 2359 UTC, July 1, 1979.

The 1.8 to 14.8 MHz bands, inclusive, may be used. Phone and CW are both counted and all entries are classes as mixed mode operation. Classes are (1) single operator, multi-band; (2) single operator, single band and (3) Multi-operator, single transmitter, multi-band.

Valid contacts are those between Canadian Amateurs and those between foreign stations and Canadians. The same stations may be worked twice on the same band. . . . once on each mode. No CW contacts are allowed in the phone bands or vice versa. Working the same station again on different bands will count.

The exchange between Canadian stations should be the usual RST plus the QSO number but in the case of VEI stations it should also include the province. All other contacts can use RST plus the QSO number. Scoring: Contacts with Canadians are worth 10 points; all other contacts are 1 point each.

Multipliers are: number of Canadian provinces or territories worked on each band on each mode; separate multipliers per band per mode with a maximum of 24--12 phone, 12 CW. Other stations count for points but not multipliers.

CW frequencies are: 1810, 3525, 7025 KHz and 14.025, 21.025, 28.025, 50.1 and 144.1 MHz. Phone frequencies are 1810, 3770, 3900, 7230 KHz; 14.15, 14.3, 21.2, 21.4, 28.4, 28.6, 50.1 and 146.52 MHz. Suggested time for phone activity is on the even hour, UTC and for CW, the odd hours.

Send all logs, including dupe sheets and list of multipliers to CARF CANADA DAY CONTEST, Box 76752, Vancouver, B. C. V5R 5S7.

The CARF CANADA DAY CONTEST trophy will go to the high scoring single operator entry. Certificates will go to high score in each category in each Canadian province or territory, U.S. call sign areas and each country. Second and third place certificates will be awarded if scores are close.

(Credit: CARF News Service).

FIFTH ANNUAL ONTARIO HAMFEST.

The Fifth Annual Ontario Hamfest will be held in the Fairgrounds at Milton, Ontario. There will be the usual ham attractions, such as mammoth flea market, extensive commercial displays, demonstrations of more exotic amateur communication modes, free draws for prizes hourly from 11 a.m. with registration ticket and many other attractions.

For the IYL and Harmonics an improved and extended program is in the planning stage and probably will include microwave cooking demonstration, craft show and displays. For the harmonics, pony rides, comic book exchange and games. Of course, there will be the African Lion Safari Trip that they may wish to take. Then there is the Saturday Night Hootenany.

Talk-in stations are VE3RSB 147.810 in 147.210 out and VE3DBW 146.160 in 146.760 out and 146.520 Simplex.

Registration is \$2.50 with dinner Saturday at \$3.50. Registration after June 15 will be \$3.50. Make all cheques or money orders payable to Ontario Hamfest '79. Tickets on the super prize, a Yaesu FT101Z valued at \$1,350.00, can also be ordered at \$2.00 each. Write to Box 836 Burlington, Ontario L7R 3Y7. (Credit: Hamilton Amateur.)

ARLM NEWS

this month

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING OF ARIM.

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive Officers of the Amateur Radio League of Manitoba, held at 411 Talbot Avenue, Winnipeg, on Sunday 25 March 1979.

The meeting opened at 2:00 p.m. with the following present: R. Crull, Secretary, VE4RS; L. Herrington, Treasurer, VE4QL; M. Timlick, Editor, VE4MG; S. Chisholm, Publications, VE4AI; T. Mills, Licence Plates, VE4SE. Apologies were received from Noel Funge 4CF, President, who was out of town.

CARF Symposium-A letter from CARF requesting organizations to sponsor the next DOC/CARF Symposium was discussed. Satisfaction was expressed in the purpose and results achieved in past Symposiums, but it was appreciated that a considerable amount of organization was needed. It was agreed that WARC should be invited to join with ARIM as joint sponsors if held in Winnipeg. (It was also suggested that BARC be invited to hold it in Brandon if WARC refused to participate. note.) The last meeting being held in 1978 in Western Canada, it was recommended that 1979 be the year for Eastern Canada, and that future years be planned on this alternate basis if possible. ARIM will, therefore, offer to host the 1980 Symposium. The Secretary to advise CARF accordingly.

Advertising-The cost, per page, for commercial advertisements was discussed. Since our last AGM, when this matter was raised, no conclusive information has been obtained. Roly, 4RS, has been approached by Krater Electronics for 4 pages. This can be supplied by the company (already printed-ed. note) and inserted as a centre-fold, for one issue only on a trial basis. The weight must be considered if it places the MANAM over 2 oz. (an increase from 15¢ to 24¢) for a total mailing increase of \$27! It was agreed that a charge of \$32 (\$8 per page) be quoted to Krater Electronics, but emphasis be placed on this being a special rate.

The MANAM-Malcolm, 4MG, gave notice that he anticipated a change in responsibility that would force him to resign from the position of Editor. He promised to see the May issue produced, but we should prepare for a new editor for September.

Constitution-The nomination and election of officers each year having been a continuing concern, Len, 4QL, gave notice of motion that he would move amendment of para 8.2 of the Constitution whereby Directors may remain in office until a successor has been duly nominated, and elected in his stead.

Next AGM-Following discussion of possible dates it was agreed that a Sunday in early October (7th?) be arranged for this year's AGM.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

to the EDITOR

Box 8371
The Clearwater Postal Station
Fort McMurray, Alberta

Just a few words to let you know that I have moved to Fort McMurray, Alberta. Would appreciate you sending my mail to enclosed address.

It has been a great pleasure for me to have lived in Manitoba for 12 years, and I leave many friends, but have a great many memories especially the acquisition of my Amateur call through the help of VE4YY, VE4YK now VE3GWO, and VE4YG of Thompson.

I am active on 20 m CW and perhaps will be fortunate enough to meet you down the log.

Yours
Lorne Babcock, ex-VE4IM, now VE6BAQ

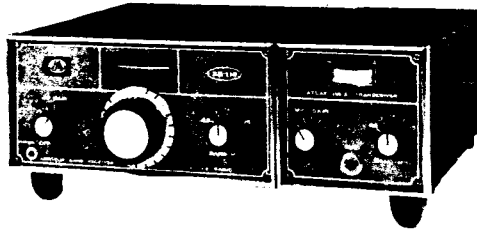
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OHM IN THE RIG (with apologies to "Home on the Range").

by Ed Andrew, WB4AKV.

Oh give me an ohm where the 'lectron does roam,
Where the volts and amperes do play.
Where seldom is code a discouraging mode,
And the hams are transmitting all day.

Refrain:

Ohm, ohm in the rig,
Where the volts and amperes do play.
Where seldom is code a discouraging mode,
And the hams are transmitting all day.

Oh give me a rig for it need not be big,
As I yak at the hams on the net.
To hear a strong voice then will be my first choice,
While I log all the calls that I get.

How often at night when the band was just right,
And the rig will glow like a big crown.
I sat at the mike for the DX I like,
But I QSOed the ham across town.

Oh tune with good care for a time on the air,
While you're carefully turning the beam,
The calls will come in and you'll have a broad grin,
Like a ham in a heavenly dream.

(Credit: ARMS via Worldradio and the Groundwave-Ottawa ARC).

INTERNATIONAL HAM FEST

AT THE INTERNATIONAL PEACE GARDEN

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL HAMFEST.

