



Radio Amateurs of Canada

Midwest Report

Ensuring radio amateurs in the Midwest are informed!

June, 2010

Directors Ramblings

Last month I quickly put together this newsletter immediately after I returned from the RAC annual board meeting. Now I am prepared to advise that my attendance at the board meeting was all on my own dime. Which I did to just show that your membership fees do not go to pampering of the directors. Your membership dollars go to RAC for the betterment & promotion of Amateur Radio in Canada. You should be proud of how your money is spent. If it were not for RAC and its efforts on your behalf, we / you would not have a national voice in front of Industry Canada. I can assure you that Industry Canada does and is listening to RAC. I saw it first hand as I audited the recent CARAB meeting just prior to the RAC board meeting. Also you can look for a vast improvement in services performed by Industry Canada as the contract for the callsign database comes to expiration, and from what I believe; the service will be moved internally and online in real time.

Well it's Hamfest time. Below you will note two hamfests that I know of. Your regional assistant directors and myself will do our best to attend any hamfests in your area, (provided we know about them in advance) if our schedules allow us. But, as this is all on our own dime, distance and accommodations may preclude us from attending, not to mention families and other commitments. So please do not be disappointed. But please do attend the hamfests in your area.

Membership Campaign

RAC will be launching a year-long membership drive starting on Field Day weekend. As a current member you will have a chance to enter the campaign at renewal time. I do not have the full details as of yet, but as soon as I get them I will forward to everyone via this newsletter. Ask A Friend. As in, ask the members of your club, group or other amateur radio association whether they are RAC members. Inform them of the campaign and sign them up as members. Get It. Use It. Keep it.

The "it" in this slogan is the amateur radio license (or certificate). The slogan suggests that RAC can help potential amateurs to get it and then by joining RAC learn how to use

it and finally by being a member of this national organization have the ability to keep it. See farther down this little newsletter for more information on how you can participate.

RAC Annual General Meeting

The RAC Annual General Meeting of members will be held in conjunction with the <http://www.halifax-arc.org/mdf>, on August 7th, 2010 in Halifax, NS. The cost for the RAC forum and AGM is free, costs for the DX forum is \$80.00 and the banquet is \$30.00. If you are in the area please make an effort to attend. If you are thinking about a vacation, I strongly suggest the East coast, with a bonus of a RAC Annual General Meeting.

47th International Hamfest

July 9, 10, & 11, 2010

The International Hamfest is only 2 months away. Canadians do not need a passport or an enhanced Drivers License to enter the peace garden area. If they wish to continue down the highway into the USA, then these documents are required.

<http://www.mts.net/~holderr/ihf.htm>

Saskatchewan HAMFEST 2010

Saturday, July 24th 2010

Swift Current, Saskatchewan

<http://sarl.ca/hamfest.php> for more information

Camp 807

August 3, 4, 5, 2010

This year is being held in Warroad, Minnesota

MARMFEST 16

August 14, 2010

At the Manitoba Amateur Radio Museum on the grounds of the Manitoba Agricultural Museum in Austin Manitoba, just 120 Kms west of Winnipeg. For directions and all the details visit

<http://www.mts.net/~holderr/marm.htm>

RAC Blog

Did you know that there is a RAC blog out on the internet? If you have not already checked out this blog and regularly check it for ne items now if your chance.

<http://racblog.wordpress.com/feed/> Depending on your browser, you might be able to set it to automatically send you a notice every time the blog is updated.

Are you a member of a local club

If you are a member of a local club in your area that has regular meetings, I would appreciate it if you could make an announcement for me at your next meeting. All RAC members thank you for continuing to support Radio Amateurs of Canada. I in turn would like to support each of you, by keeping you informed on what is happening with RAC. To do this I need your email address. Please log on the www.rac.ca web site, register as a member (set your password) and update your contact information to include your current mailing address and email address. I, like you, are watching our pennies and I can not afford to snail mail newsletters to every member in VE4 & VE5. But I am more than willing to email the monthly newsletter. Thank you for your support of the only National voice for Amateur Radio.

Where R U

Is your address correct with industry Canada? Have you moved since you were last actually issued a license renewal (how many years ago was that?) Did you know that you are required to keep industry Canada informed of any address changes? Please use the following form to update your information with Industry Canada.

[http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/smt-gst.nsf/vwapj/ic2381bh.pdf/\\$FILE/ic2381bh.pdf](http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/smt-gst.nsf/vwapj/ic2381bh.pdf/$FILE/ic2381bh.pdf)

Still Looking for Assistance

I can not understand why no one (other than those listed one page one) have not come forward to act as an assistant Director for your area of your province. I thank the now three assistances Bill, Richard and Bill for stepping forward. But why not anyone else? I can not afford to travel to all areas of both provinces, so having an assistant to help out would be much appreciated. How about someone from Brandon or Saskatoon or anywhere, Hint

More help wanted

Membership and Service Enhancements

Looking for a Part-Time Volunteer Career in Helping Amateur Radio Operators? Want to work with dedicated, like minded radio people?

