



# Seaway Valley Amateur Radio Club Inc.

## Monthly General Meeting

April 26, 2023



Venue: St John Ambulance venue and via Zoom  
 Date: April 26, 2023  
 Time: 19:00 EDT  
 Present: 18 Members and 2 guests

<p><b>Present:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Earle DePass, President (VE3IMP)</li> <li>2. Chris Lauzon, Treasurer (VA3CRR)</li> <li>3. Roger Bélanger, Secretary (VA3GBV)</li> <li>4. Doug Pearson, Technical Director (VE3HTR))</li> <li>5. Dave Cullen (VE2JMF)</li> <li>6. John Grow (VE2EQL)</li> <li>7. Jamie Montroy</li> <li>8. Jason Forget (VA3XDZ)</li> <li>9. Michel Bickerstaffe (VE3AQE)</li> <li>10. Earnest Vinson (VA3EWV)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. Jason Racine (VE3PRY)</li> <li>12. Hunter Racine (VA3HWF)</li> <li>13. Ed Halliwell (VE3EAH)</li> <li>14. Hal Green (VE3HWG)</li> <li>15. Dan Cullen (VE2JMF)</li> <li>16. Joe Tondreau (VA3JHT) *</li> <li>17. René Champagne (VA3RIA) *</li> <li>18. Pat Rowan (VA3PUR) *</li> <li>19. Roger Egan, Guest (VA3EGY) *</li> <li>20. Harrie Jones, Guest (VA3HYS) *</li> </ol>
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\* Attended virtually via ZOOM

### Call to order:

Meeting called to order by Earle (VE3IMP) at 7:00 pm.

#### 1- Round table

Earle welcomed all members and guests, called for a round table for participants to identify themselves and asked about members' plans for the upcoming summer.

#### 2- Review of the minutes of last General Meeting:

Earle (VE3IMP) asked if there were any questions or comments on the minutes of the March 29, 2023, meeting. These minutes had been circulated on March 31, 2023, again on April 22, 2023, along with the agenda for the April 26, 2023, General Meeting.

No further questions.

Motion to approve minutes: Hal Green (VE3HWG)

Seconded: Jason Racine (VE3PRY)

The minutes were approved.

**3- Treasurer's Report**

29-Mar-2023	Email Money Transfer Credit Other Reference # 812371 Memo JASON FORGET	\$40.00	Renewal Jason Forget, Non RAC
30-Mar-2023	Clearing Cheque Cheque # 9 Cheque Date 30-Mar-2023 Cheque Account Number 60392828330104554101 Reference Number 396024080	-81.00	RAC Insurance rider for SJ Amb.

Balance as of April 25, 2023

<u>General</u>	<u>Repeater</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Shares</u>	<u>Accessible</u>
<b>\$1173.15</b>	<b>\$2422.80</b>	<b>\$3595.95</b>	<b>-\$50</b>	<b>\$3545.95</b>
+\$40				
-\$81				
<b>\$1132.15</b>	<b>\$2422.80</b>	<b>\$3554.95</b>	<b>-\$50</b>	<b>\$3504.95</b>

The report was submitted by Chris Lauzon (VA3CRR).

Adoption of report proposed by Chris (VA3CRR),  
Seconded Roger Bélanger (VA3GBV)  
Adopted.

**4- Secretary's Report:**

As of April 26, 2023, the SVARC has 38 Members in good standing including 34 voting members.

Total Number of RAC Members	<b>23</b>
Total Number of paid Members	<b>38</b>
Number of voting Members	<b>34</b>

This is up 2 members from last month's report.

One 2022 member renewed on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2023

One new member joined on April 26<sup>th</sup> 2023

In comparison, 2022 membership was 39 members by year-end. Since then:

Two members have moved to other provinces,

One member passed away,

Two 2022 members have not renewed yet,

Four new members were recruited.

Terry informed Roger (VA3GBV) that due to his disabilities, he is not capable of pursuing the Amateur Radio Course he purchased from RAQI (Fédération de Radio Amateurs du Québec) and is no longer pursuing his effort to obtain a radio amateur licence.

