

# The QSO



## The Amateur Spirit is Still Alive!

Devon Racicot, VE5DWR (Editor)



Well I had an article all typed up ready to go for this issue of the QSO, but as I typed it a month and a half ago, it was getting kind of dated.

I would like to say that last night I listened to my first SARL "on the air" meeting with our President Derek, VE5SD acting as Net Control. I heard about several projects on the go by various amateurs throughout the Province and it made me happy to hear that ham radio is still alive and kicking.

Chris Morgan, VE5BAR is currently working on a new IRLP node for Saskatoon as our local VE5SKN node has died. It did serve us well however, running just about 24/7 for almost five years. As well as the IRLP node, he is building up an internet server on behalf of SARL. Chris has generously donated a domain name for the use of SARL, as you will note at the top of this page, the web information has changed.

SARL is also working on a history project. If you aren't aware, the Saskatchewan Amateur Radio League and amateur radio in this province have a great history. Members are busy working on collecting and compiling information that will be available to the general ham community once it's completed.

Inside this issue of the QSO, you will find several great articles. Bruce Coates, VE5BNC traveled to the Humboldt area and presented the Civil Air Search and Rescue group with a

demonstration of APRS, and how it works. Members of the CASARA group were amazed with the technology available to hams, and all in all were very impressed. Other information is available on the Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club's homepage which is listed in the article. Please take time to check things out.

You will also read about the continued generosity of the members of the Lakeland Amateur Radio Association. Proceeds of the hamfest held in 2003 were donated to area charities. Meanwhile, members of the Weyburn Amateur Radio Club were busy with the Jamboree On The Air with area scout troops. Public Service activities such as this are great to see, and we know the amateur spirit is still alive!

On a personal note, I would like to thank all of the amateurs that contribute on a daily basis as ambassadors to the hobby. There is no need to list anyone here, you all know who you are, keep up the great work!

Until next time, I wish everyone a great Holiday Season and all the best in the New Year!

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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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**Contact SARL**

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3922 Centennial Drive  
Saskatoon, SK S7L 5L1  
Web: <http://www.qsl.net/sarl>  
Executive: [sarl@qsl.net](mailto:sarl@qsl.net)  
QSO Submissions: [dracicot@sasktel.net](mailto:dracicot@sasktel.net)

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**2003 – 2004 Executive**

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## From the President's Desk

Derek Bereza, VE5SD



I would like to congratulate the Lakeland Amateur Radio Association (2003 Hamfest up at Christopher Lake) this past month they presented cheques for \$430 each from the Saskhamfest 2003 bank account to the Christopher Lake

Daycare and Pre-school, the Lakeland Fire and Rescue Department and the Victoria Hospital Foundation. Make sure to check out the SARL sponsored Internet domain [www.saskhamfest.com](http://www.saskhamfest.com) and follow the link to get all the details from this first class event and was a positive way to promote Amateur Radio within our community.

On our first SARL meeting on the air in quite sometime, in October, it was announced that S.A.R.L has awarded the 2005 Saskatchewan Hamfest to the Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club and the Meewasin Amateur Radio Society. "These two clubs have expressed a willingness to work together combining their resources to plan a successful Saskatchewan Centenary Hamfest." We still have an opportunity for any interested group or club for an event in the summer of 2004. If you require further information please contact myself via Email: [ve5sd@sarl.ca](mailto:ve5sd@sarl.ca) or phone (306)382-9869. Listen to the Saskatchewan Monday and Wednesday night net on the IRLP reflector 9300 for further updates regarding up and coming events.

I hope you all were able to get your outside antenna work done, I didn't. I still need to put up a 40 meter dipole, looks like some frozen fingers coming up...to think I've been hamming for 22 years and I would have learned to get that type of thing done! Well, apparently not. However, back in my younger years I helped put up dozens and dozens of towers and antennas for others, I remember putting up a 2 element Gem Quad for Richard Parker - VE5OT, in minus 40 C temperatures! We needed two propane torches to solder the antenna wires together, man it was cold, but it

was a fantastic performer for Richard! I hope I have the same kind of results after I freeze my fingers off again.

