



The QSO

Oct, Nov, Dec

2013

A Gift All Wrapped in Swaddling Clothes by Dr. Ralph F. Wilson

Christmas morning of my fifth year I woke to find a wooden rifle under the tree, carefully carved by my dad, complete with a dowel barrel and a hole for my trigger finger. I can almost smell the fresh paint mingled with the fragrance of pine branches. Though I don't recall playing with it, I remember the awe I felt knowing my dad made it just for me.

Not all gifts however, are so personally intended. After that horrendous brown vase I got a Christmas party, at least I had the perverse joy of watching someone open "How to Raise Rhesus Monkeys" that had been foisted off on me the year before. Then there's a punch-out calendar to sit on my desk reminding me all year long to buy Farmer's Insurance. The mortuary that gives away bottles of hand lotion every year-my family always calls it "embalming fluid."

What takes the joy out of giving are the obligatory gifts-the expected office exchange, the box of candy you keep by the door to hand to the Smiths when they come to call as you know they will, once a year. Also don't forget the gift for great Aunt Hattie whom you haven't liked since she pinched your cheeks when you were little.

Really difficult are the gifts so very expensive that you could never afford to reciprocate. Gold and diamond jewellery from a suitor. You don't want to hurt his feelings, but—

I wonder how Mary and Joseph felt as they watched richly robed wise men kneel before their child offering alabaster jars of precious myrrh, inlaid boxes heavy with the scent of frankincense and iron-bound chests laden with gold-gifts fit for a king. How could they possibly repay?

I guess the most troublesome gift at Christmas is the Child Himself. What do we say? We smile nicely and pat the humbly-wrapped

present. "How nice of you, God to have been so thoughtful," we mumble politely. But the Gift lies on the dresser unopened year after year. Perhaps because we don't expect to find much inside except a useless religious trinket. Perhaps because we know that if we unwrap the Gift we'll be obligated to the Giver beyond what we can ever repay. So it sits-and so it sits until in loneliness, in pain, in utter desperation we tug at the ribbons and tear off the wrappings, hoping against hope we'll find inside what we've longed for, and so it is: Unconditional Love!

**GOD SENT A GIFT ONE
CHRISTMAS MORN, A
WONDERFUL GIFT, A PRECIOUS
GIFT.**

**GOD SENT A GIFT ONE
CHRISTMAS MORN BY PEASANT
MAID AND CRAFTSMAN HAND.**

**GOD SENT A GIFT ONE
CHRISTMAS MORN AND
WRAPPED IT UP IN SWADDLING
CLOTHES.**

**FOR ME, HE DID. YES FOR
ME— HE DID.**



Sec/Treas/Editor's Report

. My article is just what we really need to hear

We have had Halloween, the second biggest commercial holiday and now comes December holidays with all the sales with "manic, mega, midnight shopping". Thanksgiving (we had ours in Oct. and the US has it in Nov) doesn't have the "commercial value" of all the other special days and maybe that's why I think it's significant from a family standpoint.

Please take a moment to give thanks for your family, both immediate and extended, plus friends. Dwell on the things you have, not the ones you don't.

Consider the blessings, if you will, that amateur radio has been in your life and all of the experiences you have enjoyed in your life and the new friends you've made through it. Above all else, make the most of the time you have with those around you. Nothing lasts forever and the time you talk, joke around, reminisce, cook together and play board games with each other is priceless-plus the stuff of future memories.

Ham radio can wait one more day. Better to spend that time together, while you're off the air, it's just a hobby.

73 Val VE5ACJ

Moose Jaw and Area

The MJ Pioneers Amateur Radio Club did the communications for the Terry Fox Run on Sept 15th. There were almost 100 runners that did the 5Km run under the watchful eye of the following hams: Maxine, VE5MAX, Gordon, VE5GML, Mike VE5AU, Walter VE5MYJ, Harv VE5AC and Val VE5ACJ (more commonly known as Adidas Mobile) who was the last one to leave the starting point and the very last one to cross the finish line, as she had to beat the bushes to see if anyone was left behind.

If you see her, make sure you ask her how she got the 2 very large potholes fixed on our street, something about walking with Mayor Deb Higgins.