It was proposed by the secretary (VA3GBV) to reimburse Terry Larocque's 2023 membership.

The members present unanimously approved the proposal.

**5- Net Managers Report for April 2023:**

Net meets and 1900 local time on Mondays Year-round

					145.570 MHZ	444,450 MHz	224,180 MHz		
VE3SVC	ECHOLINK	VE3PGC	VE3VSW	VA3FHA	VE3SDG	VE3SDG	VE3SVC	DMR TG 2	TOTAL
53	8	44	26	21	12	3	0	10	177

VE3SVC is still has the most check-ins, with an average of 14 operators. The regular net controller (VE3ADB) does not have 220 MHz, but there is activity on it on Monday nights during the net.

A discussion on the Monday night Nets ensued with the following suggestions:

It was suggested by John (VE2EQL) to leave more time between transmissions to allow people to check-in.

Select a variety but limited number of repeaters to check. There are 8 repeaters plus EchoLink.

There was some disagreement to this suggestion, mainly centered around the idea that one purpose of the net is to check on a weekly basis that all our repeaters are functional.

Earle promised to discuss with Joe (VE3ADB)

Net Report Submitted by VE3ADB

Joe Scott

## 6- Technical Directors Report:

### Cornwall Community Hospital (CCH) Internet interruption:

Doug Pearson reported that the Cornwall Community Hospital (CCH) has been without internet since 8:03 am on April 11, 2023.

This affects the DMR repeater where only local Talk Groups (TGs) can be used.

This also affects our marine traffic receiver, which is off-line and cannot report any ship positions to the network.

This also affects our Watt Box (IP controlled Power Bar), inhibiting our capability to reset the CCH repeaters remotely.

Ed (VE3EAH) learned from his contacts at CCH that all internet related functionalities are down including payroll, patient files, TV service in patient's room and Internet access for guests.

It seems that CCH officials are not at liberty to discuss details of the stoppage, whether it is the cause, the cost of restoration or a time schedule to restore service.

It goes without saying that internet service for our repeaters is not a priority for CCH IT department.

### VE3PGC – VE2VSW Swap

VE3PGC is now a FM only repeater using the Motorola GR 1225. Repeater.

VE3VSW is now a C4FM repeater using a Yeasu DR-2X repeater.

The main reason for this change is that VE3PGC is used for Echo-Link and Allstar Analog FM networks and is sufficiently busy with the FM traffic. While VE3VSW see lower use and can accommodate additional digital traffic.

### Use of DMR local Talk Group

Doug (VE3HTR) asked why it is not recommended to use TG 2 for our local use.

René (VA3RIA) explained the TG 2 is marked for cluster operation and is used occasionally by a group in Gatineau. TG 8 is also marked as a clustered TG.

The recommendation for local traffic is to use TG 9 on Time Slot 2 which is unassigned.

Members with DMR capability are requested to add Talkgroup 8 and Talkgroup 9 (both on Time Slot 2) to their radio's codeplug.

## 7- Updates:

- a. April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 – The Iroquois Hamfest.

Earle updated that the SVARC rented 2 tables at the Hamfest and sold \$70 of misc. equipment.

The event was a success and a lot of fun for participants.

See pictures on the April 2023 Newsletter.

- b. April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Joint exercise with the South Glengarry Fire Service debriefing.

The participants were: Hunter (VA3HWF), Jason (VE3PRY), Dan (VE2JMF), Earle (VE3IMP), Roger (VA3GBV), Steve (VE3EZB), Earnest (VA3EWV) and Dave Robertson, the South Glengarry Fire chief. Three repeaters were used for the exercise; VE3SVC, VA3FHA and VE3PGC. Operators were provided the date and time of the exercise but not provided any other specifics.

A debriefing was held at Quinn's with the following notes and suggestions:

- All 3 repeaters worked well and Dave Robertson was satisfied with the results, network is well suited to back-up the FD comms network.
- Use Tactical Callsigns
- Make a roll call periodically (30 minutes) using actual operator's callsigns.

c. April 15, 2023 - Raisin River Canoe Race 2023 Debrief:

First the event was an all-time record with 296 boats and 400 participants with no major accidents. See Statistics of the Event in Annex II

In general, people were very pleased with our services.

