



A few words from your fearless leader.

Now doesn't that sound just like a children's story. Of course you can tell that I was just this evening in "escape mode" and watching "The Princess Bride" on the reruns. It is at least 25 years since that movie ran to entertain small people in our home. What other things did we do 25 years ago, in 1987, that might be worth a try in 2012. Home videos were just a new feature brought about by the availability of video cassette players and recorders. A few years earlier, I had bought a new tape and borrowed a portable recorder and camera. That setup

worked way beyond satisfactory and recorded an hour or so of children's activities including a skating party here on the farm. That fall, there was no snow but the water in the field ponds had frozen smoothly and the ice was thick enough to support pick up truck so that we had a place to change our skates and to warm up if needed, right in the middle of a 25 acre slough. A wonderful day for pictures with bright sunshine and no wind, and the camera setup worked perfectly despite my untrained operating efforts. That video had more footage added over the years as the small people grew up and then was stored away for 25 years or so. We had a family gathering two weeks ago and later in the evening, many of the younger folks seemed to have left the party. Over an hour later they came down stairs from a small room in the upper level of the Strasbourg hall really excited over the video they had been watching of themselves 25 years ago.

What were you doing in 1987? Was amateur radio part of your life back then and how was it different from what you experience today? Many people take this time of year to look back and reflect on life and activities during the past year. Looking back even further is sometimes enlightening as well. Pictures of family activities, gatherings and trips are sometimes packed away and rarely revisited. We have been doing a lot of looking through old albums and boxes of slides these past months and it has been fun for the whole family. I have a picture of a three year old little fellow wearing a battered felt hat, intently cranking the dial on my ancient Yaesu 401 as if he was about to chase down a rare one on 20 metres. Some pictures can't get any better.



My thanks to everyone who supported and contributed to SARL activities in the past year. Thank-yous are in order to those who organized the Manitou Springs Hamfest and the other two public events, the Moose Jaw swap meet and the Regina fall gathering and swap fest. Many people look forward to these annual events.

Please, everyone, have a safe Christmas Season and Best wishes from Peggy and myself for another great year in ought [thirteen].

Gordon and Peggy Gwillim.
VE5UJ and VE5ACT.



Hi to all from Saskatoon Well winter has arrived early. This gives Eric VE5HG more time to be on 40,80, 2 meters and IRLP. Myself Christmas shopping take priority. Eric's Christmas present arrived last week in the form of a new 2 meter mobile. Those amateurs that participate on the 9:00 PM IRLP net on 9300 may notice a better signal after I get it programed. Hopefully this radio does not need someone with a computer degree to program it. The Saskatoon Amateur Radio club has a new president. Garry Schwartz VE5SG has taken the

reins, as James Cloney VE5CNB needed to resign earlier this fall due to unforeseen circumstances. A big thank you goes out to James for the work that he did and Garry for taking on this job.

The Saskatoon club again provided communications for the Santa Claus parade on Nov. 18th. The weather was great for this time of year making the job for the amateur's that much easier. There were approximately 18 amateurs working (thank you to all of them) and there were lots of smiles on the faces of the kids watching. Santa did not disappoint and showed up with a microphone on his collar so all the kids could hear him.

The next event planned for the Saskatoon club is the annual Christmas supper meeting. As in the past number of years the supper will be at the Cave Restaurant the second Tuesday of December (Dec. 11/12). It is an evening of good food, good visiting, door prizes and a gift exchange where a gift may change hands many times. Eric and I plan to be there.

Events for the New Year are still in the planning stages. A number of ideas have been tossed around and hopefully they come to be but that will be for the next edition.

Eric and I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas



and a wonderful holiday season.

73

Doris VE5DJQ and Eric VE5HG



Hello everyone, it has been awfully quiet down here in the Southwest. I think harvest down here was quite good and went off without a hitch this year. Hardly anyone complained of bad weather and most were able to get their crops in dry. The Highway 1 studio tour that I mentioned in the last issue was a huge success, with a variety of crafts for sale by 6 different vendors along the highway. Some very nice products were offered by each of them. Swift Current also hosted another fall guns ,hobbies and collectable show which was well attended for two days on Nov 3rd and 4th, It just so happened that I was planning to go to the Flea Market in Regina that weekend but had to cancel due to the weather and bad roads at the time, oh well it won't be long and we will be able to go to the one in Moose Jaw. Just have to get through all that winter first. Christmas is rapidly approaching and also a signal that another year has come and gone, my how time flies. On the ham front for the most part the bands have been in good condition ,the nets are well attended and signals from all over the province are very good down here at my QTH. I was able to work on my antennas earlier on before it got cold and got

everything in good shape for the winter. The only event that I can report at this time is the Boy Scout Jamboree that was held in October, a group of Scouts were assembled at Ray VE5XRA's QTH for a fun filled day working DX from all over the place. The Scouts thoroughly enjoyed talking to other people around the world and a good time was had by everyone.

