



# The QSO

April/May 2005

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

Volume 2005, Issue 2

## President's Message

Derek Bereza VE5SD - President



Spring is finally here and thoughts of antenna rebuilding and experimentation, without freezing your hands, is now a reality! It never fails for me, I am always contemplating and changing my antennas around the hamshack. This summer I may finally put up a self-supporting tower (I have had it for a few years) and take down my 50 foot guyed tower, or perhaps, two towers...hmmm....

This summer SARL is having their AGM in Saskatoon at the Centennial Hamfest, I hope you plan to attend! At the AGM, there will be some Constitutional changes to be voted on to improve the organization. We are therefore soliciting any changes from members to be included with ones' the executive have come up with. In the next issue of the QSO, we plan to print these proposed changes to give you some "heads-up" on these changes. Very soon we will be handing over the financial records to be audited by a professional, and no doubt we will be coming forward with some recommended changes, like combining the recording secretary and financial secretary as one position, and perhaps computerizing the accounting.

(continued, See: *President - Page 3*)

## UK Hams face deregulation threat

Source: Radio Society of Great Britain Website



At a meeting between the RSGB and Ofcom which took place on 25 March, Ofcom's Deputy Chairman, Richard Hooper, assured the RSGB that deregulation of amateur radio was not an option that Ofcom were considering at this time. Despite these assurances the RSGB remains unconvinced.

Ofcom is committed under the Telecommunications Act 2003 to ease the regulatory burden wherever possible. The RSGB would argue that changing the expiry date on the amateur license will not ease this burden, radio amateurs will still be required to hold a license, and the costs and administration involved in issuing that licence will still exist. Only deregulation will fulfill Ofcom's objective and that is why the RSGB remains skeptical of Ofcom's statement and position.

The meeting with Ofcom was productive. The RSGB team was well received and the Society's concerns

(continued, See: *Deregulation - 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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### Contact SARL

3922 Centennial Drive  
Saskatoon, SK S7L 5L1  
Web: <http://www.sarl.ca/>  
Executive: [sarl@sarl.ca](mailto:sarl@sarl.ca)  
QSO Submissions: [qso@sarl.ca](mailto:qso@sarl.ca)

## 2004 – 2005 Executive



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Derek Bereza VE5SD



**Vice President**  
Garry McCallum VE5PNQ



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Randy Westby VE5DFC



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## ***Deregulation***

*(Continued from Page 1)*

regarding deregulation and the proposal to issue a 'life time' licence were noted. It is the RSGB's understanding that the proposed consultation on the future of amateur radio licensing will now begin around the middle of April. A further meeting between the Society and Ofcom is planned after the publication of the consultation document.

A full statement on the RSGB position will be placed on the Society's website shortly and will appear in the May edition of *RadCom*.

## ***President***

*(Continued from Page 1)*

We are going to be of need of some members to take up the challenge of filling the different positions in the organization. Early indications show that, in the executive a few of the incumbents may not let their names stand if nominated. I too am contemplating on not letting my name stand for re-election as president, I have a young family that are now getting involved in a number of things, and I have a problem of not saying "no" and therefore have a quite a number of "irons in the fire" that take me in a number of different directions in ham radio and other organizations.

The president can only be president up to 3 years at a time, so if I was nominated and elected, it would be my last year anyway. So now would be a great opportunity for one of you to let your name stand for election as president or any of the other positions, for that matter.

Over the past two years we have tripled our membership base and have turned our organization around and have a bright future upon us. However, we are only as strong as our membership and our commitment. We need to have a core group of hams to take up the challenge of leadership and lead our organization in the years to come. Through mentorship and passing the "torch" around to the different areas in the province, perhaps we can have a succession plan in place that is fair and equitable and truly represents our members.

Take a moment and "IMAGINE"...the possibilities are endless, so what would you like to see our province have? Where would you like SARL to go? It is all of us that can make a difference, how about putting your name forward to join the team of SARL, and let us make our dreams a possibility!

## **From the Editor**

Devon Racicot VE5DWR

As I sit here and write this article, the weather outside is a beautiful plus twelve degrees, sunny with a bit of a breeze. It seems as if Spring has finally arrived after what seemed to me a terribly long Winter season.

We are entering into the busy season for family events, outdoor activities, yard work and of course, Ham Radio functions. The Moose Jaw Flea Market has been rescheduled to April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2005, so if you were unable to attend on the original date, you have another chance to do so.

