



2009 Volume 2 March / April



I do believe spring has finally arrived, as we all splash through the puddles on our way to and fro. It is nice to see, as I'm not sure if it is just me but this winter has seemed to drag on and on. Dust off the antenna project list and start planning!

We have a busy spring ahead of us on the board. It is unfortunate this newsletter is going out just shy of the Moose Jaw flea market where the board will be meeting face to face to go over a few items, but "deadlines is deadlines" – right Val? Of course we will be discussing some of the things I commented on last issue and the board will have a recommendation for the AGM on those issues and we'll introduce a few more before then.

I am delighted to receive email from members and non-members alike asking about issues on their mind. Recently, I was asked why we don't work towards linking the province's repeaters up. My response was simply that SARL "got out of that business" some time ago due to recurring expenses and lack of financial support. We were down to about 20 members then and were not able to maintain the equipment properly. Perhaps it is time to revisit the issue? I think the downfall in the past was that we tried to both own and operate repeaters and that became very costly. Perhaps if we model the project after the Southern Alberta Repeater Association whereby we only 'provide linking equipment' to an already existing repeater, we might make it more feasible? Some thought for discussion at any rate.

With the push on for mobile phone legislation in our province, from an SARL point of view we must be prepared for that battle. As has happened in other jurisdictions in Canada, legislation has been tabled to prohibit the operation of "handheld electronic devices" while operating a motor vehicle. While in itself, that doesn't sound like a bad thing, there often is no provision to exempt amateur radio operation which has the potential to inhibit our operations during ARES related operations. Other amateur radio organizations have confronted politicians and their respective committees and have had success. Currently Ontario and Manitoba are in the process of doing the same. We would be naïve to think that we won't be next. Your board will be learning from the outcomes in these matters and will formulate an action plan to deal with the issue when it arises.

As always, SARL and the QSO will keep you up to date in these issues and this particular item will be another topic of discussion at our next meeting. Please send your comments about this issue to me or your local area director.

Of course, we will only have one more newsletter before the AGM, so please begin to think about letting your name stand for nomination to the SARL board. We will be putting together a committee to do some "shoulder tapping" to fill upcoming vacancies, but if you want to let your name stand for election, then please feel free to contact any member of the board or executive in the meantime.

Yours truly,

Devon Racicot – VE5DWR

President – SARL

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING - <http://www.rac.ca/downloads/rac-crc-en-200903.pdf>

From Harvey VE5HAW at Melville

As the net manager for Saskatchewan 2 meter link net, I would like to let everyone know that this past winter has been a very good one and I would like to say a big thanks to Randy VE5RJM, Devon VE5DWR, Chris VE5BAR, and all the others that helped us get the 9300 back up and running. Yes you read right we now have the reflector back but it is now called

The Saskatchewan Reflector. The Sask. Net will be moving back home to the 9300 on the **April 20** as I know everyone has missed it, I know I have. I would like to thank all at the Discovery 9010 Reflector for the use of ch. 2 and know that it is there if we should ever need it again.

Now that spring is here we can get out side and take care of all the antenna projects we have been dreaming of all winter long so take care everyone. 73'3

CQ 100 – A Great Addition to Ham Radio By Bruce Donovan VE5ND

I have used this at the Telus World of Science when I was doing Guides on the Air recently. It works great because you can put in the info that you are a Guides on the Air station and sit there and call CQ and wait until someone else with Guides catches up to you. We had numerous Guides talking to Guides on there.

I agree with the Ham that wrote this: I've found this to be a superbly engineered product that apparently isn't for everybody, but has added a lot of fun and excitement to my shack for a very reasonable cost. It is a great program for rag chewing and you can do CW on it as well – pretty neat. It resembles a radio and even has turning the dial which a really nice attribute. Another nice feature is the call frequencies. On 20 metres it is 14.200. When you get to the end of the band it stops so you don't have to know where those limits are. You have Mike Gain and AF Gain just like you do on a normal radio. Interesting enough on 29 MHz it goes from 29.000 to 29.700. On normal bands the Oscar's have uplinks and downlinks here. The airwaves are not crowded at all. You could make a sched with anyone and have the frequency to yourself quite easily. It does cost \$32 / year but I think it is well worth it. Of course the best thing is that conditions are always great and don't depend on the ionosphere. One of the main attributes is that it is not blocked by Firewalls. After having fought with Echolink for years and having to get through the firewalls this is a tremendous asset. On the whole I think you will like it but not everyone is as impressed as I am. I haven't heard any bad operating on there which is quite surprising. I guess with Doug keeping an eye on things that helps.

