



Moose Jaw & Area

Spring is finally here and the banana trees are growing. Quite a few events have happened since my last column. MJ Pioneers Seniors club had our supper on March 11th and we had 10 members there. Some rare DX members in attendance like Pat VE5XC, Rick VE5RFY and Irene VE5IMA.

Our world travellers Gord VE5GML and Maxine VE5MAX are back from cruising. They discovered several Islands in the Caribbean, Brazil and the Amazon River. I found out from them that the Amazon is wider than we thought.

The Pioneer Senior Club VE5PSC did the security for the Thunder Creek Model Train Show at the WDM on March 22nd and 23rd. Large crowds for the Saturday and Sunday event. 52 Simplex got a workout for 10 minutes when a 4 year old wandered away from his Grandma. She says "I just turned around and there he was—gone". He was found near all the airplanes, so I presume he is going to be a pilot.

Heard in the area that Barry MacKenzie VE5TRF is no longer the Section Manager. Don't know what happened, but he is a busy lad, so had to give it up or whatever. So the position is open.

The Moose Jaw Amateur Radio Club held their annual flea-market April 5th, a lot of eyeball QSO's were carried out and a lot of shiny stuff was traded from one shack to another.

SARL Sec/Treas was there with her

loud hailer, asking people to pay their dues, or become new members before they ran out of money.

73 Harv VE5AC

North Magnetic Pole

(submitted by Harv VE5AC)

A few years ago I wrote an article on this. At that time it was located on a S.W. portion of Ellef Ringnes Island in the Queen Elizabeth Islands in the Arctic, approx. 79 deg. N. Latitude and 104 deg W. Longitude. To give you an idea of how far North that is, it is about 3000+ Kilometers North of Winnipeg.

The Magnetic North is actually a moving target that varies with the flow of the molten iron core inside the earth. Declination is the angular displacement of magnetic North from True North.

The current location of the Magnetic North Pole is approx. 80 deg 05' North Latitude, 72 deg 13' West Longitude, which places it on the Eastern shore of Ellesmere Island in Northern most Canada. Also across the Nares Strait From Greenland and is drifting toward Siberia.

So now you know that we are living on a gigantic egg and that the molten iron core was made by IPSCO in Regina. How it got there no one knows except maybe you can ask Bill VE5IBK as he worked there for 35 years.

I find the easiest way to find true North is to mark the shadow at 12 noon on Dec 21st and or June 22nd.

Beware that Murphy's Law might

give us a cloudy day. In VE5land we do not change time, so this is accurate according to Fred Hoyle.

Lunch is Served: July 5, 2014

Catered lunch will be a choice of Cream of Mushroom or Chicken Noodle Soup, and a choice of Egg Salad, Roast Beef, or Ham & Cheese Sandwich. Due to cost etc, we will only have 50 Lunch tickets available.

Average crowd over the past 6 years according to pictures has been 54. So get there early to purchase your ticket. No pre-registration. If you are too late to buy a lunch ticket, there are 7 other restaurants within a kilometer of the WDM.

South West Saskatchewan

Ah yes... spring at last! At least around these parts, our snow is almost gone. I'm sure that I am not the only one that gets to say that phrase. Although it seems that we just can't get more than a few days at a time and then we are back to winter conditions in between.

Temperatures keep bouncing up and down from day to day and the sky is threatening to flail more snow at us periodically. However, the daylight hours have lengthened and, for the most part, I can leave the house with out grabbing my parka and winter boots. For that, I am very grateful.

It was nice to see a good turnout at the Moose Jaw Flea Market on the 5th of April and I got to visit with a good many Hams. The volume of Fleas was substantially down compared to previous years but I always seem to

come away with a few items that I don't have or that would not be possible to buy locally.

Congratulations go out to the Moose Jaw Amateur Radio club for hosting a fine event. I'm sure that everyone was looking forward to the chance to escape from cabin fever and enjoy a nice spring day.

Thoughts have returned to spring seeding, and I have noticed posters pinned up here and there by farmers looking for spring help. Once more, I was approached to help the fellow that I worked for last year and have already spent a few days out at his farm getting equipment ready to go.

