

From: Derek Hay <hay-family@shaw.ca>
 Subject: RAC Midwest Director's report
 Date: April 1, 2011 3:29:09 PM GMT-06:00
 To: ve5cpu@sasktel.net
 Reply-To: hay-family@shaw.ca

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Radio Amateurs of Canada

Midwest Report

Ensuring radio amateurs in the Midwest are informed!

March, 2011

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.

Exclusivity:

Members: \$22.50 (468x60)

\$15.00 (125x125)

Non-member \$30 (468x60)

\$22.50 (125x125)

All for rotations during

13 week minimum commitment.

Ads must relate to radio or are of

interest to amateur radio operators

and subject to approval by Radio

Amateurs of Canada.

Bart, VE5CPU, your membership expires: 01/08/2011

Please note your Membership **expiration date above** ^^ as of the 1st of March, 2011 in the format of DD/MM/YYYY

If your membership is about to expire, please consider renewing it at the following web site, <https://www.rac.ca/store/membership-form-e.htm> where you can download the form. Print the form or enter it online. Your support of our national Organization is needed. If for some reason you do not wish to continue your membership, I would like to know why, so that I can see if I can change anything that would allow you to join once again.

Directors Ramblings

As I write this newsletter, I have right beside me the Manitoba ARES recommended minimum equipment list. I have been making sure that I have the required items on the list, as there is a very good chance that a good majority if not all ARES members will be pressed into action in the coming weeks. Today's flood forecast calls for a greater than 2009 flood level. Which means significant over land flooding. The monkey with the wrench will be how quick the snow melts and if the Red River peaks at the same time as the Assiniboine River. If this all happens at the same time, then Manitoba will have a new lake once again. Yours truly has already volunteered to deploy to one of the ring dike communities if required, which is why I am gathering my equipment and making it all ready. The next newsletter may be a bit delayed, depending on the water situation.

Board meeting

The monthly board and executive teleconference was held March 24th and once again it went to a marathon session. Of interest was a motion that I promoted re: an application that RAC received from the Shaftsbury High School looking for money from the RAC foundation <http://www.rac.ca/en/rac/donations/foundation/> for purchasing Amateur Radio study guides to be used in a courses for students to get their license. You may recall the mid-winter issues of TCA had an article on this school and the balloon that they launched, tracked and recovered. Well this group is now moving on up and will be launching a balloon sat later this year, with scientific experiments on it. They have a new batch of students and they need to get them licensed. You can follow this project from their web site <http://shsballoonproject.pbworks.com/v/page/7672410/SHARP%20-%20Shaftsbury%20High%20Altitude%20Robotics%20Project>

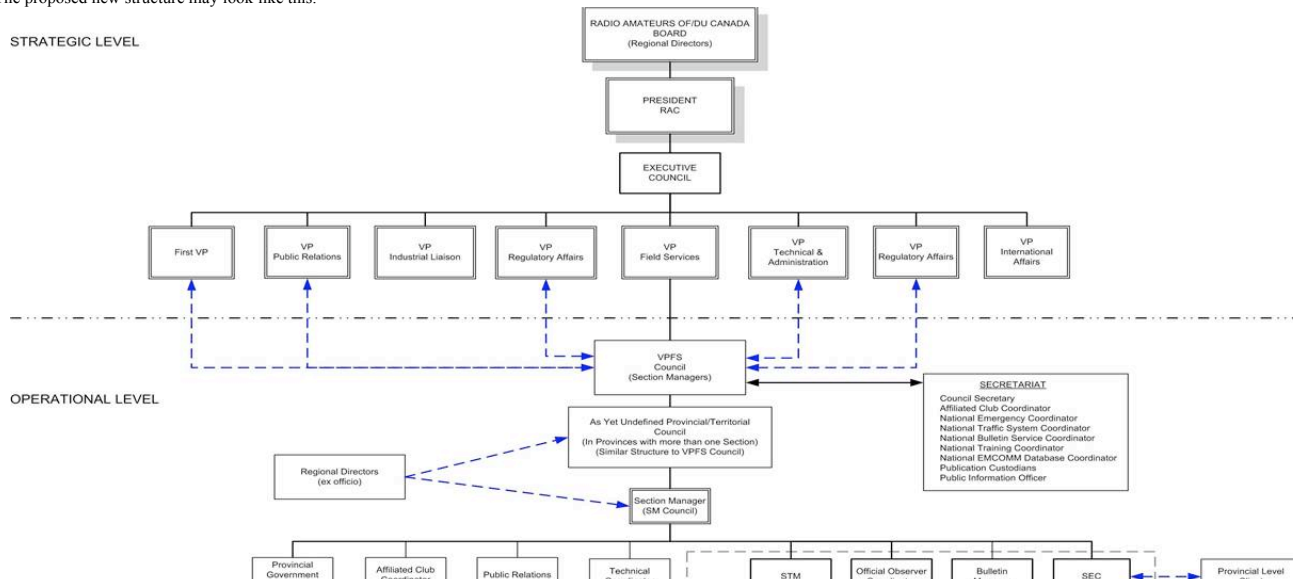
Also on the agenda was a briefing note from the Vice President of Field Services outlining a proposed new structure for Field Services. Which was given the authority to proceed allowing for The development of a modern and more effective field organization structure which would foresee:

