

# The QSO



April/May 2004

<http://www.sarl.ca>

Volume 2004, Issue 2

## Editor's Note

Devon Racicot VE5DWR (Editor)



Well this issue was a little bit later that I had hoped, but I guess the main thing is that it is now in your hands! As I'm typing this, the temperature outside in Saskatoon is about 12 Degrees Celsius, a definite sign that spring has arrived! In other words, time

to get that neglected antenna maintenance done before the heat wave comes.

This issue we take a look at the report from one of the Moose Jaw ARES group's exercises, the Moose Jaw Amateur Radio Club's annual flea market and many more local events.

We also want to welcome several new & renewal members to SARL. Derek and I attended the MJARC flea market and had an SARL display set up. We offered free back issues of *The QSO*, and advertised the membership dues for the 2004/05 year, which are the lowest they've been in a long time at \$15 per year. Thanks to everybody that stopped by the table to have a chat! I think it's safe to say we are on the upward climb and there are people that truly believe there is a need for a Provincial organization.

In what is becoming a heated debate, the Wall Street Journal published an article in March 2004 in which they interviewed a ham radio operator in New York regarding the new "Broadband over Power Lines" or BPL technology. The newspaper published several inaccuracies in the number of ham radio

operators in the United States and made claims how the support and interest for the hobby has diminished considerably in the last decade. I have re-printed the article from *The Wall Street Journal* in this issue and provided a link to the ARRL's response. Also of interest, other organizations such as *CQ Magazine* have sent replies to the *WSJ*. If you do an internet search for Ham radio and BPL, you'll be surprised at the results.

And finally, Chris Morgan VE5BAR, our new webmaster has completed the upgrades to the SARL's home on the web. We have some back issues of *The QSO* available, information on the Saskatchewan Linked Net and soon to be history section available for Internet users. Many thanks to Chris for a job well done.

Enjoy the issue, and we hope to have more information on the Annual General Meeting and Flea Market in the next issue.

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**The Saskatchewan  
Amateur Radio League**

*The QSO*

**The Fine Print**

The QSO is published on a regular basis for the membership of the Saskatchewan Amateur Radio League (SARL). The purpose is to provide Saskatchewan and other amateurs, and those interested in radio communications and electronics, with information on matters related to the science of communication. Unsolicited articles, reviews, features, letters to the editor, criticisms, photographs and essays are welcome. Manuscripts should be legible and include the name and address of the contributor. A signed article expresses the view of the author and not necessarily that of SARL.

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SARL and the editors of the QSO magazine, also reserve the right to edit any submissions to the magazine to preserve space, fix spelling mistakes and make grammatical changes or any other reason.

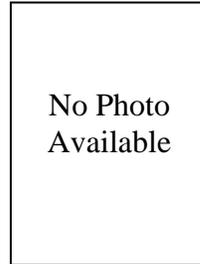
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**2003 – 2004 Executive**



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Yorkton & Area	Vacant
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## From the President's Desk

Derek Bereza VE5SD



On behalf of SARL I would like to congratulate the Moose Jaw hams for another awesome flea market this spring! Your hospitality was awesome! We gained nine new /renewed memberships to SARL at the flea market.

The new/renewed members are:

Larry Panteluk, VE5AJ    Marv Paulson, VE5OO,  
Terry Shuya, VE5HF, Patrick Caswell, VE5AEO,  
Val Lemko, VE5ACT        Doug Appleton,  
VE5DA,    Wayne        Thompson, VE5DWT  
Randy Canning, VE5QU.

We welcome our latest members and look forward to providing you value in belonging to our provincial amateur radio league.

Last time we spoke on some future ideas and initiatives that SARL will be undertaking. A number of them have begun and are in full swing. For example, check out our new website [www.sarl.ca](http://www.sarl.ca), it has taken shape over the last few months and was officially launched on April 7th. Over the coming months we will be adding some awesome content and we hope it will be a useful tool for people to use. As well, another top notch QSO is done with a special "double issue" planned for the next issue.

At the Moose Jaw flea market a decision was made that SARL should host a flea market and Annual General Meeting in July since no club or association has come to the plate and offered to host one. We have now begun to organize the event and are happy to announce that we are having it July 24 weekend at Walter Murray Collegiate in Saskatoon. We will have our Annual General Meeting, a top notch flea market, a brand new SARL sponsored "Controller Class", and possibly other "surprises??"

