



Nanaimo Amateur
Radio Association
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Static– June 2007

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 2007

**7:30 p.m. at the Nanaimo Volunteer Emergency Centre
(At the foot of Wingrove Street - old Departure Bay Firehall)**



June Program



This month's topic at our General Meeting is the Elections for our new Vice President, Treasurer, and 3 Directors. Come out, show you support, and VOTE!!!

INSIDE...

Seen and Heard	Page 2
Hot Air from the President	Page 2
From the Secretary's Desk	Page 3
S-Meters, and how to use them	Page 3
NARA Regular Activities	Page 4
TWO on the Isle	Page 4
Training and New Hams Profiles	Page 5
Activating Entrance Island	Page 6
Rob's Ramblings	Page 7
For Sale	Page 7
Officers/Committees/Directors	Page 7



Affiliated



SEEN AND HEARD...

de Dick, VE7RLH

Paul VE7PDQ - Setting up his table for the NARA Swap and Shop.

Frank VE7FPM - Seen walking around at the NARA Swap and Shop (I wonder what he bought) Nice to see you our Frank, hope you are feeling better.

Dick VA7AA - Selling DFR tickets at the Swap and Shop (Wow!! That many)

Murrey VE7MUX - Helping with the setup for our annual Swap and Shop

Al VA7ACL - Doing what he does best, helping with a tower removal, another successful dismantle of a communications tower.

Jacqueline VA7JET - At our annual Swap and Shop, we are glad you are feeling better.

Ian VA7IC - Pondering life as his XYL recovers from heart problems, we all hope she is feeling better.

Dave VE7TWO - Doing what he does best, taking in all kinds of cash at our annual Swap and Shop.

Roger VA7RS - Working the talk-in frequency at NARA's annual Swap and Shop.

To All NARA Members and helpers who made the annual Swap and Shop. Thanks for another successful event.



HOT AIR FROM THE PRESIDENT

Al, VA7ACL



Spring has long last arrived. We were getting worried that the mason bees wouldn't have enough sunshine to get the work done pollinating the fruit trees and filling their nests. When the few sunny days arrived, they worked really hard and managed to almost fill the nest boxes. They are such hard working little creatures, much like ham operators when they have a project in mind. The forces are rallied and the work gets done. Towers go up, and towers come down.

Jay is very happy with his tower that went up this week.
Work parties are quickly assembled when it comes to club equipment enhancements.

Though the June meeting is the last one for this term, the club activities are ongoing.
Up coming we have field day on June 23, for which we are working on a big surprise, and then there will be the marathons, and of course the annual island trunk picnic that will be in Nanaimo on August 18, which we are really looking forward to. We hope to see everyone there. Have a great summer.

Alan VA7 ACL



From the Secretary's Desk

Hi Rob and hi all. Just a quick note from the secretaries desk I would like to thank Atlas Truss for donating the plywood and lumber for our club trailer and the work was done quite quickly with all the helpers.

Thanks again Murrey VE7MUX

S - Meters And How To Use Them

by Paul Harden NA5N

One S-unit is a change of 6dB in signal strength, which corresponds to double the VOLTAGE or four times the POWER at the receiver input.

S Meter reading	Voltage at receiver input (microvolts)	Power (dBm)
S9+20dB	500	- 53
S9+6dB	100	- 67
S9	50	- 73
S8	25	- 79
S7	12.5	- 85
S6	6.2	- 91
S5	3.1	- 97
S4	1.6	-103
S3	.77	-109
S2	.39	-115
S1	.19	-121

(dBm is power expressed as decibels relative to one milliwatt)

An S-METER is calibrated by connecting a signal generator to the antenna terminal and setting the output power to 50uV, or -73dBm, and adjusting the S-meter calibration pot for a reading of S-9. Since the S-meter is usually derived from the receiver AGC line, it *is* relatively linear from about S3-S4 and upward (since a good AGC usually "kicks in" around -100 to -105dBm). This linearity is also due to the diodes used for the AGC detector, once they are conducting in the linear region (again, around S3-S4). Statements that "S-meters are totally worthless" or "a change in 2 S-units means nothing" are thus actually quite incorrect. An S-meter *is* a fairly good RELATIVE power indicator for received signal strengths and noise levels.

