



Special Edition

December 2021 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. VE3SVC is a VHF analog FM repeater operating on 147.180 + and a tone of 110.9 Hz. Also, on VHF is VA3SDG, a Yaesu Fusion digital C4FM and analog FM repeater on 145.570 – and a tone of 110.9 Hz. On UHF, VE3PGC, also a Yaesu Fusion repeater with wide area coverage, is located at Bonville. It operates at 443.650 + and a tone of 110.9 Hz. For other repeaters, including D-Star and DMR, see the Repeater Page of 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:** Murray MacDonnell (VE1LJ)
- **ARES Coordinator:** Earle DePass (VE3IMP)
- **Newsletter:** Roger Bélanger (VA3GBV)
- **Past President:** Larry Giguere (VA3RSQ)

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President's Message

December 18, 2021

“The Past, The Present and The Future”

As the Christmas 2021 season is upon us, it gives me great pleasure to share a few moments of the past, present and future. This to provide some history, current-day context and share my vision for our Amateur Radio Club, in its 61st year of existence.

The Past:

Looking back, I discovered that the last Presidents Message I wrote was on November 25, 2013. That message showed that I had the honour of being SVARC President from 2009-2013. This followed the passing of the 10th President of the SVARC and a well-respected HAM, Timothy Smith (VE3HCB), on September 3, 2008. That message reminded me that that the SVARC held a “Constitutional Meeting” on 18 June 1960. I had reviewed the yellowed pages of a secretarial book showing some valuable historical information of the club and learned that the SVARC was incorporated on December 16, 1992. I was also reminded that the Club had celebrated its 50th anniversary on June 18, 2000, in my back yard, in St. Andrews West. That birthday milestone was a happy time, filled with laughter and so much fun. My oh my, that summer day seems like so long ago! Little did I know

how much water would flow under the bridge since then!

The Present:

Thanks to the previous executive (2019-2021) led by Larry Giguere (VA3RSQ), Douglas Pearson (VE3HTR) – Vice President, Chris Lauzon (VA3CRR) and Elizabeth Halliwell (VE3EZH) as their work helped to keep the SVARC running during the Coronavirus pandemic which started in late 2019. Their work has been wonderful for which we owe them a lot of appreciation. Sadly, the COVID restrictions of the last 21 months have limited so many of our activities which once brought us together. Our Public Service activities have now been so restricted that it has been impossible to have any in-person activities.

However, I am pleased that since the elections on November 17, 2021, we have had one Fox Hunt. We have also had a marvellous Christmas Dinner for 16 attendees, at *Quinn's Inn*, on Dec. 17, 2021. I am thankful that Doug Pearson has been able to secure the *St John Ambulance* headquarters for us to meet once – “in-person”, on September 15, 2021, then twice - in a “hybrid” (combined “virtual” and “in-person”) format on October 20, 2021, then for our elections on November 17, 2021.

Congratulations to Doug Pearson (VE3HTR) and Murray MacDonnell (VE3XLJ) for keeping the legacy of the Tim Smith Memorial trophy award alive by being selected as the “HAM of The Year” for 2020 and 2021 respectively. Congratulations to Murray for being commended for his work as our monthly Newsletter Editor and as Net Manager. We wish Murray well as he leaves for VE1 land. Doug’s work with keeping our many repeaters operational was also greatly appreciated. I am confident you will share the view that Doug and Murray are most deserving of their awards.

As I have done at previous meetings, I again publicly also thank Elizabeth Halliwell (VE3EZH) for her work as our Treasurer for so many years. Having Tom Todd (VA3KD) and Elizabeth work as our Net Managers keeping the Monday night 2-Metre nets going over many years has been great and is so appreciated. All of the work of these HAMS over the last two years in support of the SVARC has been exemplary.

The Future:

I think it is a great honour to once again assume the helm - as the 14th President - of this small-but-mighty club. I thank all members for their confidence in my abilities to allow me to take on this important leadership role.

I am very much looking forward to working with the incoming executive of; Chris Lauzon (VA3CRR) - Treasurer, Joe Scott (VE3ADB) - Vice President and Roger Bélanger (VA3GBV) – Secretary, as we take your thoughts and ideas and shape them into action for 2022-2024. My vision going forward includes increasing club membership, having a more active club with lots of Amateur Radio activities for our members, continuing to meet in a hybrid fashion with interesting Guest Speakers, until the re-opening of in-person

activities thereby allowing our club to return to the vibrant, active club it was before this unprecedented situation started.