Above you will notice the @sarl.ca email address, well, Chris, VE5BAR, has purchased and donated to SARL the @sarl.ca web domain for a few years, and if we decide we like the domain, we can renew the subscription. Chris (VE5BAR), Randy (VE5QU) and Devon (VE5DWR), have been busy updating and building our "new website." They hope to launch the new website in January and if you want to watch their work in progress, check it out, [www.sarl.ca](http://www.sarl.ca) they are doing a great job!

As you leaf through this issue, you will be impressed with the commitments of the many amateurs throughout our province and the dedication in their actions. I believe that one of SARL's roles is to celebrate and share these actions with amateurs in our province. We should help foster and promote a provincial amateur radio community that is active and thriving like it once was. Right now our togetherness in SARL is on life support, we literally have no representation in our province other than just a few areas! A handful of us have taken up the challenge to rebuild and further the organization with our determination, stubbornness, goodwill, and hard work! We believe that we all can benefit from membership in a provincial amateur radio organization, just like those before us, and those who follow in our footsteps. From this belief, we believe we are on the doorstep of some great fun and opportunities for an ever expanding membership base in SARL!

Come join in every month on the second Monday, "*SARL Meeting on the Air*", find out about our progress, and start to see why our membership is growing, and why participation to the hobby in a provincial way, a Saskatchewan way, is vital to our hobby, and is the right thing to do, once again.

Seasons greetings, and all the best in the New Year! Look forward to some great and exciting

announcements in the New Year that will demonstrate how we are working towards giving SARL more "value" - fun and rewarding for belong to our organization.

Times are a changing, so is our hobby. RAC – Radio Amateurs of Canada is our National voice and I encourage you to join our National organization and support the many worthwhile projects that RAC has done and is doing. Being a member of your local club, provincial club and our national club is helping preserve, promote and develop our amateur radio hobby. Join in on the action!

Also if you are not already signed up on the [sasklink@irlp.net](mailto:sasklink@irlp.net) email list, contact Devon via E-mail at [ve5dwr@sarl.ca](mailto:ve5dwr@sarl.ca), this is a great way of keeping in contact with other amateurs in our province!

## Humboldt CASARA & APRS

Bruce Coates, VE5BNC

At about 8:00 PM on Friday night, I received a call from Dave Martinuk, VE5RY in Humboldt asking if I could help demonstrate APRS on Saturday morning for the Humboldt division of CASARA, the Civil Air Search and Rescue Association. After a brief discussion we decided then we would place an unattended tracker in the search aircraft and track it's movements at the simulated command post. Now the fun began. After building a bracket to mount a 1/4 wave antenna on a Cessna wing strut, I packed everything up and went to bed.



Once in Humboldt we set up the receiving station in the airport "terminal" and mounted the tracker, GPS and antenna on the airplane. Once airborne, the CASARA representatives were amazed that they could see in real time every movement of the aircraft including

speed, direction and altitude.

At one point the aircraft radios failed and



the only way they knew the plane's location was via APRS. In the afternoon we flew a simulated search pattern and they were once again impressed both at how the APRS system worked and how well the navigator and pilot followed the search pattern.

See more photos & video of the demonstration at the Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club's homepage at <http://www.qsl.net/ve5aa>.

## WE WANT YOU!!

In future editions of *The QSO*, we want to start including reviews of radios, profiles of ham operators in the Province and other articles of local interest.

You may have noticed that this issue and the last issue contained a substantial amount of non-Saskatchewan content. I am trying to keep this to a minimum, but I think those articles were of interest to the local community.

If you know of any articles that involve ham radio found in mainstream media, please send me a note.

Thanks  
Devon Racicot VE5DWR  
Editor – The QSO



## Jack Ashton, VE5JRA (SK)

Saskatoon Star Pheonix: October 27, 2003

Photo: VE5DWR (2001)



ASHTON - John Ralph Ashton (Jack) passed away in the University Hospital of Saskatoon October 17-2003. Jack was born in South Wales in 1916, served 3 1/2 years in the Royal Navy and was always involved in the

Canadian Legion wherever he lived. Jack taught school in England and later in Canada after emigrating in 1966 first settling in Saskatchewan. He leaves to celebrate his life: wife Peggy, daughter Jill and five sons, Michael, Neil, Russell, Dale and Richard. Grandchildren: Helen, Ivan, Rob, Beth, Wayne, Sarah, Jake, Thomas and Hayley. Great-Grandchildren: Sydney, Danielle and Emily. Jack also leaves sister Betty and brother Eric in England. Jack was an Amateur Radio enthusiast (VE5JRA) and was very active in the HAM community for many years. Peggy would like to thank some special people for their friendship and kindness over the years: Nellie Ballard & family, Mel and Ann Libke, John and Anne Bildfell, Martin Zdunich and Irma & Gordon Gibbons. In keeping with Jack's wishes there will be no service. A family gathering was held in Calgary in his honour. Thanks are also extended to the staff at the University Hospital for their care and thoughtfulness.

