

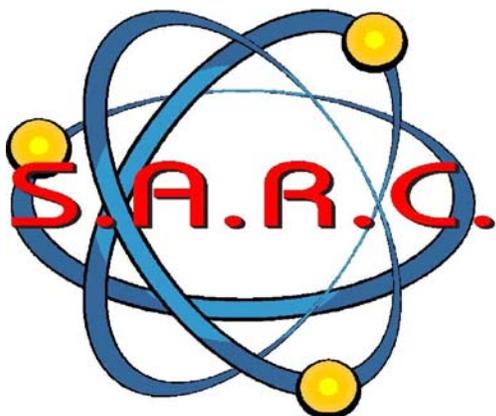
VE5AA

December 2003

The Feedline

SASKATOON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB





Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club

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

**Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club
Meetings are held the 2nd 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!**

NEXT CLUB MEETING

Tuesday, Dec 9, 2003

There will be no meeting as our Christmas supper is being held on this date. Please see the ad elsewhere in the Feedline.

Contests

- Dec 4** ARCI QRP Topband Sprint
- Dec 5** ARRL 160m Contest
- Dec 6** TARA RTTY Melee
- Dec 7** ARCI QRP Sprint
- Dec 13** ARRL 10m Contest
- Dec 20** OK DX RTTY Contest
- Dec 20** Croatian CW Contest
- Dec 27** RAC Winter Contest
- Dec 27** Stew Perry Topband Challenge

For further information on contests
please check TCA, CQ or QST
magazines.



**ARES
Saskatoon**

**NEXT ARES
MEETING
Monday, Dec 15, 2003
7:00 PM
CITY HOSPITAL
ROOM 8313
Crossband repeater
operations**

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

COFFEE

Saturdays at 10 A.M.

**Smiley's
on 8th 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!

SASKATOON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB VE5AA

EXECUTIVE

President Ron Sather 384-5093
VE5RMS

Past President Andy Paquet 931-1614
VE5APD

Vice President Gus Schmid 249-3996
VE5SPI

Secretary Herb Essenburg 374-4337
VE5HE

Treasurer Al Labbie 373-3188
VE5MDC

Directors

Warren Beale VA5WDB 934-2604
Ned Carroll VE5NED 382-1446
Bob Hilton VE5NFG 652-7014
Ken Bindle VE5KRB 373-3403

Repeaters Gus VE5SPI
Eric VE5HG

Property Al VE5MDC

Training Co-ord. Ned VE5NED

Public Service Executive

Sick & Visiting Ron VE5RMS

Field Day Vacant

Elmer Herb VE5HE

Trailer Ron VE5RMS

Space Club Vacant

SARC Net Bill VE5DN

L.B.L. Rep. Ken VE5KRB

Coffee Colleen VE5CMG

50/50 Draw Ken VE5KW

Feedline Les VE5LPP

LOCAL AREA REPEATERS

VE5SK 146.640- Saskatoon SARC
VE5SCA 146.970- Saskatoon linked
VE5CC 146.940- Saskatoon long
range

VE5BRC/1 147.240+ Lizard Lake
VE5RPA 147.150+ Bellevue to PA
VE5DPR 147.270+ Hanley

VE5SKN 145.210- Saskatoon MARS
IRLP 100Khz tone

VE5STV 146.790- Saskatoon

VE5FS 448.000- CFCSS tone
access

VE5FUN 145.290- IRLP

ATV

VE5ATV 439.250 in 1277.250 out

APRS

VE5RHF 144.390 Saskatoon APRS

PACKET

VE5USR-3 Digi 145.010
VE5BBS BBS 145.010

LOCAL AND REGIONAL NETS

Sask WX 80m 1400Z 3753 Khz
ARES (Sun.) 80m 1430Z 3753 Khz
Aurora 40m 2330Z 7055 Khz
& 0200Z

Manitoba 80m 0000Z 3760 Khz
Saskatchewan 80m 0100Z 3744 Khz
Alberta 80m 0130Z 3740 Khz
Local Area 2m 0200Z 146.640-
B.C. 80m 0200Z 3729 Khz
Saskatchewan 2m 0300Z 146.970-
Prince Albert 2m 0330Z 147.150+

(All nets are daily except where noted)

All Hams are welcome to check into any of these nets.



