

# QSO



## Editor's Ramblings:

**F**irst off, I want to wish everyone a very Happy and Healthy New Year. Also for those of you who follow the Chinese Calendar, it is the Year of the Snake. I am always checking out the Chinese New Year as it is quite fascinating as to what things mean.

Now if you are lucky enough to be born in the year of the Snake, which includes the following years: 1905, 1917, 1929, 1941, 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989 and 2001 ancient Chinese wisdom says a Snake in the house is a good omen because it means your family will not starve. This could be taken metaphorically to mean that a Snake could never have a problem with his family starving because he is such a great mediator, making him good at business. Or it could mean that a Snake would be willing to sacrifice his possessions, something the Snake has a lot of, in order to pay for his family's food. Anyway it is interpreted is representative of the Snake's character and is a measure of the value he puts on his material wealth.

The Snake is keen and cunning, quite intelligent and wise. The Snake is the intuitive, introspective, refined and collected of the Animal Signs. They are attractive people who take life with ease and do not become flustered easily. They are

graceful people, exciting and dark at the same time. They often have a good temper and a skill at communicating but say little. Ok, now back to the business of SARL. I have finally gotten everything on the new website and your comments, concerns and feedback are greatly appreciated. Bruce may be the webmaster and I the assistant, but this is your website, and if there is something you would like to have put on, please don't hesitate to contact us. I would like to put on a Photo Gallery and although I have a few older pictures, perhaps some of you would like to submit pictures for this. I plan on putting in what is called a slider. This takes up less room, but allows us to put on more pictures. If you have lots of pics, you could put them on a CD and mail it off to me, or, you can send them direct via email, but please do not resize, as all the pics must be the same size for the slider show. Let's make this website something to be up-to-date and interesting. Bruce and I can not do it alone, we need everyone's help. Lastly, we really need everyone to help with the QSO. If you have interesting stories, or articles that you know our members would enjoy reading, please send them either to your area rep so he/she can send it on to me, or, send it directly to me. My email address is on the website. Thanks so much.

**73 Val, VE5ACJ**



## Report from the North-East: SARL North-East Director

The North-East section usually boasts a good representation when it comes to the evening 80 metre net's checkers in but recently has been a very quiet area when it comes to VHF activity. The Tisdale repeater has lost its final amplifier section. Replacement is awaiting Norm's (VE5NK) return from a warm place. Right now, running on its driver only, it is still useable within a 10 km radius of Tisdale, but that's about all. Melfort's repeater continues to suffer from a severe hearing deficiency and, as it has served long and well, deserves to retire. One of these days, it should be replaced by a younger and more virile transceiver. Nipawin's system seems to be working well and while the three machines are normally linked, should be serving a fairly large area and a lot of holders of Amateur Radio certificates - 56 at last count. (We don't actually have licences any more, we have certificates) However, I suspect that most of the hams have joined the squirrels and gone into semi-hibernation. A call on the system usually makes you wonder if someone stole your antenna. Two metre chatter generally doesn't exist. Have we all turned into short wave listeners? Are we too busy with our computers? Or, perhaps we are, instead, enjoying the delights of

XE and places like that?

Considering what the winter has been like so far, that is probably the most attractive solution.

What should we be doing, now? As we are approaching the peak on the current solar cycle, we should be enjoying the 15 metre and 10 metre bands.

Unfortunately, openings are still few and unpredictable. The sun doesn't seem to be doing what it is supposed to do every 11 years.

We might begin to gather together surplus equipment to take to the spring flea market. Yes, this would be a good time to weed through the equipment in preparation. All the best,

**Bj. Madsen - VE5FX**

*This next article was submitted by one of our SARL Members. For those of you who do not get the Guywire Newsletter, here is the article: Thanks so much for sending this for inclusion of the QSO Hugh, we really appreciate it.*

### **Amateur Radio - A Thing of the Past or Fun for the Future**

There are a lot of folks out there that think that Amateur radio is indeed a thing of the past. When you mention that it's your hobby, you often hear people say they thought it didn't even exist anymore. It has always seemed strange to me that the big companies like Yaesu and ICOM would keep on discontinuing product lines and replacing them with more sophisticated and expensive lines for a shrinking market. It would also follow that if this were the case, there would be companies leaving the market, but on the contrary, we are now seeing new companies springing up and entering the Amateur Radio Market.

