

VE5AA

JANUARY 2004

# The Feedline

SASKATOON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



**Happy New Year 2004!**

**The future lies ahead.**



**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 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, Jan 19, 2004  
7:00 PM  
CITY HOSPITAL  
ROOM 8313  
Backup power management**

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

## **NEXT CLUB MEETING**

**January 13, 2004**

**7:30 PM**

**ALVIN BUCKWOLD SCHOOL  
715 East Drive  
West entrance**

**BE THERE!**

## **CONTESTS**

**Jan 1** ARRL Straight key night.

**Jan 3-4** AGCW QRP Winter Contest

**Jan 3-4** ARRL RTTY Roundup.

**Jan 4** Kid's Day Contest.

**Jan10-11** North American CW QSO Party.

**Jan17-18** Hungarian DX Contest

**Jan 17-18** North American SSB QSO Party.

**Jan 24-25** CQ WW 160m CW Contest.

For further information on contests refer to TCA, CQ & QST magazines.

## **COFFEE**

**Saturdays at 10 AM  
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 SPECIAL MEETING  
SASKATOON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
December 9, 2003**

While attending the annual Christmas social of SARC on December 9, 2003, the President, Ron, VE5RMS called a special meeting of the club at 7:49 P.M. He brought before the club a proposal to purchase equipment from Tony, VE5ATB.

It was moved by Ron, VE5RMS, seconded by Ned, VE5NED, that SARC purchase equipment being disposed of by VE5ATB, equipment to be entered into the inventory of the club to be used in whatever way the members see fit, the FT-101 to be provided to the station being set up at Walter Murray Collegiate as our club's contribution to RAC's promotion of the hobby in school settings. Price to be paid VE5ATB for the complete list of equipment to be \$640.00. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote. The President then moved adjournment.

Herb Essenburg (VE5HE)  
Secretary



***From:*** RAC-  
Bulletins from HQ

***Date:*** Sunday,  
December 14, 2003

***Subject:*** RAC Bulletin 03-030 - **RAC  
Radio Amateur of the Year Award  
for 2003**

From a number of nominees, the RAC Board of Directors has unanimously selected Bill Elliott, VE1MR, as recipient of the RAC Radio Amateur of the Year Award for 2003. An engraved silver tray was presented to VE1MR by Atlantic Regional Director David Nimmo, VE1NN, and RAC President Bill Gillis, VE1WG, at the Halifax Amateur Radio Club's annual Christmas Dinner Meeting on December 10, 2003.

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Currently President of Halifax Amateur Radio Club, Bill Elliott, VE1MR, has been a Radio Amateur and a member of RAC and its predecessor national organizations for over twenty years. Through that time, Bill has consistently and generously donated his considerable technical and organizational skills to significantly promoting excellence in Amateur Radio and facilitating its public service role.

For a complete story on Bill's activities and the contributions which qualified him for this prestigious award, see:  
<http://www.rac.ca/news/canada.htm>  
and an upcoming issue of The Canadian Amateur.

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**From:** RAC-  
Bulletins from HQ

**Date:** Tuesday,  
December 16, 2003  
09:13:43

**Subject:** RAC Bulletin 03-032 -  
**Elected nominees for positions on  
the Executive of RAC for the term  
2004-2005**

In accordance with RAC Bylaw Section 8, the Nomination Committee met by telephone conference on December 14, 2003 to elect nominees for positions on the Executive of Radio Amateurs of Canada for the term 2004-2005. Robert T. Kirkpatrick, VE9VAR, Chair of the seven member Nominations Committee composed of RAC Regional Directors, reports the voting results as follows:

Incumbent President William Gillis, VE1WG, decided not to run for re-election.

Eligible nominees offering for the position of President were; Robert Burns, VE1VCK, and Daniel Lamoureux, VE2KA.

By a vote of 4 to 3, nominee Daniel Lamoureux, VE2KA, is declared elected to the position of RAC President.

One eligible nomination for the position of First Vice President was received. Nominee Robert Nash, VE3KZ, is declared elected by acclamation.

