

THE REPEATER

A PUBLICATION OF THE CHILLIWACK AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

FEBRUARY 2011



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EDITOR'S NOTES

Another year has finished and a new one has begun. We have a new executive and let us support them as they begin their new responsibilities.

As a Club, we participated in some community activities including emergency preparation exercises; triathlon; picnics; and Monday morning breakfasts. I am sure 2011 will be just as busy. There are some activities already in the making so we all need to step forward and make them a fun and productive time.

There are a few articles on Emergency Preparedness/Preparation in this edition. I thank the contributors for their articles and encourage all members to send appropriate information to me so it can be included in the next edition. This is your newsletter, not just mine, so please help me out.

Have a good year and let us make it a memorable one.

Bonnie Pierce

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From your president:

Hello and Happy New Year. I never thought I would be elected President of CARC just seven months after joining the club. I would like to wish Roger a speedy recovery and hope to see him at our meetings again in the spring.

My vision for CARA is to hold the course on providing radio communications for special events, emergency situations and when called upon by the general public. I will challenge those members who have not volunteered to help during the events to do their best to jump in. I continue to see the same members do 90% of the work. I have been very encouraged recently while attending a few weekly meetings to see members helping members with APRS, new radio questions, how to work SSB or FM on ten and six meters. This is why people with common interests come together, to strengthen the collective knowledge bank. Here are a few things that I would like to accomplish with everyone's help in 2011:

1. Have a membership drive to encourage younger boys and girls to get licensed.
2. Incorporate more modes for field day, packet, satellite, RTTY, APRS, and Echo link etc.
3. Help members improve their stations with antenna projects, battery power, and other station equipment.
4. Look into radio and accessories kit building.

So bring your ideas and passions to the club and let's make it happen!
All the best to the new executive in 2011.

James Johnson 73, VE7HJ

PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

January
2011



Since I last sent you a message in November 2010, the Executive of the Club has changed. Congratulations to James (VE7HJ) on becoming President, to Burt (VE7CTR) for hanging in along with all his other commitments. New comers Bob VA7XL taking the Treasurer's job and Ken (VE7JU) as Secretary and Web master. Thanks to Jack (VE7HJJ) and Harold (VE7HHT) for continuing with their areas of expertise, and to John (VE7BXN) who is acting as Interim Past President until I'm able to return to the Club. Thanks to you all for your help and dedication to the Club. Since I became President two years ago, the membership were wanting the Club to follow a new direction away from Emergency Operations into the realm of HF, CW and back to the nuts and bolts of the hobby. As a result, we have had instruction on the use of the new K3 transceivers by Sean

VE7II, Tom Adrain, VE7XTA, gave an overview of what IRLP is and how to use it; John Pierce, VE7BXN, gave an informative presentation on the correct operating procedure for radio operation; and Jack VE7DOJ continues to teach CW to about 6 members.. The interest shown by Club members is also appreciated. We obviously have a lot of talent in the Club which should be used to help educate the younger members. Burt VE7CRT continues as our Training Co-ordinator and will be working on a program for the upcoming year under the guidance of the Executive.

Our VHF/UHF repeater is now located and up and running on Chilliwack Mountain thanks to VA7LLB's kindness to allow us to put it there. We now have two Repeater frequencies for the Chilliwack area and one has been used by the Herd of Turtles 4 wheel club as a safety net when off the beaten track.

Being able to get people to volunteer has always been a problem as we all live busy lives and the majority of you work. We know that there are a handful of commitments during the year. It might be worth while looking at the dates and putting your name forward for at least one of the activities through the year. Once you do that, it's so rewarding that you'll want to do it again.

