

VE5AA

March 2005

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!**



**ARES
Saskatoon**

NEXT ARES MEETING

**Monday, March 21, 2005
7:00 PM**

**No 9 Firehall
870 Attridge Dr.**

**Talk in 146.640-
<http://www.ares-saskatoon.ca/>**

NEXT CLUB MEETING

**Tuesday, March 8, 2005
7:30 PM**

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

BE THERE!

CONTESTS

- Mar 5-6** ARRL Int. DX, CW, All bands
- Mar 5** Wake-Up! QRP Sprint, CW, 40,20
- Mar 12-13** RSGB Commonwealth
Contest, CW, 80,40,20,15,10
- Mar 13** North American Sprint, RTTY
- Mar 19** 10-10 Int. Mobile QSO Party,
160,80,40,20,15,10
- Mar 19-20** Russian DX Contest CW,
SSB, 160,80,40,20,15,10
- Mar 19-20** CLARA & Family HF Contest
CW, SSB, 160,80,40,20,15,10
- Mar 28** Low Power Spring Sprint, CW,
160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10

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

COFFEE

**Tomas Cook
Restaurant**

**Saturdays 9:00 AM
Idyllwild & 24th St.**

**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 Amateur Radio Club VE5AA

March 2005

EXECUTIVE

President Ron Sather 384-5093
VE5RMS

Past President Andy Paquet 931-1614
VE5APD

Vice President John Anton 653-0919
VA5RJA

Secretary Herb Essenburg 374-4337
VE5HE

Treasurer Al Labbie 373-3188
VE5MDC

Directors

Ned Carroll VE5NED 382-1446
Terry Shuya VE5HF 374-4240
Per Jacobsen VE5PER 244-5210

Repeaters

Gus VE5SPI
Eric VE5HG
Al VE5MDC
Ned VE5NED
Executive
Ron VE5RMS

Property

Training Co-ord.

Public Service

Sick & Visiting

Field Day

Elmer

Trailer

Space Club

SARC Net

L.B.L. Rep.

Coffee

50/50 Draw

Feedline

Web-site

Vacant
Herb VE5HE
Ron VE5RMS
Vacant
Bill VE5DN
Ken VE5KRB
Vacant
Nate VE5NAT
Les VE5LPP
Bruce VE5BNC

LOCAL AREA REPEATERS

VE5SK 146.640- Saskatoon SARC
VE5SCA 146.940- Saskatoon
VE5ZH 147.270- 2Mhz offset,
Saskatoon,
Auto Patch
VE5FUN 145.290- Sktn 100Hz tone,
IRLP node 1340,
IPAR, Terrestrial Net,
Remote base, tied to
VE5CC
VE5CC 146.970- Sktn. Linked 100Hz
Tone

IRLP node 1340 ,
IPARN, Terrestrial Net,
Remote base, tied to
VE5FUN

VE5SKN 145.210- Sktn 100Hz tone,
MARS IRLP node 1350

VE5FS 448.000- No tone access
Autopatch

VE5BRC/1 147.240+ North Battleford

VE5RPA 147.150+ Bellevue to PA

VA5LLR 145.390- Lizard Lake

ATV

VE5ATV 439.250 in 1277.250 out

APRS

VE5RHF 144.390 Saskatoon APRS

VE5YR-4 144.390 Davidson DIGI

PACKET

VE5YR-7 DIGI 145.010 Davidson

VE5HAN DIGI 145.010 Hanley

VE5TH BBS 145.010 Regina

VE5XXX BBS 145.010 PA

VE5MPK-2 Node 145.010 Melfort

VE5MPK BBS 145.010 Melfort

VE5NEP-3 DIGI 145.010 Minichinis

VE5USR-3 DIGI 145.010 U of S

VE5BBS BBS 145.010 Sktn SARC

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
Montana Traffic 80m 0030Z 3910 Khz
Saskatchewan 80m 0100Z 3744 Khz
Alberta 80m 0130Z 3740 Khz
Laurel Ladies 80m 0200Z 3752 Khz
Sundays
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 qualified Hams are welcome to check
into any of these nets.**



MINUTES
SASKATOON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
February 8, 2005

The meeting was opened at 7:40 pm by President Ron, VE5RMS. A reminder was made that only SARC members who have already paid their annual membership fee are allowed to make motions or vote.