One eligible nomination for the position of Vice President Regulatory Affairs was received. Nominee James Dean, VE3IQ, is declared elected by acclamation.

One eligible nomination for the position of Vice President Field Services and International Affairs was received. Nominee Pierre Mainville, VA3PM, is declared elected by acclamation.

One eligible nomination for the position of Secretary was received. Nominee Noel Marcil, VE2BR, is declared elected by acclamation.

Elected candidates will assume office on January 1, 2004.

No eligible nominations were submitted for other positions. No eligible nominee was submitted for the position of Treasurer, identified under Bylaw Section 8, Article 15. The position of Treasurer is declared vacant as of January 1, 2004.

Comments to: [rachq@rac.ca](mailto:rachq@rac.ca)



**From:** RAC-  
Bulletins from HQ

**Date:** Monday,  
December 15, 2003  
21:57:21

**Subject:** RAC Bulletin 03-031 - **RAC  
Executive Officers for 2004-2005**

The RAC Board of Directors is pleased to announce the Executive Officers for the 2004-2005 term as follows:

Daniel Lamoureux VE2KA, President  
Robert Nash VE3KZ, First Vice President

James Dean VE3IQ, Vice President  
Regulatory Affairs

Pierre Mainville VA3PM, Vice  
President Field Services and  
International Affairs

Noel Marcil VE2BR, Secretary

Comments to: [rachq@rac.ca](mailto:rachq@rac.ca)

# Silent Key

VE5EK

Bryce Clarke Eckstein  
d. December 13, 2003



**Regina, SK  
BRYCE  
CLARKE  
ECKSTEIN**

passed away at his home in the early morning of

Saturday, December 13, 2003 at the age of 75 years. He leaves to mourn his passing his wife of 29 years, Audrey; sons Ian and Evan both at home; daughters Christine Eckstein, Pat (Tell) Stephen, Pam Mitchell (Bob Siebbett) all of Calgary, Beth (Bob) Belisle of Moose Jaw, Judy (Phil) McDonald of Pitt Meadows, BC.; brother Don (Nancy) Eckstein of Penticton, BC.; mother-in-law Alice Chomos, brothers-in-law Jerome Chomos, Rev. Basil Chomos, Ray (Heather) Chomos, Lawrence (Linda) Chomos and sister-in-law Annie (Larry) Chirka as well as 10 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. Born and raised in Montreal, he served 20 years in the Royal Canadian Navy as a telegraphist in Naval Communications. He joined CBC's Northern Service in 1965 in Inuvik,

N.W.T., transferring to Regina in 1968 where he hosted a variety of Radio and Television shows. Bryce was a humble, generous, loving husband and father. He was well respected by his many colleagues and friends. It was Bryce's wish that no funeral be held. In lieu of flowers a donation may be made in his memory to a charity of one's choice. Thank you to Regina Palliative Home Care and Dr. Joanne McLeod whose compassionate care made it possible for Bryce to remain at home during his illness

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## Remembering a friend

Many amateurs who were active in the 1970s, had a chance to work Bryce Eckstein, VE5EK, who died December 13.

I had numerous QSOs with Bryce shortly after I became a licensed operator in 1972.

Bryce had spent time in the Canadian navy and apparently was an excellent CW man. He was employed for many years by the CBC on radio as well as doing a well-liked stint as weatherman on Regina's CBC television outlet.

He had a friend in Saskatoon who had a disability and was interested in shortwave listening. Bryce asked if I could find a receiver and someone to string up a bit of an antenna for this chap and with the help of a club member, we did just that, for which Bryce was most appreciative.

Bryce Eckstein will be missed both by the hams who knew him as well as CBC listeners and viewers who remember him.

Herb Essenburg (VE5HE)

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## **Longtime CBC broadcaster dead at 75**

Saskatchewan, News Network

REGINA — The owner of one of the best known broadcasting voices in Saskatchewan has died at 75.

