

4672 O’Keefe Road; St. Andrew’s West; Ontario K0C 2A0

May 2015



Next S.V.A.R.C. Meeting

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.)

When: May 27, 2015 at 7:30pm (*coffee at 7pm*)

Guest Speaker: *Doug and Art will be making short presentations.*

Seaway Valley Amateur Radio Club Local Repeaters

Cornwall Community Hospital McConnell Ave. site:

VE3SVC 147.180 + (110.9 Hz.), Analog FM

VE3VSW 444.800 + (110.9), Analog FM

VE3SVC 144.390 *Simplex*, APRS Packet AX.25 Digipeater (see www.aprs.fi)

VA3SDG 145.570 - D-STAR Band C

VA3SDG 444.450 + D-STAR Band B

Bonville Hwy. 138 Glentel site:

VE3MTA 443.650 + (110.9 Hz.) Analog FM, Asterisk All Star Net Node 2579, and Echo Link Node 463095 (VE3PGC-L)

Morrisburg site:

VE3SVR 146.760 - (110.9) Analog FM

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SVARC Executive for 2014—2015

President: Ed Halliwell (VE3FHI) *ed.halliwell@live.ca*

Vice President: Doug Pearson (VE3HTR) *ve3htr@rac.ca*

Secretary: *position is currently vacant.*

Treasurer: Elizabeth Halliwell(VE3EZH) *liz_halliwell@hotmail.com*

Technical Advisor: Doug Pearson (VE3HTR)

Club Membership: Elizabeth Halliwell

SVARC Net Manager: Elizabeth Halliwell

Newsletter Editor / Publisher: Jim Richardson (VE3AFV)
ve3afv@pppoe.ca

ARES Coordinator: Earle DePass (VE3IMP) *earfran@cogeco.ca*



Seaway Valley Amateur Radio Club (SVARC) Inc.

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



Agenda

General (Monthly) Meeting
Wednesday May 27, 2015

New Location

St. John Ambulance HQ
Unit 2, 1001, Sydney St.
Cornwall ON

(Sydney St. between 10th and 11th St., across from Baxtrom's 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.)

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

Business Arising

Minutes of last meeting - Joe VE3ADB
Treasurers Report - Elizabeth VE3EZH
Net Controllers Report - Elizabeth VE3EZH
Newsletter Report - Jim VE3AFV
Miscellaneous Reports
 Repeater Report - Doug VE3HTR
 ARES Update - Earle VE3IMP
 Bike a Thon - Ed VE3EAH
 Basic Amateur Radio Course - Ed VE3EAH

New Business

Secretary Position Vacant
Event Schedule for 2015
 Field Day 2015
 Others
Other Items

Guest Speaker

To Be Announced on Monday's Net

09:30 PM Adjournment
Meeting ends.

Date, time and place of next meeting:

Wednesday, June 24, 2015 at 07:30 PM, **St. John Ambulance HQ**



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE MAY 2015

By the time you read this month's newsletter, another year of assisting the Children's Treatment Centre Bike-A-Thon Plus will be in the books. Now this past week has been pretty warm and I really thought that spring was here, but the weather man is calling for frost late this week and although it is supposed to be nice on Saturday for the event, morning temperatures are going to be in the low single digits. Where else but in Canada can you get frostbite and a sunburn in the same week. We will have 13 hams out for the event, a good turnout. Doug, HTR, has been scrambling to get a new APRS node up at the Bonville site and with any luck, Al Ross, VEDMR, will ride his APRS equipped bike back in from the last checkpoint as a sweep. We also have 3 other bicycle mobiles checking parts of the course between checkpoints. They include Art, VE3AIH, Suzan, VE3EXN, and Jim, VA3SPY. Others out for the event are Hal, VE3HWG, Elizabeth, VE3EZH, Hermanna, VE3UNV, Stan, VA3JSF, Gilbert, VE3CFS, John, VE3XAM, Doug, VE3HTR, Dave, VE3JLV, and myself.