### Correction!

In the last issue, Bill Till VE5FN was mistakenly forgotten from the contributor's thank you list in the editorial. I offer my most sincere apologies to Bill, and thank him for the article information! Keep it coming!

Devon Racicot VE5DWR  
Editor, *The QSO*

## OSCAR Echo to Fly in March!

AMSAT News Service - October 26, 2003

SILVER SPRING, MD - AMSAT - North America



has announced that launch of the AMSAT OSCAR-E Amateur Radio microsat--the "Echo Project"-- is scheduled to launch March 31, 2004. Earlier plans had called for a May 2004 launch. Echo Project Team member Richard Hambly,

W2GPS, reported at AMSAT-NA's Annual Meeting and Space Symposium October 18-19 in Toronto, Canada, that the Echo project has made significant progress in recent months.

A Russian Dnepr LV rocket--a converted SS-18 intercontinental ballistic missile--will carry the approximately 10-inch-square satellite into a low-Earth orbit from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

Echo Project Team member Richard Hambly, W2GPS, reported that the project team powered up the Echo flight hardware in late summer in a "flat-sat" configuration at SpaceQuest. Data communications, command and control, and attitude control subsystems were tested, in addition to the radio equipment, power systems and cabling.

The satellite will incorporate two UHF transmitters, each running from 1 to 8 W and capable of simultaneous operation, four VHF receivers and a multi-band, multimode receiver capable of operation on the 10 meter, 2 meter, 70 cm and 23 cm bands. Echo will feature V/U, L/S and HF/U operational configurations, with V/S, L/U and HF/S also possible.

FM voice and various digital modes--including PSK31 on a 10-meter SSB uplink--also will be available.

## WARC Supports JOTA

Rawn Oliver, VE5RMO



In October, members of the Weyburn Amateur Radio Club participated in the Jamboree on the Air with the local boy scout troop. Terry, VE5ABF and Rawn VE5RMO were the host amateurs. HF conditions

were very poor and thus, the group reverted to Echo Link and were successful in making contacts with other scouts throughout the continent. The kids were very excited in talking to other scouts and hams around the world.

IRLP will soon be in Weyburn as well. WARC is currently awaiting funding for the equipment and once it arrives, VE5WEY will be active on IRLP and the Saskatchewan 2M Net.

## ARES Saskatchewan - Notice

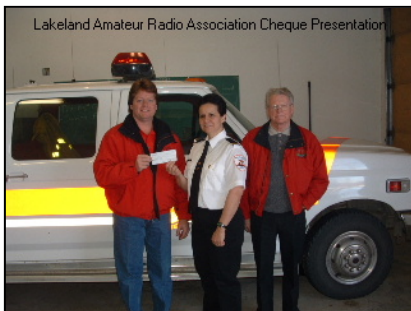
Randy Westby, VE5DFC (Section Emergency Coordinator)



Nicole Lychak, VE5COL has been appointed to the position of Emergency Coordinator for Prince Albert & District. I would like to welcome her to this new challenge and encourage everyone to give her all the support you can.

## LARA Donates

Randy Canning, VE5QU



We presented the cheques from the Saskhamfest 2003 bank account over the past few days. Cheques had been made

out to the Christopher Lake Daycare and Pre-school, Lakeland Fire and Rescue Department and The Victoria Hospital Foundation. The amount of the cheques were \$430.00 to each one. We have been asked to put an article in the P.A. Herald newspaper within the next few days.

Thanks to all of you that made it happen. It is a positive way to promote Amateur Radio within our community.

