



# The QSO

August/September 2003

<http://www.qsl.net/sarl>

Volume 2003, Issue 2

## My First Editorial

Devon Racicot VE5DWR

As you will be reading this, the summer will be nearing the end and thoughts about fall antenna projects and the like will be filling your mind. I am writing this article as my first "editorial" as part of my new task of "QSO Editor."



At this time I would like to take the opportunity to thank Ray Rosler, VE5RAE for the years of dedicated service to the

Saskatchewan Amateur Radio League for the many positions that he has held. During the past four years or so, Ray has been the editor of the QSO, held the director position for the Battleford's and area, as well as spent this past two years as the Treasurer, while at the same time, serving with his local club, The Battleford's Amateur Radio Association, all the while being involved in various other activities such as square dancing. Ray - on behalf of the amateurs of the communities you have been involved with, we thank you for all your hard work and dedication!

This issue you will see a slightly different format than that of the previous QSO. I always think that when someone takes over a job like this, it is sometimes nice to make some personal changes and new looks.

Plans are in the works to make this a bi-monthly publication and have it sent out on the "off" months that The Canadian Amateur is

distributed. This will ensure that you always have something in the shack, or the "executive office" to read during those periods of downtime. I would also like to see SARL go after advertising for the newsletter so we can expand our efforts, possibly sending issues to past and non members to promote membership and boost our numbers.

Who knows, maybe in a few years we'll be putting out a full magazine! Okay, so I'm getting a little ahead of myself, but anything is possible.

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting are included in this issue as well. At this time I would like to congratulate our new Executive as well as thank them for letting their names stand for election.

I hope you enjoy *my first* issue of the QSO as I had a lot of fun putting it together. Always remember that comments and suggestions are always welcome and unsolicited articles are gladly accepted.

Enjoy and have a great Summer! 73!

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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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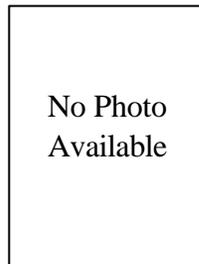
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**2003 – 2004 Executive**



**President**  
Derek Bereza VE5SD



**Vice President**  
Jerome Kuntz VE5KZ



**Treasurer**  
Randy Westby VE5DFC



**Secretary**  
Ron Sather VE5RMS

**Area Directors**

The Battlefords & Area	Vacant
Saskatoon	Vacant
Saskatoon Area	Vacant
South West	Gerhard Coombs VE5GRC
Moose Jaw & Area	Vacant
Regina	Stan Ewert VE5SC
Prince Albert & Area	Randy Canning VE5QU
South East	Jerry Dixon VE5DC
Yorkton & Area	Vacant
Past President	Jack Croteau VE5AY

## From the President

Derek Bereza VE5SD



As your new President, I would like to tell you a little about myself. My wife's name is Karen, and my two children are Rylee (5), and Cody (2 ½). I live in Saskatoon and have lived here all my life. I have been an amateur radio operator since I was 16 years old in 1981.

The hobby is a real passion of mine and I can lose myself for hours at any time of the day or night working on various projects that I have on the go. I was "elmered" by my grandfather Mort Kendall VE5DR and was exposed to what it is all about being a ham radio operator. I respect the traditions of our Fraternity and believe it is important to move on and further the hobby and our world. Anytime a person purchases a membership in an organization they want to receive "value" for their commitment to belonging to the association of a common interest. First off amateur radio is a hobby and it should be fun and rewarding! We have a great deal of talented and exciting amateurs to talk about and a number of events happening in our province. I would like to hear from you about what you are doing and what you would like to see SARL strive for in the future. SARL is struggling with what its purpose is for and role it has in the amateur radio community. Currently membership dues to belong to SARL are \$25.00 until 2004 and 2005 when they will be \$15.00 for a single membership. My goal is to create a fun and rewarding environment for whoever decides to get involved or be a part of this great hobby of ours.