The dynamic national organization representing Canadian amateur radio operators is looking for a people person and service oriented leader to enhance member services. Duties include: assessing members wants and needs, analyzing the effectiveness of existing service delivery and measuring member satisfaction with services. Duties will also include developing strategies to attract and maintain members to the Radio Amateurs of Canada. This position will report to the President of the Radio Amateurs of Canada. Remuneration: nowhere near what you are worth. You will be doing it for the love of radio. Like the rest of us.

Title: negotiable.

Start date: anytime.

Submit a resume and your availability to the President, Geoff Bawden, ve4baw:

ve4baw@rac.ca. Questions freely accepted.

FCC News

FCC Seeks Comments on Amateur 5 MHz (60 Meters) Allocation

In May, the [FCC released](#) a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)* -- [ET Docket No 10-98](#) -- proposing to amend the Part 97 rules governing the Amateur Radio Service. Specifically, the Commission looks to modify the rules pertaining to the use of five channels in the 5330.6-5406.4 kHz band (60 meters) to replace one designated channel with one that is less encumbered, to authorize three additional emission designators and to increase the maximum authorized power in this band. On June 15, a [summary of the NPRM](#) was published in the [Federal Register](#), which started the clock on the deadline for comments. Comments must be filed on or before July 15, 2010 (30 days after publication in the *Federal Register*); reply comments must be filed on or before July 30, 2010 (45 days after publication in the *Federal Register*). Instructions on how to file comments are listed [beginning on page 6 of the NPRM](#). - **Let's all hope that Canada is Next to make an announcement**

Membership Campaign

The board members of [Radio Amateurs of Canada](#) have approved a year-long membership campaign that official starts on Field Day 2010 and ends Field Day 2011. This is a do-it-yourself membership campaign that has a role for every member, every club, every director, regional director, assistant director, executive member, section manager and everybody else who volunteers on a RAC committee or participates in any other way. This campaign is designed to be extremely low-cost so individuals or clubs can purchase the materials locally and use them over and over again. The campaign has lofty but achievable goals if we all work together for the betterment of ham radio in Canada. Please let everyone in your club, community, association or group know about this campaign and feel free to copy this blog address and share it with your friends and fellow amateurs.

Why a national year-long membership campaign?

Its because Radio Amateurs of Canada is our national organization and as such has an

important role to play on the national and international stage when it comes to promoting and growing amateur radio both in Canada and around the world. RAC is our official representative with Industry Canada. We've got ongoing issues including Ontario's Bill 118, tower policies and local ordinances among others that require a strong RAC response.

We need a strong national organization to protect our frequency spectrum allotment as well as negotiate new frequencies for future use. There are many other benefits to having a strong national organization (including Races ability to offer liability insurance, the QSL Bureau as well as ongoing support of on-air activities that include the Amateur Radio Emergency Services and National Traffic System.

And there's a lot more that you can find online at the RAC website. Amateur radio in Canada needs a strong national voice and RAC is that voice. So lets look at the details. So here it is:

The Radio Amateurs of Canada National Membership Campaign

(If you've got any questions or comments send them to ve3hg@rac.ca)

How To Organize Your Own RAC Membership Drive - All successful membership campaigns are personal. According to the experts, the main reason membership campaigns fail is because too few non-members get asked to sign up. It s that simple. So here s the challenge: As the vice-president of public relations for Radio Amateurs of Canada I am challenging you that over course of the next 12 months to personally ask 20 of your fellow amateurs to join or renew their RAC memberships. Some of you who participate in Field Day can accomplish this challenge in one single day.

The goal is to increase the overall RAC membership (new members and renewals) by 1,000 for a total membership of 6,000.

And what s the most effective way to ask? Again, it s easy. Here s what I say: Hi. I m a member of Radio Amateurs of Canada and I m inviting other amateurs to join me in growing our national organization. Are you a member? That s it! That s the entire pitch. No hard sell. But we do need to ask every Canadian amateur radio operators to join with us by signing up for a membership in RAC. So what happens if the person I ask says Why yes I am a member. I thank them for their membership and support of our national organization and I hand them a printed copy of our online membership form. Then I ask them if they would consider renewing their membership today? Many do and I take their cheque (if they give me cash I keep it and send my own cheque to headquarters by mail) and with their completed membership form I send it all to RAC headquarters in Ottawa. If they say no, I ask them to consider joining with me in supporting the growth of amateur radio in Canada by joining our national organization. Then I hand them a printed brochure that lists the benefits of membership and a membership form. Again, that s it: No hard sell or long-winded explanations. If they have questions I do my best to answer them or I invite them to contact their regional director. If they do agree to sign up I encourage them to sign up on the spot and leave me to do the paperwork.

Finally, I shake their hand and thank them for their support. And, that s how you run a successful membership drive.

The Campaign Materials - All the campaign membership materials are available online. In order to keep track of how many amateurs you've asked to become members I suggest printing out 20 membership forms. When you've given out 20 forms, you've done your

bit for RAC and thank you very much. (If you wanted to do more, I wouldn't discourage you.)

I used a standard ink-jet printer (set to black and white to save on cost) and I printed out the online membership form and I also downloaded the following forms and printed out a few copies on both sides of the paper (again to save on cost) as handouts.

- [Membership Form](#)
- [What Is Amateur Radio?](#)
- [La Radio Amateur c est quoi?](#)
- [RAC Core Values](#)
- [Benefits of RAC Membership](#)

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