



GUYWIRE

May 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

May 10th @ 7:00 p.m.

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

Planning for the Science Fair

2017-18 RARA Executive

President - Neil Slater - VA5SCA
Secretary - Terry White - VE5TLW
Treasurer - Allan Tidball - VE5LAT
Past President - Harvey Drinkle - VE5AD
Director - Con Berger - VE5CON
Director - Justin Chapman - VA5RED
Director - Summer Hartzfeld - VE5SDH
Director - Lyle Maystruck - VE5EE
Director - Mark Humphreys VE5LNX

**Membership Fee
for 2017-18
now due**

2017 PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

EVENT DATE ORGANIZER

UPCOMING

MS Bike Tour- August 19 - Richard VE5RJR

COMPLETED

RPS 1/2 marathon - April 30 - Terry VE5TLW
MS Super Cities Walk - April 30 - Rick VE5RJR

News From Our President

In February of 2016, I asked at a RARA meeting if the club should do anything to celebrate Canada's 150 anniversary. During the discussion, Harvey VE5AD suggested that we approach RAC and ask about special call signs for the year. Accordingly, I emailed RAC on behalf of RARA to suggest that Canada's 150th Anniversary would be a great time to offer special call signs to Canadian Amateurs.

Not long after that, RAC announced the CF/CG call signs for most of Canada. I thought at the time that it must have been coincidence, since there COULDN'T have been enough time to act on my email.

Well, I checked with RAC a couple of months ago, and it turns out there HAD been enough time; thus, the Regina Amateur Radio Association is directly responsible for the sesquicentennial call signs available for use this year by all Canadian Amateur radio operators.

I'm very honored to have been the Amateur who actually sent the suggestion on behalf of the club, but Harvey VE5AD/CG5AD gets most of the credit, since he was the one who made the suggestion to contact RAC.

I have received confirmation that RARA will be at booth #17, in Gym B of the ketmarkeBuilding, U of R, for the Canada-wide Science Fair.

We will be looking for several volunteers to help staff the booth over three days. We MUST have people in attendance at all times during the event, and I am hoping to have three people there at any one time. If we can manage five or six volunteers each day, we'll be able to take one-hour shifts, with lots of breaks to wander and see what Canada's young Science Geeks have to show off.

Neil VA5SCA/CF5CSA

Interesting Websites

What the HELL!

Attached is an article and link about the first FAX type of transmission called HELLSCHREIBER (Feld-Hell). You will not likely hear Feld-Hell unless there is an active contest in progress for the mode. A number of freeware programs are available that allow transmission/reception of the mode.

I use MixW.

<https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/Home>

ve5tlw

Morsum Magnificat was a publication about all things Morse Code. Published between 1986 and 2004, it was of particular interest to key collectors.

Copies are now available online at:
<www.n7cfo.com/tgph/Dwnlds/mm/mm.htm>

Last Months Puzzler

Which king, who was a licensed ham, once operated portable VE6 while on a visit to Canada?

Answer: The late King Hussain of Jordan on a visit to Calgary operated on 2 Meters as JY1/VE6 on that occasion.

This Months Puzzler

Can you name at least one other King who was a ham? There are/were several. (Not including people with the surname "King".)

Answer next month

[RAC-Bulletin] Dayton Hamvention: May 19-21

Come visit RAC at Booth 6806 in Building 6

For the seventh year in a row, Radio Amateurs of Canada will be operating a booth at the Dayton Hamvention, the world's largest Amateur Radio gathering.

It was great to see so many of you dropping by the RAC Booth last year and we look forward to seeing you there this year.

Follow us on Twitter at #RACatDayton and watch for our photo gallery on the RAC website and on Facebook. For last year's album visit <<http://wp.rac.ca/rac-at-dayton-gallery/>>

This is the 66th year of the Dayton Hamvention, sponsored by the Dayton Amateur Radio Association. Each year, a specific theme – such as Amateur Radio clubs, global friendship or the advent of digital modes – spotlights one of the many facets of the Amateur Radio Service.

This year's theme is "Hamvention – Same Friends, New Home" as the event will be held at their new home at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Exposition Center at 120 Fairgrounds Road in Xenia, Ohio.

