

VE5AA

November 2008

The Feedline

SASKATOON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Rememberance Day
November 11th

Marshalling Lancasters Against Stuttgart by Carl Schaefer (11836)
© Canada War Museum



Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club
P.O. BOX 751
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<http://ve5aa.dyndns.org>

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!**

President	Gus Schmid VE5SPI
Past President	Ron Sather VE5RMS
Vice-President	Mike Mikytyshyn VE5MMG
Secretary	Lou Curti VE5LOU
Treasurer	Heather Punshon VE5HAP
Director	Ron Watson VA5RON
Director	Ken Bindle VE5KRB
Director	Mike Luciuk VE5MIK

Repeaters	Gus VE5SPI
Property and Assets Record	Al VE5MDC
Training Coordinator	Gus VE5SPI
Public Service	Executive
Sick and Visiting	Ron VE5RMS
Field Day	Executive and Volunteers
Elmer	Herb VE5HE
Trailer	John VA5RJA
Space Club	Mike VE5MIK
SARC Net	Herb VE5HE and John VA5RJA
L.B.L. Rep	Ken VE5KRB
Coffee	John VA5RJA
50/50 Draw	Nate VE5NAT
Feedline	Les VE5LPP
Web-site	Bruce VE5BNC

NEXT CLUB MEETING

Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2008
7:30 PM

ALVIN BUCKWOLD SCHOOL
715 East Drive
West entrance

BE THERE!

Program For 18th of November meeting

THERE WILL BE A TALK
AND PERHAPS A DEMO
ON AMATEUR VIDEO
BY BOB MELDRUM
VE5RGM

COFFEE

Peter D's Family Restaurant
Saturdays 9:00 AM
1301 8th 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

November 2008

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.
(PRESENTLY OUT OF SERVICE)

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
October 14, 2008

The meeting was opened at 7:38 pm by vice-president VE5MMG, Mike. Guests at the meeting: Chris McMeekin, VE5LL, former member of the Club and Hugh Stearn, who was at the previous meeting

Motion to accept the minutes of previous meeting as circulated in the Feedline by Eric, VE5HG with Bob, VE5BRT seconding the motion. Carried.

Business arising out of the previous minutes: Nominations and elections for the positions of President and Secretary. Deferred to a later part of meeting.

Treasurer's monthly report as to financial status of Club: Motion to accept report: Al VE5MDC moved that the report be accepted. Seconded by Ron, VA5RMS. Carried.

Schedule of Club Meeting dates and dates for Training Classes (Basic License): Meetings are normally on the second Tuesday of each month. Meetings will shift during certain months due to school holidays. The November Club meeting moves to November 18th and the April 2009 meeting moves to 21st. Weekly training classes commence Thursday January 15th.

Review and update on Public Service Events: Mike MMG read a thank you note from the Chair of the Super Walk '08. Thank you to Gus for coordinating the event. Santa Claus Parade – Organizing committee have had 2 meetings. Looks like it will go ahead. About half way to getting the number of volunteers needed to have the parade. Parade to go on Nov 16. Event coordinating committee is still looking for volunteers, parade entries/floats. Next organizational meeting is October 23rd. Gus would like to see if it is possible to bring the trailer in for use as a communications centre for the parade.

Financial Report on Sabre Balloon Project: Bruce VE5BNC

The fourth and last launch for 2008 was conducted a couple of weeks ago. Club had previously agreed to pay 250 dollars for consumable expenses. SABRE is slightly over budget. Ron, VE5RMS moved to cover the extra amount. Jim, VE5 JIM seconded. Motion carried.

Email correspondence from Randy Molyneaux VE5RJM of Parkland Amateur Radio Club

Yorkton area Club looking for used set of Duplexers for their new repeater on 147.390 + 600, either Hybrid or Reslok duplexers. Ken, VE5KRB said that we do have 2 spare duplexers and suggested that we should probably hang on to one – he believes they are Sinclairs. Gus mentioned that we actually have 3 duplexers. Suggested that the equipment go out as a loan and if it goes out of service it is to come back to the club. Gus will contact the Parkland ARC about the loan of the duplexers.

Programs for future meetings: VE5RGM will give the club a talk on Amateur TV at a future meeting. Mike went over the list of suggestions from the executive meeting. Recap about the SABRE projects; APRS from Bruce; Emergency communications. Nate will check with EMO to have someone to come in to talk about emergency response. Suggestions were solicited from the membership. Bruce observed that the topic doesn't necessarily need to be about amateur radio.

Nominations for Club President: We have two nominations at present: Gus, VE5SPI and Nate VE5NAT. After a second and third call for nominations, VA5RMS moved that nominations cease. VA5BRT seconded. Carried.

Nominations for Secretary: We have two nominations at present: Lou, VE5LOU and Nate VE5NAT. After second and third calls for nominations, Ken VE5KRB moved the nominations cease. VE5JIM seconded. Carried.