## The RAC Report

Bj. Madsen, VE5FX (RAC Midwest Director)

### REPORT ON THE CARAB MEETING WITH INDUSTRY CANADA

(Canadian Amateur Radio Advisory Board)



RAC is represented by two directors, the President and the Vice President in charge of Regulatory Affairs, Jim Dean (VE3IQ)

RAC made a recommendation to Industry Canada on the

Morse code and License issue:

*(This is a recommendation based on input from the Amateur Radio community and supported by the RAC Board of Directors.)*

1. Drop Morse code as a requirement for access to the HF bands.
2. Set up three levels of license:
  - a. **BASIC** - should remain as it is now. VHF access only.
  - b. **INTERMEDIATE** - a new category with HF access.
  - c. **ADVANCED** - should remain as it is now.

The exam contents should remain the same, **however**, the pass marks should be revised:

**BASIC** - the BASIC exam as now, but with a pass mark raised from 60% to 70%.

**INTERMEDIATE** - the BASIC exam as now, but with a pass mark of 80%.

**ADVANCED** - the ADVANCED exam as now, but with a pass mark of 70%.

#### **GRANDFATHERING:**

The current BASIC holders should become BASIC without HF access.

The current BASIC + CW holders should become INTERMEDIATE.

The current ADVANCED holders should become ADVANCED.

Existing BASIC holders may re-take the exam. If they score 80%, will be reclassified INTERMEDIATE.

A CW endorsement will be made available for those who wish to have it. (It will be required for Canadian Amateurs wishing to operate from countries where CW is still required for HF operation - like the USA and eastern block countries.)

The new INTERMEDIATE licensees should be allowed to build commercial transmitter kits at 10 watts.

Please be aware that IC now has to decide what to do. This will not happen immediately.

#### **FOUNDATION LICENSE**

Also presented to Industry Canada, but **NOT** as an official recommendation. (This issue had NOT been approved by the Board of Directors) Implement an "Entry Level" license, similar to the UK's very successful Foundation License system. This would narrow the scope of the syllabus and raise the standard of operation. It should provide operators who might not be as technically proficient as currently, but would know **WHAT** to do. It was suggested that the present BASIC syllabus be examined with excerpts used for the exam.

#### **FOUR LETTER SUFFIXES**

Similarly, the concept of four character suffixes was presented for discussion but **NOT** as a

formal proposal - no feedback was received from Industry Canada on this issue.

The Youth Education Program was presented to Industry Canada and was met with considerable enthusiasm from them.

If you wish to have more detail (there is lots) on this and other items discussed with Industry Canada at the CARAB meeting, check out the RAC Website or contact me. Give me a 'phone call. I would be happy to discuss issues with you.

### **LARA Provides Communications**

Wayne Thompson, VE5DWT

On Oct 5th, 2003 the Lakeland Amateur Radio Association looked after check points and provided communications for the Elkridge 2nd annual GPS Quad Rally at Elkridge Resort.



There was no fixed route to follow, contestants found the check points from GPS coordinates.

The Rally of 13 teams started at 9:00AM and finished at 4:30PM with supper served at 5:00PM.

A Base Station and 6 check points were looked after by the Lakeland Amateurs. Those involved were: John VE5JJA, Randy VE5QU, Roly VE5RO, Bob VE5MY, Keith VE5HKC, Harry VE5HFH, Wayne VE5WFW, Dave VE5DJR, Wayne VE5DWT.

The weather was very cooperative and a pleasant day was spent by all present.

