



January 2025 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 the surrounding area. For a detailed list of repeaters operated by the club please visit our website at SVARC.ca

Next Club Meeting

The next meeting will be a hybrid Zoom / in-person session;
7:00 PM, January 29, 2025.
Location: Saunders Hydro Dam Visitor Centre, 2500B Second Street West Cornwall, ON K6H 5R6
Guest Speaker – None

Club Breakfast (aka Coffee Klatch)

Saturday Breakfasts—Every 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month, 9:00 A.M. will be held at the Spinner's 118 Pitt Street.

Club Executive & Volunteer Positions

- President: John Grow (VE2EQL)
- Vice-President: Earnest Vinson (VA3EWW)
- Secretary: pending
- Treasurer: Chris Lauzon (VA3CRR)
- Technical Director: Doug Pearson (VE3HTR)
- Net Manager: Joe Scott (VE3ADB)
- ACS Coordinator: Earle DePass (VE3IMP)
- Newsletter: Jim Richardson (VE3AFV)

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President's Message

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- Happy New Year to all the members of the Seaway Valley Amateur Radio Club. It's January 15th as I write this. There has been a few cold days with dropping temperatures. Like any club it's the involvement of it's members that makes it successful.

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- **Last Years Recapp of Events**

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- Youth engagement Fair, 2 events Spring and Fall of 2024
- SVARC BBQ
- SVARC Field Day
- Numerous Fox Hunts
- Emergency Communications exercise with SDG Township
- Joint SVARC and Prescott-Russell Amateur Radio Club Hamfest
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- For 2025, we are already filling the calendar with events, some of the events that are being planned.

- **Upcoming Fox Hunt:** February 2nd @ 1:00. Meet up at Tim Hortons corner of Pitt and Tollgate.

- **Helping HAMS Sessions:** Digital Modes & How to Set-up February 18 or 19th.

- **Eastern Ontario Hamfest New Date for 2025 September 27th**

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- The joint committe of the SVARC and Prescott-Russell Amateur Radio Club will hold the Eastern Ontario Hamfest on September 27^h. 2025 at the Saint Albert Community Center.

- Check out the website: <https://eohamfest.com>

- This years event will offer another round of great hamfest prizes. Check the website regularly.

- **Eastern Ontario Hamfest 2025 – Volunteers Required**

- **The Eastern Ontario Hamfest 2025 committee** is looking for volunteers to be on the hamfest committee. **PLEASE NOTE: ALL VOLUNTEERS HAVE FREE ADMISSION.**

- It is imperative that we have volunteers to ensure that it is a successful event.

- If you wish to volunteer, you can just reply to this email and the volunteer coordinator will be in touch with you. Lance Peterson va3lp1@gmail.com

- **Future Club Building Projects Please Email your interest and we will set a date for the event.**

- 1. Building a 3 element yagi for 2 meters using measuring tape, PVC piping.

- A Bill of Material list will be sent out in the new year. Roger Belanger VA3GBV did an article for the club.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BmHoQrDfw-0>

- <https://www.jpole-antenna.com/2017/02/07/build-it-2-meter-tape-measure-yagi-beam-antenna/>

- 2. Building a 2 meter / 70 CM J-Pole Antenna for portable operations.

- <https://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/tis/info/pdf/0302038.pdf>

- 3. Building a field deployable NVIS antenna. (Near Vertical Incident Skywave) This is for 3 to 8

- Mhz (80/40 meters) and is used for local communications. PVC piping, wire and some coax is

- all that is required.

- Check out pages 27 & 28 <https://archive.org/details/73-magazine-2001-08/page/26/mode/2up>

- 4. Youngster Session. Building of an AM Radio Kit. Perfect to introduce the world of kitbuilding to young children.

- https://www.amazon.ca/Elenco-Two-IC-Radio-Kit/dp/B0041O4MFK/ref=sr_1_5?crid=164TWGSJTLH68&dib=eyJ2IjojMSJ9.RK--pMb0yjnaLhcOhU8rHtNp1fpwHtOiFxwtBzGviCUFY7IbCAEZSdyUAlzt5QC8C1JI GPP5GOC7CZQ3q_HHGuX3L5e1RIESZMM7ZXW9oZNtQHst81njek1tskFGS9 QDqERMuxAF2EDpM0D8EuJjuly3GebvfySsBIYaRirnMHhGXpYN9qGp77Gvn2 pZ3dA1dwVZJf9IIPANkeq_d7RycbPccp5bJfWY5c4sjxzCPZnqhtoe1h2pUb1HtM 4SXmErfR4X-wGhR216krG30fdlvch8hSz59wJBoRf4kznOc.fqRKc5YVIYKd0oFk5c2KV-