The pillars or "strong foundation" in a good organization is its membership. A strong, diverse, challenged and talented membership can do some amazing things when the work together for a common purpose. We all have different gifts or talents that we like to do. If we had a core group of us that like to contribute to the hobby in our own special way, we could join together and create some amazing things together. Look at the works of Devon and Chris with their work with the newsletter and website. If we continue with the "amateur spirit" of contributing to the hobby and others, we can create a fun and rewarding future for our hobby in our province.

SARL has been doing a great deal of talking to amateurs in the province. One common theme that keeps being brought up is that we should be having a coordinated network of repeaters established and for emergencies and used as one "big provincial repeater". Where as many of the repeaters/nodes in the province could be connected to the SASKLINK system. The SASKLINK system is simply the existing and future terrestrial systems, IRLP, IPARN and future communication networks. Simply, any amateur organization can join in once they meet the standards already established by the different repeater groups. This is where the new "Controller Classes" will come into play.

For the next issue of QSO, we will go in detail on the concept of the controller class and the Sasklink network. For now, I hope you had a good Easter, and we look forward seeing you all at the annual general meeting!

### Saskatchewan Linked Net

Mondays and Wednesdays

21:00 Local Time

Reflector 9300 and the SK Link Network

[www.sarl.ca/sasknet](http://www.sarl.ca/sasknet)

## LARA Provides Communications

Wayne Thompson VE5DWT



On Sunday, February 15th, 2004 the LakeLand Amateur Radio Association provided communications for the "Northern Lights Canadian Challenge" Sled Dog Races

which ran from Prince Albert, Sask. to Lac La Ronge Sask. and back to the finish line at the Spruce Home Trail Riders Arena. The race consisted of 11 twelve dog teams and 6 six dog teams.

Our communication effort started at 8:00AM and continued through until 6:00PM. involving the three repeaters VE5QU at Elk Ridge Resort, VE5LAK at Christopher Lake, and VE5IOU in Prince Albert. These repeaters are linked and provide a continuous coverage from south of Weyakwin, Sask. to just south of MacDowall, Sask.

Those involved with these communications were John VE5JJA, Isaac VE5IKE, Roly VE5RO, Bob VE5MY, Harry VE5HFH, Randy VE5QU and Wayne VE5DWT.

## Regina News

Source: RARA Guywire, March 2004

Bill Wood VE5EE has announced that Terry, VE5TLW has taken over the duties of ARES Emergency Coordinator for the Regina area. He is taking over from Bill who served untiringly in that capacity for many years. Bill will continue as an assistant to Terry.

During the last big blizzard, VE5WM was connected to several other provincial IRLP repeaters This was done as an aid to travelers as it increased the number of potential ears that could be called on for assistance in the event someone encountered difficulties on the road. We will continue to do this whenever there are severe weather conditions. It is hoped that some formal agreement can be

reached with repeater operators to make this a standard procedure.

We still have occasions where someone is dialing up IRLP nodes and failing to identify themselves. It is not only bad operating practice but also very illegal to fail to identify when accessing a repeater, and made even worse on a linking system where two or more repeaters may be involved.

The log of the IRLP node shows that there are quite a few incoming calls from all over the world that have gone unanswered. While Regina is certainly not what you would call a hotbed of amateur activity, let's not let the rest of the world think that ham radio is dead here. The solution to this is scanning. By scanning you won't miss activity on any of the 4 local repeaters. A surprising number of people don't even know what the Scan button on their radio is for.

