

SVARC Monthly Newsletter

November 2019

Seaway Valley Amateur Radio Club

Next Club Meeting: Wednesday 27 November, 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

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE - Ed Halliwell

I hope everyone enjoyed that first snow fall. While I didn’t have the snow tires on the vehicles yet, pretty much everything else is ready for winter. I figure I’ll have to cut the grass one more time, then put the snow blower on the tractor and that will be ready as well.

We had another well attended meeting in October with Pete Legault and Bob Lavigne recently having passed their Basic License exams. Pete has received his new call, VA3FKR, and Bob is patiently waiting on his. Please congratulate them on passing the exam.

Our Christmas Party will be held on Saturday December 14th at City Limits Restaurant. It’s located at the top end of Pitt Street, junction of South Branch/Cornwall Center Roads. Our reservation is for 6pm. As of this writing, we are at 30 people, but if you haven’t yet confirmed that you are coming, please let me know. I will be sending out further information about the supper shortly. It will be a supper only event this year as there is no entertainment planned.

Coming up at the next meeting will be the final call for nominations for the Executive for the next two years. Larry, VA3RSQ, has been polling individuals to ensure that we have people lined up for the positions for the coming year. I have decided not to run for President in the coming term and at the last meeting nominated Larry for the position of President. If you are interested in a position, please don’t hesitate Larry know or to ask someone to nominate you at the next meeting. We would love to have an election, I can’t remember the last time it occurred. At this point, the proposed slate for the next two years is as follows:

(Continued next page)

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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President, Larry Giguere VA3RSQ

Vice President, Doug Pearson VE3HTR

Secretary, Chris Lauzon VA3CRR

Treasurer, Elizabeth Halliwell VE3EZH

One of the suggestions for Newsletter articles was to include (auto)biographies of our members. It is interesting that I happen to have two from our most recent new members and you will find them in upcoming issues.

Hope to see you all at the next meeting on Wednesday November 27th.

73

Ed (VE3EAH)

From the Editor - Steve Harvey (VE3EZB)

Well, Mother Nature really is a B ... ad person. It was only September that I was confident that my antennas were good to go for the winter "ham season". Mother Nature on the other hand, had another plan. It was during the "great wind storm" of October 2019 that she decided that my hex-beam needed to be "rearranged" (see photo below). With the chill of the wind and the low temperatures, I hope to get at least one more day where the temps are relatively warm and the winds light, so I can climb the tower and take it down for repairs. This is the second time this antenna has been "adjusted" by Mother Nature. The last time was two years ago when she decided to test the ice loading of the antenna ... she won. I like the hex-beam, it works well when configured as intended so once I'm able to get it down off the tower, I will repair it and return it to the top of another tower that I will erect this spring. After the removal of the hex-beam, I hope to install a TH-3, and a few other AE so I can get back on-the-air because right now my operation is limited to 40M and below. I could still work 20M using my OCF dipole but it's just not be the same.

My AE is not the only one to have felt the wrath of Mother Nature during the winds. The VE3OJE / VE3TYF repeater antenna came down from it's perch (see photos in "This 'n' That"). Attempts to replace the AE back on the tower were delayed due to weather however, as of 16 Nov 19, the AE has been repaired and reinstalled on the tower about 10 ft lower than "pre-wind" but at least both repeaters are functioning albeit with slightly less coverage. Oh well, what can you do? Smile and Cruise!

There is a new column starting this month—"Getting to Know You". Submitted auto-biographies of club members will be published here so we can all get to know each other outside of just seeing each other at the meetings and breakfasts. This column will continue as long as I have biographies to print. Remember, this is your newsletter, if you have an article you would like to see here, just email it to me.

