



GUYWIRE

The online publication of the RARA

June 2013

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NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY June 12th

Presentation on logging using S-QUI-R-L (Simple-Quick-and-Ready-Logger)

We would like to start the meeting as soon after 7 p.m. as possible.

Meetings are held in the Imax Boardroom of the Science Center.

Take the elevator up to the third floor.

NOTE: e-mail or web addresses in the GUYWIRE are active, you can go directly to that site by clicking on the address.

The RARA WEB SITE can be found at:

www.ve5nn.ca

The web site contains RARA news, repeater lists, net listings as well as links to other amateur resources.

Club meetings are held on

**2nd Wednesday
of each month**

at 7 p.m.,

with the exception of July and August, in the Imax Boardroom located at the Sask. Science Centre.

RARA Membership Fee is now Due

2013 PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

Completed

Klondike Hike --- Feb. 2 (cancelled)

SEPA Conference ---- March 19 ~ 21

Gopher Attack Marathon --- March 29

RPCI Good Mourning Walk --- April 21 (cancelled)

Regina Police Service Half Marathon ---- April 28

Super Cities Walk --- April 28

Upcoming

Mayor's Walk/Run for Fitness --- June 9

MS Bike Tour ---- August 17~18

Queen City Marathon ---- Sept. 8

Grey Cup 101 Venues & Game ---- week of Nov. 17

Keep posted for requests for amateurs to participate by event coordinators .

RARA FIELD DAY 2013

The Field Day operation will again be held in Wascana Centre, in a grassed area just south of the Science Centre.

This year Field Day is on June 22-23rd and runs from 14:00 UTC Saturday until noon Sunday.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged

to come out and give a hand in the set-up, operating or just to act as a goodwill ambassadors for ham radio to the general public who are also welcome to come.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Here is a brief summary of what is going on in the RARA world.

1. The site at Burnside is being cleaned up by a work crew consisting of: Hugh Hauser VE5HWH, Bernie Bedard VE5BFB, Bruce Rattray VE5RC, Allan Tidball VE5LAT, and myself Harv Drinkle VE5AD. Most of the useful antennae, cables and misc. equipment has been recovered and will be stored at J Block for the time being.

A lot of the contents of Burnside was deemed JUNK and will be taken to the closest dump that will accept it.

The old tower sections and hardware will be taken to a scrap metal salvager and funds received turned over to the association.

2. Field day plans are in the works. We will be holding Field Day at the Science Centre in the same location as we did for 2012 Field day. The location has been approved by Wascana Centre Authority and we will be talking to the Science Centre in the near future. We are hoping to have a 60 foot crank up tower ready to erect with a triband antenna. Some work still has yet to be done on the tower, and any help would be appreciated.

Contact Harv at drinkle@sasktel.net to arrange to help.

Harv (VE5AD)

SUCCESSFUL HAM CLASSES

Classes have concluded for the season and as a result we are pleased to announce 6 new hams will be joining us on the airwaves:

Vincent Amyotte	VA5NEE	Basic with Honours
Shane Ludtke	VA5SML	Basic with Honour
Jim MacKenzie	VE5EIS	Basic with Honours
Chris Manley	VA5FUK	Basic with Honours
Emmanuel Masson	VE5NHL	Basic
Neil Slater	VA5SCA	Basic with Honours

Congratulations to these new amateurs.

MAYORS RUN/WALK

The Mayor's Run/Walk for Fitness (formerly I love Regina Run) is scheduled for Sunday, June 9th. The meeting time will be 08:00 at the ARES MCV which will be located on the north side of the City Square Plaza (between Scarth & Cornwall). The event will last about four hours. Approximately 12-14 radio operators are required to adequately cover the course (map attached).

We will use VE5YQR (City Hall) repeater (146.120+) as the primary repeater with Balgonie (VE5REC) repeater (146.640-) as the backup.

If you have a location preference on the course, please advise me, and I will try to accommodate your request.

The official website for the event may be found here: <http://www.regina.ca/residents/regina-mayor/mayorrun-walk/>

Terry (VE5TLW)

SASKATCHEWAN HAMFEST 2013

The annual Saskatchewan Hamfest will be held this year in Battleford Sask. July 26/27th.

An informal social evening will take place Friday evening with Hamfest events running on Saturday.

More information is available at <http://sar1.ca/index.php/saskatchewan-hamfest>

The Official Hamfest hotel is the Super 8 in North Battleford. For accommodations call the hotel direct and ask for the Hamfest special rate. Their number is 306-446-8888. Call early as there are other events going on and accommodation may be scarce. If you are camping, there is an excellent campground a few blocks away from the Hamfest site.

