

President's Message – Randy VE7FAA

Welcome to the abbreviated (and apologetically late) August NARA newsletter. David VA7DXX, who hits the newsletter "send" button, returned late in July from an extended trip to the UK where on a backyard wire antenna and 100 watts near Aylesbury (60 km NW of London) he was able to work not just all over Europe but even a few VE stations.

NARA members have been having a great summer. Here are the highlights so far:

Field Day: Operating at the Sunnus farm in Yellow Point the VE7NA station made 543 contacts on CW, digital and SSB. According to Gerry VE7BGP, a veteran of many Field Days, it was one of the most successful Field Days in recent memory for the club. The group had a roast hot dog lunch and dinner on Saturday. A highlight was a terrific Sunday breakfast served up by your club president, his wife and some help. Special thanks to the property owners for allowing the club to operate there.



Canada Day: Seven people showed up to operate at the renovated cabin at David's, also in Yellow Point. Unfortunately, David was already in the UK at the time. VE7NA logged about 230 contacts in total. Thanks to David and Rosemary for their hard work in setting up the station. Again, a great day with lots of fun and camaraderie.



Bathtub: A terrific crew came together to provide essential radio support. There were six checkpoints and Bathtub control. Ward VE7CYA, a member of RCM-SAR 27, also had his ham radio along while patrolling the race with them. And that was a good thing because when the marine frequency the RCM-SAR crew was using for the race stopped working Ward was able to relay crucial information to Bathtub control via his ham HT. Great thanks to all who participated.

Enjoy the summer, be safe and look for more NARA activities. See you in September!



Bike Race – Aug. 28

The NARA Public Service section is still looking for a few more members to help out with the bike race on Aug. 28. This is a fun open air event and if you want to help out please contact Mike VA7WPM at keelcove@shaw.ca. Mike will send you the notes for the event. Please volunteer if you can.



Revised Canadian band allocations

In case you missed it the Radio Amateurs of Canada has noted that on July 28 Innovation Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) released an update to a very important document for Canadian Radio Amateurs: RBR-4 – Standards for the Operation of Radio Stations in the Amateur Radio Service.

RBR-4 specifies (among other things) what frequencies we may operate on and with what bandwidths.

There are two major changes to our spectrum:

1) 472 to 479 kHz, also known as 630 metres: on this new band we are allowed to run a maximum of 5 watts EIRP, using emissions with a maximum bandwidth of 1 kHz.

2) 5351.5 to 5366.5 kHz in the 60-metre band: this is a new worldwide allocation. Canadian Amateurs are allowed to run a maximum of 100 watts ERP, using emissions with a maximum bandwidth of 2.8 kHz.

The new 60-metre band is in addition to our existing fixed-frequency allocations at 5332, 5348, 5373 and 5405 kHz. The new 15 kHz-wide allocation overlaps our existing authority to use 5358.5 kHz. Canadian Amateurs are unique in having authority to use 100 watts ERP on the four spot frequencies and on the new 15 kHz worldwide segment. Amateurs in most countries are limited to 25 watts or less, and may operate only in the new 15 kHz-wide segment.

Please note that the Amateur Radio Service is a secondary user on these bands. Amateurs may not cause harmful interference to primary users, and we may not claim protection from interference by primary users.

There are other small changes in RBR-4 that bring Canadian Amateur Radio regulations in line with changes agreed at previous WRCs of the ITU (World Radio Conferences of the International Telecommunications Union).

How is DX – David VA7DXX

I have just returned from a six-week vacation in the UK, having missed Field Day, Canada Day and the Bathtub race!

While in the UK I ran 100 watts from my home-built Elecraft K2 transceiver. I used a half-wave of wire for 20m, which was just 15 feet above the ground. Much to my surprise I was able to make contact with Canada and my best contact was a VE3.

I returned home just in time for the Islands on the Air contest over the weekend of July 30-31. I made more than 100 contacts on 20m, but it was hard going with mediocre conditions. The only other station on Vancouver Island that I heard on 20m CW was Gerry VE7BGP who was also working into Europe. The IOTA designator for Vancouver Island, if you are ever asked, is NA-036. In the IOTA world only 54 per cent of registered users have contacted Vancouver Island, so it is still much needed. I frequently get QSL card requests by mail to confirm a contact with our Island.

Speaking of Islands on the Air, a team of six Americans have been activating the uninhabited Kiska Island (IOTA designator NA-070) in the Aleutian Islands in Alaska in late July. Kiska, a

rare island contact, also has a Parks On The Air designator of K-0143. The Dxpedition used CW, SSB and FT8 and I was lucky enough to work them on all modes; an easy path from Nanaimo. Their QSL card is reproduced below.



August will be a busy month for DXpeditions which will include: 5R8LH (Madagascar), H44MS (Solomon Islands), 3B9 (Rodrigues Island, call sign to be announced), A35JP (Tonga) and 5J2JK (Tanzania), plus many others including the Maldives and the Seychelle Islands in the Indian Ocean.

NIARS Camp Out

The North Island Amateur Radio Society camp out is this coming weekend, Aug. 5-8. About 30 hams will be attending. The primary purpose is maintenance at several of the Island Trunk System NIARS sites. If you are interested to join in or just visit, please contact Devan VE7LSE at ve7lse@gmail.com.

Don't forget reminders:

- ◆ The Fall Basic Exam course starting in October organized by NARA. Contact Mike VA7WPM at keelcove@shaw.ca
- ◆ The CVARS Ham Happenings in Crofton on Aug. 28. The Swapmeet will be held at the Crofton Community Centre, with general admission (\$5) from 9am.

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 proceeding the month of issue.

News items and comments should be mailed to

news@ve7na.ca