



February 2022 Newsletter

Seaway Valley Amateur Radio Club

The **Seaway Valley Amateur Radio Club** is a 'not for profit' organization incorporated in the Province of Ontario that promotes Amateur Radio and provides emergency communications in Cornwall and surrounding area. The Club's mailing address is 4672 O'Keefe Road, St. Andrews West, ON. K0C 2A0.

The **Seaway Valley Amateur Radio Club** operates several repeaters in Cornwall and surrounding area. VE3SVC is a VHF analog FM repeater operating on 147.180 + and a tone of 110.9 Hz. Also, on VHF is VA3SDG, a Yaesu Fusion digital C4FM and analog FM repeater on 145.570 – and a tone of 110.9 Hz. On UHF, VE3PGC, 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, including D-Star and DMR, see the Repeater Page of our website at SVARC.ca.

- **President:** Earle DePass (VE3IMP)
- **Vice-President:** Joe Scott (VE3ADB)
- **Secretary:** Roger Bélanger (VA3GBV)
- **Treasurer:** Chris Lauzon (VA3CRR)
- **Technical Director:** Doug Pearson (VE3HTR)
- **Net Manager:** Joe Scott (VE3ADB)
- **ACS Coordinator:** Earle DePass (VE3IMP)
- **Newsletter:** Roger Bélanger (VA3GBV)
- **Past President:** Larry Giguere (VA3RSQ)

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President's Message

SVARC Presidents Message

January 15, 2022

Being an Optimist, I keep saying that winter is almost over. Despite the continued cold, the longer days provide a bit of a hint of this.

Welcome to Joe Scott as our new Net Manager. I am confident that our Monday night Nets will continue to go well under his watch. Joe has also undertaken to arrange for some club jackets...a very nice initiative.

Our January 26, 2022 "virtual" meeting went well. The "DMR 101" presentation by René was most informative. Yesterday's news showing the lifting of the 10-person limit reflecting the ongoing COVID / Omicron situation is very encouraging. However, since the arrangement has already been made with St. John Ambulance, we will maintain a "virtual" presence for our meeting of Feb. 23, 2022. That meeting promises to be interesting with John Grow as our Guest Speaker speaking on "High Performance Wire Antennae". However, I really hope to see

you "in-person" at our March 30, 2022 meeting.

By the time this goes to print, we will have held our third Fox Hunt, now planned for Feb. 19, 2022, following the one-week delay. Despite the cold, the Hunt again promises to be a lot of fun and quite educational for those who participate.

Our second Coffee Klatch this year on Feb. 5th, 2022, at *The Village Diner* was most enjoyable. Thanks to the five who came out to enjoy some fellowship.

To those who usually join us, thank you for your continued participation in our Monday night nets. For those going South for the rest of the winter, "safe travels".

Murray MacDonnell (formerly VE3XLJ) has confirmed that he will be leaving the area on March 4, 2022. Again, we wish him well.



Happy HAMming!

73,

Earle DePass (VE3IMP)
President SVARC (2022-2024)



Note from the Editor

Hi to all.

Winter Blues

January and February were some of the coldest months we had in years, and I am glad it is over. I had some tower work to be done, but not in minus 30! On the bright side, the worst of winter is behind now, I think...

There are interesting links to browse contributed by René, VA3RIA:

Please see the section "Interesting links on page 13.

Please do not forget to renew your membership for 2022. There is a new fillable form on the membership page of the website, just fill it on-line and email it, no printing, handfilling, no scanning, no snail mailing.

Please send me your material for the newsletter, bio's, your other hobby, pictures of your shack, projects,

equipment reviews, good stories, it is all interesting

Here is a note from Doug (VE3HTR)



This predates the "Stamp Out Sideband, Bring Back AM." bumper stickers of the 50's and 60's.

Doug Pearson

See you all next month. Until then stay safe, stay warm wherever you are.