These people are in the business of making money. It's highly unlikely this is going on just to satisfy a bunch of old people with an outdated hobby.

This is what Geoff Bawden VE4BAW, President of Radio Amateurs of Canada had to say at the 2012 Annual General Meeting.

"I plagiarize Dickens when I say that this is the best of times and the worst of times for Amateur Radio operators around the world and here at home in Canada. When we look around the world we see a growth in the number of Amateur Radio operators. In Canada, as of this June, there are 62,293 Amateur call signs and this number continues to climb. This is despite the existence of technologies, which compete for the attention of the public and potential future Amateur Radio operators. The Internet is supplanting short wave and indeed AM radio as a means of broadcast communication. Cell phones have eliminated mobile Amateur Radio's virtual monopoly on civilian mobile communication. Computers have challenged radio as the major electronic plaything and subject of personal experimentation. The public views radio as the quaint technology and Amateur Radio as the province of old codgers. Yet Amateur Radio manages to survive and even grow. Why? I suggest four factors for Canada (not in any order): camaraderie, access, technological and intellectual challenge, and civic duty. World growth can be attributed to the foregoing and to the growth in prosperity of the Third World giants such as China. Let me briefly expand.

**Camaraderie:** there is a strong

social basis to Amateur Radio;

**Access:** you can be any age and virtually any physical condition to be an Amateur; also access in another sense in that the practice of Amateur Radio can be from the relatively simple to the incredibly complex;

**Intellectual challenge:** there are a multitude of technologies that can challenge the ham – from crystal radios to microwave communication, from moon-bounce to foxhunting, from CW to digital.

**Civic duty:** there are many Amateurs who work hard to help their communities during community events and public disasters."

The above was a portion of the complete address published in the Nov./Dec. edition of TCA magazine.

Here's part of another paragraph taken from the same issue. It's from the opening paragraph of a report on contest results by Sam Ferris and Bart Ritchie.

"Participation in the 2011 edition of the RAC Canada Winter Contest was up from all previous years with a total of 654 entries received. This, as far as is known, is an all time record for entries." They also report that five new records had been established in several categories.

Now is this an indication that Amateur Radio is about to disappear in favour of new technology? It doesn't appear so. Also it doesn't appear that there needs to be a gigantic crusade to recruit new Hams

There are many out there that have always had it in the back of their minds to become an operator but just need that bit of incentive to get on with it. If clubs make sure to publicize the fact that they are holding classes for potential

amateurs there's little doubt that they will come out of the woodwork as they did in Regina last year.

### 73 Hugh VE5HWH



#### South West Area

It's hard to believe that one month of 2013 has already

gone by, although it is the month that I like the least. I can't seem to get excited about the short days, dark mornings, dark evenings and cold temperatures at this time of year, but I am starting to see a difference and am looking forward to spring. At the time of writing this, we had a very stormy day yesterday(29th) and it looked like the arctic around here.

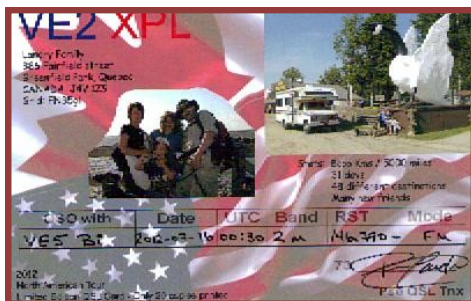
So far I have been quite busy around here catching up with all the things that I never seemed to get done when I was working full time. Someone told me that I would be busier after I retired than when I was working and I think that someone is right. I am really enjoying the daytime hours to go on the ham radio every now and then to see who's out there.

The HF bands have been quite active most days and I have been able to work into Northern Europe, Great Britain, France and Africa. Conditions have also been quite good into parts of South America as well on 10, 15, and 20 meters. I really enjoy having my 4 element beam with rotator to work some of



this DX. I am including a photo of my installation which so far has survived the wind that we get down here.

