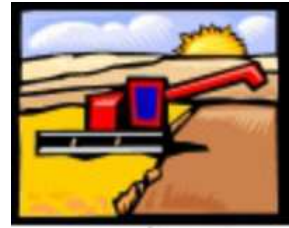




The QSO

September

2012



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With all of the media coverage of the upcoming U.S. Presidential election, I have had more than one American acquaintance admit that they admire the Canadian system for its (usually) courteous tone and (relative) brevity. We complain if election "fever" lasts six weeks while our neighbours have to put up with months of show biz and posturing and sometimes downright nastiness. What the candidates don't seem to realize is that the voters see through the smoke and vitriol and make the correct decision at the polls. That is the beauty of the system.

I was pleased to be elected President of this organization, Saskatchewan Amateur Radio League, in a quiet and respectful manner at the AGM at Manitou in July. I didn't write a campaign speech because I feel that the best course of action for SARL is the course that it has taken in recent years and I will endeavor to maintain or "stay the course." Besides, no one else wanted the job. The regional directors will continue making the policy and monetary decisions and I will attempt to keep up with the social and technical developments in the world of Amateur Radio. Also, I think it is important for an executive to have some idea of the history of the organization including the

successes and of course some policies and decisions that were not considered successful. I will continue to encourage new hams to participate in their organization by sharing their experiences through letters to our QSO publication.

It has been mentioned before on this page, that this is a unique organization in "Canadian Hamdom" as a provincial Amateur Radio Association.

I would once again like to express from all of the members, thank you to Val and Harv. for their work arranging and managing Hamfest 2012 at Manitou Beach. Also, Val graciously continues as secretary and very capable editor of QSO.

I have met several new Hams in recent months, some in person at gatherings like this summer's SARL Hamfest at Manitou Beach and even a couple of new contacts on two metre repeaters. Every year we welcome a few new operators to the Saskatchewan 80 metre net and I am sure new operators appear on the local two metre and the link nets as well. I would hope that we who were here first, take time to make them welcome and to answer any questions they may have. First impressions usually last a lifetime. Nets aren't just for hello and goodbye

It is always worthwhile to spend time to chat with someone you didn't know when the QSO began. It was always this way "on the air".

73 Gordon VE5UJ

FROM THE NORTH EAST REGION

I served for the past two years as the President of SARL. It was not a burdensome job but it was interesting in that it gave me a chance to become more familiar with issues regarding ham radio in Saskatchewan and it gave me a chance to get to know more of the leaders of the ham communities. Now that Gord (**VE5UJ**) has taken over as President I certainly wish him well and will continue as a member of the Board of Directors representing the North East region.

What constitutes the North East region? The towns of Nipawin, Tisdale and Melfort (actually a city) and the smaller towns around them which are serviced by three linked repeaters. There are a total of 56 licensed Amateurs currently listed as living in the North East region. Of these, over 20 of us are active to one degree or another on the ham bands, working one another occasionally on our repeaters. Melfort and Tisdale both host Saturday morning breakfast gatherings which typically see a total of a dozen or so attending fairly regularly. Melfort has a club

which has the primary function of keeping their repeater on the air and have as many as ten members in a good year. Tisdale is fortunate in that our EMO is an enthusiastic supporter of Amateur Radio (the chairman and most of the members are hams) and has purchased nearly all of the repeater equipment and budgets to look after any expenses associated with the repeater. Nipawin's repeater is maintained primarily by two of the local hams. Of the 20 or so hams that are active about 13 of us use the HF bands to one degree or another. If you listen to the evening 75 metre net, you many have noticed that there is almost always a number of check-ins from the North East.

So, is the North East a hotbed of Amateur Radio activity? Not really, but with the number of licenced Amateurs and no cities (sorry Melfort) we are doing quite well. This is partly due to classes which were offered and fairly well attended. Over the past few years three classes have been completed, primarily to get the EMO folks licensed, but we manage to attract a number of other interested potential hams. Twenty-one of our current hams are licensed as a result of these classes along with a number of others who were successful and subsequently moved away.