#### **Saskatchewan Linked Net**

**Mondays & Wednesdays  
9PM CST**

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

# Saskatchewan Swap & Shop

Larry Sedgwick, VESVR

Updated November 22, 2003

## WANTED Items:

1. VE5ACJ: Wanted...YAESU FT-101E parts radio,working or not..Must be COMPLETE VAL @ 306-693-6127 or valve5acj@sasktel.net..21/09/03
2. VE5FX: Wanted VHF SCANNER,in good condition. Bj @ 306-873-4346 or ve5fx@rac.ca...06/04/03.
3. VE5DA: Wanted CONTROL BOX FOR HAM " M " ROTOR,working or not. DOUG @ 306-789-3213 or appld@sasktel.net...03/06/03.
4. VE5JCJ: Wanted a GAP TITAN DX vertical ANTENNA in excellent working condition JOHN @306 - 751-4842..04/09/03
5. VE5RC: Wanted; a) one 0 - 50 vdc panel meter,would consider 0-30 vdc as well. b) One 0 - 1 amp dc ammeter,panel mount c) SIX...SCHOTTKY DIODES d) KENWOOD VFO-120 to fit KENWOOD TS-130S transceiver e) 150 watt SOLDERING IRON. BRUCE ... rattray@gpfn.sk.ca.
- 6.VE6QLL:Wanted...VERTICAL ANTENNA... that does not require radials such as CUSHCRAFT R5 or R7,MFJ,GAP or HY-GAIN AV-620 ROY @ 780-672-2901. Or bfknixon@telusplanet.net..16/09/03.
7. VE5LI: Wanted...2-MTR REPEATER CONTROLLER, good used,such as LINK COMM RLC4 or equivalent. DICK @ 306-674-2239...01/09/03.
8. VE5NFG: Wanted 220 mhz radio equipment,such as radios, antennas, repeaters, other equip. BOB @ 306-652-7014...04/10/03.
9. VE6AGH: Wanted Copy of Manual or Schematic for a HALLICRAFTERS SR-150 TRANSCEIVER BLAIRE @ 403-327-8207... 04/10/03.
10. VE6FW: 1) Wanted copy of Manual or SCHEMATIC for a Galaxy V transceiver 2) TWO 6HF5 TUBES to fit above radio. DALE @ 780-808-5277...25/10/03.

11. VE5QY: WANTED...OLD HAM RECEIVER... any make or model CLIFF @ 306-692-1095... 01/11/03.
12. VE5LTD: WANTED for YAESU FT-208R 2-METER RADIO a) PA-3 CAR ADAPTER/CHARGER b) NC-9B HOME CHARGER c) FBA-2 BATTERY SLEEVE d) ANY other ACCESSORIES for the FT-208R BOB @ rwilks@accesscomm.ca..04/11/03.
13. VE6CQ: Wanted OLD AM TRANSMITTER such as JOHNSON RANGER or VIKING or VIKING II RICK @ 403-520-1645 or ve6cq@shaw.ca...08/11/03.
14. VA6RF: Wanted the following meters in SIMPSON PANEL METERS WITH 3in by 3in face; a) 0 - 100 milli-amp b) 0 - 50 milli-amp. c) 0 - 1000 milli-amp. d) 0 - 50 micro-amp. EARL @ 403-641-3007 or va6rf@telus.net.. 08/11/03.
15. VE7RRL: Wanted ICOM MICROPHONE MODEL # 6MS6 BOB @ 250-392-7816 or ve7rrl@telus.net ...08/11/03.
16. VE7HRG: Wanted PAIR 6KD6 SWEEP TUBES RANDY @ 604-885-0362 or ve7hrg@dccnet.com..08/11/03.
17. VE7ATA: Wanted KENWOOD # DG-5 DIGITAL READOUT FOR KENWOOD TRANSCEIVERS NORM @ 250-248-5424 OR ve7ata@shaw.ca
18. VE6LO: Wanted 3B28 TUBES LINDY @ 780-855-2379...08/11/03

## FOR SALE Items:

1. VE6TR: 1) MOTOROLA MRS POWER SUPPLY,intended for repeater stn, 36 amps @13.8 vdc...\$100.00
- 2) 2- SPILLSBURY TINDALL SB-60 TRANSCEIVER c/w POWER SUPPLY.
- 3) 1- SPILLSBURY TINDALL SB-500 LINEAR AMP,500 WATT AMP,c/w POWER SUPPLY Would consider TRADE on LINEAR AMP for a DENTRON or YAESU FL-2100B LINEAR AMP KJELL @ 403-527-7133..15/11/03.
2. VE7VO: 1) KENWOOD DYNAMIC HAND MIC,600 ohms,8-pin, up/down Scan,Used on TS-930...\$50.00 2)KENWOOD MC-35S HAND MIC,noise-cancelling, 50 kohm,4-pin,used on TS-120..\$50.00 LEN @ 250-468-9902 or



ve7vo@rac.ca. Would prefer by email as he is hard of hearing.

3. VE5JLO: DELHI 64-FT TOWER WITH NEW BOTTOM SECTION, on ground ready to go, mounting stubs & all nuts/bolts.

JERRY @ 306-549-2297 or

berryhill@sasktel.net...24/05/03

4. VE6BV: 1) HY-GAIN TH6 DXX...6 element TRI-BAND BEAM, completely refurbished with new hardware & all new plastic caps....

