



news-wire



Field Day
Photos Inside

VECTOR

At E-Comm
3301 E. Pender Street
(across from the PNE)

AHEAD...

- **EM2000 Training**
— August 25th and September 29th at E-Comm.
- **Basic Amateur Radio Course**
— Tentatively scheduled to start on October 10th from 7—9:30 PM at E-Comm.
- **Exercise Silver Streak**
City of Vancouver Fall emergency preparedness exercise.
Friday, October 27th from 10—5PM at E-Comm.

DISASTER RESPONSE ROUTES

The Disaster Response Route Program is a joint undertaking of the Ministry of Transportation and Highways, Provincial Emergency Program, Greater Vancouver Regional District, and Lower Mainland Municipal Governments.

In a major disaster such as an earthquake many roads and bridges may well be impassable. In order to rapidly rescue and treat the injured, tend to the homeless, and repair the damage, response personnel must be able to travel unhindered on certain routes, now called the Disaster Response Routes. Throughout the Region the priority of the response personnel will be to reopen the designated "Disaster Response Routes." These routes are signed and, in an emergency, will be open to emergency response personnel and equipment only.

What are Disaster Response Routes?

Local governments and key provincial agencies have cooperated to establish a unified network of roads so that in an emergency, such as an earthquake, emergency services can respond where they are

needed. These routes will be used to move emergency services and supplies to areas of need. Greater Vancouver is the first place in the world to plan ahead for disaster transportation routes, by posting the signs ahead of time.

Where are the Disaster Response Routes in the City of Vancouver?

- From the University of British Columbia along Wesbrook Crescent to Marine Drive, along 41st Avenue to Highway 1A.
- From Highway 7A along Boundary Road, to the south terminus of Boundary Road (at the North Arm of the Fraser River)
- Highway 1A West to Broadway Avenue, east to Renfrew Street, and north to Highway 7A

What are the guidelines for the distribution of Disaster Responder Identification?

The following guidelines have been accepted by all stakeholders as a general guide for the distribution of Disaster Responder Identification to local governments. It is up to

local governments to designate which departments and agencies are to receive Disaster Responder Identification within their jurisdictions.

The key concept in the disaster response route plan is public cooperation. The only way that respective police services can implement an orderly traffic evacuation during a disaster is with the cooperation of the public. In order to gain this cooperation, the public must have confidence in the process used to select those having access to the disaster response routes. There will be no problem with obvious emergency vehicles, but personal vehicles being driven by civilians must be controlled rigidly. Any use of special access other than bona fide emergency response will surely cause a rejection of the concept by citizens mired in traffic jams.

Definition of Disaster Responder

A Disaster Responder, for the purpose of gaining access to the Disaster Response Routes, is one whose presence, in the first 72 hours after a major

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VECTOR EXECUTIVE

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Paulette Schouten, VE7VPE

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Director
John Schouten, VE7VPU

Director
Bryan Larrabee

Questions?

If you have questions about VECTOR, Emergency Operations in the City of Vancouver or any other aspect of our plan, please drop us a line. Our contact numbers and addresses are given on page 12.

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disaster, is required to do one or more of the following:

- transport sick and injured people to places of treatment
- transport displaced people to points of collection(mass transit)
- maintain law and order
- put out fires and control hazards
- maintain traffic control on the disaster response routes
- treat the sick and injured
- rescue persons trapped in damaged structures (trained rescuers, municipal volunteers)
- perform orderly evacuations under police control
- assess damage to the city infrastructure (buildings, bridges etc.)
- restore damaged transportation systems in the affected area
- restore communications to the affected area
- restore water supplies to the affected area
- restore gas supplies to the affected area