The course is winding up as we had our last official lesson this week. Next week, we'll have a mock exam and review on Monday evening, followed up by the Exam on Thursday evening. So hopefully, we will have a new group of hams by the end of the month. It has been difficult for some as they have had job changes, relocations, and other events in their lives that has made taking this course a challenging experience. Please wish them good luck at the meeting next Wednesday.

As previously noted, Suzan has now received her new call, VE3EXN. Also, Matthew Crites (originally from Long Sault area) wrote his exam prior to finishing up the course with us and received his Basic License and call sign, VA2XMC. He will be re-writing with Earle to get his Basic with Honours.

I did call Eric Meth VE3EI, to inform him of our Club's decision to make him an Honorary Life Member of the Club. As discussed at the meeting Eric has supported this club with both hardware and moral support for many years. He was most appreciative of the gesture and thanks all of the Club members for this special award.

I'm probably forgetting something that I wanted to add to the newsletter, but the last few weeks have been pretty hectic around here. I don't know how we got everything done when we were both working.

Hope to see all of you at the meeting. 73

Ed (VE3EAH)



SEAWAY VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC.

PO Box 503

Cornwall, Ontario, K6H 5T2

Minutes of the General Meeting held at 7:30PM, April 29, 2015

St. John Ambulance HQ

Unit 2, 1001 Sydney St.

Cornwall, Ontario.

Present

18 members attended this meeting; Ed Halliwell (VE3FHI, VE3EAH) - President, Elizabeth Halliwell (VE3EZH) - Treasurer, Doug Pearson (VE3HTR) – Vice President, Stan Fortune (VA3JSF) – Acting Secretary, Don Hallberg (VE3HDN), Earle DePass (VE3IMP), Don Brownlee (VA3NC), Gilbert Boudreault (VE3CFS), Dave Bernard (VE3JLV), Hal Green (VE3HWG), Hermanna Noorthoek (VE3UNV), Andre Richer (VA3RDI) Art Horovitch (VE2AIH), Susan Horovitch (Pending), Brad Landreth (Student), Chris Lauzon (Student), Mike Johl (VE3AET), Hedi Johl (VE3AMA)

Opening

SVARC President Ed Halliwell called the meeting to order at 7:30PM

Old Business

Review and approval of minutes from our previous meeting of March 25, 2015: The minutes were read and summarized by Stan Fortune; several errors were noted, minutes to be revised for redistribution. Motion to approve with amendments by Earle (VE3IMP), seconded by Andre (VA3RDI), carried.

Reports

Treasurer's Report: Elizabeth Halliwell reported \$1,017.01 in the repeater fund and \$758.55 remains in general funds. Revenues from Iroquois Fleamarket this year amounted to \$51.00

Monday Night 2-Metre Net: Net manager Elizabeth Halliwell reported 89 check-ins to date for the month of April, 2014.

Newsletter Report: No report, just another great newsletter! Ed Halliwell will supply photos of the Raisin River Canoe Race for next issue.

Technical Report: Doug Pearson passed out an updated technical report advising the members of changes made in operational status of local repeaters. A brief discussion followed about the

noise experienced from time to time on VE3SVC, monitoring of two suspicious frequencies, 143.310 and 143.400 will take place again when the noise reoccurs.

Doug also reported that a new Yaesu Fusion DR1X repeater will be installed in the near future to replace the older Motorola unit currently installed at the CCH location. This is a club initiative to improve the reliability of VE3SVC

Earle DePass raised the question of reinstating the autopatch on VE3SVC, Doug replied that he would really like to install the autopatch on VE3MTA, a discussion followed as to the need for an autopatch at all and the technical requirements for a repeater to connect locally or internationally to other communication utilities such as Bell. Earle offered to assist with maintaining an operational installation.