We still have our monthly suppers, the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Humpty's Restaurant. The food is good and we seniors get 20% off. Can't beat that. We are frugal. They are shutting down for an 8 day total refurbishment of the interior of the restaurant. Starting Nov.15th. Will be nice to see the new and improved one when we return in Dec.

That's all for this time folks. Wishing you a Very Merry Christmas, and catch you on the bands.

73 Harv VE5AC

North East and Area

I've taught a lot of Amateur licensing classes and have explained the ham bands and solar cycles and have talked about working the world on the 10 metre band with a piece of wet string for

an antenna.

As years went by without propagation on 10 metres, students were starting to wonder: "Did he lie? Is 10 metres really a ham band?" I assumed that, as we are now at the top of solar cycle #24, the 10 metre band should be like it was during solar cycle #23 which, I recall, was wonderful. So far, this has definitely not been the case. Openings on the band have been sporadic at best and non-existent at worst. But, on the weekend of October 26 and 27, during the WWDX contest, 10 metres came back with a vengeance. The band was VERY active and actually full of signals from 28.300 MHz to 29.300 MHz from dawn to dusk for both days of the contest. I easily worked a DXCC plus (over 100 different countries) on that band alone! And, since then, even when 20 metres and 15 metres have been spotty, the 10 metre band has offered contacts. So, it's back - at least for a while and I urge you to enjoy it while you can because it may not happen again for another decade or more. Just for fun, you might give a listen to the 10 metre "beacon" transmitting all day every day on 28.425 MHz

As some of you may recall, I invested a lot of time and effort a few years ago, doing a National survey and trying to establish in Canada a Foundation type of license structure similar to that in Great Britain, Australia and Gibraltar. The idea was that this would allow young people to sample Amateur Radio with the mentorship of schools and clubs. I had an

opportunity to discuss this recently with RAC's president, Geoff Bawden (VE4BAW). He told me that Industry Canada has NO interest in such an undertaking. According to IC, Amateur Radio is growing and is in no danger in Canada. Also according to them, the current licensing structure is very easy to achieve and changes are not going to happen. As a result, RAC will not be considering the program as a part of their mandate.

What's happening in the north-east? It's encouraging to listen to the evening 80 metre phone net where there usually a half dozen of us who check in. It's nice to see that the north-east is well represented with HF radio activity. On the VHF front, nothing much has changed.

73 Bj VE5FX

South West and Area

Hello everyone. It's time again for another report from the South-west. What a nice fall we've had so far. We definitely had a normal autumn down here for a change and at the time of writing this we still do not have any snow so far to speak of. Harvest went very smoothly and the yields were very good. I can attest to that because I spent about five weeks out there helping to gather the harvest. For me, I really enjoyed operating a modern combine and actually combine peas and canola for the first time. Things have certainly changed from the days when I farmed. Modern technology has made things far more simpler but it doesn't come cheap. All the bells

and whistles are nice but very costly as well.

Some other news from the area would be the Highway One Studio Tour, the fall into Christmas Craft Sale, the Fall Gun and Hobby Show and the fall suppers hosted by various interest groups. All of these events are well attended every year.

Our two repeaters are working quite well, but they do have their problems from time to time. I enjoy checking in to the IRLP net most evenings. It is nice to hear the new hams with their new call signs participating as well. I wish them all success as they move on to get voice privileges on the HF bands in the future. A few have been heard on CW checking into the SEPN on 80 meters as well which is good. We need to keep CW alive. I am an avid cw operator myself.

Band conditions are good for the most part and with winter approaching we will have more opportunities to work some DX. I have been able to work stations on 10 meters which is fun. It looks as if the present sunspot peak will be with us for a few more years and if my beam survives, I intend to be on the high frequencies quite a bit throughout the winter.

Due to various reasons I was not able to put together a report during the summer. My apologies for that. We had a very busy summer and it flew by so fast it was over in no time. Now with Christmas coming on we will get even busier again. I just hope we don't get the same long winter that we had last year.

Well, folks, that's all I have this go around. Merry Christmas everyone and 73s from our family to yours. See you in the New Year.

73 Ken VE5BI

Saskatoon and Area

Hello from Saskatoon. Well Ham Radio air waves have certainly become a lot busier. With the onset of colder weather more people are checking into the nets and generally more people are talking.