I plan to embrace the significant changes our hobby has undergone with the advancement of the interface of our RF world with the Internet-based new technologies such as Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) and AnyTone technology. These are both relatively new, adding to the former technologies of Packet Radio, SSTV and HF. I hope to conduct at least one Amateur Radio course over the next year and Fox Hunts once a month. I hope that our bi-weekly Coffee Klatches allowing for much in-person “rag chewing” discussions to take place, allowing many of us to solve all of the world’s problems over a cup of coffee (lol) will return soon.

I plan to restore the links to the organizations like the City of Cornwall, the Township of South Glengarry and other we once had. Field Day 2022 scheduled for June 25, 2022, the Scouts Jamboree Over The Air (JOTA) and our Christmas Dinner 2022 are just some of the activities in which I hope our Club will participate in 2022. This all assumes that the pandemic restrictions will all be lifted soon. Our executive has met once since the November election and has some big ideas which include: electronic banking, our Bylaws review and the enhancement of our website to incorporate a secure member’s page. This last idea will allow us to publicly, but securely share our history and ongoing activities. I envision that we will have all of these goals in place by next year.

In the interim, on behalf of Francine and I, please accept very best wishes to each of you and your families for a Merry Christmas and prosperous 2022.

Earle DePass (VE3IMP)
President SVARC (2022-2024)





Note from the Editor

Hi to all.

As you can see, I am the new Newsletter editor. Murray is moving on and moving back home to Nova Scotia. Murray will now be on the air under VE1LJ. Back in October Murray asked me to take over the Newsletter. Murray is very persuasive; you just cannot say no to him. These are very big shoes to fill, and I will do my best to try to keep the high standard that he maintained in the club newsletter.

Normally there is no newsletter in December but given the abundance of events in the last few weeks, I thought of issuing a special edition to capture the final highlights of the 2021 year.

As mentioned by Earle in the President's message, a new executive was elected on November 24th. The new executive can be seen on the first page of this special Edition.

Please join me to thanks our past executive for keeping our club alive during this dire period. While most, if not all club activities were cancelled, Larry and his team kept us on the map with on the air club meeting on VE3PGC and hybrid virtual meeting on Zoom, thanks to the support of Earle.

Several events marked the end of the year for the SVARC. On November 10th Ed (VE3EAH) and Earle (VE3IMP) made the Seaway News. See the Show and Tell section on page 8.

On December 12th we had our first Fox Hunt in several years, see page 9 for more on the hunt!

Finally, we had our Christmas dinner after almost a 2 year hiatus due to the pandemic. See pictures in the Show and Tell section.

Earle also mentioned in his President's message that a new secure, "members only" page is now operational on our website. This page is already populated with the Minutes of Meeting for 2019, 2020, and 2021. Given that the unredacted Minutes of Meetings are available to all members in good standing, these minutes will no longer be part of the Newsletter.

The agenda of the up-coming meetings will be sent electronically to all members in good standing in a meeting notice sent by the secretary a few days before the meeting and therefore will no longer be part of the newsletter.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.





**Earle
VE3IMP**

ARES Report



The SD&G Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) Group

Monthly Report for November 2021

Repeater Checks: (Ongoing):

The SVARC 2-Metre net is conducted on VE3SVC (147.180 MHz. +). Checks are also made by switching the net to the VE3PGC (UHF) repeater. A check is also performed on DMR, Ch. 2 or VE3VSW. 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 SD&G ARES.

Seaway Valley Amateur Radio Club (SVARC) Hybrid Meeting (Nov. 24, 2021):

The SVARC held its most recent, and second, monthly “hybrid” meeting (in-person and virtual) at St. John Ambulance, 100-2nd Street West, Cornwall, Ontario. This was the elections meeting and resulted in the following:

President:	Earle DePass, VE3IMP
Vice-President:	Joe Scot, VE3ADB
Chris Lauzon:	Treasurer, VA3CRR
Roger Bélanger:	Secretary, VA3GBV.

Monthly Reports Have Been Made:

I continue to submit monthly reports to Mike Hickey (VE3IPC).

Our AECs are:

1. Murray MacDonell (VE3XLJ), Acting AEC, North Glengarry,
2. Hal Green (VE3HWG), South Glengarry,
3. Stan Fortune (VA3JSF), South Stormont,
4. Ed Halliwell (VE3EAH), South Stormont,
5. Doug Pearson (VE3HTR), City of Cornwall,
6. Rick Palmer (VA3EV), City of Cornwall
7. Art Horovitch (VE3AIH), City of Cornwall.

Alexandria, ON ARES Project:

We have received a negative response from the North Glengarry Fire Chief - Matthew Roy in response to the possible installation of an additional repeater on the water tower in Alexandria. The intent of this initiative was to promote the renewed partnership between SD&G ARES and the Township Of North Glengarry.

