

**VE5AA**

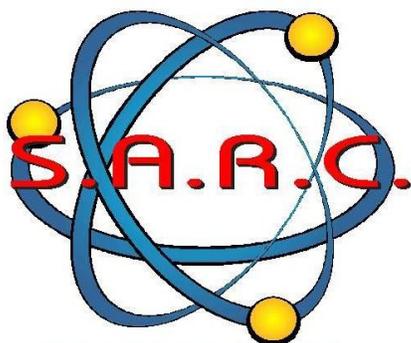
**June 2009**

# **The Feedline**

**SASKATOON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**



*High Altitude Ballooning in SASKATCHEWAN*



Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club

715 East Drive  
Saskatoon, SK S7J 2X8

[ve5aa@rac.ca](mailto:ve5aa@rac.ca)

<http://ve5aa.dyndns.org>

Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club  
Meetings are held usually on the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Tuesday of each month September  
till June unless otherwise noted.

Our meeting location is Alvin  
Buckwold School  
715 East Drive – West entrance

Meeting is 01:30 UTC (7:30PM local)

**VISITORS AND GUESTS ARE  
ALWAYS WELCOME!**

<b>President</b>	Gus Schmid VE5SPI
<b>Past President</b>	Ron Sather VE5RMS
<b>Vice-President</b>	Mike Mikytyshyn VE5MMG
<b>Secretary</b>	Lou Curti VE5LOU
<b>Treasurer</b>	Heather Punshon VE5HAP
<b>Director</b>	Ken Bindle VE5KRB
<b>Director</b>	Mike Luciuk VE5MIK
<b>Director</b>	Nathan Mirva VE5NAT
<b>Director</b>	Bob Tower VA5BRT

Repeaters	Gus VE5SPI
Property and Assets Record	Al VE5MDC
Training Coordinator	Gus VE5SPI
Public Service	Executive
Sick and Visiting	Ron VE5RMS
Field Day	Sean VE5SMC
Elmer	Vacant
Trailer	John VA5RJA
Space Club	Mike VE5MIK, Al VE5MDC
SARC Net	John VA5RJA
L.B.L. Rep	Ken VE5KRB
Coffee	John VA5RJA
50/50 Draw	Nate VE5NAT
Feedline	Les VE5LPP
	Al VE5MDC
Web-site	Bruce VE5BNC

## NEXT CLUB MEETING

Tuesday, June 9th, 2009

7:30 PM

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

ALVIN BUCKWOLD SCHOOL  
715 East Drive  
West entrance



**ARES  
Saskatoon**

## NEXT ARES MEETING

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each Month  
7:00 PM

Co-op cafeteria  
on Attridge Drive

Call in: 146.640-

## COFFEE

Peter D's Family Restaurant  
Saturdays 9:00 AM  
1301 8<sup>th</sup> St East

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

C'mon out and visit!

# Saskatoon and Area Frequencies

June 2009

## LOCAL AREA REPEATERS

**VE5SK** 146.640- Saskatoon SARC

**VE5ZH** 147.270- 2 MHz offset,  
Saskatoon, Auto Patch

**VE5CC** 146.970- Sktn. MARS. Linked  
to VE5SKN,VE5DNA and IRLP node 1360.  
Link code 502\*/503\*

**VE5SKN** 145.940- Sktn MARS. 100Hz  
tone on xmt only.Linked to VE5CC.  
VE5DNA and IRLP node 1360. Link  
code 500\*/501\* ARES SAME wx Rcvr.

**VA5LLR** 145.390- Lizard Lake

**VA5SV** 145.330- Ridge East of Sktn

**VE5RPD** 145.190- Elbow/Davidson

**IRLP NODE** 1360 Hard linked to  
VE5CC UHF Hub (444.975 +5M) &  
available to VE5CC, VE5SKN and  
VE5DNA VHF repeaters when linked.

All the above repeaters are completely  
open.

