GUYWIRE

September 2015

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

Sept. 9th @ 7:00 p.m.

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

Presentation

Formal Message Handling

Help the GUYWIRE

The editor and publisher are looking for your input.

1. What would you like to have as a regular topic?
2. Would you like Question and answer section?
3. Do you think a technical article each issue would be of interest?
4. Would you be willing to provide a brief write-up of your station/shack with photos?

Contact the editor or publisher at:
ve5rara@gmail.com

PLEASE HELP US OUT BY PROVIDING SOME GUIDANCE FOR FUTURE ISSUES.

2015 PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

EVENT DATE ORGANIZER

UPCOMING

Queen City Marathon - Sept. 13th. - Terry (VE5TLW)
Terry Fox Run - Sept. 20th. - Rick (VE5RJR)
Zombie Survival Dash - Sept. 26th. - Terry (VE5TLW)

COMPLETED

RPS Half Marathon -April 26th - Terry (VE5TLW)
MS Super Cities Walk April 26th - Rick (VE5RJR)
Cosmopolitan Connections-May 15-Havey (VE5AD)
Mayor's Run/Walk for Fitness -May 31 - Terry (VE5TLW)
Run for Women(Mental Health) - June 6 -Rick (VE5RJR)

Please contact the coordinator directly if you can assist with the event or via ve5rara@gmail.com.

Queen City Marathon

The QCM is rapidly approaching. I have had only five positive responses to volunteer at this year's event. I am hoping for at least 12 more so we can adequately cover the route. Your attendance, even for a few hours will be of benefit to provide the required communications.

Once again we have been requested to provide communications for this year's QCM. The event takes place on September 13th. We will meet at 7:00 AM at the ARES MCV located near the Start/Finish Line at the Conexus Arts Centre. We will be using VE5YQR repeater (147.120+) as the primary with the VE5REC repeater (146.640-) as the backup.

Approximately 16 - 18 radio operators will be required to adequately cover the route.

NEW NEW NEW

The route has changed this year for the first time in the event's existence. Please follow this link the the official QCM Website for maps of the new new course: http://runqcm.com/index

The route has changed for the first time in the event's existence. Please follow this link to the QCM website and follow the menu to the maps: http://runqcm.com/index
Please note, also, the section on location of toilets.

Let me know how long you would be available to help and if you have a location that you prefer.

73 - Terry (VE5TLW)

Terry Fox Run

Our assistance has been requested for the following Public Service Event. It will require about 6-8 Amateur Radio operators, starts at about 10:00 am and will be finished by Noon. If you can help out, please email me or contact me and I will place you on my volunteer list.

The event is fairly laid back and for the most part a walkathon around Wascana Park. Maps will be provided when they become available.

Hope to see you there.....

Terry Fox Run-Regina
Date: Sunday, Sept. 20, 2015
Location: T.C. Douglas Building

Registration opens at 8:30am
Opening ceremonies begin at 9:45am
Run begins at 10:15am

Route Information
10km and 5km distances available

Richard Rickwood (VE5RJR)

Zombie Survival Dash

We have been asked to provide communications for the "Zombie Survival 5K Dash". It is an adult style Klondike Hike, with various skills stations.

The amateur radio community was asked to provide a skills station. I have contacted Summer (VE5SDH), and she has agreed to send Morse code on a code practice oscillator at our designated location.

The event takes place on September 26th at 09:30 at Les Sherman Park. The meeting time will be at 08:45 at the ARES MCV located somewhere in Les Sherman Park. Approximately 7 - 9 radio operators will be required to cover the route. Attached are the event poster & the 'Risk Assessment" document. The last page of the Risk Assessment contains the course map. Please advise me if you has a preferred location. This sounds like a fun event.

73 - Terry (VE5TLW)

Hamfest Report

The Saskatchewan Hamfest, which also featured the Annual General meetings of both Radio Amateurs of Canada and the Saskatchewan Amateur Radio League, was held July 3rd, 4th and 5th in Martensville.

Six hams from Regina attended and reported having a very good time.

The Meewasin Amateur Radio Club is to be commended for the putting on a very interesting Hamfest.

Government and Ham Radio

It is not often we hear the words government and ham radio used in the same sentence but now for the first time in many decades we have a provincial cabinet minister who is a ham. Don Morgan VE5RT of Saskatoon is the provincial Minister of Education. He was instrumental in protecting amateur radio rights when cellphone/driving legislation was introduced.

The last ham to serve as a cabinet minister was Lionel Coderre VE5QO, who served as Minister of Labour and Minister of Public Works until 1971.

Who is the Oldest Ham in the World

As far as we know, Dr. Harry Wolf, W6NKT of Paso Robles CA is the oldest at 106 years. He is still active daily on the air.

But if you are looking at the longest licensed ham, that honor goes to Charles Hellman, W2RP of Hastings New York. He is 105 years old and got his license at the age of 15 making him a ham for 90 years.

What's in a Name?

