

**MANITOBA MARATHON  
20 JUNE 2010  
AMATEUR RADIO REPORT**

**Winnipeg Amateur Radio Emergency  
Service  
in conjunction with  
Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club**

**PSE-118**

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JUL 2010

This report covers the Amateur Radio component of 2010 Manitoba Marathon. Amateur Radio volunteers were asked for feedback and it has been integrated into the report. In the draft stage this report was circulated to two Amateur Radio Deputy Coordinators for review and comment.

The Disaster Management cycle or continuum is generally acknowledged to have four major stages<sup>1</sup>:

- Mitigation
- Preparedness
- Response
- Recovery.

From an Amateur Radio point of view, a mass public event with many stakeholder groups is an excellent Disaster Management exercise opportunity.

This report has four main sections:

- Planning/Preparation
- Operation
- Recovery
- Mitigation.

## 2010 PLANNING/PREPARATION

Winnipeg Amateur Radio Emergency Service (WPGARES) and Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club (WARC) have formally collaborated on a joint Marathon operation since approximately 2001. The past couple of years WARC has taken the lead role and now WPGARES is taking the lead for a while. As previously reported<sup>2</sup>, WARC is the umbrella or general interest Amateur radio club in Winnipeg that previously organized Marathon communications 1980-2001. WPGARES is concerned with provision of emergency Amateur communications for the civil authorities in time of disaster or communications emergency.

The Marathon Radio Group (MRG) is currently chaired by WPGARES Emergency Coordinator Jeff Dovyak VE4MBQ, deputy was Robert Stegmaier VE4RST. Technical advisors were:

Don Gerrard VE4DWG  
Norman Coull VE4EH  
Derek Hay VE4HAY  
Mark Blumm VE4MAB  
Mark Havens KB7REU  
Ellis Seddon VE4AJO  
Kelly Taylor VE4XT.

Recruiting for the 2010 Amateur Radio component began in earnest in JAN 2010, with notices in the monthly WARC publication "*The Newscaster*", verbal reports at WPGARES and WARC meetings and e-mails to most of last year's volunteers as well as general e-mails to Winnipeg ARES members.

An ARES Mutual-Aid request was communicated to Manitoba ARES Section Emergency Coordinator Don Gerrard VE4DWG 24 JAN 2010. That request was promptly circulated to all ARES Coordinators in Manitoba. Three South-Central ARES unit members subsequently volunteered – the Pinawa ARES Coordinator was willing to come out if required but MRG leadership could not in good conscience expect him to drive in alone from Pinawa at "0-dark-30" Sunday morning.

A detailed agenda had been created prior to the Amateur Radio briefing and reviewed by MRG members before being finalized.

Amateur Radio participants received three Marathon-generated booklets and a separate Amateur Radio Roster during the Amateur Radio briefing TUE 15 JUN:

- 2010 Manitoba Marathon Amateur Radio Guide booklet
- 2010 Course Station Maps booklet
- 2010 Manitoba Marathon Participant's Handbook.

Once again, Amateur Radio traffic vests jointly owned by WPGARES and WARC were loaned to non-ARES Hospitality Net and Medical Net participants so that they would be easily identified by various Marathon stakeholders. See photo on last page.

Main changes for 2010 compared to previous years included:

- Two Major Infrastructure changes
  - Help Desk concept eliminated in favor of “Comm Centre” in a totally new location
  - “Care Centre” concept embraced for previous field Hospital at Pan Am Stadium
- Three course changes (Assiniboine Park, Wolseley area & Super Run)
- Two Station location changes
- “Tickets” required to access volunteer meal in Stadium
- Eight Amateur Radio-specific changes:
  - Coverage for Free Press Walk
  - Operators from Lead Vehicles to relieve in Stadium area when lead vehicles have come in off the course
  - Course Flagging folders now kept in Hospitality Station Medical Kits
  - An EMT on each Medical Supply Van
  - “Shadow” for Care Centre Logistics Coordinator
  - Use of a UHF repeater instead of simplex for WSCRC – Comm Centre link
  - Staffing VE4WWO in the Prairie & Arctic Storm Prediction Centre race day
  - Request from Marathon Technical Director for one Hospitality Station operator to remain on-site until all of station’s Marathon equipment was picked up by Equipment Truck

### Comm Centre Issues

The University of Manitoba location that was identified for use as the Comm Centre was visited initially 8 APR by the Coordinator and Medical Net Control operators. The primary Medical Net repeater could be accessed using an internal antenna with no difficulties. It was surprising that UHF communications were poor with internal antennas so an external pathway had to be identified.

