



# Midwest Report

*Ensuring radio amateurs in the Midwest are informed!*

November 2009

**Radio Amateurs of Canada  
Midwest Region Director**

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**Midwest Region Assistant Directors**

Bill Till - VE5FN (Lloydminster)  
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**Section Managers**

Joe Musgrave - VE5CEM (Saskatchewan)  
Jan Schippers - VE4JS (Manitoba)

## Election of RAC Executive

In keeping with the Bylaws and constitution of RAC, your Board of Directors recently held a teleconference meeting for the election for the executive positions within RAC. The following are the results of that election:

President	Geoff Bawden – VE4BAW
First Vice President	Ian MacFarquhar – VE9IM
Secretary	Paul Burggraaf – VO1PRB
Treasurer	Margaret Tidman – VA3VXN
VP Industrial Liaison	Norm Rashleigh – VE3LC
VP Regulatory Affairs	Richard Ferch – VE3KI
VP Field Services	Douglas Mercer – VO1TDM
VP Int’nl Affairs	Daniel Lamoureux – VE2KA
VP Tech & Admin Services	James Hay – VE2VE
VP Public Relations	Peter West – VE3HG
Honourary Legal Counsel	J.S.A (Steve) Pengelly – VE3STV

These positions become effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 for a 2 year term.

Upon completion of the executive election, the Director for Ontario South, Geoff Smith, VA3GS submitted his resignation from the board. The next day the Director for Quebec Noel Marcil, VE4BR submitted his resignation, as did current President Bob Cooke, VE4BDB. Some of you may have seen Bob’s letter to the members of RAC. I will not comment on the letter, suffice it to say that it is self explanatory, taking that he lost the election. You can read into it what you want. At this time I want to thank Messrs, Smith, Marcil and Cooke for their time and dedication to RAC and at the same time extend a warm welcome to Messrs, Bawden & Burggraaf and Ms. Tidman. I personally am looking forward to working with you fine folks for the betterment of RAC. The remaining 5 directors are already making plans for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice president to take over until January 1<sup>st</sup>, when the new executive steps in.

## **Directors Ramblings**

The latest Board teleconference came and went, with nothing really much being discussed. These teleconferences are scheduled in advance on a monthly basis, and anything pertinent to the days is discussed. This month we appointed Ed Fraser, VE7EF, be appointed chairman of the Canadian Amateur Hall of Fame for a period of 3 years. The progress on the revamping of the affiliated club portion of the RAC insurance program was discussed and letters to each club should be going out shortly.

## **RAC Winter Contest**

Once again the RAC winter contest is coming up on Boxing Day, December 19<sup>th</sup> from 0000 – 1159 UTC. If you would like to operate using the VE4RAC or VE5RAC callsign, please let me know. I would prefer to issue the call out to station(S) that will be multi-operator, but if no multi comes forward, then a single operator will do. As long as we get the Callsign on the air.

## **RAC Bulletin 2009-032E - Military radiolocation system to operate on 70 cm.**

As described in Schedule I of RBR-4, amateur usage of the 430-450 MHz (70 cm) band is on a no-protection, non-interference basis. Amateurs may not cause interference to nor be protected from interference from stations licensed in other services operating in that band. The same is true in the United States, and amateur operations on this band in a number of areas of the United States have power limits imposed on them in order to avoid interference to radiolocation services operated by the US military.

Industry Canada has informed RAC that it has authorized the Department of National Defence to use a digital system called Enhanced Position Location Reporting System (EPLRS) on these frequencies. The EPLRS system consists of mobile, fixed, transportable and airborne stations that use 5 MHz-wide spread spectrum channels to provide strategic telemetry information for military platforms. This authorization is on a no-protection, non-interference basis, which means that no new restrictions will be imposed on Canadian amateur operations in this band as a result.

Industry Canada has informed RAC that there is a slight potential for interference to amateur radio systems, typically in the form of a minor audible clicking noise. If Canadian amateurs encounter such interference, they are requested to report it to RAC at <regulatory @ rac.ca>. The information reported should include the geographical location, date, time, frequency and mode being used by the amateur station, and a description of the interference.

Questions or concerns regarding the planned implementation of EPLRS may be sent to <regulatory @ rac.ca>.

## **Still Looking for Assistance**

I am still looking for new blood and new assistants. So if you live in Regina, Saskatoon or rural Saskatchewan or you live in Brandon, or rural Manitoba and you would like to assist me in RAC duties, I really could use

your help. In fact, it does not matter if you live in these areas or not. I still need your help. So if you are willing to help your national association, please send me an email (see below for my address)

## **Where R You?**

The past few Directors have been relying on the clubs to get information out to the members of RAC. This does not seem to be working as well as it should. It could be the information arrives after the club newsletter has been sent out, or after a club meeting, and by the time it comes around again, the information is too old. But it does not matter, as I am trying to set up an email database, where I would email out to the members this newsletter and any other pertinent RAC information directly to the members. So with that said, I need your email addresses. If you are a RAC member and you did not receive this in your inbox – directly from me, then I do not have your email address and I would like you to send it to me (see front page for contact info). Please be assured that I will not sell, or distribute any email addresses for any reason. Only Ham radio related information from me will be sent to you. And it will be sent with all email addresses hidden.