I would like to thank amateurs across the province for their continued support and contributions to this newsletter. I have a core group of regular contributors now and I would like to see this group grow. You don't have to be a part of your local club or hold any type of club position but only a want to contribute.

As you know, the Saskatchewan Centennial Hamfest 2005 is drawing nearer and the hamfest committee has been working hard to create a program that will appeal to everyone. Learn more about hamfest plans later in this issue.

The SARL Executive was pleased to hear from a ham in Georgia a few weeks ago. He had purchased an abundance of SARL history related material on eBay in amongst other items, and contacted us regarding the return to the organization. So thanks to Jim Schliestett, K4AEK we are continuing in pursuit of archiving the history of the SARL and amateurs in the Province.

In this issue for the first time, we have added an online extra. Wayne Thompson VE5DWT has submitted an article on the Lakeland Amateur Radio Association volunteering to provide communications for the Northern Lights Canadian Challenge Dog Sled Races. Throughout this event, numerous photographs were taken by John Alexandersen, VE5JJA and they have been uploaded to the "Online Extra" portion of the SARL website. From this point on, whenever there is extra information added to the website when it doesn't all fit in *The QSO*, I will denote it with an "Online Extra" information bar such as what you see after this article.

I hope you get started on all of your Spring antenna projects soon, and make sure you plan to come to Saskatoon for the Saskatchewan Centennial Hamfest 2005. Remember to mark the dates July 22 to 24 on your calendar. See you in Saskatoon!

## **South East**

*Source: Kamsack Times, February 25, 2005*

Should an emergency arise and traditional means of communications be disrupted, the skills developed by a Kamsack man during more than 30 years as a ham radio operator, will be pressed into service.

Paul Obetkoff, a Kamsack native who returned to his home community in (1999) six years ago, after having retired from a career as a co-op manager, has been an amateur radio operator since acquiring his first licence in 1972.

A member of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), Obetkoff is the service's Saskatchewan emergency coordinator and is a member of the Canora Amateur Radio Club, which is obtaining funds from district communities to allow its members to swing into action, if and when the need arises.

At its regular meeting last week, town council, accepting a recommendation of its Emergency Measures Organization, approved a donation of \$100.00 to the club.

The funds from Kamsack and other communities will allow the club to be in a position, so that members, in an emergency will be able to provide communication for fire, ambulance, police and rescue personnel

Discussing his hobby on Tuesday while sitting at his desk in a room especially devoted to amateur radio in his Decorby Street home, Obetkoff provides an overview of what can be and has been done with equipment such as his.

Using equipment valued at \$5,000.00 to \$6,000.00, Obetkoff explains how he maintains communications with other amateur radio operators and volunteers to be a resource for such organizations as Environment Canada, which during times of inclement weather, relies on amateur radio operators to provide and disseminate information.

He is able to recount several incidents in the past 30 years, in which amateur radio operators were indispensable in emergency situations.

Obetkoff explains how, if needed, his equipment can be taken from his home to his vehicle and out to the field, to provide communication service.

In addition to promoting amateur radio in the district, Obetkoff and the Canora club raise the funds for new equipment and for upgrades to existing equipment; aim to raise awareness of amateur radio emergency services; communicate with emergency measures personnel for improvement towards a more reliable communication system, and encourage other persons interested in becoming amateur radio operators

A trained group of amateur radio operators willing to assist emergency services and municipal agencies, ARES members are specialists in various forms of communication modes from, computerized packet radio, long distance high frequency voice and Morse code, UHF and VHF voice and even amateur television, the club's letter to town council said. To be an amateur radio operator, Industry Canada requires that individuals pass examinations in technical and regulatory competence.

Club members come from various walks of life including police, fire, and ambulance services, doctors, nurses, lawyers, radio and computer technicians and former military officers, it said. "In, exercise situations, we find ourselves being radio resource persons for officials in command post and control group locations."

Communications are often cited as the weakest link in the command and control component of an emergency, it said. In emergency situations, traditional systems become overloaded or are disabled, and groups who normally don't need radio communications, such as social services, need it.

## **Moose Jaw & Area**

Val Lemko, VE5ACJ

### **Girl Guides Remember Thinking Day**

On Saturday, February 19, 2005, the Moose Jaw Pioneers Amateur Radio Club along with CLARA member Val Lemko, helped the Girl Guides out with GOTA (Girl Guides on the Air). Val, VE5ACJ operated a Ham Radio station at Guide House in River Park.

