



December 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 Auxiliary communication Services 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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President's Message December 2022

SVARC President's Message December 2022

There are several times during every year when I realize that I have so much to be thankful for. However, Christmas is when I reflect on the many special gifts on which I cannot place a value. This year is no exception. As I think of Amateur Radio hobby in general, the SVARC and the members within it, I am so thankful for so much.

The relaxation of COVID restrictions in spring 2022 was the best early Christmas gift which Santa could have ever brought us this year.

The gift of such a great SVARC executive team is another gift which any President could have asked for! Roger (VA3GBV) has been such an efficient, effective and supportive Secretary that anyone would be delighted to have him on their team. His attendance record at so many club events has been stellar! It is only right that the club members also voted him to be the Amateur Radio Operator of the Year for 2022. Joe has been a great Vice President and a superb Net Manager. Chris has been a great Treasurer, keeping an eye on our finances and writing cheques when necessary. I have nothing but praise for this dream team!

Our club continues to have gifts of two Accredited Examiners; Steve Harvey (VE3EZB) and Earle DePass (VE3IMP), making access to the ISED examinations readily available.

We operate 11 repeaters using several modes. This includes EchoLink. Keeping all of our systems operating

so well in addition to our website (SVARC.CA) are no easy feats. The gift of Doug (VE3HTR) being so excellent at keeping all of them running so well is a wonderful gift. The interference issue with the VE3SVC repeater was solved quickly and efficiently.

Despite poor weather and sometimes poor turnouts, we held three Fox Hunts over the year. These have been a source of fun and enjoyment. We had the gift of two HAMS join us for a hands-on lesson on Fox Hunting.

The gifts of our monthly meetings which have been enjoyable, educational and fun have been priceless. Running these meetings in the hybrid format has been a very good way to conduct them. We have had many interesting and informative presentations. These include; Amateur Radio Satellite communications, a presentation from the Amateur Radio Operator of the Year (VA7LET), specialized antennae from Alphonse Penney (the main instructor for the RAC On-line course) and Fox Hunting to name a few. Joe's refreshments have helped to make the time spent during those meetings so enjoyable. Having such a nice facility as St. John Ambulance to meet in has been a true gift.

Our involvement in the Raisin River Canoe Race and our Summer BBQ hosted by Earnest and Sue Vinson were memorable gifts and very enjoyable.

Joe's facilitation of the SVARC winter and fall jackets and the production of bookmarks were wonderful additions to our club.

We are saddened to learn that Art (VE3AIH) fell ill earlier this year. We are fortunate to have him and he is fortunate to have Suzan by his side.

The gift of our club experiencing a net growth of 2 members this year bringing our total membership at the end of 2022 to 39...(wow) is a lovely qualitative gift! Of these 39, 23 members were 23 RAC members.

Our Coffee Klatches have been gifts whereby our members could socialize. In late 2022, the members made a decision to move the Coffee Klatches to *Spinners Restaurant* from *the Village Diner restaurant*. We listened, and the move took place.

Thanks to the many gifts of several, including Murray (Formerly VE3XLJ) and Doug (VE3HTR), SD&G ARES saw the addition of a new repeater at the Beaver Brook landfill site. During the year we continued to provide SD&G ARES monthly updates to Mike Hickey.

Our Christmas Dinner saw a very well-attended dinner at *Quinn's Inn*. John Grow was so kind to financially support our Membership Recruitment program, donated books and a special keyer as our door prize for our Christmas Dinner.

I would venture a guess that few clubs are fortunate enough to have four Amateur Radio Operators who have enjoyed this hobby for over 60 years! I continue to be thankful that four of our members; Ed Halliwell (VE3EAH), Art Horovitch (VE3AIH), Rick Palmer (VA3EV) and Don Brownlee (VA3NC) were presented their specially-designed 60-year acknowledgement certificates during our Christmas dinner.

Last but by no means last, I continue to be truly fortunate to be the coordinator of so many good things with the SVARC. I thank you for your continued support which is the best gift a club President could ever ask for.

I hope that you are also fortunate enough to realize the good things you have. Please accept my very best wishes to each of you and your families for a very Merry Christmas and prosperous 2023.

Sincerely,
Earle (VE3IMP), President SVARC



Note from the Editor

The holiday season is upon us!

1. 60 years of Amateur Radio

This year we are celebrating 4 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. Christmas Dinners

On December 7 we had our Christmas dinner at Quinn's Inn. A great success with 26 guests attending. See the show and tell section for more details.