Thanks again for the support,

Roger Galliford VE7GMG
Past-President

EMERGENCY RADIO COMMUNICATOR (ERC)

Yet another year begins and the Chilliwack Amateur Radio Club finds itself now fully equipped with necessary radios, and antenna systems as well as mobile radio equipment to meet any demands made to provide emergency communications for the City of Chilliwack and FVFR. Recent worldwide events and in particular the situation in Australia indicate that flooding all over the world has become a serious problem. The enormity of the subsequent clean up in such places as Brisbane is impossible to imagine. Members of the club will remember our minor flood in the Greendale area a few springs ago. The clean-up lasted close to two years. One can only imagine the huge disaster that a Fraser Valley wide flood would cause, particularly since a huge infrastructure has been built since the large major flood. I am presently updating the club's emergency document and included more guidelines for action in the event of a major earthquake with an epicenter in or near the Fraser Valley. I am now asking members to print off a copy of an updated copy of this document from our Web page for their own information. There is a great deal of information available particularly in the area of radio communications and procedures. It is in this area that we must all begin to become fully proficient and as such the club will hold a number of briefings and training sessions in the New Year.

Technically all the information needed to know is in our club emergency document and it is up to members to read it.

Please make your New Year resolution to read the Emergency Document and visit our home page regularly to keep abreast of what is going on in your club.

Jack Jackaman VE7HJJ
Chilliwack ARC ERC

SUMMER PICNIC



The annual summer picnic was held on a beautiful summer day at the Jackaman ranch on August 28, 2010. There was a good turnout including about 10 members from the Richmond/Vancouver clubs. The day was beautiful and everyone sat around enjoying the sun and conversation.

Thank you to all the ladies who provided the meal components including chili, corn on the cob, salads, cold meats, and desserts. There wasn't much left over after everyone had their fill. Thank you also to Jack and Joan for allowing us to use their property to hold our event.

LOCAL EMERGENCY READINESS

Recent local newspaper articles and letters to the editors perhaps gave the impression that the City of Chilliwack and FVRD are not interested in preparing for a major disaster taking place in our area. This is not the case. During the last many years the City and District both have highly professional Emergency Program Coordinators who have worked hard to develop an efficient and practical emergency system. Both local governments have well equipped Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) that will be activated and fully manned should this area be involved in a major disaster. Both organisations have been training senior staff to operate effectively in an EOC and coordinate rescue operations to save lives, provide initial basic repairs to infrastructure and where necessary to coordinate a long term recovery operation.

There are almost daily emergencies that take place in our area. We have many automobile accidents and house fires, but they are usually dealt with locally by our police and fire services. For those resident that have to leave their fire damaged home our local Emergency Social Services (ESS) step in to provide accommodation, food and clothing for short periods. This is a volunteer organisation. We do, however live in an area where we could be faced with a rail or road disaster involving

dangerous cargoes that could become a serious problem with mass evacuations required. The City has had EOC exercises simulating this sort of disaster including involving CN railway authorities and experts from various chemical companies. Plans have also been made to cope with a major flood. It should be noted that the relatively minor flooding in the Greendale area in 2008 was dealt with quickly and a recovery system set up. It took over a year to get the area back to normal and houses dried out. Think of Australia and the huge floods they have just experienced. This type of flooding is not unknown to the Fraser Valley.

In addition to regular EOC exercises, monthly meetings are held that include representatives from the Chilliwack Fire Department, RCMP ESS, Salvation Army, Red Cross, BC Ambulance, First Nations, Fraser Health, City authorities, FVRD authorities, Chilliwack School District, Housing and Social development, the Chilliwack Amateur Radio Club, and guests from the Ministry of Public Safety and other authorities. These meeting help key personnel to get to know each other and to discuss their capabilities in providing assistance during emergencies. It should be noted that many of the participants are volunteers and unpaid.

Notwithstanding all of the above, should a major earthquake strike with an epicenter in or close to the Fraser Valley the initial effect will be chaotic and even first responders would be unable to

make it to their place of work. At first the primary situation would be one of self-help where the population would be doing their best to survive and extricate themselves from damaged buildings or fleeing from fires and other damage. Once the initial shock is over those who survive and are unhurt would be busy helping those who are not so fortunate. Professional help from policemen fire and medical help may take some time hours and even days depending on the magnitude of the quake. It is essential that citizens recognize this and do their own preparation work as outlined in the Yellow Pages Phone book and other government documents. The recent quake in Christchurch New Zealand has resulted in a ten year plan to recover.