Apparently, while I was away at the Hamfest four falcons had moved into my "antenna condo" on my tower. The 4:00 AM squawking makes a person rather on the "touchy" side! As well my beautiful West view is being replaced with construction and earth moving equipment-making way for two new rows of

houses. My neighbor once caught 9 gophers one at a time in one day in her yard and transplanted them outside the city somewhere else, since their "homeland" was now been taken over by heavy equipment. Her own "catch and release" program, I guess. I believe it is important for an organization to have purpose, and that people receive value for belonging and contributing to it. I have a vision that I would like to share with SARL members or would be members.

I would like to say thank-you to Jack - VE5AY for your service these past four years as President of SARL! Your willingness to lead at a time in which a number of different challenges stressed the organization was commendable! As well a real big thank you to those amateurs who have contributed to SARL over the years in one form or another, your foresight in supporting us throughout the many challenges it faced is a testament of the commitment in our hobby.

I had the opportunity to attend the Lakeland Amateur Radio Association 2003 Hamfest up at Christopher Lake this past weekend and had a fantastic time! Randy Canning VE5QU and the rest of the gang really demonstrated the hospitality (the theme of the event was "Sharing with the Community") that is legendary amongst those who have had the opportunity to spend some time within their area.

There were sessions on ARES, IRLP, EchoLink, IPARN, Internet Remote Bases, Net Control Operations, and SARL. The J. Heddle-Sinclair Trophy went to George VE5UU, who was the successful hidden 2 metre transmit hunter. A number of awards were presented at the banquet that Bruce Donovan VE5ND "Northern Dancer" was the Master of Ceremonies. Randy Canning VE5QU, was presented with the new Jim Bendle Award and Dave Martinuk VE5RY was awarded the Art Driver Network Efficiency Award. The Dave Glass award was presented to Bruce Coates VE5BNC. Art Peterson VE5IP, Wayne Thompson VE5DWT, Lee Coates

VE5LEE and Herb Essenberg VE5HE, performed their musical wizardry in a jam session for entertainment.

Ken Bindle VE5KRB was present at the flea market selling fleas to raise money for the Little Bear Lake Amateur Radio Club an affiliate of the Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club. Ken and others brought a number of fleas and there were a number of great deals to be had. The SARL AGM (annual general meeting) was a lively meeting with lots of good discussion on membership dues, changes to the constitution, as well as an arm pulling election. Jerome Kuntz VE5KZ is our Vice President, Ron Sather VE5RMS is Recording Secretary and Randy Westby VE5DFC is our Treasurer. Devon Racicot VE5DWR will take over as editor of the QSO (thank you Ray Rosler VE5RAE for your dedication as Treasurer and editor of the QSO). Randy Canning VE5QU will continue on as Webmaster of our site.

Over the coming months we are going to try a bunch of different ideas that members have shared with us, as well I would like to share some ideas of my own. We have a core group of members who are very enthusiastic and want to see SARL thrive and flourish into a prominent provincial organization that members will benefit from and create an eager want to belong and help out if they so desire.

In closing, I would once again thank those who volunteered for the various positions on the executive, as well as you can tell from the roster we have some vacant positions that need to be filled. So if you would like to help out please let us know. We will be utilizing in the future sasklink@irlp.net email reflector as a way to communicate to amateurs in the province, so if you are not on the list, drop Devon - VE5DWR an email and we will get you added to the list. Have a great rest of the summer!

73, Derek VE5SD

## LARA Volunteers for Dog Race & LDFD Open House

Wayne Thompson VE5DWT

On February 16th, 2003, the Lakeland Amateur Radio Association provided communications for the Cameco Northern Challenge Sled Dog Races. This required setting up three check points, one at Angling Lake, Sask., one at North Side, Sask. and one at the final check point and finish line the Spruce Home Trail Riders Arena. The Communications started at approximately 9:30AM local time and finished at 5:30PM local time.

The Race was from Prince Albert Sask. to Lac La Ronge Sask. and back to the Spruce Home Arena. The race was made up of 20 dog teams from places such as: Recklinghausen Germany, Lincoln MT., Haines Junction YT., Yellow Knife NWT., and Vilvoorde Belgium, and many teams from Saskatchewan and Alberta. Our efforts were appreciated and our members enjoyed the days' activities.

