



The Board of Directors and Executive members of the Saskatchewan Amateur Radio League want to wish all members and their families a Very Merry Christmas and a Healthy Prosperous New Year. May the peace of Christmas fill your hearts and your homes throughout the coming year.

### **President's Report - by Devon Racicot VE5DWR**

Greetings fellow amateurs! As this is my first, and I admit, late first report to the membership, I must apologize for missing the last issue. Due to personal reasons I was not able to write anything up before the deadline and thus, missed it. I will make up for it however, in this issue.

First, I want to take the time to thank Val Lemko VE5ACJ and Bruce Donovan VE5ND, for doing a much needed update to the Saskatchewan Amateur Radio League's website. The site has been dormant for several years and it was due for a facelift. Please take the opportunity to peruse the site and view the current information at [www.sarl.ca](http://www.sarl.ca). If you haven't renewed your membership already, please download a form and do so!

I also want to welcome two new faces to the SARL Board of Directors. Replacing me in the Saskatoon area is Nathan Mirva VE5NAT and filling the vacancy in the Yorkton and south east area is Randy Molyneaux VE5RJM. I welcome you both to the Board and I hope the experience is a rewarding one. We have a busy year ahead of us and I know we can count on both of you to roll up your sleeves and get involved!

Another bit of thanks that needs to be handed out is to Chris Morgan VE5BAR. Chris has been the owner and administrator of a web & mail server and he has permitted not only the SARL, but several other clubs to roost amongst the metaphorical shelves on that server. Until recently, Chris has also primarily owned and operated the Saskatoon IRLP Reflector (9300) until it went silent in September of this year. I can only imagine the hundreds of hours that went into the upkeep of those systems. Chris still allows us to reside on the web server and our own SARL email alias and bulletin lists still remain intact. So for all you do, thanks Chris! Along this line, we are happy to report that the "Saskatchewan Reflector 9300" will return to the IRLP network at its new home in Yorkton, sometime in early 2009. Special thanks on this project again to Chris Morgan VE5BAR for the machine preparation and Randy Molyneaux VE5RJM for securing a site for the machine. We were very fortunate to have received an anonymous donation of a computer for this project. The new site will have backup power as an added bonus.

I think gratitude must also be expressed to outgoing President Derek Bereza VE5SD for keeping the SARL vision alive for so many years. Although Derek is no longer president, he will remain a part of the board as "Past-President" and advisor to the board where his input is always inspirational.

I want to address a few things with respect to being elected as President. First off, I did not seek nomination to become president. I was nominated at this year's SARL AGM in Saskatoon. I accepted the nomination on a condition that it would be my primary goal to tidy up loose ends in previous year's meetings and explore a new vision for SARL with updated changes to the constitution and policies. I advised the members in attendance that I would serve for one term only.

### **Secretary/Treasurers Report: de VE5ACJ/VE5AQ**

Well, it is already December and I really don't know where the year has gone. It has been a busy time, and I am still trying to get everything done that must be done for Christmas. Below is a list of our SARL family, and also a list of former members, who for some reason have not renewed their memberships. So hopefully if you know any of these members, please try to convince that that we are a great organization, and we need their support. We are the only Radio League West of Quebec, and we are the voice of hams. When RAC wants advice from local areas, they turn to the Provincial organizations. We advise RAC and RAC advises Industry Canada. I know Quebec also has a Provincial Organization, and unless you want

Quebec sort of dictating what they want from RAC/IC, then we must be strong and united.

I wish to thank the members who attended the September AGM for their vote of confidence in appointing me Sec/Treas for another term. I thoroughly enjoy the position.

I also want to thank Bruce Donovan, VE5ND who has taken on the position of Webmaster for the new and updated website. Bruce has done an awesome job. All members have also contributed to this site, and now we are prepared for all to see. Please go to [www.sarl.ca](http://www.sarl.ca), and have a peek. It is awesome. If you have anything you would like to see included on the website, please send all your information to me at [ve5aq@sasktel.net](mailto:ve5aq@sasktel.net) and I will make sure Bruce puts it in. Once again thank you Bruce.

