



# GUYWIRE

November 2017

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 8th @ 7:00 p.m.

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

TBA

### 2017-18 RARA Executive

President - Neil Slater - VA5SCA  
Secretary - Terry White - VE5TLW  
Treasurer - Allan Tidball - VE5LAT  
Past President - Harvey Drinkle - VE5AD  
Director - Con Berger - VE5CON  
Director - Justin Chapman - VA5RED  
Director - Summer Hartzfeld - VE5SDH  
Director - Lyle Maystruck - VE5EE  
Director - Mark Humphreys VA5LNX

### 2017 PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

EVENT      DATE      ORGANIZER

#### UPCOMING

Santa Parade - Nov. 19th - Rick VE5RJR

#### COMPLETED

RPS 1/2 marathon - April 30 - Terry VE5TLW  
MS Super Cities Walk - April30 - Rick VE5RJR  
MS Bike Tour- August 19th - Richard VE5RJR  
Mayors Run - Sept. 24h - Terry VE5TLW

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## Puzzler For Last Month

In ham radio circles what does SATERN refer to?

### Answer:

The Salvation Army Team Radio Network which provides communications following natural disasters such as Hurricane Irma.

## This month

If you worked a DX station with the prefix "XX9", what country would you have contacted?

### Answer next month

## Interesting Websites

In the golden days of Short Wave radio broadcasting before the advent of digital tuning displays, it was difficult to tune your favorite stations. Radio dials were cramped and inaccurate. To assist listeners to tune their stations, some broadcasters would broadcast a tuning call several minutes prior to a broadcast. They would usually be in the form of a few musical notes or other identifiable sound repeated until broadcast time. The BBC used the sound of Big Ben, Radio Australia used the song of the Kookaburra bird and Canada used the first four notes of O Canada.

By going to:

<http://ominous-valve.com/shortwve.html>  
you can hear WAV files of many of the popular stations.

It also has some interesting radio history as well.

## IARU Administrative Council Addresses New Radio Spectrum Pollution Threat



The Administrative Council (AC) of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) held its annual in-person meeting on September 15 and 16 in Landshut, Germany, immediately prior to the IARU Region 1 Conference. The AC reviewed its priorities and positions with regard to the agenda items for the 2019 World Radio communication Conference (WRC-19) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

High Power Wireless Power Transfer (WPT) for electric vehicles is seen as having a significant potential for interference to radio communications. Addressing this threat requires an increased commitment of resources by potentially affected radio communication services, including Amateur Radio. In addition to a number of other matters, the AC confirmed the theme for World Amateur Radio Day, April 18, 2018, as "Celebrating Amateur Radio's Contribution to Society".

The AC is responsible for the policy and management of the IARU and consists of the three IARU international officers and two representatives from each of the three IARU regional organizations. Attending the meeting were IARU President Tim Ellam, VE6SH/G4HUA; Vice-President Ole Garpestad, LA2RR; Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ; regional representatives Don Beattie, G3BJ, Faisal Al-Ajmi, 9K2RR, Reinaldo Leandro, YV5AM, Ramón Santoyo, XE1KK, Gopal Madhavan, VU2GMN, and Peter Young, VK3MV. Present as an observer for the second day of the meeting was Dave Court, EI3IO, from Region 1.

For more information visit:

<http://www.iaru.org/news--events/september-17th-2017>

George Gorsline, VE3YV  
RAC International Affairs Officer

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## Students Help Puerto Rico

In the age of smartphones, Snapchat and WhatsApp, a group of students in Queens, New York, are using a more traditional form of communication to help out the people of Puerto Rico.

It's been two weeks since Hurricane Maria devastated the U.S. territory, and more than 90 per cent of the island is still without electricity.

The lack of power and Wi-Fi is making it difficult for communications across Puerto Rico, whether it's family members trying to contact loved ones, or aid agencies trying to share messages related to health and welfare.

"You can easily relate to these people if you just think about how it must feel if you're not able to talk to the people who you love and care about." - Lea Medina, Garden School Amateur Radio Club

With phone lines down and cellphone reception spotty, the American Red Cross and other aid groups have reached out to amateur (or ham) radio operators for help.

