



## 2023 Newsletter

### Summer Edition

## 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](http://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:** Earnest Vinson (VA3EWW)
- **ACS Coordinator:** Earle DePass (VE3IMP)
- **Newsletter:** Roger Bélanger (VA3GBV)

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**Earle**  
**VE3IMP**

## President's Message

### June 2023

#### SVARC President's Message Summer 2023

I hope you and your families are enjoying this lovely summer season! In addition to Amateur Radio, there is so much to do! I also hope you are getting that outdoor antenna work done? With summer about half over, it's a real pleasure to share some "warm" thoughts with you.

I am so delighted at how well our involvement in Field Day 2023 and our summer BBQ has gone. With record participation in both, it has been a real pleasure. Much of the credit for success goes to Earnest (VA3EWV) for hosting us for both events. Thanks to all who helped to make both events so successful.

I am delighted that our Coffee Klatches at *Spinners* restaurant have continued over the summer and continue to be enjoyed by all who come out.

I am saddened to see Joe (VE3ADB) leave as our Net Manager. However, I know that nothing good lasts forever. I publicly thank Joe for his great work as our Net Manager over the last several months and wish him well in his future role after 'retirement' –

yet again! I extend a warm welcome to Earnest (VA3EWV) and thank him for agreeing to take over this role effective July 31, 2023.

Our last Fox Hunt on July 9, 2023, was most enjoyable. Thanks to Jason for hiding the crafty transmitter. The Hunt saw most of us walk right by the crafty transmitter. We look forward to the next Hunt in August. Steve (VE3EZB) and his team will hide the Fox – yet again!

Our club plans to help with the provision of communication services for the MS Bike ride on August 19 and 20, 2023 continue. Thanks in advance to all those who plan to help.

We hope to see you at our next hybrid meeting planned for September 27, 2023, at *St. John Ambulance*, Cornwall. I hope you continue to enjoy every warm bit of summer!

Happy HAMming!

73,

Earle DePass (VE3IMP)

President, SVARC (2022-2024)



**Roger  
VA3GBV**

## Note from the Editor

### 1. Summer Edition.

I have decided to publish a summer edition, mostly to report on the summer BBQ hosted by Earnest (VA3EWV) and Sue on their beautiful property.

We had record attendance this year.

See more on page 4.

### 2. Coffee Klatches

Another record attendance at Spinners on July 8 with 12 hungry people

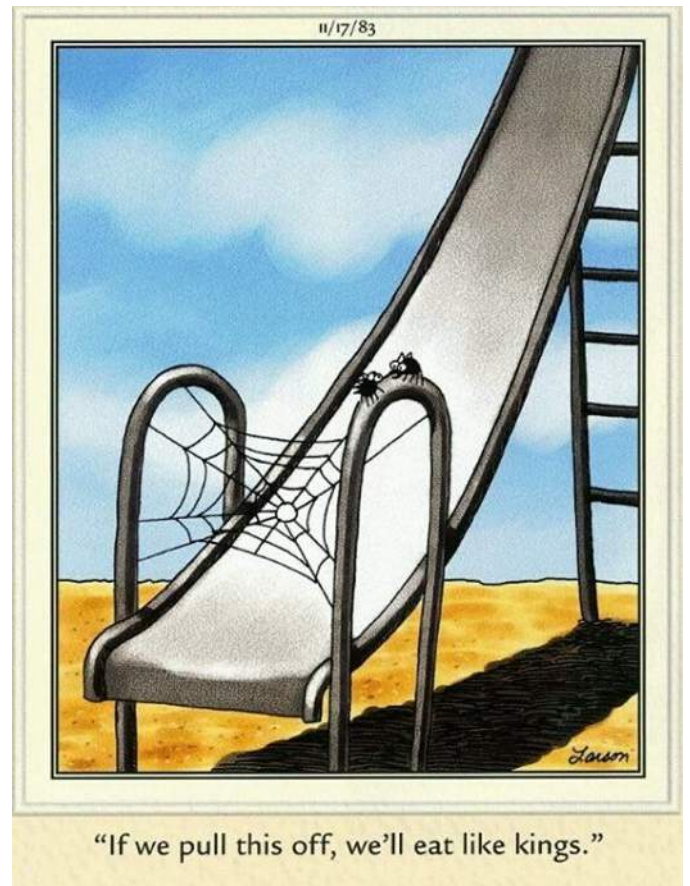
See pictures on page 7.

### 3. The Geek's Corner

I also added a new section called the Geek's Corner. Hopefully other geek members will contribute to this new section.

In this edition you will see how to use a great circle map to orient your antenna for desired coverage.

