



# The QSO

February/March 2005

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

Volume 2005, Issue 1

## Welcome to 2005!

Derek Bereza VE5SD - President

With the year 2005 in full gear, it is a chance to reflect on 2004 as well as a chance to dream of what 2005 will bring us!

Many things begin with a thought, and if those thoughts have merit, and are adopted by others, many things can be accomplished. 2005 is a special time in the history of our province as well as our hobby. Being it is our Centennial Year for the province, many celebrations are planned to commemorate this once in a lifetime event. Both the Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club and Meewasin Amateur Radio Society have joined together to host the Centennial Hamfest. I am supporter of both clubs with membership in both. I have been given the opportunity and honor by both clubs to help out in the arrangement of fun activities, as well Jim Clark - VE5JIM and I are responsible to come up with the technical sessions. This is very exciting to have the opportunity to contribute to the hamfest in these ways! I would like to extend an opportunity to all amateurs to have a say in what you would like to see at the hamfest and go to [www.saskhamfest.com/survey/survey.html](http://www.saskhamfest.com/survey/survey.html) and let the hamfest committee know how you want to celebrate this special occasion! As well, if you would like to see a technical session on a particular subject, if you are interested in being a facilitator of a session, it is not too late to let us know, and we will see what we can do. If there is any fun things or contests you would like to see done, drop me an email at [ve5sd@rac.ca](mailto:ve5sd@rac.ca).

*(See President's Message - Page 3)*

## Ham Radio Operators Become Lifeline

Anjana Pasricha, VOANEWS.com

Ham radio operators all over India are helping to reunite families and assist in relief operations in the wake of the tsunami disaster. The work is especially vital in the remote Andaman and Nicobar Islands, which suffered widespread devastation, and where as many as 5,000 people are still missing.

On December 26, the world collapsed for Calcutta resident, Sanchita Saha, whose husband runs a tiny cloth shop in India's distant Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The tsunami had struck, and communication links with the islands had snapped.

Mrs. Saha imagined the worst. She says for days her desperate household did not eat, did not sleep, and did not know what to do.

*(See Ham Radio: Lifeline - Page 3)*

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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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## ***President's Message***

*(Continued from Page 1)*

The "new" SARL Controller-Class has begun, so if you are interested in learning about or elmering others on repeaters, remote bases and digital communications, sign up at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/controller-class/> and join in on the fun that is taking place!

With this edition of the QSO you should receive the new membership package, which we hope you will enjoy! You should receive the "new" SARL Crest that Val Lemko - VE5ACJ so graciously initiated, a new repeater directory, a mini-booklet of IRLP codes, a "classic SARL logo" static window sticker and an invitation to promote the "NEW SARL".

I look forward to a number of dreams being fulfilled this year, I invite you to share yours with us, and together we will have a fun year in amateur radio!

## ***Ham Radio: Lifeline***

*(Continued from Page 1)*

Then her brother-in-law read in the newspaper that ham radio operators had linked up all over India to provide information about missing or separated families. He went to a ham operator in Calcutta and within a day the household was smiling again. Mrs. Saha learned her husband was well and living in a camp, although his shop on Port Blair was destroyed.

In the days after the disaster, for countless families, ham radio operators became a lifeline as they helped locate hundreds of people separated from their families.

There effort was particularly important for the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, where telephone links are still not working properly. The low-lying islands, 1,500 kilometers from the Indian mainland, were right in the path of the massive waves triggered by an earthquake near Indonesia.

The effort to reunite families on the islands was led by a New Delhi housewife, Bharati Prasad. She was visiting the islands' capital, Port Blair to set up its first ham radio station when the disaster struck, and the chain of 570 islands was cut off from the world.

But within hours, Bharti Prasad put up her radio with the use of a hotel generator, and reached out to other ham operators.

Soon she and six colleagues were conveying thousands of messages to and from the islands.

"We have collected all the messages from the mainland, and we have made a big list with the telephone numbers

of the local people and then we have conveyed their messages to the local people, what is their welfare, what are they doing, and is there any help required from the mainland," she said. "When I am giving a call to a local man, they felt so happy."

The army and government have stepped in to help the ham operators with batteries and other gear. They have now established seven radio stations on the islands.

For people scattered on the three dozen inhabited islands, the radio has become the only hope for tracing relatives. Many families were separated after the disaster as rescued people ended up in separate shelters. And many people had friends or relatives living on separate islands.

