

VE5AA

April 2004

# The Feedline

SASKATOON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



**John (VA5RJA) Station setup:- HF-** Kenwood TS450S, Astron RS35M Power supply. **2m-** Icom V8000. **Antennas-**G5RV and a 40-80m trapped dipole inverted V and an 80m horizontal loop to go up soon. Also a homemade J-Pole. **Mobile-**Icom 2100H to a 5/8 mag mount.



**Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club**

P.O. BOX 751  
Saskatoon, SK S7K 3L7  
[ve5aa@qsl.net](mailto:ve5aa@qsl.net)  
<http://www.qsl.net/ve5aa>

**Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club  
Meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday  
of each month September til June.**

**Our meeting location is Alvin  
Buckwold School  
715 East Drive – West entrance  
Meeting is 0130Z (7:30PM local)  
VISITORS AND GUESTS ARE  
ALWAYS WELCOME!**



**ARES  
Saskatoon**

**NEXT ARES MEETING**

**Monday, Apr.19, 2004  
7:00 PM  
CITY HOSPITAL  
ROOM 8313**

Emergency power management

<http://www.ares-saskatoon.ca/>

## **NEXT CLUB MEETING**

Tuesday, April 13, 2004  
7:30 PM

ALVIN BUCKWOLD SCHOOL  
715 East Drive  
West entrance

**BE THERE!**

## **April Meeting**

**Election of the following:  
Vice-president  
Treasurer  
2 Directors**

**Further nominations will be  
accepted at the meeting  
with elections to follow  
immediately.**

# **COFFEE**

Saturdays at 10 A.M.

**Smiley's  
on 8<sup>th</sup> St.**

Everyone is welcome. Hams,  
non-Hams, it doesn't matter.  
Were there to have good  
conversation with good  
friends.

**C'mon out and visit!**

**MINUTES**  
**SASKATOON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**  
**March 9, 2004**

President Ron, VE5RMS opened the meeting at 7:30 P.M. and welcomed all, including guests Bob and Warren. He thanked Ned, VE5NED for chairing the last meeting in his absence.

The minutes of the last regular meeting were accepted as circulated in THE FEEDLINE on a motion by Eric, VE5HG, seconded by Andy, VE5APD.

There has not been any further action on dealing with the interference to the school's PA system and probably won't be until the roof conditions improve.

CLASSES: Ned, VE5NED reported that Per Jacobsen had passed the basic license requirements and that Diane Beaulé had now passed the five words per minute CW test. Congratulations were passed along to both members of the club.

RFI committee: nothing new in this area. VE5HE on the list for a remedy when weather permits.

REPEATERS: Bruce, VE5BNC reported that it appears that there would be space for a repeater atop the Arts Tower at the U of S but further investigation was required. Ron, VE5RMS spoke on the possibility of developing a link to the north via Minitinas, but not using the VE5SK machine. Warren, VA5WDB moved that we move ahead with a link to Prince Albert and the north seconded by Bob, VE5RBG – carried with one opposed. Ron, VA5RON moved that we set up an IRLP repeater for the club. Derek, VE5SD advised that three repeaters with IRLP capability were already operating in Saskatoon. He advised that later this spring, courses would be available to all hams in Saskatoon, teaching the operation of IRLP. There was no seconder to the motion and the president asked that the matter be tabled until our September meeting. Ken, VE5KRB advised that the writer planning to do the special articles on ham radio is anxious to receive story items from hams related to their experience in the hobby. These articles may be e-mailed to Ken, VE5KRB at his e-mail address of: VE5KRB@RAC.CA

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL: Warren, VA5WDB gave us a heads-up on planning for our 2004 Christmas social. It was moved by Andy, VE5APD, seconded by Chris, VE5QV, that we again hold the event at The Cave restaurant – carried. Warren will investigate further and if possible, make the reservations.

FUND RAISING: Gus, VE5SPI spoke on an idea for raising funds for the club. Eric, VE5HG moved seconded by Barb, VA5BRB, that the project be

further investigated by Gus and a report and recommendation be brought back to the membership – carried.

**SATURDAY COFFEE:** the secretary Herb, VE5HE spoke on this matter indicating that our group had been meeting at the current venue for some time at the decision by way of a vote of the members. Recently, there have been reports of dissatisfaction with the service and comments alleging VE5HE's having some connection with the management of the facility, a comment that had no foundation. In view of this situation however, president Ron, VE5RMS and Vice-President Gus, VE5SPI will be looking into the possibility of relocating to another venue, will report to the executive which will bring the matter of whether we move and if so where to, and the members will make their decision by way of a vote.

**NOMINATIONS:** The president opened the meeting for the positions to be vacated but advised that nominations could still be made from the floor at the next meeting.

