



GUYWIRE

November 2016

A monthly publication of the RARA Inc. except July and August.

If you wish to receive or be removed from the e-mailing please contact the editor/publisher at the RARA e-mail address @ ve5rara@gmail.com

NOTE: all e-mail and web addresses are active hyperlinks

GENERAL MEETING

November 9th @ 7:00 p.m.

Regent Place Library - Regina Market Mall - 331 Albert St.

Traffic Control and Safety.
(Terry VE5TLW)

Special Notice

from the Editor

The Guywire depends on submissions of articles and pictures sent in by members for most of its content. If you have a story, pictures or a favorite website, send it in to ve5rara@gmail.com.

We would particularly like to have pictures from past club events.

**I really need more content
from members.
I can't do it all.**

2016 PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

EVENT DATE ORGANIZER

UPCOMING

Santa Claus Parade Nov. 20th - Rick VE5RJR

COMPLETED

Klondike Hike - Feb. 20th - Justin VA5RED

RPS Half Marathon - May 1st - Terry VE5TLW

MS Walk - May 1 - Rick VE5RJR

Cosmo Learning Centre - May 13 - Harv VE5AD

Mayors Walk /Run - May 31 - Terry VE5TLW

Spoke n'Hot 100km Ride - Aug.7- TBA

MS Bike Tour - Aug. 20-21- Rick VE5RJR

The Queen City Marathon - No help requested

Terry Fox Run - Richard VE5RJR

150th Anniversary Special Call Signs

At the Dayton Hamvention, Radio Amateurs of Canada announced that it has secured permission for all Canadian Radio Amateurs to use special call sign prefixes to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Canada's Confederation. National, regional and local events will take place throughout 2017 to celebrate the anniversary and Canadian Amateurs will let their counterparts around the world know of our celebration by using the following special prefixes:

- Amateurs and clubs whose regular call signs start with VA will be able to use the CF prefix instead of VA (for example, VA3RAC will be authorized to use the CF3RAC call sign).
- Amateurs and clubs whose regular call signs start with VE will be able to use the CG prefix instead of VE (e.g., VE4RAC will be authorized to use CG4RAC).
- Amateurs and clubs whose regular call signs start with VO will be able to use the CH prefix instead of VO (e.g., VO1RAC will be authorized to use CH1RAC).
- Amateurs and clubs whose regular call signs start with VY will be able to use the CI prefix instead of VY (e.g., VY2RAC will be authorized to use CI2RAC).

These special prefixes are optional and Amateurs can choose if and when to use the special prefix vs their normal prefix at any time during the year. Stay tuned to the RAC website (<http://wp.rac.ca>) for additional information. For more information on Canada150 visit <http://canada.pch.gc.ca/eng/1342792785740>.

Last Months Puzzler

Amateurs from which two countries can claim the record for the longest two-way communication on the 630M band (472-479 kHz)?

Answer: Canada and New Zealand

This Months' Puzzler

What amateur license qualification must a person have to operate a digital repeater above 30 MHz?

Answer next month

Battleford Repeater Antenna Goes Down and Up

Ken, VE5KC videotaped the action when the Battleford club repeater tower had to be lowered, new antennas installed and raised back up. This interesting video can be seen at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=tFZeYbzOwvg

That's One Big Rig

Nautel Limited, of Hackett's Cove, Nova Scotia, has received an order for a 2 Megawatt NX2000 Medium Wave system, the largest transmitter system the company makes, to replace a custom-built tube transmitter dating back to 1977 at the Antenna Hungaria transmission facility near Solt, Hungary.

Despite its age and deteriorating condition, the Solt operation is the most powerful medium wave radio transmitter in Europe and one of the most powerful transmitters in the world. The transmitter upgrade is expected to be completed in fall 2017.

One of the world's largest manufacturers of AM and FM radio broadcast transmitters, Nautel has deployed more than 14,000 transmitters deployed in 177 countries since 1970.

In this issue we are featuring a 3 part look at the history of RARA and amateur radio in Regina.

Regina Organizes

A Brief History of Amateur Radio in Regina (Part 1)

In The Beginning

The first mention of ham radio in Saskatchewan occurred in 1909 when Wally Pottle successfully sent a message via a spark gap transmitter from one side of Moose Jaw to the other. He had no call sign because this was before call signs were allocated. Later he became 4AO, then VE4AO and still later he became the first Radio Inspector in Saskatchewan.

In Regina there was no known activity until the early 1920's but we know that in 1922 there were 7 stations licensed in Regina with another three appearing in 1924. In those days Regina wasn't exactly a hotbed of amateur activity. That award goes to Moose Jaw which had 23 stations at that time. The following amateurs were listed by the Dept. of Fisheries as being licensed in Regina in 1924:

4AJ	J. F. Hill	2990 Albert St.
4AQ	R. E. Middleton	3002 14th Ave.
4AT	H. Miller	2226 Scarth St.
4BR	G. J. Shadick	2079 Rae St.
4DM	W. L. Martin	2920 Regina. Ave.
4FR	C. McKinnon	2208 McIntyre St.
4FV	L. H. Perras	1944 McIntyre St.
4HG	B. C. Thompson	2141 Victoria Ave.
4IU	S. A. Tomlin	2260 Pasqua St.
4IY	G. Oliver	2227 Edward St.

Note that this was years before the prefix VE was added. All stations in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba were in the 4th district and call signs were assigned sequentially.

Any records of R.A.R.A. pre-war have disappeared but it is likely that it came into being sometime in the early 1930's, around the time of the first Hamfest which was held in Swift Current in 1933. All communications up to about 1928 were conducted by Morse code with spark gap transmissions.

Amateur operations were halted at the outbreak of World War II in late 1939. Some amateur radio gear was appropriated by the military and many local amateurs served in the armed forces serving as electronics instructors and radio operators.

In 1946 when the amateur service was reinstated, the R.A.R.A. reorganized and regular meetings were held in the old Courthouse building on Victoria Avenue.

Some of the amateurs who were active at that time included Ted Odling VE5TO, Leo Myers VE5LM, Jim Whetherly VE5JW, Jack Kyle VE5JK, and Bill Nagy VE5DG. VE5JK was probably the first one in Saskatchewan to experiment on 2 meters. Unfortunately experimenting was all he could do because he didn't have anyone to talk to.

Club Activities

It was around this time that the club station, VE5NN came into being and in 1947 the R.A.R.A. hosted the annual Saskatchewan Hamfest for the first time in the post-war era. For many years Hamfests alternated between Regina and Saskatoon until some other cities decided to take a turn.

In the 1960's, the clubs' involvement with the Emergency Measures Organization began, with club members providing emergency communications on many occasions including floods in Regina and Lumsden through an active ARES group led by Bill Munday VE5WM.

(part 2 of the series will appear next month)