Until next time,
73 Ken VE5BI



Well looks like winter has arrived, and I guess it's time for hopefully good radio conditions.

Not very much going on here in PA at the moment, Barry VE5HA has only 5 more trips to Saskatoon for his treatments, and I bet he will be glad when it's all over. Both Barry and I have been doing the run, to Saskatoon, but we are both doing very well.

The club supper was held on Dec. 9th and we had an excellent turnout, There were approximately 31 people who attended. Great food and great company.

That's it from PA, From, my family to yours, we wish you all a



Very Merry Christmas and a
Healthy Happy New Year.
73 Harry VE5HAE



NEWS FROM THE NORTH
EAST

A few weeks ago, for the third time in the past couple of years, the fibre optic line linking Tisdale, Melfort and Nipawin (and surrounding areas) with the rest of the world was severed. This time, by someone with a backhoe, I believe. Because this area is "at the end of the wire", there is no redundancy built into the system for us. When that fibre is cut, we lose ALL contact with the outside world. Of course, telephone service (including 911 service) was severed. For the many people who also get their TV and internet connection through SaskTel, that was interrupted as well. Cell 'phones didn't work either. Many of the local telephones continued to work so I could call someone in Tisdale but not in Crooked River or Star City, for example. If your house caught fire and you dialed 911, you got a busy signal. If you needed an ambulance or a policeman, forget it unless you lived in the town AND dialed them directly instead of through 911. This was not a good situation: in fact, it had the makings of a potential "major

problem".

As had happened before when the fibre was cut, I got a phone call from a member of the EMO. (Remember, local calls still worked) His question was, "could I get a message out via Amateur Radio?" What we wanted to do was contact the radio station in Melfort and ask them to announce that, in case of emergency, people shouldn't try to call 911 but rather, should call the RCMP directly in Tisdale, if they had telephone contact with Tisdale, of course. So, I got on the VHF rig to bring up the repeater to try to raise someone in Melfort. Well, surprise, surprise: The repeater didn't seem to be working either. I tried the Melfort and Nipawin repeaters directly with the same result - no response. This was VERY strange. Why should a fibre break bring down three repeaters linked via UHF? Of course, I couldn't raise anyone on simplex either and when I tried to connect with someone on 80 metres, that didn't bring results either. Wow! We were completely isolated. Amateur Radio had NOT come to the rescue.

Ultimately, we contacted the local RCMP and learned that their radio system was still working, so we were able to get a message to the radio station in Melfort to tell people to call the RCMP direct if they had an emergency. All this, of course, assumed that everyone was listening to the Melfort radio station (they don't) AND that their local telephone service still worked. When I later drove into town, I discovered that the repeaters

indeed DID work when I used my mobile radio. It turned out that my base station VHF radio had chosen that time to lose its receiver. It transmitted just fine and Norm, VE5NK in Nipawin, wondered why I kept calling but didn't answer him. It was because my receiver had died: and it was only 30 years old. Some kind of coincidence, I guess! I now have a new VHF base station rig and we seriously need to talk about this situation at the next EMO meeting. Based on past experience, it WILL happen again and maybe next time with serious problems.

We are entering the holiday season and it is the time of year when hams get together for an evening to celebrate their hobby and wish one another the best for the upcoming year at the top of the solar cycle. Kathy and I are, once again, hosting a get together on December 7th. It's always a good evening when many of our local hams get together and eat many things that they really shouldn't and have an opportunity to visit face-to-face. If you can join us, please do. If not, please accept the wishes from the north-east hams for a good Christmas and a prosperous New Year. 73, Bj. Madsen - VE5FX



As everyone can tell it's antenna season again. I see it two ways #1 we all say will do it next weekend or we say do it tomorrow then it's to late summer is over, #2 is the old saying works better when you put it up in -30 weather. Is it #1 or #2 you tell me? OK enough on antenna theory!! As we all know that the 3RD weekend in October is JOTA were the scouts get together and contact other group around the world. The RARA club helped out this year again down in Echo Park near Fort Qu'Appelle. We had the new club tent setup to operate out of along with some new antennas. The attending amateurs were VE5AD Harv , VE5LTD Bob , VE5UU George , VE5HWH Hugh , VE5BFB Bernie , VE5TLW Terry and VE5IBK Bill , hopefully I have not forgotten anyone. Mother nature was not kind to the club Saturday November 3rd when she blanketed the area with freezing rain and snow. Lots of icy road had an effect on the attendance but there was still a good contingent of hams on hand "buying up the bargains in the old market place" as Stompin' Tom would say. We were lucky to have ICOM Rep Paul Veel on hand to explain the D-Star method of communication as well as displaying a line of products. The highlight of the day was the draws for the Handheld ICOM

donated by Paul Veel and the Yaesu Mobile provided by the club. The lucky winner of not one, but both radios was VE5 MC Murray from Moose Jaw. Congratulations Murray!

