

The

July 2022

NARA Newsletter



President's Message – Randy VE7FAA

As you read this Field Day is happening and the Canada Day contest is next weekend. In the weeks to come NARA members will also be providing radio support for various community events. Amateur radio activities at this time of year show that we are a unique group with much to offer, not just with useful equipment but extensive technical knowledge and networking.

And now is a good time to be thinking of the fall for NARA. The club is putting on a Basic course this fall, and in the works are various ideas for projects that will appeal to many members. AREDN continues to expand, and also watch for more tech talks. Once details are finalized, club members will be the first to know and invited to participate. Note also that Ham Happenings is set for late in August in Crofton. Details below.

NARA goes into the latter half of 2022 having shaken off the shock of the March fire that destroyed the clubhouse. While the club had its first in-person meeting in some time in June, work continues in locating a permanent space. If you have any ideas, suggestions, or questions, contact us at nara.ve7na@gmail.com.

As fall approaches NARA will be increasingly active. Watch for upcoming club events and please join in.

73 and have a fun and safe summer.

Field Day and Canada Day

As Randy mentioned, Field Day is underway and the Canada Day contest begins next Thursday (June 30) at 0000 hrs UTC and goes to Friday (July 1) 2359 hrs UTC.

The Canada Day contest is being held this year at VA7DXX's cabin near Ladysmith. The cabin has been prepared as shown in the picture. Mike VA7WPM at keelcove@shaw.ca can send you more information.

The August issue of the Newsletter will contain reports for both events. There are some changes to the Canada Day contest rules this year. For details see the RAC website, <https://www.rac.ca/rac-canada-day-contest-rules-2022/#English>.



The VE7NA Canada Day shack

NARA Fall 2022 Basic Course

NARA's training group will hold a Basic licence exam course this fall that is open to anybody. A short introductory meeting will take place on Oct. 8 at 10 a.m. Through October and November instruction sessions will be held mainly on Wednesday evenings starting at 7 p.m. Sessions will be offered via Zoom to reduce travel time.

This course will be a step-by-step visually-orientated course aimed at giving students a foundation in amateur radio and to take them through the exam material. In addition to radio fundamentals the course will include typical questions from the exam bank to assist the learning process.

To register, receive additional information, study suggestions, and an opportunity to purchase a study guide please contact Mike VA7WPM at keelcove@shaw.ca. When emailing Mike please provide your full name and address together with telephone and email contact information.

How is DX – David VA7DXX

This month I guess that I am the DX! I am typing this from our youngest daughter's house near Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, England. Aylesbury is a town with a population of some 90,000, about 60 kilometres north and west of London. I am operating as G/VA7DXX mainly on 20m CW with 100 Watts to a wire antenna. Canada is part of the CEPT agreement, which means that I give the UK country prefix followed by my Canadian callsign.

I have had no problems working CW around Europe on several bands and to the American east coast, but 100 W to the west coast with a simple wire antenna is not so easy! I have a 2m hand-held with me, but in the UK the 2m band is only from 144 to 146 MHz, half the size of the band that we enjoy in North America.

Seeing as I am visiting England on vacation, I thought I would highlight a popular and rather special European station. The callsign is 4U1ITU which is in Geneva, Switzerland. The ITU part of the call sign of course stands for the International Telecommunications Union. The ITU is an agency of the United Nations and 4U1ITU is its HQ station. The ITU and its 193 member states (including Canada) discuss the international radio regulations at regular conferences. The Amateur Radio Service (and the Amateur Radio Satellite Service) are recognized by the ITU, which agrees by consensus on the international radio regulations on which our Canadian radio licenses are based. RAC of course has its input to the Canadian Government both at ITU conferences and through regular meetings with ISED.

Because it is the HQ station of the ITU, under DXCC rules 4U1ITU counts as a separate country from Switzerland. In the past I have operated from 4U1ITU myself and worked the station several times from BC. The station has not been on the air during the covid pandemic but thankfully it has been refurbished and is now active again. As you can see from the photos, 4U1ITU is a well-equipped station with some excellent antennas.