VE5XRA Ray has been teaching a few classes at the Swift Current Library and seems to have a few interested young people attending them. A class or two is where it all starts. One's interest gets peaked and one moves on from there. I sat in on a meeting with the Swift Current Clubs members the other night to see what they were doing. VE5CAL Cal said they are still looking at the possibility of placing repeaters on some decommissioned towers south of here. They also said they would really like to put the 79 repeater up on a CBC tower about a mile north of the city where CJFB TV used to broadcast. But I don't know what permissions we would need to do that.

Some talk was generated around the fact that, in emergency situations, the Police Service would rather use their own resources instead of Ham Operators for relaying information. I find this hard to believe because we all know that we have been and will continue to be a valuable asset in an actual emergency. We hear about it all the time when Radio Amateurs were actively involved during floods and hurricanes etc. I'm also sure that in an actual emergency all resources could

be stretched and we as Radio Amateurs could be called on to help out in any way that we could.

A few of the Hams around here have started a coffee group on Saturdays at 9:30 am. We meet at the Howard Johnson Motel coffee shop right along Highway 1 South service road, We were previously at MacDonald's and we might be moving again I will let you know if it does. Those that have been attending are Ray VE5XRA, VE5HB Harry, VE5XT Bill, VE5HJU Hans, VE5YAN Raymond. VE5QX Al, VE5AF Shara, VE5LI Dick, and myself VE5BI. Every week some of us bring small items for show and tell. We get a chance to see and demonstrate something that we have made or bought to show off. It is a good way to share information about our projects and operating capabilities.

I'm looking forward to the SARL Ham-fest to be held in Moose Jaw in July. Hopefully, we will get good attendance and I plan to do my part as your Director to make this event a success. 73 for now

Ken VE5BI

Saskatoon City & Area

Hello from Saskatoon. Well the snow is mostly gone from our backyard and the antennas appear to be all attached. Eric has asked one of the amateurs here in Saskatoon to fix his 80M antenna so you should hear him on 80 soon. I am glad that someone else will be fixing this one other than myself.

Summer VE5SDH visited with the Amateurs in Saskatoon on Saturday April 12/14. She was on the return trip from Edmonton to Regina and joined us for breakfast. Approximately 20 amateurs attended and enjoyed the visit and a good breakfast. Getting to know people face to face makes talking to them on the air waves that

much more interesting.

The Saskatoon Amateur Radio club held their monthly meeting April 12/14 with 3 new Hams on attendance. Congratulations to all. The full list of new Hams will be in the next edition.

The club is already planning Field Day and the MS walkathon.

Lawrence VA5LD gave a very informative presentation on the Heart Bleed Bug and what is current and applies to Amateurs. It is great to be able to rely on the expertise within the Amateur community.

The MARS club will be holding their meeting on April 17/14. They are also planning their Field Day.

Eric and I attended the Moose Jaw Flea Market on April 5/14. We came home with a few fleas!! It was good to see everyone and we are looking forward to Hamfest. Till next edition
73

Doris VE5DJQ

Meet Val Ohly New president of RARA

VE5HWH: Hi Val. Tell us about your background in electronics and Ham radio.

VE5VAL: I have been interested in electronics since I was a young lad. When as a kid I lived in downtown Regina and on the main floor of our apartment building was a radio/TV repair shop. The owner was kind enough to let me observe and learn. My appetite grew to learn more. As a matter of fact, George Harwood (VE5UU) was an apprentice there. Although I didn't know it was George until we got to discuss my old experience. My uncle was also in radio/TV repair also. He gave me his training manuals from his course. I studied them and asked and learned more about electronics.

In high school I joined the Radio Club and Mr. Ken Quarry, the

electronics teacher further supplemented the interest. There I also knew Allan Tidball (VE5LAT). At that time Allan wasn't a ham operator. I did know Larry Brailean and he introduced me to Ham radio as well as Harvey Harrison. Amazing how things happen.

I worked with Highways in the Land Surveys in the head office. There I was introduced into computers using data cards and paper tape. At that time it was known as Government Computers. I left there and went Saskatchewan Technical Institute taking Electronics Technology.

I left there and went to work for Sask Power at Boundary Dam in Estevan with Power Production. At that time I was also an engineer for the local radio station. Looking after the transmitter and odd jobs in the station.

