



GUYWIRE

The online publication of the RARA

DECEMBER 2011

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NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY December 14th.

**An evening of friendship and conversation with dainties and snacks. Free coffee and tea.
See SPECIAL NOTE below for details.**

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.

NOTE: e-mail or web addresses in the GUYWIRE are active and you can go to that site by selecting 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.

NEWS

The NEW GUYWIRE Now in PDF format

This is the first edition of Guywire in its' new PDF format. Doing it this way will allow many more types of content to be published. We now can have pictures, circuit diagrams and other graphics to make it a more interesting publication. Please send us your comments about the new format. If you are having problems receiving it please let us know as well. To make use of the expanded capabilities, we need your help. If you have any news, pictures, stories or interesting web sites that you think might be of interest to others, please send them along.

SPECIAL NOTE

**RARA December General Meeting
(No formal meeting will be held)
Dec. 14th Imax Board Room**

The RARA executive invites all club members to a casual evening devoted to conversation and friendship with fellow amateurs.

*We plan to have some dainties and munchies on hand to make this a night to enjoy.
FREE Coffee and Tea provided.*

If you feel so inclined you may also bring some dainties or munchies.



Christmas Dinner a Success

The annual RARA Christmas Dinner was a huge success. Thirty eight people turned out at Tony Romas' on November 30th for an evening of fine food and conversation. The staff at Tony Romas' were kept busy setting up new tables to accommodate the higher than expected turnout. Many thanks to Gord Lowrey, VA5GL for organizing the night and to Hugh Hauser, VE5HWH for acting as Master of Ceremonies.



A few photos from the dinner

A Short Trip Down Memory Lane

There are not many hams in southern Saskatchewan who didn't depend on Radio Supply & Service for electronic parts at some point in time. Radio Supply was very supportive of hams, and hams in turn supported them. Most people don't know of the humble beginnings of this historic business.

Radio supply started out as a Radio Service shop in downtown Regina in the 1940's. Its owner, Jim White did a booming repair business during the golden age of radio and carried a large stock of tubes and other electronic parts. During this time, just about every small town in Saskatchewan had at least one radio shop. Some rural shop owners found it more convenient to buy their parts from Jim rather than having to send orders to eastern Canada. Jim obliged them more of as a favor but as time went on, more and more shops started to take advantage of this service. Eventually that part of the business became their primary business and the service part became secondary. They moved to larger quarters on McIntyre street near Victoria and finally moved to their own building on South Railway where they remained until they went out of business.

The firm remained a family business through most of its existence. In later years, Ralph Bryanton became the manager. He held the callsign VE5RAB but was not very active on the air. As a matter of interest, his son Rob is a well-known local musician and composer and is probably best known for doing the theme music for the TV Series "Corner Gas". Radio Supply donated the use of the upstairs of their building for several local Flea Markets and regularly donated prizes for Ham-fests. It was a sad day when Radio Supply closed its' doors forever. Ham radio owes them a debt of gratitude.

We are Getting Company just below 80 Meters

The FCC in the U.S. has granted a waiver to a company to allow it to use a unique device for people suffering from Retinitis Pigmentosa, a debilitating eye disease causing blindness. The system utilizes a miniature camera mounted on glasses tied to a micropower transmitter operating on 3.156 MHz. The transmitter sends a data signal to a neurostimulator implanted in the eye.

For more information on this go to:
<http://tinyurl.com/SecondSightURL>

Ham Radio and the Web

A Hams Night Before Christmas – an interesting seasonal video on Youtube –thanks to VE5TK
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ailFghtEKs>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ailFghtEKsc>

With all the interest in 10 meters, now that it is open again, it is interesting to check out the 10 Meter beacons. Most run low power, around 5 watts. Checking out beacons is a good way to determine which propagation paths are open. You can get a list of beacons at this web site: <http://www.qsl.net/wj5o/bcn.htm>

There is an interesting documentary on hams in England during the war and the contributions they made. It is a “now it can be told” story about hams, although officially off the air during the war, playing a monumental roll in their work with British Intelligence. Through their efforts, countless lives were saved. You can see it at:
<http://www.eafa.org.uk/catalogue/5108>
thanks to VE5TK

Club Station Report

The Sask. Science Centre requested that the antennas and tower be removed due to the roof membrane being replaced as well as the HVAC units being temporarily removed. The short notice, mid Nov., meant some scrambling to arrange for a crew to perform the work.

