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DUE, PLEASE PAY AS  
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**Thank you**

# THE QSO

August/September 2014

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## Editor's Rambling

Well, here it is early Fall already. Where did the summer go. Yes it was late coming, and we did finally get some warm weather.

As our farmers get ready to do their harvest, I hope you get it all in before that awful 4 letter word shows up (snow).

Hamfest came and I was so pleased to see so many people show up. I sure hope you all found great treasures at the flea-market and were well fed at lunch. All in all I hope that everyone had a great time. At least the weather was with us.

Hamfest was well attended, All in all, I think that it was a good day. Lots of treasures went from 1 home to another, and lots of eyeball QSO's were had.

Thanks so much to the following who helped with so many things: John VE5JJA, Wayne VE5DWT, Brian VE5BJO, Gordon VE5GML, Maxine VE5MAX, Murray VE5MC, Doris VE5DJQ, Marg Yaschuk and Kevin Crowston. Oops forgot one, Harv VE5AC who did so much driving around and who was actually my very own "Gopher". A very special thank you goes to Cora Lee from Chiller's Brew Pub for the wonderful lunch we were able to have. I really hope everyone had a great day. **VE5ACJ**

## Past President's Message

It has been an enlightening and interesting two years as president of SARL and I must thank those that had enough confidence in my experience to allow me to "lead for a time". Like

most of us I was not yet a licensed Radio Amateur when SARL was formed, during a time when Saskatchewan hams first acquired call letter license plate privileges in the 1950s. Then in the 1960s, when bureaucratic overbearing threatened these privileges as well as the Amateur Radio to Telephone interconnect known as the phone patch, SARL executive members were able to negotiate a settlement agreeable to all.

In more recent years, SARL has had its ups and downs but has re-invented itself in response to some of the dynamic radio operator types who could see a purpose for a Provincial Amateur Radio organization. The QSO newsletter has always been a bright spot for my interest and indeed I have boxes of them to be revisited for their historic value alone. The older we get, the clearer our perspective of the progress of the science and of the hobby we all love. The state of the art, and its history is contained in the writings of the past masters in provincial publications as well as QST, CQ, 73 and Ham Radio. The editorials in those publications have much to say about the people and events responsible for setting the course to the hobby and privileges we enjoy in the 21st century.

I would encourage the members who have been supporting the QSO newsletter with their submissions to continue. As well I hope the new president has as rewarding time with

the association as I have had. Thank you and 73

**Gordon, VE5UJ**

## Saskatchewan North East Region

Typically, there's not much happening in the Ham Radio world during the "dog days of summer" and the North East region is no exception. It's a shame to spend these lovely warm days in the hamshack when we could be outside swatting mosquitoes. By the way, I have learned that mosquitoes don't climb towers. Once you are ten metres high or so, they give up and leave you alone. This presents us with a really good reason for doing the tower, feedline and antenna work that has been awaiting our attention since last winter.

It has been really quiet in this region: VE5ARH and VE5YD are farming and the rest of us are doing summer work like boating fishing, holidaying and other important chores. The Melfort repeater continues to be off the air - communication in Melfort is done on simplex 146.52 MHz for the time being. Nipawin's repeater is on the air with two antennas instead of a duplexer and seems to be working well with that arrangement, but the IRLP is only available on occasion. The Tisdale repeater continues to serve as usual and is still linked to Nipawin via its UHF link.

The evening 80 metre net continues to flush out the faithful every evening, with at least a couple of check-ins and sometimes as many as half a dozen, so HF is still alive and well in this area.

In theory, we are at the peak of the

solar cycle, although you wouldn't know it by turning on the HF rig. Perhaps things will perk up again this fall. I certainly hope so.

