

Midwest Report



Ensuring radio amateurs in the Midwest are informed!

<http://www.rac.ca>

January 2009

Hello...and HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Happy New Year to every amateur across the Midwest! I am very pleased to be writing you as my first official duty in the capacity of Midwest Region Director for Radio Amateurs of Canada. Keeping with the monthly tradition started by Bj. Madsen, VE5FX, I plan on creating this newsletter each month.

As it is virtually impossible to meet everyone in the Midwest region face to face, I feel I should introduce myself in this first issue and tell you a bit about my radio background.

I didn't know much about amateur radio back in the mid-nineties except that I found a frequency in my hometown area of North Battleford on 146.880Mhz that my scanner was able to receive. The transmissions and conversations that went back and forth intrigued me enough to find out what it was. My search led me to a local computer bulletin board system run by Ray, VE5RAE, of whom I did not know prior. I discovered a lot of information on amateur radio on his BBS which eventually led me to purchasing a basic study guide from the University of British Columbia. I was unaware of RAC or other sources at the time.

I didn't know about local club classes or the delegated examiner program, all I knew was that I needed

to know that book to pass the exam.

So, over the next year or so, I read the book repeatedly and visited the public library and found a very dated ARRL Handbook. I don't remember the date, but it did scare me a bit and it looked and felt old.

Finally, I felt prepared and walked into the Industry Canada office in Saskatoon ready to write. A few hours later and \$24 poorer, I came out with my basic license and call sign, VE5DWR. That was February of 1995. Since then I've managed to obtain my 12 WPM CW (when it was still required) and my advanced certificates.

My daily operating consists mostly of VHF/UHF FM. I have recently moved to a new home did not manage to get any HF antennas up before the cold hit, but I'm hoping to fix that in the spring. I am active on the APRS mode as well when mobile and can be heard calling the Saskatchewan 2M Net from time to time. I am active in local clubs as secretary-treasurer as well as the current President of the Saskatchewan Amateur Radio League.

Please feel free to contact me at anytime on RAC related issues. I look forward to your input into how your national organization should conduct business.

73 - Devon Racicot, VE5DWR

ASSISTANT DIRECTORS / MIDWEST

I am pleased to report that Derek Hay, VE4HAY and Bill Till, VE5FN have agreed to remain another term as Assistant Director for the Midwest Region. This will assist with in keeping procedures and knowledge consistent. I thank you both for staying!

Derek and Bill each have considerable experience with both Radio Amateurs of Canada as well as are both actively involved in amateur radio in their communities.

I am still seeking at least one more AD in each province and have sent out a few feelers. I will keep you posted.

INTERIM DIRECTOR / FIRST VP APPOINTED

At the January 2009 RAC Board of Director's teleconference, Ed Frazer, VE7EF was appointed interim Director for BC/Yukon. Ed has been the region's director for a number of years and has agreed to fill the gap until such time as a nomination for the position has been received.

The board also has appointed Ian MacFarquhar, VE9IM as First Vice-President to fill that vacancy left by Guy Richard, VE2QG. Ian has held this position previously for RAC (2003-2004) and is an active member of the amateur community.

NEW BASIC STUDY GUIDE

Watch for the new RAC Basic Study guide in the near future. The book has reached the printers and copies are expected to be available very soon. RAC is looking at changing policies to allow RAC branded merchandise to be obtained faster and easier. Watch for an announcement in the future.

NEW LOOK FOR TCA

RAC has augmented the look of the organization's magazine, The Canadian Amateur. Contents of the magazine have been printed on glossy paper and provide for a nicer look and feel. If you haven't received a copy, consider renewing or joining RAC today!!

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