Next, just a brief note to let you know that Hamfest 2009 will be held in Lanigan in 2009. Further on in the QSO, David, VE5GN will give you more information. One of the perks of being an SARL member will be that you get FREE admission to the Hamfest and all festivities. Non Members will have to pay \$10.00. You must be a member for **2008/2009 year** in order to get into the hamfest for free. **The other thing that I wish to say is that as far as membership goes, it would really be nice if all members who attend the hamfest would please stay for the AGM. When you don't show up, you leave all the business to the 23 or 24 members who do attend. This is not fair to you as members of SARL, we need your input.**

## PAID MEMBERS

VA5LIZ	Liz Samenook	VA5RKL	Roy Leonard	VA5SAM	Bob Samenook	VE5AAR	Bill Smith	VE5AC	Harv Lemko
VE5ACJ	Val Lemko	VE5ACT	Peggy Gwillim	VE5ADN	Kay Dixon	VE5AJ	Larry Panteluk	VE5ARJ	Art Hiebert
VE5AU	Mike Yaschuk	VE5BAR	Chris Morgan	VE5BJO	Brian Olson	VE5CA	Bernard Clarkson	VE5CD	Russ Cleave
VE5CEM	Joe Musgrave	VE5CPU	Bart Ritchie	VE5DA	Doug Appleton	VE5DC	Jerry Dixon	VE5DCP	Doug Pfaff
VE5DDS	Walter Hudyma	VE5DEB	Debbie Robinson	VE5DJQ	Doris Quiring	VE5DWR	Devon Racicot	VE5DWT	Wayne Thompson
VE5EEO	Elnora Olan	VE5FAY	Faye Richardson	VE5FK	Sister Rosetta	VE5FL	Kathy Madsen	VE5FX	BJ Madsen
VE5GLN	Glen Richardson	VE5GLW	Grace Weslowski	VE5GML	Gord Lowick	VE5GN	David Klatt	VE5GZ	Garry Mehnke
VE5HAW	Harvey Wirth	VE5HE	Herb Essenburg	VE5HFH	Harry Heleta	VE5HG	Eric Quiring	VE5HKC	Keith Currie
VE5HW	Murray Krantz	VE5IM	Don Wilson	VE5JFH	Fred Hastie	VE5JIM	Jim Clark	VE5JJA	John Alexandersen
VE5JML	Joan Bahnman	VE5JRD	Jordie Richardson	VE5KA	Russ King	VE5KES	Ken Sikorski	VE5KIC	Keith Cressman
VE5KZ	Jerome Kuntz	VE5LI	Dick Cox	VE5LND	Linda Morgan	VE5LOU	Lou Curti	VE5LTD	Bob Wilks
VE5MAX	Maxine Lowick	VE5MC	Murray Crandon	VE5MDM	Michelle Molyneaux	VE5MJ	Dale Huff	VE5MMG	Mike Mikytshyn
VE5MO	Clarence Moen	VE5MY	Robert Robinson	VE5NAT	Nathan Mirva	VE5ND	Bruce Donovan	VE5NEK	Neil Klebaum
VE5OK	Karen Gwillim	VE5OO	Marv Paulson	VE5PFL	Peter Legebokoff	VE5PNQ	Garry McCallum	VE5PWO	Paul Obetkoff
VE5RAE	Ray Rosler	VE5RDB	Rory Bowerin	VE5RFY	Rick Yuke	VE5RJA	John Anton	VE5RJM	Randy Molyneaux
VE5RO	Roly Oakenfold	VE5ROB	Rob Bodie	VE5RWR	Robert W Robinson	VE5RWW	Royce Weslowski	VE5SC	Stan Ewert
VE5SPI	Gus Schmid	VE5STN	Steven Hiebert	VE5SWL	Brent Seebach	VE5TAW	Joan Paulson	VE5UF	Doug Freestone
VE5UJ	Gord Gwillim	VE5VP	Val Pestyk	VE5VRA	Vi Appleton	VE5WFC	Bill Cowan	VE5WFW	Wayne Willis
VE5WX	Larry Bahnman	VE5XO	Murray MacFarlane	VE5YJ	Ben Cruise	VE5ZQ	Bernard Walker		

