

SVARC Monthly Newsletter

September 2019

Seaway Valley Amateur Radio Club

Next Club Meeting: Wednesday 25 September, 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: **07:00 PM** (coffee at 6:30pm)

Guest Speaker: TBD

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.)

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE - Ed Halliwell

The President’s Message for September 2019

I trust that everyone had a good summer and as we approach the Labour Day weekend and fall season, you all have your outside yard work and antenna changes ready for the upcoming colder weather. I still have a few items on my ‘outside’ list to finish up but should have those done before the snow flies.

We had a very good BBQ on the 10th of August with about 25 coming out for the event. We were very pleased to have John (VA3JO) and Christine (VA3CSW) from Tweed come down for the event. Some of you will remember John from Alexandria a number of years ago. He was our ARES contact for North Glengarry at that time.

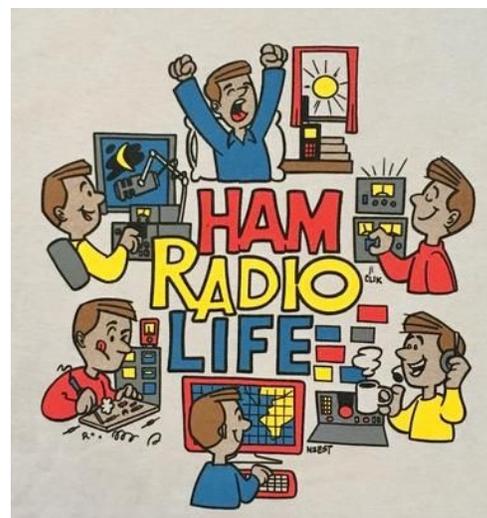
On a sad note, Wilma Scott (VE3WMS) passed away on the date of our BBQ. She was 79. Long time partner of our past President Tim Smith (VE3HCB), who predeceased her on September 3rd, 2010, Tim had been President from 1995 to the date of his passing.

I also recently found out that earlier this year Herb Gillingham (VE3HRB) from Tayside passed away at 83. While not active in our Club, Herb had recently attended one of our meetings last fall. He had worked for Bell Canada and over the years had been active not only on HF but other modes of amateur radio. Most of his radio gear was sold at the Smith Falls flea market in May, but there was still an extensive amount of electronic gear in his garage shack this past summer, including some ATV gear. This has been now all disposed of.

Another MS Bike Tour was completed in August with 5 members from our club participating for the southern part of the event. Earle (VE3IMP), Hal (VE3HWG), Roger (VA3GBV), Larry (VA3RSQ), and Rick (VA3EV) manned checkpoint along the route from Finch to the Nav Centre. For the last few years our Club has joined with the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club to provide radio communications along the route. Nicole Boivin (VE3GIQ) coordinates the event from their end, while Earle looked after things at this end. Given the length of the event,

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VE3MPC covers off the northern part of the route and our VE3PGC is used for the southern part. As far as I know, the event was run with no significant incidents.

As of writing this message, I'm also advised that another area ham is retiring from the hobby and an extensive DX HF station is available. There will be more details on the Swap Pages of the Club's web site shortly, once I've had a look at what is available.

As for the meeting, we don't have a guest speaker lined up yet but I still have a few boxes of stuff to make some interesting door prizes in addition to the regular 50/50 draw we have each month, hope to see you there.

73, Ed

From the Editor - Steve Harvey (VE3EZB)

It's All About the Seasons

Welcome Back! Another summer "antenna season" has past and hopefully you all had time to make any necessary "shack and antenna repairs" before winter (aka "radio season") begins. Soon, it will time to hibernate and play radio, where we anticipate working some "hot DX" to help keep warm while Mother Nature batters our shacks and antennas for another "radio season". I made it out to most of the flea markets during "flea market season" and picked up a few additions for the shack. Nothing big, just some items to make shack life a little easier. I also picked up an ATV with a snowplow which should make snow removal faster this winter—at least that's the plan—and allow me more time in the shack. I've inspected my antennas, tower and cables and decided that I didn't need to do any antenna work before "radio season" this year. Hopefully that is a decision I don't regret later. Since I mentioned it, I would like to remind you to check your tower/antenna systems. It's much easier to make repairs now than in the middle of a cold snap.