This year we could not top the 60 girls we had in attendance last year. The Girl Scout troop from Billings, Montana could not make it this year due to logistic problems.

The girls that participated had a great time talking to other girls in the movement. Contacts were made coast to coast in Canada and USA. Due to Ionospheric conditions, the girls could hear stations in England and Barcelona, but they could not make contact.

CLARA as the official sponsor of GOTA is the Canadian Ladies Amateur Radio Association and started this special project in 1985. Val said that the idea is to show

the guides and their leaders the purpose and usefulness of the Ham Radio hobby.

GOTA is held the closest weekend to February 22<sup>nd</sup>, which is Thinking Day and falls during the week when Girl Guides of Canada celebrate the birthdays of their founders. It is a special thrill for them to communicate with other members of the movement.

A good time was had by all who attended. Any of the girls that were "mic" shy at the beginning did very well after a few minutes, and will have their own "QSL" card from every contact in a few weeks.

Val would like to express her thanks to the members of her club who provided equipment, put up antennas, and a very big bouquet to the City of Moose Jaw that plowed the roads in River Park, so that the parents would not get stuck. Without the Behind the scenes people this worthwhile venture could not happen.

### Moose Jaw Pioneers ARC

Well, spring is trying to arrive. Some days it is warm and the next it is cool. Oh well the joys of living in Saskatchewan. The Moose Jaw Pioneers Amateur Radio club is getting into the Spring Fling and will be exceptionally busy over the next little while. But first it is with great sadness that I must report the death of one of the founding members in Moose Jaw Ham Radio.

Al Davies, VE5AQ passed away March 13/05 just 4 days short of his 97<sup>th</sup> birthday. Al had been living in a care home in the Toronto area for the past 5 years, where he was close to his daughter and her husband. As most of you will recall, Al was very influential in Ham Radio, serving as an RCAF Radio Instructor in Montreal, and including it in his high school classes when he taught in Moose Jaw. Al was inducted into the Canadian Radio Amateur Hall of Fame in 1998. (See the Canadian Amateur Sept/Oct 2000 for more information. Most people will remember Al - VE5AQ from the Trans Canada Net.

The Pioneers start off in June with working at the Western Development Museum for **Learning Days June 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>**. Every year, there are over 500 students, teachers, and parents come through the doors and are fascinated with the things that come from the "Old Days"...the club will be in the "Wireless Room" and showing the children all the older radios and equipment. At the end of June, the club will be helping with parking for the **Centennial Open House at the WDM., June 30<sup>th</sup>**. In July, the WDM has the **Community Play Day and Thomas the Engine, July 16<sup>th</sup>** and we will be there helping with the parking..making sure everyone is going to have a good time. In August, the WDM holds the **Motorcycle Show and Shine, August 20<sup>th</sup>**, and our members will be out doing a BBQ to help feed the hungry crowds.....We also will be wearing our bright orange vests that were made by Marg Yaschuk....just so that we are very visible..... Who says...Old age is boring....???? We as seniors are just too busy to be bored.

## Prince Albert & Area

Wayne Thompson, VE5DWT

### Lakeland Amateur Radio Association Volunteers

On February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2005 the Lakeland Amateur Radio Association supplied communications for the Northern Lights Canadian Challenge sled dog races. This race was from Prince Albert to Lac La Ronge and back to the Spruce Home Trail Riders Arena, the Lakeland group supplied communications from Elk Ridge resort to Anglin Lake (land of the loon), to Clarine lake, to Christopher Lake corner, to North side and back to the Arena at Spruce Home. The Race consisted of 23 dog teams, 17 - 12 dog teams and 6 - 6 dog teams, 15 teams completed the race.



The Lakeland Amateur Radio Association had a base station setup at The Spruce Home Trail riders Arena and a check-point at Anglin Lake, also two cars doing

rover duty from Northside to Clarine Lake. We also had some of our members doing double duty as they helped out at crossing points on the highway when the race crews didn't have enough people to cover, the exercise took from 7:30 AM till the last operators left at 7:30 PM.

The people involved were: Roly VE5RO, Harry VE5HFH, John VE5JJA, Keith VE5HKC, Isaac VE5IKE, Tim VE5TJD, and Wayne VE5DWT.

