

December 2009 Christmas Issue

FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR de VE5ACJ

Well, here we are in December already, wow, where did the fall go? As for fall, the weather was certainly much nicer than it was in our summer, I wonder, is this going to be our norm from now on?

As we end the year 2009, there have been a number of changes to SARL. First off, we have greatly increased our Board of Directors, which is great, which also means that there is more input into the QSO. Secondly, we have a new web page, which is totally awesome. Our thanks to Bruce, VE5ND and Calvin, VE5CAL, for keeping it updated with all the many changes that we have had so far.

Third, yes, some of our numbers for memberships are down, but that is to be expected within any organization. If you know of anyone who wishes to join us, please print off a membership form from the web page, and have them fill it out and send it in. We need all the membership we can get. Being only 1 of 2 provincial organizations, we need all the input we can muster. With our input, we can send information to RAC and to Industry Canada regarding issues that matter to us most.

As for being the Sec/Treas of SARL, I have yet to receive any input for Hamfest 2010. So all you clubs out there, start thinking of maybe hosting the hamfest. You receive start up money from SARL, and any and all profits made from the hamfest belong to your club. All SARL wants is time on the schedule and a place to hold its AGM. So it's not too early to send in your request to hold this wonderful annual event, first come, first served.

Lastly, both Harv (VE5AC) and I (VE5ACJ) would like to wish all our membership a Very Merry Christmas and a Very Prosperous & Healthy 2010. If you are driving anywhere to visit family and relatives, please drive safe, and if you are in the Moose Jaw area, please call and say hi.

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR REGINA VACANCY ON BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In accordance with the amendments to the bylaws, we are advertising the position vacancy in this QSO. We are now soliciting nominations for the position of Director for Regina & Area and will hold an election if there is more than one candidate. Bob Wilks, VE5LTD will let his name stand. He will have to be nominated by two members but until such time can hold the position via interim appointment until the by-election is done. Nominations will be open until January 25, 2010. Please send your nominations for Regina Director to Val at ve5aq@sasktel.net.

Once all the nominations are in, a vote of all members will be held, and there will be a new email address for you to send your votes to.

MOOSE JAW & AREA

The hams of Moose Jaw and area would like to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy 2010. **73, Harv, VE5AC**



RAC BULLETIN 2009-032E - MILITARY RADIOLOCATION SYSTEM TO OPERATE ON 70 CM. 2009-10-07

As described in Schedule I of RBR-4, amateur usage of the 430-450 MHz (70 cm) band is on a no-protection, non-interference basis. Amateurs may not cause interference to nor be protected from interference from stations licensed in other services operating in that band. The same is true in the United States, and amateur operations on this band in a number of areas of the United States have power limits imposed on them in order to avoid interference to radiolocation services operated by the US military.

Industry Canada has informed RAC that it has authorized the Department of National Defence to use a digital system called Enhanced Position Location Reporting System (EPLRS) on these frequencies. The EPLRS system consists of mobile, fixed, transportable and airborne stations that use 5 MHz-wide spread spectrum channels to provide strategic telemetry information for military platforms. This authorization is on a no-protection, non-interference basis, which means that no new restrictions will be imposed on Canadian amateur operations in this band as a result.

Industry Canada has informed RAC that there is a slight potential for interference to amateur radio systems, typically in the form of a minor audible clicking noise. If Canadian amateurs encounter such interference, they are requested to report it to RAC at <regulatory @ rac.ca>. The information reported should include the geographical location, date, time, frequency and mode being used by the amateur station, and a description of the interference.

Questions or concerns regarding the planned implementation of EPLRS may be sent to <regulatory @ rac.ca>.

Richard Ferch, VE3KI - Vice President, Regulatory Affairs - Radio Amateurs of Canada

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

Well I am glad to say that we are up in numbers for this QSO. We now have 119 members. That number is a bit down from the 2008/2009 year, but that's okay. During our Director's Meeting in October, a decision was made on how much money we can allocate to clubs wishing to access some monetary funds. Hopefully the **Saskatchewan Club Project Fund (SCPF)** will be up on the website soon, complete with all the rules and the application form. So, if your club is planning any projects and you are in need of a bit of funding, please get your application form from the website, fill it in and get it off into the mail. The Board of Directors will then decide which club/project to approve.

That's all for this time, catch you in the next QSO. **73, Val, VE5ACJ**

If any of our membership would like to receive future QSOs via email, please send me your email address, with yes, I would like this via email. I have some email addresses that keep bouncing, so please make sure yours is current. Thank you. **Val, Editor**

THE SASKATOON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

We have accumulated a number of commercial repeaters, a couple of duplexers and several commercial 4 bay folded dipole VHF antennas useable on the 2 meter band. If any Club in Saskatchewan is upgrading, repairing or building a repeater or site please contact us to see if any of the equipment is of use for your project.