#### **Bj. Madsen VE5FX NE Area Director**

#### **Greetings from the South West**

I hope everyone is staying well and having a good summer. At the time of writing this I notice that we are well into August which tells me that summer is moving too fast and it will soon be fall. The crops down here are in good condition and are starting to turn so harvest is just around the corner

Hamfest 2014 went off without a hitch, and it was nice to see such a good turnout for the event. A big thank you goes out to all who were directly involved in the organizing and the setting up. I was happy to be part of it by securing door prizes from down in this part of the province. Our flea market was a good size, the noon lunch was excellent and the presentation was very good . I got to meet many hams that I don't often see and had the chance to visit with many of them. We also had a good meeting and was able to elect some new people to the executive, I personally am staying on as director for the Southwest and also accepted the Vice President position.

We still go for coffee at the Howard Johnson coffee shop on Saturday mornings at 9:30, about five or six people usually show up each time and we have a good visit. This week we had Hans VE5HJU, Bill VE5XT, Dick VE5LI, Harry VE5HB and myself VE5BI. Show and tell is still part of our get togethers and last Sat. Harry VE5HB brought an old hamfest brochure from 1977 when Swift Current hosted the hamfest that year.

It was interesting to read through it and see how things were done 37 years ago. With Harry's permission I am submitting an article that he wrote at the time about the history of the South West Amateur Radio Club and it is a bit further on in the QSO.

Wondering why you don't hear us on the IRLP? Well it appears that the computer that connects our node to the internet has packed up. Cal VE5CAL is very busy these days with his new business but says that a new computer has been obtained and needs a few parts installed to make the connection work. He says maybe two weeks and node 1570 should be back up. We are hoping for the best.

This summer I had the opportunity to travel to Austin Manitoba to attend the annual Threshermans Reunion which was held at the end of July. I thoroughly enjoyed everything that they had to offer at their event. I got to see many demonstrations, lots of history of the past, many old tractors and steam engines and lots of other old iron as well. While I was there I visited the Amateur Radio Museum and visited with some hams. This museum has an excellent collection of amateur radio gear and equipment to look at and they also have a fully working ham station on the air as well. When I was there VE4YL and her husband were operating it. It is so nice to see people preserving all the history . I highly recommend this place to visit and spend some time reconnecting with the past. The Canadian Military were there with a huge display of their equipment as part of the 100 year centennial for the start of WWI , I got to visit with some of our troops and get an up close look at a tank, a 150mm Howitzer, some

light artillery vehicles, and other military equipment as well, some of which were used in Afghanistan,

Well that's about it for this go around . Enjoy the rest of summer.

#### **73 Ken VE5BI Dir., Southwest Sask.**

#### **VP SARC**

#### **New Presidents Message**

Connecting to the world is never farther away then turning on your Ham Radio. This morning as we were finishing breakfast, VA7MWR , Ron in Clinton Village BC, called to invite us to check in with W8ZZL, Pam in Colorado. Pam was demonstrating Amateur Radio with IRLP (Internet Radio Linking Project) at her local Hamfest. Did you know that IRLP was developed by Dave Cameron VE7LTD. IRLP is an original Canadian product. The computer has opened up a very interesting aspect of Amateur Radio allowing those of us that have our basic license to speak to the world. Now this call was not to the President of SARC but just to a fellow Amateur. Maybe I should introduce myself. Doris Quiring, VE5DJQ, Amateur since 1992 with a basic license. You will find me on 2 meters, IRLP and occasionally D-Star. If Eric is in the Ham shack you may hear me check in on the 40 and 80 meter nets. I am a member of SARC, RAC, CLARA, the Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club and I attend the Meewasin Amateur Radio Society meetings with Eric VE5HG. I have been an SARC director for a number of years and Secretary/Treasurer for 2 terms in the past. You can hear me on node 1630 reflector 9300 calling the Saskatchewan IRLP linked net on Wednesday and Thursday at 9:00PM. I also call the Saskatoon Amateur Radio clubs 2 meter net at 8:00PM on Fridays.

Amateur Radio is an integral part of our life.

