

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



MANITOBA MARATHON
21 JUNE 2015
AMATEUR RADIO REPORT
PSE-146

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This report covers the ARES Amateur Radio component of 2015 Manitoba Marathon. Amateur Radio volunteers were asked for feedback and it has been integrated into the report. The format of this report is based on previous Manitoba Marathon ARES reports.

This report has four main sections:

- Planning/Preparation
- Operation
- Recovery
- Mitigation.

2015 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. As previously reported, 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 is Robert Stegmaier VE4RST. Technical advisors are:

Don Gerrard VE4DWG
Norman Coull VE4EH
Derek Hay VE4HAY
Mark Blumm VE4MAB
Mark Havens VE4MWH
Ellis Seddon VE4AJO
Dave Stimpson VE4DJS
Harm Hazeu VE4HAZ.

Recruiting for the 2015 Amateur Radio component began in earnest in DEC 2014, with notices in the monthly WARC publication "*The Newscaster*", verbal reports at WPGARES and WARC meetings, e-mails to last year's volunteers as well as general e-mails to Winnipeg ARES members. Volunteers had the option of web registration through Winnipeg ARES & WARC websites as well as the option to submit a *Word*-based registration form.

The detailed agenda for the Amateur Radio briefing was reviewed by MRG members before being finalized – generally the previous year's agenda is updated and revised if necessary. No specific MRG planning meetings were held prior to the 2015 Manitoba Marathon. Business was conducted via e-mail, at ARES & WARC meetings and during many informal Saturday morning coffeekbreaks.

The Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club (WSCRC) building at 598 St Mary's Rd has served as the Hospitality Net Control location for many, many years. For 2015 WSCRC was not available due to a pending structural renovation – Hospitality Net Control was co-located at the Marathon Comm Centre which obviated the need for liaison operators at WSCRC **and** Marathon Comm Centre to pass Hospitality Net Traffic – we are unlikely to consider splitting off Hospitality Net Control to a separate location in the future.



2015 Marathon Comm Centre
Photo Credit Derek Hay VE4HAY

Volunteer clothing and supply pick-up approximately five days before the Amateur briefing went well (two missing components, rectified by an additional visit to Marathon office).

Attendees at the Amateur Radio briefing receive significant documentation related to the coming communications task:

Three Booklets

1. 2015 Manitoba Marathon Amateur Radio Guide
2. 2015 Manitoba Marathon Course Station Maps
3. 2015 Manitoba Marathon Participant Guide

At least three loose pages

1. 2015 Manitoba Marathon Amateur Radio Briefing Agenda
2. 2015 Manitoba Marathon Amateur Radio Volunteer Roster
3. Marathon Alert Form.

Pre-printed forms are distributed for use at Net Control Stations*:

1. ARES Activity Logsheet
2. Care-Centre Report (transmitted every 15 mins to Chief Dispatcher at Comm Centre for situational awareness)
3. Course Conditions Reports (transmitted every 20 minutes by Doctor's Shadow regarding race "color" and whether or not course showers are to be run)
4. Modified "EMS Request via Amateur Radio Form".

*These forms were published as an Appendix to the 2014 Report.

Amateurs were assigned to positions in the same manner as previous years. Five Amateurs with no other assignment were assigned as a reserve operator for one of three course sectors, two were deployed then dismissed when assigned operators turned up. 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.

A Hospitality Test Net was arranged for 2030h THURS 18 JUN to allow newer Amateurs and Amateurs whose assigned locations had changed to visit or reconnoiter their location and ensure that their personal radios were properly programmed.

The majority of Amateurs who were unable to attend the Amateur Briefing made advance arrangements which greatly decreased the work for Coordinators – there were two “no-shows” with no communications so they were struck from the volunteer roster.

Once again, Amateur Radio traffic vests jointly owned by WPGARES and WARC were loaned to non-ARES Amateur Radio participants so that they would be easily identified by various Marathon stakeholders.

All Amateur Radio operators operating on the Medical Net were invited to the Medical Team briefing SAT 20 JUN – the majority attended.

2015 OPERATION

The 2015 operation ran from approximately 0530-1330h. Ultimately, **eighty-seven** (87) Amateur volunteers (final roster at end of this section) were assigned to each Hospitality Station, Relay Exchange Zone, Super Run Hospitality Station, 10K Walk Hospitality Station, five Course Vehicles (Lead Full, Lead Half, Course Closing, 2 Sweep Vans), Start Line, Medical Vehicles (1 Medical Transport, 2 Therapy, 2 Medical Supply and Medical Courier Motorcycle “Bike 10”), Hospitality Net Control, Medical Net Control and Care Centre. Five (5) non-Amateur volunteers supported our operation. Of the 87 volunteers involved, five (5) were new or “newer” Amateurs that were partnered with Amateurs with previous Manitoba Marathon experience.

Ultimately all Amateur Radio volunteers who had Race Day assignments showed up as expected (assigned Amateurs were late attending one station, back-up operators were deployed and they arrived just as assigned operators were arriving).