## LOST MEMBERS

VE5 JRJ	John Prince	VE5 LBD	Larry Davis	VE5AEE	Dennis Rohlick	VE5AEO	Pat Caswell	VE5AMF	Adam Fowler
VE5BAM	Blair Mowchenko	VE5BCS	Harold Slack	VE5BGF	Bonnie Fowler	VE5DJR	David Russell	VE5DOA	David Mohr
VE5GE	Ed Berryere	VE5HF	Terry Shuya	VE5MDC	Glenn McDougall	VE5NED	Ned Carroll	VE5OES	Grace Davis
VE5PER	Per Jacobsen	VE5QU	Randy Canning	VE5RS	Ron Slind	VE5RVP	Walter Pritchard	VE5SD	Derek Bereza
VE5SS	Grant See	VE5WIL	Will Stevens	VE5WR	Walter Roy	VE5XF	Mark Fowler		

Now I don't know what else to do to regain these members. I have sent out 3 emails to each of them, but have not heard back from them. So if you know these hams, please try to convince them that we won't put the screws to them, but we would really like to see them back in SARL. The more members the more voice we have with RAC and Industry Canada.

## Prince Albert & North submitted by Wayne VE5DWT

On Friday the 28th of November the Lakeland Amateur Radio Association held the annual Christmas supper, this was held at the Lake Country Cottage Restaurant, a very good supper with a choice of Roast Beef or Greek ribs was supplied and was attended by 24 amateurs and family members,

During the evening the Jim Bendle Memorial plaque was awarded, this year's recipient was VE5QU Randy Canning for supplying the repeaters and his hours of work in keeping them operational and his dedication to the IRLP network.

The Lakeland Amateur Radio Association would like to wish all Amateurs and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.



## **SANTA ALERT**

*Anyone who has children or grandchildren, who wish to track the jolly old man from early morning December 24th, you may go to [noradsanta.org](http://noradsanta.org). This is done in 6 languages too: English, French, Japanese, German, Italian and Spanish...enjoy. As for those "Older" children, you might be able to track where that new 2M rig or new HF that you asked for. Also if the HF bands improve, and you are fortunate enough to have small children or grandchildren around, you may wish to get hold of K6 Santa Claus, that is his callsign and he only answers to Santa Claus...he is a wonderful fella, and he really wants to talk to the children. He is on the air from Dec. 13th to the 24th. His frequencies are: 14.270: 18.135 and 18.138. I have had the pleasure of chatting with him about a year ago, and I got my neighbour's little girl over here to chat also, she was just thrilled. His callsign once again is: K6SC*



## **Operating Practice Continued from October's Issue**

I made a couple of mistakes in the last issue, so my apologies to John and Mark. By the by, Operating Practice was written by me, and John followed up on this article and wrote the much more extensive Ethics and Operating Procedures for the Radio Amateur (I'm co-author for this work, John did the majority on this one).

This reference work (adapted by IARU worldwide) can be found on several websites; perhaps you can also mention this work in the next chapter in QSO? Here is one of the links:  
<http://www.iaru.org/Eth-operating-EN-iaru-SITE-1july2008.pdf>

### **3. CORRECT USE OF YOUR CALLSIGN**

Use your callsign in a correct way. You have to take a serious exam in order to enjoy this hobby. Be proud of your callsign, it is unique. Only if you use it in a correct way are you making legal transmissions. Ever hear the callsign 4ZZZZ on VHF? As far as I'm aware of, we are dealing with a transmission from a station from Israel and not from Belgium. ON4ZZZZ is the correct callsign. A callsign comprises of a prefix AND a suffix. Even on the HF bands this reprehensible practice can be heard. For analogy, if your car has been stolen, will you report half of the alpha numeric of the number plate to the police, or the complete lot?

