



April 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 April 2022

With the recent snowfall just after the Easter season and unseasonal temperatures, one would think that Spring has turned away! We all hope this is only temporary and the longer and brighter days of spring will definitely keep coming, thereby allowing time for more outside HAM-related activities.

Thanks to Joe for continuing to very-ably manage our Monday night Nets. With the expansion of our repeaters being checked to include VE3VSW and the VE3SVC repeater on 224.180 MHz, the value of these Nets continues to increase. Thanks for Art for his support of being a Net Controller for these Nets. How about you offer to take a turn at being a Net Controller? The experience controlling the Nets is a very valuable one. Please contact Joe (VE3ADB) to offer.

While we await the club jackets which Joe has initiated, we can open up the purchase of personalized SVARC coffee mugs bearing our new logo on them. These are available for a very reasonable price and for the asking. Please let us know if you are interested.



Our numbers of attendees at our Coffee Klatches planned for the 1st, 3rd and 5th Saturdays at *The Village Diner* on Tollgate Road continue to climb. We hope to see you at the next Coffee Klatch planned for April 30.

While our own Fox Hunts have been delayed due to weather, we were so fortunate to have a very interesting and related Fox Hunt presentation by

Harrie Jones (VE3HYS) and Roger Egan (VA3EGY) - two members from the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club (OVMRC) - at our last hybrid meeting on March 30, 2022. The hands-on training session which followed on April 2 in the parking lot at Pitt and Tollgate was enjoyed by the five of us who came; Roger, Earnest, Joe, Doug and Earle. It was a real treat!

Our first public service event in three years, in the form of Canoe Race 2022, went off without any issues whatsoever. Many thanks to; VA3CRR (Chris), VA3EV (Rick), VA3GBV (Roger), VE2JMF (Dan), VE3ADB (Joe), VE3EXN (Suzan), VE3HTR (Doug), VE3HWG (Hal), VE3IMP (Earle) and VE3RSQ (Larry) for their support of the races this year. St. John Ambulance and the race organizers were very impressed - yet again - at the communications services we provided. The bookmarks we prepared for the race and future events should come in handy.

Earnest Vincent continues to be enrolled in the on-line HAM course. We continue to wish him much success.

We hope to see you at our next hybrid meeting planned for April 27, 2022, at St. John Ambulance.

Happy HAMming!

73,

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



**Roger
VA3GBV**

Note from the Editor

Hi to all.

April at last!

“Spring is nature’s way of saying,
‘Let’s party!’”

— Robin Williams

And indeed, we did party in April, starting with a very special Fox hunt on April 2nd. See article below.

Then it was the Raisin River Canoe Race on April 10th which came back after a two year hiatus, see pictures in the **Show and Tell** Section.

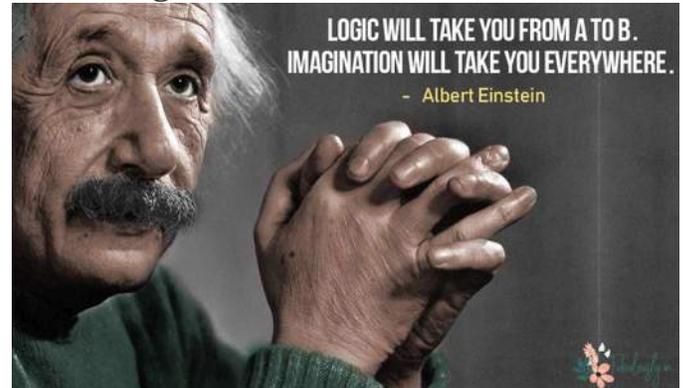
And don’t forget the Marconi Day on April 23rd. For more info on the International Marconi Day Contest, visit this site:

<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:





**Earle
VE3IMP**

ACS Report

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

Monthly Report For March 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 most recent “hybrid” meeting on March 30, 2022. Harrie and Roger were our Guest Speakers who provided an excellent presentation on Fox Hunting.

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 VE3VSW then DMR, Ch. 2 or. 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. Hal Green (VE3HWG), South Glengarry,
2. Stan Fortune (VA3JSF), South Stormont,
3. Ed Halliwell (VE3EAH), South Stormont,
4. Doug Pearson (VE3HTR), City of Cornwall,
5. Rick Palmer (VA3EV), City of Cornwall,
6. Art Horovitch (VE3AIH), City of Cornwall.

