

VE5AA

October 2005

# The Feedline

SASKATOON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Portable Repeater





Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club

P.O. BOX 751  
Saskatoon, SK S7K 3L7  
<http://www.sarl.ca/ve5aa>  
[ve5aa@rac.ca](mailto:ve5aa@rac.ca)

**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, Oct 17, 2005  
7:00 PM**

**#9 FIREHALL**

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

## **NEXT CLUB MEETING**

**Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2005  
7:30 PM**

**ALVIN BUCKWOLD SCHOOL  
715 EAST DRIVE  
WEST ENTRANCE**

**BE THERE!**

### **Contests**

**Oct 1** Oceania DX Cntst Phone  
**Oct 1** California QSO Party  
**Oct 8** FISTS Fall Sprint  
**Oct 9** North Amer. Sprint RTTY  
**Oct 16** Illinois QSO Party  
**Oct 29** CQ Worldwide DX SSB  
**Oct 29** CQ WW SWL Challenge  
SSB  
**Nov 1- 7** HA-QRP Contest CW  
**Nov 5** ARRL Sweepstakes Cntst  
**Nov 6** CW High Speed Club CW

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

## **COFFEE**

**Tomas Cook  
Restaurant**

**Saturdays 9:00 AM  
Idyllwild & 24<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!**

# Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club VE5AA

October 2005

## EXECUTIVE

**President** Ron Sather 384-5093  
VE5RMS

**Past President** Andy Paquet 931-1614  
VE5APD

**Vice President** John Anton 653-0919  
VA5RJA

**Secretary** Terry Shuya 374-4240  
VE5HF

**Treasurer** Al Labbie 373-3188  
VE5MDC

### Directors

Ned Carroll VE5NED 382-1446  
Bob Hilton VE5NFG 652-7014  
Per Jacobsen VE5PER 244-5210  
Nate Mirva VE5NAT 477-0524

### 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

**Vacant**

### 50/50 Draw

Nate VE5NAT

### Feedline

Les VE5LPP

### Web-site

Bruce VE5BNC

## LOCAL AREA REPEATERS

**VE5SK** 146.640- Saskatoon SARC

**VE5SCA** 146.940- Saskatoon

**VE5ZH** 147.270- 2 MHz 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

Permanently linkd to  
VA5SV

**VA5SV** 145.330- Ridge East of Sktn

Permanently linked to  
VE5LLR

### 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**

**Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club  
Meeting Minutes  
September 13, 2005**

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Chaired by John -VA5RJA  
Minutes by Terry - VE5HF

- 1) Welcome to Guests. Meeting opened at 7:30 pm.
- 2) Motion to accept minutes of previous meeting made by Herb - VE5HE.  
Seconded by Gus - VE5SPI
- 3) Canvassed membership for suggestions for this years programs and guest speakers. Members should please contact the executive with any suggestions they have.
- 4) Public Service Events:

SuperWalk - Volunteers were requested. Event is held Sunday September 25th on the Mewasin pathway at the pavilion near Whiteswan drive.

Santa Claus Parade - A meeting will be held on September 27th, 12 noon in the 7th floor boardroom of the CN Tower. Gus is the main contact for the club. The parade will be held November 13.

5) Disposal of remaining Flea Market items. The remaining items will be disbursed of by a last offering at McQuarrie's Tea & Coffee. Club members are welcome to make an offer for any remaining items. Club members should come to the back door of McQuarries on Sunday Sept 18, 2-4 pm. A motion was made by Gus VE5SPI that the club membership allow the executive to dispose of remaining flea market items as they deem fit. Seconded by Chris VE5QV. All in favor.

6) Ham Class. Ned - VE5NED - described the new offering of a more expedited ham class by other clubs such as Regina, Calgary and Edmonton. Instead of spreading a weekly class over several months, they are offering the course over a weekend starting Friday night, with full days on Saturday and Sunday. The main focus is on operating procedures, rules & regulations and a smaller emphasis on electronics. Some items brought up for consideration were the potential higher location costs for holding the course all weekend and the possibility of holding the exam the weekend following the course. Ned and Ron - VE5RMS - will be contacting other clubs to obtain more feedback and possible course outlines. A recommendation was also made to target other groups such as Scouts, Cadets, and Youth Reservists for upcoming ham courses.