### **4. BE POLITE**

This is the shortest but undoubtedly most important chapter in this document. At all times, be polite! Your transmitted signal is being heard by a lot of folks and agencies. We'll elaborate on this issue in the 'Conflict Situations' chapter. You'll go a long way by being polite, in our little ham world or in the outside world.

### **5. SOME TIPS FOR MAKING VHF/UHF REPEATER CONTACTS**

A lot in the following chapters is dedicated to specific situations while chasing for DX contacts (long distance) on the HF bands. A majority of these points also apply when working on the VHF/UHF bands.

Specifically, on the VHF/UHF bands the use of repeater systems (relay stations) is primarily intended to increase the operational range of mobile and portable stations. Fixed station operators should keep this in mind. If two fixed stations can make a two-way contact without the use of a repeater, why would it be opportune for them to use a repeater for a long winded QSO?

Whoever makes use of a repeater must take into account he has not the 'monopoly' on its use. This applies in fact for contacts on all frequencies. On non-repeater frequencies the 'first come, first served' (and somehow 'keep') principle is used. On repeater systems this principle should not prevail. Everybody must get a shot at this very useful medium, especially the mobile and portable stations.

During a repeater QSO, it is a good (almost imperative) habit to leave a short pause in between 'overs'. In that way, someone else can make a quick call or intervene in the ongoing QSO. By immediately pressing the PTT (Push to Talk) button after an over, this possibility is effectively prevented. Think about it.

## **Moose Jaw Happenings de Val, VE5AQ**

Well the Moose Jaw Pioneers Amateur Radio Club held their Christmas dinner at Humpty's in Moose Jaw, there were 5 members in attendance. Many of the other members had other things on the go, with Choir Practices, Square Dance Christmas parties, etc, that we just didn't get the usual group. Oh well, those of us to did attend had a great meal, with

plenty of lively conversations. Everyone was looking forward to the coming Christmas with families from far and wide. Now all we can do is hope and pray that the road conditions are good for those driving.

## **A Christmas Story for People Having a Bad Day**

When four of Santa's elves got sick, the trainee elves did not produce toys as fast as the regular ones, and Santa began to feel the Pre-Christmas pressure.

Then Mrs. Claus told Santa her Mother was coming to visit, which stressed Santa even more.

When he went to harness the reindeer, he found that three of them were about to give birth and two others had jumped the fence and were out, Heaven knows where.

Then when he began to load the sleigh, one of the floorboards cracked, the toy bag fell to the ground and all the toys were scattered.

Frustrated, Santa went in the house for a cup of apple cider and a shot of rum... When he went to the cupboard, he discovered the elves had drunk all the cider and hidden the liquor. In his frustration, he accidentally dropped the cider jug, and it broke into hundreds of little glass pieces all over the kitchen floor. He went to get the broom and found the mice had eaten all the straw off the end of the broom.

Just then the doorbell rang, and irritated Santa marched to the door, yanked it open, and there stood a little angel with a great big Christmas tree.

The angel said very cheerfully, 'Merry Christmas, Santa. Isn't this a lovely day? I have a beautiful tree for you. Where would you like me to stick it?' And so began the tradition of the little angel on top of the Christmas tree

## **The New Website for SARL by Bruce Donovan VE5ND**

Hi all you wonderful Saskatchewan hams. I hope you enjoy your new website. Much of it is material that was there before in a different format. Some of it is new updated material.

I hope you enjoy the updated material because that is the way it is going to be with myself and Val at the helm.

You may not know it but we have moved to Sherwood Park. They don't appreciate my work in good old Alberta so I have thrown my allegiance behind our Saskatchewan Radio Amateurs. You can move someone to Alberta but you can never take the Saskatchewan out of them. Go Roughriders go!

I still have my house near Nipawin, Saskatchewan and go back there as much as I can.

