

SVARC Monthly Newsletter

March 2020

Seaway Valley Amateur Radio Club

Next Club Meeting: Wednesday 25 March, 2020

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 - Larry Giguere (VA3RSQ)

Well thanks to the weather February meeting was cancelled.

I am back from Cuba and I must say I was very impressed with the way we were treated at the resort. The food and service was excellent. The weather could have been a little better but still came back with a great tan. I was impressed that I could check in on Echolink for the Monday night net. I will have to keep that in mind when I am out of town for work as well.

Doug was at the repeater site in Bonville and fixed the problem we had with VE3PGC and also did some work on the DMR repeater. He will have an update on the VE3SVR repeater as well at the meeting .

Keep in mind we need volunteers for the Raisin River Canoe Race on April 19 2020 as well as the Children's Treatment Centre on May 30 2020. These will be discussed at the meeting. Please help us out with these events as they both help bring awareness to the aid that amateur radio does for the community.

Field Day this year may not be at St Lawrence College. We are looking for another location. Any Ideas???

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the meeting.

73—Larry (VA3RSQ)

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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From the Editor - Steve Harvey (VE3EZB)

From the RAC website—<https://www.rac.ca/ontario-has-granted-permanent-two-way-radio-exemption-for-amateurs/>

Richard Ferch, VE3KI
RAC Regulatory Affairs Officer

In light of the recent decision by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation to make permanent the exemption for two-way radios for commercial drivers and Amateur Radio operators, we have reviewed the regulations in Canada and, to the best of our knowledge, the exemptions in all other provinces and territories are “permanent” (i.e., with no defined end date).

The one exception is Nunavut, where there is apparently no exemption – although the text of the exemption in some other cases may be somewhat ambiguous and open to interpretation.

These regulations are made and enforced by Provincial and Territorial governments and can vary considerably from province/territory to province/territory and over time and are subject to change.

For immediate release:

Distracted driving regulations continue to be an area of interest for many Canadian Radio Amateurs.

These regulations are made and enforced by provincial governments and can vary considerably from province to province and over time.

In Ontario, RAC Directors Allan Boyd, VE3AJB (Ontario North/East) and Phil McBride, VA3QR (Ontario South) have been working hard on this issue.

We are pleased to announce that effective February 14, 2020, the Ontario Ministry of Transportation has “made permanent the exemption under Ontario Regulation 366/09 (Display Screens and Hand-Held Devices) of the *Highway Traffic Act* for hand-held two-way radios for commercial drivers and Amateur Radio operators.”

Section 13(1) of the Ontario regulation states:

(1) Drivers who hold a valid radio operator certificate issued under the *Radiocommunication Act* (Canada) may drive a motor vehicle on a highway while holding or using a two-way radio.

The regulation is available online at: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/090366>

The official publication of the amendment to the regulations is also available online at:

<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/r20018>

The key item mentioned in the amendment is as follows:

“5. Subsection 13(2) of the Regulation is revoked.”

This indicates that the former subsection 13(2), which was the previous time limit which was set on the exemption for the hand-held use of two-way radios has been removed.

English:

Amendment: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/r20018>

Regulation: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/090366>

Meeting Agenda — General (Monthly) Meeting—Wednesday 25 March 2020

06:30 PM Soft drinks and socializing

07:00 PM Meeting starts

Business Arising:

Minutes of last meeting (February 2020) – Ed VE3EAH

Treasurers Report – Elizabeth (VE3EZH)

Net Controllers Report – Tom (VA3KD)

Newsletter Report – Steve (VE3EZB)

Miscellaneous Reports

Repeater Report - Doug (VE3HTR)

Web Report – Ed (VE3EAH)

RAC Insurance and Affiliation Forms

50/50 Draw and Door Prizes.

