

Radio Amateurs of Canada

# Midwest Report

*Ensuring radio amateurs in the Midwest are informed!*

November, 2011

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

## 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.



change anything that would allow you to join once again. On behalf of the entire Board & the Executive of Radio Amateurs of Canada I extend to you a Merry Christmas and Holiday Season to each of you. And of course the best of DX in the New Year.

## **Membership is on the Rise**

Membership in RAC is increasing. Yes I stated that correctly, it may be a small amount but, for the last 4 months the membership turned and is now on an increase. This is a good trend and suggests Canadian Amateurs realize that RAC will be here for the long haul. Expect more on this in 2012 as continuing to increase membership will be a primary focus for RAC executive in the New Year.

The Maple Leaf Memberships are also rising and are now in more than 120 strong. I know these are difficult economic times but these folks have stepped up and said supporting RAC is worth a \$100. If you find it within

your means I hope you will consider supporting RAC at this elite level so we can continue to advocate for Canadian Amateurs.

## **Directors Ramblings**

### *Radio Advisory Board of Canada (RABC)*

In 2011, we decided not to pay our membership in the Radio Advisory Board of Canada (RABC) due to our cash flow issues. We have however been successful in our endeavors to turn RAC around and will have moved a motion to rejoin the Radio Advisory Board of Canada for 2012. You can expect to see reports every month or Bi-monthly on anything from RABC that may affect Amateur Radio.

### *The RAC web site*

Word has filtered down to the RAC board that members are not happy with the web site current look and feel. As such, without knowing exactly what members are looking for, we will be developing a survey asking members what they like about the web sites and what they dislike and they would like to see added.

Also our newly re-worked administration system should be running by Q1 of 2012. This will allow for inclusion of the Maple Leaf membership being available Online for all members that wish to upgrade, as well as new rates for our International members to reflect the cost of mailing out TCA and other documents.

RAC will also be looking for members who are very familiar with Content Management systems on web sites along with design, PHP, SQL etc. for the almost 2500 pages of content on our Web site who would like to volunteer time and work to help maintain our web site and keep it up to date. If you are such a member, please let me know.

And lastly if you notice any content on the web site that is out-dated, please send me the URL of the page and what is out of date, so that we can get it updated. With 2500 pages to go through this is a not an easy task.

### *TCA – Editorial Review Committee*

This committee is looking for some members for each region who are technically competent, have a good regional knowledge of the various groups in their region and who would be willing to review articles for accuracy and content.

### *Executive members.*

The Board of Directors is still looking for members to accept positions on the RAC executive for the following positions; Treasurer, Regulatory Affairs Officer, Public Information Officer, Member Services Officer.

## **Your RAC account**

Did you know you can maintain your own RAC member account with such things as additional callsigns, mailing address email address alias email etc.?

On the [www.rac.ca](http://www.rac.ca) home page,

- Login with your member account and password.
- Click on member section in the panel on the left side
- Click on My profile and add in all callsigns you may hold and any additional information not correct
- Click on My alias and enter in your email alias you want mail to go to all or any of your callsigns

Anytime some of your information changes please make sure you update your member record.

## **e-TCA**

RAC is moving ahead with an electronic version of our bi-monthly magazine The Canadian Amateur (TCA). Starting with the January/February issue, we will create an electronic edition of the magazine. The e-TCA will be identical to the hard copy with the exception of clickable links, colour photos and possible other enhancements and additional content in the future. The delivery of the e-TCA will be passive, meaning it will be posted in the member section of the RAC web site for any member to download rather than pushing it out to the members. The only thing we will push out to you will be a link for accessing the magazine. To do this we will need your email address in our database. As you are getting this little newsletter by email, we obviously have your address on file. But there are a large number of RAC members in the Mid-West region that we do not have an email address for. True some may not have email, but the majority do. So, please check the listing elsewhere in this newsletter and if you know any of the callsign listed, please ask them to register their email address with RAC. They are currently missing out on my newsletter and the bi-monthly RAC Report and soon the e-TCA.

## **Amateur Radio Operator Certificate Services**

Industry Canada has now opened up their online Amateur Radio Operator Certificate Services web site. I was part of the testing team while in the beta mode and was impressed with what we can do online as compared to what required mailing and/or faxing in the past. Any changes to your account are immediately updated within 30 minutes or less. As I write this the page is just newly available for use. But note there is a pre-text in the margin that says the entire Industry Canada site will be unavailable from

8:00 a.m. Saturday, October 29, 2011 to 9:00 a.m. Sunday, October 30, 2011 (EDT). So be aware that URL address may change.

When you get a chance, please check out the new site (see side bar for URL address). To sign up for your account you will need your certificate of proficiency. Make a note of your password and you are now free to make changes to your account. Most of the things you can do are no charge, including possible some things that used to cost money to make changes. Items that do require payment will be noted. Enjoy your new access and if you have any problems please contact the service centre.

## **Deputy Director**

I have had this item in the newsletter for many, many, many months now and not one person has tried to contact me about this. Please read on and truly think about helping out. I do not want to be the only region that does not have a 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.

## **Do you know these RAC members?**

The following listings of Callsigns are all RAC members who are living in Manitoba of 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.

VE4DIG, VE4BA, VE4CS, VE4SD, , VE4TP, VE4ZD, VE4ABW, VE4NC, VE4ACN, VE4SR, VE4EDE, VE4ABL, VE4FGR, VE4LES, VE4MG, VE4PF, VE4AHZ, VE4DY, VE4LIZ, VE4GR, VE4EME, VA4NRM, VE4RD, VE7JCR, VE4BI, VE4VO, VE4FI, , VE4ACX, VE4GIL, VE4GDH

VE5TK, VE5GW, VE5RC, VE5IM, VE5JN, VE5TX, VE5VT, VE5AG, VE5TL, VE5LY, VE5BBH, VE5LPP, VE5SAR, VE5LTD, VE5DGD, VE5DF, VE5VP, VE5MDC, VE5BPS, VE5WW, VE5HFD, VE5KRB, VE5CD, VE5GY, VA5LIZ, VA5SAM, VE5MHR, , VE5AF, VE5KK, VE5JZ, VE5JAR, VE5GZ, VE5XO, VE5EN, VE5YD, VE5RY, VE5PT, VE5FAW, VE5BF, VE5AFK, VE5DZ, VE5BBK, VE5CT, VE5BFD, VE5JRM, VE5BGF, VE5AAD, VE5RO. VE5MCD, VE5RH, VE5ML

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

**Radio Amateurs of Canada  
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)