

SVARC Monthly Newsletter

October 2019

Seaway Valley Amateur Radio Club

Next Club Meeting: Wednesday 30 October, 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.)

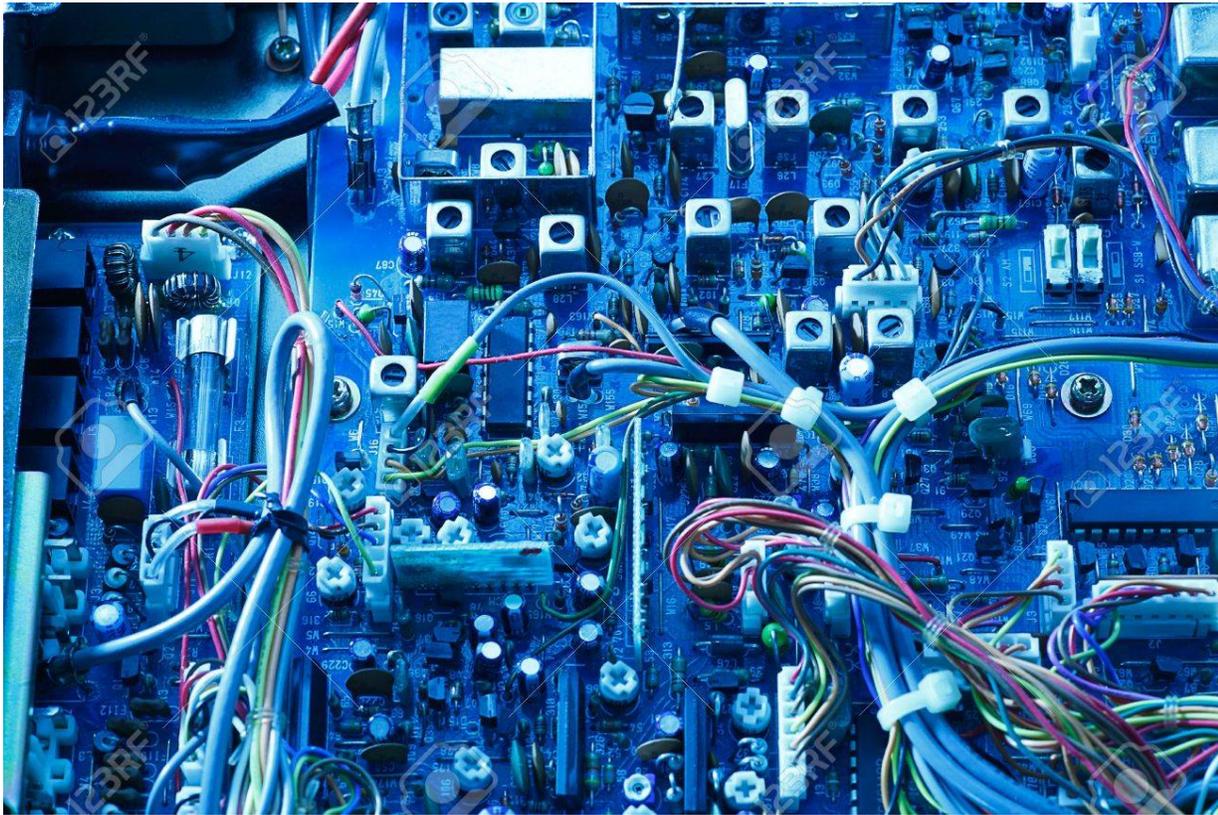
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE - Ed Halliwell

The President’s message was unavailable at press time.