7) Morse Code Class. Herb - VE5HE - mentioned that there was some discussion about holding on the air sessions, but he suggested that getting together on a one to one basis is a much learning experience. Herb will be willing to hold the sessions Wednesday nights at his house from 7 to 8 pm if there were at least three interested parties. Please contact Herb if you are interested in taking the Morse Code class.

8) Saskatchewan Hamfest Wrap up. Ned - VE5NED - gave a summary of the Saskatchewan Hamfest held this year. There was positive feedback for about 99% of the cases, and people really enjoyed the tour of the Synchrotron. There were 112 participants, but only a hand full of SARC and MARS members attended. Devin did a great job. The event broke even monetarily, the food was excellent, and there was a great write up in this months TCA magazine on page 13. There are still shirts for the Hamfest available as well as call books and CDs.

9) Wheat Belt Award. The club will bring this award back to life, after some requests from award groups. We will be publishing information about it at RAC and on our local website. Les has created a new spiffy looking award certificate that he will revise the wording on. The new wording will indicate that the participant contacted five amateur radio operators from the Saskatoon district using high frequency radio communications. Terry will be the award manager for the time being. The club membership approved a motion to proceed with reviving this award as described.

10) Moving our club Website. Bruce - VE5BNC - indicated that our current website is having serious performance problems and requesting that we consider moving to another host site. It was suggested that Bruce should contact Chris - VE5BAR - about moving to the SARL website. Bruce indicated if all worked out he would migrate our website and redirect pages to point to the new location. As a post meeting note, Bruce did move the site and provided the following information:

Our new web address is <http://www.sarl.ca/ve5aa>

Our new email address is [ve5aa@rac.ca](mailto:ve5aa@rac.ca)

The old email will continue working and will just forward to our new one.

The old web page announces our new site and should automatically redirect people.

11) Accounting Report was presented by Al - VE5MDC, and he made mention that the silent auction at the club and Hamfest generated a decent sum to add to the club account. Motion to accept the report was made by Herb - VE5HE, and seconded by Ken - VE5KRB. Accepted.

12) AOB - Any Other Business.

Ken, VE5KRB has Wally's Yaesu transceiver for sale. It is in good condition and has 6146 finals with 180W of output.

Peter, VE5JZ, was going to recommend we not hold an exhibit at the hobby show since it does not seem to attract new membership. The executive explained that they had come to the same conclusion, and the deadline for entry had already passed anyway. An alternative suggested was to set up a booth at the annual flea market at the Western Development Museum where a table is much more cost effective. Peter will investigate. We also need to get a brochure for the club and probably hand outs from RAC. We could set up a rig for display and possibly record a QSO.

Christmas Party - we need to send information about planning for it in the next Feedline.

13) The 50/50 draw was won by Volker.

Motion to adjourn the meeting for coffee was made at 8:30 pm by Lee - VE5LEE

Terry Shuya (VE5HF)  
Secretary



### **Superwalk for Parkinson's**

This years Superwalk for Parkinson's was held on the 25th of September in the Meewasin Park north near White Swan Dr and parallel to Spadina Crescent.

The weather was cold and windy at the start of the event but the sun came out, the wind dropped a bit, and it warmed up before the event ended.

The request for assistance at the September meeting was answered by ten Ham Operators from the city. The event organizers expressed their gratitude to all of the hams for their help and the time they spent at the event making it another successful and safe event.

The only casualty of the day was a young fellow who suffered an asthma attack while walking and Bruce VE5BNC gave him a ride to the St. John Ambulance van for assessment. There was a BBQ at the end of the walk that was enjoyed by all those who were able to attend.