**Earle
VE3IMP**

ACS Report

The SD&G RAC Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS) Group [Formerly ARES]

Monthly Report For January 2022

Seaway Valley Amateur Radio Club (SVARC) Inc.:

The SD&G RAC Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS) Group [Formerly ARES] is associated with the SVARC. The SVARC held its first meeting of the year “virtually” by Zoom on Jan. 26, 2022. René Champagne (VA3RIA) who was our Guest Speaker spoke very well on “DMR 101”.

Repeater Checks: (Ongoing):

The SVARC weekly net is conducted first on VE3SVC (147.180MHz. +). Checks are then made by switching the Net to the VE3PGC (UHF) repeater where first an EchoLink check is performed. A check is also performed on DMR, Ch. 2 or VE3VSW. This process confirms the serviceability of nearby *Seaway Valley Amateur Radio Club* (SVARC) repeater systems at least once a week, should they be required by the RAC Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS). On average there are 25 total check-ins. The weekly reporting system has been enhanced to show the names and callsigns as those who check in. This as opposed to just recording the number of weekly check ins.

Our AECs are:

1. Murray MacDonell (VE3XLJ), Acting AEC, North Glengarry,

2. Hal Green (VE3HWG), South Glengarry,
3. Stan Fortune (VA3JSF), South Stormont,
4. Ed Halliwell (VE3EAH), South Stormont,
5. Doug Pearson (VE3HTR), City of Cornwall,
6. Rick Palmer (VA3EV), City of Cornwall,
7. Art Horovitch (VE3AIH), City of Cornwall.

City Of Cornwall ARES Interface:

There still has not been any response from either Leighton Woods LWoods@cornwall.ca (Alternate CEMC for the City of Cornwall) or Jeff Weber (CEMC) to further discuss ARES support for the City of Cornwall.

Alexandria and South Glengarry ARES Projects:

There has not been any response from either North Glengarry Fire Chief - Matthew Roy or Dave Robertson, Fire Chief and Acting Director of Recreation and Facilities for South Glengarry to our offer of support for the ACS communications initiative.

Field Day 2022 Plans:

The SVARC has confirmed that the Club will participate in Field Day. We have been approved to host this at *The Lost Villages*, Long Sault, Ontario.

Earle DePass, (VE3IMP)
Group Coordinator (GC),
RAC Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS)
Group / [Formerly ARES]



Art's Corner

Art
VE3AIH



Hi to all,

Here's what I saw in the RAC weekly bulletin. (Paul Caccamo)

Cat on a hot satellite dish: Elon Musk's Starlink antenna hits surprise problem

Starlink's satellite internet performance has fallen victim to felines attracted to the warmth its dish gives off on cold days. A customer tweeted a photo of five cats huddled on his Starlink dish, which links homes to more than a

thousand satellites, and noted that the presence of the furtive felines had slowed his internet performance.

"Starlink works great until the cats find out that the dish gives off a little heat on cold days," Aaron Taylor said. After the photo was widely shared online, Taylor clarified that the cats had taken to the dish by choice, rather than necessity. "They have a heated cat house, with water and food, but -25C and they decide to sit on the Starlink dish. When the sun goes down, they head back to their house," he said. Taylor said the cats' attraction to his Starlink dish interrupted movie streaming and affected internet speed. "Doesn't shut it down completely but definitely slows everything down" also said he planned to move the dish from the ground to a higher location. 🐱