The 50/50 draw was won by one of our newest member VE5REP Ed. The day concluded with a gigantic auction of Fleas.

RARA would like to thank everyone who came out to support our annual event. Big thanks to those members of the club VE5RJR Rick, VE5LAT Allan, VE5AD Harv, VE5BFB Bernie, VE5TLW Terry for the preparation and work they put into this event..

A big Hug for Gillian Rickwood who looked after the registry and admission.

73's to all. Hope to see you next year! Bob



Since the last report, Moose Jaw has been a hub of ham radio activity. Walter VE5RVP and Marg returned from Wales and had a good trip visiting relatives and sightseeing in his homeland. The Terry Fox Run on Sept 12th was well attended with about 100 runners. The Pioneer Seniors Club under the control of VE5 AU handled communications from strategic locations in case of an accident. VE5ACJ who was Adidas Mobile was the last one

finishing as she was beating the bushes to see if anyone had problems, and trying to beat the rain that was threatening.

Gord VE5GML and Maxine VE5MAX are finally home for a while since their last cruise to Hawaii. Very interesting story about a Medical emergency on board and an aircraft medicine drop near the liner.

Brian VE5BJO had a hernia day surgery and was told not to do anything for 6 weeks. Do you realize how long 6 weeks is, especially when his snow machine is all tuned up and we have "snow"?

Val VE5ACJ had eye surgery on October 31st—a procedure called Orbital Decompression. She missed the RARA fleamarket, so I was able to sneak all my shiny purchases into the workshop. She is fine now.

Our annual Pioneers Seniors Club Christmas supper was held Dec 11th at Humpty's Restaurant and it was well attended. Even Santa showed up wearing green, and handing out electronic toys.

Our IRLP Repeater VE5PSC , node 1882 has been Disabled, Decommissioned and sent away to a city that will use it.

Moose Jaw area wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. 73 Be safe —Harv VE5AC



The South-east area says that winter has arrived. Now is the time

for repeaters to do disappearing act, so does our '82 which decided to go belly up now that it is up in hills and snow bound. So it will be down until spring. Sorry about that folks,

VE5BAM and his lovey XYL went to a Blue Jays game not too long ago. Blair also attended the Sask Power Corp Banquet where he was awarded his 35 year pin and also his retirement award. Way to go Blair and congratulations on your retirement.

VE5WMP Bill and his family went to the Grey Cup Game in Toronto. VE5AJ Larry is swimming every day giving his knees a real good workout, and he says that he is doing really great.

VE5KAT Patricia did up the Thanksgiving dinner this year, which was really good, and Joan and I didn't have to do any of the work.

The Saskatchewan and Aurora Nets are doing very well at my QTH, I hear them come in crystal clear. The Manitoba net is just a wee bit skimpy on folks checking in.

So from Joan VE5TAW and myself we want to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas. Catch you next year.

73—Marv VE5OO



Greetings from the South Central Region. It seems that time flies, as we are now getting close to Christmas and the new year isn't

far behind that! We held our Fall PARC meeting at Melrose Restaurant to wrap up the years' end and were pleased to have VE4MRT and VE4WO from the Dauphin club attend the meeting. Bill updated us on some of the things going on at RAC. We raffled off a Baofeng UV-5R dual band handheld radio at the meeting, the lucky winner was Larry VE5LCM. We will be raffling off another of these radios in the near future if you are interested contact George at VE5GTW@sasktel.net \$10/ ticket only twenty tickets will be sold. The club is moving around some of the IRPL nodes to get better coverage farther north. The Yorkton 1710 IRLP node is now at Gorlitz, the Preeceville 1858 node is in the process of moving to Norquay and there will be a new node going up in Humboldt in the new year. Rocanville 1807 node is back up after its router went south for a while, must have thought it was getting too cold here. The Yorkton club is looking forward to having a few new members join from the Humboldt area. We have also cleaned the ears on the Yorkton repeater so should be able to hear much better. If you are in the area give us a shout. Batten down the hatches and enjoy a winter filled with ham radio and lots of QSO's...73's. Larry VE5LBD



Ok, so my picture is bigger than everyone else's.— sorry..but it's the best I could do. I am doing

not only the Editorial but also the Secretarial in one column this time around.

