

THE REPEATER

A PUBLICATION OF THE CHILLIWACK AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2010 saw a new Executive team for the Club and as requested by members, a new direction. I was away on a Cruise when the elections took place, so here I am back as the Club President again for another year. We added two new people to the Executive, Burt (VE7CTR) as Vice President and Bonnie (VA7BXN) as Secretary, a position she has held in the past. We look forward to implementing our ideas which are carried over from last year. We have set up a committee to look after some training initiatives which we believe will be held on at least one of the Thursday nights at the Clubhouse. We realize that we have many new members who are not necessarily aware of radio protocol and are perhaps a little "mike shy" on HF. Aiming at all members of the Club, we are looking at CW practice, IRLP, packet radio, and computer integration with amateur radio. Sean, VE7II, has volunteered to be the HF Co-coordinator and combined with Dale, VE7GL, will get Club members familiar with the new K3 transceivers. We have been fortunate in being able to add some new and younger members to the Club - Welcome. Thank you to the many volunteers who have helped establish the Amateur Radio Emergency Service over the past year and made it the best we have heard of in the area. We also have some ongoing projects yet to be finished. We are waiting for decent weather to put up the Beam at the Clubhouse and the VHF antenna at Heritage Park. Arrangements have been made for those two projects.

Jack, VE7HJJ, has looked after the repeater station after it was moved to his property and has allowed the Club to keep the trailer and its equipment there as well. The repeater will be moved to Paul's, VE7LLB, QTH once the weather shapes up. We understand that Jack, VE7DOJ, will need help figuring out where to put his antenna other than leaning it against the wall. We will also be assisting Jim, VA7JAT, getting an antenna higher up in a tree; help Phil, VE7TDD, with an antenna and also myself, VE7GMG, putting up a tower and beam. This is the fun part of the hobby and I'm sure we all learn something from events we have attended in the past, but each one is individual with its "Murphy's Law" component. While the Emergency Communications is definitely up and running, the emphasis is by no means removed. An upcoming Emergency exercise in March will be covered by Jack, VE7HJJ. We are already gearing up for Field Day and we are working towards the Train and Hobby Show in October. As always, we are looking for some new volunteers to help out with some of the Clubs commitments. It's your Club, only you can make it work.

Roger Galliford VE7GMG

CLUB EMERGENCY CO-ORDINATOR

We still have two major projects to complete but both are dependent on weather and coordinating special equipment to get the jobs done. We have all the necessary equipment including coax and connectors ready to go so hopefully in the next few weeks will have the repeater moved to Chilliwack Mountain and the club's beam antenna erected on the club tower.

The Club now has a high speed internet connection with a permanent IP address. Dale, VE7GL, has donated and installed a wireless connection as well as a firewall to protect our system. He is presently preparing a new computer system for the club with the entire high end Amateur Radio Programs that will work in conjunction with our K3 radios. We also have all the necessary hardware to establish and install a satellite antenna system at the club. This will be a project for later in the year

It is very rewarding to see the slow but sure progress that the club continues to make to improve our communications capability that not only enhances our emergency communications but will also encourage members to get involved in DXing, contesting and Morse code. My thanks to all those who are making the Club an interesting organization to belong to, and their encouragement to the new and younger members who have recently joined us.

On Thursday 18th of March the Chilliwack Emergency Coordinator, Jim MacDonald, is holding a 6 hour EOC exercise that will involve a shift change in order to give as many City officials an opportunity to work in an EOC and cope with a demanding simulated emergency, This exercise will not involve emergency radio communications this time around but Jim has asked for our support in manning phone lines and acting the part of the various organizations and resources that would be called upon to assist in an emergency.

Participants in the EOC will have real time phone numbers to call and ask for information and assistance.

Those of us that participate will have scripts for the most part but must be prepared to answer realistically the unusual or unexpected question.