## ATV

**VE5ATV** 439.250 in 1277.250 out  
Saskatoon

## APRS

**VE5RHF** 144.390 Saskatoon DIGI

**VE5BNC-3** 144.390 Saskatoon  
IGATE & SATGATE

**VE5HAN-4** 144.390 Hanley DIGI  
**VE5YR-4** 144.390 Davidson DIGI  
**VE5YMJ-4** 144.390 Eyebrow DIGI  
**VE5ADR-4** 144.390 Avonlea DIGI

## PACKET

**VE5BBS** 145.010 Saskatoon BBS  
**VE5USR-3** 145.010 U of S DIGI  
**VE5YR-7** 145.010 Davidson DIGI  
**VE5HAN** 145.010 Hanley DIGI  
**VE5TH** 145.010 Regina BBS  
**VE5XXX** 145.010 Prince Albert BBS  
**VE5MPK-2** 145.010 Melfort Node  
**VE5MPK** 145.010 Melfort BBS  
**VE5NEP-3** 145.010 Minichinas DIGI

## LOCAL AND REGIONAL NETS

Sask WX	80m	1400Z	3735 Khz
ARES (Sun.)	80m	1430Z	3735 Khz
Aurora	40m	2330Z	7055 Khz
		& 0200Z	
Manitoba	80m	0000Z	3747 Khz
Montana Tfc	80m	0030Z	3910 Khz
Sask.	80m	0100Z	3735 Khz
Alberta	80m	0130Z	3700 Khz
Local Area	2m	0200Z	146.640-
B.C.	80m	0200Z	3727 Khz
Sask.	2m	0300Z	146.970-
		linked net	146.940-
80m YL Net	80m	0315Z	3755 Khz
		Sundays	
Prince Albert	2m	0330Z	147.150+

(All nets are daily except where noted)  
All qualified Hams are welcome to check  
into any of these nets

**MINUTES  
SASKATOON AMATEUR  
RADIO CLUB**

**May 12th, 2009**

**Meeting Called to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by President Gus VE5SPI.

**Visitors:**

President Gus VE5SPI and members welcomed visitor Sylvan VE5ZX to the meeting.

**Acceptance of Published Minutes:**

President Gus VE5SPI called for a motion to accept the minutes of the last general meeting as posted in the "Feedline".

Moved by Eric VE5HG  
Seconded by Chris VE5QV  
Carried.

**Old Business:**

**Rock Point Repeater:**

President Gus VE5SPI reviewed status of the Rock Point Repeater project. The radio that was designated for this site may not be suitable so a Motorola repeater will probably be the one used. The power supply will need upgrading as well and new / newer batteries installed to replace the current ones which have deteriorated over time. The tower has a slight tilt which is not correctable but should not be a problem.

**New Business:**

**The Treasurer's report:**

No report provided.

**SARL Hamfest:**

President Gus VE5SPI advised the members present that the SARL "Hamfest" and Annual General Meeting is being held in Lanigan on July 11, 2009. Admission to SARL members is free and to non members \$10.00 He also advised that SARL wanted to know if Saskatchewan Clubs would be interested in having memberships paid to the individual clubs and the clubs submit a single payment to SARL to improve efficiency.

All members present agreed this would be acceptable.

**Public Service Events:**

**Saskatchewan Marathon:**

President Gus VE5SPI called for and circulated a list calling for volunteers for the Marathon which will be on May 24th @ 0700 starting in Diefenbaker Park.

**MS Walk Report:**

Bruce VE5BNC stated that the organizers of the MS walk were very happy with the service provided by the Club at this event which included the location and safe delivery of a lost child to its parents.

**SARC Minutes Continued ...**

## Other Business

### **Little Bear Lake:**

President Gus VE5SPI called for an expression of interest in the Field Day at "Little Bear Lake". The members were advised of the facilities and equipment that are available.