### SARL AGM & Flea Market

July 24, 2004

Walter Murray Collegiate Institute

1905 Preston Avenue South, Saskatoon

8AM: Vendors

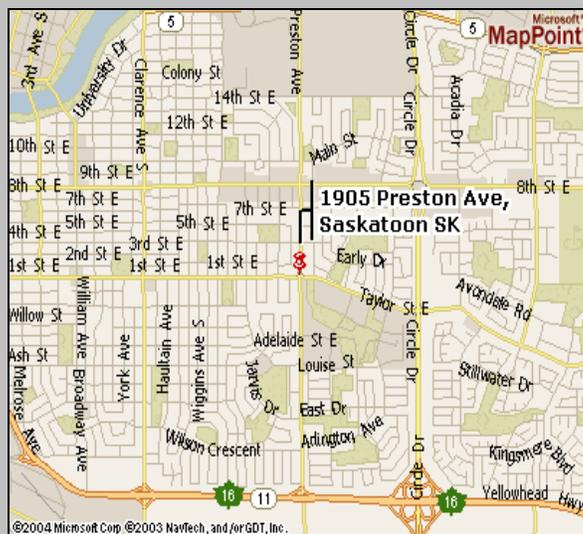
9AM: Admission

Tables: \$5.00 / each

Admission: \$5.00 / each

GPS: 52.10751 N 106.62258 W

**SEE BACK PAGE FOR MORE DETAILS!**



## Moose Jaw ARES/SAR Exercise

Source: MJARC Ham Herald, February/March 2004 Issue

On January 18, 2004, VE5TRF, Barry got a phone call from Fern, the head of Moose Jaw Search and Rescue to aid them in an exercise. Barry then called together his ARES people. ARES functions are for anyone who wants to be involved and help out in any way they can (either monitoring from home or being on the site). Below is a brief explanation of the SAR exercise.

0800 Call received from head of SAR "Fern"  
(VE5TRF & VE5TRG)

0830 Met at RCMP office in Moose Jaw

0900 Left RCMP office

0910 Called VE5BBB and VE5RED to give a hand  
VE5KG and VE5LWS said they will monitor from home

0930 Arrived at site

1000 Dispersed to stations

1445 Wrapped up

Synopsis: The search site was 20+ km east of Moose Jaw at municipality of Moose Jaw & Pense on Eastview Road. The object of the exercise was to help SAR in providing perimeter security and backup communications in order to locate 3 lost snowmobilers.

### Did You Know?

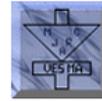
Did you know that the SARL gives new amateurs a complimentary one year membership? Just have the Delegated Examiner contact the Executive to provide the information on the new amateurs behalf!

Email: [ve5rms@sarl.ca](mailto:ve5rms@sarl.ca)

## Moose Jaw ARC Flea Market

QSO Staff

Moose Jaw  
Amateur  
Radio Club



VE5MA  
Chartered  
Nov. 16, 1921

The Moose Jaw Amateur Radio Club's annual flea market was held on Saturday, April 3, 2004 at the Church of Our Lady hall in Moose Jaw.

Although we don't have a final figure, a good guess would be upwards of eighty amateurs in attendance.

The day started with a pancake breakfast at 8 AM and the action started at 9 AM.

The club held a fifty-fifty draw which was won by a local member.



A general overview of the flea market.

SARL President Derek Bereza VE5SD was in attendance and had a table set up with SARL related material. As indicated in the President's report, a number of people renewed or became members of SARL.

The last two issues of *The QSO* were provided for interested people.

Thanks to everyone that attended our table! SARL would like to thank the Moose Jaw Amateur Radio Club for the opportunity to set up the display.



SARL President Derek Bereza VE5SD at the SARL display.

## RAC Midwest Report

Bj. Madsen VESFX



As a result of the recent resignation of (ex) Director Nimmo from the Atlantic Region and the election of Daniel Lamoureux, the (ex) Director from Quebec, to RAC President, RAC now lacks representation from both the Quebec and the Atlantic Region.

Since the election of President Lamoureux, RAC also lacks an Honourary Legal Council and a Treasurer.

The RAC Board of Directors' Annual Meeting is scheduled for early May, in Cornwall, ON. It will (probably) be preceded by a CARAB meeting in Ottawa, which I will again probably be attending.

While the recent WRC2003 meeting changed the limitations on Third Party Traffic, VP Jim Dean advises that we continue to work under the old rules until we are officially informed by Industry Canada that the new rules are in affect.

The new rules state that third party traffic **WILL** be allowed **UNLESS** the country in question has informed the IRAU that they do not permit such

traffic.

Industry Canada has not yet informed RAC of their official position on the CW issue. Hopefully, they will bring us up to date at the next CARAB meeting.

Advice for BASIC license holders who wish access to the HF bands: If you can possibly do it, get your 5 wpm CW endorsement **BEFORE** Industry Canada officially changes the requirements.

- if you wait, you will probably have to re-write the BASIC exam and score over 80% to get HF access.
- not all countries intend to drop the CW requirement. To operate in those countries, you will need to have a CW endorsement anyway. The USA may drop the CW requirement, but if they do, it will probably take some time.
- CW is not a bad thing.