I'm looking forward to my "second season" publishing the SVARC Newsletter. Remember, this is your Newsletter. I invite you all to submit items, stories, jokes etc. just remember to "keep it clean".

See you at the meeting!

73, Steve (VE3EZB)

PS: Photo below is my "shack". Photo taken by Murray (VE3XLJ)





One of the Local QRPer's came by the other day, and he was carrying a laptop computer and a pair of handie-talkies. There was joy in his stride and a gleam in his eye. We had seen him coming and, for a fleeting few seconds, considered ducking out the back door. This fellow was a high-tech QRPer, and he usually wanted to talk about something that was over our head. Thinking back to what the Old Timer had told us about being open to new ideas, and about the Amateur's Code, we decided to see what was up.

We opened the door and the QRPer burst in, laying his equipment on the table and looking at us with a happy gaze in his eyes. "I've found the perfect way to work DX!" he proclaimed. It's so much easier than chasing HF propagation, or listening to Red-Eyed Louie's reports on the DX he's heard lately. Besides, Louie's job has been replaced with packet clusters. Who needs him anymore, for that matter?" We thought about it for a minute and wondered who would feed the data into the clusters if all the Red Eyed Louies of the world packed it in. However, we'd learned many years ago not to present a QRPer with too much logic. Maybe another day we'd both be up for that argument, but today he seemed to have other things on his mind.

"How are you going to work DX without understanding propagation?" we asked carefully. "Simple!" the QRPer began, "And I'm here to show you how it's done." We just looked on as he opened up his laptop and started plugging in cables and hooking up adapters. "Shouldn't you bring that into the shack?" we asked, "That's where all the HF gear is, and the coax runs to the tower and all the antennas too." The QRPer grinned and simply said, "Don't need it. I'm working on 2-meter DXCC. I want to be the first in the world to do it, too!"

"How are you going to work DX without radios and antennas? And you and I both know you can't work 2-meter DXCC without repeaters or satellites. Repeater assisted contacts don't count for DXCC, and if you do it by satellite, it's a Satellite DXCC, not 2-meters."

"Just watch me." he said mysteriously, reaching down and unplugging our phone from its wall jack and plugging in a line from his computer. We shoved our cap back on our head, scratched a bit, and pulled the cap back forward. "What are you doing with the phone lines?" we asked, wondering if he was up to something illegal. "You're not hooking up one of those things to make long distance phone calls without paying for them are you?" The QRPer looked up at us in consternation. "Don't be so foolish." he said, "I know better than that. I'm hooking the laptop up to my ISP." We didn't know exactly what an ISP was, but we thought back to the wisdom of the quote "Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to open your mouth and remove all doubt."

As soon as he had things set up to his satisfaction, he typed in a few lines and the computer squawked and squealed for a few seconds, and then a couple of windows popped open. "There", he said, "I'm connected."

"OK", we said quietly, wondering what was he was connected to. "Here's how it works." he began, "I'm dialed into the Internet with my laptop, and I've got my 2-meter handie-talkie connected to the computer with a RigBlaster. Follow?" We nodded, for although we still weren't sure on the ISP part, we knew what a RigBlaster was, and we knew what the Internet was. We'd seen a demonstration of the Internet at a shopping mall last fall. And one of the PSK31 types had tried to hook a RigBlaster up to our TS-920 last summer. Since we weren't overly impressed with the Internet or what the RigBlaster had done to our HF rig, we were just as happy that the QRPer was contented to stay out of the shack.

"Now, here's how it works", he said, stepping back and holding the second 2-meter handie-talkie. All I do is key up the EchoLink node number of the station I want to work on my DTMF keypad here. I've got this radio on the same simplex frequency as the one connected to the Laptop with the RigBlaster. Just using 250 milliwatts, too! That will select the DX station from the EchoLink list and connect us by VoIP. Then I just talk to them and bingo! I've got a DX QSO. I

can connect to anywhere in the world! This is pretty slick, right."