New Business:

Discussion on Amateur Radio Course (instructors and students)

Children's Treatment Centre Ed update Doug update on location

Raisin River Canoe Race Volunteers needed Larry or Earle

Presentation:

TBA

Upcoming Events:

- Iroquois Flea Market April 4 2020
- Raisin River Canoe Race April 19 2020
- Smith Falls Flea Market May 9 2020
- Children's Treatment Centre May 30 2020
- Field Day June 27/28 2020

Adjournment:

Date, time and place of next meeting: Wednesday, April 29 2020 at 07:00 PM, St. John Ambulance HQ

One of the local QRPer came around the turn and stopped at the curve at the bottom of the hill. He stared for a moment and then beat his way up to the verandah where we were sitting. It was a warm day, and this rather heavy set QRPer was puffing and sweating. He paced back and forth on the verandah looking a bit nervous as he wiped the sweat from his forehead and his upper lip.

We weren't sure what was going on. Normally, when a QRPer has something on his mind he starts right in. It was clear this one was worried, but he seemed a bit reluctant to talk about it. He finally sat down and leaned over toward us. "What are you going to do about the vote?" he asked slowly. "Who are you going to vote for?"

We were confused, because this particular QRPer had never shown any interest in politics. He also knew that we didn't like to discuss religion or politics. "Well," we began, reluctantly, "we haven't made up our mind yet. Both parties have their good and bad points, and they're campaigning pretty hard. We really aren't that interested in who wins." We sat back in the chair and looked out over the village; confident we'd headed this on off.

"No! No!" the QRPer said, jumping back up and staring right at us. "Not those elections. The Don Miller election. All the Big Guns are talking about it! I don't know who to vote for." He started pacing back and forth and finally stopped and glared at us with his beady little eyes. "This could mean a new one!"

"What are you talking about?" we asked. "Don's been off the air for 25 years or more. What's a Don Miller election? Is he running for office? What has this got to do with DX?" We were more than a bit confused.

The QRPer looked at us in disbelief: "What's it got to do with DX? Where have you been? Don's back! Or maybe he isn't, I'm not sure. Someone on the Internet is posting DX Announcements claiming they are Don Miller and that they are going to activate Maria Theresa Reef! And someone else is holding a vote to see who Don Miller is. Don't you see? We have to elect the right Don so we can work 1M0WNV!"

Son of a Gun! None of this made any sense. "What do you mean we have to elect the right Don? There's only one Don Miller in this world of DX, and he's been inactive for years. How can you elect a new one! Pretty soon you'll be electing another Danny Weil or another Sir Gus! Maria Theresa Reef doesn't exist and the 1M0 prefix is not in use. Have you been feeling OK lately?"

"There's nothing wrong with me, Buster!" the QRPer roared back. "I don't want to vote the wrong way and get on Don's blacklist. I heard how it worked years ago. If you made the blacklist, he wouldn't work you. Couldn't hear you even if you were running full legal power and sometimes a lot more. I have to vote the right way, but I don't know how to vote. If I vote for the wrong one, I'll be blacklisted and I know I won't work the new one."

Usually we can understand some part of what a QRPer is saying, but this one was just digging the hole deeper. So we did what we always do when we are faced with such a situation. We hauled the QRPer up the hill to see the Old Timer. He was tuning the low end of 20 meters, listening to a CW pileup and smiling. The QRPer waited for a few minutes, shifting his weight nervously and staring at the Old Timer. Finally he couldn't stand it any more and blurted out, "Who'd you vote for?"

The Old Timer looked back over his shoulder and answered, "Can't tell you. It's a secret ballot. I voted in the advance poll last week. I wanted to be prepared when he comes on the air. And it's a good thing I did. Listen to that roar! He came on 14.025 about an hour ago. Caught him calling CQ and nailed him simplex on the first call. Look at the log. 1M0WNV, 14 MHz, CW, 599/599 10:42Z. It's a zoo now. He's listening from 030-080 and you can't pull out a single call. All the jammers and UP LID types are there too."

(Continued next page)

Vote Carefully! (continued) — by Paul VE1DX {<https://www.ve1dx.net/Stories/story013.html>}

"I didn't even vote yet!" wailed the QRPer. "How can I work him now? And if you won't tell me who to vote for, I'll probably pick the wrong one and get on the blacklist! I'll never reach honor roll this way!"