The minutes of the January meeting as circulated in The Feedline were discussed. Minor corrections made such as the proposed Hamfest speaker's name should have been Dale instead of Dave as printed. Ron commented that Dale has had to withdraw from the presentation due to family demands so another speaker is required. Eric VE5HG advised that his call was spelled incorrectly and should have read VE5HG instead of VE5HE. The minutes were then approved on a motion by Eric, VE5HG, seconded by Colleen, VE5CMG.

Ron mentioned that he needed to pick up a new set of 50/50 tickets.

HamFest Update. Ron is waiting for a reply from Dave Cameron to see if he is willing to be a keynote speaker. Other possibilities include Greg Barnsley, or Al Piche. There is a good chance we will be hosting the RAC Annual General Meeting at the HamFest as well (final decision still pending), which means the RAC president and directors will be attending. The Hamfest website has been updated and there has already been some reservations made. Vendors have been approached and we are still waiting for responses from Durham and Tel-J. RadioWorld has offered a door prize, but Prairie Mobile has already committed to something else. Gus, VE5SPI, suggested a new Kenwood dealer may exist, Amtrak Communications Ltd., in Regina. Ron will look into it. As a reminder the Hamfest will be held July 22-24, 2005.

Guides on the Air (GOTA) was discussed by Ned, VE5NED. It will be held on the weekend of February 19 from 0000z Saturday to 0000z Sunday. We need to borrow HF antennas. Bob possibly has a mystery antenna we can use. The event will take place at the Guide House near Preston and Main. The Guides representative Kathy Litman, VE52B, is presently working on her ticket and may or may not be licensed before the event this year.

Field Day Update. The new field day package is available from ARRL, which has a number of new ways to obtain points during the event. Looking into including ARES involvement. The Western Development Museum could be the location again this year, which was good with respect of not getting in the mud if it rains, but it was not very wheel chair accessible in the park area for the BBQ.

Little Bear Lake Update by Ken, VE5KRB. The Open House will be held on June 10-12, the weekend before Fathers day. Ken suggested people should make reservations at the motel or the campsite as soon as possible before they are booked up. The motel accommodations are clean complete with a hot tub, and the cooking is very good. There are websites for the Lark's Inn Motel as well as the campsite.

Repeater Update by AL, VE5MDC. UHF Cavities have been tuned up. Derek, VE5SD, is also working on the Walter Murray repeaters, but channel elements were missing on all of the units. Al managed to locate some. The

Lizard Lake repeater VE5LLR is operational about 40 miles east of Saskatoon and is accessible on 145.39.

RAC membership. If you are a RAC (Radio Amateurs of Canada) member you can now benefit from new liability insurance through RAC for up to five million dollars, including problems that may have resulted via a message transmission. The club initially was thought to also have benefits from this change, but later the website changed and it is not clear whether the club gains anything anymore compared to individual RAC members.

Equipment Disposal discussion by AL, VE5MDC. The club has received items from families that have donated their equipment. Al has been compiling a photo inventory and would like to set up a special meeting in May to decide on the disposal of this equipment. Some suggestions were to have a silent auction with a reserve bid, set up a list and publish it in the FeedLine, take it to a flea market at the Hamfest. Further discussion suggested setting up a committee of three people to price items for reserve bids. Profits of all sales should go to the club. Motion by Warren, VA5WBD, that we proceed with setting up a committee to put reserve bids on the items and have a sale the week after the May SARC meeting. A provision was added that the executive review the items beforehand. Seconded by Andy, VE5APD. None Opposed. Motion Passed.

