

SVARC Monthly Newsletter

June 2020

Seaway Valley Amateur Radio Club

Next Club Meeting: Wednesday 24 Jun, 2020

Where: Virtual meeting on repeater—VE3PGC 443.650 and Echolink until further notice.

Time: 19:00h (07:00 PM)

Guest Speaker: *Cancelled until further notice*

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 - Larry Giguere (VA3RSQ)

Well summer is upon us, camping season in Ontario is a go and Field Day 2020 is on June 27 28 2020 .

Anyone interested in doing the Field Day event was asked to contact VE3EAH ED to get the new software for this year.

Because of Covid 19 there are new forms which allows each member of the club to enter their results on their own. Ed has explained how to download these forms and fill them in to represent the SVARC.

As usual the club will not be having meetings this July and August as there is always people away or enjoying the nice weather at the cottage or campsite.

I hope everyone has a good summer free of Covid 19.

When we return in September we should have the new ST JOHN AMBULANCE building on 2nd Street available for our meetings as VE3HTR Doug mentioned on Monday night. Hopefully Covid 19 restrictions wont apply and we will be able to see everyone in person again.

BE SAFE see you in September

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Copyright © 1997 by Greg Trook, NOUJR
"Hang on a minute Larry...my SWR is jumping...I'm going outside and see what the problem is..."

ifunny.co

From the Editor - Steve Harvey (VE3EZB)

Well folks, this is going to be a short column this month. I was hoping to have more to say as we head into our summer break. Just a reminder that this is the last newsletter until September 2020.

There is no doubt that Corona-geddon has changed the way do things. It has changed how we work, how we shop, and how enjoy our hobby. Potential new hams can receive instruction via online courses which are being presented by Amateur Radio clubs and organizations all over the world. Even writing the exams can even be done online (I can hear the “Crusty Old Elitists” or “COEs whining from here). I personally think it’s a great idea long past its time. I haven’t had time to research whether or not the online courses and testing have increased the number of new folks coming into the hobby or not but my initial understanding is that the online courses are a big hit. Hum. maybe I’ll have info on the subject for the September newsletter (If I remember).

Field day—probably the largest contest in North America as far as ham radio is concerned has been affected by COVID-19. There are rule changes to accommodate the current “social distancing” rules so hams will still be able to participate in the contest. I encourage you, if you plan to participate in Field Day this year, to check out the contest rule changes at the [ARRL website](#).

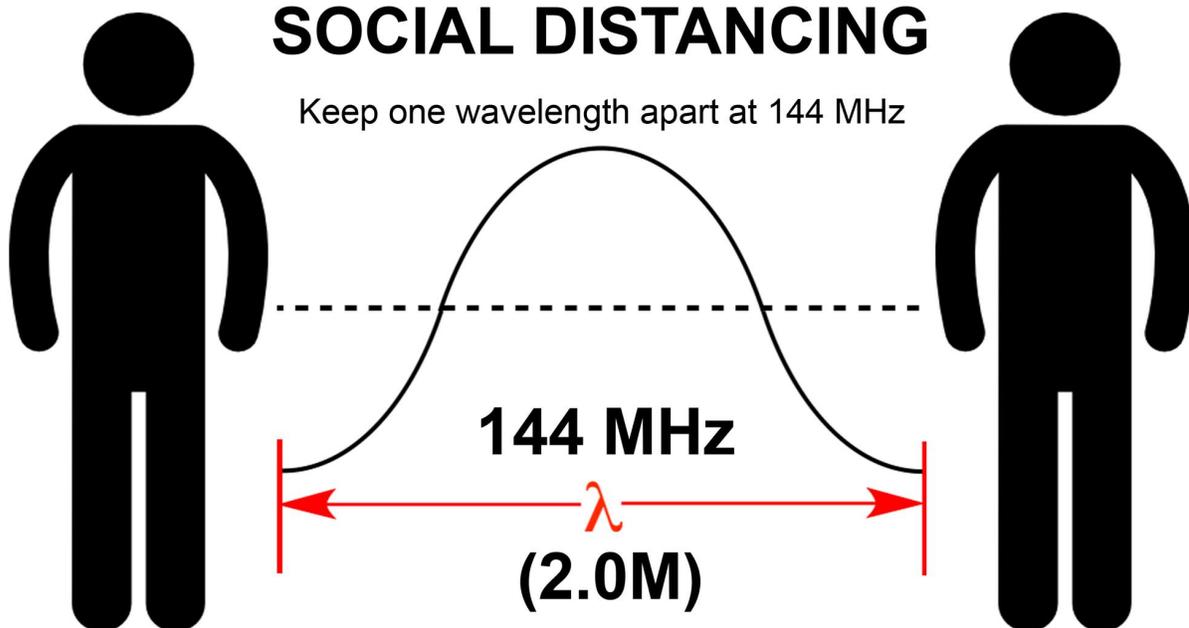
My summer plans (now that the plague has messed with my original plans) - work on repairing my Hex-Beam, installing another tower (32’ tilt-over) for my Hex-Beam & Tri-bander and reconfiguring my current 40’ tower for 2m/6m SSB as well as 2m FM VHF/UHF. I may even change out some wire AE for a fan dipole for next radio season to see how it works.