Just works right "out of the box" with no need to configure router ports. This means it can be used from hotel rooms, airports, public libraries, internet cafes, etc. One of the best things is that it is a Canadian product out of Thunder Bay, ON. You can always get help from doug@qsonet.com

From their website

Features and Specifications:

- Just works right "out of the box" with no need to configure router ports.
This means it can be used from hotel rooms, airports, public libraries, internet cafes, etc.
- Covers 5 HF radio bands - 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands.
- Computer microphone provides voice modulation.
- Includes built in CW keyer. Simply type on the keyboard to send perfect CW.
- Spectrum graph shows radio activity within a settable sweep range of 50, 100, 200 and 500 kHz.
- Call sign, handle, QTH, etc are automatically displayed for current transmitting station.
- Keyboard "Hot Keys" provide a simple interface for vision impaired operators.
- "Round-Table" QSO's are possible because any frequency may have a large number of listeners.



System Requirements:

CQ100 requires Windows 2000, XP or VISTA with sound card, microphone and speakers (or headset). A reliable internet connection is required with a speed of at least 33.6k dialup.

Download the Instruction Manual

For more details, download the complete [English manual](#), [German](#), [Portuguese](#), [Spanish](#), [Italian](#) and [Korean](#)

Pricing:

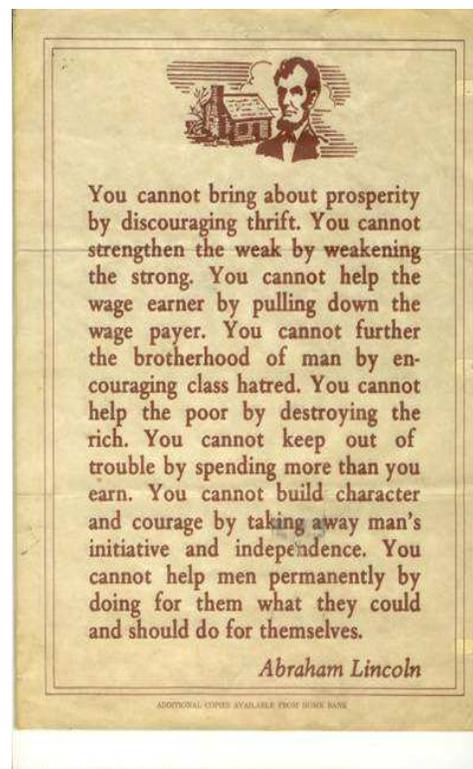
The CQ100 transceiver is free to all licensed stations who register for QsoNet. A \$32 USD annual subscription to QsoNet is required after a 90 day trial period. [Link to video demonstration](#)

What is QsoNet?

QsoNet uses the internet to receive audio signals from a ham radio transmitting station, then instantly reflects the audio back to all stations listening on that frequency. There is no RF. Everything is done over the internet. The result is a simulated ionosphere for worldwide amateur radio communication. Stations can use voice, CW (Morse code), PSK and FSK modulation.

How does it work?

QsoNet works with dialup, DSL and cable internet connections. There is no need to configure router ports. The network consists of an array of internet servers which provide streaming voip audio between stations. After installing transceiver software, QsoNet stations are connected to a central server by a single, outbound TCP connection.



What are the rules?

The use of QsoNet is restricted to licensed amateur radio stations. Operators are expected to use normal radio procedure - For example:

- Identify your callsign frequently.
- Always be courteous. Do not use a frequency that is already in use.
- Do not use voice on the CW portions of the bands.
- Do not engage in commercial activity. No advertising.
- Do not transmit music.

What does it cost?

- Licensed stations may try the system free for 90 days.
- The QsoNet server subscription costs \$32 (USD) per year, starting at the end of the free trial.

Moose Jaw Happenings de Val, VE5ACJ

The Moose Jaw Amateur Radio Club held its annual Fleamarket on April 4/09. SARL would like to thank them for inviting us to have a table. We did manage to even get a few more members.

Congratulations to Trevor Painchaud, VE5RDK and his lovely wife Ruth-Ann on the birth of their daughter on March 15, 2009.

