



November 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. For a detailed list of repeaters operated by the club please visit 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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A rare sight



President's Message October 2022

SVARC President's Message November 2022

Winter is finally here! The recent snowfall and colder temperatures confirm that Fall is over!

We are now planning in earnest for our clubs Christmas dinner at *Quinn's Inn*, on December 7, 2022. The evening promises to be a lot of fun where there will be time for; fellowship, fun and acknowledging three HAMS; Ed Halliwell (VE3EAH), Art Horovitch (VE3AIH) and Don Brownlee (VA3NC) who have been Amateur Radio Operators for over 60 years. We hope to see you there!

Sadly we received and are saddened by the news that Art's chemo treatments are not going well. We wish Art and Suzan strength in this time of much sadness.

Our Coffee Klatches at the new venue of the *Spinners Restaurant* on Pitt Street have been going well! We have changed the dates of this social event to the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month (formerly 1st and 3rd). On average there have been 6 attendees per Saturday.

Thanks to the recent experiment with the temporary change of the sub-audible, Private Line (PL) tone, the fix for the apparent interference on the VE3SVC repeater appears to have been found. Thanks to Jim (VE3XID) for his suggestions to clean and tighten cables internal to the repeater. VE3SVC has behaved well during the last two Monday night Nets. Thanks to Roger (VA3BGV) and Doug (VE3HTR) for their work behind the scenes to correct this interference issue.

The suggestion by our Secretary, Roger to encourage previous members and HAMS to return to the SVARC is now in progress. Last week, 147 postcards suggesting membership in the SVARC and providing our contact information were sent to Radio Amateurs in Cornwall and in the K6H and K6J postal code areas. Here's hoping this brings a few new members back to the SVARC and to our hobby.

Our next Fox Hunt is planned for Sunday, November 27, 2022. Roger has agreed to hide the cunning transmitter. We hope you will come out and enjoy the fun?!

Our October 2022 Club meeting featured a visit by some representatives from *St. Joseph's Villa*, looking for a solution to their text paging problem. Our outside-of-the-table meeting format and in a different room from the one we have been using to at *St. John Ambulance* provided a more conducive and fun evening.

We hope to see you at our next hybrid meeting planned for November 30, 2022 at *St. John Ambulance*, Cornwall.

Our Guest Speaker is expected to be Keith Baker (VA3KSF) who is planning to speak on Amateur Radio Satellite Communications. It promises to be an interesting meeting!

Happy HAMming!

73,

Earle DePass (VE3IMP)

President, SVARC (2022-2024)



Note from the Editor

Here comes old man winter!

It's only November and it looks like the snow is here to stay. I was about to complain about the early snow when I saw that Buffalo got hammered with 4 feet of snow on November 19th. Yeah! for Cornwall with only 10 cm.

1. Awards in Amateur Radio

This year we are celebrating 3 Club members to acknowledge their 60 years as Amateur Radio (HAM) Operators.

*The hobby is better because of you guys.
The SVARC is pleased to be able to acknowledge your valuable time with us by virtue of your membership in the Club.*

Please see the Show and Tell portion of this e-mail to read short bios of our 60 years plus operators.

2. Recruiting New members

In November, the Club launched a recruiting campaign in an effort to increase our membership. The idea is to have a larger base of members to support club activities. Have more net controllers, more participants for:

- field days,
- charity events,
- Raisin river canoe race
- MS Bike
- Emergency Communications

A larger membership base would also increased our revenues to maintain our infrastructures.

To this effect we mailed 147 post cards to prospective members in the Cornwall and surrounding areas.

A sample of the post card is shown in the Show and Tell section below. Let's see what response we get.

Here is a very interesting and very well done bi-monthly publication from the Surrey Amateur Radio Club:

<https://bit.ly/SARC22Nov-Dec>

Enjoy the newsletter and don't hesitate to send feedback and material for publishing in the newsletter, pictures, bios, stories and internet sites of particular interest. Pictures of your shack. It is all interesting.

P.S.: **"Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician."**



**Earle
VE3IMP**

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

Monthly Report For October 2022

Seaway Valley Amateur Radio Club (SVARC) Inc.:

The SD&G RAC Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS) Group, a subset of ARES, is associated with the SVARC. This club continues to hold monthly meetings featuring interesting Guest Speakers. In addition, Coffee Klatches are held on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. The SVARC held its most recent “hybrid” meeting on October 26, 2022. The next meeting is planned for November 30, 2022, when Keith Baker (VA3KSF) will be our Guest Speaker on *Amateur Radio Satellite Communications*.

The SVARC hopes to resume Fox Hunts on Sunday, Nov. 27, 2022.

