



Midwest Report

Ensuring radio amateurs in the Midwest are informed!

August, 2011

RAC Annual General Meeting

I, just like all of you were able to attend this year's Radio Amateurs of Canada – Annual General Meeting via a web broadcast. I know I tuned in, while I was mobile down the Trans-Canada highway. Who else in VE4 or VE5 tuned in? For those who missed it, you missed some exciting news, which you can read all about in the RAC report that you should have already received. However further to report, I want to comment on the appointment of Len Morgan, ve9my as the Deputy Director for the Atlantic Region. Deputy Directors can attend Board meetings [as silent observers] or as active participants in the event that the direct is absent. They serve as continuity in the organization; supporting and undertaking the full duties of a director. They will also have access to the RACboard email reflector, where a lot of the business of RAC is discussed. As you know I have been searching for Deputy now for some time with no success. But I am hopeful that someone who cares about this hobby and about RAC will step forward and offer to take on the position. While I trust everyone thinks I am doing an ok job at this position and am looking out for your interests, I however will not be here forever and I could always use some help. Think about it and whether it is your time to put something back into this hobby we all share together.

RAC Web Site

Ads are now available

RAC is offering space to anyone who wants to place an ad on its web site. These ads will be as described below and will be clickable. They will appear as a side bar or banner type advertising.

Ads will appear on every page on the site.

Ad size: 468x60 and 125x125

Pricing:

Member: \$7.50/week (468x60)

\$5.00 (125x125)

Non Member: \$10/week (468x60)

\$7.50 (125x125)

Link: Ad will include a link

Minimum commitment: 13 weeks.

Rotation: Maximum 4 advertisements in rotation at any given time.

Ads must relate to radio or are of interest to amateur radio operators and subject to approval by Radio Amateurs of Canada.

The Numbers show the results

The following chart is a breakdown of Amateur Radio operators by birthdate within decades. No real surprise on who we are, except for the huge drop in those under 50 years old. The older numbers can be skewed by un-reported silent keys.

Year	# of Amateurs
1991-2011	1426
1981-1990	2880
1971-1980	5958
1961-1970	10293
1951-1960	14035
1941-1950	13748
1931-1940	7482
1921-1930	4112
1920-earlier	1029

Travelling within Canada

Each province in the last few years has passed or in the planning stages of some sort of Distracted Driving

	Exemption	Pending	Restricted
NFL/LAB	OK		
NB			YES
NS	OK		
PEI	OK		
QC			YES
ON		2013	
MB	OK		
SK	OK		
AB	OK		
BC	OK		
YK	OK		
NWT	?		
NU	?		

Legislation. While the background for this is to stop people from using cell phones while driving, amateur radio has been caught up in the process in many instances. Below is a chart that shows where you can operate your radio while driving and where you can not.

Remember that this is only a guide and is not official. As such I would caution everyone when they refer to what is and is not permitted in a given province or territory to refer only to the official text of the law (usually a section in the Highway Traffic Act or similarly named statute) or the regulation which establishes amateur radio as an exempt user if that is the way the statute works.

RAC Bulletin 2011-021E - RAC ARES Section Restructuring Committee.

During 2010, RAC established the Field Organization Review Project under the leadership of Doug Mercer VO1DM, Vice President of Field Services and with a committee of Section Managers and other volunteers reviewed the current Field Organization model and made certain observations which were reviewed by the Directors and Executive during the October 2010 vision/mission session in Ottawa.

In May 2011 a new regional model was approved by the Board which expanded the role of the regions from ARES only to a complete model with a wide and complete range of responsibilities. Further to this implementation came the realization that further changes may be necessary in our larger regions such as Ontario.

To improve representation to our members and to ensure that the task of our Section Managers is realistic in terms of member access and service, the RAC Section Restructuring Commission has been formed with the task of how best we can serve our membership. The Commission will determine the most effective number of Section Managers and other positions and any further regional such divisions which may be required. The final report is expected by November 2011, with implementation in 2012.

Members of the Commission are Bill Unger VE3XT, Director Ontario Northeast (Chair), Jeffery Stewart VA3WXM, Director Ontario South, Pat Barrett VE3RNH, Vic Henderson VE3FOX and a member yet to be named.

Questions or comments should be directed to Doug Mercer VO1DM, Vice President Field Services.

Auto-Patch use

Does your club operate an auto-patch system? Do you use while mobile? Have you consider that you can be charged with breaking your provinces distracted driving laws, if you use a two-way radio to connect to the telephone system? While I am not a lawyer and I can not say for certain one way or another, but I would have to guess that connecting a two-way radio (which may in itself be exempt from distracted driving laws) to the local POTS (plain old telephone system) may be a chargeable offence. Something to think about! Do you really want to be the one who will be the test case?

Do you know these RAC members?

The following listing of Callsigns are all RAC members who are living in Manitoba or Saskatchewan, but they have not furnished RAC with their Email address, as such they are not receiving this newsletter (which I of course work so hard on) nor are they receiving the RAC report and other periodic emails from RAC. If you know any of these fellow hams, please ask them to login to the <http://www.rac.ca> website and complete the member section with their email address any other information that may be missing.

