

# NARA Newsletter



## President's Message - Randy VE7FAA

Welcome to the new Nanaimo Amateur Radio Association newsletter. It comes at a difficult time for NARA, having lost our clubhouse of nearly 20 years to fire in March.

NARA has been a part of the Nanaimo community since 1948. We may have lost a place for our VE7NA station, a place to meet and work on projects, but we still have what is most important after nearly 75 years — you, our members.

This newsletter was formulated with the intention to connect you to other members and the amateur radio service itself, and to keep you informed of various club activities in a forum that is distinct from other digital media. Now it has become more important than ever.

Even without a physical clubhouse there are many meaningful ways for members to connect. Online meetings and coffee klatches continue. Social media abounds with information. Summits on the Air, Parks on the Air, Field Days, and support for community events are also places where we meet.

Losing the Wingrove location presents serious challenges, no doubt. And what keeps NARA an important institution is not where we connect, but how we connect.

The amateur radio service itself is a fascinating and still evolving sphere, and remains a vital and resilient forum for "self-training, intercommunication or technical investigation." It is breathtakingly extensive, including everything from morse code to moonbounce. NARA's membership reflects that curiosity and engagement in its past, its present, and its future.

Recovering from this event will take time and effort, and we will keep members informed in this newsletter and elsewhere as the process moves along. This club remains a vibrant organization because of your participation and support, and the executive extends its sincere thanks to you.

## Comox Valley Swap Meet

**You are invited to the April Comox Valley Amateur Radio Club Ham Swap & Flea Market**

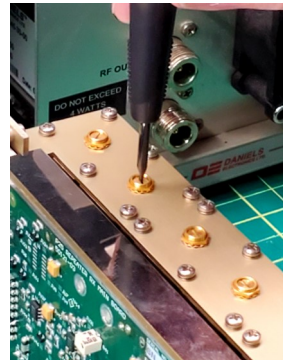
**When:** Sunday, April 10; public access is 10 am to 1 pm; set up for vendors is at 8:30 am

**Where:** Merville Hall (yellow building) at 1245 Fenwick Road. About 15 minutes north of Courtenay on Highway 19A (the old highway) turn west onto Fenwick. Free parking.

**Cost to book a table is \$20 (six-foot table), \$5 cost per helper: Contact Brian, VE7RD, at [sells795@telus.net](mailto:sells795@telus.net)**  
Commercial vendors welcome.

## Mount Copley Repeater

NARA does not yet have access to Mount Copley near Lantzville but the 2-metre repeater intended for the site is now operational. The repeater, callsign VE7VIU, transmits on 146.920 MHz (- shift, 141.3 Hz). It is presently on the air from a location near Ladysmith until the Mount Copley site is accessible. NARA extends great thanks to Ed VE7ED in Sooke for working on the Daniels repeater (the picture shows the receiver being tuned) and the loan of the programming cables. Similar thanks must also be extended to NARA members Chris VE7TOP, David VA7DXX, Devan VE7LSE, Gord VE7UY, and Richard VA7AA for help and advice.



## AREDN

In 2021 NARA installed two 5-GHz AREDN antennas on Mount Benson. This year we hope to work on AREDN equipment at the Lost Lake NARA site. This will include looking at a 5 GHz link coming across from the Sunshine Coast and providing additional coverage south across Nanaimo.

## Equipment Loan Policy - NARA

While members in good standing may borrow club equipment for testing and other needs for up to two weeks, due to the fire this has to be put on hold. But if you do need help with something please contact a member of the executive to see what can be arranged; this is why we belong to a radio club.

## How is DX — David VA7DXX

Dxpeditions are an important part of amateur radio for those of us who enjoy working DX. When space permits I'll highlight a Dxpedition or two.

From April 16-28 a group of eight operators will activate **Raivavae Island**, in the Austral Islands group in French Polynesia. They will use the callsign TX5N. This will be a well equipped Dxpedition including logs posted on the internet each day for contact cross checking.

From Nanaimo this expedition will be a relatively easy path, so have a listen and see if you can work this Dxpedition. Operation will be on all bands from 160-10m on CW, SSB, and Digital.

## DMR Repeater

The FM/C4FM repeater at the Lost Lake site on 443.900 MHz will be replaced by a DMR repeater, which was approved at the March NARA general meeting. This DMR repeater will be linked to the internet. If you intend to use this repeater and you can make a donation to NARA, please go to the club's website and click on the Donations button at the top of the page.

## VIEX

This year's Vancouver Island Exhibition, on August 26-28, will be the last to be held at Beban Park in Nanaimo. In 2023 the exhibition will move to a new location in Nanoose.

## Next Tech Talk

The next Tech Talk will be about the Island Trunk System. No date for the talk has been fixed as yet.

### NARA Diary Dates

April 7 — NARA Executive Meeting

April 14 — NARA General Meeting

## Wingrove Site Cleanout

A group of volunteers attended the burnt out Wingrove Street site on March 21-22 to salvage and remove club contents. There are too many to thank here, from organizers to those who did the heavy lifting, but you know who you are. Items had to be sorted, packed, catalogued, photographed, and then taken to one of several storage sites. Fire did not impinge on either the radio room or tech room and no club equipment appeared to suffer catastrophic damage, though smoke damage remains a concern. Finally, a huge thanks to Nanaimo firefighters whose good work prevented the damage from being more extensive.



Firefighters on scene at Wingrove Street on March 17



NARA members sorting through club items on March 21

The **NARA Newsletter** is published on the last Friday of each month for the month following. If you have items for the newsletter or comments please send them to:

**news@ve7na.ca**

*Thanks to VA7DXX and VA7WPM for pictures used in this issue*