- restore electricity to the affected area

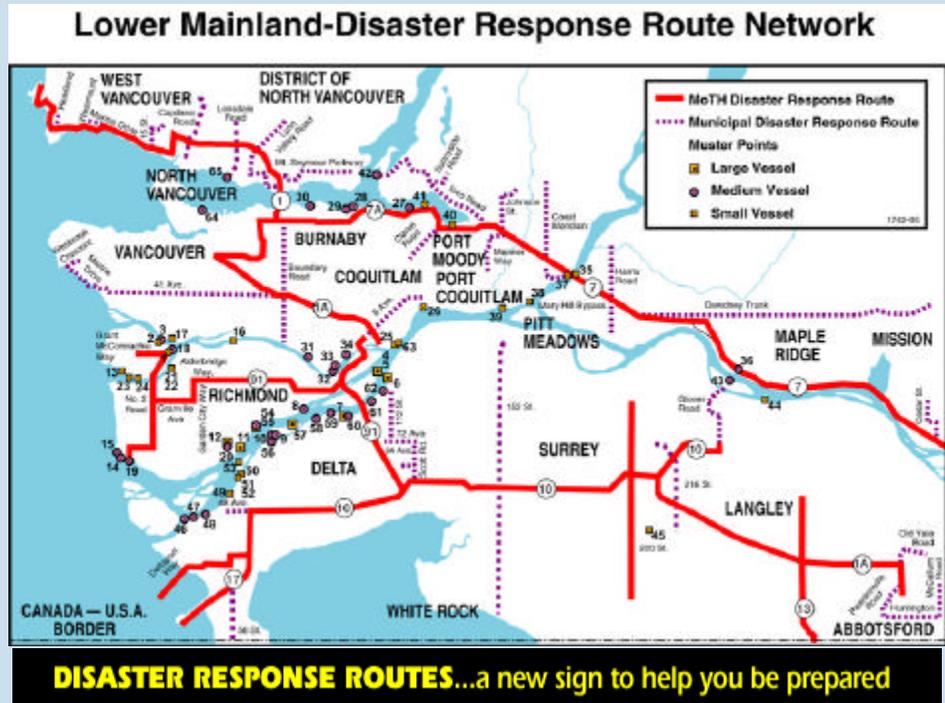
Only those required in the primary emergency response effort and those needed at the Emergency Operation Centre should have access to the Disaster Response Routes.

Use and Distribution of Disaster Responder Identification

Each responder should have a disaster response hangers, in their vehicle. The hangers will be used only in the event of a disaster. In addition, a small decal of the Disaster Response Route symbol should be affixed to the disaster responder's valid BC driver's license in support of the visible route hanger. As they form part of the City of Vancouver emergency response team, VECTOR members are issued these hangers.

How do I get more information?

More information on disaster response routes, including detailed maps, can be found at www.th.gov.bc.ca/bchighways/disroute/1742_5.htm and the Provincial Emergency Program at (604) 660-1234.



DISASTER RESPONSE ROUTES...a new sign to help you be prepared



BC Provincial Amateur Radio Nets

BC Emergency Management Net

The BC Emergency Management Net (BCEMN) is the operating net for official government traffic from Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centres (PREOC's) to the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC). This will include stations operating in support of other federal and provincial government departments, ministries and agencies. Municipal EOC's unable to communicate with their respective PREOC on established regional net frequencies may also utilize this net.

The PEP HF Emergency Net will establish liaison with the BC Public Service Net (BCPSN) on a regular basis. It will draw upon Amateurs standing-by on the BCPSN frequency when needed, and will update BCPSN stations with situation reports on a regular basis.

The primary frequency for the BCEMN is 3735 KHz Lower Sideband on the 80 Metre band.

During activation the net control station will monitor 2 of the above noted frequencies and call for net check-ins. Frequencies selected will be dependent on propagation.

If the frequencies identified above are in use, the net control station will move in +5 KHz incre-

ments within the designated HF band. When a clear frequency has been identified following this procedure, the net control station will initiate the directed net.

The primary net control station for the BCEMN is **VE7PEP** at PEP HQ in Victoria.

Check-ins for the BC Emergency Management Net are conducted every Wednesday night at 1900 hrs local Pacific Time.

BC Public Service Net

The BC Public Service Net (BCPSN) coordinates Health and Welfare traffic handling throughout British Columbia. During an emergency or disaster the BCPSN will also assist by providing a 'holding frequency' for check-in stations available to support the Provincial Emergency Program and other government or response agencies. Should additional amateur radio resources be required to support response activities a request will be made to the BCPSN Net Control station through the BC Emergency Management Net (BCEMN). The BCPSN will establish liaison with the BCEMN and the BC Emergency Net.