The Sixteenth International Hamfest will be hosted at the American Pavilion at the International Peace Garden, July 14-15. For the early birds, there will be pre-registration from 6-9 p.m., Friday, July 13, at the U.S. Campsite. Saturday, July 14 mobiles meet with the talk-in at 3910 KHz SSB and 146.34 - 146.94 repeater. Registration fees are as follows: \$6.00 for Hams; \$4.00 for non-Hams; Children free. On Saturday registration will be from 9-11 a.m. and 2-6 p.m. Activities for the ladies may include a micro-wave cooking demonstration and a Fashion two twenty make up demonstration. These are both tentative at the moment. At 3 p.m. the 2 meter transmitter hunt will take place. At 4 p.m. there will be a BC transmitter hunt for the kids. Also for the children there will be a black and white colouring contest divided into two age groups, ages 9 and under, and ages 10-13 years. There will, of course, be the usual eyeballs, swap tables, and prize displays. Not yet confirmed is a ham equipment display by one of the large American firms. A welcome and ham bingo, along with a party and dance with live music at 9 p.m. with free admission will round out the day's activities. On Sunday July 15 the hams arriving with mobiles will again meet the talk-in station at 3910 KHz SSB and 146.34-146.94 Repeater. At 8 a.m. for those registered there will be a free pancake breakfast. Registration will again be held from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. The 75 meter transmitter hunt will be conducted from 1-2 pm. Another BC transmitter hunt for the kids takes place at 12 noon. The black and white colouring contest will also be judged. Non-ham activities include Bingo, a scavenger hunt for the kids, and games and prizes for the kids. At 1:30 p.m. is the Q.L.F. contest (Quick Left Foot). At 3 p.m. an organizational meeting will be held at 3 pm., Ham of the Year Awards presented, the election of 1980 Hamfest Committee will take place, and there will be the draw for the major prizes. For those wanting overnight accomodation close to the Peace Garden the list is as follows: At Boissevain, Man., 15 miles from the Garden: Killarney Inn, Killarney Hotel, Erin Inn.; Lake Metogoshe, N. D., 20 miles: Turtle Mt. Lodge; Dunseith, N.D., 13 miles: Dale's Motel & Cafe,; Bottineau, N.D., 31 miles: Woods Hotel, Lovelands Lodge. The Peace Garden has no motels but offers the following restaurants: Garden View Cafe, Centennial Pavilion, N. & S. Coffee Shops.

MOBILE JUDGING INTERNATIONAL HAMFEST.

Following are the numbers of points to be gained in the mobile judging contest at the International Hamfest, at the Peace Garden. 1. Operator's License (required for eligibility) 0 points. 2. The Rig. a. Installation (is it secure in vehicle) Max. 10 pts. b. Ease of operation Max. 10 Pts. c. Homebrew Max. 20 pts. d. Fuseing Max 10 pts. Total possible in this category 50 points. 3. The antenna. a. Installation (neatness & secure) Max. 10 pts. b. Homebrew (HF & VHF) 20 & 10 pts. Max. 30 pts. c. Remote Tune. Max. 10 pts. Total possible in this category 50 points. 4. Servicing. A. VOM or VTVM. Max. 2 pts. b. Tools. Max 2 pts. c. Spare tubes, transistors IC's. Max. 2 pts. d. Other spare parts. Max. 2 pts. e. SWR & FS meter. Max. 2 pts. Total possible in this category 10 points. Total Score overall equals a possible 110 points. There will be 10 extra points given for being able to operate more than one band at one time. So get ready! Hamfest time will soon be here.

IF YOUR COVER SAYS "COMPLIMENTARY," YOUR DUES ARE DUE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!\$3.50!!!!!!!!!!!!

SOLAR MAGIC: FEBRUARY 26, 1979 - SOME OBSERVATIONS AND EXPERIMENTS BY AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS DURING THE ECLIPSE

by Wayne, VE4WR

Radio amateurs across south-central Canada and north-western U.S.A. were treated to a rare opportunity for radio propagation experiments during the solar eclipse on the morning of February 26th. As the moon passed between the Sun and the Earth, solar radiation in and above the "eclipse zone" declined dramatically. This phenomenon caused abrupt changes in the ionosphere's radio reflection levels. As the eclipse reached "totality" these reflection levels appear to have taken on unusual characteristics resulting in abnormal "skip" or radio propagation.

Magazine articles by David Lewis (QST-Jan. 79) and Perry Klein (CQ-Nov. 64) reported on observations the authors made during the July, 1963 solar eclipse. At that time I was a radio operator in the Ungava region of northern Quebec. During maximum eclipse on that occasion I noticed significant changes in radio propagation at frequencies around 5 megahertz. The articles by Klein and Lewis led me to believe that dramatic changes in propagation during a solar eclipse would occur on the lower HF frequencies (below 10 MHz.) in the radio spectrum. These changes might lead to "best-night-time" radio propagation during morning hours. It might also be possible to conduct unusual "DXing".

With interest aroused I decided to attempt a series of transmission/reception experiments. VE7DLX, Len in Kelowna, B.C., agreed to participate at the other end of a simple 2-station system. Numerous other Amateurs, operating independently, conducted similar 2-way and reception-monitoring tests. Following the eclipse many observers generously contributed verbal and written reports on their tests and this article is an attempt to summarize the results of my own and the others' experiments.

The basic objective of the tests between VE7DLX and I was to test the radio propagation between our two stations at selected times and selected frequencies before, during and after eclipse totality. The operating procedure was to follow a pre-arranged schedule of CW "keydown" and SSB voice transmissions. Each operator would log the received signal strength of the other's transmissions (using arbitrarily calibrated S-meters on Len's TS-820S and my FT-901DM). For back-up I made an audiotape recording of both sides of our contacts.

In order to test the "maximum enhancement below 10 MHz theory" we decided to attempt contacts on 1.825, 3.740 and 7.175 MHz. An additional frequency (7.085 MHz.) was added to the roster to permit DX-window possibilities free of QRM from the powerful broadcasters above 7.100 MHz. The Winnipeg office of the Department of Communications granted permission for temporary voice operation on 7.085 MHz. during the experiment. The D.O.C. also arranged to provide spectrum-analyser photographs (spectrographs) of the 0-to-10 MHz. region, taken at selected times before, during and after the eclipse. I wish to acknowledge D.O.C.'s co-operation in these experiments as a very valuable assistance.

Kelowna, B.C. is roughly 1,600 kilometres (1,000 miles) west of Winnipeg on about the same latitude (50 North). The path of the eclipse totality passed about 150 miles south of Kelowna at approximately 16:20 G.M.T. and passed over Winnipeg (my qth, VE4WR) at 16:47 GMT (10:47 AM local time). A station in the Panama Canal Zone was alerted to listen for our transmissions, providing a DX monitor far to the south of the eclipse centre line. Another station in Germany, was alerted to listen for us - providing a DX monitor on roughly the same latitude as our two stations. We chose a "calling frequency" of 14.120 MHz. in order to establish initial contact at the start of three phases of the experiment. The following is an abstract of "log" information and careful review of the audiotape:

- 15:30 GMT (9:30 AM, CST in Winnipeg)- contact established on 14.120 MHz. Propagation on this cool, late winter morning was excellent with 5x9plus signals at both ends. There was little, if any, qrm or qrn on the 20 metre band.
- 16:00 GMT - contact between VE7DLX and VE4WR attempted on both CW and LSB on 3.740, 1.825, 7.175 and 7.085 MHz. Nothing heard at either station except very faint, unreadable CW. Noise levels were relatively high on all 4 frequencies and foreign broadcasters caused strong qrm on 7.175 MHz.
- 16:21 GMT - contact established on 14.120 MHz with signal levels reduced about 12 dB and varying greatly (qsb). Eclipse totality occurs about 150 miles south of VE7DLX. Switched to 3.740 MHz at 16:31 with no contact; then 1.825 MHz at 16:35- no contact. Noise levels same as earlier. However at 16:39 GMT we made contact on 7.175 MHz and a moment later on 7.183 MHz with CW signals from VE7DLX nearly S-5 in Winnipeg. To avoid qrm we then moved to 7.085 MHz at 16:42 and achieved 2-way contact with signals roughly S-2 and qsb very pronounced. Voice contact not possible yet.
- 16:46 GMT - eclipse totality arrives in Winnipeg in 1 minute. Voice contact made on 14.120 MHz but the signal levels are greatly reduced to barely S-2(a drop of roughly 50 dB in one hour). At 16:47 tried contact on 3.740 MHz- nothing heard; and at 16:48 on 1.825 MHz- nothing heard. Background noise is now peculiar in nature and much weaker in strength. Murphy's Law intervened and the station clock at VE4WR abruptly quit. Precious moments wasted re-establishing correct, reference time on a standby clock. The pre-arranged schedule is disrupted. Contact attempted on 7.175 MHz- nothing heard.
- 16:53 GMT -VE4WR suddenly able to copy CW from VE7DLX on 7.085 MHz with signals 3x2. Abruptly at 16:55 CW from VE7DLX jumps up to S-7 or 8 with deep rapid qsb at VE4WR. By 17:03 GMT (11:03 AM CST in Winnipeg) propagation had become so enhanced that voice contact was established on 7.085 MHz with S-6 signals, which last for several minutes.
- 17:06 GMT - contact attempted on 3.740 MHz with nothing heard; on 1.825 at 17:08- nothing heard. Returned to the 40 metre band at 17:11 and made CW contact on 7.183 with signals rapidly weakening to S-3. Deep, rapid qsb was still noted and broadcasters were returning to their pre-eclipse strength. At 17:15 tried contact on 7.085 MHz but the extraordinary skip had changed and no contact was made.
- 17:22 GMT - returned to 14.120 MHz and established voice contact. The 20 metre band was still badly disrupted but starting to recover. CW key-down signals from VE7DLX were S-3 at 17:22 but rapidly recovered to S-9 by 17:25 and to 10 dB over S-9 by 17:28 GMT. Len noted the same rapid recovery, in Kelowna, of signals from me in Winnipeg. The tests were terminated at 17:30 GMT.