TOWER CONTOVERSY in SASKATOON

The following has been received from a Saskatoon Amateur.

As some of you know, and others are about to learn, I've been looking at putting up a new tower at my new house. I thought I'd try for a greater than 15m structure, since I have that now and wanted something better. It seems that trying to follow the proper procedures is a recipe for a great deal of stress.

I followed Industry Canada's guidance and undertook the City of Saskatoon's consultation process. I ended up sending 148 addresses a notification package on March 15th, with a 30 day public comment period (as per city guidelines). Of those, 6 bothered to send a response. 5 of these were opposed, 1 was neutral to slightly positive (he wants to see the equipment when it's done, but had concerns about RF exposure).

The day after comment period closed, I received a message from one Sidney Hayes, VE5BET, who opposes the structure. He asked to speak with me and did so while my wife and I were checking on the property (we haven't yet moved). He brought over another person who opposes the tower and we had a completely useless conversation in which they stated they didn't want a tower, period. I offered to consider a smaller one, but no movement even going below 50 ft. He repeated some of the odd stories about his old tower and how awful it was that he's quoted saying in the story.

These guys circulated a petition that has 21 households signed in opposition. Remember, I notified 148. They also went to the media, and I am including a link to the story below.

The city of Saskatoon is currently considering the proposal, and has told me they are likely to decide next week. I will also be contacting the local Industry Canada guys to submit my information. At this point the media thing is more of a sideshow, but it is interesting none the less.

I decided when I moved to give the proper > 15m process a try. I don't think I would do that again. My recommendation to others will be that unless you're really serious about it, don't bother since it is about as useful as poking a yellow-jacket hive with a stick.

Here's the link. I will likely write something for TCA once this is over, if there is interest in such an article.

<http://www.thestarphoenix.com/technology/Residents+sour+foot+radio+tower/8264553/story.html>

RADIO HISTORY: FIRST RADIO REPORT OF SPORTING EVENT COMMEMORATED

A bit of radio history. Were you aware that the first reporting by wireless of a sporting event took place in Dublin Bay during the Kingstown Yacht Regatta way back in July 1898? It did and plans are afoot for ham radio to commemorate the event.

The story goes this way. At the request of the Express newspaper, famed inventor Guglielmo Marconi installed wireless equipment aboard the vessel the Flying Huntress and transmitted reports to the harbour master's office in the town of Kingstown which is now known as Dun Laoghaire. The results were posted in a window and published even before the yachts returned to port.

Now in 2013, to commemorate the event Ireland's Howth Martello Radio Group and the South Dublin Radio Club plan to set up two special event stations. As the races took place off Howth Head, one station will operate from the Martello Tower in Howth and the other from the Maritime Museum in Dun Laoghaire.

The weekend of 20-21 July is proposed for this operation but it has to be added that planning is at an early stage.

OPERATING ETHICS

With regulatory offices becoming less and less involved in overseeing amateur activities, the self policing aspect of our hobby has become more important.

Good operating practices should always be our goal, whether required by regulation or not.

An International charter of operating ethics has been drawn up and should be read by everyone, especially new hams.

It can be found@:<http://www.ham-operating-ethics.org>

PROFANE OR OBSCENE LANGUAGE

Industry Canada has released the following:

In regard to the use of profane or obscene language, Section 32, of the Radiocommunication Regulations, which had previously contained a prohibition against these activities, has been repealed as of October 17, 2011. There is therefore no longer any prohibition in regard to the use of profane or obscene language.

Owing to the loss of this prohibition, it now falls to the Amateur Community to promote the discouragement of these practices which may result in the creation of a significant barrier toward the use of Amateur Radio by young amateurs, families and to the promotion of the hobby to both new and existing operators.

In regard to the willful interference to radiocommunications: Section 9.1 (b) of the Radiocommunication Act, states in part that:

“No person shall”... “(b) without lawful excuse, interfere with or obstruct any radiocommunication;”

Due to the limited resources available to the Department, enforcement action is prioritized according the perceived over-all impact to the Radio Frequency Spectrum. Safety, Emergency, Broadcast, Government and Commercial services are afforded

priority for these resources. The Amateur Radio Service has been for the most part, considered to be a self-policing service.

Most operators tend to operate well within the rules and regulations and the Amateur Community has been known to be quite effective in curtailing the majority of illegal practices by operators.

In the event that such self-policing should prove ineffective, the Department may determine that enforcement action is required in order to obtain compliance.

It is in the best interest of the Amateur Community to promote the self-policing model among its members.

