

A man with a mustache, wearing a dark t-shirt and khaki pants, is sitting in a radio shack. He is holding a microphone and looking towards the right. The shack is filled with various pieces of equipment, including a large antenna mounted on a rack, a computer monitor, and various cables. The background shows more equipment and a window.

THE **EMITTER**

Information and Resources for Amateur Radio

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Access via 17th Street NW, then eastbound on 92 Avenue. There is no access via Highway 216.

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PO Box 163
Edmonton, AB T5J 2J1

NARC Activities**Club Nets****NARC VHF Net**

Tuesdays@19:30 on VE6HM-147.060MHz

New Hams Net

Thursdays@ 9:30 on VE6NHB 145.410MHz

6m SSB Net

Sundays @ 21:00 on 50.140 USB

*The Emitter***Editor**

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Send corrections, articles, and news
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Contact the NARC Treasurer
for advertising rates

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On the Front Cover:



Hadfield during his HAM Radio session with the students of Charles P. Allen High School in Bedford, Nova Scotia. (Credit: Chris Hadfield/NASA)

President's Page

Hello to all and welcome to the New Year!

Was it just me or was December a complete whirlwind? I was lucky enough to have two of my children come down with respiratory infections mid-December and that pretty much grinded all our Christmas plans to a halt. Oh, the joy of kids! I like to maintain that school is nothing but a great germ exchange. I suppose it's good for their immune systems though. Did you get out for New Years Eve? I took the kids to the Sherwood Park festivities and fireworks where I spotted a couple of other Amateurs out'n'about there too. A couple were even helping with some road closures in the area. It was not surprising to me to see them helping and I had no prior knowledge anyone from the ham community was going to be there in a formal assistance role. Still, I quietly smiled that we, the ham community, are often there quietly in the background and offering a hand wherever we can. To those Amateurs helping out that night, I want to say thank you for your time. You know who you are. This of course goes for any Amateur that gets out into the community whatever the event.

So, a new year and there's lots to talk about in regards to The Northern Alberta Radio Club. Firstly, our new Volunteer Appreciation Program starts as of now. I'll have an "official" rules document out as soon as possible, but for the moment, the basic gist of is, for every NARC sponsored community event (fun runs, toy runs, etc) that you volunteer for, you'll earn an entry into our year-end prize draw. Participate at two events and you'll have two entries and so on. The more you participate, the more chances you'll have in the prize draw. As voted recently, the prize pool is going to be around \$3000 and I'm hoping this will consist of three dual or tri-band HT's, one antenna analyzer, and one all-mode all-band mobile/portable radio (the grand prize). At the moment, there's only about two dozen or so regular volunteers that come out to our events, so when you think about it, five of those people are probably going to come away from the November meeting with big grins on their faces. That's pretty good odds if you ask me and I'd love nothing more than for you to help bring those odds down by bolstering our volunteer numbers throughout the year.

Also, as you're probably aware by now, the new Heartland Transmission line construction is underway just to the east of our HM club site. This transmission line is a double circuit 500KV AC line and is not to be confused with the 500KV DC Eastern Alberta HVDC Transmission Project. While the Eastern Alberta HVDC Transmission Project will be a high-voltage DC link between the West Brooks Substation near Brooks (southeast of Calgary) and the Heartland Substation near Gibbons, the Heartland Transmission line running past our club site will be a 500KV AC link with capacity to 1500MW, between the Heartland Substation and the Ellerslie Substation south of Edmonton. I've heard many differing opinions on how 500KV's of AC current is going effect our HF operations at the club site. Opinions have ranged from "it'll obliterate our HF capability" to "legally, they're not permitted to cause interference to us", so, honestly, I don't really know what it's going to do to us. In the meantime, I think we should wait and see, but I don't want us to just sit idle while we wait. Over the course of this year, I want to see some of our club members form a "New Club Site Committee" to look at our options to purchase or long-term lease another patch of dirt that is relatively EM interference free. We can borrow money as a club and it's not all that difficult to do, however, I need the engagement of several club members to take charge of this project. With your engagement the committee will provide us options, and when the Heartland line is energized, if it does knock out our HF, we will be, as they say, up the creek but at least we will have a paddle or maybe even two!