Allowing for a number of factors: time of day (mid-morning), time of year (late winter), location of stations (1,600 km apart, on same latitude, one station in the eclipse totality zone, the other outside), low power used (100 watts DC max.) and low gain antennas, several points bear mentioning. It was remarkable to suddenly make a contact on 40 metres, during eclipse conditions, that would probably not have occurred otherwise. It was rather disappointing that we could not establish contact on 160 metres and 75 metres. Another station, however, noted enhanced propagation on 160 metres. More on that in the band-by band summary later. With the benefit of hindsight we realize now that we should have arranged to have separate pairs of stations conduct similar tests on each band. This would have permitted more elaborate tests on each band and wasted fewer critical eclipse-minutes with band-changing, antenna-tuning and so on. It is obvious now that the eclipse had pronounced effects on ham bands above 10 MHz. Fortunately other amateurs monitored some of the higher frequencies (up to 432 MHz) and their observations support the massive disruption of the radio spectrum during this magnificent eclipse. Optical viewing of the eclipse in Winnipeg was nearly ideal and that 'event' has been amply covered elsewhere.

It is not possible to do justice to the wealth of information given to me by other amateurs after the eclipse but I'll try to touch upon the main points in the following band-by band summary which incorporates data from graphs compiled by VE4MR, spectrographs from the D.O.C., verbal reports and others.

Broadcast Band (5 to 1.6 MHz)---the eclipse had no apparent effects on short-skip reception of AM broadcasters within a few hundred miles. From about 16:30 to 17:00 GMT long-skip was greatly improved with AM stations in eastern Canada and southern U.S.A. quite 'readable' in Manitoba. This is unusual and somewhat like reception on a cold winter night.

160 Metre Band (1.8 to 2.0 MHz)---short skip between 4XQ, Oak River and 4TE in Neepawa not much affected by the eclipse. No long-skip was noted between 4MR in Winnipeg and 7DLX in Kelowna. However, NEAFP reports unusually good skip between North Dakota and Montana which permitted brief, unique qso's.

80/75 Metre Band (3.5 to 4.0 MHz)---Several stations monitored 3.765 from well before until well after the eclipse. Their 'logs' indicate a dramatic decline in propagation as the eclipse moves from west to east across Manitoba, with some signals dropping more than 60 DB. Signals start to recover after 17:00 GMT but were nearly unreadable for more than one hour before that. A beacon station, VE3JJF, located at Minaki, Ontario operated during the eclipse at 3.750 MHz with 70 watts output. VE4EG in Margaret, Manitoba noted a striking relationship between the beacon on 3.750 and WWV in Fort Collins, Colorado at 5.0 MHz. WWV started fading at 15:00 GMT from S-9 to S-2.5 by 15:30. WWV started to recover at 16:00 and returned to pre-eclipse strength by 16:30 GMT. The VE3JJF beacon started fading at 15:15 from S-9 down to S-2.5 (below noise) at 16:20 then recovered to pre-eclipse levels by 17:20 GMT. VE4QJ in Winnipeg reports the beacon dropped from S-5 at 15:40 to unreadable at 15:55; made a weak recovery at 16:40; disappeared briefly; then recovered to S-4 by 17:00 and S-8 by 17:20 GMT.

One unusual phenomenon merits further investigation on this band. VE4JP, using a monitorscope at 3.765 MHz, observed a series of six strange "pips" which appeared 2 minutes before totality and lasted until 2 minutes after totality. By 16:50 GMT as the background noise came up to the same amplitude as the pip-like signals, the pipe disappeared.

30 Metre Band (7.0 to 7.3 MHz) --- Several stations maintained an eclipse 'net' on 7.195 MHz and their observations indicate a signal peak around 13:45 with a deep, slow fade to about S-4 around 14:20 GMT followed by a prominent signal increase to S-9 or better by 15:00. This peak lasted until about 15:35 GMT (start of partial eclipse) when signals dropped at least 30 dB by 16:15 GMT. At this time the skip seemed to increase and distant W5, W6, W7, W8 and VE1 stations were heard. This correlates with the unusual contacts between VE4NR

and VE7DLI lower in the band and later into the eclipse. Two stations reported abnormally high noise levels at 7.195 MHz around the time of eclipse totality.

A concentrated effort on 40 metres in future eclipses may result in unusual, very long-range DX contacts. There seems to be an east-west favoring of such DX possibilities.

20 Metre Band (14.0 to 14.35 MHz) --- Seems to have been affected in a manner similar to 40 metres with a pronounced decrease in signal strengths of all stations around 16:50 GMT. By 17:15 signals increased strongly. Deep, rapid qsb and unusual background noise preceded eclipse totality. There were no reports of uncommonly-long skip to DX locations.

WV (at 5.0, 10.0, 15.0 MHz) --- Many stations monitored the time/frequency standards. VE4TX noted that WV at 5.0 MHz was very weak all morning but developed a noticeable flutter around 17:10 GMT. 4TX also noted that WV-10 dropped from S-30 over 9 to S-20 over 9 at 16:46 and back to S-30 over 9 at 16:54. WVVH (Hawaii on 10.0 MHz) was just readable (S-1) at 15:45 but not copied at 16:50. Reception of WV-15 and WVVH-15 underwent dramatic changes. Before the eclipse started WV-15 was quite strong (ranging around S-20 over 9) at about 15:30 GMT. WVVH was very weak. However, as eclipse totality approached, WV-15 dropped to near S-0 and WVVH-15 became readable. By 17:15 WV-15 recovered to S-5 and WVVH-15 disappeared. WV-15 returned to its pre-eclipse level by 17:30 GMT.

There is an indication that, during totality, very long-range skip may be possible to DX locations on the nearby 20 meter amateur band.

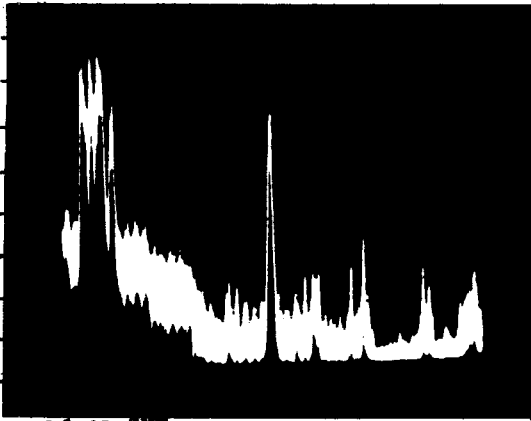
15 metre band (21.0 to 21.450) --- VE4BF noted a 16 DB increase in a received signal at 16:58 GMT indicating improved propagation on that path after totality. VE4JA in qso with New Jersey and California stations noted that at 17:20 the New Jersey signal dropped greatly in strength while the California signal remained about the same.