I left Sask Power and went to work for CP Telecommunication as an Auto Plant tech. This was working in the Telex/Teletype shop. Installing, repairing, trouble shooting of the telex equipment. I received training in Montreal, Quebec on Data Systems. I was then hired on with R.C.M.P. as an electronics technician in the CPIC section as a Network Controller. There I worked with front end controllers and the installation of our backup system getting training in Ottawa HQ. When that job was surplus I was sent to the Telecommunications section at Depot in Regina. There I was trained to service two radio systems and repeater sites.

With no openings there I left and got back on with Sask Power in commissioning of Poplar River Power Station testing and doing acceptance tests. I did the as built to the power station having the background of having been at Boundary Dam and knowing my way around the station.

When that job finished I moved to Environment Canada as a Data Computations Technician working with their computers – installing the terminals, cabling, trouble shooting and any upgrades. I worked extensively with Digital Equipment. I also was responsible for the satellite telemetry systems. This entailed teaching the technicians installation, troubleshooting of the Data Collection Platforms (DCP's). I went Wallops West Virginia for meetings with our counterparts on Satellite Telemetry as well as Ottawa where our receive station was located. I then saw to the installation of our own receive station with the staff that came to install it.

When I was surplus from Environment Canada I went back to school to upgrade my electronics. I took the Electronics Communication Technician program.

While I was a student there, I was also a Lab Tech and taught some night classes in electronics. I graduated with Broadcasting, Radio/Satellite and most of the Telephony classes.

I worked for the Corps of Commissionaires as their Systems Administrator, Security Instructor, First Aid Instructor. I also was an engineer for Harvard Broadcasting for a short time. I went to work with Rawlco Radio as the office engineer working with the Chief Engineer.

I received my Amateur Radio Licence in 1993, both Basic and Advanced with my son Dale.

When I retired from Environment Canada I left the ham side and until recently came back to pick it up and get involved.

I was also a radio operator with the Navy back in the 60's. This is where I learned Morse code. Trying to get it back up. Rusty but still can make out some of it. That's it in a nutshell.

VE5HWH: That's a pretty big

nutshell. With a resume like that, you should have no trouble handling the position of President of RARA. On behalf of the members of the club, we want to take this opportunity to wish you the best of luck in your new position.

VE5VAL: Thank you.

These are the new types of questions we are now dealing with:

Industry Canada just updated and clarified the questions for the basic amateur radio exam. Try this one, the correct answer is C.

B-001-007-006

When may an amateur station in two-way communication transmit a message in a secret code in order to obscure the meaning of the communication?

A: During contests

B: When transmitting above 450 MHz

C: Only when the encoding or cipher is not secret

D: During a declared communications emergency

Prince Albert & North

The club had their monthly meeting at the home of Dennis VE5CZ on April 4th. Six members were in attendance.

The club will have a booth at the Hobby Show May 3rd and 4th. They will have a station set up, and are hoping for as much enthusiasm as they had last year. Folks last year were very interested in the radio.

Harry VE5HAE has put his name forward for Section Manager for Sask. He sent it into Derek Hay, VE4HAY who will take it to the rest of the RAC executives. We don't know if Harry will have to be elected or if he will be appointed.

That's if from P.A at this time. Hope to see you all at Ham-Fest 2014 in Moose Jaw 73

Harry VE5HAE

SE Saskatchewan

Joan VE5TAW decided that she would come home for a visit from Williston after visiting her daughter, but she didn't quite make it home before she blew the engine in the Ford Escape. Anyways, she is fine and the Escape is in the repair shop. Don't think she will be traveling too far for a while.

Blair VE5BAM still works, don't know why, but hey, he gets more now in a paycheck than he used to so guess he's not complaining too hard. Being semi-retired, he still has time to go visiting places. He was down in California a bit ago and then went to Bismark for shopping. Think he also managed a trip to Minneapolis for a baseball game.

Larry VE5AJ keeps travelling back and forth to Regina for doctor's appointments. He finally has his antenna back up, but we haven't heard him on the air yet. Also heard that he has now bought himself a Lathe and a drill-press so guess that he is going to try his hand at being a butcher seal.