On Dec. 7, 2022, at the annual Christmas Dinner and awards evening, the SVARC is planning to honour three HAMS; Ed Halliwell (VE3EAH), Art Horovitch (VE3AIH) and Don Brownlee (VA3NC) who are celebrating 60 years as Amateur Radio Operators.

Repeater Checks: (Ongoing):

The SVARC weekly net is conducted on Mondays at 7:00PM (Local). The Net first starts on VE3SVC (147.180MHz.+). Checks are then made by switching the Net to the VE3PGC (UHF) repeater where an EchoLink check is performed. A check is also performed on VE3VSW, VA3FHA and then DMR, Ch. 2. 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 20 total check-ins. The weekly reporting system has been enhanced to show the names

ACS Report

and callsigns as those who check in. This as opposed to just recording the number of weekly check-ins. Over the last two months, the VE3SVC repeater has been experiencing what appeared to be apparent interference with the Monday evenings Nets. A temporary change of the Private Line (PL) tone was implemented in early October 2022 to attempt to find the cause. After cleaning and re-seating some cables internal to the repeater, the issue appears to have cleared.

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, and,
5. Rick Palmer (VA3EV), City of Cornwall.

City Of Cornwall:

Following initial email discussions in early November 2021 between Earle DePass, Leighton Woods (Deputy Chief Fire Services) and Jeff Weber (CEMC), Leighton and Jeff were reminded by Earle about the previous partnership with the ARES organization. It is hoped to resume the previous good working relationship with the previous CEMC - Bradley Nuttley.

South Glengarry ARES Projects:

Backup power for the new repeater (VA3FHA) at the Beaver Brook landfill site (installed on Aug. 29, 2022) was installed in late September 2022. The repeater is an effective enhancement to the existing suite of repeaters within SD&G and is one of the repeaters tested on Monday evenings during our Nets.

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

Show and Tell

Arthur Horovitch's (VE3AIH) 61 years in Amateur Radio

I got my certificate in January of 1961. I had been studying with a good friend, Fred, something called Amateur Radio. He already had a surplus 19 set transmitter, and he asked me to listen on my radio which had a short wave band. But I couldn't hear him. So began the months long learning to achieve the amateur radio license. At that time, you needed to pass a morse code test sending and receiving at 10 words per minute, no errors were permitted. My first callsign was VE2BHH.

I was introduced to message handling on the OQN. I operated one summer from a camp in the Laurentians passing messages from counselors to their parents. Usually, it was a request for money or to advise them of some time off in Montreal. Using a dipole about 5 feet off the roof, I made my first DX contact to Ireland with a Geloso receiver and Harveywells transmitter. After that I moved into an apartment and ran a long wire out my window to the clothesline pole in the backyard. One day I got a call from the owner of the local cable company who said I was coming out on thousands of televisions. I was unaware that this was happening with my Globe scout transmitter. I quickly learned the value of using bypass capacitors where the power supply cable entered the rear of the transmitter.

My original log shows contacts mostly around the Montreal area for the first month or two and then contacts all over the world running about 50 watts. I worked mostly CW because it gets through better than phone being the original digital mode.

A couple of years later, we moved to Alberta, and I made many contacts on the satellites starting with RS1. I used an old taxi radio already retuned for the ham band, put a knob on the trimmer capacitor and was able to hear the downlink on 10 meters as the satellite came over the north pole. Using phase three D, I was able to have four way contacts with a ham in New Mexico, another one in London, one in Israel and one in Belgium four hours at a time as the satellite went into a Molniya orbit out 45 thousand kilometers without adjusting the antennas.

On our small farm I bought a windmill tower for pennies and mounted a Gemquad on it and rotated it using it Armstrong method with a pipe wrench. Later I acquired a rotator that made the job easier and more accurate.

For twenty years we lived as nomads in an RV. We visited various ham clubs and I even operated field day on some of their stations racking up a multiplier of 2 for every CW contact. We participated in an emergency simulation in Florida where I was stationed in one of the hospitals looking after the "victims" who had ketchup smeared on them after a plane crash. I was also involved in a charity bike ride where I accompanied runners as the tail end Charlie with APRS strapped to my

bike. As we drove down the road, I would monitor 146.52 and sometimes meet up with people at a gas station or restaurant for a chat.

More recently, after moving to Ontario and becoming VE3AIH, I am active on DMR often using it while I walked on the bike paths.

I was a teacher in Montreal in a high school for two years, then doing the same in Alberta for 19 years before returning to Montreal to teach adult education. I took early retirement at 60. We have been married almost 60 years and have two daughters, one in Toronto and one in Virginia. We have two grandchildren with the older one entering university next year.