### **Yorkton Repeater Tower Installation:**

President Gus VE5SPI stated that Yorkton Radio Club will be installing a repeater tower in another location and are looking for volunteers to assist with the installation.

### **SARC Packet Station:**

President Gus VE5SPI wanted to know if any member would be interested in operating and maintaining a Packet/APRS/BBS site.

No members present indicated that they were interested at this time.

Bruce VE5BNC stated that APRS alone was a form of packet and was already in service.

### **SABRE 5 Balloon Launch:**

President Gus VE5SPI and Bruce VE5BNC stated that SABRE 5 would, weather permitting, be launched on Sunday May 17, 09 @ 0800 from the school yard behind Alvin Buckwold School. They also reviewed the "mission" and package contents.

### **RAC Director Vacancy:**

Nate VE5NAT advised the members that RAC would be looking for a new Regional director as Devon VE5DWR has resigned.

### **ARRL Field Day 2009:**

President Gus VE5SPI called for volunteers for the "field day" which is being held on June 27th and 28th on the East side of the WDM parking lot. Sean VE5SMC is the field day coordinator.

### **Presentation for SARC June 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting:**

Tenho VE5TT will be giving a presentation on Astronomy, including photography and the Earth's magnetic Field at the June 9th General Meeting.

### **50 / 50 Draw:**

The 50/50 draw was won by John VA5RJA.

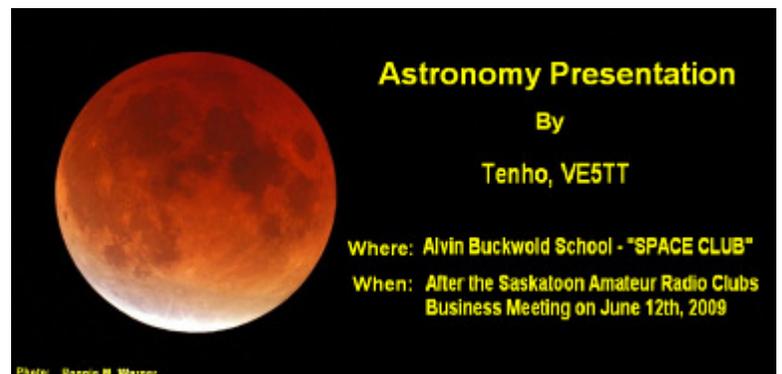
### **Meeting Adjournment:**

Business Meeting adjourned at 20:20 CST.

### **Evening Presentation:**

Nate VE5NAT gave a presentation on the principles and use of IRLP plus a live demonstration at the 21:00 CST Net.

The presentation was very informative and was well received by all present.



## Message from the President

Well here we are and another year of Amateur Radio activity within the Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club is fast drawing to a close. We have one more meeting and then the Field Day at the WDM. We have had a successful year with our public service events including the Santa Claus Parade, our classes, and other projects like assisting the Space Club. We hope to get the Rock Point Repeater back on the air this summer. Ken is arranging for another summer event at the Little Bear Lake site. My thanks to all those who have participated, helped organize and taken part in the club activities. The club is only as good as the effort put into it by the members.

The executive have received requests for an advanced class this fall and an antenna class.

We need input from the membership to see who is willing to attend or help with these projects. If there is enough interest we will try to book space at the Club site to make it happen, so let us know your thoughts and wishes for the up coming year.

We have had a number of "Silent Keys" this past year and our thoughts and prayers go their families.

It is with sadness that I report that Les VE5LPP has resigned his post as editor of the Feedline. Les has done this for over 10 years and he has done an excellent job! I can remember when he was actually cutting and pasting up master sheets to be photo copied, collated, folded, stuffed into envelopes and mailed. We now have one of the best on-line newsletters in the province for Amateur Radio thanks to Les's

efforts. All one has to do is look in the archives on our website to see just what a great job he has been doing over the years. I would like to personally thank you, Les, for your hard work on the Feedline and I am sure I can speak for the membership as well. And may you enjoy your "retirement " from being our editor in chief of the Feedline.

