



**PLEASE REMEMBER TO CHECK YOUR ENVELOPE,
YOUR RECEIPT AND MEMBERSHIP CARD(S) ARE**

Secretary/Treasurers Report: de VE5ACJ

Well hello again. It just seems like yesterday that I was putting the August issue together, and here it is October already. I hope all our farmers have been able to get all their crops off the land and into the bins. I know that weather has really not been kind to the farmers this year, but hopefully you still got good crops.

We had our AGM September 27th at the Walter Murray Collegiate and it was a good meeting. Unfortunately, we only had 21 out of 111 members show up. Now I realize that the weather was great for harvest, so understand why some members were not there. It is hard to get folks to come to meetings, but this year we had great speakers and very interesting topics, even if they were far above me. There is only 1 other provincial club and that is in Quebec and our SARL is our provincial voice. We need all our members to stick together so that we can have a much better voice with I.C. We don't want to be left out in the cold when decisions are being made about what happens to our hobby.

I unfortunately was not able to stay for the full day due to illness, but from what I have heard from some of our members the afternoon session was very informative. Our thanks to Eric Meth, VE3EI for coming to our SARL meeting and giving such great information on D-Star. Also thanks so very much to Bruce Coates, VE5BNC for giving great information on the APRS in the morning.

There were some great door prizes as well and the grand door prize was won by Garry McCallum, VE5PNQ.

Your new executive for the 2008/2009 year are: **Devon Racicot, VE5DWR** – President; **Gus Schmid, VE5SPI** – Vice President; and myself, **Val Lemko, VE5ACJ** as Secretary/Treasurer. We have a few more Directors this year, and they are:

Prince Albert & North – **Wayne Thompson, VE5DWT**

Nipawin & N.E. – **Art Heibert, VE5ARJ**

Saskatoon – **Nathan Mirva, VE5NAT**

Saskatoon Area – **Gord Gwillim, VE5UJ**

South East – **Joe Musgrave, VE5CEM**

Moose Jaw & Area – **Val Lemko, VE5ACJ**

Yorkton & Area – **Randy Molyneaux, VE5RJM**

Areas still vacant are Battlefords & Area, South West, and Regina....if anyone is interested in one of these positions, please let me know and I will let our Execs know so we can put down your name. It would be good to have all areas filled so that we get more information for our QSO.

I also would like to thank Derek, VE5SD for his encouragement and his time with the SARL. Well, that's it for this time around, hope to catch you either on the HF or the IRLP nets. Take care all.

Greetings

Well, at the present I have nothing new to add, we are still working on our UHF Link, and I am in the process of getting the equipment going for a new repeater site near Rockford. This might come in handy for the North, where I heard today that the CRTC granted Sasktel permission to remove the existing VHF Phone patches to the Northern areas of the province leaving them without phone service....just lovely

I might add that a couple of hams have passed through the area, not exactly knowing the correct frequency of our repeater, if you like, you can add the now new repeater lookup list on the web at: <http://nwham.com/index.php> the short cut to Saskatchewan Repeater list is: http://nwham.com/repeaters/quick.php?state_id=CA11

More and more provinces are going with this repeater directory to ease on locating repeaters when driving across the country... many US States are also being included.

I am currently the moderator for the Saskatchewan Repeater List, and you may want to see if anybody else in the province would like the position, I asked Stan but he says he already has a lot on his plate. It is very easy to do, a little computer knowledge is all that is required, and I will assist to help out if anyone is interested.

There is also a national database to update and list your email address at: <http://www.dmnet.ca/care/> for all Canadian Hams.

SARL does not have to mail me a hard copy; email in pdf format is good for me? Save on a stamp, I would suggest everyone that has a computer do the same.

Have a Happy Halloween. 73's Randy (ve5rjm) Michelle (ve5mdm)

Another last minute note from the Last Mountain Area. by VE5UJ

We had a fine gathering at Walter Murray Collegiate during the September annual general meeting of Saskatchewan Amateur Radio League. A public thank you to the Saskatoon members who did the arrangement. I was able to "QSO" several people that I see only infrequently. Congrats. To Devon as new Western Director RAC and to Joe VE5CEM, Section Manager as of November 1.