Election of Club President: Eric, VE5HG moved to dispose of the ballots in the vote for president. VE5RMS seconded. GUS, VE5SPI was elected president.

Election of Club Secretary: VE5RMS moved to dispose of the ballots. VE5HG seconded. Lou, VE5LOU was elected to the position of secretary.

Other Business:

- Bruce requested that members send him items for the website.
- Gus requested that the instructors get together and have a meeting. Also the books need to be here when the course starts. The question was raised as to whether the Club would be able to fund the purchase of books and recover the cost when the class starts. Five or six books need to be purchased at \$50 each. VE5RMS moved that we spend \$250 for books for the students. VE5JIM seconded. Carried.
- Ken mentioned that 9 VHF antennas are to be picked up the following day from a donor.
- Nate reminded people that the donuts and coffee are \$1 each.

50/50 Draw: Al, VE5MDC, won The Draw

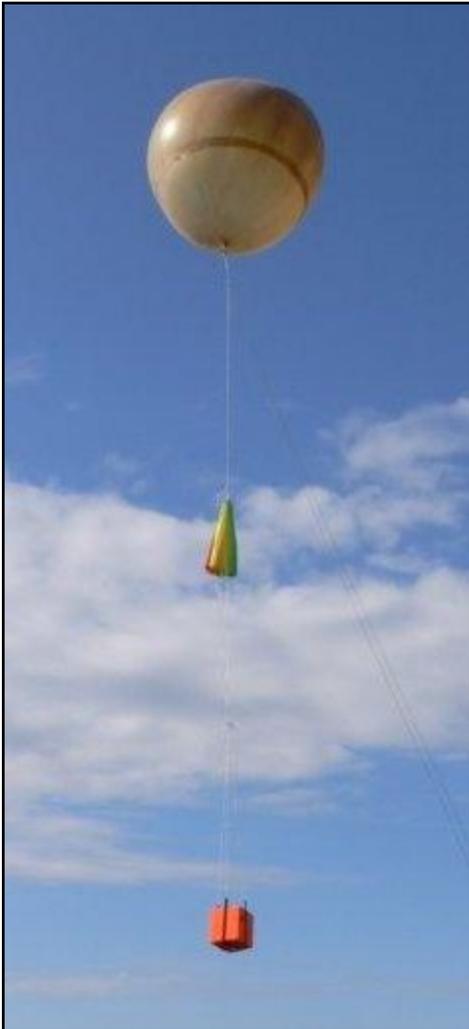
Motion to adjourn - VE5RMS moved that the meeting adjourn

Next Meeting Date is Tuesday November 18th (Note School closed on Remembrance Day)

Mike Luciuk VE5MIK
Acting Recording Secretary



SABRE Balloon Project



What do you think would happen if you gave a little boy a helium filled balloon? His thoughts would probably turn to what he could lift with it and where it would go if he let it go. From that it's pretty easy to figure out what happened when three big boys got their hands on some really big balloons and helium. And that's how the SABRE high altitude balloon project was born.

The last time you heard from us was back in June after the inaugural flight. In ham radio, learning is at least half the fun. When it comes to high altitude ballooning you learn a lot and very

quickly and many times from your mistakes. None of our flights have been without some sort of problem so the opportunity to learn is great.



SABRE-1 – The Flight to Dog River

Since we started out knowing very little about ballooning we decided to try to find the perfect spot to launch a balloon. We scouted several places before finally settling on the front yard of VE5NED, Ned's farm yard. His yard is situated about half an hour west of Davidson which places it outside the controlled air space for all the local airports.

Although the start, leaving from Saskatoon, was very early the day was beautiful. We arrived at Ned and Hazel's we were greeted by hot coffee and enough muffins, fruit and other goodies to feed a small army. We stumbled and fumbled our way through the setup and got everything set up, or so we thought.

As the winds picked up, we launched 5 minutes ahead of schedule. Just as we lifted off, we learned that the APRS transmitter was jammed on and wasn't beaconing any data. We were able to roughly track the payload by triangulation, but we lost the signals

about an hour after launch. We spent the rest of the day scouring the area indicated by triangulation but found nothing. The next day Gus, VE5SPI and his son did a grid search in the same area. Two days later we got a phone call from a farmer who found the payload, 100 km further down range than we expected, not too far from Roleau (Dog River).



SABRE-2 – Strawberries anyone?

With our next launch we decided to try launching from behind Alvin Buckwold school, where the club holds its meetings. We hoped that the local venue would give more people to come out and join in the fun. As we had hoped, we had over a dozen people join us for the second launch.

