



The QSO



Oct/Nov 2014

SARL Director - North-East Region -Bj. Madsen - VE5FX

There's not a whole lot of news from the north east region of the province. The farmers are basically done farming and the rest of us are doing the pre-winter things that need doing. Art (VE5ARJ) has moved from Nipawin to Saskatoon which has reduced the active ham population of Nipawin by about 25%. Aubrey (VE5AWJ) has taken over the duties of the Nipawin IRLP node. Mark (VE5XF) has spent some time back from VE3 land and it has been nice to hear him on the local repeaters.

So, in the absence of additional news, please allow me to editorialize.

During my 36 years as an active amateur radio operator, I have come to the conclusion that hams, generally speaking, are weird. Not all of us, of course. There are wives and children who were coerced into getting their certification in order to please a loved one who was certifiably weird. I fall into that category: I twisted their arms. My wife and son are also weird, but in their own right - not related to amateur radio. For example, Howard Hughes (W5CY) was a ham. Enough said about weird. But, if you're still not convinced, look around at your ham friends.

Hams tend to be nerds. I'm a nerd and proud of it. I'd sooner build something than sit on my bum, watch football and drink beer. Take a look at some of the world-class nerds of ham radio:

- Yuri Gagarin (UA1LO) was the first ham in space. He and a bunch of Russian Cosmonauts and virtually all American and Canadian Astronauts, like Dr. Bob Thirsk (VA3CSA) who is a medical doctor, mechanical engineer and Astronaut, are all ham. What could be nerdier?

Hams are not like other people. Here, the list gets seriously long, starting with various kings and assorted heads of state:

- King Hussain - JY1 - King of Jordan

- King Juan Carlos - EA0JC - King of Spain

King Bhumipol Adulayadej HS1A King of Thailand and his wife and heir to the throne, Princess Maka - HS1D

- Prince Alberto Grimaldi - 3A0AG - Prince of Monaco

- Francesco Cossiga - I0FCG - president of Italy

- Rajiv Gandhi - VU2RG - prime minister of India

Keizo Obunchi - JI1KIT - prime minister of Japan

- Carlos Menem - LU1SM - president of Argentine

- Prince Yusefal Sabah - 9L2CS

- Prince of Kuwait along with a swarm of other princes of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and so forth.

Of course, there is also a raft of well known folks who were secretly or publicly members of the ham community:

- Barry Goldwater - K7UGA - ran for president of the USA and was a long serving senator and very active ham

- Marlon Brando - KE6PZH/ FO5GJ - two time Oscar winner

- Maximilian Kilbe - SP3RN - a Polish saint - yes, a saint. Contacts with him would be considered serious DX!

- Priscilla Presley - NY6YOS - yep, wife of "The King" himself.

- Donnie Osmond - WD4SKT - singer of some renown.

- Walter Cronkite - KB2GSD - possibly the best known voice of radio and TV.

- Johnny Sanderson - VE5AAS - very well known radio announcer at a Regina station.

- Joe Walsh - WB6ACU - member of "The Eagles", a very famous rock band.

- Bob Heil - K9EID - sound engineer for "The Eagles" and creator of Heil Sound - you might be using one of his excellent microphones.

- Tim Allen - W5KUB - remember "Tim the Tool Man Taylor"? Yep, Tim's a ham.

The list goes on and on. So, if you're a carpenter or a teacher or a farmer and also a ham, you are probably a weird, individualistic nerd who has the ability to bore non-hams to tears with dissertations on propagation and antenna design. Of course, you are also balanced, so you don't do that. Right?

73



SARL Director -Saskatoon City- Terry -VE5TLC

Wow, what a fabulous autumn we have had the pleasure to experience. And a Halloween without snow in Saskatoon.

Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club meetings resumed on Sept September 11 at a new venue at the Cliff Wright branch of the library in Saskatoon. Jack received his callsign, VA5JAC. Congratulations Jack.

Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club members and friends are planning to do communication for the Saskatoon Santa Clause Day Parade on November 16. This event requires 15 to 20 hams. If you have signed up to help out, thank you. If you are available and still wish to volunteer you can contact Garry, VE5SG or myself, Terry VE5TLC.

There are some Saskatoon hams making their way to Regina for the RARA flea market. They have wonderful weather for the flea market. Travel safe everyone.

The next meeting of the Saskatoon

Amateur Radio Club will be held Thursday, November 13, 2014 at the Cliff Wright Library on McKercher Drive at 7:00 pm.

Remembrance Day is near, I would like to encourage us all to take the opportunity to think and plan how we can promote peace in our lives, our neighbourhood and the world. 73



SARL VP/Director-South-West -Ken -VE5BI

Hi everyone. No doubt everyone has heard the expression, " *my how time flies,*" Well, it sure flew by down here. Summer had barely started and then it seemed to be over so quickly. The month of September was a mixed bag of mostly nasty weather with several spells of rain, and cooler than normal temperatures. Harvest moved along at a crawl and we had to make the most of the nice sunny days whenever we could. In spite of it all, we were able to wrap things up after about six weeks of stop and go attempts. Yields were generally good, though quality suffered. We had some hail in this area too and some crops were all but lost and had to be tilled under in order to prepare the land for next year. Most of October was great; that's when most of the farmers made the most progress. All in all, the nice fall weather down here made up for the short summer.

In early October, my wife Liz traveled to St Louis MO., to visit her friend that she went to college with. She had a good trip and was able to see the school that they attended and many other neat places as well. She sent me daily e-mails and some nice pictures to keep me up to date during her ten day trip. Even though I was harvesting during most of this time, I looked forward to her daily messages when I got back in every night.

We had the yearly Fall into Christmas event at the stockade in Swift Current. It was very well attended over two days. Vendors as far away as Ontario to the east and

British Columbia to the west came to show their merchandise and there sure was lots to see. While on the subject, Liz and I attended our first Whistlestop Craft Show in Moose Jaw which we really enjoyed, we came away with a

dessert that was to die for. All kidding aside, it was very good indeed. We also went on the Highway 1 Studio tour again this year, and we got to see the many crafts that people do. It really is amazing the talent that is out there. We also talked with a local photographer who had some very professional work on display.

Ray VE5XRA invited our coffee group out to his farm to enjoy the peaceful surroundings down on the Swift Current Creek. The place known as Gowan's Grove. We all brought some food items and Ray supplied the hotdogs and buns for a really nice wiener roast. We all had a good time and the weather was perfect. A group photo is included showing those of us who attended (ed. Note: Lloyd's call is VE5ITS),

I had the opportunity to be at the Boy Scout Jamboree that was held on Oct. 18th and 19th at the Grove. Many parents with their children were there to do various activities over the 24 hour period. Many of the scouts camped overnight and took turns working other scout groups from all over on the special events HF station (VE5HCS) that is set up there. Everything ran on battery power. They logged about 800 QSOs in all and enjoyed the hands on experience operating the ham radio. VE5XRA Ray and VE5ITS Lloyd were supervising the station. Some of the young people are studying for their basic license and some have already passed the exam. Brendan Ross is VE5LOL It had to happen right?

In the next QSO I hope to have an



Left to Right: VE5IST, Lloyd; VE5XRA, Ray; VE5BI, Ken; VE5HB, Harry; VE5HJU, Hans; VE5YAN, Raymond. Ham Coffee Group at Wiener Roast at Gowan's Grove.

article about another young Ham VE5JES Jamie, who is involved with radio controlled model aircraft. I hope to get an interview with him to learn more about his hobby. I had a short interview with Josh Christianson who is a Scout (Venture), and I learned about his activities and all the interesting things that a scout does. Josh has shown an interest in becoming a Ham and is studying the basic study guide as well.