Radio operating activity in this area is sporadic at best. The Last Mountain Club has had only one event this year in the form of a meeting and presentation on CANWARN to the public at the Strasbourg Museum in June. Brian VE5BJM/VE5NQ, Dale VE5AGZ, Peggy VE5ACT and I managed through the presentation and following questions with some of the training aids supplied by Environment Canada. With the help of a borrowed projector, the training CD from the Severe Weather Project supplied by Bob Cormier of Saskatoon and Peggy's computer expertise, we got through. Of course while there we gave them the entire story about Amateur Radio and how many new hams we are expecting. I am hoping to be invited back some time and maybe do some radio demos. The location is directly across the street from a hotel and Video Lottery Terminals, so I am certain the RF. environment will be "busy".

I was able to make a trip to Calgary for a weekend in August. Despite it being summer, the Saturday morning coffee party at Sun Ridge Mall was well attended. There are always ex, or shall I say temporary ex Saskatchewan residents with lots of questions about how things are "back home." Don VE6XF and his wife bought me dinner and we continued the QSO after the coffee group broke up. There is a huge Radio Amateur population in Calgary and so plenty of repeater activity.

The Saskatchewan evening net on 3735 Khz. has been blessed with much "easier" radio conditions since thunderstorm season has passed. Also, it is good to hear some new members checking in regularly. The band is actually open in the mornings this time of year (80 metres) and just great conditions to our neighbours both east and west. Those of us without "real jobs"

can have a chat before breakfast and then find some one to talk with after the weather net (1400 UTC) on 3753 KHz.

One of the regular stations on the local repeater is Bob, VE5BBZ who also happens to show up quite regularly on APRS (I am told). Bob stopped in this week on his way home and I held him up for an hour over a pot of tea. It was good to chat, thanks Bob. Thanks again Val for looking after this and I hope my late entry doesn't wreck your life. 73, Gordon.

Moose Jaw Happenings de VE5ACJ

Not too much going on here in Moose Jaw, the weather was really nice until Oct 12th, when we got a good dumping of snow. Moose Jaw received 8 inches of heavy wet snow, which in one way was a good thing, as our ground is so very dry. The only bad thing was that it was far too early for snow. Mind you, at the time of this writing, it is almost gone, and as much as I like winter, it was far too early to have it. The MJPioneers Amateur Radio Club at the last meeting decided that we would pay off our outstanding debt to SARL for Node # 1882. Now in saying that, yes, we have paid off our debt, but no one here is really that computer savvy as to keeping it in top notch condition, so we have asked Devon, VE5DWR to please stay on as our Techie. At least he can access it from Saskatoon, and do the tweaking that may be needed, and for that we are extremely grateful. Thank you to SARL, Devon, VE5DWR, Chris, VE5BAR, Randy, VE5RJM and any others who I may have missed in bringing Moose Jaw into the 21st century of Ham Radio.

We congratulate Murray Crandon, VE5MC on his great accomplishment, just goes to prove that there are still some DXing to be done...and in Murray's own words:

"There...now I can die! I officially have my dxcc to 301 now. I worked a new one recently and that will make it to 302. Things go up in just increments of 5 from now on to 336 or so....I don't know if I will work many more but I left space for 8 more stickers just in case...hi hi. 73, Murray VE5MC."



New Midwest RAC Director

Devon Racicot, VE5DWR will be taking up the post of RAC Midwest Director starting in the new year. Congratulations Devon! Devon has been an assistant director for a number of years, so he is well positioned to take on this new responsibility.

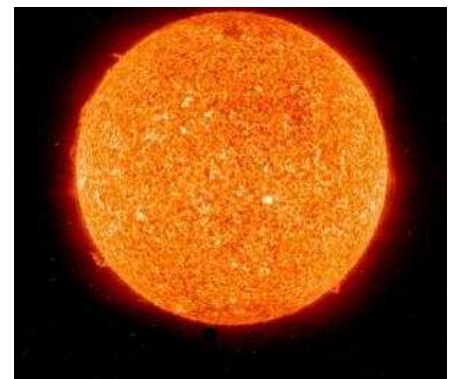
We should also thank BJ Madsen for the MANY years of service as the Midwest Director and his continued roll with RAC in a number of program areas.

Cycle 24 Where Is It?