Eric has been enjoying his new 80 meter mystery antenna. Thank you to VE4ANC, VE5RS and VE5SG for getting this antenna operational. Without their help this would not have gotten done.

The Saskatoon club meetings resumed in September, again meeting at the WDM. On Sunday Nov. 17/13 the club will be providing communications for the Santa Claus parade. Hopefully the weather cooperates. On Dec. 10/13 the club will be holding their Christmas meeting. As in years past the meeting will be held at the Granary restaurant. The meeting will start at 6:30PM and include good food and good company. A gift exchange is planned and there may be a number of mystery boxes that people will inherit.

Eric and I attended the Regina Flea Market on Nov. 2/13. We did not come home with many fleas but enjoyed the visiting and the drive was good as the weather was great. Thank you to Regina for hosting the Flea Market.

The Mars group has been meeting for coffee meetings approximately once a month. There has been

some discussion with the Saskatoon club for organizing a combined project. This is still a work in progress and more discussion will likely be needed.

They are forecasting more snow for Saskatoon tonight. Hopefully not a great amount will fall. Shovelling snow is not my favorite pass time.

. Hope that everyone can spend time with loved ones and have lots of time on the Radio. Well with this edition being for Nov/Dec. Eric and I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas.

73 Doris VE5DJQ

South East Saskatchewan

First off, at the moment, Estevan and area have just a little bit of snow trying desperately to cover the ground. To be honest, that's all that we want. Especially after the past 2 springs, where we still have water everywhere. It would be nice to have a winter without too much of the white stuff and maybe in the spring we could actually dry out.

VE5TAW has had a trip down south again to visit the daughter and grandchildren and then a trip to Ft. Qu'Appelle to visit her sister and mom. She has the wandering spirit and sometimes it's hard to keep track of her.

VE5BAM has been teaching a bit. Blair and his lovely XYL Laura have been or are going on a trip to California. They have also gone over to Regina where their son has a house, and everyone is pitching in doing renovations.

Also his contract job with Sask- Power is now completed.

VE5AJ finally got his 80m antenna up and got on the air. Then disaster struck and Estevan was hit with a severe wind storm and took it down. Don't know when it will be up again. Think Estevan has the same kind of garbage cans as everyone else has now, those ones on wheels....sure looked funny seeing all of them just roll on down the street during the wind storm.

The 146.82 repeater is running on a plug-in, so we don't pay for power anymore. We had some vandalism and they broke the power wire and the meter, and was barely holding on. So we reverted to a plug-in. Otherwise it is working just fine now.

I have been trying to get into a lot of nets lately, got into the American Geritol Net, the OMISS and trying to get points and awards. The QRM has been quite bad lately but still getting into the Yukon/BC Net too. Heard a CW the other day and he was Zero Beat right on the Sask Evening Net frequency and not sure who it was.

That's all from this QTH. Wishing everyone a Very Merry Christmas.

73 Marv VE5OO

The Rectangle Loop Antenna

This loop was built to get some DX from the SE and NW. Some mods were done to an antenna devised by L. Cebik W4RNL. My attempt was to get a "Quiet Antenna," with a low take-off angle, a 50-100 OHM impedance and something structurally sound.

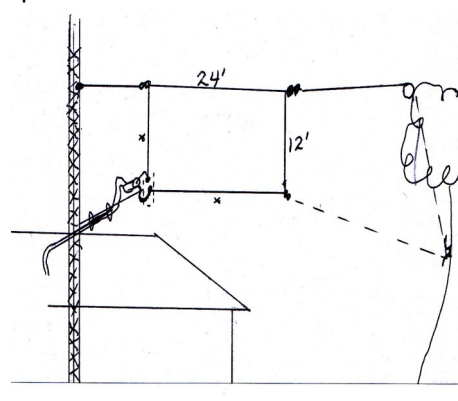
Most of you know that a square loop is 90-100 OHM impedance, the largest capture area gives you the

most gain. Ex: Circle best, Square next, Rectangle lower, Triangle worst. Each has a bearing on your impedance.

I chose the 24' x 12' VOVPL. The term VOVPL-stands for Vertical Oriented Vertical Polarized Loop. I stay away from the Horizontal Oriented as hams call them the "Cloud Burner", good for melting snow and for keeping earthworms warm. This comment can start a good discussion.