Well folks, I sincerely hope you all have a great summer. Stay safe. And don’t breath anyone’s “Moist Air”. See you in September.

73—VE3EZB
Steve

Amateur radio enthusiast guide to **SOCIAL DISTANCING**

Keep one wavelength apart at 144 MHz



Meeting Agenda — General (Monthly) Meeting—Wednesday 24 June 2020

General (Monthly) Meeting

Wednesday June 24 2020

Virtual Meeting on VE3PGC

07:00 PM Meeting starts

Business Arising :

Minutes of last meeting May 27 2020 – Chris (VA3CRR)

Treasurers Report – Elizabeth (VE3EZH)

Net Controllers Report – Tom (VA3KD)

Newsletter Report – Steve (VE3EZB)

Miscellaneous Reports

Repeater Report - Doug (VE3HTR)

Web Report – Ed (VE3EAH)

ARES Report – Earle (VE3IMP)

New Business

Discussion on Field Day: June 27, 28 2002

Presentation:

None till further notice

Upcoming Events

- Field Day June 27/28 2020

Adjournment:

Date, time and place of next meeting: Wednesday, Sept 30 2020 at 7PM at new location for St John's Ambulance Service (depending on COVID-19)

GLOBAL COVID-19 “STAYHOME” Campaign Deemed a Success—ARRL

<http://www.arrl.org/news/global-covid-19-stayhome-campaign-deemed-a-success>

06/16/2020

The June 6 – 7 COVID-19 “STAYHOME” Radio Communication Event was a “great success,” its sponsors said, with more than 6,000 participants worldwide. The number of logs submitted by June 12 exceeded 800, with more arriving ahead of the June 15 deadline. Stations in more than 120 countries participated, and STAYHOME-suffix stations in Finland logged some 132,000 contacts.

“As the COVID-19 pandemic is in different phases in different countries, this is not the finish of the STAYHOME campaign, as only parts of Europe and North America are slowly taking steps towards a normal life,” the events sponsors said. A final report for the early-June event will be released in a few weeks, followed by a prize lottery. “The COVID-19 Radio Communication Event was a global virtual amateur radio gathering, passing well-being messages among radio operators worldwide, thus sharing the airwaves during this unfortunate global pandemic and promoting a sense of belonging and mental health,” the event organizers concluded.

Sponsors included the Finnish Amateur Radio League, the Araucaria DX Group, and Radio Arcala OH8X.



Photo from—<https://ifunny.co/picture/1FLOwZ7W6>

The late summer and fall of the year is often a pleasant time and with October near, it is a time to rest and prepare. Rest from the summer of antenna and tower maintenance; prepare for the coming great season of DXing. It is a time for both relaxation and anticipation. But we had hardly anticipated what came trudging up the hill in the pleasant late summer weather. It was a Local QRPer and he was not happy.

"Tell me", he began, "why is it that these contesters are such a pain? They just started and they'll be on almost every weekend for the whole DX season! If they're not on phone they'll be on CW. All they do is jam up the bands, tune for smoke and buckshot 5 kaycees up and down from their transmit frequency. What chance do us true blue DXers have of working anything?"

Son of a Gun! "What do you mean?", we asked, "just a month ago you were telling us about all the new ones you got on 12 and 17 last season when the contesters fired up a few days early. About how you sometimes caught them the Wednesday or Thursday before the contest and got them to QSY to 30-metres too. And then, during the contest weekends how you filled all the band countries with the multi-multi stations. And didn't you even work a half a dozen brand new ones in the contests? Last season, you lived for every contest weekend! What happened?"