What's happening in this region? I had to replace my rotor as the old one was destroyed by our recent summer breeze. The insurance company was kind enough to provide me with a new Yaesu G-2800XA which should be able to stand up to future wind storms. Seven trips up the tower and it is

working as required. Norm **VE5NK** in Nipawin is moving to an acreage and is about getting his Advanced ticket this winter so he can run a bit of power on HF

73 Bj Madsen VE5FX

Yorkton & Area

Greetings from the hams in the East Central Region. It has been a relatively busy summer with repairs and moving equipment to get better coverage. We moved the repeater from Melville to Kamsack, and the IRLP nodes from Melville and Canora to Preeceville and Gorlitz respectively. We had a "cow strike" at Endeavor requiring cable repairs and were miffed because we didn't even get any steaks out of the deal. We also had several trips to the Yorkton Fire hall to keep the 9300 Saskatchewan Reflector up and running

We are pleased to welcome two new amateurs to our area and club, Bob **VE5EDE** and Glen **VE5ICW**.

The members that attended the SARL annual meeting and Hamfest enjoyed their time, thank you Watrous. Some changes were made this summer and Parkland Amateur Radio Club has the following repeaters up and running. **Yorkton** 146.490-, **Preeceville** 146.610-, **Kamsack** 147.000+, **Endeavour** 147.080+ and **Leroy** 146.910-. The IRLP stations are **Yorkton** 1710, **Rocanville** 1807 and **Preeceville** 1858.

Projects on the go are Rocanville's repeater 145.310- and a link from Yorkton to Windy Hill 146.940, hopefully both this fall. We are

also looking into new repeater sites and links to expand our 2 meter coverage.

73 Larry VE5LBD

South West Area

Hello everyone. This is my first report from the South West. I hope everyone has had a good summer so far. I hate to admit it but at the time of writing this I was definitely feeling fall in the air, and we are starting to see some of the leaves starting to turn. Autumn will be here before we know it. Children will be starting back to school and the buses will be running again for another year. Fall is also the time when we have various local craft events like the Highway 1 Studio Tour and the Fall into Christmas Fine Art and Handcraft Market. Both are usually well attended and very interesting. They provide a good chance to meet people from all over and to get a firsthand look at their creative talents and a chance to find that special gift.



Harvest down here is in full swing and everyone is taking advantage of the nice weather to get all the crops in. I hear yields and quality are both good. If the prices remain good, everyone will do well. The remark I hear most often is that we could have used one more ran back in July when it was so hot.

The Ham front down here is quiet but maybe activity will pick up as we get closer to winter. I hate to say winter when it's still August (shudder). Hopefully, the band conditions pick up and we can

work some DX. HF is difficult to work during the summer due to high noise and poor propagation. I manage to stay in touch with a few hams here, Hans **VE5JHU**, Bill **VE5XT**, Ray **VE5XRA**, Shara **VE5AF** and a few others. No one has given me any news so far to include with this QSO but a few have asked to get a copy of the QSO (simple...just become a member of SARL). Maybe next time I will have more information on events in which Hams had an active part.

So far, retirement has been treating me well. We were able to make several short trips to visit our children and do a little holidaying. Having the extra time really helps.

I enjoyed myself at the Hamfest this summer, especially getting to meet some of the people behind the voices I hear on the air. The Hamfest was well attended and well organized. The flea market had a bountiful supply of the usual items and I was able to come away with 250 feet of good coax which I had been looking for.

I would like to get some antenna work done soon, so I don't have to do it in the cold. Coax is easier to work with when it is still warm outside. I also have some non-ham related work around here to do, so it's a good thing I have the extra time.