Further information is available on the Internet at <http://www.pep.bc.ca/>

During activation the net control station will monitor 2 of the above noted frequencies and call for net check-ins.

Frequency:	3735 KHz	7060 KHz	21120 KHz
Mode:	Lower Sideband	Lower Sideband	Upper Sideband
Band:	80 Metres	40 Metres	15 Metres

PEP Tidbits...

North Vancouver is holding an earthquake fair, called Quakefest, on Saturday, September 16th. Many displays and public events are expected. Details can be obtained from the North Shore EP office at (604) 983-7440.

As of August 8th, in the South Coast, Vancouver Island and Fraser Valley, 16 fires are active. Since May, 91 fires were started, destroying 16 hectares. Of those 67 were caused by humans.

For more information, the Ministry of Forests recommends:

<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/protect/> The most interesting topics are the Daily Fire Weather Maps and Latest Bulletins/wildfire statistics.

Within the Forestry website are links to the danger rating maps (http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/protect/Maps/Danger_Rating.htm), and the Canadian Forest Fire Situation Report for the entire country, at (http://nrccan.gc.ca/cfs/proj/sci-tech/arena/firereport_e.html).



How to sound like a LID

Two meters has a tendency of having people making a effort to sound like a "LID". Since this appears to be the new style in Amateur Radio, I thought I would present this guide to radio nerd-dom.

Step One: Use as many "Q" signals as possible. Yes, I know they were invented solely for CW and are totally inappropriate for two meter FM, but they are fun and entertaining. They keep people guessing as to what you really meant. i.e. "I'm going to QSY to the phone." Can you really change frequencies to the phone? QSL used to mean, "I am acknowledging receipt", but now it appears to mean, "yes" or "OK". I guess I missed it when the ARRL changed the meaning. It is also best to use "OK" and "QSL" together. Redundancy is the better part of Lid-dom.

Step Two: Never laugh when you can say "HI HI". No one will ever know you aren't a long time CW rag-chewer if you don't tell them. They'll think you've been on since the days of Marconi.

Step Three: Utilize an alternative vocabulary. Use words like "destinated" and "negatory". It's OK to make up your own words here. I.E. "Yeah Tom, I "pheelbart zaphonix" occasionally myself."

Step Four: Always say "XX4XXX" (Insert your own call) "for I.D." As mentioned in Step One, anything that creates redundancy is always encouraged. That's why we have the Department of Redundancy Department.

(Please note that you can follow your call with "for identification purposes" instead of "for I.D." While taking longer to say, it is worth more "LID points".

Step Five: The better the copy on two meter FM, the more you should use phonetics. Names should be especially used if they are short or common ones. i.e. "My name is Al... Alpha Lima" or "Jack.. Juliet Alpha Charlie Kilo." If at all possible use the less common HF phonetics "A4SM... America, Number Four, Sugar Mexico." And for maximum "LID points", make up unintelligible phonetics. "My name is Bob... Billibong Oregano Bumperpool."

Step Six: Always give the calls of yourself and everyone who is (or has been) in the group, whether they are still there or not. While this has been unnecessary for years, it is still a great memory test. You may also use "and the group" if you are an "old timer" or just have a bad memory. Extra points for saying everyone's call and then clearing in a silly way "K2PKK, Chow, Chow."

Step Seven: Whenever possible, use the wrong terminology. It keeps people guessing. Use "modulation" when you mean "deviation", and vice-versa.

Step Eight: If someone asks for a break, always finish your turn, taking as long as possible before turning it over. Whenever possible, pass it around a few times first. This will discourage the breaker, and if it is an emergency, encourage him to switch to another repeater and not bother you.

Step Nine: Always ask involved questions of the person who is trying to sign out. Never let him get by with just a "yes" or "no" answer. Make it a question that will take him a long time to answer.

Step Ten: The less you know on a subject, the more you should speculate about it in the roundtable. Also the amount of time you spend on the subject should be inversely proportionate to your knowledge of the subject even though you have no damn clue.