- i. Kyle Lefave (Stormont First Aid) was very happy to have Steve (VE3EZB) on board, Kyle found it very useful to know where the first canoes were and later where the sweep was at all times. Kyle plans to have a second EM vehicle next year and wants to have an operator in the second vehicle. Having a second operator would be useful because it would also allow communication between the two vehicles.
- ii. Other officials from the South Glengarry Fire Department at the Martintown portage point really appreciated Hal and Larry's presence and their reports on the sweep's progress.
- iii. Lissa Deslandes from the RRCA requested that we have an operator permanently at the finish line because this point is also the coordination center for the event. Progress reports would be particularly useful there.
- iv. We could have Net Control position there with a white board to show the times of the first canoe and the sweep as they pass check points. We had Jason (VE3PRY) there doing double duty with the fire department rescue truck. But we should have a dedicated operator at the finish line.
- v. We should make sure that all our operators wear the yellow safety vest with the ARES/ACS markings. The club has two spares, but we need more or more people should have one. Name and callsign tags would also be useful.
- vi. Other issues:
- vii. Dave Robertson suggested that the finish line location be revisited as it was a train wreck with a lot of canoes capsizing in the eddies as they veered to the shore.
- viii. Could possibly use the Fairgrounds by the former fire Department building. There are no rapids here, lots of parking and the possibility to expand the race to fairgrounds/meeting house for awards ceremony.
- ix. Lissa made one recommendation for future years to cap the number of boats to 300. Over that, the event becomes more difficult to manage. It would also deter last minute unprepared participants to enter.

**8- General planning for the future:**

A planning calendar for 2023 is being attached in Annex I.

- a. Winter Fox Hunts: A Fox hunt is planned for May 7<sup>th</sup> 2023.

- b. Field Day: Jason (VE3PRY) to arrange for a visit to the Raisin River venue on Monday evening May 1<sup>st</sup> to get a better lay of the land for setting of the Field Day. It would be useful to have people there with experience in setting a field Day.

Ed (VE3EAH) mentioned that he has two boxes of equipment for the field day, RF cables, antennas, Sling shots etc.

- c. MS Bike: Nicole (VE3GIQ) was contacted and mentioned that the event is scheduled for August 19-20, 2023. The itinerary will be the same as last year, Carp to Brockville and return. She will require an operator in each support vehicle and at checkpoints.
- d. Children treatment center Bike-A-Thon: The event will be low key as it was last year, where it is left to each participant to select an itinerary and a time for their participation. The SVARC support is not required.
- e. Upcoming Cornwall emergency management / S&DG ACS meeting in February, 2023.

The city officials were contacted again but showed no great interest in our involvement in the emergency management committee.

- 9- **Next Meeting:** May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023, 7:00PM, St. John Ambulance, 100 - 2nd Street W., Cornwall.

**10- Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:18 EDT.

- 11- **Guest speaker:** Roger Egan (VA3EGY), Harrie Jones (VA3HYS): Using a PowerPoint presentation, they outlined plans for Youth On The Air (YOTA) 2023 and the International Space Station.

