



Radio Amateurs of Canada

Midwest Report

Ensuring radio amateurs in the Midwest are informed!

May, 2010

Directors Ramblings

While the RAC Board of Directors meet via tele-conference each month, the constitution requires us to meet once per year in person and ratify all our tele-conferences as well as any new business. This happened in April 29th & 30th as a full 2 days of meetings and brainstorming. With a few off scheduling meetings in the evenings over a few 807's. You can all rest assured that your board and in particular the executive of RAC are working hard to turn the finances of RAC around. A huge effort has been made in this past year, and it is already starting to pay off. The next area we are working on will be the customer service area. We all know that this has been lacking and it needs to be worked on. You the members must come first. With that said RAC is still looking for someone to head up the newly created member service chair. Please see the request further in this newsletter. The following came out of the RAC board meeting - You will recall that we have identified several goals for 2010 and the following are two key ones;

- financial stability and revenue enhancement
- improving membership experience and increasing membership,

These goals were reinforced at our recent Board Meeting [during the financial review component of the meeting] with objectives [targets] defined: increase membership by at least 600 [an objective/target applied to both goals] and increase advertising revenue from TCA to make it self-sustaining in terms of income. With that being said, you can possibly look for a membership campaign to start shortly.

Thank you to Bill Down, VA5CW who has accepted the position of Assistant Director for the Regina area. if you are in the area and require RAC information, please contact Bill, and between the two of us, we should be able to help or guide you to the answers. Now I could just fill in a position in Saskatoon and Brandon or Selkirk, things would be much better for our region. If you're interested please let me know.

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.

70,000 foot repeater for Saskatoon

The first launch of a SABRE balloon will take place on May 8 at 8:00 MDT or 9:00 CDT. WE expect that the balloon will be aloft for approximately 3 to 4 hours. What is unique with this flight is that we will be flying a simplex repeater on 147.570. This is a store - forward simplex repeater. You use it by transmitting a short message on simplex at 147.570. When you unkey you should hear your own communication back. Anyone else within range of the repeater will also hear that transmission from the balloon. They can then respond the same way. Without flying duplexes etc we should be able to facilitate communication over a very long distance. We believe that in theory once the balloon gets above 30,000 feet (approximately 30 minutes from launch) stations from Manitoba should be able to hit the repeater and in theory communicate with stations from Alberta and the northern USA. It may help to direct you antenna towards Saskatoon or Humboldt Saskatchewan as this is the predicted flight path but it is very likely that a mobile unit with a 5/8ths wave will work especially once the balloon gets above 70,000 feet.

In an attempt to encourage use of the repeater the Saskatoon Amateur Radio club is sponsoring an award for communications through the repeater.

RAC General Manager - resigns

I was just informed that Office Manager Denies has tendered her resignation effective April 13th, 2010. The Directors & the executive are now on the hunt for a replacement.

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. Hint 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.



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.

Radio Amateurs of Canada Midwest Region Director

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Jan Schippers VE4JS (Manitoba)

"We're ALL about Amateur Radio!"