Murray VE5HW and myself had a good time down in Moose Jaw at the Annual Flea Market. Didn't buy a whole lot if anything, but we both paid our dues to Val VE5ACJ for SARL membership for another year, and of course did a lot of chin wagging with a lot of others that we had not seen in a while.

Murray and I also went to the Majestics' Car Show on the 12th. Talk about a lot of people, we had to park 1 block away from the grounds and I was sure hoping that the old legs would not give out before we even got into where all the great looking cars were. We really did have a good time.

I am feeling as good as anyone, Probably not as good as I would like

to be, but considering the age, I'm am doing pretty darn good.

We still have the one and only Analog TV for CTV. Apparently we are the last running system in the province. Will be real happy when it finally goes.. Sound is the problem. The picture is on AM and the sound is on FM, and it causes lots of problems with signals up and down

That's if for now folks, see you July 5th in Moose Jaw. Hope to get more time to talk to more folks then. 73

Marv VE500

Hamfest Committee Report by Val VE5ACJ

First off, I just want to remind all that just because you see my name on most of the ham-fest activities, this is not MY ham-fest. It is sponsored by SARL & the Moose Jaw PSC.

Well, the ham-fest committee has done a fantastic job of organizing and now we are just waiting for the door prizes to come in. The timetable is on website and poster is on page 8. We have a catered lunch, a guest speaker with a great DXpedition to show us. We still have a few tables left for flea-market goodies, so please, if you are wanting to get rid of some of your valuable fleas, please get hold of me . As we get older we all have to sometimes down-size and what a better way than to sell to some of these other hams that always show up for flea-markets.

We have a great Ladies Program for our YLs and XYLs who show up. Marg Yaschuk has agreed to give our gals a lesson in Hardanger, which is Norwegian Embroidery. Now I sure wish I could sit in on this, but along with the rest of the committee members, I will be busy in the main room. I do need for all ladies who are planning on attending to please get hold of me so that we can

get your name on the list. Space is limited.

Again folks, just because I am here in MJ, does not mean this is my event. This is yours. Please come and have a great day.

Regina Amateur Radio Assoc: Special Notice: Cosmopolitan Learning Centre

The event at the Cosmopolitan Centre is scheduled for May16, 2014.

Last year we set up a station and ran a couple videos to entertain those who were not working the radio. We basically set up after ten in the morning and started with the clients after lunch.

This year we have asked them to allow us to start earlier to catch the band openings in the morning to make the experience more meaningful. These details will be worked out early in May.

We hope to have a few more amateurs participate this year.

We would like to coordinate as much as we can prior to the event.

If you are interested in assisting with the event, promptly contact the RARA e-mail at ve5rara@gmail.com.

Better Then or Now? by Gordon VE5UJ

What do we do about the seeming inability of the present generations to appreciate the equipment they now have ready access to. That could be said of many endeavors in our modern world from industrial processes to safety equipment to leisure to transportation to home entertainment and there are likely a few I have neglected to mention.

I hear Radio Amateurs on the 20 metre band discussing the merits and shortcomings of their latest purchases. The subject changes to internet connections, computers, cars, boats, or other toys. And the discussion follows

a similar thread. Some have done their homework and know about which they speak and others are not so knowledgeable.

Peggy and I recently had a chance to fly to Calgary in one of the newest of the Dash 8 Canadian built aircraft which both airlines are now using on short haul flights. I heard some muttering about the crowding in the standard body design of the cabin by folks who over the years have become accustomed to wide body long haul jets. It took me back to the years of riding DC3 and C46 airliners which were unpressurized and flew at less than 200 miles per hour through the thermal infested summer skies. We were happy to be aboard as the alternative was much slower and less comfortable surface transportation.

This trip flew the 78 passengers and 5 crew to Calgary in less than one hour and above most of the weather of this time of year. The point here is this generation of turbo prop airliners have much improved fuel and maintenance economy compared to the jets we have been use to. The jet still rules the long distance routes and likely always will.

We did some historical research in preparation for the 100th anniversary of the homestead quarter section, which is still part of the family farm. I could only imagine the excitement and optimism of my grandfather while making his first acre of farmland, plowing through gopher mounds, badger holes and large stones. Equipment in use today is capable of making an acre of fresh breaking in 10 minutes or less and can easily handle all of the obstacles in its' path.