Since ham radios beginnings, we have been in the habit of designating our frequency bands in terms of Meters – (eg. 80 Meters). When you see how inaccurate those band names are you might want dump the term "Meters" completely and use the more precise designation of mHz or kHz.

For instance if you were to transmit exactly on frequencies of 40, 30, 20, 15, 10 or 6 Meters, you would not be transmitting in any amateur band. As an example, transmissions on 40 Meters would come out on 7.49 mHz and 15 Meters would come out at 19.99 mHz, a whole megahertz outside the band. Only on 80 and 160 Meters would you come out in-band.

Most people use the terms 75 and 80 Meters interchangeably when referring to the 3.5-4.0 mHz band. Some call it 80 Meters when referring to the lower CW end of the band and 75 Meters when referring to the top of the band. In fact, the 75 Meter point occurs smack in the middle of the band, with the bottom end of the band actually being 85.65 Meters.

Maybe it is time to retire the inaccurate term Meter when it refers to radio frequencies and leave it with antenna calculations where it belongs.

Websites of Interest

Videos covering all aspects of the hobby of amateur radio - professionally produced
http://www.txfactor.co.uk/

Murray VE5MC operated from KH6BB in Hawaii. Watch this interesting Youtube video.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9OcslSTgO6w

Watch an interesting presentation on the use of crystals in radio on this Youtube site.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bFKHCFjOM

Iconic Transmitter Building Razed

Most people who have grown up in the prairie provinces will have received their news via the CBC broadcast tower in Watrous.
The massive CBK building was established in 1939 as part of an overall CBC plan to bring programming to all parts of Canada. This was done with six well-placed 50,000 watt transmitters.

The CBK transmitter building in Watrous 1939 (Source: Dwight Kornelsen/ Watrousheritage.ca)
CBK was designed to serve all the prairie provinces, which is why Watrous was chosen as the site. It is located in the centre of the populated portion of the prairies, and as a bonus it is located on a potash vein, making its ground conductivity one of the best on the continent. In those days the technology for a single transmitter took up two floors of the building. About 371 square metres was for the transmitter. That amount of equipment required a staff of six to maintain. There was also living quarters for a manager and staff in town.

The original transmitter needed 371 square metres of room. The new transmitter takes up less than one square metre. (Sourced from watrousheritage.ca)

During the Cold War, nuclear threat was a very real concern. "There was a fallout shelter built in the basement of the building that contained full facilities to be able to broadcast in the event of nuclear war. The site was deemed important enough for communications that there was an armed guard protecting the transmitter," said Stephen Tomchuk, transmitter supervisor for Saskatchewan.

The transmitter survived the war unscathed but it was a plough wind going 160 kph that tore down the tower in 1976.
According to the Watrous historical centre this was the only time in its history that CBK was off the air for more than a few hours. Only several days after the storm, a 91-metre temporary tower put CBK back on the air and in 1983, a new permanent tower was erected, reaching the height of 465 feet, the same length as the original antenna.

"Now technology has evolved, the actual transmitter takes up nine square feet (less than one square metre) of space instead of 4,000 sq.ft.(371 square metres) and we now only have a staff of one that visits there once a month, said Tomchuk.

In March 2007, CBC decided to build a new smaller building to house the new transmitter. The new transmitter didn't heat the massive building the same way the old one did. The old building became vacant and with no one maintaining it, it fell into disrepair.

CBC was in communication with the local heritage committee to offer it the opportunity to take over the building. However, getting the building up to code and maintaining it was more money than the local heritage committee could afford.

Tomchuk said the building contains hazardous material such as lead paint and asbestos in the flooring and he estimates it would cost between $500,000 and $1.5 million just to fix up the building enough to allow the public inside.
Instead, members of the local heritage committee worked with CBC to identify pieces of interest from inside the building that could be removed to put on display somewhere else.
For more info go to: http://watrousheritage.ca/CBKRadio.php

A Nation unto Itself

Since the spring, enthusiastic DXers have held out hopes of receiving the gift of a new radio frontier from Czech politician Vit Jedlicka: Jedlicka created a new nation on the western bank of the Danube River and named it Liberland.

For hams, this is not just a new country but perhaps a new DXCC country. Liberland is a parcel of marshy land, three square miles in size, that went unclaimed by neither of the two nearby nations of Serbia and Croatia. In April, Jedlicka issued a proclamation that he, in fact, wanted the land that no one else did and declared it a free and independent nation. He was then elected president by an overwhelming vote of 2-0. Liberland even raised its own flag, prompting amateur radio chat forums and blogs to do some flag-waving of their own, urging Liberland's inclusion on the official list of DXCC nations.

That may take some time, of course, but DXers are ever optimistic that Liberland will see its way through the political pileup. Until then, this former No Man's Land is going to remain a No Hams Land, at least for now.

(DX COFFEE, THE NY TIMES)

Last Months Puzzler

Answer: QRK? How do you receive me?

QRK I am receiving you (1-5)

This Months Puzzler

Who was the first ham to use Single Sideband Transmission on amateur bands?

