

SVARC GAP

SEAWAY VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P.O. BOX 462, CORNWALL, ONTARIO K6H 5T2

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 4, - SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER, 1993

DUMMY LOAD

Greetings from your former Vice President ! As most of you are aware, Jacques d'Avignon VE3VIA resigned as President of the club effective June 30, 1993. By this time Jacques and his family should be settled into their new home in Kingston, Ont. That means I inherit the job of President, "Dummy Load" column and all. I hope I can continue in the tradition begun by VE3VIA.

On Saturday, August 7, 1993, a few close friends gathered to bid farewell to Jacques and his wife Michelle. A plaque was presented on behalf of the club by yours truly, expressing our appreciation, with text in both official languages courtesy of Richard Lemay VE3SPD. Some of the more memorable events during Jacques term as President were recounted, for example, the first executive meeting he called during the club Christmas dinner in December, 1991. Those of you present on that occasion may remember the adjournment of the executive to the men's washroom of the China Inn to seek a quieter spot in which to conduct club business. Jacques was not afraid to try a creative solution to a problem!

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We are still looking for a regular SVARC GAP newsletter editor. Until someone steps forward and agrees to take on this task, the newsletter will continue to be published on an irregular basis. I plan to produce one more issue for Nov. / Dec. 1993, prior to the November Annual Meeting. After this, an editor for the newsletter is a concern the new executive will have to address.

This brings me to the subject of election of a new club Executive Committee. The two year term of the present executive is nearly over, and the by-laws require that an election be held for new officers at the Annual meeting in November of this year. A nomination committee will have to be appointed at the September 13th meeting, and I am required to be part of that committee. Nominations will be accepted by the committee up to the October 4th meeting, and from the floor at that meeting. So give some thought to who you would like to see as the next President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer (or Secretary/Treasurer).

Our club's Field Day 93 was a success, at least technically. Participation left something to be desired. Be sure to read VE3KCP's detailed report on page 5. On the Sunday morning Bob MacSween VE3KCP and myself paid a visit to the Upper Canada Amateur Radio Friends Field Day site organized by Rob Fry VE3ARF. This may sound like a simple matter until you realize that their site was on Colquhoun Island in the middle of the St. Lawrence River! I leave it to your imagination to visualize VE3KCP and myself negotiating the mighty St. Lawrence in an eleven foot Zodiac inflatable boat. The trip was worthwhile however, when we saw our youngest member, Matt Purdy VE3PMX working and almost hidden by the largest of the nine radios in operation at the time. The nearly empty whiskey bottle perched on top of Matt's rig went unexplained. Unfortunately Bob was not able to capture this moment in history as his camera did not survive the voyage.

73 until next time. **Doug Pearson, VE3HTR**

VE3SVC UHF REPEATER STATUS REPORT

Many of you have asked when our UHF repeater will become operational. This is a fair question, since the transmitter and receiver were presented to the club by Eric VE3EI back in December 92 at the SVARC Christmas dinner. Also, the Diamond X-500 VHF/UHF antenna donated by Seaway Communications has been installed and in use on 147.180 / 147.780 since November 1992.

Well, I can assure you that a transmitter, receiver and antenna do not a repeater make! Seaway Communications once again came to our rescue by supplying an Astron 20 A power supply, and a Diawa VHF/UHF Diplexer which will permit the dual-band antenna to serve two repeater systems. A repeater controller had to be found that could co-exist with the existing Maggiorie controller (which, after all was bought for the old vacuum tube VHF repeater). And linking two repeaters employing two different controllers is not a trivial task. The issue of control code conflicts alone is a giant headache.

I'm happy to report that the last major item required to implement our UHF repeater is on its way to us. The new Sinclair SQ-3220B UHF Duplexer should be on display at the next (Sept. 13) meeting. The low power mobile duplexer previously donated to the club was considered inadequate, and the proceeds from its sale were applied to the cost of the new duplexer. Also, the receiver, transmitter and controller are repackaged into a rack mount unit requiring half the original rack space. Graham VE3IGM is presently completing the chassis wiring of this unit. Once this is done the VHF repeater will have to be removed from service for a short time in order to integrate the two repeaters. The rack cabinet at the Hotel Dieu Hospital site is going to get very crowded and will also require some work.

In view of this, an optimistic target date is mid October to correspond with the next St. Lawrence Valley Repeater Council meeting. In reality however, considering the amount of work left to do, I would not expect to see the UHF repeater operational much before Christmas 1993.