The schedule is as follows:

Flea market and Inside Exhibits

Friday: 9 am to 6 pm

Saturday: 9 am to 5 pm

Sunday: 9 am to 1 pm

Further information about the Dayton Hamvention can be found online at: <http://www.hamvention.org>
So come visit the RAC booth 6806 in Building 6 and talk to your RAC volunteers. Better yet contact us and volunteer to work at the booth: RAC Headquarters racgm@rac.ca; or by telephone at 1-877-273-8304.

Alan Griffin RAC MarCom Director

Saskatchewan Hamfest

Where: Yorkton, Saskatchewan; Canada

Venue: Painted Hand Casino, 510 Broadway St W

When: 9:00 AM To 5 PM

Event Website : http://nonprofits.accesscomm.ca/parc/Sask_Hamfest_2017.html (enter manually)

We will be having a series of informal discussion/workshop sessions on topics of interest to Hams. The sessions will run for 30 Min. or so each throughout the day. We encourage anyone with expertise in, or interest in, a specific area to lead a discussion.

SDR radio, Digital radio, Antenna building,
Handy gadgets, Mods to equipment, PC power
supplies for ham
... You name it!

This is one time a year when we can share our talents, expertise and questions with others with the same passion

LETS USE IT!.

A final topic list and schedule will be available at the event.

If interested in leading a discussion please

contact: Dave Negrych VE4NEG

Email: ve4neg@gmail.com

Early bird Deadline May 31

Event Activities

- Informal Discussions / Demonstrations
- License Examiners will be available
- Student Science Project event
- Craft Tables will be setup
- Unreserved Auction Mid Afternoon
- Door Prizes 50/50 Draw
- Draws throughout the Event
- Salvation army display

Shuttle service Courtesy of Painted Hand Casino

Admission fee: Early Bird \$5.00 / @Door \$10.00

Students & Sponsors Free

Table fee \$15.00 (Setup after 7:30 AM)

Ham Radio To The Rescue

A lady in Regina recently sent an email to the club asking for help. She was experiencing erratic operation of her garage opener and several other appliances due to interfering signals in her area. She had called Sask Tel, Sask Power and Access but they were unable to help her.

The club recommended that, as a first step she should call the office of the Local Radio Inspector who has the equipment necessary to deal with situations like that and she was given the contact information.

Later the club received an email from her thanking us for the help. The Radio Inspector came out and quickly determined the cause to be malfunctioning equipment in a nearby home.

There is a lesson in this for all of us. Before becoming involved as a third party in an interference problem, the first course of action should be to call the office of the local Radio Inspector.

SGI Callsign Licence plate renewal BONUS!

Hello my fellow Amateur Radio friends.

I recently purchase a new vehicle and wanted to get my old call sign licence plates renewed as they were showing signs of wear over the years looked bad on my nice shinny new car.

I filled out an "Application for Special Order Plates" and expected to pay either \$26.25 or \$47.25 for two plates BUT found out the application was not required, or a copy of my AR License since the plates were being "renewed" and were already in the system....but the best part was...it only cost me \$20/plate (taxes included).

I was also concerned that SGI may decide to stop issuing cheap AR plates out to us in the near future, since the SK government wants to save money these days...so thought it best to get new plates now, and a second to use in the far future if needed.

They should be printed and ready in 10 business days and will be mailed to me.

Special notes...the new application, (which I did not need to re-submit), states that the call sign will be centered on the plate BUT when my original plates were printed they were off to one side (only a problem for those with 5 character calls...good thing I wrote "centered" in brackets on my original application).

Also...be sure to tell them that you "do not" want the wheat sheath printed on the plate. A friend of mine had an argument with SGI once in which they insisted the wheat sheath was required...which it is not.

Apparently I can expect the new plates to be printed the same as the old plates on file are now...so hopefully I won't have a problem.

Something for you all to think about before it is too late or costs more later.

Murray Crandon, VE5MC.

A Humorous List Of Metric Standards

Here are some conversions that may be needed.

10-15 Bismol	=	1 Pepto-Bismol
12-12 Boos	=	1 Pico Boo
1 Boo2	=	1 Boo Boo
10-18 Boys	=	1 AttaBoy
101 Cards	=	1 DecaCard
109 Los	=	1 Gigalo
10-9 Goats	=	1 NanoGoat
10-1 Mate	=	1 DeciMate
10-2 Pedes	=	1 CentiPede
106 Phones	=	1 MegaPhone
10-6 Phones	=	1 MicroPhone
2 Gorics	=	1 ParaGoric

Terry -VE5TLW

STEAM

The STEAM 2017 Festival and the
Canada Wide Science Fair
is coming quickly to Regina on the
18th to the 20th of May at the U of R.