Taking a cue from the ham operators, the state radio in Port Blair also is using the airwaves to convey messages from a steady stream of people who turn up everyday, desperately trying to reach their loved ones.

The station director at Port Blair's All India Radio, K. Rajan, says they have cancelled all regular programming and are focusing on helping families communicate.

"By broadcasting the SOS we are helping all the people, people are very anxious to know the whereabouts of their relatives, who are either employed or living in far-flung islands," he said.

Hundreds of messages go out everyday - a school boy tells a father he will take the first boat to fetch him, a Catholic priest urges his family to leave a devastated island as soon as possible.

Hams are also helping out in other parts of India stricken by the tsunami. In the hours after the disaster, Sandeep Shah and a group of volunteers in Bangalore packed their radio equipment, pooled some money, and came to the southeastern coast where thousands of families are homeless.

Mr. Shah is helping local authorities streamline relief operations in Cuddalore district in Tamil Nadu state.

Mr. Shah says with telephone landlines down in remote areas and mobile phones often jammed by heavy traffic, it is not always possible to know what is needed where. He and other ham radio operators try to help.

"We see to it that it reaches the required area. We have two thousand food packets required in certain places," he said. "We have messages of missing child found, three new bodies found, number of damaged boats, all

types of messages we pass across both ways from many, many locations."

It is not the first time ham operators are putting their hobby to use in an hour of need. Four years ago, when Gujarat state was devastated by an earthquake, they also reached to help - but the scale of the operation is much bigger this time because people are affected in remote regions.

## From the Editor's Desk

Devon Racicot VE5DWR

As New Year celebrations and holidays are winding down, we are all getting back into the daily grind in our personal and professional lives, as well as in our ham radio avocation.

Our hearts go out to the survivors and families of the people that have been lost in the various tragedies that happened in the world over the past few months. The people of Saskatchewan have once again shown their willingness to help and generosity with all the contributions through the various charities and other groups.

We put up with a lot of things in Saskatchewan including the bitter cold, but we can be thankful we likely will never have to worry about these types of natural disasters to most extents.

Val and I have found several articles of interest from around the World which we've reprinted in this issue. Our efforts also turn towards the SARL Annual General Meeting and the Saskatchewan Centennial Hamfest coming up in July. Over the next couple of issues, we will be exploring in detail some of the program and activities that will be happening over the hamfest weekend.

I am also proud to say that over the last year, the membership count in SARL has almost doubled! *The QSO* is mailed to almost 70 ham operators across the province now! We are continually growing and I hope that SARL will be back up to the original membership numbers we enjoyed over a decade ago.

So having said that, I need to solicit you for articles again! These past few issues have been great, and I've had a lot of material to choose from, but sadly it is like someone has turned off the tap! Buy a new radio? Visit another area of the country or province and have a great story to share? Send it in! These types of articles keep the newsletter enjoyable. I don't particularly like regurgitating articles from RAC or other larger publications as most of us get them anyway. Keep the "local interest" content coming!

As was promised in the past few issues of the newsletter, we now have a section of the website devoted to "online extras." When I receive articles with extra photographs or text that I can't include in the newsletter, I will post them here. The archive section will also be expanded soon as well.

I thank all of you that have been supplying me with information.

I hope you enjoy this issue.

## Hamfest Update

SHF 2005 Committee



The SHF 2005 committee has undertaken a centennial history project. Through the years, we have noticed a decline in

the archiving of photographs and history of radio in our Province. We would like to restore our past and make it accessible for everyone.

Do you have old photographs that you can part with for a while? Can you make us copies?

How about writing up a few pages about what has happened over the last one hundred years in your home area. Anything you can help us with is much appreciated.

Please contact the SHF 2005 Committee with any information you can share.

Also, as this is the celebration of the province's one hundredth birthday, we want to make this the biggest, best hamfest the province has ever seen! Do you have ideas that you would like us to explore? Let us know!

The committee has also developed a survey for gathering input from the ham community. One should have been included with your copy of *The QSO*. We would appreciate if you'd complete it and send it to the address provided. If you choose not to complete the paper copy, perhaps an online survey is easier. Visit the website, [www.saskhamfest.com](http://www.saskhamfest.com) and fill it out online!

More next issue!

### Online Hamfest Survey

[www.saskhamfest.com](http://www.saskhamfest.com)

## Camping Power Supply

Harv Lemko VE5AC

Winter is finally here, so it's time to get at those 21 electronic projects one has on the go. My first project was one of those ideas – wouldn't it be nice to listen to the HF bands while at the campsite. So I dragged out my surplus receiver from the shelf, but it did not have a power supply. So here is one of those wild ideas that works.