Congratulations to Bart Ritchie (VE5CPU), Sam Ferris (VE5SF) and Bruce Rattray (VE5RC) who will be taking over the management and administration of the RAC Winter Contest.

Have you or has your club considered making a contribution to the RAC Youth Education Program? For details, see <http://www.rac.ca> with a link to "Youth Education".

Contributions have already been received from the Regina Amateur Radio Association and the Weyburn Amateur Radio Club. This program is designed to bring schools and young people into Amateur Radio. Saskatoon's Walter Murray Collegiate is already an active participant in the program.

## In This Power Play, High-Wire Act Riles Ham Radio Fans

Source: Wall Street Journal, March 23, 2004  
Ken Brown, Staff Reporter, *The Wall Street Journal*

Rick Lindquist drove down a street in a New York City suburb, ignoring the snow swirling around his car and twirling the dial on the ham radio mounted to the side of his dashboard. The radio picked up an operator in Minnesota discussing antennas, the Salvation Army's daily emergency network check and then the time, as broadcast from Colorado by the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

As the car turned onto North State Road in the village of Briarcliff Manor in Westchester County, the voices faded, replaced with whirs and wahs -- what could have been sound effects from a 1950s science-fiction movie. The source, according to Mr. Lindquist, was right outside the window: the power lines running alongside the road.

Owned by Consolidated Edison, the lines transmit not just electricity but data, much like phone and cable-TV wires. The utility is testing a system for reading meters, probing for outages and potentially offering high-speed Internet access to its customers via their electrical outlets. The interference from the power lines "ranges from very annoying to that's-all-I-can-hear," contends Mr. Lindquist, 58 years old, who often taps out Morse-code messages as he drives.

In a clash between the dots and dashes of the telegraph and the bits and bytes of the Web, the nation's vocal but shrinking population of ham-radio operators, or "hams" as they call themselves, are stirring up a war with the utility industry over new power-line communications. Hams have flooded the Federal Communications Commission with about 2,500 letters and e-mails opposing power-line trials. In a letter to the FCC, the American Radio Relay League, a ham-radio group with 160,000 members, called power-line communications "a Pandora's box of unprecedented proportions."

The league has raised more than \$300,000 from nearly 5,600 donors since last summer, to pay for testing, lobbying and publicity to spread

the word about the perceived threat. A half-dozen hams even confronted FCC Chairman Michael Powell, a big advocate of the power-line technology, when he visited a test site near Raleigh, N.C., earlier this month.

The problem, most ham operators contend, is that power lines weren't built to carry anything other than electricity. Telephone and cable-TV lines are either shielded with a second set of wires or twisted together to prevent their signals from interfering with other transmissions. But signals sent over electrical wires tend to spill out, the hams contend.

The FCC and the utilities say new technologies have eliminated the interference and accuse the hams of exploiting the issue for their own gains. "We haven't seen the sun darken and everything electrical turn to white noise and haze during a deployment," says Matt Oja, an executive at Progress Energy, whose test Mr. Powell visited. "This is a fairly vocal group that has been whipped into a frenzy by their organization."

The controversy comes at a sensitive time for the hams. Not too many decades ago, ham-radio operators were on the cutting edge of communications technology. They chatted with people in far-flung places at a time when long-distance calling was still a luxury. They spread word of disasters that otherwise might have taken days to reach the public. In the age of e-mail, wireless Internet access and cell phones that double as walkie-talkies, many operators worry that their hobby will fade away.

To become a fully licensed ham operator, people still need to learn Morse code, though that requirement likely will be dropped soon after more than a decade of debate. Aging hams, who built crystal radio sets as kids or were radio operators during World War II, are dying. Fewer youngsters are replacing them. Armed with powerful computers, today's young "tinkerers" grow up to be tech geeks, playing videogames and writing software.

The American Radio Relay League has seen its membership shrink to today's 160,000 from a peak of 175,000 in 1995, and the average member is in his mid-50s. The group estimates that there are about 250,000 active ham-radio enthusiasts.

Hams always have been a quirky bunch. They haunt a series of short-wave radio frequencies set aside for them by the federal government in the 1930s. Other slices of the spectrum are reserved for AM and FM radio, broadcast television, cell phones, and police and fire departments, among other uses.