July saw us at the Moose Jaw Hamfest. Thank you to Val VE5ACJ and Harv VE5AC for organizing and running a great Hamfest. They did a fantastic job. Val has indicated that 100 people attended the Hamfest of which 43 members and 6 guests attended the SARL-AGM. This year 2 amateurs let their name stand for President: Ken Millard VE5BI and myself VE5DJQ. After the votes were counted VE5DJQ was president and Ken consented to stand for Vice - President. Thank you Ken. Thank you also to all the directors that let their name stand for their respective areas. Very special thank you to Val VE5ACJ for again letting her name stand for Secretary, Treasurer, web master for the SARL web page and editor of the QSO. Now that is a mighty big job and Val does it exceptionally well.

I am reminded so many times that every aspect of Amateur Radio is important, be it HF, UHF, VHF, IRLP, D-Star or any of the modes of communication that Amateurs are part of. This hobby of ours provides a place for all the varied interests be it CW as Summer VE5SDH is mastering or IRLP, HF and D-Star bringing Richard VE5RNP back into the hobby after a lengthy absence. Ham Radio remains an essential part of so many lives.

Presently we have 140 members in SARL. If you haven't renewed your membership by the end of August please take the time to do so. Where else can you have a voice provincially? If you have questions for SARL please forward your concerns and suggestions to your local director or email directly to SARL:

[ve5aq@sasktel.net](mailto:ve5aq@sasktel.net) or myself at:  
[quiringe@shaw.ca](mailto:quiringe@shaw.ca)

To finish please take the time to look at the SARL web page. Val has done a fantastic job of re-designing our web page. **73 Doris Quiring VE5DJQ**  
**Hello from Saskatoon**

Hope summer is going well for everyone.

Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club held their AGM on June 12, 2014 at the Saskatoon Branch of the WDM. I am happy to report that all of the director positions have been filled. We voted acceptance of a revised Bylaw document and approved the 1st increase in club fees for several years. We have 4 new hams this year: Congratulations Stuart VA5KAS, Matti VE5KAL, Rick VE5RLG and Jack, awaiting call sign.

Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club members and friends, ran communications for two events this spring. The MS Walk-a-thon and the Sask Marathon. Both events were successful. Both events required 15 hams with participation from about 20 individuals over the two events. Thank you to all those involved in both of the events.

SARC ran a 2A station for Field Day this year. Two hams, myself included, made our first DX contacts at this Field Day and I am appreciative to the experienced hams that had the patience to get us through that process. We used 100% emergency power. Three public officials visited Field Day. We did get mentioned on Global TV. Thank you to John VE5SJA for being the leader of for Field Day. Thank you to all of the Saskatoon club hams that participated.

Meewasin Amateur Radio Society (MARS) also ran a successful Field

Day.

Several hams from Saskatoon made the trip down to the Moose Jaw branch of the WDM to attend Hamfest. Thank you to the organizers for a great day and well run meeting.

MARS announced at Hamfest 2014 that their club would host Hamfest 2015 in Martensville. It has recently been confirmed that the Radio Amateurs of Canada AGM will be part of this event. Planning for the event is underway. Keep an eye on the MARS webpage for more news on this event

The next club meeting of Meewasin Amateur Radio Society will be held Tuesday, September 9, 2014 at 106-33rd St. E.

The next meeting of the Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club will be held Thursday, September 11, 2014 at the Cliff Wright Library on McKercher Drive at 7:00 pm.

Enjoy the rest of the summer!!

**73 Terry VE5TLC Director  
Saskatoon City**

**Moose Jaw & Area**

Our local Pioneers Senior Club will be starting suppers again in Sept.

The K+S Potash MS Bike-a-Thon was held Aug 16th & 17th in M.J. The RARA did a fantastic job of organizing and implementing their group. We went out to see it, and I was very impressed by the bikes. You think you paid a lot for your rig....some of those bikes are double what you paid.

Upcoming in MJ area is the MS Walk and the Terry Fox Run. So stay tuned for the dates.

I asked the editor if I could put in some articles I have read, and she said, if there's room they will be put in. So that's it from M.J for now.