Sun watchers and scientists predicted that we were supposed to start our new cycle last fall (2007). A year later we still have an absence of sunspots associated with the sun's new cycle. Many questions such as, when are we going to bottom out? Have we already passed the sunspot minimum? When will cycle 24 begin to show strength? I found out last week that we are at the bottom while trying to reset the ham clock, I used 3 radios and every antenna I had, and still had difficulty in receiving WWV.

One wonders if we are headed for another "Maunder Minimum", that period of 50 or so years of an absence of solar activity which occurred during the years of 1650-1700. Probably not, so don't start selling your ham gear.

Sunspots Vanished = A Cooling Earth?



For more information: Google "Maunder Minimum" or site www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/06/080609124551. Then go to the Space and Time tab, scroll down to Sun and then scroll down to Spotless Sun. Till next time de Harv, VE5AC

No new 40m frequencies for CW?

The following does not affect us here in Region 2 at the moment; let's hope that the powers that be don't do as Region 1. There are still some very good CW operators out there and those of us to enjoy doing CW also. Val, VE5AQ

Dear CW operators

In papers submitted to the upcoming IARU Region I Conference three member societies made recommendations regarding the 40m band plan after the remaining broadcasting stations will have left 7100-7200 Khz. REF, DARC and RSGB intend to fob telegraphists off with 0 (zero!), +5 and +10 Khz respectively, representing 0 (zero!), 2.5% and 5% of the new 40m band. In other words, concerning the additional 100 KHz range: "SSB takes it all".

The complete range ~7050-7200 KHz shall become the new SSB allocation. Compared currently 7043-7100 KHz this represents a growth of about 160% (one-hundred-sixty percent)! The additional 100 KHz allocation offers a unique opportunity to pacify "border conflicts" between e.g. simultaneous (QRP) CW and RTTY activities. The recommendations submitted now pass up this unique chance and cause new conflicts.

The above extremely SSB-sided redistribution is based on alleged observations of daily use. Thus a proportional extension of all sub bands-in a way obvious and just- is argued to be inappropriate. Above "observations" are opposed by automated professional daily spectrum usage assessments, the latter of which show no decline of CW activity on the hf bands. Further all major DX-peditions, also the all-time record VP6DX Endeavour, log at least as many CW contacts as phone ones, not to mention E4/OM2DX with 66% CW.

Primarily the new 40m band plan has to regulate the peaks of traffic e.g. on a weekend during sunspot maximum by allocating adequate slices of the "new cake" to all modes. Without fobbing off CW (and digimodes) with nothing or almost nothing.

BC stations not leaving 7100-7200 KHz immediately after their allocation expires are quoted as a further reason for disproportional "extensions". This may come to pass thus, and with proportional extensions (say 7000-7070 CW; 7070-7100 digimode; 7100-7200 SSB) it indeed wouldn't be fair to simply shift the phone sub band upwards into a range possibly still used for some time by broadcasters.

But the telegraphists are willing to bear this impairment in full proportion. First and foremost CW is suited to assist the evacuation of BC stations, with digimodes certainly not far behind.

So instead of a direct proportional expansion of sub allocations the operating modes need proportional expansions in the upper half of the enlarged 40m band. Either with the same sub band positions as in the lower 100 KHz (e.g. CW I = 7000-7035; Digi I = 7035-7045; SSB I = 7045- 7100 Khz. CW II = 7100-7135 etc.). Or, maybe even better, in a mirrored allocation (Digi II = 7155-7165; CW II = 7165-7200), thus yielding a continuous SSB segment from 7045-7155 Khz.

Recommendations CT08_C4_10 & Co. need to be withdrawn in any case. To this end I ask all telegraphy operators to write or talk to the persons in their national amateur radio society in charge of band plans;

Write or talk to managers of their national amateur radio telegraphy clubs (FISTS, UFT, AGCW, HSC, etc.) inquiring how they advocated the concerns of their members in this matter and how they intend to do so in the near(!) future;

Use connections to foreign radio telegraphy clubs to warn them of the imminent threat to the 40m CW sub allocation; Bravely, self-confidently and frequently use CW between 7100 and 7200kHz, which, before noon, can be an almost interference free pleasure.