Show and Tell

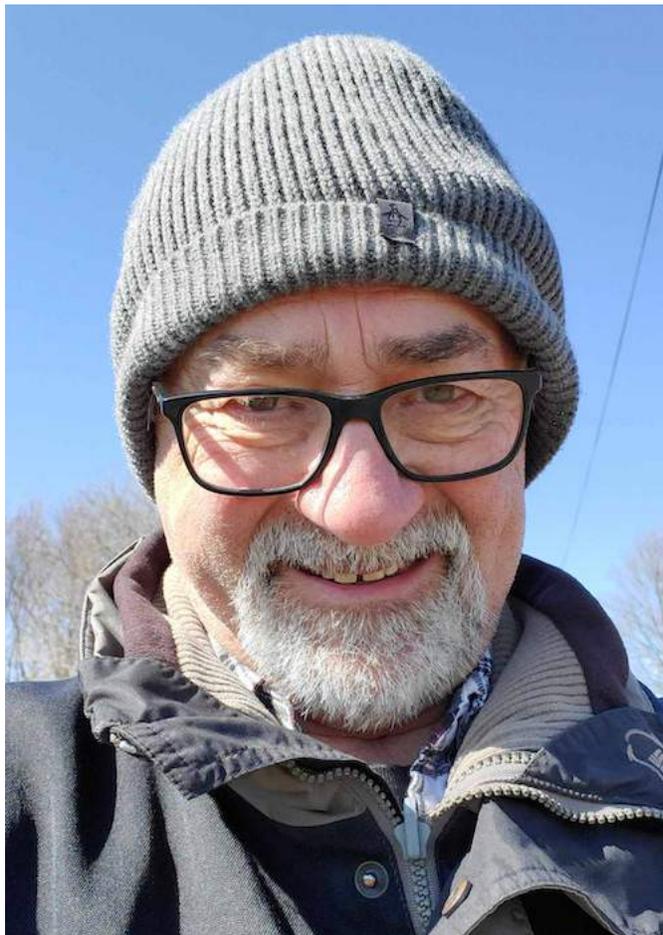
February Fox Hunt, February 20

Well this one did not go too well.

The weather of the past few days was very bad with lots of snow and high winds.

The hunt was scheduled for Saturday the 19th, but had to be postponed to Sunday because blowing snow and bad road conditions.

That must ha discouraged a few participants as only Murray, VE1LJ and me ,VA3GBV showed-up.



Art, VE3AIH, set the Fox at 1:00 pm but somehow my HT started acting up and the reception was intermittent and we could not get a reliable bearing. We tried the antenna with Murray's mobile radio in his car. The

antenna cable being only 6 feet, it was difficult to get a bearing with the antenna inches away from the car.

Eventually we had to give up and went to pick-up the Fox where Art told us it was.

When I got there my truck died. The starter got toast!

The next Picture tells the rest of the story:



We will do better next time!

February 5 Coffee Klatch



From left to right:

Hal (VE3HWG), Roger (VA3GBV), Earnest (Working on his license), Joe (VE3ADB), Earle VE3IMP)

Fox Hunt Antenna:

By Roger B.
VA3GBV

A number of years ago, several members got together on a Saturday afternoon to build a directionnal antenna for Fox Hunting. The mechanical parts were purchased by Jim Richardson, VE3AFV, and the electrical parts by Doug Pearson, VE3HTR. The design was based on KB9VBR who made a Youtube video showing the detailed build sequence.

You can watch this video on the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BmHoQrDfw-0>

In December, the Club had the first Fox Hunt in quite a while. Art, VE3AIH leant me his antenna for the Hunt.

I teamed up with Earle and, though we did not find the Fox, we had a lot of fun. So I decided to build this antenna.