Ham radio can be set up anywhere and can communicate around the world. While some ham radio operators have been recruited to work within Puerto Rico, back in Queens, the students at the



Garden School

Garden School are helping out from the tiny room that houses the Amateur Radio Club.

Anyone can email the school and the club members will then share that message via

radiogram, and that

message is then relayed to ham radio operators in Puerto Rico.

How the Garden School got involved

The Amateur Radio Club started about a year ago, says teacher John Hale. It was part of a process of trying to teach the students about how to work with radios.

"The next thing, if you're part of the radio community with amateur radio, is to help people in need," says Hale.

"They're helping an individual attempt to make contact with one of their family members." - John Hale, teacher, Garden School

When Hurricane Irma hit the Caribbean and Florida Keys in September, Hale realized that there was a need for ham radio and set to training the students on how to help.

"We slowly started teaching the kids about how to do a radiogram and start a relay message that'll get down to wherever they need to go," explains Hale.

"When we have a disaster they do food drives, they do clothing drives, they do money drives to raise money. This lets them try to work with a person one-on-one ... now they know they're helping an individual attempt to make contact with one of their family members," says Hale.



Student Jasmine Petrov agrees that the individual contact is rewarding.

"What this gives is an actual personal touch ... which I think makes it so much more special,"

says Petrov.

Club member Lea Medina says that reaching out to people in Puerto Rico is just “the right thing to do.”

“If I were one of these people I, of course, would be as devastated as they are. And I decided to go and join this simply because it has to be done,” Medina explains. “You can easily relate to these people if you just think about how it must feel if you’re not able to talk to the people who you love and care about.”

Medina says she does not know anyone in Puerto Rico.

“But I know what it’s like to be separated from someone you love,” she says.

What it means to the students

“The most profound message that I’ve received so far is about this daughter who’s really desperately wanting to check on her father and her mother,” says Medina.

“She asked us to make sure that they know that she loves them, she cares about them, and she wants to know for sure that they’re alright.”

“It’s very overwhelming to be part of this emotional connection.” - Jasmine Petrov, Garden School Amateur Radio Club

Petrov is struck by the sameness of the messages they’re being requested to send.

“Seeing how all of these people trying to send pretty much the same care messages, of: ‘Are you OK?’ And just asking their relatives, their friends of their well-being,” explains Medina. “All of that together, it’s very overwhelming to be part of this emotional connection.”

Petrov says she joined the Amateur Radio Club because she was interested in learning how ham radio worked. She thought it would simply involve school radio competitions.

“I never thought that it would become so personal ... it became so much more,” she says.

Medina says her interest in ham radio goes back to the way it was used in the 1930s and 40s.

“I particularly loved the field radio operators in World War II and I found their job to be one of the most important. Because of those people there were countless lives that were saved by dropping supplies in the right places,” says Medina.



Medina reiterates that sending messages to Puerto Rico is just the right thing to do.

“It gives me a sense that there actually is good in this world,” she says. “You see that somebody’s going through something terrible. You want to do something good in order to alleviate their sufferings, and when you transmit this message you have to think about the people on the other side of the screen and on the other side of this paper.”

“These are people’s lives at stake,” says Medina.

“And they’re people who are just trying to desperately talk to other people because there’s no way else.”

Hale thinks the radiograms are a great experience for the students, in addition to being an important lesson to the general public.

“Amateur radio can help in the time of need.”

## Congratulations Summer Has Passed

Not only that but,  
Summer, VE5SDH has passed her Advanced  
Amateur license.  
**Congratulations.**

## How Radio Works

“I am often asked how radio works.”  
Well, you see, wire telegraphy is like a very long cat.  
You yank his tail in New York and he meows in Los  
Angeles.

Do you understand this?

Now, radio is exactly the same, except that there is  
no cat.”

Attributed to Albert Einstein

## A Little Ham Humor

Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got  
married.

The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was  
excellent.

## Help the GUYWIRE

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

Contact the editor or publisher at:  
[ve5rara@gmail.com](mailto:ve5rara@gmail.com)

## The Display at the Science Centre Adult Night