Minutes
SASKATOON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
November 18, 2003

Approximately 25 People were present at the meeting. Call to order at 19:33 by the President.

A motion was made by Eric (VE5HG) that the minutes be accepted as published in the Feedline. Seconded by Wally (VE5IX). Carried.

Financial report was read by the President as the treasurer is out of town. Motion from the floor to accept the financial report was made by Warren (VA5WDB). Seconded by Colleen (VE5CMG). Carried.

Ned (VE5NED) gave a brief account of the Grey Cup from a working Ham's point of view. He outlined his duties with the Regina ARES group. He said they were very organized and welcomed all the out of town help they received. He also mentioned the icy road conditions he encountered on his return trip on Monday Morning. Davidson APRS repeater and the Packet node are now both up and running.

Gus (VE5SPI) advised the portable repeater is in place at the CN tower on Mid Town Plaza however it is not receiving well however it will be repaired this week before the parade.

Warren (VA5WDB) gave a brief report on the Santa Claus Parade and asked for volunteers. Parade is Sunday 23 at 13:00 hams to be in place at 10:45 for assignments etc.

Warren also advised that the Christmas Party this year will be at the Cave Restaurant on 8th St. with cocktails at 18:00 and dinner at 19:00 in the private meeting room at the restaurant. Meals to be ordered from the menu but we need to know how many people will be attending so that the restaurant can prepare for us. There will be a gift exchange for anyone who wishes to participate limit of \$10.00 for the gift. If you do not wish to participate you do not have to.

Ned (VE5NED) gave a report on the Hobby Show and it was a success again this year with lots of interest shown in the hobby and with visitors from out of province showing interest. HF, HF PSK31, VHF, Packet, and dual band VHF were set up First contact on HF was a commemorative station set up on White Fish Point near Sault Ste. Marie in memory of those lost on the Edmund Fitzgerald. N8F

Ned also advised that IRLP node is now located at 145.290 -

Ron (VE5RMS) advised that the MARS club has four people serving on the Hamfest 2005 committee with the Core group of volunteers. Website for the event is now up and running at www.saskhamfest.com.

He further advised that to date no one has asked to host a Hamfest for 2004. SARL may just host a social and fleamarket in the summer for the annual general meeting if no one comes forward to host one this year.

Ham classes are on going.

Code classes are progressing.

Antenna classes are underway and soldering will be offered at this

Friday's class.

Assistance was given to the Space Club to help with the construction of code practice oscillators on the 1st Sat of November. Everyone had fun soldering up the kits and 50% actually worked!

Bruce (VE5BNC) was asked to demonstrate APRS to CASARA in Humboldt on the same weekend. He had a very successful demonstration that really impressed those involved with the operation.

The RAC youth group at Walter Murray Collegiate are looking for any assistance that anyone would like to provide for their Ham Club. The MARS group has offered to pay for their club licence, which will be VE5WMC.

The Fifty-fifty draw was won by Bob (VE5NFG).

Eric (VE5HG) made a motion to close the meeting at 20:22 for coffee and the guest speaker.

Guest speaker was Dr. Braun from the Dept. of Geological Sciences at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon. He gave a very interesting talk about the geology of the Province.

It should be noted that Colleen (VE5CMG) once again provided her famous butter tarts for the coffee break, which were enjoyed by one and all.