ARES Update by Terry, VE5HF. Terry spoke with Ray, the interim EMO coordinator, and Ray is going to make sure the photo ID cards are signed and given to us. The Emergency Bus is being populated with equipment from Police and Fire, and they are waiting for our kit. There is a proposed emergency scenario in May. Peter, VE5JZ, noted that the proposed ARES paging frequency did not appear to be a viable channel center according to the RAC band plans. This paging frequency would have a CTCSS tone of 127.3 to kick engage everyone's VHF rig if there is an important message. There was also mention that Russell, VE5KA, is looking for Saskatoon ARES members to log into the HF ARES net Sunday at 8:30 am on 3.753. Ron mentioned that most of our members sign into our repeater net Sunday evening for ARES.

Other Business. Peter, VE5JZ, mentioned that there is a surplus sale on the University campus on the first Wednesday of each month from 12:30 pm - 4 pm in a building behind the General Purpose Building.

Herb, VE5HE, is still in the City Hospital Intensive Care, but he is now sitting up in bed. His wife, Vera is still in the Royal University Hospital.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Les, VE5LPP, at 8:40 pm.

Terry Shuya VE5HF
Acting Recording Secretary



What's up with the swap and shop?

The swap and shop has been advertised two or three times now, and each time it's been postponed. The reason for this is because we have club property scattered around and we have no complete inventory. We are now in the process of inventorying all of our assets. When this is done, we will have a group go over the list and decide what we want to keep and what we want to get rid of. Then we have to decide on a minimum price we will accept for each item. When all this is finally done, we will have a swap and shop for **paid up members only** and all items will have a minimum price on them. If more than one person wants the item it will go to the highest bidder. Anything left over after the swap and shop will go to the Centennial Hamfest in July and be sold.

Anyone wanting to bring any fleas to the members only swap are welcome to do so.

The swap and shop is tentatively set for the week after the May general meeting.

Is morse code still useful?

Recently, in listening to a conversation on an IRLP linked 2m repeater, I heard one fellow say something like "Morse code is not used any more". As I recall, there was some discussion concerning the continued presence of a morse code knowledge requirement for some amateur radio operating

privileges. (As I write this on 2005-02-10, this is still the situation in Canada and the USA.) I know that morse code has been abandoned by most users, in favour of better, newer strategies. I fear that those who accept that MORSE CODE IS NO LONGER USED may accept without further thought, the somewhat similar statement, MORSE CODE IS NO LONGER USEFUL. Morse code is a strategy that permits communications of verbal information through a wide variety of means. Radiotelegraphy is only one of a wide variety of ways to use morse code. Although most of us use the terms CW and morse code almost interchangeably, they are not identical. We amateurs generally use morse code for CW, but we do not always use CW for morse code. For example, the morse code identifiers on vhf repeaters are not sent using CW. Hams are generally involved in communications. Morse code is a strategy that permits communications in a wide variety of systems and circumstances.

It seems to me a tragedy and almost assertive negligence that we are willing to authorize people to use the extensive and diverse resources available to amateur radio, promote them as a public resource for emergency and disaster communications without requiring them to even know the fundamentals of one of the most simple and effective communications strategies available to people who can read and write. You may argue that in an emergency, you could just pull out a code chart, if necessary. There are two problems with that. First, you never know when or where

an emergency will occur (if you did know, you could take steps to avoid or minimize it and then it wouldn't be an emergency, would it?). That suggests that it is beneficial to have some reserves and resources available for unpredictable situations (like charged standby batteries, a full gas tank in your car, a ready kit, and knowledge, including knowledge of morse code). Second, in an emergency, your response will likely prefer the familiar things you have done or seen being done before. If you have never used morse code, you may not even consider it in a critical situation.

I would not advocate a return to the level of morse code testing historically imposed on amateur radio operators, but I think there is great benefit to be gained from requiring hams to have a familiarity with morse code, even if this involves nothing more than knowing the characters in the visual dot and dash form as generally printed.

