



Nanaimo Amateur  
Radio Association  
5387 Lost Lake Rd.  
Nanaimo, BC  
V9T 5E7

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Static January 2005

**NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2005**  
**7:30 p.m. at the Nanaimo Volunteer Emergency Centre**  
**(At the foot of Wingrove Street - old Departure Bay Firehall)**

>> January Program <<

**RADIO "SHOW AND TELL"**

*Join us and celebrate the technical centre piece of our hobby! This is an opportunity for club members to bring in their HF transceivers, receivers and transmitters; all makes, models and vintages (a dolly will be available).*

*The plan is to be able to connect a variety of rigs up simultaneously through an antenna multi-coupler. This will then hopefully let everyone can play around, do a little A/B comparison between radios to see which might be the 'hottest' rig, which options or controls are particularly useful.*



*We're hoping to see everything from your homebuilt QRP rigs to 200 watt powerhouses!*

**Don't miss the fun...see you there! ☺**

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*(No "Editor's Comments" this month due to lack of space)*

**HAPPY NEW YEAR - FROM YOUR STATIC TEAM! ☺**



Affiliated



## SEEN & HEARD

**Bill VE7JY**

- VE7BSM:** Bruce, unfortunately, losing one element off his HF beam in our recent bad weather.
- VA7PLH:** Pat was another casualty of the recent snowfall. She lost one leg of her wire antenna due to ice loading and wind.
- VA7RS:** Best wishes to Roger who has been residing in NRGH as of late. We all hope that you are home soon and feeling great.
- VE7CGC:** Back in Nanaimo after two months off the coast of Mauritania, Northwest Africa. He arrived home on Christmas eve – a great Christmas present for Marlena VE7DFY.
- VE7LLL:** Guenter and Rose are back after spending Christmas in Las Vegas.
- VA7SV:** Sivert and Inge have returned after a month's holiday in Hawaii. Wouldn't you know it, the snow started here the day before they returned!!

## HOT AIR FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Chris, VE7TOP**



Here's what I'm sure will be a revelation to many of you: our hobby is all about radios. While there are many, many different aspects to this hobby such as contests, swap meets, fox hunts, coffee klatches, web pages, emergency communications and the list can go on and on, at the heart of most of what we do is a device designed to either send or receive electromagnetic waves. And this over a sometimes longer and sometimes shorter air gap; no wires!!!! I'm sure that if most of us weren't so technically inclined we would be viewing the whole process as magic.

What I've always found fascinating is the sheer variety of radios that exist. I thought I had a reasonably good idea of that diversity until I had a chance to tour through the radio museum in Bellingham. They had a large collection from the very early years of radio that was a real eye opener to me. I was back this summer trying to find the museum without success. After driving around downtown Bellingham I thought my memory about its location had failed but it now appears that it has moved to a much better and larger location. You can find out all about the museum from their web site <http://www.americanradiomuseum.org/site/> and if you happen to be across the border in Bellingham this is a stop that is well worthwhile. A little closer to home the radio museum in New Westminster is just as impressive. A quick search on the net provided a web site describing this facility as well. <http://www3.telus.net/radiomuseum/>. Once again this is a stop that will easily keep you entertained for hours.

All this is a lead up to our program for our January meeting that will be a radio show and tell. Hopefully a number of you will be able to bring along one or more radios. This doesn't have to be your full station but can be any radio you want to show off or one that might have an interesting story to tell. To make it a little more interesting we hope to hook up the HF rigs to an antenna multi coupler to let you do a little side by side comparison between rigs. I'm sure some people will be most interested in the newest rigs if you have one and some would like to see some well used favorites.

Looking forward to seeing you and your radio this month!

*Cheers, Chris VE7TOP*

## *From the Secretary's Desk*

de Pat, VA7PLH

E-mail: [plharper@shaw.ca](mailto:plharper@shaw.ca)

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### **NANAIMO AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION**

Hello to all members of NARA and welcome to 2005. Instead of the regular meeting in December, we held our annual Christmas Potluck Dinner. It was lots of fun and we had an abundance of food for all. Thanks to those who came and brought food for our yearly donation to Loaves and Fishes.

Several members participated in the December 18/19 Winter contest which was held at the Station this year. It was a success and we all had some fun! I think we had some 300 contacts! Pretty good considering the bands were not cooperating.

