



# GUYWIRE

January 2017

A monthly publication of the RARA Inc. except July and August.

If you wish to receive or be removed from the e-mailing please contact the editor/publisher at the RARA e-mail address @ ve5rara@gmail.com

NOTE: all e-mail and web addresses are active hyperlinks

## GENERAL MEETING

Jan. 11th @ 7:00 p.m.

Regent Place Library - Regina Market Mall - 331 Albert St.

**"Duplexer Tuning Demo"  
for VE5YQR/UHF**

## Special Notice

### from the Editor

The Guywire depends on submissions of articles and pictures sent in by members for most of its content. If you have a story, pictures or a favorite website, send it in to [ve5rara@gmail.com](mailto:ve5rara@gmail.com).

We would particularly like to have pictures from past club events.

**I really need more content  
from members.  
I can't do it all.**

## 2017 PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>ORGANIZER</u>
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### UPCOMING

RPS 1/2 marathon - April 30- Terry VE5TLW

### COMPLETED

Santa Claus Parade - Nov. 20th - Rick VE5RJR

Terry Fox Run - Sept. - Rick VE5RJR

MS Bike Tour - Aug. 20-21- Rick VE5RJR

Spoke n'Hot 100km Ride - Aug.7- TBA

Mayors Walk /Run - May 31 - Terry VE5TLW

Cosmo Learning Centre - May 13 - Harv VE5AD

MS Walk - May 1 - Rick VE5RJR

RPS Half Marathon - May 1st - Terry VE5TLW

Klondike Hike - Feb. 20th - Justin VA5RED

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## Yukon Special Call Signs for 2017

In celebration of Canada's 150th Birthday in 2017, the Yukon Canam Contest Club, VY1AAA, will be active using the special call XK150YUKON, from January 1 through March 1, 2017.

For the remainder of the year, we will be active as either C11AAA or VY1AAA.  
QSLs via KC1CWF and always confirmed on LOTW.

Gerry Hull, VE1RM/W1VE  
VY1AAA Trustee

Note: for more information on Canada 150: Special Event Prefixes for Canada's Sesquicentennial visit: <http://wp.rac.ca/special-event-canada150/>.

## Spare Equipment?

Have you got any spare equipment lying around gathering dust that you tell yourself you really should get rid of?

Is there a specific piece of equipment that you are looking for?

The place to go is the Saskatchewan Swap and Shop.

Visit [hamshack@va5cw.net](mailto:hamshack@va5cw.net) for details.

## Interesting Websites

This link will explain how to extend the range of a Hand-Held radio for 10 cents: <http://codegreenprep.com/2013/07/the-ten-cent-modification-you-can-do-to-double-your-radios-range/>

For the Science Geeks in us, go to: [www.sciencebob.com](http://www.sciencebob.com) for fun experiments

## Last Months Puzzler

In amateur circles what do the initials NTS denote?

**Answer:** The National Traffic System. The U.S. and Canada are divided into ten regional net areas. Saskatchewan is in region 10.

## This Months Puzzler

In a power supply what is the advantage of full wave rectification over half wave rectification?

**Answer next month.**

## BCQP Contest

### Key Details:

Date/Time: 1600z Feb 4 to 0400z Feb 5  
(Saturday, February 4, 10am to 10pm, UR time in Saskatchewan)

**UR Objective:** Stations outside BC contact as many VE7/VA7s as possible.

Exchange: BC stations give a three-letter code representing the federal electoral district in BC + RS(T)

Stations outside BC give province + RS(T)

### Resources:

- Rules: [http://orcadxcc.org/bcqp\\_rules.html](http://orcadxcc.org/bcqp_rules.html)
- FAQ: [http://orcadxcc.org/bcqp\\_faq.html](http://orcadxcc.org/bcqp_faq.html)
- Multipliers: [http://orcadxcc.org/bcqp\\_districts.html](http://orcadxcc.org/bcqp_districts.html)

### Logging Software

BCQP is fully supported by N1MM Logger+ software as well as CQ/X GPS-enabled software for mobile contesting, and QSO party software by N3FJP. Other programs have generic QSO party options, but these may not score accurately. No worries, though, we check all logs to confirm scores. Electronic logs are preferred, but paper logs are OK if the Q count

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is below 50. The only really crucial thing is that logs show the required information. See the rules for details.