I would like to remind the membership that this project was funded primarily by the support of our corporate sponsors, IES Communications and Seaway Communications, and no special UHF Repeater fund raising was necessary at the user / member level. The club was able to absorb the remaining costs primarily because of the revenue generated by our training activities and by our Hamfest held this past June.

BASIC AMATEUR COURSE

Once again the Seaway Valley Amateur Radio Club will be offering a Basic Amateur Radio Course. This fall's course will start Tuesday, September 21, with classes every Tuesday and Thursday from 7:00 to 10:00 PM. The exam and last night of the course will be Thursday November 25. We are trying this new compressed format after many students commented that they had difficulty remembering at the end of the course material covered four months earlier!

Main instructors for the fall session are Dave Holford VE3HLU, Bob MacSween VE3KCP and Doug Pearson VE3HTR. All classes will be at Transport Canada Training Institute, 1950 Montreal Rd., Cornwall. This is an ideal location for the course now that the TCTI station VE3MTA is operational once again. (See the related story below.)

Cost of the course is still \$85.00, including the new RAC text book, and a one year membership in the Seaway Valley Amateur Radio Club. Additionally, the club will pay for the first year D.O.C. Radio Station License provided the student passes the exam on the first try. It's actually quite a good deal.

If any of your family or friends have shown an interest in becoming a radio amateur, here is your opportunity to get them started. It even makes a fine gift. And I know of more than one household that had a shiny new 2 Metre portable transceiver wrapped up under the tree last Christmas morning, just waiting for a newly licensed amateur to find it.

For more information on the course, or to pre-register, contact:

Doug Pearson (VE3HTR)
937-4755

MORSE CODE (CW) COURSE

Also planned is a Morse Code (CW) course starting Thursday, September 23. Sessions will be every Thursday evening from 7:00 to 10:00 PM, and course duration is pretty much up to the individual, since each person learns the code at their own rate. Course instructors are John Wood VE3WFJ and Bob MacSween VE3KCP.

Cost for the CW Course is \$30.00 and includes a one year membership (or renewal) in the club. Not bad considering membership is currently \$25.00 per year! Again, contact Doug VE3HTR.

REMINDER !

The next regular meeting of the Seaway Valley Amateur Radio Club will be held on:

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 13, 1993

7:30 PM, Cornwall Armouries, Fourth Street West, Cornwall, Ont. Beginning in October, meetings will return to the **first Monday** of the month, same time and place.

ODXA - DX ONTARIO

Another of our members is now an internationally published author! See page 4 for a reprint of an article by Jim Devine VE3ZPT and published in "DX ONTARIO", the monthly magazine of ODXA. The Managing Director of ODXA (and an old friend) Harold Sellers VE3SSH has addressed our club in the past. ODXA concentrates primarily on the short-wave portion of the spectrum below 30 MHz., but also carries a monthly "SCANNING VHF/UHF" column conducted by Robert Ing. Jim VE3ZPT is a regular contributor to this column, and this time focuses on the unique opportunities available in the Cornwall area for the VHF / UHF receiver owner.

For more information on ODXA, contact:

Ontario DX Association
P.O. Box 161, Station "A"
Willowdale, Ont. M2N 5S8

EASTERN ONTARIO SWAP NET

Just a reminder that Eric Meth VE3EI conducts the Eastern Ontario Swap Net each Monday evening (except meeting nights) following the regular net. Listings are Ontario wide and are gathered from a variety of sources. Your listings will also be distributed across Ontario via packet. Be sure to tune in.



SVARC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Here is the roster for the elected and appointed members of the club executive committee, effective September 1993:

President: Doug Pearson VE3HTR
Vice President: *** vacant ***
Secretary: Gail MacDonald VE3WGM
Treasurer: Graham MacDonald VE3IGM
Net Manager: Marc Tessier VE3TES
Newsletter Editor: *** vacant ***
Training Manager: Robert MacSween VE3KCP

The executive normally meets at 7:30 PM, Monday one week prior to the general meeting, at the Miss Cornwall Restaurant, Brookdale Mall, Cornwall. These meetings are open to all members. Time and date are subject to change but will be announced on the Monday night Net.

VE3MTA BACK ON THE AIR !

Most of you are probably aware that the Transport Canada Training Institute in Cornwall has long had an amateur radio station for visiting students who are licensed hams, and you may have wondered why the antenna on the roof of the residence disappeared. No, VE3MTA was not shut down, just relocated. The old station was limited to the 20, 15 and 10 M bands due to having only a triband beam located at the end of 290 ft. of coax. Adding additional coax runs was not possible as the conduit shared with the cable TV system was already full.