Membership is sitting at 113 members. Not too bad, but we will always accept new members. If you have a family of hams, no matter how many the price is \$25.00, and a single individual is \$20.00. So if any out there know of folks who you think might like to join please print off a copy of the membership form, or send them to the website. www.sarl.ca.

Now speaking of the website, Bruce VE5ND our illustrious webmaster asked me to see if I could redesign a new and updated version our of our site, Me being a webmaster for the CLARA and YLRL sites, said sure, I will give you a hand. So I got some help from my best friend in South Africa who is also a member of our SARL and she showed me what to do. Well the site is all done, and I am just waiting on Bruce to give the nod and put it on line. This format is so easy and once I show Bruce the little idiosyncrasies of it, we will be away to the races so to speak. Bruce is and always will be the webmaster, and I am just his assistant. Bruce is so busy these days, that sometimes things come in and need to be put on the site right away, and often times I could not help him with that before, so

now I can. Thanks Bruce for all your encouragement as I was working on the new site. Now if anyone wants pictures put on, or stories please don't be shy just send on to Bruce or myself and we will work our magic. Please do not resize any picture that you send. It is much easier if we do it for you, so that we get the correct size for the website. One can always make a picture smaller, but it is very difficult to make a small picture larger without blurring the image..

Speaking of pictures. Would all the directors and the President, please get some member of the family to take a head and shoulders shot of you. Please make sure you are **NOT** on a wall that is light in colour. The reason- most of the guys are turning a little bit grey on top, and if you are on a light wall, your features get washed out. We need these good photos for the webpage. Take 2 or 3 and send them and Bruce and I will choose the best ones. Thanks to all the directors for their help with this.

Next, it is the end of December and 2013 will be upon us sooner than we think, and it is time to start thinking about the **2013 Hamfest**. Where will it be, who will take up the challenge and put it on. SARL will provide you with a cheque of

\$250.00 to use to provide a hall, purchase a door prize, or whatever you need. We do not want the money back, and any funds you receive via gate admittance, raffle draws, table rentals, that belongs to your club. All SARL wants is a table to take SARL memberships, a table for the trophies and a place to hold the AGM. That's all. It really is not a hard job, if I can do it— a club with more members should be able to manage, and besides, it's a lot of fun. Oh 1 other thing—you need to find someone who will do the AGM Family photo.

Well that's my column for this year. SARL Executive and Directors wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Health and Happiness in 2013. Val *Errors of the past, create wisdom of the future ...therefore....don't take life too seriouslyyou will never get out of it alive*

Lastly, I really want to thank my OM Harv VE5AC, who has the patience of a saint. I was spending lots of hours on the SARL website as well as 2 others, and he kept me supplied with lots of tea and coffee, taking phone calls and looking after the dogs while I worked on the computer. Santa will be good to him

73 Val VE5ACJ

 PROVINCIAL NETS 					
Name	Date	Sessions	Check-ins	Traffic	Bulletins
IRLP 9300	October	31	567	113	18
	November	30	440	80	14
Avonlea ARG 147.0600-	October	Not		at this	
	November		Reported		Time
Sask Evening Phone/CW 3.735	October	31	1261		6
	November	30	1308		3
Sask Wx Net 3.753	October	31	455		
	November	30	423		
Ares	October	4	222		
	November	4	270		
Prince Albert Repeater	October	25	68		
	November	25	96		
TOTALS		237	4710	193	41



"The Night Before Christmas",
Ham Radio-style

'Twas the night before Christmas,
when all through the town,

The snowstorm was raging, the
phone lines were down;

The wind it did howl, the tree
limbs did crack,

I hope that St. Nick isn't forced to
turn back.

The wife making cookies, the kids
making noise,

While away in the shack, by my
rig I was poised.

The finals were glowing, the mike
gain was set,

I was chasing DX to see what I
could get.

The bands were all empty, the
frequencies clear,

Except one lone station that
sounded quite near.

He was calling CQ and my inter-
est did pique,

When he ended transmission with
the words,

"Old St. Nick".

I answered back quickly, I used
great dispatch,

If this were St. Nicholas, good
God, what a catch!

We exchanged information, it was
really quite graphic,

Then he came back and said,
"I've emergency traffic!"

His reindeer were tired, his elves
in a grump,

If he didn't land soon, then his
sleigh he would dump.