### **Tangible Rewards:**

- **Certificates:** Top scores in each class of entry, in BC and outside BC, receive a beautiful photo-based certificate highlighting something scenic or special about BC. Pictures are different every year and thus collectible!
- **Special Recognition:** If submitted logs are particularly numerous in any given category or results are particularly noteworthy, additional certificates are awarded, as appropriate.
- **Plaques:** Through the plaque program, supported by radio-related clubs, businesses and individuals, we are going into BCQP 2017 with plaques in nine categories. The ones that stations outside BC have a chance at are Top Canada outside BC, Top YL Score, Most Federal Electoral Districts Worked and Top Mixed Mode. If you or your club members have questions, I'm just an email away.

73, Rebecca VA7BEC

## **Revised version of RIC-3**

Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED), formerly Industry Canada, has issued a revised version of RIC-3, Information on the Amateur Radio Service. It replaces RIC-3 Version 3 that was released in July 2005. Radio Amateurs of Canada welcomes the change as it addresses several long-standing issues pointed out by RAC in the past where the document required updating to address changes in technologies and practices, notably the decision by many administrations to remove the requirement for Morse code qualification for new Radio Amateurs. The new version of RIC-3 can be found online at: <http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/smt-gst.nsf/eng/sf01008.html>

The new document contains several editorial

changes (such as the change in the name of the Department) and clarifications regarding the operating privileges granted to holders of the Basic qualifications. Over recent years there have been questions about which qualification is required by Canadian Radio Amateurs to modify a commercial transceiver to operate on Amateur bands. Those with Advanced certification could certainly make any sort of modification as they are allowed to design and build transmitters. The new RIC-3 makes it clear that the privileges of those holding Basic certifications includes:

“re-programming of radio equipment to operate in the Amateur Bands if this can be done by a computer program. Note: No physical modifications to the circuitry of the radio are permitted.”

RAC had urged that the limitation of the restriction of remote control of Amateur Radio stations to those with Advanced qualification be relaxed as changes in transceiver design have made remote control over the Internet much simpler than in the past and so the higher technical qualification of Advanced was not essential. We believe that those with Basic should have this privilege but ISED has not yet agreed. Dealing with regulations and their interpretation is an ongoing activity where several rounds of discussion are often required to achieve results.

The document also drops the outdated requirement for visiting American Radio Amateurs to have demonstrated CW proficiency to be able to operate HF phone in Canada. The World Radiocommunication Conference of 2003 agreed that CW need not be required for Amateur Radio licensing and the USA dropped the CW requirement for Amateur Radio licences in 2007 after the previous RIC-3 was published.

The major change to the document relates to reciprocal operating privileges, in particular those provided in a European intergovernmental agreement developed through a European telecommunications committee (referred to by its

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French acronym CEPT) that has grown to include several non-European countries.

Canada is a signatory to the CEPT T/R 61-01 reciprocal operating agreement, under which Canadian Amateurs who have a CEPT permit issued in Canada may operate in European countries during temporary visits. This agreement has undergone various revisions over the years notably to acknowledge the removal of CW qualification as a requirement for Amateur Radio authorization in many countries, and after negotiations between ISED and CEPT, the rules for Canadian participation have been updated to follow suit. There have been two major changes as a result: (1) There will no longer be two classes of CEPT permit depending on the holding of a Morse code qualification. Although Morse code is no longer a requirement for the CEPT permit, any such qualifications will still be noted on the permit for use in countries that still require Morse code for access to HF; (2) After conducting a comparison study of the syllabus for Canadian and CEPT examinations, CEPT has determined that only Canadian Amateurs who hold an Advanced qualification will be eligible for reciprocal operating privileges under CEPT T/R 61-01. Therefore, effective immediately, and as described in RIC-3, CEPT permits will only be issued to Amateurs with an Advanced qualification. Canadian Amateurs who have the requisite qualifications may submit requests for CEPT permits to RAC as described at: <http://wp.rac.ca/study-guides-2/regulatory-info/cept-permits/>