Our 79 repeater still appears to be troubled. We can't seem to get the audio to work properly. VE5CAL Cal is working on it. The HF bands are improving as we move into winter so it looks promising for all those who work DX. The signals at net time are actually quite good and I can copy nearly everyone most evenings. 73



SARL Assistant-Director- Regina City -Hugh VE5HWH Amateur Radio News from Regina 2014-Diary of RARA

Sept 7--The Queen City Marathon is one of the major events of the year for which RARA provides communication. This event was co-ordinated by Terry VE5TLW. Although there was a bit of a shortage of operators, no problems were encountered as operators moved from one station to another as needed. A mobile operator, Allan VE5LAT, along the route proved to be a valuable asset during this event.

Sept 10--The monthly meeting was held at the public library on North Albert in Regina. Three RARA club members were recognized by the MS Society for their dedication and assistance over the past 25 years. They were Clay VE5AAA, George VE5UU and Rick VE5RJR.

Plans are still in the works for both Advanced and CW classes.

A vacancy on the executive was filled by Justin VA5RED and the Information Officer position was taken by Neil (VA5SCA)

Plans are well underway for the annual flea market to be held November 1. It will once again be held at the Elks Club 4915 1st Ave. N in Regina. Same place as last year. Doors open for vendors at 8:00 AM and the public at 9:00 AM. This event is being coordinated by Rick VE5RJR phone 306 545-9158.

Sept 14--RARA provided communications for the Terry Fox Run. Clay VE5AAA coordinated this event on short notice as Rick VE5RJR was incapacitated.

Sept 30--Geoff Bawden, president of RAC was in Regina and met with local Hams. Present were Val VE5VAL, Terry VE5TLW, Harv VE5AD, Bart Ritchie VE5CPU, Bill Down VA5CW, Hugh VE5HWH and Sam Ferris VE5SF. Geoff presented plaques to Bart and Sam for their outstanding volunteer contributions to amateur radio for the work they have done in regards to RAC contesting. Geoff also stated that new Hams can get their first year RAC membership free. When Industry Canada sends out a new certificate, it will be accompanied by an application form to join RAC. The new Ham needs to fill out and return the application form and they will receive their first year of membership free. RARA already does something similar. Anyone writing and passing the exam with an RARA examiner receives their first year of club membership free.

Attendance at this meeting would have been higher had there been more than 12 hours notice.

Oct 17--A busy day for RARA. Members of the club set up and

manned a display at the Regina Geek Summit. This event is a gathering of people in Regina who are involved in unusual hobbies. About the only thing about Ham Radio that is unusual is the fact that it can cost a lot of money. Summer VE5SDH was on hand with a display of her CW Keys. Terry VE5TLW and Justin VA5RED (and Chelsea) had radios set up to demonstrate to those interested. Summer reports that there seemed to be good interest in the display.

On the same day club members traveled to Echo Valley Park where they took part in the JOTA exercise with the scouts. Bob VE5LTD and George VE5UU were on hand to assist the scouts with JOTA. Bob reports that they had two tents set up and the scouts all got a turn at the mike. The scouts demonstrated a high level of interest and enthusiasm.

Up and coming Events

RARA Flea Market - November 1, 2014

Santa Parade - November 16, 2014
73



SARL-President's Message:

Due to our President's mother passing away, Doris sends her best wishes to all and says to look for her article in the next issue of the QSO



SARL Director -Moose Jaw & Area-Harv -VE5AC

We have had 2 get together for our monthly suppers at the Heritage Inn. The food is great so guess we will keep going there. Just a reminder to all: If you happen to be in Moose Jaw on the 2nd Tuesday of the month around 5 or 5:30ish, please come and join us for supper. We would love to see you.

Other than our suppers, nothing much is going on in the Jaw. Things are pretty quiet, which is nice. So far the weather has been great. Here we are (Nov.3rd) and we still don't have snow. Just another day robbed off

Old Man Winter. We are supposed to have a good week with temps only running around 5 or 6 C. , windy but still a nice fall day.