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., Windward Pub (#14 - 1588 Boundary Crescent near the NRGHospital)
- 📌 **SUNDAY EVENINGS:** "Ragchew and More" on Ten Metres (7:30 p.m., 28.400 MHz, Upper Side Band)
- 📌 **MONDAY NIGHTS:** NARA Club Net (8:00 p.m., 145.43 and 146.64 MHz - and Island Trunk System)
- 📌 **TUESDAY NIGHTS:** Gerry's Ham Classes (7:00 p.m., Nanaimo Volunteer Emergency Centre - e-mail ve7bgp@rac.ca or call 758-9035 for details - all months except July and August)
- 📌 **3rd THURSDAY OF THE MONTH:** NARA Regular Club Meeting (7:30 p.m., Nanaimo Volunteer Emergency Centre)
- 📌 **1st, 4th, and 5th THURSDAY NIGHTS OF THE MONTH:** "Open House Nites" (7:00 p.m., Nanaimo Volunteer Emergency Centre - all months except July and August)
- 📌 **2nd THURSDAY OF THE MONTH:** "Hot Solder Night" (Club Station Room - Nanaimo Volunteer Emergency Centre - all months except July and August)



TWO on the Isle *de Dave, VE7TWO*

After last month's flurry of study activity for our ham exams, it's nice to have a semblance of order back... A big thank you to Gerry (VE7BGP) and to Roger (VA7RS) for their volunteered contributions towards a very successful conclusion to those studies! I must also add that Industry Canada and RAC were extremely efficient in their issuing of new certificates and processing of online qualification updates.

For those of you who are wondering about why my XYL chose VA7VAX for a call sign, I'll explain: all the "initial" valued calls were already taken and after that this was the only one that seemed to "stick". Computer nerds will recognize that the VAX was (and still is?) a Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC) computer model hugely popular in the eighties (Marilyn, VA7VAX worked with VAX computer systems for many years). As a point of interest, VAX stood for "Virtual Address eXtension" and somehow this fits too when you relate it to an amateur radio operator. Besides, VA VA has a nice rhythm to it ;)

Late Spring gardening tip: A couple of years back I was all set to get rid of my trusty old weed-wacker because it kept breaking the cutting line. Fortunately, I discovered that by reversing the feed-tube (where the line comes out), normal operation was resumed. It appeared that the right-angle tube had corroded at the bottom exit point and was causing the line to bind and ultimately break because of the corrosion roughness where the string swivels. I have since found that an easier solution is to just oil (I use regular engine oil) the exit opening before use, this lubricates the line opening and keeps the corrosion down. In other words, no more problems with the string breaking!



TRAINING AND NEW HAMS PROFILES

de Gerry VE7BGP, Training Director

TRAINING REPORT

ICS-100 Level Training if you are interested give me a call or E-mail under my Training below. If you haven't taken ICS 100 yet I highly recommend All Club Members to take ICS 100 which is very important Protocol to know in the event of an Emergency. A don't know how many took the ICS and Rapid Damage Assessment courses recently offered I will keep you posted when more are Available. No ICS courses are scheduled for the near future. I hope some more of these useful and Interesting Courses come up this fall. I will keep you all posted on these.

I will be at the Club's center Tuesday nights. Congratulations to Tom Burgess, Marilyn Marshall who passed their Basic Exams with Honors getting HF Privileges. Tom is now VA7TLB and Marilyn her call is VA7VAX. Dave VE7TWO passed his Advanced Exam. Good luck to Nolan when he writes his Basic soon. I am also tutoring another student Ian Turner he served in Desert Storm with the Forces. Those needing to re-write their Basic to get that pass mark up to 80% for HF privileges are welcome to come to the classes. Hopefully we will have some our successful students become new operators for Field Day and Canada Day Contests. Field Day is a good place for New Hams to get experience and if interest is there we can set up a GOTA Get on The Air Station this year for that purpose. I think we get Bonus Points for that. I hope to be at the Club Meeting Place most of this summer on Tuesday Nights.

I hope, we as a club, recruit more students for **FORMAL CLASSES** in the Fall of '07 and I hope some club members can help me with teaching the Regulations and other aspects of training so I can concentrate on the Tech Theory part of training. Hopefully we can get some students signed up in the near future and formal classes going this September.

Anyone interested in classes give me, Gerry VE7BGP, a call at 758-9035 or E-mail me at ve7bgp@shaw.ca. Or show up **Tuesday** Nights at 7:00 PM at the Nanaimo Volunteer Emergency Center aka Old Departure Bay Firehall on 1415 Wingrove, St. Any one else interested in getting a Amateur Radio Qualification Certificate is welcome to show up there. **We now have Students interested in Taking Their Basic Exam Join the Club** we provide **Training Instructor's** and **An Accredited Industry Canada Examiner to administer the Exams. Textbooks are available from RAC or Ham Radio Dealers.** The textbook we use is available from the Radio Amateurs of Canada web site. The Morse code was dropped from being the sole additional requirement for HF access. It is still one of the 3 options.

