

# SVARC Monthly Newsletter

December 2020

## Seaway Valley Amateur Radio Club

Next Club Meeting: Wednesday January 27th, 2021

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

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

*Guest Speaker: Cancelled until further notice*

*Deadline for newsletter submissions is **ONE** week prior to the next meeting.*

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Larry Giguere (VA3RSQ)

Well here we are near the end of the year with Christmas just around the corner. It has been a very quiet year for SVARC. No Raisin River Canoe Race, No Children Treatment Bikeathon fundraiser, No MS Bikeathon, and no Field Day 2020. Hopefully 2021 will be a better year for all involved in our club activities. Covid 19 certainly made a change in everyone's lifestyle and probably will affect us through 2021 until it is under control. I certainly hope all our members are well and have not been affected by this virus. Hopefully 2021 will allow us to get back to a certain sense of normal in our everyday life. On behalf of myself and the executive MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR to all our members and may the new year bring us back together in person to person events we have had in the past years. May health and happiness follow you into the future 73 and 88.

### Weekly SVARC VHF/UHF Net:

Monday on VE3SVC (147.180+ MHz; CTCSS 110.9 Hz) at 7:00 PM local time, followed by a 70 CM net on VE3PGC (443.650+ MHz. CTCSS 110.9 Hz.)

### Inside this Issue:

President's Message	1
From the Editor	2
Club Info	3
Miscellaneous	4-5
Pictures	6
Misc	7
Contest Info	8
RAC	9
VE3AIH submissions	10-16
HF Band Plan	17
Poem	18-21
ARES	22

## From the Editor - Murray MacDonnell (VE3XLJ)

### Hello Fellow Hams..

Welcome to the final Newsletter of the year. I hope you are all safe and well as we approach the Christmas Season. I'd like to thank Roger, VA3GBV for his interesting Bio submission last month (and another article for next month) and also Art, VE3AIH for his submission and photos this month. I am hopeful more of you will send me something in the New Year... Hey, what else can you do in lockdown??

It's been a "different" year for our club (and others) as you all know, and our fingers are collectively crossed that we can have an actual meeting and coffee time, sometime in 2021.

Any of you that can reach or listen to 145.370, (VE3OJE), there is a group of Hams there that chase DX regularly and are often heard exchanging frequencies and callsigns of their last contact. As I write this they are logging a lot of contacts in South America on 10M. Speaking of OJE, Mel, VE3OJN, Steve VE3EZB and Brian VA3DXV, all of T.E.O.A.R.C., and I, are experimenting with a Node at my QTH which will give access from this area into the Moose Creek repeater. We have it up and running as of Dec 14th on 145.610 with a tone of 151.4. Early indications are that I have about a 15 to 20 KM Radius from my QTH, roughly East End Cornwall to the West, Lancaster and Green Valley in the other directions. Please experiment with it and let us know how it works. We are only on my Diamond D-130J discone for now but will put up a better antenna when weather, ambition and \$\$ collide.

Well, that's all the news I have to pass on so I'll close by wishing all of you a very Merry Christmas and a joyful Holiday Season...from our house to yours..

'73..

Murray, VE3XLJ

Editor's note.. The node is down for adjustment and will be back up on a different frequency very soon. I will make an announcement on the Monday Net.

PS.. .....I do hope Santa finds you and that he makes a pickup at Radioworld before reaching you!





Seaway Valley Amateur Radio Club

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

[www.svarc.ca](http://www.svarc.ca)

## SVARC Executive 2020—2021

- **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:** Murray MacDonnell (VE3XLJ)

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.



## 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

Cornwall	VE3SVC	147.180	+	110.9
Bonville	VE3PGC	443.650	+	110.9
Cornwall	VE3VSW	444.800	+	110.9
Cornwall	VA3SDG	145.570	-	C4FM
Cornwall	VA3SDG-B	444.450	+	D-Star
Bonville	VA3EDG	442.100	+	DMR
Morrisburg	VA3ESD	443.150	+	110.9
Morrisburg	VE3SVR	146.760	-	110.9



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”

<https://www.svarc.ca/>



\*\*\*\*\*

So... this is another reminder to **Not to Forget** to pay Your Club dues for 2021! That's right, it's **YOUR** Club and it's **your** funds that keep the repeaters on the air and the coffee pot full at the meetings. The camaraderie, keeping up with the local Ham happenings and the new friends you make are a bonus!