The Pioneers Amateur Radio Club helped the Thunder Creek Model Train Club on March 28th and 29th with security, just so that we could prevent sticky little fingers from taking any of the train cars or any of the displays. We would like to thank, Harvey, VE5AC, Gordon, VE5GML, Maxine, VE5MAX, Brian, VE5BJO, Rob, VE5ROB, Wil, VE5WIL-his y1, Heather, Mike, VE5AU- his XYL Marg, Walter, VE5WR- his XYL, Lanny, John VE5ABC, Rick, VE5RFY and Val, VE5ACJ for coming out and helping, and you never realize how big that museum actually is until you have to walk around for hours on end, trying to look inconspicuous! Oh yes, we even got free food and coffee...now that is the real bonus.

Secretary/Treasurers Report de VE5ACJ

The area directors had their meeting on April 4th at the WDM in Moose Jaw. The meeting started at 11:00 AM. and we had a full agenda. Board of Directors present was: Devon, VE5DWR-President, Gus, VE5SPI-Vice President, Val, VE5ACJ-Secretary/Treasurer, Joe, VE5CEM-SE Rep, Randy, VE5RJM-Yorkton & Area, Gordon, VE5UJ-Saskatoon Area, Wayne, VE5DWT-Prince Albert & Area. Also guests, Bruce, VE5ND-Webmaster for SARL, Ned, VE5NED, John, VE5JR, Calvin, VE5CAL-our newly appointed SW Area Rep, Larry Mills, VE5LCM and Michelle, VE5MDM.

We as your board of directors made several decisions, most which will have to be re-discussed at the annual AGM, but we did make some decisions that can be put into effect now, with more comments at the annual meeting.

We have formed a few new committees and hopefully this will help our SARL function much better. We would like to thank the WDM for allowing us to have our meeting in one of the rooms for free. On a sad note, Wayne, VE5DWT as asked that he be taken off as a Member of the Board of Directors. Wayne has been on for at least 10 years, and has a full plate. He said it has been fun. So if you know of someone that might be willing to take on the Position of Prince Albert & North, please let us know at the next AGM. At the end of the meeting, we adjourned to Humpty's Family Restaurant for lunch before we all headed back to our own QTH's

EXCEPTS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Website Committee:

Bruce, VE5 ND is our Webmaster; his new assistant is Calvin, VE5CAL, and myself, VE5ACJ. Now this is your website, so you are asked to keep checking the website, as to any errors or omissions, if you see anything that is not as it should be, please email me and I will send it on to the other 2 fellas. This website will be the most up to date website we can be, but we do need your help. Also on this committee, is Stan, VE5SC. Stan is our Frequency Coordinator. Now this is a very important job, because if the frequencies of the repeaters are not right, then those traveling through our province will get duff gin. So I ask that you check out all the repeater frequencies in your area, clubs, etc. and if one is not working, out of service, never going back into service, etc, please please let Stan know, so that as new repeaters go up, or those wanting repeaters, he will have a good sense of what is available out there. Stan's email address is sewert@sasktel.net. Once Stan has any changes he will send them on to me, and I will send them on the others on the Website committee.

Net Bulletin Coordinator:

Ned, VE5NED will be taking on this position. Ned will be doing these bulletins on the Sask Evening Net, 3.735 MHz. Ned will receive bulletin reports from RAC, and from SARL. Now if you have any net bulletins that you wish to have aired, please make sure you send to Ned, ve5ned@rac.ca Like Ned said, we are communicators, so let's start communication. SARL cannot exist if we do not communicate.

Nominating Committee:

We are looking for folks wishing to help with finding members who would be willing to let their names stand for positions on the Executive, and on the Board of Directors. So if you would be willing to take up a new challenge, please let us know. The more we get folks involved in our organization the better. The ones on the Board and Executive do not want to be running the SARL completely on our own, we need your help. So please give it some thought.

Club Affiliations:

Now along the same lines as the nominating committee, we are planning on trying to get some sense of how the clubs would feel about becoming affiliated with SARL. So if any in your club would be willing to send to me your ideas on what we can do, I would appreciate it. I would like to have a draft ready for the AGM in July. Things like your clubs having 1 person pass out members applications to SARL, collecting the money, and then your treasurer sending 1 check to the Sec/Treas plus the application forms; keeping your clubs updated on what is going on in SARL; helping with major projects or finding equipment that is required. All these things are do-able, but only with input from all.