I ask for the local Regina amateur radio community to please help in promoting amateur radio to the youth of Regina and the brightest Canada has to offer.

The RARA booth will perhaps be the first time many kids learn about amateur radio and if we can light a spark in a few, we have the possibility of bringing new amateurs to our fantastic hobby.

Regardless if you belong to the RARA or not, if you're an amateur that can help out if only for one hour, your help would be very much appreciated. It would be best to have at least two people at a time in the booth, but the more, the better.

Lets not miss this great opportunity to bring amateur radio our youth.

I you have any questions, or if you are able to assist.
My email is as follows: danieldion1@yahoo.com

Thanks, Daniel VE5DLD

VE5MCV's Trial by Fire

As most of you know, our club's communications / ARES truck has been housed for some twenty years or more at 1212J Winnipeg Street, in the old GM assembly plant. It has shared a space with a police-owned box trailer in a fenced-off compound next to some City vehicles.

Just before 10:00 p.m. of May 2, my son Declan called me to ask if the ARES truck was in its compound, and told me that the building was on fire. While talking to him, I could hear the sound of explosions in the background as fuel tanks and other material combusted. And indeed the truck was back at its home, after being used at the RPS Half Marathon two days earlier. He asked if I have a set of key; I do, but I also have a broken right ankle and cannot drive anything, let alone a manual transmission. He described the fire for a few minutes, and we hung up.

Ten or so minutes later, Declan called again to say that he had asked at the command post if it would be possible to rescue a vehicle, and had actually been standing in the doorway to J Block with a firefighter, looking at the truck. The firefighter asked if he had keys to it; when Declan said he could get keys, the firefighter just said, "RUN!" And run Declan did. He called to let me know he was on his way, but took nearly 30 minutes to get to his van and then to my home. While he was on his way to me, I called Harvey VE5AD at about 10:30 to make certain that Declan should be allowed to drive the truck; Harvey assured me that under the circumstances, there would be no problem with someone moving it without proper authorization.

Declan got to my home, confirmed that he knew how to start the truck, and ran back to his van for a quick sprint back to the truck. But when he got back to the fire scene, the police had set up a perimeter at Ottawa Street and 8th Avenue. Declan asked a friend who had been watching with him

to help spot him as he jockeyed the truck to get it outside, and said, "Okay, let's run." His friend said, "What? Past the POLICE?" "Yes," replied Declan, "I have permission." So they started to run to the building - and were promptly almost tackled by a couple of police officers who said they were no longer allowed to try the rescue. The police had been asked to keep everyone back, as the fire was getting more intense and more dangerous. Declan called me at about 11:15, very disappointed, to let me know that he was unable to get the truck out, but that the fire seemed to be avoiding J Block. For the moment...

Around 11:00 p.m., my oldest son Lindsay called from his girlfriend's home to ask what all the sirens were about. They went to the top floor of her apartment building, and he sent me a few depressing photos that made it look like the entire building was fully engulfed.

Within twenty minutes or so Lindsay called back to say that Declan had picked him up (their girlfriends were with them - the modern generation has a strange way of double-dating!), and they were watching from Winnipeg Street, where the fire didn't seem to have reached.

12:45 a.m. May 3: Lindsay called again, saying that they were on the gravel a few metres from G Block. The door to J Block was open, the truck still looked okay, and Declan was asking a firefighter if he could try again to rescue the truck. The answer was still no, though, on the grounds that if they let one person in, they'd have to let everyone in who wanted to retrieve things, and they could end up losing people if the fire breached a firewall or the building collapsed. I assured both sons that the truck was far more replaceable than they are, and went to bed very sad for our poor truck.

At 8:00 a.m. of May 3, Harvey called me to ask if I had any further news. While I was saying I didn't, his cell phone rang, so we broke off. Harvey called back 5 minutes later to say that the other call was from Allan VE5LAT, who had been to the building. The truck was still safe! However, the firefighters couldn't allow people into the building, as it was in possible danger of collapse. Harvey said he was

to call the fire department in the early afternoon to discuss rescuing our goods. But he would need some help to move things, especially our crank-up tower. I said I would ask my sons and would let him know if they could help. Declan had to work, but Lindsay said he would try to get away from what he was doing and lend a hand.