The antennas mentioned are approx. 20 feet long so roof racks or a pickup with racks would be needed to move these to your site. It is a shame to see this equipment sitting in storage doing nothing when it could be filling the airwaves with chatter from various corners of the Province. Contact any executive member of the Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club if you feel we may have some equipment that maybe of help to you.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!! From
VE5AA: **Gus Schmid, VE5SPI**



SANTA CLAUS PARADE 2009

Fantastic is the only way to describe the 2009 Santa Claus Parade. The weather man was on board with I think the best weather that we have ever had for the event! We had the largest floats that I can remember for a long time. We had over 44 entries in the parade and everything went very well and very smoothly thanks to the efforts of all the volunteers.

The Saskatoon City police sent an email to the chairman of the Parade committee and advised it was one of the best run events of the year. Here is a quote from the email which I think can make us all of very proud of our efforts." The coordination between your volunteers and the Sask. Amateur Radio Club volunteers made the event a breeze for the 10 police officers assigned to the event. " On behalf of the Parade Committee I would like to thank everyone who volunteered to help this year.

I would especially like to thank those who did double duty by helping to line up floats and then hurrying to a second task of being stationed along the parade route. I would also like to thank John, VA5RJA for looking after the setup of the trailer and its return to the farm. Another person I would like to thank is Bruce, VE5BNC for the use of his portable repeater. It worked just great for the parade and I don't think anyone had trouble getting into the repeater this year. The volunteer lunch was very good with quite a variety of food and desserts for all.

I would like to once again thank those who participated and gave up their time and the use of their equipment and know how for this event. I think all the children that attended had a great time too thanks to your efforts. Those in attendance were:

VA5BRT Bob, VE5BNC Bruce, VE5NED Ned, VE5MMG Mike, VE5JZ Peter,
VE5GAM Glen, VA5RJA John, VE5LOU Lou, VE5RGM Bob, VE5RMS Ron,
VE5CMG Colleen, VE5DSB Diane, VE5BPS Barry, VE5NAT Nate, VE5DHE Dave,
VE5SU Len, VE5JDP Derek, VE5HAP Heather, VE5RH Richard, VE5CUL Brian,
VE5JIM Jim, VE5MJB Mark

Thanks again everyone! Great job! Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! **Gus VE5SPI**

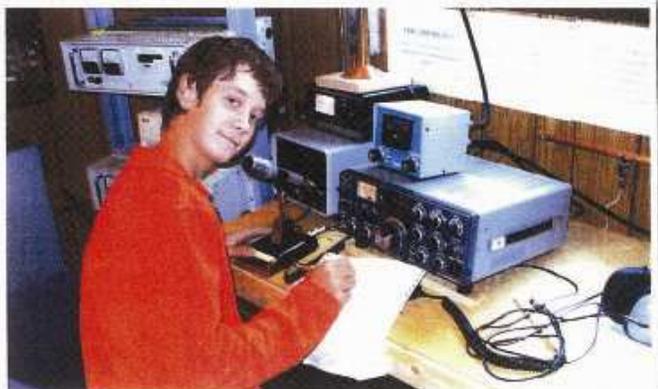
HELLO TO EVERYONE FROM SASKATOON

December has arrived and with it the snow and cold weather. The Saskatoon club has been busy with public service. Thank-you to Gus VE5SPI for sending in the report on the Santa Claus parade.

The SARC Christmas supper is planned for Dec 8th. A good time is had by all that attend. Along with good food and company, a Chinese auction is part of the fun.

The Saskatchewan evening IRLP net is called Monday thru Friday at 9:00 PM on reflector 9012. At present we have 2 people calling this net. Harvey VE5HAW (net manager) calls it Monday, Wednesday and Friday. I, VE5DJQ, call it on Tuesday and Thursday. Cal VE5CAL has been able to sub occasionally. Calling this net is not difficult and the preamble is available along with the cheat sheet for calls and names. It would be great to have a few more people willing to call the net. If you are interested please call Harvey or let him know on the net.

Well Christmas is rapidly approaching. Eric and I would like to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and all the best in the New Year. **73's Doris VE5DJQ**

	BASIC AMATEUR RADIO CLASSES FOR ALL AGES	A great tool for future technical jobs or vocations in electronic communications or as an interesting hobby. Girls are not excluded.
Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club	Starting Thursday Jan. 14/2010 at 7pm - 9pm And every Thursday till May 6/10.	REGISTRATION DEADLINE: DEC.27/09
	Exam will follow for those who feel ready to take the test. This exam will allow you to get on the air, like the 14-year-old lad in the picture, and work other HAMS throughout the world.	For more information call the following contact persons:
Saskatoon Saskatchewan Canada		Gus at 249-3996;
Meetings - 2nd Tuesday of each month - 7:30PM (September to June)		Bruce at 373-5672;
Alvin Buckwold School 716 East Drive - West Entrance Visitors and other non-members are welcome		Ken at 373-3403;
		Mike at 374-0724.
		All are licensed Amateur Radio Operators.