We didn't know what to say. We decided to ask for clarification, in spite of our previous decision to not remove the doubt of our being thought a fool. "What's VoIP and what's an EchoLink?" The QRPer gave us a pained look and answered "VoIP is Voice Over IP and EchoLink is the controlling software that runs on my laptop. Where have you been the last year or so?"

We decided not to argue and simply replied, "OK, we understand. So where's the DX?" The QRPer's look of exasperation increased and he blurted out, "Where it's always been, in those far away lands over the horizon like VK, ZL, and in all of Europe and Asia. And in the Caribbean and the like. Where did you think it would be? On my laptop?"

At this point we still weren't sure, so we just nodded and the QRPer punched a few codes into his handie-talkie. Then he called a GM station. We jumped back as the Scottish accent called him right back. Son of a Gun! We were impressed, but not convinced this was DXing. The QRPer exchanged a few more words with the GM station, ending it all by saying, "And be sure to QSL by the bureau, best 7'd3s." Up until the "best 7'd3s" we had managed to take things in stride, but enough was enough. "What kind of foolishness have you dreamt up this time?" we roared! "Every time you start playing with computers, you come up with some way to cheat your way into more DXCC points, or to bend the rules, or to keep acting like you just were licensed last month! You know better than this!"

The QRPer took a step backwards and then glared right back into our eyes. "Look Buster, just because you didn't think of it doesn't mean it isn't right. It's not just my idea, either! There are almost 1000 EchoLink users around, maybe even twice that many. Why even VE1YX uses it. And he's been around the track enough time to recognize a good thing when he sees it. This is the wave of the future, and it's time you threw away that CW and SSB technology from the last century and joined us modern DXers! There is nothing illegal or immoral about this. It's new technology, and just because I'm smart enough to figure out how to get my 2-meter DXCC with it doesn't mean it's cheating!"

"Isn't DXCC supposed to use a radio?!!" we bellowed back at him. "You're talking into a computer with a hand-held! It's going through our phone line somehow and connecting to another computer in Scotland. Where the 2-way radio QSO?"

"Right here in my hand and in the GM's hand in Edinburgh!" he screeched back, getting beet red and shaking his handie-talkie at us. "It's a good contact!" We took a deep breath and counted to 10. "How do you know he has a radio in Edinburgh?" we asked slowly, trying to bring the conversation back down to a civil level. "Because he has a L after his call sign. That means he has a link to a radio, the same as I have! And if he didn't have an L, there'd just be his call, and I'd know he was just using his computer microphone and speakers. But this fellow has a L, so it's a good contact!"

"How does the L get stuck after his call?" we asked quietly. "He typed it there when he set up his EchoLink software." was the quick reply. We leaned over and looked at the computer screen. A few of the calls had R after them, and a few more had L, but most had nothing but the call. "What does the R mean?" we asked. "Repeater!" the QRPer snapped back at us. "I can't use those for DXCC because they are connected to repeaters, but the L ones are good."

We looked a bit more and said, "That station in Hong Kong, if he were to stick a L after his call, or if that LA or GD were to do the same, and if they still used their computer microphone and speakers, how would you know?"

"How would I know? How would I know!! I'd know because Hams are honest, especially DXers. No True Blue DXer would ever think of doing something like that."

We looked at him for a moment and then said "Romeo was in Burma." He stared at us with a blank look and then said "What?" We repeated slowly "Romeo was in Burma."

He looked at us for a moment, then snapped off his 2-meter rigs, unplugged his computer from the wall and began packing things up in their case. "There is no sense talking to people like you." he said. "I try to show you how DXing will be in the new millennium and you start talking in riddles. "Romeo was in Burma. What is that supposed to mean?"

We shrugged our shoulders as he was walking out the door. There is no point trying to explain the Eternal Enigmas of DXing or the Mysteries of the Ages to someone who isn't ready to understand them. So we just watched him stomp down the hill with his laptop and handie-talkies under his arm. Some day he might figure it out . . . but then again, maybe Romeo really was in Burma, too! DX IS!