APRS is currently installed in the CCH installation; it is limited in respect to the area it can service, so a newer multi-coupler will be added to the VE3MTA site to increase the geographical footprint of APRS coverage. Doug explained how Eric Meth (VE3EI) had donated a multi-coupler to the cause and Doug had retrofitted it to serve as an APRS unit. Doug hopes to complete the installation in time for the upcoming Children's Bike-A-Thon Plus.

DStar is currently connected to 18B on an ongoing basis, linking and unlinking is possible for local net use.

VE3ESD in Morrisburg is noisy due to a "non-standard antenna installation" Dave Bernard will raise the issue with the Iroquois Club. This repeater is still operational in its present condition.

Doug advised the members that a new UHF- DMR repeater will be installed in the near future which will operate as VA3EDG on a frequency of 442.400 and be located near Osnabruck Centre. The repeater and equipment has been procured and the site location has been approved. The DMR MARC group has assigned a designation of 302320 for linking. This is a private initiative by Dean Brush (VA3BS) and Doug Pearson (VE3HTR) but donations will be gratefully accepted.

ARES: Doug Pearson reported that a city wide test of the emergency radio infrastructure had been completed. While some installations were fine, a number of deficiencies in ARES and City installations were identified. Some small items were resolved immediately on site; other larger problems will require planning and possible replacement. In particular, items located at City Hall and the Benson Centre will require longer term solutions as the city will also be purchasing new antennas to install at these key locations in 2016.

Raisin River Canoe Race: Earle DePass reported that everyone was happy with the support of ARES at the race. This was the first time SD&G ARES offered multi organization support for Police, Fire, SJA and race organizers. Earle thanked all 14 participants for their support and interest.

Basic Course: Ed Halliwell reported that the course was moving along nicely and there is only 5 sessions left to complete. Testing will take place at a later date.

New Business:

Field Day: Ed Halliwell asked for suggestions for field day which is scheduled this year for June 27 & 28 / 2015. Ed asked the members to think about it and bring some suggestions to the next meeting.

Life Membership: Ed Halliwell moved a motion to make Eric Meth (VE3EI) an honorary lifetime member in recognition of the service and generosity he has shown SVARC over many years, seconded by Earle DePass, carried unanimously.

Children's Treatment Centre Bike-A-Thon: Ed Halliwell reminded everyone that SVARC will be participating in this year's event. Ed asked for volunteers for the May 23rd event.

St John Ambulance: Doug Pearson advised the membership that SJA is holding another electronic waste disposal day on May 9th 2015, all donations gratefully accepted.

Napal Emergency Net: Elizabeth Halliwell advised the members that Rob Fry had posted an article on Amateur Radio Emergency Communications in Napal.

International Plowing Match: Earle DePass reminded everyone that volunteers will be needed for the IPM event which runs from September 22nd to 26th, 2015 to staff the communications station.

MS Bike-A-Thon: Earle DePass reminded everyone that MS event takes place in August, volunteers needed.

Presentation

Art and Susan Horovitch shared their experiences of traveling in New Mexico this past winter. Art's passion for amateur radio compelled him to improvise a radio installation into the RV they travelled in. Art's presentation included a discussion of the types of equipment commonly used in mobile RV installations which identified various types of radios, antennas and power supplies that are well suited for this type of activity. The presentation also included installation tips for maintaining rig voltage at acceptable levels for operation while running on battery voltage, methods for fastening and anchoring various types of antennas, routing transmission cables and water proof enclosures as well as many other ideas for fastening components to prevent movement. Thanks Art and Susan, you have provided some of our club's RVers with ideas for future radio installations.

50/50 Draw: Hal Green won this evening's 50/50 draw, Hal graciously donated all funds to the repeater fund (Doug thanks you!).

Motion to adjourn by Andre (VA3RDI), seconded by Gilbert (VE3CFS)
Adjournment: 9:36 PM

Date, time and place of next meeting:

Wednesday, May 27, 2015
St. John Ambulance HQ; Unit 2, 1001 Sydney St.