I thought very carefully, I thought
very hard,

Then I gave him directions to my
snow covered yard.

As he flew past my window, his
hair like a mane,

He reined in his chargers and
called them by name:

"Whoa, Anode! Whoa, Cathode!
Whoa, Zener! Whoa, Diode!

Stop, Heater! Stop, Grid leak!
Stop, Bias! Stop, Triode!

You're flying too low! you're flying
too fast!

Look out, you dumb reindeer, his
antenna mast!"

So into the backyard the reindeer
did drop,

St. Nick, the elves, and the sleigh
went kerplow!

Then at the back door, I heard this
loud knocking,

"Open up in there, or I won't fill
your stocking!"

As I turned off the light and was
leaving the shack,

Into the house Saint Nicholas
came from the back--

His two-meter rig held to his hip
with a strap,

"Hams do it in the shack" on the
front of his cap.

The sack that he carried made his
aged brow furrow,

And he handed me a card that
read,

"QSL Via Bureau".

His clothes were all sooty, from
his shoes to his vest;

I felt like a novice taking his test.

His fingers were calloused and
from what I could tell,

This came from a straight key that
I'll bet he used well.

I offered him coffee, I offered him
smokes,

I tried easing the tension by telling
ham jokes.

Then he nodded his head and
raised up his thumb,

He smiled like an Elmer, did I ever
feel dumb.

He grabbed up his sack and went
straight for the tree,

And placed in it a large present for
me.

When he finished his work, he
stood up, took a bow,

Then out the back door to his
team he did plow.

But I heard him exclaim as he flew
o'er the land,

"Beware the FCC, friend, we were
both out of band!"

Merry Christmas from my house
to yours!—---Author Unknown

Submitted by Murray VE5MC

WAITING ... WAITING FOR CHRISTMAS

By Elizabeth English

Herman and I finally locked our store and dragged ourselves home.

It was 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve. We'd sold almost all of our toys; and all of the layaways, except one package, had not been picked up. But the person who had put a dollar down on that package never appeared. Early Christmas morning our 12-year-old son Tom, and Herman and I were out under the tree opening up gifts. But, there was something humdrum about this Christmas. Tom was growing up, and I missed his childish exuberance of past years. As soon as breakfast was over, Tom left to visit friends, and Herman disappeared into the bedroom, mumbling, "I'm going back to sleep."

So there I was alone. It was nearly 9:00 a.m. and sleet mixed with snow cut the air outside. Sure glad I don't have to go out on a day like today, I thought to myself. And then it began. Something I'd never experienced before. A strange, persistent urge. "Go to the store," it seemed to say. That's crazy, I said to myself. No one opens shop on Christmas Day. For an hour I fought that strange feeling. Finally, I couldn't stand it any longer, and I got dressed. I put on my wool coat and tam on my head, then my galoshes and scarf and gloves. Once outside the wind cut right through me, and sleet stung my cheeks. I felt ridiculous. I had no business being out in that bitter chill.

There was the store just ahead. But, what in the world? I wondered. In front of the store stood two little boys, huddled together, poorly dressed and half frozen. One about nine, and the other six. "Here she come?" yelled the older one. "See, I told you she would come," he said. The younger one's face was wet with tears, but when he saw me his eyes opened wide and his sobbing stopped. "What are you two children doing out here?" I scolded, hurrying them into the store. "We've been waiting for you," replied the older brother. "My little brother Jimmy didn't get any Christmas presents. We want to buy some skates. That's what he wants." I looked at the three dollars in his hand, and at their expectant faces. Then I looked around the store. "I'm sorry," I said, "but we have no skates. Then my eye caught sight of the layaway shelf with its one lone package. Could it be ... ? I walked over and unwrapped the package. Miracle of miracles, there was a pair of skates!

Jimmy reached for them. Lord, I said silently, let them be his size. And miracle added upon miracle, they were his size. When the older boy finished tying the laces and saw that the skates fit perfectly he stood up and presented the dollars to me. "No, I'm not going to take your money," I told him. "I want you to have these skates, and use your money to get some gloves for your hands." What I saw in Jimmy's eyes was like a blessing. It was pure joy, and it was beautiful. My low spirits rose.

As I locked the door, I turned to the older brother and said, "How lucky that I happened to come along when I did. How did you boys know I would come?" I wasn't prepared for his reply. His gaze was steady, and he answered me softly. "I knew you would come," he said. "I asked Jesus to send you."

The tingles in my spine weren't from the cold, I knew. God had planned this. As we waved good-bye, I turned home to a brighter Christmas than I had left.