CW lives and demands its fair share of the "cake", which some obviously begrudge us. So we need to fight for it. 73/2 es cu in the new 40m-band "Hal", Hartmut Weber, DJ7ST

The following is used with kind permission of the authors, John Devolder, On4UN and Mark Demeulen, ON4WW. This will be an ongoing series, and if you want to read the full text instead of waiting, please go to the website: <http://www.on4ww.be/OperatingPracticeEnglish.html>

OPERATING PRACTICE

Who among us has obtained his driving license by merely taking a theoretical exam? Nobody has.

In Belgium, until the basic ham license came along, there has never been any form of education on how to make a QSO. After the theoretical exam the newborn licensees are unleashed on the ham bands. The resulting operating was not always nice to listen to. In the analogy of taking a driver's exam, imagine you only take a theoretical exam, get your driver's license, and then you can hit the roads and drive a vehicle which you have never steered before. Well, this is exactly what is happening with hams.

During the first years as a ham the author, just as anybody else, has made mistakes (he still does, but much less). With this article he wants to give a boost to both newcomers and old-timers to quickly sound as a 'pro' on the bands. The mistakes he made originated many times by listening to the 'not so good' operating practices of some of the old-timers. They are not to blame. Clear guidelines on how to communicate on ham bands have never existed. One must not underestimate the importance of good operating practices. In the end, all our transmissions can be intercepted by anybody, be it hams, listeners, official observers, etc. The technical aspect of our hobby is one matter. If we use our equipment and make on the air contacts, we enter the second matter, i.e. we represent our nation on the airwaves; we are very visible.

To make successful transmissions on any frequency and in any mode some simple rules must be observed. Would you please follow me in the quest for good 'Operating Practice'?



1. HAM LANGUAGE

Know the 'Ham Language'. Get acquainted with the correct Amateur Radio Language. Don't say 'Radio four', but 'readability four'. Master the phonetic alphabet, CW abbreviations; the Q code and the number code (73/88) as if they were a second mother language before getting on the air. Always use the phonetic alphabet in a correct manner: A is Alfa, and not Alabama. This will be further discussed in chapter 8 (PILEUPS).

2. LISTEN

As a new ham you'd like to start transmitting as soon as possible, of course. Take it easy, take your time, and stay away from that microphone, Morse key or keyboard. First get comfortable with ALL the functions of your transmitters/receivers before attempting any transmissions. The transmit part needs special attention, as it is here one can make his first 'on the air' mistakes. Initially learn to LISTEN. Whoever listens at first, will be much more successful in making good and enjoyable contacts. The chapter PILEUPS deals in depth with this important issue.



Hello to all from Saskatchewan S. E. Area. My name is Joe Musgrave My Call is VE5CEM/VA5JM QTH is 729-5th St. Weyburn, SK. S4H1A4 E-MAIL ve5cem@rac.ca PHONE 306-842-2626

Summer has gracefully moved into fall with all its variations of great color and more moderate temperatures. It also gave us a glimpse of what is to come, in the form of 7 or 8 inches of heavy wet snow on the Thanksgiving weekend.

My antenna and tower projects are all ready to go starting this weekend and the fire hall G5RV antenna is complete, tested and ready to use when needed.

Is the VE5WEY (Weyburn) Repeater going to need a new home, or is it going to stay where it is? This is a question looming on the horizon lately. It is all tied up in a proposed land sale of a City owned facility that the repeater is housed in. Stay tuned for further developments.

On Saturday September 27th Jared Forrester (VE5JCF) and I traveled to Saskatoon for the SARL AGM. After the meeting part of the day there were a couple of great information sessions. The first presentation was by Bruce Coats VE5BNC. He talked about APRS & how it fits in with CASARA & other search & rescue activities.

For more information on APRS check out <http://www.aprs.org> after lunch the next presentation was by Eric Meth VE3EI. Eric talked about the new Icom data offering called DSTAR. He also had some equipment set up to demonstrate. It looked like it would be a great tool for ARES & EMO work. For further information on this topic visit <http://www.icomcanada.com/index.htm> thank you Bruce and Eric for interesting and informative presentations.