Minutes recorded by; Stan Fortune (VA3JSF / VA3SCQ).

SVARC MONTHLY REPEATER STATUS REPORT – May 24th 2015

VE3SVC CORNWALL 147.180 +	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCC GE MASTR Exec II repeater receiver sensitivity out of tolerance replaced with backup repeater, Motorola R-1225 @ 35W power output • 147.780 MHz. Bandpass and 147.180 MHz. Reject Cavities inserted in receive signal path until duplexer can be removed for retuning • Alinco DM-330MV Power Supply fan, failing, replaced temporarily with spare • Autopatch, part of GE repeater controller, decommissioned • Backup Battery failed, not replaced as CCH emergency power is available • <u>New Yaesu Fusion DR-1X Repeater on order, with installation by summer*</u> • <u>Sinclair SRL 210-C2 to replace Diamond X-200 Antenna*</u> • <u>IRLP Node 2811 decommissioned*</u>
VE3VSW CORNWALL 444.800 +	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better coverage in Cornwall for portables than VE3MTA • <u>Sinclair SRL 310-C4 to replace Jetstream JTB-5 Antenna*</u>
VA3SDG D-STAR CORNWALL 145.570 – 444.450 +	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VA3SDG-C (VHF) 142.035 MHz. reject filter (cavity) inserted in receiver path • Reflector selection via DTMF and DPRS (www.aprs.fi) implemented • VA3SDG-C (VHF) normally connected to Reflector XRF018B for access to Ottawa D-STAR Community (VA3ODG, VA3AAR and Hotspots) • “#01802” to connect to XRF018B, “73” to Disconnect, “99” for Link Status
APRS DIGI CORNWALL 144.390	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range/coverage limited • <u>To be reconfigured as a “WIDE1-1” Fill-In APRS Digipeater to supplement VE3PGC Bonville APRS Digipeater*</u>
CCH REPEATER SITE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excess Heilax/coax coiled for future move results in unnecessary losses • 7th floor Penthouse renovations appear to be completed • <u>Sinclair SRL 210-C2 and 310-C4 to replace VE3SVC & VE3VSW antennas*</u>
APRS I-NODE CORNWALL 144.390	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>APRS Internet Gateway Node provided by Jim Dixon VE3XID*</u> • See: www.aprs.fi
APRS DIGI BONVILLE 144.390	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SRL C2037 Multicoupler Installed May 07, 2015 • Digipeater Installed May 20 - 22, 2015 • See: www.aprs.fi
VE3MTA BONVILLE 443.650 +	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asterisk Allstar Net Node 2579, Echolink VE3PGC-L Node 463095 • Hang (Tail) time reduced from 4.0 to 1.0 S. • *32+Asterisk Allstar Net node number • *33+ Echolink node number (pad to 6 digits by prepending 0's) • *0 = Disconnect Last, *71 = Master Disconnect, *80 = CWID, *81 = Say Time
VE3SVR MORRISBURG 146.760 –	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low ERP due to excessive duplexer and feedline insertion loss • Site inspection performed Feb. 06th • Replacement duplexer available, donated by John VA3RC from VA3EDG VHF, deferring installation until replacement transmission line is available
VA3ESD MORRISBURG 443.150 +	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced coverage due to non-standard antenna installation at site • Working well locally despite antenna deficiencies
VA3EDG DMR (MOTOTRBO) CORNWALL 442.100 +	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 146.955 VHF analog FM Decommissioned 2013 • 442.100 UHF DMR under construction • <u>Motorola XPR8400 MOTOTRBO DMR Repeater obtained and programmed*</u> • <u>Assigned DMR-MARC Repeater Identification Number (DMR ID) 302320*</u> • <u>Two SRL C-3037 UHF Multicouplers donated (VE3EI), waiting for installation</u> • <u>Site negotiations ongoing for Christie & Walther Osnabruck Neville Rd. site*</u>

