

# The QSO



August/September 2004

<http://www.sarl.ca/>

Volume 2004, Issue 4

## SARL Annual General Meeting

The QSO Staff

The SARL Annual General Meeting was held in Saskatoon on July 24, 2004 in conjunction with a flea market, ARES Meeting and Radio Amateurs of Canada forum.

The day got underway at about 9:00 AM with several vendors setting up their tables. Bj Madsen VE5FX was there on behalf of RAC and had an information booth set up with a lot of great information on the organization.



The flea market itself was a moderate success, with several dozen hams attending from all areas

of the province. There was certainly a lack of flea market items but we do appreciate the ones that we had and there were good deals made no doubt.

At about 11:00 AM, we began the SARL Annual General Meeting with a presentation made by Ken Bindle VE5KRB, on behalf of the Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club to Bill Dunster VE5DN. Bill was the recipient of the Dave Glass Award, sponsored by the Saskatoon club. The award is presented to hams that are always helpful to others, have a full amateur radio license with all the privileges and show expertise in the construction of amateur radio equipment. Bill is very dedicated to the amateur radio community and the Saskatoon Amateur Radio

Club and has been the club's nightly net controller for a number of years. Congratulations Bill on this achievement!

The meeting got underway and various topics were discussed. The continuation of SARL as a viable



organization has been a topic of discussion for a few years now and judging by the number of people actually attending the meeting, it would seem that there still is a place for the organization. For the first time in years, we had to vote by secret ballot for executive officers.

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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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## 2004 – 2005 Executive



**President**  
Derek Bereza VE5SD



**Vice President**  
Garry McCallum VE5PNQ



**Treasurer**  
Randy Westby VE5DFC



**Secretary**  
Ron Sather VE5RMS

## Area Directors

The Battlefords & Area	Vacant
Saskatoon	Devon Racicot VE5DWR
Saskatoon Area	Vacant
South West	Vacant
Moose Jaw & Area	Val Lemko VE5ACJ
Regina	Gordon Gwillim VE5UJ
Prince Albert & Area	Vacant
South East	Jerry Dixon VE5DC
Yorkton & Area	Vacant
Past President	Jack Croteau VE5AY

## It seems to me...

Devon Racicot VE5DWR

Here we go again... late! Well, I am going to use Summer as my excuse this time. It just seems there is never enough time in the day to get these things done. Would you believe that some of the leaves are turning colors already in my backyard? I can't believe summer is almost over...sigh.

I still haven't gotten my antenna projects finished, seems it was last year about this time I was in the same boat. Maybe this year...

I was glad to have attended the SARL Annual General Meeting and flea market in Saskatoon on July 24<sup>th</sup>. It was a nice day to visit with folks that I haven't seen for a while. We got caught up on everything and solved almost all that is wrong in the world. I even managed to walk away from the flea market without spending much cash. My only regret is not having taken some of the old junk in the basement.

By the looks of things, SARL is beginning to flourish again. There are hams still out there that believe SARL has a purpose and it was reflected by the number of people in attendance. Way to go Saskatchewan!

I was sad to see that there were only a few tables set up for the flea market, but I guess in all reality, the end purpose of the day was to have the AGM for SARL and anything else was a bonus. Check out the two page article on the days' events and the online photo album on the SARL website.

In this issue we look at an Industry Canada Gazette Notice (page 8) which looks at dropping Morse code. If you are passionate about this topic, you may want to pay particular attention on how to submit your comments to IC.

We are going to be receiving area reports from the directors for each issue from this point forward. It will be one more step closer to

having information that will be of interest to local amateurs throughout the Province. Keep your eyes open for the new format in the next issue.

I dug up some interesting articles from the RAC News Service about an incident on the Space Station where one of the astronauts was doing some soldering and the resin reacted in a strange way. You can actually read the full story and see video on the NASA Homepage.

Hurricane Charley was a hot topic during the summer in Florida. See how ham radio once again saved the day.

Do we get enough press? This is one of the topics of debate on Eham.net right now. One of the hams that posted the article says that he thinks we don't receive enough airtime for what we do when it comes down to disasters. What do you think? Email me at [qso@sarl.ca](mailto:qso@sarl.ca).

So what will it take for me to start receiving stories and email from the readers? Maybe we'll have to come up with some sort of a contest with a cool prize or something... new car, big house, or maybe just a free membership.

I always am in need of local interest stories from members and amateurs throughout the Province. I can find any old story on the Internet, but it is the local club stuff that I want. Send me your stories, pictures, hate mail, anything!

Things are going to look a bit different in the next issue, so if it is a bit late again, please forgive me. I have posted an Ad for an Assistant QSO Editor. If you are interested, please read it and send me a note.