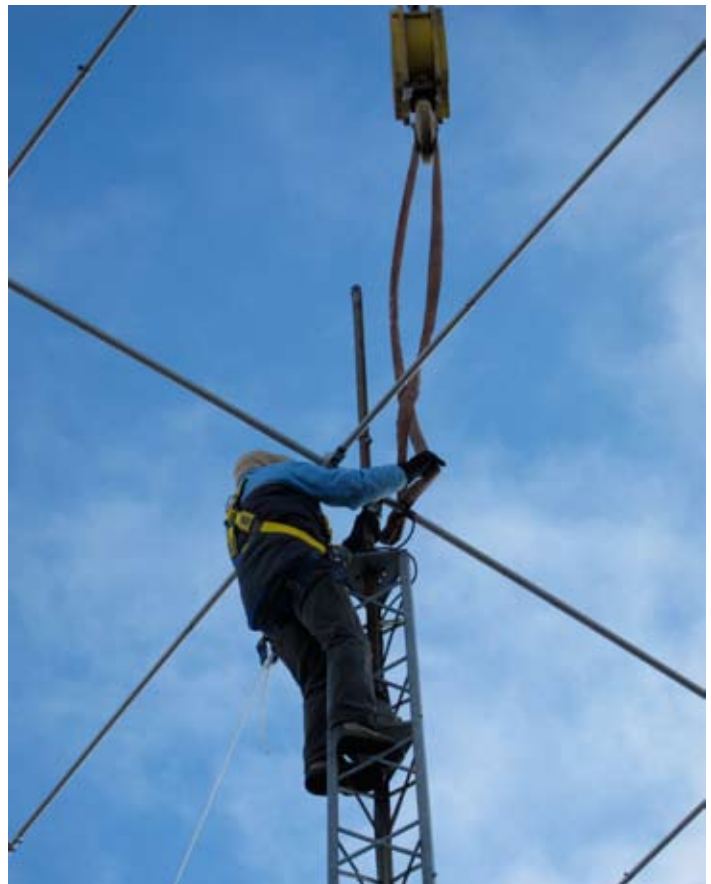
The satellite antennas were first to be moved to the Imax roof and the long wire antennas were coiled and secured. The upper sections of the tower were lifted by crane and laid on the Imax roof, at which time some minor repairs were completed. Approximately a week later the tower was again lifted by crane and returned to its original position. The crane was used to lift the HVAC units and SPC offered it to assist with the tower.

The cables and long wire antennas are currently coiled and when the roofers are finished a crew will be organized to re-terminate the cables etc.

Thanks go Ron Thompson, Harv Drinhle, Allan Tidball and Malcolm McLeod for their work under somewhat short notice stressful conditions. One good note was that the weather cooperated with decent winds and reasonable temperatures,



The 220 foot crane at the Science Centre



Malcolm dealing with the large hook and strap



**Malcolm working on connectors,
Ron supervising**

A couple of interesting photos



The VE5REC repeater tower



Lyle and Harvey working on VE5YQR.

The Burnside Story

Many of our newer members may not be familiar with the club's relationship with Burnside School, the site of RARA Field Day activities. Burnside may be the only remaining one-room school that is not a museum.

Why does a Radio Club own a schoolhouse? The school was built 100 years ago by the father of Alex Beaton VE5OI (SK) and Alex got his primary education in that one-room schoolhouse. The school eventually met the fate of all one-room schools and was abandoned in favor of facilities in a larger school unit.

A committee of local residents in the area kept the building up and used it for dances and community events, but with the dwindling and aging farm population it looked like nobody was interested in maintaining the building any longer. At this point, Alex approached the club to see if they would be interested in buying it for one dollar.

The only conditions were that the club maintain it as best they could and that the community could mount a plaque at the site to commemorate the school. Over the past couple of decades the club has painted the building, done some structural repairs and repaired windows and the roof. The original blackboards are still in place but the desks are long gone.

It is an excellent location for Field Day being away

from power lines and yet accessible by road in most kinds of weather.

Basic Ham Classes Starting

Ham classes begin on January 7th at Harvest City Academy, 2202 8th Ave. North. Classes will run every Saturday morning, with the exception of holidays, probably ending sometime in April. Classes start at 9:00 AM. There is still time to register. If you know of anyone who is interested in attending, have them contact Rick, VE5RJR (ve5rjr@sasktel.net).

Photos and News Items Required

If you have any news or related items that you feel other amateurs may be interested in, please forward them to the editor.

Photos of events would also be appreciated, accompanied with a brief description.

Editor: Stan @ (sewert@sasktel.net)

Flea Market Report

Fall RARA Flea Market prize winners

Gordon Lowery VE5VYP was the lucky winner of the dual band handheld radio.

Here are the winners of the draw prizes

Small carry pouch	Doris Quiring VE5DJQ
Mug	George Harwood VE5UU
Mug	Glen Richardson VE5GLN
Computer	Harvey Drinkle VE5AD
Computer	Rod Nichol VE5ZZ
Large carry bag	Malcolm McLeod VE5ZG
Water bottle	Doug Gregorash
Hat	Murray Crandon VE5MC
Hat	no name
Thermos mug	no name

*May you have a very Merry Christmas and a healthy Happy New Year
from
the Regina Amateur Radio Association*



RARA

Membership Application 2011- 12

(Please write clearly and ✓ mark in spaces)

Name: _____ Call Sign: _____ If a current RAC member, membership # _____

Address: _____ City/Town _____ Postal Code _____

e-mail Address: _____

Renewal _____ or New Membership _____ Single Membership (\$30) _____ Family (\$35) _____

I have enclosed (cheque _____) (cash _____) for membership(s) above.

Please include this application with your fee to club treasurer Allan Tidball (VE5LAT)
or mail cheque to

Regina Amateur Radio Assoc.
Box 153 Station Main
Regina, Sask.
S4P 2Z6