On Nov 1st, Moose Jaw saw 5 of her local hams show up for the RARA flea-market. They were, Brian VE5BJO, Murray VE5MC, Doug VE5DES, Val VE5ACJ and myself VE5AC. We had a real good day and sort of made off like bandits when it came to the door prizes. Doug VE5DES who is just a "newbie" ham, left early, so wasn't there to pick up his door prize, but Val went and picked it up for him. He came over for coffee on Sunday and he was 1 happy camper. Not having any equipment yet, he was the lucky recipient of a wonderful gift certificate from Radio World. Thank you so much Regna for a wonderful day.

Well, I really can't think of anything else at the moment, Band conditions are what they are, sometimes good, sometimes not so good, but we will be listening out for you on air. 73



From the Editor-Val-VE5ACJ

First off our deepest condolences to Doris VE5DJQ and Eric VE5HG, on the passing of her mother Oct. 28th.

Congratulations are also sent to Doris and Eric on the birth of their latest granddaughter born earlier last month.

Congratulations also go out to Eric Lehmann

VE5EL and his wife Erin on the birth of their first child. A little girl born Oct. 17th. In case you can't

read the bib from Uncle Murray VE5MC, it says: "My Dad is the World's Greatest Radio Operator". My guess is that daddy's hobby is going to be a real



influence on her.

There are many times, that I have extra room in the QSO. So if you have something you would like to submit for the QSO, please send me the info to : ve5aq@sasktel.net and I will put it in if room is available. The deadline for the next issue is Dec 5th by 5pm. I would like the next issue to be out before Christmas. Yes folks it's coming up fast.. 73



SARL -Secretary/Treasurer's Report -Val-VE5ACJ

Well SARL is doing very well. I am very grateful to those of you who have paid your 2014/2015 membership dues. **For those of you who have forgotten, and that does happen from time to time, this is just a reminder that this is your last issue of QSO, so if you would like to continue receiving it, please, please pay your dues!**

I was at the RARA flea market on Nov 1st, and had a great time. It's always nice to see faces that we only see once in a while. Thanks to all who paid up at that time, and thanks so much to those of you who came to chat. Nice to catch up on your news.



SARL Director -Saskatoon Area- Gord-VE5UJ

There are unmistakable signs that the winter season will soon be upon us. 10 metres is quite active most days and propagation seems to be favourable into the South Pacific region according to the long distance (DX) fans that I consult with. Also, the 80 metre band Saskatchewan net experiences much improved long skip allowing Alberta and British Columbia stations to call in on a regular basis. If one is out of bed early enough in the mornings, DX activities on the low end of the 80 metre CW band are heating up.

I was able to communicate with some of the hams from the Saskatoon area, South at least by having a chat

with Dave and Karen, VE5RY and VE5BIX as they were travelling to their son's wedding this summer. That son would be Jeffrey, VE5JEF and being a newly wed we will not expect much radio activity from his Disley home.

On one of my frequent trips to the Watrous, Parrish grain terminal this summer I carried on into the town of Watrous and spotted Don, VE5IM, busy in his yard. I had Summer, VE5SDH with me at the time, so we stopped in for a tour of Don's yard and shop. It is always good to stop and talk with Don and I was able to update him on what and who are active on the net these days. Don was a Saskatchewan Net control station for many years. Summer was really happy with the tour of Don's shop. There are many tools and small parts there. She and Don found some "common ground".

I have had contacts with Ned, VE5NED and with Brian, VE5CUL with updates on the Rock Point repeater project. It does sound as though they had a successful time doing updates. Some of that news is bound to show up in other writings in this issue of QSO. I think the stories about the Little Bear Lake radio project should make good reading. If not in this issue of QSO, I am sure they will be appearing soon.

I suppose that I am not unusual in that sequences of numbers or letters will trigger memories that otherwise would remain hidden for perhaps a lifetime. Numbers like 807, and 6146 immediately bring to mind transmitter vacuum tubes that those of us of an age remember well. Motor vehicle licence plates contain, besides unique names and cutesy slogans, radio call signs as well as number and letter sequences. Family initials, three letter names, DX callsigns and other reminders come up on a regular basis when I am driving. While crossing Main street a couple of months ago, I noticed a plate with three forgettable numbers followed by the letters ILJ. The memories came back almost instantly; a mystery from the early 1960s that I had forgotten about.

