



The QSO Jan/Feb 2014



Saskatchewan North East by Bj. Madsen - VE5FX

After some detective work, the Melfort hams have discovered that their repeater problems are the result of severe de-sensitivity problems related to interference at the current location. The repeater will have to be moved to another location in order to make the receiver work properly. This will have to wait a bit because Barry, VE5HA, has solved the problems of Saskatchewan winter by moving to Cuba for a few weeks. Once he gets back and his tan fades away, he will have to get a crew together to affect the move.

My 80 metre antenna decided to stop working. The problem seems to be at the feed-point and I am not about to climb up there at this time of year and no one has come forward to do it for me. I discovered that my 160 metre dipole works just fine on 80 metres - all that I had to do was shorten it somewhat. This, of course, involved many trips through the snow-banks to the trees carrying the far ends to shorten (too much) and then lengthen the wires, but it was better than climbing the tower.

On a subject dear to all hams' hearts:

QRM = man made interference - often deliberate but sometimes accidental and never desirable.

For example, if you have been using a frequency for a long session and propagation begins to change, you may start to get adjacent channel interference that

wasn't there when you started your QSO. You are now interfering with another station and he with you, but it isn't deliberate. What should you do? Find a different frequency that is now clear or take a coffee break. There is little merit in trying to force the other guy to go away.

Quite often, QRM is from someone "tuning up" on a net frequency. Here's some news that you doubtlessly already know: if your rig doesn't contain vacuum tubes, it doesn't require tuning up! Old "tube type" amplifiers may require "tuning up" but this is where a "dummy load" becomes invaluable. Stand-alone antenna tuners may require "tuning up" but this can be done at minimal power levels and away from the net frequency. There is really no excuse for putting a carrier on a net frequency where others are listening.

Of course, we've all experienced deliberate QRM and in the process, have developed our own opinions about hams who engage in this practice. (Perhaps their mothers didn't know their fathers as well as they should have??) A very interesting and enlightening article entitled "The Psychology of the QRMer" was recently written by Jim Millner - WB2REM - who is a practicing psychologist with many years of experience. The article was published in the October issue of CQ magazine and can be found in PDF format at:

<http://www.7163net.com/WB2REM%20CQ%20Article.pdf>

(Just cut and paste this into your browser) or do a Google search of WB2REM and follow the link to the article. Jim does a good job of looking at the reasons why some of our fellow hams behave in such an anti-social way and he has suggestions about how to deal with them.



Industry Canada opens 60M band RAC Notification:

RADIO AMATEURS OF/DU CANADA applauds 60 meter band frequency allocations! RAC has been working on achieving this new band allocation since 2010.

Industry Canada has announced that a number of specific frequencies within the 60 meter high frequency band have been approved for amateur radio use as RAC advocated. This is now in effect.

A total of five specific frequencies within the 5 MHz band have been allocated, **5332 kHz, 5348 kHz, 5358.5 kHz, 5373 kHz and 5405 kHz.**

Radio amateurs across Canada have new frequencies to explore as a result of a recent decision of Industry Canada.

"Canada has joined a number of countries in making channels available in the 60 metre band, near 5MHz for use by radio amateurs. This will provide increased ability for Canadian radio amateurs to help out in providing emergency communications when

existing systems fail as has happened in ice storms and flooding. We applaud this decision of the Canadian government." said Geoff Bawden, President of Radio Amateurs of Canada. Unlike the commercial communications systems so important to modern society, amateur radio does not require an extensive infrastructure for communications. Radio amateurs take advantage of natural phenomena to send their signals across town and around the world. They delight in being able to set up in a remote location with their own power supplies and simple antennas, often home built, competing to see who can make the most contacts in a limited time. The Amateur Radio Emergency Service in Canada, sponsored by RAC, provides training and organizes exercises for radio amateurs to sharpen their skills to be able to respond to emergencies. As well these organizations and amateur radio clubs often provide communications to community public service activities and events such as ski races and marathons, bicycle races and car rallies. The skills radio amateurs develop through their hobby and these activities mean that in emergencies that shut down power grids, internet and wireless communications, amateur radio can continue to function. In major emergencies such as the earthquake and tsunami in Japan in 2011 and the Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines last year amateur radio operators are often the first source of information from affected areas.