The Marathon Technical Coordinator was able to arrange for University of Manitoba Physical Plant personnel to create a small “pass-through” between two rooms in the Comm Centre building to eliminate the need for an additional seventy-five to one hundred feet of coaxial cable for each radio circuit utilized. The Coordinator and Medical Net personnel visited the Comm Centre location again 31 MAY to temporarily run feedline and an external antenna for the UHF link to the site of the Hospital Net Control (Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club). A Comet CTC-50 “window coax jumper” device was utilized to obviate the need for coaxial cable to run through the outside doorway:

<http://www.durhamradio.com/ctc50m-comet-window-gap-coax-jumper-canada.html>

The Comm Centre radios were set-up FRI 18 JUN by the Medical Net Controllers and a team from Canwest Paramedic group. Another temporary base radio was established at the Care Centre SAT 19 JUN by a WPGARES team. Battery back-up was available for both temporary stations.

The Marathon Radio Group was represented at almost every Marathon meeting that we were invited to:

- Technical Committee meetings (Coordinator & Deputy unable to attend post-Marathon meeting)
- Medical Committee planning meetings
- Emergency Planning meeting
- Hospitality Station Captain meeting.

All Amateur Radio operators operating on the Medical Net were invited to the Medical Team briefing SAT 19 JUN.

## 2010 OPERATION

The 2010 operation ran from approximately 0530-1330h. Seventy-seven (77) volunteers (final roster at end of this section) were assigned to each Hospitality Station, Relay Exchange Zones, Super Run Hospitality Station, five Course Vehicles (Lead Full, Lead Half, Course Closing, 2 Sweep Vans), Start Line, Finish Line, Medical Vehicles (4 ACLS, 2 Therapy, 2 Medical Supply and Paramedic motorcycle “Bike 9”), Hospitality Net Control, Medical Net Control and Stadium Hospital.

As previously reported<sup>3</sup>, equipment carried on “Bike 9” includes items for assessment, D-size oxygen cylinder, defibrillator, airway management kit, IV kit, cardiac medications, wound treatment kit, etc.

The operation was carried out on two closed, directed Amateur radio nets using tactical calls-signs. The Hospitality Net, based at Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club controlled Hospitality Stations, course vehicles and start line. The Medical Net based at the new Comm Centre controlled medical vehicles on the course and the operators in the Stadium area (Care Centre, Finish Line, West Gate), one of which “shadowed” Chief Physician Dr Ed Pilat from time to time. A primary and back-up repeater were identified for each net as well as a simplex frequency. A repeated UHF frequency was tested and used to link the two Net Control stations.

Amateurs were assigned to positions in the same manner as previous years. Many returning volunteers ask for the same station year after year. This year of three reserve or back-op operators identified, only two had no other responsibility other than being a back-up monitoring the Hospitality Net in case of any sudden volunteer availability problems on the course (preference would be pairs of operators for each course sector). The race course is best sectorized geographically into three areas:

- South of the Assiniboine River
- North of the Assiniboine River
- East of the Red River.

It is a great comfort factor for Coordinators knowing that reserve operators are briefed, ready to go, and generally in the area of possible assignment.

Based on past experience we decided to run a Test Net again this year that would allow Hospitality Net volunteers to:

- Check radio programming
- Familiarize themselves with assigned location prior to Race Day
- Ensure that planned equipment operates adequately.

Instead of a separate Test Net preceding the Thursday evening MRS 2m Net, it was suggested by an MRS Executive member (who is a MRG member) that the Marathon Hospitality Test Net be held simultaneously with the MRS Net. The MRS Net Controller specifically polled for Marathon hospitality Net check-ins before calling for regular check-ins. Only approximately 50% of expected volunteers participated in the Test Net portion. The Hospitality Test Net should be continued however – it is particularly valuable for new Amateurs or Amateurs assigned to new locations.

The actual Amateur operation unfolded almost as expected.

There was an insufficient quantity of Styrofoam coolers for Hospitality Station medical posts and medical vehicles – we were short 2 coolers at 0600h Race Day (coincidentally, 2 additional MED units had been added to the roster the previous week).

Medical Vehicles completing a “drop-off” at the Care Centre were tasked at least three times with transporting participants discharged from the Care Centre back to their personal vehicles that were parked elsewhere on the University campus.