Till next time

73 Ken VE5BI



Editor's Ramblings

Well, it's September already and I think here at my QTH we are only half finished the projects we have to get done before Old Man Winter comes, but maybe with a little bit of luck, we will get everything done

We had a lovely time at the Hamfest. Sure did meet a lot of new folks. I was extremely happy to see so many YLs and XYLs in attendance and I do have to apologize to them for not getting the afternoon put together as I had planned. It seems that just after the "Family Picture" was taken, everyone wanted me to be someplace, but that still that did not help that the gals did not get to the pool or to go to Danceland. I still hope that you all had a good time. From the reports that I have received, the morning session with Peggy **VE5ACT** went very well, despite the interruptions from yours truly with door prizes. Thank you so very much Peggy.

I want to thank our Guest speakers, Kees Kaper **VE5KKZ** for his talk on Radio Moon Bounce and Murray Crandon **VE5MC** for his wonderful presentation on the Midway Island 2009 DX pedition

A thank you to Bj **VE5FX** for being our president for the past 2 years. You did an excellent job.

A special thank you to all the hams that came out and supported the SARL Hamfest 2012. We cannot do these events without you.

Lastly I want to thank my OM Harv **VE5AC** for helping me with all the "little" things and jobs that needed

doing since January when this got started. I definitely could not have done it without you

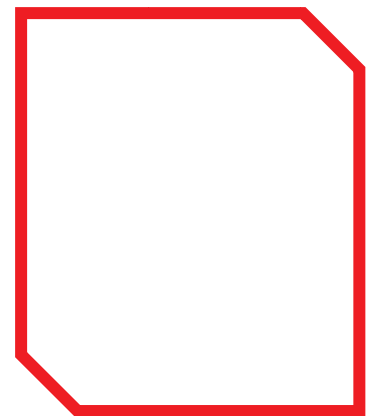
Oops, one last thank you. I don't know the ham's name, but he made a suggestion to my OM that I get all the hams together who had not gotten a door prize and have them come to the table and help themselves, what an awesome idea. Sure saved me drawing names when all was over we had 4 or 5 leftovers. This way they got stuffed into anybody's empty pockets. Also I want to thank all the contributors who gave us the doorprizes and yes, for the big stuff I will be sending them thank you letters

73 Val VE5ACJ

Saskatoon Area

The 23rd annual, MS Bike Tour 2012 August 18 and 19. 2012 Saturday's bike ride began in Watrous near the curling rink where the MS volunteers had a "riders village" set up and close to the rink itself where the bicycles were kept in secure storage overnight.

Regina Amateur Radio Association volunteers were: Clay **VE5AAA**, Pat **VE5AEO**, Bob **VE5BBZ**, Brian **VE5BJM**, Doug **VE5DCP**, Hugh **VE5HWH**, Bill **VE5IBK**, Jerome **VE5KZ**, Rick **VE5RJR**, Terry **VE5TLW**, Gordon **VE5UJ**, and George **VE5UU**. This is from



memory, so I hope I left no one out.

Rick gave us our assignments well before the riders left the site. Saturday, the riders were to leave the starting location after 9AM. Terry and his mobile station rode with the safety co-ordinator, Gord. Clay and Rick managed the control station in the emergency vehicle from Regina, which has both Amateur equipment and the one commercial circuit that was used in event coordination and control. Bob and Jerome were set up at the Rink and acted as communications for the rider village.

The rest of us were assigned to the various rest stops at Watrous, Simpson and Imperial plus regular rest stops between the towns. Simpson was the turn around point for most riders and was where noon lunch break was served. The added challenge for some riders who felt able was to continue on to Imperial, which is the next town South of Simpson. The extra challenge also included a ride East on highway 15 and return to highway #2 making a total for the day of 100 km.

As mobile stations, once we were beyond easy access to the Watrous VHF repeater, we gathered on the Last Mountain repeater frequency which was also being monitored by the Comm. Center with Rick and Clay.