The key resource for amateur radio is access to the radio spectrum. Conditions in the atmosphere and high in the

ionosphere determine the distances over which communications are possible. The new allocation at 60m between existing allocations at 80 m and 40m should make regional communications more reliable.

Furthermore as Canada and the United States have allocated many of the same channels to their radio amateurs cross border communications are possible. Fortunately major emergencies are relatively rare. Radio amateurs will explore communications on the new frequencies as they do in all available bands, experimenting, learning and making new friends across the world.

TECH DETAILS

The five 60 metre channel allocations are the same as authorized in the USA, with the same power restriction of 100 watts ERP (relative to a dipole antenna). Transmissions, independent of emission mode, must be centered on the each of the following frequencies: 5.332, 5.348, 5.3585, 5.373, and 5.405 MHz with a maximum allowable channel bandwidth of 2.8 kHz. When operating SSB, upper sideband will be the convention to follow on the 60 metre band. Other modes that are permissible will be CW, Data (including PSK 31 and Pactor III), and RTTY. With this latest authorization on operation on the 5 MHz channels to Canadian Amateurs with HF privileges, there will no longer be a requirement to operate under a special Developmental license and VX9 call sign. Holders of such licences can now let them lapse. *Canadian amateurs should refer to the posting of RBR-4, Issue 2, for all details before proceeding to*

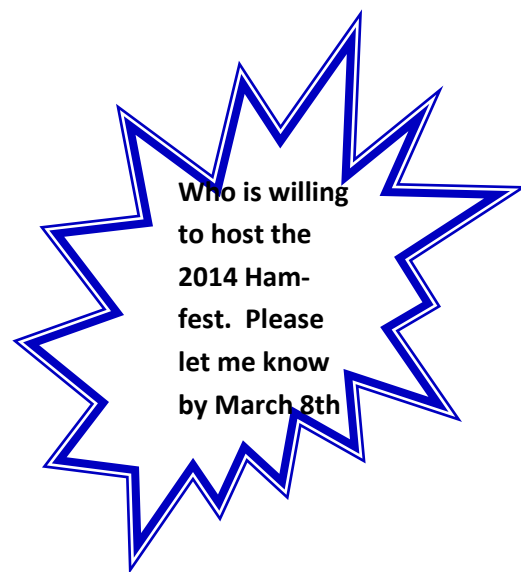
operate on the new 60 metre channels: <http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/smt-gst.nsf/eng/sf10650.html> (copy the link to your browser)

Their curiosity and eagerness to develop and share this hobby will enrich the communities where they operate and provide needed resilience in communications when emergencies require it.

Technical details of this decision can be found here: <http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/smt-gst.nsf/eng/sf10623.html> (copy the link to your browser)

Tech/Admin contributions, Norm Rashleigh VE3LC. Glenn MacDonell VE3XRA.

Vincent Charron - VA3GX/VE2HHH
Director Communications and Fundraising
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**Moose Jaw & Area
by Harv Lemko-VE5AC**

Ok, so we had a week and a half of cold weather, that sort of reminded me of my younger days growing up in the country, when as a young lad who was eager to learn things, I would dress up in all my warm clothes, including hat, scarf and warm mitts, to trudge over hill

and vale cross country about 2 miles in the cold and the wind just to learn something about electronics from a friend of my parents. Yep, those were the days. Ok, enough reminiscing. The following week we had temperatures here in Moose Jaw up to +6C, with water running down the street. So much for the cold weather. Thank goodness the antennas didn't break in those winds.

Our Seniors club continues to meet the 2nd Tuesday of the month for fine food, great conversation and exchanging of ideas and information. So far we have all been able to avoid the flu and other illnesses.