I hope you enjoy this issue and until next time, enjoy the rest of the summer and happy hamming!

Devon Racicot VE5DWR

## From the President's Desk

Derek Bereza, VE5SD



First off, I would like to thank all those that came out to our SARL AGM on July 24<sup>th</sup>! Once again we received some excellent feedback about SARL and had a great meeting! We even had a ballot election for the position of Vice President! Lately, it seemed we had to twist arms to fill positions, so it encouraging to see us no longer having to do so!

I personally want to thank Devon – VE5DWR, Ron – VE5RMS, Val – VE5ACJ, Randy – VE5DFC, Gary – VE5PNQ, Gord – VE5UJ, Dwight – VE5DWT, Eric – VE5HG for letting your names stand for leadership in SARL (hope I didn't forget anyone).

We are in the second year of rebuilding SARL and we are confident we will be doubling our present membership level, especially when our peers see the genuine value of belonging to SARL! We are now proceeding with some new initiatives to "connect the amateur radio communities in our province".

One common thread amongst hams is that it is time we *start doing, instead of just talking*. So starting already we have begun doing some of the things we said we would. Look forward to the "NEW SARL"!

Have a great fall, get that antenna work done, and stay tuned...to SARL!

### Watch for new look!

Watch for the new look of *The QSO* coming out next issue! You will see different sections on news from the Province, Canada, North America and the World. Keep those articles coming!

## Area Reports

SARL Directors

### Moose Jaw

Val Lemko VE5ACJ



Hi, my name is Val. I have been a ham for 23 years. I am very active on air and CW is my second love. My OM Harv (my first love) is also a ham - VE5AC.

There are 2 active Radio Clubs here in Moose Jaw.

The Moose Jaw Pioneers Amateur Radio Club (MJPARC), whose membership is limited to Seniors 55 and over. The oldest member is 95. Together they have 533 years of Ham Radio know how. They have monthly meetings with every other month a supper meeting so the spouses can join in. They offer classes for seniors to either upgrade or get their first ticket. The emphasis is on Morse Code. In February the seniors did GOTA (Guides on the Air) which is sponsored by CLARA, and at the beginning of June, 9 members did Learning Days at the WDM, and both activities are already booked by the club for 2005. On July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2 members of the MJPARC helped at the Community Playday at the WDM on very short notice. Also 8 members of the club did the BBQ at the WDM for the Motorcycle Show and Shine. Being Seniors means that they are very active and involved in the community. No rocking chairs for us.

The second club is the Moose Jaw Amateur Radio Club (MJARC). These are the "youngsters" to the hobby.

We wish to thank members of MJPARC and MJARC who went up the "Big Hill" this spring to fix the ARG Repeater. This was done before the "monsoon" season. A job well done, and greatly appreciated by all.

Harv and I were out camping and were 4 miles away from the ARG repeater, so I had no trouble getting a signal in, but cell phone

coverage was 0. So I found the highest hill around the campsite, and would walk up the hill whenever I had to make a call home. After a few days of this, you would be surprised how many people would follow me up the hill so they could use their cell phones. Ham Radio and, line of sight are good recruiters. At one time I had 8 people at the top of the hill with me. Just had to pass this story along.

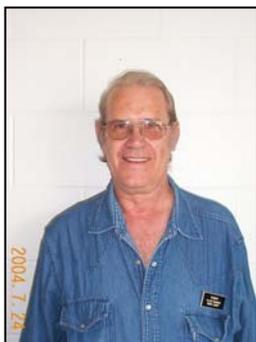
In July, Harv and I went to Saskatoon for the SARL flea market and general meeting. Thanks to all who bought off my tables. We also had a good chance to eyeball with those who we usually only hear on the air. The coffee and donuts were real good too.

Hopefully this fall and winter, the band conditions are better than last year.

Hope everyone had a wonderful summer and no one got bit by the dreaded mosquito and contracted the nasty West Nile.

## Prince Albert & North

Wayne Thompson VE5DWT



The Lakeland Amateur Radio Association hosted Field Day at the home of our new repeater on Tweedmuir Hill. The station ran as a 2A qualifier under the callsign of VE5DR. Many contacts were made and a good time was spent

operating and visiting with our friends, some came from Saskatoon and Sherwood Park, AB.

Those involved with this endeavor were Roly VE5RO, Bob VE5MY, John VE5JJA,



Randy VE5QU, Derek VE5SD, Chris VE5BAR, Linda VE5LND, Harry VE5HFH, Bob VE5BOB, Bruce VE5ND, Betty VE5LE, Wayne VE5DWT, a good time was had by all and were looking forward to next year.