I would love to take the chap that was bitterly complaining of some minor electrical fault in his SUV, on a summertime ride in the back seat of a 38 Chev or a 48 Dodge or a 58 Plymouth. Or how about a winter time

trip in aforementioned automobiles with balky carburetor, mediocre winter tires and windows frosted over on the inside requiring scraping activity to continue through the first half of the trip.

The multiband, multimode transceivers that we have available to us today are indeed a pleasure to use. They practically run themselves after we push a few buttons. Apart from some short service life problems, by and large they are a bargain in usefulness and convenience compared to what hams had to work with not many years ago.

Regina & Area by our new columnist Hugh VE5HWH

The Regina Amateur Radio Association may be the busiest Ham club in the country. If there is one busier we would like to hear about it. The club holds two meetings a month. One is the executive meeting and the other is the general membership meeting. At present there are 25 paid up members and there are no doubt a few who haven't got around to paying their dues. At the Annual General Meeting on March 12th an election of officers was held.

The new President is Val Ohly (VE5VAL); Past President: Harvey Drinkle (VE5AD) Secretary; Terry White (VE5TLW) Treasurer; Allan Tidball (VE5LAT). Directors: Bernie Bedard (VE5BFB); Neil Slater (VA5SCA); Bruce Rattray (VE5RC); Bob Wilks (VE5LTD); Lyle Maystruck (VE5KKS).

A complete list of the members of the club is available on the Club website at www.VE5NN.ca or Google RARA Regina. If you haven't been there, now's the time to go for all kinds of good information.

The enthusiasm in the club was demonstrated by the number of

members attending the Moose Jaw Flea Market. Although there may not have been a preponderance of bargains at the flea, the general consensus of the RARA membership was that it was a great social outing for the members and a good opportunity to meet with operators from other areas.

The big news from RARA is all the activity that is taking place to improve the performance of the City Hall repeater VE5YQR, with the installation of a new Kenwood repeater replacing the 30 year old equipment. There have been several problems that have been plaguing the repeater, namely interference from other sources, noise on transmission and problems with the IRLP equipment. George VE5UU has been working hard to rectify the problems with this repeater and will continue to try and isolate the cause of the problems. It has come to light that the antenna maybe 40 to 50 years old and until lately it had lost its radials. New radials have been constructed and installed.

The other problem with the repeater is the IRLP unit. In the last couple of years members have been using IRLP to a much greater extent. This is now being utilized 6 days a week on a regular basis. There is a net called "*Say Good Morning with Radio*" which starts at 8 a.m. local time Monday thru Saturday and Friday evenings at 7 p.m. on node 9668. Summer VE5SDH is a net controller on this net and there are check ins from all over North America including Alaska and occasionally from Australia. There is also another net on Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. called the "*Friendly Manitoba Net*" on node 9611. This one is controlled by Alf (VE4ALF), a friendly guy from Winnipeg.

These are very interesting nets as

they offer “a question of the day”, so they are not just “no traffic!” nets. If you haven’t been on one of these and nets are your thing, then set you dial at 147.120 and join in.

The club is ordering 2 new IRLP computers...one for YQR & one for REC (Balgonie). Once these units have been installed, the IRLP problems should be solved. Lyle (VE5KKS) and Brad (VE5BKM) have been working to get this situation rectified.

Another area of activity is the club station. The big project here is to set up the club station so that it can be operated from a remote location. This would afford those club members who don’t have the capability to put up antennas to still take part in Ham radio by using their computer to turn on the club station and operate from a remote location; i.e. a condo that does not allow antennas. This appears to be a costly and highly technical project that it taking sometime. Daniel(VE5DL) has joined Malcolm (VE5ZG) on this project and he is optimistic that things will move toward completion in the not too distant future.

The club is also busy in the education department.

Basic classes have been underway and unfortunately this has been one of those years where the retention rate has not been good. The class started out with a good number of candidates but has since dwindled down to 2 or 3 who might take the test.