**ONLINE EXTRA @ [www.sarl.ca](http://www.sarl.ca)**

### Christopher Lake Winter Festival

On Saturday, March 5, 2005 our group was asked by the organizers of the Christopher Lake Winter Festival to setup a display on amateur radio and advertise our association at the Christopher lake Legion Hall.

The display was from 9:00am to 3:30pm and we handed out pamphlets and made a few contacts using IRLP. We had several





people stop by our display asking about amateur radio and what the requirements are to become licensed. We had several people ask about the local repeater system and the IRLP network. In general, it was a good opportunity to advertise our association and spread the word about amateur radio. The amateur radio operators involved were, Randy "VE5QU", Wayne "VE5DWT", Tim "VE5TJD", Harry "VE5HFH", Bob "VE5MY" and Rolly "VE5RO"

Thanks to all that assisted during the day

## In Remembrance

**ALLAN ERNEST HUGH DAVIES, B.SC., B.ED.** Born in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan on March 17, 1908 and died in Toronto, Ontario on March 14, 2005, three days short of his 97th birthday. His wife Kathleen, of 58 years passed away in 1994. Together they were blessed with wonderful friends and relatives. He is survived by his daughter, Karen, her husband Erwin Buck and his granddaughter, Allison.

In 1999, Allan moved to Toronto to live with them. Allison shared a very special bond with her Grandpa and spent much of her free time caring for him. He lived a long and wonderful life and he leaves us all with unforgettable memories. Allan was one of eleven Davies' children who maintained close family ties.

Allan's nieces and nephews were a special part of his life and, as time passed, their children also shared many special times with Allan.

Allan began a 39 year teaching career in Saskatchewan schools in 1927 that was interrupted by 5 years of teaching radio communications at # 1 Wireless School in Montreal during the war years. As a teacher, and athletic coach, and a principal, Allan shared his enthusiasm for math, physics, physical education and sports with thousands of students who attended Moose Jaw High Schools during the years 1945 through 1968.

As an Amateur Radio enthusiast, Allan Davies, VE5AQ, was inducted into the Amateur Radio hall of Fame in 1998, in recognition of his many years of volunteering through the Moose Jaw Amateur Radio Club.

He will be remembered by many for his kind and unassuming manner, his humour and his unending patience.

His ashes will be buried in Moose Jaw. A Celebration of His Life will take place on Wednesday, March 23 at 3:30 p.m. (with tributes beginning at 5:00pm) at McLean House on the grounds of Sunnybrook Hospital, 2075 Bayview Avenue, north entrance and follow signage to McLean House. Parking is available on-site. Charitable donations, in his memory, may be made to Wakamow

Valley Development Fund, P.O. Box 1266 Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. S6H 4P9. A second Celebration of His Life will take place in Moose Jaw on Monday, May 16 at the Wakamow Valley Sportsman Centre at 6:30 p.m. Further inquires: Karen Buck, 58 Leuty Avenue, Toronto, Ontario. M4E 2R4. (416)690-7593

## Regina

Source: RARA Website

Once again the annual Klondike Hike started from outside the rear of the CBC broadcast centre with the net control in the foyer area.. This Scouts Canada annual event takes place around Wascanna Lake in Regina and attracted boys and girls from various Saskatchewan, Manitoba and northern US states.

February weather is fairly unpredictable, but this year yielded a fairly nice day for the scouts to test the skills at the nine events that make up the Klondike Hike. This years event attracted 41 teams who ploughed their way through the snow around the Wascanna park. The team participated in shelter building, ice rescue, first aid, survival, snow shoeing, fire lighting, equipment portage, gorge crossing and being prepared.

Jim Sandercock, VE5CS once again brought together a team of 24 Amateur Radio operators from Regina and area to cover all the actual activities as well as support functions. This was our 26th year in providing communications for this event.

As usual, we provided communications to handle safety and welfare issues as well as helping the scouting organization by transmitting scores of each team back to the reception area. The outside field teams were broken into two shifts to manage there time outside.

### *Technical Feature*

## Depopulating Old Circuit Boards

Jeff Roberts

Submitted by Mike Yaschuk, VE5AU

Jeff is a member of our email discussion groups. All subscribers have access to his, as well as over one hundred other technician's comments and expertise.