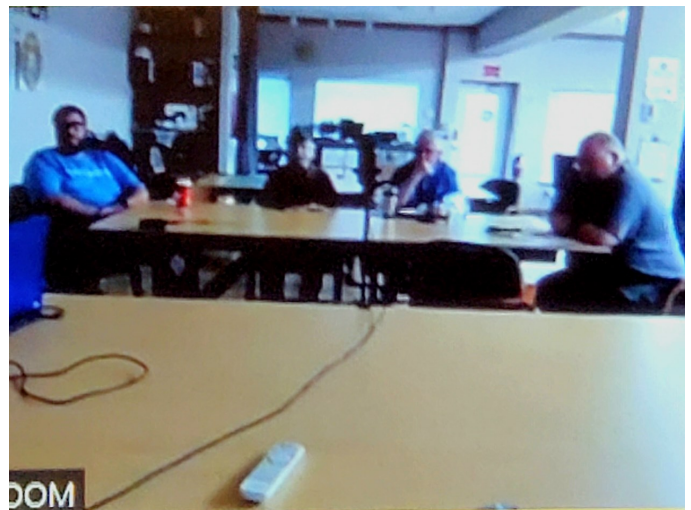
Community Radio Services

Bathtub Race

After two years away due to covid the Nanaimo Bathtub race resumes on July 24. As many as a dozen radio volunteers or more are needed. If you can volunteer contact Chris VE7TOP at canton@shawbiz.ca to sign on for this fun event. The communications structure will function as in the past, but with some changes due to a modified route.

NARA General Meetings

The first in-person NARA general meeting since March 2020 was held in June. Seven members attended in person and eight participated via Zoom. NARA general meetings will resume in September in the same format at the Makerspace Nanaimo community workshop, 2221A McGarrigle Road. If you were attending the June meeting via Zoom, the picture below shows you what you would have seen.



Bike Race – Volunteers

This year's VELOS off-road bike race will take place on Aug. 28. NARA is providing radio support. This year's course has now been finalized. To volunteer for this fun event contact Mike VA7WPM at keelcove@shaw.ca ASAP.



– SWAP MEETS –

• July 23: Richmond

The Richmond Amateur Radio Club is holding a swap meet on July 23. The location is the South Arm United Church at the southwest corner of Steveston Highway and No. 3 Road in south Richmond. This is the same location as previous RARC swap meets.

Admission is \$5 per person and vendor tables are \$20 each. Additional information and ongoing updates will be posted at: <http://www.richmondarc.ca/swapmeet2022.html>.

• Aug. 28: Ham Happenings (Crofton)

The Cowichan Valley Amateur Radio Society is holding the annual Ham Happenings, which alternates yearly between CVARS and NARA, on Sunday, Aug. 28, in Crofton at the Crofton Community Centre. The address is 8104 Musgrave Street. Vendor setup is 8 a.m. and doors open at 9 a.m. The event goes to noon. Cost per table is \$20 and general entry is \$5. Talk-in frequency is either 145.470 MHz (127.3 Hz) VE7RVC, or the Island Trunk. Contact is Gabor Horvath: ve7jh@rac.ca. Or call/text 250-715-8634.

• Sept. 25: WARA (Victoria)

The Westcoast Amateur Radio Association is holding a swap meet in Victoria on Sunday, Sept. 25, 2022. The WARA Swap & Shop will take place at the Leonardo Da Vinci Centre, 195 Bay Street. Parking is limited to 70 spaces. Table reservations for vendors open on Sept. 1 with 25-plus tables available. Vendor charge is \$20 per table. Vendor setup on the day is 8 a.m. General admission is 10 a.m. and entry is \$5. Finishes at 1 p.m. Queries should be sent to warasecretary@ve7vic.ca.

Tech Talks

No tech talks are presently planned, but Devan VE7LSE has asked that if anyone has a topic to please email him at ve7lse@gmail.com.

AREDN Update

In 2021 NARA established two 5 GHz ARDEN stations at the top of Mount Benson, thanks largely to Sulo VE7SUL at Island Communications in Nanaimo, who kindly granted access to the site. The two sector antennas on Mount Benson give coverage from Nanaimo to Ladysmith. This year will see the development of more links from the NARA Lost Lake site. The proposed links will involve one link across to the Sunshine coast. AREDN is also being showcased on Field Day in the Parksville-Qualicum area.

In Memoriam, Bob Smits VE7HS (SK)

A memorial service was held recently in Ladysmith for Bob Smits VE7HS, who became a silent key in June 2021. Katherine Banman VA7HN read a short tribute on behalf of the club at the service.

Bob was a long-time member of NARA and was a steady hand as treasurer on the club executive. He also coordinated radio communications for the annual Bathtub race for many years. He was an excellent operator and definitely knew a thing or two about DXing, builds, antennas, and a lot more. Various NARA repeaters were in Bob's name. Those have now been transferred into the name of Devan, VE7LSE.

Bob is certainly missed by many. But he made provision in his will for the club. The executive is expected to begin discussions soon about how those funds will be handled and honoured.

With thanks for the years of service and the generous bequest to NARA, RIP Bob.

The volunteer group of NARA members producing this newsletter would like to thank all those who provided material for this month's issue.

The NARA newsletter is normally published on the last Friday of the month preceding the month of issue.

News items and comments should be mailed to:

news@ve7na.ca

+ Breaking News +

As we were just about to mail the July issue of the Newsletter we received this picture of the Field Day antennas being set up at Sunnus farm. Note the perfect field day weather.