10 Metre Band (28.0 to 29.7 MHz) --- Reports from several stations suggest a major disruption of long-skip propagation on this band. KZ50J and K6LGL noted pronounced east-west shifts in propagation paths to the U.S.A. east coast and west coast. European stations were unusually strong in Central America during the eclipse period. The band "folded" earlier than usual on the evening of February 26th. VE4EM noted that during the eclipse totality 10 metre signals dropped into the background noise and were unreadable. No signals could be heard from locations outside Winnipeg.

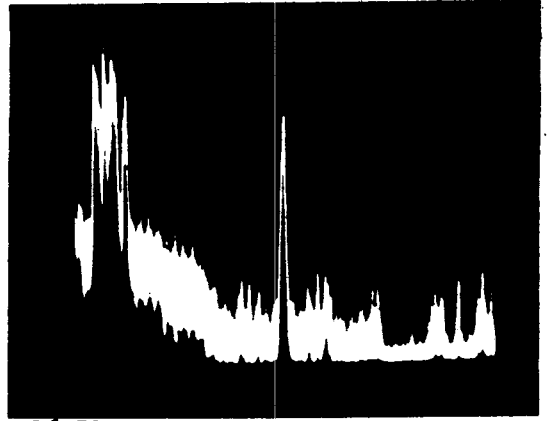
2 Metre Band (144.0 to 148.0 MHz) --- Experienced unusual effects in long-range skip. In winter this band normally has line-of-sight propagation. However, several stations noted a drop in air temperature of 3 to 4 degrees celsius. This seems to have caused a "temperature inversion" and resulted in abnormal reception in Winnipeg of distant signals. Local 'repeaters' were interfered with, unintentionally, by stations well over 100 miles away. VE4OD in Brandon kept note of the signal strength of two 2-metre repeaters: one 60 miles south of Brandon; the other 70 miles east of Brandon. Both signals had been constant in level from 12:00 to 15:00 GMT. However, they both dropped from S-2/S-3 to below S-1 by 16:00 and remained low until eclipse totality when both signals jumped 6 to 12 dB. This peak lasted for less than 10 minutes; then, both signals dropped 6 to 12 dB and became quite erratic. Others report prominent change in the signal strength of various distant repeaters. It has been suggested that some factor other than temperature inversion affected propagation in this band.

432 MHz Band (70 cMs) --- VE4MA noted a significant decrease in sun noise as the solar disc was eclipsed by the moon. Using a high-gain antenna pointed at the sun he noted 7.5 dB of sun noise at 15:30 GMT, a drop to 3 dB at 16:48 GMT and a slow return to normal of 7.5 dB by 17:05 GMT.

For your interest a montage of photocopies of selected spectrographs is provided. These 'traces' represent the strength of all signals received at the QTH of VE4AX, northeast of Winnipeg, in a relatively quiet location. The left-hand edge is roughly 0.0 MHz and the right-hand edge is roughly 10.0 MHz. The sharp



16:01 GMT



16:30

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10MHz

0dB

-10

-20

-30

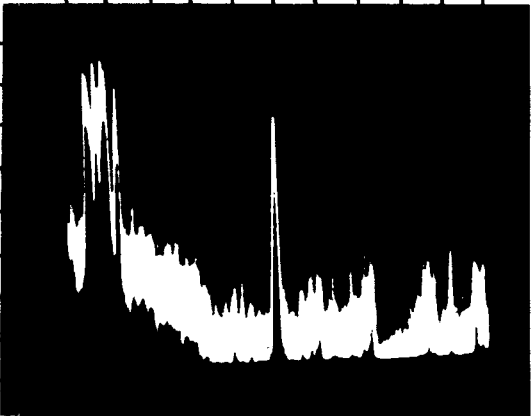
-40

-50

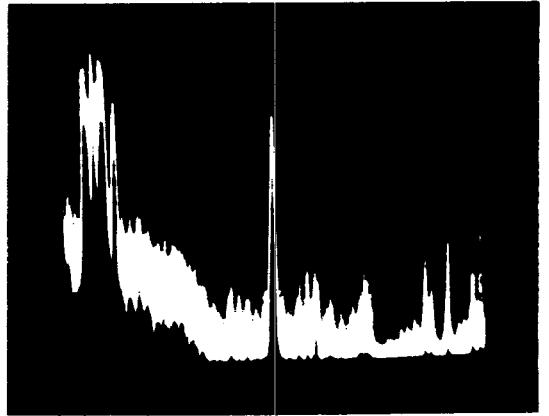
-60

-70

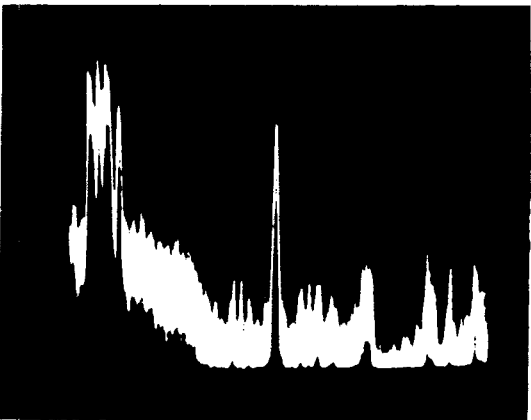
-80



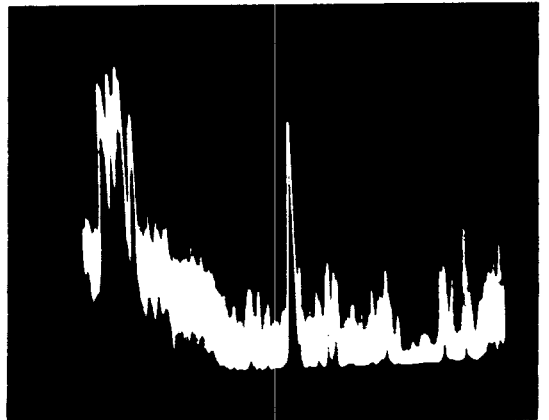
16:47 eclipse totality in Winnipeg



16:49 totality ends



16:55



17:15

peak at centre is a 'marker' and represents a 5.0 MHz test signal set for 60 dB above background noise. The time at which the photo was taken is marked at bottom, left of each display. If these traces print reasonably well, you may notice:

1. an abrupt level increase from 5.0 MHz of many weak signals which may be a combination of stronger received signals plus higher base-line noise at the onset of eclipse totality.
2. a greater number of strong-signal peaks at 17:15 (30 minutes after totality) than at 16:30 (15 minutes before totality). Unfortunately, the resolution of these traces is too coarse to permit exact references. If a wider bandwidth had been selected (up to 30.0 MHz for example), the detail would be still more crowded.
3. an unusually quiet spectrum between 7.4 and 8.6 MHz.

Readers who wish to examine the photos or various plotted graphs should contact me for further detail. In closing I wish to thank everyone who contributed data on this solar phenomenon and whose observations of radio propagation were very useful. There are many conclusions to be drawn from this data, and I'll leave that to other writers who have access to proper data processing facilities. For me personally it was a rewarding experience. . . . another spin-off of the fascinating amateur radio hobby. Amateurs who contributed data include VEs: AEY, AEM, AGR, AG, BF, CM, EG, EJ, FK, JA, KB, JP, LB, MA, MR, KM, OD, FG, PL, PO, QJ, QZ, RO, TE, TI, VJ, YQ, VE3s AYZ, JFF; VE5BO, VE7DLX, J61GL, KZ50J, N6AFP, WB0IWL, and some whose calls were not recorded. (Those amateurs who want to contact Wayne, may write to him as follows: Wayne R. Warren, VE1WR, 408 Hillary Crescent, Winnipeg, Manitoba R2Y 0Y7.).

RADIO AMATEUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE SOLAR ECLIPSE - 1979.