Most riders stopped only at the rest stops or in case of bike trouble. In this case the van from Dutch Cycle was never far away and once contacted the repair people would get the riders on their way in a short time. Last word was that

they had changed 25 bike tires on Saturday.

Brian **VE5BJM** and Gordon **VE5UJ** supplied communications at rest stop #7, which was 36 km into the ride for the regular participants or 83 km for those that had taken the challenge route. At the banquet that evening I noticed some very tired people getting ready to end their day. Among the awards given out at the banquet was the award by Jays Transport of Regina in recognition of long serving volunteers to the MS Society and the fund raising event. Donna King was called from our table for the award. Donna has received other awards in the past and is well known among volunteer workers in Regina. Proud OM is Bill, **VE5IBK**. Great to see Donna receive this award. Congratulations Donna!

The Sunday morning tour was 52 km, Watrous start line to Young school grounds where the rest stop and communications vehicle were located, and return to Watrous. George **VE5UU** had his excellent mobile unit set up to make better use of the Watrous Repeater. I drove behind the last rider from Watrous to Young to make sure we hadn't left anyone behind on the highway. Coming back to Watrous, (up hill and against the wind) I followed the "ladies in pink" past rest stop 5 and one of their riders had fallen quite a way behind the main group. Soon there was another "rider in pink" stopped along with the first one. While driving ahead to the sixth and final rest stop she told us about her thoughts as the last rider on the tour. She had looked around and had lost sight of all of the other bike riders as they were already

past the hill ahead. "I looked up, and saw a couple of buzzards circling overhead and thought, this can't be good", so she stopped and waited for the ride. I expect her "buzzards" were actually Ravens making their daily patrol of the highway but we all appreciated her sense of humour.

Over 200 participants plus the volunteers accomplished a safe and successful fund raising event again this year. It was again a pleasure to be able to help in a small way. Thanks to the Regina Amateur Radio Association for the opportunity.

73 Gordon VE5UJ

Saskatoon City

Hi to all

Summer appears to be winding down slowly. We took a trip to Radisson this afternoon and some crops are ripening and being swathed and others are still very green. In our back yard the sparrows have found the feeder and the food is vanishing as if there is no tomorrow.

The Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club is beginning the fall season in a new home. The club will now be meeting the Western Development Museum the second Saturday of each month (Sept. 8/12) at 10:00 A.M. This will allow time for the weekly breakfast prior to the meeting. The club meets at Haywood's or Mulberry's every Saturday and all are welcome. You need not be an amateur to join the group. The second Saturday of the month the Boomtown Cafe in the museum will also be available. It is an exciting time for the club.

There will be possibilities of volunteer activities with the museum. This could prove to be an inspiration for the club.

The club has been busy over the summer. Canada Day at Diefenbaker Park saw the club set up a display. Even with the rainy weather the display had 49 visitors throughout the day. A big thank you to Garry **VE5SG**, Bob **VA5BRT** and Mike **VE5MMG** for this venture. James **VE5CNB** was also able to call the 8:00 PM club net from that location.

Over the summer the club did some repeater work at Rock Point and Little Bear station saw further development. This weekend the Club is providing communication for the Potash Corp Fireworks Festival. Thank you to all the amateurs that are participating in these events.

Just got the September copy of the Feedline. A big thank you goes out to Mike **VE5MIK** for editing this publication and to all the contributors. In this edition there is a very good repeater map for the province. This map is only as good as the information that is available. **Please!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Will the repeater owners, be it clubs or individuals update this map. Take a look at the repeaters in your area and if some are no longer active or there is a new one on it, let me know at quiringe@shaw.ca.**

Well the nets have been carrying on over the summer. I have heard the comment a number of times that a net controller is doing an evening to give me a break. People you need to take owner

ship to these nets. I am sure that the net controllers on 80m, 40m, Trans Canada IRLP, Saskatoon club net, and myself do not consider these nets to be our own. These nets represent all amateurs. We need net controllers on all frequencies and calling the net maybe a bit frightening initially and time consuming but it becomes easier the more times you do it.