QSO:

Now there has been some discussion as to the method of delivery for the QSO. Some want it sent PDF via the computer and some like the hard copy mailed. Now this will be definitely be brought up at the AGM, but I am taking a bit of a survey now. If you would like the QSO sent to you via the email, would you please send me an email with your correct address letting me know. You won't get this one but maybe the next one can be sent out that way. I cannot send out if your email does not work, and I have several addresses that keep bouncing back. I know that some of you do not have computer access and if that is the case, please do not worry, as you will continue to receive the QSO delivered by Canada Post. We are just trying something new, but will still be keeping some of the old.

Saskatchewan Loses 2 Long Ham s. our deepest sympathies go out to the families.



Boris Lavrinoff VE5BL - Dec 23, 1928 Mar 12, 2009 A cherished and devoted husband, father, grandfather and friend passed away suddenly at the age of 80 years. Born in Belgium, he immigrated to Canada in 1949 and settled in southern Saskatchewan. He loved Canada, travelled it extensively with his family, and hardly a year went by without a trip to Banff. He had a great zest for life, lived it well, and constantly challenged himself and those around him. He was a ham radio operator and a volunteer with Search and Rescue. He enjoyed carpentry, photography, videography, computers, genealogy, and he was an avid reader enjoying books both for knowledge

and pleasure. He had a keen sense of humour and nothing was more important to him than his family. He worked over 33 years with the provincial public service, beginning with the Dept. of Highways and finishing with the Medical Care Insurance Commission. Predeceased by his parents Peter and Victoria and sister Eugenia, Boris is survived by his beloved wife Peggy, his children Vitty, Penny and Ben, and his five grandchildren Nathan, Sarah, Brock, Blake and Karlee. The funeral service will be held at Tubman Funeral Home in Fort Qu'Appelle on Tuesday, March 17, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. with the Rev. Mary Gavin officiating. Interment will be at the Lakeview Cemetery, Fort Qu'Appelle. Boris Lavrinoff was Webmaster for the SARR Website.

Essenburg, Herbert Erich (Herb) VE5HE passed away peacefully the morning of Sunday March 8, 2009 at Parkridge Centre in Saskatoon, SK following a battle with cancer. Words cannot describe the extent to which he will be missed by family, friends and the many people whose lives he touched. Herb was born in Winnipeg MB, to Ludwig and Elsie Essenburg on June 16, 1932. At an early age his family learned that he had a severe visual impairment which eventually resulted in total blindness. He was always grateful for his family's support by involving him in all their activities including church participation, travel, learning to paddle a canoe, roller-skating and skiing. Herb was employed by the Canadian National Institute for the Blind from June 1950 to February, 1980. In 1981, he acted as the Saskatchewan Co-ordinator for the International Year of Disabled Persons and from 1982 to 1994 was employed



by the Saskatchewan Public Service Commission as a Human Resources Consultant and Employee Assistance Program Referral Agent. In 1959, Herb married Vera Tschetter and together they had two sons, Bruce and Rob. Through the years, Vera was a tremendous help and support to Herb in ways too numerous to count and Herb was deeply grateful for this support and encouragement. In 1972, Herb became a licensed amateur radio operator with the callsign VE5HE and made many friends around the world with this hobby. He was always appreciative of the help other hams gave him in repairing antennas and doing other jobs he couldn't handle. Countless hours were spent in entertaining residents of nursing homes and seniors' facilities playing a variety of instruments, along with a variety of other groups of musicians. Although he enjoyed the toetapping music of polkas etc., his favorite really was playing many of the old hymns and gospel songs with other musicians. He was a firm believer that his faith was a factor in helping him to navigate through life with little or no sight as he truly believed that countless times, his prayers had been answered. In 1962, Herb became a chartered member of the Saskatoon Nutana Lions Club and participated in club projects where practical. In 2005, he was recognized by being presented with life memberships in the Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club and the Saskatoon Nutana Lions Club.



PARKLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

P.O. Box 1439
Canora, Saskatchewan
S0A 0L0



Parkland Amateur Radio Club has had a very eventful past couple of months. It was able to come to the rescue of Saskatchewan's very own Reflector #9300. Since being out of service since September 2008, Access Communications out of Yorkton, Sk. General Manager Ron Irving was able to make the arrangements to support this valuable service once again for Amateur Use in our province. Access Communications, made this happen by providing SARL, with the High Speed Internet connection that is required, as they recognize the importance of Emergency Communications being priority. This service is vital providing VOIP link connections to our existing network of IRLP Nodes & Repeaters that can be used in Emergency situations that should arise. Saskatchewan Amateurs test out the system regularly with various nets, linking repeaters across the province daily, making sure the system is fully operational at all times.

