

NARA Newsletter



President's Message – Randy VE7FAA

Happy Fall to Everyone:

First, two important items of business: Elections and dues.

- **Elections:** At the annual general meeting in November the positions of vice president, secretary and three directors will be up for elections. Nominations are accepted at the meeting. Please attend and vote to ensure your support for the club.
- **Dues:** This is important not because the club wants or needs your money, but your participation. By being a dues-paid member of NARA, you are affiliated with a club that can assist you in your endeavours in the world of amateur radio. It's a good deal for everyone. According to club bylaws, dues must be paid by Nov. 30 to maintain membership.

The club will soon have a new meeting space as the air cadets have agreed to let us use space at their location across from the Colliery Dam Park in south Nanaimo. We expect this to be a mutually beneficial arrangement. An announcement with more details will come in the near future.

And for those not aware, the old clubhouse on Wingrove Street has been demolished ending an era.

Finally, a NARA Christmas dinner has been arranged for Dec. 8, Please see the details below.

The NARA AGM

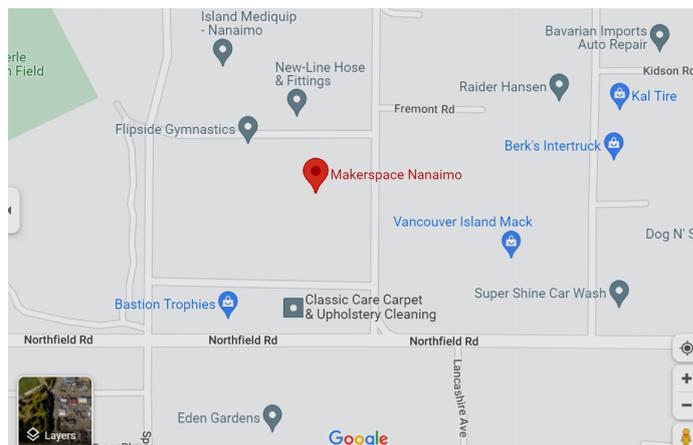
The club's annual general meeting is on Thursday Nov. 10 at 7 pm via Zoom or in person at Makerspace at 2221A McGarrigle Road in Nanaimo.

NARA Christmas Party



Mark your diary now for the NARA Christmas dinner:

Thursday, Dec. 8 at 5:30 pm. Smitty's at 117-50 Tenth Street, Nanaimo, V9R 6L1. Please advise Jack VE7GDE (ve7gde@gmail.com) that you will be attending.



How to get to MakerSpace, Nanaimo for the NARA AGM

How to pay your membership dues

A single membership is \$30/year while a family membership is \$45/year. In addition there is a repeater only membership at \$10/year. Probably the easiest way to pay your subscription is via e-transfer to NARAETRANS413@gmail.com. Alternatively you can pay by PayPal or credit/debit card. For the latter you need to go to the club's website at ve7na.ca/join-now. You can also pay by cheque to N.A.R.A. via the club's treasurer, Chris VE7TOP.

NARA Wingrove Street Tower

Following the loss of the use of the Wingrove Street building because of a fire in March 2022 the radio mast and antenna were finally removed from the site in October. The tower had been in place at Wingrove Street for almost exactly 20 years.



The end of an era at Wingrove Street, the NARA tower and antennas are finally removed.

BC Robotics

Many NARA members have no doubt purchased electronic components from the BC Robotics store in Nanaimo in the past. However, local in-person sales are no longer accepted since the company is now primarily a by-post store for their worldwide focused business. If you want to order anything from BC robotics you need to order on-line at <https://bc-robotics.com/tutorials/ordering-online-bc-robotics/> but you can still collect from the store by arrangement. This curb side pickup service is offered to local customers to avoid shipping costs. When you order on line don't forget to select the shipping option at checkout.

NARA Tech Talks

NARA is looking for a new coordinator for its technical talks. The website is artt.ca. If you wish to volunteer, please contact Devan VE7LSE at ve7lse@gmail.com.