Our next great adventure will be at the end of March when we do the security for the Thunder Creek Model Train Show. We all have a great time wandering around, trying to be inconspicuous reminding little children not to run, and definitely not to touch the trains. I will stick to amateur radio thank you, those trains are very expensive.

That's it for now folks, take care and don't fall into the snow-banks.



Swift Current & Area by Ken Millard VE5BI

Hello everyone. I hope everyone is tired of winter already. I know I am. At least we seem to be getting a bit more daylight every day so things are looking up. Now we just have to get the temperature headed up as well. Today, as I write this we started out at minus 27 deg this morning. I along with others don't venture out in it too much unless we have to. I think we

must have had average snow fall so far down in these parts which is manageable and so far hasn't been a burden like it was last year.

Things have been fairly quiet in the South West since last report and not a lot going on. My employer and his wife went down to Los Angeles for two weeks so I looked in on their place while they were gone and kept up with the winter chores for them. They are back now so our thoughts have returned to farming again, repairing machinery, cleaning seed grain, and generally getting ready for seeding. Before you know it, we will be putting in another crop.

I have had time to devote to my hobbies this winter and just completed building a solid state regen receiver that was featured in the May 2013 Popular Communications magazine. It was straight forward to put together right from the start including winding the coils. Kit building isn't as challenging as building something from a schematic but it was really nice to have all the correct bits and pieces to start with and a good board to solder everything onto. To my surprise when I turned it on, the little receiver came to life with out any problems, and I have been able to listen to many far away stations. Tuning the receiver is very critical and the regen will go in to oscillation easily, but if you like carefully twiddling with the knobs, you'll be surprised what you can pick up. My next challenge is two CW QRP transmitters that I got for Christmas, I hope they will be as much fun to put together as the little receiver. I am looking forward to trying them out and getting my first cw QSO with each of them.

Another project that I have been working on is a home -built battery tab welder. I have completed the major part of the welder, and it is now in the early testing stage. I still need to tweak the voltage and current aspects of it but so far I have successfully welded the metal tabs onto locally purchased rechargeable batteries and have completely rebuilt the pack for my FT-727 dual band Handie. More on this later.

Speaking of CW, two hams down here Hans VE5HJU and Shara VE5AF both have new keys to try out and soon we should be hearing them on checking into the nets with them. CW seems to be making a comeback and it is nice to hear so many hams chatting with others that have just recently got their licenses.

I had the privilege to attend a radio meeting last Monday night in Swift Current to see what hams are discussing and the topic of the night centered around two local broadcast towers that are to be decommissioned soon, one of which is down in the Val Marie area. The thought is that our club might look at setting up repeaters that would link to our present 79 repeater so as to cover a wider area down in the southwest corner and maybe even into Montana. So far this is just in the early planning stage and we would likely have to do some fund raising to get the necessary equipment to make it work. It sounds like it would be fun and could add a large area to our present repeater coverage.

While on the ham front Ray VE5XRA Who just returned from a winter holiday in Florida tells me that classes have started at the Art Gallery in the Swift Current

Library. Sounds like a few more new people are getting interested in Amateur Radio and they were learning all about Dipole Antennas. Next class is on the 24th of Feb. I plan on going as I just might learn something, too. As they say you are never too old to learn new things. 73 everyone and stay warm.

Canadian High School Students Launch Balloon to 117K Feet

Radio Amateurs of Canada has congratulated the students, volunteers, and educator Robert Streimer VE4SHS at Shaftsbury High School in Winnipeg, Manitoba for the teams' very successful launch of the SHARP 3.1 helium-filled balloon that reached an impressive maximum altitude of 117,214 feet SHARPE 3.1 carrying a payload consisting of four cameras, a number of electronic sensors, a Geiger counter, a three axis accelerometer, magnetometer and numerous other sensors.

RAC said data gathered on the flight is in the process of being analyzed. For lots of information about their adventures, please go to

<http://www.pembinatrails.ca/shaftsbury/SHARP/index.html>

DID YOU KNOW?