Four of our members have had their antennas broken during the last storm. The temperature is still hovering below freezing but most of the main roads have been cleared. Some hams have had as much as 24 inches of snow and others have had only a dusting.

Since one leg of my dipole is broken, I think next year I'm tying a little string to it so I can shake off the snow as needed. My broom handle just couldn't reach that left wire! Hi Hi! Maybe a few of you hams have tricks and tips of how to protect your antennas. Why not send them in to Static and share those tips with us!

There will be an antenna work party scheduled as soon as the weather permits.

All meetings are back on track with our regular schedule. All meetings were cancelled during the last few weeks due to holidays and the storm.

Hats and Jackets are still available. You can go to the company at #1 - 4151 Mostar Rd. and choose the jacket that you like. The shop will then apply the NARA logo for us. Prices are \$44.00 for a jacket and \$20.00 for a hat.

The executive meeting is the **second Wednesday** of the month. Please come to the club meeting on the 20th to find out what happened at the executive meeting.

**Open House Nites** are the 1st, 4th, and if there is a 5th Thursday night in the month at our Meeting Place. The 2nd Thursday of the month is still Hot Solder Night in our Station Room only.

Remember to be prepared for the winter season with charged batteries, food, water, and a place that's warm to go to if your power goes out and you have no source of heat.

*73 'til next month, Pat VA7PLH - Club Secretary*

## NARA REGULAR ACTIVITIES

There are lots of regularly scheduled activities going on that we'd like to make club members aware of. If you see an activity that interests you, definitely get involved!

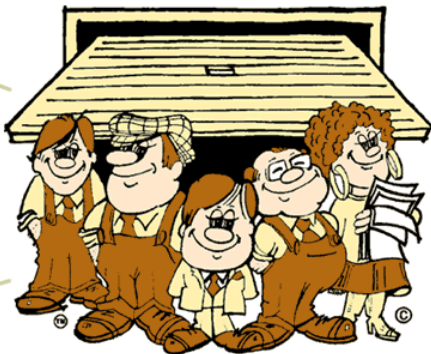


- ♦ **SATURDAY MORNINGS:** Koffee Klatch (9:30 a.m., Moxie's Restaurant, near Costco)
- ♦ **SUNDAY EVENINGS:** "Ragchew and More" on Ten Metres (7:30 p.m., 28.400 MHz, Upper Side Band)
- ♦ **MONDAY NIGHTS:** Emergency Group Net (7:00 p.m., 146.64 MHz - VE7ISC)
- ♦ **TUESDAY NIGHTS:** Gerry's Code Classes (E-mail [ve7bgp@rac.ca](mailto:ve7bgp@rac.ca) or call 758-9035 for details)
- ♦ **1st, 4th, and 5th THURSDAY NIGHTS OF MONTH:** "Open House Nites" (Nanaimo Volunteer Emergency Centre)
- ♦ **2nd THURSDAY OF THE MONTH:** "Hot Solder Night" (Station Room - Nanaimo Volunteer Emergency Centre)

**PLEASE NOTE:** If you are interested in Gerry's Code Classes on Tuesday evenings, please give him a landline in advance to ensure that he will be at the Emergency Centre that night. Thanks!

## Garage Door Openers - Who Knew?

(Submitted by Ian, VA7IC)



*Here is an excerpt from an article from Mobile Radio Technology. When the military start opening and closing garage doors any tower in sight gets blamed. Of course any amateur radio installation will be a prime target to be blamed. I would assume that there is a possibility of this system being used at the Nanoose Test Range, so our members should be aware of it.*

A two-way radio system is being deployed by the US Department of Defence at military bases across the country that allegedly is jamming garage-door openers in the affected areas, according to the Chicago Sun-Times. The radio system operates on a 24/7 basis in the 380 MHz-to-400 MHz range, while most garage-door openers operate at 390 MHz.

The Sun-Times reported that most of the complaints from homeowners in Florida and Pennsylvania, where the system already is deployed, came within a range of 8-10 miles and one mile from the tower site, respectively.

The Great Lakes Naval Base north of Chicago is scheduled to deploy the system in 2007, the paper said. According to the Safe and Secure Access Coalition, about 50 million garage-door openers nationwide operate at 390 MHz.