The other day I received a limited edition QSL card in the mail (only 20 printed) from a family that lives in Quebec and was on tour with their motor home. I have inserted it here. I was lucky enough to work this station 2 meter mobile while I



was returning home, We actually passed each other some where between Swift Current and Waldeck. This is my very first 2 meter QSL card.

While on the Ham note VE5XRA (Ray) tells me that he is tutoring 2 young people for their ham exam which is good. We need encourage interest in our hobby, and hopefully we will hear them on the air soon.

### 73 Ken VE5BI



#### From the Desk of the President

Some writers have pointed out that here in Canada, we do talk about the weather quite a bit. For example, talk about how early it gets dark in December and now that January has passed, how nice it is to still have daylight into early evening. While not strictly weather observations, the length of day and night do have a dramatic effect on the other facets of weather. It is at this time of year I

often think of the folks living near the Arctic coast, where the sun doesn't even rise above the horizon for over a month.

We do notice this change as well by the "band conditions" on the 80 metre net. By net time (1900 Central) in December, the band is already into nighttime mode and often we cannot hear the people closest to us. With the lengthening evenings we have mostly good (short skip) conditions in the early evening and that works best for net gatherings.

Another month and we will be experiencing the occasional warm day and that of course will cause one to think of Ham gatherings. The first large one on the calendar would be the Moose Jaw flea market. Traditionally it happens in early April and rumour has it that there will be time for a general meeting of SARL. There should be more information in this issue of QSO.

Thanks to the kindness of its editor, I have been on the mailing list for Regina's Guywire publication for the past few issues. The Regina Amateur Radio Association has been distributing their publication to members on line. RARA has also invited readers of other Amateur Radio related publications to identify articles and letters that might be of general interest to the readers. After acquiring permission from the authors, these pages are submitted to the Guywire editor. Congratulations to the Guywire executive for the innovation and the addition of wider perspective that benefits all readers.

**Bad Behavior?** The February 2013 issue of CQ magazine has something for everyone as is usually the case, but Riley

Hollingsworth's rant on operating etiquette is really a gem. Most of us have had a bad experience while operating some band or other or perhaps even on two metre FM locally. Riley mentions an article in May 2007 of QST magazine by David Sumner on this same topic. That article contained harsh social commentary but described many of the "episodes" of on the air conflict we have all heard. Riley's theme is "lighten up", after all this is a hobby and there is plenty of space for everyone and if not, the band will be less crowded tomorrow and you will have had time to think it over. This page alone is well worth looking up the magazine on the newsstand. I would have Riley's Rant printed on the first page of every Amateur Radio training manual.

Thanks, Riley, and David, you have written it so much better than we could have.

See you at Moose Jaw in April,

**73 Gordon, VE5UJ**



**Regina and Area**

Well February 2nd is Ground Hog Day so lets hope Gainer (a.k.a.) ground hog

does not see his shadow.

Also February is some what a busy month for RARA as the Club is providing the communications for Scouts Klondike Hike is on February 2nd with Scouts from all around joining in on the fun. The Regina Amateur Radio Classes are planned for 2013 Plans are finalized for the 2013 Amateur Radio Classes. Rick, VE5RJR will be taking the lead instructor roll again. We will be running classes for Basic

Qualification only this session.

**73 Bob VE5LTD**

**RARA Radio Classes**

**DATES:** Saturday - February 9th, 2013. Classes will run for 13 weeks, which will include a "Review / Q/A day" and culminating with your Amateur Exam on the final Saturday

**TIMES:** Classes begin at 9:30am and run until 1:30pm with a break about halfway through each day

**LOCATON:** Daniel Dion's classroom at Ecole Monseigneur de Laval Pavilion Secondaire, 1440 9th Avenue North.

**COST:** \$50.00 per student and includes the training guide.

**CONTACT:** RARA at ve5rara@gmail.com or

**Rick Rickwood** - 306-545-9158 - ve5rjr at sasktel dot net

**Harvey Drinkle** at 306 924 1004

If you know of anyone interested in taking the classes, please contact the above.