A few years ago, I wrote an article on this topic for the SARC FEEDLINE. This was written and printed in 1993, and I have asked your friendly (generally) editor to reprint it, as I still support the ideas I wrote then, and with the changes time brings, I think that many, if not most, of the members of the club have never seen it.

73 Peter (VE5JZ)

Horspower and Morespower

Reprinted from the April, 1993 FEEDLINE

I like horses. Given a choice between watching a tractor pull or a horse pull, I'd choose the oat burners every time. I believe that most people would prefer the other option.

At this time, in most of the world, horses are no more than a novelty to people who want to travel or move loads. Of course, there are a few islands of the past not yet drowned by the tide of progress. Some ranchers and some policemen still make good use of the snorting, sweating, apple-dropping antiquities. Horses are bulky, slow, weak, require a lot of care and are of little endurance in comparison with the machines which have displaced them. I suppose that when horses were designed, they were not optimized for any of the jobs we have assigned them, unlike the machines which we have devised. Horses and obsolete machines are now kept mainly for nostalgia and for recreational use.

Nevertheless, I like horses. They are essentially non-polluting and fully recyclable. They consume safe, common, naturally-occurring materials and produce biodegradable effluents, by-products and remains. They're self-reproducing, unlike my rusting Chevrolet which, I fear, is incapable of giving birth to a new Caprice. Horses are generally reliable and predictable and can learn. They have been known to find their way home when even their rider or driver can't see the way. The user's manual for horses seems to be available in every language. Parts of it may be written in our genes. However, horses seem to have access to a user's manual for humans, as they can learn to respond to our body language, a sort of human-horse sign language, as well as verbal language.

Would you believe that I also like morse code? I believe that I'm in

an even smaller minority on this issue. Like the horse, the code has become almost obsolete, in serious applications, as a result of its comparatively slow speed. It requires trained users and is not well suited for optimal use by the latest machines.

I suppose that I've heard the most common criticisms of the continued use of the code, yet I still use it and promote it for ham radio. Some level of code proficiency is still a prerequisite in both Canada and the U.S.A. for hams who wish to use the amateur frequencies below 30 MHz. In Canada, there are indications that this requirement may disappear in the foreseeable future. I notice that the ARRL Board of Directors decided recently (as reported by Rick Palm in QST of March 1993, page 73) to support continuation of the code proficiency requirement. Refer to Minute 41 on page 78 for some of the supportive reasoning.

Consider some basic skills, like the ability to start a campfire, to tie a secure but easily-untied knot, to swim or to administer rescue breathing. There aren't many occasions when one of these skills is needed. However, when the need does arise, these skills can be lifesavers. I see in morse code proficiency a basic communications skill. If the amateur service is to continue to promote itself as a competent alternative emergency communications service, a code proficiency requirement is, in my opinion, extremely valuable.

Consider a recent event. In late October of 1991, a Canadian military Hercules transport aircraft carrying 18 persons and a load of diesel fuel crashed just prior to its

intended landing at Alert, N.W.T. Due to weather and terrain problems, rescue efforts were delayed. An aircraft circling over the crash site was able to make radio contact with survivors, who faced a blizzard and arctic darkness with almost no survival supplies. A Canadian Press report by Judy Monchuk, printed in the Saskatoon Star Phoenix (newspaper) on November 02, 1991 says: "Until rescue personnel were finally able to reach the site late Thursday, there had been only sporadic contact by radio and Morse code between survivors and the military." An article by David Hughes in the July 1992 issue of Popular Mechanics, "The Rescue of Box Top 22" (page 50), which deals with the same event, includes the following: "The batteries of the survivors' radio began to fade and the last thing they said was they could use a little heat. Then they began keying the mike to answer yes or no to questions." In this emergency, those involved were forced to resort to a primitive signaling technique, and it is to their credit that they thought of using it.