Those involved were: Bruce VE5ND (section manager for Sask.) Randy VE5QU, John VE5JJA, Isaac VE5IKE, James VE5JDW, Roly VE5RO, Harry VE5HFH, and Wayne VE5DWT

On Friday May 16th, 2003 the Lakeland Amateur Radio Association set up a special event station from 4-8PM, at the Lakeland District Fire Department for their open house. This consisted of fire trucks, displays, pictures etc. The Lakeland Fire Dept helps us by housing our repeater VE5LAK, in the Lakeland Area. Our station and display consisted of a 2 metre mobile radio, power supply, antenna, our banner and pamphlets explaining what amateur radio is all about. Many people expressed an interest in the station and an interest in our amateur radio classes coming up this fall.

Those involved in this outing were: Randy VE5QU, Bob VE5MY, Roly VE5RO, Wayne VE5DWT. An enjoyable evening was spent by those involved.

# The Birth of a New Repeater

Devon Racicot VE5DWR



This is a tale about the birth of a new repeater. As a member of the Battleford's Amateur Radio Association, I was privy to some information on one of the club's repeaters, being VE5BRC/1, on 147.24MHz, located at Lizard Lake. The club had made a motion at the last meeting to decommission the site due to lack of funds and dwindling interest.

Many members expressed a desire to keep the site due to its fantastic location and the facility. The site on loan courtesy of Saskatchewan Environment and the facility includes a two hundred and five foot communications tower. It was decided that the site could be turned over to a person or interested club to install a new machine.

A talk over coffee one day with Derek VE5SD and myself ended up with a plan on where to get equipment, how we could set it up and what we should do with it. Later, this idea would be presented to Ray VE5RAE, the current site custodian.

This is where Chris VE5BAR comes into the picture. Chris had a repeater tuned up on 146.67MHz that he had purchased a while ago and had not yet put into service. Of course, this was complete with duplexers and all the bells and whistles. A swap agreement had been made for some other equipment and the stage was set. The repeater is a Motorola Micor and was tuned up by Ray VE5RAE.

Preliminary tests were done with the repeater in Saskatoon and yielded fantastic results in range and audio quality. The next step was to get it out to the site.

On Wednesday, August 6, 2003, seven days after our first coffee, myself, Derek and Chris

made the trip out to the site. Armed with the GPS coordinates and word of mouth information that the site would be quite a trek, we set out to conquer.



After a few wrong turns, and a short 10 KM trip on a stretch of road that shouldn't be called a road, we saw the tower off in the distance. A few short KM left and we would be sitting at the gate. We had to dodge a few rocks, boulders and holes but we landed at the base of the tower and shack. What a view! The site is over 2400 feet in elevation and had wonderful view to the north and east, but unfortunately due to the forest fire situations in our Province, it wasn't clear enough for photos.

At 6:41PM, the repeater formerly known as the Lizard Lake Repeater on 147.240, and the packet digi-peater VE5SPD on 145.010 went off the air and ceased to exist. They served us well for many years!

The old equipment was removed from the shack and the new equipment put in place. At 7:20PM, the new machine on 146.670 came to life and Ken Crowston VE5KC and Ray Rosler VE5RAE were the first contacts. Ken was initially on a base station running 5 Watts from Battleford and Ray was "armchair portable" in his living room in North Battleford and both were solid into the machine. Success! A bit of minor tweaking and service interruption followed for the next forty or so minutes, and things were put in place where they would be left.

The repeater is running 32 Watts through the 6 can Sinclair duplexers and Sinclair 210C4 antenna at the top.

We tested the yagi antennas that were on the tower for SWR and both seemed to be fine. We

were unable to link into the VE5CC hub at this time, but things will be tweaked in the future.



We left the site at about 8:55PM, in time to hear the net start, with Dave VE5RY as Net Control. We were able to copy VE5SKN 145.210 about 3/4 scale and VE5CC on 146.940 full scale at the base of the tower in the mobile. This shows a promising

future for linking.