**WANTED:**

A collector in B.C. is looking for a 1967 (Canada's Centennial) a 1955 and /or 2005 (Sask Centennial) ham license plates (any call letters). He will pay for each plus all expenses for shipping. Please contact Brian Murphy 778-386-9111 in Vancouver or me (Val )



**Hi to everyone from Saskatoon and area**

Well 2013 is upon us. Hope that everyone had a wonderful

Christmas and is keeping well. The Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club is again teaching Ham classes. There are 7 students this year. Ron, VA5RJJ is the coordinator and has been doing a terrific job making a power point presentation for the lessons. Peter VE5JZ has been sending Morse code instruction Monday thru Friday after the SARC net at 8:00 P.M.

On **February 16th** the club will be having a Valentines social. Now this is being held two days after Valentines Day so that those who usually forget Valentines Day can make amends. There will be dessert, coffee and a door prize for the xyl/yys. There are members of our amateur community that are not amateurs and this is an evening for them also. We need to remember that those people that chose to not get their Ham license but are in a household where amateur radio "rules" are just as or more important then the radio!!! Now that statement may get me in trouble with a few of the dedicated amateurs on this readers list.

An ARISS contact is in the planning stages for Valley Manor School in Martensville. This will be happening between March 11th and 17th. One of the grade six classes will be participating and 8 to 10 students will be asking questions. The March contact will be carried via streaming audio over the internet, on the Discovery Reflector and XRF005A(D-Star). They will have the 146.970 VE5CC repeater

## **Moose Jaw ARC Spring Flea Market**

**DATE:** 20 Apr 2013

**LOCATION:** WDM Moose Jaw

**TIME:** 0800 vendors( maybe a wee bit earlier)  
0900 buyers

**ENTRANCE FEE:** \$5.00 AND it gets you a free table. Extra tables \$5.00

**DOOR PRIZES:** ,There will be a 50/50 draw and a prize table. Tickets for both \$2.00 each / 3 for \$5.00

**COFFEE & DONUTS** will be available

**ARG Meeting follows**

**We don't have a website, We have only word of mouth at moment so please spread the word. Thanks - Barry VE5TRF**

**TALK-IN FREQ:**

146.34 / 94 & 146.52

**CONTACT:**

**Barry VE5TRF**

[ve5trf at sasktel.net](mailto:ve5trf@sasktel.net)

or phone: 306-691-5254

Cell: 1-306-631-5112

Or

**Brenda VE5TRG**

[ve5trg at sasktel.net](mailto:ve5trg@sasktel.net)

**Hope to see you there!**

connected for the contact so those amateurs in repeater range can listen in. The technical team for this event includes VE5DWR, VA5LF, VE5STAC2GK,, VE5SD, VE5UO ,VE5VS and VE5PNQ. Radio Amateurs of Canada has given permission for the team to use the call sign VE5RAC. The team, teachers and students are excited about this "once in a lifetime" opportunity.

In April or May Bruce VE5BNC and his team are planning to launch another balloon. It is always interesting to watch and observe the distance that these balloon travel. The payload for this balloon has not been announced yet. Well we are looking forward to spring but the snow has to melt first. We have an abundance of the white stuff so any antennae work will have to wait for a while.

**73 Doris VE5DJQ**



**Prince Albert & North**

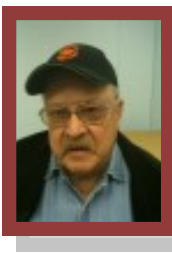
Just a short report this time around.

We have lots and lots of snow. The club is not very active but

we do have 2 new members.

There will be no ham classes this year.

**73 Harry VE5HAE**



**SE Saskatchewan**

Well guess I should let folks know that outside the city of Estevan we have lots and lots of snow, but

come into the city and you wonder where it all disappeared too. Usually we have so much in our back alleys, that one has to decide on which rut to drive in, but this

year, if we have 2 inches of the white stuff we are lucky.

We had a storm on Feb 2nd and then it was gone. We had an 18 wheeler accident in the middle of town. He just jacked-knifed and folded in half and then tipped over so that sort of caused a big stir. It is so nice to hear all the SE check-ins on the nets. Way to go guys, keep it up. The 146.82 was off the air, and then without any interference of human hands it all of a sudden started working again. Don't know for how long, but at the moment it is working. Now for a brief report on the fellow hams in the SE Region.