It must also be recognized that electrical power and all regular communications such as phone and cell phone systems will have failed. For the most part the population will be cut off from any form of communications except for the fail safe amateur radio network that the Chilliwack Amateur Radio Club has set up for the city and RVRD. During the recent Chilean earthquake amateur readied operators were on the air within

minutes providing basic communications until repairs were made to the electronic infrastructure. In Chilliwack the club has installed radios and antenna systems at all designated emergency registration and evacuation centers. The club is also equipped with portable and suitcase radio system that can work for 72 hours without hydro power and can be deployed anywhere in the area, Our radio rooms co-located at the EOCs are also well equipped with state of the art radios that provide local and worldwide communication capabilities. That includes the ability to contact the Provincial SW Region Operation Center to provide them with situation information reports and requests for help and equipment that the local authorities are unable to provide. Every week radio operators check in to an emergency communications net to check on their equipment. Regular exercises also take place. Local authorities and volunteer organizations such as ESS and the Chilliwack ARC have also been highly active in setting up Emergency Preparedness Displays for the public in our shopping centers but interest shown by the shopping public was poor.

In summary the local authorities and volunteer groups are working hard to prepare for major disasters. Sadly the local general population are apathetic perhaps believing it will not happen here. Worldwide events in the last year would indicate that we may not be immune from a serious weather or geological events in the relative

near future. It is essential that everyone do their bit in making their own preparations for survival should the very worst happen. Hiding under a desk is important but not the end all. It is just the beginning.

Jack Jackaman VE7HJJ
Chilliwack Amateur Radio Club
Emergency Radio Communicator

TRIATHALTON

The Chilliwack Club participated in the triathlon held at Cultas Lake on September 14, 2010. This is the second year we have helped out. Unfortunately the weather was anything but cooperative but we still managed to do a good job. There were no serious accidents despite the wet, windy weather. I know our help is appreciated by the organizers and a big "THANK YOU" to all who came out and helped.



ELECTIONS

The last meeting in November, the 27th, was the annual elections for our Club. There was a major turnover in the executive as the

President, treasurer and secretary were stepping aside to allow new people to have the opportunity to serve the club. The final results were:

Past President - Roger Galliford
President - James Johnston
Vice President - Burt Graham
Treasurer - Bob Lounsbury
Secretary - Ken Long

We wish the new executive well during the coming year.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

Over the past several years, I have been encouraging all club members to be ready for emergency operations, to which there has been some success. My congratulations to those of you have achieved this end. To those who have not, for whatever reason, I would continue to offer encouragement to do so. Several years ago, when I first got into amateur radio, it was very costly to achieve generator backup and it was almost impossible to achieve battery operation. Today with our modern technology all radio amateurs should have battery operation or backup. Being unable to communicate during a power outage is almost inexcusable. This was graphically demonstrated a few weeks ago when, during the Monday night net, several areas of Chilliwack were without power. Several regular sign in members were

silent. One phoned for a check in and one, who has battery backup, used his generator. Well done! The Chilliwack Amateur Radio Club has set the example by now having all of its radio systems on full battery operation or A/C operation with automatic battery backup. Two years ago this was not so but it is now a reality.

There are two ways this may be achieved and the first is by far the least expensive and simplest. Remember the "KISS" method - "Keep It Simple Stupid"? The more elements, the more that can (and will) go wrong. The first method is a radio-battery-charger. The charger is operated from A/C mains or a generator. The battery should have a current capacity for your radio system to last at least 72 hours and a battery charger that is an automatic type which is able to bulk charge, float charge and trickle charge with an automatic shut off and turn on. The second method is from radio-auto switch-battery-A/C, D/C power supply and a battery charger from A/C mains or generator. It uses an automatic change over switch to feed the radio with D/C from an A/C-D/C power supply of at least 20 A. and a battery.

I still encourage all hams to consider full time battery operation. Remember, a dead radio is useless. For additional information on battery operation, contact me at any time.

John Pierce, VE7BXN

This newsletter is for and about the Chilliwack Amateur Radio Club and its members. Anyone wishing to contribute is welcome to do so. Please e-mail Bonnie Pierce, happyknitter@shaw.ca, with your submissions. Comments and suggestions are welcome.

"The Repeater" will be published 3 times a year.