[Hz7SLvvJzbL7xltsLmSxo&dib_tag=se&keywords=am+radio+kit&qid=1731679399&sprefix=am+radio+kit%2Caps%2C293&sr=8-5](https://www.facebook.com/Hz7SLvvJzbL7xltsLmSxo&dib_tag=se&keywords=am+radio+kit&qid=1731679399&sprefix=am+radio+kit%2Caps%2C293&sr=8-5)

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• **Helping HAMS:** February 18 or 19th or 23rd. What topics do you want to learn about? We will start doing weekend or weeknight sessions on how to set up things, make things work. We will start February with setting up a Digital Station on HF. This event will be held at John's QTH in Monkland. Using a PC Laptop, we will go through the steps of what is needed to set up a digital station and make it work. The most popular mode is FT8, and we will also show PSK31 (which is still being used) connected to a Ipad.

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• **Helping HAMS:** This January 14th. Earle Depass, VE3IMP, John Grow VE2EQL and Anthony Vinson (Son of Earnest VA3EWV) were at my QTH to help me mount my tilt over pipe mast. The mast is 37 ft. High and I was able to mount a Diamond X300 dual band antenna. I installed 3 marine pulleys with dacron rope. Now I will be able to hoist 2 long wire dipoles to get on HF. We had to use the tractor to help push the mast up due to the weight. It finally went up and secured to the base. I would not have been able to do this by myself. I'm thankful for the help. Pictures are below in the bulletin.



DMR Canada RADIO – A Fantasy

By René Champagne

(Premier01.ca Electronics)

Submitted for the newsletter by Roger Belanger

The flickering fluorescent lights of the Premier01.ca warehouse hummed a discordant tune, mirroring the anxiety churning in Ernest's stomach. He ran a hand through his already disheveled hair, the faint scent of static clinging to his fingertips. Tonight was different. Tonight, the usual hum of Brandmeister chatter on his DMR radio, the comforting crackle of 273,000 potential voices across the globe, felt ominous. He'd been tracking a rogue signal for weeks, a faint whisper on the DMR Canada network, a ghost in the machine broadcasting encrypted transmissions only he seemed to intercept. It wasn't the typical amateur radio hobbyist experimenting with encryption; this was sophisticated, military-grade. He'd traced the signal's origin to a remote area near the Ontario-Quebec border, a desolate expanse of pine forests and abandoned mines – the perfect place to disappear. The low cost and maximum features of his DMR radio, usually a source of pride, now felt like a vulnerability, a siren's call drawing him into a dangerous game. He double-checked his equipment: his trusty Anytone DMR radio, loaded with the latest software, felt cold and heavy in his hand. The map on his tablet, pinpointing the signal's last known location, pulsed with a menacing red glow. He knew he was playing with fire, but the lure of the unknown, the thrill of the chase, was too strong to resist. The thought of 273,000 others unknowingly sharing the airwaves with this clandestine operation gnawed at him.

Ernest's rugged SUV crunched over gravel, the headlights cutting through the inky blackness. The forest pressed in, claustrophobic and silent, a stark contrast to the digital world buzzing in his headset. The encrypted signal was growing stronger, closer. He stopped the vehicle, the sudden silence amplifying the night sounds - the rustling of leaves, the distant hoot of an owl. He switched to the Brandmeister network, his voice a hushed whisper in the vast digital expanse, "Anyone on the DMR Canada repeater hear anything unusual? Possibly encrypted traffic originating near..." He hesitated, his words catching in his throat. Revealing the precise location was a risk, opening himself to unwanted attention. Suddenly, a static-filled voice cut through the quiet, not on Brandmeister, but on a private channel he'd never encountered before. A guttural voice, speaking in rapid French, filled with threats and urgency. Ernest tried to respond, to decipher the message, but it was cut short, replaced by a chilling burst of static. His heart pounded in his chest. He knew then, it wasn't just about a rogue signal anymore; someone was watching him, someone who knew precisely what he was doing.

The beam of his flashlight cut through the undergrowth, illuminating a hastily constructed shack nestled deep within the pines. The air crackled with a palpable sense of danger. Inside, the faint glow of a laptop screen revealed the source of the encrypted transmissions: a sophisticated DMR radio setup connected to a complex array of antennas. Papers scattered on the table detailed coordinates, coded messages, and the Premier01.ca logo – a chilling confirmation of his suspicions. He understood now. This wasn't just a group of hackers; this was a highly organized operation utilizing the anonymity of the amateur radio network to conduct illicit activities. As Ernest reached for his radio, preparing to alert authorities, a figure emerged from the shadows, silhouetted against the laptop's screen. The man raised a weapon, a cold glint reflecting in the moonlight. Ernest knew then that his investigation had brought him face to face with something far more dangerous than he had ever imagined. The low cost and accessibility of DMR technology had become a double-edged sword, enabling not only global communication but also clandestine operations, forever changing the landscape of radio communication and Ernest's life. The final transmission from Ernest's radio was a burst of static, a final, desperate attempt to reach the 273,000 voices on Brandmeister before help arrived from other Anytone DMR radio users who were monitoring his every move on the APRS map.

