

Seaway Valley Amateur Radio Club

## Next Club Meeting: Wednesday 24 April, 2019

**Where:** *St. John Ambulance Head Quarters, 1001 Sydney St.—Unit #2 (Sydney St. between 10th and 11th St., across from Your Independent Grocer rear truck entrance on Sydney St. Use the front door marked “Training Entrance”. This is the north end of the Cornwall Electric office building.)*

**Time:** **NOTE NEW MEETING TIME—07:00 PM (coffee at 6:30pm)**

**Guest Speaker:** *Tentative, Leonard, VE3OLB will do a presentation on Wires X*

## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE - Ed Halliwell

The President’s Message for April 2019

No more comments about the weather! I guess we’re going from winter into summer, I hope. I did however get the motorcycle out for a brief ride this past week between the snow and the rain.

I’m just back from the Iroquois Flea Market, we had a reasonably successful day, collecting just over a \$110. There was a good turnout for the event considering that H. G. Macfarlane was the only commercial vendor on site. Durham Radio closed up shop shortly after the event last year. They had been a regular there for many years. I needed some coax, so it was convenient and I didn’t have to pay for shipping. There were a number of our members that made it to the event and I saw several hams that were past members of the club and have moved away from the area. We got to visit and catch up.

I imagine that the Raisin River Canoe Race will have been run by the time you read this. We had our regular organizing meeting this week and the Conservation Authority is on track to run the event on Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup>. They expect that the water levels will be higher than last year, but slightly lower than two years ago. Earle is looking after the event this year as Liz and I will be out of the area. While getting some equipment ready for the event, I found that my ARES vest is missing. If someone out there has a vest with my ‘VE3FHI’ pin on it, please return it to me. Thanks.

For the April meeting, Keith Poore VA3KPP, will be making a presentation on JS8 CALL. This is a new digital mode that allows for a QSO rather than an automated exchange on HF. This is one of the newer digital modes that allows contacts to be made with low power or in noisy conditions. Come to the meeting and get a new perspective on using the HF bands. This is a short submission as we are packing for a trip to the prairies. With any luck we’ll be back in time for the next meeting. Hope to see you there, Wednesday April 24<sup>th</sup>.

73—Ed

## Weekly SVARC VHF/UHF net:

Monday on VE3SVC (147.180+ MHz; CTCSS 110.9 Hz.) at 7:00 PM local time, followed by a 70CM net on VE3PGC (443.650+ MHz. CTCSS 110.9 Hz.)

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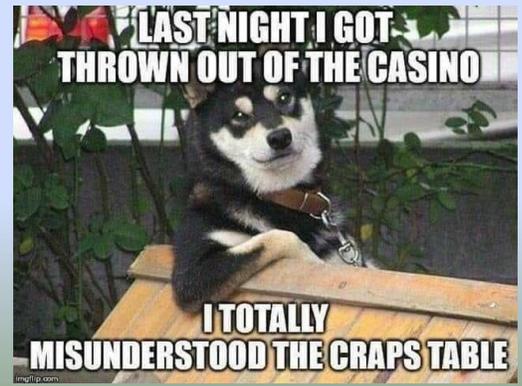


Editor’s dream tower—we all need to have dreams.

## From the Editor - Steve Harvey (VE3EZB)

April has been another busy month for us. Once again, I didn't have as much time to put into the newsletter as I would have liked but that life. Something about plans and mice and men comes to mind. However, me and da missus did get to check off another item on our bucket-list—a trip to Vegas. We walked the famous Las Vegas Strip where we got visit “Paris”, complete with a trip up the 2/3 scale Eiffel Tower; “Venice” where we saw the gondolas, (no gondola rides, da missus doesn't do well on the water); “Rome”; “Egypt”; “New York”, where we took a ride on the roller coaster, (sorry, no pics ... too busy hanging on for dear life); and finally, “Rome”. Of course no trip to Vegas would be complete without playing a few slots (my bad luck gambling followed me to Vegas as well) and a trip to the “old” Vegas— Fremont Street. For us, the evening spent on Fremont Street was the best. When I think of Vegas, I think of the Golden Nugget (hotel & casino), the 4 Queens (hotel & casino), and of course the street performers— all of which are located on Fremont Street. Prices on Fremont Street were way more reasonable than on the “strip”. On the Strip, a 500ml bottle of water costs \$7 USD (the same price as a beer) and only \$2 USD on Fremont Street (beer on Fremont was \$3.50). We stayed at the famous Flamingo Hotel right on the Strip on the 28th floor (top floor) - nice view but facing away from the Strip. We didn't take in any of the shows, there was just too much to see to be able to do everything in one four day trip. It was a very busy 4 days and there was lots of walking in 26 degree temps. I damn near froze to death when I returned home—wearing shorts, cause— well—Vegas, it was good to be home and get some rest. Hmmm, where to next? (some pictures of our adventures are in the “This ‘n’ That” section of this newsletter.