## Special Callsign for VE5/VA5

Harold Slack VE5BCS

A group of amateurs in the Prince Albert area have collected the fee and have permission from Industry Canada to use CG5 for VE5 and CF5 for VA5 prefix for the commemoration of Prince Albert's 100th birthday, using the prefix from October 03 to October 16, 2004. It is hoped that all amateurs in Saskatchewan will use the special prefix and enjoy the special event.

The Northern Saskatchewan Amateur Radio Club will supply a special certificate honoring our host city Prince Albert's 100th birthday. To any station contacting [2 green stamps] [email ve5zc at rac.ca] or operating from the city's emergency preparedness station VE5EEE known as CG5EEE for the two week period

This station will be open as much as possible in that time frame to accommodate all visitors. Anyone wishing to operate the special event station contact Harold at 982-4423 or 147.06 and come out, visit, operate, enjoy, and receive a beautiful certificate for your shack.

Prince Albert is known for: electing of three of Canada's Prime Ministers, home of the Raiders, hockey town north, the gateway to Saskatchewan beautiful north, world renowned pulp and paper, Keyhole Castle, restored home of Olive and John Diefenbaker, Future world class diamond find, where the prairie ends and the forest begins.

SARL AGM Photo Album

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

## Soldering without Gravity?

RAC News Service

There's nothing routine about working in space, as astronaut Mike Fincke KE5AIT found out recently when he did some soldering onboard the International Space Station.

Here's what happened when Mike touched the tip of a soldering iron to a wire wrapped with rosin-core solder. The solder, heated, became



a molten blob with a droplet of rosin clinging tight to the outside.

Solder melts: that's not too surprising. It's the behavior of the rosin that amazed. As the temperature increased, the droplet began to spin, round and round, faster and faster, like a miniature carnival ride.

Researchers have long known that soldering in space isn't the same as soldering on Earth. Here on Earth, gravity pulls molten solder down over the metals to be joined. In space, weightless solder doesn't flow down. It tends to gather in blobs held together by surface tension. NASA researcher Richard Grugel, a materials scientist at the Marshall Space Flight Center believes that rapped inside those solder-blobs are tiny bubbles of gas, vaporized rosin and steam, that weaken the joint and lessen its electrical and thermal conductivity.

The solder that KE5AIT used is a mixture of lead, tin and rosin. The purpose of lead and tin is to form an electrically conducting connection. Clearly, though, some of the rosin is too busy flying around to do its job properly. Is this a problem? To find out, Grugel plans to slice the blobs created by Fincke and examine what lies inside. He'll be able to see how many weakening bubbles are in there, and whether

the solder made a clean connection to the wire. The samples will be returned to Earth by astronauts in a Soyuz capsule or, perhaps, after the space shuttle returns to flight. The date isn't set.

Meanwhile, Grugel and his colleagues are brainstorming, trying to understand what causes the rosin to twirl. "We almost have it," Grugel says, but he's not ready to announce a solution yet. He does, however, have some advice for astronauts bent on soldering: wear your goggles and watch out for flying rosin.

## Ham Radio "Only Reliable Communication" At Ground Zero

RAC News Service

Once again, Amateur Radio has proven its value in an emergency. With conventional telecommunication systems unreliable and power still out after the Category 4 Hurricane Charley blasted across the Florida Peninsula August 13, Amateur Radio has proven to be a communication mainstay.

"The only reliable communication we have here is Amateur Radio," ARRL West Central Florida Section Manager Dave Armbrust, AE4MR, told ARRL earlier this week. He was one of the three dozen ARES volunteers at the Charlotte County command post. "We're out in the field trying to handle so many different things that it's almost overwhelming," he said five days into the activation.

By week's end, the need for additional ARES volunteers in the Hurricane Charley relief and recovery effort had stabilized. Communications and Warning Officer John Fleming, WD4FFX, of the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) told ARRL that ham radio volunteers already on duty in the five most severely affected counties were holding their own in maintaining necessary emergency communication. But he advised Amateur Radio volunteers to remain at the ready, just in case, and recommended that ARES teams, clubs and individuals work

through their ARES Section Emergency Coordinator.

The FDEM says Hurricane Charley caused two dozen deaths and nearly 4000 injuries, and almost a quarter-million residents were still without power at week's end. Other reports indicate that as many as 10,000 homes were badly damaged or destroyed.

The most severely stricken communities are in largely rural areas of western and central Florida made up of smaller towns. Among other storm relief duties, hams have been part of an effort to check on residents and determine what they need and to "make sure everyone's okay," Armbrust said.

