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BCYLARA Issues Challenge to Women Across Canada



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Canada's Amateur Radio Magazine

La Revue des Radioamateurs Canadiens



A WEST COAST LF ADVENTURE



Introducing
New ARES
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BRITISH COLUMBIA YL ASSOCIATION ISSUES CHALLENGE

Elizabeth Baggoo, VE7TLK/VA7TK

The British Columbia YL Amateur Radio Association (BCYLARA) challenges women across Canada to form their own provincial YL Amateur Radio association.

YLs can accomplish much when they work together with other YLs within an association. To attract more women to Amateur Radio and increase the number of women active on-air, YLs need to support one another, express enthusiasm for what they do and support their local ARC. Your willingness to help new hams get started and to make them feel comfortable when learning new skills speaks well for the ham community and will attract more men and women to become licensed Amateur Radio operators.

BCYLARA is a strong supporter of the Canada Ladies Amateur Radio Association (CLARA) and encourages its members to join this national YL organization. However, it does recognize that Canada is a vast country, and it is easier to help, support and encourage women at the provincial/local levels who show interest in becoming Amateur Radio operators and/or are already licensed.

BCYLARA has accomplished a great deal since 1999 and believes it can serve as a reference model to other Canadian YLs, living outside BC who can see the benefits of forming their own YL Association. BCYLARA recommends that interested YLs get together and discuss how they might reach out to other women in their province to form their own YL Association. Note: BCYLARA welcomes OM membership and their presence in all Nets and YL Conferences.

BCYLARA Mission

- To recognize, encourage, and support Canadian lady Amateur Radio operators.
- To increase YL participation in all aspects of Amateur Radio
- To improve YL Amateur Radio knowledge and skills.
- To provide Amateur Radio communications to their community when needed.

BCYLARA History

In 1998, Elizabeth, VE7TLK, was appointed CLARA Area Representative for VE7-land. Because YLs are greatly outnumbered in the Amateur Radio service, Elizabeth recognized the need for YLs to communicate with each other and with the larger ham community.

YLs throughout BC were contacted via email/phone to ask them if they would like to participate in YL Nets and attend YL Conferences. Their enthusiasm and interest prompted Elizabeth, in 1999, to activate the YL West Coast 2m VHF Net, 80m HF Dogwood Net and organize the first annual YL Conference.

This first YL conference, with the support of the North Shore Amateur Radio Club (NSARC), focused on DX. In addition, many demonstration centers were set up to address topics such as: APRS, Software Logging Programs, Emergency Packet and Emergency Power Preparedness.

Elizabeth also suggested at this conference that a YL website was needed to enable the YL group to communicate with the larger ham community — provincially, nationally and worldwide. The YLs agreed, and in January 2000, Elizabeth became webmaster of this YLRADIO website and fully responsible for its technical and content management. This unique and informative BCYLARA website has drawn much attention from hams and marine historians worldwide due to its content appeal. Its web address is <www.ylradio.ca>.

The YL2000 conference held at ECOMM was co-organized by VECTOR President Paulette, VE7VPE and Heather, VE7WTX. The program emphasis was on "YLs — Being Prepared!"

The YL2001 conference, coordinated by Elizabeth, VE7TLK, played a pivotal role in the formation of BCYLARA. One of the program's three focuses was: "How Can YLs Help Other YLs?" Elizabeth encouraged the YLs to volunteer and assume leadership roles — and volunteer they did, forming a cooperative, hard-working YL group. Doreen, VE7IYL, was appointed CLARA VE7 Rep for 2001 to 2003.

The following YL2002 conference in Coquitlam, BC was held in the Coquitlam Senior ARC meeting room and organized by Barb, VE7CZM.

To better define the YL group, a decision was made to call it the British Columbia YL Amateur Radio Association, or by the acronym BCYLARA. An executive was elected for a two-year term: President Elizabeth, VE7TLK/VA7TK and Secretary/Treasurer Paulette, VE7VPE/VA7PMS.

In early March 2002, the first International YL IRLP Net was launched by Glenna, VE7DSC and Elizabeth, VE7TLK. These YLs demonstrated this new digital mode at the YL2002 Conference by making contact with a couple of hams in South Africa who willingly stayed up to 3 am, their time to make this QSO possible. This IRLP net, with its many check-ins, was shut down in December 2004 after almost two years of operation, for lack of Net Control Operators, but was replaced in 2005 by an IRLP/EchoLink Net managed by a New Zealand YL, Ann, ZL3TNT.

The YL2003 Salmon Arm Conference — coordinated by Gail, VE7ARO, Bev, VE7BDV and Grace, VE7IGB — included a Morse Code presentation encouraging the YLs to upgrade to the HF bands. Later that day, each YL built their own 2m dipole antenna with the help of the Shuswap ARC members. Gail, VE7ARO, was appointed the CLARA VE7 Representative.

That same summer, wildfires broke out in many BC communities. Many of these YLs and OMs provided emergency radio communications, supported ESS and volunteered to help the Red Cross. Two YLs deserve mention. First is Westbank's, Leona VE7ONY, a dedicated ESS YL, who helped Red Cross in Kamloops for four days and then returned home to find Kelowna on fire! She then spent five weeks (with three one-day breaks) in the EOC fire hall with 12 to 14 hour shifts daily. The second YL, Paulette, VE7VPE, then President of VECTOR, was called upon to put together a team to supply relief Amateur Radio operators for five days which involved a trek to Kelowna from Vancouver, BC.



YL2004 BCYLARA Conference held in the North Shore Amateur Radio Club (NSARC) meeting room, North Vancouver, BC. Elizabeth, VE7TLK/VA7TK, was Conference Coordinator.

