



Richmond Amateur Radio Club

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INFO RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Richmond Amateur Radio Club Rolls Out ‘Learning Program’ To Offer Certification Courses, Skills Development Classes and Information Sessions Relevant to Amateur Radio to Cultivate Greater Interest in Amateur Radio

Richmond, B.C. (September 1, 2021) – Richmond Amateur Radio Club (RARC) announces creation of ‘RARC Learning Program’ to coordinate the delivery of certification courses, skills development classes, and information sessions presently offered by the club for the benefit of the local Amateur radio community and general public.

The RARC Learning Program aims to cultivate interest in Amateur radio by certifying new radio operators into the Amateur radio hobby and generating greater participation (membership) in Amateur radio organizations, informing the general public on subjects relevant to Amateur radio, and improving engagement in Amateur radio activities including emergency communications.

The course schedule for the RARC Learning Program includes scheduled certification courses with Government of Canada (ISED) exams for Basic and Advanced qualifications, on-demand radio operation skills development classes, past presentations on information of interest, and planned sessions and events relating to Amateur radio.

RARC is currently delivering an online Advanced Qualification Radio Course with another Basic Qualification course scheduled to start on October 2; the third online Basic course offered by RARC in 2021. A weekly one-hour online forum on various technical topics concerning Amateur radio, ‘TechTopicsThursday,’ was initiated earlier this summer. The annual RARC ‘Discover Amateur Radio’ seminar with invited subject expert presenters from the local Amateur radio community is planned to return in November. RARC expects to continue offering courses and presentations online (as an option) when we eventually return to in-person classrooms.

The thought about creating a learning program was sparked by comments from visiting dignitaries at past RARC events saying that, “there is so much to learn” (about Amateur radio). “It was during the last 18 months of the pandemic when RARC was offering more courses and special sessions that the club decided to coordinate all knowledge exchange events into an official learning program,” says RARC president and program director Urey Chan. “Many of the courses and presentations have been delivered in the past and we are only organizing these value offerings under an umbrella program so they can be more effectively marketed and made available to benefit the Amateur radio community.”

(continued)

Roy Thaller, the program's Lead Instructor and creator of TechTopicsThursday, commented that "the program aims to eventually provide a full spectrum of learning opportunities in Amateur radio from the Basic Qualification course, required for obtaining one's call sign, to classes and sessions that will help new hams get started, to skills development activities to sustain their interest in Amateur radio."

More information about classes, presentations and special sessions offered by the RARC Learning Program is in the course schedule on the RARC Website at:

<http://www.richmondarc.ca/learning147/schedule2021sep.pdf>

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About the Richmond Amateur Radio Club – RARC is a registered BC Society to promote the interests of Amateur radio, assist in the provision of communication support in the event of an emergency, and provide radio communication services for public events as requested. RARC supports Emergency Management BC by its members volunteering with local municipal emergency preparedness organizations, has an agreement with the Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society, and is affiliated with Radio Amateurs of Canada. RARC programs have been partially funded by grants from City of Richmond and Province of BC, private donations, and in-kind contributions from businesses in the local community.

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