In the early days of ham radio, it was a badge of honor to have a radio license. Nowadays it is much easier with multiple choice question pools available. Hams are not interested in long QSO's anymore only quick contacts using FT-8. I have no interest in that.

Ed Halliwell (VE3EAH) 60 years in Amateur Radio

I started in Amateur Radio in the early 60's while in my teens. At that time the Club was offering to hold courses at the EMO building 4th St. W. The Club had a ham radio station located on the 2nd floor of the building and used the site for monthly meetings. For use of the building, prospective amateurs were also encouraged to take a Radiation Monitoring Course for EMO. I had taken a CW course while in the S. D. & G. Cadet Corps at Cornwall Collegiate & Vocational School. The Corps even paid us if we passed the 5 w.p.m. test. I think it was a big (in those days) \$5.00. The radio course started in the fall of 1961, had a break at Christmas and resumed in the early New Year. The exams were held in March or April and a DOC examiner from Ottawa was in attendance to score the written tests and administer the code portion of the process. I passed and along with a friend, Bob Jones. Afterwards we patiently waited for our certificates and licenses to arrive. In those days, you had to be 15 before they would issue a license, so we waited until our birthdays later in the year, mine being in May the Certificate arrived in June and only in August did I receive my call, VE3FHI.

I had received a general coverage Heathkit receiver for Christmas the year before and had built a 3 band cw transmitter and power supply and got on the air from the family home on 8th St. in Cornwall. Additional receivers were later added including a Hallicrafters S-85 and a war surplus Marconi CSR5a, which still works. We also had the opportunity to operate the Club station at EMO Headquarters. I was moderately active on cw until I started college.

I had planned on taking Electronics Technology at Eastern Ontario Institute of Technology (EOIT) which later became Algonquin College. The first year was common for all Technology programs, but I decided late in the first year to keep electronics as a hobby and changed to the Mechanical program. During those years, I participated in the EOIT amateur radio club station. VE3EIT was located in the Electrical Engineering section of the College on Lees Ave. and was sponsored at the time by, I believe, Dr. Tom Maxwell (VE3ETO of Mountain, Ontario) who was one of the Professors in the Biochemical Department. The station was well equipped with Hammerlund and Heathkit rigs for all bands from 160 thru 2 M. Beam antennas were mounted on a 75' self-supporting steel tower out at the east end of the Technology Building. Several of the students were from the Caribbean and we regularly passed traffic back and forth for them. I spent quite a bit of time in the station with Eustice Philipe, VP2AX.

During my college years, I was driving back and forth to Cornwall on weekends and picked up a surplus GE Progress Line VHF mobile rig from Gordon MacIntosh VE3BTF in Chrysler, Ont. It was equipped with crystals for VE2CRA in Ottawa and eventually the Cornwall repeater. After college my HF activity pretty much came to halt. Two metre activity was coming into its own and the equipment wasn't as big and bulky nor did it require fancy antennas and, living in apartments, it was just an easier way to stay on the air.

During my summers at EOIT, and as a result of being an Amateur Radio operator, I worked for Computing Devices Corporation in Bells Corners and was assigned as a shipboard navigator on several oil survey ships off the coast of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. CDC was the Canadian representative for Decca Navigation

Systems out of the UK. The Decca Mk. 12 system used radio direction finding like the US's Loran system and was used by fishing fleets in the North Atlantic. This was all before GPS, well almost before, and we needed to accurately know where we were.

On my second season out, I was on a US based ship contracted to Mobil Oil Corp. out of Texas. Also onboard this ship were two US Navy technicians with a PDP 9 DEC computer (the size of a large refrigerator) prototyping a new satellite-based navigation system for the US Navy.

Did we find any oil? The short answer is yes, but at the time the Middle East oil crunch was not anticipated and the technology to deep drill had not been developed. Now of course, there are a number of active drilling sites of our east coast.

On graduation, I went on to work for Dupont Canada (Nylon Division) in Kingston, then later Courtaulds Canada Ltd in Cornwall, also in the nylon business. After the closure of Courtaulds, I was transferred to TCF, a sister company that made cellulose and vinyl packaging films. After spending 7 years in the chemical industry, I made a big jump into the Public Sector working for the Cornwall General Hospital. Initially I was the Manager of the Physical Plant and over time moved up to being responsible for all of the non-clinical services. Again during these years I was on mostly 2 meters, it has only been in the last few years that I have gotten back into HF. Both my wife and son also have their licences and we have participated in a number of public service events over the years, including many Raisin River Canoe Races, Children's Treatment Bike a Thons, and municipal emergency planning events. I also organized and participated in many Field Day events. As a Past President of the SVARC I have worked to promote and keep the local club active and a valuable resource to the Community.