Please contact Elizabeth VA3EZH and make arrangements to get your dues for 2021 to her.

Also, if you have not joined and enjoy the world of radios and the use of the local repeaters, why not join today? Many hands and members make light work!

\*\*\*\*\*

Got any old pictures of bygone days you can share? We can make a Memories Page!

Don't be shy!!

A little further down in the Newsletter, you will see some "OLD" pictures of VE3AIH.. Send your pictures in!

\*\*\*\*\*

If you enjoy Science and watching for the **ISS** (International Space Station), here are the frequencies used in the new onboard repeater.

At 01:02 GMT on September 2 a cross band FM amateur radio repeater with a downlink on 437.800 MHz was activated on the International Space Station.

Initial operation of the new radio system is in FM cross band repeater mode using an uplink frequency of 145.990 MHz with an access tone [CTCSS] of 67 Hz and a downlink frequency of 437.800 MHz. System activation was first observed at 01:02 UTC on September 2. Special operations will continue to be announced.

I know that Bob, VA3JIN, is actively looking for a contact as am I. Good luck to all!

\*\*\*\*\*



.....And folks, That's exactly what happened in MY house this year.. ;)

Belgian Amateurs activate the following special event call signs to remind everyone of COVID-19 restrictions and express gratefulness to medical personnel:

- OS2HOPE
- OT5ALIVE
- OT4CARE
- OR20STAYHOME
- OT6SAFE
- OP19MSF
- OQ5BECLEVER
- OR6LIFE
- OO4UZLEUVEN
- OT2CARE

You can find out additional information about these special call signs and any special events by searching online for each call sign.

RAC Announcement. ....Special call signs in Belgium during the second lockdown period

OT6SAFE is a special event call sign, from the club station ON6HC of the UBA in Knokke-Heist.

The purpose of this special event is to emphasize the importance of staying at home during the Corona pandemic and to express our solidarity with all those patients who are suffering from this virus. Also, the Amateur Radio community wants to express its thankfulness to all medical staff who is giving the very best of themselves in their relentless efforts to comfort all the patients in their fight with this pandemic.

To receive the free of charge award you need to make / heard 1 QSO with OT6SAFE. The award is also for SWL's available. The award will be send to you by



## A Plea For Your Input

*Earlier, I had asked for all members to write a Bio of their journey along the path to Amateur Radio. Now I want to also ask that anyone with an interest in a particular facet of Ham Radio to submit a article or a story for me to publish.*

*Are you an avid DX'er? SWL'er? A digital user? A technical Ham and build things? Build antennas? Build mailbox switches? Tell the rest of us about your latest excursions and projects! We'd love to hear from you!*

*Also, why not send me a picture of your "Shack" or Tower, your work projects or whatever, and share it with the rest of the Club. We are all interested in what others have and are doing!*

This is my current station configuration...always in a state of flux ;) Please ignore the dust and "mess" and send me a picture of yours!

VE3XLJ



# Annual Contest Calendar

Below you'll find a list of all CQ-sponsored on-air competitions, including contest name, month in which it is held, weekend within that month, issue in which rules appear and issue in which results appear. Click on the "More Info" link for current rules, current and prior results, including expanded results for the CQWW and CQ WPX Contests. Many contest directors have their own web pages with additional information - you'll find a link to these pages in the "More Info" link as well.

Subscribe to *CQ Amateur Radio* magazine and get the latest CQ Contest dates, rules and results delivered to your mailbox as soon as they're available.

