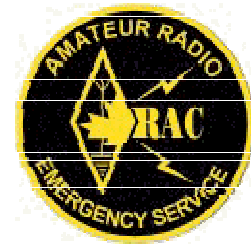




**Chilliwack Amateur Radio Club**  
P.O. Box 2386  
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31 December 2009

Chilliwack Emergency Coordinator Jim MacDonald  
Fraser Valley Regional District Emergency Coordinator Lynn Orstad  
Fraser Valley Regional District Manager of Communications Doug Joinson  
Provincial Emergency Program Amateur Radio Coordinator Ono Onneken

**Chilliwack Amateur Radio Club Bi Annual Report dated 31 Dec 2009**

**Reference:** Chilliwack Amateur Radio Club Bi Annual Report dated 30 Jun 2009

**General:**



The last six months of club activities have been very productive. The move to our new location took a little longer than anticipated but the final results were very rewarding. We now have a fully equipped radio



room co located with the City of Chilliwack EOC. There are VHF/UHF radios installed with antenna systems installed on a 65 foot radio tower providing complete coverage

of our areas of responsibility in the City and FVRD. In addition we have computer capabilities including packet radio and high speed internet connections. The club also now has two state of the art HF radios installed



that will be coupled to a large beam antenna mounted at 65 feet covering 10, 20 and 40 meter frequencies. A dipole antenna covering 80 meter frequencies is already installed and operational. Future plans for 2010 are to install a satellite



antenna system and improve our digital communications systems. A communications exercise in late November tested our facilities and confirms our ability to provide basic emergency communications for the City and FVRD and an ability to contact the SWR PREOC in Surrey both by VHF/UHF and HF frequencies. We have also checked our communication capabilities with neighbouring Fraser Valley communities and with cross border stations in Washington State. The attached photos show the main tower and antenna systems and the radio room with its external automatic emergency generator system behind the security fence.

## Training:



We once again provided a safety radio net for the Cultus Lake Triathlon which provided us with valuable training experience. The move of our radio club provided members with



significant experiences in the construction, putting together and mounting a variety of antenna systems. Wiring in radios and the selection of the correct coaxial wiring was also a useful training experience. In November we ran a communications exercise where we deployed our entire suitcase and portable radios as well as other mobile radios throughout the City of Chilliwack and the FVRD with great success. All the various systems worked well and a large scale radio net covering our areas of responsibility was established. This communications test and exercise provided members with experience in the assembly and operation of our mobile radios as well as working with in a radio network and as Net Control.

Radio procedures remain a problem. Present directives are cumbersome and produce long complex messages that contain names that are unnecessary. There have been complaints that Amateur Radio Messages take too long to transmit. The club's policy for local emergency communications is to use tactical call signs that indicate the location of a radio station and its authority. For instance our Net Control is always Chilliwack Operations. The radio stations located at various reception/evacuation areas are known by their name. For example: "Evergreen Hall." Each radio station will complete logs to indicate who the operator is on duty by his amateur radio call sign but this call sign will not be used continuously on the air. Likewise when Chilliwack Operations sends a message it is under the authority of the director of the EOC on duty at that specific time. His name need not be broadcast on the net. Some messages will commence as follow. This is Chilliwack Operations from Logistics. Again the name of the Logistics officer need not be transmitted as he is logged on duty at the EOC at that time and thus a paper trail is already established. By using this method we have cut down the paper work and the length of transmissions considerably. In order to ensure we meet Amateur Radio regulations we instruct all operators to provide their call sign for their first transmission by adding to the tactical call sign the statement that VE7---- is at the mike.

## Repeaters

Our two repeater systems are now operational with one on Mount Thom and the other soon to be moved to Chilliwack Mountain weather permitting. Both provide excellent coverage and are totally owned by the Chilliwack ARC.

## Local Emergencies Fall 2009

We stress that we are not first responders but recent experiences indicate that the club should be alerted for relatively minor emergencies such as a condominium fire that places stress on ESS. In some situations we can provide a communicator at the scene to help ESS authorities arrange for accommodations and other assistance. If a large number of families are involved we can activate our radio room and have operators there relaying radio requests by making phone calls on behalf of the ESS authority in charge and thus reducing stress to the individual.