Finally, we're down a couple of Directors so far this year. The positions are Public Relations Director and Training Director. The most concerning to me is the loss of a Training Director as I and several other board members have already fielded several inquires as to our training offerings for this year. So far we've had to tell them to wait for further information pending a new Training Director. I think you can see that this is not a desirable position in which to be sitting. If we can't offer training sessions and since we're the only club in the region to have offered formal training, it will be a huge loss for the region. Please, if you can find a way to step into the role of Training Director, I implore you to do so. We also need a good Public Relations Director to keep us in touch with other organizations in the region. Please keep your ear to the ground for suitable candidates for these roles.

On another note, I had a nice and long 16-hour drive this past week and managed to make a heap of HF contacts on 15, 20 and 40 metres. I've found that a lot of Amateurs are happy to chat with a mobile HF station since they're relatively uncommon. Those contacts really helped to pass the hours. There's a new digital mode that was released to the world last month called FreeDV. Based on a free and open-source digital voice codec called Codec2 and a software modem called FDM DV, it offers remarkable voice clarity whilst only consuming 1100Hz of bandwidth. There is a filing currently before the FCC to redefine the US band segments according to the mode (bandwidth), so that modes like FreeDV can operate outside the traditional voice segments... not that we need to worry about that here in Canada, but by at least gaining US buy-in, experimental modes may see more experimentation, which is a good thing for the Amateur community. The mode (at the moment) has no error correction built in so fades and interference wreak havoc with the voice quality, but it's still quite readable even with a fairly high error rate. On the plus side, it's extremely easy to setup and one can experiment with the mode using a PC and almost any radio. Although it was intended for HF, by no means is it limited to that band. Anywhere where you can find 1100Hz of bandwidth is all that's needed. I'm kitting my vehicle up to try some mobile FreeDV soon. Check out freedv.org for more info. Perhaps I'll do a demo at an upcoming meeting?

Cheers for now,
Keehan - VE6XVK
President - The Northern Alberta Radio Club
president@narc.net

Minutes of the General Meeting of the Northern Amateur Radio Club

Held at the Cedar Park Inn on Wednesday, **January 16, 2013** at 7.30 p.m.

- 1. Call to Order** –President VE6XVK, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
- 2. Guests/New Members:** There were several guests in attendance.
- 3. Approval of Minutes** – Ties VE6TVN motioned that the November General Meeting minutes be approved as printed in the Emitter. Terry VA6TVN seconded the motion. Carried by members present.
- 4. Business arising from the previous minutes:**

ELECTIONS: Three positions were not filled at the General Meeting in November 2012.

Gern VE6KG asked President if we had quorum for the meeting. Bill VA6GRZ stated we had 35 members signed in and four guests in attendance.

Emergency Communications Director: Kerry Atkinson VE6KGA has stepped forward to take the position. Gern VE6KG moves that the executive minutes (executive voted) be accepted, and that VE6KGA be nominated as Emergency Communications Director. Kiernan VA6IP seconds the motion. Motion carried by members.

Public Relations Director: President calls three times for nominations for this position. No volunteers or nominations are made. This position will remain open until a nominee or volunteer is made.

Training Director: President calls three times for nominations for this position. No volunteers or nominations are made. This position will remain open until a nominee or volunteer is made. Members: Please note that all training will be put on hold until this position is filled.

5. Directors Reports:

a. President: Volunteer Appreciation Program:

- Attend one event in any listed (required) position to get one entry in the prize draw, until the November General Meeting. You get an entry for every event you attend (as a volunteer).