I am hoping to attend as many of your SARL meetings in Sask. as much as possible. That doesn't mean you have to wait until I am in town before you can talk to me about the website. Just email me your ideas and suggestions. Your suggestions would be much appreciated. If you ever see spelling errors or grammar errors please let me know asap. I don't have grammar or spelling errors on the websites that I maintain.

If you see material that is out of date I would appreciate if you would do the research and provide me with the updated material or get one of your friends to do that. All I ask is that you provide the material. I will do the website building to accommodate your material.

I do enough trying to maintain the website so I don't feel it is my job to search for the updated material.

The good news is that I get to work with Val Lemko VE5AQ/VE5ACJ and she has been providing me with all the updated material. She is awesome to work with and we hope we can keep things right up-to-date all the time.

If you have some new material that our website should have on it please let me know and we will accommodate you the best we can. The more great reference material we have on the website the better. I am very impressed with SARL and wish you all the best in your endeavors. Cheers, Bruce VE5ND. E-mail Address: [bruce@bruceconsulting.com](mailto:bruce@bruceconsulting.com)

## **SASKATCHEWAN HAMS TALK TO THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION**

### **Man takes ham radio to new heights by Jana G. Pruden Leader Post, Oct. 27/08**

Space: The final frontiers of man – and ham. Murray Crandon was one of several ham radio operators around the country who took their hobby to new heights last week by making contact with the International Space Station as it passed over Canada.

Crandon, better known on the air as "VE5MC" was at home in Moose Jaw when he was able to speak with space tourist Richard Garriott on board the space station in orbit.

"It was quite a thrill. It's not something that the average person can do and it's really wonderful that amateur radio gives us this ability," said Crandon, a long-time ham radio buff.

"There are not a lot of people who can say they've talked to people in space, so it's quite a thrill."

Crandon said he has been tuned in to radio communications from the time his parents gave him a set of walkie-talkies when he was a kid. He got his ham radio licence from Industry Canada 18 years ago, and has been exploring the



international airwaves ever since.

He received an award in 2001 for contacting 100 entities around the world with his radio, and has since contacted 302 of the total 338 entities possible. Entities include countries, regions bases and locations such as Hawaii, which is considered to be a distinct contact because of its location.

Before the space call, Crandon said his biggest accomplishment had been a contact with a man in Iraq – a feat Crandon pulled off with a modest wire antenna he made himself for about \$10. Crandon said he tried to reach the man for four days before; he was finally able to make contact with the operator north of Baghdad. “You’d like to say it was all skill, but really there was awful lot of luck involved a lot of times for me,” he said.

Crandon started pushing the limit of his earthly contacts in April, when he spoke briefly with space tourist Charles Simonyi, who was on the International Space Station at the time. When Garriott blasted off from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on Oct. 12 for his mission, Crandon knew he wanted to try to make another cosmic connection.

Aided by a computer program that shows where the space station is in orbit, Crandon was able to time and refine his attempts at radio contact.

Last Monday, Crandon heard the transmission he had been waiting for. NAISS, the callsign of the International Space Station.

Crandon was able to respond, and he and Garriott exchanged names and co-ordinates. Crandon wished Garriott a hearty 73 (ham speak for “Best Regards”) and got off the air so other earthly operators would have an opportunity to get in touch with Garriott.

Crandon says at least two other operators from Saskatchewan and numerous others around the country were able to make a similar connection.

Meanwhile, Crandon says he will go back to contacting the remaining entities around the planet and waiting for the next big challenge to come over the airwaves.

“If they put a human on Mars, I’ll be listening”, he laughs.

Murray, VE5MC (we say More Coffee) is from Moose Jaw.

#### **Late Item from Murray:**

Murray will be at King George School on Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, just about the time this QSO goes to press, he will send us an update in the next QSO....sheesh, such a busy guy....who loves his ham radio. Val

**Thought you might like to tune into the FIRST ARISS contact from Saskatchewan!!!**

see: <http://www.qrz.com/ve5iss> for all the information, and stay tuned for updates.