Last fall the station was dismantled and relocated near the back of the building on the top floor near the base of the new 40 ft. Delhi tower. Now all cables run in our own conduit and are 100 ft. in length or less. We now have a Cushcraft A3S triband beam, an 80/40 inverted vee, a UHF discone and a Cushcraft Ringo Ranger for VHF. Radio equipment includes a Yaesu 2m mobile, Kenwood 440SAT for HF, a Kantronics KAM for digital modes and a Kenwood phone patch. Future plans call for VHF/UHF all-mode equipment, a computer to call our own for the KAM, and a telephone!

This relocation, particularly the antenna installation would not have taken place without the unpaid assistance of numerous staff and student amateurs, all volunteering their time after regular working hours. Besides the benefits to future amateurs visiting TCTI, our club will gain much from having an actual amateur radio station available for use during the Basic Amateur Radio Course.



SCANNING VHF/UHF

Robert S. Ing, 1170 Bay St., Suite 102, Toronto, Ontario M5S 2B4

This column is devoted to monitoring frequencies from 30 MHz to 1 GHz. These frequencies are used throughout Ontario by emergency services, private business, utility companies, and government. If you have a question, need a frequency identified, or would like to share some interesting frequencies or scanner information, this is your column.

THIS month we have two articles from James R. Devine and Bruce Doney.

SCANNING THE CORNWALL-EASTERN ONTARIO REGION by James R. Devine

The Cornwall-Eastern Ontario region presents some unique monitoring anomalies. The region is the entry point for 75 to 90 percent of all the smuggled cigarettes in Canada with the value of contraband goods approaching a billion dollars a year. This activity is challenged by a unique and very active RCMP cadre known as the ASU or Anti-Smuggling Unit who pursue these well financed and armed criminals. The region has the only Canada Customs point with full bulletproof glass, and an armed, permanent contingent of RCMP and OPP officers.

The Akwasasne Mohawk Indian reservation is policed and governed by five separate federal, provincial, and state jurisdictions in addition to Canadian Native Police and dual councils. Akwasasne is also the home to a faction of the militant Warrior Society who use amateur, citizen's band, and other radios to conduct their business. This was the site of the 1990 Gambling War which involved about 500 Canadian and American police, and 500 Canadian Regular and Reserve soldiers on internal peace keeping operations.

The region offers exciting aero monitoring due to its proximity to the Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto, and Mirabel airports, and the Plattsburgh, and Griffiss U.S. Air Force Bases in New York State. Transportation monitoring in the region includes two major railway lines in the Montreal-Windsor corridor, international and interprovincial motor transport on Highway 401, the Canadian and U.S. Coast Guard, and commercial maritime traffic on the St. Lawrence Seaway.

As you can see there will be no problem filling the memory of a high capacity scanner for this region. Here's a short list of some of the most interesting listening targets in the Cornwall and Eastern Ontario area:

- 141.585 Hawkesbury Police
- 142.035 Cornwall Police - TAC 2 \Primary
- 142.770 Cornwall Police - TAC 1 \OPC Common
- 154.130 All SD&G Fire Departments - F1
- 154.665 N.Y. State Police - Mobiles
- 154.695 N.Y. State Police - Raybrook
- 154.755 Jefferson & Watertown Police
- 154.785 Cornwall Fire Department - F2 \Primary
- 154.905 N.Y. State Police - Malone \Base
- 155.115 St. Lawrence Sheriff's Department - N.Y.
- 155.380 RCMP Cornwall & Customs Detail - TAC 2
- 155.385 RCMP Cornwall & Customs Detail - TAC 1
- 163.625 U.S. Border Patrol - St. Albans, Vt.
- 164.9625 St. Lawrence Seaway Authority
- 170.730 St. Lawrence Seaway Authority
- 171.390 Revenue Canada Customs & Excise - Local Low Power
- 413.1125 Transport Canada Training Institute (TCTI) - F1 \Security
- 413.1875 TCTI Campus Services & Cleaners - F3
- 413.3625 TCTI Telecommunications Technicians - F4
- 417.6750 TCTI Engineering & Repeater Input (Output 412.6750) - F2
- 422.1000 RCMP Anti-Smuggling Unit (ASU) - G4
- 427.7375 RCMP Joint Operations with QPF (SQ) - C2

Send us scanning profiles of your area.

