



GUYWIRE

September 2018

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

September 12th @ 7:00 p.m.

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

TBA

2018-19 RARA Executive

President - Neil Slater - VA5SCA
Secretary - **Position to be Filled**
Treasurer - Mark Humphreys VA5LNX
Past President - Harvey Drinkle - VE5AD
Director - **Position to be Filled**
Director - Justin Chapman - VA5RED
Director - Allan Tidball VE5LAT
Director - Lyle Maystruck - VE5EE
Director - Terry White - VE5TLW

2018 -2019

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

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

COMPLETED

RPS 1/2 marathon - April 29 - Terry VE5TLW
MS Super Cities Walk - April 29- Rick VE5RJR
MS Bike Tour- August 18th - Richard VE5RJR

Silent Key



**Summer Dawn (Hawley) Hartzfeld
VE5SDH**

Born Summer Dawn Hawley on August 6, 1974 in Melfort Saskatchewan; blind from birth due to Retinoblastoma, Summer had quite a journey growing up. She lived with the Hartzfeld family until age 14 when they moved to New York and Summer chose to remain in Saskatchewan. She was taken in by Tim and Pat Chapman and began the sometimes stressful growing up part of life. She told me that Tim had a "short wave" receiver, which she found very interesting and spent time learning her way around the radio bands as a teen ager. By this time Summer was taking music lessons leading to participation in the Regina Music Festival. I noticed a couple of "First" awards on her shelf of memories. She enjoyed carpentry in High School and has several projects still in her home. After graduation from grade 12, she played "Goal Ball" for more than 10 years and during that time got to travel and "see" many destinations in North America. Her interest in athletics led to performance walking and a walking marathon as a fund raiser for disabled people, that took place in Hawaii.

Summer found computers very helpful with her activities and keeping records of her jewelery making and marketing. Through computer classes she met Jim MacKenzie, VE5EV. Jim was studying to

become an amateur radio operator and encouraged Summer to join in this activity. She did get the study materials but she said she did not make much progress toward getting her licence. Meanwhile, Jim had his callsign VE5EIS and was headed off to the 2013 Regina Amateur Radio Association field day near Wascana Lake.

I tried to visit the RARA field day site for at least an hour or two each year and showed up early Sunday morning before the last half day of activities. In discussing the previous day's action, I asked if any potential operators had showed up to take a look at the operation. Yes, as a matter of fact, a girl with a dog had come along to see what was going on and they found a position for her in front of a microphone and after some success, she stayed all day. That was Summer's first field day and she found useful activities in many subsequent club activities. She wrote her exam and had her Amateur Radio Licence and call sign by mid July. Summer was quite taken by the radio telegraph code which we refer to as CW. She would listen intently and expressed interest in learning code so she could tell what the radio operators were saying. Lyle, VE5EE had installed an indoor dipole for her, which was fed by an auto tuner and she had borrowed a transceiver with voice readout and was on the air. I helped coach her with her CW practice, sometimes on the air and often by phone. A steel frame concrete building is difficult to get a signal out of without an outside antenna.

Negotiating permission to put an antenna on the roof was a long and involved process by a couple of club members but by late summer 2014 the club was allowed to go ahead with the installation. The outside antenna allowed Summer operation on most high frequency bands as well as 2 metres and 70 cm. for local operation. She was very active on HF and VHF even using the HF installation to make contacts on 6 metres.

On one of my many visits to Summer's station I left a 1950s Vibroplex "bug" or semi automatic key. It was right handed and I had forgotten that Summer was left handed like myself. So both of us were learning to use right handed bugs only I had

a 2 year head start on Summer. It was a matter of weeks before Summer began using the bug on the air and was sounding very good. The Vibroplex was the first of many bugs of many different types in her collection. She also bought and collected keyer paddles and was a very good using these sending units as well.

By this time Summer was not only working many DX stations but participating in contests as well. Her excellent computer skills allowed her to log every contact and do her own log submissions at the end of the contests.

Here are Summer's own words from QRZ.COM.

Hi, I'm Summer Hartzfeld and I live in Regina SK. I've been blind pretty much since birth and make jewellery that I sell at the farmers' market here in Regina. I found out about ham radio when a friend of mine was taking the class that our club, Regina Amateur Radio Assoc. (RARA) put on. When Field Day 2013 came around, he invited me and once I got over the mic fright, I was hooked and stayed all day! I passed the exam on July 2, 2013 with Basic with Honours. Another blind ham introduced me to listening to CW (code) stations on HF not long after I got my license and I knew I was missing out on a good thing so I started learning code right away. I also help net control on a couple of IRLP nets and sometimes on the Saskatchewan 80m net. I have a Kentwood TS590S and got permission to put a vertical antenna on the roof of the apartment building I live in. Despite my short career as a ham, I have already put together a very good key collection and I especially like using (and collecting) bugs. They are all different from each other somehow and have so much history. In 2016 I was honoured with admission to the First Class CW Operators' Club (FOC) as member 2090. FOC is full of many kind operators and I've not only made several excellent friends on the air, but thanks to their generosity I've also gotten to travel to some FOC events in the US to meet them and many other FOC members. I'm also a member of CWOPS (CW Operators Club; member # 1413), SKCC (Straight Key Century Club, member # 11155), RAC (Radio Amateurs of Canada) and of course RARA (the Regina Amateur Radio Association). I'm also the Saskatchewan section manager for RAC. I was also elected an A1 Operator with the American Radio Relay League in 2017, thanks to the efforts of some hams