- The amateur **MUST** be a paid (up-to-date) club member at the time of the event.

b. For the coming year, I'd like to propose that members assist to form a "**New Club Site Committee**", to look into the possibility of a new patch of dirt for the club. I have concerns (as do many) with the new HV power lines near the HM site. More to follow.

b. **Vice-President:** N/A

c. **Treasurer:** Glen VA6GC presented a quick overview on net worth. He welcomed Terry VA6TVN as new Treasurer and stated they have been training together to pass on the responsibilities of Treasurer. In February, we will discuss the 'budget'. He reminded members that we will be enjoying a more social/hands-on time during general meetings. With less formality of business, we bring the numbers of members back to monthly meetings.

d. **Secretary:** Susan VE6SUS asked Membership Chair to discuss numbers. We have 102 members who have not renewed for 2013, and 55 members who have paid for renewals for 2013. Cost of membership is \$25 (single) and \$36 (family).

e. **Operations Director:** Ray VE6RHS stated the 6 m repeater is back up and running, but is not linked to repeaters yet. There will be a SARA flea market on February 2nd at the Yellowhead Inn. Be there early for deals.

f. **Training Director:** Vacant position.

g. **Emergency Communications Director:** Kerry VE6KGA introduced himself as the new Director; he has been a member of NARC for four years; licensed amateur radio operator for 18 years, 13 of those in BC. May 11, 2013 will be Emergency Preparedness in the Park.

h. **Public Service Director:** Patrick VE6PY stated:

- There will be two hypothermic races in February (10th and 24th). As per the new Volunteer Appreciation Program, he will be recording points, or the person in charge of the event.

- On September 29th the 30th Anniversary of the Toy Run will be a big event.

i. **Public Relations Director:** Vacant position.

j. **Program Director:** Absent.

k. **Activities Director:** Bill VA6GRZ reported: The next **pancake breakfast** will

take place on January 19th, at the HM site from 9:30 – 11:00 am (cost is \$4/person). Following the breakfast event, there will be an antenna workshop (building a Carolina Windem).

l. Webmaster: NARC.net is now hosted on an even faster server than before. - SSL was purchased and installed today (\$9.95/year). People can now log on with <https://narc.net> – this will enable encrypted direct server-to-client connection, thus giving protection over public Wi-Fi.
- Looking at upgrading the site with newer template that has more mobility capabilities (Smartphone/tablet etc.)

m. Director at Large: Gern VE6KG stated:

- Field Day will be June 22/23 this year.
- RAC contest beginning at 6 pm on June 20 and ending at 6 pm on July 1.
- RAC winter contest will be December 27/28, 2013.
- ARES Planning Meeting will take place at the site on January 19, 2013 at 9:30 am. Training will commence on the last Saturdays of January, February and March 2013.
- Jan 26: Basic Communication
- Feb 23: Basic Message Handling
- Mar 30: Message handling workshop / ICS Introduction

n. Past President: VE6TVN stated he used to order name tags for members. If anyone is interested, he can supply members with information so that they may order their own.

7. New Business: N/A

8. Next General Meeting – Wednesday, February 20, 2013

9. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm

My special Xmas antenna

In mid November I found myself (VA6GC) needing a new dual band base antenna with high gain for use in Daysland, my hope was that Mrs. Clause would bring one all the way from the North Pole. I chose a Comet GP-9.



My Previous Antenna

One week before Xmas it was clear that Mrs. Clause could not deliver because of a local problem.

I was forced to look around other places to purchase an antenna. Turns out that Ham City was having a sale on the GP-9, at substantially less, this was the better choice.

Well, as it turns out Mrs Clause gave me a gift of a trip to Palm Springs, California. Being excited about the trip I jumped to the internet to see what sites to take in. Some options were Ham City in Culver City, HRO in Las Vegas, HRO in Anaheim, and HRO in Oakland, oh, yes; I think there was a pool at the resort.

I contacted the local amateur radio club, "Coachella Valley Amateur Radio Club" activities director, Maureen (K6BSC). Maureen and I had never met, but I asked if I could have my antenna delivered to her address, pick it up and bring it back with me on the plane. Maureen was very kind in allowing this request.

The day I arrived, I was glad to finally meet Maureen in person. Maureen is a warm, down to earth amateur radio enthusiast with a great sense of humour. Cindy & I met Maureen's family and we had a very nice chat.

I thank Maureen for her kindness with my request, information about the Palm Springs and Palm Desert area, it was a huge help and a pleasure to have met.

The balance of our holiday was spent soaking up rays, sightseeing, shopping and lots of great food.

