



GUYWIRE

The online publication of the RARA

JANUARY 2012

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NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY January 11th.

Presentation on repeater & IRLP operation

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.

Take the elevator up to the third floor.

NOTE: e-mail or web addresses in the GUYWIRE are active, you can go directly to that site by clicking on 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

This is the second edition of Guywire in its' new PDF format. This format allows 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 to the editor.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR
from the
Editor and Publisher**

2012

Websites of Interest

If you are interested in Software Defined Radio or just want to find out what it is all about, go to:

(http://www.bonito.de/radiojet/infos/en_rj10_home.htm)

Ham Balloon Record Set

On December 11, 2011, a ham radio operator launched four balloons packed with position reporting equipment. None of the balloons was expected to travel far, but one made it from San Jose, California to the Mediterranean Sea. During the flight, tracking and altitude information were radioed back to earth via Amateur Radio APRS equipment. Hams in Europe retuned their receivers to the U.S. packet frequency in order to pickup the data bursts. The extraordinary journey set two records for ham/balloon flights.

A Blast from the Past

Pictured below is a shot of people attending a Saskatchewan Hamfest banquet circa 1950. It was held at the old Kings Hotel on Scarth Street. Note the huge turnout compared to recent Hamfests, and all this was when the total ham population of Saskatchewan was one half of what it is today. Hamfests were three day affairs, with contests, demonstrations, entertainment and dances. Maybe that's why they call it the good old days.



Ham Classes

Basic Ham Classes have just begun. We had nine present at the first class and possibly one or two more may still join. Classes are held at Harvest City School, 2202 8th Ave. N. every Saturday at 10:00am -2:00pm until completion of the course. The 1st half hour will be devoted to code practice. If you know of anyone who is interested in taking the course, it is not too late to get in. Just contact VE5RJR (ve5rjr@sasktel.net) or e-mail (ve5rara@gmail.com).

Club Station Report

the full story

Malcom (VE5ZG)

The club radio station VE5NN suffered a major disruption this fall when SaskPower decided the old powerhouse - a.k.a. the Science Centre - needed a new roof. The first hint I had of what was to come was a conversation with one of the maintenance people at the Science Centre, who thought the antennas on the roof were just unused junk that could be pulled down and trashed!

Once I had him tuned up I was referred to SaskPower who in turn sent me along to talk to the project manager. Fortunately, this fellow knew a little about amateur radio and was very easy to work with. Since a crane was being hired to move the huge heating and cooling units on the roof, he needed our antennas taken down. I was able to convince him that the lower section of the tower and the IRLP antennas could stay and that we would need the use of his crane to pick up the HF Yagi and two sections of tower as a unit. This job came off without a hitch - the first time I have ever had a 50-ton crane to do antenna work.

After some weather delays the rooftop HVAC units were reinstalled and the tower and the crane again provided the lift to get the tower and Yagi back into place. We are still waiting for the roofers to clean up and clear out, then we will be able to put the dipoles and sloper back up and finish the reassembly. It has been a lot of work for several of our members including Harv, Allan and Ron but we did get some benefit out of the process in that the VHF antenna is back at the top of the mast, at the end of a new run of coax, and the rotor control line now has a quick disconnect coupler. The IRLP node was up for the whole time but at least one more trip up the tower and a couple of work days will be required to get the rest of our antenna system back in shape.

Public Service Events

Jim Sandercock (VE5CS)

The annual Scouts Canada Klondike hike will take place on Feb. 4, 2012. The location will be the A. E. Wilson Park (which is the same area that was used in 2010) with the RCMP Heritage Centre as the net control location. As in previous years I would like to have two shifts for our operators. The first shift is from 8 a.m. to 11:30 am and the second shift from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. This public service event is very important to us and to Scouts Canada. R.A.R.A. has worked with the Scouts in excess of 30 years.

If you can help, please respond to myself at (jsandercock@sasktel.net) or phone me at 586-3725.

Annual General Meeting March

Election of RARA directors for coming term.

If you are interested in letting your name stand for the executive please let Allan (VE5LAT) know.

(ve5rara@gmail.com)

Amateur Radio Makes Its Debut on Last Man Standing

Hamnet

If you watched the January 3 episode of Last Man Standing -- the ABC hit situation comedy starring Tim Allen as Mike Baxter, KA0XTT -- you were in for a treat. While this episode didn't feature Amateur Radio per se, it did show Mike's shack in the background. Viewers could see the DXCC, Worked All States, Worked All Continents and the Morse Code Proficiency Certificate -- all provided by the ARRL -- in the first scene. Later on in the show, Mike records his video blog. Sharp-eyed viewers spotted the 2011 ARRL Handbook underneath the mini-tripod, next to issues of QST!

The episode airing on January 17 will introduce Mike Baxter as KA0XTT. According to Last Man Standing Producer John Amodeo, NN6JA, Mike will have a QSO on the show. "We had two Amateur Extra class staff members complete a QSO on 10 meters and we recorded it," Amodeo explained. "Unfortunately, we were set up on a stage that is basically a Faraday cage. The very QRP signal made it radio-to-radio. We varied the RIT [receiver incremental tuning] to give it a little extra SSB sound, but I don't think the signal made it much past the stage walls. The recording will be on the show. We thought our ham viewers would get a kick out of it. Non-hams will think it's just distorted." Read more here (<http://www.arrl.org/news/em-ham-radio-in-hollywood-em-amateur-radio-makes-its-debut-on-em-last-man-standing-em>)