73, Steve (VE3EZB)



The SVARC Repeater reports are now available on the club website under “Area Repeater List”

## Contest Corner (May/June/July 2019)

Welcome to the Contest Corner. Each month, I will include a few of the many upcoming amateur radio contests. There are too many contests on the air these days to be able to include them all so for a comprehensive list of contests, visit <https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html>

**CQ-M International DX Contest**— 1200Z, May 11 to 1159Z, May 12, 2019 [<http://cqm.srr.ru/en-rules-2/>]

**ARRL Field Day**— 1800Z, Jun 22 to 2100Z, Jun 23, 2019 [<http://www.arrl.org/field-day>]

**RAC Canada Day Contest**—0000Z-2359Z, Jul 1, 2019 [<https://wp.rac.ca/rac-canada-day-contest-rules/>]

## Meeting Agenda — General (Monthly) Meeting—Wednesday April 24, 2019

06:30 PM Soft drinks and socializing

07:00 PM Meeting starts / welcome – Ed VE3EAH, President

### **Presentation:**

Keith Poore (VA3KPP), will be making a presentation on JS8 CALL

### **Business Arising:**

Minutes of last meeting (March 27, 2019) – Chris (VA3CRR)

Treasurers Report – Elizabeth (VE3EZH)

Net Controllers Report – Tom (VA3KD)

Newsletter Report – Steve (VE3EZB)

Miscellaneous Reports

Repeater Report - Doug (VE3HTR)

Web Report – Ed (VE3EAH)

ARES Reports –

Raisin River Canoe Race Report - Earle (VE3IMP)

50/50 Draw

### **New Business:**

- Children's Treatment Centre Bike-A-Thon

Other

### **Upcoming Events:**

35<sup>th</sup> Annual Smiths Falls Fleamarket Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup>

ARRL Field Day Saturday and Sunday June 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>

MS Bike Tour, Ottawa Cornwall return Saturday and Sunday August 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>

Ottawa (Carp) 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Hamfest Saturday September 7<sup>th</sup>

Montreal South Shore Hamfest Saturday October 19<sup>th</sup>

### **Adjournment:**

**Date, time and place of next meeting:** Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 07:00 PM, St. John Ambulance HQ

**Presentation:** Art Horovitch (VE3AIH) on the Texas Commemorative Air Museum

# Amateur Radio in Popular Culture

WS1SM Ham Radio Blog

Amateur Radio stories, articles, projects, and more!

March 4, 2019

<https://blogws1sm.wordpress.com/2019/03/04/amateur-radio-in-popular-culture/>



A scene from the 1938 film, *Nancy Drew, Detective*

Amateur Radio has never been considered a mainstream hobby, but it has had its fair share of time in the spotlight of American popular culture – the most notable being when the hobby is featured on television or film. We'll take a look back at some of ham radio's more memorable appearances from the past, and a few recent ones.

When I was a boy, I used to love reading detective books and watching movies of the same genre. One of the first ones I remember that featured ham radio was a film called *Nancy Drew, Detective*, starring Bonita Granville (Warner Bros., 1938), where the teenage sleuth's friend, Ted, showed off his radio shack and demonstrated the art of making a QSO. It played a minor role in the plot of the story as well. Ted even had a call sign – W8YZR, by which we can infer that Nancy's fictional home town of River Heights must be located somewhere in the Midwest.

Another film from around the same era is *The Men of Boys Town* (MGM, 1941). In this sequel to the popular film *Boys Town*, Whitey Marsh (*Mickey Rooney*), has frequent conversations with his friend Pee Wee (*Bobs Watson*) over the airwaves. Whitey transmits from the home of his adoptive parents, while Pee Wee operates from the Boys Town club station.