Well summer has been trying to arrive although there seems to be quite a battle going on with old man winter who just seems to not want to let go. Hopefully field day will have great weather and everyone can enjoy the weekend.

I would like to wish everyone a great summer. Stay safe and enjoy!

Gus  
VE5SPI

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### **SARC New Mailing Address**

**Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club  
c/o Alvin Buckwold School  
715 East Drive,  
Saskatoon, SK  
S7J 2X8**

## SABRE-5 --- The Continuing High Altitude Balloon Saga

It was a clear calm morning just right for another launch. The launch site was a flurry of activity as the payload specialists readied their payloads for launch and the balloon was filled with helium.



Bus. VE5SPI & John VA5RJA Balloon Launch – Filling the balloon with Helium.

The range safety officer contacted Nav Canada to see if it was clear down range. The flight clearance was given and soon data was streaming from the payloads as SABRE-5 rose into the clear morning sky. Communications received from the chase plane indicated that they were airborne and en route. Position reports flowed from the payloads along with excellent live video images that put CNN to shame for not covering yet another successful launch in the SABRE series of High Altitude Balloon Launches by members of the Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club. The chase teams loaded their vehicles and departed down range for the recovery of the payloads.

Telemetry indicated that things were going as expected and then the payloads hit strong upper winds and began speeding toward the SE at over 210 km per hour. At 44,000 feet the temperature was -54C, rate of ascent was around 900 feet per minute and the chase teams could not keep up. Then it happened! The balloon burst and the payloads started plummeting towards the earth. As the chase teams sped toward the landing site they were blocked by a mile long train. Once clear of that obstacle they proceeded on toward the landing site. Then contact was lost with the payloads. They were on the ground somewhere to the SE. The chase plane reported that they had a visual on the system but it was stuck up in the trees in dense bush.

### **SABRE - 5** **Flight Statistics**

- Max elevation: 80,412 feet
- Max speed: 218 km per hr.
- Distance traveled: 193 km

There was a communication failure with the aircraft and when contact was re-established directions were given to the suspected landing site. A range safety officer and a payload specialist were dispatched to the scene. Aided by verbal directions and a GPS they fought their way through the dense bush and around lakes, pot holes and beaver dams only to find nothing at the suspected landing site. Emergency communications were established with the flight crew via a very weak cell phone only to find out that the GPS

reading had been taken about ten seconds after the payload had been sited. So doing the math 10 seconds at 150 km per hr equals a long way to walk in dense bush filled with water hazards. Emergency communications were established with the remainder of the chase team and further data was downloaded into the GPS. Hmm, 8 km to the south you say. Travel 1.6 km north back to the road and the chase team. A two hour delay! Okay, on to the last known position of the payloads.

Upon arrival at these co-ordinates joy reigned supreme as packets leapt from the speaker of the tracking equipment!! The payload was alive and well! Further investigation found the equipment waiting on a manicured lawn enjoying the nice sunny afternoon. Local residents had seen the payload descending on its multi-coloured parachute and retrieved it from its perch high in a tree.

They tried to reach the chase team as per instructions on the payload however cellular communications were not possible in the area. Our arrival was a bit of a surprise and after retrieval of the equipment, and heartfelt thank you's, the payload started back on its journey to Saskatoon, of course much lower and slower this time.