Now I'm going to let Harvey take over the story, as I couldn't be there:

"Approx 9:00 a.m.: contacted Reg Fountain (our City contact) to see if we could remove the truck. He said he would check and get back to me by noon.

"12:12 p.m.: Reg called and said we could contact the Fire Marshall, Randy Ryba, at 1:30 to see if we could remove the truck.

"1:30 p.m.: Allan VE5LAT met me at J Block and we confirmed with the Fire Marshall that we had about one hour to remove what we could and that after that they would not guarantee entry to the building as it may be condemned. We contacted Lindsay, and Allan went to pick him up while I decided what things we should remove in the limited time frame. When Allan and Lindsay returned, we removed the truck and proceeded to load a few items onto my truck for removal.

"2:30 p.m. approx.: we took the truck and salvaged items to the Fire Training station where our trailer is stored. We had permission to park the truck there, and we unloaded most items from my truck into our trailer. Some items were left in my truck; I will store those in my garage for the time being.

"The following items were removed and are stored at the Fire Station:

- The ARES Truck
- The 60-foot crank up tower
- Two large Yagi antennae
- A cream coloured metal box (believed to be a spare repeater for VE5UHF)
- A blue plastic box of equipment (which may be related to VE5UHF)
- 1 500 ft reel of coax cable (unknown type)
- 2 saw horses used to hold the tower
- 1 AirGrid Broadband Wireless Antenna System

"The following items were removed and are stored in my garage for now:

- 1 70 cm Yagi antenna
- 2 Rotators
- 4 Rotator controllers
- 1 coil of coax cable
- 1 6-inch tube for holding parts for the tent (not being used at this time)
- 1 6-inch 8-turn coax coil for antenna matching.

"There is a lot of equipment still left a J Block (from my memory):

- About 12 or more reels of various cables
- Several steel poles
- 1 propane heater (old)
- 1 rolling cabinet
- 1 duplexer 2M
- 1 tuning cavity 2M
- 1 roll of ~ 1 inch coax cable
- 1 Roof mount emergency light bar
- Several roof mounting kits (obtained from The Dish Guy

And a ton of dust on everything in J Block

"These may be removed later if possible (except for the dust? - Neil), but we did not have the time nor the equipment or storage facility to remove them in the allotted time frame.

"I would like to thank Allan VE5LAT, and Declan and Lindsay Slater for their efforts and help in securing our assets from the damaged GM Building."

Harv VE5AD



Fire Scene May 3rd 2017
photo by Harv VE5AD

The most important thing is that no lives were lost. In addition, several businesses in the building were left mostly intact by the fire, and we still have our communications truck.

My thanks to Harvey VE5AD and Allan VE5LAT for their time and effort in attempting the impossible and moving what they could. (HOW did just the three of you move that tower?) Special thanks to Harvey for adding to the tale, and for the day-after photos of the fire scene. And I can only echo Harvey's thanks to my sons Lindsay and Declan. I don't know how we did it, but my wife and I appear to have raised two fine young men.

Now if you'll excuse me, I have some serious arm-twisting to do, to see if at least one of those two layabouts will work on getting his Ham ticket!