Gus Schmid (VE5SPI)
Acting Recording Secretary



**RAC Board
recommends that
examinations be
revised and
mandatory Morse
testing dropped.**

Following the change, in July 2003, of the international regulations governing the requirement for Morse testing as a prerequisite for access to the amateur bands below 30 MHz, the Board of Directors of Radio Amateurs of Canada established a small ad-hoc committee to review the results of consultations with Canadian

amateurs, and to make recommendations as to appropriate action. The Ad Hoc committee, composed of Chair Jim Dean VE3IQ, and members Brice Wightman VE3EDR and Bob Kavanagh VE3OSZ submitted their report to the RAC Board in September.

The RAC Board approved the report and it was presented to Industry Canada at the fall meeting of the Canadian Amateur Radio Advisory Board, held in Ottawa on October 23 2003. Industry Canada has subsequently asked RAC to submit a formal proposal.

In particular, the report recommends that:

Morse proficiency cease to be a mandatory requirement to qualify as a radio amateur, although an optional Morse test should be retained for Canadian amateurs who may need it to qualify for operating privileges abroad.

To maintain an adequate standard needed for HF privileges, **the report also recommends an increase in the examination pass marks.**

The result of these changes would be a progressive, three-tier, scheme of qualifications: Basic, Intermediate (replacing the present Basic + Morse) and Advanced.

Finally, **the report recommends certain enhancements to the privileges granted to holders of the Intermediate Qualification.**

These recommendations are such that the authors believe they could be implemented by Industry Canada relatively quickly and would not prejudice a possible restructuring of the system of qualifications, which might be contemplated for the future.

The report also examines, in a preliminary way, other aspects of the system of qualifications and examinations. In particular, it suggests that consideration be given to replacing the present Basic Qualification by a new entry-level qualification. This would resemble the entry or foundation levels existing or planned in other countries to encourage the entry of new people, particularly young people, into

Amateur Radio while maintaining a high standard of proficiency.

It also suggests that the Intermediate syllabus, in future, would include increased emphasis on operating procedures and on modern technologies.

Because these concepts will require further time and effort to refine, the authors suggest that the report be considered to be an interim report and that the ten specific recommendations contained therein be acted upon forthwith. They also suggest that the ad hoc committee be authorized to continue its efforts concerning these matters of qualifications and examinations with a view to submitting a further report in due course.

The complete report (17 pages) can be downloaded from here in pdf format by clicking on the address below.

http://www.rac.ca/downloads/Morse_report.PDF

Swap & Shop For Sale

**Hustler Mobile Antenna
complete with base and upright
pole, three elements available
20,40 & 80m
\$50.00**

Wally VE5IX 373-3492



There have been some person, or persons playing around on the 146.640 repeater lately. Kerchunking for minutes at a time, or sending tones. Everyone has been completely ignoring them, and I think that's the best thing we should do. Getting on the repeater and giving them a big lecture is exactly what they want. If they don't get a rise out of anyone, it soon becomes pretty boring to keep playing around. Trying to catch them can be very difficult, as we don't know when there going to be on and they don't stay on very long. The best thing is to keep on as we have been.

73 Les (VE5LPP)

The Technical Corner of the Shack



For the next few issues we will talk about the science and art of Soldering. Soldering is the joining of two metals by using an alloy of solder. It is a very old technology that dates back to the Egyptian Pharaohs.

Tinsmiths have used it to fashion tankards, pails, and even cans for storing food. Unfortunately if it were stored for any length of time, the lead in the alloy would leach out into the food stored in the tins and cause medical problems. Modern technology has solved the problem. Enough with the history lesson on with the show.

Without soldering we would not have our radios, TV's, or computers as we know them today. The field of electronics is now dependent on the fine art of soldering and requires a lot of knowledge, skill, and patience.

When dealing with soldering in computer equipment, avionics, or your heart pacemaker you want this to be considered a critical skill performed by a competent technician. However learning this skill is not that difficult and with practice and the proper equipment you too can become skilled at soldering.