(An extract from an Executive Report describing the 79 Solar Eclipse Net submitted by Kevin, VE1MR).

On February 26, 1979, the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and North Dakota in the United States and the provinces of Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario were privileged to participate in what some have called a spiritual awareness---the total eclipse of the sun. Joining the many thousands who witnessed the great event were over 150 amateur radio operators in the United States and Canada. They formed what has become known as the Solar Eclipse Net. Over the period of twenty-six and a half hours, amateur radio operators in both countries dedicated themselves to providing public service support to the general public and to the scientific community.

The goals of the Solar Eclipse Network were to provide: 1. Weather information to the general public; 2. Two-way communication between astronomers and researchers in the United States and Canada; 3. Propagation experiments on 160, 75 and 40 meters.

The results led to the development of the very successful public service effort provided by the amateur radio operators in Canada and the United States. Weather information was provided to local citizens desiring to find a cloud free patch of sky. Two-way communication was established between Canada and the United States. Propagation experiments were performed on 160, 75 and 40 meters.

A solar flare was observed at the time of totality on the West Coast and the scientific information was passed on to Canada. Scientific information was monitored by aircraft and immediately applied to the research activities that were occurring high up in the skies. Propagation on 75 meters was enhanced during the solar eclipse. There is evidence that a D layer depletion did occur and that signals were increased many times over the normal ranges that are experienced on 75 meters at that time of day.

We have been very careful to not specifically identify quantitatively what these effects are. Propagation experiments that were co-ordinated through the

Solar Eclipse Net are currently being analyzed. Those who were listening along the path of the eclipse did experience enhancement in the 75 meter band just slightly before, during and after the eclipse. Propagation information is being collected from other radio amateurs who did not participate in the net but did observe an effect. Communication is still taking place between the National Science Foundation and the Solar Eclipse Net members to guarantee that the analyzed propagation information will be co-ordinated with some of the other experiments that did occur during the time of the eclipse.

Over 125 radio amateurs in the United States and 25 in Canada participated in the Solar Eclipse Net. What was demonstrated was that radio amateurs can play a key role in supporting both research and public interests. Public service, of course, was provided to those wishing to observe the eclipse. However, just as importantly, technical and experimental information on the ionospheric density changes was provided by well designed radio amateur experiments. It is anticipated that much of the information gathered on the 160, 75 and 40 meter bands will be helpful in understanding changes that occur in the ionosphere during a solar eclipse activity. Amateur radio has helped to play a key role in better defining nature's processes.

The future will be as interesting as the past. The next solar eclipse will be in India and Africa in February, 1980. What part amateur radio will play during this eclipse will depend upon the interest of those scientists and countries involved in next year's activity.

SKI CANADA AWARD.

(The award is very colourful and attractive, 9 x 15, and a number of photographs of ski resorts across Canada.)

Requirements: All amateurs must work two (2) stations from each major skiing province of British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario, and Quebec. A total of eight contacts is required. All contacts must be made after Jan. 1/78. There are no band or mode limitations. The major ski areas from each province are listed below: VE2 (Quebec): Montreal, Quebec City, Saint Jerome, Ste. Adela, Ste. Jovite, Sutton; VE3 (Ontario): Collingwood, Thunder Bay, Ottawa, London, Kitchener-Waterloo, Barrie, Huntsville, Orillia, Bracebridge, Owen Sound, Flesherton, Sault Ste. Marie, Meaford; VE6 (Alberta): Calgary, Edmonton, Banff; VE7 (British Columbia): Vancouver, Vernon, Kamloops, Penticton, Kelowna, Kimberley, Princeton, Revelstoke, Nelson, Prince George, Pt. Albernia. Application: Send log data and \$2.00 to VE3HLL, Eric S. Walden, R. R. 1, Gowanstown, Ontario, Canada, M0G 1Y0.

THOSE UNUSUAL PREFIXES.

VE4DAS is celebrating the 100th year of the Dufferin Agricultural Society. It will operate from April 1, 1979 to December 31, 1979. QSL to VE4IS. Over 400 messages have been sent via amateur radio asking former residents to return for the big celebration, July 12, 13, and 14th. About 50% have replied to the messages via amateur radio.

VX3 is the call used by Thunder Bay Amateurs from April 1, 1979 to December, 31, 1979 in honour of the 300th anniversary of the construction of the first French fur trading post or fort at the Kam River, known as Fort Kaminstiquia, and later became old Fort William nearby and still standing. Lakehead Amateur Radio Club will operate from there over the July 1st weekend. The VX3 Award is being offered for working 5 VX3 stations in Thunder Bay at no cost to the amateur. It is in the form of a scroll commemorating the founding of the first French fur trading post in the area. There are only 500 certificates available. Sunday afternoons on 10 metres is good for VX3s. Write IARC, Box 2571, Thunder Bay 'P', Ont. (Credit: High-Q IARC).

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROPOSED.

The following constitutional amendment has been proposed by Len Harrington, VE4QL, and will be voted on at the next Annual General Meeting. The motion is published here as required by the ARIM Constitution, along with some arguments supporting the change.

Whereas;

- 1 In the terms of the Constitution Directors shall be elected every year.
- 2 Nominations must be submitted by 1 March of each year, and ballot by mail, concluded by 31 March.
- 3 No provision was made in the Constitution for a lack of nominations.

Therefore be it resolved that;

1. Para 8.2 of the Constitution be amended as follows;

Delete; "the Directors shall retire from office"

Add; "in the event of no nominations being received from one, or more, Provincial Districts, the incumbent Director/s shall continue in office until a successor has been nominated, and elected, in his stead."

This does not preclude the nomination of Directors annually; in fact, this should be encouraged to bring new "blood" into the organisation. The change simply reflects the situation that exists, and legalizes the position of some Directors, and guarantees continuity of administration.

DAUPHIN NOTES.

by Iyall, VE4PA.

The landlord of our apartment block is going to put a new roof on the building and has cleared our antennae from up top. He has always maintained that they caused leaks; so, I doubt that I will be able to replace them at a later date. Prospects are a bit dim as we live in a basement suite; so, a window-ledge antenna wouldn't be of much use.

For our story this issue we decided to visit the shack of VE4AEI, Vic McKinney, Dauphin's newest ham. It is not to our credit that this fine gentleman has now had his ticket for exactly one year, and this was our first visit. We knew that he had arrived in our circles via the CB route and was making good use of a 75 foot mast and four element MoonBaker with a trans-match. Using a TS820 he has filled an impressive number of pages in a very neat log which include some choice DX contacts. A huge world map on the wall is dotted with fancy pins proving that some aspects of our hobby don't change over the years. We also noted a TR7400A sitting on the desk fired up and waiting for transient traffic. Vic is a few years on the right side of sixty summers and draws cheques from the people's railroad in the running trade. A fine addition to the Ham fraternity in general and a good golfer---so what else is there?

IF YOUR COVER SAYS "COMPLIMENTARY," YOUR DUES ARE DUE!!!!!!!!!!!!\$3.50!!!!!!!!!!!!

To each his own.

NEWS FROM 75 METRES.

by Jack, VE4JA.

Well, most of the activity on the part of the hams in southern Manitoba, at least, has been in connection with floods and not a great deal of traffic in that connection has been handled on "75". For a few days after the Flood Emergency Net was set up, we used this band for traffic between Winnipeg and some of the points down the Valley, especially to Emerson. After the 2 Metre Repeater Network got going, some of us monitored 3.765 and 14.140 KH for about ten days or so, to handle any traffic on "75" that could not get through on "2" and to answer queries from out-of-province concerning conditions in Winnipeg and South and make a few phone calls to friends and relatives in Winnipeg. No doubt a full write-up will appear in a later edition of this newsletter, advising details of who the active amateurs were in the emergency network. I think I should at this time though, express our appreciation to Brian, VE4TR, Doug, VE4JP, Pete, VE4FG and Ron, VE4PL, for a job well done.