Orson Welles confronts reporters after the radio broadcast, *The War of the Worlds*

A scene in Orson Welles' famous rendition of *The War of the Worlds* for Mercury Radio Theater, which aired on October 30, 1938 over the Columbia Broadcasting System, features an amateur radio operator saying: "2X2L calling CQ . . . 2X2L calling CQ . . . 2X2L calling CQ . . . New York. Isn't there anyone on the air? Isn't there anyone on the air? Isn't there anyone . . . 2X2L"

*The Glass Bottom Boat* (MGM, 1966), starring Doris Day, who has a "20-foot antenna," shows her corkboard full of DX QSL cards above her Collins and Marine radio gear. Day uses a radio to talk to "Pop" (played by real-life ham Arthur Godfrey, K4LIB).

Based on true events, *The Red Tent* (Paramount, 1969), tells the story of the dirigible *Italia*, which crashed over the Arctic ice cap after flying over the North Pole in 1928. Authorities believed no one could have possibly survived the accident and soon gave up searching for survivors, until a young Russian radio amateur, Nikolai Schmidt (Nikolai Ivanov), heard on his modest radio set the faint SOS signals sent from the wreck site by Roberto Biagi (*Mario Adorf*). Thanks to the information provided by Schmidt, the rescue of the survivors was organized. The Norwegian, Roald Amundsen, first man to reach the South Pole, perished during the rescue operation.

Another film from around that time, *The Anderson Tapes* (Columbia 1971), starring Sean Connery who portrays a recently paroled thief that decides to rob an entire apartment building, while unknown to him, the government is

watching and listening to every move via telephoto lenses and shotgun mikes. His character disables all telephone lines, but a young boy, in a wheelchair, is able to summon help via his ham radio. In the end, the government destroys all tapes because they had no legal business placing him under surveillance.

Ham radio enjoyed a renaissance in popular culture in the 1990's. Some movies from the time include *Pump Up the Volume* (New Line Cinema, 1990), where a teenager's father provides him with amateur radio equipment to keep in touch with his friends on his native east coast when his job transfers him to Arizona. However, the teenager uses the equipment to start a pirate radio station promoting his cynical views on American life.

The science fiction film, *Contact* (Warner Bros., 1997), starring Jodie Foster playing Dr. Arroway, opens with the heroine operating a ham radio transceiver as a child, using the callsign W9GFO. She later becomes a researcher working in SETI.

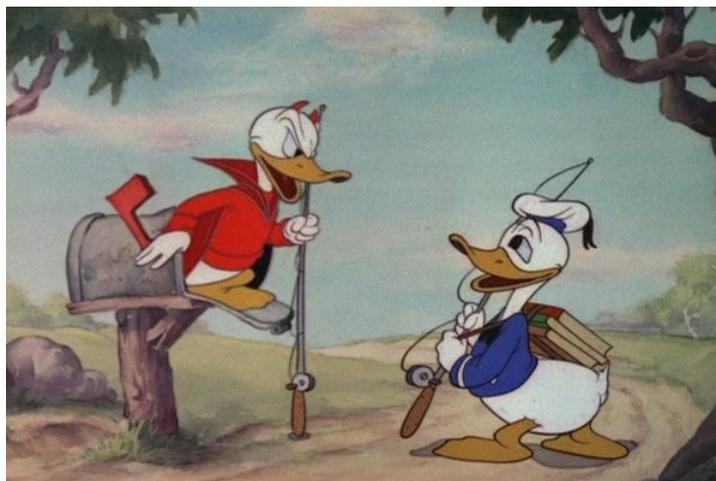
*The Sweet Hereafter* (Alliance, 1997) starring Ian Holm, features a scene where a man is sitting at a table, holding a pair of communication headphones up to one ear. On the wall is a plastic QSL card holder full of cards.

In the mystery-science fiction film, *Frequency* (New Line Cinema, 2000), John Sullivan (played by Jim Caviezel), and his father Frank Sullivan (Dennis Quaid) use ham radio to communicate; due to unusual aurora borealis activity John is able to communicate via ham radio with his father 30 years in the past.



A scene from the 2000 film, *Frequency*

So far, we've looked primarily at movies, but ham radio also been referenced several times in television and short film as well. One of the more-subtle references appears in the Disney cartoon, *Donald's Better Self*, (Walt Disney, 1938), where Donald Duck is pursued by both angel and devil versions of himself. In one scene, the devil duck calls CQ from a mailbox as he passes by.



