

Midwest Report

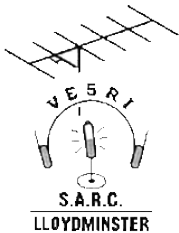


Ensuring radio amateurs in the Midwest are informed!

March 2009

LLOYDMINSTER HOLDS ARES COURSE

AD Bill Till VE5FN



Sask / Alta
Radio Club

The Sask-Alta Radio Club recently had a visit from Tom VE6TOX, who presented a two day weekend course to us on ARES communications and emergency procedures. Twelve amateurs attended including two from Cold Lake and two from Edmonton.

The Cold Lake Amateur Radio Association will be participating in the Cold Lake Air Show to be presented by 4 Wing Cold Lake and the City of Cold Lake on August 1 & 2. This year's air show will be conducted over the water of Cold Lake itself just offshore from the area north of the marina. Arrangements are being made for parking and bus shuttle service to the air show viewing area.

Access to the housing area of Cold Lake north will be controlled. CLARA will be holding a series of organisational meetings to prepare for their assigned roles for the show. Help will be needed from other amateur clubs and individuals. Information will be forwarded as it comes available.

SPECTRUM 20/20

RAC members should be aware that the Spectrum 20/20 "Rendez-vous 2009" seminar will be underway in Ottawa June 1st, 2009. RAC members are permitted to register for free, however pre-registration is required.

This year's conference will have many interesting topics and speakers including the ARRL's own Jonathan Silverling, WB3ERA. Mr. Silverling's presentation is entitled "Emerging People Make Emerging Technologies: Amateur Radio Tomorrow" and is part of the "Focus on Technology" segment of the seminar.

More information can be obtained by visiting the conference website at <http://www.spectrum2020.ca/>.

MANITOBA CELLULAR TELEPHONE LEGISLATION

Midwest Region Assistant Director Derek Hay, VE4HAY is keeping a close watch on the new Bill-5 the Manitoba government is planning on introducing for the second reading when the legislature resumes. Derek is on the list of presenters that will be addressing the committee in the near future.

Of specific concern is that all "handheld electronic devices" are lumped together and there are no provisions to differentiate an amateur radio transceiver from a handheld cellular phone.

The bill follows on the heels of the Province of Ontario legislation, which is still pending in its final form. Each province has received official correspondence from Radio Amateurs of Canada lobbying to protect the interest of all radio amateurs.

Manitoba radio amateurs should send any/all concerns to AD Derek Hay, VE4HAY so that a unified and coordinated RAC effort can move forward with as much momentum as possible.

There has been recent media attention to this very issue in Saskatchewan and I have no doubt that we will be faced with the same battle at some point in the near future. Thankfully we have the Manitoba and Ontario "trailblazers" ahead of us and we can learn from the outcomes in those provinces.

NEW DIRECTOR FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA / YUKON REGION

Bill Gipps, VE7ISV has been elected as regional director for the RAC British Columbia / Yukon region and takes office immediately. The term is that of a remaining two years that expires December 31, 2010.

Mr. Gipps replaces interim Director Ed Frazer, VE7EF who has served RAC in this capacity for many years has agreed to remain involved as a Special Advisor to the President.

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