Step Eleven: Always make sure you try to communicate with only a handheld and a rubber duck antenna. Also, make sure you work through a repeater that you can hear very well, but it cannot hear you. This will put out a kind of "LID mating call": "Well, Joe, I can hear the repeater just fine here. I wonder why it can't hear me?" You will score maximum LID points if you are mobile, and with the radio lying in the passenger seat.

Step Twelve: If you hear two amateurs start a conversation, wait until they are twenty seconds into their contact, and then break in to make a call, or better yet to use the auto-patch. Make sure you keep the repeater tied up for at least three minutes. This way, once the two have re-established contact, they won't even remember what they were talking about.

Step Thirteen: You hear someone on the repeater giving directions to a visiting amateur. Even if the directions are good, make sure you break in with your own "alternate route but better way to get there" version. This is most effective with several other "would-be LIDs", each giving a different route. By the time the visiting amateur unscrambles all the street names whizzing by in his mind, he should have moved out of the range of the repeater. This keeps you from having to stick around to help the guy get back out of town, later.

Step Fourteen: If an annoying station is bothering you, make sure your other "LID" buddies have a "coded" frequency list. Even though "CODES" are strictly forbidden on Amateur Radio, it's really neat to practice "James Bond" tactics.

Step Fifteen: Always use the National Calling Frequency for general conversations. The more uninteresting, the longer you should use it. Extra points are awarded if you have recently move from an adjacent frequency for no reason. Make sure when DX is "rolling" in on 52.525 that you hang out there and talk to your friends five miles down the road about the good old CB days!

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Step Sixteen: Make sure that if you have a personal problem with someone, you should voice your opinion in a public forum, especially a net. Make sure you give their name, call, and any other identifying remarks. For maximum points, make sure the person in question is not on the repeater, or not available.

Step Seventeen: Make sure you say the first few words of each transmission twice, especially if it is the same thing each time. Like "roger, roger" or "fine business, fine business". I cannot stress enough about encouraging redundancy.

Step Eighteen: If you hear a conversation on a local repeater, break in and ask how each station is receiving you. Of course they will only see the signal of the repeater you are using, but it's that magic moment when you can find a fellow "LID", and get the report. Extra points are awarded if you are using a base station, and the repeater is less than twenty-five air miles from you.

Step Nineteen: Use the repeater for an hour or two at a time, preventing others from using it. Better yet, do it on a daily basis. Your quest is to make people so sick of hearing your voice every time they turn on their radio, they'll move to another frequency. This way you'll lighten the load on the repeater, leaving even more time for you to talk on it.

Step Twenty: See just how much flutter you can generate by operating at handheld power levels too far away from the repeater. Engage people in conversations when you know they won't be able to copy half of what you're saying. Even when they say your uncopiable, continue to string them along by making further transmissions. See just how frustrated you can make the other amateur before he finally signs off in disgust.

Step Twenty One: Use lots of radio jargon. After all, it makes you feel important using words ordinary people don't say. Who cares if it makes you sound like you just fell off Channel 19 on the citizen's Band? Use phrases such as "Roger on that", "10-4", "I'm on the side", "Your making the trip" and "Negatory on that".

Step Twenty Two: Use excessive microphone gain. See just how loud you can make your audio. Make sure the audio gain is so high that other amateurs can hear any bugs crawling on your floor. If mobile, make sure the wind noise is loud enough that others have to strain to pick your words out from all the racket.

Step Twenty Three: Start every transmission with the word "Roger" or "QSL". Sure, you don't need to acknowledge that you received the other transmission in full. After all, you would simply ask for a repeat if you missed something. But consider it your gift to the other amateur to give him solace every few seconds that his transmissions are being received.

Step Twenty Four: When looking for a contact on a repeater, always say your "listening" or "monitoring" multiple times. I've always found that at least a half dozen times or so is good. Repeating your multiple "listening" ID's every 10 to 15 seconds is even better. Those people who didn't want to talk to

you will eventually call you, hoping you'll go away after you have finally made a contact.