Some of the other station activities that I have heard about are shown below: VE4AD, Alex has not been heard locally for a long time, but we talked to him briefly from Mission, Texas, via VE4GB's station some time ago.

VE4AG, Gil, finally got his "75" antenna up but not heard on the band much yet. Understand QUA a bit late this month due to involvement of the Editor and his Staff in flood matters.

VE4AP, Bert, and I had a short eyeball QSO at the last WARC meeting and understand he has a date with the saw-bones this summer.

VE4BB, the WARC station, has been a very busy call for the last few weeks.

VE4BD, Alton, is busy along with VE4NM, Cathy and Ron, are making plans for the Peace Garden Hamfest on July 14 and 15.

VE4CR, Bill, is still busy as Secretary of MEFN. Understand he is keeping the Dentistry Profession busy, too.

VE4DT, George, has not been heard on "75" for quite some time due to some rig trouble I hear. I hear him on the 2 metre repeaters, though.

ex-VE4DQ is now VE7EFM at Vernon, B. C.

VE4EF, Edwyn, is back from Texas and now has a TS520. Understand his XYL Shirley wrote for her ticket in Texas and now has the USA call of KA5HEQ. Congrats.

VE4ER, Jack, has not been heard on "75" but understand he, along with Vic 4GJ, Tom, 4MJ, and some others not known to me, worked with both 2 metre repeaters to get them working to the south to improve operation of the Flood Emergency Network.

VE4EW, Dave, took in the recent Ham Convention at Dayton. Maybe he will tell us a bit about it.

VE4FK, Jim, is at present enjoying a visit to his homeland, Scotland. He may be back by the time this is in print.

VE4GB, Charlie, finally got back from Texas, where he left the Swan 500, and now checking into Nets on CW until he gets going again on SSB.

VE4GS, Gordon, I last reported heard from Thompson; but I goofed on that as he is now in Brandon and was operating from OQ4QD when I talked to him.

VE4HP, Harold, along with Bill, VE4CR, are still fighting a local QRN problem, especially on "75."

VE4HR, Harvey, is heard on MEFN. Some time ago he was looking for small speakers for code practice oscillators. Wonder how he made out?

VE4JA, Jack, is also having a local QRN problem, but picking up some phone traffic on DTRN on 40 metres.

VE4JK, Joe, was one of the flood victims at Carman, but back on 2 metres. Understand he pulled a muscle while cleaning up his home. Hope it is better now, Joe.

VE4LB, Charlie, had some trouble with power supply cable on HW 12, but it sounds O.K. now so assume the problem has been corrected.

VE4MG, Malcolm, is putting out his last issue of The Manitoba Amateur due to increased responsibilities with his employer. I am sure his work has been appreciated.

VE4MN, Mart, suffered lightning damage to both his 2 M rig and HF rig.
 VE4NE, Chris and I missed an eyeball at the Auction as I was unable to get there. Understand his rig was in the hospital, but he sounds O.K. now.
 VE4PA, Iyall, lost his antenna as the victims of a remodelling or repairing project at the QTH. Hope it can be resurrected, Iyall.
 VE4PG, Peter, has been busy working mobile due to having to evacuate from QTH which is just outside the dike at Morris. Hope you can get back in soon, Pete.
 VE4QJ, Jim, has finished his skeds with the "snowbirds" for this winter and is now busy painting, etc. He is also considering a different rig.
 VE4QK, Dick, in addition to his duties as Net Control Sunday of the Manitoba Evening Phone Net, also calls the MANITOBA SWAP AND SHOP NET on 3.765 Sunday evenings after the regular MEPN.
 VE4QS, Gordon, has been transferred to VE3 land, and I have forgotten his new call. Maybe someone can remember for me; so, we can keep an ear open on "20" or "15."
 VE4ST, Bubbles, is heard on with OM Ted, 4TT, talking to Malcolm one in a while, but not on MEPN or MMNet.
 VE4TE, Mac, is still busy with the Manitoba Morning Net and understand he's about ready to put his bees to work for the summer.
 VE4TI, Tom, is retiring and leaving Manitoba. A social evening was held for him in the Army and Navy Hall on Portage Avenue.
 VE4UH, the University of Manitoba Club Station, was a very busy station on several bands early during the flood emergency.
 VE4VK and VE4VJ, Peter and Jim, made their annual trip to Florida, but were not heard by me from down there. That was probably due to no HF rig, but I heard Jim briefly on "2" since their return.
 VE4WF, Bill, had a recent bout in hospital, but understand he is recuperating at home.
 VE4XP, Stan, finally checked MEPN recently after many months. Hope the absence did not indicate problems, Stan.
 VE4YF, Art, heard on MEPN fairly often lately, with good signal.
 VE4AAD, Woody, had a few problems with new rig but now has a big signal into Winnipeg on both "75 metre" nets.
 VE4AAU, George, has taken over as relief NCS on Tuesdays for a while, and he also has good signals here.
 VE4ABU, Al, checked into MEPN a few times lately during flood emergency.
 VE4AEA, Lloyd, is a fairly recent check-in from Killarney, a back-up for Bob, VE4RD. Sounds a bit like him, too!
 VE4AED, Dale and VE4AEM, Lou, regular check-ins on Nets went for the advanced May 9th. Hope you both made it, fellows.
 I have not attempted to list the activities of the many hams who worked on the Flood Emergency Network as I am sure a proper report will be prepared listing all of them, but I would like to say that I heard many new 3-letter calls and also quite a few Oldtimers not heard for some time, who answered the call for help. Congratulations to them all.
 Vary 73, and have a good summer.

PORTAGE NEWS.

by Cathy, VE4NM.

News around here is about as, "scarce as hens' teeth."
 Paul, VE4PO, had his 20 meter beam come down in our second last snow storm; so, no DXing lately.
 Ron and Cathy, VE4NM, dropped in to see station VE4EB at Fort Osborne Barracks last week. Nice to see some of you again and nice to have met some of you for the first time.

The kids tried for the Amateur exam but . . . looks like Shazna was the only one from our house to make part of the exam. She made the code part, but we're almost positive she didn't make the theory. She will have to try again for the complete. Hope they make it soon!

Had QSO with Tom, VE4SE, as he drove past Portage. Also qsoed with VE4NE, Chris, on his way back from the Auction.

Several other fellows wrote the exam but so far only 1 felt ha may have made it. Sure would be nice if a few could do it. We need more active stations in Portage. See U in the fall. Have a nice summer.

SASKATCHEWAN HAMFEST. (Txr VE5AE via VE4NM).

Date-----July 27, 28 and 29.

Place-----Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan.

FULL PROGRAM FOR HAMS AND LADIES.

REGISTRATION FEES WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT A LATER DATE.

BRANDON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWS.

by Dave, VE4IN.

Jim Hendry (formerly VE4DQ Brandon) is now VE7EPM, Vernon, B.C.

Ted Lagerway (formerly VE4UN Brandon) is now VE7CRQ, Cranbrook, B.C.

Dave Snyder, VE4IN, has now completed working all 3,075 U.S. counties, after five years of working at it. There are only about 200 Amateurs that have accomplished this and only six Canadians. Out of the six Canadians three are all in Brandon: VE4QZ Doug, CC #143; VE4EL, Ed, CC #157. The CC are the initials of the first Amateur to accomplish this and started the County Hunters. His name was Cliff Corne. They can be found at 14336 + or - and give priority to mobiles. Have a listen and join in on the fun. This is similar to our Worked All Manitoba Award.

Joe, VE4JF, should be on the air soon with a new Atlas 350. Welcome back again, Joe.

Percy, VE4PV, is still under doctor's care after a heart attack. We wish you well, Percy, and would like to hear you on the air soon.

The Brandon Amateur Radio Club is still accepting donations towards Charlie, VE4LB's, 2 metre rig. As you know Charlie's fellow hams gave him a 2 metre rig last fall, and our club bore the initial cost.

Don't forget to attend the Peace Garden Hamfest, July 14 & 15, on the U.S. side of the Peace Garden.