### And finally...





# Show and Tell

## Summer BBQ July 15, 2023

SVARC Members,

Under sunny skies, 25 (total) club members and their family members enjoyed good food, fellowship and laughter yesterday. This was one of the largest attendance at a club BBQ in several years.

Attached is a photo of the members and families who came. Unfortunately, Mirelle and Steve Harvey had to leave early and are not in the photo.

Many thanks to Earnest and Sue Vinson for hosting another nice event. Thanks to Jason and Hunter Racine for staffing the BBQ, allowing us to enjoy delicious chicken, hamburgers and hot dogs to accompany the delicious items which members brought.

73,  
Earle



From left to right

First Row: Françoise DePass, Dan (VE2JMF), Jason (VE3PRY), Hunter (VA3HWF), Josée Racine, Suzanne Racine  
Second row: XYL Giguère, Jim (VE3AFV), Larry (VA3RSQ), Dean (VA3BS), Sue Vinson, Roger (VA3GBV), Sue Robinson, René (VA3RIA), Kyle Gaucher, Earnest (VA3EWW), Michael (VE3LTN), Doug (VE3HTR), John (VE2EQL), Gail Joyce, Chris (VA3CRR), Denise Champagne, Joe (VE3ADB), Earle (VE3IMP).  
Not on the picture: Mireille and Steve (VE3EZB)





Half of the gang



The other half





The chef: Hunter (VA3HWF)



The sous-chef! (VE3PRY)



## Coffee Klatches



July 8 10, 2023 at Spinner's

From left to right: Don (VA3NC), Dean (VA3BS), Earle (VE3IMP), Dan VE2JMF), Earnest (VA3EWV), Kyle Gaucher, John (VE2EQL), Rick (VA3EV), Hunter (VA3HWF), Suzanne racine, Jason (VE3PRY).



July 24 at Spinner's

Going around the table, from the bottom left: Marshal McBride (VE3SX), Dean (VA3BS), Rick VA3EV), Doug (VE3HTR), Dan (VE2JSF), Larry (VA3RSQ) and behind the camera: Earnest (VA3EWV).



## René's Op ED

### Ham Radio in 2023 - the Future!

#### A young, relaxed and uninhibited amateur radio!

This is not a scoop and the world of amateur radio talks about it more and more. Our universe today suffers from an image deficit. In fact, it is a hobby that interests only a few young people, which does not help to renew the amateur radio population.

#### What is the reason?

What can we do to rejuvenate our passion? Without any pretense, we are going to try to draw up an assessment as exhaustive as possible (with the look of a seventy-year-old who did know the hours of glory in the 70s, 80s.

Amateur radio is an old thing! This is what young people really and rightly think about amateur radio. And again we speak here of those who know this discipline. The reality is rather that most young people are completely unaware of this hobby. The problem is, in my opinion, due to a big lack of communication in our environment. Paradoxically, we who are among the people best placed to talk about it, we don't know how to do it anymore. Gone are the days of dad's communication networks, today we communicate on Instagram or TikTok. Even Facebook and Whatsapp, which are still in their thirties, the "networks of the year 2000", have become Boomer social networks for the youngest. I don't even dare to talk about "Skype" and email lists which are still widely used by some people. Know that if this is your case, you got stuck in the Middle Ages of computing and internet communication. It is therefore not surprising that young people do not know us since most of us continue to use obsolete means of communication that no longer reach anyone. Even websites that are marvelous sources, do not interest young people. None of them spend hours reading pages of documentation anymore. Young people watch "Youtube", "TikTok" and other highly addictive short format videos.

#### So, what are we waiting for?

What are you waiting for to upgrade yourself by doing a small update of your communication firmware?(1) "Boomer" is used pejoratively among young people today to indicate something old and outdated. A definite lack of investment! This is not new, and it is not exclusive to the amateur radio community. An association needs people to support it. Unfortunately, in most cases, it is always the same small group that takes care of everything and sometimes even a single person. To attract people, it is important to be active and to offer activities. Today, and I speak knowingly for having experienced it, a parent who comes with his child to a radio club does not really want to leave him alone in an association that has no long-term project. and which does not offer a training course. Having a drink together and a bite to eat on the corner of the table is not what is expected and rightly so in a radio club!

