

Annual Report, 2024

Prepared by: Mike Kennedy President WCARC
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Overview

The West Carleton Club (WCARC) experienced another dynamic and productive year in 2024. The Club's efforts included advancements in technical projects, increased community engagement, and successful participation in amateur radio contests. While challenges were met along the way, the commitment of our members ensured continued growth and achievement.

Key Accomplishments

1. Beacon Upgrades and Maintenance:

- The Club's 50, 144, 222, 432, 903 and 1296 MHz Beacons at the Diefenbunker site, continued to perform reliably throughout the year. Additional fine-tuning and updates were carried out by Bert (VE2ZAZ) and Nick (VE3OWV), ensuring optimal performance.

2. Community and Club Visibility:

- Participation in regional ham shows and festivals remained a priority. The WCARC booth at the Carp Hamfest in September drew significant interest, supported by an engaging demonstration of his new 10 GHz Acquisition by Mike (VA3TEC). Below are pictures of my 10 GHz Transceiver using my 705 as a IF Rig.



- MAD Days are here! (Microwave Activity Days) Fun was had all around during the few events that were held at the top of the Diefenbunker foot hill. One memorial event was in the extreme heat of the summer weather, in August. We got a few 10 GHz contacts, both direct and through rain scatter. But all I remember is that it was HOT and HUMID out that day!

- Member name badges continued as a popular initiative, with a new order distributed by June.

- Revision of the Club bylaws to comply with the Non-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA) of the Ontario Government. With the impending rule changes, members of the Club really stepped up to the plate to finalize these new changes. The Club held a Special Members Meeting on August 3rd to approve the revised bylaws. As a result, the Club no longer has a constitution, but only bylaws, as per ONCA. I would like to identify 2 key people for this to happen, Norman Siemens VE3NPP and Bertrand VE2ZAZ. Thank you very much guys from the great work!

- The Club members met twice for informal Saturday morning breakfasts, prior to the April and August MAD days.

- Glenn VE3XRA carried on hosting the Club-sponsored Upper Frequencies SSB net on Tuesdays at 9 pm on 144.250MHz USB. Thanks Glenn!

3. Contest Participation.

- June VHF Contest: Another successful WCARC Club operated from its preferred Kinburn location, achieving a score of 62,061 points with over 258 QSOs and 151 multipliers. What's very interesting to me was Bert was able to make a 376 km 10 GHz contact with Kevin VE3KH using his portable narrow band station. Here are some setup photo's of the event. And the VERY active weather that was happening around us! Images below:



- ARRL 10 GHz & Up Contest:** Ray (VE3FN) represented the Club with distinction, reporting excellent propagation conditions from Mt. Tremblant, along with Mike Kennedy VA3TEC, Luc VE3JGL and Lawrence VA3IQ. Wayne VE3CZO, Glenn VE3XRA and Jacques VE2AZX helped with carrying the equipment up to the site.

4. Membership and Engagement

- Membership remained stable, with 22 active members and 3 life members as of December 2024. The Club's active social media presence and revamped website played a significant role in recruitment.

Conferences and Site visits:

1. Weak signal Group North Eastern USA:

- A few of the members during the spring time attended a the Weak Signal Group North Eastern USA 47th EASTERN VHF/UHF/MICROWAVE CONFERENCE: APRIL 19-21, 2024 in Windsor, CT. Web-link: <https://www.newsvhf.com/>

- While in Windsor CT, a few of the members visited the ARRL Headquarters: in Newington Connecticut Grid Square FN31pr. Here are some Photo's of the event and locations and equipment.



Financial Overview

The Club maintained a balanced budget, with income primarily from membership dues, event contributions, and sales of Club merchandise. Significant expenditures included:

- RAC affiliation fee and liability insurance.
- Event participation costs.

Looking Ahead to 2025

1. Infrastructure Enhancements

- Expand the beacon network with the addition of a new 2.4 GHz beacon.
- Procure new portable operating equipment for field activations.

2. Increased Contest Participation

- Encourage member participation in regional and international contests, with a focus on mentoring new operators.

3. Community Engagement

- Develop partnerships with local schools and youth organizations to promote amateur radio.
- Host a “June VHF Contest” & “Microwave Activity Days” open to the public, showcasing live demonstrations and interactive activities.

4. Educational Programs

- Continue hosting monthly presentations with a focus on emerging technologies and practical operating techniques.

Conclusion

2024 was a year of accomplishments and resilience for WCARC. As we move into 2025, we are poised to build upon our successes, deepen our community impact, and ensure the vitality of amateur radio for future generations. Thanks to the dedication and passion of our members, the future of WCARC remains bright.

Prepared by:
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West Carleton Amateur Radio Club