Eric Quiring VE5HG relayed our check ins to the net and patched us in for a few minutes and Ken made the announcement that the repeater was on the air.

As previously stated, plans for future linking to Saskatoon and North Battleford are in the works. We would like to see the old terrestrial network built up again as it once was.

A complete photo spread will be available in the near future from this trip on the SARL web site.

## Local Club Meetings

QSO Staff

The next Regina Amateur Radio Association meeting will be held on September 10, 2003 at the Saskatchewan Science Centre at 7:30PM.

The next ARES Regina meeting will be September 24, 2003, 7:30PM, at the Taylor Field boardroom.

The next Meewasin Amateur Radio Society meeting will be September 13, 2003 at 3:00PM at VE5SD's residence at 46 Lennon Crescent. It will be the Annual General Meeting and BBQ. Bring your fleas!

The next Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club meeting will be 7:30 PM, September 9, 2003 at Alvin Buckwold School at 715 East Drive.

Wondering why your club meeting isn't listed? It is because your club web site might be out of date, or nobody told us you had a meeting. Make sure to keep us posted with any changes!

## SARL Election Results

Devon Racicot VE5DWR

Here are the results of the election of the new executive that took place at the Annual General Meeting in Christopher Lake.

The following members were elected to the executive by acclamation:

President	Derek Bereza VE5SD
Vice President	Jerome Kuntz VE5KZ
Secretary	Ron Sather VE5RMS
Treasurer	Randy Westby VE5DFC



L to R: VE5DFC, VE5SD, VE5RMS, missing VE5KZ

### This is YOUR Newsletter!!

Tell us what your club is doing! Without the stories from around the Province, this newsletter would be pretty boring, so please take the time to put together a short article and let us know what you are all about!

## The Saskatchewan 2M Net

QSO Staff

The Saskatchewan 2M Net is held every Monday and Wednesday evening at 9PM local time on various linked repeaters throughout the province. The net is an semi-formal traffic net relaying information of interest to amateurs, news of sick or hospitalized hams and upcoming events. The net can be heard on repeaters in Saskatoon, Regina, North Battleford, Meadow Lake, Prince Albert & the Lakeland area, Nipawin, Canora, Lloydminster, Swift Current and others. Be sure to help us use our repeaters systems and keep our check-ins up. It only takes a few minutes to check the net and it gives you an opportunity to keep in touch with the amateur community.

A web site for the net is being developed and the address will be advertised in the next QSO.

Questions or comments regarding the net can be made to Eric Quiring VE5HG or Randy Canning VE5QU.

## New EC for ARES Saskatoon

QSO Staff - Via Press Release

Garry McCallum VE6PNQ was appointed as the new ARES EC for Saskatoon District effective August 1, 2003. Randy Westby VE5DFC, Saskatchewan Section Emergency Coordinator for ARES, made this unusual mid term appointment due to the sudden passing of the Saskatoon ARES EC Ken Wilson VE5KW in July. Ken had served as ARES EC for the last 3 years

Although a new resident of Saskatoon, Garry was appointed to the position because of his ARES experience in Central Alberta during and after the Pine Lake tornado and the Red Deer train derailment evacuation as well as his role as Assistant Emergency Coordinator

responsible for public relations in Central Alberta.

Garry has been active with the Canadian Red Cross in three provinces over the last 25 years in Disaster Response Team, public relations, volunteer coordination, training and fundraising roles.

Licensed in 1986 with a Digital (Advanced) amateur radio certificate as VE3PNQ, Garry has been active in digital modes and VHF / UHF modes ever since. He leaves the Central Alberta Radio League (C.A.R.L.) having served as Packet Node and BBS Sysop, Webmaster, Postmaster, Public Relations Chairperson, Fund Raising Chairperson, Licensing Instructor and club Director. He was awarded "Amateur of the Year" by C.A.R.L. in 2001.

Trained as an electronic technician (NCR & Heathkit) and television broadcaster (CKSA, CKRD, Shaw, ABC) Garry now provides digital multimedia and Internet consulting and production services to industrial and educational clients.