The QRPer stood up and glared at us. "That was then and this is now!" he retorted. He stared at us as if that told it all. "You're not making any sense" we replied, "what's different from this year and last year?"

"What's different? What's different!!?!", he retorted, "I'll tell you what's different. This weekend I missed three new ones because of a contest, that's what! Last year they were all over me for multipliers and counters. This year three rare ones told me to shove off! Told me to QSY, that they were only working Europe. So I did. It's only proper if they are working EU only that you wait your turn. So I did. And when I found another one, I called him and he told me the same thing: 'Europe only, QSY.' So I went back to the first one, 12-14 hours later and he still wouldn't work me. All three of them dodged me all weekend . . . and towards the end they were calling CQ with no takers and they still told me to QSY! What do you think of that?"

"Were these stations in Africa, Asia or the Pacific?", we asked. The QRPer nodded, "Yes, and semi-rare too. I needed them all for brand new ones. How'd you know?" We just looked at him for a moment and then replied, "Just a lucky guess. Maybe you are right about these contests", we replied, "It could have something to do with the increased propagation we're starting to see with Cycle 23." The QRPer jumped up and said, "I bet that's it! They've been working Ws and Ks for the last few years and now that the flux is back up, they want to work something different. I knew we'd figure it out!" And with that he was off down the hill, still unhappy three countries had got away, but sure he had gained knowledge and understanding.

We looked out over the bay for a while. Sometimes it is a good thing to explain things in detail . . . and other times it is better to let them figure it out on their own. For while one may work a lot of DX in a contest, it helps to read the rules . . . especially those for the Worked All Europe contest!

DXers are Different — by Paul VE1DX {<https://www.ve1dx.net/Stories/story020.html>}

There are advantages to living on a hillside. We had often wondered if fate had a part in this when we had picked this particular QTH many years ago. Beaming east, we had a clear shot at Europe, and any DX that raised its head out of the trenches was usually in the log within minutes. We soon learned, however, that the DX that exists in the Pacific, far out in those distant lands over the western horizon, had better be coming in long path. For try as we might, beaming into solid rock has its disadvantages. There is balance in nature.

We also found that living on a hillside provided two different perspectives on DX knowledge and advice. We learned to anticipate the Old Timer making his way down the hill from time to time, often stopping in to discuss many things, but mostly DX. And, even more often, we found that the local QRPer made their way up the hill, seeking answers to DX questions or offering suggestions on how things might be improved. Again, we had to reflect on the balance nature had provided in this area. Just the other day, we were thinking about this when one of the locals came up the hill to talk of DX and DXers.

"Maybe you can tell me something", he said, after finding himself a comfortable chair on the verandah. "When I first started DXing, things were different that today. I realize that things change and that technology is far different today than it was even five years ago. But there is a fundamental change in DXers. All they do now is fight on the Internet and on the packet systems. It seems to me that DXers spend more time sending rude E-mail and playing 'one-upmanship' than anything else. Why is this?"

We though about what the QRPer had asked and we were at a bit of a loss as to where to begin. We were beaming west on this one . . . for on the surface the QRPer seemed to have a point. Just as we were about to give it a shot, we saw the Old Timer making his way down the hill. As usual, he stopped and drew up a chair. In hindsight, he may have wished he had kept on going. The QRPer turned his attention to the Old Timer and repeated the question. We heaved an inward sigh of relief. The relief pitcher was on the mound! The Old Timer thought for a moment and then replied, "Why is this? You really don't know?" The QRPer shrugged and said slowly, "No, not really. I don't know. When I first got on the air, things were a lot different, that's all I know. I want to know what has changed. What made the DXers change so radically?"

The Old Timer took a deep breath. It was clear that the answer was obvious to him and he couldn't see why the QRPer was even asking the question. "Do you remember Bill, W7PHO?" he began. The QRPer nodded enthusiastically. "I sure do! He may have run a DX net, but he ran a tight ship. A real DXer." The Old Timer continued, "Then you remember Lloyd and Iris Colvin too, right? And Don Wallace, W6AM? And how about Dick, W0MLY? Remember when they all were active on the bands?"