Step Twenty Five: Always use a repeater, even if you can work the other station easily on simplex ... especially if you can make the contact on simplex. The coverage of the repeater you use should be inversely proportional to your distance from the other station.

Step Twenty Six: When on repeaters using courtesy tones, you should always say "over". Courtesy tones are designed to let everyone know when you have unkeyed but don't let that stop you. Say "over", "back to you" or "go ahead". It serves no useful purpose but don't worry, it's still fun!

Step Twenty Seven: Use the repeater's autopatch for frivolous routine calls... especially during morning or evening commute times. While pulling into the neighborhood, call home to let them know you'll be there in two minutes... or, call your spouse to complain about the bad day you had at work. After all, the club has "measured rate" service on their phone line so they get charged for each autopatch call. Your endeavor is to make so many patches in a year that you cost the club at least \$20 in phone bills. That way you'll feel you got your money's worth for your dues!

Step Twenty Eight: Never say "My name is" It makes you sound human. If at all possible, use one of the following phrases: a) "The personal here is..." b) "The handle here is..."

Step Twenty Nine: Use "73" and "88" incorrectly. Both are already considered plural, but add a "s" to the end anyway. Say "73's" or "88's". Who cares if it means "best regardses" and "love and kisseses." Better yet, say "seventy thirds"! (By the way, seventy thirds equals about 23.3).

Step Thirty: If the repeater is off the air for service, complain about the fact that it was off the air as soon as it's turned back on. Act as though your entire day has been ruined because the repeater wasn't available when you wanted to use it. Even though you have never paid a penny to help out with the upkeep of it.

These easy steps should put you well on your way to "LID-Hood". I hope these helpful hints will save you some time in your quest to sound like the perfect "LID" or an "idiot". I should also note that these steps need not apply to simplex operation, as nobody really gives a crap because that HTX-202 isn't going to get out too far with just a rubber duck.

Michael P. Illingby
VE7TFD



Take a good look around every room in your home, your ham shack as well as outside in your garage, shed and car. Consider all the things you would be sorry to lose or find hard to replace - then mark them. Particularly as Amateurs, we may have thousands of dollars worth of equipment in our car or home.

Remember that anything remotely useful or attractive is resalable. For instance, all your electrical and mechanical goods, household appliances, furniture, pictures, ornaments, antiques and silver, in fact anything can be a target of thieves. Garages and gardens sheds are also at risk. Protect your lawn mower and keep your tools locked up. They may well be used by an intruder to force his way into your home! Finally, always lock your car no matter where it is parked and remove any valuables from sight.

Marking is easy

Property Marking is a quick, easy Do-It-Yourself job, and it costs so little. For an outlay of only a few dollars and an hour or so of your time you could be saving yourself a great deal of money, inconvenience and personal anguish.

Permanent Marking

Engraving and punching identifies your property for good. Inexpensive tools and kits for the job can be bought from DIY and hardware stores. Improvising by scratching to save yourself the outlay is acceptable but might need a little extra care.

Invisible Marking

For antiques or other valuable property which might be devalued or spoiled by visible marking, there's an invisible ultra-violet marker. Burglars cannot see it, but if something marked is stolen police can identify it with a special ultra-violet lamp. UV markers are available from most good DIY stores and stationers at around three dollars. It's important to remember that UV marking fades and will need to be renewed every so often.

There are three ways of marking:

Engraving

with an electric engraving tool, fine drill or other sharp-pointed tool. Use a template or stencil - or simply do it freehand.

UV marking

the invisible method using an ultra-violet pen. Simple to use - but needs renewing periodically.

Punching

With a hammer and a set of punches bearing marking information. Use only on heavier metal - items such as bicycles, mowers or engines.

Note that aluminium is easily damaged by punching and should not be marked in this way.