Murray MacDonell (VE3XLJ), who was our Acting AEC, North Glengarry has now relocated to Nova Scotia. We wish Murray well and thank him for the excellent work he did while he was present in Ontario.

Canoe Race 2022:

10 Radio Amateurs (HAMs) provided communications from 12 vantage points during the race from St. Andrews West to Williamstown. They were; VA3CRR (Chris Lauzon), VA3EV (Rick Palmer), VA3GBV (Roger Bélanger),

VE2JMF (Dan Cullen), VE3ADB (Joe Scott), VE3EXN (Suzan Horovitch), VE3HTR (Doug Pearson), VE3HWG (Hal Green), VE3IMP (Earle DePass) and VA3RSQ (Larry Giguere). Of those 10 HAMs, 2 were temporarily installed in the 2 Mobile First Aid Posts (MoFAPs). The HAMs were in their positions from 10:00 until the last canoe finished at 16:45. Earle DePass was at the start at 06:00AM as he performed double duty with the Knights of Columbus breakfast at the church in St. Andrews. There were no incidents requiring emergency communications.

St. John Ambulance staff indicated that HAMs were the only way they learned of where the canoes were. As such they were very happy with our services. This was the 49th year the race had been conducted. Due to COVID concerns, races the last two years had been cancelled.

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.

South Glengarry ARES Projects:

There has been good movement from Dave Robertson, Fire Chief and Acting Director of Recreation and Facilities for South Glengarry to our offer of support for the ACS communications initiative. This was followed by a visit by Doug Pearson and Earle DePass to the potential new repeater site at the landfill site in South Glengarry. Discussions continue.

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), SD&G ARES
RAC Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS) Group



Art's Corner

Art
VE3AIH

HINT

Isolating Old Radios

By Art Horovitch, VE3AIH

I recently acquired a Hallicrafter receiver at a hamfest for a bargain price. This model uses a two-wire power cord with no ground. There is no power transformer in the radio, so everything runs directly off the ac line. This can create a shock hazard, depending on how the plug is inserted into an ac receptacle, causing the metal case to be dangerously live.

My solution, at least for testing purposes, was a 60 W isolation transformer. You can purchase these new, but they are also common at flea markets and other outlets. The isolation transformers typically have multiple taps on the input (primary). Mine had taps for 120, 208, 230, and 460 V ac. Consequently, by selecting the correct input, the output could be set at 120, 75, 65, or 45 V ac.

I selected taps to start at lower voltages to test the receiver's electrolytic capacitors. After replacing one capacitor and running for several hours at full power, the radio worked perfectly.

This testing method also worked on my vintage Heathkit HR-10B receiver and DX-60B transmitter. I decided to make the transformer a permanent part of my workbench.

I mounted the isolation transformer on a case (see Figure below) and attached a neon indicator light to the case using a hot glue gun.

It wasn't elegant, but it was quick, and it worked. I also installed a switch for the inputs, so that I could select either a 120 or 65 V ac

output. A multiposition rotary switch would be even better for this a purpose. Also consider a larger transformer for testing bigger radios, such as a HW-100 transceiver.

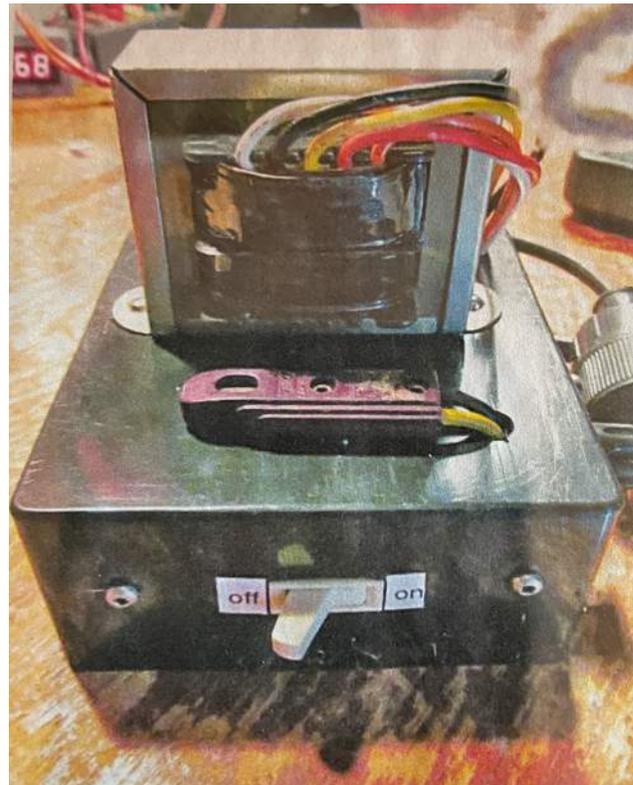


Figure: A 60W isolation transformer mounted onto a case with a neon light indicator