When two pieces of metal are joined mechanically you have the possibility of corrosion, which will alter the pathway for the electrons in the circuit by adding resistance or eventually blocking it all together. Vibration can also make the joint come loose. With soldering these problems are overcome. Soldering offers a path that will not oxidize and corrode nor will it come loose through vibration or shock.

Solder is an alloy of tin and lead and is expressed as the amount of tin and lead in the alloy i.e. 60/40 is 60% tin and 40% lead.

A roll of solder is usually marked with the proportions of each metal or possibly with just Sn60 this would indicate a 60/40 solder.

Sn is the chemical symbol for Tin. The alloy solder is interesting in that its melting point is lower than the melting point of the elements it is made up of. Lead melts at 621°F and Tin melts at 450°F in their pure forms. Solder on the other hand melts at 375°F. Another characteristic of 60/40 solder is the way it melts. When the temperature reaches 361°F it begins to melt but does not fully melt or become liquid until it reaches 375°F. The range between 361°F and 375°F is referred to as the "plastic state" as it is not fully liquid or melted. This plastic range of the solder melt varies widely with the changes in percentage of the tin/lead mixture (Alloy). Experimentation showed that an alloy of 63/37 has very little or no plastic state and was therefore much easier to work with and would yield consistent joints every time. This alloy is referred to as Eutectic Solder. It fully melts at the 361°F temperature with no plastic state. Other alloys do not give the consistent joints because of the plastic state. During the time that the joint is cooling and during this state if the joint is moved or disturbed in any way it will become a "disturbed" joint. It has a rough irregular surface that is dull looking rather than the bright shiny joints that we are used to seeing. This type of joint will eventually fail and is not reliable and therefore not one you want ending up in your pacemaker or aircraft landing system.

Eutectic solder is used where it is not possible to maintain a stable joint during cool down i.e. during wave soldering for mass production, or where you have heat sensitive

materials and you wish to keep the heat to a minimum.

During the process of soldering, the solder does not just stick to the metal surface of the copper lands on the printed circuit board or the surface of a wire joint. It actually melts a little of the copper surface and penetrates the surface creating a new alloy with the copper and solder forming this alloy with a unique set of characteristics all its own.

Like anything in this world conditions must be right for the above to happen. Someone once said there were three rules to soldering: clean the leads well, clean them again and finally clean them once more, and you will have a good solder joint. In order to get a molecular bond to occur, the surface of the copper must be free of oxides and other contaminants. Copper will corrode upon exposure to air and start to form a thin film of oxides. These oxides will prevent the solder from forming a molecular bond with the copper. Think of it like dropping a drop of water on a piece of wax paper instead of a piece of newspaper. On one the water rolls off or just sits on the surface and can be removed, with the other it will sink in and merge with it. CLEAN, CLEAN, CLEAN!!

Well, enough of this boring stuff for now. Next time we will talk about fluxes and their role in this process that you will soon master and then move on to the actual soldering iron and its care and feeding.

73's Gus (VE5SPI)

Everyday I beat my own previous record for the number of consecutive days I've stayed alive.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



With the year coming to a close I think that it is a good time to reflect on the past year for the Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club, and take a quick peek into the coming year.

We have, I think had a very successful year of activities and events. With the guidance of some very helpful and qualified instructors we graduated a number of Amateurs to the ranks with their basic qualifications. With the help of another group of instructors we also elevated some from the basic to the H.F. level and their 5 wpm C.W. capabilities, We are indeed grateful to the people who give of their time and expertise to help the people who are wanting to join the airways of Amateur radio. I want to also congratulate those that have accomplished what they have set out to do and trust that they will enjoy the years ahead in Amateur Radio. We must not forget the ones that work in the antenna workshops. There is nothing like first class hands on to help to understand what can come out of the lines on a page.

We had again another successful field day at the end of June with the family picnic and I am sure that every who attended enjoyed themselves. Although we didn't make the contacts the serious people strive for I think that we class our participation as more of a social and get out to the public event then serious contesting and to me that is more of what it is about.