We have a solder pot, it is a ring of stainless steel about 8 inches across welded on top of a base plate of regular iron. Try to picture an 8-inch circle of iron (solid across the diameter) then picture a large ring, also 8 inches across but only 1 inch wide that gets placed on top of the solid piece. Weld the ring to the plate around the INSIDE of the ring so it becomes a reservoir. Buy bar solder from the hardware store, usually used for sheet metal work, about \$8.00 Cdn per bar. Place the plate on the burner of a stove, it is about the same size as one of

the small burners, and turn the burner to medium, add a couple of bars and in no time at all you have a pot of molten solder, place any old circuit board across the top of this rig and it unsolders all of the components that touch the reservoir at the same time, you merely place it down and start pulling parts off with your pliers, you can depopulate a monitor circuit board of all its valuable parts in about 2-5 minutes once you get the hang of it. You can breakdown/depopulate 20 monitor boards and do the cleanup and preliminary sorting in a 6-hour shift. You won't need to buy parts unless it is something special, like a Sony IC or a strange video driver. My transistor bins are all full as are my capacitor bins, thyristor bins, bridge bins, coil bins, and IC bins. I have cross reference books so I can always find a good sub from my own stock.

**CAUTION:** Wear heavy clothes, long sleeve shirts, goggles and gloves. If a capacitor falls off a board and lands in the pot and goes unnoticed then a minute or so later it will explode!! And you get solder everywhere (yourself, ceiling, walls floor etc.). So you have to be careful. It also smells bad, because the material that the circuit boards are made of does not like to heat up like that, fiberglass boards are OK but phenolic smokes and stinks bad. We have a large fan in the window to exhaust the smoke and we open other windows and doors to keep the air fresh.

wireless world was something completely new. I felt that I needed a better understanding of the basics in order to support and grow this wireless network... Why not Amateur Radio? My Grandfather (SK W9ASM) was a Ham, so I knew a little about the hobby already (or so I thought).

In July of 2003, I purchased the ARRL study material for the Tech and General examinations and started studying. At the same time, I also started learning Morse Code. As a person with absolutely no background in RF and electronics, I was excited to learn some new (and yes very basic) concepts. Wow, Ohms Law, so cool. Yes a first year EE student would probably laugh, but for me, I was taking some big steps. By mid-September 2003, I had passed my Technician and General exams as well as the Morse Code test. I was so happy and proud and ready to get on the air.

When I first started studying Morse Code, I thought it was simply something I had to get through (kind of like taking medicine) and then I could forget it. I knew it was something I had to do to gain access to HF. But something funny happened along the way. I actually started to enjoy learning code and it became a challenge. After I passed the Morse Code test, I thought to myself, do I really want to let all that hard work go to waste and forget the code? No way! After making my first CW contact, I was hooked and do more CW than any other mode today. I have found that from an academic prospective CW is very relevant. I absolutely DO NOT have the ability to design and build from scratch my own transmitting and receiving equipment. But in my quest to understand how they work, I find myself turning to the well-documented CW projects and kits on the Internet (e.g. Tuna Tin 2). I feel that many of these designs are the building blocks from which every other more sophisticated radio is built.

I have also enjoyed building and experimenting with Homebrew antennas. In the past year, I have built and tried many wire, beam and vertical antennas with varying degrees of success.

Working in Telecommunications for the past 10 years, one thing I have found is for certain. There is no Telecommunications infrastructure that is immune to the affects of a disaster. This includes the Public Switched Telephone Network, the Internet, Wireless (Cell Phone) networks, etc.

By now I am sure you are asking yourself, what is the point of this article? The point is Ham Radio is what you make of it. For me, I wanted a better understanding of RF and electronics and Ham radio is helping me achieve that goal. Am I qualified to build RF equipment for NASA....NOT EVEN CLOSE, but I am learning something new every day.

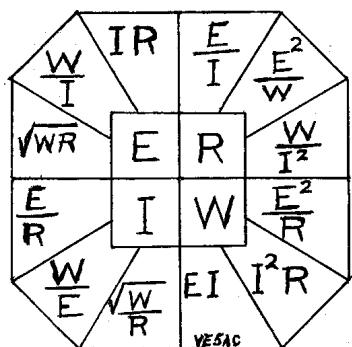
**Hamfest Registration**

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

## An Amateur's Aid

Harv Lemko, VESAC



Select the desired unknown from the inner four, then select one of the three equations. For example, if **I** and **R** are known, then the quadrant indicates that the equation which is to find **W** is  $I^2R$ . If you want to find **E** it is  $IR$ .