WANT ADS WANT ADS WANT ADS WANT ADS WANT ADS WANT ADS

WANTED: One Gem Quad antenna. Can pick up during school summer holiday. Write Ken Pisichko, VE4ZD, Gillam, Manitoba OR after July 1 c/o Mrs. Mary Pisichko, McCreary, Manitoba, ROJ 1B0.

THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE

INCORPORATED

REPORT OF THE MANITOBA A.R.R.L. EVENING PHONE NET.

by Bill, VE4CR.

March 1979

No. of Sessions 31
QRI Total Check-ins 1,345
QTC Formal Traffic during net 191
QTC Formal Traffic by the individual stations: 4FG-224; 4IIV-219; 4JA-216; 4RO-188;
4IS-123; 4JK-110; 4IZ-88; 4QJ-57; 4HR-42; 4GR-32; 4AAD-31; 4TE-26; 4ID-25; 4AED-24;
4OE-22; 4IU-19; 4HM-19; 4AEJ-17; 4AEA-16; 4AX-12; 4EJ-12; 4NE-12; 4FK-11; 4LB-6;
4AGS-5; 4IF-4; 4ACX-3; 4ED-3; 4GW-3; 4PA-3; 4JP-2; 4LN-2; 4XN-2; 4MG-1; 3BLV-1.
Total: 1,580.

Formal traffic for March has increased by 250% over February. Some of this is due to traffic generated at Carman in connection with the fair to be held there this coming summer. Quite a large number of invitations to people in various sections of North America were sent via Amateur Radio.

We are very glad to report that Jim 4IF has returned home from the hospital and is checking in quite regularly.

Propagation has been fairly good. Some nights the C.W. and eastern phone QRM is quite severe on the net frequency.

April 1979

No. of Sessions 30
QRI Total Check-ins 1,319
QTC Formal Traffic during the net 100
QTC Formal Traffic by the Individual Stations: 4RO-174; 4FG-138; 4JA-108; 4IS-104;
4IIV-95; 4IZ-57; 4QU-38; 4TE-29; 4QJ-28; 4IU-24; 4HR-23; 4AGS-22; 4AEJ-14; 4LB-10;
4NE-9; 4GR-7; 4AAD-6; 4GB-6; 4IA-5; 4AAU-4; 4CF-4; 4DE-4; 4EG-4; 4FK-4; 4EF-3; 4MG-3.
Total: 923.

During the latter part of the month a large amount of emergency and priority traffic was handled as a result of the severe flooding along the Red River, especially south of Winnipeg to the border.

Brian, 4TR, was emergency co-ordinator and Doug, 4JP, was the Assistant E. C. Peter, 4FG, the SCM was very active handling flood traffic at Morris which at present is surrounded by water.

Emergency communications stations are operating at Morris, Steinbach, St. Jean, Emerson and other vital points in the province with the Central Control Station at Winnipeg.

The traffic shown above does not begin to account for the large volume of emergency and priority traffic handled by the amateur stations during the flood.

Conditions on the net frequency have been fairly good most of the time.

RED CROSS PRES. A HAM.

Edward Kowalehuk, VE4CZ has been elected President of the Manitoba division of the Canadian Red Cross Society by 150 delegates attending the recent 65th annual meeting of the organization. Congratulations Ed from ARRL! (Credit: Westman)

IF YOUR COVER SAYS "COMPLIMENTARY," YOUR DUES ARE DUE!!!!!!\$3.50!!!!!!



OFFICE OF THE
SECTION COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

QST
OFFICIAL ORGAN

SCM REPORT.

by Peter, VE4PG.

1979 has so far been a hot year for the Manitoba Amateur. I am obviously not referring to the weather but to amateur participation in the local as well as provincial events. What is more remarkable is the increase in the activity of the oldtimer, retired and semi-retired amateur that most thought had lost the touch of handling traffic or couldn't care less. Of the 20 (OTS) we now have, half are oldtimers and doing more than their share.

More and more amateurs are becoming aware that they can give the old home town a shot in the arm by originating traffic on whatever event they are celebrating. If handled right, they can become known all over North America. Obviously not all events are suited for a national scale; but truthfully, are we overlooking something? Many amateurs are providing communications to many of their own local affairs, and do not get the publicity others get, such as the Brandon (Canada) Winter Games, the up coming Carman Fair, and the Simulated Emergency Test and a few others; but are nevertheless making inroads in the right places.

All our local events, together with our traffic nets are creating interest in our radio, t.v., and newspapers, as well as in the local, provincial and federal governments. It all takes planning, a lot of work to put it all together, but the feedback indicates it is paying off. It would be unfair to mention the most active operators as there are many that participate within their own club activities that we never hear of and that is where it all starts. You don't always hear of a club providing communications to a parade, mobiles, portable gear to skiing event, etc.; and you might not be aware that we have amateurs who check into half a dozen nets a day just to clear traffic for a community they don't even reside in. We provide this service via our phone nets as well as CW nets. As a matter of interest we clear roughly 500 messages a month out of the province via these nets during the day as well as evening. These operators pick up incoming traffic on these same nets, and it is bound to create interest in many parts of North America. Obviously there is a need to relieve these operators from time to time, and no doubt they wonder from time to time if it is really appreciated. The increase in retired operators on the daylight nets is something to behold and was badly needed. Although daylight net activity is something only the oldtimer can supply, evening net activity is something else again.

Fortunately, we do have dedicated operators on the evening nets to handle traffic to outside Manitoba nets; but most are overloaded. We do wonder where all those new crop of amateurs go as we could make good use of them on the CW nets. Surely, one or two nights a week would not make too much of a dent to the social calendar. Let's face it; these nets are not only to learn how to handle traffic, but it is beneficial to the operator who wants to increase the CW speed. We do not believe 10 WPM on the slow net is beneficial to the new operator; and thus, we try and send a bit faster. If that's too slow for you, try the faster CW net. In other words, you not only improve yourself; but can serve the public as well during a local event.

The reason for a bit faster than 10 WPM is that we take for granted you passed your 10 WPM to become eligible for your ticket so that speed should not be of interest to you. Lack of an HF antenna due to space is true in some cases, but I cannot believe it applies to all those that only work the high end of the band. I cannot see the thinking of an amateur going to all the trouble to get his or her hard earned ticket, just to work only one or two bands. Every radio club can help you get an antenna that will function well, despite lack of space. I have yet to see one operator who works the CW nets on a fairly regular basis in the last 10 years who didn't make the advanced class after one year. Of course, they must participate in traffic handling, but by doing so they get all the help required to further their own interest. The other way, of course, is to work 10

meters CW and get the needed speed up that way, but you will still not be familiar with the knack of traffic handling, and sooner or later it will be asked of you. We now operate a slow CW net; please participate.

Now for the knitty gritty. . . .As you all know as Section Control Manager in Manitoba, I am a GRRL/ARRL member; and even though I am very involved in that organization, I do have much respect for CARF. Both have much to offer. I am not here to discuss the pros and cons on what is best for you as my job is to provide an outlet to the new as well as older operator; so, he or she can participate via the local nets in a service to the public as well as improve themselves doing it. You need not be a member to obtain information such as booklets on how to operate a station, public service manual, Q cards, and a long list of other information. Needless to say, both GRRL/ARRL and CARF can only get better if the membership increases; but I make no sales pitch for any.

Speaking of membership dues to clubs and various other outlets, it seems to me that some attention could be paid to the amateur. For example, even if you are loaded (money wise), I often hear the common complaint that they were not aware of something or another was due. Despite that most amateurs' gear runs from 1 grand up, an often misplaced due or rather forgotten due can be frustrating, to say the least. Granted some clubs, etc., notify their members; but for some strange reason these are scattered over the whole year; so, it is almost to the point where you ask yourself, "Whom do I pay this month?" I don't mind dishing out a few bucks here and there; but at the same time, I cannot remember who gets what 5, 6 or 7 times in a year. The simple solution would be if all the clubs got together and made a uniform date. Unfortunately, this cannot be done with ARRL or CARF. Of all the memberships I belong to, only two remind us when it is time to pay; the rest cancel me out if I can't remember. Has someone a solution, or am I missing something?

