

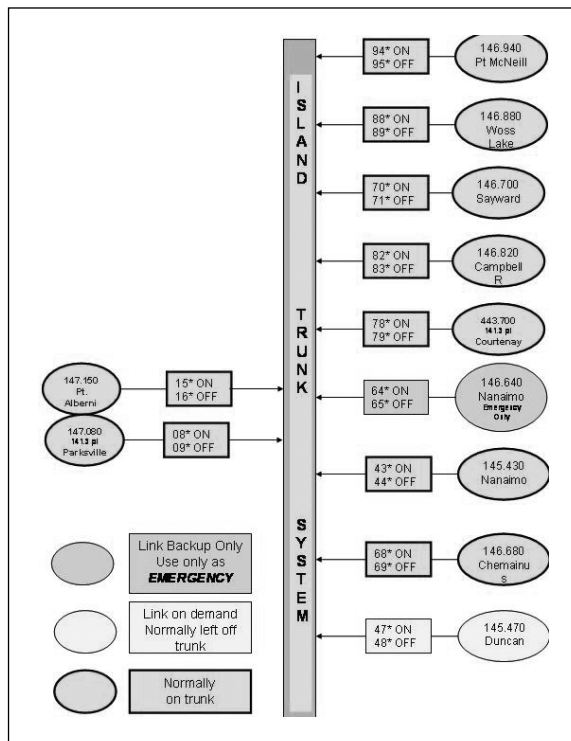


Congratulations to a number of members who have recently received licenses, e.g., KD7RAB, KE7BVA, KE7BVB, KE7DKQ, KE7DTF, KN0TEE, KN0TME. Last month we had our quarterly meeting and members brought new 2m equipment to the meeting for use this summer. We discussed programs for

the next year and there was also discussion about the changes in Amateur Radio repeaters on Vancouver Island, which I will discuss in this article. Further details can be obtained from the Cowichan Valley Amateur Radio Society ([www.cvars.com](http://www.cvars.com)) and the BC Boater's net ([www.qsl.net/bcfn](http://www.qsl.net/bcfn)). If the website [www.cvars.com](http://www.cvars.com) does not work – try the other site: [www.qsl.net/bcfn](http://www.qsl.net/bcfn) or <http://www.toandos.com>.

## BC Maritime Nets

The following chart shows the “Island Trunk System.” Prior to 2005 the 147.32 repeater was the primary contact point for 2m maritime Amateur Radio. Since last year a number of BC Amateur Radio Operators have linked repeaters useful to mariners providing wider coverage.



The effect of the linked systems is a continuous system spanning Vancouver Island. In the above block diagram the GREEN blocks (i.e., 147.15, 147.08, 146.68, 145.43,

146.82, 146.7, 146.88, 146.94) repeaters are always connected (the CVARS website has the diagram in color). You can program in the above frequencies on your transceiver to make the system easier to use. The BLUE repeater (145.47) is not permanently connected to the trunk but can be called up by pressing 47\* for ON and 48\* for OFF on your transceiver keypad (don't forget to use your call sign before accessing the codes). The ORANGE repeater (146.64) is a back-up repeater and is only used on demand in the event that the primary repeater has failed (emergencies). The Link System provides reliable mobile coverage over most of the east and some of the west coast of Vancouver Island, Vancouver and points east out to Hope. The group asks that you remember to identify yourself before sending trunk linking codes. If you are unsure of how to access the system - key up the closest repeater and ask for assistance.

The Cowichan Valley Amateur Radio Society maintains VE7RNA on 146.680MHz (-600) near Chemainus at 4000 feet (1219.2 meters), giving it a very large coverage area. It covers northwestern Washington, greater Vancouver including the lower Fraser Valley, and much of the eastern side of southern Vancouver Island. The repeater is solar powered with a battery bank but the power can go down during prolonged cloudy weather. The repeater is also connected to the IRLP system through a UHF linking repeater on 442.600. This is linked to the primary repeater - 146.680. (Source: CVARS, BC Boater's net website, and personal communications).

If you are out of range of the repeaters and have HF equipment on board you can check into 3.855 MHz at 1800 PDT (BC Boater's Net) or 3.865 MHz at 0830 PT (Northwest Boater's Net).

## BC Amateur Radio Boating Pennant

Ron Drinkwater, VE7AIX (formerly VE7LEA), designed this marine Amateur Radio pennant. It is individually handmade by Ruth Reader, VE7BAG, and is now flown in 12 countries. If you would like one – contact Ruth at (250) 746-5831, [rreader@shaw.ca](mailto:rreader@shaw.ca), or write to: 140 Campbell Street, Duncan, B.C. V9L 3G8.

W7SYC - For more information about the Seattle Yacht Club Amateur Radio Committee: send an email to [radio@seattleyachtclub.org](mailto:radio@seattleyachtclub.org) or tune into the Amateur Radio Committee web page in the SYC website members area. 73s