28 DX ONTARIO/August 1993

Preparations for field day began almost 3 months ago with the announcement that Jim Devine VE3ZPT would be our field day coordinator. With this resounding vote of support, our club demonstrated their total commitment to the success of this project. As time drew near to field day, the support so freely given at our meetings seemed to vaporize into thin air. Let me say it clearly...The turnout for this event was poor. This club has over 70 members yet only 12 participated in a significant way. Our field day site was excellent! We had a large 4 section modular tent for the radio equipment. There were plenty of tables and chairs which lined the sides of the tent. There was enough room in that tent to hold a barn dance after we got the equipment installed. There were 5 HF radio systems and the makings for 7 antennae present, however we decided that there were sufficient operators for only 4 radios, so we kept one radio in reserve in case another failed. The antenna systems consisted of two dipoles and two verticals. There was a complete packet station including an AT computer and VHF voice station. The power for the site was provided by a 3 KW gas generator. Each position was equiped with a light and a battery operated clock for logging. There was a food table, complete with doughnuts and soft drinks for everyone. Present were coffee, a drip machine, cups, filters, cream, sugar and stir sticks however no one thought of bringing a jug of water, so we had to go without coffee. A large cooler and ice kept everything cold. Insect control was not much of a problem as we closed up the ends of the tent. We then lit two pails of citronella, and 5 mosquito smoke coils. The smoke was so thick, you could have cut it with a knife. I regret to say that there was a fire at Andy's position. This didn't fizz Andy.. He just kept going and finished the contact ...then he put out the fire. A mosquito coil fell on a sheet of paper and set it ablaze. None of us thought to use one of the three fire extinguishers we brought. The frogs in the near-by pond were very big and very loud. Someone mentioned that they may be having their own field day. A special mention to Andy who ran a natural power station. His battery for the event was charged with solar energy, from the day before. All of his CW contacts were done on the battery, and he never used our generator system at all. 153 CW contacts....not bad at all!!!!

The field day call (VE3VSW) was a real winner, just listen...."CQ FIELD DAY CQ FIELD DAY THIS IS VICTOR ECHO THREE VICTOR SIERRA WHISKEY VICTOR ECHO THREE **VERY STRONG WHISKEY CALLING CQ FIELD DAY AND STANDING BY**" The "Very Strong Whiskey" suffix seemed to attract them like flies, and I am certain that this helped improve our number of contacts.

Primary operators, Jim Devine VE3ZPT, Doug Pearson VE3HTR, Mike Forbes VE3XFF, Hermanna Noorthoek VE3UNV, Robert Mac Sween VE3KCP, Andy VE2EM, Males Dyer VE3AP and Richard Lemay VE3SPD. Special Thanks to Jacques d'Avignon VE3VIA, Tim Smith VE3HCB, John Wood VE3WFJ and Jim Devine's wife for their help setting up and tearing down the tent and equipment. Visitors included, John Vining VE3XJV, Ron Shearer VE3KCV, Elaine Fortin VE3UXZ and Johanne Battah VE3UYA, Jim VE3UFN, and lots of kids who even tried the VHF equipment. Hams who brought and shared their HF radio equipment, VE3KCP, VE3UNV, VE3HTR, VE2EM, and VE3XFF. VE3SPD brought his complete packet setup, and so did VE3KCP.

I must say that this field day would not have been possible without the excellent help and support that was given by Jim Devine VE3ZPT. Thanks Jim for a job well done. I would also like to thank the Stormont, Dundas, and Glengary Highlanders for their support, it was simply marvelous.

As an instructor on our basic amateur radio courses, I have a strong interest in getting our newer members exposed to field day. The reason I got involved was to provide to the newest members of this club an opportunity to try HF and promote this side of the hobby. There were no members from our last course present.

We succeeded in providing an excellent field day operation to our older and more experienced members. The field day site was set up so that any amateur could show up, walk in and operate. What could be easier? I was hoping that our older members would show up and teach the newer and younger members how to operate the radio equipment properly. This simply did not happen. Given the poor turnout by our club membership, it was mentioned that "There was no need to do this again". I agree with that comment. I am disappointed after seeing how many members voted in support of field day verses how many actually showed up. Let's not forget the poor showing for field day last year (no disrespect to Rob Fry's group who graciously hosted our club). I am convinced that interest in field day simply does not exist. I will not support any future efforts by this club to put a field day station on the air. Fear not, our well deserved reputation as an incorporated collection of complainers and talkers is intact.

VE3VSW 4A ONT
Points Summary
Your field day reporter,

CW 153*4
Phone 326*2
Robert Mac Sween

612
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VE3KCP