Some Hospitality Station operators provided more race progress information than was needed or asked for.

One operator on a Medical Vehicle went off the air prior to being dismissed by Medical Net Control (vehicle was back at the Stadium, other vehicles were being dismissed, just not that unit yet – did not cause any response issues though).

Several operators assigned to Medical Vehicles remarked post-race that the “ticket” concept for the Volunteer Tent was great – this was the first year that they were able to receive a sandwich when their duty period was completed (past experience was that general volunteers in the Stadium area with generous appetites depleted food provisions before event completion).

It was discovered just prior to Race Day that the alternate Medical Net repeater could not be reliably accessed from an internal antenna at the Comm Centre so Amateur Radio was responsible for one of the six or seven coaxial feed-lines running through the outside door.

Interoperability for field medical operations was achieved by the Amateur Coordinator carrying a “loaner” portable radio from the Canwest Paramedic group. That was also done in 2009 and proved invaluable. The Canwest Paramedic leader and one of his field supervisors are qualified Amateur Radio operators and already have the ability to monitor the Amateur Radio Medical Net if they choose to do so.

ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING  
MANITOBA MARATHON AMATEUR RADIO OPERATIONS  
loaned equipment or facilities, recruited volunteers

Winnipeg ARES  
Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club  
Manitoba Repeater Society  
University of Manitoba Amateur Radio Society  
Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club  
Pathfinders Amateur Radio Club  
South-Central ARES  
Interlake Amateur Radio Club  
Manitoba ARES

INDIVIDUAL AMATEURS THAT LOANED PERSONAL RADIO EQUIPMENT

General:

Each amateur radio volunteer involved with the Marathon provides \$300 to \$1500 worth of personally owned and maintained amateur radio equipment for their own use. Using the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) formula, the ARES-WARC volunteers provided in excess of **\$6100 worth of their time** to Race Day, excluding planning meetings, briefings, tests.

General Amateur Equipment loaned for use by other Marathon Amateurs:

- Mobile Radio Power Cable with heavy-duty “Cigarette Lighter Plug”
  - Yori Tsuji VE4ACX
  - Ed Bethune VE4BN

There may well have been other pieces of equipment loaned on an individual-to-individual basis that we were not made aware of.

Canwest Paramedic group Emergency Medical Dispatcher Richard Kazuk VE4KAZ brought his extension ladder several times to Comm Centre for roof access during trials, pre-Race set-up and takedown.

Canwest Paramedic group leader and Manitoba Marathon Medical Committee Chair Stefan Zueff VE4ZUF was instrumental in obtaining a donation of required coaxial feed-lines (with connectors) from a local commercial supplier for use at the Comm Centre.

WPGARES-owned equipment was used for the temporary base radio stations at the Comm Centre and at the Care Centre.