Years ago, while working the

evening shift at the aeradio station (fore runner of the modern "Flight Service"), I had heard a call that seemed urgent but I did not hear an emergency declared. The startlingly loud and clear call was from an aircraft CF-ILJ, and was on our air to ground frequency 3023.5 Khz., a frequency just below the 80 metre ham band. Canadian stations did not have transmitting capability on that frequency as the aircraft transmitting there were to be listening for a reply on the voice facility of a nearby navigation transmitter. The crew of the aircraft sounded to be concerned, and were calling for Mackar Radio, a DEW (distant early warning radar site) station almost 1500 miles from our location. This event occurred during the cold war years when security concerns were paramount and it was known that operations in and out of some of the DEW stations were sometimes dangerous because of environmental conditions and hastily prepared landing and taxiway infrastructure. Mackar Inlet had a particularly difficult approach to the airstrip, especially for nighttime operations. After the second call, we heard no more from the aircraft. I had looked in the registry to determine that it was a WW2 transport, a C-46 operated by a DEW contractor airline out of Montreal. Accidents at DEW sites were common and information was sometime years late coming out.

I had forgotten the callsign of the aircraft, and would never have pursued the story further. So, doing a search for the aircraft identifier brought up a registry with an amazing amount of information on the airplanes of that series. Apparently, ILJ did not crash that night in 1962 at Mackar Inlet on the Canadian Arctic coast and continued operating until 1967 when it did crash at Hilo Hawaii while being operated by a different owner. It is amazing what one can find out on the internet. Had it not been for the licence plate sequence, I am not likely to have thought about it again. 73

***From your Webmaster-Val-VE5ACJ
(just another hat that I wear)***

Well, I hope that everyone has been able to check out the new website. Actually it's just a new template, just a different look. Some web browsers may only show a white screen, while others may show the sidebars in green with white center. Every web browser is different. There are still some little things that I have to finish, but it will be done shortly, and then I will also put on the pictures from the last hamfest.

Also, I have installed a PayPal button on the forms page. This is just another way that you may pay for your yearly memberships. There are only 2 choices, Individual and Family. Once you push the Subscribe button you will be taken to a new page. Please follow the instructions. It really is an easy process. The first box top left, just type in the word individual or Family. If you don't have a gmail account, just follow the instructions. Thank you. You will still receive your receipt and membership card. If you are already a member, no membership form is required, unless you have change of information. If you are wanting to become a member of SARL, you will still have to print out, fill in and mail in the membership form. I am working on an On-Line form that you can fill in on the computer. This is taking a bit of time, as I am still trying to figure out the html code. This will then allow you save a copy and to print it out and mail it in. Also, it will eliminate a lot of typos on my part. Thanks so much for your patience and please enjoy the new website. 73



Ham Shares Nobel Prize in Chemistry

Move over, K1JT, William Moerner, WN6I, of Los Altos, California, has just joined the ranks of Nobel-prize winning hams. Moerner, a chemistry professor at Stanford University, shares the prize with two others—Eric Betzig of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute in Ashburn,

Virginia, and Stefan Hell of the Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry in Germany. The three were recognized for separate work on what's called *super-resolved fluorescence microscopy or nanoscopy*, techniques that allow an optical microscope to observe cellular activity on the molecular level.

According to the Nobel prize news release, the technique use fluorescent molecules to allow researchers to "track proteins involved in Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, and Huntington's diseases as the aggregate, (and to) follow individual proteins in fertilized eggs as these divide into embryos".

Moerner, Betzig, and Hell will share the 8 million Swedish Krona (\$1.1 million U.S.) prize that comes along with the honor. Each scientist's share is approximately \$368,000 U.S.