When I started radio (three years ago), I went to a radio club because I read on the internet that was the right thing to do. I cannot say that I was badly received, on the contrary. But very quickly I understood that, to train myself, I was only going to be able to count on myself. It's not really a problem when you're resourceful and motivated but imagining a 15-year-old who finds himself let loose in a world he doesn't know and who has to come to terms with the idea that he's going to have to climb only the mountain he has in front of him to get to obtaining the license. Certainly, he will prefer his console to the radio. It is important that each radio amateur brings his stone to the building and especially that he shares his knowledge. We all have areas in which we are

more comfortable than others and by all giving a little of our time to train the aspirants, the work is less strenuous.

### **Technology watch without blinkers!**

A seemingly recurrent problem that I have encountered is that a large number of radio amateurs stick to their slightly dated skills. Without denying the past, the time of lamp posts or galena posts is over. Today in a radio club we should find Raspberry pi, hotspots, computers running DMR, FT8 or JS8. Unfortunately, too many associations have remained on modes of transmission which have lost none of their nobility, but which are no longer up to date. In my opinion, it is important to live the amateur radio of 2023 to make young people dream with means of communication that speak to them. In my short life as a radio amateur, I have too often been confronted by radio amateurs who told me that traffic on link relays on the internet such as Allstar, DMR, Fusion, etc. was not radio. But how is this argument valid in 2023?

Let's be fair and honest, maybe this technology is beyond you, but the fact remains that it is radio. North America is lagging behind in terms of digital communications. Too often I had to deal with radio amateurs who forbade talking about DMR or other within the radio club. Wake up! The world doesn't stop spinning. The time when America was ahead of its time in communications is over. The worst part is that most of those who are against these fads don't know what they are talking about. I still very recently have an example that speaks for itself. A "local radio amateur", accustomed to DX SSB contacts and not necessarily favourable to DMR, started experimenting with this mode. And it was his surprise to discover that finally what he imagined as a meaningless mode is in fact something as addictive as voice contacts.

The proper meaning of amateur radio is experimentation. So don't jump to conclusions, take off your blinders and don't talk about what you don't know unless it's to learn from those who know, even if sometimes they are thirty or forty years younger than you.

### **Appropriation of existing radio resources!**

You may have been part of an amateur radio association for many years. You have undoubtedly participated in many projects as part of this activity and thanks to your investment a repeater may have been installed, equipment may have been purchased with the funds from the raffle you organized, etc. It is to your credit that you have advanced amateur radio in your area, but that does not make you the owner of the fruits of your labor. Today, and this is something that comes up in any corner of the hobby, some over the years have taken the bad habit of considering that because they are at the origin of a project, they own the resulting result. From the moment your project has been set up within an associative framework and I would even say often financed by the association of which you are a member, even if you are at the origin of it, it is the association and therefore all its members who own it. No matter how long the members have been members of the association, they have their say. Even if you don't like it, if during a meeting of the management of the association, a decision is voted by the board of directors and that it validates the evolution, the modernization and even the abandonment, of the project you were at the origin of 40 years ago because this one is now obsolete, you have to be able to accept it. To refuse evolution is to prevent the youngest from participating in new projects on subjects that interest them and make them want to get involved. To refuse evolution is to hasten the death of amateur radio. Being a radio amateur is good, being a real radio amateur is better! Be careful, this is a sensitive subject!

### **What is it to be a radio amateur?**



For some, being a radio amateur means having passed the license. So far, we're all in agreement. But is obtaining a diploma really enough to make us radio amateurs? Let me make more than one of you jump from your weather-worn split leather seat. No, what makes you a real radio amateur is not the fact that you have met the requirements of an exam. A radio amateur is someone who has a passion, who practices it and who shares it. Some will be more technical; others will prefer to establish contacts. Whatever interests you in this passion, the most important thing is to be active. If you never or only take the microphone or the soldering iron on Sunday morning, you are not a radio amateur. In any case, this is how the youngest among us approach our passion.

Respectfully Submitted

René, VE2DMR, VA3RIA

# The Geek's Corner

## The earth is not flat.

### Is the earth flat?

Of course, it is not flat, but some believe it is.

Have fun visiting their website:

<https://theflatearthsociety.org/home/index.php>

Once you recover from laughing read the rest of this.

### Great circle routes

Europe is due east from us.

For instance, if you travelled from Cornwall due East following the 45 degree parallel, you would hit the French coast near Bordeaux.

But that is the long way. The one flat-earthners would take.

A shorter route would be the great circle route.

If you look down when flying from Montréal to Paris, you noticed that you flew over the St-Lawrence up to Labrador, skirted Greenland, flew over Ireland and over the channel and into Charles DeGaulle. This is the great circle route.

### **What is my point? Use great circle maps.**

Well, radio wave also travels along great circles, bouncing up and down between the ionosphere and the ground.

To illustrate this and help find the optimal position of a dipole we use great circle maps.