Vice-President: Andy, VE5APD, nominated John, VA5RJA who accepted the nomination.

Treasurer: Les, VE5LPP nominated Al, VE5MDC who was not present to accept.

2-year directors: Warren, VA5WDB nominated Bob, VE5NFG who accepted the nomination.

Ken, VE5KRB nominated Terry, VE5HF, who accepted the nomination.

Colleen, VE5CMG nominated Barry, VE5BPS who accepted the nomination.

Barb, VA5BRB nominated Voker, VA5VAP who accepted the nomination.

The 50/50 draw was won by Les, VE5LPP. (Now you have a good excuse to get up for coffee on Saturday Les!)

Andy, VE5APD moved adjournment of the meeting.

Coffee and trimmings provided again by John, VA5RJA and delicious cake by Colleen, VE5CMG. Thanks a bunch to both of you!

Our program consisted of a presentation by Skeeter Bell-Smith outlining the construction and purpose of the "Light Source". Thanks to Skeeter for a very informative presentation.

Herb Essenburg – VE5HE  
Secretary



# Silent Key

Tom Dumont VE5BDO  
b. February 9, 1923  
d. March 5, 2004

Tom passed away on March 5, 2004 at Royal University Hospital. He will be lovingly remembered by his wife of sixty years, Betty; daughter Yvonne (Laurence); sons, Roland (Veronica), Marlowe, (Kim); granddaughters, Donna (Chris), Karen (Tony); grandsons, Paul, Tom, Joe (Kari), Shane; great granddaughters, Meghann and Avery. Tom was predeceased by a son, Sheldon, in 1976; and brothers Aurel, Aristide; and sister-in-law, Mary. Tom is also survived by brothers, Leo (Irene), Gerard (Dorothy); sisters, Anne (David), Juliette (Archie); sister-in-law, Anne; many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Tom worked for Beaver Lumber for 44 years retiring in 1988. He enjoyed camping, fishing, hunting, travelling, playing bridge, baseball, dancing, barbershop singing and ham radio. Tom was a member of the Knights Of Columbus for many years and was always active in his church.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Alzheimer Society or Parkridge Center.

Condolences may be emailed to [mail@westwoodfuneralchapel.com](mailto:mail@westwoodfuneralchapel.com).

Arrangements entrusted to  
WESTWOOD FUNERAL CHAPEL

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*"If it's true that we're here to help others, then what exactly are the others here for?"*

## The Technical Corner of the Shack



Well it looks like spring is on the way!! We can all hope so but I am sure there is at least one more storm hiding around the corner somewhere.

Last time we talked about the basic soldering iron and its construction and the way it transferred heat to the work piece. This month we will discuss the irons a little further and then a little about types of joints and terminals.

Most soldering tips are made of copper or copper with iron plating. The copper tip requires "dressing" and "tinning". The tip should be filed to the required shape and smooth. It is then dipped in flux, and then solder is applied while it is being heated. The tip should now appear bright and smooth.

In the first articles we mentioned how the solder and copper formed a new alloy. It is because of this action that the copper soldering tip will become pitted and wear away while in use. If pitting is noticed it is time to re-dress the tip and re-tin it. The solder is actually dissolving the metal in the tip. Iron coated or clad tips are better and should be used

where possible as they last much longer and require much less maintenance. Never file an iron clad tip. It should only require cleaning on a wet sponge or at worst wiping on a bit of stainless steel wool. Another popular soldering iron is the butane type of iron that burns butane to heat the tip of the iron to temperature. The heat is harder to regulate and much practice is required adjusting it to the right temperature. They are handy for repairs in the field and have enough heat for larger joints. They also have an attachment that can be used to shrink "heat shrink" tubing. Make sure the soldering iron tip is firmly in place in the iron. If it is loose it will not transfer heat properly and could eventually damage the heating element in an electric soldering iron.

Quick review of care for the tip is to keep it clean and if a copper tip it should be dressed while cold. This means file flat and to the proper shape. Once this is done it should be fluxed and then heated. While it is heating the solder should be held to the tip surface until it heats and melts. This will give a good tinned surface to work with. Iron clad tips should be cleaned with a very fine grit emery paper (400 grit) once it is clean and shiny (don't wear through the cladding) it too should be tinned by holding a piece of solder to the tip and letting it heat until it is melted. When in use the tip should be wiped on a metal brush (non-contaminating) to remove burned and charred solder residue and contaminants. It should then be quickly wiped on a damp sponge to shuck off any remaining oxides.

In use the soldering iron is applied to the joint, allowed to heat the

materials to a temperature above the solder melting point. Flux should be applied to the cleaned joint before heating begins. When the joint has reached the proper temperature the solder is applied. It should melt and flow freely onto the joint. Remove the solder and then remove the iron. Never apply the solder to the iron and allow it to melt onto the joint. If this approach is used it will result in a poor joint.