73—Steve (VE3EZB)



Meeting Agenda — General (Monthly) Meeting—Wednesday 27 November 2019

- 06:30 PM Soft drinks and socializing
07:00 PM Meeting starts / welcome – Ed VE3EAH, President

Business Arising:

Minutes of last meeting (October 30, 2019) – Chris (VA3CRR)

Treasurers Report – Elizabeth (VE3EZH)

Net Controllers Report – Tom (VA3KD)

Newsletter Report – Steve (VE3EZH)

Miscellaneous Reports

Repeater Report - Doug (VE3HTR)

Web Report – Ed (VE3EAH)

ARES Reports – S.D.&G. Emergency Planning Mtg.

Nominating Committee Report – Larry (VA3RSQ)

Name Tags update

RAC Insurance and Affiliation Forms

50/50 Draw and Door Prizes.

New Business:

- Close of Nominations and Elections if required.

Iroquois Flea Market

Presentation:

In lieu of a presentation, Ed will bring in some items for sale recently donated by Ken Wilson (VA3CMN) who is new to the area. There are just too many items to list but it includes all kind of components (bags of them), wire and two power supplies (one finished and one in progress). All proceeds to the Repeater Fund

Upcoming Events:

Christmas Dinner at City Limits Restaurant, Pitt Street at Cornwall Center/South Branch Roads.

Adjournment:

Date, time and place of next meeting: Wednesday, January 29th, 2019 at 07:00 PM, St. John Ambulance HQ
Election Night

One of the Local QRPers came up the hill today and there was joy in his stride. He was the same one who we'd heard on the 2-meter repeater telling one of the big guns about this new found success on 6-meters. He wasn't long getting to the point.

"5 new ones today!" He began, grinning from ear to ear, "That makes 13 in 4 days. I guess at this rate, using simple linear math, the time for me to get my 50-MHz DXCC is $(100 \times 4 / 13) = 30.8$ days. That's one month."

We held up our hand in resistance: "Wait a minute. It isn't linear! It took VE1YX over 12 years to get 6-meter DXCC. And he was at it all the time, with an 8-element beam at 70-feet fed with hard-line and a big amplifier. You just hit a fluke in propagation."

The QRPer grinned wider and shook his head. "Nope, not on your life! I wouldn't do this for just anyone, but I'm going to let you in on my secret. Here's what I did. I got rid of my beam, amplifier and tower. Sold it. Then I bought a multi-band vertical with the 12/17-meter add-on kit. That part is important as it widens out your resonance point."

We tried to get a word in, but he was going full steam ahead. "I know, I know! You had your resonance point widened by a doctor a few years ago, but this is different."

We shoved back our baseball cap and finally took it right off. We scratched our forehead as the QRPer ploughed on.

"Here's the secret. 51 radials! Not 49, not 50 and not 52. 51. But there's more to it than that. The first 50 radials can be any length, and they should be a mix if you are going to use your antenna on HF too. The trick is radial 51. Make it the portion of the wavelength where you are most likely to be operating. If you plan to be around 50.100 MHz, then cut it .100 wavelength. If 50.150 MHz, cut it .150 of a wavelength, and so on. This isn't too critical as your vertical will be broad-banded to begin with, but if you want that extra edge, cut it where the DX is likely to be, and then you'll be ready to pounce!"

"You won't find this in any ARRL antenna book. And don't tell anyone, either! If everyone finds out, then we won't have the advantage. You just listen to me, and I'll teach you how to DX on 6-meters. I have a few more tricks up my sleeve. You try this antenna one first. Then we'll move on to phase two. There is a 6-meter DXer buried inside you somewhere. We'll get him out in the open!"

With that he was off down the hill, running and kicking up his heels in anticipation of tomorrow's 6-meter opening. Son of a Gun! Some days there are times when you can anticipate what is coming, and be prepared. Somehow, we didn't even think Lord Baden-Powell, the Hero of Mafeking, would have been prepared for this one. So we just watched him round the corner and hoped tomorrow would be another good day on 6. It kept the QRPers off the lower bands, and we still needed the 5W0VK on 17-meters.

The Great Days of DXing are upon us. The signs are everywhere. QST printed an article saying we were in the middle of a double peak cycle and the Palos Verdes Sundancers were showing no signs of letting up. Maybe the QRPer had actually come across something . . . like too sitting too close to the amplifier with the cover off! DX IS!