Donald's not-so-better self gets his attention by calling CQ from inside a mailbox

In the popular TV show, *ALF* (1986-1990), an Alien Life Form crash lands at the Los Angeles home of Willie Tanner, who is a ham.

In an episode of the *Munsters* (1964-1966), Grandpa Munster, uses an army surplus BC-654 field radio as a ham station.

In an episode of *The Loretta Young Show* (1953-1961), a young couple are snowed in at a ski chalet when a boy with pneumonia shows up at their door. Rita (played by Loretta Young), uses a ham station at the chalet to summon medical assistance.

In a double episode of *The Waltons* (1971-1981), Jim-Bob uses ham radio to help two young guests speak to their mother in England.

In an episode of *The Jetsons* (Hanna-Barbera 1962-1963), George's son, Elroy, uses an interstellar version of ham radio to chase DX.



Henry, Fr. Mulcahy, and Klinger, in *M\*A\*S\*H\**

In an episode of *M\*A\*S\*H* (Fox, 1972-1983), called “Springtime”, Henry uses ham radio so Father Mulcahy can marry Klinger to his girl back in the USA. The other “ham” that gets in the middle of the QSO with her recipes is Mary Kay Place.

Similarly, in an episode of *McHale’s Navy*, one of McHale’s crew members finds out about the birth of his baby back home via a phone patch from a Stateside ham radio operator.

On the *Tonight Show* with Jay Leno that aired May 13th, 2005, they held a showdown between Morse code ops Chip K7JA of Yaesu USA and Ken K6CTW and “the fastest text messagers in the country” to see who could transmit the message “I just saved a bunch of money on my car insurance” faster. The Morse code operators won by completing the message first.



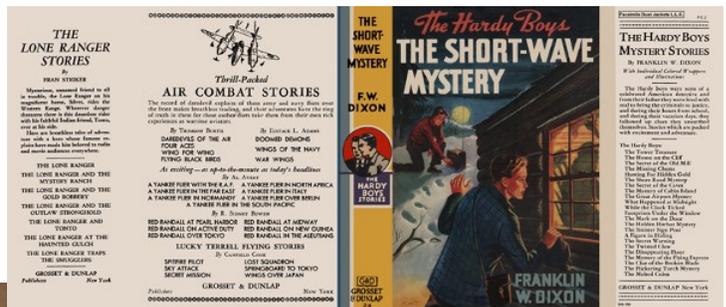
Mike Baxter is on the air from his ham shack in a 2013 episode of *Last Man Standing*

The main character of *Last Man Standing* (Fox, 2011-Current), Mike Baxter, (played by Tim Allen), is a ham radio operator, and ham radio is figured into many episodes –

one of the most memorable is a scene where Mike retreats to his basement ham shack during Thanksgiving dinner to talk on the radio while his family squabbles upstairs.

Club member, Brad Brown KC1JMH, let us know recently that, in addition to the character, the show’s executive producer is a real licensed ham and he and several other crew members are on the air every Tuesday night at 23:45 UTC (6:45p EST) as “KA6LMS”. They often work 20 meters, and post where they are on [dxsummit.fi](http://dxsummit.fi). They also post the station log on Facebook and send out cards. This coming Tuesday, they plan on being active on D-STAR REF 012A during the same time slot. {*article is dated March 4, 2019—Editor*}

Amateur Radio has also been prominently featured in print. One book that I remember distinctly was a *Hardy Boys* mystery called “The Short-Wave Mystery” (Grosset & Dunlap, 1945). The events that set the plot into action are when the Hardy Boys hear a mysterious call for help on their shortwave radio set: “Help — Hudson”. This happens while their father, Fenton Hardy, is investigating nationwide thefts of radio equipment by a group of criminals



The original book cover to “The Short Wave Mystery” called “The Hudson Gang”.