Those of us that are calling the nets on a regular basis are more than willing to help new controllers become comfortable with the nets.

I am again asking that people let me know if they are available.

Well on looking at the Feedline again the date for the Saskatoon Amateur Radio club Christmas party has already been determined. Maybe that is jumping ahead to far but another amateur year is being and plans are under way.

Till next edition.

73 Doris VE5DJQ

South East Area

Well, this is the 3rd year that I am not on a combine, a swather, or driving the big grain trucks, and although I really do miss the excitement of harvest, folks may think I am getting too old to do it. Crops out in this area are—Canola not really great but passable. The Winter Wheat is fantastic. The farmers who had the Winter Wheat should be very happy with what they are getting into the bins.

Larry **VE5AJ** and I went down to Austin, Manitoba for the MARMFEST, and we had a great time. We stayed in the motel, just

so we didn't have to do the camping thing. We had a great time seeing folks we haven't seen in a while, and making new acquaintances. FYI: Do not travel on Hwy #1 between here and the Manitoba border, especially on a Friday night. The traffic is horrendous.

Blair **VE5BAM** and his XYL are really enjoying his retirement. Now they are always on the go, and sometimes we don't know where they are. They did go east to Toronto to take in a Blue Jays game and had a lot of fun. Blair has fun travelling, working on old cars and doing antenna work.

Now a cute story about Blair. He built a tower in a "No Tower" area in the city. Well, the City Engineer is also the Housing Inspector, and everything seemed ok. Anyways, we had a big windstorm down here in Estevan, and then one night the neighbour thought someone was throwing rocks at his place, checked outside but didn't see anything. Back to the stormy night—the neighbour hears a loud crash, goes out and sees the TA-33 off the top of Blair's tower on top of his roof. Anyways, it seems that either Blair did not tighten all the bolts and nuts, or he forgot to put them in (these were the "rocks" hitting the roof a couple of nights earlier). Anyways, Blair got a brand new antenna courtesy of the insurance company. Oh I forgot to tell you---The neighbour was the City Engineer/Housing Inspector.

Gary **VE5GC** has finally got a real good 2 meter rig and he should be loud and clear on the nets.

Murray **VE5XO** is finally back on the air. Says he has time now that he is retired.

We have been very fortunate that we have not had any lightning strikes at any of the towers, but there is one, that everyone wishes would go, but I won't say which one it is in this newsletter. Some folks may not like it. Hi hi.

At my QTH, I have fixed up my 80 meter antenna. I have also been checking into the Aurora Net on 7.055 and I am getting to hear all of the VE6's and VE7's hope propagation continues.

73 Marv VE500

Moose Jaw & Area

Wow, where did the summer go. The Pioneers Amateur Radio Club will be back to their monthly suppers at Humpty's starting on Tuesday, Sept 11th. We will all catch up with each other and find out how everyone's summer went. We will also hear how Walter VE5RVP's trip to Wales went.

The club will be doing the Terry Fox Run on Sept 16th. Still not sure how many of our members will be out, know we have 5 or 6 for sure. Val VE5ACJ will be Adidas Mobile again, being the last to leave the starting gate and the last to come back. She enjoys the walk and of course is always in radio contact.

Val has dug her Ukrainian cash crop (potatoes) and we have a real good amount. Should see us all the way to about Christmas. We don't have a cold storage area, so once we bring them indoors, then she freezes them.

We still have antenna work to do, as Val wants a 20M loop that faces south so that she can hear the girls on the American nets that she checks into. So guess we had better get moving on that project or we will be freezing our fingers and you know what off. Yes we know, that the best antennas are ones that are done in the winter, but you know folks, that is for the younger generation. Now we do it when the weather is good and warm.

That's all for now.