Contest	Month	Week-end	Rules Issue	Results Issue	More info
CQ DX Marathon	Jan - Dec	Full Year	Dec.	June	<a href="#">More Info</a>
CQ WW 160 Meter / CW	Jan	Last full weekend		Aug.	<a href="#">More Info</a>
CQ WW RTTY WPX	Feb	2nd full weekend	Jan.	Jul.	<a href="#">More Info</a>
CQ WW 160 Meter / SSB	Feb	Last full weekend	Dec.	Aug.	<a href="#">More Info</a>
CQ WW WPX / SSB	Mar	Last full weekend	Feb.	Sept.	<a href="#">More Info</a>
CQ WW Fox-hunting Weekend	May	2nd or 3rd full weekend (see rules)	Apr.	Feb.	<a href="#">More Info</a>
CQ WW WPX / CW	May	Last full weekend	Feb.	Nov.	<a href="#">More Info</a>
CQ WW VHF	July	3rd full weekend	Jun.	Jan.	<a href="#">More Info</a>
CQ WW RTTY DX	Sept	4th full weekend	Jul.	Mar.	<a href="#">More Info</a>
CQ WW DX / SSB	Oct	Last full weekend	Sep.	Apr.	<a href="#">More Info</a>
CQ WW DX / CW	Nov	Last full weekend	Sep.	May.	<a href="#">More Info</a>



## This & That

RAC Canada Winter Contest 2020: December 19 [Concours d'hiver du Canada de RAC 2020 : 19 décembre](#)

New “Rookie” Subcategory and Sponsors for the RAC Contests Disponible en français Radio Amateurs of Canada is pleased to announce the creation of a new “Rookie” subcategory for both the RAC Canada Day Contest and the RAC Canada Winter Contest. In December each year, Radio Amateurs of Canada sponsors the RAC Canada Winter Contest. Amateurs [...]

2020-11-03 BY **ALAN GRIFFIN**

SEE THE RAC WEBSITE FOR THE RULES!

\*\*\*\*\*

I found enough material for a December Newsletter, so.....I hope **you** can find something to send in, to contribute to the next Newsletter!

As always, comments, suggestions and constructive criticisms are always welcome!

Well Folks, that's all **I** have for you.

'73 Murray



# My Life in Ham Radio

By Art Horovitch VE3AIH

I became interested in electronics as a teenager. I was into building model airplanes, some of which flew and others crashed. The best was an “elastic –cord” launched glider. It could soar several hundred feet in circles before coming down to land. Model airplane magazines talked about “radio control”, which was completely new to me. I didn’t understand the technical jargon about channels and escapements and switches. Pretty soon my reading switched from Model Airplane News to Popular Electronics. My school library had some excellent books on electronics, and I would spend hours poring over the electronic projects. I would visit the radio stores in Montreal searching for these newfangled “transistors”. The CK722 was the most popular and it was priced at about \$3. If you hooked it up wrong or drew too much current, it quickly failed. But working part-time at the Eaton’s department store on weekends at about \$5 per hour meant it wasn’t too big a hit to the pocketbook. I used the transistors to build small AM receivers using a slug-tuned ferrite tuning coil (same method as the Drake receivers!) and capacitor for tuning in local stations and sometimes DX from Chicago and New York. Pretty soon I was into other projects like photoelectric switches and small power supplies. By the time I was studying physics in grade 10, the “Electricity and Magnetism” section was a breeze. They included “tubes” (sometimes called Valves) and things like Ohms law and how to determine various parameters in simple circuits, resistors in series and parallel, etc. I became known as the “go-to “ guy for my classmates if they had trouble with the concepts. I was also impressed with the multitude of test equipment, meters, oscilloscopes and signal generators I could see behind locked cabinets in the physics lab. None of those things could I afford. That’s when I decided I would like to become a teacher and have access to all that stuff. I knew I was good at explaining things to others so that seemed like a natural for me. I did end up having a successful teaching career, starting in high school math for two years in Montreal, then 19 years in a rural high school in southern Alberta. Finally I returned to Montreal for a 13 year stint teaching high school math in the adult education department of the Protestant school board.

