



GUYWIRE

March 2015

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

March 11th @ 7:00 p.m.

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

**An video of Jim Spilsbury
(Canadian radio pioneer & entrepreneur)**

**Two public service
events on the same day.**

**Please plan to help with
these two important events.**

**Contact the organizer as
soon as possible.**

2015

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

EVENT DATE ORGANIZER

UPCOMING

RPS Half Marathon April 26th Terry (VE5TLW)

MS Super Cities Walk April 26th TBA

COMPLETED

Klondike Hike Sat. Feb. 21, 2015 Justin VA5RED

Santa Parade Nov. 16 Rick VE5RJR

Please contact the coordinator directly
if you can assist with the event or
via ve5rara@gmail.com.

World Amateur Radio Day

Every April 18, radio amateurs worldwide take to the airwaves in celebration of World Amateur Radio Day. It was on that day in 1925 that the International Amateur Radio Union was formed in Paris.

Amateur Radio experimenters were the first to discover that the short wave spectrum — far from being a wasteland — could support worldwide propagation. In the rush to use these shorter wavelengths, Amateur Radio was “in grave danger of being pushed aside,” the IARU’s history has noted. Amateur Radio pioneers met in Paris in 1925 and created the IARU to support Amateur Radio worldwide.

Just two years later, at the International Radiotelegraph Conference, Amateur Radio gained the allocations still recognized today — 160, 80, 40, 20, and 10 meters. Since its founding, the IARU has worked tirelessly to defend and expand the frequency allocations for Amateur Radio. Thanks to the support of enlightened administrations in every part of the globe, radio amateurs are now able to experiment and communicate in frequency bands strategically located throughout the radio spectrum. From the 25 countries that formed the IARU in 1925, the IARU has grown to include 160 member-societies in three regions. IARU Region 1 includes Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and Northern Asia. Region 2 covers the Americas, and Region 3 is comprised of Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific island nations, and most of Asia. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has recognized the IARU as representing the interests of Amateur Radio.

Today, Amateur Radio is more popular than ever, with over 3,000,000 licensed operators!

World Amateur Radio Day is the day when IARU Member-Societies can show our capabilities to the public and enjoy global friendship with other Amateurs worldwide.

We have provided a poster for World Amateur Radio Day 2015. Any club may download it and use it to promote WARD in their area. The poster comes in two sizes: 61cm x 91cm and a small (A4) flyer.

Groups should promote their WARD activity on social media by using the hash tag #WARD2015 on Twitter and Facebook. IARU will list all WARD activities on this page. To have your WARD activity listed, send an email to ARRL Public Relations Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X.

April 18 is the day for all of Amateur Radio to celebrate and tell the world about the science we can help teach, the community service we can provide and the fun we have.

We hope you will join in the fun and education that is World Amateur Radio Day!

WWII Secret Files Released

Recently top secret files from WWII have been released to the public which show the contribution that Bletchley Park made to the war effort. Bletchley Park was the headquarters of Military Intelligence and became famous for breaking the German Enigma code thus allowing the Allies to listen in on secret German messages. The story has now been told in the movie “The Imitation Game” which is now playing.

Not mentioned in the movie is the role that radio amateurs played in the operation. When the war broke out, all amateur operation was suspended. At the same time, MI6 had a problem. They did not have enough personnel to monitor German radio transmissions. The problem was solved when MI6 and the Radio Society of Great Britain came up with a plan to organize a select group of amateurs to do this.

Many hams were already doing military service so it was mainly the older hams or those not fit for military duty who took part. Each day a motorcycle officer delivered a list of frequencies to the homes of these amateurs. Their job was to monitor these frequencies and copy down anything that was sent. Transmissions were in CW and encoded so they had no idea what they were receiving. Each days copy was picked up and taken to Bletchley Park for decoding. It is estimated that the information obtained in this way shortened the war by several months and saved many lives.

There is also a local connection to Bletchley Park. Those of you who heard the presentation about early broadcasting at our last meeting will recall the fact that the Moose Jaw Amateur Radio Club once operated a broadcasting station 10AB. It had been in several locations, one of them being above the Bellamy Furniture Store. A member of the Bellamy family that owned the store, R.L.G. Bellamy joined the armed services and ended up working at Bletchley Park. He is commemorated by a plaque at Bletchley Park honoring him and others who worked there during the war.

QSL CARDS are INTERESTING

Exchanging QSL cards with other amateurs seems to be a dying practice. It is a shame that such a tangible record of a contact may soon be a thing of the past, having given way to E-QSLs or no QSLs at all. I do have some sympathy for DX stations that have to send out thousands of cards and I don't begrudge them using the services of QSL managers who send out computer generated cards on their behalf, but I find the cards I treasure most are the person-to-person cards that add a personal touch to the contact. Cards like the one I got from a ham in Botswana who it turns out, came from Saskatchewan. When he retired he went to Botswana to teach

farming practices and liked it so much he stayed there. He sent me some Botswana money (a small amount I would guess) as a memento of the contact. Had this just been a "59 73 thank you" contact, it would have been long forgotten, but with the card, it brings back pleasant memories.

I have other cards that I treasure such as the one for a contact with float in the Rose Bowl parade, a scientific expedition on a floating ice island in the Arctic or from a railway engineer in Honduras who hauled bananas from the interior to a port for export. And of course, the most important card of all – the card you get from your first on-air QSO. These things are priceless.

If you have a card that is special to you, one that you are proud of, or that represent a memorable contact, take a picture of it and email it to Guywire ve5rara@gmail.com We will be happy to publish submissions in future editions of Guywire.