Seminars are also being held for those interested in writing their advanced exam. Participants are encouraged to study the Advanced Guide and then take their questions to the seminar where they will be assisted by club Instructors. This project is being directed by Rod (VE5ZZ) and Lyle (VE5KKS). Anyone interested in taking either basic or

advanced classes can find out the time and place by visiting the club website. Just Google RARA Regina.

The club will be participating in a number of public service events this year. The first of these will be Regina Police Service Half Marathon co-ordinated by Terry (VE5TLW) and the MS Super Cities Walk co-ordinated by Rick (VE5RJR). Both of these events are on April 27th.

We look forward to bringing you up to date on the many other events the club has planned in future editions of QSO.

Spring 2014-President’s Message

Spring seems to be upon us, most of us at least and it is encouraging to see the higher bands, 10m,12m, and 15 metres open for many days at a time. There have been many days this spring where activity on the high end (FM and Repeaters) of 10 metres was busy with many long distance stations being heard on the strongest repeaters from the U. S. and Canada. One afternoon in March, I heard a QSO through a 10 metre repeater in the Eastern U.S. between a station in New Zealand and another in South Africa.

It reminded me of the time, years ago, I was visiting with Keith, VE5VJ and trying out his new TS50 transceiver. 10 metres was open and despite the tri-band beam not supposedly effective that far up the band, I found a repeater that was coming back with a good signal and seemed to be receiving signal and seemed to be receiving my signal from Saskatoon. I received a call from Mike, VA5MS, from Assiniboia Sask. Mike and I had a nice chat through a repeater thousands of miles away thanks to the long skip that is typical of the three upper HF bands.

It should be explained to the newer Radio Amateurs among us that this

phenomenon is the exception rather than the rule in Amateur Radio operations from locations North of 49 degrees North. Lower latitudes can have longer periods of 15 and 10 metre activity during the year and quite often in the tropical regions of the earth, there is some activity on these bands for a much longer part of the 11 year sunspot cycle. Just another reason for a Radio Amateur to travel South for a vacation.

There was a nice size gathering of the spring swap and shop fans and the Avonlea Repeater Group at the Moose Jaw Western Development Museum on April 5th. Along with access to the flea market, came an invitation to tour the museum itself. I am always in awe of the displays of prairie transportation and communication that are to be seen there. There is also a collection of radio communication equipment, both military and amateur. Many of the pieces of military equipment I have been familiar with from my association with the North West Territories commercial radio system in the 1960s. Many of the older units on the radio sites at that time were World War 2 vintage military items.

The RCA receivers AR-88 and CR-91 were standard rack receivers for both long wave and high frequency operations. The impressive RCA model AT-3 weighs nearly as much as some cars on the road these days and stands 5 feet tall. It was a well designed reliable HF, AM transmitter that could feed a solid 300 watts into a dipole for as long as the operator wanted to keep the key down. There is much more to see there.

Thanks to the Moose Jaw Amateurs for hosting the event again this spring.

It was good to see the turn out at Moose Jaw with some folks driving many hours in order to attend. I hope to see this kind of support for the

planned ham-fest in July.

Once again, my thanks to the SARL directors for their input and their reports and to Val, VE5ACJ for keeping track of the Saskatchewan Amateur Radio League and for putting this newsletter together each time. 73 **Gordon VE5UJ**

Sec/Treas Report

Well it is that time, Spring. At least it is supposed to be. Unfortunately, Mother Nature has not received the message yet, and Old Man Winter does not want to let go. Hopefully soon we will begin to see much warmer snow free days.

First off, I want to thank all those members who renewed their membership at the MJARC Flea-market on April 5th. Also, welcome to those who joined for the first time., and those who rejoined after a few years absent.

A special reminder to all clubs that are having Amateur Radio Classes, to send me the names of all those that pass the exam, I will need their names, addresses, email address if possible, as these new hams will receive a 1 year subscription to The QSO as well as membership. Their names will also be put into a draw and 1 or 2 or 3 of them may win the SARL New Amateur Trophy.

Also a reminder to please get the nomination form from the webpage for Tom VanNess, ND, and any other award. It is always nice to come to a ham-fest and get something. There will also be a homebrew table, so that will be interesting to see who built what over the winter. The Hammond and Centennial Awards will be available. The nomination forms must be to me by June 30th.