\$300.00. 2) CDR HAM 3 ROTATOR, degreased & in 100% working order... \$200.00

3) HEATHKIT SB-220 LINEAR AMPLIFIER, low voltage keying modification, excellent condition... \$740.00 HELMUT @ 403-279-9153 or ve6us@rac.ca....09/09/03.

5. VE6FET: 1) YAESU FT757GX, H.D. POWER SUPPLY WITH SPEAKER & HAND MIC, new in 1981...\$400.00 2) FIBREGLASS

POLE... COLLAPSIBLE, extends from 10 to 30 feet... \$75.00 OBO. 3) HOMEBREW SCREWDRIVER ANT... 10 to 80 meters, operates on any voltage between 12 to 28 vdc... \$100.00 OBO. ED @ 780-872-0622...07/09/03.

6. VE6QLL: 1) FORCE 12 10 ELE BEAM for 15/17/20 meters + 300 ft of good co-ax....\$1000.00 2) FORCE 12 7 ELE BEAM for 10/12 meters + 150 ft of good co-ax.

3) HAMMARLUND HQ-145 RECEIVER, 540 khz to 30 mhz...\$150.00 4) NATIONAL HRO 50T RECEIVER, 1.5 to 30 mhz, very nice collector's receiver...\$450.00 5) QST, CQ, 73

MAGAZINES, many years of these, some QST's go back to 1939...\$200.00 for lot or 25 cents each. 6) LOTS OF "JUNQUE"...what do you need ?? ROY @ 780-672-2901 or bfnixon@telusplanet.net...16/09/03.

7. VE6SV: 1) KENWOOD TS-450 HF TRANSCEIVER 2) YAESU FT-847...HF to 70cm TRANSCEIVER 4) HEATHKIT SB-221 LINEAR AMP. GORD @ Home: 780-922-4331

Work: 780-414-1266 or ve6sv@rac.ca.. 12/10/03

8. VE6QU: KENWOOD TS850SAT c/w PS-52 POWER SUPPLY..\$ taking reasonable offers BOB@ 780-483-5563..23/09/03.

9. VE7TT: 1) B&K DUAL-TRACE OSCILLOSCOPE, MODEL 1479B, 30 MHZ... \$235.00

AL @ 604-820-0124 or ve7tt@shaw.ca... 16/10/03.

10. VE5LTD: 1) NAVAHO TRC-457 40 CHANNEL BASE CB, c/w owners & service manual...\$100.00

2) REALISTIC TRC-8501, 40 CHANNEL BASE CB, plus two microphones, scan & dual watch...\$50.00 3) THREE MICRONTA POWER/MODULATION/SWR METERS, 2 works, 1 only the power/swr works...all three for...\$50.00 4) 2-REALISTIC CLIP-ON MINI SPEAKERS, new..\$10.00 each. 5) 1-KONNEX-14 POWER/SWR/FREQ METER..\$10.00

6) 3-REALISTIC-19-315A EARBUD with PTT MIC'S..\$15.00 EA. 7) EAGLE ASPEN SF-99 SATELLITE LOCATOR, new...\$20.00

8) COBRA 40-CHANNEL HAND-HELD CB, high/low power, charger, manual, like new..\$50.00 9) REALISTIC POWER DESK MIKE, c/w box & instructions, never used..\$50.00 SHIPPING EXTRA ON ALL ITEMS, PRICES NEGOTIABLE ON SOME ITEMS BOB @ rwilks@accesscomm.ca...04/11/03.

## Club Meetings

### Regina Amateur Radio Association

January 14, 2004

February 11, 2004

Saskatchewan Science Centre

### Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club

January 13, 2004 (7:30PM)

February 10, 2004

Alvin Buckwold School  
715 East Drive

### ARES Saskatoon

December 15, 2003 (7:00PM)

January 19, 2004 (7:00PM)

Saskatoon City Hospital (Room 1903)  
701 Queen Street

### Moose Jaw Amateur Radio Club

December 16, 2003

### Meewasin Amateur Radio Society

January 5, 2004 (7:30PM)

Walter Murray Collegiate  
Preston Ave & Taylor Street