* denotes a change from previous report

Cornwall Area Amateur VHF/UHF Repeaters

Call Sign	Transmit Frequency	Receive Frequency	CTCSS (TPL) Required	Location	Features and Status
VE3SVC-1 *	144.390	144.390	None – AX.25	Cornwall ON	APRS (www.aprs.fi)
VE3PGC-1*	144.390	144.390	None – AX.25	Bonville ON	APRS (www.aprs.fi)
VE3YGM	145.170	144.570	None – CSQ	Cornwall ON	Low Power – Private
VE3IRO	145.290	144.690	100.0 (1Z)	Iroquois ON	
VE3OJE	145.370	144.770	None – CSQ	Moose Creek ON	Status Unknown
VA3SDG-C *	145.570	144.970	None – DSTAR	Cornwall ON	DPRS (www.aprs.fi)
VE2REX	146.685	146.085	100.0 (1Z)	Covey Hill QC	
VE3SVR *	146.760	146.160	110.9 (2Z)	Morrisburg ON	
VE2RWC	146.805	146.205	100.0 (1Z)	Brownsburg QC	Status Unknown
VE3IWJ	146.820	146.220	100.0 (1Z)	Brockville ON	
VE2CRA	146.940	146.340	100.0 (1Z)	Old Chelsea QC	
VA3EDG	146.955	146.355	110.9 (2Z)	Cornwall ON	Decommissioned 2013
VA3NDC	146.970	146.370	100.0 (1Z)	Winchester ON	
VE2RM	147.000	146.400	None – CSQ	Mont-Rigaud QC	
NG2C	147.090	147.690	None – CSQ	Malone NY	
VE3SVC *	147.180	147.780	110.9 (2Z)	Cornwall ON	
WB2RYB	147.225	147.825	None – CSQ	Malone NY	
VE2REH**	147.525**	145.670 **	131.8 (3B)	Lancaster ON	Linked to VE2REH UHF
VE2RM	224.980	223.380	None – CSQ	Mont-Rigaud QC	
VA3EDG	442.100	447.100	None – DMR	Ingleside ON	Under Construction
VE3PGC	443.000	448.000	110.9 (2Z)	Bonville ON	Decommissioned 2010
VE3TYF	443.050	448.050	151.4 (5Z)	Moose Creek ON	Status Unknown
VA3ESD	443.150	448.150	110.9 (2Z)	Morrisburg ON	
VE3MTA *	443.650	448.650	110.9 (2Z)	Bonville ON	AllStar 2579, EchoLink 463095 via VE3PGC-L
VE2REH	444.150	449.150	110.9 (2Z)	Lancaster ON	Linked to VE2REH VHF
VA3SDG-B *	444.450	449.450	None – DSTAR	Cornwall ON	DPRS (www.aprs.fi)
NG2C	444.650	449.650	110.9 (2Z)	Malone NY	
VE3VSW *	444.800	449.800	110.9 (2Z)	Cornwall ON	
VE3AZX	445.850	445.850	None – DSTAR	Cornwall ON	Simplex DStar Hotspot
VA2REX-B	448.325	443.325	None – DSTAR	Covey Hill QC	
VE2CYH	448.525	443.525	None – DMR	Covey Hill QC	DMR Color Code 1