## A New Ham's Perspective

Greg Johnson, KC9ERZ Source: [www.eham.net](http://www.eham.net)

I am 38 years old and received my Amateur Radio Operator's license in September of 2003. I became a Ham because I wanted to learn more about RF and electronics. Two years ago, the company I work for decided to get into the Fixed Wireless Broadband service. The company has been in the Telecommunications business for 50 years as a Local Exchange Carrier and an ISP for 12 years, but the

**SARL Website**

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

## RAC AGM in Saskatchewan

QSO Staff



Hamfest plans are continuing fairly close to being on schedule. The committee learned this past week that the RAC Board of

Directors has supported a decision to hold the 2005 RAC Annual General Meeting at the Saskatchewan Centennial Hamfest in Saskatoon on July 23, 2005. The meeting will be scheduled for 9AM, followed by an RAC interactive forum where amateurs will have the chance to interact with RAC Executives on an informal basis. This will be the first time RAC has ever held an Annual General Meeting in the Province of Saskatchewan. As such, in order to ensure we have this opportunity in the future, please make an effort to attend the hamfest this year and support us!

Registration packages have been developed and range in price in hopes to accommodate everyone's needs and budgets. The registration information is available on the hamfest website and amateurs can either download the form, print it out and mail it in, or complete an online registration form which will be submitted immediately.

Due to the high costs involved in using charge cards, the hamfest committee has opted out of providing this. If you are sending in a paper registration form, then you can simply include a personal cheque. If you are registering on line, you can send in a personal cheque within 14 days of registration.

We have also implemented several early registration incentives. Some of the benefits of early registration include; guaranteed to get a banquet ticket, guaranteed to get a call book, entry into several draws for prizes which include a free night stay at the Travelodge Hotel during the hamfest weekend, a free SARL membership, free RAC membership, and you will also receive an extra grand door prize ticket.

The "VIP Delegate" package is the best value. At \$65 per person, you receive access into all of the hamfest activities and meetings, a 2005 Saskatchewan Call Book, entry into the door prizes, lunch on Saturday, a ticket to the Saturday evening awards supper and program and breakfast on Sunday morning. If this option does not suit your needs, then there are other registration options available.

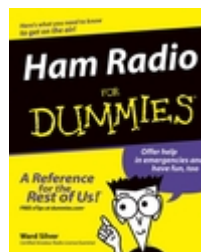
The hamfest committee has also put together a raffle for a handheld radio valued at \$440 or cash equivalent draw that will take place on Saturday, July 23 during the evening awards banquet. There are a limited number of tickets available, so make sure you find a hamfest

committee member to purchase yours before it's too late. The tickets are \$2 each or three for \$5.

Please keep checking the website for new developments in the planning of the Saskatchewan Centennial Hamfest 2005.

## Now I've seen it all...

Devon Racicot VESDWR



While searching the web for interesting material to put in this issue of *The QSO*, I stumbled across a neat website. A lot of you have probably heard of the "For Dummies" series of books, whether it's "Parenting for Dummies," "Finances for Dummies," or whatever other topic you can dream up, well, now I've seen it all, there is now a dummy book called "Ham Radio for Dummies."

At first when I stumbled across the link, I thought it couldn't be real, but the further I looked into it, I learned that it indeed was a real book, although I have never seen it in stores.

The author, Ward Silver, NOAX has been a licensed ham for over 31 years and puts his knowledge to paper in this book. Although I haven't read the book, I have looked through the table of contents. There are 20 chapters in the book, and the topics vary from "Getting Acquainted with Ham Radio" to more operational information such as "Getting on the Air." Judging by the topics listed, it does not appear as if the book gets very technical in nature, and would be an unlikely aid in getting your license, but from an operating standpoint, it looks like it could certainly be useful for learning radio etiquette and other special areas that your local ham club doesn't teach you when you are taking the classes.

If you visit the website at [www.dummies.com](http://www.dummies.com) and do a search for the book, you can view the entire table of contents, read about the author and even view the introductory chapter.

The book's publication date is April of 2004 and I did a search on a couple of popular online book mail services and found that I could purchase the book for under \$25 CDN.

As I was doing the search, I also learned that there are actually many more books on the market written by ham radio operators that teach you all that you need to know to get your amateur radio license.

If you are looking for some sort of alternative to the semi-boring land of study guides and practice exams, try a quick search on your favourite online book service and see what you come up with.