



June 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 June 2022

I hope you are enjoying this lovely summer season! I also hope you are getting that outdoor antenna work done?

If you have not placed your order for summer jackets, please do so with Joe (VE3ADB) soon.

I continue to enjoy my personalized SVARC coffee mug...how about you?

While we have had two "busted" Coffee Klatches (one due to a burst water pipe), our next is planned for *The Village Diner* on Tollgate Road, July 2, 2022, at 08:30AM. Here's hoping to see you there!

Our next Fox Hunt is planned for this Saturday, June 25, 2022. It will replace our cancelled Field Day 2022. Thanks to the efforts of Roger, we now have four offset attenuators in the Club. Here's hoping they help those – like me – who have gotten close to the Fox without success, to help find the elusive Fox.

Plans for the installation of our new repeater (VA3FHA) at the Beaver Brook landfill in South Glengarry are moving ahead very nicely. My signing the agreement with South Glengarry Mayor - Lyle Warden via the Fire Chief – David Robertson on June 14, 2022, was a very positive move. The installation work is proceeding with the installation to take place later this summer.

It is unfortunate that our club's involvement in Field Day (originally planned for June 24-26, 2022) had to be cancelled due to lack of member involvement. Oh, well, maybe next year?!

Plans for our summer BBQ at the home of Earnest and Sue Vinson continue. Here's hoping for good weather and lots of member involvement.

Earnest Vinson has now finished his on-line HAM course and is preparing to write the HAM examination. We continue to wish him much success.

We hope to see you at our next hybrid meeting planned for June 29, 2022, at St. John Ambulance, Cornwall. Our Guest Speaker is planned to be Hiroshi Takashi (VA7LET). Hiroshi was the winner of the RAC "Amateur Radio Operator of the Year for 2021". I imagine his work was impressive for him to obtain this honour. It promises to be an interesting meeting.

Happy HAMming!

73,

Earle DePass (VE3IMP)

President, SVARC (2022-2024)



Earle and South Glengarry Fire Chief, Dave Robertson



**Roger
VA3GBV**

Note from the Editor

Summer is here!

Warm weather, cold weather, megastorms, cold weather, we had it all, lately.

Luckily, Cornwall did not get hit too hard during the May 21 mega-storm. Ottawa got hit with winds up to 190 kph. I just can't imagine what my antennas would look like after such a storm!

Sadly, we had to cancel the Field Day due to low membership response. It is difficult to restart activities after two years of forced dormancy. The situation is very similar in other clubs, be it Ham radio, Model aircraft, Bridge clubs etc, we are all experiencing the same situation. Either people moved-on to other activities or find it difficult to revive the pre-pandemic enthusiasm. While the Raisin River event participation from our members was very good, other events as mentioned above were met with little interest. This is the case with Fox Hunts, Coffee Klatches, and Club meetings.

The Club executive is struggling with this situation. Please forward you suggestions or comments to help us bring more sunshine in the club.

In the same manner as the monthly meeting, the newsletter will suspend publication for July and August.

So, let's enjoy the summer and take some time to reflect on what we should do. And, 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 in September. Until then stay safe and have a great summer.



A thought from the XYL:

The secrets of success are a good wife and a steady job. My wife told me.

Howard Nemerov



**Earle
VE3IMP**

ACS Report

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

Monthly Report For May 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 April 27, 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. These 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.

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:

Further to 2021 discussions between David Robertson, Fire Chief South Glengarry, Murray MacDonnell (VE3XLJ) then early 2022 discussions between Douglas Pearson (VE3HTR), David and Earle DePass, we formally requested permission to relocate an Amateur Radio Repeater at the Township of South Glengarry landfill site. Alternately, as the lifecycle of this site is nearing its’ end, we indicated to David that we would also be willing to install our equipment at the Glen Gordon (former CJOH) site now and avoiding having to relocate it at a later date when the Beaverbrook Rd. site is decommissioned.