2010 Final Roster

Net	Assignment	Secondary Assignment	Call Sign	First Name	Last Name
Hospitality	Mile 2	Mile 25	VE4VZ	Rolf	Bandlow
Hospitality	Mile 2	Mile 25	VE4DJS	Dave	Stimpson
Hospitality	Walk		VE4VID	Tedd	Vidler
Hospitality	Mile 4		VE4BOY	Juanito	Alambra
Hospitality	Mile 4		VE4DAE	Ernelyn	Hingada
Hospitality	Mile 6		VE4WKP	Kumara	Perera
Hospitality	Mile 6		VE4WSP	Supun	Perera
Hospitality	Mile 8		VE4WMK	Aruni	Perera
Hospitality	Mile 8		VE4WPL	Piyumi	Perera
Hospitality	Mile 10		VE4MHZ	Paula	Ehn
Hospitality	Mile 10		VE4GLS	Gord	Snarr
Hospitality	Mile 12		VE4ESQ	Rommel	Policarpio
Hospitality	Mile 12		VE4LPV	Leilani	Villarba
Hospitality	Mile 14		VE4SBS	Sunday	Satiada
Hospitality	Mile 14		VE4LYN	Linda	Satiada
Hospitality	Mile 16		VE4PPG	Primen	Garcia
Hospitality	Mile 16		VE4CEU	Fely	Garcia
Hospitality	Mile 18		VE4JLO	Lorenza	Schultz
Hospitality	Mile 18		VE4JBL	Jojo	Lagman
Hospitality	Mile 20		VE4GKS	Gerald	Sherman
Hospitality	Mile 20		VE4QB	Phil	Barton
Hospitality	Mile 22		VE4MMG	Mariska	Maguire
Hospitality	Mile 22		VE4UG	Irv	Cosgrove
Hospitality	Mile 24		VE4ANF	Bing	Fernandez
Hospitality	Mile 24		VE4LIT	Lito	Guevara
Hospitality	Mile 25	[from Mile 2]	VE4VZ	Rolf	Bandlow
Hospitality	Mile 25	[from Mile 2]	VE4DJS	Dave	Stimpson
Hospitality	Half Marathon		VE4EIH	Ed	Horton
Hospitality	Half Marathon		VE4QV	John	Pura
Hospitality	Super Run		VE4DB	Glenn	Dodd
Hospitality	Super Run		VE4DLB	Janice	Dodd
Hospitality	Relay 1		VE4NQ	Brian	Pettapiece
Hospitality	Relay 1		xxxxxx	Betty	Pettapiece
Hospitality	Relay 1		VE4HQ	Tom	Blatch
Hospitality	Relay 2		VE4JS	Jan	Schippers
Hospitality	Relay 2		VE4SIG	Jim	Sutton
Hospitality	Relay 3		VE4GWN	Glen	Napady
Hospitality	Relay 3		VE4YYL	Rosi	Napady
Hospitality	Relay 4		VE4SYM	Susan	Collings
Hospitality	Relay 4		VE4TRO	Fred	Collings
Hospitality	NCS		VE4HAY	Derek	Hay
Hospitality	NCS		VE4AJO	Ellis	Seddon
Hospitality	Lead Vehicle Half	Stadium Relief	VE4HK	Dick	Maguire
Hospitality	Lead Vehicle Full	Stadium Relief	VE4BN	Ed	Bethune
Hospitality	Closing Vehicle		VE4GZ	Jim	Griffiths
Hospitality	Closing Vehicle		VE4AFL	Ken	Laidlaw

Hospitality	Sweep 5 Assistant Radio Operator		xxxxxx	Ryan	Havens
Hospitality	Sweep 5 DRIVER/Op		KB7REU	Mark	Havens
Hospitality	Sweep 7 DRIVER		VE4XE	Dennis	Hurt
Hospitality	Sweep 7 Radio Operator		VA4IAM	Ian	Brownlee
Hospitality	Start Line	Dr Pilat's Shadow	VE4RST	Rob	Stegmaier
Medical	Start Line		VE4CDM	Craig	Martin
LINK	WSCRC Host	Liasion Op	VE4AND	Bert	Andrews
LINK	WSCRC Host	Liaison Op	VE4RCJ	Bob	Jacobs
LINK	Liaison Op Comm Centre		VE4CZK	Jeff	Cieszceki
Medical	Medical NCS		VE4EH	Norman	Coull
Medical	Medical NCS		VE4XT	Kelly	Taylor
Medical	West Gate	Start-Line MED	VE4CDM	Craig	Martin
Medical	West Gate	South of the river	VE4RAI	Rob	Iwacha
Medical	Finish Line	Mile 4	VE4BOY	Juanito	Alambra
Medical	Finish Line	Mile 4	VE4DAE	Ernelyn	Hingada
Medical	Care Centre		VE4LDI	Diane	Perry
Medical	Therapy Tent/Intake Area		VE4ACX	Yori	Tsuji
Medical	Cora Lee's Shadow		VE4ESX	Richard	Sheridan
Medical	Dr Pilat's Shadow	Start Line	VE4RST	Robert	Stegmaier
Medical	Med 1 - driver		VE4JNF	John	Foster
Medical	Med 1 - radio		VE4NCH	Pat	Verbaaschott
Medical	Med 2 - driver		VE4MAQ	Bob	Poole
Medical	Med 2 - radio		VE4EAR	Edward	Richardson
Medical	Med 3 - radio op		VE4TG	Doug	Henry
Medical	Med 4 - radio op		VA4DON	Don	Suarez
Medical	Therapy 5 - driver		VE4MBQ	Jeff	Dovyak
Medical	Therapy 5 - radio		VE4WTF	Luke	Dovyak
Medical	Therapy 6 - driver		VE4MAB	Mark	Blumm
Medical	Therapy 6 - radio		VE4BAW	Geoff	Bawden
Medical	Supply 7 - driver		VE4SE	Tom	Mills
Medical	Supply 7 - radio		VE4XYL	Ruth	Mills
Medical	Supply 8 - radio		VE4EWN	Eric	Napady
Medical	Supply 8 - Driver		VE4GWB	Garth	Blumm
Medical	Paramedic Bike 9		VE4DWG	Don	Gerrard
Medical	VE4WVO		VE4KEH	Kent	Haase
MRG	Desk Top Publishing		VE4MAB	Mark	Blumm
MRG	DB Development		VE4DWG	Don	Gerrard
MRG	Medical Liaison/Dep Coordinator		VE4RST	Rob	Stegmaier
MRG	Coordinator		VE4MBQ	Jeff	Dovyak
Spare3	East of the Red		VE4AHN	Kevin	Podaima
Spare2	North of the Assiniboine		VE4WJE	Willard	Elliott
Spare1	South of the Assiniboine		VE4RAI	Rob	Iwacha