The operation was carried out on two closed, directed Amateur Radio nets using tactical call-signs; Hospitality Net and Medical Net. These nets have been described in more detail in previous Marathon reports. ARES operators also served as Net Control operators for the Marathon *FleetNet* radio Medical Net.

The UHF repeater built by Yori Tsuji VE4ACX continues to work great on Race Day as did the tie-in to the VHF Medical Net.

Minor interference issues were previously reported between Medical Net and the former Liaison Net – this year Hospitality Net Control operated via UHF out of the Marathon Comm Centre and no interference issues were identified. Hospitality Station operators had the ability to use VHF **or** UHF to communicate with Hospitality Net Control.

The actual Amateur operation unfolded essentially as expected, however there were some occurrences that should, if at all possible, be eliminated next year.

Two Amateurs confused “expected” arrival time from Amateur Radio Guide with station opening time from other Marathon publications and arrived late – will emphasize expected arrival time at next year’s Amateur briefing.

Pick-up locations Race Day morning for medical ice/coolers and bottled water was combined this year (a problem last year). Downside was Amateur vehicles were ready to depart for course earlier than expected and Marathon official with keys to refrigerator truck had not yet arrived.

Some loaner equipment that should have been turned in to Course Closing Vehicle either wasn't or was turned in to another Course Vehicle.

Initially Amateurs were identified for four Medical Transport vehicles. Apparently there was no firm commitment from previous vehicle supplier and just before the Marathon, it appeared that there would be no Medical Transport units at all. Unbeknownst to ARES Coordinators or Marathon leadership, an ARES volunteer contacted the previous vehicle provider privately and drove all night to a rural location to obtain a vehicle for use as Medical Transport. Coordinators were surprised when the vehicle showed up and there was a scramble to identify two paramedics to staff it – it could just as easily have turned out that there were no paramedic volunteers available since they had been re-assigned the week before. Six ARES volunteers were dismissed from their assignments due to lack of Medical Transport vehicles. We got through the day with one Medical Transport unit but only just.

2015 Manitoba Marathon Final Amateur Radio Roster

Net	Assignment	Secondary Assignment	Call Sign	First Name	Last Name
Hospitality	Mile 2/ Mile 25		VE4NQ	Brian	Pettapiece
Hospitality	Mile 2/Mile 25		n/a	Betty	Pettapiece
Hospitality	Mile 2/Mile 25		VE4GTX	Jim	Mojelsky
Hospitality	Walk		VE4QB	Phil	Barton
Hospitality	Mile 4		VE4BOY	Juanito	Alambra
Hospitality	Mile 4		VE4DAE	Ernelyn	Hingada
Hospitality	Mile 6		VE4VZ	Rolf	Bandlow
Hospitality	Mile 6		VE4MMW	Nicki	Albus
Hospitality	Mile 8		VE4JDH	Hamish	Donaldson
Hospitality	Mile 8		VA4RWT	Gary	Goodman
Hospitality	Mile 10		VE4MHZ	Paula	Ehn
Hospitality	Mile 10		VE4GLS	Gord	Snarr
Hospitality	Mile 12		VE4SE	Tom	Mills
Hospitality	Mile 12		VE4XYL	Ruth	Mills
Hospitality	Mile 14		VE4SBS	Sunday	Satiada
Hospitality	Mile 14		VE4LYN	Lynda	Satiada
Hospitality	Mile 16		VA4CAT	Catherine	Suarez
Hospitality	Mile 16		VA4DON	Don	Suarez
Hospitality	Mile 18		VE4AIN	Adriano	Navarro
Hospitality	Mile 18		VE4JAL	Alejo	Sofronio

Hospitality	Mile 18		VE4CST	Colin	Stanners
Hospitality	Mile 20		VE4PH	Pete	Haertel
Hospitality	Mile 20		VE4PEH	Patricia	Haertel
Hospitality	Mile 22		VE4MMG	Mariska	Maguire
Hospitality	Mile 22		VE4RIC	Rick	Shumila
Hospitality	Mile 22		n/a	Mary	Perchaluk
Hospitality	Mile 22		n/a	Max	Perchaluk
Hospitality	Mile 24		VE4LIT	Lito	Guevara
Hospitality	Mile 24		VE4ANF	Bing	Fernandez
Hospitality	Mile 25	[from Mile 2]	VE4NQ	Brian	Pettapiece
Hospitality	Mile 25	[from Mile 2]	n/a	Betty	Pettapiece
Hospitality	Mile 25	[from Mile 2]	VE4GTX	Jim	Mojelsky
Hospitality	Half Marathon		VE4DJS	Dave	Stimpson
Hospitality	Half Marathon		VE4VID	Tedd	Vidler
Hospitality	Super Run		VE4PPG	Primen	Garcia
Hospitality	Super Run		VE4CEU	Fely	Garcia
Hospitality	Relay 1		VE4HQ	Tom	Blatch
Hospitality	Relay 1		VE4JYC	Jason	Coombe
Hospitality	Relay 2		VE4TSY	Paul	Copio
Hospitality	Relay 2		VE4CEL	Cecilio	Mendoza
Hospitality	Relay 3		VA4JCH	Jim	Husak
Hospitality	Relay 3		VE4HK	Dick	Maguire
Hospitality	Relay 4		VE4JAH	John	Howells
Hospitality	Relay 4		VE4GWB	Garth	Blumm
Hospitality	NCS		VE4HAY	Derek	Hay
Hospitality	NCS		VE4AJO	Ellis	Seddon
Hospitality	Bike 10		VA4MAC	Ryan	Evans
Hospitality	Lead Vehicle Full		VE4GIS	Kurt	Sargent
Hospitality	Lead Vehicle Half		VE4UG	Irv	Cosgrove
Hospitality	Closing Vehicle Driver		n/a	Gail	Lameroux
Hospitality	Closing Vehicle Driver/Operator		VE4UK	Denis	Bosc
Hospitality	Sweep 5 RadioOperator		VE4STS	Bob	Myatt
Hospitality	Sweep 5 DRIVER		VE4MWH	Mark	Havens
Hospitality	Sweep 7 Radio Op		VE4STL	Scott	Lightfoot
Hospitality	Sweep 7 Driver		VA4IAM	Ian	Brownlee
Hospitality	Start Line	Dr Morham's Shadow	VE4RST	Rob	Stegmaier