On such a map, great circles routes are straight lines.

Superpose your antenna radiation diagram to your location on a great circle map and rotate the pattern until it points to the desired target.

If you use a beam, then this method becomes a must.

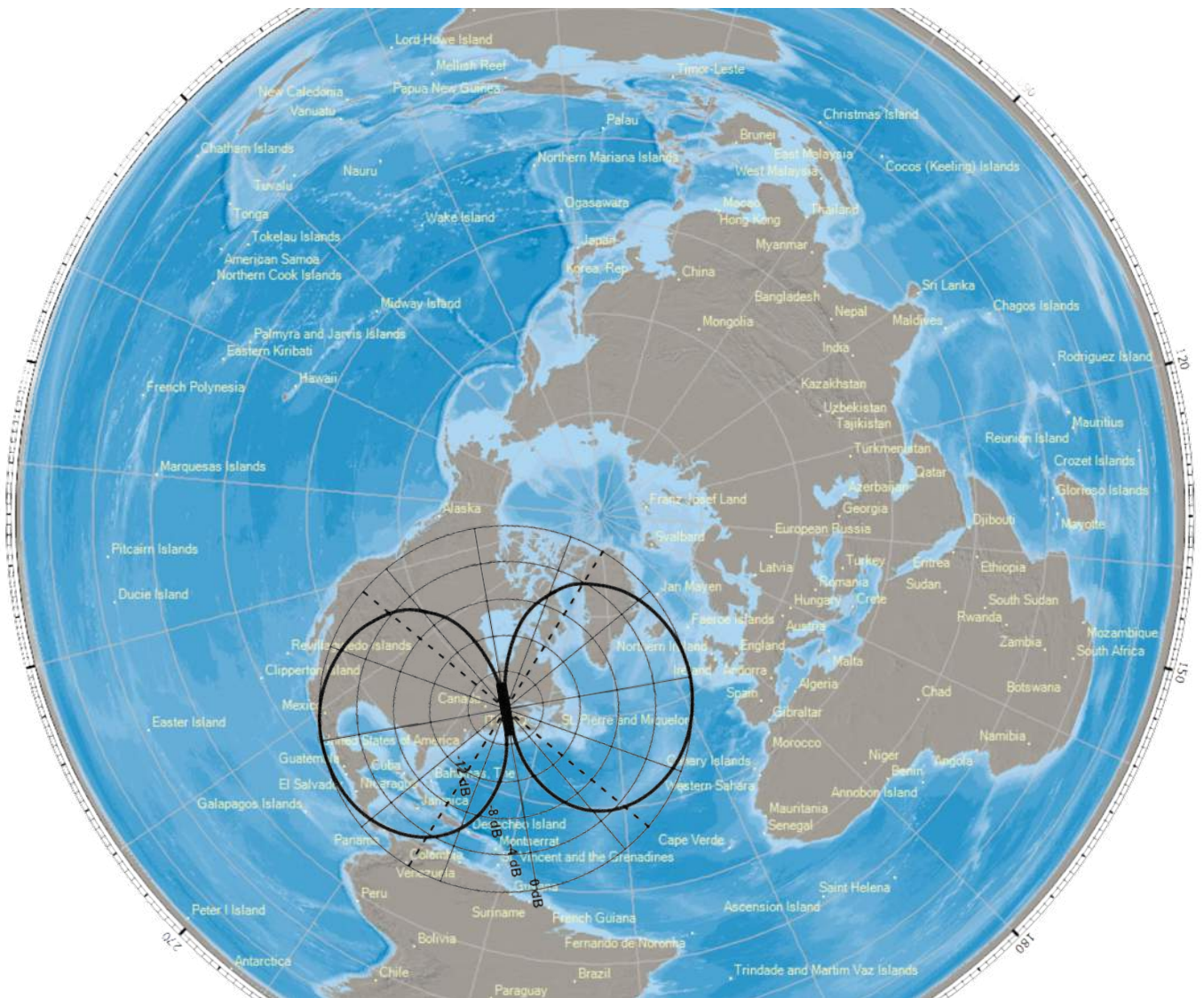
For instance, if you want your signal peak to hit Paris, you need to aim along the St-Lawrence.

If you are firing from a dipole, the means that your dipole need to be strung perpendicular to the river or approximately NW to SE. See Figure below.

If you string it N S, your beam peak is aiming at the west tip of Africa on one side and California on the other side.

Now this being said, a dipole has a 3 dB beamwidth of about 80 degrees, so, even pointing at west Africa you signal is only 3 dB down over France.





**Dipole radiation diagram on a Great Circle Map**