Garry McCallum can be contacted 24/7 at 306-220-3995 (voice/text messaging) or by email [ares.saskatoon@shaw.ca](mailto:ares.saskatoon@shaw.ca). He routinely monitors VE5SK (146.640-600) and VE5CC (146.940-600 IRLP Node 1360), APRS (144.390) and (Packet 145.010).

## Radio Amateurs of Canada – Youth Education Project

RAC Website

The purpose of the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) Youth Education Program is to encourage Amateur Radio as an innovative way of learning in schools across Canada, and a good way to make connections across the curriculum.



The RAC Youth Education Program will provide financial and personal support to teachers and schools in all regions of the country. Teachers who wish to include an element of radio technology in their classroom programs will be eligible for assistance in acquiring the necessary equipment, books and other resources.

The ultimate goal of the Program is to:

- ?? Encourage young people to look to the sciences and technologies for possible career and personal development;
- ?? Provide for the revitalization and growth of Amateur Radio with an infusion of young people.

RAC is all about Amateur Radio, and Amateur Radio has something for everyone. For more information on this RAC project, please check out the website, <http://www.rac.ca/>, or contact Bj. Madsen VE5FX at 306-873-4346.

## SARL Annual General Meeting

Ron Sather VE5RMS

Present VE5BCS, VE5SC, VE5TLW, VE5IKE, VE5LQ, VE5UJ, VE5MO, VE5DWR, VE5LWS, VE5DFC, VE5NFG, VE5FX, VE5AOV, VE5CO, VE5AGZ, VE5JIM, VE5HE, VE5SD, VE5RMS, VE5AY, VE5ND, VE5UU.

Pending individuals: Kristine Fabish, Peter Williams.

- 1) Meeting called to order at 2100 UTC. One minute of silence was held for those SILENT KEYS from the last year.
- 2) Jack VE5AY presented the financial report as forwarded from Ray VE5RAE who was unable to attend. Moved by VE5DWR to accept the report as presented Second by VE5SD. Carried.

3) Jack VE5AY presented a bill from the Lakeland group sponsors of the 2003 Hamfest for the pre-registration refund. Moved by VE5ND to pay same Second by VE5UJ. Carried.

4) There was much discussion with regard to the direction and the vision that SARL should go. Paper by VE5SD was presented and it was felt that SARL should continue to be an entity and that we work to make it more visible. There was interest in trying to conduct the monthly meetings on the IRLP network, which it is hoped would bring more Amateurs into the discussion.

5) There was a lot of discussion with regards to the membership dues, and after some debate it was decided that the fees for the 2004-2005 year be set at \$15.00. The fees for 2003-2004 could not be changed as per the constitution. Moved by VE5SD that fees for 2004-2005 be set at \$15.00. Seconded by VE5DWR. Carried.

6) Jack VE5AY opened the floor for elections of officers of SARL.

### **President**

VE5DWR nominated VE5SD  
VE5BJ moved nominations ceased.  
VE5UJ seconded. Carried.

### **Vice President**

VE5RMS nominated VE5KZ  
VE5DWR moved nominations ceased.  
VE5UJ seconded. Carried.

### **Treasurer**

VE5DWR nominated VE5DFC.  
VE5UJ moved nominations ceased  
VE5IKE seconded. Carried.

### **Secretary**

VE5DFC nominated VE5RMS.  
VE5SD moved nominations cease.  
VE5DFC seconded. Carried.

Following is list of officers for SARL for the year 2003-2004

President	VE5SD	Derek
Vice President	VE5KZ	Jerome
Treasurer	VE5DFC	Randy
Secretary	VE5RMS	Ron

7) There was no new business that was brought forward to the floor.

8) VE5DWR moved the meeting be adjourned. Time 2215 UTC.

## SaskHamfest 2003 Report

Randy Canning VE5QU

On behalf of the Lakeland Amateur Radio Association we would like to thank everyone who attended Saskhamfest 2003 in Christopher Lake, Sask. The Hamfest was held on July, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2003 and it was a complete success with over 108 hams in attendance.