* Operated or sponsored by Seaway Valley Amateur Radio Club and/or SD&G ARES

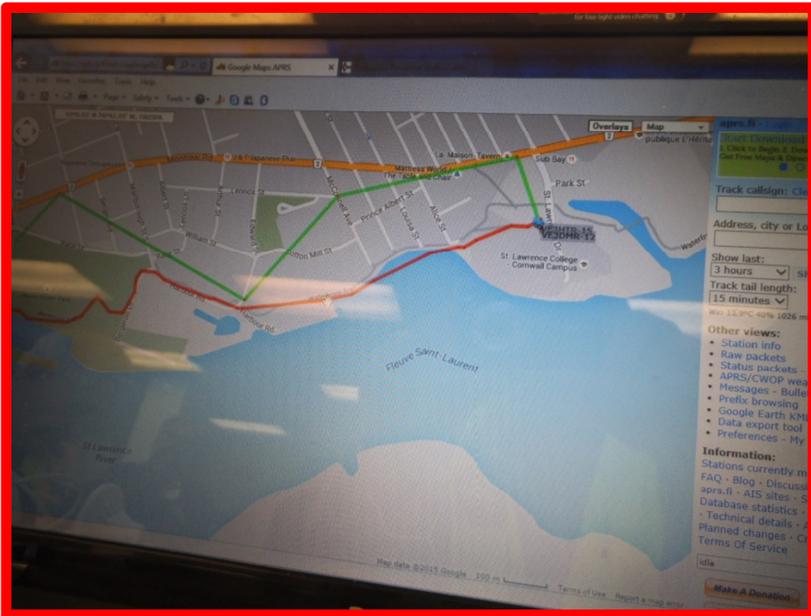
** VE2REH VHF Lancaster uses a non-standard offset (Tx/Rx split) of –1.855 MHz.

All others use standard offsets of ± 600 KHz. (144), –1.600 MHz. (220) and ± 5.00 MHz. (440)

CSQ = Carrier Squelch, no CTCSS tone required. TPL = Tone Private Line (Motorola©)

Children's Treatment Center Bike-A-Thon

The event went well with no significant injuries or problems to report.



The picture is a screen shot of Al's sweep of the course, close to the College using APRS.

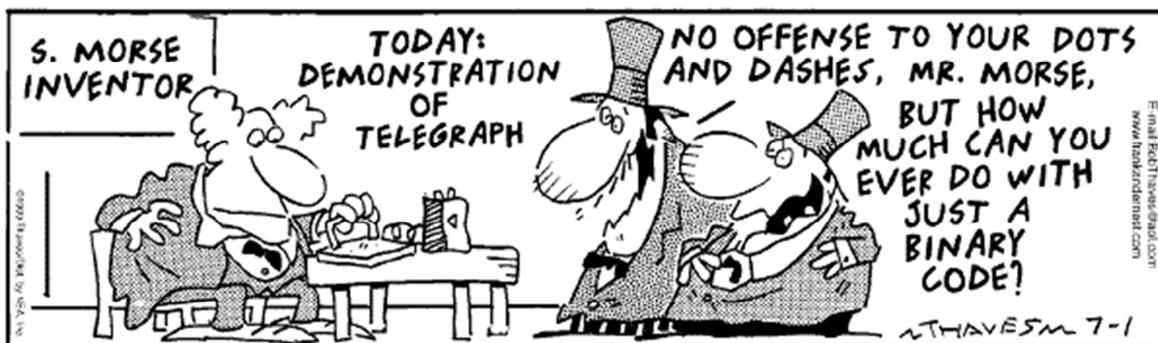
His track is in red while Doug's track in a van is in green.



Group Pic.

Back row left to right; John VE3XAM, Ed VE3EAH, Al Ross VE3DMR, Doug VE3HTR, Stan VA3JSF, and Gilbert VE3CFS

Front row left to right; Art VE3AIH, Suzan VE3EXN, and Elizabeth VE3EZH.



AUTOMATION OF HAM RADIO -- I DON'T GET IT

Chuck Hallett (K4SC) on May 2, 2015

(Edited by J. Richardson)



2015 marks fifty years since I received my Novice License (WN7EGZ). I was twelve years old when I took the tests at my Elmer's shack.

A lot has changed since then, but in my mind at least, a lot probably should still be the same.

Operating the receiver, transmitter and antenna switch were as much a part of the experience as the actual conversation that occurred during the QSO.



I liked toggling the antenna switch to change the dipole from the RME-45B receiver to the Knight T-60 transmitter, then turning on the B+ to enable the T-60 and finally pressing the key to begin my side of the QSO.