The Old Timer just smiled and said, "We've told you in the past to listen to what Lord Baden Powell said and to 'Be Prepared!' That is one of the fundamental Enigmas of DXing." And with that he turned back to the rig and started tuning 15 meters looking for an insurance contact.

We started back down the hill and the QRPer was beside himself. "I never get any straight answers from him. Or for that matter even from you anymore. You always cloud the issue by telling me I don't know the Mysteries of the Ages or the Eternal Enigmas of Dxing. You say I have to be a believer, but you never tell me what to believe! Because of your double talk, I'm going to miss Maria Theresa Reef and be that much further behind everyone else."

We stopped and took a deep breath. When surrounded by foolishness, the only answer is to join the crowd. "Vote for W9WNV! That's who Don Miller is! Always has been. Accept no substitutes. We're going down to the DX club in a few minutes to cast our vote so we can break the pileup."

The QRPer beamed and stared at us with a look of gratitude that reminded us of Victor Lazzlo's face at the airport when Rick gave the letters of transport to Ilsa and him. Then he was off down the hill to cast his vote. We still didn't know what was going on, but we knew that Maria Theresa Reef wasn't going to count. On the other hand, it wouldn't hurt to listen to the pileup on 20 meters . . . maybe we could slip our call in if we timed it right. DX IS!

From the Iroquois Amateur Radio Club Pres

Dear Members,

The Iroquois Amateur Radio Club executive has made the decision to cancel this year's flea market. We did not come to this decision lightly. The Covid-19 pandemic places too much risk on participants and therefore the executive has come to this decision. Many of our members and participants are in the high-risk age groups and categories.

Mike, VA3TUF, has emailed all those that booked tables. Bill, VE3BXP, has updated the club website and Don, VA3NC, has notified RAC and ONTARS.

We will run the flea market again next year. I want to thank those involved with the planning and preparation for the effort they put into this year's event.

At this time there are no plans to cancel the April 1st club meeting. You will be informed if this changes.

73

Keith Poore

VA3BG

President IARC

Goin on Down the Road — by Art Horovitch (VE3AIH/W4)

Feb-March 2020

Feb 24

I took a tour around the world this afternoon on my UV-380 DMR radio... stations in Amsterdam and another one in Holland. The Brandmeister talk group 91 worldwide is fantastic. Always busy. Then a fellow in Belfast who was driving home and using his radio in the car, A Belgian national living and working in Warsaw, Poland. His call is SO5GT, which threw me for a loop. Poland usually has the prefix SP. But the SO prefix is reserved for non-Polish amateurs who reside in that country. Checking my DX country list, I can see Polish amateurs can be assigned any prefix from SN to SR. Finally a couple of stations in New England one of whom gave me an excellent audio report. It's like 20 meters was 5 years ago near the height of the solar cycle, except the contacts are typically shorter. At least "contesting" has not come to DMR yet. That would ruin it.

Every Saturday at 11AM EST, there is a "world-wide net" on TG-91, where a net control station calls in stations starting in Australia/ New Zealand, moving to southeast Asia, India, the Middle East, Europe, North and South America and Oceania. Stations check in and the NCS reports on their signal. Much the same as we do on Monday nights to test our own equipment and repeaters, but without any commentary. It typically will last an hour or more.

Mar 1.

Something funny going on with my HF radio. The meter indicates a low SWR, but the power output is only about 50 watts on 40 meters. I tried two different antennas with the same result. The output on 30 and 20 meters is a full 100 watts. To check whether there is a problem with the LDG tuner, I took it out of the circuit and used my MFJ manual tuner instead. It showed a full 100 watts output at a SWR of about 1.2 to 1. So is there a problem with the tuner? I'll have to dig into that and see if maybe there is a burned out toroid in the bandpass filters. I don't remember this happening with my 33 ft vertical in the circuit, but I don't want to set it up now to test as they are calling for possible thunderstorms for the next few days. Maybe the tuner just doesn't like the hamstick antennas on 40 meters. I later discovered that one of the cables going to the tuner had a PL-259 connector with the shell loose, so it was not making a good ground connection. Tightening that seemed to solve the problem.