Inside this Issue:

From the Editor	2
Meeting Agenda	3
The Old and the New — by Paul VE1DX	4
RAC Amateur Radio Band Plan	6
It Sounds Like Fun — by Paul VE1DX	7





From the Editor - Steve Harvey (VE3EZB)

As I sit behind my keyboard, trying to figure out what to say here this month, I wondered “where did the time go?” It seems like only yesterday I was looking forward to the snow melting and getting out in the “back 40” to start enjoying the warmer weather. Now, I sit in my shack, looking out the window going over my list of chores I need to complete before old man winter returns. Put away are the lawn chairs that supported me as I enjoyed a cold beverage on a hot afternoon. Put away is the patio table, umbrella and chairs where I enjoyed good food and drink with family and friends. Gone are the leaves that provided me with shade during the hot summer days while I enjoyed my cold beverage while sitting in the aforementioned lawn chairs. Gone are the song birds that visited us daily to partake of the seeds my XYL put out for them. Put away are the lawn decorations that my XYL so expertly placed to make our little piece of the planet so enjoyable. Soon I will put away the lawn mower after one more mowing and ready the snow blower and shovels. I will close up the RV for another season and spend winter anticipating/planning where next season’s adventures will take us. Some day, (when I retire—less than 5 years now) I won’t be closing-up the RV this time of year, I will be readying it for our southern adventures; but for now, I still have to work for a living. Our beautiful piece of the planet is beginning to look kinda bare as we make our preparations for winter. The outlook is not all gloomy as we head into hibernation. I look forward to having more time to play with my “indoor toys”. I have some “hamming” to do, a few electronic projects to complete that I started last winter (or more) and a few items that I’d like to 3D print. “Pitter patter, let’s get at-er”

73—Steve (VE3EZB)

PS: I will not be at the October meeting, I will be away for work at that time.

Agenda not available at press time.

A photograph of a sign with the text "NOTHING TO SEE HERE" written on it. The sign is white with black text and is set against a dark background. The sign is slightly tilted and has a grid pattern of black lines overlaid on it. The text is in all caps and is centered on the sign.

NOTHING TO SEE HERE

The Old and the New — by Paul VE1DX {<https://www.ve1dx.net/Stories/story006.html>}

One of the Eternal Enigmas of DXing that plagues newly minted QRPers is that big-total DXers are always old DXers. It's one of the Mysteries of the Ages why the list-stompers, those who question if the sunspots will return next cycle, those who fret and worry about the whether or not their last one will be blessed by the DXCC desk are all members of the Quarter Century Wireless Association. And some joined the QCWA a heck of a lot longer than a few years ago, too.

Just the other day one of the Local QRPers came storming around the curve of the hill and beat his way up to see us. This one was one of the more heavy QRPers, and by the time he made it to the veranda and flopped himself down in the chair, he was puffing so hard he couldn't talk. He kept wiping the sweat from his forehead and trying to slow down his breathing. We weren't sure if the sweating and puffing was due to his mood or the exertion of his 5 foot 5 and a half-inch frame hauling all of his 230 pounds up the hill.

Finally he turned to us and said, "What is wrong with those big gun Honor Roll types? The guys who have them all worked, or maybe only need one or two to finish things off?" We scratched our head for a minute and looked at the QRPer. Here we were, prepared to take in the last warm day of the fall without putting out a lot of energy, and we were now staring down the barrel of a loaded question. We'd found in the past it is often a good idea to answer a question with another question, so we tried the standard evasive manoeuvre.

"Did you work any new ones in the CQ WW contest last weekend?" we tried, completely ignoring the original topic. The Local was not to be deterred. "No!" he barked, threw the switch and shifted right back onto the same track. "What's wrong with these old guys? They have everything worked, and all they try to do is discourage me. They tell me if I work anything on a DX list, it's spoon feeding and not real DX. So I stopped that. There's a 9J that only ever comes up on a DX net, but I guess I'll have to wait for a non-list one to show up, right?" We decided a non-committal poker face was the best approach.

"And I worked this guy signing KG4 for my first Guantanamo Bay contact. Then one of the old guys told me he really was in Georgia, and that I should know that two letter suffixes are Guantanamo and three letter suffixes are in W4 land. So I asked him how he knew all this stuff, and he told me it was experience! Experience he said! How am I supposed to get experience when I only have 132 countries? This guy has them all. He even worked that P5 fellow that's been showing up on 10 meters lately. When I tried to tell him that I needed around 200 he ignored me and started complaining that the P5 only had verbal permission to operate. He said I should worry about real DX like the P5. It seems the only thing in his life worth thinking about is if the P5 will count! These old guys have too much spare time!!"