I noticed that the CTC store had 12V to 110V power inverters on sale for 10 bucks. On the output side, I hooked up a Full Wave Bridge Rectifier and a 50UF capacitor. The output turned out to be about 160 volts – 150 volts under load. The output of these inverters is easily filtered as it is a high frequency square wave. These units can also be wired as a Full Wave Voltage Doubler – but the voltage was a little too high for my project. Anyway, with this small power supply, 12V to the filaments and a short antenna, you have a campsite special for next summer.

A short project for this month, my belated best wishes for a Health, Happy New Year. Take care and hope to hear you on the bands if they ever smarten up. I as well as the XYL am picking up the CW once again, and that is were you will probably hear me...down on the lower end of the bands.

### Are you on the list?

Late last year, the Saskatchewan Amateur Radio League introduced a bulletin service to Saskatchewan. So far the bulletins go out to approximately 60 email addresses, but we would like to make that list longer.

The purpose of the list is to provide timely information about amateur radio activities and other important information as required. The list is a closed list and the only people that can post to the list are the SARL Executive through the bulletin manager. You will not receive SPAM, and your email address will not be provided to anyone other than the SARL Executive.

You do not have to be a member of SARL to subscribe to the list.

If you are not on the list, but wish to be, please visit the bulletin section of our website at:

[www.sarl.ca](http://www.sarl.ca)

## Moose Jaw & Area

Val Lemko VE5ACJ



Well, 2005 has arrived, and hopefully every one had a wonderful Christmas and I wish you all a Happy, prosperous and healthy New Year.

This issue, I would like to advertise a pet project of mine. GOTA: (Guides on the Air). GOTA began in 1985 to celebrate 75 years of Guiding in Canada, the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Australia. GOTA has grown each year with more countries taking part. There are many Amateur Radio operators, winter camps, clubs, schools, fire halls, Red Cross, churches and Military bases involved with GOTA.

Girl Guides on the Air is a special project of CLARA (Canadian Ladies Amateur Radio Association) as well as for 'hams' that are interested or involved with the Guide and Scout movement. The idea behind it is to show the guides and their leaders the purpose of amateur radio and the usefulness it can play in many countries around the world.

As a CLARA member (an ex Girl Guide and a Guide Leader), this February 19<sup>th</sup> I will be hosting the GOTA at Girl Guide House here in Moose Jaw along with my OM Harv, VE5AC. Harv is very important part of this exercise as he is needed to help with the antenna and setting up the portable station, and making sure that everything is set right, so I don't have to! The operators usually use the frequencies 3.733 or 3.933: 7.088 or 7.188: 14.133 or 14.188 or 14.280: and if we are lucky 21:980 and 28:980...(I am usually on the 20M) So if any of you hear "CQ CQ CQ GOTA, this is station, VE?????", please answer back, and the Girl Guides of Canada will really appreciate it. This also includes Guides from Great Britain and Girl Scouts of America. All these young ladies would love to talk and ask questions. I will be operating GOTA STATION, VE5ACJ Portable. Last year we had 92 contacts across Canada & the US. We were even very fortunate to make a contact in Chile. There are also some operators who use the Echo Link, and 2M so you have lots of different modes. This contest runs from February 19<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup>. By the way, this is the 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Girl Guides.( In the next issue, I will let you know how well we did).

Also if any hams out there have XYL's of YL's who are operators, and who wish to become CLARA members, please get hold of me at [ve5acj@rac.ca](mailto:ve5acj@rac.ca), or phone me at 1-306-693-6127 and we will get you squared away. CLARA also has a Contest for members and their Spouses in March around St. Patrick's Day. A real

friendly and fun contest with some goodies. If interested, please give me a call, at the above number, and I can fill you in on the details.

I decided that I would go on a recruitment drive for SARL. So I emailed several ex-members, a letter and the membership form, several of whom are not in my area but sent them information anyways. The ones that I emailed are on the membership list but have not renewed since 2001.....lets just keep our fingers crossed that they will at least think about rejoining. So if some of you reps get a phone call about this crazy lady in Moose Jaw.....well now you know. I also mailed out a letter and form to approximately 31 other hams in Moose Jaw and area.

So maybe this might mean a few more members for SARL....

Now just as a gentle reminder to all out there....February 14<sup>th</sup> is coming up.....don't forget Valentine's Day.....

