NARA NVIS Tests

Near Vertical Incident Skywave Tests by the Nanaimo Amateur Radio Assocation

The Nanaimo Amateur Radio Association continues its NVIS tests and invites you and your local club members to partisipate in its radio propagation tests on the 60m band.

For our next series of tests in December 2026 we are going to try something a little different. On this occasion we are going to start our tests a little before sunset and continue after sunset when the D-layer will dissipate and longer distances on the band should become available.

Here is the essential information:

Date: **Saturday December 26, 2026**
Time: **3:30 pm to 7 pm BC time**
Time GMT/UTC: **22:30 to 02:00 (on Dec 27)**
Callsign: **VE7NA**
Mode: **USB**
Frequency: **5.346.5 MHz** (dial frequency)
(On channelized equipment use 5.348 MHz)

We have chosen the date of our next test window because the 26th of December is the shortest day of the year for BC. Barring a solar storm we expect that daylight ranges, using wire antennas and 100 watts of SSB, to be up to 500/600 Km. However, after sunset when the D-layer is expected to dissipate fairly quickly we expect longer distance communication.

The scenario for these tests is to simulate voice communication (USB) from an emergency operations centre (EOC) attempting to communicate on the 60m band over several hundreds of kilometres. After sunset ranges should increase.

One of the reasons why the Amateur Radio service gained access to the 60m band in 2002 was because because this frequency was recognized as being very useful for emergency communications. Many amateur radio stations may not have a dedicated 60m band antenna. However, with some ingenuity amateurs should be able to load up one of their wire antennas in order to radiate a signal on the 60m amateur band.

During these tests, NARA's club station, VE7NA, will act as net control. VE7NA will put out calls every five minutes or so and invite signal reports.

NARA invites you to please consider joining us during this three and a half hour test window. We also want to wish you the compliments of the season of course.

If you are not able to get on the air NARA will welcome emailed reports to nvis@ve7na.ca. Let us know if you hear us or not and also if you hear any other stations over say 100 Km from your location.

Any queries and test reports should be sent to:

nvis@ve7na.ca

Looking forward to working you on the 60m band

73 de NARA

(Located on the East cost of Vancouver island)

NARA
Nanaimo Amateur Radio Association