Glen Chapman
VA6GC

The NARC Repeater System

NARC Repeater Linking

The three repeater controllers at VE6UV, VE6PLP, and VE6JN are:

VE6UV - controller #2

VE6PLP - controller #3

VE6JN - controller #4

VE6TNC - controller #5

The codes are - *(controller #) 0 or 1 - 0 unlinks, 1 links.

For VE6UV - 20* unlinks and 21* links

For VE6PLP - 30* unlinks and 31* links

For VE6JN - *40 unlinks and *41 links

For VE6TNC - 50* unlinks and 51* links

Repeater Time/Date readback

VE6HM - 18463*

Receiver Voice Test (VE6HM only)

18378* – repeats your voice call so you can tell your signal strength into the repeater.

Battery voltage read-back

VE6HM - 12288*

VE6HM Temperature

Outside - 68367*

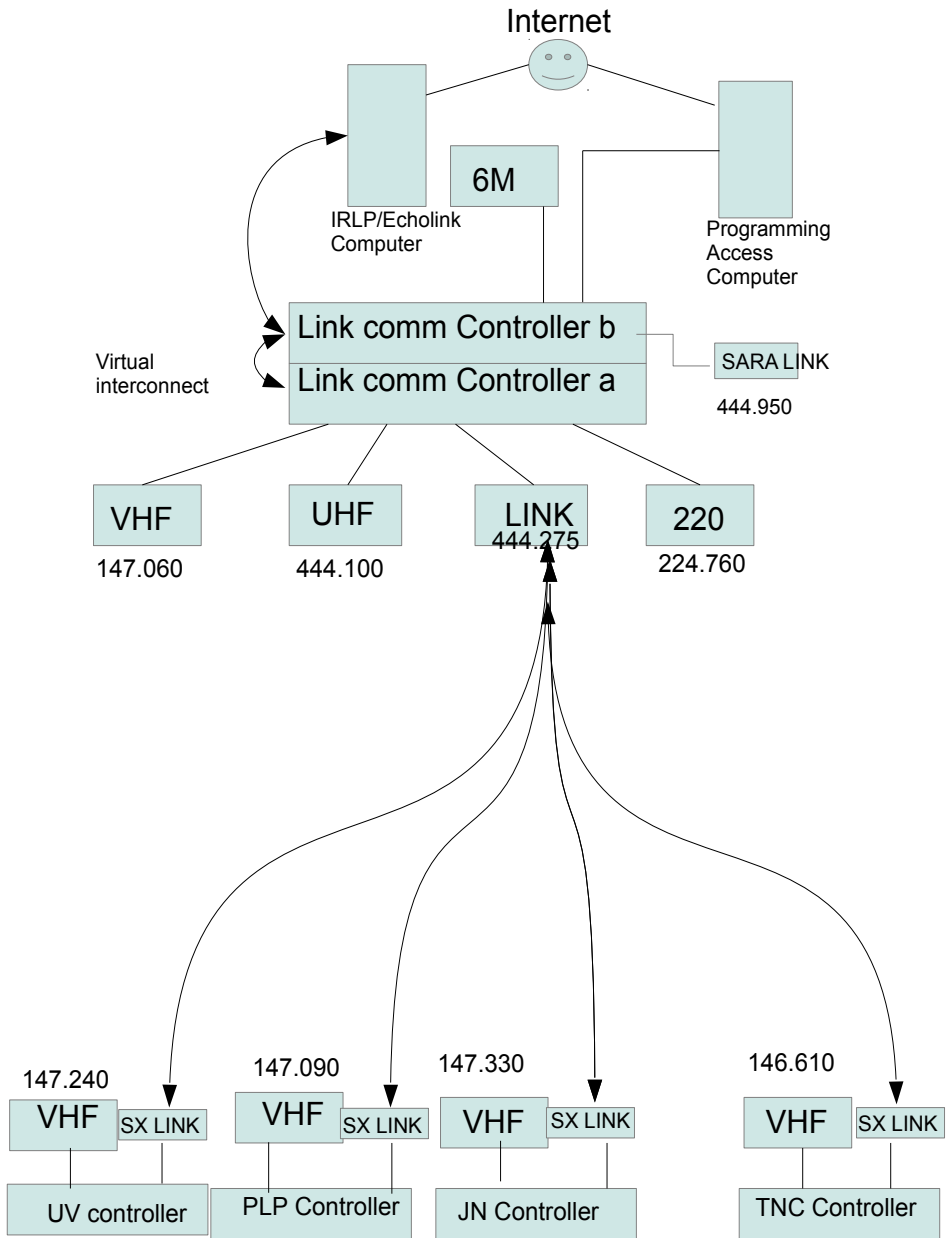
Inside - 48367*

Misc Functions (from VE6HM or a linked repeater)