Amateur Radio operators have been handling emergency traffic and assisting the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in setting up HF communication to the state emergency operations center in the capital of Tallahassee. ARES also has provided communication for search-and-rescue teams and supported American Red Cross and The Salvation Army humanitarian relief efforts.

In addition, ARES operators handled outgoing health-and-welfare traffic from storm victims now taking refuge in shelters, provided or supplemented public safety communication and even took on some dispatching duties. Amateur Radio volunteers also deployed to hospitals, some of which have experienced spotty communication. Several VHF and UHF repeaters have been buzzing with emergency traffic all week.

Armbrust emphasized that Hurricane Charley cut a broad swath across Florida, and the devastation was widespread. "This looks like a war zone," he remarked. Hot, humid weather has aggravated the relief effort, especially for emergency medical service personnel who not only are dealing with storm-related health issues but with those resulting from the heat.

ARES teams from Florida Miami-Dade, Martin, St Lucie, Broward, Okeechobee and Palm Beach counties deployed to relieve or assist the amateur operators on duty in the affected communities.

In Sarasota County, Ron Wetjen, WD4AHZ, has been working at the county EOC and assigning volunteers to assist in neighboring Charlotte County, where Armbrust has been holding down the fort.

"We've had offers of help from guys in Montana, Ohio, and New York!" Wetjen said August 19. "We have a couple from Tennessee here now, with two more on the way for the weekend."

The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) on 14.265 MHz spent nearly five days in continuous operation. It's also used Amateur Radio for its logistical communications. The Salvation Army has been providing meals, household necessities and other assistance to residents displaced by the storm and has been relying on its own Amateur Radio resources. SATERN also has taken on responsibility for health-and-welfare inquiries, both via Amateur Radio and through its Web site <http://www.saturn.net>.

In advance of the storm, SKYWARN teams were active the Hurricane Watch Net and WX4NHC at the National Hurricane Center cooperated to gather ground-level weather data and damage reports.

"It seems as if the Amateur Radio world is listening and waiting to help when an event such as this occurs," observed SATERN National Director Pat McPherson, WW9E, "and it's edifying to realize the positive impact of their dedication to the task of helping others." (ARRL News Service)

## Industry Canada – Gazette Notice

Industry Canada

### Notice No. DGRB-003-04 - Consultation on "Recommendations from Radio Amateurs of Canada to Industry Canada Concerning Morse Code and Related Matters"

The purpose of this Notice is to solicit public comments on the above noted proposal that, if adopted, may result in modifications to the regulatory framework for the amateur service in Canada, for example, to Radiocommunication Information Circular 2, *Standards for the Operation of Radio Stations in the Amateur Radio Service* (RIC-2), the standard that relates to this service.

#### Introduction

In accordance with the *Radiocommunication Regulations*, made pursuant to the *Radiocommunication Act*, the Amateur Radio Service is "... a radiocommunication service in which radio apparatus are used for the purpose of self-training, intercommunication or technical investigation by individuals who are interested in radio technique solely with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest."

Amateur radio operators enjoy communicating domestically and worldwide with other amateur radio operators. They experiment with various radio modulation techniques ranging from elementary modes involving the on-off transmission of continuous wave (CW) radio emissions using the International Morse code, to more complex emissions such as slow scan television and packet radio communication techniques. The amateur radio service is, by virtue of the potential for global propagation of amateur signals in high frequency (HF) bands, an international service, and is governed internationally by regulations of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), of which Canada is a signatory nation.

Historically, the ITU regulations required all amateur radio operators to be familiar with the

International Morse code in order to use frequencies below 30 MHz.

At the World Radiocommunication Conference in 2003 (WRC-2003), the member administrations of the ITU made the decision to remove from the *International Radio Regulations* the mandatory requirement for proficiency in Morse code as a qualification for the Amateur Service, but left the continuation of Morse code proficiency requirements to the discretion of individual administrations. Since WRC-2003, led by Switzerland on July 5, 2003, more than twenty administrations have removed the Morse code qualification requirement for access to the HF amateur bands below 30 MHz.

Over the years, officials of the Department have worked with amateur radio operators and their organizations to foster the development of the service. As part of this effort, the Department consults with the amateur community through regular meetings with Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc. (RAC), the national association representing Canadian amateurs.