**73 Harv VE5AC Moose Jaw & Area Director**

## South East Saskatchewan

Well, first off, we have a new ham in Estevan, and it seems to be a family affair. The new ham is Jason VE5JSU who is the son of Hans VE5HJU. Now Jason is married to Wendy VE5WND who is the daughter of Murray VE5XO and Ruth VE5ABW. Nice to have you around Jason.

Marie Jacobson KAONRT who is the widow of KOHJ is sort of like a neighbor as she lives in Oxbow had a mower accident a little bit ago and broke her back. She had surgery in Regina and now has a steel rod in her back. She is always on the go doing something, but has informed me she is not able to do swathing this year—she will actually be able to take a rest.

Blair VE5BAM is finally retired from the Electrical Manufacturing business, and is in the process of building a huge garage.

Murray VE5HW has also finally retired and says he is going to have a great retirement hunting and fishing, and at this time is now up north working for his brother-in-law riding a backhoe, but it is still in his hunting and fishing area, so he is happy.

VE5TAW finally is at home without house guests at least for a while. VE5OO has been camping for the past month. He said he has finally found a great campground, beautiful scenery, very clean showers and free laundry. Says he has been looking for a place like this for years. Where is it you may ask. Well it's his own backyard and the price is right too!. He also has a new set of choppers and says as soon as the initial pain is gone and he is use to them, he expects to look just as handsome as he use to, but at the moment he is still on soup. He says

his daughter Pat VE5KAT is coming for a visit soon, and he will go camping again.

The repeaters in Estevan and area are starting to feel their age. The one on the hill had to have underground wiring put in, the one at the Shan Power Station will soon have to be relocated and the one at the hospital that had to come down because of STAR Helicopters landing, may have to be put in another location by the hospital. All this takes time, man power and money. Marv did say that things will be done when they are done.

Thanks folks for taking time to read our bit of gossip from Estevan and area. **73 Marv VE5OO Sask**

### **South-East Director**

Editor's Note: The following are articles sent in by Harv VE5AC and Ken VE5BI

### An Excerpt from BIZWORLD

Given the politics of the new outfit, one can expect the \$100 billion pot to decline as countries default on debt.

There is always a trade-off when loans are defaulted. Russia just forgave \$32 billion in Cuban debt in exchange for reactivating a spy base in Cuba.

You can be sure defaulting countries will pay with loss of resources and self-government.

So now we have to watch what we say on the bands. If you wish the complete article, contact the editor at ve5aq@sastel.net.

### Russia Blocks U.S. Access to Space Station

American astronauts scheduled to head to the International Space Station have become “collateral damage” in the escalating tension between the United States and

Russia over the political situation in the Ukraine. The ARRL Letter reported that after the U.S. imposed sanctions on Russia as a result of its annexation of Crimea, Russia responded by saying it would no longer provide transportation to the space station for U.S. astronauts. The U.S. has relied on Russia to carry crew members back and forth since the space shuttle program ending in 2011. NASA astronaut Steve Swanson is currently the only American on board the space station. It's getting nasty out there folks.

## History of the Southwest

### Amateur Radio Club

The amateur radio population in Swift Current has been fairly static for a number of years. Then in the fall of 1974 when interest in 2 meters was blossoming, Ron VE5HN and Harry VE5PZ went about organizing a club with the goal of building a 2 meter repeater. When Swift Current was awarded the Saskatchewan Summer Games, the club executive decided to raffle a solid gold Summer Games Coin to finance a repeater. Our offer to supply communications for the games prompted the games committee to give us the use of the Games logo for our tickets. The interest in the games certainly had a great deal to do with the success of our raffle. We also owe thanks to many amateurs around the province who helped us sell tickets. Two of our own club members, Adam VE5HY and his XYL and Vic VE5NV did an excellent job of selling tickets.

In the spring of 1975, a VHF Engineering repeater kit was ordered and construction began on the electronic kit and on the homebrew duplexer. We were fortunate in that our president, Ron VE5HN was a

capable machinist and he spent many hours on the homebrew duplexer project. Under his direction the construction progressed well. Although Ron is too busy to operate much, he has the initiative to accomplish more ( usually for others) in a week than most of us do in a month.