Congratulations to Pete Legault (VA3FKR) and Bob Lavigne (callsign pending)!!!

Welcome to the fraternity.

Getting to Know You — John H. Grow (VE2EQL)

(Content edited from the original submission by editor)

I've had an interest in radio and communications at an early age. My first radio experience, was at my grandmother's house. There was an old Atwater-Kent receiver with a dial that had names of far away places. Not understanding, or knowing anything about radio, unknown to me, I was hooked.

As many of us, I started with shortwave radio, and AM broadcast stations. My first real receiver was a Marconi Receiver No. 52. Without the covers, and no isolation on AC, I was shocked into the world of DX listening. Finally, after many years, I was licensed into the world of "hamdom", where, as I've stated many a time, "I'm at home."

I've worked as a technical sales manager in the Defence industry for a Canadian manufacturer and am a licensed prospector in the province of Quebec. My current profession is that of a Personal Property Appraiser, specializing in Fine Art, Antiques, Watches and Clocks. I am also a columnist for a watch and clock magazine, and writer on appraisal subjects.

Accomplishments:

- Experimenter & Builder since the age of ~ 8 years old. Survived many shocking encounters.
- Built first computer on breadboard & wire wrap. Using the RCA 1802 COSMAC CPU?
- Started an Electronics & Ham Radio program at St. Jude Elementary & High School in 1995.
- Donated 12 computer systems to St Jude Elementary & High School to start a computer lab.
- Founding member of the "Kartem Amateur Radio Club", VA2KSC for the Karnak Shriners. See QRZ listing under VA2KSC.
- Started in 1990's, Santa Claus Communications to the North Pole so patients at the Montreal Shriners Hospital could speak to Santa Claus directly via ham radio.
- Co-organizer of Lobstercon—a QRP gathering in Brunswick, Maine for New England and Eastern Canadian hams. This is the 16 th year of holding this event.
- DX expedition to Guinea, West Africa. I was 3XY0D operating from Conakry, and Kankan, while on an energy installation project.
- Written numerous amateur radio articles, featured in 73 Amateur Radio and "Eham", among articles in club newsletters & media spotlights.
- Speaker & Presenter of ham radio topics for the past 22 years. Ham-con, Boxborro ARRL Conventions, Near-Fest, Radio Talk 2013, Atlanticon & QRP events. Also public speaker on Energy systems relating to Large Scale Solar installations, DC Back up Power, Emergency communications and power sources.

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Getting to Know You *(Continued)* — John H. Grow (VE2EQL)

Clubs & Associations:

- Montreal Amateur Radio Club. Past director. VE2ARC <http://marc.qc.ca>
- Club Radio Amateur Rive-Sud de Montreal, VE2CLM <http://www.ve2clm.ca>
- Radio Amateurs of Northern Vermont, RANV <http://www.ranv.org>
- Northern Vermont QRP Society, N1QS
- New England QRP Club, NEQRP <http://newenglandqrp.org>
- Kartem Amateur Club (This is a radio club for Shriners) <http://qrz.com/db/VA2KSC>
- Covey Hill Amateur Radio Club <http://www.ve2cyh.org>
- Radio Amateurs of Canada <https://www.rac.ca>
- Radio d'Amateur du Quebec <http://www.raqi.ca>
- L'Union Metropolitaine des Sans-Filistes de Montreal <http://ve2ums.ca>

Trustee: Radio Amateurs of Canada, Hall of Fame trustee

Awards: Ham of the year, 2008 RAQI (Radio d'Amateur du Quebec Inc.)

Goin on Down the Road — by Art Horovitch (VE3AIH)

Wherein Art describes his winter travels with a view to ham radio activities and experiences.

November 9th

Coming down the I-81 past Scranton, PA yesterday, I tried a repeater from the directory. I could hear stations talking on the repeater N3SQ at 146.835, tone 127. But no one heard me after I called several times to break in. When the ID came on, it said N3SQ link. So maybe the input was on another frequency for the link.