**Remember....just hearing our contact will qualify you for a commemorative certificate from ARISS. 73, Murray Crandon...VE5MC, VE5ISS, VE5LGT**

#### **From Ogema by Garry, VE5GZ**

On Tuesday Oct. 20, 2008 I made contact with W5KWQ Richard Garriott aboard the International Space Station, from my workshop using a portable ICOM 2200 Hz running 65W on a Vertical Antenna. Congratulation to these 2 hams, and if I’m not mistaken, there were probably a few more fellas who were able to contact the ISS. I do know that Joe, VE5CEM has also chatted with the fellas up in the heavens, and he did send me an article, but somehow I misplaced it. Thanks fellas for sending in your information. We really appreciate the articles. Keep them coming....Val, VE5AQ

#### **Q &A’s from Health Canada**

Q: The Stanley Cup was recently on tour in my town, and I kissed it. Do I have to worry about being infected by Listeria?

A: You are safe. The Stanley Cup has not been in contact with any Maple Leaf product in over 40 years.

#### **Saskatchewan 2M Link Net by Harvey, VE5HAW**

*Hello everyone this is VE5HAW Harvey from Melville your Sask. 2 meter link net manager. I just thought I would let you all know that this Holiday season there will be **NO nets on Dec. 24, 25 & 26** as*

*this is the time we spend with our families and other love ones, But I ask all node owners to monitor the 9012 and everyone else to monitor the 9012 reflector over the holidays for all who maybe traveling on the roads to and from. I would also like to wish each and everyone a safe and happy Holiday Season and please drive safe and take extra care this holiday season and hope to hear you all on the nets, So with that from myself VE5HAW Harvey and the XYL Sheila “Merry Christmas and a Happy New year.*



## Silent Keys - Saskatchewan – 2008 submitted by Joan, VE5 JML

VE5AY	Jack Croteau, Pennant	August 20, 2008
VE5BDI	James Barnes, Saskatoon	January 1, 2008
VE5CQ	John Graf, Regina	June 26, 2008
VE5CW	Clint Weese, Saskatoon	September 11, 2008
VE5EY	Ronald Hook, Prince Albert	October 4, 2008
VE5FMM	Freda Maylor, Neilburg	April 14, 2008
VE5GL	Jean Lacroix, Saskatoon	April 14, 2008
VE5IX	Wally Andrews, Saskatoon	November 15, 2008
VE5JFW	James Whiskeyjack, Saskatoon	April 6, 2008
VE5KF	Ken Stuart, Regina	November 29, 2008
VE5NFG	Bob Hilton, Saskatoon	January 18, 2008
VE5WGN	Walter Noble, Prince Albert	August 31, 2008
VE5YB	Gordon Peters, Regina	May 19, 2008
VE5AK	Michael Chursinoff, Prince Albert	November, 2008

\*\*\*VE5DZ Ebba Kristjansson, Colonsay November 10, 2008 Ebba, a cracker-jack CW operator, held this call for years. The callsign has been reassigned a number of years ago. Our Thoughts and Prayers go out to the families of these hams especially at this time of the year.



## Hamfest 2009 Lanigan by David, VE5GN

Date: Saturday, July 11th.

Location: Lanigan, Saskatchewan At the junction of Hwys 16 and 20

<http://www.town.lanigan.sk.ca/>

Time from (approximately):

Saskatoon: 1 1/4 hours

Regina/Moose Jaw: 2 hours

Humboldt: 30 minutes

Watrous/Manitou Spa: 30 minutes

Wynyard: 40 minutes

Yorkton: 2 hours



"No Greg went to the ham auction this afternoon, to get rid of a couple of old radios that were cluttering up the place ... Oh I think I hear him pulling in now!"

Lanigan is a town of 1200, with all amenities:

Two motels, hospital, shopping mall, service stations, restaurants/coffee shop, museum, RCMP detachment, pharmacy, golf course (grass greens), parks and Lions Campground (reservations accepted 365-3107).