73, Arthur Horovitch, VE3AIH

Susanandart@gmail.com

Ed.: This article was published in the February 2021 edition of the **QST** Magazine and is reproduced here with the permission of the author.

Show and Tell

April Fox Hunt,

The April Fox Hunt was special for this month.

First things first.

At the end of our March monthly meeting we had a special presentation by Roger Egan (VA3EGY) and Harrie Jones (VE3HYS) from the OVMRC (Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club) on Fox hunting equipment and techniques.

Then on the following Saturday, April 2nd, Roger and Harrie came to Cornwall to organize a demo and an actual fox hunt using this equipment.

About the equipment used:

The antennas are basically the same 3 element yagi as is our tape measure antenna built by club members, a few years ago.



Where it gets interesting is the method they use once you get close to the fox.

When you get close to a transmitter, like within 100' of a 1W transmitter, the signal is so strong that it gets right into the receive section by-passing the antenna. A simple attenuator on the antenna port will have no effect.

They use two methods to get around this problem and locate a fox when you get close.

1. One is an offset attenuator, What it does is mixing the signal with a 4 MHz LO thus giving an attenuated signal 4 MHz above or below the Fox, So

you tune your HT at this frequency and can get bearings without overwhelming the receiver.

2. The other method is even better, it uses a sniffer designed by VK3YNG.



The sniffer is a 2M receiver working with an AGC controlled offset attenuator. But the kicker is that it generates an audio tone proportional to the signal level.

I also has a one digit display that gives you an indication of proximity, 0 being far away and 9 being at your fingertips.

The problem is the kit is no longer available

Early in the morning, Roger E. and Harrie hid three 15mW foxes in the park at the corner of Pitt and Tollgate. These foxes look like a pipe bomb, about a foot long and an inch and a half in diameter.



The Hunt:

With a sniffer equipped antenna I found a fox in about 15 minutes.

At first I was wandering around a bit, not being familiar with the device. Then I noticed the fox had to be sitting horizontal. Then I quickly pinpointed it to a tree. I came within 3 feet of the tree but could not see it. Finally, I saw it half buried in dead leaves on the ground at the foot of the tree.

All in all we had a ball to locating these 3 foxes.

Many thanks to Roger E. and Harrie.

(Harrie is the Welsh spelling for Harry)



The Fox Hunters:

Earnest, Harrie, Roger E., Roger B., Doug, Earle

For more pictures visit the following link:

<https://ardfottawa.ca/index.php/Main/2022-04-02SeawayValleyARDFDemoEvent>

APRIL 2ND , Coffee Klatch



From, left to right: Earnest Vinson, Earle DePass (VE3IMP) Don Brownlee (VA3NC), Hal Green (VE3HWG) AND DOUG PEARSON (VE3HTR)

A tour of the Bonville site:

On Monday, March 21, 2022, Earle (VE3IMP) and Joe (VE3ADB) joined Doug (VE3HTR) for a tour of this impressive site near Bonville, Ontario.



The repeater equipment maintained by the club consist of:

1. DMR Brandmeister repeater (442.100 MHz.+) VA3EDG.
2. C4FM (Analog FM/Yaesu) Digital Fusion repeater (443.650MHz.+) VE3PGC.
3. APRS digipeater (144.390 MHz) VE3PGC-1



The repeater site is protected by a propane fuelled backup generator.





Raisin River Canoe Race on April 10, 2022

The Raisin River Canoe Race is one of the longest running canoe race in Eastern Ontario. First started in 1973, the 30km course runs from St. Andrews to Williamstown. The race is always held during the spring freshet when water levels are high and flows are favourable for paddlers.

It has been 3 years since this event was held last in April 2019.

Finally this year, with the pandemic easing and the high vaccination rate, the event could safely be reinstated.