Happy New Year 2025-01-03 and 73.

SVARC's Very Own VA3EWV Wrapping up a very successful
2024 RAC Canadian Portable Operations Challenge.

Hello all;

I have wrapped up a very successful 2024 RAC Canadian Portable Operations Challenge and I am happy to state that after obtaining my HF privileges on April 24th and Activating my first Park on July 19th 2024, I have been able to represent SVARC and bring home 3rd place in all of Canada.

I also was able to achieve Gold for achieving /exceeding 100 portable operations in the past 6 months.

And finally, in December, with a shoulder being operated on and not being able to drive, my wife Sue, Son Anthony, Daughter Sarah all took turns driving me to the various parks in Ontario, Quebec along with several Lighthouses in Ontario, I was able to bring home 1st Place in the month of December ending the year on a high note.

I'd like to give a shout out to Bob L - VA3JIN for introducing me to the Hobby, VE3EZB - Steve H. for taking me to my first POTA operation as well as building my EFHW that was responsible for 75% of the QSOs and Finally a shout out to Rob VE3ARF who has worked my station over 20 times during portable operations on 8 bands. I would also like to thank several other members of the club as well for helping me in various ways to help me achieve all of these goals.

1st Place RAC Portable Operations Challenge - 1ère place Défi canadien des opérations portables de RAC

Hello/Bonjour Earnest,

It is with great pleasure that I present you with the first place certificate for the December 2024 RAC Portable Operations Challenge.

Keep up the great work!

C'est avec grand plaisir que je vous présente le certificat de première place pour le Défi canadien des opérations portables de RAC pour décembre 2024. Continuez votre bon travail!


Sincerely/Sincèrement,

Ante Laurijssen, VA2BBW

RAC Awards Manager

Directeur des diplômes RAC

The RAC Canadian Portable Operations Challenge
Le Défi canadien des opérations portables de RAC



Earnest Vinson
VA3EWV

You have achieved first place in the Portable Operations Challenge
Vous avez atteint la première place au Défi des opérations portables

December 2024 / Décembre 2024

Based on the number of contacts you made with other Radio Amateurs, and the variety of locations in Canada where you operated a temporary station.

En fonction du nombre de contacts que vous avez établis avec d'autres radio amateurs, et de la variété d'endroits au Canada où vous avez fait fonctionner une station temporaire.




Radio Amateurs of/du Canada
208,080 points

RAC Canadian Portable Operations Challenge
Coureur des Bois - Défi canadien des opérations portables RAC
Coureur des Bois

Hello/Bonjour Earnest,

It is with great pleasure that I present you with the Coureur des Bois

gold certificate for the RAC Portable Operations Challenge. Keep up the great work!

C'est avec grand plaisir que je vous présente le certificat Coureur des


Bois or pour le Défi canadien des opérations portables de RAC. Continuez votre bon travail!

Sincerely/Sincèrement,

Ante Laurijssen, VA2BBW

RAC Awards Manager



The RAC Canadian Portable Operations Challenge
Le Défi canadien des opérations portables de RAC



Coureur des bois
Earnest Vinson
VA3EWV

You have achieved / vous avez atteint :
GOLD/OR

100 portable operations / 100 opérations portables
Congratulいたions / Félicitations

Radio Amateurs of/du Canada



2024 3rd Place RAC Portable Operations Challenge - 3^{ème} place Défi canadien des opérations portables de RAC

Hello/Bonjour Earnest,

It is with great pleasure that I present you with the third place certificate for the 2024 RAC Portable Operations Challenge. Keep up the great work!

C'est avec grand plaisir que je vous présente le certificat de troisième place pour le Défi canadien des opérations portables de RAC pour 2024.

Continuez votre bon travail!

Sincerely/Sincèrement,

Ante Laurijssen, VA2BBW

RAC Awards Manager

'HELPING HAMS'

A Day of Learning and Collaboration in Amateur Radio



"Back N Da' Shack" with On the Air with VA3EWV

Recently, I had the pleasure of hosting Jeff - VA3RQS at my QTH, where he embarked on a journey to learn how to program his own radios. Jeff has always been proactive in reaching out to various club members for assistance, and they have been more than willing to offer their help.