Blair VE5BAM went down to Bismarck, ND probably for a shopping trip. He is working for SPC doing training manuals for them (someone has to teach the young pups how to do things properly). Blair has finally finished his Spitfire- car that is. And is working on another vehicle. He is the treasurer of the Estevan Antique Car Club.

Ron VE5REJ and his lovely XYL just came back from a trip to Cuba. While down there he is also a Rep for a tour guide outfit. Sources tell me that his XYL has a much nicer tan to look at that Ron's. Here in town, Ron sells wheelchairs and walkers.

Murray VE5XO has been working on a couple of his snow-planes and he has 1 that is ready to go. Wonder if he will ask me to go for a ride with him. Also Murray has decided that he can not cook. Mind you he does make great peanut butter cookies.

Gray VE5GC is really into contesting, but he won't tell me what contest he is currently working on. Gray has coffee with



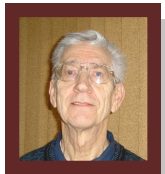
a group of storytellers, but has a real problem cause when he tells stories, he tells nothing but the truth, the whole truth, not like the other guys.

Ruth VE5ABW really enjoys herself when she goes to babysits 3x a week and the other 2 days a week she is taking guitar lessons  
Larry, VE5AJ is still doing Aqua exercise and is doing real well.

Myself, I still teach 3 days a month at the mines teaching steam engineering. I also really enjoy my coffee times. I actually have too many coffee groups, cause I go out a minimum of 3x per day. You can usually find me at the A&W or at the Homestead Restaurant, mornings and evenings—just not late evening, other wise the coffee will keep me awake.

That's all for this time folks, take care and drive safe,

73 **Marv VE500**



### **Moose Jaw & Area**

So far we have had 2 feet of snow and 1 inch of rain, so that is our limit for the year.

The ground hogs predict an early summer, so start polishing the air seeders and planning the new antenna projects.

The next Pioneers Seniors Club supper is February 12th, so please try to attend. We meet at Humpty's Family Restaurant on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 5:00pm. So if you are around MJ at that time, please don't be shy, come on in and join us.

Our next big event will be on March 23rd and 24th at the WDM for the Thunder Creek Model Train Show. Our club will be doing security for them, just watching out so sticky little fingers don't snatch any of those models. So start

practicing how to look inconspicuous, and also have the power pack on your 2m rig charged up.

Our world travellers, Gordon VE5GML and his lovely YL Maxine VE5MAX have been so nice to send us an email saying what a wonderful time they are having. They send this report:

We made it thorough the heavily guarded Suez Canal without seeing any pirates. Security on the ship has also been heavy as we cruised past Egypt, Somalia and Iran. Along with the mounted fire hoses and noise generators, they keep the ship as dark as possible by turning out the outside lights and asking guests to close their curtains. This will continue until we leave India.

Thursday and Friday, we visited Dubai and Saturday, Abu Dhabi. Both ports were very modern and clean, unlike the port of Safaga, Egypt. One lady called Safaga a -20 on a scale of 1-10.

We now have 3 sea days ro rest up before we arrive in India on the 6th. We will write in more detail about our ports of call when we get home. They are so very sorry to hear about our snow and cold, but they don't miss it in the least.

Thanks so much for the email Gordon and Maxine, we will see you when you get home. That's if for this time folks. If you are driving anywhere please be careful on the roads. I know that we as radio operators are allowed to use the rigs, but in saying that, always drive with care and caution. It's not your driving we are worried about, it's the other idiots on the road.

73 **Harv VE5AC**



### **Secretary's Report**

Well, finally I get to say the last word. My goodness a lot of good news happening out there this time

around.

First off, I don't want anyone to feel that because they are not directors for SARL, that they can not submit an article or photos. That is not the case and I have it on good authority from the Editor, that if you think it's good enough to read, then it's good enough for our members, so please don't be shy, send your info to Val and she will be more than happy to include it in the upcoming issues of the QSO.