June 15 was a perfect day to launch a balloon. It was a warm sunny morning with almost no wind. We were better prepared and were ready to launch long before the scheduled time. At 8:00 we release the balloon and it floated almost

straight up. People on the ground were still able to see it overhead at over 30,000 feet. Even as it caught the upper winds, it just floated off at no more than 45 km/h. The chase team waited patiently on the side of the road and took the time to snack on cinnamon buns and strawberries. After the balloon burst and the payload descended, we drove to what we hoped would be the landing site. Just as we drove up, we saw the payload and parachute slowly falling from the sky, only a hundred or so metres off the road.

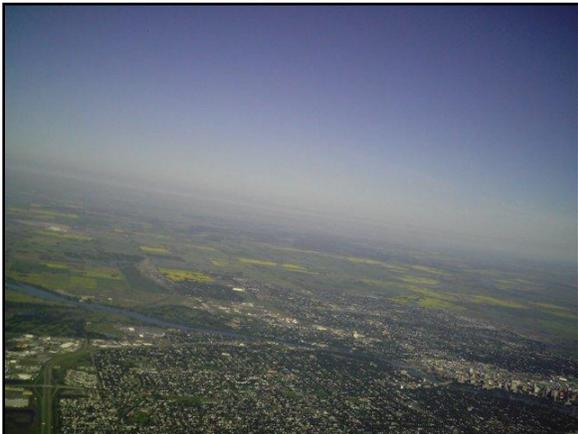


SABRE-3 – The Back 40.

Again we decided to launch from the school and the day was great. The plan this time was to add VE5RGM's ATV package again. As we powered up the systems we realized the GPSs had lost their signals. A bit of experimenting showed that the 70cm ATV transmitter was jamming the GPS signals. Our only recourse was to leave the ATV transmitter turned off. This also explained why we had lost our APRS tracking on SABRE-1.

Despite having to leave some of the equipment turned off, the flight was successful. The upper winds were higher this time and our decent rate

slower and the payload landed about 120 km south east of Saskatoon. Finding it proved to be a more difficult than we expected. Our inexperience showed again as we tried to use direction finding to track it rather than simply using the last know position and trajectory to plot the final position. After nearly an hour of searching, we found it in the center of a wet pea field.



SABRE-4 - Déjà vu all over again

With 2008 winding down and winter approaching we decided that SABRE-4 would be our last flight for the year. We decided to lighten the load and attempt to break our own altitude record of 82,000 feet. We used a new, small enclosure and only carried the imaging and tracking payloads.

The winds were very high on our first date of September 21 so we postponed it for a week. On the 28th the winds were still brisk but manageable. To ensure that we cleared all the local obstructions, we put a bit more helium in the balloon that we really needed. The resulting ascent rate was over 1000 feet per minute. With the extra helium, the balloon burst as I reached 79,000 feet. What we didn't immediately know was that the balloon had wrapped itself

around the parachute. We watched as the telemetry showed it dropping 3 times faster than expected. Despite this, the payload suffered surprisingly little damage. Coincidentally it landed less than 5 km from the landing site of SABRE-3.



Next Year

We still have 5 balloons in storage and lots of great ideas. Check the web site to see the latest updates. You can also find all of pictures video from each flight on our web site.

Here are a few ideas that we have to 2009.

- HF-UHF cross band voice repeater
- VHF simplex voice repeater
- APRS digipeating
- Improved imaging and computer controls
- Audio recording
- Getting local children's groups involved
- Non radio related experiments
- And much, much more

Look up, look way up.

<http://ve5aa.dyndns.org/>

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, 2008 to August 31, 2009

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 (.....) HF (.....)

Occupation (optional).....

Name of spouse (optional).....

Family Members (For Family Membership Application)

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

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

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

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

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.**

REVISED 01/08/08

Santa Claus Parade

November 16th (Sunday)

Santa Parade is a go this year! (weather permitting)

We have about 15 volunteers so far but we will need about 25 to have it run smoothly so come out and watch the little ones smile! There will be a lunch served after the parade in the 2nd floor board room at Midtown and underground parking is free just bring your ticket to the lunch or the information tent to have it validated. There will be door prizes for the volunteers attending the party after the parade.

Parade starts at 13:00 sharp most volunteers will need to check in before 12:30 those helping with the assembly of the parade will be required for 10:30.

We will be working with a portable repeater that will be located on the top of the Midtown tower. Freq. will be 147.300+ .

So charge up your portable radio find an earphone, your long woolies and come out and have some fun.

Contact Guse VE5SPI, Jim VE5JIM or any of the executive to volunteer.

CHRISTMAS SUPPER

TUESDAY DECEMBER 9TH 7:00 AT THE CAVE

We will be ordering from the menu as in past years.

There will be gift exchange as in the past for those who wish to participate in this activity. Gift to be no more then \$10.00.

We need to let them know how many are coming so they can set up, so please advise John VA5RJA or any of the other members of the executive if you plan to attend.