



# *Turpitude*

Slanapa 478

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Now, look at that picture, will you! Does that look like a great place to operate amateur radio? And you are not seeing all the antennas; there are five more! By the time you get this mailing, I will be ensconced in the operating room of the above cozy farmhouse, with radio equipment on every side of me. Let me tell you how this came about.

Back around last Christmas, Jerry Ball, N7FYP, and I were pondering where we could go for an adventure. (You will recall my Alaska Adventure of two years ago ~ I wanted something akin to that.) We thought of The Falkland Islands, but airfare is pretty high to get there, what with having to go through Chile, etc. For a long time the Yukon Territory looked good; there is a little town on the Alaska Highway just over the provincial border that looked great. Then we checked the weather reports: highs in the upper 20s F and lows to -17 F. Ooooh, no, too cold to be out putting up antennas in the snow. Then we came up with Prince Edward Island.

PEI looked pretty good. Airfare was only \$600 roundtrip, weather wasn't too bad. Hmm. We checked in with the airlines to see how much hassle

we would have to put up with to take our radios aboard. Wow, quite a bit of trouble, what with the Terrorist fears and all. We contemplated our situation. It would not be satisfactory to go on an adventure without amateur radio.

I was dinging around on the internet a couple of days later and stumbled on peidxlodge.com. Someone had a house, an ultra-modern station, and two acres of antennas available for rent! Say, now this would be something: fancy equipment that we will never be able to afford ourselves, the equipment is all ready in place and wouldn't have to be hauled, and an antenna field that will reach out and touch millions! Should we do it? It took no time and not much conversation between Jerry and me to decide that this would be our adventure!

We began planning it for the Islands on the Air contest in July, 2010. One day Jerry mentioned that he is 69 years old and he may not be in shape for an adventure in eighteen months. Fine business with me; I'm ready to go anytime. We checked the house schedule and the first convenient time was November 16 through 24, the ARRL Sweepstakes Contest

(more on that later).

I checked with Sue to see what she thought about the idea. Well, she wasn't pleased with me galavanting around and leaving her home alone. But after a couple days, she allowed as how I could do it. I owe her. Jerry's wife said, Go to it! So we started making real plans.

The house rents for six days for \$1000 for the first ham, an additional \$500 for the second ham, no charge for non-hams. This seemed a little odd, but it was acceptable at \$750 each.

The airfare was \$600 on Expedia.com when I checked it originally, but by the time we went there to actually book our flights it had gone up to \$900. We quickly bought the tickets before they could go up again ~~ which they did to \$1200 now. It's a crazy world out there: I thought something like airfare would stay the same. Guess not.

Six days in the house playing radio sounded nice, but we figured that we should do some sightseeing, too. Our flight leaves Portland, Oregon, at 6:30 pm and gets to Charlottetown, PEI, at 1:00 pm the following day. We figured that we'd be tired after a flight like that, so we allowed that afternoon to go to book stores, then to a bed and breakfast and crash. The second day would be the tourist day and we will go see the Provincial Museum and stuff like that. We aren't so lacking in depth that all we want to do is play radio.

So a couple of B&Bs, some meals out, used and rare books, airfare, house rent, and our budget comes out to \$2500 each for the trip. That is just a little bit more than the Alaska Adventure. Not bad, says I.

Oh, my gosh. Meals. What will we eat for six days? Jerry doesn't want to talk about this. I don't have many ideas but I figure I can always make spaghetti. I will let you know how this un-planned aspect works out.

There you are. Those are the plans. Next *Turpitude* should have the story of what really happened. It seems inevitable that that won't be much like what we have planned now!

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My friend Rich and I spent a night in a tourist hotel in the red light district of Ketchikan. The Ladies are still working that area dilligently.

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I received a letter from Joan Taylor, the University of Iowa professor who joined us Western Slanapas for a meeting last February or March. She wanted us to know that she was thinking of SLANs quite a bit and was sorry that she has not been in touch with us. She blamed it on giving birth. Perhaps we shall yet see an inkling of what she had/has in mind for Slanapa!

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Gary, my printer is a HP Officejet. It is in the \$900 range and prints fairly well. It doesn't do nearly as good a job as the Xerox wax printer we had, but is acceptable. Besides, it is Sue's and her real estate business pays for all the toner!

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I have my own therapist with DVA now. I am taking a Dielectric (?) course from them; maybe I'll learn some radio theory. Anyway, they will change my behavior and my mind so that I will be happy. Maybe. I'll try to keep you posted, even though I think it will be difficult to talk about.

Mike