There were other public service events that the club took part in and I want to also thank those that volunteered to help out in these. I think we have to show that we are up to the challenge when we are asked to help in the communications for these events.

I hope that summer was great for everyone and that their travels took them to places and events that were enjoyable.

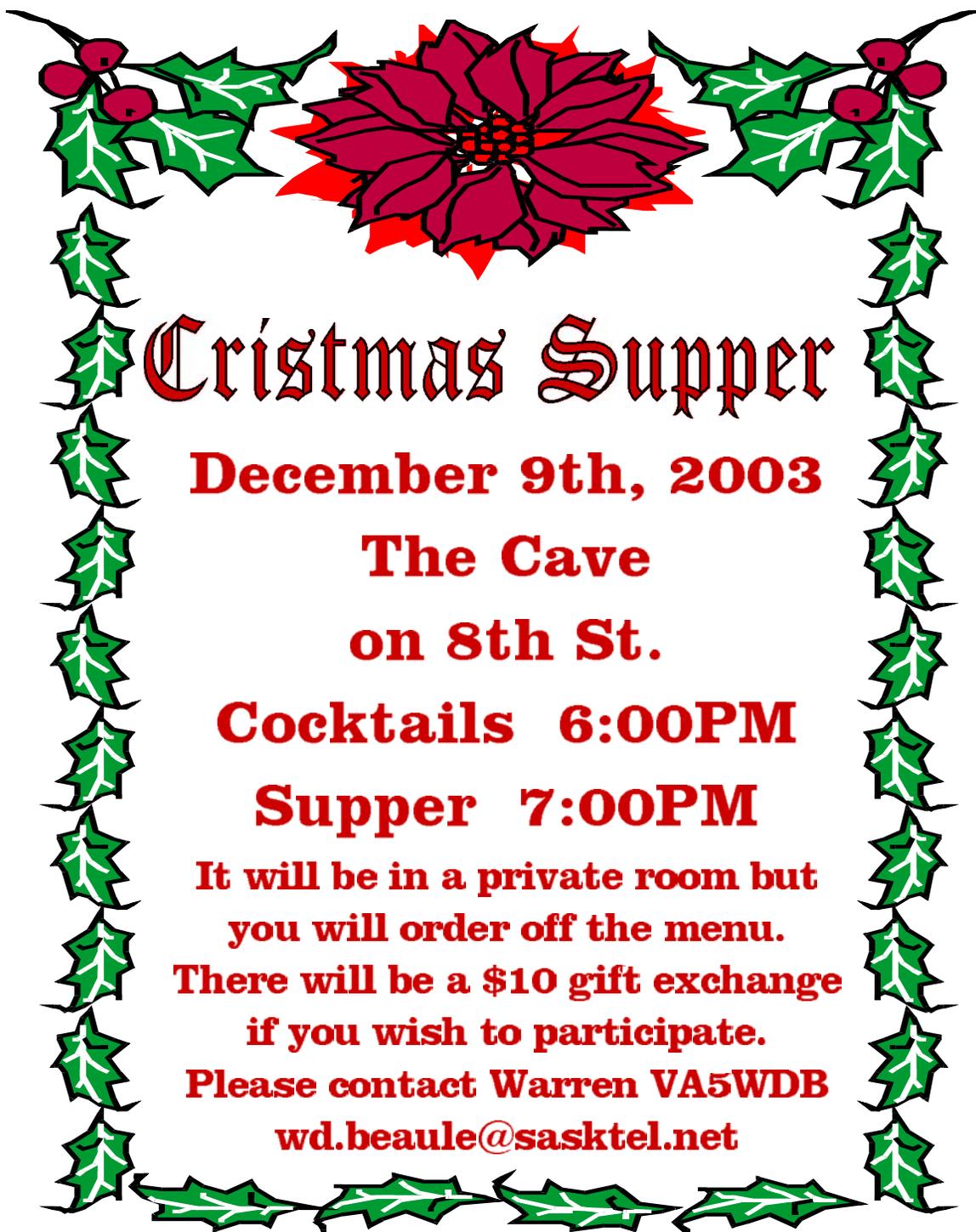
Along with summer came this import of a gentleman from Alberta, (who says people don't move here) who has taken over the roll of the E.C. for the Saskatoon ARES group. I want to welcome Garry McCullum to Saskatoon and look forward to working with him in the months (and hopefully) years to come.