After graduating high school in Montreal, I took a summer job as a waiter at a summer camp north of Montreal. It was one I had attended for several years as a camper and I had enjoyed the experience. That summer, I met my lifelong friend Fred Lackstone, VE2BHW (SK). He found out I was interested in electronics and we had many interesting discussions, especially about shortwave radio and television servicing. He was more advanced than I was and ran his own business installing TV antennas and

servicing TV's in the off-season between the end of university and the start of summer camp. Pretty soon he started talking about getting his ham radio license. By the time I was in second year university, we were spending lunch hours at the "Sir George" college (now Concordia University) radio club practicing sending and receiving Morse code. Also going over schematic diagrams for receivers, transmitters, power supplies, frequency meters, etc. We were mentored by another friend Dan Rosenthal, VE2BGB, who had just gotten his license a year earlier and went on to become a vice-president at Marconi. In the 60's, Morse code at 10 wpm was a requirement for the basic license. It gave you CW privileges on the HF band but no phone except on the VHF/UHF bands. After six months, you could take your log to the DOT office to show you had been operating consistently on CW and you got a "10 meter endorsement" for phone operation on 10 meters. That was a big deal because with the good sunspot cycle, you could work all around the world on 10 meters.

I took the basic exam in January 1961 and a month later, I had my new call VE2BHH. Phonetically I was called "Big Hairy Ham", even though I was going bald then. A year later I took the advanced exam and 15 wpm code, and passed it with a high score, so now I was a full-fledged ham, could operate on any band, build and adjust my own transmitters. Although I had studied for the license with friends at Sir George, I was actually attending McGill University. I found the club there to be rather unwelcoming at first. But when I saw their equipment, I decided to join that club. They had a Johnson 500, with the 811 power supply that glowed purple every time you depressed the key. It had an input of 500 watts going to a TA-33 beam on the roof as well as several trap dipoles. I thought I had died and gone to ham heaven, since I did not have much equipment of my own at home. I later became a vice president of that club, pushing for more inclusiveness of new and prospective hams. My own equipment at home was just a surplus 19 set (yes it had Russian labels too, part of the war effort to help the Russians in WW2). It was tank radio which covered from about 2 to 8 Mhz, and was very stable. It did have a bit of chirp on CW, but it was not bad. They were available at the surplus stores for about \$25-30. Then you had to build a power supply, since the dynamotor power supply usually ran off 24 volts DC. It also had a 220 Mhz transceiver section, with a regenerative receiver and crystal controlled transmitter for local communication between tanks.

BY 1965, I was into the Heathkit line of single banders, HW-12, HW-22 and HW-32 for 75, 40 and 20 meters. I was amazed at how clear the SSB signals were. I even modified my HW-12 by getting some extra coils from Heathkit, and installing a switch to flip between 75 and 80 meters. That allowed me to operate CW as well quite successfully. Antennas were just a longwire out to a phone pole in the back yard. A homebrew tuner with two variable capacitors and a tapped coil matched it nicely.

By 1967, we decided we wanted to move out of the big city, and started looking around for opportunities to teach in a more rural area. Nothing seemed likely around Montreal, so we lucked out and got teaching jobs in Alberta in the same school. Our salaries increased by almost 50% and they even provided a furnished "teacherage" (small house on the school property) for half the rent we were paying for an apartment in Montreal. So I became VE6AHH (Another Hairy Ham) and we stayed 19 years. It was a good life, a nice ham club in Lethbridge, room to grow a big garden and raise our kids on a 14 acre property. I had lots of room for antennas: A dual band dipole and a 3-band Gemquad mounted on an old windmill tower that I picked up for practically nothing.

In 1981, I decided it was time for a sabbatical year, so we travelled to Israel and later Europe. My job in Israel was a tractor driver in the cotton fields, moving hand move irrigation pipe, weeding the rows of cotton with disks, and eventually harvesting the cotton with big harvesters. Suzan worked in the citrus orchards, pruning and grafting trees and later loading orange crates onto delivery trucks as well as tending the new avocado plantation. It was hard work, but a pleasant change from my responsibilities of teaching. By the way, there are almost no mass shootings in Israel at schools, shopping centers or on streets. Almost everyone has been trained in the army and knows how to use weapons. It did take some getting used to seeing so many people (in uniform or not) walking around with military weapons. Any terrorist attempts are usually ended quickly by someone "neutralizing" the terrorist.