The Hamfest started on Saturday morning with a pancake breakfast and Flea Market. We also had meetings held throughout the day on

topics like, ARES, IPARN, Echolink, IRLP and SARL. We gave away 95 door prizes throughout the day to amateur operators at the hamfest. Wayne Thompson "VE5DWT" played the organ several times throughout the day. Good Job Wayne! The pontoon boat rides started in the afternoon with two tours around Emma Lake. We could have had more tours but did not realize it would be in such demand. The boat rides lasted for an hour each tour and everyone enjoyed themselves, even the captain, Randy Canning "VE5QU" had a great time.



The Banquet started at 5:30pm and the food was just great. Certificates were handed out to Derek "VE5SD", Chris Morgan "VE5BAR", Ray Rosler "VE5RAE" and Erik Quiring "VE5HG" for assistance of time and equipment to the Lakeland Repeater System in Prince Albert, Sask.

Keeper plaques for the following trophies were handed out to, Randy Canning "VE5QU" for Outstanding Amateur Radio Operator of the year and Dave Martinuk "VE5RY" for the Network Efficiency Award for his contribution to the IRLP Saskatchewan Net.

Major door prizes consisted of an Icom two meter handheld and the winner was Louis Lennox "VE5LWS" of Moose Jaw, SK and the \$100.00 gift certificate from Radio World was won by Art Peterson "VE5IP" of Prince Albert, SK.

After all that, we had a jam session with amateur radio operators bringing their own instruments. Boy, could they play a tune! It was a great time.

We raised just over \$1,200.00 that will go toward the following local charities: Victoria Hospital Foundation,

Lakeland Volunteer Fire Department and the Lakeland pre-school and daycare.

We would like to thank all the local businesses, churches and service groups that donated door prizes, pop, certificates and time for our Hamfest and especially, Margaret Peterson,



the wife of Art Peterson "VE5IP" for all the treats she made for us to give to you during the day.

We want to take a moment and thank all of you that made the trip to Saskhamfest 2003 in Christopher Lake, SK to see how special the members of the Lakeland Amateur Radio Association really are.

Randy Canning "VE5QU"

## ARES Saskatchewan

Randy Westby VE5DFC



There was an ARES meeting held this year at Hamfest in Christopher Lake. The restructuring of ARES was introduced with the formation of four DEC Positions.

DEC-Northern Saskatchewan and DEC-Southern Saskatchewan, these two positions would divide the province in half at Davidson, thereby giving the EC's in each half of the province a more local contact. DEC-CANWARN is a position that will look after CANWARN for Saskatchewan. This person will be the direct liaison with Environment Canada. The last position is a new concept and that is DEC-Youth Initiative Project, this individual will work in conjunction with the Youth program by RAC to introduce amateur radio to the schools. Not only will they be introduced to the hobby but ARES will introduce them to the public service side as well.

On a sadder note, we unfortunately lost Ken Wilson VE5KW EC-Saskatoon & District who became a silent key. Ken held the position for three years and did a great job - he will be missed.

I have been in the process of reconfirming EC positions in the province, thereby giving individuals that have been in the EC chair for some time the chance to either continue or the

chance to step down if they wish to. So far the following positions have been reconfirmed or appointed.

### **Reconfirmed**

Emergency Coordinators  
Regina - Bill Wood  
Swift Current - Roy Toole

### **New Appointments**

Emergency Coordinators  
Saskatoon - Garry MaCallum  
Moose Jaw - Barry MacKenzie

District Emergency Coordinator  
CANWARN - Devon Racicot

### **Vacancies**

Emergency Coordinator  
Prince Albert and District

District Emergency Coordinators  
Northern Saskatchewan  
Southern Saskatchewan  
Youth Initiative Project

## **Saskatchewan Hamfest**

Did you know that the Hamfest for 2004 has not yet been bid on by any Saskatchewan Club? Do you think your club would like to host the event?

Have your club send a letter of proposal to:

Saskatchewan Amateur Radio League  
C/o 3922 Centennial Drive  
Saskatoon, SK  
S7L 5L1  
ATTN: Hamfest