



February 2023 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)

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President's Message February 2023

SVARC President's Message February 2023

Where does the time go?!! My optimistic voice makes me think that winter is almost over!

I again commend Roger for his work as our secretary and for keeping our newsletter going!

While Field Day 2022 didn't happen, things are looking good for Field Day 2023. Initial discussions with the *Raisin River Conservation Authority* are looking encouraging! I hope you will mark the date (June 23-25, 2023) and participate this year.

Our last Club meeting on Feb. 22, 2023, was truly remarkable! We had a full room of members join us in-person along with two prospective members. We had several on Zoom. The mood was exciting and invigorating with lots of humour!

January's meeting featured an interesting presentation from the RAC Community Services Officer - Jason Tremblay (VE3JXT) on the RAC re-organization. It will be interesting to see how things go with our national organization.

Thanks to those who have renewed their SVARC memberships for 2023. We are most fortunate that all

but two previous members have renewed. We have two additional members for 2023!

Our next Fox Hunt is planned for Sunday, March 5, 2023, when Steve (VE3EZB) will again hide the sneaky transmitter. I hope you will come out and join us for some fun!

To those who continue to join us on Monday evenings for our Nets, "thank you" for your continued participation. I commend Joe (VE3ADB) for his dedication to running the Monday night Nets. Would you consider volunteering to take the role of Net Controller once or twice a year?

Our plan to conduct an emergency communications exercise utilizing VA3FHA and VE3PGC in concert with the Glengarry Fire Department is confirmed for the evening of Tuesday, April 4, 2023...please join us. We also hope to continue to restore our relations with the City of Cornwall.

Our Coffee Klatches at Spinners Restaurant continue to be a lot of fun. Please come out and enjoy on the second and fourth Saturdays!

Sincerely,
Earle (VE3IMP), President SVARC



Roger
VA3GBV

Note from the Editor

1. Weird February

I am sure you all noticed how warm was the February. Aside for one day at -30°C , the first part of the month was unusually warm with weeks on end above 0° . Well I won't complain, minus 20 and 30s is not my cup of tea.

2. 2023 Raisin River Canoe Race 50th anniversary

The raisin river Canoe race will celebrate their 50th anniversary on Saturday April 15th.

Yes, this is not a typo, the race will be held on a Saturday this year, and the SVARC will be there.

3. Amateur Radio Events Celebrate the Universe

Have a look at the brief article published on the ARRL website and reproduced below with the permission of the ARRL.

4. If you launched a balloon recently better tell the RCAF

Check the **show and tell** bit from Suzan (VE3EXN).

Speaking of balloon, if you plan to fly your own, check the **show and tell** "**Guess how he got there**".

5. 2023 Club dues

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

Last but not least have a look at **Earnest 14 months mission** to get his ticket.



**Earle
VE3IMP**

ACS Report

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

Monthly Report For February 2023

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 February 22, 2023.

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

The SVARC will hold its next Fox Hunt on Sunday, March 5, 2023 in Cornwall.

Repeater Checks: (Ongoing):

Our 8 repeater systems continue to function very well. 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 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, and,
5. Richard (Rick) Palmer (VA3EV), City of Cornwall.

Sadly, in late December, Art Horovitch (VE3AIH) who was one of our AECs became a Silent Key. Fortunately we were able to present him with an award for being an Amateur Radio operator for over 60-years.

City Of Cornwall:

Discussions with Leighton Woods (Deputy Fire Chief, Fire Services for the City of Cornwall) continue. We hope to meet with the City of Cornwall in early February 2023.

South Glengarry ARES Projects:

The VA3FHA repeater (installed on Aug. 29, 2022) at the Beaver Brook landfill site, continues to function well.

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

Amateur Radio Events Celebrate the Universe

This is reprinted here with the permission of the ARRL (by Maty Weinberg, KB1EIB, Production Coordinator)

<https://www.arrl.org/news/amateur-radio-events-celebrate-the-universe>

02/12/2023

Two amateur radio events are scheduled in mid-February to celebrate an astronomer who mapped the universe and an astronomer who discovered a planet.

The Northern Arizona DX Association (NADXA) has been conducting a 10-year special event countdown to the 100-year anniversary of Pluto's discovery. The planet was spotted in 1930 by Clyde Tombaugh at the Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona. This is the third year of the special event, which will run from February 11 - 19, 2023.

NADXA club members will operate from the Lowell Observatory and their own stations. They will be using the call sign W7P on most bands and modes, beginning February 11 at 00:00 UTC through February 20 at 00:00 UTC. Also operating will be W7P/0 from Kansas City, Missouri. The W7P/0 station is managed by the nephew of Clyde Tombaugh, Doug Tombaugh, N3PDT. Last year's event resulted in more than 7,000 QSOs, 58 DX entities, and 17,000 lookups on <https://www.qrz.com/>.