Hamfest activities will take place at the Arena/Town Hall complex, located near the north end of town on Main St. All services and attractions are within walking distance if you are ambulatory.

### Tentative Hamfest schedule:

9:00 am - 12:00 noon:

Registration: Free to SARL members, \$10 for non-members (really, folks, an SARL membership cost only 5 bucks more!!)

Fleamarket - Share your Treasures!!

Please email [dfklatt@sasktel.net](mailto:dfklatt@sasktel.net) (David VE5GN) for table reservations.

Cost \$2 for members, \$3 for non-members.

Remember, folks, this is a non-profit event. Any revenue left after facility costs will be turned over to a local charity.

12:00 noon:

Hosted BBQ lunch. We are working hard to make this a complimentary occasion. If there is a cost, it will be very minimal.

1:00 - 4:00 pm:

SARL AGM, sessions of interest (details to come)

## Hello to all from Saskatchewan S. E. Area by Joe Musgrave, VE5CEM

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

I see by my email, Val sent an email reminder; it is time for another QSO note.

Fall is on its way out and winter is coming soon. The weather forecast calls for winter this weekend with highs in the minus double digits and more snow.

There is not much to talk about from this part of the province this time. The G5RV at the fire hall came down in the 80kmh, gusting to 100kmh winds we had. We ordered a new one from Maple Leaf Communications in Everett, ON. . We have it installed and working fine.

The story on the Repeater move is still up in the air. The city council and the prospective new owners will have to wait for awhile to complete the deal. It seems that a group of citizens have a petition with the required number of signatures. It is going to council soon for their consideration. The petition is calling for a referendum vote on the issue of selling the building and its intended use. Taking a quote from a famous late night talk show host *“Does this remind you of someone”* (Moose Jaw)? Dale Huff VE5MJ has talked to Council regarding a new location if it is required. So for now, we wait and see. **“Some late breaking news regarding the petition.”** Legal Council for the city has rejected the petition on the grounds that the wording of the petition lacked clarity and left too many unanswered questions. The Council will vote on the sale of the building at the January 12<sup>th</sup> 2009 council meeting.

I will change hats for a minute and talk about some things I am working on as the Section Manager Sask. Section.

First thing I will do is Apologize for missing the submission date for the Jan/Feb. issue of TCA. I was working toward a dead line of first week in Dec. but later found out the dead line for Jan/Feb issue was end of first week in November.

I am working on some things to do with ARES. It seems there have been some changes taking place with the ARES, Red Cross, and RAC in the recent past, and more to come yet. I am putting a mail package together to send to the ECs. It might be out before Christmas, or maybe not till January. When Rob Bodie (VE5ROB your SEC) gets a handle on his new job and things settle down I will turn this part of things back to him. Rob will be the person to send any articles regarding ARES to. ARES net Reports and any questions or information needed Rob will be the go to person.

Any comments or questions you may have regarding Amateur Radio concerns in Saskatchewan, please contact me at the contact information listed above.

That's it for this time. *Here's wishing you and yours all the best for the holiday season and health & happiness all year long.*

Anyone in the S.E., Which 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 SE Rep. SARL. **Thank you, Jerry for sending in another great article.**

## World Wide Propagation Beacons

There are 18 propagation beacons around the world on the amateur radio bands. These beacons operate 24/7 on five bands from 20 meters through to 10 meters including the WARC bands. The frequencies are: 14.100, 18.110, 21.150, 24.930 and 28.200 Mhz. Make sure your receiver is set for CW reception or you will not hear the station if you are using the SSB mode as this is going to be slightly off frequency.

Each beacon comes on in turn and transmits its call sign and 4 dashes. The call sign and the first dash are sent at 100 watts, the second dash is at 10, the third dash at 1 watt and the 4th and last dash is at .1 watt or 100 milliwatts. When propagation is good there is very little difference between 100 watts and 100 milliwatts.