Bryce Eckstein, a veteran of CBC Radio and TV in Saskatchewan from 1968 onward, died Saturday. Among his media colleagues, it's likely that no one in Regina knew him longer than Brian Cousins, who remembered Eckstein as "a natural" in broadcasting.

They met in about 1966 in Inuvik, where Cousins was working for the CBC's Northern Service, and Eckstein was a member of the Canadian Armed Forces, posted to a military communications station in the small northern town. There being no TV and few diversions in Inuvik, Eckstein began working part-time for CBC and upon reaching 20 years service in the navy, left it and started full time at CBC the very next day.

A few years later, when CBC bought the privately owned CHAR-TV in Moose Jaw and converted it into a CBC-owned and staffed station, Eckstein was one of the first announcers, doing everything from reading the news to the weather and interviews,

Cousins said Eckstein was well suited to this as he had a remarkably broad general knowledge. "It made him an interesting guy to sit

down and have a coffee with—but also a terrific radio host.

"Bryce was quite a terrific guy in a whole lot of ways," said Cousins, now a senior provincial civil servant. "It's funny, but in this business there are only so many unique voices—but he had one. There are a lot of radio people who sound the same... there's a very limited number of people who have a unique presentation and quality—and he certainly had one. And it served him well."

CBC veterans remember Eikstein as full of surprises, like his passion for ham radio, for having been treated by Ferdinand Demera (The American, dubbed "the great impostor," who had posed as a doctor in the Royal Canadian Navy) to having been scouted by a farm, team for the old Brooklyn Dodgers.

Eckstein is survived by his wife, Audrey, two sons and five daughters, 10 grandchildren, five great grandchildren and many other relatives. No funeral will be held, but his family has said a donation can be made to a charity of one's choice.

(REGINA LEADER POST)

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## **Some web sites of interest to Amateur Radio Operators**

<http://www.amsat.org/>

<http://www.byonics.com/tinytrak/>  
<http://syz.com/gps/>

<http://canada.digikey.com/DigiHome.html>

<http://www.eham.net/>

<http://www.ac6v.com/logging.htm>

## THE PRESIDENTS BLURB!



Now that the year has come to a close I think that it's a good time to reflect on the past one for Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club, and have a quick peek into the coming year.

We have, I think had a very successful year of activities and events. We graduated a number of Amateurs to the ranks of basic qualifications with the guidance of some very helpful and qualified instructors. We also elevated some from the basic to the H.F. level with 5 wpm C.W. capabilities, with the help of another group of instructors. We are indeed grateful to the people who give of their time and expertise to help the people 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 another successful field day at the end of June with the family picnic. I'm sure that everyone who attended enjoyed themselves. Although we didn't make the contacts that serious contesters 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 thank those that

volunteered to help out with these. I think that we have shown that we are up to the challenge when we are asked to help with the communications of 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 the 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 (VE5PNQ) 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 on a new group of Basic students along with the CW crowd and the antenna makers. I am sure they will all be successful.



Of course fall melded into winter and with that came the Annual Christmas evening of good food, prizes, gifts and fellowship. The turnout this year at the "Cave" was great. The door prizes and the gift exchange all took place along with the enjoyment of one another's company.

I am sure that the evening was a great finish to the year for SARC.



I trust that one and all have had a GREAT Christmas with family and loved ones. I would like to wish everyone all the best for a healthy and prosperous New Year and that 2004 be a year that we can all enjoy.

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

Best wishes to one and all  
Ron (VE5RMS)

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Another year gone! I must be getting old, time is just zipping by.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to "The Feedline" in the past year and hope you'll keep doing so. The newsletter is only as good as you make it.

I would also like to give a big thank you to Bruce (VE5BNC) for keeping up such a fine web-site. When I see some web-sites that

haven't been updated for months or even years I appreciate it even more.

I would also like to wish all the hams I've talked to in the last year  
**A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

73 Les (VE5LPP)

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### Another fine year for our 2metre net controller

Bill (VE5DN) has been the clubs 2m net controller for over ten years now.