ARES Tabletop Exercise September 12, 2019

As members of SD&G ARES based in Cornwall, ON, we recently participated in a tabletop exercise with an emphasis on internal and external communication during an emergency. In attendance were representatives of the city administration, health unit, police, fire and paramedical services. Considering external communications to the public in an emergency, the important thing is consistency of message by all the players. The mayor, advised by the Public Information Officer of the city should be the only ones to be disseminating information, so that the message is consistent. In the event that Police or Fire Services are questioned by the media, they should convey the same message. It is important to be truthful, because the media is a "beast" that needs feeding. If they sense that the replies to their questions are being evasive or false, they will find answers wherever they can find them. We were shown two videos which highlighted the difference between good communication and poor communication which leads to speculation, rumours and possible panic by citizens in the affected area.

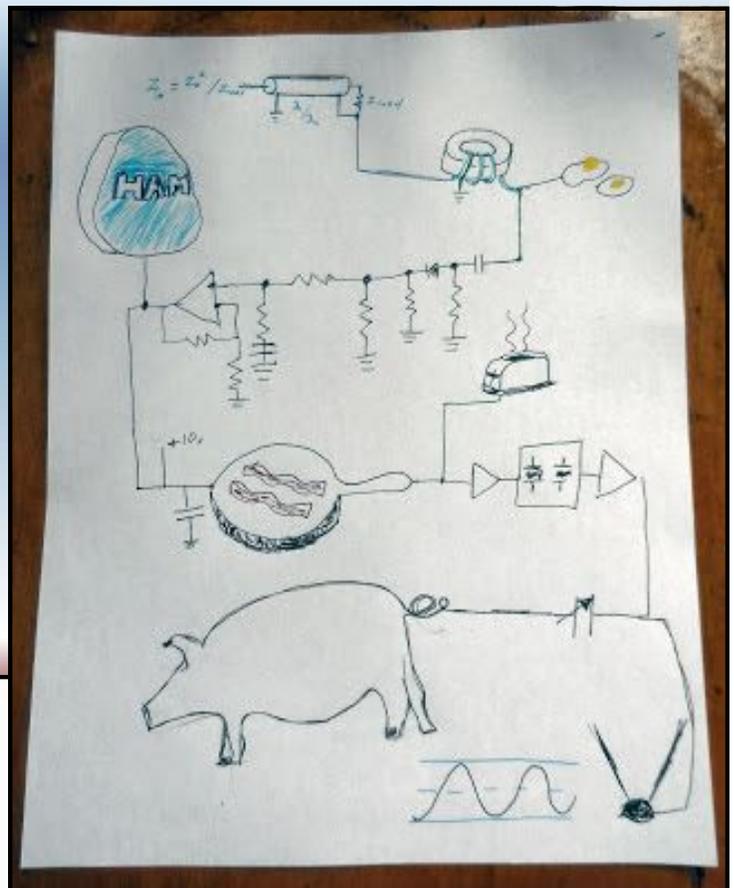
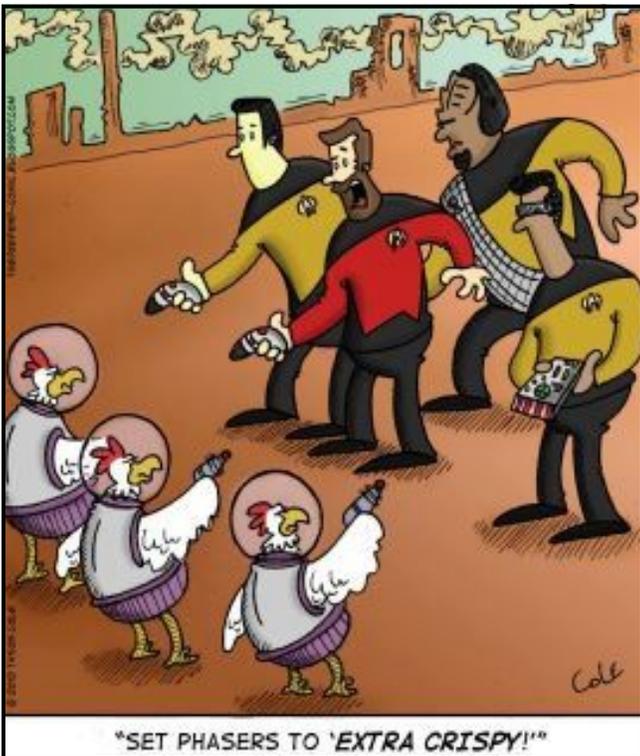
The accident at Three Mile Island nuclear station near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania was shown as a model of what not to do. The person being interviewed by the media was an engineer, not a public relations specialist. The more he said there was no problem and the more he contradicted himself in subsequent media scrums, the more agitated the population became. The mayor of the city was lied to when the engineer later admitted that there had been a leak of radioactive gas into the air. At first people were told to "shelter in place" with windows closed, then someone in authority ordered an evacuation, which caused a panic.