## Emergencies and Planning

Representatives of the club continue to attend all City Emergency Coordination meetings. We also supported Cross Border Communication Group meeting and participated in an American run exercise. Our Emergency Procedure Document continues to be updated and modified as necessary.

We also continue to run a weekly radio net for an emergency check in. Up to 27 operators regularly check in. Our group e-mail is also constantly used to keep club members informed of all activities.

## New Equipment



Our two K3 HF radios and a new generator were purchased with the last of our gaming grant for 2008. That purchase completed our planned update of all our radio equipment and as a result we decided not to ask for further funds particularly as the recession might mean a cut back



in money available anyway, and that there may be other organizations that are more deserving for financial help.

Experience with our Portable Radio Systems has resulted in some modifications that include timer switching systems so that the battery chargers are not on all the time.

## Web Page

Our club's web page has now been redesigned and continues to provide valuable information and an easy way to distribute updated documents etc. We produce a magazine covering club activities and viewpoint call the 'Repeater.' The latest edition is always available on the web page and is worth a read. See <http://www.chwkarc.com/> and select Repeater.

## Publicity



We continue to run a display at the Hobby and Model Railroad Exhibition held in Chilliwack each year. This year we found that there was a considerable interest in our activities particularly the link with computers. We always display a computer link that enables Hams in Condos who can operate an HF radio and control the direction of antenna beams located in another area with their computers. They do not have to have an antenna at their location or to worry about RF annoying their neighbours. One club member keeps a radio system on line 24 hours a day

for this opportunity. We hope eventually to link a club radio in this way.

The local newspaper has been kind enough to publicize our November Exercise with some success although there was only a limited success in encouraging non club members and other Hams in our area to check in

The club is fortunate in having four new younger members of the club who are also active in a Four Wheel Drive Club involving members all over the Lower Mainland. This club consists of 40 members and associates all of whom have now become Ham operators. We were kindly invited to talk at the general meeting of this club to provide an overview of emergency communications

and to encourage them get on their radios in the event of major emergency such as an ice storm or earthquake takes place and contact their local community EOC with situation reports. In addition it was emphasized that they are Hams with vehicles that can get to places that normal vehicles would find impossible. This capability would be invaluable in the aftermath of an earthquake or serious ice or snow storm. The talk was well received and hopefully we will have many Hams answering the call in the future. It is the intention of the Chilliwack ARC to keep this affiliation active and send them details of proper procedures and frequencies.

### **Community Service**

As noted above we continue to support activities that require safety communications as well as the Provincial Emergency Program.

### **Finances**

We continue to operate on the minimum of funds and our major income remains membership dues. We have regular payments for insurance, and post office box and have spent money to improve our facilities. Most of the improvements such as the new HF mast and beam antenna were donations from club members. Other donations for small items, the costs of which add up, were also donated by members and some of our suppliers were generous in their charges and donations as well. Many hundreds of hours of volunteer work have taken place to ensure our move to the new location went smoothly. We also recognize and appreciate all the efforts made by the City Of Chilliwack and FVRD to provide us with such excellent and well equipped facilities.

### **Organisation**

The Annual General Meeting of the Club resulted in a change in the Executive. A number of officers of the club continue to serve but some key positions changed to bring in new blood to the organisation. Efforts are made to ensure regular changes to avoid burn out of individuals. Volunteer organizations often rely on just a few members who fully participate. We try to encourage others to join in and this year we have started to encourage more HF activity with our updated radios and antenna systems.

### **Summary**

The Chilliwack Amateur Radio Club now has the equipment and facilities to declare it capable of meeting its responsibilities to provide emergency communications for the City of Chilliwack and the FVRD. It also has an increasing membership and efforts are being made to encourage participation in the main aspects of the hobby Ham Radio that revolves around world wide communications, contesting, and new developments in digital linking to radio communications

Roger Galliford  
President  
Chilliwack Amateur Radio Club