These beacons are very good for determining the propagation paths that are open at any given time. Some times a band may appear dead but in fact is open and the beacons will show up. For example the other day 15 meters appeared to be dead but when I tuned to the beacon frequency, 21.150 I copied the following beacons:



CS3B Maderia, ZS6DN South Africa, OA4B Peru, YV5B Venezuela and 4U1UN, the UN station located in New York.

The beacons will first transmit on 20 meters, then move up to each of the higher bands before resuming on 20 meters. If there were perfect propagations to all parts of the world you would hear all 18 beacons on any given frequency. The transmissions are in CW at about 22 words per minute so unless your CW is up to speed you will have a tough time to identify the beacons. There are several computer programs on the beacon web site that will show which beacon is transmitting at any given time. At this point in the sunspot cycle you will not hear much above 20 meters.

The following web site will give full details on the beacons. [NCDXF/IARU International Beacon Project](#)  
**73 de Jerry/VE5DC**

## **Hello from the North East de Art, VE5ARJ**

This has been a long time coming, but we have a very disjointed schedule here. I guess we might as well fill in a little history here and run it to the present.

As most people know we have repeaters at Snowden, Nipawin, Tisdale and Melfort. Tisdale is new but right now is having their radio repaired.

Melfort is in the process of having a face lift. Hopefully, they will be back on line very soon. As for Nipawin and Snowden, Nipawin is back on line again. Snowden now is in need of a new radio and repairs to the link radio. This will happen as schedule permits. Around Nipawin the learning of the IRLP has been a steep learning curve and I am not very literate in this area. That is about it for now from the NE.

## **Saskatoon Area by Gord, VE5UJ**

Year end will be coming up in 15 or so days. Mostly the media will be concerned with post mortem analysis on the year 2008 for at least the next 30. For those of us that survived (for now), we can be thankful we had for the most part decent weather, no floods, pestilence, wars, raging fires, bomb attacks. Most of us had enough to eat and more than enough to do; can we ask for anything more. More sunspots perhaps ..... There was an article in a marketing letter I receive on a weekly basis that describes an interesting phenomenon regarding what we have come to know as sunspots. That type of solar activity has over the years been associated with the action on our long distance daytime ham bands from 15 metres all the way through 6 metres. That very activity on the 15 and 10 metre bands that attracted young folks like me to study hard for a ham ticket so as to be able to partake in all the strong DX activity during the late 1950s. The solar activity is thought to be responsible for keeping excess cosmic rays from bombarding our upper atmosphere. The connection is thought to be this ..... Cosmic Rays allow extra condensation nuclei to form excessive amounts of high cloud, which allow the earth to cool. This cooling has been going on for several years and in this scenario will continue until the solar activity picks up again. Do a search on "Ray Garnet." He does interesting research that we in the earth's temperate zone should be aware of.

The past 5 years our Last Mountain solar powered site has run out of power during the months of November to January. From 1985 when the solar power was installed, to 2003 we rarely had any trouble that way. There was far greater 2 metre activity in the 80s and 90s than what we experience today.

In mid November I had a call from Jared Chursinoff VE5JWC at LaRonge. He called to say that his father Michael VE5AK had become a silent key while on a trip to the Philippines. Mike had some health problems over the years but his death was very sudden. I had an email from him in October and he sounded happy at his Philippine address.

Jared invited me to a gathering of friends in LaRonge November 28<sup>th</sup> in the evening. Karen, VE5OK and I drove to LaRonge that day and stayed with Jared overnight. We joined with his friends and co-workers to celebrate "Mike". Stories of moving from the big city to a fly in fishing lodge seasonally and then eventually moving to Thompson Lake year round. Stories of raising a young child in the "bush" and then writing a book about the experience. Trapping stories, radio stories, flying stories fishing stories and family stories. We met Mike's Aunt and his Cousin from B.C. who had more stories of growing up in Saskatchewan. I met two more "bush children" the Olson brothers of LaRonge. Keith Olson has written a book about that part of his life and is being published as we read this. More stories next month. 73.... Gordon.