Competing Views on International Allocation for 60 Meters

At press time, we were awaiting news from Mexico on action taken by CITEL, the Inter-America Telecommunications Commission, regarding an official recommendations for an international amateur allocation at 5 MHz. The topic is on the agenda for next year's World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC-15). There were separate proposals from Canada and Brazil, along with overall opposition from the U.S. National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA), according to the ARRL. Canada had put forth the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) recommendations for 2-25KHz segments, 5330-5355KHz and 5405-5430 KHz. Brazil proposed a single allocation from 5275-5450KHz, all on a secondary basis. The Brazilian proposal matches the frequency recommendation of the FCC's WRC-15 Advisory Committee. However, NTIA is calling for no change in the international allocation, despite a decade of domestic operation by U.S. Hams. Who without any interference

problems that were not quickly resolved. CITEL held a WRC preparatory meeting in Early October, but results were not available as of our deadline. **(the 2 preceding articles are from 2014 CQ Amateur Radio On-line)**



***SARL Director - South-East Region
-Marv - VE500***

Well, summer looks like it is finally over. All the leaves are on the ground and most of the crops are in the bins-hopefully.

I just came back from Foam Lake area where I was up visiting my brother VE5OG. I went up to help him celebrate his 85th birthday. He is doing just fine.

We have a new ham move in from Canora, James VE5HJB, so that is a good thing. Welcome James. Also we have 2 youngsters, Murray VE5XO's grandson and Hans VE5HJU's grandson who seem to be showing great interest in amateur radio. Sure is nice to see younger folks getting interested in the hobby.

Was talking to Emily VE5EM and she said her OM John VE5SZ was in a Bengough nursing home waiting for hip surgery and also to have his cataracts removed. So hopefully we will hear him back on the air eventually.

Blair VE5BAM and his lovely XYL have just returned from a trip to Scotland. I am so used to them taking trips down south, that this particular trip took me by surprise. What a wonderful trip it must have been.

Grey VE5GC is receiving chemo treatments, so our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Joan VE5TAW has been doing her very best to keep us informed about road conditions. She keeps taking trips south to Williston, ND to see her daughter & family, and then goes north to Ft. Qu'appelle to see her mom and sister.

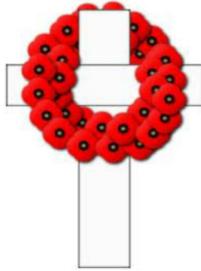
Also Joan and myself went to Crosby, ND for our great-grandson's birthday. If memory serves me, he is one year old. We were also informed that he is going to have a baby sister

in the coming months..

I have heard that VE500 apparently is getting better looking as he gets older. This is according to Joan VE5TAW.

Lastly but not least. The Estevan ARC would like to thank SARL for the \$200.00 grant we received to help fix our repeaters. We really appreciate the help. Speaking of repeaters, the one at the Shand Power station is now down, as there are no hams working there to help keep it running. The repeater on Moose Mountain is working well, and the one at the hospital, well we are in negotiations with all parties, EMO, hospital CEO's etc to help find the best possible place to have this repeater. It will be at the hospital, we just don't know where yet.

Well, that's all that I can think of that is interesting for this issue. Keep well, and chat soon. 73



It is the VETERAN , not the preacher,
who has given us freedom of religion.

It is the VETERAN , not the reporter,
who has given us freedom of the press.

It is the VETERAN , not the poet,
who has given us freedom of speech.

It is the VETERAN , not the campus organizer,
who has given us freedom to assemble.

It is the VETERAN , not the lawyer,
who has given us the right to a fair trial.

It is the VETERAN , not the politician,
Who has given us the right to vote.

It is the VETERAN ,
who salutes the Flag,

It is the VETERAN ,
who serves under the Flag,

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM, O LORD, AND
LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON THEM.

Two Hams Honored by Order of Canada:

Among the list of recipients of the Order of Canada appointments are Veena Rawat VA3ITU, who was honored for her contributions to telecommunications engineering and for leadership in establishing a global regulatory framework for radio spectrum management: and Canadian astronaut

Chris Hatfield, VA3GOG, who also holds the United States call KC5RNJ.