# TWO on the Isle

## de Dave, VE7TWO



### Everything you wanted to know about installing a glass mount antenna...

**Q:** I finally saved enough to buy my first new car! What type of antenna can I buy that won't require drilling a hole in the car?

**A:** Glass mount antennas are easy to install and do not require drilling a hole. Just be sure the antenna is mounted high up on the glass and not over defogger wires or on reflective window tint as this could impede performance.

**Q:** I moved my on-glass antenna from my old car to a new one. It worked great on the old car, but I have a very high VSWR on my new car? Why?

**A:** Your new car probably has passivated glass --- glass impregnated with tiny metal particles which render the glass incapable of coupling RF between the inside and outside couplers.

**Q:** How can I tell if the glass on my vehicle is suitable for one of Radiall/Larsen's on-glass antennas?

**A:** First, look near a corner of a window for words meaning or relating to "sun" or referring to ultraviolet or other forms of radiation. If you find terms like "Soft-Ray", "EZE-Cool", "Solar-Coat", "Solar-Cool", "Insta-Clear" your glass is probably passivated and won't work with on-glass antennas. If you don't find these helpful words on the glass and want to be 100% certain, ask a 2-way or cellular shop technician to test your glass with a capacitance meter.

**Q:** I purchased one of your KG series through glass mount antennas, specifically one for VHF 144-146 MHz. I installed the antenna according to your directions, and have obtained an SWR of 1.5:1. But, the antenna is "deaf", it receives poorly. I have tried another transceiver and changed the UHF connector on the fixed coax end, and my results are the same. Is there something I can do to make it work better?

**A:** Many factors can affect the performance of on-glass antennas. These include:

**Glass Thickness:** KGs are designed for glass with a typical thickness of  $.0151 \pm .002$ ". Anything greater or less will result in a frequency shift. Most automobile manufacturers have side and rear glass panels within this tolerance. If the mounting surface is thicker or thinner, this value will change the dielectric constant and change the resonant frequency of the antenna.

**Height on glass:** The lower on the glass the antenna is placed, the greater the reflection from the roof. This will cause the VSWR to increase.

**Tint:** Various tints affect the dielectric constant causing a higher VSWR, poor reception or no performance.

**Dielectric Constant:** The couplers (inside / outside) function as a capacitor. The distance and glass material content between these two plates affects the capacitive value. If you are using a Radiall/Larsen GT Coupler (a glass tester for capacitive values), the glass may not exceed 3 pF of capacitance. Anything greater than 3 pF and FR will not pass through the glass.

**UV Glass:** Many newer vehicles are manufactured with UV resistant or passivated glass containing metal flakes which destroy the capacitive function. One way to tell if your vehicle has passivated glass is to look in the window for the manufacturers' stamp. If the brand has the word SOLAR in it, the glass is not adaptable for RF purposes.

**Q:** Does the black paint around the edge of the window reduce antenna performance?

**A:** No. The black mast paint used around the perimeter of the rear window glass on domestic vehicles has not been shown to be detrimental to the glass mount installation. The only difficulty in this preferred installation is the inside to outside alignment of the coupling box to base foot.

**Q:** Does it make a difference if I mount the antenna on a corner of the window instead of the center of the glass?

**A:** The best location is near the center of the roofline. If the installation required mounting to the corner, there should not be significant performance degradation. Always install the antenna as high on the glass as possible.

**Q:** Does it make a difference if the antenna is mounted on the front or back window?

**A:** Glass mount antennas are designed for tempered automobile glass with a nominal thickness of 5/32". Front windshield glass is a laminated safety glass, which is thicker and causes some degradation to the VSWR match. Expect a VSWR match to be nominally 2:1.

**Q:** Can I put a glass mount antenna on glass treated with Rain-X?

**A:** No. Chemical properties of Rain-X reduce the holding ability of the adhesive tape used on glass mount antennas by over 50%. If Rain-X or another acidified alcohol surface treatment has been applied to the glass, it must be removed from the mounting area. Try Bon Ami cleanser or Ultra Brite flouride toothpaste.