73 Harv VE5AC

Prince Albert & North

The 31st Annual Frank Dunn Triathlon was held at Waskesiu Aug. 12th. There was a great turn out of athletes for a gorgeous day. The radio club had a full complement of hams that came out to help keep communications between athletes and organizers. We would like to thank the following: Harold **VE5BCS**, Jim **VE5SAM**, Keith **VE5BT**, Walter **VE5PJP**, Peter **VE5VIS**, John **VE5JJA**, Blaine **VE5ZC**, Rachel **VE5RHL**, and Christine XYL of Peter. Also thanks to anyone I may have missed, not on purpose believe me. The weather was good and everything went according to plan

The Prince Albert Radio Club handed out 2 life memberships this summer. Joe **VE5JOP** and his YL Helen **VE5HDP** were the recipients. Congratulations to both. The Certificates were presented to the lucky couple by Art **VE5AAP** and Harry **VE5HAE**.

Harvest is slow in this area. Way to much rain up there this year,

and we had a big wind storm at the end of June which did not do the crops any favors. Swathing has started, but going slow.

That's all for this time around folks

73 Harry VE5HAE

Regina & Area

Hello everyone. Guess I am the last to send anything in to Val.

Not much going on here at the moment, as summer is still trying to hang on for a bit longer.



Lumsden had its 2nd annual "Run like a Duck" on Sept. 1st. It was a huge success.

Unfortunately I do not have the names of any Regina hams that participated or were involved. Unfortunately it was the same weekend as the Watrous MS Bike Tour.

On Sunday, Sept 9th, Regina has the Queen City Marathon. Hopefully by next issue I will have the names of the club members who helped out.

73 Bob VE5LTD

Webmaster's Report

Well folks, you may have noticed that some of our webpages are not quite current. My assistant Val has been busy looking for another template and we are going to be changing the look of the page. Also I know that at this time of year Val is busy trying to get the membership list up to speed so that everything is current. Please be patient with us as we undergo a new look for SARL. If you have

pictures and would like to see them on the web page, please send them to me or Val and please do not send teeny tiny pictures, as they cannot be resized properly. The bigger the picture you send the better.

If your club is having a flea market, or other activities that you would like more folks to know about, then please send them on to us. Also, if your website is not current, or does not show up properly, please fix it so that we can have a link to it. I have noticed that a couple of sites when clicked on say that the server is not found. So that is your department to make sure all information is correct so that all hams can access your site from ours.

Thanks everyone and the new site will be up and running soon.

73 Bruce VE5ND

WHO IS GOING TO DO HAMFEST 2013----PLEASE LET US KNOW ASAP

Secretary/Treasurers Report

The SARL Hamfest 2012 was a huge success. We had over 70 people through the doors. Some were SARL members and other not. A basic break down is:
Tables=\$70.00, Yaesu Radio=\$260.00 and door= \$160.00 for a grand total of \$490.00. So SARL will be putting in a few extra pennies into the account.

On behalf of the Executive and the Area Directors, I wish to thank all that took the time to come to the Hamfest. If you know of folks who showed up and are not members of SARL, please pass on a thank you to them.

Also thanks you to the hams that either signed up as new SARL members or renewed your membership. It always helps when dues are paid a bit early.

Please don't take this the wrong way, but please be advised that if your membership in not paid up by the next issue of the QSO – This is your last issue.

Know other hams who would like to be members – send them to the website so they can download and print a copy of the membership form. Or in the event they do not have a computer, would you please print them off a copy.

Thanks again everyone we really appreciate your support.

73 Val VE5ACJ

Want a real nice picture-----sent me \$10.00 and I will send you one with callsigns





Saskatchewan Amateur Radio League, Inc.
#263 - 325 - 4th Ave. S.W.
Moose Jaw, Sask.
S6H 5V2

NEW MEMBERSHIP*AND/OR***RENEWAL FORM**
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Additional Family Members who are hams:

Name:	Callsign:
Name:	Callsign:
Name:	Callsign:

Membership Type:

- Individual \$20.00
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