Now at this time, we do not have a club offering to do the Hamfest this coming summer. So I talked to the president and we have decided that a "JUST INCASE" scenario happens, we will be having our AGM in April at the MJARC flea market. I have booked a room, and the meeting will start at 11:00 AM. That way we should be able to be finished by 12:00 PM or 12:30 at the latest. Then you can all go to the feeding stations for lunch. Now if a club informs me by April 1st that they will do the Hamfest, then we will cancel the AGM until the summer. Besides, it seems that we always have a full contingent of SARL members at the Spring flea market.

If you have had the chance to check out our newly formatted website, you will notice that there are not many pictures on it. I would very much like to add more, but you must send them to me. Just like last QSO, please do not resize. Also do you have any events or meetings that you would like to get the word out to folks. Well, just

send me the details, making sure that I have date, time, location, and contact person, and I will get it put on the site. This is YOUR website, not SARL's. It will only be as current as you help Bruce and I keep it. If there are any mistakes or something not correct, please let me know asap so that I can fix it up. Thanks so much.

On the lighter side, my OM is blaming me that the snowblower is getting heavier every year and says I must be putting weights on it. So tell me, when did the woman become to blame when one gets older? Good thing I can take a joke. He said the same thing with the chainsaw until I finally gave up and bought him a lighter one this past summer.

Now he can't blame me, cause even I can lift it.



Ok, time to switch hats here again As a net controller, I try to make this a perfect hobby and a perfect world. Now onto my soap-box. For my beef of the month. Since our Sask Net is on 3.735 Khz, it bugs me when others operate on 3.733 and 3.737. It has always been a gentlemen's agreement that if someone is on 3.735, you should operate on 3.732.5 or 3.737.5. Fellow hams— this is not rocket science. Page 1 of your Radio manual tells you that 2.4 Khz is the bandwidth or pass-band of your rigs crystal filter. We could all operate in *Harmony* if everyone followed the 2.5 rule. The Ontario crew on 33 and the Montana cowboys on 37 make it difficult. Maybe IC should go back to the 5 part exam like I had to pass for Amateur and Advanced, and these "Newbies" would get some good education. So that's my blurb from

the M.J. soapbox, next time I will try Hyde Park.

### 73 Val VE5ACJ

**The Ham & the Lady Psychologist** : by Fred Ebel (some not-so-productive research)

The forward gain of the stacked blonde at the door made neon lights out of my eyes. After a series of gulps, I stammered an invitation to come in.

"Are you the radio ham?" she asked in dulcet tones.

"Yes-s-s," I said guardedly, ready to give my lecture on why hams are unjustly accused of TVI. "Why don't we go into the ham shack," I added, sounding more like an old roué than the conservative individual that I am.

"I suppose you are wondering why I'm here," as she looked into my eyes and pinned my biological s-meter.

"I'm Dr. Susan Sweetie from *Tell It Like It Is* magazine. We deal in the psychology of human behavior and the editors thought it would be interesting to interview a radio ham on just why he is a ham. The local amateur radio club suggested you, and here I am."

"Well, Sweetie-I mean Dr. Sweetie-go right ahead and ask me anything." She started her cassette tape recorder and said, "Now what started you in ham radio?:

"fascination," I said, looking into her warm brown eyes, "I was absolutely fascinated by the idea that I could talk through the air without wires,"

"so, you were motivated by the aura of mystery?"

"Yeah! I guess so."

"Any other reasons for being a ham?:

"Yes. Pride. Radio amateurs are respected." I straightened my shoulders. "It takes ability to pass FCC code and theory examination."

"Hmmm. Gratification of the ego with overtones of narcissism."

I frowned.

She looked at me as one does at a slow-thinking individual. "Don't be alarmed. The real reason behind one's actions are often disguised. Now please continue."

"Well, I think another big reason I'm a ham is because I like to fish."

"A piscatorial complex. How interesting!"

Now she had me with a complex.

What next? "It's like this," I said.

"Your lure is a CQ call which you cast out from the rod which is the beam antenna. Now, you never know what kind of "fish" will strike at your bait. It could be a small bass, a muskie, or a tarpon on the other side of the world. That's what makes it interesting-you never know whether you're going to hook someone a hundred miles away or eight thousand miles away."

She leaned forward, eyes aglow.