Take a Trip to the Past

Take a trip back in time to the equipment that launched our great hobby. Build a crystal set or a one tube regenerative radio like the one Edwin Armstrong designed. If you are up to the task, you can get a kit for these and many more interesting projects by going to:
<http://www.xtalm.com/kits.html>



Live Long and Make Many Contacts
Leonard Nimoy, (Spock)
March 23, 1931 - February 27, 2015

LAST MONTHS PUZZLER

Which imminent inventor and radio pioneer said in 1924?

“While theoretically and technically television may be feasible, commercially and financially it is an impossibility.”

Answer: Lee DeForest, the inventor of the triode

THIS MONTHS' PUZZLER

In amateur radio circles, what does the term LDE refer to?

Answer next month

Technical Problem Solved

(Should you believe everything you read on the internet)

BaoFeng, in releasing their GT-1 UHF 16 channel ham radio handheld, has apparently solved the problem of weak signals. This is what appears on their website in the promotional material for the GT-1:

“WITH TWO MIC PORTS, IT CAN BETTER HELP GATHER WEAK SIGNALS, WORKING WITH THE UPGRADED SPEAKER CLIP LM4890S.”

Who knew that all you had to do to increase weak signals was to add more mic inputs, to say nothing of the extra signal from that speaker clip! I think their ad writer is badly in need of a crash course in English before they run into problems with the Consumer Protection people.

The only good news in the story is that the GT-1 sells for \$21.99 and one of its features is a flashlight. I have seen flashlights selling for more.

2015 Klondike Hike Report

The Klondike hike was held on February 21st from 8:00 am to 3:30 pm, the morning started off a little chilly and possibly a little rough seeing the early hours and it being a Saturday morning. Chelsea and I got there around 7:30 am to set up and try to get as organized as we could and get everyone to know what they were doing throughout the day, Justin built an antenna and stand for it to stay grounded and so we can receive and make communications throughout the day, he also organized the day, worked a station and brought hot coco to the amateurs at their station as well to make sure they were keeping warm and staying warm.

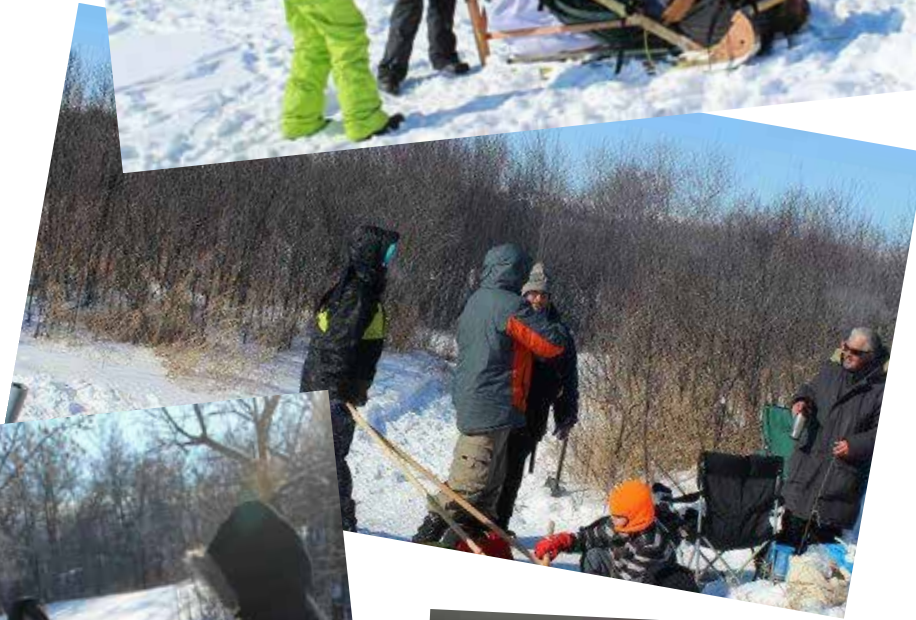
Chelsea worked on getting people out to their stations, talking to North and JP on the family bands and the score board she made, meanwhile Summer (VE5SDH) did the communications to every station and helped maintain and keep the score board up to date.

We wanted to send a big shout out to Harvey (VE5AD), Neil (VA5SCA), Rick (VE5RJR), Malcolm (VE5ZG), George (VE5UU), Gord (VA5GL), Bill (VA5CW), JP, North who came out, survived the cold, helped us keep up with the score and see how the scouts were doing. After the event was done we got hot dogs, warm hot chocolate and a Klondike hike badge as a token of thanks.

We also got invited to come back and help again in 2016; we would like to say thank you to Paul and the scouts for inviting us out to help make the Klondike hike a success. We look forward to next year and hope to see you there.

Justin VA5RED

A few photos from Klondike Hike



March Hamshack

We would like to feature a different hamshack in each issue of Guywire. This month we are featuring the compact station of Hugh VE5HWH.

Please send us pictures of your shack. It would be ideal if the picture could include yourself at the operating desk, but if you are shy, a picture of your shack will do. This is not a contest – no prizes. Just a chance to show the world your station. Email your picture today to ve5rara@gmail.com.



Help the GUYWIRE

The editor and publisher are looking for your input.

1. What would you like to have as a regular topic?
2. Would you like to have the minutes of the previous General Meeting?
3. Would you like Question and answer section?
4. Do you think a technical article each issue would be of interest?
5. Would you be willing to provide a brief write-up of your station/shack with photos?

Contact the editor or publisher at: ve5rara@gmail.com

**PLEASE HELP US OUT BY PROVIDING SOME
GUIDANCE FOR FUTURE ISSUES.**