Regards,
Chantal Dickie
Amateur Radio Service Centre | Centre de service
pour la radio amateur
Spectrum Management Operations Branch |

OUR CONTINUING LIST OF HAM RADIO MUSIC

Rap music is all the rage. QSY to this site for a Ham Radio Rap:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oUjh9gSCBFc>

With Field Day coming up, we have some Field Day Music for you at:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XAZculUAZzI>

Remember Joyce Hawn from early TVs Cross Canada Hit parade. Here's her CQ Serenade.
<http://www.zerobeat.net/cqsong.html>

ARE WE LOSING OUR RECENT HISTORY?

It's interesting that 48 copies (or substantial portions of copies) of the original 600 year-old Gutenberg Bible exist, yet not one copy of the first Website made just twenty years ago survives until now.

How long will my battery last?

Calculating how long your HT battery pack will run during an event is a question that comes up frequently. The calculations are linear with available data. However, how to estimate the data is the puzzle.

The three conditions of battery drain to consider are: radio squelched; with received audio; and transmitting. These values are usually found in the radio user's manual.

Here is an example using a Yaesu VX-150 running for eight hours set at two watts transmit power:

Now where did those duty cycle percentages come from? An estimate based on a typical event time line.

During set up, stations are checking in and there is some reporting going on, but at a low level. Once the event gets underway and more stations have items to report, the receive time increases. The transmit time is low because other than checking in and giving status reports you are not transmitting. If your station does have a lot of activity, you will be transmitting more. But 10% of eight hours is talking continuously for 48 minutes! Hey, other people need water. Or six minutes out of every hour.

Additionally if you are at a station with much activity, others will be with you, using their radios to transmit, reducing your duty cycle. Now in order to be conservative, you want to double this estimate.

For an eight hour event at two watts, you need 2.5 Ahr of battery capacity. The standard battery that came with the radio plus an extra high capacity pack will get you close to this number. Above this, consider gelled battery packs, or a manufactured assembly.

Capacity measurements are based on a ten or twenty hour rate also termed C/10 or C/20. Going above that rate will cause some loss in apparent capacity due to internal IR drops. Typically at the 1C rate, a loss of 40% is experienced. So, a one Ampere Hour battery will only appear to give .60 Ampere Hour.

Other considerations include - do you need to run other power levels? Which type of cells are you using?

If you run alkaline cells your radio will receive

long after there is enough current to transmit with.

This is due to the higher internal resistance compared to NiCds. Nickel Cadmiums and Nickel Metal Hydride rechargeable cells have a flat voltage discharge curve, but then drop off real fast. One transmission may be fine, but next will not happen. Lead Acid cells have a very linear slope that the user can check the voltage to determine remaining capacity. As cells age, capacity is also lost.

Newer radios have a battery saver mode that allows lower average receive current. But if you get carried away with a high ratio, you may miss the first part of transmissions. The use of headphones will allow less current drain instead of powering the speaker.

See <http://cpsg.amateur-radio.net/> for a multi level list of recommended items for Public Service Events.

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Function Duty cycle Hours Drain Total

Squelched 1 50% * 8 * .052A = 0.208 Ahr

Receive 40% * 8 * .130A = 0.416 Ahr

Transmit 10% * 8 * .800A = 0.640 Ahr

1 with battery saver mode on 1:1 1.264 Ahr

REPEATER NEWS

The RARA has a project underway to add IRLP facilities to the VE5REC repeater. This was not done in the past because of the lack of Internet service at the repeater site, however several knowledgeable club members have been doing some research and think that this can be easily accomplished by using WiFi and directional antennas.

Putting IRLP on this repeater has two advantages. It will extend the coverage of the IRLP network to the east and south, and it will provide a backup for the VE5YQR node in case of emergencies.

Shortly there will be another city represented on the IRLP 9:00 PM Net.

The VE5DNA repeater at Humboldt will be connected to the IRLP system giving extended coverage to central Saskatchewan.

Last Months Puzzler

In what year was the first practical RADAR developed?

Answer: It was developed in 1935 by Scottish physicist Robert Watson-Watt.

This Months Puzzler

What is the maximum bandwidth allowable for transmissions in the 10.100-10.150 MHz amateur band?

Answer next month

RADIOACTIVE SHEEP

According to news reports, nine glow-in-the-dark sheep were born in October of 2012 at Uruguay's Institute of Animal Reproduction in a genetics experiment in conjunction with the Institut Pasteur. The scientists say that they used the fluorescent protein from a species of jelly fish to give sheep a distinct glowing green color when exposed to ultraviolet light.