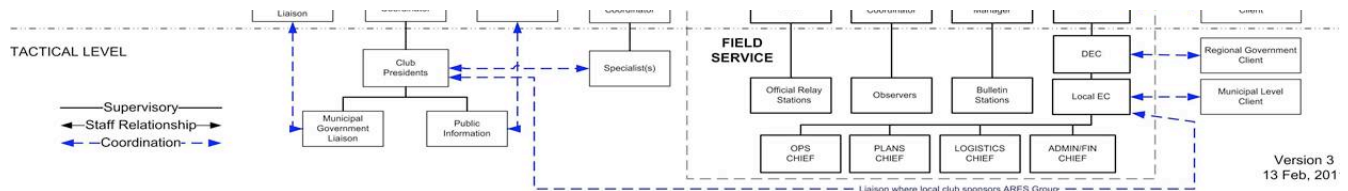
- a move of some administrative functions now at the Executive level to the operational field organization level;
- a move of some national administrative coordinators now under the charge of one RAC Vice President or other to the charge of VPFS where this is consistent with the objective of using the proposed RAC Field Organization to manage the delivery of programs (the responsible Vice President would retain direct consultation with the appropriate Coordinator within the VPFS Council Secretariat);
- the creation of some form of coordinating body to work with provincial and territorial governments while working collaboratively with an increased number of ARES Sections in some provinces and/or territories;
- an expansion in the number of ARES Sections to provide more equitable representation in the more populated provinces, practical liaison and cooperation with regional or county governments and a more appropriate span of control between ARES Section Managers and District and Emergency Coordinators;
- a significant increase in the responsibilities of the Section Managers, with a concomitant in-crease in skill sets and selection/appointment criteria based on knowledge, skills and personal suitability; and,
- an extended period of analysis and discussion by VPFS Council-sponsored Working Groups as representative groups bring forward recommendations for re-structuring and operating the proposed Field Organization.

- A long-term Board commitment to this process and continuing active support from RAC's senior leadership is vital to its timely success. Without fundamental transformation and leadership within the RAC Field Organization, particularly at the Section level, there is little rational purpose to maintain the existing structure in an age where sophisticated digital communications are available to every citizen in the country and emergencies are managed by professionals adhering to government policies, common standards and uniform emergency response doctrine. The purpose of the Field Organization must be to provide better coordinated and relevant programs to the Canadian amateur radio community, but more importantly, to provide the Canadian public with a coordinated, professionally-orientated, auxiliary communications service

when called upon in times of emergency and/or disaster response. Without such a raison d'être, a major public (i.e., government) argument for continued support to Canadian amateur radio community will be strategically weakened to say the least!

- The proposed new structure may look like this.





- The next agenda item - is the ongoing work from the A&F committee on the re-structuring of the membership payment levels of RAC. This topic is highly contentious and has taken up time, effort and debate at the last three board meetings. With the final recommendation from the A&F committee released, the board is now finalizing the recommendations into a motion to be approved. With the meeting going past the midnight hour on the East coast, the meeting was adjourned and is expected to resume next week, where this agenda item will be finalized.
- Unfortunately I could not make the meeting the following week. And from what I hear the membership restructuring will be on next month's agenda

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.

The RAC report

The next issue of the RAC report should be coming out in the next week or two. Please have a look for it. If by some reason you do not get it. Please check with RAC-HQ. If you get this email you should also get the RAC report as both use the same database for generating the email list.

Information for Grassroots Amateurs Interested in Supporting Municipal Flood Operations in Winnipeg

Jeff Dovyak - ve4mbq@rac.ca

At times ARES Units are able to support their served agencies on their own without additional volunteer support. At other times like when major operations may be anticipated an ARES Unit may be more of a coordinating body than just the "doers". Large-scale flood operations are one of those instances where Winnipeg ARES is stretched awfully thin and we need the active support of the Amateur Community. Our willingness and abilities as amateur radio operators to assist the various levels of governments at these times of Emergency has contributed to maintaining our share of the radio spectrum and closer to home, the exemption of amateur radio equipment in the Manitoba "Distracted Driver" legislation.