We looked at the QRPer for a second and then said, "What else would you expect him to say? DXers always think logically. Do you think these fellows reached Honor Roll without a lot of deep thinking and logic?"

"Logic! What logic is there in that? I need around 200, and they use every excuse they can to slow me down. Stay off lists, they say. Work them on CW, they tell me, or it isn't really a good one. Don't count any contest QSOs toward DXCC. Don't use Packet Clusters, they insist. They tell me I'll never really have as good a DXCC as they do because they did it when it was hard. Now they tell me the FCC is giving away Ham tickets, and the DXCC program isn't checking the operations out well enough! So even if I were to make Honor Roll in the next 5 or 10 years, their Honor Roll would be better than mine. Except for the P5. They say that's real DX. I think these old guys all are out to get me!"

He threw up his arms in despair. It was clear he was thinking hard. For quite a while he didn't speak at all. Then he said in a dejected voice. "They might be right. Maybe I can never be as good as they are. I am playing the game with different rules and newer technology. But why do they have to be so condescending?"

We looked at him again and said, “They aren’t condescending at all. They are just looking at things from their perspective. To them, their entire DXCC worth depends on working a good P5. Old DXers need new countries, and they are almost out of them. And these old DXers tend to live in a world apart, a world they know and enjoy, but with experiences and comprehension not known by younger DXers like you. The P5 seems to meet their criteria . . . or something. Look at the bright side. They get a new one every year or two, maybe it’s even longer between new ones for most of them. You get a new one or two every week. Everything is relative, Son. You know that Albert always said that, and was Albert ever wrong? Remember, if you can endure, you can always survive.”

The QRPer though a bit longer, and he brightened up. DXers, especially local QRPer like this one, are eternal optimists. “You’re right! And I sure scooped them last week anyhow! Remember I was up here telling you about how I just hit grey line perfectly. That one chance you get, maybe every 10 or 15 years? When I worked KH2D on 160 and 80, back to back and we were both 30-over? Why that sort of propagation only happens once every cycle, and you have to be there to catch it. 15 minutes once every 11 years! Maybe I am just as good as they are. How many of these east coast geezers have a KH2 on 160 and 80 with S9 plus 30 written in the log both ways?”

We thought long and hard and leaned forward, our elbow on our knee and our fingers scratching our forehead idly. “Take from no man his dream,” we’d often heard the Old Timer say. We were afraid to look up, for we didn’t know if we could resist the impulse to ask the QRPer from where he thought Jim was operating.

We thought just a moment longer and sat back in the chair, finally rationalizing our position. If the QRPer had KH2D logged on 160 and 80, who were we to burst the Guam bubble? So we stood him up and patted his the back. We congratulated him as he started back down the hill. “Hang in there”, we told him. “You seem to have a talent for finding the low band path to the Pacific. There’s a KH7 somewhere waiting for you on 160. Go get him and let those old guys worry about the P5. Remember, those old DXers live in a different world than you.”

Son of a Gun! Things were moving in the right direction and we were feeling good again. The QRPer was hippy hopping and jiggling down the hill in spite of his size. There was a new spring in his step. Wake Island on top band! We wondered who he’d find on 160 signing KH7. We threw our support behind the QRPer. “Don’t ask and they won’t tell!” we mentally shouted at him. Our hope was he wouldn’t work KH7M, though! DX IS! Be a Believer. The Great Days of DXing have returned.