Morse code allows efficient radio communications, in terms of power consumption, occupied bandwidth and equipment complexity, if not speed. In good conditions, it allows communications between persons and computers in any combination. Morse code can be generated and decoded by both persons and fairly simple computers. This allows a person to use a computer to generate code from keyboard-entered text. He can also use the computer to decipher received code and display it as text.

In a noisy radio communications environment, code communications can take good advantage of the capacities of human ears and brains to extract the information signal and the information. The mind can also evaluate the received information for errors and can supply appropriate but lost characters and even words, or decide to request a repetition.

Morse code communication can remove some of the prejudice-triggering cues which are present in voice communications. I usually can't tell, from a person's code signals, that person's gender, age, race, preferred language, whether she has an accent or a speech impediment or can't even speak at all. I can communicate with people whose language I can't understand. We can't communicate much, but we can exchange more information than would be possible using voice.

Code can be used in some situations where speech is inefficient or impossible such as, for example, through a wall of rock in a collapsed mine, or by a person lying in a hospital bed with tubes down his throat and bandages over his eyes. You don't even need radio or even audio to be able to make use of the code. You could signal to an overhead aircraft using a flashlight at night. I identify some of my cables and other items using dots and dashes. The code is a tool for which you may be able to find a new application.

I can foresee an amateur radio service in which there is no requirement for either technical proficiency or morse code proficiency, but I would prefer a structure which

promotes both of these capabilities and provides recognition for their achievement and maintenance.

Whether you like it or not, morse code is a useful communications tool. Learning to use it requires time and effort. At this time in Canada, code proficiency is still a prerequisite for hf amateur operating privileges. I enjoy using the code. As a private initiative, to help people learn or upgrade code receiving, I have been sending code practice on the two metre band. This practice occurs frequently, but irregularly, on a simplex frequency, immediately following the local 8 PM net on the VE5SK repeater. Listen to the net for further information.

Now - if only I could communicate with horses in morse code, or in sign language, or even with people in sign language. Hey - there's an idea. Morse code can be used to communicate via hand or other signals, but there may be times when a higher-level sign language would serve better. Most of us can wave, blow a kiss, smile, frown, nod or shake our heads or shrug our shoulders to signal across a crowded airport or through a glass barrier, but that's about the extent of our skill at friendly, unvoiced, unwritten communications. I can imagine a number of situations in which some form of sign language would be very useful to fire fighters, divers, steel workers, sportsmen (not just baseball players), police and to you and to me.

73 Peter (VE5JZ)

Eat one live toad the first thing in the morning and nothing worse will happen to you the rest of the day.

LITTLE BEAR LAKE Amateur Radio Club OPEN HOUSE

June 10/11/12 of 2005 from 9AM -
10PM.

Any one of these days or for
the whole three days.

A time for fun on the hill, bring
your own HF rig, a.c. or d.c., or use
one of the club's Kenwoods. We have
a very low noise level (<1 "s" unit).

Antenna are a 5 element tri-
bander, 75 & 40 m. dipoles, & a
vertical 40 thru 10 m.

The station call is VE5LBL,
The repeater is VE5NLR on 146.85 -.



A nice building, furnished with
everything, under the pines high up
on a hill at the Little Bear Camp
Ground.

Little Bear Lake is located 62
miles north of Smeaton on the
Hanson Lake Road to Flin Flon, Man.

A paved road to the turn-off with
about 3 km. of good gravel into the
Lake resorts & campground. As you
come into the resorts area watch for

signs & bear off to the right to get to
the camp ground & VE5LBL. Watch
for the turn-off to VE5LBL on your
right. The camp ground is further up
the road on your right.



Larks Inn is just to your left
when you first come into Little Bear
Lake. Very comfortable, light-house-
keeping rooms, bathrooms, showers,
laundry, hot tubs and above all, good
meals at the in the store-restaurant.
A most economical facility. They have
limited accommodations, so if your
coming, book early.