What to engrave

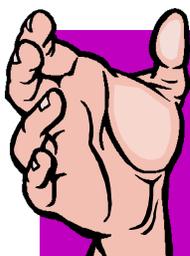
At one time it was suggested that you mark your property with your SIN number. This is no longer the case. Police cannot readily trace SIN numbers, complicating the return of your property. Drivers License (DL) numbers however, can be tracked from any mobile police terminal in seconds! In most cases, police who find property in the hands of suspicious characters will attempt to verify it immediately via the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC). Stolen property from across Canada is entered on this system and it can be accessed in seconds. Engraving the DL Province of issue before the number will assist police, for example:

BC DL 1234567

In the case of a business or organization, police agencies will issue an 'Operation Provident' number. This Program is meant to provide an easily traced number to identify ownership where it is not the property of a single individual.

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...an engraved driver's license number is your best chance of recovering a stolen radio



Field Day: VECTOR's Millennium Field Day

The Vancouver Emergency Community Telecommunications Organization (VECTOR) held its inaugural 'Millennium' Field Day at Queen Elizabeth Park, an extinct volcano in the center of Vancouver. In addition to being one of the highest points in the city, the park is also a very popular family and tourist destination, an ideal showcase for the event.

The week leading up to Field Day had been proclaimed as Amateur Radio Week in the city by Mayor Phillip Owen and Council. A beautifully framed proclamation was presented to VECTOR Vice-President Fred Chen (VE7LNX) by the Mayor, accompanied by some very complimentary remarks about the volunteer efforts of VECTOR members on behalf of the Vancouver Emergency Program.

Once news of Field Day became known within the Program, VECTOR received offers of support from throughout the other city emergency services. The Vancouver Parks Board provided the necessary permits, 24-hour washroom access, tables and chairs. The Vancouver Urban Search & Rescue Team (USAR) offered the use of their tents and a portable generator. The Salvation Army mobile kitchen looked after some of the culinary requirements capably directed by VE7VPE and VE7WTX, the Vancouver Emergency Social Services (ESS) provided cots, the Vancouver Police Department provided logistics and security and the City Risk and Emergency Management office provided additional support.

Setup was done on Friday evening and progressed much quicker than anticipated. Two tents were setup, a large rectangular tent for operations and a smaller tent that easily accommodated 8 cots for overnights. A 30-foot portable mast was erected and served as the center point for an inverted 'V'. On top was a 2-meter vertical. Nearby, a Cushcraft R7000 was

wire-mesh fence.

With the help of our 'Elmers' VA7NT, VE7LNX, VE7ZD, and VE7HU, many of our members who had never operated HF had an opportunity to make their first long distance contacts. VECTOR operated as a class 2A station and made a total of 506 contacts. One of the highlights of the event were the contacts made on VE7ZD's lemon-powered station. Canada Safeway donated 300 lemons that were wired together in cells of 4 using alternating strips of brass and zinc. To everyone's amazement 6 contacts were made thereby qualifying for the natural power category. We also recycled our power source and had a large supply of fresh lemonade for our visitors to enjoy.

VECTOR owns a 56Kb packet radio station. The equipment was set-up and operating with full Internet browsing capability on the World Wide Web. A UHF Yagi was mounted on the mast and pointed towards Mount Seymour with excellent results.



intriguing to him was the dish antenna made from an empty one-gallon paint can!

The sometimes unpredictable Vancouver showers did not materialize... OK, there were a few drops during the night, and it was a pleasant weekend. At the end of operations on Sunday we were a tired but satisfied group and during take-down, plans were already being made for a bigger and better event for next year.

More photos next two pages

VECTOR received offers of support from the other city emergency services

Field Day Photos







The Vancouver Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Program

The City of Vancouver's Risk and Emergency Management Division in co-operation with the Vancouver Fire and Rescue Service and other City organizations and groups are presently developing a city wide Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Program.

The goal of this program is to provide communities with the information, training, and skills necessary to be self-sufficient for seventy-two hours after a disaster. It will teach families and individuals to minimize hazards, to be prepared, and to act quickly and appropriately in a major emergency. Those who are interested, will be given information and training on how to inventory their immediate neighbourhood for skills and equipment that may be needed after a disaster; on how to establish neighbourhood emergency teams to assist in fire suppression, light rescue, damage assessment, first aid, shelter and care giving. Neighbourhood teams would be trained to report the status of their neighbourhoods to emergency shelters. Information would then be relayed to the City's Emergency Operations Center so that support could be directed to areas of greatest need. With the ability to communicate, VECTOR is the ideal partner in this program. We hope Vancouver Amateurs will want to join their neighbourhood team.