In contrast, the video showing the crash of Swissair flight off Peggy's cove near Halifax, NS showed how all the authorities did the right thing, They were honest with the reporters and the local townspeople and a level of trust was built up between the two groups so that each could accomplish the tasks they had to do, while respecting the needs of the other.

We were also presented with a scenario where some major incident resulted in no phone service and no internet throughout Cornwall and surrounding area. We had to brainstorm ideas of how we would communicate with the public. Some suggestions were using loudspeakers on fire and police vehicles, printing and distributing leaflets (impractical because how would the leaflets be printed with no power). Our neighbouring community of Akwesasne in New York, just a few minutes away across the St. Lawrence river, has an FM broadcast radio station which could be used to disseminate messages in the Cornwall area, if we could get those messages to them by some means (ham radio?) and providing they have power.

For internal communications, local police and fire services have their own radios which are generally short range, mostly digital. There may also be a problem with interoperability between the two radio systems. So, what do we do in this situation? Several people turned to us and asked "What can your ARES system do in such an event?" I said we have two repeaters in the "penthouse" of the hospital that can cover all of Cornwall and surrounding area. They would be powered by the hospital's emergency generator. We also have a repeater at Bonneville which would run on an emergency generator and its range covers all of Cornwall out to the Quebec border and north to Casselman. A recent addition of a "linked repeater" near Apple Hill (VE3OJE Moose Creek — Editor) allows coverage west towards Ottawa. In addition, the local ARES group has four 50 watt mobile transmitters than can operate from a vehicle battery or AC power supply if such is available. We are experts at setting up communications systems, so we can call on local hams, who can also supply their own equipment. These would be stationed at the EOC, emergency shelters, police and fire headquarters and accompany officers in these vehicles if need be. We also have long range communications capability throughout North America using HF radios and suitable mobile or fixed antennas. These do not depend on any kind of cell tower or internet, but use the same method employed by Marconi, more than 100 years ago to communicate across the ocean by bouncing radio waves off the ionosphere. The group was suitably impressed and I felt we did a good job of making our presence known in the event of a real emergency.

Art Horovitch VE3AIH



thepunthatyouwant.tumblr.com

Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent.