SHARP 2 WAS LAUNCHED IN OCTOBER 28 2011. IT REACHED AN ALTITUDE OF 38,598 METERS OR 126,633.858 FEET.



More ARISS Web Resources

There are several other websites from around the world related to ARISS. Here they are:

English (Europe):

<http://www.ariss-eu.org/>

French

<http://ariss.fr.free.fr/>

Japanese

<http://www.jarl.or.jp/ariss/>

Figure 1

Russian:

<http://rs0iss.ru/>

Polish

<http://rs0iss.ru/>

Italian

<http://www.amsat.it/arisscc1.html>

Ukrainian

<http://ariss-ua.blogspot.ca/>

LIVE IS TV on the Web

Watch and listen to the NASA TV transmissions from the International Space Station at:

<http://www.livestation.com/channels/40-nasa-tv-english>

If your foreign language is not up to par, just hit the Translation button and it will put it into English for you



Saskatoon & Area

by Doris Quiring VE5DJQ

Saskatoon is again proving to be cold. That being said the cold weather is keeping people talking on the radio. The Saskatoon Amateur Radio club is continuing their planning for the spring and summer. A discussion about the clubs involvement in ARES is on the agenda for the meeting Feb. 8/14.

On Feb. 15/14 we will be having another coffee and dessert evening to celebrate Valentines Day and bring our spouses. We had fun last year and the door prizes were enjoyed. Hope to see a good

attendance again this year. A call for amateurs will soon be going out for the MS walk on April 27/14 and the Saskatchewan marathon on May 25/14. To date those are the up and coming events that the club will be providing communications for.

The club is again holding Ham classes and 6 people are working to obtain their Ham license. Good luck to all the students.

The MARS club has been meeting for coffee approx. once a month.

The discussion around the table is how to improve D-Star in Saskatoon.

At present the weather has been too cold to go up to repair the antenna so when the wind speed increases the D-Star repeater is not the best. Hopefully spring comes soon. Saskatoon does have a number of people enjoying D-Star, Eric included.

We'll keep enjoying the air waves and dream of spring to come. Hopefully everyone's antennas have survived the wind storms of winter.

73 till next time.



Prince Albert & Area by Harry Enequist

The Prince Albert club had their annual Christmas Party Dec 14th at the Greenfields Restaurant. Sixteen (16) Amateurs and their YLs/XYLs showed up. Also present were VE5HA Barry and VE5TB Delbert both from Melfort.

The food was excellent, the company was also excellent. A great time was had by all even with the games and other fun activities. John VE5JJA was presented with the club trophy.

Jim VE5SAM's XYL is recovering very well after her surgery. Albert VE5ACS and Bill VE5BF are both on the mend after their treatments.

The Northern Saskatchewan ARC station VE5EEE is located in the PA Exhibition Centre which is heated and is used mainly for contesting.



Saskatchewan South East by Marv Paulson VE5OO

Like everyone else, we have been cold. Temperature wise not really, but throw in the wind-chill factor and then the temperature really dips down. Oh well good excuse to stay indoors.

Blair VE5BAM is supposed to be retired much like the rest of us, but for some unknown reason is now working under contract on the Carbon Dioxide Capture Site. Says he is enjoying himself.

At this point, we would like to offer Blair and his lovely wife Lauren our deepest condolences on the passing of his dad, at the age of 91.

Blair and Lauren decided to go to Bismarck, ND on a little bit of a shopping trip. It was just supposed to be a 2 or 3 day trip, but due to Old Man Winter who had other plans and decided to show them a good blizzard. Their stay was extended a wee bit longer. Don't think there was much complaining though as they were marooned by the pool, a real nice bar and grill and a good restaurant, so no hardship there.

The only bad part of the trip was that Blair came down with pneumonia and found out that "EverClear" is not as good as it used to be, but it sure made

recovery a much more enjoyable one.

Joan VE5TAW has left me alone again and gone on one of her driving excursions. This time to visit her daughter, grandsons and 2 great-grandsons. Good thing I know how to make myself meals.