Many contributions were received for the project: copper pipe from Mel VE5JG; 250 feet of coax and fittings from Sid VE5DO; brass from Carl VE5AAR; duplex tuning provided by Arlow VE5ET; a receiver preamp from John VE5TM; and tower work from Pete VE6CAR and our own member Joe Musgrave. Tower and equipment space was provided by CJFB-TV. Mel VE5JG was instrumental in obtaining that for us. The repeater went into test operation in the fall of 1975 and to date, CJFB-TV has supplied power and tower space at no cost to the club. As always a few problems arose, but Harry VE5PZ who has done a lot of building was able to cure them as they appeared.

In August of 1976, the club provided communications for all events of the Sask. Summer Games held in Swift Current. Although licensed amateurs were in short supply and hours of operations long, a very commendable service was supplied by the club.

Our club has continued to grow, again largely due to the efforts of Ron VE5HN who conducts classes each winter. About ten of his students have now succeeded in obtaining that precious ticket. Our membership in 1976 reached 28, which is not bad for a city that had fewer than six hams not too many

years ago.

In a September 1976 meeting, a motion was passed offering to host the 1977 Hamfest in Swift Current. Committees were formed and have been hard at work ever since, bring us to the present function. We hope you enjoy Hamfest '77 and have the opportunity to meet new friends and renew old acquaintance.

### Regina & Area

#### **Meet Summer VE5SCH by Hugh**

#### **VE5HWH**

Summer has become one of the most well known voices on the air in a very short time. Many of us would like to know more about her, so I conducted an interview with her and here's the result.

**VE5HWH:** Tell us a little bit about yourself?

**Summer:** I was born in Melfort and moved to Regina shortly after where I have lived ever since. I attended Arcola School where I learned things like mobility skills, and Braille and other stuff blind people need to know to get along in a sighted world. I also attended Sheldon Williams's high school. After graduating grade 12, I got into making jewelry which I sell at the Regina Farmer's Market. I've been doing this since 1997. The jewelry I make is mostly with semi-precious stones and sterling silver wire. I live in a large apartment complex in Regina with my black lab guide dog "Lake" also known to Saskatchewan Hams as "VE5K9".

**VE5HWH:** How did you get involved in Amateur Radio?

**Summer:** I found out about amateur radio a few years ago when Jim VE5EIS told me about it. Jim attended classes with the Regina club and got his call sign. He mentioned

Field Day 2013 to me and that sounded interesting so I went. I had CD's for study purposes and had listened a bit but it was Field Day that got me hooked. I got there around noon and except for a couple of bathroom breaks for Lake, I didn't leave until after 9 pm. So yeah, I got the Ham Radio bug quite badly and spent the next 10 days studying and taking practice exams and got Basic with Honors on July 2nd.

After that I went to Jerome's VE5KZ and he showed me how to operate his TS570 that has voice output and also demonstrated the CW keyboard. At one point he said "You'll have to learn CW to run the radio" but what motivated me to learn CW was when I was tuning around, find a CW station, having a QSO. It sounded interesting and Jerome was copying it with no problem. I suggested he should contact the station but as I was running the radio, he didn't want to. Not knowing what was being said I realized I was missing out, so not long after I figured out how I would learn CW. I downloaded W1AW mp3 files and text files from the internet. As the Morse character was being sent, I read on my refreshable Braille display what the letter was over and over increasing the word speed in less than 2 months. Jerome tolerated my first extremely nerve wracking CW QSO. I'm not sure I would have started learning Morse code that soon if he hadn't given me that humorous poke to get me going. I really enjoy sending and receiving CW. It's beautiful. (There are some pretty bad senders out there but they're trying anyway which is good.) Now that I've started I don't intend to give it up. Of course to send code you need a key.