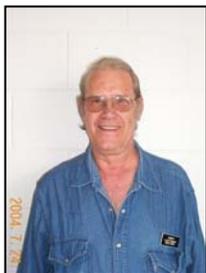
**Moose Jaw Amateur Radio Club** - No report given

**The Moose Jaw Pioneers Amateur Radio Club** - The club had a Christmas meeting December 15<sup>th</sup>, at Bonanza Steak House. There were 14 members and their spouse in attendance, and after a wonderful supper, a brief meeting was held. Then with all the names in a hat, a draw was made for a Digital Multi-meter. Gord Lowick, VE5GML was the lucky winner. Then the next 1 ½ hours were spent socializing. A wonderful evening was had by all.

The club has nothing much planned at the moment for the rest of the winter. Just general meetings. Spring will bring more activities.

## Prince Albert & Area

Wayne Thompson VE5DWT



The Lakeland Amateur Radio Association held their Christmas supper on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2004. This event was attended by approximately 30 amateurs and their families. The high point of the evening was the presentation of the Jim Bendle memorial plaque. This year it was awarded to Harry Heleta, VE5HFH.

All attending had a pleasant evening visiting with their fellow amateurs and guests.

The following is a letter from the Northern Saskatchewan Amateur Radio Club:

*The Northern Saskatchewan Amateur Radio Club wishes everyone a very happy new year on the Saskatchewan's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Prince Albert's birthday special event was a successful and enjoyable event. We made many contacts and most of the certificates requested have been sent out.*

*We had to shut down the auto patch on VE5PA in the Prince Albert area and wish to let everyone know there is an auto patch on 146.82. Randy VE5QU and group have offered the repeater and auto patch for anyone needing it and we thank him and the Lakeland group for that. Please listen to be sure its not being used, identify your needs, listen again and proceed.*

*The Blue Bell repeater is having trouble charging batteries. The rain in the fall has coated the solar panels and is restricting the charging. So the repeater is hit and miss. The repeater VE5RPA will be moved to its new home in the sprint complete with solar panels and batteries in April or May.*

*Ham classes are continuing.*

*The Christmas supper was very enjoyable. Some new faces and some well recognized.*

*We're wondering if any clubs are doing anything for Saskatchewan's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on September 8<sup>th</sup>?*

*Happy New Year, best 73, Harold Slack VE5BCS.*

## Saskatoon & Area

Devon Racicot VE5DWR



my area, so I figured why not!

This is my first submission as a director for the Saskatoon Area. I haven't bothered writing anything for this area of the newsletter, as I thought that I pretty well said all I have to say in my editorials. However, as a director one of my responsibilities is also to report on what is happening specifically in

As you know from my previous articles, the Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club and the Meewasin Amateur Radio Society are working together to host the 2005 provincial hamfest. The core committee is made up of about twelve volunteers who meet monthly, sometimes twice a month, to coordinate the groups efforts on planning. I think this has more or less occupied the clubs in

Saskatoon for the better part of the last year, and will for the foreseeable future.

Both clubs have also undertaken a joint repeater project that will hopefully be complete by the time hamfest is near. We are building two repeaters to take the place of the VE5SCA repeater at St. Pauls Hospital. The repeaters will be equipped with an auto patch and whatever else each club decides to do with their machine. Speaking from the MARS point of view, we will continue to provide IRLP service to the Saskatoon ham community and hopefully we'll see the rebirth of IPARN in the province. Derek Bereza VE5SD has been working on an HF remote, which is in experimental mode and will be on the VE5FUN repeater system. Currently, if you are a member of MARS and are licensed appropriately, you can have transmit access to this system. So far the Saskatchewan 80M net can be heard nightly at 7:00PM local time in receive mode on the VE5FUN repeater, 145.290 (-600).

ARES Saskatoon is beginning the 2005 training schedule. The group meets monthly at SFPS Fire Hall #9 on Attridge Drive in the training classroom. The next meeting is on February 21, 2005 and the topic is CPR and related tasks. Visit [www.ares-saskatoon.ca](http://www.ares-saskatoon.ca) for more information.

That's all for now! See you next issue.