"Yes, of course I do", the QRPer replied, "and they all were great DXers. That's my point. What has changed?" We were starting to see the Old Timer's point, but it was clear the QRPer wasn't even getting a glimmer. The Old Timer continued on: "Do you remember Gus, W4BPD?" The QRPer shook his head, "No, but I read all about him and I heard the stories of the times when he activated all the rare ones. He was a true blue DXer, just like the others you mentioned. All this has changed. Why?" The Old Timer simply wasn't getting anywhere, but he continued on anyhow, "OK, how about Dick Spenceley, KV4AA, and Stew Perry, W1BB who carried the word for 160 DX for so many years. And the great DXers who are still active, like Wayne, N7NG . . . remember when he was on from Clipperton? How about OH2BH? Martti's been everywhere, and some places twice. And the DX Bulletins. Do you remember Harvey McCoy of the Long Island DX Bulletin, Bob Winn of QRZ DX and Hugh Cassidy of the West Coast DX Bulletin? And what about Chod Harris, VP2ML and The DX Bulletin? And do you recall that time the three of us went to Dayton and we met Bob and Ellen White? What about Ron, ZL1AMO? Did you ever work Reinhard, DL1UF and Baulder, DJ6SI? Did you know that Kan, JA1BK is a member of the DX Hall of fame? And how many times have you heard Al Hix, W8AH, blast his way through the pileups?"

"Yes, yes! I remember all that. And every one you mentioned was, or still is, a true blue DXer! Every last one of them. Why I even recall some of the guys at the club talking about a fellow name Don Miller who was a great DXer in the early days. . . but they said nobody could explain or understand him." The

DXers are Different (continued)— by Paul VE1DX {<https://www.ve1dx.net/Stories/story020.html>}

Old Timer held up his hand and stopped the QRPer. "He was a special case and some day I'll tell you about Don. But right now you have to concentrate on those we've already discussed. There are many more, but these are enough to make the point. Now do you understand?"

"Understand what?" the QRPer replied, "I understand all these Hams were, or still are, great DXers. Some went on DXpeditions, some worked everything that moved, and some did both. But I don't understand why all the DXers stopped this and have taken up fighting on the Internet. That was my question and, while you've brought back a lot of great DX memories, you haven't answered my question. Why have all the DXers changed?"

The Old Timer was not to be deterred. "But I have answered your question, son. These ones you say are fighting and arguing on the Internet and packet. Do you remember their calls? What are their DX totals? How many DXpeditions have they been on?"

The QRPer sat back and stared at the two of us like he had just been clubbed between his beady little eyes. It took a few moments for it to sink in. "I don't remember their calls", he said slowly, "I don't think I've ever heard any of them on the air, either." He shook his head slowly as realization set in. "They aren't very active, are they?" The Old Timer looked right back at him and replied, "No, not at all. They don't have the time. They are not DXers. DXers work DX! DXers tune the bands. DXers go on DXpeditions. And DXers use the Internet and packet systems to exchange DX information. And that is why they are different. Subscribing to a DX Reflector does not make you a DXer! No more than subscribing to a DX Bulletin made Hams DXers in the Early Days."

The QRPer was starting to understand. "You're right!" he chimed in, "absolutely right. Why didn't I see it before? DXers haven't changed at all! Not one bit. I was mixing up DXers and non-DXers."

The Old Timer looked at him for a minute or so and then gave the final pitch, "The road to understanding is often slow and not always straight. But this afternoon you've made a leap forward. DXers are an unusual bunch", he continued on, "and true blue DXers are the top echelon of amateur radio. They are the ones who establish friendships that bring so many together from around the world. And they do this even though most will never meet face to face, but nevertheless they are close. They don't argue and fight on packet or the Internet or anywhere else. Those that do are not DXers! They may claim to be, but they are not, and they never will be. You are a DXer, son! Stand tall and be proud. Understand this but don't try to extend this understanding to one of these argumentative types who is not a DXer. It is a waste of time and energy. Let them fight it out on packet and on the Internet. You are different. Absolutely. Always remember that and don't let anyone tell you otherwise!" And with that he stood up, looked at us for few seconds and then made his way down the hill and over to the DX club meeting.