Canada is a party to another intergovernmental agreement, the Inter-American Convention on an International Amateur Radio Permit that provides reciprocal operating privileges to Radio Amateurs of one country that signs on to this agreement when they visit other countries that have also joined the agreement. At the meeting of national Amateur Radio organizations in Chile in October, Radio Amateurs of Canada and other similar organizations in our hemisphere agreed to encourage their governments to update this agreement. At last week's meeting of the Canadian Amateur Radio Advisory Board (CARAB), RAC

was told that at a recent meeting of representatives of governments of the Americas, the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL), delegates agreed to update the agreement. We expect this will be done in the summer of 2017.

Any questions regarding these changes may be directed to Richard Ferch, VE3IAY / VE3KI, RAC Regulatory Affairs Officer at [regulatory@rac.ca](mailto:regulatory@rac.ca).

Richard Ferch, VE3IAY / VE3KI  
RAC Regulatory Affairs Officer

**This is the final part of the history of the  
Regina Amateur Radio Association  
which has been running in previous issues.**

## Repeater Expansion

RARA was asked to take over the assets of the Regina Repeater Group which included the VE5TH repeater on city hall. The club decided that it now had too many repeaters for it to take care of and the older VE5WM repeater was decommissioned. Under the ownership of the club, the City Hall repeater now had the callsign of VE5YQR and IRLP was relocated to this repeater. At the same time the club also inherited the VE5REC repeater at Balgonie. This repeater was located on a broadcast tower near Balgonie but unfortunately the broadcast station moved to another site and the tower was dismantled. RARA was fortunate to be able to move to a new site on a tower north of Regina where we share an antenna with the Prairie Valley School district. More recently, the club inherited a 3rd repeater, the VE5UHF repeater and are in the midst of refurbishing the site on Winnipeg Street. This repeater has remote base facilities which allows it to be connected to VHF repeaters in the area.

With the funds from the sale of Burnside School, the club embarked on a program of upgrading its' facilities. Two new Kenwood repeaters were purchased to replace the aging equipment at both VE5YQR and VE5REC.

The club participates in many runs, walks, parades

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etc. each year by providing communications for non-profit groups as a public service.

Each year the club organizes classes to give prospective hams instruction to assist them in obtaining their amateur licenses.

## Field Days

The longest running project of the club is the annual Field Day. There is no record of Field Day operations in the pre-war era, but following the war it became an annual club event. The first known Field Day location was in a tent located just north of the airport. Later many other locations were used including Last Mountain House, Burnside School, the Dirt Hills, Legislature grounds and more recently the Saskatchewan Science Center in Wascana Park.

## Meeting Places

Over the years the club has had several meeting locations, including the old Courthouse on Victoria Avenue and Regina Transit offices on Albert St. It was during the 80's the club signed an agreement with the Wascana Institute of Applied Arts and Sciences to provide a meeting room and a location for the club station and funds were raised to equip the station. Access to the station proved to be as problem so in 1989 an agreement was reached with the Saskatchewan Science Center to provide an area in the Center for meetings and the club station, which was to be operated whenever possible as a science display.

The club station VE5NN is located on the top floor of the Science Center and has facilities to operate on HF and VHF, on CW, SSB and satellite . The club no longer meets at the Science Centre as the meeting room proved too small for our group and we presently meet at the Regent Place Library at 331 Albert Street. We meet on the second Wednesday of each month (excluding July and August) at 7:00 PM.

**If you have any stories, pictures or anything else pertaining to the history of the club, please share them with us. Send them to [ve5rara@gmail.com](mailto:ve5rara@gmail.com)**