In July and August 2003, to form a basis for a recommendation to Industry Canada, RAC conducted a survey via the Internet of Canadian radio amateurs to ascertain their wishes concerning the deletion or retention of the Morse code qualification. More than 1400 valid responses, a statistically significant sample of the approximately 51,500 Canadian amateur community, were received. Of the respondents, 66 percent recommended deletion of the mandatory Morse code requirement. At the same time, RAC Directors conducted surveys of their constituents, and these results also were taken into account in preparing their proposal. In addition to recommending the deletion of the Morse code requirement, the proponents also recommended other changes, such as increasing the pass mark for the Basic qualification. Many of the recommendations

are included as related matters in the proposal.

In October 2003, RAC presented the proposal, as a draft, to the Canadian Amateur Radio Advisory Board (CARAB) meeting, and in July of 2004, this proposal was formally presented to Industry Canada.

Interested parties should submit their comments on the issues raised in the RAC proposal no later than 60 days from the date of this Gazette notice. Shortly after the close of the comment period, all comments received will be posted on Industry Canada's Spectrum Management and Telecommunications Web site at: <http://strategis.gc.ca/spectrum>.

### Submitting Comments

Respondents are requested to provide their comments in electronic format (WordPerfect, Microsoft Word, Adobe PDF or ASCII TXT). All comments should make reference to "Comments -- Gazette Notice DGRB-003-04" and be sent to the following e-mail address: [dospaa@ic.gc.ca](mailto:dospaa@ic.gc.ca) along with a note specifying the software, version number and operating system used.

Written submissions should be addressed to the Director General, Radiocommunications and Broadcasting Regulatory Branch, Industry Canada, 300 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0C8.

All submissions should cite the *Canada Gazette*, Part I, publication date, the title, and the notice reference number (DGRB-003-04).

### Obtaining Copies

Copies of this notice and documents referred to are available electronically on the Spectrum Management and Telecommunications Web site at: <http://strategis.gc.ca/spectrum>. The RAC proposal can also be found at: <http://www.rac.ca/>.

Official printed copies of gazette notices can be obtained from the Canada Gazette Web site at: <http://canadagazette.gc.ca/subscription-e.html> or by calling the sales counter of Canadian Government Publishing at (819) 941-5995 or 1 800 635-7943.

## SARL Help Wanted



### QSO Assistant Editor

The Saskatchewan Amateur Radio League is looking for a person to fill the volunteer position of QSO Assistant Editor.

In the interest of keeping the newsletter current and on time, the Assistant Editor would be responsible for creating, collecting and editing news stories of interest for upcoming issues of *The QSO*. No layout or publishing would be involved.

The amount of time that would be required is estimated at 2 - 3 hours per month to do required research and preparation.

The only qualifications are that you have web and email access, MS Word, MS Works or equivalent, and a belief in SARL and *The QSO*.

If you are interested and require more information, please contact the Editor at [qso@sarl.ca](mailto:qso@sarl.ca).

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

*(Continued from Page 1)*

Several new people let their names stand for various positions.

We welcome Garry McCallum, VE5PNQ (formerly VE6PNQ) of Saskatoon to the Executive as Vice President. Garry has served with various other amateur radio related organizations in Alberta prior to moving to Saskatoon in 2003. Garry is currently the Emergency Coordinator for ARES Saskatoon.

We also welcome Val Lemko VE5ACJ as the Director for Moose Jaw & Area. Val is very active in the MJ area and brings fresh new ideas to the Board. Val is currently working on a newly designed crest for SARL.

Gordon Gwillim VE5UJ will also be filling the position of Director for the Regina Area, filling a position that has been empty for a number of years.

RAC Assistant Director Bj. Madsen VE5FX gave a presentation on the Radio Amateurs of Canada.



Bj spoke about the RAC Youth Education Project and how things are really starting to take off across the

country. How suiting it was to have the meeting take place in the only school in Saskatchewan where the RAC YEP was in place!

Randy Wesby VE5DFC, the Section Emergency Coordinator for ARES Saskatchewan and Garry McCallum, EC ARES Saskatoon headed up an informal Amateur Radio Emergency Services

meeting. Discussions on the current CanWARN alert system and inter-city communication was discussed.

Westby reported that he has been asked by EMO officials to come up with a Provincial Emergency



manual as it pertains to Amateur Radio Emergency Services. This will be an ongoing project involving numerous hams across the Province.

The day ended around 2:30 and, as per usual, several attendees remained to visit for some time afterwards.

SARL again would like to thank all amateurs that brought items to the flea market, all that let their names stand for various positions, and all hams that attended the event, especially those who had to travel distances.

It appears that SARL is still alive and well, and we want you to look for good things to happen in the future.

Don't forget to renew your SARL membership today!

### In the Next Issue!

- New Format
- Minutes of the AGM
- More Photos
- Update on SARL Finances
- Director Reports
- ARES Update
- CanWARN Updates