VA4NRM,

VE4ABL, VE4ABW, VE4ACN, VE4ACQ, VE4ACX, VE4AHZ, VE4AJR, VE4BA, VE4BG, VE4BI, VE4CS, VE4DIG, VE4DY, VE4EDE, VE4EME, VE4FGR, VE4FI, VE4GDH, VE4GR, VE4LES, VE4LIZ, VE4MG, VE4NC, VE4PF, VE4RD, VE4SD, VE4SR, VE4TP, VE4VO, VE4XYL, VE4ZD, VE5PT, VE7JCR,

VA5DX, VA5LIZ, VA5SAM,

VE5AAD, VE5AF, VE5AFK, VE5AG, VE5BAP, VE5BBH, VE5BBK, VE5BF, VE5BFD, VE5BPS, VE5CD, VE5CT, VE5DA, VE5DF, VE5DGD, VE5DZ, VE5EN, VE5FAW, VE5FEL, VE5GW, VE5GY, VE5GZ, VE5HAB, VE5HAE, VE5HFD, VE5IBK, VE5IM, VE5JAR, VE5JML, VE5JN, VE5JRM, VE5JZ, VE5KK, VE5KRB, VE5LPP, VE5LQ, VE5LTD, VE5LY, VE5MC, VE5MCD, VE5MDC, VE5MHR, VE5ML, VE5OO, VE5RC, VE5RH, VE5RO, VE5RU, VE5RY, VE5SAR, VE5SC, VE5TK, VE5TL, VE5TX, VE5UJ, VE5VP, VE5VT, VE5WW, VE5XO, VE5YD

If you are part of a local club executive and any of these ham's are members of your club, Please pass on this information to them - Thank you.

Directors Ramblings

RAC Store

Firstly I need to tell all of you of the clearance sales of items in the RAC store. Yes the RAC store is winding down and every must go as they say. There are great deals on Golf shirts, mugs etc.. But you will have to call the office to make sure there is stock and in your size or colour.

Do not panic however, as RAC is not getting out of the merchandise business. The selling of merchandise is a small money maker for RAC, but



the old practices of buying stock, laying out the money for the inventory and then sitting on the inventory for months or years will be gone. Instead we will be using a fulfillment house to process your order on the spot. This will remove the cash outlay for RAC, will keep the over-all price of the merchandise down for you, and offer much more variety in items that you can choose from. Shipping and handling are also much less expensive that RAC could have done, due to the volume of shipping the fulfillment house does. With all this said, our sale price on the clearance of the remaining RAC merchandise can not be beaten. So call now and place your orders. If any club is looking at a group purchase of manuals or study guides (for an upcoming class) please email the RAC office. We will be happy to work with you on special pricing for bulk orders.

At last night board teleconference, it was announced that we have a new office administrator, a person by the name of Frank Greene. Frank started this past Monday and is in the learning process from Kelly who was brought for a 2 month term until we could locate a permanent employee. I personally want to thank Kelly for the work she has done in the interim. It was a battle for her, learning the system from scratch with no one to guide her or help her. She developed written procedures which Frank will be using. Frank has a strong Management background and many years using QuickBooks, our accounting program. I welcome Frank to Radio Amateurs of Canada. If you call the office congratulate him on the position, and remember he is in a learning curve. If Kelly is still around thank her for helping us out when needed.

Deputy Director

With the approval by the federal government of our bylaws revisions (passed by the members a couple of years ago) each Director of RAC is now authorized to appoint one Deputy Director from among RAC members residing in their region. Deputy Directors may attend all RAC Board meetings and teleconferences as observers. In the event that a Director is unable to attend a Board meeting, that Director may authorize his or her Deputy Director to attend and vote the Director's proxy on any matter before the Board. So I am looking for someone who is willing to be a deputy director.

Silent keys

All silent keys are to be reported to the Amateur Radio Service Centre spectrum.amateur@ic.gc.ca and to RAC headquarters rachq@rac.ca for follow-up. Information on what is required is posted inside TCA magazine. In Saskatchewan, Joan Bahnman ve5wx.ve5jml@sasktel.net has also been tracking silent keys for the past 11 years, so please CC her as well.

Your mailing address

Amateurs are reminded of Section 15 of [Regulation By Reference 4](#) (RBR-4), which states:

"The holder of an Amateur Radio Operator Certificate shall notify the Department within thirty (30) days with respect to a change of mailing address."

Please note that this refers to a MAILING address and that it is not an option but **a requirement**.

You can inform Industry Canada of your change of address on-line at http://www.callsign.ca/ch_adr_ra.php or you can contact the Industry Canada Amateur Radio Service Centre at:

Phone: 1-888-780-3333 (toll free)

Fax:(613) 991-5575

E-mail: spectrum.amateur@ic.gc.ca

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Midwest Region Director**

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Midwest Region Assistant Directors

Bill Till - VE5FN (Lloydminster)
Doug Pfaff - VE5DCP (Regina)
Richard Holder - VE4QK (Beausejour)

Section Managers

Barry MacKenzie, VE5TRF (Saskatchewan)
Jan Schippers - VE4JS (Manitoba)