The corner feed provided about 75 OHMs impedance. The centre of the vertical side about 50 OHMs and the centre of the bottom (horiz) side about 100 OHMS. Note X on Diagram.

Corner feed was chosen because I could tie the 75 OHM coax to the guy rope. I did not like the centre vert or the centre horiz as it is unstable. Besides the corner feed gives you a vertical and horizontal polarization.



Most formula's call for $Circ' = 1005 / \text{Freq (MHz)}$. I have had good results with 1023. Also it is easier to cut than to add wire. See the diagram on above. Corner feed with 75 OHM coax is good because you can tape or tyrap it to the rope and tower. But-there is always a BUT. It is

only a one band antenna (20m) . A multiband antenna was wanted-so twinleaf was used (not 300 OHM). You know the black twin lead that Sask-tel uses for telephone service to your house-it is 90 Ohm twin lead. Now they are installing Fibre Optic line and for a contribution to their coffee fund the service centre will give you some. But-another BUT, you have to stand off from anything metal (tower, eaves troughs, etc). I canvassed my neighbours for broom handles (wood) or broken hockey sticks. Drilled a hole at the end and tyrapped twin lead-in to it, then tyrapped broomstick to tower.

With a tuner it loads easily on 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10. With coax feed SWR was between 1.2 and 1.7. We like the antenna, my YL uses it to talk to the U.S.A. girls on the YLRL Tangle Net. Mine is broad site to Florida, Caribbean and South America and in the other direction to Alaska, Korea and Japan. Signals are good and the noise cancelling effect of a loop helps. At my age I am downsizing, no more beams, just wire loops, who cares if I can't rotate it. Thanks to Lloyd Cebik for the idea and the man at RARA flea mart who wanted me to write more articles.

If using coax, use an inverted drip loop to avoid water ingress and centre conductor goes to Vertical part of loop and shield to Horiz part.

73 Harv VE5AC

<PS> I know the Editor and probably the directors as well would really appreciate more articles from our membership. Some of the "more mature" fellas must have a

whole library by now of all the projects that they have done over the years and the "younger" ones would probably enjoy trying some of them..but they need the information. Also, you younger new hams, I am sure have some projects that you have also tried. So come on guys and gals—let's give this information to all. Everyone has learned something sometime, so time to start sharing with others. We can't let just 1 or 2 people contribute to this publication. This is YOUR hobby not just mine. Thanks for listening.

Editor's Notes

SARL gave the Avonlea Repeater Group a \$150.00 Grant at the RARA flea mart, thanks to a bit of pushing from Bob VE5LTD. This is what we do in order to help clubs or groups. There are still 2 grants left for this year. So get your director to apply for it, and go to the SARL webpage and print off the pages, get them sent in to the Secretary/Treasurer asap. We really do like helping our fellow hams in all areas of the province besides, it's Christmas time.

Check out DXWatch.com
If you have been looking for an amateur radio DX cluster on the Web with a spots filter, an alert service, and tools for propagation bulletins and a DX calendar, check out DXWatch.com at : <http://www.dxwatch.com>. It is active all the time and will give DXers a good snapshot of who's doing what from where.

Thanks to KI6SN for the information.

WANTED:

One of our fellow hams is in need of equipment. Anything to do with amateur radio. He lost everything in not 1 but 2 house fires and really needs to get back on the air. If anyone has anything in their basement that they want to part with , things like test equipment, coax, HF equipment, antennas etc. at a reasonable price. Please get hold of Wayne VE5WFW/VE5EB. I know Wayne will get back to you and would be greatly

appreciative of any help from anyone. Wayne VE5EB

Home: **306-763-6120**

Cell: **306-980-9211**

Email: firebase101@hotmail.com

FOR SALE:

—Diamond Antenna X-510MA VHF/UHF 200 W . 8.3db gain VHF, 11.5db UHF 18.5 feet. Brand new still in box.

—4 cavities Sinclair Lab duplexers in the F-150 4D/4E series.

