



March 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 President's Message March 2022

The longer and brighter days of spring, the obvious disappearance of snow and the louder chirping of the birds all signal a change for warmer temperatures. With these changes, there is hope for those who wish to do antenna work in a more pleasant environment. It also allows us to do more outside HAM-related activities.

Our Monday night Nets continue to be a valuable check of all our repeater systems. The Nets also provide another opportunity to network over-the-air, with others. The refined Net reports which Net Manger Joe is using provide a good indication of who is attending those Nets. To those who usually join us, thank you for your continued participation. As always, we welcome and encourage all to join in the fun.

The process to purchase club jackets has started. Joe (VE3ADB) has provided measurements from some members to *Rayco Team Sports* in Cornwall. If you have missed the opportunity to purchase a jacket and are still interested, please let Joe know. It would be nice to be able to wear these new jackets to Field Day (June 24-26, 2022) at the Lost Villages location in Long Sault.

Our Coffee Klatches planned for the 1st, 3rd and 5th Saturdays at *The Village Diner* on Tollgate Road continue to provide another delightful opportunity to network, in person and without having to wear a mask...lol.

Despite the lifting of some indoor COVID restrictions, our February 23, 2022, remained "virtual". This was intentional so as not to interrupt the good working relationship with *St. John Ambulance*. I thank John Grow (VE2EQL) for his interesting, virtual presentation on "High Performance Wire Antennae". John's presentation went off without a hitch and added much to our meeting.

Unfortunately, our last two Fox Hunts were planned for March 12, delayed to March 19 then eventually cancelled – all because of weather challenges. I hope this Saturday is different and the Hunt will actually proceed!

Here's hoping we "see" you either "in-person" or virtually at this week's March 31, 2022 "hybrid" monthly meeting. The meeting promises to be very interesting as we intend to pass our revised bylaws. Also, we will host Harrie Jones (VE3HYS) and Roger Egan (VA3EGY) - two members from the *Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club (OVMRC)*. Harrie and Roger have promised to show us some additional techniques to help up find that elusive Fox. As a follow-up to Thursday's presentation an educational Fox Hunt will take place after this Saturday mornings' (April 2, 2022) breakfast. We hope you come out and enjoy all of the related activities now being offered.

We wish much success to Earnest Vincent who is enrolled, along with over two hundred others working on obtaining their HAM licences. They are using an on-line course for this training. Please help mentor Earnest as much as you can.

Along with the good news that the Raisin River Canoe Races are going ahead this year, comes with the usual request from the Raisin River Conservation Authority (RRCA) for us to help with the communications for this fun event. This in turn promises to provide yet another opportunity for us to shine with many organizations.

I have spoken with Murray MacDonnell (formerly VE3XLJ) who has confirmed that he is very happy in his new QTH in Nova Scotia.

Happy HAMming!

73,

Earle DePass (VE3IMP)

President, SVARC (2022-2024)





**Roger
VA3GBV**

Note from the Editor

Hi to all.

Spring has sprung!

As of March 20, 11:33 am Spring has sprung. Daylight has conquered the dark hours and will reign as such for the next 6 month, and maybe more.... Let's recharge our batteries and on with the "belle saison".

One of the first thing to celebrate this spring is the International Marconi Day on April 23.

The IMD is to celebrate the birthday of Guglielmo Marconi, born on April 25, 1875, in Bologna, Italy. The date of the IMD is chosen to be the closet Saturday to April 25.

In addition to being an inventor, Marconi was an electrical engineer who was especially known for his work on long distance radio transmission, as well as the development of a radio telegraph system

and Marconi's law. In fact, he was credited as sending the first radio transmission across the Atlantic Ocean in 1901. He was also the shared winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1909 for his contributions to wireless telegraphy.

Please visit this site for the International Marconi Day contest for more details:

<http://gx4crc.com/imd-award/>

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.

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



The thought of the month:

The truth has no defense against a fool determined to believe a lie. (Mark Twain).



**Earle
VE3IMP**

ACS Report

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

Monthly Report For February 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 last met “virtually” via Zoom on February 23, 2022. The next “hybrid” meeting is planned for March 31, 2022.

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.

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 have not been any further discussions with the City of Cornwall.

Alexandria and South Glengarry ARES Projects:

There have not been any further discussions with the Township of South Glengarry.

Raisin River Canoe Race – April 10, 2022:

We have been advised that the Canoe Race is proceeding on April 10, 2022. A planning/coordination meeting is planned for March 30, 2022. Several members from ACS are planning to provide communications services again this year.