While in Israel, one of my neighbours lent me a Heathkit shortwave receiver with bandspread and BFO, and I acquired a Heathkit DX-60 from someone in Jerusalem. So I was able to get on the air with a dipole and worked many European stations, as well as the occasional North American. The Russians were always after me because I signed VE6AHH/4X . Though they were forbidden to contact 4X stations during the Cold War period, I was fair game with my Canadian call sign. Sometimes it seemed like I was on the receiving end of a pile-up.

In 1986, we decided to move back to Quebec to be closer to family, and I became VE2AHH. We lived on a small farm east of Montreal, so again I had lots of room for antennas. Between my teaching adult education and farming, life was very busy. But I found time for ham radio.

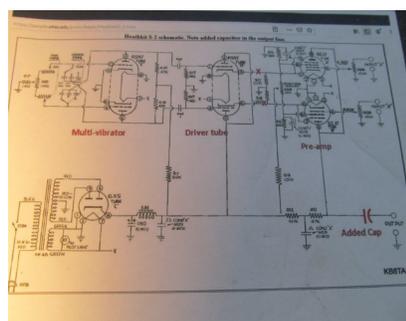
I've been a ham for almost 60 years. I've done AM, SSB, CW (still my favorite mode), packet radio, some PSK -31 and a long period on Oscar satellites. The Oscar era of the late 70's to early 90's saw most of my contacts on satellites Oscar 8, 10, 12 and 13, to the exclusion of HF. I have also used packet and recently PSK-31 and DMR. No interest in FT-8 which is "automated". I prefer nice long "rag chews" on CW or SSB.

My XYL, VE3EXN, also got her advanced license 4 years ago after watching me do it for more than 50 years. We are frequently involved in public service charity events, such as MS-Bike-a-thons and the canoe race with several hundred participants in the spring. We are both ARES members and participate in ARES simulated disaster exercises. Being snowbirds, over the years, we have volunteered at state and national parks. Several were in the Tallahassee, FL area, where we got to know many of the local hams and participated in various public service events with the local club. We also spent two seasons as campground hosts at Chaco Culture NHP in the Four Corners area of New Mexico. It's a truly special place, viewed as the original homeland of the Pueblo Indian tribes as well as the Navajo who lived there later. While there, we checked into the "Rusty's Raiders" net on two meters frequently. HF contacts were more difficult since we were parked at the bottom of a canyon. But we managed with a dipole and 100 watts.

As we live in a fifth wheel trailer full time, space is limited. My current radio is an Icom IC-7100, with the tiny front panel sitting on top of my desk and the radio mounted underneath the desk. An LDG tuner under the desk and a 33 ft MFJ fiberglass pole with a wire up the side for a ground plane antenna completes the station. I also have a vintage Heathkit station in my small garden shed, comprising a DX-60B transmitter, an HR-10 receiver and an HG-10 VFO. The VFO has been modified to a "slide rule" dial, since the rotating band dial cracked and fell apart in pieces. That station is usually on 40 meter CW.

That, in a nutshell, is my story.

(Art is also a published author in the "Hints and Hacks" section of QST Magazine.)



## Repurposing old Heathkit equipment

By Art Horovitch VE3AIH

Here is a switch used to generate a "dual trace" on an oscilloscope back in the mid to late 50's. You can put a signal in on the input and see the corresponding trace on the output to determine if there is any distortion by comparing the waveforms, Scopes nowadays usually have this function built in. But, hey, this was before our time.