## **2010 RECOVERY**

Recovery activities mainly involve return of borrowed equipment and items.

Vast majority of “loaner” equipment was returned by 29 JUN. Several outstanding items are in the possession of known, trusted Amateurs and should be recovered by mid-JUL.

This year recovery will also include creation of an e-mail list of 2010 volunteers to ease recruitment activities in the future. Once the database has been updated with all volunteer addresses “Thank You” cards can be mailed to volunteers.

A summary report will be prepared for publication in the SEP 2010 WARC newsletter.

Medical Net Controller Norman Coull VE4EH did a brief presentation of his experiences in the new Comm Centre at the 29 JUN WPGARES General Meeting. Andy Fenstad VE4RDO did a brief presentation on his experience assisting the Ski Patrol with their Marathon communications.

## 2010 MITIGATION

(i.e. LESSONS LEARNED/CONCERNS/SUGGESTIONS)

Following the 2005 Marathon, Derek VE4HAY and Mark KB7REU developed a Hospitality Station spreadsheet concept for use in 2006 that was not implemented. It will be incorporated in the 2011 Manitoba Marathon Amateur Radio Guide.

Course Vehicles being borrowed from Fleet Vehicle Agency should not require more than a Class 5 Manitoba Driver's Licence to avoid any "hassle" at time of vehicle pick up. Having vehicle fleet numbers did make the pick-up somewhat easier than past years. Sweep Van drivers would prefer to have a "standard" passenger van over a high-body "Sprinter" type vehicle.

Amateur Operators assigned to Medical Vehicles will be specifically reminded to stay on the air until specifically dismissed by Medical net Control.

Consideration should be given to utilizing a large laminated Course Map at Medical Net Control to track medical vehicle location and status (APRS tracking was attempted previously for several Marathons – "cobbled together" APRS gear does not work satisfactorily – if all Medical Vehicles cannot be properly equipped with APRS it is not a good use of resources (equipment and time) to only cover some units). This recommendation arose from discussion at the 29 JUN WPGARES meeting.

All disciplines establishing radio base stations at the Comm Centre should be encouraged to utilize the Comet CTC-50M device or similar to get transmission lines through the outside door frame rather than have multiple coaxial cables passing through an open doorway.

Winnipeg ARES will acquire a Comet CTC-50 device for each of its Mobile Radio Kits.

Any new Comm Centre participant groups should be encouraged to test their radio systems at the Comm Centre prior to Race Day. A mass testing exercise is preferred to discrete group by group tests.

One Medical Net Controller strongly suggests that all those in the Comm Centre who task Marathon Medical Vehicles should work from a standardized method for requesting medical transport. Since we send different vehicles depending on the patient complaint, we don't want to tie up med vans on soft-tissue injuries and have no resources left when something more serious comes up. I would suggest the following as a minimum amount of information:

- Bib number
- Location
- Nature of complaint
- Urgency (non-urgent, urgent, emergent)
- Significant details if applicable (altered LOC, non-responsive, etc.).

A community organization or organizations should be identified that could transport participants discharged by the Care Centre back to their private vehicles elsewhere on the University Campus.

## REFERENCES

1. Disaster Management Cycle, Wikipedia References, accessed 1 JUL 2010:  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emergency\\_management](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emergency_management)
2. 2004 Marathon Radio Group, Amateur Radio Report PSE-81, Jeff Dovyak JUN 2004, accessed 1 JUL 2010:  
<http://www.winnipegares.ca/documents/2004%20MRG.pdf>
3. 2005 Marathon Radio Group, Amateur Radio Report PSE-86, Jeff Dovyak VE4MBQ, AUG 2005, accessed from personal notes.