New HF access requirements are 1 Rewrite to get 80% on your Basic Exam, 2 Get your 5-WPM Morse code or Get your Advanced certificate. Morse code is still needed for operating HF in some countries you visit that still require Morse code. USA just recently dropped the requirement for us Canadians you can operate HF down there with your basic. Stay within their Band restrictions. Show up at the Nanaimo Volunteer Emergency Center, aka Old Departure Bay Firehall at 7:00 if you want upgrading for HF privileges by rewriting to get 80% or prepare for the Advanced Certificate. Industry Canada Exams have now changed and the Pass mark is now raised to 70% from 60%. An 80% mark is now required to access the HF bands 70% gives you privilege for above 30 MHz only. I still will help those who want to learn the Morse code and it thrills me to see young people keeping that Ham Radio tradition alive.

Have a Great Summer
73 Till Sept. '07
De Gerry VE7BGP
Training Director

ACTIVATION OF ENTRANCE ISLAND

All BC light stations must be manned at all times by two qualified people.

In March the two keepers on Entrance Island, a husband and wife team, went away together for ten days. This required two new keepers to be brought in. As I had recently qualified as an assistant replacement keeper, I was asked to stand in as the assistant keeper. To which I readily agreed.

Arrangements were made for me to be at Cassidy airport where I was to be met by a Coast Guard helicopter. (My first trip in a helicopter; a great experience.) The helicopter had already picked up the senior replacement keeper from Cape Beale, but I had no idea who he was.

Introductions were made and I found out the my boss was Ivan VE7IVN. I did not know at that point that he was a ham!

On arrival on Entrance Island the first job was to get settled into our respective living quarters and then shifts were organized, Shifts were from midnight to midday and midday to midnight. Every three hours weather observations were made and radioed into Victoria. Also a record was made of rainfall, maximum and minimum temperatures twice a day . The sea temperature and salinity were measured once a day. General maintenance work around the station was also carried out.

Once Ivan had explained all that, he then told me he was a ham and we had to put up his antenna. He had brought along a Windom antenna which we suspended from the guard rail around the top of the light house to the top of the flag pole. This put it in, essentially, an East /West orientation. The transceiver he brought with him was a Yaesu FT-817.

Being an island hunter I was soon thinking in terms of activating Entrance island for the Canadian Islands Award.. I was certain that there was no BC number for the island, so I contacted Loyd VE7FCO to ask him if he could confirm this from the CIsA web site and how many contacts were required. Loyd contacted Gary Hammond VE3XN to get the details. I needed to make 25 contacts.

I had to keep a paper log and my first contact was on 20 meters with JA1QXY. We were able to hold a long conversation. I was very impressed with the 5 watts. Obviously Ivan's needs to use the rig took priority but he was very generous in letting me get on the air.

The CQ WPX contest was on during my time on the island and I made a few contacts but I did not have much time available. I was able to make a contact with Hawaii. KH7U during the contest.

It was the first time I had used a Windom antenna and it worked well on all bands from 80 meters to 2 meters. Although I could access local repeaters it was not very satisfactory as the polarization was horizontal instead of vertical. The SWR was 1.5:1 or less at some part of each of the bands and obviously worse in other parts. Never having had a rig with 6 meters I put out a CQ and John VE7JAC came back to me.

During my stay on the island I was able to make contact with 33 stations.

21 were Canadian: Provinces of BC and AB 8 were USA: States of CA, LA, WA, AZ, TX, and HI
1 Lithuania 1 Costa Rica 1 Netherlands 1 Japan.

I submitted my log to Garry Hammond and Entrance Island was issued with the number BC -176.

Finally I would like to thank Loyd VE7FCO for his help and to Gerry VE7BGP and his group on 80 meters for helping me get the total I required.

Last but not least a special thanks to Ivan VE7IVN for letting me use his rig and for being a good instructor, as this was my first posting as a light house keeper.

Richard VA7MJR



ROB'S RAMBLINGS

Well, what do you know, I can not believe it is almost summertime already. I have been a busy fellow for the past 2 months, which also explains why this latest edition of Static is a bit late. In May, I completed my 2nd year of the education program at Malaspina. That was a very busy time, what with running around preparing lessons, marking, and still trying to maintain some sanity. Welcome to the real world I guess. In June, I spent some extra time in the classroom as a volunteer, I did security for Dry Grad in Port Alberni with the AARC, and I have completed my Open Water certification for Scuba Diving. If this is any indication of what the rest of my summer is going to be like, it is going to be very busy. I hope all is well with everyone and that you all have a wonderful summer break.

73 Rob VA7RJE

For Sale:

One - TH 3 Mark 4 Beam antenna with Balun
One - 48 Ft. Tower.
\$150 Contact Pat VA7PLH
250-716-1728 or va7plh@rac.ca

Brand new (less than a month old) Yaesu FT-8800 Dual Band UHF/VHF. It has never been used as a mobile. Software also included. \$400 Cdn.
SEC 1223 Power Supply - \$100 Cdn.

Contact John Stelfox VE7YPV
778-888-7659 or orez@shaw.ca

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September 9, 2007, unless otherwise notified.



NARA



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