HERE TO ALL FROM THE BATTLEFORDS & AREA

It's about time I welcome VE5CEM who moved to Lloydminster a few months ago. I often hear Joe checking into the 80 meter nets but with conditions not being very good we have not had a QSO yet. It's sure nice to have another active ham in the area. I also have to advise you that we have lost an Amateur operator in North Battleford. VE5DKD became a silent key a couple of weeks ago. Dave had his basic license and was not very active in the past years. You can find out more about Dave on his website: <http://ve5dkb.freeservers.com>.

I have nothing else to report at this time. I planned on getting input from other hams in the area but have been very busy the past while. If you have anything that can be included in future reports I would be very happy to hear from you. Email address: ve5kc@amateur-radio.ca, you can find me on the web at <http://amateur-radio.ca> or the post office at Box 205, **Battleford, SK., S0M 0E0.**

I take this opportunity to send my seasons greeting to you and your family. May you have a very Merry Christmas and a very good New Year. **73, Ken – VE5KC**

REGINA & AREA

The Fleamarket which was held October 31, 2009 was very well attended with several tables loaded with wonderful shiny things, and many folks took lots of these shiny treasures with them when they left. We even had a VE4 and his XYL attend.



SARL had their Director's meeting in conjunction with the fleamarket.

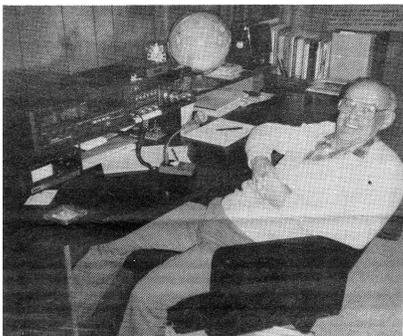
Many thanks go to the SGI Claims Centre for providing a warm place to hold the flea market and the many eyeballs, and thanks so much to SARL for having a table and letting their presence be known.

Now on a bit of a sad note, this is probably the last year that we will be holding the fleamarket at the SGI Claim Centre. Many thanks go to Gord Cobb, VE5MQ for the years that he has gotten RARA the use of this facility. Happy Retirement. Gord. **de Bob, VE5LTD**

40 YEARS ON THE AIR

THE BEACON, LUMSDEN SASK. Vol. 2, No 9 Tuesday March 1, 1988

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STRASBOURG – Beginning in 1901, when Italian inventor Guglielmo Marconi successfully transmitted radio signals across the Atlantic Ocean from England to Newfoundland, the fascination with wireless radio was on. The word “ham” denotes an amateur. When applied to actors the word has also acquired the connotation of inept or unaccomplished. Not so with radio. Amateur radio operators have paved the way for today’s sophisticated radio networks. In 1919, a ham named Frank Conrad used his station in Wilkensburg, Pennsylvania, to transmit recorded music for the entertainment of people in the area, who listened on small crystal sets. This use of an amateur station helped lead to

commercial radio broadcasting. A more recent development by hams was the building and use of amateur radio communications satellites. The Soviet Union, the U.S. and the European Space Agency have allowed these satellites to “hitchhike” into orbit as part of the launch of other satellites. In 1961, the first amateur radio satellite, Oscar 1, was launched. This was also the first nongovernmental, noncommercial satellite. The first direct satellite communication between the Soviet Union and the U.S. took place via the Oscar 4 amateur radio satellite in 1965.

Our district can be proud of the early residents who contributed to the legacy of amateur radio. The fascination and the legacy continue to build. Ed LaVallee of Strasbourg has been on the air for over forty years. His personal love affair with radio began in 1948 while operating a power station for the R.C.A.F. at Snag in the Yukon Territory. Ed’s attraction to radio led to his monopolizing other people’s equipment, and this of course led to a lot of teasing and bantering. It ultimately led to a bet. \$50.00 on whether or not Ed could get his ham operator’s license. Unlike most other hobbies, amateur radio requires a license. Amateurs share radio frequencies with users such as airlines, armed forces, police, ships, etc. It is therefore important that everyone follow regulations aimed at avoiding interfering with other users. An applicant for a first license must pass a test demonstrating their knowledge of these regulations, radio theory and they must be able to receive and transmit Morse code at a rate of 10 words per minute. Ed took the bet and won. By diligent studying and practice with off duty Department of Transport personnel he was able to qualify for his license. He

used the \$50.00 to purchase war surplus radio equipment. He has been on the air on his own ever since.