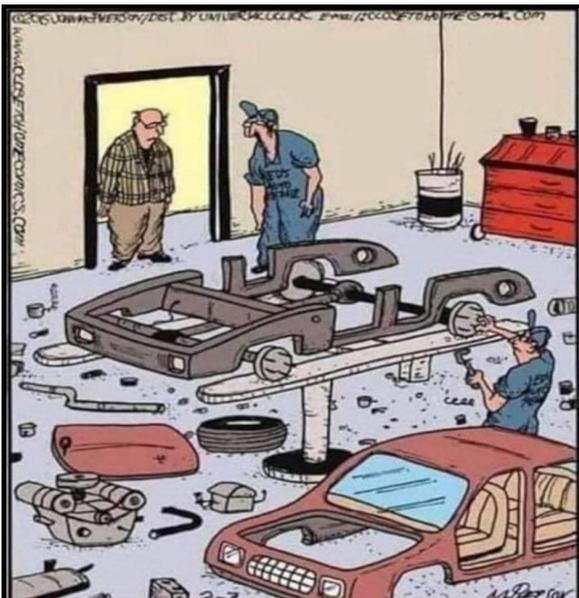
Son of a Gun! It was hard to find fault with the Old Timer's thinking. Most DXers, when they stop and think about it, can find instances where because they were a DXer and DXing was a way of life that they did things, or refrained from doing things, not often done by non-DX types. We had known this Inevitable Truth but had never thought it applied to the situation the QRPer had described. When the Old Timer speaks, it is like the fireworks over the Potomac on the 4th of July! DX IS!

This 'n' That

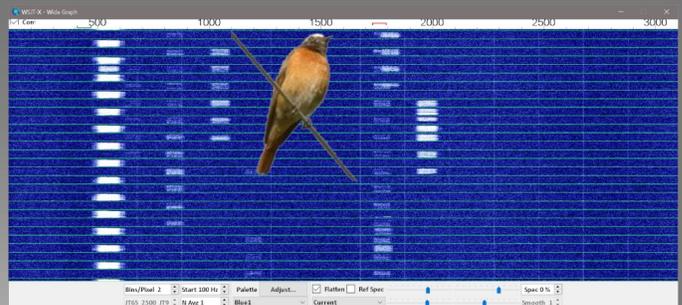


More AE work at Antenna Creek. Mel—VE3OJN— installs a “new to him” Mosley Pro 96-3. Worked DK4EI—Heinz on 40m as his first contact.

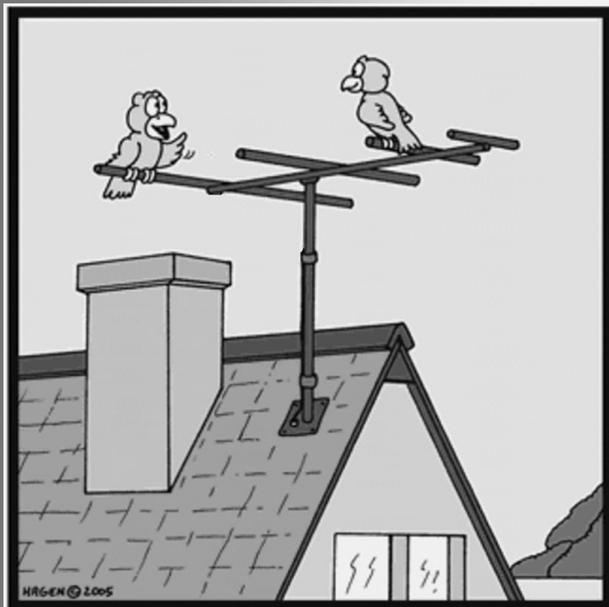




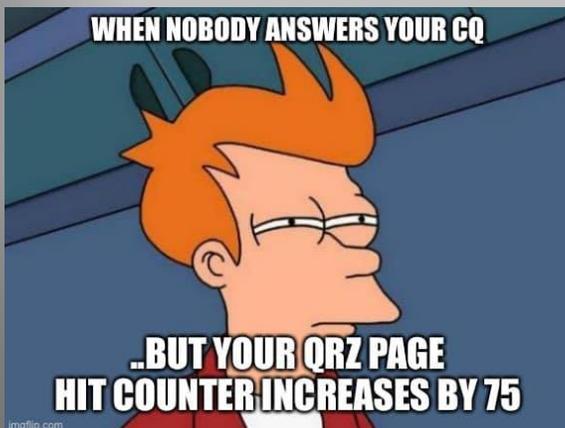
"It turned out to be the little ham radio that was in your cup holder."