Hatfield was recognized as an Officer of the Order of Canada for his commitment to promoting scientific discovery and for sharing the wonders of space exploration with the world. Congratulations from CQ

PROVINCIAL NETS					
Name	Date	Sessions	Check-ins	Traffic	Bulletins
IRLP 9300	Aug	21	554	68	5
	Sept	14	376	90	2
	Oct	9	229	36	4
Avonlea ARG 147.0600-	Sept	30	224	0	0
	Oct	31	187	0	0
Sask Evening Phone/CW					
3.735					
Sask Wx Net 3.753					
Ares					
NSARC					
TOTALS		105	1570	194	11

SARL Fundraiser to help ZR6TBL & ZS6ANA

These two hams are dear friends of mine and are SARL members. I pay for their dues out of my pocket. Recently things are not going well for Dutch (whites) in South Africa, and they are in dire straits. The problem has increased since Ton ZS6ANA became a silent key. Yvonne his wife (ZR6TBL)and daughter Marianne-(who now has her dad's callsign ZS6ANA) help me so much in the up-keeping and design of the SARL website. Being white in SA now is very difficult. The Black population get priority over jobs even if they aren't qualified. Yvonne is my go-to person when I run into a problem or have done something wrong and don't know how to fix it. Also, SARL get's a discount on it's hosting of our website, thanks to another ham operator in Johannesburg who has the servers.

Harv VE5AC has offered me his 4 or 5 boxes of new & used antique radio tubes. I have made a list and will be offering these for sale to anyone. I am sure there are a lot of antique radio rebuilders or have grandpa's console radio that needs a tube to become operational. I am asking my SARL hams and anyone to spread the word about the availability of this list which will be available either by emailing me, or checking the website. I haven't got it there yet,

So this is my idea to help these ladies out in Johannesburg. I really hope my idea flies to raise some funds for them.

As for delivering them, I live in Moose Jaw, we have 600+ students at SIAST from all over Sask & Alta. So if you live in Carrot River, get student Johnnie to pick them up here before he goes home for the weekend.

The cost of the tubes is \$10.00 each.

I might be out of the realm of Ham Radio on this, and might get my knuckles wacked but I'm trying to convert something that is just about useless here (tubes) to help someone out in an other country.

Thank you so much fellow hams, I really appreciate the help. 73—Val VE5ACJ

Can It Be? My Perfect 'Transistor Sister'

It's kind of embarrassing. I think I might be in love with a girl who came to my prep school for a dance.

She goes to an all-girls school about 30 miles from here. Every other month either my school travels to hers, or hers comes to mine.

We danced a couple of times last year. Nothing close. The chaperones wouldn't allow that. But last year her freshman class came to ours for the "rave," as we jokingly call it. She came up to me right away. When she tapped me on the shoulder, my heart began beating like an electronic keyer at 60 wpm.

Collette is so pretty. She is French-Canadian and has such sparkling eyes. I think about her all the time. Is that what love is like?

The dance was themed a "sock hop." The DJ played ancient rock 'n' roll music from the 1950s and '60s. I don't think one kid there had heard a single song she spun from her two-turntable mixing board. That is, except when she cued-up a scratchy 45 rpm vinyl titled "Transistor Sister."

We were at the refreshment table and Collette grabbed me by the shoulders. "*Ohmygawd! I love this song!*" Without a word she pulled me to the dance floor. The next 2 minutes, 16 seconds were like a dream. (**LISTEN:** <http://bit.ly/1oNb9hT>). Hearing her say the word "love" sent me to a place in my brain I'd never been.

Pop, my great-grandpa, used to play "Transistor Sister" on an old Symphonics kiddie phonograph made of cardboard, believe it or not. He put it near the window. When Granny was hanging out laundry he'd turn the volume all the way and spin it loud enough for the whole county to hear. "Margaret, are you gettin' 'Boom Boom' Cannon?" he'd shout to her above Freddy Cannon and his band. "He's singing about YOU. You're my "Transistor Sister!"

After being silly — Collette and me dancing "The Twist" — she gently took my hand and we walked slowly to the folding chairs ringing the gymnasium's walls. I didn't want to let go.