In Poland, from February 17 - March 5, 2023, the Polish Amateur Radio Union (PZK) will operate nine special event stations honoring the 550th anniversary of the birth of Nicolaus Copernicus. Copernicus mapped the universe and formulated a model that placed the sun, rather than Earth, at its center.

The nine special event stations will operate from February 17 at 00:00 UTC to March 5 at 23:59 UTC, using the following call signs: SN550K, SN550O, SN550P, SN550E, SN550R, SN550N, SN550I, SP550K, and SN550NC.

All amateur operators can participate, and QSL cards and other awards will be available.

This is reprinted here with the permission of the ARRL (by Maty Weinberg, KB1EIB, Production Coordinator)

Show and Tell

Think before launching your balloon.

Contributed by Suzan Horovitch VE3EXN

ONTARIO SECTION NEWS

ITEMS OF INTEREST

The US Airforce may have shot down an Amateur Radio “Pico Balloon” over Canada

Since the famous takedown of a suspected Chinese spy balloon, US jets have shot down a total of three more unidentified balloon objects, now confirmed to have been ‘commercial or benign’. There is speculation that at least one these three objects may have been an amateur radio ‘pico’ balloon.

One part of the amateur radio hobby is launching high altitude balloons with various radio and other payloads. Larger amateur radio balloons launched in the USA require FAA clearance, need a radar reflector attached, and usually continually transmit APRS telemetry before naturally popping and falling back to earth after a few hours, just like a weather balloon.

However, there is also the simpler ‘pico’ ballooning hobby, which involves the use of mylar helium party balloons to launch small solar powered payloads that are only a few grams in weight. They typically transmit low power WSPR at HF frequencies and can only transmit whenever there is sufficient solar power available. Amateur radio or SDR hobbyist stations around the world can pick up these transmissions and report them on amateur.sondehub.org and/or wsprnet.org. Well-built balloons can totally circumnavigate the globe several times over several months before degrading.

Read more – RTL-SDR Blog: <http://bit.ly/3xAeGMI>.

This article has been reproduced with the permission of Paul Caccamo-

Coffee klatches



February 11

Earnest Vinson (VA3EWV), Rick (VA3EV), Doug (VE3HTR), Jason Racine, Terry LaRocque, and a cameo appearance from John Grow!

February 25, 2023

OOOPS no picture !

Don B. (VA3NV), Dean B. (VA3BS), Jason R., Jamie M., Roger B. (VA3GBV), Earnest V. (VA3EWV), Doug P. (VE3HTR).

Guess how he got there.

Anyway, there I was at 40,000 feet in my own private balloon not bothering anyone....



SVARC

Earnest goes to SVARC

Nov 21, 2021 to Jan 17, 2022 – 14
months to certification 😊

Issue #1



Photo Credit – Rene Champagne

JOHN -VE2EQL

Before I get started, if anyone is looking for someone to blame, look no further than John Grow. John is one of the first people that my wife Sue and I met when we moved to St. Andrews in Nov of 2021 and while he was at my home giving us a quote to renovate our 2 bathrooms a conversation sprang up about our military background then to radios and the next thing that I knew, he was inviting me to the SVARC Christmas Party. John has been a big help to me through my journey to acquire my Amateur Radio License and he and I have developed a strong friendship over the past year. John also gave me my first wire antenna and a 2m HT to help me get started in the Hobby.

RENE – VE2RI

After John, Rene was the 2nd person that I was introduced to at the Christmas Party, I sat right beside him and he had brought a Handy Talkie with him and was talking about his fondness of the hobby and perked my ears up when he started explaining how the hobby has advanced from the days of Tubes to the Digital DMR ages. I remembered those conversations, kept up with Rene and Purchased my very first “brand new” AnyTone D578UV PLUS Tri-Band Radio. Thank you Rene for all of the conversations along the way and for being a supporter and supplier of the hobby.

ROGER – VA3GBV

I have had the most activity year to date with Roger, not because we spent loads of physical time together lol, it’s because he is the secretary of our group. My fondest memories with Roger were when he and I went to participate in a Fox Hunt and we were having some tech issues with the setup and that day I learned about fuses, voltage meters, radio troubleshooting and a whole lot of hands-on things that day. Roger has also kept me motivated while I was preparing to write my test, Roger has even come to my home to help with the Summer Bar-B-Que this past year as well as coming over to help me troubleshoot a HT given to me by the late Art H. VE3AIH.