One of the team's lead researchers is Alejo Menchaca. In a recent press conference he noted that the genetic modification was done in the desire to fine tune the technique. Other researchers believe that these genetically modified, glow in the dark animals can help mankind to better understand diseases and how they develop in both the animal kingdom and in human beings.

The scientists say the nine sheep developed normally. They claim there are no differences between them and their non-genetically modified siblings other than that they can be made to glow from head to toe.

And before you ask, we have no idea if they can be trained to blink on and off in Morse code nor if they did if they would be considered for bonus points on Field Day.

More can be found on line at various on-line news sites including tinyurl.com/sheep-glow.

Storm Chaser, Jim Samaras (WJ0G) Killed by Oklahoma Tornado

Three veteran storm chasers were among the 10 people killed when a violent tornado barreled into the Oklahoma City metro area.

Jim Samaras (WJ0G) told The Associated Press on Sunday that his brother Tim Samaras, 54, of Bennett, Colo., was killed Friday.

Tim Samaras' son, 24-year-old Paul Samaras, also of Bennett; and another chaser, Carl Young, also died.

The Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Okla., said it believed the deaths were the first time scientific researchers were killed while chasing tornadoes. The Samaras' and Young were pursuing an EF3 tornado as it bore down on a metropolitan area of more than 1 million people. "He looked at tornadoes not for the spotlight of TV but for the scientific aspect. At the end of the day, he wanted to save lives and he gave the ultimate sacrifice for that," Jim Samaras said.

The classic movie "The Wizard of Oz" fascinated a then-6-year-old Tim Samaras, his brother said — not for the magical Emerald City, but by what took Dorothy there, the storm. "

He didn't give a crap about Toto, he didn't give a crap about the munchkins," Jim Samaras said.

The Storm Prediction Center issued a statement Sunday, saying it was terribly saddened by Tim Samaras' death. "

Samaras was a respected tornado researcher and friend ... who brought to the field a unique portfolio of expertise in engineering, science, writing and videography," the center's statement said.

Tim Samaras had appeared on the Discovery Channel's "Storm Chasers" show until last year and also contributed to the National Geographic Society. "We are deeply saddened by the loss of Tim Samaras his son Paul and their colleague Carl Young. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families," Discovery Channel spokeswoman Laurie Goldberg said.

A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

The channel planned to dedicate a show Sunday night to the three men, capping the broadcast with a tribute that will read: "In memory of Tim Samaras, Carl Young and Paul Samaras who died Friday, May 31st doing what they love, chasing storms." Jim Samaras said his brother, nephew and their colleague were dedicated to avoiding trouble while chasing storms, and that the family wasn't worried about whether he was taking care of himself.

"I don't know if I would say I worried about it because one of the biggest things he stressed was safety. He knew what to look for. He knew where not to be and in this case the tornado took a clear turn toward them," he said. Video taken by a number of storm chasers showed debris pelting vehicles Friday. Winds swept one vehicle with a crew from The Weather Channel off the road, tossed it 200 yards and flipped it into a field — they escaped major injury.

Jim Cantore, a Weather Channel meteorologist, tweeted Sunday that meteorologists were in mourning. "This is a very sad day for the meteorological community and the families of our friends lost. Tim Samaras was a pioneer and great man," he wrote.

In Canadian County, Okla., where the men died, Undersheriff Chris West noted the three were hoping to help understand violent storms. "They put themselves in harm's way so that they can educate the public about the destructive power of these storms," he said.

The men worked as a team and Tim Samaras had received 18 grants from the National Geographic Society for work in the field.

"Tim was a courageous and brilliant scientist who fearlessly pursued tornadoes and lightning in the field in an effort to better understand these phenomena," the society said on its website. "Though we sometimes take it for granted, Tim's death is a stark reminder of the risks encountered regularly by the men and women who work for us."

The Storm Prediction Center said scientific storm chasing is performed as safely as possible, with trained researchers using appropriate technology. It encouraged all, including the media and amateurs, to chase safely to avoid a repeat of Friday's deaths.

Contribute Your thousand words to Guywire by sending in a picture. It can be of anything of interest to local hams- a favorite project, a picture of your station, pictures from a past event etc. Send more than one. Pictures make a newsletter more interesting. We are also looking for articles that you think might interest other hams, or favorite websites or information sources.

If you have any of these, please send them to ve5sc@sasktel.net

BURNSIDE

The GUYWIRE would like to do an article on the BURNSIDE.

Over the 20 plus years that amateurs used the site, we are sure you have some stories to tell and photos as well.

Please submit your comments and photos to the editor

at

ve5sc@sasktel.net

or to the RARA e-mail

at

ve5rara@gmail.com

**The next page has a few photos
of the BURNSIDE SITE.**