This year's edition was a great success. And to us, the SVARC, it was a great privilege to assist in providing communication services to the Raisin River Conservation Authority and to the St-John Ambulance and making this event safe and enjoyable for all.

12 members of the Club volunteered to support this event, unfortunately 2 members had to desist due to unforeseen circumstances.

At the end we had 10 members braving the cold wind and the occasional rain and snow and stand at checkpoint to report race and participants status and course progress.

Fortunately there were no major accidents. Only a few minor mishaps like capsizing and getting a taste of a cold April swim.

The SVARC team



Front L-R: Larry Giguere (VA3RSQ), Chris Lauzon (VA3CRR), Earle DePass (VE3IMP)
Standing L-R: Rick Palmer (VA3EV), Suzan Horovitch (VE3EXN), Joe Scott (VE3ADB),
Roger Bélanger (VA3GBV), Doug Pearson (VE3HTR)
Missing: Dan Cullen (VE2JMF) and Hal Green (VE3HWG).

The St-John Ambulance team



THE St-John Ambulance team with Doug (VE3HTR) and Earle (VE3IMP),



Lissa Deslandes and son from the Raisi River Conservation Authority with Earle (VE3IMP),

We were also very honored to receive a letter of thanks from the St-John Cornwall Ambulance of Cornwall from Michèle Brunette:

I know we had a de-brief yesterday, but I just had to say thank you again for your participation in our duty at the Raisin River yesterday. Aside from our medical training, communication is the most vital aspect of what we do and you and your members certainly brought that fact to the forefront during the races. It is very difficult (read impossible) for us to respond appropriately if we don't have the eyes and especially the ears in this case, to keep us apprised of the evolution of events. You enabled us to better do our job and for that we are so grateful. Please pass along our appreciation to everyone and keep up the fantastic work!

*Michèle Brunette,
Community Services Coordinator,
Medical First Response Division 103,
St. John Ambulance, Cornwall.*

Many Thanks to all that participated

Moving Sale

SALE – SALE – SALE – SALE.

Reason for selling: Downsizing and moving to an apartment with limited space

Contact: ART. VE3AIH. 240 308 2752. [Email: suzanandart@gmail.com](mailto:suzanandart@gmail.com)

All items are final sale with no implied warranties.

1. Icom-706 MK2G including the carrying case, original manual, tuning module for near resonant antennas and a HM-108 Icom mic all in a Tandy carrying case with a slightly damaged zipper. Weight is approx 11 lbs. Also includes a cable for mobile operation using Cig. lighter or power outlet and a DIN cable for computer control. Asking \$750.
2. Alpha X-35 VHF/UHF antenna. \$60.
3. Large parts cabinet with approximately 60 drawers filled with resistors, capacitors, toroids, coax connectors and adaptors, diodes, zeners, and trimmers. \$30
4. Miscellaneous power supplies, ranging from 12 V at 10 amps. Also reconfigured Heathkit (switch) for dual trace. 6 or 12 V AC and 200 V DC with current draw about 150 Ma maximum. CAUTION LETHAL VOLTAGES. \$30
5. 50 feet of Tandy (radio shack) coax. RG-8/U with PL259 connectors. \$30
6. Ham sticks for all HF bands except 80 – 40 – 20 Meters \$25
7. Iambic keyer from MFJ with manual \$20
8. Shure desk top microphone with locking bar needs new cartridge with pre-amp as is. Also, a Heathkit mic and one other with two pin connector and screw on shell. \$7
9. MFJ tunable CW/SSB filter model MFJ751 with 9.7 V wall wart which needs a mini-phono plug at the end. \$8
10. Vintage Heathkit station includes TX 60 B, HG10B VFO (modified to slide rule dial), HR10B receiver with crystal calibrator. \$175. Will sell items separately.
11. Arrow antenna VHF/UHF. All aluminum not tuning required (\$30)
12. Bank of drawers filled with nails, screws, electrical wiring, hangers, plumbing supplies, clamps. All contents must go.
13. Toshiba CD player/video recorder with cassette player. \$8
14. Dri-zee air moisture remover containers (4) \$5
15. Ryobi cordless tools: - impact driver P 237 \$50 (no battery)
16. Ryobi reciprocating saw \$30 (no battery)
17. Ryobi caulking gun \$35 (no battery)

**MISCELLANEOUS ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PARTS. COME SEE
VIEW BY APPOINTMENT IF LOCAL**