**VE5HWH:** You are becoming known as somewhat of a "key collector". Tell us about your experience with "keys".

**Summer:** Everyone said "Start with a straight key". So I got the Bencher RJ-1 and RARA was kind enough to lend me one of their radios and Lyle VE5EE built a small loop antenna that I could use to get on the air from my apartment. Later in the fall Gordon VE5UJ gave me a bug and that was a learning curve since it puts out dits really fast; much faster than I could with a hand key. It's a 63 year old key, really fun once I got it figured out. I found that each key feels a bit different and each type of key is different. I find that interesting and putting old keys on the air adds to the fun of CW. I have an 82 year old key here thanks to Brian VE5BJO and it still works great. I hope there are still people learning Morse code for a long time to come. Ham Radio wouldn't be the same without Morse code.

Guess I'm sort of passionate about it. I have 25 keys that include 2 oscillators, 5 bugs, 10 hand keys, 3 single lever paddles and 5 dual lever paddles. They all act a little different, no matter how hard you try to adjust them to be the same. I like sending with the bug mostly but the keyers have their uses. The Vizkey bugs are a very nice key to send with, though the old lightning bug I got from Brian is working very well. I have hand key here that belongs to Gord VE5UJ and was made by Val VE5VP. This is also a very nice key.

**VE5 HWH:** What about your On Air activity?

**Summer:** When I'm not working CW, I'm probably on a 2M net. Jim VE5EIS and various other net controllers and local Hams talked me into net

controlling so by the end of July 2013 I was controlling the Sask IRLP net once a week. About the same time I started net controlling on the "Say Good Morning with Radio" IRLP net. Its good hearing hams from all over and sort of getting to know them. One thing that's nice about Ham Radio is people don't have to know I'm totally blind. In person, it's usually the first thing they notice, but on the radio it doesn't matter.

**VE5HWH:** We know that putting up an antenna at an apartment complex can be a trying if not impossible task. Bring us up to date on your situation.

**Summer:** Part of the "fun" of being an amateur radio operator in an apartment is trying to get a signal out of a steel framed building. That's another good reason to learn CW besides the historical value. A CW signal can go where voice can't. Right now I have an indoor dipole strung around the apartment walls that Lyle VE5EE and Clay VE5CTM assembled, but on August 25th we'll be putting a vertical on the roof after much work with the building owners from Bernie VE5BFB. There's no way this would have happened if he hadn't offered to help out bugging people. I wish I had found out about amateur radio and you guys sooner. VE5AD VE5EIS VE5KZ VE5UJ VE5BFB VE5EE VE5CTM VE5HWH VA5CW VE5ZG VE5TLW VE5RC VE5ACJ VA5SCA and I know there's more that I missed and I appreciate them all.

**VE5HWH:** What about interesting contacts?

**Summer:** I have managed to make some DX contacts with this crazy wire strung around here. I think one interesting one was not long but it took a lot of work. There as a

Dx-pedition TX6G near the end of March and after several days of trying to contact them, they finally heard me on 10m and they were about 9000 kms from here. I have used our club station and that's been a lot of fun when I can get there. I worked the RAC winter contest from there as VE5RAC. That was definitely a busy bunch of hours but lots of fun. Gord VE5UJ and I have a CW QSO and some point in time most days, when 80m works. I have been out to his place a couple of time for supper and he lets me take over his antenna system. I took my radio and hooked it up there and it's really surprising to hear it say "Zero noise level on 20m." I worked the RAC Canada Day contest from his place this year using VE5LM which is the call sign of the Last Mountain Radio Club. I really appreciate the time he's spent helping me and letting me use his station.

**VE5HWH:** Are there any other aspects of Ham Radio that you are involved in.

**Summer:** Our club RARA is involved in various public service events and I like helping out there, usually as a net controller.

**VE5HWH:** Thank you for this Summer. We are very glad that you found your way in Amateur Radio and we want to congratulate you on the very rapid progress you have made in the hobby. We want to wish you the best of luck with your future endeavors, especially that antenna.

73.

\*Footnote: At the July Hamfest, Summer VE5SDH was nominated for and received the Northern Dancer Net controller Trophy. Congratulations Summer!