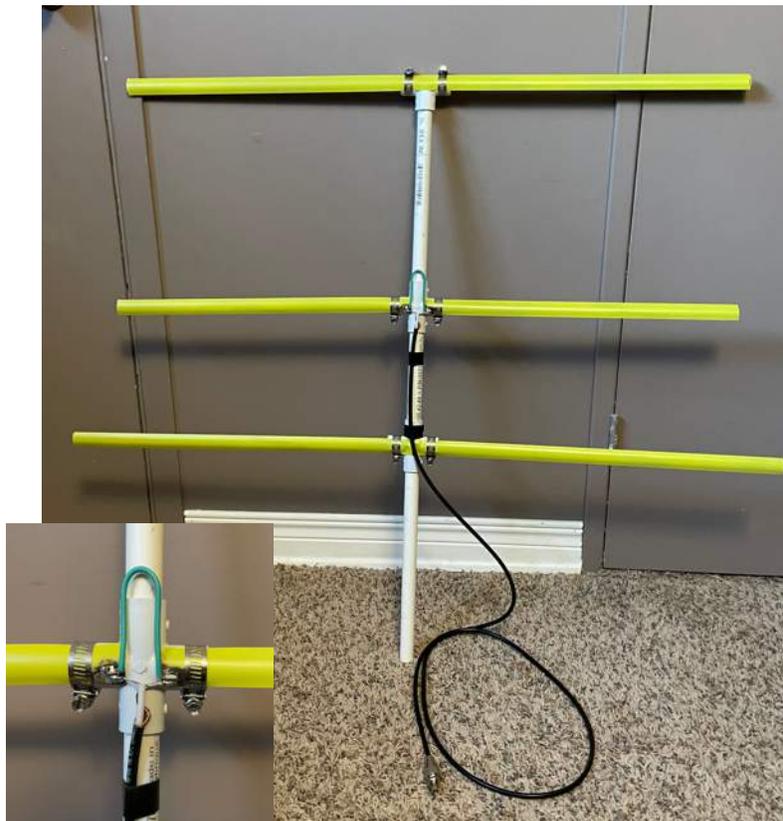


Figure-1: This is what it looks like when done
The director looks longer than the driven element but