The program is slated for a September 2000 start date. For more information, regarding the Vancouver Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Program, please contact Robert Bryan, Emergency Planning Co-ordinator at 871-6306 or via e-mail at robert_bryan@city.vancouver.bc.ca



Dates to Remember

Following the very successful Spring 2000 course, the 2nd VECTOR Basic Amateur Radio Course starts on October 10th from 1830 - 2130 hrs. The course will be held on successive Tuesdays (except October 31st (Halloween) until November 21st. One optional Saturday class is included on November 4th from 0800 - 1200 hrs for the antenna building workshop and EM/2000 training. Cost is \$80.00 including all materials and the exam fee but it must be pre-paid by September 6th to reserve a spot. The last course filled quickly and it will be first come, first served.

An Emergency Social Services (ESS) Course is planned for Saturday October 28th, 0900 - 1200 hrs. This is a JIBC course which provides a thorough review of ESS operations, purpose and the relationship to Amateur Radio.

The VECTOR Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 28th, 1900 - 2100 hrs.

A Morse Code Course will be offered for those who wish to upgrade to HF privileges starting on January 2, 2001 from 1830 - 2030 hrs for 8 consecutive Tuesdays.

All the above will be held in the Media Room at EComm, 3301 East Pender Street, Vancouver. To reserve your spot, call Paulette at 450-8009 or better yet e-mail her at ve7vpe@rac.ca.

British Paratroopers Turn to Morse Code

British paratroopers serving in Sierra Leone had to use Morse code because their aging communications system was not secure enough for combat.

Commanders believed that putting messages into Morse would be safer than using voice transmissions via Clansman, the British Army's 30-year-old radio system, because the system can be intercepted. Budgetary restraints meant paratroopers had to use 40-year-old Browning machine guns as their main fire support weapon, a source in the Parachute Regiment said.

Neighbourhood teams would be trained to report the status of their neighbourhood to emergency shelters



A Thousand Marbles

The older I get, the more I enjoy Saturday mornings. Perhaps it's the quiet solitude that comes with being the first to rise, or maybe it's the unbounded joy of not having to be at work. Either way, the first few hours of a Saturday morning are most enjoyable.

A few weeks ago, I was shuffling toward the basement shack with a steaming cup of coffee in one hand and the morning paper in the other. What began as a typical Saturday morning, turned into one of those lessons that life seems to hand you from time to time. I turned the dial up into the phone portion of the band on my ham radio in order to listen to a Saturday morning swap net. Along the way, I came across an older sounding chap, with a tremendous signal and a golden voice. You know the kind, he sounded like he should be in the broadcasting business. He was telling whoever he was talking with something about "a thousand marbles."

I was intrigued and stopped to listen to what he had to say. "Well, Tom, it sure sounds like you're busy with your job. I'm sure they pay you well but it's a shame you have to be away from home and your family so much. Hard to believe a young fellow should have to work sixty or seventy hours a week to make ends meet. Too bad you missed your daughter's dance recital."

He continued, "let me tell you something, Tom, something that has helped me keep a good perspective on my own priorities." And that's when he began to explain his theory of a "thousand marbles."

"You see, I sat down one day and did a little arithmetic. The average person lives about seventy-five years. I know, some live more and some live less, but on average, folks live about seventy-five years. Now then, I multiplied 75 times 52 and I came up with 3900 which is the number of Saturdays that the average person has in their entire lifetime. Now stick with me Tom, I'm getting to the important part."

"It took me until I was fifty-five years old to think about all this in any detail," he went on, "and by that time I had lived through over twenty-eight hundred Saturdays. I got to thinking that if I lived to be seventy-five, I only had about a thousand of them left to enjoy."

"So I went to a toy store and bought every single marble they had. I ended up having to visit three toy stores to roundup 1000 marbles. I took them home and put them inside of a large, clear plastic container right here in the shack next to my gear. Every Saturday since then, I have taken one marble out and thrown it away."