## **MS Bike Tour 2014: a Novice**

### **Volunteer's Experience**

The 2014 MS Bike Tour was centered on Wakamow Valley in Moose Jaw, and attracted about 160 cyclists and (to me) a surprising number of volunteers, including a Florida resident who enjoys the event so much she makes it part of her annual vacation and visit with family. Our RARA volunteers included (in no particular order): Bob VE5BBZ, Bill VE5IBK, Tim VE5EDS, Summer VE5SDH (and her dog VE5K9), George VE5UU, Clay VE5AAA, Terry VE5TLW, and Con VE5CON.

Jerome VE5KZ was sick and couldn't attend this year. Rick VE5RJR was planning to head up our volunteers, but came down with a nasty virus and was also unable to participate. He asked me if I would take over control of the ARES truck, which I was happy to do.

Saturday started cool and misty, with occasional spots of rain; fortunately, not enough to dampen the cyclists' spirits, or make the roads slippery from motor oil (a hazard of cycling in light rain). The route for the day started south on Highway 2, turned past the air base, then headed west and south of Moose Jaw with a turn-around point at the 27 km mark. Energetic (or optimistic) cyclists had the opportunity to continue on and attempt two optional challenges, with extra hills and turn-around points at 36 and 45 km. The total distances were 54, 72, and 90 km, and very few people were unable to compete at least 54 km.

With a total of 5 rest stops, 4 sag wagons and a repair van driven by Lawrence from Dutch Cycle, the participants were very well looked

after.

Terry helped set up the ARES truck, Summer helped with the radios, members hung out at rest stops, and the Tour's liaison made life easy for us, while the day proceeded uneventfully. The weather warmed up after the riders finished, and almost everyone enjoyed a fine supper and entertainment in the evening (I had to return home to Regina, however, and missed that part of the event).

Sunday's route went straight south from Moose Jaw on Highway 2, past the Sukanen Ship, and turned around after 25 sunny kilometers. The weather encouraged riders to make good use of the 5 rest stops enroute. The first two riders finished the 50 km route in 90 minutes, while tail-end Charlie arrived at the start/finish line after 5 hours, but everyone I encountered enjoyed the ride.

For both days, we parked the ARES truck about two thirds of the way along the outbound route, which let us use both Avonlea and Moose Jaw repeaters to be certain we could hear and be heard. Despite the rolling country and some low-powered radios, there was seldom any trouble with reception, and there was little for us to do except keep track of the fun and the distances the riders were managing. I also made a few notes about things to do for next year. Most important to me will be to learn more about the radios in the truck. Fortunately, iPads are GREAT for holding radio manuals!

There were no serious problems encountered by the riders; several needed a few pounds of air in their tires, I believe 4 or 6 suffered flat tires, and two people each managed to break a pedal. However, there

were no injuries or accidents on the roads, although there was at least one wasp bite at lunch after the second day's ride was finished. (My own biggest problem came on Sunday evening after returning the ARES truck; I began to start my Toyota by stomping around the footwell while trying to find its nonexistent clutch...)

As a first-time volunteer, I was a bit overwhelmed at first, especially when Rick asked me to take charge of the truck for him, then again when I was handed a rented radio and two cell phones to keep in touch with the Tour organizers. But by the end of the first day, I was becoming accustomed to the routine, and the second day was easy, and quiet enough that I could sit back and read the procedures manual - which immediately drilled into me that while the participants are there to have fun and raise money for a good cause, the Tour organizers (and the Hams) have to be ready for serious, even deadly, situations. It reminded me of the Ham stories I've heard about last year's Boston Marathon. It was quite sobering, but it didn't detract from the enjoyment of a beautiful day watching cyclists enjoy a fine ride in some rather nice scenery.

Next year's MS Bike Tour will be back at Wakamow Valley, and I am already planning to be part of the radio volunteers. It's a great experience, with a huge sense of accomplishment at the end, and it helps me remember why I'm an amateur radio operator.