Hams take great pride in radioing around the world. One favorite game: trying to contact someone in each of the 3,000-plus counties in the U.S. Mr. Lindquist is so enthusiastic about ham radio that he vacations in spots such as Whitehorse, the capital of Canada's Yukon Territory, so other hams can claim they made contact with that city.

Ed Thomas, the FCC's chief engineer, says the commission has spent a year listening to the hams' concerns about power lines and is getting frustrated. "Why is this thing a major calamity?" he says. "And honestly, I'd love the answer to that."

Companies such as Con Ed and Progress note that current FCC regulations call for systems to be shut down if they interfere with hams. The radio operators agree the rules are clear, but they fear they will be rescinded or not enforced.

Con Ed says its system in Briarcliff Manor doesn't interfere with the hams and maintains that, in two years of testing, it hasn't received one complaint. But the American Radio Relay League says it did mention this system in its letters to the FCC, and it has been complaining about it on its Web site.

The hams have been quick to act wherever systems are being rolled out. Just days after Penn Yan, a town of 5,200 that sits amid New

York's Finger Lakes, approved a plan to test power-line Internet access, "the firestorm started with the ham-radio operators -- letters, e-mails, telephone calls saying, 'You can't do this,'" recalls Mayor Doug Marchionda Jr.

Hoping to keep everyone happy, he approached David Simmons, a local ham and owner of an electronics store that sells radio gear. They surveyed the town before the trial began to get base readings of interference. They even pinpointed a spot that had bothered police and firefighters for years, tracing it to refrigerators at a local supermarket.

With the refrigerators fixed and the power-line system in place over nine blocks of Penn Yan, Mr. Simmons is satisfied that there is no interference and now favors the new technology. "This thing has caught quite a buzz," he says. "It's just so much negativity out there."

Tom Gius, a ham-radio operator in Alpine, Texas, sees the power lines as a threat to the public services that hams provide. When hailstorms sweep through each spring, Mr. Gius heads to the local radio station, while other hams fan out to the north, south, east and west. They communicate by radio, and Mr. Gius passes information to the radio station. "We won't be able to understand each other, it'll be so noisy," frets Mr. Gius, a 60-year-old retired broadcaster.

*(Read the ARRL's response to this article at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) - Ed.)*

Don't forget to renew your SARL membership if you haven't already. Memberships expire at the end of June.

## Saskatchewan Swap & Shop

Larry Sedgwick, VE5VR

### WANTED

1.VE5HKC

- a) Schematic or shop manual for a Palomar 350z Linear amplifier.  
Keith @ 306-747-2980 or kecurrie@sasktel.net.
2. VE7RKC  
a) Good quality Tube tester, military unit such as I-77B or TV7D/U  
Randy @ 250-838-7311 or ve7rkc@sunwave.net
3. VE5NFG  
a) 220 MHz radio equipment such as radios, antennas, repeaters and other.  
Bob @ 306-652-7014
4. VE5QY  
a) Good 2M mobile TXCVR, synthesized & in good shape.  
Cliff @ 306-692-1095
5. VE6CQ  
a) Vintage receiver such as Hammerlund model SX28 or HQ180 or SP600 or equivalent, with good band-spread.  
b) EICO #730 modulator in good condition  
Rick @ 403-520-1645 or ve6cq@shaw.ca
6. VE6XI  
a) Boat anchor, RCA-AR-88D (not an AR-88LF which was more common. May be interested in trade.  
John @ 403-652-3649 or fax same number.
7. VA5RON  
a) Power supply for Kenwood TS-440  
Ron @ 306-374-3412
8. VE4TIM  
a) manual for a Kenwood PS-430 PS for copying  
Tim @ 204-638-8107 or ve4tim@mts.net
9. VE6TR  
a) Antenna coax switch (2 or 3 position)  
Kjell @ 403-527-7133
10. VE6RAM  
a) manual for Ameritron AL-84 Linear Amp.  
Ross @ 403-803-1719
11. VE5AG  
a) Radio Shack RS-242 2M mobile  
Bob @ 306-279-2048
12. VE7MTW  
a) Icom 745 TXCVR in good working order and reasonably priced.  
John @ 250-337-8188 or  
soona4woodlets@telus.net
13. VE4XQ  
a) 3-400 tube, must be in good shape  
Cal @ 204-832-5041 or banjo@mts.net
14. VE5PFL  
a) Kenwood sky command system, complete unit. Have Kenwood 790A dual-bander with provision for 23 CM that he would consider as trade.  
b) Kenwood MC48B tone mic with 8 pin connector for Kenwood 790 radio.  
c) Microphone relay switch to operate two Kenwood radios from one MC-60 Mic, must have 8 pin connectors.  
Peter @ 306-783-6109 or ve5pfl@sasktel.net
15. VE5VR  
a) 80 – 10M trap dipole with all traps working.  
Larry @ 306-825-6876 or ve5vr@rac.ca
16. VE3WWR  
a) Viewstar VS-1500A tuner  
John @ 905-389-9559 or  
ve3wwr@mountaincable.net
17. VE5LBD  
a) 4:1 Balun  
Larry @ 306-287-3777