Remember our earlier discussion of what a good joint looks like? It should be smooth, bright, and shiny. If it is pitted, dull and not shiny it is not a good joint. Reheat and apply a small amount of solder. Do not use too much solder on a joint as it is not required and could affect the reliability of the joint. Use a small gauge solder for small joints and larger for large joints. The solder will flow towards the heat source as it is applied and melts. After the removal of the iron make sure the joint is not disturbed until it has cooled properly. If it moves you may end up with a "cold joint". It will not be reliable. After the joint has cooled down it is time to remove any flux that maybe left behind by the process. Use a solvent such as isopropyl alcohol to clean the area and dry with a lint free cloth. When soldering wire to a terminal it should be properly "tinned". The wire is stripped to the correct length and then fluxed, heated and solder (small amount) applied. Once it has cooled it can be attached and soldered to the work piece. Remember solder is not "glue" so you want a good mechanical joint first and then it is soldered to make a good electrical connection.

Well that about sums up the art and science of soldering for now. Maybe next winter we can discuss the different types of terminals and the method used to solder them. Resistance soldering could also be discussed if you wish but this is usually outside the area of "hobby" soldering. It requires an expensive soldering rework station that most of us can only dream about. The other areas that could be discussed would be surface mount soldering and the use of thermal jets to melt the solder. I hope that these articles have been interesting, informative and of value to the reader. What I thought was going to be a quick article or two turned out to be a little more than that but it was good that I had to review the subject as I have a couple of projects in the offing. Well take care and have a good summer.

73 Gus VE5SPI

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## **Soldering Class in the future**

Gus is planning a soldering class some time in the future. This would include soldering basics and a small practical project. Maybe a CW oscillator or something along that line. We'll let you know when it's finalized.  
Ed.

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## **CBC to start charging for use of tower in Starbuck, Man.**

The Canadian Broadcasting Company (CBC) has set a new policy where by Amateur Radio clubs who have co-located repeater type radio systems on CBC transmission towers

for over 30 years are now being asked to abide by a new CBC renewal policy. This policy states that amateur radio installations are subject to the corporate minimum licensing fee of \$2400 per annum and must provide proof of insurance coverage of \$3 million (as per the license agreement) naming CBC as an additional insured. This is more than half of what this club's income is for any given year. If they are required to pay this fee, they will be forced to remove all VE4MAN's equipment from the site and loose their second biggest hub in their linked repeater system as they can not afford this fee.

For further information and to see how you can help, go to:  
<http://ve4.net/mrs/manhelp.html>

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## **Recognizing a stroke**

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke. Now doctors say any bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

- \* ask the individual to smile.
- \* Ask him or her to raise both arms.
- \* Ask the person to speak a simple sentence.

If he or she has trouble with any of these tasks, call 9-1-1 immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

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**SUNDAY , APRIL 25,  
2004**

The 2004 MS WALK will be held on Sunday, April 25 and we are looking for volunteers to help with communications. The typical jobs are:

- 4 at rest stops
- 4 to 6 in vehicles
- 1 or 2 on bicycles
- 3 to 4 at the arena

After that we start making up jobs.

Anyone wanting to volunteer can contact Bruce at 373-5672, on the evening 2M net or by email at [ve5aa@qsl.net](mailto:ve5aa@qsl.net).

## **World Amateur Radio Day is April 18, 2004**

The IARU has decided on "Pioneers in Bridging Barriers to World Understanding" for the theme of World Amateur Radio Day 2004 April 18. Something for clubs to think about when planning their upcoming activities.

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*"Don't find fault, find a remedy."*

## **BPL (Broadband over Power Lines)**

The following sites may be of interest to Hams interested in BPL:-

<http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2004/02/01/1/>

<http://www.rac.ca/news/world.htm#USA%20close>

Sault St. Marie Ontario - telco puts broadband over power lines (BPL)

<http://www.itbusiness.ca/index.asp?thaction=61&sid=54730>

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## **GOTA 2004**

Guides On The Air was held this year on Feb 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>, from Friday evening to Saturday morning at 10:00 AM. The Saskatoon Guiding Co-ordinator, Kathy Litwin, (a VE52B) was able to get the First Warman Girl Guide Unit involved. Janet Baker was able to bring 12 young ladies to the Guide House on Preston Avenue.