Now I must remind all of our members, we need as many members as possible to be at the Ham-fest as we must have elections for ALL positions. If the current directors wish to let their names stand please let me know asap. We really need to have a President, as Gordon VE5UJ's term is up, and without a president, we can not continue. It would be a shame if we had to stop SARL because no one wanted the job. Trust me, it's not hard. If you don't believe me, go ask Gordon VE5UJ, Bj VE5FX, Devon VE5DWR, or any of the other previous Presidents.

We have so many newer amateurs in our SARL now, and we older hams don't want to scare you away, so maybe it's time for you to give it a try. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain. We have been in existence since 1952. What an awesome legacy. The only Radio League left in the country besides the one in Quebec. All other Radio Leagues have gone by way of the dinosaurs.

73 **Val VE5ACJ**

North-East Region Report

On April 17, the Melfort Amateur Radio Club formally bid farewell to Jean Lalonde, VE5DZ, who has become a silent key at the age of 66 years. The members of the Melfort ARC served as honorary pallbearers at the ceremony. Jean leaves behind his XYL, Florence, VE5FEL, and two daughters. Jean and Florence have been very active members of the Club with Florence serving as the "permanent" secretary/treasurer. For years, they hosted the annual Club Christmas party, offering the members an opportunity to meet and eat and discuss areas of critical welfare to Amateur Radio.

At a recent 80 metre evening net, controller Gord, VE5UJ, announced that it was his birthday. This prompted Gerald, VE5YD, to declare himself to be Gord's twin brother, as they share a birthdate and are the same age - sort of like DeVito and Swarzenegger in the movie. This prompted several other net checkers-in to volunteer their ages, just to make Gord and Gerald feel younger. As you might imagine, there are a LOT of us old guys out there in radio land. If we don't get busy and bring in lots of younger hams, well I probably don't have to finish that thought.

The North East region is still a bit crippled in terms of VHF communications capability. The Melfort repeater continues to be so hard of hearing that it can only be used within the city. Improvement will probably be some time in coming, as Barry, VE5HA, has once again escaped for an extensive holiday to Cuba. One of these days I expect him to sign in as CO5HA. The Nipawin repeater is also feeling badly, having been offline for some time. Currently, only Tisdale's repeater is on the air and continues to be a reliable, if quiet, source of communications.73 **Bj. Madsen - VE5FX**

PROVINCIAL NETS					
Name	Date	Sessions	Check-ins	Traffic	Bulletins
RLP 9300	Feb	20	632	880	
	Mar	21	491	88	
Avonlea ARG 147.0600-	Feb	28	190	0	
	Mar	29	178	0	
Sask Evening Phone/CW	Feb	28	1061	4	
	3.735 Mar	29	981	9	
Sask Wx Net 3.753	Feb	28	882	0	
	Mar	29	821	0	
Ares	Feb	4	196	0	
	Mar	5	200	0	
NSARC	Feb	28	271	110	
	Mar	29	135	0	
TOTALS			5642	1078	



SASKATCHEWAN HAM-FEST 2014

Sponsored by SARL, Directors and MJ Pioneer Senior ARC

When: July 5, 2014

Time: 9:00 – 5:00

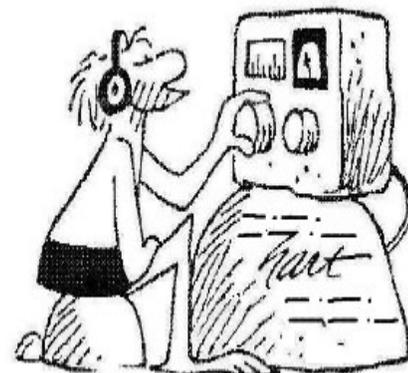
Where: WDM Moose Jaw

Admission: SARL Members & Spouse - FREE

(Includes Free Trip through the Museum)

Non - Members: \$7.50

(Includes a Free Trip through the Museum)



Lunch: \$7.50 each

(Soup and Sandwich)

Lots of Door Prizes

Ladies Event

16 **Free** Flea-Tables-admission charges apply to non-members vendors

Please get hold of Val VE5ACJ

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1-306-693-6127

More information can be found on our website: www.sarl.ca