We have 1 student who is working on getting his ham license.. He is a Canadian citizen but originates from the Ukraine. He is a welder in the oil field. He says he wants his license so he can use it for his model airplanes. He is extremely knowledgeable in electronics so think he will have no problem when he goes to write his exam. I also think he will do more than model airplanes once he gets his license.



Regina & Area by Bob Wilks VE5LTD

The ham classes are doing well and the students are quite eager. There is also supposed to be an advance class sometime this winter.

Summer VE5SDH has written her Morse Code exam. Rick VE5RWR gave the exam . I have not heard how she made out.

The club is working on getting a second IRLP at the Belgonie repeater.

The only other activity that is coming up is the Scout Klondike Hike which will take place at the Dallas Valley Ranch near Lumsdum Feb. 22nd. This is a winter survival camp for Cubs and Scouts. RARA is doing the communications for them.

Other than that, I personally am having a little problem with the new 60 Meters, as there is 1 frequency that is not working on my Yaesu,

so now I must attempt to fix the problem. 73 for now



President's Report by Gordon Gwillim VE5UJ

After a "radio active" winter I am sure that most of us are about ready for spring. I mention the radio ham bands because I often hear comments about band conditions as they pertain to a favorite Radio Amateur pastime of DXing. My spell checker does not like the word but did have the | decency to not change it on me. There has been quite a bit of activity on 15 and 17 metres and days when 12 and 10 metres were quite busy this winter. Now that the sun is getting higher and the days longer we can expect this trend to continue as long as the sunspot numbers are maintained.

Speaking of sunspots, a letter came upon my desk recently from a well known climatologist with an outline of his latest findings on the connection between sunspot numbers and growing season average temperatures on the prairies. He, like many other scientists, is concerned with the lower numbers of sunspots (solar activity) during this peak in the eleven year solar cycle we learned about in amateur radio class. His concern of course is less about the short wave propagation conditions and more about the growing season's lower average temperatures here on the flat land. There is speculation in the scientific community that the sun may be entering a quiet period, which seems to happen with regularity, over a period of time much longer than our familiar 11 year cycle. Maunder minimum is

the scientific name for the period of inactive sun and world wide cooling during the years 1645 to 1715.

There were years during this period when NO sunspots were observed.

From online Wikipedia, "The Dalton Minimum was a period of low solar activity, named after the English meteorologist John Dalton, lasting from about 1790 to 1830. Like the Maunder Minimum, the Dalton Minimum coincided with a period of lower than average global temperatures. During that period, there was a variation of temperature of about 1 degree C." It may be some comfort to read on the Wikipedia article that scientists had conceded that the extreme winters experienced during this period were more likely due to active volcanism during those years.

From past experience I would rather have the higher sunspot numbers with the excellent higher band activity and it even seems that 80 and 40 metre bands behave better during our evenings. Remember the recent winters when 80 metres "went long" shortly after sunset so that we had great difficulty hearing stations in our own area while signals from adjoining provinces were strong and clear. This winter with its higher sunspot activity has seen little of that problem in the early evenings.

Here is one more comment on the scientific stuff. The hours of sunshine have been much longer during this winter. The solar powered repeater at Last Mountain has had no problem "maintaining life" this winter. That observation supports of course the modern idea that lack of sunspot activity leads to more cloudy weather. The

numbers should be available through the Environment Canada web site. 73



Secretary/Treasurers Report by Val Lemko VE5ACJ

At this time, there is really not much going on with SARL. I am waiting for some club to offer to do the Hamfest this summer. I originally set a date of March 1st, but have now moved to it March 8th.