Passing Washington on I-270, I contacted several stations and asked where the repeater is located. They said Greenbelt, MD. It is W3NAN in Greenbelt. It is not even listed in the repeater directory and is the repeater at the Goddard Space center where satellites are tracked, including the Amsat satellites I have used in the past. Coincidentally, it was on the same frequency as the Scranton repeater. So I started copying stations as soon as I turned on the radio and started talking to them. It is located on the east side of the beltway, while we were driving on the northwest side of the beltway about 20 miles away. I was able to copy it all the way down to Fairfax, VA, so appears to have very good coverage.

November 11th

The band has not been too good lately. But tonight I tried 40m CW around 5:30 PM and there were many strong signals. I had a nice QSO with WQ9H in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

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Go in on Down the Road *(Continued)* — by Art Horovitch (VE3AIH)

Love those weird 2X1 call signs. He was using a Collins S-line at 80 watts output into an elevated vertical with 25 radials. He must have lots of room in his back yard for all those wires. Then around 9 PM when the band seemed practically dead, I heard I1MMR in Italy calling CQ. He was about 459, quite readable except for the odd QSB. I called him several times and he came back with W3AID, close enough to my call. I listened to make sure he was not actually calling a W3, and after several repeats he got it as VE3AIR? We talked for about 10 minutes, exchanging signal reports, name, QTH and equipment. I was 339 and he came up to 559. He was running three hundred watts into a dipole from Genoa. I was running 100 watts from my Icom 7100 into the hamstick on the front of my trailer... that made my day. Ham radio is still magic to me. Having the Honda generator running allows me to run the full 100 watts. With battery power only, I can't put out much more than 30 watts in the evening when there is no solar charging.

Earlier in the evening I was on echolink and checked into the local Cornwall Radio club net to update them on my location and activities. It sounds like they are facing the first snowstorm of the season, 20-25 cm. Then a few days after the storm, the deep freeze hits. The low there will be 4F on Friday. Our original plan had been to leave Cornwall today or tomorrow. I'm glad we were able to move the date forward by a week.

Nov 16

I finally got the complete update for Windows 10 yesterday after leaving the computer running overnight at Viv's house (my daughter). As usual, they send updates for security patches, features (which I don't need) and then they break something that was working perfectly fine before the update. Minor problems: The icons on my desktop were all moved together, instead of how I had them, with the most used ones on the right side, while lesser used take up the left side of the screen. Easy enough to fix. Then I got a message saying I needed to update Adobe Acrobat so I can read PDF files. Again, not a big problem. I'll do it when we are at Viv's house, and it should not take very long. But the most vexing thing is what they did to my mouse and trackpad. There was a place in the settings where I could run the mouse without activating the trackpad. So the trackpad turns on, only when the mouse is not plugged in, which is rare. Now I don't see that option available anymore. So I had to disable the trackpad to stop the cursor from jumping around and moving to different pages. I'll probably have to spend some time on the phone with Microsoft again. (sigh....)

Nov 19

We are spending a week or so in Richmond visiting our daughter's family with 2 grandkids. They grow up so fast when you see them only several times a year.

Within a day or two of arrival, I looked up the website for the local radio club, and fired off an e-mail to one of the officers. I asked whether anyone had a codeplug for my MD-380 DMR radio to cover the Richmond area. Within a few hours I had a reply from him with a link for the codeplug. When I copied it into my list of codeplugs and downloaded it to my radio, it was not just for Richmond, but the whole state of Virginia! Several other hams e-mailed me with more information about nets. There are nets of all kinds going on every day of the week. I checked into an EmComm net the next evening and found it to be very laid back. They use the same format as we do, but there appear to be no announcements, bulletins or discussion of upcoming emergency drills. As usual, when I checked in, my VE3 call confused the NCS. He had me as AE3AIH, which would make me American. I didn't think it was that easy....