Let's not forget there are other organizations an amateur might belong to, churches, community clubs, book clubs and a whole slew of others. Wouldn't it be nice to get at a final reminder?

Finally, 1978 was a big year for Manitoba Amateurs; and we had a big increase in amateurs participating in all sorts of events. Repeater groups increased their efficiency with better and higher locations. This, plus the high calibre executive on these clubs, has made us the envy of many a section. We are also fortunate to have the dedicated operators that manage the nets as well as the operators who make it all possible. There is always room for improvement, and more participation on the CW portion is sadly lacking. I look for a big improvement in this sector by this year end. Have a good summer.

SPECIAL EVENT STATION - AMATEUR RADIO XJ3TBC - BANCROFT, ONTARIO.

In 1979 Bancroft, Ontario, celebrates its Centennial and the Bancroft Amateur Radio Club will commemorate the occasion and put the village on the map for Ham Radio. Throughout "Homecoming Week" of August 11th to 18th the club will operate a Special Event Station at Centennial Headquarters over the twenty-four period each day using the commemorative call sign "XJ3TBC". CW and phone operation on all H.F. bands except 160 meters. Listen at approximately 60 KHz up from bottom of each band and at approximately 3.8, 7.2, 14.2, 21.2, and 28.4 MHz. VHF on 146.52 simplex and repeater VE3TBF at 147.24084. Special QSL for working XJ3TBC on receipt of your log information. Certificate award available for working XJ3TBC on any three different bands upon receipt of your log information plus 2 IR coupons or one dollar. DX stations qualify by working two bands. Each day an appropriate prize will be given to the lucky Canadian or U.S. amateur working XJ3TBC closest to a preselected time. Visitors to the station are most welcome and fellow amateurs will be invited to operate if they choose. Those who do operate will be given a commemorative memento. Address is Bancroft ARC, P. O. Box 631, Bancroft, Ont., K0L 1G0

amateur radio

TURTLE MOUNTAIN AREA NEWS.

by Charlie, VE4LB.

The first meeting of the Canadian and American chairman of the Hamfest Committee for 1979 was held in Deloraine on April 21. The meeting commenced unofficially with the arrival of VE4BD, quite naturally enough just before 2 o'clock, at the Deloraine and Winchester Town and Municipal Hall. The next to arrive was VE4LB from near Boissevain from Alton's car. They both sheperded in Ron and Cathy, VE4NM. Before the Portage people arrived, W0FMZ, Milo from Carberry, the treasurer of the Hamfest, arrived on the scene. Shortly after Ron and Cathy presented themselves the meeting moved inside and upstairs to the Winchester Council Chambers. Because the Americans were late in arriving, with the exception of Milo, the Canadian contingent had a chance to peruse past Hamfest history and statistics and make some suggestions as to what should be done for the 1979 edition. When it was feared that our American representatives might be lost, Alton and Ron went out on a mobile search party; and the first to be located was AEOY, Bob, from Minot Air Force Base. From a hand held walkie-talkie Bob guided in the second of our U.S. co-Chairman, WD0CLB, Link, also of Minot. When the entire committee was assembled, the group got down to business and further details may be found elsewhere in this publication. The meeting broke up in the late afternoon and by the time I got home, I was able to work the two Minot people and Ron on simplex, as the Minot contingent headed south towards North Dakota and Ron and Cathy headed east, then up to Brandon.

In other area news, we are sorry to hear of the pending departure of VE4YE, of Melita. Ed has taken a job in Winnipeg and will be living in that area, but for awhile he will be commuting from his work to his home in Melita on weekends. Apparently according to VE4BD who was through Melita some days ago, the house is up for sale. Good luck Ed, both on the sale of your house and your new position in Winnipeg.

Within the last month the Killarney Ham population has doubled. Adding to the list are VE4AE, Terry, Secretary-Treasurer of the Turtle Mountain Amateur Radio Association, which he held before receiving his call and also VE4AIA, Vic formerly VE4VP. This doubles the Killarney Ham population, and we would challenge Brandon and Winnipeg to do the same in as short a time. Obviously, it would be a little more difficult, hi, hi.

Also we would like to welcome VE4ACB, Norm at Marriapolis to our region. We heard Norm when he was mobiling in Brandon, when Alton and I were there for the Brandon Amateur Radio Club when they held their monthly meeting, Tuesday, May 1. Incidentally, during our little adventure which ended with a bit of car trouble, we were able to trip the Brandon repeater south of Elgin and tripped the Killarney repeater both going and coming from just about 10 miles south of Brandon. This shows a fine bit of work by chief engineer, Bob, VE4RO, who has turned the squelch of the Killarney repeater back, and re-adjusted the receiver and transmitter. Fine work, Bob. We hope the repeater continues to work well. However, there is just one little item that needs to be corrected. As any of you who have tripped VE4KIL will know there is an AC hum on the repeater and it has been traced to a problem in the power supply. Hopefully, that will be corrected as soon as weather permits and the man power is available. At present the Killarney repeater has a range basically from Wales in the South to Brandon in the North, from Manitou in the East to Melita in the West. However, signals have come in from beyond those points when conditions have permitted.

It seems that VE4MN, Mert, from Pilot Mound has been the first victim of summer storms as both his HF and 2 metre rigs were disabled by lightning and the two metre rig is still in sick bay. Hope to hear you on 2 metres as soon as possible again, Mert.

VE4AEA, VE4AGS, and VE4MN went to the WARC Auction in Winnipeg on Sunday, May 6, and apparently, brought home quite a carload of material. It wasn't such a good day for travelling but they braved the elements and went in anyway.

VE4BD is intending to put up a beam at his cabin at Lake Dromore next Sunday.

This is providing the weather will permit and he is able to get the materials and get the beam constructed.

VE4BZ of Carman, that is Jim, is also intending to put up a beam at his cabin at Lake Metegoche, or Me-te-go-she if you come from the American side.

Finally, VE4IB is intending to visit with VE4MG on a trip up to Kelwood. My neighbour Jack has a meeting at Alonsa, Tuesday, May 8, and we expect to go along as far as Kelwood where we will have a visit with Malcolm, the first in quite a long time. So looking forward to hearing from you again, Malcolm. Of course, by the time this goes to print that should already have happened.

Once again a reminder to mark your calendar for the International Hamfest at the Peace Garden July 14 & 15, with the center of activity being the American Lodge on the North Dakota side. Committee chairman in Canada are VE4NM, Ron and Cathy in Portage la Prairie and VE4ED, Alton in Deloraine. Anybody requesting further information get in contact with them. Further details concerning the Hamfest will appear elsewhere in this issue.

CANAM REPEATER COUNCIL.

by Dave, VE4EN.

The Canam (Canadian, American) Repeater Council was formed in 1973 on the initiative of the Brandon Amateur Radio Club.

The Council is made up of representatives from Amateur Radio Clubs from Manitoba and North Dakota. It usually meets twice a year and on the air in between. It was our opinion that some group should be formed to suggest frequencies for the use of repeaters on both sides of the border; so, they would not interfere with each other.

It was hoped that groups planning repeaters would contact the Council before they picked their frequencies to see that it was not likely to interfere with some other group.

We would like to see every club in Manitoba and North Dakota have a representative on the Council.

For further information please contact:- Bill Graham, VE4QG, 16 Frontenac Crescent, Shilo, Man., ROK 2A0 or Ken Larsen, K0PVG, R. R. # 1, Devils Lake, N.D.

58301.

THE 1979/80 VEN Call Book will be MAILED FREE TO ALL PAID UP A.R.L.M. MEMBERS JUNE 1978 OR LATER. ARE YOU "COMPLIMENTARY"?

WOULD YOU LIKE A MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE FROM ARIM?

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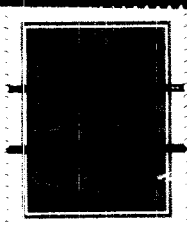
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