I check into the ARES training net every Sunday evening at 7:30 PM. The NCS, David W4SKG, sends a typical message in standard ARRL radiogram form and asks for someone to copy the message and confirm the "check". It's good practice for a real emergency where important messages have to be passed. Then there is discussion about topics regarding traffic handling protocol and the national traffic system. Some of this has fallen by the wayside with digital communications and ham radio to internet messaging using Pactor modems. In a severe emergency with loss of internet and cell service, we would revert to standard communications using line of sight and the ionosphere. Since David loves puns, the message is usually some "groaner" pun with a check of about 20 (number of words in the message). A typical one had a text as follows: If a person swallows a couple of stinging insects could you then say there are two bees in a bod?

This one has a check of 21 (the question mark is counted as a word). The training net is followed by the ARES net with check-ins from the EC's and assistant EC's from each county surrounding Tallahassee, then general check-ins. This is often followed by a report from NOAA about upcoming weather for the week, with an emphasis on severe weather. They take this very seriously due to hurricane season from May to October and tornadoes that can occur any time of the year when a cold front sweeps in.

Mar 10.

We've had a chance to test the new solar controller and it is working very well. Today it was sunny with some clouds and the voltage was up to 14.2 volts. Charging current was 7.2 amps. I did a fast calculation: The solar panels are rated at 240 watts, and the output voltage is 24 volts in full sun. So by an extension of Ohm's law, $P=E \text{ times } I$, or $I= P/E$. That gives 240 watts divided by 24 volts or 10 amps. Of course that is theoretical. The main 100 watt panels are already 14 years and the smaller 40 watt unit is about 3 years old. The efficiency does drop off somewhat with age. Add to that

Goin on Down the Road *(Continued from pg 6)* — by Art Horovitch (VE3AIH)

some loss in the controller itself, and the fact that the panels are flat on the roof, instead of raised and oriented south. Maybe I will tilt the panels when we get to our next destination on Wednesday where we will be staying for 5 nights. It means taking down the bikes and the ladder off the back in order to climb up onto the roof, but may be worth it. Typically the last few nights, the voltage has remained at 12.6 to 12.8. That represents a 75-80% charge. We do all our charging of phones, computers and reading lights during the day when the voltage is highest.

We are coming to the end of our winter trip, so this will be the last instalment unless something of interest comes up. We will be spending another week and a half in the Florida panhandle and then turn north, with several stops along the way in Augusta, GA and Richmond, VA to visit our daughter and grandchildren. The plan is to be back in early April. We're keeping posted on the news from Canada about COVID-19. Some countries have already required all travellers returning from "abroad" with virus outbreaks into a 14 day quarantine.

Does the US count as abroad? Hopefully that will not affect our return to Canada.



NOTHING TO SEE HERE

This n That

Winter field Day in Wakulla County, Florida south of Tallahassee. It was not too cold and the weather was quite nice. No need to FYBO. (Photos submitted by Art VE3AIH)



This n That



EOC with fire training tower in background



Tallahassee Marathon—A cool start, but it warmed up nicely. Over 200 runners.

(Pictures submitted by Art—VE3AIH)



