

Three Canadian Amateurs Are Now Authorized on the 8m Band

From the Canada Amateur Radio Operators group on Facebook:

**Bernard Bastien**

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I would like to announce that I have been granted a radio license from ISED, authorizing me to operate an experimental station on the 8 meter band (40 MHz) under the call sign CYA373.

In Canada, this part of the radio spectrum is reserved for industrial / scientific / medical applications, and is prohibited for radio amateurs. Through the Developmental License Program of ISED, I submitted a request to be able to join the collaborative effort carried out by a small group of specially authorized radio amateurs in the USA and Europe, to study the parameters of DX propagation in the 8-meter band with the use of narrow-band transmissions. This request has been granted, and the license parameters were finalized with ISED's Spectrum Management Operations Branch.

In Canada, only two other stations are licensed in this band: VX9DCC in the London (Ontario) area for a meteor radar used in a university research project, and CGB209 in the Vancouver area for an experimental station like mine. In the USA, as far as I know, only seven stations have obtained licenses similar to mine. We will therefore be nine radio stations trying to communicate with each other on the American continent in the coming year.

However, all radio amateurs around the world have access to RX on these frequencies and are encouraged to monitor them and to record reception reports! That is what makes this project interesting for us, and could eventually lead to the allocation of this band to amateur radio in the future. Make sure your receiving software (WSJT-X or other) is configured to submit your spots to PSK Reporter and/or WSPRnet.

Starting December 1, I will be occasionally transmitting during daytime hours, starting with beacon type transmissions in WSPR mode or FT8 mode, on 40.670 or 40.680 at about 20 to 50 watts through a half-wave coupled resonator in my antenna array.

Occasionally, on weekends, I will be in QSO mode at 100 watts on 40.680 during the day, or in MSK144 mode at the end of the night with pre-scheduled stations.

A more precise schedule of transmissions will be defined and published in a couple of weeks.

Planned for next spring is to replace the antenna resonator by a second stacked double-diamond loops devoted to 8-meter (the one in the photo is a double-diamond for 6-meter with a 8-meter resonator parallel to the supporting dipole.)