South Glengarry ON ARES Project:

Murray has sent an email to Dave Robertson, Fire Chief and Acting Director of Recreation and Facilities, asking him to support another ARES initiative.

Checks At United Counties Building:

On Nov. 3, 2021, Ed (VE3EAH) and I tested both transceivers at the United Counties building. All passed. A full report is available.

SDG Emergency Management Committee:

A meeting of the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry Emergency Management Committee took place virtually on November 30, 2021 from 10:00-11:15. Ed Halliwell and Earle DePass attended.

Earle DePass, (VE3IMP)
Group Coordinator (GC),
SD&G ARES.



Art
VE3AIH

Art's Corner

A new idea for a portable antenna

By Art Horovitch VE3AIH

Since we are spending a second winter at the mobile home in our home RV park, I thought I would try experimenting with something before the snow flies. For starters I did hook up a long wire about 50 ft long which goes up about 30 ft into the trees and comes back down to the feed point about 10 ft off the ground. It works OK, but not nearly as good as my 33 ft vertical, which is packed away for the winter. It allows me to make contacts on 40 and 20 meters throughout North America and occasionally into Europe (especially during contests, where I can at least get a signal report).

So, one day I am looking at my little dolly cart and thinking: I have a hamstick which I can mount on a magnetic base with a spring. The base of the cart is ferrous, so the magnetic base really grabs hold.

Keep your fingers out of the way when doing this!

I have tried this arrangement and find it is not quite as good as the longwire. The trick is to find a QSO going on with a very loud signal. Then just sit back and wait until they are finished and call that loud station. You can check e-mail or browse the web while waiting. Most likely they will hear me because they are probably using a rotatable dipole or even a 2 element yagi mounted on a 50 ft. tower. I let the other guy do the "heavy lifting". This works for QRP operators as well. I leave this antenna out on our front deck and run the coax cable from the base into the enclosed porch. In case of heavy snow predicted, I simply remove the hamstick and wheel the dolly and antenna into the porch.


I call it my "Dolly a Go-Go". (With apologies to Dolly Parton)





Show and Tell

Emergency Communications:

Earle (VE3IMP) and Ed (VE3EAH) made the **SeawayNews**  on November 10. They met with Katherine Beehler, Counties training and emergency management coordinator to verify our emergency equipment in the county administration building here in Cornwall. Thanks guys for doing this.



Katherine Beehler, the Counties' training and emergency management coordinator, is flanked by Earl DePass (left) and Ed Halliwell of The Seaway Valley Amateur Radio Club. The club was at the Counties Administration Building in Cornwall to test emergency communications equipment. Their system is in good working order.

Fox Hunt

By Roger VA3GBV



We had our first Fox Hunt in several years.

For me it was my first ever, Earle (VE3IMP) invited me to join him for the hunt, I thought it would be wise to ride along with someone who has done this before.

The weather was perfect, not a cloud in the sky, +10 degrees but very windy. The Yagi elements kept fluttering in the wind.

The hunt perimeter was limited by 15th street to the South, Cornwall Center road to the North, Pitt Street to the east and Power Dam road to the West.

Rick, VA3EV, volunteer to hide the fox. So at 13:00 on December 12 the Fox was turned on.

Earle and I proceeded to the corner of Pitt and Ninth Street where we took a first bearing, about NNW, see figure below.

From there we drove up Brookdale and east on Tollgate. We stopped on few spots on Tollgate where the signal was too strong to get a bearing. We replaced the directionnal antenna with a 4 inch stub and still had a very strong signal and no obvious favored direction. We parked at the Village Diner and got a very strong signal, we could even copy the beacon without an antenna. We drove around the building but could not find anything.

We then drove on several streets west of Pitt and both North and South of Tollgate but to no avail, strong signal but no clear bearing.

The we decided to move away in order to get a weaker signal and thus better direction finding with the Yagi and signal level indicator on the HT. We got a second bearing, from the Cornwall Mazda Parking lot. see figure below. We drove back to the intersect point and turned in circle until 15:00 rolled-in and the Fox was turned off.