First runners



Tallahassee Marathon

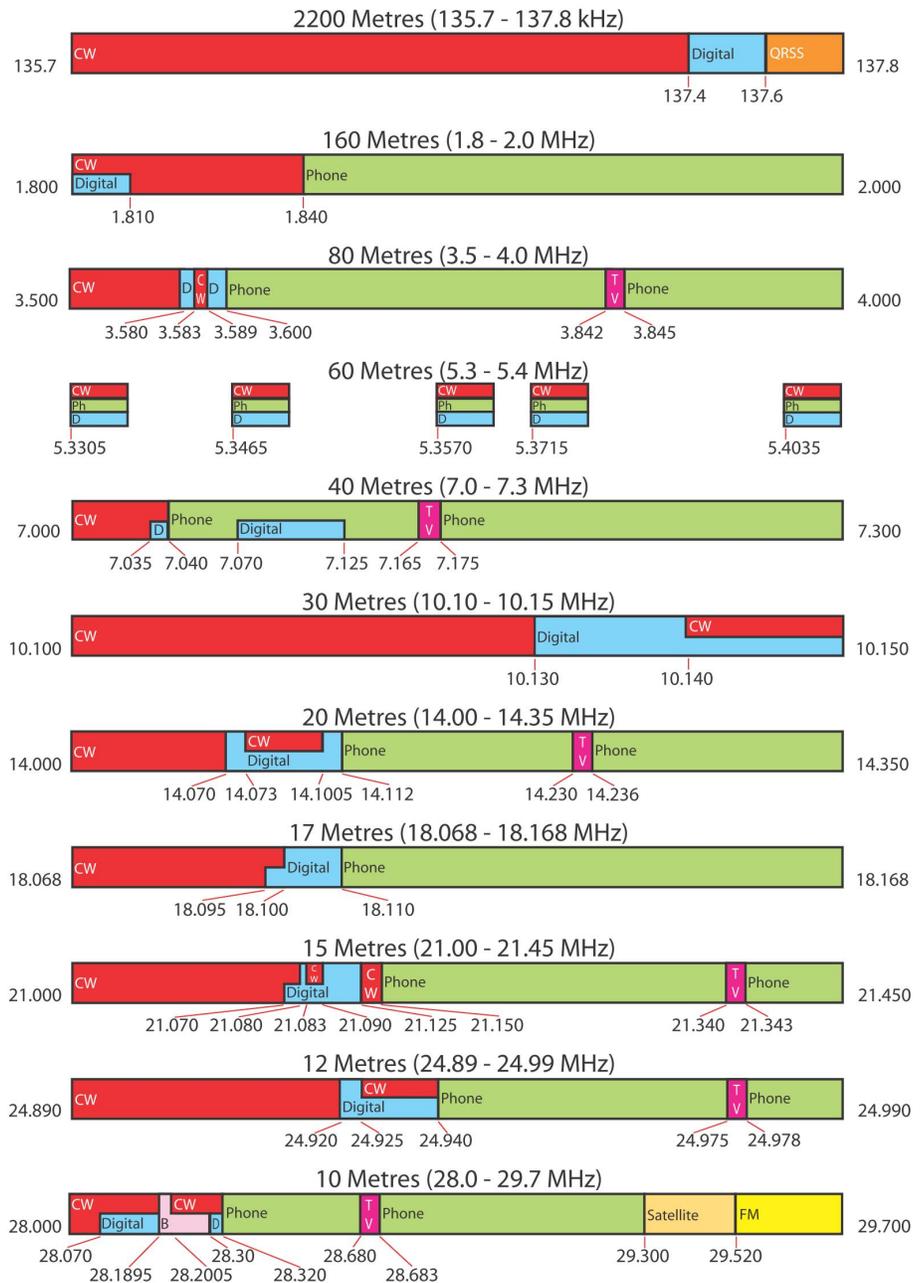


Canadian 0 - 30MHz Band Plan

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	■ T V
■ Ph	Phone	■ D
■ B	Beacons	■ S
■ D	Digital	

We were sitting on the veranda with a split video feed running from the computer in the shack. We had long since learned never to be out of range of the cluster spots and the Internet. After all, this was DXing and we were convinced that to DX, one had to have a computer. Absolutely. No self respecting DXer gets on HF without a computer. All DXers know this, although some have been slower than others to see the elephant.

The bands had been flat for the last few days and we were taking a break from tuning. If anything showed up, we'd know within tens seconds. DX IS! And our computers tell us where it is and probably how to work it! This is one of the new Enigmas of DXing.

While we were contemplating this, one of the local QRPers made his way around the bend and beat his way up the hill. This one had been by a number of times before and he wasted no time getting to the point, "What's all this about using your last two in a pileup being illegal?" he asked, glaring at us with his beady little eyes. "Haven't we all been doing that for years?"