"I found that by watching the marbles diminish, I focused more on the really important things in life. There is nothing like watching your time here on, this earth run out to help get your priorities straight."

"Now let me tell you one last thing before I sign-off with you and take my lovely wife out for breakfast. This morning, I took the very last marble out of the container. I figure if I make it until next Saturday then I have been given a little extra time. And the one thing we can all use is a little more time."

"It was nice to meet you Tom, I hope you spend more time with your family, and I hope to meet you again here on the band. 73 Old Man, this is K9NZQ, clear and going QRT, good morning!"

You could have heard a pin drop on the band when this fellow signed off. I guess he gave us all a lot to think about. I had planned to work on the antenna that morning, and then I was going to meet up with a few hams to work on the next club newsletter. Instead, I went upstairs and woke my wife up with a kiss. "C'mon honey, I'm taking you and the kids to breakfast."

"What brought this on?" she asked with a smile. "Oh, nothing special, it's just been a long time since we spent a Saturday together with the kids. Hey, can we stop at a toy store while we're out? I need to buy some marbles."

...watching the marbles diminish, I focused more on the really important things in life

WE SUPPORT



(Continued from page 6)

Where to mark your property

Where you mark your property matters, particularly if you are using the engraving method. If you prefer the mark to remain out of sight, you'll obviously choose somewhere behind or underneath the article. If you purchase a used item that has been marked, engrave a single line through the previous marking and place your DL number above or below it.

The really important thing to remember is to select a surface that can't be removed without spoiling the basic appearance or performance of the article.

Keep a record of your property

You can protect items that

can't be marked, and those that can, by keeping a record of them. A simple and effective way of doing this is to photograph each item, preferably in colour, paying special attention to any distinguishing marks such as initials or crests which may be used to identify the item. Take the photograph against a plain background and include a ruler to give an idea of size.

Use the record form to keep a list of the items you have marked and where the marks are. It's a good idea to give a second copy of the list and the photographs to someone you trust for them to look after. If you have property stolen, be prepared to provide copies of serial numbers and photos to police.

Do not advertise your absence

We all chat on the various repeaters but we do not always know who is listening in. The AR bands are open to monitoring by many people including unscrupulous ones with scanners.

Mention of your intended absence on holidays may be advertising for those with criminal intentions to pay you a visit. As you know, the RAC database is readily available to anyone with an Internet connection and it takes only minutes to look up your call-sign for your address.

For more advice on marking or protecting your property, contact your local police station.

Is Your Year 2000 Membership Renewal Due?

If you became a **VECTOR** member prior October 1st, 1999, your \$5 per year membership for '2000' may be past due. If you are not renewing, you can still receive the newsletter on the City of Vancouver Web site at:

<http://www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/police/structure/op-support/oas/events/hamradio.html>



VECTOR NET

VECTOR hosts an Amateur Radio emergency preparedness net Wednesdays at 8 PM — except the first Wednesday of the month which is BCFMCA net night.

Please tune in to the BCFMCA VE7RPT repeater at 146.940 MHz (-600 KHz) and join in.

VANCOUVER EMERGENCY COMMUNITY TELECOMMUNICATIONS ORGANIZATION

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Full Name _____ Date of Birth (YY-MM-DD) _____

Address _____

E-Mail _____

Home Phone _____ Business Phone _____

Call-Sign _____

First-time Registration Fee \$5.00 Enclosed

Annual Renewal \$5.00 Enclosed

Licensed Amateur

Unlicensed Public Communications Volunteer

for NEW members:

**Vancouver Police Department
 Services Liaison Section – VECTOR
 312 Main Street
 Vancouver, B. C.
 V6A 2T2**

Phone: (604) 717-3068

Fax: (604) 665-3913

Email:

vector@ci ty. vancouver. bc. ca

License Class

Basic

5 WPM

12 WPM

Advanced

I hereby authorize the Vancouver Police Department to conduct a confidential criminal records check

Signature _____

Please send all other mail to: E-Comm – VECTOR, 3301 East Pender Street, Vancouver, BC V5K 5J3