**Q:** Any quick tips for installing "on-glass" antennas?

**A:** Remember: Install only on INSIDE of window.

- Do not mount antenna on any dark tinted area or on an area where an after market tinting film has been applied.
- Do not install over in-glass AM/FM dipole antenna.
- Do not install on glass with metallic content (passivated glass i.e. "solar-coat", "solar-cool").
- If possible, avoid installing antenna on curved glass.
- Clean inside mounting area with alcohol pad provided in the installation kit. Wipe off excess alcohol. Do not allow alcohol to dry on the glass. If window film is apparent, use a mildly abrasive detergent-type cleanser. Do not use ammonia-based or similar type of glass cleaner.
- Vehicle glass should be near room temperature (70° F / 21° C) prior to installation and remain at this temperature for 3 days following installation for maximum antenna-to-glass bond strength.

# Training and New Hams Profiles

## TRAINING REPORT

See proposed dates for the ICS 100 and ICS 200 Provincial Emergency Program Training Sessions below - to be confirmed at our club meeting. If anyone that was not at the last ICS 100 is interested in another ICS-100 level training, give me a call (758-9035) or send me an e-mail (ve7bgp@rac.ca).

If you haven't taken ICS 100 yet, I highly recommend that **ALL** club members do, as it is very important protocol to know in the event of an emergency. I will put you on the sign up list.

The next ICS 100 course date is set for **Tuesday, February 22, 2005** from **7:00-9:00 p.m.** at the **No. 1 Fire Hall on Fitzwilliam St.** The next ICS 200 course will probably be in May 2005 - specific date pending. I hope to have a date by the January club meeting night.

The Earthquake Search and Rescue training course is another interesting day course; I will inform you of the next class. If any club members are interested in taking this training, let me know. **Training will make us all more useful in the event of an emergency.**

Anyone interested in classes give me - Gerry VE7BGP - a call or e-mail (see above). Or, show up Tuesday nights at 7:00 p.m. at the Nanaimo Volunteer Emergency Center a.k.a. the Old Departure Bay Firehall on Wingrove St. Anyone interested in getting an Amateur Radio Qualification Certificate is welcome to show up there.

Please come if you want to upgrade to HF privileges by passing the 5 Word Per Minute morse code Test. At the present time, 5 WPM is the only code requirement to get your HF operating privileges and explore the exciting world of the High Frequency Bands. Digital Operating is easier than ever with the recent programs and computer sound cards. I am sure if morse code is dropped as a requirement, an Advanced level of technical knowledge will be required for HF privileges - so get your morse code NOW! If you're starting out fresh with morse code, feel free to show up at 7:00 p.m. If you have some code knowledge and want practice, or if you want help studying for your Basic Certificate or upgrading to Advanced, come around 7:45 p.m. I have heard the Industry Canada Exams have or will be soon be changed, and the pass mark will be raised to 75% from 60%.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations go out to our latest new hams - Alan Little, VA7ACL, and Murray Tait, VE7MUX. Al was not only successful in passing his Basic, but he also passed his Advanced test with a good mark.

**73, Gerry VE7BGP  
Training Director**

## STATIC STAFF

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**Submissions for the next issue of Static are due to Rob VA7RJE (rfrolic@hotmail.com) by February 6, 2005, unless otherwise notified.**



# NARA



## OFFICERS 2004-2005

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Treasurer:	Dave Marshall	VE7TWO	758-2549
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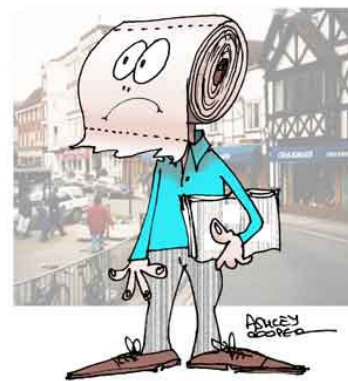
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## COMMITTEES

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Health & Welfare:	Bill Stewart	VE7JY
Training:	Gerry Pement	VE7BGP
Field Day:	Jack Olsen	VE7GDE
Social:	Frank Merritt	VE7FPM
Packet:	YOUR NAME HERE	
Repeater:	Roger Stacey	VA7RS
Nanaimo EOC Rep:	Terry Curé	VE7LVD
NARA Historian:	Terry Curé	VE7LVD

## JOKE OF THE MONTH

EVERY TIME JOE, THE PAPERBOY, MESSED UP, EVERYONE TORE ANOTHER STRIP OFF HIM.



<http://www.cartoons4fun.com>

Source:

<http://www.cartoons4fun.com>