The City of Winnipeg Emergency Preparedness Program will be communicating with Winnipeg residents in a number of ways but one direct way is via *EmergWeb*: <http://www.winnipeg.ca/emergweb/>

Once Winnipeg ARES becomes actively involved in municipal flood operations or is about to become actively involved, Winnipeg Amateurs should expect an information announcement daily on VE4WPG 147.390+ 127.3 Hz (alt VE4CNR 146.760-) at 1800h. That announcement will briefly outline expected activities next day and solicit help from certified Amateurs with a working 2m HT and a spare battery pack. Those HTs must be capable of transmitting a 127.3 Hz CTCSS Tone to activate VE4WPG. They should be programmed for VE4WPG, VE4CNR, VE4UMR 147.270+ (for operations in south Winnipeg), VE4ARS 145.350- (for operations in north Winnipeg – ARS is expected to be back on the air any day now) and simplex frequencies 146.520 MHz and 146.580 MHz.

The Winnipeg ARES-Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club "loaner" traffic vests will be available for loan – they will likely be available for pick-up from the ARES members stationed at one of two City of Wpg Volunteer Registration Centres (one is planned for north Winnipeg and one is planned for south Winnipeg), at press time it is uncertain exactly when those centres will open or their exact locations. Civic Authorities have mentioned several times how helpful it is to have Amateur Radio Operators at the various sandbag sites thru the city advising on generally what's happening, apparent volunteer size, diking completion, etc. **Please do not self-dispatch yourself to any location**– VE4EOC must know where every Amateur Volunteer is assigned to and when they go on and off duty (accountability in other words). If there is a day or days that VE4EOC is not active the operation will be controlled by the ARES operators at one of the Volunteer Registration Centres and they will be using Winnipeg ARES callsign VE4YWG.

An up-to-date Sherlock Streetguide and layered clothing appropriate to the day's weather conditions will almost complete what you need to bring. A snack is a good idea. I have told civic authorities that all certified Amateurs should have a wallet-sized copy of their Industry Canada Operator's Certificate – volunteers should definitely have government issued photo-ID in their possession.

The 2009 Winnipeg ARES Flood Report is posted on our web-site: <http://www.winnipegares.ca/documents/Flood/flood2009.htm>

If you think that you might want to help out this spring but have some questions please don't hesitate to contact me soon – once operations get underway many of us will be pretty busy!

My never ending issue with Microsoft

Last week I sent a gentle reminder to Microsoft support reminded them of my issue with email merge. The reminded me that yes they know there is an issue. Uhhmm !! OK so now what. Further down in their reply was it should be fixed when the service pack comes out in the 1st quarter of 2011. OK, so as of today we are in the second quarter. Again Uhhmm ! Are they playing April fools jokes on me ??

Attention Local Clubs & Members

Members

The insurance that RAC is offering to affiliated clubs can help you bring in members. Right now if a RAC member is not a member of a local affiliated club who has taken the insurance plan, then they do not have any liability coverage from RAC. In order for RAC members to be covered under the Liability insurance plan for all the Amateur Radio activity, they must be members of both RAC & an insured Affiliated Club. So the simple cost of a membership to your local club could save money on your home insurance plan. Most home insurance requires a separate rider for coverage of Antenna Support Structures. Check with your agent on how much this will cost you. Then compare it to the cost of joining one of the local clubs who are already affiliated and insured through the RAC plan.

Clubs

Clubs can save money on their insurance by encouraging their members to join RAC. The clubs who are on the RAC liability insurance plan pay a premium for every club member who is not also a member of RAC. By encouraging your member to join RCA the Club will save money on their insurance. In the same process your club members will then be covered for liability insurance for all their Amateur Radio activity, not just the club functions. This is a win-win-win advantage for the Club, the Member and for RAC. Think about and encourage your members to join RAC.

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

<p>Radio Amateurs of Canada Midwest Region Director</p> <p>Derek Hay - VE4HAY 51 St. Hilaire Place Winnipeg, MB R2J4B5</p> <p>Phone: 204-257-1420 Fax: 204-282-7851 Email: ve4hay@rac.ca</p>	<p>Midwest Region Assistant Directors</p> <p>Bill Till - VE5FN (Lloydminster) Doug Pfaff - VE5DCP (Regina) Richard Holder - VE4QK (Beausejour)</p> <p>Section Managers</p> <p>Barry MacKenzie, VE5TRF (Saskatchewan) Jan Schippers - VE4JS (Manitoba)</p>
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