September brought the start of a new year for the Club. I think that we have put together some good programs for the following months. We have started a new group of students in getting their basic license in Amateur Radio. Along with the CW crowd and the antenna makers, I am sure that they will all be successful.

I want to take this opportunity to express my condolences to the families and friend of the Silent Keys that have past on. I am sure that they will be missed on the airways.

You will read this before the Christmas meeting and social so I want to take this chance to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a New Year that is filled with health and happiness and may the airways be generous to your LOGBOOK.

Best wishes one and all
Ron (VE5RMS)



Cristmas Supper

December 9th, 2003

The Cave

on 8th St.

Cocktails 6:00PM

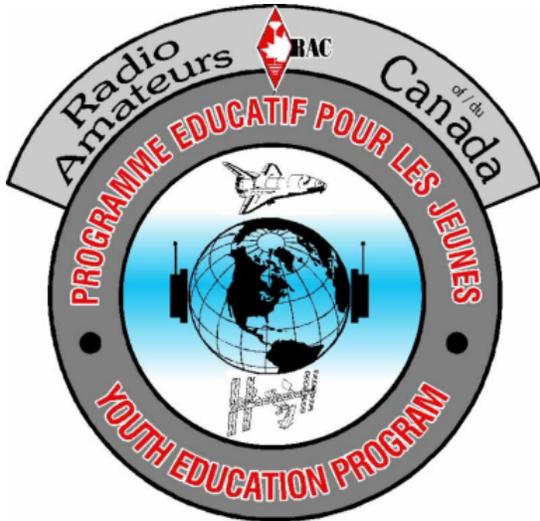
Supper 7:00PM

**It will be in a private room but
you will order off the menu.**

**There will be a \$10 gift exchange
if you wish to participate.**

Please contact Warren VA5WDB

wd.beaule@sasktel.net



The Youth Education Program is a RAC sponsored program that incorporates amateur radio for youths into schools. This program will not only help expand the curriculum in schools but will also help young people become more aware and interested in amateur radio and help keep this hobby alive.

So far there are about six schools in Canada that are currently part of this program and we will soon be incorporating a few more. Walter Murray is one of them.

Derek (VE5SD) and myself Nate (VE5NAT), have been talking a lot about this program to see what kind of a goal we should have or how this program can help the community. One way was is through ARES. Usually a main evacuation centre involves a school for shelter. With this program in place and enough equipment for a base station, you can have instant communications right on the spot. It may also help in times when you need a lot of radio operators like, marathons and demonstration type events like the hobby show or even at hamfests.

RAC really wants young people to be part of the program but as I read "between" the lines there is unfortunately not any funding that is made available to get a station started. That is where donations are essential for this program to make sure there is something there to show students who would like to be part of the program.

Any donations of equipment and/or money would be greatly appreciated to help get this program off the ground here in Saskatoon.

Thank you for your time!
73 Nate (VE5NAT)

Some web sites of interest to Amateur Radio Operators

<http://www.tpn7055.ca/clubs.html>

<http://www.rigpix.com/index.shtml>

http://www.spaceweather.gc.ca/my servlet/geomag_CLF/main_e.jsp

<http://www.w7fg.com/index.html>

<http://www.tpn7055.ca/>

<http://www.qsl.net/oh1noa/hamradio.html>

**SWAP & SHOP ADS
ARE FREE TO
MEMBERS**