I think I saw a birdie on my 20M FT4 waterfall.



Hams love us, look at the wonderful perches they install!



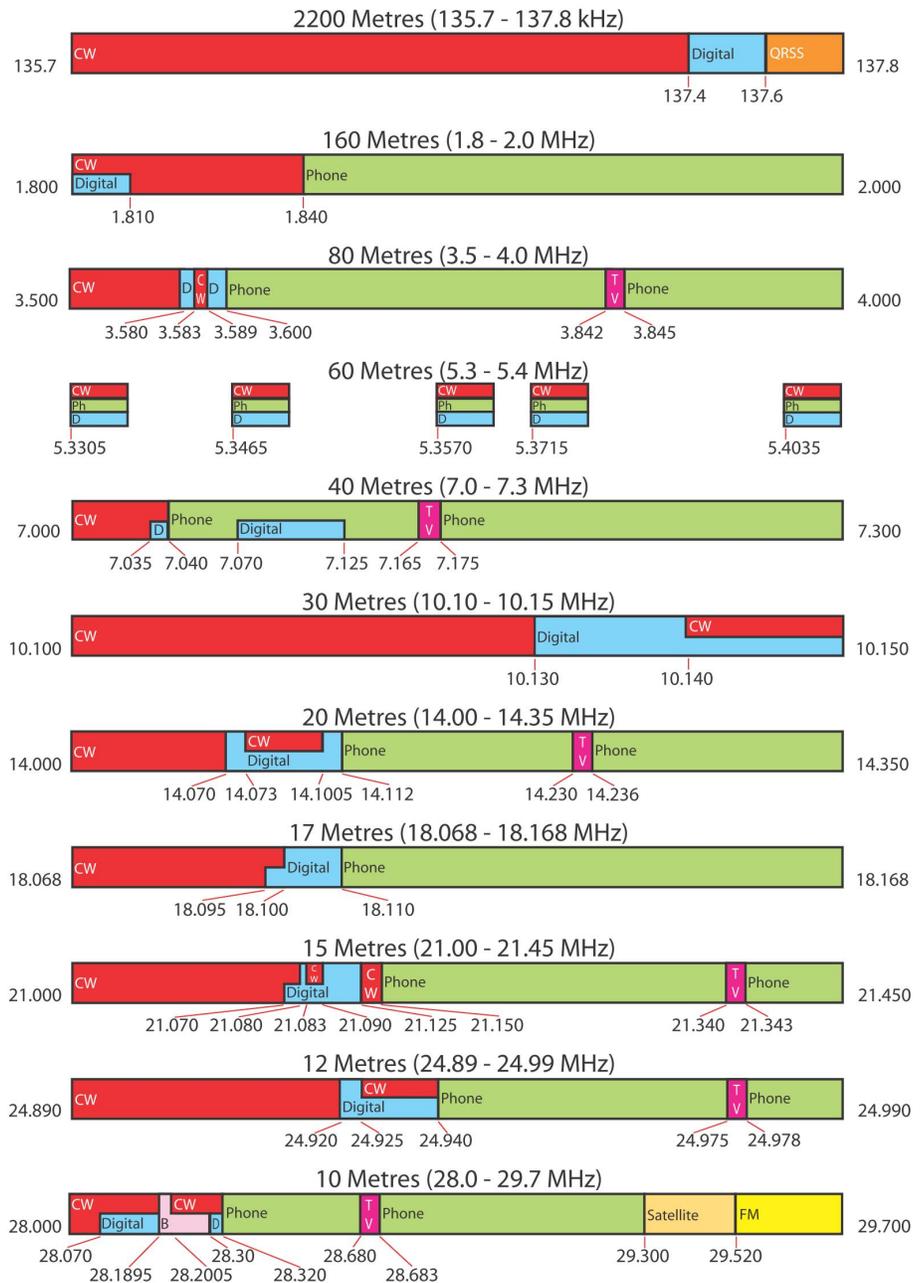


Canadian 0 - 30MHz Band Plan

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	■ D
■ B	Beacons	■ Digital
■ S	Satellite	



Seaway Valley Amateur Radio Club

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St. Andrews West, ON
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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:** 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 (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

- 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"