

'YOU CAN REACH PEOPLE ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD'

## Moose Jaw the home of Canada's oldest, unique amateur radio club

By LEE GILES  
Times-Herald Staff Writer

Once a month members of Canada's oldest amateur radio club get together to talk about their mutual hobby.

Established in the 1920s, the Moose Jaw Amateur Radio Club presently has about 40 members. Approximately 25 or 30 of them are likely to turn out any given meeting.

Dave King, a member of the club, says he's had an interest in electronics ever since he was a boy and enjoys getting together with fellow members to talk about amateur radio.

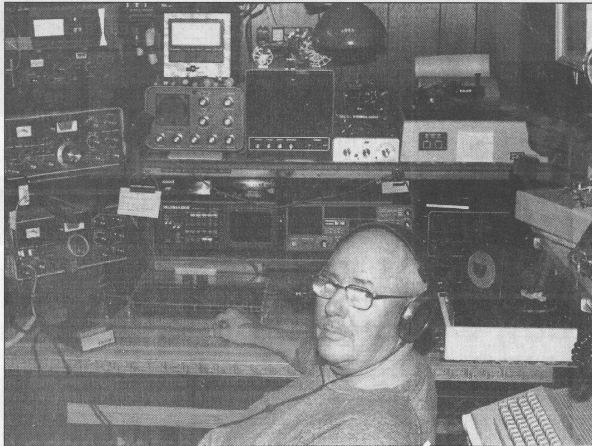
"You get to meet a lot of people (through amateur radio). On air, you can reach people anywhere in the world," he says.

King became involved in amateur radio after an uncle of his, who had been involved in the hobby, died. No one else in his family had an interest in using the man's radio equipment, so King began to experiment with it.

Getting involved in amateur radio can be an expensive proposition, King says. One can spend just about as much money as one wants. However, a basic radio can be purchased for as little as \$350.

Canadians using amateur radio are required to become licensed. They can obtain a license by successfully writing a test and paying a \$30 fee. The type of licence one must get and the amount of the fee depends on the type of equipment used.

Among the various specialty areas amateur radio enthusiasts may choose to learn about are: voice communication, Morse code, radio teletype, fax, slow



AMATEUR RADIO ENTHUSIAST  
... Bill Gilbert at home with his equipment

Lee Giles Photo

scan TV and fast scan TV, to name just a few. As well, many people enjoy building their own radios.

Members of the Moose Jaw Amateur Radio Club are involved in a variety of special projects throughout the year.

For instance, come Halloween they'll patrol the city to ensure children are safe and vandalism is kept at a minimum.

Members are also prepared to help with communications in the event of an emergency.

"We work closely with the (Emergency Measures Organization)," King says.

At Christmas, in the past club members have made it possible for city children to talk with Santa Claus on the radio.

Amateur radio, King says, is a hobby in which participants can continue to learn throughout their entire lives. Its technology continues to become more sophisticated.

"(The hobby) is always changing. With the chips coming out

what used to take up half a table is now a tiny box," says King.

Still, old radios need not be discarded. Museums always seem to want them, King says. So do collectors.

"Old radios never die. They just end up on a shelf."

Anyone interested in joining the Moose Jaw Amateur Radio Club is invited to call Dave King at 692-2139. The club meets at 7:30 p.m. every third Tuesday of the month at the South Hill Fire Hall.