For more info please phone:

Mike VE5AU at

306-692-9767 or send him an email at ve5au@sasktel.net

PLEASE HELP

On the SARL webpage (www.sarl.ca) there are 2 sections that I really really need help with. These are the ARES and Weather Watch under Departments. I would really appreciate it if folks who do the CanWarn and such please inform me ASAP if there is something that should be put on these 2 sections, especially

the Weather Watch. If I have at least a 3 hour window, I can get this info put on the site, regardless of the area, so it will be available to all hams. Please send the info to me. Thanks so much for the help. ve5aq@sasktel.net. Your friendly webmaster-Val

The President's Message

Near the end of the year, like many others, I like to phone people that I don't see or speak with during the year. I phone mostly extended family members and yes, the subjects include some radio operators that I don't hear on the air often or not at all. It seems an appropriate time to review the activities of the year.

I would like to express my appreciation to all of those who wrote letters and articles for QSO in 2013. There have been some very good submissions to this publication during the year. My thanks to all those who agonized over their pagesor maybe it is just me who writes that way. I find the hardest part about writing is the initial idea and outline. After that, things seem to go easier. Thanks to Val and Harv for keeping the organization (SARL) on the rails and for guiding each issue of QSO to successful publication. Special thanks to The lady who does the final QSO format. (can't seem to come up with her name at this time. (please fix this for me Val!! G.)(Ed Note: *guess that would be me Val -the pay check isn't great, but the enjoyment I get out of*

doing the QSO makes up for it. Also a very special thanks to my very special best friend Yvonne ZR6TBL who does so much to help me as she has the special know how to help with the real fancy graphics, especially the ones for this Christmas)

Christmas and year end greetings to the members and directors of SARL and I hope to have more Saskatchewan radio hams join with us in 2014. Thank you and 73 **Gordon, VE5UJ, Peggy, VE5ACT.**

Local man bounces signal off moon to Europe:: Kenneth Brown of The Eston-Elrose Press Review



Neil Armstrong's famous moon walk was a small step for man and a giant leap for mankind, but Eston resident Kees Kaper is making his own leaps in relation to the moon.

Kaper has been working to transmit signals off the moon and back down to locations on the earth for about two years and the local man was able to achieve his goal earlier this summer. He conducted a successful moon

bounce from his property in July, and then another one in August.

Kaper, a retired telecommunications engineer, transmitted a signal to the moon using a 1296 MHz frequency and his signal was picked up at host stations in the Netherlands and Italy in his two successful tests this summer.

He performed the feat using a three-metre diameter satellite dish on a property he owns in town. A feed horn is used to aid the transmission and a power supply hooked up to the dish provides the boost his signal needs to bounce back to earth from the moon.

The dish and feed horn are connected by cables to several pieces of telecommunications equipment at his workshop inside the home where he runs the test transmissions. Kaper, who spent time teaching wireless communications at Mount Royal College (now university), said he's the first person in Saskatchewan to use the 1296 MHz frequency to make a successful moon bounce.

A signal is put through the feed horn and a series of amplifiers from the equipment in the home. It bounces off the dish and is sent to the moon. He uses military naval charts to calculate the precise location of the moon, as it is necessary to know its exact location. He noted that the stations in the Netherlands and Italy have their systems hooked up to computers to automatically track the location of the moon,

so he does it the hard way because he has to determine the moon's location to position his dish.

The station that received his transmission in the Netherlands also has a satellite dish with a three-metre diameter while the station in Italy has a much larger dish that measures 10 metres in diameter. Kaper said he is learning Morse code because he uses the communication tool when he is transmitting his signal off the moon. He has recordings of the bounce from both the Netherlands and Italy, but the recording from Italy was much more pronounced as a result of the station's large satellite dish. The moon bounce used 150 watts of radio frequency power, or 300 watts of direct current.

His signal was picked up at eight decibels above the white noise, which the local man admits is not bad for a test signal contact. The sound of his beacon being picked up in the Netherlands is harder to hear, but his transmission made it back to earth. The station that received his transmission in the Netherlands also has a satellite dish with a three-metre diameter while the station in Italy has a much larger dish that measures 10 metres in diameter. Kaper said he is learning Morse code because he uses the communication tool when he is transmitting his signal off the moon. He has recordings of the bounce from both the Netherlands and Italy, but the recording from Italy was much more pronounced as a result of the station's large satellite dish. The moon bounce

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According to Kaper, the moon is not a very good reflector making it even more difficult to bounce wireless signals off the celestial object. He said no matter how much power a person uses to get a signal to the moon, only seven per cent of the signal is going to bounce back.