For the reflector to come back into service, we thank the following for their part:

Chris (VE5BAR); Devon (VE5DWR); Randy (VE5RJM); (William Aitken (Yorkton Fire Services); Grant (VE5SS); and all the SARL Members for support, and all that use the system daily.

Parkland Amateur Radio Club regrets to report that on Wed. February 18/09, one of our main repeaters located in Invermay became unavailable. Invermay VA5 INV Repeater was involved in an incident where a 220 foot tower came crashing down, and caused several thousands of dollars in damage. We are relieved to report, that nobody was injured in the incident.

Parkland Amateur Radio Club would like to welcome our newest EchoIRLP node installed at Rocanville. Larry Mills (VE5LCM) is the owner of the IRLP Node #1807 / EchoLink #425463, which was officially installed at his QTH on March 2nd, 2009. Doug (VE5DLJ), Larry (VE5 LBD), and Randy (VE5RJM), helped with the node install at Larry & Betty's residence in Rocanville. We enjoyed the shack Larry, and very much enjoyed the superb meal Betty prepared, I especially look forward to many qso's on the air. 73's Randy Molyneaux (ve5rjm)

Hello to all from Saskatchewan S. E. Area.

S.E. Director Joe Musgrave VE5CEM/VA5JM 729-5th St. Weyburn, SK. S4H1A4.

PHONE 306-842-2626 E-MAIL ve5cem@rac.ca

I think I can see spring out on the horizon to the west. As usual there is not much going on in the Weyburn area. The hams in the Estevan area have been busy in the recent past, and will have some work to do in the coming months with repeater moves and rearrangements. The Arcola (Moose Mountain) repeater went silent during a power outage in late December 2008 and did not return to air when the power came back up. Due to heavy snow fall, lack of available snow removal equipment and tower location the repeater is still off air. Plans are now being made to get the road open and affect repairs to the repeater system.

The Estevan 147.180 repeater located at Bienfait SK. is on the move. It has been removed from its old location atop the tipple at the Luscar Coalmine and will be relocated to the roof top at the Shand power plant. This will give them better coverage, cleaner location and better access. Keep up the good work, and it will be nice to get the Arcola repeater working again.

VA5/VE5 Incoming QSL bureau note.

Make sure your address information is correct in the RAC call data base at <http://www.rac.ca/callbook/search.php> . This is the official source for address information. For the contesters and special event people, if you are going to use a special call for the contest or special event, please contact Industry Canada in lots of time (they want 60 days *minimum* notice) to get the information processed and out to the Amateur community and to RAC so it can be put on the special call web page. Find the information to apply at this web page <http://www.rac.ca/regulatory/special.htm> and follow the links to the IC. Information list is on this web site. Is The RAC special call list is located at: http://www.rac.ca/regulatory/special_calls.htm. If you are not a member of the Sask. QSL bureau and would like to be, please contact me at the above address.

Anyone in the S.E. that has information, events or stories for inclusion in the QSO is welcome to send them to me at the above mentioned address. If you would like an SARL membership I can help you out there too, same address. 73 de VE5CEM S.E. Rep. SARL

That's it for this time. I will leave you with an article sent in by VE5DC Jerry Dixon. Thanks Jerry.

Amateur Radio Satellites

The very first satellite was the Russian Sputnik 1 launched October 4, 1957. This was not an amateur radio satellite. I remember it well, I was not licensed then but I had a short wave receiver which was capable of receiving the beeps just below the WWV 20 MHz time signal frequency. This satellite did not have any telemetry information but rather just sent a series of continuous beeps as it passed over.

The first amateur satellite was Oscar-1 launched in December 1961. Since then over 70 amateur satellites have been launched. The Soviet built RS-10 and RS-11 were quite interesting to me. They had transponders which would accept signals on HF. The uplink was on 15 meters and the down links were on 10 meters CW. There was also a 2 meter uplink but I was unable to work 2 meter CW. However I did manage to work several stations on the HF system. These are non operational now.

Today there are several cross band repeater satellites which have 70 cm uplinks and 2 meter down links as well as microwave links. Some of these cross band repeaters can be worked with a dual band hand held rig and a flex antenna. The best results are with a dual band hand held beam which is aimed at the satellite.