this is an artefact of the picture. See the drawing below

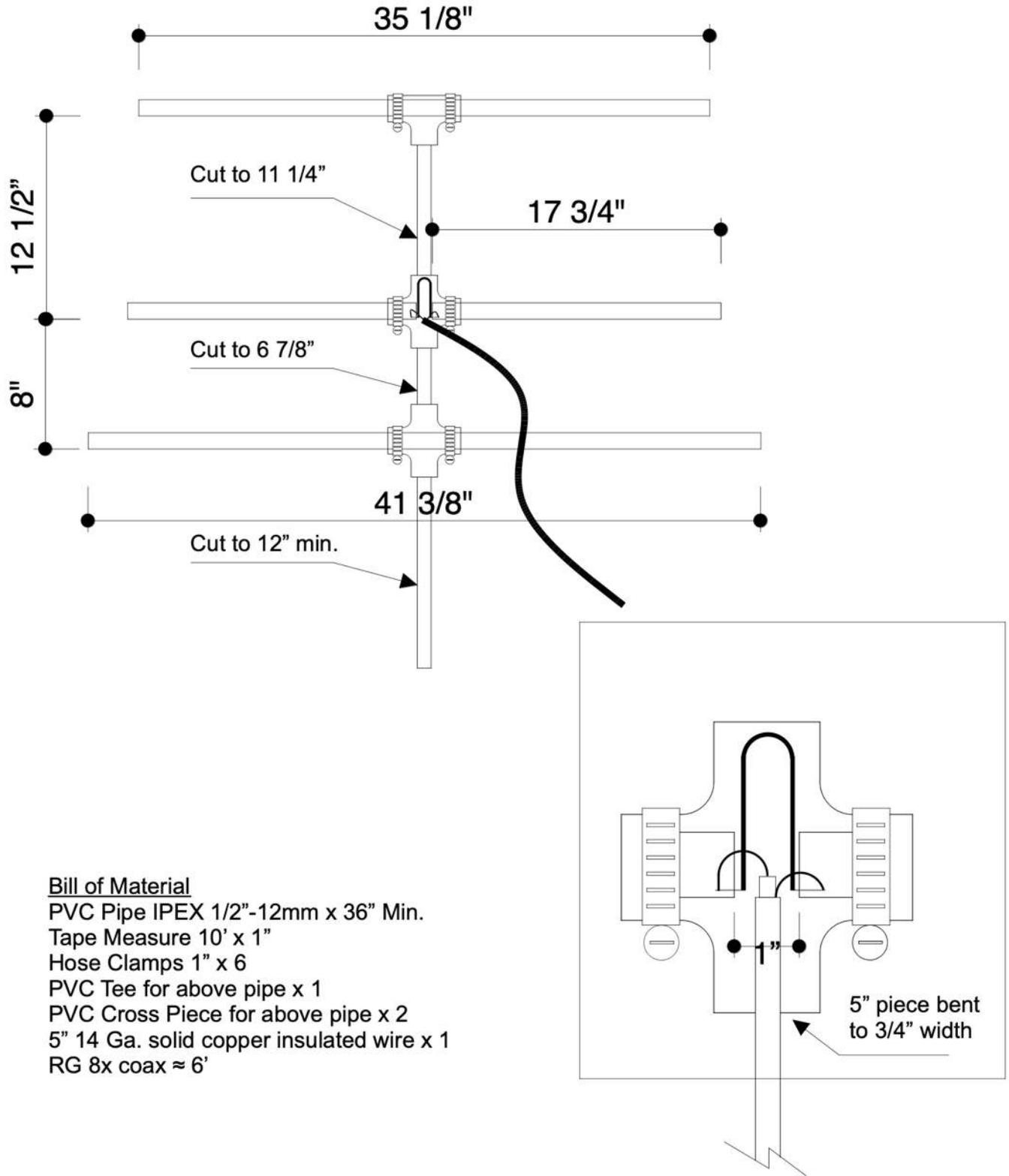


Figure 2: Dimensioned Drawing of the antenna

What makes this antenna attractive is its simplicity, low cost and directivity. Its performance is also excellent with less than 2 dB VSWR over 75% of the band and a hair below 2,5 dB at 144 MHz. At the Fox frequency, 146.565 MHz, the VSWR is 1.64:1, not bad!

Notice the hairpin match, simple and efficient.

See measurement below.

The picture of the VNA is not very good but readable. Holding the antenna and the VNA and taking a picture at the same time in the glaring sun was a challenge...



Figure 3 VSWR and Complex Impedance

The hardest part for me was to find the PVC Cross-Pieces for the driven element and the reflector. Nobody, Home Depot, Home Hardware, Canadian Tire, Noble plumbing supplies, zip, have this in stock anymore. But It can be ordered on-line at Home Depot at:

<https://www.homehardware.ca/en/schedule-40-12-slip-x-slip-x-slip-x-slip-pvc-cross/p/3263239>.

They cost \$2.99 a pop.

The rest is easily found at your nearest hardware store.

The tape measure was bought at Home Depot for \$5.98 plus tax for A Stanley 25' x 1" tape measure, enough to build 2 antennas.

The PVC is the IPEX ½” 12mm schedule 40 white pipe. A note of caution on this pipe; though it is labeled as ½” 12 mm, the O.D is 0.840” and the I.D. is 0.602”. It cost \$12.49 plus tax for a 10’ length, enough to build 3 antennas.

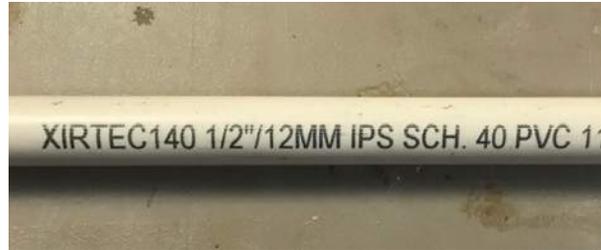


Figure 4 PVC Pipe

Should the Club decide to make another joint build and purchase the material in bulk, the cost per unit would be about \$30 depending what you already have in your junk box.

Put on some warm clothes and join us for the hunt this winter. 

Interesting links

From René VA3RIA

http://www.southgatearc.org/news/2022/january/foundations-of-amateur-radio-29-01-2022.htm?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hsqef5v7AHg> (in french)

<https://www.rac.ca/digitaltca/#tca2021>