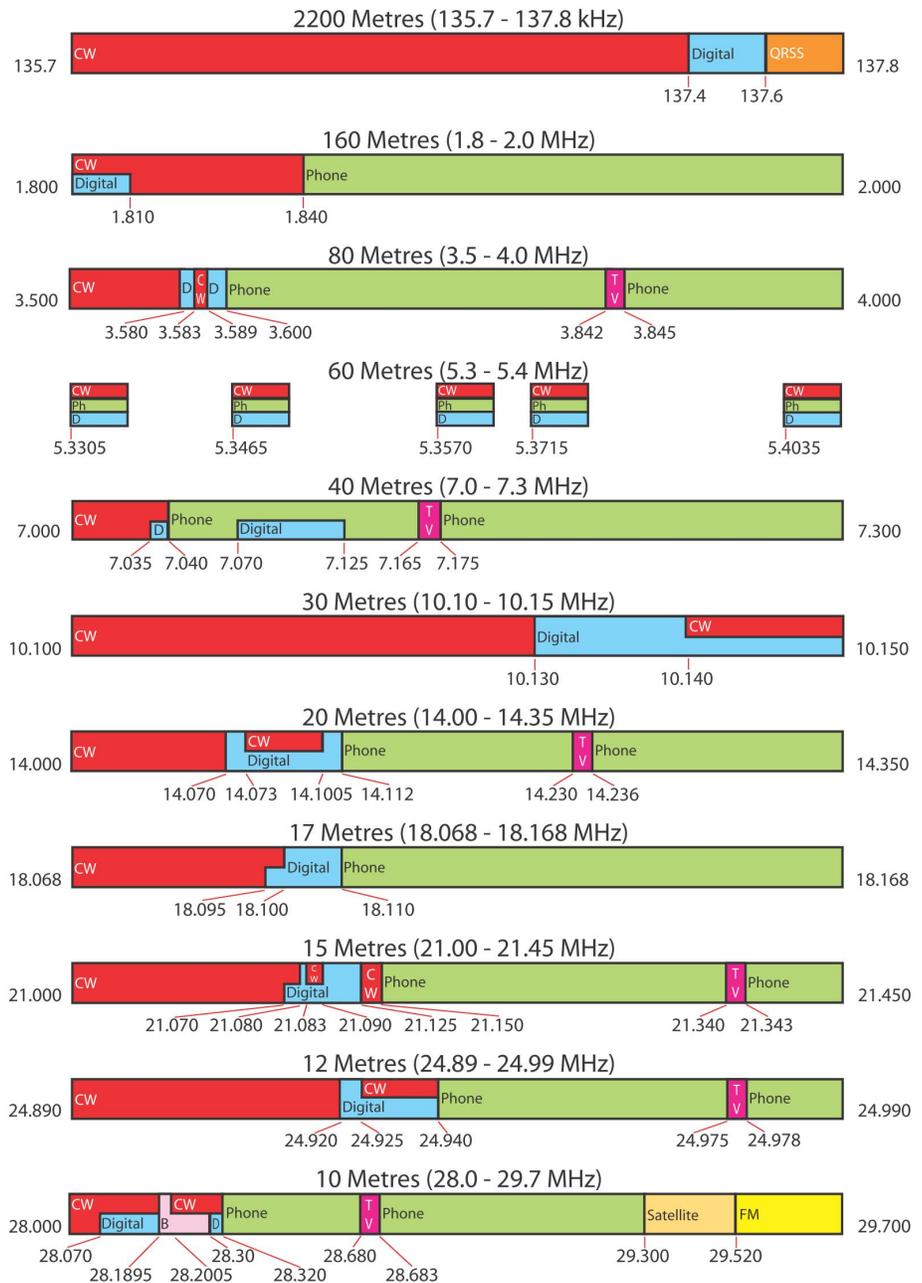


Canadian 0 - 30MHz Band Plan

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.
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	■ T
■ Ph	Phone	■ D
■ B	Beacons	■ Digital
■ S	Satellite	

QRZ, QRZ came the cry from the speaker
Quick, tune up before they get weaker
Where are they listening? Where?
There they are! Thanks to Shakespeare!

The bands were a bit flat last week, and we were taking a day off DXing. We'd heard that the Palos Verdes Sundancers had lost a bit of their enthusiasm in the last few months, and the flux was dropping as a result. This happened a number of times before, usually following an 11-year pattern. As soon as the Sundancers could be coaxed back into action, the flux shot back up again. Some of the more scientifically knowledgeable QRPers argued this was nonsense, and that the flux was a direct result of solar activity. We had found the easiest way to counteract this was to ask which came first. And if the QRPer was especially persistent, we'd refer him to Sunspot Louie, and his cousin Red-Eyed Louie. No one knew propagation and DX activity better, and this usually put an end to the end of the argument.