### SARL Updates Website

The SARL is pleased to announce that the organization's website has been updated. New features include:

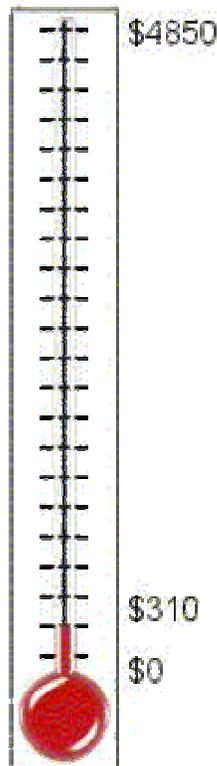
- *The QSO* – Archives
- *The QSO* – Online Extras
- Membership Applications & Information
- Award Information
- History Section (Being developed)
- Frequency Coordination Information
- Bulletin List Information
- Events Calendar
- Links of Interest

SARL is working towards a fully functional website where Saskatchewan amateurs can go to access a wealth of information on operating, events, meetings and other information. Please check back often and look for updates.

[www.sarl.ca](http://www.sarl.ca)

## CARC Fundraiser

Source: Canora Amateur Radio Club



We now have a 2<sup>nd</sup> communication system in place, to be able to aid, in any emergency situation that may require communication between Fire, Ambulance, Rescue, and R.C.M.P. Members. Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) is composed of licensed radio amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment for communications duty in the public service, when disaster strikes. The District Emergency Coordinators for Saskatchewan can be located at <http://www.rac.ca> or <http://www.canora.com/carc>, or by contacting any amateur radio operators.

Below is a link of one of many situations, that amateur radio operators in the province have been used, to help out in a disaster, along with a current list of all Saskatchewan District Emergency Coordinators.

The Canora amateur Radio club has just finished installing a 2<sup>nd</sup> Repeater located in the City of Melville. The new repeater has given us a wider area of coverage that can be used, if needed for emergency communications. We want to install a continuous link between the two repeaters, and also tie into the existing network of Amateur Radio Repeaters in the Province, which requires more funding of course, along with many volunteer hours. We as a group are asking for your support, we will be collecting funding from now till spring 2005, when hopefully the new equipment can be purchased and installed

For further information, visit:

<http://www.canora.com/carc/fundraiser.html>

### Canora Amateur Radio Club

<http://www.canora.com/carc/>

## RAC Morse Code Proposal - Update

Source: RAC Bulletin Service



RAC has been receiving questions about the status of the Industry Canada response to the RAC Proposal on Morse Code and Related Matters. Interest centres on whether Industry Canada has come to a decision on retaining or deleting the Morse Qualification for access to the HF bands below 30MHz.

In response to the RAC proposal, Industry Canada decided to seek public comment on the proposal last August. The period for comment on Gazette Notice DGRB-003-04 expired on 20 October, 2004. At the CARAB meeting on 28 October, Industry Canada advised that they were reviewing the comments and that they hoped to publish a summary and the actual comments on their Strategis web site by Christmas. They have missed that the target. Nothing is on the Strategis web site as of today, 6 January.

Even when the summary and responses are posted on Strategis, Industry Canada will still have to make its decision on whether to implement all, some or none of the RAC proposal. A decision until the spring, perhaps April, seems unlikely.

As soon as Industry Canada posts the comments, summary and any other information, RAC will put out a bulletin and also will post a notice on the Latest News page on this web site.

Thanks to Vice President Regulatory Affairs Jim Dean, VE3IQ

## Mobile Ham Info – WAP Database

The QSO Staff

Excerpt from RAC Website:

*Wireless Application Protocol is a feature of some of the latest cellular telephones and facilitates internet browsing. RAC is pleased to announce that WAP-enabled cell phone users now may access the Canadian Call Sign Database directly from their cell phone through a site developed by Pontus Hedman - VE3RPH. Simply enter the following URL into your cell phone:*

<http://www.hedman.ca/cgi-bin/cs>

Interested hams might want to know that you can also access the IRLP status pages from your WAP enabled cellular phone. Simply navigate to:

<http://wap.irlp.net/>

From this site, you can look up a single node or reflector and obtain details on the frequency and PL tones that are used. This is a great tool for traveling to other areas of the province and country.

Although you may have a web capable cellular phone, you likely will have to subscribe to web service which usually means a monthly charge depending upon your service provider. Make sure you read the fine print on your agreement as well. Most providers also bill you for airtime when connected to the web.

Happy WAPing?!?

## Moose Jaw Annual Flea Market Saturday April 2, 2005

Breakfast: 8AM  
Doors Open: 9AM

Church of Our Lady  
566 Vaughn Street W  
Moose Jaw

Admission: \$2 per person, Tables: \$5 each.

GPS: 50° 22' 21"N/105° 22' 33"W

More Info: <http://geocities.com/ve5ma/fmkt.htm>