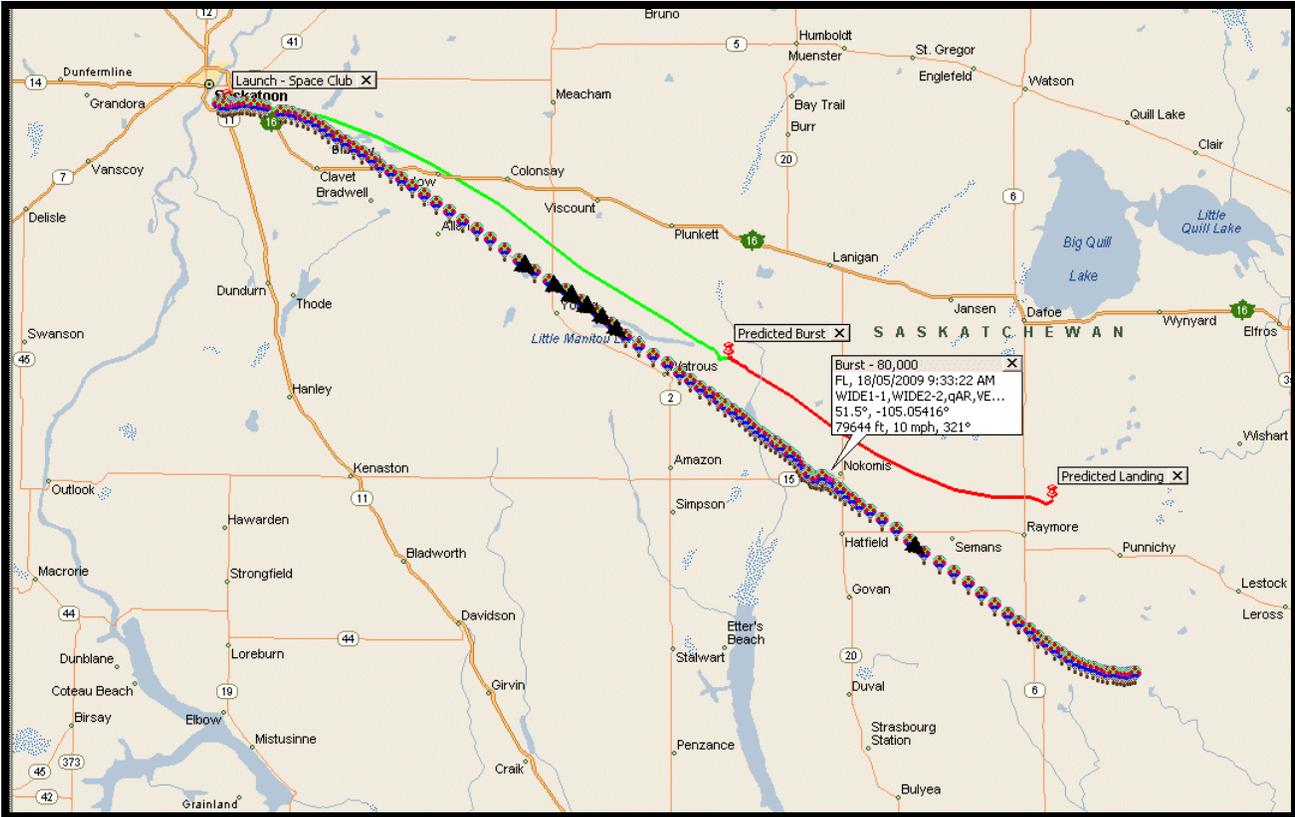
The chase crew stopped for some much needed nourishment at the 24/7 in Dafoe. And so with full gas tanks and stomachs the chase crew departed for Saskatoon following the slowly setting sun in the west. Stay tuned for another chapter in the SABRE series.

Gus,  
VE5SPI



Balloon Payload view of Louise Avenue just off Arlington

# SABRE - 5



SABRE – 5: Flight Path, Sunday May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009



## Saskatchewan Marathon 2009



Sunday May 24th 2009 was partly cloudy at 05:30 hours. I would like to thank all the Amateur Radio Operators who gave up their valuable time and a couple of hours of sleep to come out and help make this event fun and safe. Jim, VE5JIM and Nathan VE5NAT were very early risers as they arrived on scene around 04:00. They rode in two trucks that were setting up the course and putting out the water stations and other equipment required. There were over 2200 runners in the three races that were run that day. There was a 10K race, a half marathon, and a full marathon. Full results were in the StarPhoenix paper Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>.