Shortly after the merger of the two hospitals in Cornwall, I was offered a job to re-develop one of the downtown Toronto Hospitals into a large community health center. I was the sixth employee hired at the new Sherbourne Health Centre. The job was supposed to last 18 months, but they kept me busy and commuting to Toronto for 5 years. I was the first to retire from the new organization in 2002.

Since that time, I've kept busy with my small consulting business specializing in Health Care and coordinated the builds of the new Seaway Valley Community Health Centre, Hospice Cornwall and recently special projects for the EOHU. This sometimes interferes with my hobbies, and it always seems like they take a back seat.

Amateur radio continues to be one of my hobbies along with motor cycling and camping. My station currently includes a Kenwood TS-450 AT, a Yaesu FT2000 HF rigs, recently adding equipment for digital modes on HF and a number of VHF/UHF mobile and HT radios. I have an inverted V antenna for 40m and a VHF/UHF base antenna up and operational. There is a 40m thru 10m vertical and a 3 element 20 thru 10M beam in the garage that were supposed to have been put up this year, but other work projects sort of got in the way. There's always tomorrow.

Don Brownlee (VA3NC) 60 years in Amateur Radio

I had been interested in getting my Ham ticket for two or three years when I started working for Domtar in Cornwall. I found the Cornwall radio Club was offering a Course of study at the Emergency Measures Organization HQ on 3rd or 4th street in Cornwall. I passed the exam about Feb 15, 1962 and obtained the call VE3ANW at that time. Domtar research moved to Senneville Québec in late 1963 so I then got my VE2 call which was VE2AGW Which I held until my early retirement in 2000 when I got my present call (VA3NC) when I moved to Williamsburg. I had a two Meter mobile radio almost from day one of my ham career.

Don

Editor's note: Don is a man of few words!

**Recruiting Postcard sent to HAM Radio Operators in the Cornwall
and surrounding areas**



**Join the SVARC
and
Get more from Amateur Radio**

- Share your experience
- Get help from fellow members
- Get involved in Auxiliary Communications
- Support to events
- Mostly, have fun with us

To Join, visit our WEB site at:
www.svarc.ca
or email us at :
ve3vsw@rac.ca

73 de SVARC

Stamp

VE3XXX Name Surname

Address line 1
Address Line 2
City, ON, Postal Code

Garage Sale from Art (VE3AIH)

Due to health concerns, I am giving up ham radio and have the following test equipment for sale: I prefer local pickup, or the buyer pays Canada Post shipping.

1. MFJ 259B antenna analyzer covers HF and UHF up to 170. Includes wall wart for power (no batteries included) Also includes homemade antenna "dipper coils."

Going on e-Bay for \$167 USD minimum bid. My asking price is \$125 CAD.

2. MFJ-260C dry dummy load. Covers 0 to 600 MHz Rated 300 watts for a short period of time. Asking \$75
3. Yaesu YS-500 SWR/Power meter. Covers 140-525 Mhz. Maximum power 200 watts. With Data/instruction sheet
Asking \$90.
4. MFJ- 4416 Super battery booster Use when dry camping with no AC available.
Asking \$90.
5. Heathkit HM-102 power/SWR meter with detachable pickup coil.
Used but in good working condition.
Asking \$90
6. 6. CB- 170 Citizens Band RF power meter with wire lead for checking the amount of radiation at a particular place in the ham shack. Used but in good working condition.
Asking \$30
7. Base charger for TYT UV-380 DMR radio. I have an extra one and don't need two of them. Used but in good working condition.
Asking \$25

Total \$400 excluding the MFJ antenna analyzer

Make me an offer on the entire package to avoid many trips to the post office.

Art VE3AIH

WIARC Flea Market (Montreal, QC)

Sponsor: West Island Amateur Radio Club

Date: Saturday, November 26, 2022

Location: Lakeside Heights Baptist Church, 275 Braebrook Ave,
Pointe-Claire, QC, H9R 1W1

Times: Sellers 7:00 AM, public at 8:00 AM.

Cost: Admission \$5

Info: Jonathan vp @ [wiarc.ca](mailto:vp@wiarc.ca)

Web: <https://wiarc.ca>

Now here is a rare sight!

The Argania tree climbing goats of Morocco aren't just a little kooky, they're a major tourist attraction and they're just doing what comes natural to them. The tree's knotty, thick bark attracts piles of goats who love to sidle up to the trees and eat their fruit every summer. Not just happy to eat what falls from the tree, these goats literally climb its branches to get what they want.