## FOR SALE

1. VE7ALR  
a) 48 Ft Delhi Tower, c/w Mosley tri band beam, 2 M ground plane, buyer to take down and remove. Vancouver area.  
Vic @ 604-738-7975
2. VA3BMS  
a) Kenwood TM-V7A Dual band HH, dtmf mic, mobile bracket included. Like new with all accessories and original packaging, c/w 11amp power supply. \$460.00.  
b) Power supplies: Powertech 15A, 13.8 VDC, new \$70.00, Powertech 11A, 13.8 VDC, Used, \$50.00, Astron RS-20 with amp/volt meters, \$160.00.  
c) Diamond X-50A Dual band base station antenna, 200W, 4.5 to 7.2 db gain, only 3 months old, includes original packaging, screws and brackets, \$110.00.  
d) SMC wireless internet router for cable/dsl, 2.4 GHz 11mbps, model #7004AWBR with all accessories and manual, brand new, \$75.00, SMC Wireless internet PCMCIA note book card, 2.4 GHz, 11mbps Model #2635W in original box, all accessories and manual, brand new, \$45.00  
e) Samsugn 17 x 17" LCD monitor, black thin bezel, like new, \$500.00  
Slawko @ 519-803-8300 or sly@bxpro.net
3. VE7JBO  
a) Yaesu FT-101B  
b) Calcomm HF SWR meter  
Jason @ 250-545-1430
4. VE6ASR  
a) Armaco TBK-50 Bug, chrome, black base, dust cover, \$95.00  
Bob @ 403-281-4260 or  
bbowness2001@yahoo.com
5. VE6RAJ  
a) Kenwood TS-450SAT, 10 to 160M TXCVR with auto-tuner. Included are 500Hz CW filters in both 8.83 and 455 Ifs. 2.4KHz SSB filter in the 455KC IF. Hand microphone with up/down control. Rig is in excellent cosmetic and electronic conditions. Never been used as a mobile rig. Occasional use. Original boxes and manual included, \$850.00.

6. VESMC

a) Pro 2004 scanning receiver with Hyperscan, frequency ranges are 25-520 and 760-1300 MHz, volume is intermittent, \$50.00.

b) All band mobile mount scanner antenna, \$25.00.

Murray @ 306-692-1452

7. VE7DTK

**Saskatchewan Club Meetings**

**Meewasin Amateur Radio Society**

May 3, 2004 (7:30PM)

Walter Murray Collegiate

1905 Preston Avenue South, Saskatoon

**Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club**

April 13, 2004 (7:30PM)

May 10, 2004 (7:30PM)

Alvin Buckwold School

715 East Drive, Saskatoon

**Regina Amateur Radio Association & ARES Regina**

April 7, 2004 (7:30PM)

May 5, 2004 (7:30PM)

Saskatchewan Science Centre

2903 Powerhouse Drive, Regina

**ARES Saskatoon**

April 19, 2004 (7:30PM)

May 17, 2004 (7:30PM)

Saskatoon City Hospital

701 Queen Street, Saskatoon

**YOUR AD HERE!**

**qso@sarl.ca**

Is your club meeting not listed here?

Wondering why? Every issue, we scour the Internet looking for information on the happenings of club's in this Province. Some clubs are very good at keeping their web sites current, and some are not. Please send us your club events and activities so they can be published on time so we all have an opportunity to participate.

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Thanks! qso@sarl.ca