



# Radio Amateurs of Canada

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## Youth Education Program

### NEWSLETTER #3

November 24, 2004

Many thanks to Terrance, VE7TBC, for submitting the following report:

#### November Activities at Central Middle School, Victoria, BC

Hello all,

We, at Central Middle School Youth Education, congratulate **Robert Bartlett, VE7CPO**, ([robert.b@telus.net](mailto:robert.b@telus.net)) and Principal **Mike McMenamin, VE7EIC**, of **Drinkwater Elementary School** in **Duncan, BC** (an hour's drive north of Victoria) on being accepted into the RAC Youth Education Project. We are looking forward to many successful communications with our brothers and sisters to the north.

Central Middle School's Youth Education Project has had a very successful series of contacts this month; and we are looking forward to an IRLP QSO with **Brian Jackson, VE6JBJ**, and the students of **Chestermere School** in **Chestermere Alberta** next Wednesday.

We began the month with a successful and popular contact with **Neil Carleton, VE3NCE's** class at **R. Tait McKenzie School** in **Almonte Ontario**. Our students talked about that contact for weeks afterward. They were particularly interested in what the Almonte students did in their 'ham club'.

The following Wednesday **Patty, VA7PTY** and **John, VE7SDJ** demonstrated how we use APRS in amateur radio; and the students looked up John's weather station on Findu.com [www.varpa.bc.ca/aprs.html](http://www.varpa.bc.ca/aprs.html) as well as my last reported position. Then they discovered that John's truck, Rocky, was still beaconing his position in the school parking lot!

Yesterday, half of the students visited **John, VE7JMF**, the Municipal Amateur Co-ordinator (**MAC**), at the **Esquimalt Emergency Operations Centre (EOC)**. John showed them the centre's packet operation, and then the students made contact with an amateur in Salem OR on 40 m., and each had the opportunity to speak to the operator.

The other half of the class headed up to the 'flagpole', the highest point in Beacon Hill Park in Victoria, where they were able to see the mountains of the Olympic Peninsula across Juan de Fuca Strait. **Rick, VE7TK** <http://www3.telus.net/ve7tk/> (who has one of the most impressive ham shacks I have ever seen -- check out his website! -- , and who is a master DX operator/contester) had set up his Westphalia van for 40m and 20m operations. Because the band conditions over the past week have been crippled by sun-spot activity late last week, it was very difficult to make

any contacts, but Rick managed to pull on signal out of the ether and the students had brief contact with an amateur in New Mexico. The terrible conditions did permit Rick to instruct the students in HF propagation, and the effects of sunspots on HF communications.

In the 'theater wings' are several local amateurs, always ready to help to 'Elmer' the students and to arrange IRLP contacts from their home QTH. **George, VE7ABX** and **Kip, VE7HVR** are always there in the background to give assistance. The students have come to recognize their voices, and 'know they are there to help'.

At least two of the students have begun thinking about taking the next **Westcoast Amateur Radio Association** (WARA) [www.ve7vic.ca](http://www.ve7vic.ca) amateur licensing course which begins in January, 2005. That course, incidentally, is very comprehensive, and many of the students go on to write both their basic and advanced examinations, as well as the CW examination! The course classes are twice a week, with several Saturday morning sessions devoted to station visits and construction projects -- such as an oscillator for a Morse key).

Our fall Central Middle School Enhancement Program will terminate in mid-December; but we are pleased to announce that the School Administration has invited us to have a 10-week session again in January! And we are now talking about the feasibility of having a permanent Amateur Radio Club at the school during the school year. A great big Thank You to our staff teacher **Kathie Cross!**

73

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I encourage all of you, associated with the YEP through schools and/or clubs, to send me a short article that could be shared about what is happening in your part of the world. Like that famous Canadian, Red Green, says, "We're all in this together."

Bj. Madsen - VE5FX

RAC MidWest Director

Chairman, RAC Youth Education Program