Minutes submitted by Roger Bélanger (VA3GBV), Secretary,  
April 29, 2023

## Annex I

### SVARC 2023 Annual Planning Calendar - Last Revised: June 1, 2023

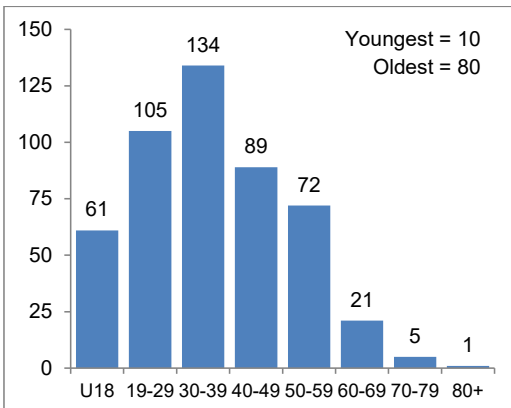
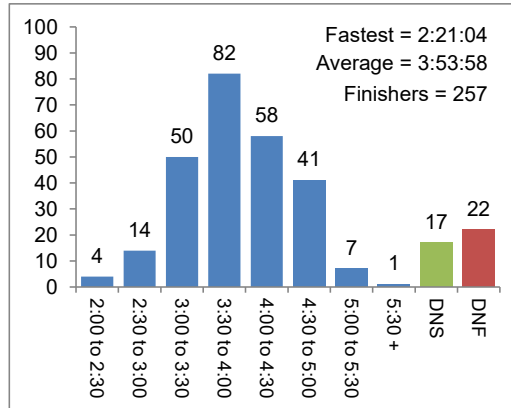
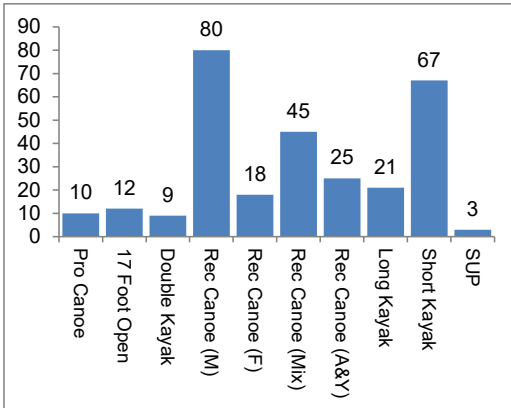
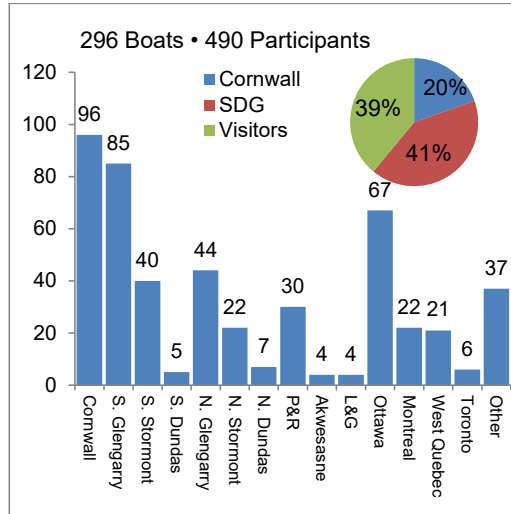
Event Number	Date	Day	Time (Local)	Item	Location	Guest Speaker	Lead
1.	May 7, 2023	Sunday	13:00-15:00	Fox hunt	Cornwall		Roger
2.	June 24/25, 2023	Sat./Sun		SVARC Field day	TBD		Earl
5.	July 15, 2023	Sat.		Club BBQ	VA3EWV's QTH		Earnest
5.	August 19 – 20, 2023	Sat. Sun		MS Bike	Carp		Roger

**Notes:**

1. Monday evening weekly Nets take place at 19:00L starting on the VE3SVC repeater,
2. Coffee Klatches usually take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays of each month, starting at 08:30L, at *Spinner's*, 118 Pitt Street, Cornwall,
3. Club meetings take place on the last Wednesday, of each month starting at 19:00L, at *St. John Ambulance HQ*, 100-2<sup>nd</sup> Street West, Cornwall

# Annex II

## 2023 Raisin River Canoe Race - Stats



Year	Flow	Boats	Year	Flow	Boats
2004	388	219	2014	275	159
2005	184	225	2015	300	173
2006	130	128	2016	636	162
2007	512	134	2017	2,649	205
2008	1,232	213	2018	450	165
2009	144	189	2019	1,300	207
2010	175	0	2020	Covid	0
2011	595	144	2021	Covid	0
2012	71	98	2022	1,400	222
2013	1,313	153	2023	630	296



## **Annex III**

### **YOTA (Youth On The Air) and ARISS (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station)**