3. Snow storm season came early this year

On December 16 and 17 we got nearly 40 cm of snow, wet heavy snow. Enough to take down one side of my inverted V dipole and my Apple tree! I can fix the dipole but...

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.

4. Membership renewal

A note from the secretary: Don't forget to renew your membership for 2023. You can renew electronically by Interac transfer to:

treas.svarc@gmail.com

P.S.: Here is a suggestion for a X-Mass gift:





VE3IMP

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

Monthly Report For November 2022

Seaway Valley Amateur Radio Club (SVARC) Inc.: The SD&G RAC Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS) Group, a subset of the Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES), is associated with the SVARC.

This club continues to hold its monthly “hybrid” (in-person and virtual) meetings, featuring interesting Guest Speakers. The SVARC held its most recent “hybrid” meeting on November 30, 2022 and featured an interesting presentation from Keith Baker (VA3KSF) who spoke on *Amateur Radio Satellite Communications*.

Coffee Klatches where members can socialize with each other are held on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month, at 08:30AM, at *Spinners Restaurant* in Cornwall.

The SVARC held an enjoyable Fox Hunt on Sunday, Nov. 27, 2022 in which four Fox Hunters participated. In less than 2 hours, Steve (VE3EZB) found the Fox in the parking lot of Home Hardware, Cornwall.

On Dec. 7, 2022, at their annual Christmas Dinner and awards evening. The SVARC has honoured four Amateur Radio Operators; Richard (Rick) Palmer (VA3EV), Edward (Ed) Halliwell (VE3EAH), Arthur (Art) Horovitch (VE3AIH) and Donald (Don) Brownlee (VA3NC) who are celebrating 60 years as Amateur Radio Operators. RAC Headquarters have been most instrumental in preparing celebratory certificates.

The PL tone on the VE3SVC repeater was restored to its original setting of 110.9 Hz after correction of what appeared to be apparent interference with the Monday evenings Nets. The interference started in late October 2022. The cause of the interference appears to have been loose internal cables which have been corrected. Recent additional configuration changes include a frequency change for the VE3VSW repeater, the removal of the DSTAR. Our DMR repeater (VA3EDG) on 442.100MHz was moved from Bonville to Cornwall. Our Analog FM repeater (VE3VSW) on 443.000MHz was moved from Cornwall to Bonville and changed to 442.200MHz+. Our Digital D-Star repeater (VA3SDG-B) 444.450MHz+ was changed from digital to Analog FM, but remained on the same frequency and in the same location in Cornwall. Our Cornwall

ACS Report

APRS node (VE3SVC-1) on 144.390MHz was removed from service due to poor coverage. The VE3PGC-1 Bonville APRS node provided better coverage even within Cornwall.

Repeater Checks: (Ongoing):

The SVARC weekly Net is conducted on each Monday 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 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 and call signs 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, and,
5. Richard (Rick) Palmer (VA3EV), City of Cornwall.

City Of Cornwall:

After a follow-up email to Leighton Woods (Deputy Fire Chief, Fire Services for the City of Cornwall) on November 21, 2022, plans are now in place for meeting with the City of Cornwall in early February 2023.

This follows email discussions in early November 2021 between Earle DePass, Leighton Woods (Deputy Chief Fire Services) and Jeff Weber (CEMC). Jeff Weber has retired as Fire Chief for the City of Cornwall.

South Glengarry ARES Projects:

Following the installation of backup power at the VA3FHA repeater (installed on Aug. 29, 2022) at the Beaver Brook landfill site, checks are occasionally performed of this repeater during the SVARC Monday evening Nets.

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

Show and Tell

Coffee klatches



December 10

Rick (VA3EV), Doug (VE3HTR), Joe (VE3ADB), Don (VA3NC), Hal (VE3HWG) and yours truly (VA3GBV) behind the camera.

Christmas Dinner

The Christmas dinner was held at Quinn's Inn again this year. It was a great success with 26 guests attending.

See below the evening agenda prepared by Earle (VE3IMP) :

More pictures can be seen in dropbox at the following link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/889sh9dqb7spov3/AADCr5dkm7bZpWqN4ccv0alEa?dl=0>



History of the Seaway Valley Amateur Radio Club

The SVARC has been in existence since it was formed at a "Constitutional Meeting" held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Croteau (SK, VE3DPH) on June 18th 1960. In those early days, meetings were held at "Civil Defence Headquarters" on Fourth Street West. The Club had space for a Radio Room on the second floor and meeting space was also provided for the Club to put on Amateur Radio courses. In those days students were "encouraged" to take a Civil Defence course such as Radiation Monitoring, as a way of supporting the Civil Defence organization. Civil Defence later become EMO and was moved from the 4th Street location to the basement of the Post Office (now Public Library) at Second and Sydney Streets.