An operator's initial license permits the use of his equipment for one year in code only. After this period a more advanced license may be applied for. A more thorough knowledge of radio theory is required to obtain this license and the applicant must be able to receive and send code at the rate of 15 words per minute. This license permits the use of radio telephone or voice transmission.

Much of the fascination with amateur radio comes from the equipment's fantastic range. Two different layers in the atmosphere (known as the E and F layers) deflect the transmitted radio signals. The height of these two layers, which varies according to different conditions, and the angle at which the signals strike determine where they will come back to earth. In his first year of operating, using code alone, Ed made over 2,000 contacts worldwide. Since then he has no idea how many people in different parts of the world he has talked to, but the number is in the thousands. A few examples: When Keith McGillivray (VE5VJ) was working as an instructor in agricultural machinery maintenance for two years in Arusha, Tanzania, East Africa, he and Ed were able to communicate 212 times. For those of you who are familiar with the saga of the Bounty and the subsequent habitation of Pitcairn Island by some of its crew, Ed has talked to two direct descendants of Fletcher Christian. One of these being Tom Christian. He has also talked to a brother in the Jesuit order who operates radio in his spare time from one of the buildings at the Vatican. Ed has a picture of the Vatican clearly showing this fellow's radio antenna protruding from the roofs. Many members of the various royal families of the Middle Eastern countries are ham operators. Among these is King Hussein, himself. This was especially true in Iran before the Ayatollah's rise to prominence. According to Ed, many of these dignitaries were so in demand that prior arrangements had to be made in order to talk to them on the air. The anecdotes are endless. Here's another note. There is a fellow in Murmansk, Russia who Ed has spoken to many times. This guy repairs telephone lines that are in underground tunnels. Murmansk being well north of the permafrost line this fellow has told Ed the big job in their repairing of telephone lines is clearing the tunnels of the ever building frost in order to reach the lines. Surprisingly enough, there are a great many amateur radio operators in Russia and other Iron Curtain countries. The regulations they abide by are not more stringent than those imposed in most of the rest of the world.

Another interesting fact is the near absence of a language barrier. When contacting hams in other countries, Ed says he has had little difficulty with language barriers. It seems English is pretty much the international language for amateur radio operators. On the wall in Ed's Radio room there is a map of the world showing its divisions according to station call signs. Every amateur has a station call sign and the prefix denotes their geographical location. For instance, Ed's call sign is VE5OK. The VE5 denotes Saskatchewan.

There are applications of amateur radio other than the simple transfer of messages and greetings between kindred hobbyists throughout the world. Hams have a long history of providing communications assistance in times of emergency. Natural disasters such as floods, fires, tornadoes and hurricanes can interrupt telephone service and other common means of communications. Radio amateurs have often used their equipment during such disasters to re-establish vital communication links. This kind of voluntary work in emergencies has won hams the praise of governments around the world. Ed, of course, has anecdotes to illustrate this sort of application. While operating a power house for the Department of Transport in the isolated community of Brochet, Manitoba (on the north end of Reindeer Lake) a radio operator's three kids became seriously ill. Through his radio Ed was able to reach another ham in Yellowknife. This fellow got hold of a doctor who made a diagnosis and prescribed treatment over the air. It was diagnosed food poisoning and the kids recovered.

All the years he spent in the north, Ed says he was always able to reach home with his radio. Many times he contacted Gordon Gwillim (another area radio operator VE5UJ) and Gordon would simply dial Ed's telephone number in Strasbourg and the relay was on. Another time a station engineer at CKBI in Prince Albert taped a five-minute message from Ed. He then recorded this message and sent the recording on to Ed's family in Strasbourg.

Ed left Canada's North Country for good in 1966 and has lived since with his wife Myrtle (nee Lemery) in Strasbourg. Over the years he has demonstrated the operation of amateur radio to many people, including groups such as the Cubs and Scouts. One of his proudest possessions is a plaque given him by a particular band of local cubs and Scouts in appreciation for time he spent with them. This plaque bears the names of the Cubs and Scouts and their leaders and also has Ed's call sign burnt into it. Many times during the interview Ed reiterated his willingness to show anyone who is interested the operation of amateur radio. So, if you are looking for something to do, why not contact Ed and go and spend an hour or so with him and his "wireless". You'll find it very interesting and you'll discover the term "hobby" is not apt in this instance. Amateur radio has been, and is, a big part of Ed's life.

Written by Chris Dohm for the Lumsden "Beacon" in 1988. Ed LaVallee passed away over ten years ago and his call, VE5OK is now held by his good friend Karen Gwillim of Saskatoon.

Many thanks to **Gord Gwillim, VE5UJ** for sending this wonderful story.