I would like to personally thank the following Hams who assisted with this event and gave up their valuable time.

VA5RJA John  
VE5ALT Yvonne  
VE5BNC Bruce  
VE5CMG Colleen  
VE5LEE Leigh  
VE5MDC Al  
VE5MMG Mike  
VE5PER Per  
VE5RBG Bob



Bruce brought along his portable repeater. The duplexer from the club was used along with a 1/4 wave ground plane antenna and mast supplied by the writer. The system was battery powered and worked very well.

Once again my thanks to all who assisted in this event hope to see you at the next public Service event. 73  
73 Gus (VE5SPI)



The following article appeared in the September, 2005 edition of The Calgary Amateur Radio Club's newsletter "Key Klix." We think it's well worth repeating here.

### WELCOME TO THE NEW HF!

The big Amateur Radio news this summer was the decision of Industry Canada to drop the Morse code qualification as a requirement for HF operation.

This has been in the works for several years. In 1990 the Morse code requirements for the bands under 30 MHz were reduced to 5 and 12 wpm from the former 10 and 15 wpm, and the requirement for a years experience on CW before phone operation was allowed was dropped. More recently in 2002, the 12 wpm requirement was dropped, and all of HF was available with a 5 wpm test. The removal 5 wpm is the last step to a no code licence which allows operation on all amateur bands from DC to daylight.

To those of you who had to pass 15 wpm to get on phone, FEAR NOT! THIS DOES NOT MEAN THE END

OF OW! CW operation is still permitted!!! ***CW now becomes the hobby it should have been.***

In World War II long distance communication, especially to ships, could only be reliably maintained on HF, and with CW. There were no satellites, and trans-oceanic cables didn't go everywhere. CW was the backbone of marine communications. Messages were in cipher and 100% accuracy was necessary.

This need for 100% accuracy in transmission of cipher messages during wartime was carried over into amateur radio by the Canadian Department of Transport, who licensed amateurs after WWII. Until 1990 the tests of 10 wpm for the amateur and 15 wpm for the advanced amateur licence required 100% to pass. The 100% pass mark, more than the code requirement, kept Canadians out of ham radio in droves.

The United States had a similar pass mark. Tests at 5, 13 and 20 wpm had a pass mark of 100%. The US pass mark was computed differently. Code was sent for 5 minutes. Copying any 1 minute of this 5 minute test correctly counted as a 100% pass. This was much easier than the Canadian 100% where all characters in the 3 minute test had to be copied correctly. Later the Canadian DOT defined 145, 146, 147, 148, 149 and 150 correct characters out of 150 as 100%, the most bizarre regulation I have ever seen. The pass mark was now 97 2/3% but was still difficult. This accuracy was required for the new 5 and 12 wpm tests. (In 1974 I

was transferred to the US. I took the US extra class exam and was K5OF. 20 wpm with a 1 out of 5 minute pass was easy after the Canadian test, so I speak from experience.)

WWII is ancient history and the need for 100% accuracy is long gone. In the 1950's RTTY became the cipher transmission mode of choice for the military, so few military operators have been trained in high speed CW since the 1960's. CW as a marine safety requirement was dropped at the end of 1999, so today there is no radio service which uses OW.

I encourage all old timers to welcome newcomers on both CW and SSB phone. Accept the fact that the regulations have changed. I know that you worked hard to get your code (I sure did!) and you should be proud of it. To keep the hobby alive we need new blood which means encouraging new hams. Don't chase newcomers away with rudeness and bad manners. Use good operating procedure and be a good example for new amateurs to follow.

I encourage all newcomers to get on HF. It is absolutely thrilling to call CQ and have someone come back to you! With modest equipment working North America is routine, and DX is possible on good days. You will find that OW with low power gets through under marginal conditions when phone will not. If you get interested in low power (QRP) or portable operation you will find that OW works better than phone with simple antennas.