**Respectfully submitted, Neil Slater  
VA5SCA**

Ed. Note: Thanks for these wonderful contributions Harv VE5AC. Ken VE5BI, Neil, VA5SCA.

Just in case anyone is wondering,

Hugh VE5HWH is the communications director for Regina. Bob VE5LTD is our Regina and Area Director.

### **Diary of the Regina club: RARA has been busy as usual.**

**26 April 14:** Qualifying examinations were held with 2 successful Candidates. Jeff Barker VA5ARK and Roland Duarte were the successful candidates.

**27 April 14:** RARA was on hand to provide communications for 2 public service events; the ***Regina Police Service ½ Marathon*** and the ***MS walk***. The RPS ½ marathon was co-ordinated by Terry VE5TLW. The MS walk was co-ordinated by Rick VE5RJR. Operators present were Summer VE5SDH, George VE5UU, Pat VE5CW, VA5SCA, Brad VE5BKM, Rick VE5RJR, Jim Sandercock VE5CS, Con VE5CON, Ron VE5BW, Clay VE5AAA, and Hugh VE5HWH.

**16 May 14: Cosmo Event.** This was the second time RARA has attended this event. The Cosmo Learning Centre is a facility for people with learning disabilities. Various organizations attend this event to put on demonstration for the students. On the morning of May 16th four members of RARA set up shop and put on demonstrations on how Ham Radio works. Members on hand were Val VE5VAL, Terry VE5TLW, Harv VE5AD and Summer VE5SDH who did a presentation on Morse code.

**29 June 14: Field day** was once again held on the grounds of the Science Centre in Regina with a good number of RARA members on hand. The weather was not conducive to comfort but that did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of the province's top contesting club.

Checking the SARL trophy page we see

Regina's name on this year after year and to date there doesn't seem to be any serious challengers in the offing. The results don't come in until December but the last results showed RARA won the 2013 completion again. (Isn't it amazing to see the young volunteers show up not adequately dressed for the weather? Guess they want to be "cool".)

**5 July 14:** A good contingent of RARA members went to Moose Jaw for the fest and a good time was had by all. The highlights of the day were the acceptance of trophies by Summer VE5SDH. She accepted the QC Annual ARRL Field trophy which was awarded to RARA for winning the 2013 Field Day Contest. Summer also accepted the Northern Dancer Net Controller trophy for which she was deservedly nominated. The Regina group would like to express their sincere appreciation to those folks on the Hamfest committee. Your work and dedication is much appreciated by all our members.

**7 September 14:** Queen City Marathon: This is RARA's next public service event. If you would like to be a volunteer operator for this event, please go to the RARA website. Full details are there.

**10 September 14:** Just a reminder to those interested in learning more about the Regina Club, just go to the club website. The best way to find it is to Google RARA Regina. Everyone is welcome to attend the RARA club meetings. Meetings are held at the Regent Park Library at 331 Albert St the second Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is at 7 pm September 10th.

**Technical Report:** The club has a long summer lay off, but that does not

mean things have been completely idle. Since the Repeater VE5REC was taken down at the Balgonie site, the crew have been busy with getting a new repeater set up north of Regina. The installation of the repeater is now complete. The antenna is to be hooked up over the next few days and VE5 REC will be back in service. There will be a full report on it in the next issue of QSO. The installation was conducted by Harv VE5AD and Daniel VE5DLD. 73 Hugh VE5HWH



Clarence VE5XU doing what all good hams should be doing in the summer. Right Bj??

Unfortunately, I did not have room for either the net counts for the past couple of months, nor the Membership Renewal Form. Please go to the website [www.sarl.ca](http://www.sarl.ca) Go to Departments and scroll down to Forms and click. The membership page comes up, and I know some of you have had problems printing it out. On the membership form itself-right click, scroll down to print then depending on your system, you should be able to print out the form.

Mine has: print using system dialog—Ctrl+Shift+P.

So sorry for the small print this time folks, but we had a lot of interesting articles for you to read.

**73 Val VE5ACI**