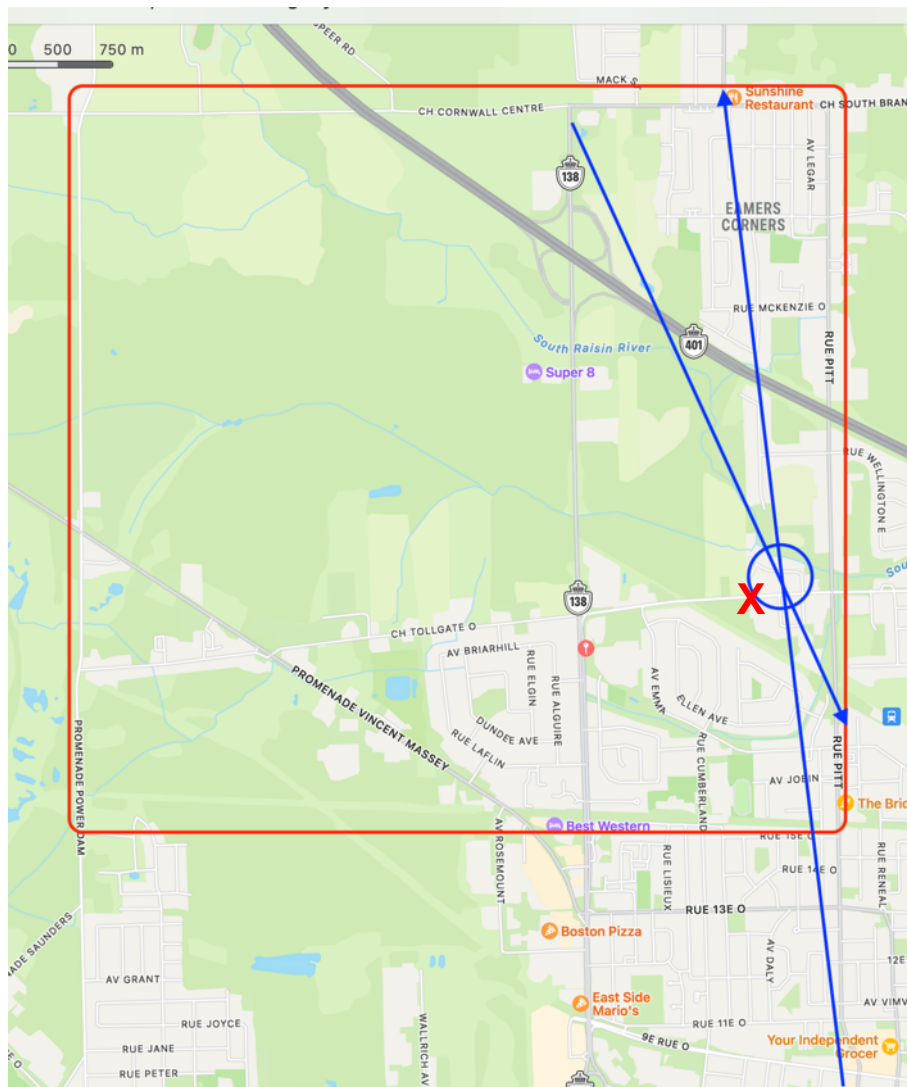
It turned out we got within less than 10 feet from the Fox and never saw it. It was behind a dumpster just West of the Village Diner.

We had a lot of fun chasing the elusive Fox and a great learning experience for me.

Lessons learned:

1. Start by moving out of the perimeter and get 2 or even 3 bearings from points where the signal is less than full quieting.
2. Get an attenuator so you can still use the Yagi even when you get close to the Fox.
3. Set the Fox to low power, about 1 Watt.

The use a plotting app for you smartphone is very convenient. A good one is FoxHunt which is available for both iPhone and Android. It saves having a paper map, protractor, pencils etc. I could not use it during the hunt because of a mis-configuration (Finger problems!). Now I got it figured out.



X marks the Fox

Christmas Dinner:

We we had our first Christmas dinner in two years, It was on December 17 at Quinn's Inn and it was a just under the wire, as new restrictions came into effect 2 days later.

This was a great success as there were 16 people in attendance.



From left to right: Françoise DePass, Jim Richardson, Rick Palmer, Doug Pearson, Hermanna Noorthoek, Susan Richardson, Earle DePass, Dan Cullen (New Member VE2JMF).



Dan "Santa" Cullen and Monica



John Grow and Carole Leroux



Leonard and Sandra Boileau



Ernest Vinson and René Champagne

The night was also the occasion to reunite with the Tim Smith Award ceremony after a 2 year COVID hiatus. It was decided to retroactively give the 2020 award along the 2021 award. For 2020 the Tim Smith Ham of the year award was given to Doug, VE3HTR for his unrelenting efforts to keep all of our repeater in top shape and to Murray MacDonnell, VE1LJ for 2021, for his work as newsletter editor and net manager.



The 2020 and 2021 laureates for the Tim Smith Ham of the year award, Doug Pearson, Murray MacDonnell and Earle DePass handing the award.



**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**