Edmonton City Centre Airport Weather - 91

Edmonton International Airport Weather - 92

HM SYSTEM as of 2012-09



Edmonton Area Frequency List

ARES CH	Call Sign	Output	Tone	Location	Additional Info
1	VE6UV	147.240+	100 Hz	Uof A	
2	VE6HM	147.060-	100 Hz	HM Site	Echolink (#node) IRLP (node) Exit 73
3	VE6PLP	147.090+	100 Hz	Falun	Echolink (#node) IRLP (node) Exit 73
4	VE6JN	147.330+	100 Hz	Marriot	Echolink (#node) IRLP (node) Exit 73
5	VE6VPR	145.290-	100 Hz	HM Site	
6	VE6VPR	147.150+	none	Mobile	
7	VE6NC	147.015+	100 Hz	Mobile	
8	VE6NHB	145.410-	114.8 Hz	Sherwood Pk	
9	VE6QCR	146.640-	100 Hz	N of Spruce G	
10	VE6RES	147.120+	100 Hz	Cent Edmonton	IRLP (node) Exit 73
11	VE6PRH	147.360+	none	Edmonton	
12	VE6PAW	147.180+	100 Hz	Edmonton	
13	Simplex call	146.520	none		
14	Simplex	146.550	none		
15	Main Simplex	145.695	none		
16	Simplex	145.580	none		
17	VE6SS	146.880-	none	S of Falun	
18	VE6LAW	146.940-	100 Hz	St Albert	Echolink (#node) Exit 73
19	VA6XG	147.420	110.9 Hz	simplex	
20	VE6OG	146.490	none		Echolink (#node) Exit 73
21	VE6OG	146.850-	100 Hz	Edmonton	
22	VE6CWW	147.270+	none	Edmonton	
23	VE6AFP	147.210+	none	Edmonton	
24	VE6RPA	145.190-	none	Edmonton	
25	VE6FDX	146.835-	none	Edmonton	
26	VE6ALM	146.685-	100 Hz	N of Smoky Lk	Echolink (#node) IRLP (node) Exit 73
27	VE6TOP-2	147.300+	100 Hz	Wabamun	Echolink (#node) IRLP (node) Exit 73
28	VE6TNC	146.610-	100 Hz	Chipman	
29	VE6TOP-1	147.285+	100 Hz	S of Wetaskiwin	Echolink (#node) IRLP (node) Exit 73
30	VE6TOP	147.390+	100 Hz	S Edmonton	Echolink (#node) IRLP (node) Exit 73
31	Simplex Call	223.500	none		
32	Simplex 32	223.520	none		
33	Simplex 33	223.540	none		
34	Simplex 34	223.560	none		
35	Simplex 35	223.580	none		
36	VA6RS	224.560-	123 Hz	U of A	

Edmonton Area Frequency List Cont.

ARES CH	Call Sign	Output	Tone	Location	Additional Info
37	VE6DXD	224.640-	88.5 Hz	TBA	Future
38	VE6MC	224.700-	100 Hz	Edmonton	
39	VE6HM	224.760-	100 Hz	HM Site	
40	VE6HM	444.100+	100 Hz	HM Site	Echolink (#node) IRLP (node) Exit 73
41	VE6GPS	444.400+	none	W Edmonton	
42	VE6SBR	444.800+	103.5 Hz	TBA	Offline
43	VE6NHB	444.950+	114.8 Hz	Sherwood Pk	
44	VE6NC	442.275+	100 Hz	Mobile	
45	VE6HM	444.275+	DCS	HM Site	
46	VE6EDM	444.750+	none	Cent Edm	
47	VE6TOP	444.700+	100 Hz	E Edmonton	Echolink (#node) IRLP (node) Exit 73
48	VE6TOP-4	447.750-	100 Hz	Morinville	
	VE6KM	145.470-	DV	HM site	Dstar
	VE6KM	444.900+	DV	HM site	Dstar
	VE6KM	1287.5-	DV	HM Site	Dstar