The International Space Station can be worked quite easily when they have an operator calling for contacts. The problem is that there are a very large number of stations calling the ISS and the QRM must be horrendous. The downlink frequency is 145.800 and the uplink is 144.490. I have worked the ISS a few times and once while mobile. They also can set up a cross band repeater which has an uplink of 437.800 and the down link is 145.800. It is quite interesting to hear stations from coast to coast on a 2 meter frequency.

I find it quite interesting to listen for the satellites that send telemetry via CW. One station that I have been hearing lately is satellite LO-19. It transmits on 437.127 more or less. What happens is the Doppler Effect. When the satellite is coming towards you, it is necessary to tune as much as 10 KHz higher in frequency to pick him up. And this frequency is changing constantly. When the satellite has gone past the frequency goes lower and you have to keep tuning. LO-19 has a transmitter power of 750 mw but is quite easy to copy. While tracking him with the computer I can hear the signal even when the satellite is out over the Arctic Ocean. Lo-19 was launched in 1990.

Because of my lack of good beam antennas etc., I have not been able to tune some of the satellites which have an elliptical orbit which keeps the satellite in a near stationary position above the earth for several hours at a time.

There are several Internet sites which can be used to track satellite pass times. Here are a couple.

<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/tools/predict/index.php> and <http://www.heavens-above.com> 73 de Jerry/VE5DC

DX expeditions Recorded by Gordon, VE5UJ

For those of us who tune across the Ham Bands on a regular basis, it would seem that there is always at least one DX expedition underway. These projects are undertaken by DX (long distance communications) enthusiasts and usually involve extended trips and high frequency radio operations from remote parts of the world. There have also been less ambitious but no less rewarding and fun trips to islands off Canada's coasts, islands in Hudson's Bay and I do remember reading about a fearless group of radio amateurs who forged a summer operating expedition to an island in Saskatchewan's Last Mountain Lake.

The historic record, as described in QST and other special interest magazines from past years describe voyages of exploration to remote world destinations. After about 1915, many of these expeditions were fitted out with radio equipment for both commercial and amateur operations. Due to the unreliable nature of short wave (high frequency) communication at the high latitudes of both the Northern and Southern Hemisphere regions, long wave equipment (low and medium frequency) was required for marine safety purposes. The high frequency Amateur equipment was useful when conditions permitted. For journeys over land and at sea in the lower latitudes, Amateur frequencies were often adequate.

One such expedition that was reported in detail in QST magazine issues from 1947 and 1948, involved explorers from Norway and the journey took place entirely within the equatorial area of the Pacific Ocean. The radio technical details are described in the December 1947 issue of QST magazine, which makes good reading for any Ham but the full voyage, history and details were ably described by explorer and author Thor Heyerdahl in the English translation of his book, "Kon Tiki" "Six men cross the Pacific on a raft".

This book was published in 1950 so you are more likely to find a copy at a flea market or used book store than at your book supplier. The book is often available on the internet "auction bay" site.

Mr. Heyerdahl spent time before World War 2, on an island in the Marquesas group in the equatorial Pacific Ocean. There he became interested in the inhabitants of the Polynesian Islands and their origin. At that time it was widely accepted that their founding peoples had come from Asia by sea, colonizing each Island group as they moved eastward. Thor Heyerdahl noted language and cultural similarities to early peoples who had once inhabited western South America and nearby Islands. They had been a sea faring people, fishing from huge seagoing rafts, and in his mind capable of traveling by the easterly trade winds and Equatorial Ocean current to the Islands of Polynesia. In the book he tells of developing the idea for a raft trip to the Marquesas Island group from Peru, South America, finding sponsors for the supplies required and more importantly finding crew-members that would ensure a reasonable chance of success. He sent messages to three of his acquaintances from the war time Norwegian Resistance. All three accepted his invitation. Two of his crew were experienced radio men and made it known they would like to take their equipment along on this voyage. After some negotiating, he agreed to include their radio equipment and battery supply in the preparations for the voyage.

The greater part of the story describes their experiences at sea and their daily routine. They encountered some strange sea creatures and Heyerdahl describes how the raft, made of very large Balsa wood logs turned out to be very sea worthy and the ancient design saved many of their days. Evidently they survived the trip and went on to write the book but there are times one would wonder how it "turns out".