The total journey, or distance travelled, for each of his moon bounce tests was about 800,000 kilometers round trip.

Kaper recognized, "you use lots of power to transmit to the moon" because it is such a bad reflector. He said the navel charts for the moon's location list the altitude and azimuth for where he must position his dish. The dish gets tilted to adjust for the altitude and rotated to adjust for the azimuth.

There are several other telecommunications enthusiasts transmitting and receiving signals off the moon. Kaper uses the Internet to connect with other hosts and the program is referred to as an EME (Earth-Moon-Earth) logger. Each person has his or her own handle. Kaper pointed out that the first moon bounce was conducted in 1946 by the United States military,

or the U.S. Signal Corps, but the military used a frequency of 112 MHz to conduct its test. The first amateur detection of signals from the moon was done in 1953, according to the local resident.

Aside from the recordings he has from his two successful moon bounces, he also has a waterfall chart showing the transmissions. The two host stations pick up the beacon, but the beacon stops if the satellite varies by more than 10 degrees. The local man pulled out a trade publication called Radio Craft from 1946, and it featured an image of the first radio to bounce a signal off the moon. There were several trade publications in the workshop and Kaper, himself, was featured in several of the publications. He has spent much of his adult life working in the area of wireless technology and telecommunications. As mentioned, he has spent about two years working to send and receive signals to and from the moon. He noted that he had received signals from the moon in previous months, but this summer was the first time he was able to get a signal to bounce back.

Kaper said it was quite a feat for him to transmit a signal from his three-metre dish to a three-metre dish in the Netherlands. He spent last winter preparing for an attempt to do a moon bounce – it is not "plug in and play." He first received signals from the moon using a feed horn made of coffee cans, but he has since acquired a more advanced feed horn and it allowed him to

have the opportunity to transmit to the moon and back. Kaper said it was exciting to learn of his successful transmission. The local resident recognized that he uses a lot of different technologies to aid him when he conducts his tests. The EME logger is helpful, he said, along with an acquired skill set he has from more than 40 years of wireless experience.

When asked about his articles and photos in trade publications of the past, he referred to himself as a microwave pioneer. Kaper explained that there are people who get thrills from taking certain risks, but his thrills come from the experiments he performs. "You get a thrill from doing it," he said, noting that bouncing a signal off the moon is more exciting as less

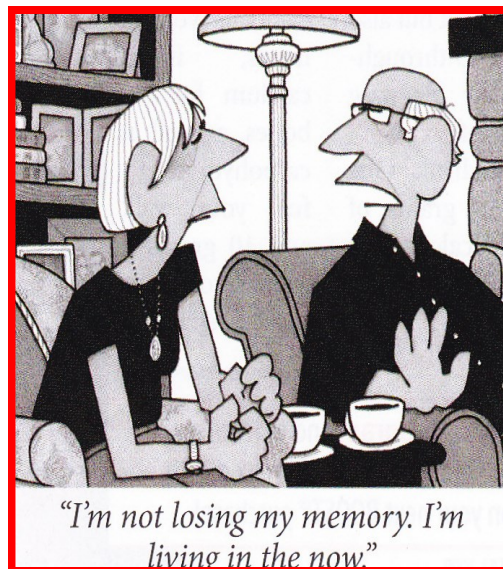
power is used to make a transmission. "Other people, they spring from bridges on a bungee cord and they get a thrill out of it, but that is not for me."

Kaper added that he would continue to optimize his equipment for future testing, but the goal is to continue bouncing signals off the moon to make contact with other communications stations around the world.

At this time of the year, please take a moment to remember the family and friends of the following Silent Keys:

**Bill Bretsch VE6DBA/VE5DBA ;
Ton van Dijk ZS6ANA ;
Henry Stanley VE5HS ; Edgar**

**"Eddie" Brown VE5ELB;
John Anaka VE5JCA ; Dick Raine
VE5RHR ; Frederic Joseph Selsey
VE5QS ; Russell (Russ) King
VE5KA**



"The advantage of a bad memory is that one enjoys several times the same good things for the first time." *Friedrich Nietzsche*

Which Club is thinking of doing the 2014 Hamfest? Let the Sec/Treas know asap



Catch you all in 2014