When I had finished my side, I reversed the whole process and received a reply, confirming that somehow I had magically disturbed the ether in such a way as to communicate my name, age, QTH, RST, rig, etc. to someone hundreds to thousands of miles away. This was 1965 remember, we were still four years from landing a man on the moon.

Of course transceivers are now the norm and much of the manual action I described is reduced to the PTT switch, or VOX; I still use PTT.



What got me started on this nostalgic journey is the ever-increasing automation of ham radio. I just read a post from someone lamenting the fact that they had to manually disable their linear amplifier each time their "Automatic" antenna tuner needed to tweak the SWR, otherwise they would inflict damage on the tuner if it cycled at full-power. Of course someone responded, "There is an App for that." -- Actually a hardware/software solution.

That got me back to automated QSOs where the name, state, locator, rig, WX, canned RST etc. are transmitted and logged at the push of a button; no operator technique involved other than perhaps the speed of pushing the button and typing the returned information into an electronic log. Of course on the digital modes we also transmit and receive the computer brand, speed, OS, Digital Software, etc.

I will admit that I am not a Contester. From my hands off observation of contesting I do understand that time is money or points and automation is a competitive advantage. It just seems like we are gradually losing the part of the process that we should derive satisfaction from; human interaction. Maybe that is why a hearing a voice calling just plain "CQ," someone looking for a ragchew QSO is so rare these days.



Chuck K4SC; (member Ragchewers Club since 1966)

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Reply by W2UIS on May 2, 2015

“Technology has improved the Amateur Radio experience, always has and always will. What is nice is we choose how we want to operate. Today all my operation is D-Star.”

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Reply by K0TNT on May 2, 2015

This was predicted a long time ago: *“I fear the day that technology will surpass our human interaction. The world will have a generation of idiots”.* - Albert Einstein

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(Editor’s note: This article has generated a lot of discussion on eham.net, with many Hams agreeing that too much automation and advanced equipment has denigrated the hobby. Conversely, many have argued that the advances have opened up many new opportunities for exploration and experimentation.)



SEAWAY VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (SVARC) INC.
c/o 4672 O'Keefe Rd. St. Andrews W. On. K0C2A0

Website: www.svarc.ca

Membership / Renewal Application - 2015

Name: _____ Callsign: _____

Address: _____

Street (Line 1)

Street (Line 2)

City

Postal Code

E-Mail address: _____

Telephone: _____

Interests: _____

Radio Amateurs of Canada Member: Yes _____ No _____ Membership Number: _____

Please give us some suggestions as to what programs you would like to see in the SVARC:

- Our monthly meetings take place at 7:30 PM on the last Wednesday of each month (excluding July and August) in the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess of the Cornwall Armory, 505 - 4th Street East, Cornwall, Ontario.
- Our weekly 2-Metre net takes place each Monday on VE3SVC (147.180+ MHz; CTCSS 110.9 Hz.) at 7:00 PM local time, followed by a 70CM net on VE3MTA (443.650+ MHz. CTCSS 110.9 Hz.)
- Our coffee klatch takes place on the 1st, -3rd (and sometimes 5th) Saturdays of each month at 09:00 AM. Location is currently: -Spinners Diner Pitt Street , Cornwall.

***** Annual Fee for new and returning members to the Seaway Valley Amateur Radio Club is 25.00 for 2015 (Pending Approval). Please bring your cheque /cash to our meeting on Sept. 24 2014 (please read the bulletin for explanation of Dues for this year)

Please mail your application/renewal form, membership fee and a small contribution (amount of your own choosing) for the Repeater Fund to: **Elizabeth Halliwell**, SVARC Treasurer at the address listed above.

Your voluntary contribution (in any amount) to the Repeater Fund is used exclusively for the ongoing maintenance and upgrading of our VHF and UHF repeaters.