In Spring 2004, at the North Vancouver Conference, with Elizabeth, VE7TLK, as coordinator, Gail, VE7ARO, was elected President and Bev, VE7BDV, Secretary/Treasurer, both of Salmon Arm. An Okanagan Falls YL, Jan, VE7TST, became the next CLARA Representative. During Gail's first year in office, she and Glenna, VE7DSC, drafted a BCYLARA Constitution which was then sent out to the membership for their valued input. This BCYLARA Constitution was passed unanimously at the YL2005 BCYLARA Conference Annual General Meeting in Parksville, BC. Gail and Glenna are to be congratulated for a job very well done!

At the BCYLARA YL 2005 Parksville Conference on Vancouver Island, coordinated by Bev, VE7BEV, Marg, VE7MRM and Evelyn, VE7EEW, with Mid Island Radio Association (MIRA) support, the program focused on ESS, Emergency Messaging Techniques and how the RAC's Youth Education Program can motivate youth to participate in Amateur Radio emergency communication. Marilyn, VE7IIN, of Pitt Meadows, volunteered to be the CLARA VE7 Representative. At this same conference, BCYLARA demonstrated its concern and support for women in need of help, by making donations to three women charities: Aurora Centre, YWCA Crabtree Corner/Sheway Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter.

The upcoming YL2006 BCYLARA Conference will be held on Saturday, May 6 in Kelowna, BC. The YL Coordinators are: Marilyn VE7MWS, Elfe, VE7ELF, Betty-Ann, VA7BAB, Genie, VE7GVW, Rosie, VA7LOB and Leona, VE7ONY. YLs/OMs are invited! Orchard City ARC (OCARC) Ham Flea Market & Pancake Breakfast planned for Sunday, May 7! For details of this upcoming conference, stay tuned to the YLRADIO Conference Website. Rumours are spreading that this year's conference may well be the best ever!

The YLRADIO website deserves further mention, especially its YL Stories on WWII women who served aboard Norwegian Merchant Navy vessels as ship wireless operators. Two BC women, Elizabeth, VE7YL, of Richmond, BC and Olive, VE7ERA, now living in Edmonton, AB, wrote these articles. These stories document the brave women whose ships crossed the ocean many times during the Battle of the Atlantic 1939 to 1945 in U-boat infested waters. If it were not for these BC YLs, who served as ship wireless operators on Norwegian merchant ships during the immediate Post War years, this historical information might have been lost! Visit the YLRADIO homepage and click on "The Unknown Few..." Thank you to BCYLARA for supporting this impressive website!



Upcoming YL2006 BCYLARA Conference in Kelowna, BC: YLs on Committee are members of CORD EOC Call Out Team. (From left) Marilyn, VE7MWS, Genie, VE7GVW, Leona, VE7ONY, Betty-Ann, VA7BAB and Elfe, VE7ELF. Absent was Rosie VA7LOB.

NOTE TO ACCREDITED EXAMINERS

Accredited Examiners (AE) authorized by Industry Canada should check their expiry date! The authority for most examiners in Canada expires on December 31, 2005, and according to Industry Canada, IC will not send reminders to AE's. If you are uncertain as to your Examiner expiry date, you can check it at <www.rac.ca/regulatory/examiner.htm>.

To renew, complete the form included in *Radiocommunications Information Circular-1* (RIC-1), obtain the signature of your sponsoring Amateur Radio club, and mail the application to the Amateur Radio Service Centre (ARSC) in Ottawa. All RIC documents can be downloaded from the RAC website (www.rac.ca > Site Index > Industry Canada Documents).

After sending the renewal form, within a couple of weeks you will receive a letter from the ARSC confirming your renewed status as an AE and showing a new expiry date, about two years later. Don't worry if your renewed status does not appear on the web examiner list for a while; Industry Canada only updates the list of AE's every few months. RAC will post each updated list as soon as it is released by Industry Canada.

ACCREDITED EXAMINERS ACROSS CANADA

As of November 28, 2005 about 507 Accredited Examiners are listed in Canada. The table below shows the number of AE's in each Province and Territory, together with the number of Examiners per 1000 call signs in each region.

Region	# of Examiners	# of Examiners Per 1000 Call Signs
BC	106	8.9
AB	45	8.8
SK	19	13.3
MB	16	8.9
ON	159	8.3
QC	87	5.7
NB	28	16.3
NS	22	9.5
NL & LB	13	9.8
PEI	8	24.4*
YT	3	20.8*
NT & NU	1	12.8*
TOTAL	507	8.3 Ave.

*These regions contain fewer than 1000 call signs.

Prepared by Ed Frazer, VE7EF - Director, RAC, BC & Yukon - <ve7ef@rac.ca>

BCYLARA has accomplished a great deal since its first YL Conference in 1999. To hold eight consecutive conferences in eight years, create the YLRADIO website, and activate IRLP, 80m and VHF YL Nets is quite an accomplishment for any Amateur Radio group, especially one that has a membership dispersed throughout a large province like British Columbia.

BCYLARA encourages YLs in each Canadian province to accept the "YL Challenge", and like BC, reach out to women and form their own unique YL Amateur Radio Association!

YL NETS (Open to YLs/OM's)

YL 2M Shuswap YL Net - Mon., 8 pm, 146.760MHz (-)

Orchard City ARC YL Net - Wed., 7:30 pm, 147.000 + 147.000 MHz

HF 80 Metre YL Net - 1st & 3rd Tues. 3:15z or 7:15PST, SSB on 3.748 MHz (+ or - QRM)

IRLP/EchoLink YL Net - See YLRADIO for Net details

Pacific Coast CLARA 2m/EchoLink Net -

See YLRADIO for Net details.

BCYLARA Conference web site:
<http://www.qsl.net/yradio/confer.html>

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