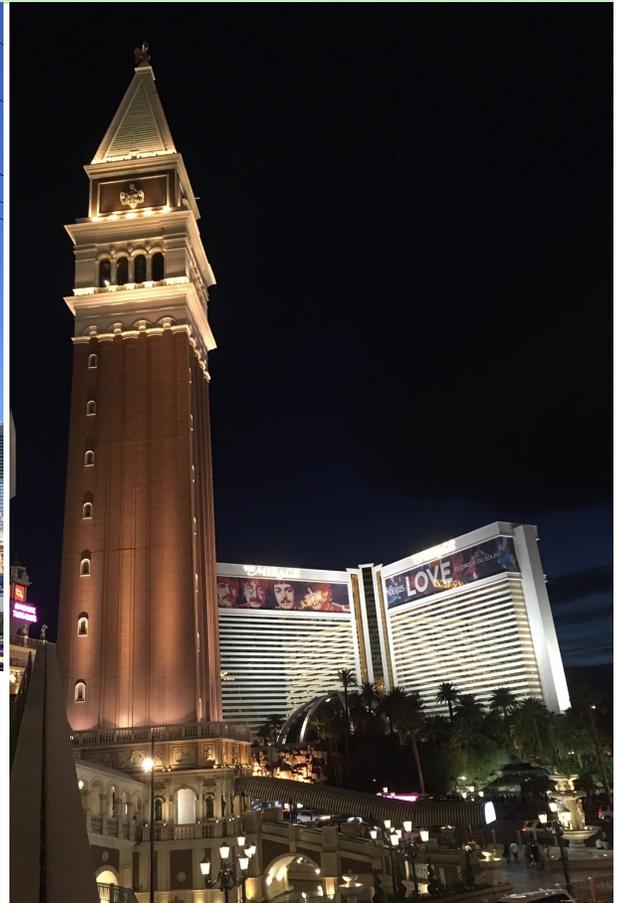
Ham radio is also featured in an Archie Comic, *Archie’s Ham Radio Adventure* (1997), and in at least two *Dilbert* cartoons. In one of them, Dilbert’s date hints that Dilbert’s sex appeal would be increased if he got his ham radio license. In another, one of Dilbert’s team members says that she got her ham radio license in a workshop held by Dogbert.

Looking back, a lot of these rekindled old memories. At the time I first encountered many of them, I had no idea what amateur radio was really like, and remarkably, many offer an accurate portrayal. This was by no means a complete list, nor was it meant to be, but hopefully you’ve had as much fun revisiting them as I did.

## This 'n' That



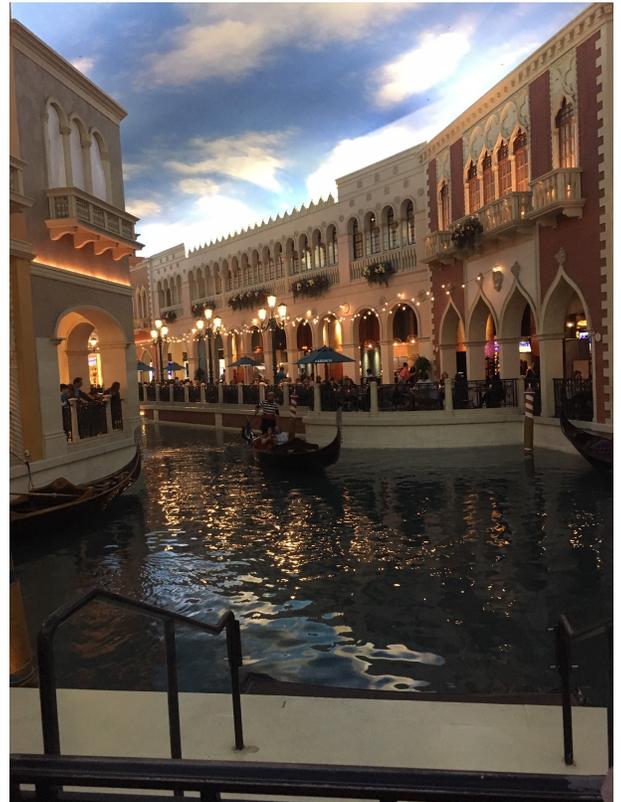
“New York” - you can see the roller-coaster we rode.



“Piazza San Marco” (above) and the gondola inside the mall (below). The “sky” in the photo below is actually the ceiling of the mall. The gondola ride goes outside the mall as well.



View of the Las Vegas Strip from the “Eiffel Tower”.