The Brandmeister repeater in Richmond covers most of the area and there are some good DX channels like UK, Australia, Germany and even Canada, but unfortunately, they all appear to be "push to talk". So if no one pushed their PTT button, no one will hear another station calling. In any case, I was able to make a few contacts into South Carolina on the PRN network, which links the Carolinas and Virginia on DMR and appears to be quite active.

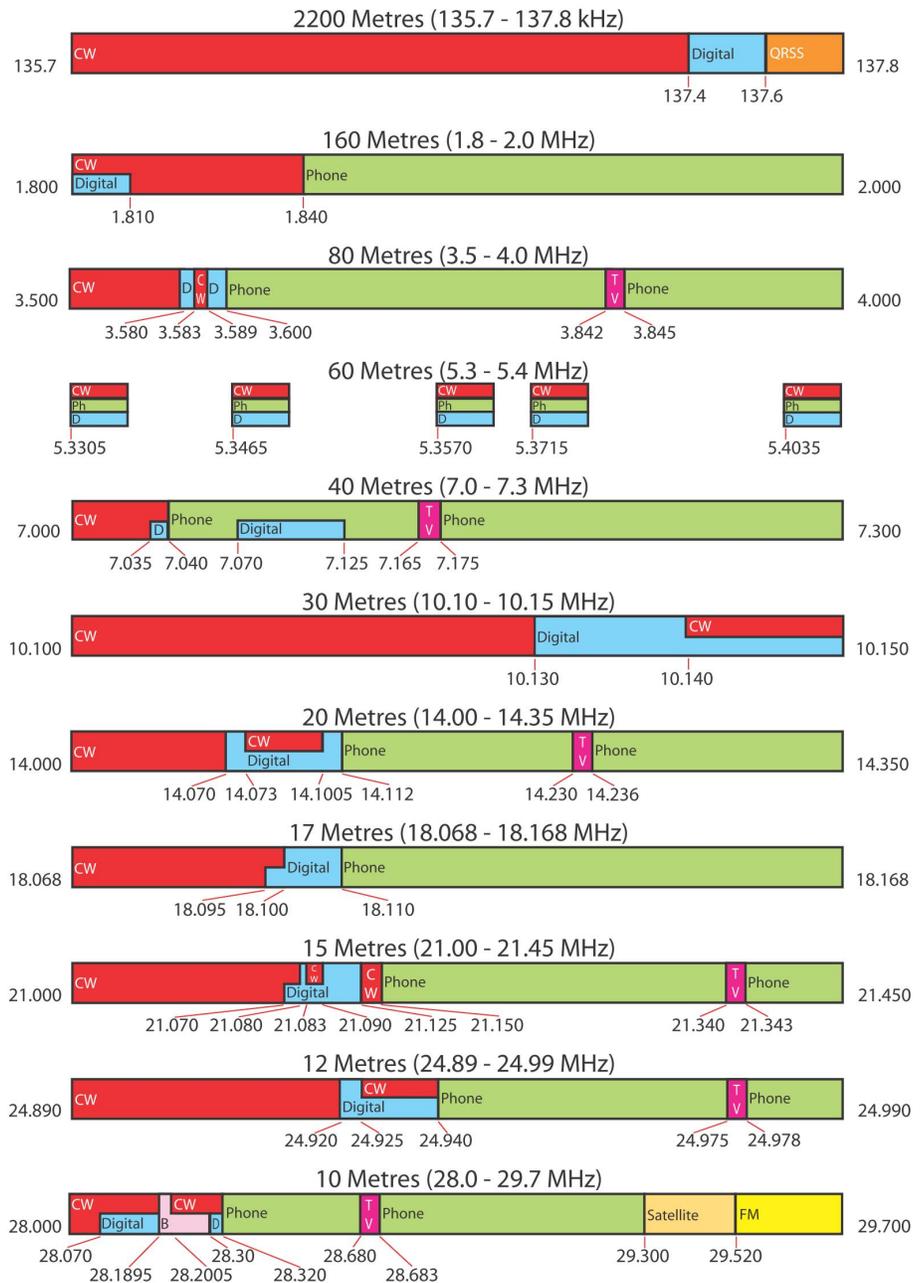


Canadian 0 - 30MHz Band Plan

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	■ TV
■ Ph	Phone	■ B
■ D	Digital	■ S
		Satellite