As all members know Jim MacDonald has been a strong supporter of the Club and has been instrumental in providing everything we have ever asked for. It is now our chance to show our appreciation by providing him support for this exercise. I will be providing further and detailed information as the planning progresses continues over the next few weeks. I will then be asking some of you to man your home phones and pretend that you are a particular company or organization during the six hour period starting in the morning of the 18th March.

Jack Jackaman VE7HJJ
Chilliwack ARC Emergency Radio
Coordinator

DECEMBER DINNER

The December 2009 Club dinner was rather a "rushed" event. By the end of October, no one had stepped forward to volunteer to arrange the dinner. At the October general meeting, Bonnie, VA7BXN, suggested that the Club go to the Best Western Sunday buffet meal. She did some checking and after a bit of confusion regarding times and places, the Best Western was deemed the best place to go. Arrangements were made to attend the buffet on December 13. As with any other time, there were members that were unable to attend. However, there were 19 members and guests that partook of the buffet. Everyone agreed they enjoyed the meal and the conversations that went on.



TRIP TO THE PANAMA

There have been a number of Club members who have been jet setting around the world. In November, Roger and Rita Galliford went on a Panama Canal cruise and in January, Tom and Dianne Adrain and Bonnie Pierce also went on the same cruise. Burt and Sharon Graham had been on that particular trip a few years ago.

I personally found the trip very educational and exceptionally interesting. After leaving from Long Beach, California, the ship, the Norwegian Star, made stops at Cabo San Lucas, Acapulco, and Huatulco, Mexico; Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala; Puntarenas, Costa Rica; and Cartagena, Colombia and finishing in Miami, Florida. The highlight of the trip was when we went through the Panama Canal.

It was interesting seeing what the living conditions are for the people in this area of the world. One stop we made (Puerto Quetzal), we took a bus tour to Antique which is about 1 ½ hrs. from the Port. There are four active volcanoes in the area and, in fact, one had erupted a few weeks before we arrived. The authorities had closed the road due to the lava flow going under portions of the road way and we could see the cooled lava in the stream bed. People live with the danger every day and they have no where to go should an evacuation be called.

It was a beautiful day when we went through the Panama Canal. Just about everyone was up very early

and up at the upper decks to watch. There were quite a few ships waiting outside the entrance to the locks, waiting to go through. It took all day to go through the locks before we came out into the Caribbean Sea.

On the day we went through the Canal (January 12) was the day Haiti was hit with a massive earthquake. Around 10 pm, we felt the wave from the earthquake thump against the bow of the boat. It brought the quake to a very personal level.

At every excursion, the very knowledgeable guides gave a summary of the history of the area, crops being grown, and current affairs. It became a matter of knowledge overload!

Tom, Dianne, and I also spent a week in Florida going to Epcot Center, Universal Studios, Kennedy Space Center, and Daytona Beach.

I don't know about Tom and Dianne, but by the time I got home I was exhausted! It was an incredible 25 day holiday and I would recommend the trip to anyone who is thinking of it.

CLUB AS A FAMILY

While I was away on my excursion, many Club members had offered to "watch over" my husband, John VE7BXN. They talked to him on the radio every day and when he had a medical emergency (a stroke) the members came to his aid. I want to give special mention to Jack Jackaman, Jack Allan, Burt & Gail Cross, and Burt Graham for the help

and support they gave him during his hospital stay and when he came home. I did not know of his condition until the day I got home and was so grateful to the Club for their help. John is recovering well.

THIS AND THAT

There have been a number of new people that have come to our Thursday night get togethers and hopefully they will soon become new members. We also have three new members: Walter Brennan, VE7PPB; Robert Burt, VE7IPF; and Elsie Friesen, VE7OMA.

Breakfasts at Banner's continue to be well attended with usually about 10 people there but there has been up to 18. Everyone is welcome to join us and enjoy the socialization.

Monday night emergency net continues to have good response. There is an average of 20 hams that check in and we encourage all hams to participate.

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.