The good news is ***you can learn CW and you don't have to pass that***

**onerous test!!!** I encourage all newcomers to learn CW. It is part of the ham radio experience. Don't be satisfied with 5 wpm - this is not fast enough for effective communication. Set your goal at 15 or 20 wpm so that you can have fun conversations. Work at it and don't be afraid of making mistakes in sending, you will get better as you make more contacts. There is no substitute for practice, and the best and most enjoyable practice is to use code to make QSO's on the air. HF is great! As Hugh Cassidy taught us, DX is!

Amy Rivett, VEG6CN  
CARA President



## Hamfest – Report From the Chair

Submitted by: Devon Racicot  
VE5DWR

All in all, the Saskatchewan Centennial Hamfest 2005 was a success. Final count indicates that we had 141 people through the doors in one capacity or another, from full weekend passes to flea market admissions.

Unfortunately, we had not been able to convince any dealers to attend and set up a display in the flea market area, but as a couple of them had indicated, over the years of coming to Saskatchewan and not making it worth their while in sales, what else can we expect. It certainly wasn't for lack of trying.

The flea market saw approximately 20 tables of radio and computer equipment and several static displays thanks to the Saskatchewan Amateur Radio League, Radio Amateurs of Canada, 734 Communications Squadron and the Canadian Ladies of Amateur Radio Association. I heard a few grumblings about there not being enough fleas, but I'll put it to you this way – we can only supply the space and from there it is up to individual amateurs to make the effort to bring their equipment. If one out of four more people that attended brought a few things can you imagine what kind



### S.A.R.C. Web-site moved

The new address for the S.A.R.C. web-site is <http://www.sarl.ca/ve5aa>  
The e-mail address is now [ve5aa@rac.ca](mailto:ve5aa@rac.ca)

**CENTENNIAL 2005  
CALLBOOKS AND CD'S  
ARE STILL AVAILABLE  
FROM ANY OF THE  
EXECUTIVE OF S.A.R.C.  
OR M.A.R.S.**

of flea market we would have? That's some food for thought for the next hamfest or flea market that you attend.

The day's programs were well attended and both clubs were presented a plaque from Radio Amateurs of Canada in appreciation for providing time and space for their Annual General Meeting.

There was about \$1100 in door prizes provided by various companies including three of the larger amateur radio dealers including Radioworld, Durham Radio and NTF Communications. There were others approached, but declined, or in some cases didn't even bother to get back to us as they stated they would. Keep this in mind when you are buying your next rig and support those companies who supported us! Ned VE5NED was the grand door prize winner taking home the \$100 gift certificate from Radioworld.

The hamfest committee also organized a radio or cash prize raffle and Jack Croteau VE5AY won the draw which was made at the banquet on Saturday evening, taking home \$440 cash.

The committee distributed a survey and asked hamfest attendees to fill them out to provide feedback. The majority of the comments received were very positive, especially from the out of province hams. One ham had never been to Saskatoon before and said in an email he forwarded later that he thought the hamfest set the bar and he hoped that future hamfests he attends are able to do as well as we did. He also said that the accommodations and the City of Saskatoon were fantastic.

Overall, there were a few administrative and organizational issues that would need to be worked out should the club(s) ever decide to host another hamfest. The committee has met since the hamfest and is preparing a final report to the clubs explaining some of the issues we had and recommendations for the future. This report will be made available for viewing by anyone interested, once it is complete.

General comments and thoughts after the fact from the committee meeting indicated that we were very disappointed in the attendance from hams in the province and hams in Saskatoon particularly. We had more people take the time to travel from other parts of the country as far away as Ontario and BC to come here, than we had from our own city.

The committee would like to thank those that did attend and especially those that volunteered for a position or task. Without your help, this hamfest surely would not have been possible.

Make sure you mark Regina 2006 on your calendar! Let's make sure we have good representation from Saskatoon.

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**SWAP AND SHOP ADS  
ARE FREE TO ALL  
AMATEURS**

**CONTACT  
LES (VE5LPP)  
ve5lpp@rac.ca**