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. 🐱

Adding a Strain Relief

By Art Horovitch, VE3AIH

Here's a fix for failing RJ-type microphone connectors. The problem is that the cable tends to break at the plug, thanks to repeated flexing. My Yaesu FT-8800 has experienced this several times over the years because there is no strain relief for the cord. The problem isn't confined to this radio; many other models are prone to this issue as well.

My solution is to use a small nylon clamp to hold the microphone cord in place (see Figure below). A screw installed in the mounting hole for the mobile bracket works perfectly, and the strain is no longer at the connector itself. By attaching the clamp at the mounting hole, you don't need to drill an additional hole into the chassis of

the radio. The mobile bracket screw is usually long enough to secure the clamp and the radio.



Figure 2—A small nylon clamp holds the microphone cord in place. The clamp is held by one of the screws used in the mobile mounting bracket.

Ed.: This article was published in the Jan/Feb 2021 edition of the **On the Air** Magazine and is reproduced here with the permission of the author.

Show and Tell

March Fox Hunt,

Well, by the time this newsletter was issued we still were not able to have a Fox Hunt this month. Old winter dump 20 cm of snow for our first try and the 20mm of rain on our second try.

Here is a Fox Hunting party:



That does not look like a fair fight for the fox!

March 5, Coffee Klatch



From, left to right: Don Brownlee (VA3NC), Earnest Vinson, Roger Bélanger (VA3GBV), Hal Green (VE3HWG), Earle DePass (VE3IMP).

VA3JHT on the air and in Space:

Joe has been in amateur radio for many moons. He was a member of CARF and then RAC, the ARRL, the OVMRC (Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club). At OVMRC Joe was CW Net Controller, at the Museum of Science and Technology in Ottawa, and from RCMP VE3CPC station on Sundays for the Pot Lid Net.

Since Joe moved to Chateau Cornwall, his HF capabilities had to be suspended as the residence will not allow the installation of an HF antenna.

But Joe was always active on VHF, UHF and on DMR.

In his VE2 days, Joe even managed to have a QSO with STS 74, USA URSS mission to the Space Station on November 1995.

see QSL card below.

Well done Joe!

**KB5AWP KC5RNI VA300G
N5SCW KC5ACR RØMIR**

**STS-74
Space Shuttle Atlantis**

Can you papermill - Great work

STS-74/Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment
Launch: November 11, 1995, Kennedy Space Center FL, 1230 UTC
Landing: November 28, 1995, Kennedy Space Center FL, 1700 UTC

Mission Highlights
The Space Shuttle Atlantis made its second trip to the Russian Space Station Mir during this mission. This was to deliver two solar arrays, and install a permanent docking module that will permanently connect the two shuttles in the complex (space) Mir will soon docking module as soon from Atlantis after separation, over the Indian Ocean, west of Australia.

The two spacecraft remained docked together for three days, orbiting 260 miles above the earth at approximately 17,500 mph. The combined US, Russian, Canadian and German crews transferred food and water to, and from, Mir, and returned to Earth with experiment equipment and samples. The second of seven shuttle flights to Mir this effort is a precursor to building the International Space Station.

This was the third mission Commanded by Ron Cisneros when the shuttle Atlantis was with Shuttle Amateur Radio operators. While on-orbit, they used a radio aboard Atlantis to operate the Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment, or SAREX. Many radio contacts were made with large groups of students, individual radio operators, and the astronauts' families. SAREX is a joint educational effort between NASA, the American Radio Relay League, and the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation. Additional radio contacts were made from the Amateur Radio station aboard Mir (RØMIR).

To: **VE 2JHT**

From: Atlantis
 Mir

Confirming: Our QSO
 Your SWL report

Mode: FM Voice
 FM Packet (Mir only)

Date: November 11, 1995 Time: _____ UTC

Frequencies: 144-148 MHz

SAREX equipment description: A Minicircuits URC-200 used by the shuttle astronauts to communicate with the Mir Space Station during docking activities was also used for Amateur Radio contacts made from the space shuttle. On Mir, an IRLP IDP was used to make random contacts. Additional SAREX support: NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, NASA Johnson Space Flight Center, and hundreds of volunteer Amateur Radio operators. STS-74 QSL Manager: The Greater Newwalk Amateur Radio Club, Connecticut.

73,
Ron Cisneros, Commander, KB5AWP
Joe Balfour, Pilot, KC5RNI
Chris Sheffield, Mission Specialist 1, VA300G (RCRN)
Jerry Ross, Mission Specialist 2, N5SCW
Bill McArthur, Mission Specialist 3, RØMIR