Field Day 2022 Plans:

The SVARC has confirmed that the Club will participate in Field Day. However, the location has changed from the Lost Villages to the home of Ross Turner in Williamstown, Sault, Ontario.

Earle DePass, (VE3IMP)
Group Coordinator (GC), SD&G ARES
RAC Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS) Group

Art's Corner

VE3AIH

Here is an interesting article for anyone who operates HF or likes to listen on an SDR radio> I used it quite frequently to tell which bands are open, especially 10 meters.

Art.

Reverse Beacon Network Launches Updated Website

At 0500 UTC (1 AM EDT) on Thursday, June 16, the Reverse Beacon Network (RBN) launched their updated website (www.reversebeacon.net). The intent of the revised website was to replace the original and beta websites and to include a Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) to enhance security for users of the site.

The RBN is a network of stations that listen to the bands and report what stations they hear, including when and how well. The website's database of past spots allows operators to instantly find what stations (from any given country or zone) have been heard, at what times, and on what frequencies. Operators can also see when they have been spotted, who spotted them, and how loud the contact was.

There is an option to compare your signal with those of friends and competitors, in near real time, or look at historical data of previous transmissions. If you wonder how your signal compared to others' during a previous contest, the website's Signal Comparison Tool will provide real, quantitative data. For an instant report, query what stations you want to compare, based on signals heard by a given reverse beacon on a certain band at a certain time.

In 2009, Pete Smith, N4ZR, and Felipe Ceglia, CT7ANO, worked to get the first version of RBN online. The work of Mark Glenn, K7MJG, on the website and Dave Pascoe, KM3T, on connecting the servers, contributed to RBN as a resource for listening and tracking signals. The new version is the first major upgrade for the site.

A guide to the website's new features is available on the beta site, as well as on the new site under the 'about' tab. -- *Thanks to Pete Smith, N4ZR*

Show and Tell

June Fox Hunt,

Last month fox hunt was a bit of a dud because the fox would not turn-on.

But this miss-hap had a positive side. First we found out that the cause of the problem was a burnt fuse, which was easy enough to fix.

But it allowed us to brainstorm and do some test to show that our present set-up for the hunters was inadequate. See last month Fox hunt description in the May Newsletter.

A better set-up required and offset attenuator. So some of us bought the already assembled offset attenuator from "3rd Planet Solar" by KC9ON.

<https://kc9on.com/product/fox-hunt-offset-attenuator/>

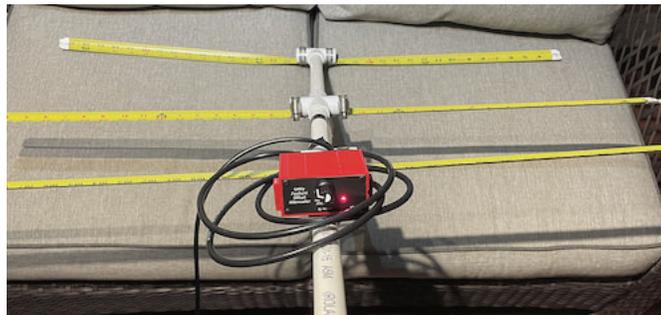
The device were received in early June and tested.

The test consisted in:

1. Tuning the HT 4MHz above the Fox, i.e.150.525MHz
2. Connect the 3 element Yagi to the attenuator, and connect the attenuator to the HT.
3. Turning-on the fox and set it up about 30 feet from the hunter antenna.
4. Point the antenna to the fox and add attenuation until the S-Meter drops below maximum reading.
5. Move the antenna and confirm the maximum signal is in the general direction of the fox.

This did worked very well.

Now comes the time to check this in real life!



Come and join us at 2:00pm, Saturday, June 25.

June 18th , Coffee Klatch



From, left to right: Don Brownlee (VA3NC), Roger Bélanger (VA3GBV), missing from the picture is camera shy Hal ! (VE3HWG),