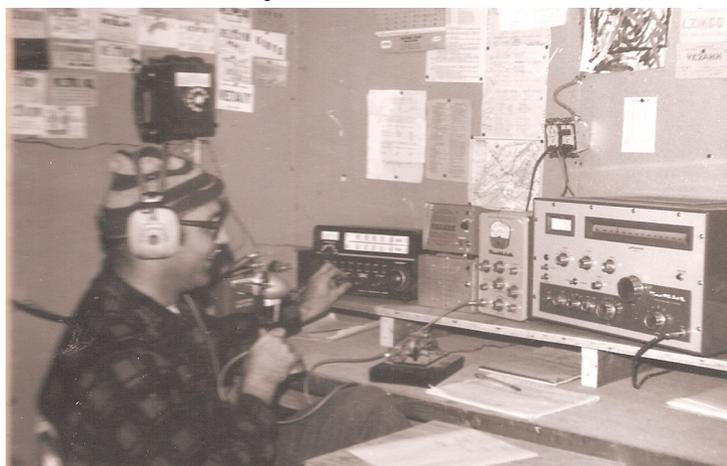
It has 5 tubes including a 6X5 rectifier and a nice transformer to drive the other four 6 volt tubes. So I rewired it to put the B+ (pin 8 of the 6SJ7) and filament voltages on the binding posts on the front panel. I have 250VDC for B+ and 6 VAC for filaments, plus the ground post. It should be good for small one or two tube projects like a keyer or regen receiver. I did leave it run for a few hours at reduced voltage and it passed the smoke test, so all is good. Thanks to Ed VE3EAH, who came up with a 12 volt transformer @ 2amps from his stock in the "barn". So now I can easily run `12 volt tubes as well.

I have the schematic for a keyer I built from the 1965 handbook and it uses the same 6SN7 tubes that came out of the switch. I'll probably be able to build the keyer right into the same chassis as the power supply. Now I have to find a SPDT relay and 25K audio transformer to go with the circuit, as well as a few capacitors, resistors and pots from my own stock of parts.

Homebrewing is alive and well, even with some of us old geezers.



First field day June 1963 VE2BHH



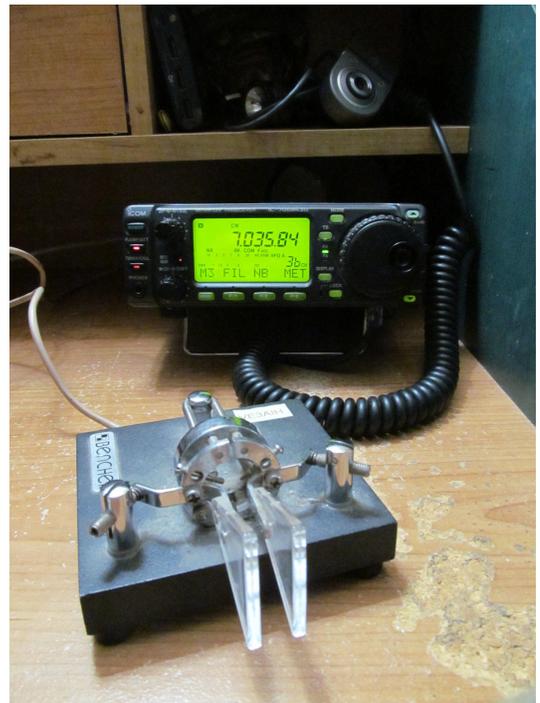
1973 VE6AHH. It was cold in the shack.



McGill Open house September 1963  
With my friend VE2AQV. (now AA6AM)



About 1980 working on an Oscar antenna, while in Alberta VE6AHH..