The Club's first repeater VE3SVC (Seaway Valley Cornwall) was started in the 1960's. It has had many homes over the years, for a while at the home of Reese Powell in the Riverdale area of Cornwall, then to the home of Gib Henderson in St. Andrews West. When Gib sold his home and moved into Cornwall, the repeater was moved to Tagwi High School, just west of Monkland. The repeater is now a Yaesu Fusion analog/digital unit located at the Cornwall Community Hospital along with VE3VSW - an analog UHF repeater and VA3SDG, our two DStar repeaters. The Club also hosts two wide area repeaters on a 300' tower north of Bonville, Ontario. VE3PGC (formerly VE3MTA) is another Yaesu Fusion analog/digital UHF repeater and VA3EDG operates as a digital DMR repeater.

The Seaway Valley Amateur Radio Club is a 'not for profit' incorporated in the Province of Ontario organization that promotes Amateur Radio and provides emergency communications in Cornwall and area.

The current Executive for 2022/2023 is as follows:
Earle DePass (VE3IMP), President earfrn@bell.net
Joe Scott (VE3ADB), Vice-President ve3adb@gmail.com
Roger Bélanger (VA3GBV), Secretary
Chris Lauzon (VA3CRR), Treasurer.

The Club's mailing address is:
Seaway Valley Amateur Radio Club Inc.
4672 O'Keefe Road, St.
Andrews West, ON, K0C 2A0.

As of Dec. 7, 2022 the SVARC has 39 members in good standing. This includes 34 voting members.
There are 10 members who have renewed for 2023.



The Seaway Valley Amateur Radio Club Inc. (SVARC)
Presents

Christmas Dinner 2022
Wednesday, December 07, 2022
at 5:00 PM

QUINN'S INN
17329 Kings Road,
Saint Andrews West, Ontario



Guest List

1. Earnest Vinson
2. Sue Vinson
3. Roger Bélanger (VA3GBV)
4. Diane LaFrance
5. Earle DePass (VE3IMP)
6. Francine DePass
7. Jim Richardson (VE3AFV)
8. Sue Richardson
9. Joe Scott (VE3ADB)
10. Denise Scott
11. Dan Cullen (VE2JMF)
12. Monica Cullen
13. Steve Harvey (VE3EZB)
14. Mireille Harvey
15. Ed Halliwell (VE3EAH)
16. Elizabeth Halliwell (VE3EZH)
17. Evan Halliwell (VE3HEI)
18. John Grow (VE2EOL)
19. Stan Thayer (VE3STH)
20. Patricia Rowan (VA3PUR)
21. Carlos D'Empaire (Grandson of Patricia Rowan)
22. Peter Legault (VE2FKR)
23. Mrs. Legault
24. Leonard Boileau (VE3OLB)
25. Sandra Boileau
26. Rick Palmer (VA3EV).

Special thanks to Earnest Vinson for spearheading this evening!

MENU CHOICES

Baked Salmon, Prime Rib or Chicken with mushrooms

Order of the Evening

- 5:00 PM...Cocktails/Meet and Greet
5:45 PM Group photo
6:00 PM...Guests are asked to be seated – Earle DePass, Emcee
6:05 PM...Welcome and comments - Earle DePass,
6:10 PM...Grace – Earle DePass,
6:15 PM...Supper, À la Carte – all,
6:45 PM...60-Year Awards Presentations –
*Richard (Rick) Palmer (VA3EV),
Edward (Ed) Halliwell (VE3EAH),
Art Horovitch (VE3AII),
Don Brownlee (VA3NC).*
7:00 PM... Amateur Radio Operator Of The Year 2022 Presentation
7:15 PM...Special draw for gift provided by John Grow
7:25 PM...Closing comments
7:30 PM...End



60 years of Amateur Radio

The evening was also the occasion to present an award to the 4 Club members who had been active Amateur Radio Operators for over 60 years.



Art VE3AIHJ



Ed VE3EAH



Rick VA3EV



Don VA3NC, presented on the following Saturday at Coffee



**Merry Christmas to all and may
the New Year bring you Peace, Health
and Happiness**

**Joyeux Noël à tous et que
la nouvelle année vous apporte la paix,
la santé et le bonheur**