The camp ground is one of the
best in the area, with power, water,
shade and a friendly operator. Again
book early as this camp-ground is
well used all summer long - rain or
shine.

Something else should be
mentioned here, the fishing is great,
with a boat available at Road Lake
just up the paved hi-way about 6
miles. Great Rainbow Trout fishing,
as are other lakes near & around
Little Bear Lake.

LARK'S INN (306) 426-2491

LITTLE BEAR LAKE CAMPGROUND

(306) 426-2280 (Summer)

(306) 428-2323 (Winter)

www.littlebearlake.ca

e-mail littlebear@littlebearlake.ca

THE PRESIDENT'S BLURB



With the end of February one can't help but think of spring being just around the corner. Winter has seen a lot of activity.

With the thoughts of spring we must also think of the year end for the Club. This of course means that elections are to be held at the April meeting. I think Terry is posting a list of the positions that are going to need to be filled with the elections. I have let the Executive know that I will not be running again this year. As of March 31st I am retiring from Saskatoon Transit Services. I will be working part time until August at which time I will be taking a position in the trucking industry and will be on the road a good amount of the time and feel that it is not fair to hold an office that would require time that would be more consistent than trucking would allow me.

Spring and summer will see Club members involved in the usual activities. Field Day with the family BBQ, some of the community's events etc. I want to thank all Members of the Club who through the winter gave of their time to the events that we worked this year. I think that we have shown that we can be counted on to help out if and when it is needed.

I am looking forward to the summer ahead of us with some reservation in going from one point in my life to another. I value all the friends that I have made and look forward to lots of years yet to meet more Amateurs.

Ron Sather VE5RMS



ARES Saskatoon

During the last meeting there was some success with the city. The ARES bus is currently underway and is nearly ready for us to put a couple of rigs into. Badges are currently in the process of being made and are ready to be signed soon. The tactical frequency has been changed to 147.510 MHz with a PL of 127.3Hz because of the bandplan associated with this raster.

73 Nate (VE5NAT)

Executive elections coming up

Elections will be held at the April 12th General Meeting. Nominations will be accepted at the March 8th General Meeting for the following positions. President, Secretary and two Directors. Nominations will also be accepted at the April meeting.

1958



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL



SASKATOON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC.
P.O. BOX 751
SASKATOON, SK, 57K 3L7

For Office Use Only
Pd ___ Rcpt ___ Card ___
A B C D E F

Membership valid from September 1, 2004 to August 31, 2005

NAME:..... CALL SIGN.....

ADDRESS.....

CITY..... PROV..... ZIP.....

TELEPHONE (Home).....(Bus.).....

E-MAIL ADDRESS.....

Would you prefer your copy of "The Feedline" be sent by:- Mail..... Electronically.....

LICENCE: (Please check)

Basic (.....) Advanced (.....) Code (.....)

Occupation (optional).....

Name of spouse (optional).....

Family Members (For Family Membership Application)

(1) Name..... Call Sign.....

Basic (.....) Advanced (.....) Code (.....)

(2) Name..... Call Sign.....

Basic (.....) Advanced (.....) Code (.....)

WHICH CLUB ACTIVITIES CAN WE COUNT ON YOU FOR?

Special Event or Areas of interest to you.

Affiliation (Check where applicable)

ARRL.....RAC.....SARL.....MARS.....OTHER.....

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Regular Membership:

(must be licensed to operate an amateur station).....\$25.00 \$.....

Family Membership:

(one newsletter per family).....\$30.00 \$.....

Associate Membership:

(enthusiasts - not eligible for office).....\$25.00 \$.....

Junior Membership: (under 18 yrs)

(full privileges if licensed to operate a station)..... \$12.50 \$.....

Laminated membership card..(each)..... \$1.00 \$.....

Donations:

(development, maintaining or upgrading facilities (specify).....\$.....

TOTAL REMITTED \$.....

Cheques Payable to : **Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club Inc.**