



# Radio Amateurs of Canada

---

## Youth Education Program

### NEWSLETTER #4

December 3, 2004

The following was kindly provided by Terrance, VE7TBC:

November was a successful month for our **Central Middle School** Project. Our hope was to give the students more 'on-air' practice by contacting schools and amateurs in more distant communities, and that we did.

We had a QSO with **VE6JBJ Brian Jackson's** class at **Chestermere Middle School** to the east of Calgary, Alberta, and some longer distant contacts via HF to stations in the United States.

Our HF contacts were made while on 'field trips'. In the first field trip, three students traveled to the **Esquimalt Emergency Communications Centre**, while a teacher substituting for our teacher **Kathie Cross**, and **Terrance** joined **Rick Williams, VE7TK** at the 'Flagpole' - the highest point in **Beacon Hill Park** - where Rick showed the students his mobile HF setup, and then helped them make contact with a station in California. Band conditions were terrible, but the students were definitely impressed by how compact a station can be and still make contacts many kilometres away.

On the second field trip, those students who had journeyed to the flagpole went to the **Esquimalt Emergency Communications Centre** with **Kathie** and **Terrance** where **VE7JMF John Fuller** demonstrated **Packet Radio** and we tried again to make distant HF voice contacts -- we successfully made contact with a station in San Jose in California.

Meanwhile, the students who had visited **John Fuller's** EOC in Esquimalt on the first field trip with **VE7SDJ John Walls**, and **VA7PTY Patty-Ann Lea** met **VE7TK Rick Williams** at the flagpole. Here is Rick's report:

"We had an excellent 40 metre contact with **Archie (VE7CNB)** in North Vancouver. He's a video tape editor and a computer nut who works out of his home.

We then attempted to go to 20 metres but I had a bit of a hardware problem so we switched to 15 metres. On 15 we heard **ZS1SR** from South Africa in QSO with a station in Winnipeg. Unfortunately, ZS1SR couldn't hear our 50 watts from the mobile. We then called CQ and **Rich AB2SW** from Syracuse, NY came back to us. He had a great conversation with the 2 students and was very patient and encouraging!

All told, it was a lot of fun.

73, Rick

**VE7TK**

**Website:** <http://www3.telus.net/ve7tk>

Traveling to and from the fieldtrip sites, the students made voice contact with **VE7ABX George Boyd**, and **VE7HVR Kip Rumble**, who are our "Extension Elmers". They, and other local amateur operators, monitor the repeater and our local Red Cross simplex frequencies during class time. When we want to practice radio techniques and 'proper protocol', these amateurs are there, giving assistance as required.

I have one comment about working with youth -- aged 10-13: our sessions begin immediately after a 'nutrition break' at the school. Man, you sure can tell who has had a 'sugar fix'! Those students are often "off the wall" and I admire the patience of the teachers in getting them calmed down; particularly when they get "on the air". Consequently, our only real 'adult control' is to ensure that when they do go on the air, they follow proper procedure, identifying the recipient station callsign first, followed by our callsign (depending on whose radio they are using) followed by "\_\_\_\_\_ at the mic". They have become quite proficient at doing so, and while they mostly follow that procedure religiously when initiating or continuing a QSO, they are also very relaxed and skilled at pausing before talking on the repeater (recognizing the two second delay). I think "They Got It!"

Other activities in November included exploring **APRS**. The students were fascinated to see **VE7SDJ John's** weather beacons from his home in Ladysmith, some 100 km. north of Victoria, and the location of his truck (in the parking lot at Central Middle School).

We also had a guest Operator/YEP Program Coordinator, **VE7CPO Bob Bartlett** of the **Drinkwater Elementary Project** in **Duncan BC** visit our program. Bob offered some useful advice and told the students about the Drinkwater activities.

73

Terrance Berscheid, VE7TBC

250-479-3165

Ham email: [ve7tbc@compututor.ca](mailto:ve7tbc@compututor.ca)

=====

Peter Bon, VA3PTB, is getting started in the Youth Education Program at Msgr. Doyle Catholic Secondary School in Cambridge, Ontario. He would like to get his students on the air, beginning with IRLP, which he must access on UHF. Is there anyone who knows of a transceiver and power supply that might be available to get Peter's students 'radio active'? Please send me an e-mail if you are able to help out.

All the best for the upcoming holiday season,

Bj. Madsen - VE5FX

RAC MidWest Regional Director

Chairman, RAC Youth Education Program

[ve5fx@rac.ca](mailto:ve5fx@rac.ca)