"Would you say that you're hooked by this facet of ham radio?"

I laughed. "Yeah! I sure am."

She squealed with delight. "This is simply wonderful. I can hardly wait to report this to the psychology society. I'll call it the Waltonian syndrome."

I looked sideways at her.

"Syndrome? That sounds like I'm sick."

She apparently didn't hear me.

"Here," she said, pointing to the

couch, "why don't you lie down. You'll have better free association." I jumped up. "What is this-a psychoanalysis?"

"Come," she said, leading me to the couch, "you'll be able to think much more clearly."

The glow was still in her eyes and I thought it was best to humor her.

"There, there," she said like a mother to a small son. "Now tell me about your hostilities."

"My hostilities!" I raised my head but she pushed me down.

"Yes. Let's regress to your childhood. Tell me about your father. Did you hate him?"

"I don't think so. He was a nice guy. One funny thing, though."

"Yess!" The eyes were even more ecstatic.

"He got a bad electric shock once and didn't want me to fool around with any electrical stuff. You know, bells, lights, and-"

"That's it! That's it!" she screamed.

"You took up ham radio because your father repressed your normal desire for things electrical."

I inched away from her. The attraction I initially felt was disappearing as she bent over me like a vampire.

"Hatred of father resulting in a compulsion neurosis or obsession for ham radio," she said into the microphone of the tape recorder.

Then speaking to me "oh, this is the happiest day of my life.

Neuroses, complexes, obsessions, hostilities. You're just filled with them!?"

"You got it all wrong," I said, "I like ham radio. It's fun. What other hobby brings the world into your home? Here" I waved my log book under her eyes, "look at all

the different people I've talked to in the last few days. A doctor, a missionary, a salesman, an Antarctic scientist, a businessman in his airplane, mobiles, ships, even a submarine!"

She grabbed the recorder microphone tighter, spoke excitedly, "Patient evidences sublimation, received gratification in ham radio without physical association."

I jumped off the couch. "No physical association? I've met many of these hams. I stayed a week with a ham's family in England, a month with a ham in Australia, and I intend to marry a girl ham!"

She didn't hear. Instead she uttered terms I didn't understand into the microphone. It was obvious I had become a patient instead of an interviewee.

"Please," she said. "lie down again. You were having such wonderful free associations."

"NO! I want to tell you more about the wonders of ham radio. Can you name a hobby where friendships are made so quickly? Where with the exchange of "handles" you are friends on a first-name basis. Why a twelve-year old youngster can call a senator or a company president by his first name? Here, let me demonstrate."

I turned on the rig. The 20 meter band was jumping and I soon worked a ham in London. We exchanged reports and handles.

"You see," I said, "we've talked only two minutes and already I'm Bill and he's Byron."

Dr. Sweetie seemed impressed; but there was a glint in her eye that suggested she was working on some new theory.

I decided to show her another facet of ham radio. "Most ham QSO's or conversations are nothing more than an exchange of reports. But look what happens when we mention our work. It was my turn to transmit. "Thanks for the fine report Bryon, by the way I'm in electronics. What do you do?" He came back with the wish that he knew more about electronics, and then he dropped a bomb, "about the work here, old man, "I'm a psychoanalyst."

Dr. Sweetie's big eyes became even bigger. Here was my chance to capitalize on coincidence and at the same time demonstrate one of the most unusual features of ham radio, "I have a surprise for you," I came back, "I've got a Dr. Susan Sweetie, a beautiful girl psychologist in the shack."

"Wonderful!" he said. "maybe she would like to discuss my latest research project-dream interpretation. "I gave her the mike and that was the last time I had it until I signed one hour later. What a QSO those two had! The terminology made my head spin-unconscious fantasies, Oedipus complex, punishment fantasies, symbolism, Nirvana principle-to name a few that I remember. When I finally signed, I looked around. Dr. Sweetie was rushing toward the door. "Wait!" I yelled. "I want to tell you about one of the greatest things in ham radio."

"Can't," she said, her face aglow, "Bryon wants me to come visit him as soon as I finish this report. He needs an assistant."

Before I could open my mouth, she was gone. Too bad. I wanted to tell her about the hams that meet YLs on the air and get married.