According to our constitution, we have to have an AGM and this usually happens at the Hamfest. At our last director's Teleconference Meeting held Jan. 19/14, I made a suggestion that if no club came forward by that time, that SARL should sponsor it. Nothing that is written down at the moment is carved in stone, so if any club in Saskatchewan is even thinking about this just a little bit, please let me know by March 8th. As you know, getting a venue much later than the end of March is sometimes very difficult. I have at the back of the QSO put in a Hamfest Questionnaire and would really like some feed-back on it. I know that I mail out the QSO to several of our members, but I do ask that if you do have a computer to please send me your responses to this asap. It will help with not only this year's Hamfest, but also future ones. Sometimes a bit of foresight can deal with some problems that arise.

At present time our membership is at 116. This is great. I thank all who have renewed their memberships. It's great to have such a good number considering how much we are spread out.

Also at our AGM this year, we

absolutely **MUST** have elections. Due to me forgetting at last years AGM and yes, I will admit that I forgot, **ALL** positions will be up for elections. So if you are a director and do not want to keep your position, please start canvassing members in your area and ask if they would be willing to be nominated. If you are willing to let your name stand, that is great. The 2 most important positions that need to be filled is the President and the Secretary/Treasurer. I am thinking I might let my name stand, but if someone else really wants it-I won't stand in your way. I enjoy what I do and it is my little part of contributing to SARL..

The Presidents position is an absolute must because if we don't have a president, we don't have SARL. I know most of those who hold positions have been amateurs for many years and some of the younger amateurs may be intimidated about holding a position. Remember something though, we were all young and inexperienced at one time also. If you feel you would like to give it a try, please make sure you are at the AGM this year and throw your hat into the ring. All positions are very easy to do. Just send in a report to the editor of the QSO every couple of months and be available for the odd director's meetings when they are called for. We have been using Tele-Conferencing calls. The Sec/Treas usually contacts the President and it goes from there. There is absolutely nothing hard about any of the positions. All SARL amateurs are welcome to try something new.

So why not take a chance and do something different.

Interesting Reading submitted by Gordon VE5UJ

Cold weather reading! I had been telling some of the fellows at the coffee shop about following this blog in 05 and 06 and wondered if it was still available. Searched it out and yes, it is still on the net and with more searching there are pictures of the boat and perhaps more pictures of some of the family and crew that participated in this trip. Briefly, it was a family from the Peace River region of Northern Alberta that had connections with sea going life and had a member with resources to have an ocean going vessel built on the West Coast and then decided that a trip around the world would be a worthwhile effort.

The dimensions of the boat were such that it could navigate inland rivers and be transported over the portages required to get it into the Mackenzie River system in Northern Canada. The author writes well but some of the more arduous and even dangerous experiences are passed by quickly.

A brief column in the Western Producer weekly paper alerted many of us to the blog that was being posted as these folks were well on their way in the Atlantic Ocean. www.idlewildexpedition.ca/logs/index.htm

There is a lot of reading there and if nothing else, it will sharpen our geography skills. The July blog about their time at Fort Simpson on the Mackenzie River was interesting to me as I lived there for a couple of years. 73 *(ed note: there are 52 logs and this is one time you start at the bottom of the menu at July 2003 and work up-I started reading and only managed to get to Oct. 5/2004)*



An Open letter to Bruce VE6NDA/VE5ND

December 29, 2013.
Bruce Donovan, VE5ND
Sherwood Park, AB.

Hi Bruce,

Val Lemko has requested that I write to you to explain the S.A.R.L. position on access to the League's website as of the completion of work on the present version.

We, the directors of S.A.R.L., have congratulated Val who, with the advice of her DX friend Yvonne ZR6TBL, has done a first class job of rebuilding the website.

All members of the S.A.R.L. are encouraged to monitor the website and advise Val of any required

changes or suggested additions. She is to remain the one person with administrative access to the site.

The board of directors appreciate the fact that the Saskatchewan Amateur Radio League internet website was inspired and developed by yourself at considerable effort and time spent on your part. As an occasional "writer", I have some idea of the time and effort that goes into this type of creative endeavor. Please accept my thanks for that work and I would be pleased if this letter was to be included in the QSO newsletter for those members who are not aware of that bit of history. It is my intention that the SARL website be the place to express our appreciation of your contribution to the association through your creation of the site itself.