2m - offset +/- 600 Khz

220 - offset +/- 1.6 Mhz

70cm - offset +/- 5 Mhz

Calendar of Events

Get together: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

- January 5 - Yellowhead Inn - from 08:00 to 10:00 (Yellowhead Tr at 149 St)
- January 6 - Barb and Ernie's - from 11:30 to 13:30 (9906 -72 Ave)
- January 8 - Sawmill West End - from 11:30 to 13:30 (9504 - 170 St)
- January 12 - Yellowhead Inn - from 08:00 to 10:00 (Yellowhead Tr at 149 St)
- January 13 - Yellowhead Casino - from 11:30 to 14:00 (12464 - 153 St - approach from 149 St or 156 St one block south of Yellowhead)
- January 16 - NARC Meeting 19:30 - dinner at Pagolac Southside - from 16:30 to 18:30 (9642-54 Ave)
- January 19 - Yellowhead Inn - from 08:00 to 10:00 (Yellowhead Tr at 149 St)
- January 20 - Royal Pizza - from 11:30 to 14:00 (9977 - 178 St - across from Canadian Tire)
- January 26 - Yellowhead Inn - from 08:00 to 10:00 (Yellowhead Tr at 149 St)
- January 27 - Ricky's Grill - from 11:30 to 14:00 (9917 - 170 St)
- February 2 - Yellowhead Inn - from 08:00 to 10:00 (Yellowhead Tr at 149 St)
- February 3 - Red Robbin -from 11:30 to 14:00 (SE corner of the Superstore lot on 170 St and Stoney Plain Road)
- February 5 - Sawmill West End - from 11:30 to 13:30 (9504 - 170 St)
- February 9 - Yellowhead Inn - from 08:00 to 10:00 (Yellowhead Tr at 149 St)
- February 10 - Barb and Ernie's - from 11:30 to 13:30 (9906 -72 Ave)
- February 16 - Yellowhead Inn - from 08:00 to 10:00 (Yellowhead Tr at 149 St)
- February 17 - Yellowhead Casino - from 11:30 to 14:00 (12464 - 153 St - approach from 149 St or 156 St one block south of Yellowhead)
- February 20 - NARC Meeting 19:30 - dinner at Pagolac Southside - from 16:30 to 18:30 (9642-54 Ave)
- February 23 - Yellowhead Inn - from 08:00 to 10:00 (Yellowhead Tr at 149 St)
- February 24 - Royal Pizza - from 11:30 to 14:00 (9977 - 178 St - across from Canadian Tire)

NARC Membership Form



Office use only	
Batch	
Date	

NORTHERN ALBERTA RADIO CLUB
 P.O. Box 163 Main Post Office
 Edmonton, AB T5J 2J1
 www.narc.net

2013 MEMBER REGISTRATION

(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND INCLUDE ALL INFORMATION REQUESTED)

Call sign: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ Date you became a member of NARC _____

Address: _____

Street

City

Province

Postal Code

Home Phone: _____ Business Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Service Provider (e.g. Telus) _____

E-Mail Address: _____ (required for member e-mails)

Qualifications: Basic _____ CW _____ Advanced _____ Additional Call Sign(s) _____

Please indicate how you would like to receive the *Emitter*: Canada Post _____ Download from web _____

RAC Member: yes _____ no _____ Membership #: _____

(This enables RAC to determine insurance premium rates)

MEMBERSHIP TYPE	FEE	AMOUNT PAID
Regular	\$25.00	
Family (list name(s) and call sign(s))	\$36.00	
Senior	\$20.00	
Youth (18 years and under)	\$12.00	
Student (If over 18)	\$12.00	
Associate (no <i>Emitter</i> or voting privileges)	\$ 5.00	
Life	n/c	
Honorary	n/c	
Speed Dial (personal auto dial)	\$ 5.00	
Donation (specify use if desired)		

TOTAL \$ _____