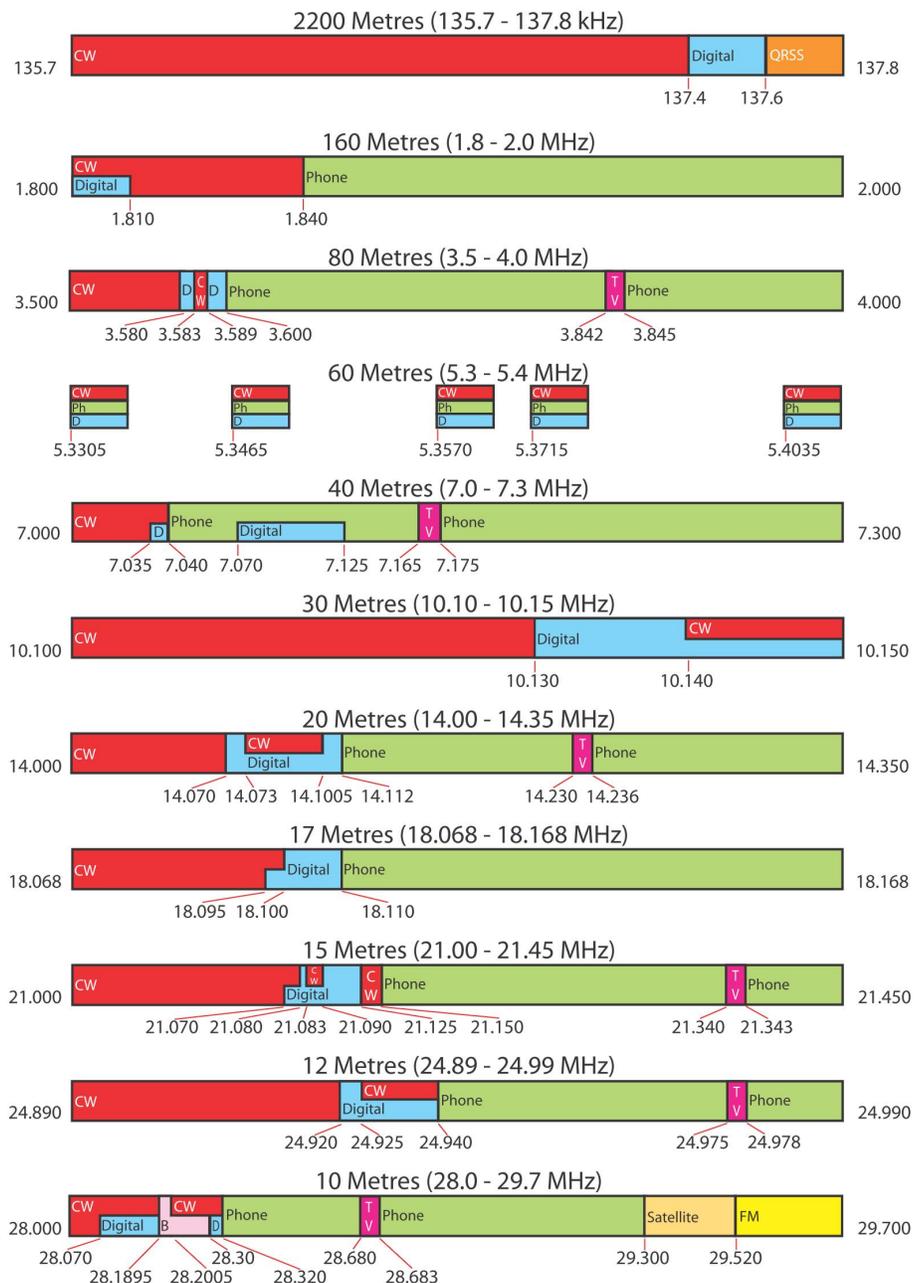


Canadian 0 - 30MHz Band Plan

Effective Date:
December 1, 2015

1. This is a simplified version of the official RAC Band Plan. Not all permissible modes/activities are represented.
2. LSB is used on 160, 80 and 40m. USB is used on all other bands that permit SSB, including 60m.
3. Consult various online resources for detailed information on what digital modes are used.
4. Maximum bandwidth permitted on 2200m is 100 Hz. Maximum power is 1 Watt EIRP.
5. Refer to the IC and RAC websites for full details before operating on the new 60m channels.
6. Remember not to allow your signal to spill over into adjoining band segments when operating close to the edges. During major weekend contests, activity in certain modes can spill over into other segments. Operators should avoid NCDXF beacons on 14.100, 18.110, 21.150, 24.930 and 28.200 MHz.
7. This graphic is a living document and will be reviewed and updated periodically to reflect changes in the band plans and operating habits.

www.rac.ca



Key		
■ CW	CW	■ FM
■ QR	CW QRSS	■ D
■ Ph	Phone	■ T
■ B	Beacons	■ S
■ D	Digital	■ V
■ T	SSTV	
■ S	Satellite	

This 'n' That



Some pictures of the Club BBQ held at Ed (VE3EAH/VE3FHI) and Elizabeth's (VE3EZH) as well as a few pictures at the repeater site at the Cornwall Hospital.



Earle (VE3IMP), Art (VE3AIH) and Suzan (sorry Suzan, I forgot your call) conducting the Monday Night Net from on the water.





Seaway Valley Amateur Radio Club

4672 O'Keefe Road
St. Andrews West, ON
K0C2A0

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

- Monthly Meeting for September Wednesday Sept. 25th
- Prescott Russell ARC Flea Market Saturday 28th, Rockland, Ont.
- Montreal South Shore Hamfest Saturday October 19th



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



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