

RICHMOND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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www.rarclub.ca

NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Richmond Amateur Radio Club Accomplishes Objectives at Annual Field Day Emergency Preparedness Exercise

Richmond, B.C. (June 27, 2013) – Over the weekend of June 22-23, 2013, the Richmond Amateur Radio Club (RARC) held its Field Day event at Garry Point Park and successfully accomplished all objectives in the annual emergency preparedness exercise.

Field Day, held every year on the fourth complete weekend of June, involving more than 35,000 Amateurs Radio operators from across Canada and the U.S., is the most significant on-the-air event for RARC. The 24-hour exercise from Saturday to Sunday morning presents an opportunity for the club to practice deploying its own radio equipment under abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions, as well as demonstrating emergency communications to the general public while participating in an international contest to contact as many radio operators as possible.

Radio operation was carried out from both the RARC and City of Richmond's Emergency Programs communications trailers using Amateur HF (high frequency) bands in CW (continuous wave, or Morse code) and SSB (single side band for voice transmission) through an array of antennas – some of which are custom built by club members. Set up of the communications trailers and antennas near the south entrance of Garry Point Park began at 7:00 am Saturday morning with all equipment performing flawlessly throughout the course of the 24-hour exercise.

Situating Field Day at a public venue like Garry Point Park allowed RARC members to demonstrate emergency radio communications to passers-by, as well as promoting the role of Amateur Radio in the community to the public. A 'Get on the Air' (GOTA) table was also made available for the public to experience making a contact using the club's Amateur radio equipment. The public relations component of Field Day also involved visits from Richmond's community leaders that included officials, school trustees, city councillors and the Mayor.

RARC members operated non-stop over the entire duration of the 24-hour event period to not only test the capabilities of the club's radio equipment but also participate in a contest with other Amateur Radio clubs in a competition that involved scoring that's based on making radio contact with other Amateur operators from as far away as Hawaii and Virgin Islands, informing the public about Amateur Radio to promote the Amateur Radio hobby, engaging the public to participate in making radio contacts, and receiving visits from local officials and community leaders.

"Field Day is the most important event of the year for RARC because it encapsulates the club's core activities in Amateur Radio operations, emergency communication practices, and public outreach to inform the public about the role of Amateur Radio in the community," comments Kishore Nair (VA7KKN), Field Day coordinator for RARC. "This is one event that involves the skills and experience of all club members beyond the technical aspects of Amateur Radio operations from food preparation to public relations to overnight camping."

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About RARC - The Richmond Amateur Radio Club is a registered BC Society to promote the interests of Amateur Radio, assist in the provision of communication services in the event of an emergency, and provide communication support for public service events as requested. RARC is a member of the BC Provincial Emergency Program and supporter of Emergency Social Services with the City of Richmond. Programs for RARC are partially funded by grants from City of Richmond and the Province of BC Community Gaming.

Additional information about RARC can be found at: www.rarclub.ca

For further information about Field Day please contact:

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