Medical	Medical NCS		VE4EH	Norman	Coull
Medical	Medical NCS		VE4HAZ	Harm	Hazeu
Medical	Recovery -1	Start-Line MED	VA4AJG	Allan	Grant
Medical	Recovery-2		VE4GWN	Glen	Napady
Medical	Don's Shadow		VE4ESX	Richard	Sheridan
Medical	Intake/Triage Area		VE4ACX	Yori	Tsuji
Medical	Intake/Triage Area-2		VE4YYL	Rosi	Napady
Medical	Dawna Marie's Shadow		VE4CDM	Craig	Martin
Medical	Dr Morham'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		VE4TTH	Peter	Toth
Medical	Med 2 - radio		VE4JHJ	Gord	Caswell
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		VE4JFK	Jeffrey	Kazuk
Medical	Therapy 6 - radio		VE4KAZ	Richard	Kazuk
Medical	Supply 7 - driver		VE4QV	John	Pura
Medical	Supply 7 - radio		VE4SCH	Dario	Schor
Medical	Supply 8 - radio		VE4SYM	Susan	Collings
Medical	Supply 8 - Driver		VE4TRO	Fred	Collings
Medical	VE4WWO		VE4SIG	Jim	Sutton
Medical	Ski Patrol Dispatcher		VE4RDO	Andy	Fenstad
Medical	Ski Patrol Dispatcher		VE4DWG	Don	Gerrard
Spare3	East of the Red		VE4JS	Jan	Schippers
Spare2	North of the Assiniboine		VE4DLA	David	Latour
Spare1	South of the Assiniboine		VE4VB	Walter	Bezpalko
Spare 11	2nd South of Assiniboine				
Spare 33	2nd East of Red		VE4GKS	Gerry	Sherman
Spare 22	2nd North of Assiniboine		VE4EA	Cary	Rubinfeld

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

Winnipeg ARES
Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club
Manitoba Repeater Society
Pathfinders Amateur Radio Club
South-Central ARES
Brokenhead ARES.

Winnipeg ARES-owned equipment was used for the temporary Amateur Radio base radio stations at the Comm Centre in addition to one Net Control Operator's personal transceiver and power supply. No ARES-owned equipment was required to be loaned out to individual Amateurs, besides the ARES-WARC loaner vests.

2015 RECOVERY

Recovery activities for the Marathon Radio Group mainly involves return of borrowed equipment and documenting any "Lessons Learned". The majority of borrowed equipment was returned by 30 JUN but all equipment was not returned until mid-JUL.

Thanks to Rhonda Dovyak for laundering the "loaner" ARES vests.

A summary report has been submitted for publication in the SEP 2015 WARC newsletter.

2015 MITIGATION

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

ARES volunteers were asked to notify VE4MBQ by e-mail by 23 JUN, a debrief session was also held 30 JUN:

We won't always be lucky with the weather, Marathon leadership should identify a provider for several Medical Transport vehicles this fall or early winter.

To try to avoid operators showing up late emphasize even more during next year's briefing something like "Arrive on station No Later Than

- 0615h Stations south of the Assiniboine River
- 0630h Stations north of the Assiniboine River."

We totally forgot about arranging for and putting bottled water on course vehicles for participants who exit early.

Mechanical problem with one VEMA-supplied vehicle day before Race Day (which was resolved) – consider obtaining a spare vehicle to be staged at Comm Centre or Equipment Depot.

Net Controllers feel that better face-to-face communication is required in Comm Centre, no explicit suggestions though beyond in future years have Hospitality and Medical Net Controllers side by side.

Medical Ice/Cooler pick-up – need phone number of Marathon official with keys to the refrigerated truck.

Post-marathon a lot of organizational time was devoted to tracking down loaned vests that were not properly returned – Amateur radio volunteers need to be reminded **again** that that alternate return is the following SAT morning 0830-0930h Amateur Radio community “coffee-break” weekend location.