One of the Local QRPers came beating his way up the hill the other day, puffing and sweating as the first signs of early summer took their toll. It really wasn't very warm, but the QRPer looked like he'd spent quite a few hours sitting in front of the rig this winter. We'd seen this before, and once the antenna and tower work began in earnest, he'd be back in shape

He flopped down in the chair beside us, wiped a bit of sweat from his brow, and asked, "What is the best DX rig?" We thought for a moment and then used the old trick of answering a question with a question, "Why do you ask?"

"Because all the Big Guns at the DX club were arguing about it at the meeting last night. One of them has one of those TS-2000 rigs, and he swears nothing can touch it! But another one bought a FT-1000MP over the winter, and he was just as adamant it was the best DX rig. And then this other guy who has 340 or 350 worked said he was happy with his TS-430, and that if you spent any more on a rig, it wouldn't make any difference!"

We nodded and peered over our bifocals at the QRPer with a non-committal look. He took a deep breath and continued on. "Last fall I bought a FT-847. It's a middle-of-the-road rig. And with my 600-watt amp and tri-bander, I worked a lot of DX with it these past six months. Now I'm beginning to wonder. Maybe if I had a \$5000 rig, I'd have worked more DX. And if a lot of DX is good, more must be better. Maybe I should buy an FT-1000MP or an IC-781. What do you think?"

We thought about our FT-101 that was still grinding away after 25 years, and of all the DX we'd worked with it. Often we'd been tempted by the glossy ads and the new bells and whistles, but we'd stuck to our DX guns. Maybe if we had bought a new rig every few years, we'd have worked more DX. But maybe we wouldn't have, either.

The QRPer was tapping his fingers on the table, waiting for an answer. We took our time, and then replied. "You've heard the Old Timer say that all things are relative, although some more so, right?" The QRPer nodded and replied impatiently, "Yes, yes, I know! He always says that. It's what Albert always said too. But what's it got to do with buying a new rig? Should I dig into my savings and get one of the new high end rigs or not?"

We weren't about to advise anyone on how much money to spend on a rig, so we decide to hit him with one of the Eternal Enigmas of DXing. "That's the special theory of DXing the Old Timer kept telling you. You obviously haven't heard of the general theory of DXing, have you?"

"What's that?", he said, standing up and staring at us, "and what does it have to do with buying a new rig?"

We looked at him and replied in a knowledgeable tone, "DXers believe that, generally speaking, he who has the best antenna will work more DX. And generally speaking, he who spends more time in front of the rig will work more DX. And generally speaking, he who has the biggest amp will work more DX. So maybe the general theory of DXing implies he who has the most expensive rig will work the most DX too. But it never has been proven. Albert spent years working on a unified DX theory, and he never figured it out."

The QRPer looked confused, and he just stared at us. We stared right back at him, and said, "Generally speaking, however, Albert did prove that he who has the best propagation wins. That is why DX IS!"

He jumped to his feet and bellowed, "What kind of answer is that?" We shrugged as he stomped out the door and down the hill, probably no wiser than he had been a few hours earlier. Someday he would probably understand, but maybe he'd have to go through a half dozen expensive radios before it sunk in.

This 'n' That



(above) VE3OJN/VE3TYF AE Damage. (photos by Mel VE3OJN)



(above) Geoff (VE3YCB) on the roof, Mel (VE3OJN) and Steve (VE3EZB).



The "crew monkey", aka Mel (VE3OJN) putting the finishing touches on the installation.



(above) Work Crew at Murray's (VE3XLJ) to install his tower and antennas. (below) After the work was complete, a little music as we wait for Jo Anne (Murray's XYL) and Murray to ready lunch.



(above) Earle (VE3IMP) "on the ropes".



Finally, Murray (VE3XLJ) has antennas for the winter.





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 (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"