He's been using the same mike since 1996. Can you imagine how many times he's pressed that mike button? Not only should the mike button be worn out by now, but Bill himself should have a fine case of carpal tunnel syndrome. It's a tribute to the fine workmanship of both Bill and the mike that they're still operating.

In the passed year the net has had 8,285 check ins in 365 sessions, and has also logged 529 for ARES. The amount of informal traffic is unknown, but you have to know it was plenty.

Thanks Bill for doing a fine job for all these years. All the club members and any other ham that has checked into the net appreciate your dedication.

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

# Silent Key

VE5BY

Joseph Wilfred (Wilf) Geber  
d. Dec. 29, 2003



**Regina, SK**  
GEBER, Joseph  
Wilfred "Wilf" late  
of Regina, SK.,  
departed from this  
earthly life on

Monday, December 29, 2003 at the Age of 85 years, with his family by his side. He was predeceased by his parents Joseph and Mary (nee Kayter) Geber and brothers-in-law Jim Kovatch and Matt Wancha. Wilf is survived by his loving wife Eva (nee Silzer) of 62 years; son Colins (Elaine) Geber and his children Angelique, Ryan (Nicole) and their children Genevieve and Arrianne; Elaine's children Kimberly (Don) and their child Erika, Clint (Rhonda); daughter Shirley (Wayne) Nielsen and their children Barb (Mike) and their children Chandra, Michaela and Alexis, sons Scott (Jody) and their child Dawson, Shayne (Gina). He is also survived by brothers George (Rose) of Niagara Falls, Lawrence (Mary) and John (Francis) all of Cupar; sisters Kathleen Kovatch of Tisdale and Irma Wancha of Niagara Falls and numerous nieces and nephews. The Funeral Service will be held Saturday, January 3, 2004 at 2:00 PM in the Chapel of Lee Funeral Home, 3101 Dewdney Ave., Regina, SK with Pastor Bob Leeson, officiating with interment to follow in Regina Memorial Gardens. A special thank you to the wonderful nurses of 3B Pasqua Hospital for their loving

care. In lieu of flowers donations in Wilf's memory can be made to the Friends of Ward 3B Pasqua Hospital, 4101 Dewdney Ave., Regina, SK, S4T 1A5 or the Canadian Cancer Society, 1910 McIntyre Street, Regina, SK, S4P 2R3, or to a charity of choice. Arrangements are in the care of LEE FUNERAL HOME.

## Something from AI (VE5MDC)

Associate Per Jacobsen recently donated a LAN network card for the clubs old 486 computer. The 486 computer (donated by VE5XP) was used with the clubs packet system until recently (system was not stable). It has since been retired from packet and replaced with a 'newer' Pentium machine running LINUX 7.3 (machine donated by GUS VE5SPI).

I would like to thank these and all other hams that have donated something in the last year.

The 486 is equipped with a sound card. We hope, with a little luck..., to use it with a simple program to perform PSK-31 with the club HF Transceiver.

The network card will allow us to easily download needed software from the internet.

If anyone feels like donating an old Pentium machine (with a sound card) that they no longer need, it would be a BIG improvement over this old 486. The 486 may not have the clock speed to perform the PSK-31 DSP functions.

A machine with 200 MHz clock or better would allow us to perform RTTY, Slow Scan TV, PSK-31 and a host of other digital programs.

Let me know by email:

[ve5mdc@rac.ca](mailto:ve5mdc@rac.ca)

# 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 Beaulieu 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** Nate VE5NAT  
**Feedline** Les VE5LPP  
**Web-site** Bruce VE5BNC

## 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+ Keniston  
VE5SKN 145.210- Saskatoon MARS  
VE5STV 146.790- Saskatoon  
VE5FS 448.000- CFCSS tone  
access

## 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.



## The Technical Corner of the Shack



Well where did we finish last month before the turkey season started and this cold weather set in? Seems it was something to do with soldering or rather the history and the science of it all. This month we will talk about flux and its role in soldering and a little about the care and feeding of the soldering iron tip.