The Radio Operators were kept busy with technical issues. They kept daily skeds on 10 and 20 metres with operators mostly in the U.S. and Europe. Their messages about their progress and sea and weather conditions were of interest to the scientific community as well as to family and friends.

There were no Single Sideband Transceivers or solar power panels on this expedition in 1947 and it is a fascinating story of how these wartime "hams" were able to keep communication open for three months in what would be described today as "hostile conditions".

Hamfest 2009 Lanigan by David, VE5GN

REMEMBER: You must have your 2009 SARL Membership Card with you.

Date: Saturday, July 11th.

Location: Lanigan, Saskatchewan At the junction of Hwys 16 and 20

<http://www.town.lanigan.sk.ca/>

Time from (approximately):

Saskatoon: 1 1/4 hours

Regina/Moose Jaw: 2 hours

Humboldt: 30 minutes

Watrous/Manitou Spa: 30 minutes

Wynyard: 40 minutes

Yorkton: 2 hours

Lanigan is a town of 1200, with all amenities:

Two motels, hospital, shopping mall, service stations, restaurants/coffee shop, museum, RCMP detachment, pharmacy, golf course (grass greens), parks and Lions Campground (reservations accepted 365-3107). Hamfest activities will take place at the Arena/Town Hall complex, located near the north end of town on Main St. All services and attractions are within walking distance if you are ambulatory.

Tentative Hamfest schedule:

9:00 am - 12:00 noon:

REGISTRATION: Free to SARL members, \$10 for non-members (really, folks, an SARL membership cost only 5 bucks more!!)

DOOR PRIZES: Your registration makes you eligible to win one of many terrific door prizes contributed by participating businesses.

FLEAMARKET: - Share your Treasures!! Please email dfklatt@sasktel.net (David VE5GN) for table reservations. Cost \$2 for members, \$3 for non-members.

GROUP PHOTO: courtesy Murray Crandon, VE5MC – free file via Internet, or \$2.00 for hardcopy mail-out. Remember, folks, this is a non-profit event. Any revenue left after facility costs will be turned over to a local charity.

12:00 noon:

HOSTED BBQ LUNCH: This will be free for all registered attendees. The BBQ is being hosted by Poundmaker (www.pound-maker.ca) and is being put on by the HUB, a local boys and girl's activity club. PLEASE NOTE: there will be a voluntary collection at the BBQ, with all proceeds above the cost of the lunch going to support the HUB's activities.

1:00 - 4:00 pm:

SARL AGM,(pm): sessions of interest including a video presentation of the ZL8R Dxpediton to Raoul Island in the Kermadec Islands (presented by Murray Crandon, VE5MC)

Greetings from the Northeast de Art, VE5ARJ

Winter is slowly coming to an end? This means, we can listen to our portables outside without getting too badly frostbitten. Seriously, there are still somethings to adjust on the systems, but time has to cooperate. Right now, the biggest problem is at Snowdon. Once that gets adjusted and a new radio installed, our coverage should go north to Little Bear Lake and West to Shellbrook, so coverage is getting wider. Catch you next issue.

DEEP SOLAR MINIMUM...WHAT'S UP WITH THAT: by Harvey, VE5HAW

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2009/04/01/nasa-headline-deep-solar-minimum/>

NASA Headline: Deep Solar Minimum de Harv, VE5AC

The sunspot cycle is behaving a little like the stock market. Just when you think it has hit bottom, it goes even lower.

2008 was a bear. There were no sunspots observed on 266 of the year's 366 days (73%). To find a year with more blank suns, you have to go all the way back to 1913, which had 311 spotless days. Prompted by these numbers some observes suggested that the solar cycle had hit bottom in 2008.

Maybe not. Sunspot counts for 2009 have dropped even lower. As of March 31st. there were no sunspots on 78 or the year's 90 days (87%).

It adds up to one inescapable conclusion: "We're experiencing a very deep solar minimum," says solar physicist Dean Pesnell of the Goddard Space Flight Center.

"This is the quietest sun we've seen in almost a century," agrees sunspot expert David Hathaway of the Marshall Space flight Center."

Very important:

What trophies do you want at the hamfest. Please go to www.sarl.ca and go to trophies, do we want homebrew, or what, I know that the Tom VanNess Memorial Trophy, the ARRL QC club award will be there. Also check out the nomination forms on the website, and send them to me. These must be to me by June 22nd. Like I said before, we need your input; you are valued members of SARL.