We tried to recall how many times we had heard this argument before and it seemed to top the number of DXCC countries on VE1YX's confirmed list. Even counting the deleted ones! The QRPer continued on, "There's talk on the Internet and on even on the DX repeater that this is a clear violation of the FCC rules and that you have to ID with your full call every ten minutes. How can I work DX that way? And suppose, just suppose, something I need comes up on a list. How else can I get on that list unless I follow the rules? If all this is illegal, why hasn't something been done to stop it?" He was pacing back and forth, and starting to sweat.

We looked at him for a moment, then glanced over at the monitor. Nothing interesting had been spotted on the cluster so that avenue of escape was blocked. "Well", we replied cautiously, "this isn't the first time this issue has been raised and there has never been a clear cut answer. Some say it's OK and others claim the FCC and the ARRL both find it in violation." The QRPer nodded in agreement, "That's the point! I asked about ten different Big Gun DX types and I got ten opinions. I even wrote to the FCC and all I got back was a letter saying they would look into it and let me know. That was six months ago! You've been around a lot longer than I have. What is the right answer?"

Son of a Gun! Where was Judge Judy when we needed her? Given that we likely weren't going to get a ruling from the judge on this one, we did the next best thing and hauled the QRPer up the hill to see the Old Timer. The age-old question was repeated again, this time with a fist smacking into a palm to drive the point home. The Old Timer looked at the QRPer for a moment, then at us. "Who knows?" he replied. We had to admit that this was not what we expected, but we knew better than to ask for clarification. The QRPer was not so self-restrained. "What do you mean, who knows? If I'm in violation of an FCC rule, I want to know! I might get a citation . . . or if the DXCC Desk finds out that I worked some of my DX by using my last two, might they not take away my membership? I want to follow the rules . . . all I want to do is to find out what they are!"

The Old Timer looked at the QRPer for a few seconds and then said, "Son, there will always be opinions offered by those who judge others by their own standards. Remember that. When one of these DXers who have almost everything worked, and likely a lot of deleted ones as well, tell you that you can't use your last two, they might be right. Don't discount their knowledge. Don't argue with them." The QRPer looked more confused than ever. "But are they right?"

The Old Timer had flipped on his rig and began tuning 15-mertes for the polar opening to Asia. He looked over his shoulder at the QRPer and said, "Memory is often purified as time goes by. I think you will find that the higher their country total and the more times these Big Guns have been around the track, the less often they will recall using their last two. And you might even find that those with monobanders at 100 feet pushing out the full legal limit and a little extra can't recall ever using anything but their full call . . . and usually only once." And that was it. He put his headphones on and was off to see who was causing all the fuss between 21300-310 MHz.

(Continued next page)

Full Calls Only (continued)— by Paul VE1DX {<https://www.ve1dx.net/Stories/story014.html>}

We walked back down the hill with the QRPer. We had understood what the Old Timer had been getting at, but we weren't sure about the QRPer. "So it's OK for me to use my last two in a pileup, right?" he asked. We shrugged our shoulders and repeated what the Old Timer had said, "Who knows? For as Albert so often said, 'all things are relative, although some more than others' and this is another practical example of the Special Theory of Relativity."

The QRPer glanced at us with a puzzled and frustrated look as he walked off down the hill. "What's the use?" he muttered as he made his way around the corner and back down into the village. We thought about it for a second and shrugged again. What more could we say? The QRPer just didn't understand the Mysteries of the Ages and the Eternal Enigmas of DXing. We sat back down on the verandah and thought about the new towers in our antenna farm that had sprouted up over the past few years. And it seemed that we couldn't recall ever using anything other than our full call in a pileup. Perhaps we should have told the QRPer not to use his last two . . . for surely it is not legal anymore!





Seaway Valley Amateur Radio Club

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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:** Larry Giguere (VA3RSQ)
- **Vice President:** Doug Pearson (VE3HTR)
- **Secretary:** Chris Lauzon (VA3CRR)
- **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

- **Iroquois Flea Market April 4 2020—CANCELLED Due to COVID-19**
- Raisin River Canoe Race April 19 2020
- Smith Falls Flea Market May 9 2020
- Children's Treatment Centre May 30 2020
- Field Day June 27/28 2020



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



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