

Border City Radio Club

FEBRUARY 2025

NEWSLETTER

Published February 26, 2025
by Ken Garber, Newsletter Editor.

Sean opened the meeting at 7:10-ish

IN ATTENDANCE

Adam Simon	VE3TJQ
Al Masse	VE3CWP
Bill Reynolds	VA3BZL
Bryan Umbenhowe	KF8DCI
Chris Shulte	VA3NFR
Dave Garber	
VE3WEJ/VE3IE/VA3GGC/VE3GGC	
Dennis Pellarin	VA3DDP
Don Quennenville	E3KUP
Dwight Girard	VA3NXX

Jerry Beneteau	VE3EXT
John Beres	VA3FN
John Schlichther	VE3JUS
Ken Garber	VA3ETR
Kim Kostescu	VE3KKA
Matt Gervais	VE3MXG
Richard Hagen	VE3NGL
Rick LeBlanc	VE3PV
Sean Moynahan	VA3SGM
Tim McMullin	VE3TCS

REMOTE via Teams:

Bill Hunter	VE3BOK	Allan Boyd	VE3AJB RAC President
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Welcome to our newest BCRC member, Bryan Umbenhowe, KF8DCI

Minutes from January 27th approved. Motion to accept. Al Masse and Dwight Girard.

Financial position:

\$3134.89 General Account

\$89.00 Share Account

\$25.00 Patronage Account

Motion to accept. Al Masse and Matt Gervais

Short discussion on POTA (Parks on the Air) took place while technical difficulties were being worked on. We were reminded by Sean that you don't need a lot of power or big antennas to make contacts especially if using FT8. He spoke of making contact with Tim Smith, K4OIW, who was activating POTA up and down the east coast successfully experimenting with very low power (500 mwatts to 5 watts). POTA

is growing in interest and some club members are interested in learning more about the procedure. Simply put, POTA is not a contest. Everyone runs their activations according to their desires. Some activators want short quick QSO's and others go for more personal conversation. Either way, POTA can be compared to when your parents told you to grab your "toys" and go outside and play! That's exactly what POTA is. Grab your radio and go to the park (registered by POTA officials). Yes, you can get awards, but, they are meant for personal accomplishment, not to be compared to others. If you cannot activate, be a hunter!

Technical difficulties got resolved and BCRC welcomed Allan Boyd, President, RAC. After speaking about his past career in OPP and the positions he held as a volunteer for RAC, he provided a quick presentation entitled "Our Vision, Our Future, In Radio

- RAC was formed in 1993 as the result of a merge between CRRL and CARF
- Represents members domestically and internationally
- 78,000 amateur radio operators in Canada
- Only 5000 RAC members

Organizational Structure:

- President
- Vice President
- International Affairs Officer
- Regulatory Affairs Officer
- Chief Information and Technology Officer
- Community Services Officer
- Corporate Secretary
- Treasurer
- Membership Services Officer
- Honorary Legal Counsel
- Office General Manager (Paid position)
- Marketing Manager and Editor TCA (paid position)
- Regional Directors

Standing Committees:

- Marketing and Product Development Committee
- Examinations Standards Committee
- Electromagnetics Compatibility Committee
- National Field Services Advisory Committee

Allan is happy to report a very open and positive relationship between RAC and ISED
(*Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada*).

RAC Priorities:

- National Field Operations
- RAC memberships
- Space Activities
- World Radio Conference 2027
- Online Courses – Basic and Advanced, and now CW
- RAC Youth Programs
- Surveys (Your Input is Valid)

Questions:

Question: Matt Gervais – considering that RAC is negotiating with ISED to further open the 60m band, is RAC also working with manufactures to update new transceivers as well as provide firmware updates for existing transceivers.

Answer: Yes

Question: Matt Gervais – with respect to RAC discussing with ISED that callsigns be updated/verified every 5 years and any callsign not updated/verified being put back into the available callsign bank, this is concerning especially in light of the postal strike and potential pandemic disruptions to mail. Perhaps a better way to accomplish this (free up unused callsigns) might be to include a callsign notice when the government is issuing death benefit cheques.

Answer: Definitely a great proposal. Keep in mind that there would be multiple attempts to reach all amateur radio operators. As well, ISED is open and willing to discuss all proposals that would quickly and efficiently release callsigns that are unused due to the operator becoming a silent key. ISED is also considering that a new prefix could help. RAC is suggesting that it could help, but could also cause more frustration or unforeseen issues at this time. Finally, Allan Boyd recommended that as a radio operator prepares their wills, perhaps it's a good idea to stipulate that the surviving family contact RAC to notify them of the death of the operators so RAC can initiate communication to ISED.

Rick LeBlanc demonstrated his new TALKPOD-N59 Network Radio by having a quick QSO with Allan Boyd on the Manitoulin Reflector XLX103B using the Peanut App. Connection was awesome!

The presentation ended at 8:45pm.

Some vintage radio equipment was dropped off by the family of a silent key. Next month Sean will put it out for everyone to see and discuss what plans could be made for it.

Congratulations to Sean for achieving DXCC on 6 different bands using only a wire dipole and 30 watts of power!

Members decided that they want to have a reminder for both the monthly breakfast and meeting.

50/50 draw was \$14 and won by Chris Shulte.