What is Flux? In electronic soldering operations it is natural rosin or synthetic rosin. Some fluxes have chemical additives that are used to improve the action of the flux. These chemicals are referred to as activators. Reliable solder connections can only occur when the two surfaces are very clean. Flux is used to remove and prevent oxides from forming on the metal surfaces that are to be soldered. When the surface of the metal is cleaned by abrasives or chemical action oxides begin to reform on the surface almost immediately. In order to keep the surface clean flux is used. When the surface of the metal is heated in the soldering operation it causes oxides to form very rapidly. Exposure to the air (oxygen content

of the air) causes a reaction with the surface of the metal, in this case copper, which is a fairly reactive metal. (remember your high school chemistry classes? No? Well you should!) Heat accelerates the process. By adding flux to the area to be soldered the area is cleaned and the oxides are carried away as the joint heats up. The flux both cleans the area, by removing the oxides and it blocks the formation of new oxides forming by blanketing the area with the liquid flux and keeping the oxygen away from the surface of the metal until the soldering action has been completed. This encompasses the heating of the area, removal of oxides, formation of the new alloy (bonding of solder and copper of the circuit board traces, wire surfaces etc) and the cooling down of the joint.

Flux used in soldering of electronic components is usually in a solid form such as a paste or very thick liquid. In this state it is neither corrosive nor conductive. When it is heated it changes state and flows on the work surface and begins to dissolve the oxides and remove them. This must begin to happen before the joint reaches the melting point of the solder. The material must be dense (heavy) enough that it does not sublime or change state too quickly and "boil away" before the solder melts and forms its intermolecular bond between the two metal surfaces. Once the material has cooled down it must convert back to its original state where it is inert and non conductive.

There are of course different fluxes for different types of soldering.

Plumbers and sheet metal workers use an acid flux, which should never be used in electronic soldering, as it remains corrosive and will slowly corrode the copper on the traces or in the wire leads eventually leading to failure of the joint or circuit. Silver soldering uses a borax paste as its flux. Some fluxes have mild chemical activators referred to as RMA fluxes and can be used in electronic soldering. If the area has been cleaned just prior to soldering and a flux core solder is used then an application of flux paste or liquid may not be necessary. Most modern "wire type solder" has a flux core that makes soldering less messy and easy to do with less cleaning required after the operation. Some of the new chemistry used in fluxes will allow soap and water clean up after the operation, as they are water-soluble. Rosin flux requires an alcohol based cleaner. Most solder that has a flux core will tell you what the flux chemistry is i.e. rosin core or the dreaded acid core used by plumbers.

Now we arrive at the "hardware" portion of soldering! The soldering iron!! Some people like to use the "Binford" super turbo charged iron that usually melts holes in the work piece because it is too big and too hot. So just what do we need for a soldering iron.

There are a multitude of soldering irons, guns, and air jets available on today's market for soldering metals. Like every other tool on the market you need the right tool for the right job! Using the plumbers torch to solder the wires to a circuit board terminal will likely

result in a meltdown of the entire board. Like wise using a 30 watt soldering iron with a small chisel tip will not successfully solder the leaking joint in your basement water pipes! Well back to some high school physics (and you thought you were done with all that when you graduated)

The one important factor next to temperature is thermal mass. What is thermal mass well it is the mass (size) of the joint to solder and is the deciding factor in how much heat to apply and for how long in order to get a successful joint. Obviously a pipe coupling will require a lot more heat than the lead and solder pad on a printed circuit board. Heat must be controlled at the joint that is being soldered. This can be done by the size of the tip, the tip temperature and the ability of the iron to maintain the heat at the joint.

Overall the two-second rule is the big thing we will learn to use in soldering our projects. Well that is all the space and time I have for this installment. ( I hear my beloved and betrothed beckoning me forth. Translation get your butt down to the basement to help sort all this junk before I throw it all away) Take care see you next issue.

73 Gus (VE5SPI)

**The club has a complete HF setup if anyone wants to use it. The Hf'ers will gladly give you a hand.**