CVARS 2023 Summer Campout

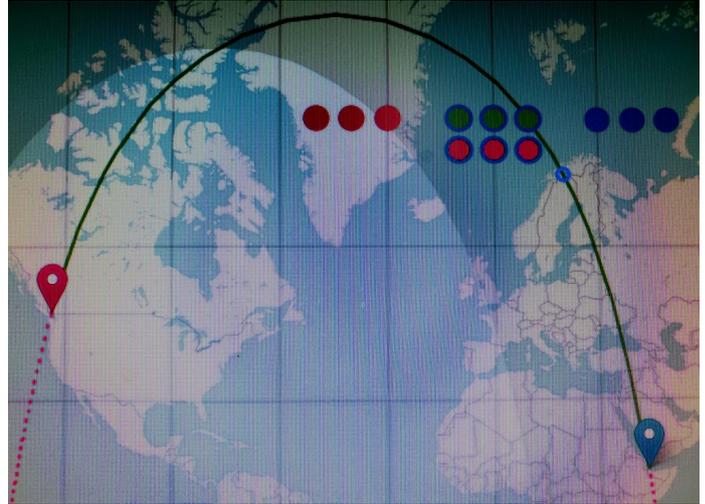
CVARS, based in Duncan, is planning a 2023 summer camp out at Rath Trevor Beach. The campout starts on Sunday June 25, 2023 and ends on Thursday June 29, 2023. Those planning to attend should contact Steve Bradshaw, the CVARS President, at ve7cbh@gmail.com.

How is DX – David VA7DXX

For the past year I have been having a quick tune around the CW part of the 10-metre band and then also looking at FT8 10m activity most mornings. Initially, this was so that I could gain some more countries on the band but more recently to see if the band was open to Europe. Then in September I finally saw a few European stations while monitoring on the FT8 frequency of 28.074 MHz. Monitoring the FT8 frequencies is an excellent indicator of conditions. I have subsequently worked many European countries on 10m, interestingly many were stronger when I was beaming east, rather than on the normal short path! Surely this is good evidence that the 10m band and HF conditions generally continue to improve.

I mentioned last month that I was gearing up to try to work the J28MD Dxpediton to Djibouti, which starts on Oct. 29. However, by a stroke of good fortune, aided by some excellent conditions on the day, I managed to work a station in Djibouti located at the US base at Camp Lemonnier on 20m on Oct. 20. I uploaded my Djibouti contact to the ARRL's Logbook of the World a few hours later and it was immediately confirmed electronically!

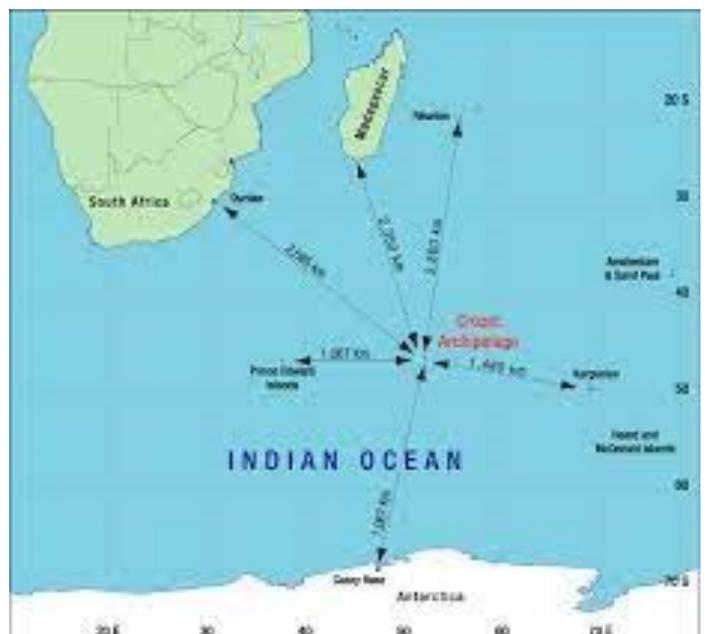
That means that I now have all countries in Africa confirmed and a total of six countries left to work. All of the six countries that I have left to work are islands, four of which are uninhabited.



The Great circle path, Ladysmith to J2 (Djibouti).