We were contemplating all this on the veranda when one of the more senior QRPers came around the turn and beat his way up the hill. He was still in good shape in spite of his advancing years, and hardly broke a sweat as he stomped up the steps and sat down beside us. He glared at us with his beady little eyes and started right in, "Why do DXers go on DXpeditions?" he demanded. We looked back at him for a moment. We'd never really thought about it.

After a bit of thought we replied "Because they want to." It seemed the obvious answer. "No!", the QRPer said, pointing at us with his finger, "No, not at all. That's what I used to think, but a few of the fellows at the DX club set me straight. They go because they want to hand out a new one to the Deserving! They go because they are tough, and because they can handle the heat or cold, or whatever else they might have to put up with. Some of these remote locations have snakes and spiders and all kinds of things like that too! How would you like to be camped out in a jungle in Burma or some place like that? They don't like it. They go so they can give us a new one for DXCC!"

"Are you sure?" we asked, staring right back at him. "Of course I am", he retorted, now jabbing his finger back and forth directly at us. "It's easy for you to say they like it, but think of all the money they have to spend, and of all the planning and risks they take! And if that isn't enough, once they get on the air, everyone is screaming and working them three or four times on the same band. If they show up on 20, someone will ask them to go to 15. And if they show up on phone, someone will demand they switch to CW or teletype or satellite. This goes on for days, and once they finally get the pileups worked down, another bunch are complaining about the on-line logs. And even before they get back, still other ones are whining about not having their QSLs yet! These fellows are heroes, the top echelon of DXers, and they are there to give us new ones!"

We decided the finger pointing was effective, so we tried it ourself, only this time we wiggled our pointing finger from side to side as we spoke, "If it is so terrible, and requires so much money, and if they have to put up with all this abuse, why do they go? Just to hand out a new one? No. They go because they like it." We looked at the QRPer with a slight smile as we said this. It was a mistake. He jumped to his feet and bellowed, "No they don't like it! They hate it. They go because they want to help us with our DXCC totals, but they don't like it one bit. Any one in their right mind can understand this! You work every group that goes anywhere new, just like the rest of us. They are there to help us! Why are you so ungrateful?"

Son of a Gun! What could we say to a QRPer who'd missed seeing the elephant? Sometimes it is better not to argue, but we tried one more time. "Look at it this way. These fellows you say who go to all these horrible locations, and hate every minute of it . . . why do they usually find another spot that's just as bad or maybe even worse, and go back again if they don't like it?"

The QRPer jumped to his feet and drew himself up to his full five and a half feet and glared at us. "They go because they are heroes! They go because they are tough! They go so we can work them, and make Honor Roll. But listen, buster, they sure as heck don't like it! There is no sense talking to you!" And with that he stomped down the steps and down the hill, arms swinging and glancing back at us in contempt. We scratched our head, for we really weren't sure what had just happened. We finally decided the QRPer hadn't told us the whole story. We'd found in the past that some of the Local QRPers usually had a hidden agenda when they were so adamant and indignant. When a QRPer like this gets so worked up, as the Old Timer had often told us, "Leave them alone. They will figure it out sooner or later. And for some, it will be a lot later. A few will never get it. DX wisdom is not always measured in years, or even in terms of on air experience."

As we watched the QRPer disappear around the bend, we decided this must be the case. Either he'd understand or he wouldn't. We stood up, shrugged and walked back into the shack. The latest WWV numbers had just flashed across the cluster screen and the flux was inching up. Maybe the Palos Verdes Sundancers had a change of heart and were back at it. We flipped on the rig and began tuning 20. As Lord Baden-Powell, the Hero of Mafeking so often advised, "Be prepared!" And we were. Maybe we'd find a bunch of DXers camped out on some obscure rock, handing out rapid fire QSOs to the Deserving and despising every moment of it. Then again, maybe they might be having fun! DX IS!





Seaway Valley Amateur Radio Club

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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 (VE3EZH)



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

- **Elections are coming up. We are looking for anyone who might be interested in running for the following positions. President Vice President Treasurer and Secretary. If you have any suggestions for these positions, please let me know and I will get in touch with them to see if they are interested in running. Those who will run will be mentioned at the October meeting. Thanks for your help. Please contact Larry via email at va3rsq@gmail.com**



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"