Art's, VE3AIH, current station setup. An ICOM 706 MK2G

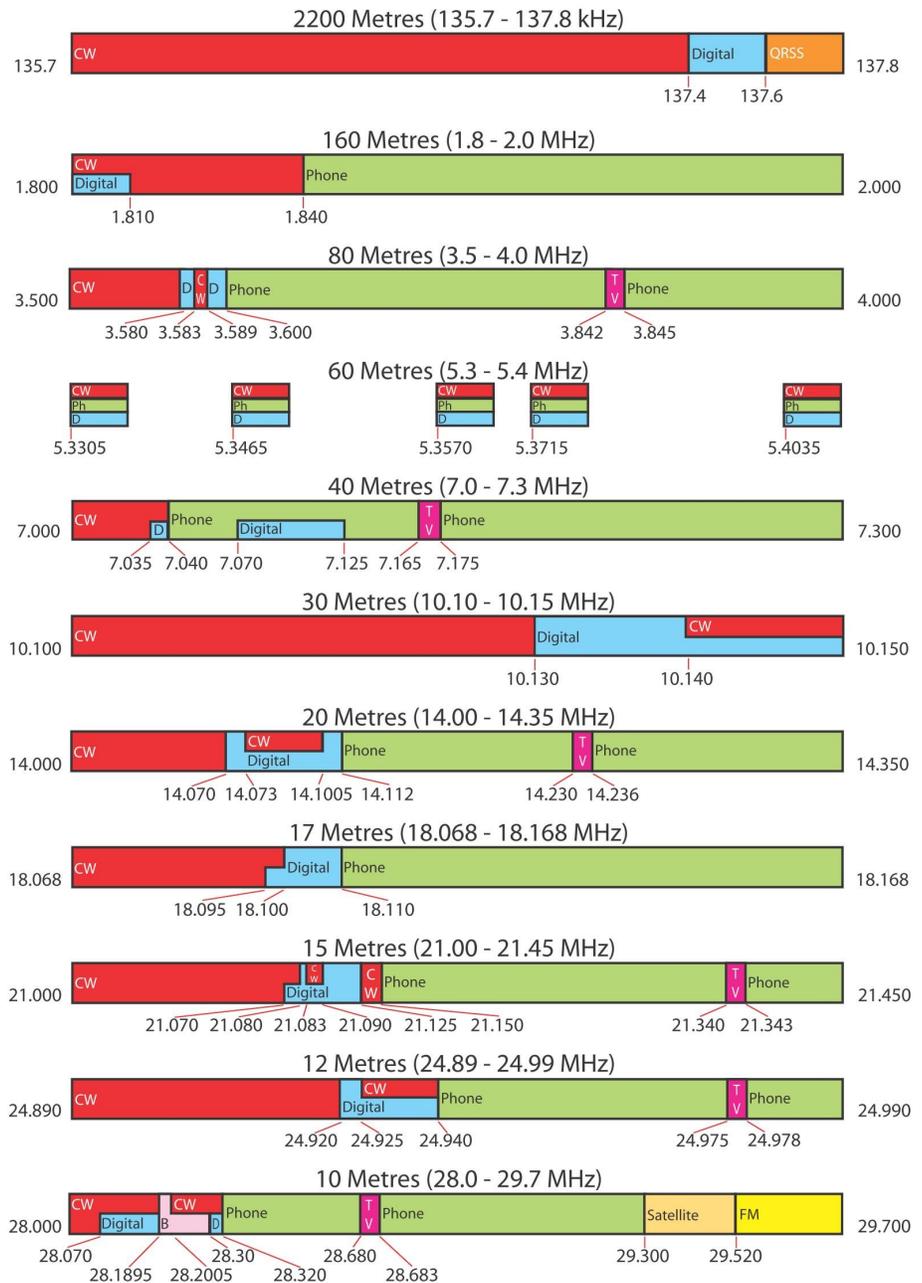


# Canadian 0 - 30MHz Band Plan

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		
<span style="color:red">■</span> CW	CW	<span style="color:yellow">■</span> FM
<span style="color:orange">■</span> QR	CW QRSS	<span style="color:purple">■</span> T V
<span style="color:green">■</span> Ph	Phone	<span style="color:blue">■</span> D
<span style="color:blue">■</span> B	Beacons	<span style="color:yellow">■</span> S
<span style="color:blue">■</span> D	Digital	<span style="color:yellow">■</span> Satellite

'Twas the night before Christmas,  
And all through two-meters,  
Not a signal was keying up  
Any repeaters.