Thank you Bruce and I hope that you will continue to use and enjoy the SARL website.

73 , Gordon Gwillim, VE5UJ for the S.A.R.L.



Sorry this did not get put in the last QSO, but we actually ran out of room

It is so nice to see all the activity we are having on our radios. If your local club has a 2m net, send in your counts to me. As most of you know I am the YL News and Views columnist for the TCA, so I can send these counts into the national magazine and we can let the country know that Saskatchewan is very active on the radio. My next deadline for the TCA is March 15th, so we can do a number of things, which I will figure out. Thanks again to the net managers, for sending these in.

 PROVINCIAL NETS 					
Name	Date	Sessions	Check-ins	Traffic	Bulletins
IRLP 9300	Nov	19	573	55	1
	Dec	20	520	81	4
	Jan	23	741	112	8
Avonlea ARG 147.0600-	Nov	29	220	0	0
	Dec	30	204	0	0
	Jan	29	189	0	0
Sask Evening Phone/CW	Dec	31	892	2	0
	3.735 Jan	31	946	3	0
Sask Wx Net 3.753	Dec	31	353	0	0
	Jan	31	452	0	0
Ares	Dec	5	152	0	0
	Jan	4	250	0	0
NSARC	Dec	26	112	0	0
	Jan	24	29	0	0
TOTALS		333	5633	253	13

Next Deadline for articles is **April 12th**. Sorry this didn't get out in time for Valentine's Day, but life happens.

WANTED:

2 meter all mode transceiver Contact Kees Kaper : Please phone **1-306-962-3669** or email: kaperk@sasktel.net

Heathkit HW-9 Camping Radio working or not: Contact Harv: **306-693-6127** or email: ve5aq@sasktel.net

For Sale:

1. 1 Kenwood TS-450S and Yaesu FT-900 for sale. Both in great shape. No reasonable offer turned down.

Please get hold of Dave VE5DSS in North Battleford Phone: **306-441-6861** email: d.s.stevens@sasktel.net

2. 1 Diamond Antenna X-510MA VHF/UHF 200 W . 8.3db gain VHF,11.5db UHF 18.5 feet. Brand new still in box.

4 cavities Sinclair Lab duplexers in the F-150 4D/4E series.

For more info please get hold of Mike VE5AU Phone: **306-692-9767** email: ve5au@sasktel.net

Hamfest Questionnaire

Hamfests are not difficult to arrange, but the club who is putting it on often wonder why they bother. So many of our amateurs do not attend. I realize that summer is often time for family get-togethers, with weddings, family reunions, camping etc. We traditionally have the Hamfest in July so that our many farming hams can hopefully start preparing for harvest. This is why we usually do a 1 day event.

What would be the best time for you to attend, July or August. With the new schedule for the Sask Roughriders now out it would be easy not to put it on any weekend that we have an at home game. We are Rider fans so we are either going to the game to watch or to volunteer.

1. Would it help if we had the AGM in the mornings, and the flea-market in the afternoon?
2. Would you be more willing to attend if we had a BBQ on the evening of the Hamfest, about 5:30 (most clubs cannot afford to put on a banquet, just due to the number of members available)
3. Ladies, we also need an input from you. You are a valued member of the ham community. WE have had composting, first-aid, scrapbooking. What else would entice you to come and be a part of the days events?
4. At one time looking back at the old Hamfest pictures, almost all the hams in the province showed up with their better halves. What happened to those days and what can we do to try to bring them back?
5. Are we really so busy that we can not take just 1 day to relax and meet friends that we may not see everyday, or friends that we have not seen in a while?

Please help us so that we may give you, to the best of our ability, a nice day away from the hustle and bustle of every day living.

Please email me your answers, or give me a call, or mail this back with your answers. My phone number is 1-306-693-6127, and my email is : ve5aq@sasktel.net and our mailing address is:

SARL

263-325 4th Ave. SW,

Moose Jaw, Sask. S6H 5V2