DXpeditions continue to increase with many more planned for the month of November. These include: Thailand (HS0ZME), Lesotho (7P8CW), Austral Islands (TX5XG), Palau (T88WA, T88RC & T88PB), Tonga (A35GC), Tanzania (5H2JC), St. Helena Island (ZD7CA), Central African Republic (TL8AA), Aruba (P40DA) and Honduras (HR5 call to be announced).

In December, probably starting around Christmas, the island of Crozet, an extremely rare DX location, will be activated for the first time since 2009.



The isolated Crozet Archipelago in the Indian Ocean

Crozet is number three on the worldwide wanted list and is presently the number one most wanted country from

the west coast of North America. The Crozet activation is quite an interesting story and a somewhat unusual Dxpedition. Crozet, under the jurisdiction of France, is uninhabited but there is a research station on the main island at Port Alfred. The planned Dxpedition is unusual inasmuch as it is a single man operation for between one and three months. The single amateur there will be DXer Thierry Mazel, F6CUK, who will operate from the research station. More on this in the December *NARA Newsletter* when more is known. In the meantime, ponder how you might erect antennas if you are not permitted to make or drill any holes on a rocky Island!

AREDN News

AREDN (Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network) activity has been considerable during October as the good weather has helped to stimulate installations at two new ARDEN sites.

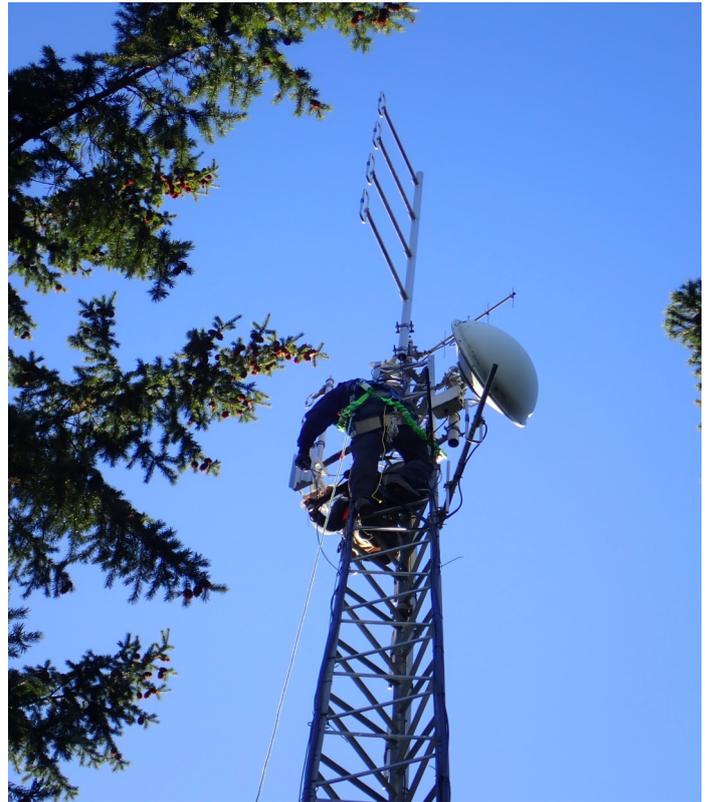
On Gabriola Island a new 5 GHz dish has been put up on a 60 ft tower at the number 1 fire station, which also hosts the Gabriola Emergency Operations Centre. On the day VE7MPG, VE7BEF, VA7DXX and others gathered at the fire station to watch Devan VE7LSE erect the dish on the new tower. Although firing through the tops of some trees about 200m from the tower, the signal strengths to the NARA sector antennas on Mt. Brenton were better than expected.



Devan, VE7LSE securing the dish. With a little help from the fire department antenna work can be a little easier!

On Oct. 22 two 5 GHz antennas were erected on the NARA Lost Lake tower. A 60-degree sector antenna has been installed pointing at the Sunshine coast. The sector antenna was purchased by the Sunshine Coast AREDN

group. Again initial signal strengths were a little better than expected although the stability of the some 32 km over water path has yet to be explored. A dish pointing at Mt. Benson links Lost Lake to the rest of the existing RF AREDN network.



Kevin VE7KGV and Devan VE7LSE installing two ARDEN antennas at the NARA Lost Lake repeater site



Some, but not all, of the Lost Lake ground crew, or how many hams does it take to install a CAT 5 plug?

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