who wanted to recognize my accomplishments. CW is my favourite mode and there's nothing like it in my opinion. There's so much history and it's a really good way to get a signal out also. I'm very glad I took the time to learn the beautiful CW language and hope I never lose it.

Summer operated from here on the farm where the noise level is S-0 quite often when some operating event came up that she was keen on. No, she did not operate my station but brought her own with all connecting cables and attachments. I often thought it was a bit like field day setting up here on the farm. Access to several dipoles and a tri-band beam always made her happy. Peggy's coffee Lattes were another warm memory for Summer on the farm.

Summer had her second guide dog, Lake when she became a radio operator. They were a pair, and got around the city and other destinations together. The loss of Lake to cancer in November of 2016 was a terrible blow to Summer and to those of us that knew and loved them both.

It has been a wonderful "trip" Summer and thanks for your time and friendship. 88

Gordon, VE5UJ

June Puzzler

What is a backwave?

Answer:

Back-wave distortion occurs when sound waves generated from the rear of a speaker bounce back to the speaker cone, interfering with the speaker's operation.

September puzzler

Where would you use a Maxwell Bridge?

Answer next month

The MS Bike Tour and Me

I'm sure you all know that Multiple Sclerosis is a bit of a problem in Saskatchewan. Actually Canada has the highest rate of MS in the world; and Saskatchewan has the highest rate in Canada. That makes us the world champions in MS rates - NOT a happy thing to celebrate...

The MS Society exists to help people who live with MS, and to raise money to support research that tries to find a cause and a cure for MS. And that's why the MS Bike Tour is held annually; it's a huge fundraiser to try to end MS.

Some of you know that I volunteered for the MS Bike Tour almost as soon as I got my ham certificate in 2013. I was a little but hesitant to get involved, but it turned out to be a great volunteer experience, and I have been volunteering for that event since. 2018 was my fifth year, and I love being there.

But every year, I've sat in the truck, listened for excitement, watched enthusiastic cyclists going past, and thought "I really would like to be out there on a bicycle. I should do that next year." Well, I didn't get on the bike enough to even consider it in 2015 or '16, and in 2017 I was under orders not to exercise, due to a previously unsuspected heart condition - oh, yeah, I also broke my ankle in the spring of 2017. Crap; no cycling for Neil last summer. But this year, my heart was fixed, my ankle was healed, and I started cycling. Then I had to stop for another health challenge.

Then there was the 2018 MS Bike Tour in Avonlea. I was there, once again wishing I could join them. But at lunch-time, I met a young man who had a boot cast and crutches. We talked for a while; and 2 hours later he came over to talk again, and it turned out his wife is a sister of one of my oldest son's best friends over the last 20 years. She recognized me and texted him from a rest stop to ask why I was there.

After the fellow's wife finished the Tour, the three of us chatted, and they said they need more team members. I said I'd consider it, and I started

plotting. First, I talked to my doctors, who say I'm fine to exercise. Second, I started riding again. Third, I talked to my son and his girlfriend, who are both avid cyclists themselves, to see how they felt about participating. They are interested, and I'm interested.

Since the Tour, I have been out on my trusty road bicycle (it's 34 years old now, and is finally broken in), only three times, but I've cycled just enough to know that I CAN, with a bit more preparation, participate in a group ride and not make a total fool of myself.

I have several years' experience in riding with groups; I have ridden multi-day excursions with groups of around 30 cyclists; and I have ridden long distances: I rode 190 km in 14 hours, and a few weeks later, did 180 km in 10.25 hrs. Although this was a few years ago, I know what to expect on a long ride, and I know how to prepare for and successfully complete at least 50 or 60 km in under 6 hours (that's my safe expectation, though it's far slower than I would have been 30 years ago).

So this is me, your president, announcing that at this point, I am planning to enter the 2019 MS Bike Tour as a participant AND as a radio volunteer. My plan is to carry my handheld and call in occasionally as sort of an embedded reporter. But don't expect me to report from the front of the pack!

I have not yet actually registered for the 2019 Tour, but when I do, I will have to raise money in order to participate. I will let the club know where you can go to donate if you choose to help me. And if y'all want to come out and cheer me on, bring your radio and volunteer too; it really is a wonderful experience. And for those with MS, I hope it's a life-changing experience.