I am listening to Slow Scan TV on the International Space Station, now and for the next 6 or 7 days. The signal is on 145.800 MHz FM. Some passes are SSTV and some are the voice of W5KWQ Richard Garriott (son of Astronaut Owen Garriott). He is using the Station call sign NA1SS. If you would like to read up on what happened check out <http://www.rac.ca/ariss/oindex.htm> If you want to download a program to capture the SSTV signal go to <http://mmhamsoft.amateur-radio.ca/mmsstv/> If you want to find out when the ISS will be over your town check out <http://www.heavens-above.com/> See the attached pictures that I received on my system.

That is all that I have for now. I will close with another excellent article sent in by **Jerry Dixon VE5DC**. Thank you Jerry & keep them coming. I enjoy reading them.

Anyone in the S.E., That has information, events or stories for inclusion in the QSO is welcome to send them to me at the above mentioned address. If you would like an SARL membership I can help you out there too. 73 de VE5CEM S.E. Rep. SARL

Operating Amateur Radio in England

During the last part of June and for about 3 weeks in July, 2001, Kay and I visited and toured around southern England. For this trip I wanted to operate amateur radio on HF and VHF, so I took along my Kenwood TS-50, a small antenna tuner and key etc. For a power supply I used the MFJ 25 Amp. 4125 switching power supply. This unit is small and light and will run on 110 or 220 volts. All the equipment fitted into a small aluminum tool case. For the antenna I had about 60 feet of thin speaker wire. On 2 metres I used a Midland handheld radio plus a TV ribbon J-Pole ant., and for mobile a 1/4 wave mag mount.

In order to operate in England I acquired a CEPT license. This license is good in about 34 countries, mostly in Europe and only costs \$10.00 for one year. When operating under this license, you would use your own call sign preceded by a letter and fraction bar. For example in England I used M/VE5DC. Apparently they do not issue the G call signs any more. For those interested in getting a CEPT license, go to the RAC web site and look under Regulations, Licensing and Certificates.

Operating CW on HF was a real pleasure because you could work most of Europe with little trouble running only 10 watts and the end fed wire up about 12 feet or so. My best results were on 30 and 20 metres CW but I did manage a few SSB contacts on 80 and 40 metres. For example, the distance from London to Paris is only 200 miles so the lower frequencies work very well. I did not manage many North American contacts however. Putting up the antenna was no problem. Most houses in England have nice windows that open up and they do not have any window screens. (No bugs). The other end of the wire was usually tied to a convenient tree, using some black bailer twine. I operated from 3 different locations.

VHF on 2 metres is quite good with lots of repeaters around and some simplex operation. However, working these repeaters is not as simple as here in Canada. Most repeaters have CTCSS encoding plus a 1750 Hz tone burst. So you have known not only the operating

frequency but also the CTCSS tone for that particular machine. By the way a list of repeaters for most countries can be found on AC6V's excellent web site under the repeater section.

<http://www.ac6v.com/>

Some other interesting activities were visiting the many museums and also visiting the Marconi memorial at Poldhu Cove, Cornwall in southwest England. This is the site where Marconi sent his first signals to Canada 100 years ago. There is a simple cairn there with 4 metal plaques telling the story of Marconi and the site. The Poldhu Amateur Radio Club is located about 100 yards away. You can still see the cement foundations of the old wireless station that was located there until the mid 1930's. This is a beautiful spot with the Atlantic Ocean just a few yards away and a clear path to the west for radio signals.

All in all, this was a wonderful trip and operating amateur radio just made it that much better. 73 Jerry/VE5DC

REMINDER

<p>RARA Fall Flea Market</p>	<p>Saturday Nov 1, 2008 Open to the public 9:00am until Noon</p>	<p>SGI Northwest Claims Centre at 1121 McCarthy Boulevard N. (NE from Sherwood Village Mall). View location MAP There will be a draw for a new handheld! Yaesu <u>VX-150</u> Tickets \$2.00ea or 3 for \$5.00</p>	<p>Contact Bart Ritchie, VE5CPU for a flea market table. [ve5cpu at imagewireless dot ca or 789-9073] NOTE: Do not park in the adjacent businesses parking area - they will issue tickets!</p>
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HAMFEST 2009: Lanigan, Saskatchewan, July 11, 2009

The coordinator, David Klatt, VE5GN has got the ball rolling. SARL members will get FREE admission, non members \$10.00. So if you know folks who want to attend, send them to my email address and we will get them set up with a membership.

Thanks, Val, VE5ACJ, ve5aq@sasktel.net