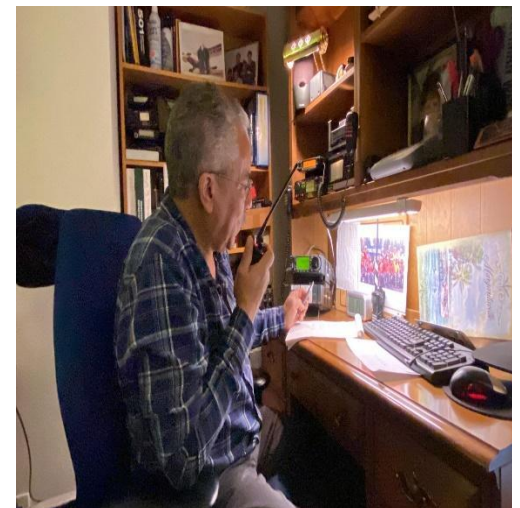
DOUG – VE3HTR

As you are all aware, Doug is our Technical Director and I must add, a very knowledgeable lad 😊. Well, he decided, one day (after almost suffering a mental breakdown due to 3 CB junkies, Jamie, Jason and I showing interest all at the same time) a to took matters into his own hands and hosted some Thursday evening Sessions at the St. Johns Ambulance site geared toward the exam. I really enjoyed those sessions, and they gave me a good foundation and motivation to pursue the hobby.

Seaway Valley Amateur Radio Club

EARLE – VA3IMP

Earle is the one individual that I’ve spent the most physical time with during this 14-month journey to get licensed. I am a very hands-on type of learner and Earle took the time to invite me to his home for my very first Monday Night Net, invited me to the Monthly Meetings, as well as lightly encouraged me to write the test. He also took the time to sit with me and show me actual resistors, transistors, radios, antennas and anything he had at his house, and he did that because I didn’t even know what most of these items were.





SVARC Coffee Klatch
Coffee and Conversation – Join Us at Spinners

ART – VE3AIH

I met the late Art H. and his lovely wife Susan, part way through the summer when he was moving all his equipment from his RV to a house and during our conversation he said to me, Earnie, I have a radio for you when you write your exam and pass it. Well, that gave me even more motivation and even though I wasn't able to pass my exam before Art Passed away, I did call Susan on the Sunday before taking the exam, advised her that I was dedicating that exam to Art and low and behold I passed it, Thanks Art and Susan for believing in me.



Art H – VE3AIH joining us at the Christmas party and being honored for being licensed for 60 years.



Roger trying to sort out why we had no power to the fox, it turned out to be a fuse.

RICK – VE3EV

Rick has been the guy to get those radios given to me by various members and has taken the time to program them, get them all cleaned up and has helped me more than words can describe and almost weekly I'm phoning him and keeping him from what he has planned but he helps me with a smile, and I really appreciate that.



Club members at my home in St Andrews enjoying the summer Bar-B-Que



No one likes their photo taken but here I am always taking photos without folks knowing about it 😊 How many guys does it take to replace a fuse? Laugh Out Loud – 3

THE GANG

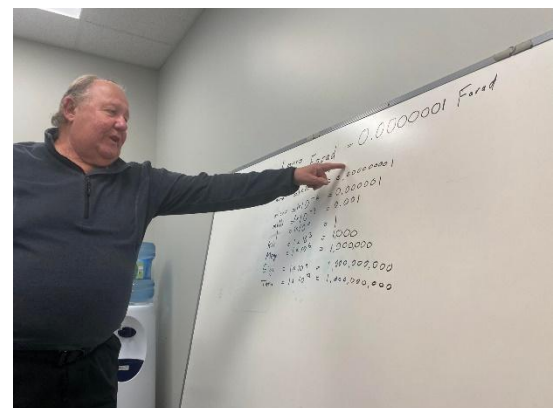
I want to take a moment to thank everyone else who has helped me in this hobby, Joe - VE3ADB, Jim -VE3AFV, Dan - VE2JMF, Steve - VE3EZB, Ed VE3EAH, Don, Tony – VE3CQC, Pete – VA2FKR, Will – VA1HEL, Dave – VE2JMF, Jamie M. Terry L, Jason R and a host of others that may not be named.

EARLE – CONTINUED

Earle had confidence and even after me taking the exam 3 times and failing it lol. He said, I know that you can do this and you took the first step and actually showed up, so you will get this. Earle also allowed me to participate in various outings and meetings even though I wasn't a licensed operator and that really made me feel like a part of SVARC. I was even allowed to host the Summer Bar-B-Que at my home as well as coordinate the 2022 Club Christmas party which was a huge success and a massive turnout of members. It didn't stop there though, I found myself with a license and no radio for my first net so Earle provided me with a Mobile Radio and a HT to use for my first contacts and that was so helpful and I appreciated Earle and the Club for providing that resource for me.



A photo of the guys at the club with some special guests that came from Ottawa to show us some tips and tricks on successful fox hunts.



Professor of all things ham – Doug making Jamie and I cry with the Latin coming out of his mouth lol – I had nightmares about Farads lol.



What do you mean I have to learn how to put ends on coaxial cable, I don't even own duct tape and you expect me to use heat lol – Well I did that day, thanks Earle for showing me.