Answer next month.

TV signals tested as radar alternative

An experimental radar system will use ordinary television signals to track aircraft.
Radar which is an abbreviation of "radio detection and ranging", detects distant objects by bouncing radio waves off them.
This new approach researched by British air traffic control provider NATS uses "passive radar",using existing signals such as television and radio broadcasts, to illuminate aircraft.
This involves using multiple antennas to listen out for signals from broadcast towers and for reflections of those signals that have bounced off aircraft, and comparing the two with enough number-crunching, the position, speed and direction of nearby aircraft can then be determined.

Passive radar requires a lot of processing power, but because there is no need for a transmitter, it ends up being cheaper than conventional radar.
It also has military benefits because it enables a ground radar station to detect objects covertly without emitting any signals of its own.
This technique will be evaluated to see how passive radar might be incorporated into Britain's air-traffic control system.The benefits could be enormous including big reductions in the cost of ground based radar infrastructure.
The use of television signals might, for example, work better in areas where conventional radar coverage is currently patchy, or where there is interference caused by wind turbines. Will soap operas and news bulletins end up helping to direct aircraft in busy skies? hope we get a reduction in our TV licensing fees,Stay tuned.

UK digital terrestrial TV frequencies are around 480-590mhz & DAB 217-230mhz

Story here from the BBC>
http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-33063353

Field Day Memories

My first Field Day was memorable in more ways than one. The Field Day location that year was just north of the airport and about half way between the airport and 13th Avenue. The single station was set up in a small tent with a beam on a pop up mast and several wire antennas.

Shortly after my shift began, an ominous black cloud came up from the west. Fearing a thunderstorm, I began disconnecting antennas. I was holding the beam antenna connector when I came within about an inch of the metal tent pole there was a loud snap and a huge discharge between the connector and the pole. I dropped the connector and within seconds there was a bright flash of lightning followed by an earthshaking roll of thunder.

We had a visiting ham, a young lad from Britain who was backpacking across Canada and dropped into site. When the lightning struck he was looking out of the tent door and he turned completely white.

At first I thought lightening had struck the beam, being the highest thing for almost a mile in any direction, but when our visitor finally got over his shock, he told us that he saw the lightening strike the ground at the side of the road just 25 feet from our tent.

Later when it was safe, we ventured out and looked for the spot the lightening had hit. Sure enough, there was a three inch hole in the side of the road and there was a distinct sulphur smell.

The generator had stopped working and the radio was completely dead. We restarted the generator but the radio remained dead. Panic. We had borrowed the radio from Radio Supply for the occasion and I had visions of the club being on the hook for a replacement radio. As it turned out, the discharge had been picked up by the power cable running between the generator and the radio and blew out the power supply diodes. We replaced them and were back in business after a couple hours.

Another memorable Field Day was held in the Dirt Hills, not at the very top but as high as we could get with ordinary vehicles. We operated out of a Dept. of Highways construction caboose. We had this thanks to Lionel Coderre VE5QO who just happened to be the Minister of Highways at the time. When Field Day was over and the caboose was being driven back down, a sharp turn caused the caboose to overturn. Fortunately the car pulling it disconnected and was not damaged. The assembled manpower managed to right the caboose and it continued down the hill a little worse for wear.

Disasters seemed to dog the early Field Days. One Field Day that was held at Last Mountain House, just north of Craven. That year the big project was a kite that would carry a 160 meter antenna. It was a disaster. The kite wouldn't stay up long enough to say "59 Saskatchewan" and everyone had their own ideas as to why it didn't work, from blaming the wind to blaming the design engineer and in the end, it was scrapped. At a later Field Day we operated for awhile on solar power, which was more successful.

There are many interesting Field Day stories, such as the year of the grass fire and the unique method used to put out the fire, but I will leave that for those involved to tell their story.

If anyone has an interesting Field Day story, please send it along to ve5rara@gmail.com

Amateur Radio Video Shows

Live weekly videos on various topics and events. If you are interested in seeing what is offered, check out **w5kub.com**

Old
Field Day Pictures

Does anyone have any photos of past Field Days?

We have plenty of photos of Field Days at Burnside school and the Science Center, but we are looking for pictures of previous ones to publish in an edition of Guywire.

Do you have any pictures of Field Days at any of the following locations:
1. North of the airport
2. Dirt Hills
2. Boggy Creek
3. Last Mountain House

Please send them along with any comments to ve5rara@gmail.com

2015 VE5NN
FIELD DAY SCORES

Bonus Points: Emergency Power - 200, W1AW FD

Message - 100, Submitted via the Web - 50
Total 350

Power Multiplier: 2X (150 Watts or less)

Score Summary: CW - 267 (534 points)
Digital - 52 (104 points)
Phone - 39 (39 points)
Total 677

Claimed Score 1354

Overall Total 1354+350=1704

73 - Terry (VE5TLW)

2015 Field Day
photos at Con's

Photos from 2015 MS Bike Tour