Thank you for your support, both as president of the club, and hopefully as a fundraising cyclist trying to end MS.

Neil Slater VA5WX
(yes, I have a two-letter callsign now. Yay me!)

Manager of Emergency Preparedness and Business Continuity



Starting with this issue we will be featuring a new monthly column, Terry's Technical Tips with hints and kinks collected by VE5TLW.

New Manager of Emergency Preparedness and Business Continuity for the City of Regina. I am pleased to announce the appointment of Jeff Rowden as the Manager of Emergency Preparedness and Business Continuity with Regina Fire & Protective Services.

Jeff joins us from the Prince Albert Police Service where he has been a member for more than 23 years. During this time, he held the roles of Acting Police Chief and Deputy Chief of Police where his responsibilities included the oversight of 136 employees; operational deployment and management; strategic planning and policy development; and a Section Chief's role within the City Emergency Operation Centre (EOC).

Jeff's educational background is extensive as he holds a Bachelor of Applied Arts in Justice Studies and a Masters of Leadership in Policing and Security. During his leadership and management training, Jeff completed focused studies and reviews of such events as the Vancouver Hockey Riots, Victoria Bush Fires, and Hurricane Katrina. He also had the opportunity to meet and participate in a debriefing with the designated Incident Commander for the Boston Marathon bombings.

Jeff's start date will be July 23, 2018 and his office will be located in Fire Headquarters on 1205 Ross Avenue. Please join me in welcoming Jeff to the City of Regina.

1. How to Estimate the Height of an Object

You are planning on erecting a dipole antenna. Fortunately you have a number of trees available to support your antenna. There is an optimum antenna height for your antenna. How do you determine which trees will provide the required height?

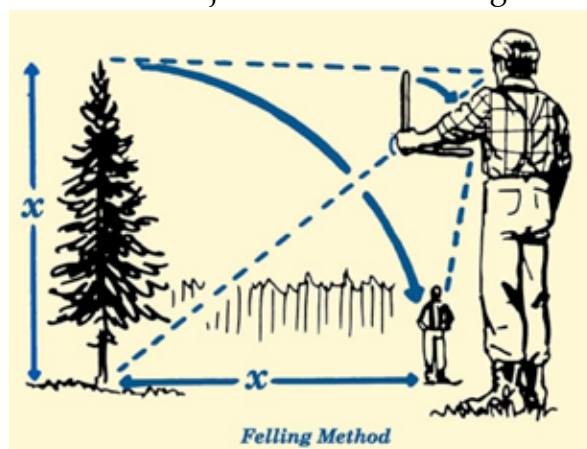
There is a very simple method to do this called the "Felling Method".

Back far enough away from the object you're measuring that you can see both the top and the bottom of it. Hold a stick upright at arm's length, ensuring the top of the stick appears to touch the top of the tree.

Rotate your arm 90 degrees so it's lined up with the horizon, simulating that the object has fallen, hence the term "felling."

Have your friend stand at the point where it looks to you like the tip of the stick ends. Place a marker there, like a stone or another stick.

Measure the distance between the marker and the base of the object to estimate its height.



2. Sealing Outdoor Connectors

The following method of weather-proofing outdoor connectors was taught to me by a tower contractor.

The procedure used is the use of black electrical tape in a unconventional manner though. The first wrap of tape, in weatherproofing a connector, is to wrap the connector with the black electrical tape "sticky side" out. Ensure that the tape is stretched enough to fill the low spots on the connector. Now wrap the connector in the usual manner with the weather seal product (self vulcanizing tape). Place two overlapping layers of electrical tape over the weather seal. Self vulcanizing tape may be purchased at home improvement stores such as Lowes, Home Depot, etc.

Note: when the end of a layer is to be finished, do not pull the tape, instead cut the tape. If the tape is pulled it will tend to shrink back and start to unravel.

If the connection must be opened, everything peels off with a careful knife cut and with no effort whatsoever and nothing sticks to the parts involved. Using black tape in this manner requires nothing more to put in your tool box.

I have opened connectors and splices after many years using this method and have seen that they looked as good as the day they were originally done.

3. Care for Soldering Iron tips

To maximize the lifespan of a soldering iron's iron plated tip, never wipe the sponge after finishing the soldering job. Wipe it before soldering only.

When shutting down the soldering iron, clean the tip on the sponge, shut off the power, then tin the tip with solder and let it cool down.

NEVER shut down an iron plated tip dry, always wet it with solder.

If you have a few favorite hints of your own, please feel free to send them to Guywire.

2018 MS Bike Tour Avonlea



2018 Field Day Setup



Field Day June 2018



Justin VA5RED



Summer VE5SDH



Con VE5CON



Mark VA5LNX



Sabra VA5ABR