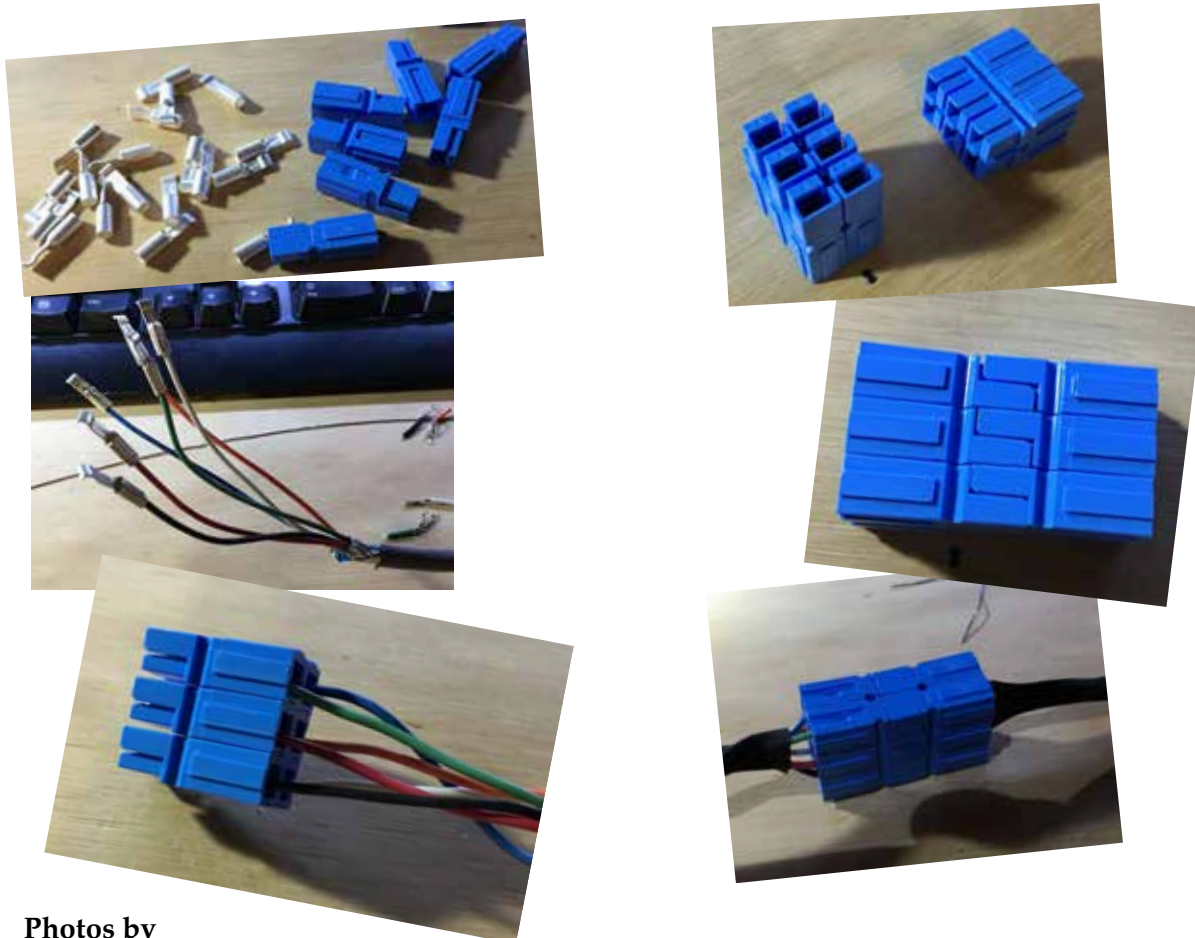
Neil - VA5SCA

VE5DLD Shack Report

“Powerpole the world.” Upon hearing those words for the first time, a quick thought crossed my mind, perhaps the venerable Anderson Powerpole could be used for more than a simple power connector. Following the reorganisation of my shack a few months ago, I had disconnected the antenna rotator to get the wire out of the way during the process. This month, with 6m sporadic e season coming fast, I decided to get the rotator and the 6m beam ready for action. I originally used a six conductor terminal strip as an interconnect between the controller and the main control line. I was never pleased with this solution, the wires were not well supported and the connections were weak, the whole thing looked like a mess. Of course, I could have attached lugs to each wire, but it still made connecting and disconnecting the wires a very messy and time consuming job. What I needed was a six conductor connector that was easy to install and simple to use.

Powerpole to the rescue! Remembering that more than two connectors could be attached together, I quickly hatched up a solution to my problem. Not wanting to use traditional red or black connectors that could easily be confused for power leads, I headed to the local electronics supply company (Jagr Electronics), and ordered some blue connectors for the job. Once I got the connectors, it was simply a matter of deciding how to configure them as a block.

The control wires were a little small for the 30 amp pins, so after crimping them, I carefully soldered each pin to each wire to ensure a proper connection. Before clicking the pins in the plastic connectors, I slipped some shrink wrap to make sure everything stays neat and tidy once assembled. In under an hour of work, I had the connector



Photos by
Daniel VE5DLD