



FIELD HANDOUT

Who are we?

The Nanaimo Amateur Radio Association is made up of members stretching from Courtenay to Duncan on Vancouver Island. Our membership is a diverse group interested in the many facets of radio communication. As a partner in the community, NARA is also very active with community events, such as providing communications for the Nanaimo Bathtub race and others.

What is Amateur Radio?

The Amateur Radio Service, also called ham radio, is a hobby and much more. Our primary interests as defined in the federal Radiocommunication Regulations are self-training, intercommunication, and technical investigation. Within those parameters amateur radio provides an educational basis in science and technology, emergency communications support, and community event support. But ham radio operators are often working to refine their own radio and antenna systems to transmit as far as possible with as little interference as possible. Transmitting from locations such as this, or even more remote locations, is part of that ongoing process of refining radio operations for distance and clarity. That distance can be a few kilometres, the other side of the world, or the International Space Station.

What are we doing?

Today we are participating in an activity called "Parks On The Air" (POTA) or Summits on the Air (SOTA). Our goal is to make at least 10 contacts with other radio operators anywhere in the world on what are called short wave bands. We can do this by voice, Morse Code (CW) or digital connections.



Is It Safe?

Amateur radio is regulated by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada, which sets out limits on how much radio frequency energy can be safely emitted in any transmission. Ham radio is fully compliant these safety requirements that also set out similar standards for cell phones and other electronic devices.

How Can I Get Involved or Learn More?

Please visit our club website at www.ve7na.ca and Radio Amateurs of Canada website at <http://www.rac.ca>. You can also email NARA at nara.ve7na@gmail.com. NARA offers courses for those interested in obtaining their amateur radio operator licence.

Thank you for your interest.