Both Bruce VE5BNC and Leigh VE5LEE rode bikes again this year with Bruce doing over 60 Km by the time he was done. Due to the rain he was quite thoroughly soaked and very cold by the time it was over. Many thanks for sticking with the project.

Due to the rain the BBQ was cancelled as no one wanted to stand around in the rain and cook or eat hamburgers under those conditions. The trailer made an

excellent HQ for us to work from again this year especially with the weather going bad part way through the event.

My thanks to John VA5RJA for bringing the trailer to the site and taking it back to Ron's farm after the event. He also picked up a new propane regulator for the trailer, installed it on the trailer, and bled the lines, then got the stove going again. Thanks John, your efforts are greatly appreciated by the club and its members!!

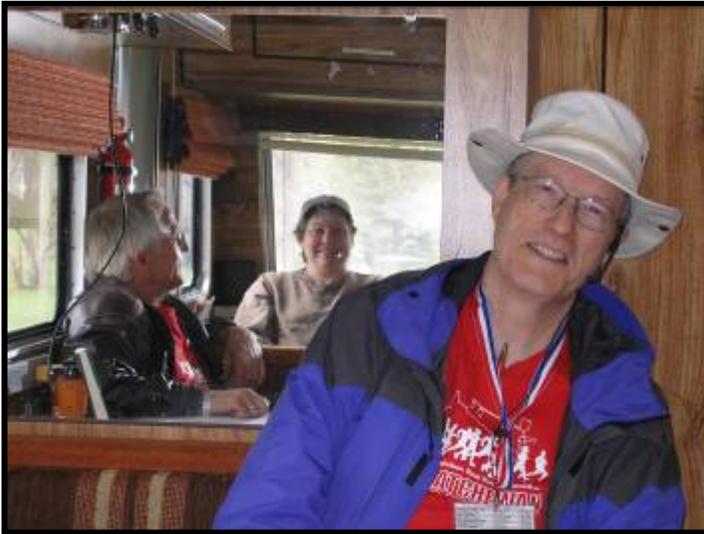
The organizing committee expressed their appreciation for all our help with the marathon and they now feel that they would not want to run the event without our help as communicators. They feel it makes the event run smoothly and much safer.

We had three medical emergencies this year in which two of the victims had to be transported to hospital.

Peter VE5JZ and Bob VE5RGM ran a packet link on 2 metres so that the announcer could see who was just under the 1 Km mark from the finish line. Next year we hope to be able to have the packet linked to the race data base so that not only bib numbers come up but also the persons name etc.



Peter VE5JZ -- Tracking the Runners' arrival to the Finish Line



Mike, VE5MMG, Lee VE5LEE, and Gus VE5SPI  
at SARC Communication Command Trailer

Once again thanks to everyone who came out and made this a very safe and successful event.

The following is a list of those who participated in the event:

Nathan VE5NAT, Lou VE5LOU,  
Ned VE5NED, John VA5RJA,  
Chris VE5QV, Bob VA5BRT,  
Bruce VE5BNC, Leigh VE5LEE,  
Mike VE5MMG, Glenn VE5GAM,  
Peter VE5JZ, Sean VA5LF,  
Brad VE5BJT, Bob VE5RGM,  
Derek VE5JDP & Heather VE5HAP,  
Colleen VE5CMG, Diane VE5DSB,  
Al VE5MDC, Barry VE5BPS,  
and Jim VE5JIM.

Again thanks everyone for a job well done!

Gus,  
VE5SPI

**ARRL**  
**Field Day Exercise**  
**&**  
**Club Barbeque**  
(BBQ is \$5.00/Person)

June 27 & 28

Location

Western Development Museum  
Parking Lot

2610 Lorne Ave, Saskatoon.