The antennas reached up  
From the tower, quite high,  
To catch the weak signals  
That bounced from the sky.

The children, Technicians,  
Took their HT's to bed,  
And dreamed of the day  
They'd be Extras, instead.

Mom put on her headphones,  
I plugged in the key,  
And we tuned 40 meters  
For that rare ZK3.

When the meter was pegged  
By a signal with power.  
It smoked a small diode,  
And, I swear, shook the tower.

Mom yanked off her phones,  
And with all she could muster  
Logged a spot of the signal  
On the DX Packet Cluster,

While I ran to the window  
And peered up at the sky,  
To see what could generate  
RF that high.

It was way in the distance,  
But the moon made it gleam -  
A flying sleigh,  
With an eight element beam,

And a little old driver  
Who looked slightly mean,  
So I thought for a moment  
That it might be Wayne Green.

But no, it was Santa,  
The Santa of Hams,  
On a mission this Christmas  
To clean up the bands.

He circled the tower,  
Then stopped in his track,  
And he slid down the coax  
Right into the shack.

While Mom and I hid  
Behind stacks of *CQ*,  
This Santa of hamming  
Knew just what to do.

He cleared off the shack desk  
Of paper and parts,  
And filled out all my late  
QSLs, for a start.

He ran copper braid,  
Took a steel rod and pounded  
It into the earth  
Till the station was grounded.

He tightened loose fittings,  
Resoldered connections,  
Cranked down modulation,  
Installed lightning protection.

He neutralized tubes  
In my linear amp...  
(Never worked right before –  
Now it works like a champ).

A new low-pass filter  
Cleaned up the TV.  
He corrected the settings  
In my TNC.

He repaired the computer  
That wouldn't compute,  
And he backed up the hard drive  
And got it to boot.

Then, he reached really deep  
In the bag that he brought,  
And he pulled out a big box.  
"A new rig?" I thought!

"A new Kenwood? An Icom?  
A Yaesu, for me?  
An Elecraft, TEN-TEC  
Or Flex, could it be!"  
(If he thought I'd been bad  
It might be QRP!)

Yes! The Ultimate station!  
How could I deserve this?  
Could it be all those weekends  
I worked Public Service?

He hooked it all up  
And in record time, quickly  
Worked 100 countries,  
All down on 160.

I should have been happy.  
It was *my* call he sent.  
But the cards and the postage  
Will cost a month's rent!

He made final adjustments,  
And left a card by the key:  
"To Gary, from Santa Claus.  
Seventy-Three."

Then he grabbed his HT,  
Looked me straight in the eye,  
Punched a code on the pad,  
And was gone - no good bye.

I ran back to the station,  
And the pile up was big.  
But a card from St. Nick  
Would be worth my new rig.

Oh, too late, for his final  
Came over the air.  
It was copied all over.  
It was heard everywhere.

The Ham's Santa exclaimed  
What an old ham expects:  
"Merry Christmas to all,  
And to all, good DX."

'73, words by Gary KN4AQ

Submitted by Larry, VA3RSQ



Courtesy of Doug VE3HTR

## SVARC Newsletter Input by Earle DePass (VE3IMP) – Dec. 14, 2020

### What Is SD&G 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.

Every certified Radio Amateur, whether or not a member of the Radio Of Amateurs (RAC) or any other local or regional organization, is eligible for membership in the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). The only qualification is a sincere desire to serve. The possession of emergency-powered equipment is desirable but not a requirement. Applicants will be required to provide personal information that will allow a background check to be done which may include a criminal records check. (Source: *Radio Amateurs of Canada*).

ARES operators are coordinated by a Group Coordinator (GC). GCs report to Section Coordinator (SC). The Section Manager – Ontario East (ONE) is; Michael Hickey, VE3IPC.

The SD&G ARES has agreements to provide emergency communications with; The City of Cornwall, The Township of South Glengarry and The Township of South Stormont.

Earle DePass, Group Coordinator – SD&G ARES



Editor's note.. Please contact Earle if you wish to know more or become involved in ARES