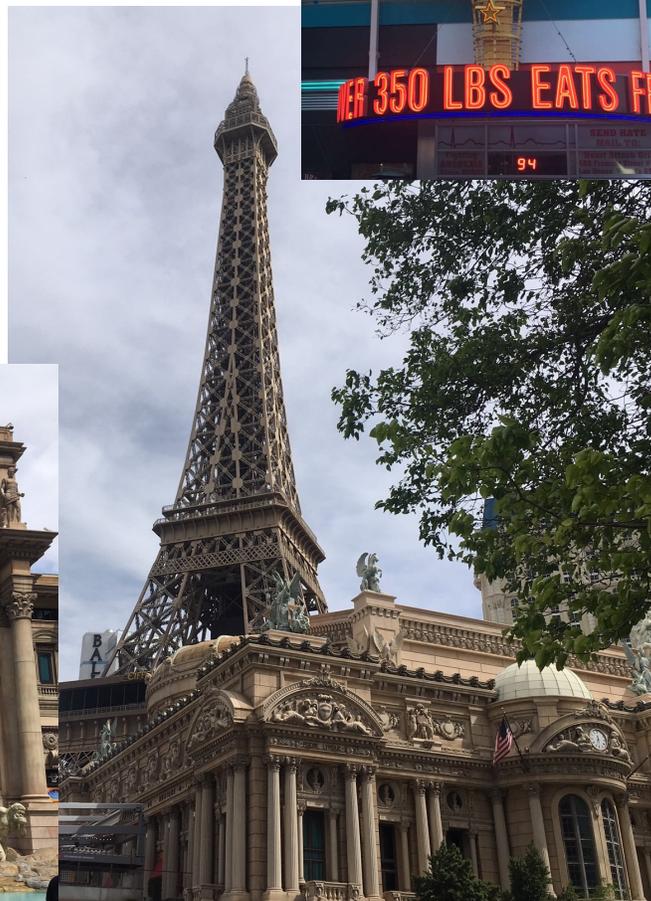
## This 'n' That (continued)



Pink Flamingos at the Flamingo Hotel (yes they are real)



Heart Attack Grill (right)—  
if you are over 350lbs, you  
eat for free. (no free meal  
for me)





Seaway Valley Amateur Radio Club

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St. Andrews West, ON  
K0C2A0  
Your Address Line 4

[www.svarc.ca](http://www.svarc.ca)

The Seaway Valley Amateur Radio Club operates a number of repeaters in Cornwall and Area. VE3SVC is a VHF Yaesu Fusion digital repeater operating on both analog and C4FM modes at 147.180 + and a tone of 110.9 Hz. On UHF, VE3PGC (previously VE3MTA), also a Yaesu Fusion repeater with wide area coverage, is located at Bonville. It operates at 443.650 + and a tone of 110.9 Hz. For other repeaters see the Repeater Page.

## SVARC Executive 2018—2020

- **President:** Ed Halliwell (VE3FHI)
- **Vice President:** Doug Pearson (VE3HTR)
- **Secretary:** Dean Brush (VA3BS)
- **Treasurer:** Elizabeth Halliwell (VE3EZH)
- **Technical Consultant:** Doug Pearson
- **Club Membership:** Elizabeth Halliwell
- **Net Manager:** Tom Todd (VA3KD)
- **ARES Coordinator:** Earle DePass (VE3IMP)
- **Editor/Publisher:** Steve Harvey (VE3EZB)



## Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) is composed of certified Radio Amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes.

## Upcoming Events

- VE2DX has been granted authorization to use the special call sign VX2A11 for a Special Event Station Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of Apollo 11. The station will be on the air at various times from 20 July to 19 Aug 2019.
- 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Smiths Falls Fleamarket Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup>
- ARRL Field Day Saturday and Sunday June 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>
- MS Bike Tour, Ottawa Cornwall return Saturday and Sunday August 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>
- Ottawa (Carp) 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Hamfest Saturday September 7<sup>th</sup>
- Montreal South Shore Hamfest Saturday October 19<sup>th</sup>



The Seaway Valley Amateur Radio Club is a proud Radio Amateurs of Canada Affiliated Club.

If you are looking to purchase some Raspberry Pi or Arduino boards for your projects, consider giving buyapi.ca a try. These guys are an online store located in Nepean. You place your order online and they ship via Canada Post Express or if you choose, once the order is ready, you can just go pick it up in Nepean. *Disclaimer—I am not affiliated with the company, I am just a happy customer. If we don't support our local businesses, they will disappear.*