Ned (VE5NED) along with the help of four other hams set up two stations at the Preston Avenue location. We used the club's two Kenwood transceivers along with Ned's FT840 and a Radio Shack HTX242 mobile. For antennas, we used Terry's (VE5HF) new trapped dipole he built at Ken's (VE5KRB) antenna class, (Thanks Ken). This the first time it was used, and it loaded up nicely on the low bands. Ned had his home-brew vertical (another VE5KRB class project) and a 20 meter Bazooka. Thanks to Kathy and her family, Terry (VE5HF), and John

(VA5RJA), all the antennas were up in about an hour and all worked!

We were all set. The Guides arrived, the coffee and goodies were set out, but where was the propagation? Kathy had decided that they wanted to work DX and hoped due to the time difference between here and Europe we could have some good contacts. Alas, it was not to be. Had we waited until Saturday, the propagation in North America would be better and we could have had some contacts from closer stations. As it was we had a few on two meters and that's about all.

The Guide leaders were well prepared and kept the girls busy with crafts and games. They provided us all with pizza, and thanks to them no one went hungry.

Thank you to Terry (VE5HF), Herb (VE5HE), John (VA5RJA), Eric (VE5HG), for your help. If I have forgotten anyone, I'm sorry, thank you all!—Next year will be better! 73, Ned (VE5NED).

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## **BC Forest Fire Report recommends a higher profile for Amateurs**

### **FIRESTORM 2003 PROVINCIAL REVIEW, 04/02/27**

- Report on the British Columbia Firestorm and Evacuation of 50,000 people –

The Honorable Gary Filmon has just released his report into the 2003 British Columbia Interior Fires. Two areas of the report deal specifically with the role of amateur radio and their volunteer work:

"In the consultation process, the Review Team also heard about the important role that amateur radio operators played during Firestorm 2003. When emergency radio systems failed and cellular coverage was lost in some areas, the amateur radio operators were an invaluable, but at times overlooked resource.

During the wildfires, the amateur radio operators proved to be very resourceful, and demonstrated their commitment and dedication by relaying vital information over the airwaves. However, some people did not consider them to be an integral part of the emergency response system. There appeared to be a lack of understanding and appreciation among some emergency agencies about the value of local amateur radio operators."

#### **"The Review Team Recommends:**

Include Amateur Radio Operators in Emergency Response - All Emergency Operation Centres should include a provision for amateur radio operators, including power and antenna space, in case they are needed.

The amateur radio operators who provided emergency communications systems when cell phone and wired systems crashed are another excellent example of the valuable contributions volunteers can and did make.

The Review Team believes that, as much as possible, volunteers should be kept 'in the loop' and fully informed of policies, event status and expectations in recognition of their value as team members, and as

communicators to the evacuees and clients of the Emergency Services Centre. Volunteers should be treated with the same respect and kept as well informed as all members of the emergency management staff."

*Source: Tom Cox VE7TOX*

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### **Ham radio the sole source of communication with vessel in difficulty.**

On March 4 Bernie VK2ABN, heard a weak and distorted signal from KA7MWL Shawn, who was aboard a Ukrainian registered schooner sailing from Wellington NZ to Sydney Australia. Sails had blown out and they were making slow progress around 4 knots. At that speed they had calculated that they would run out of fuel before reaching port,

Bernie ascertained that 6 people were on board, but no emergency radio beacon! All this information was relayed to Sea Safety in Canberra.

With the schooner's satellite communication system also out of action, the Ham aboard, Shawn KA7MWL operating around 5 watts on 7070 Khz was the only contact. Sea Safety Canberra QSY'd from 8176 kHz to the 40 meter band but as their transmitter was in Charleville, SW Queensland, no contact could be established.

Bernie arranged for a sked in 24 hours time, and this time things were a lot better radio and safety wise, with the schooner expected in Sydney ahead of previously estimated time.

The Sydney Water Police stayed in contact with VK2ABN, keeping abreast of the situation, since with no HF facilities of their own they were reliant on Bernie!

As Bernie said... " I hadn't realized you can now call MAYDAY on the various distress frequencies but nobody is listening any more. Since the advent of GMDSS a computer scans the frequencies looking for encoded tones. If it finds one it attracts human intervention."

*Source: Chris Jones...VK2ABN via QNEWS*

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**From:** RAC Bulletin  
04-06

**Date:** Tuesday, March  
30, 2004

**Subject:** **New managers for two RAC contests.**

RAC is pleased to announce the appointment of Sam Ferris VE5SF, Bart Ritchie VE5CPU and Bruce Rattray VE5RC/VE5QRP as managers for both the Canada Winter and Canada Day contests. This appointment starts with the 2003 Winter Contest, the adjudication for which is presently underway.

RAC would also like to take this opportunity to thank the retiring managers, David Shipman (VE7CFD) and the Moncton Seniors ARC for their work over the past several years.

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*"As you grow older, what matters most is not the way it was, but the way you remember it."*