"My grandmother used to dance cray-cray (crazily) to 'Transistor Sister' in the kitchen every time it came on K-EARTH," she said, before I could even ask how she knew about it. "Grandma was hilarious. It was on the radio all the time." (**NOTE:** KRTH, 101.1 FM in Los Angeles, is the oldies giant in Southern California. — K16SN)

"Really?" I said, sitting on the edge of my chair, half-turned to Collette and leaning forward, perhaps too close. "My Pop used to work at a radio station and brought a copy of "Transistor Sister" home with him. I'll bet I've heard it a million times!"

"*She's my transistor sister, with a radio on her arm,*" Collette sang *a capella*, just loud enough to be heard over the din of all the boys and girls talking.

"*No one can resist her, 'cause she's loaded with a musical charm ...*" I sang right back to her. She laughed genuinely and put her hand on my knee. I thought I was going to die.

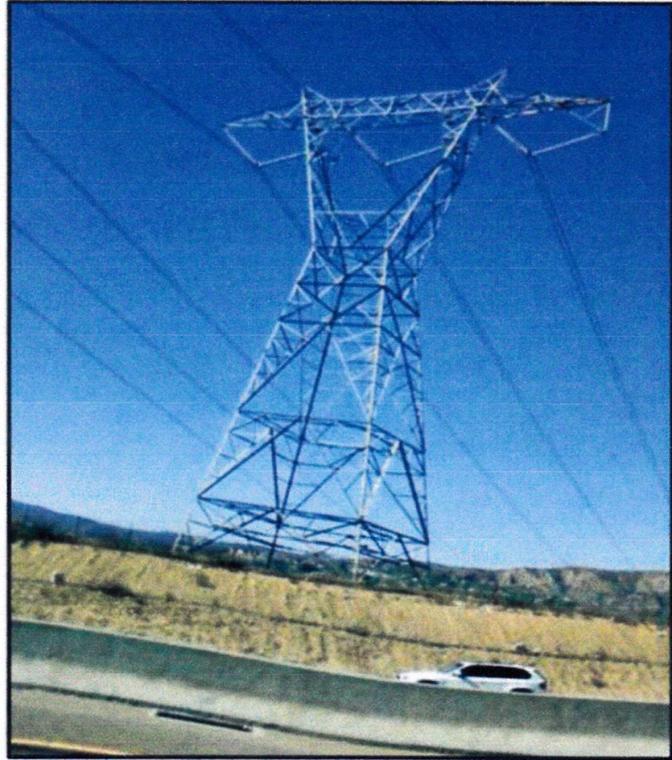


Photo A. Power lines crossing the 91 Freeway east of Los Angeles were "the biggest radio antenna" Collette had ever seen.

For the first time, we talked about keeping in touch. She gave me her email address. I gave her mine.

"I think radio is really interesting," Collette said. "I don't know too much about it, but I'd love to learn." There was that word "love" again. "Well, I'd love to teach you what I know about radio, which isn't nearly as much as my Pop."

Collette smiled. "That would be so cool."

In a panic, not knowing where to take the conversation from here, Collette came to the rescue. This is what I like so much about her. She always knows the right thing to do.

"Look at this," she said, holding the screen of her cell phone close to my face. "I took this from the bus on the trip over here," **Photo A.** "I think that's the biggest radio antenna I've ever seen."

Panic again. How do I put this so as not to make her feel like a dummy? "Collette, you're too funny," I said laughing. "I thought the very same thing the first time I saw those power lines beside the 91 Freeway."

"*Ohmygawd*, is that what those are?" she said, putting her right hand on her heart as she giggled, embarrassed.

"We both think the same way," I said, trying to make any connection possible to this dream girl. "It's almost like we have one brain between us!"

"So each of us has only half-a-brain?" she said without missing a beat. Collette is the funniest person in the world.

After the dance, I walked her to the bus and we shook hands goodbye. "Please write to me," I said to her desperately. "And you please write to me," she replied, touching my arm.



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