However, the time had come for Jeff to take on the challenge himself, and he was eager to dive in.

Setting the Stage for Success

With determination, Jeff arranged a time for our session, packed his essentials, and arrived ready to learn. Our Technical Director once told me that programming your own devices enhances your appreciation for radio, and that couldn't be truer. Armed with his laptop, radio, and programming cable, Jeff was ready to begin.

The Programming Journey

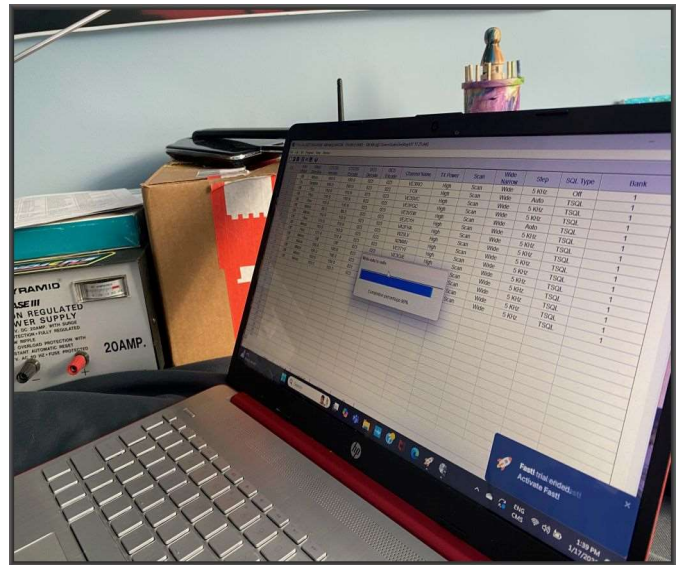
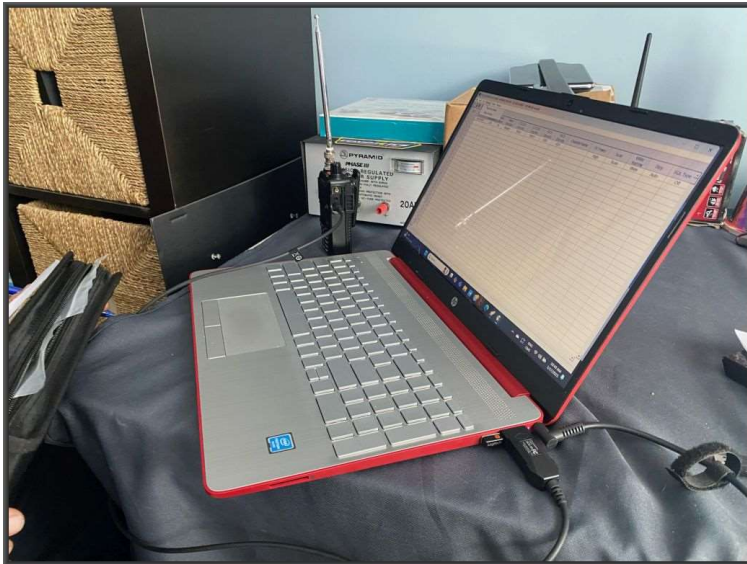
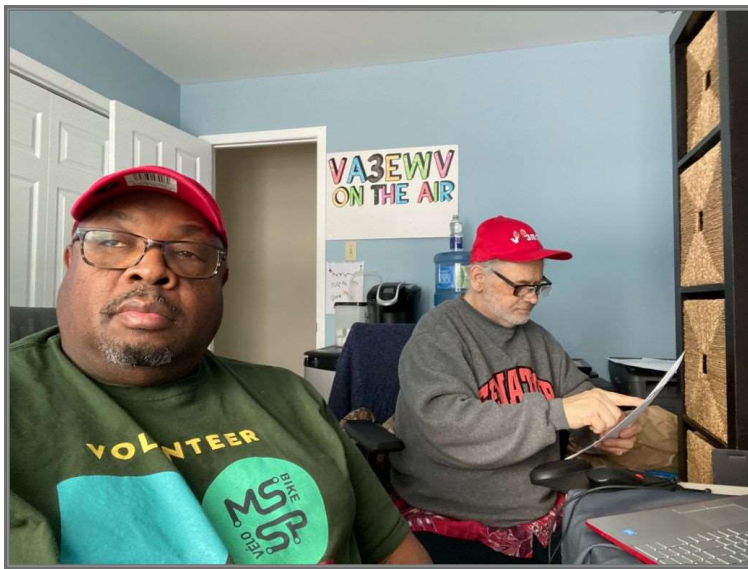
After setting up his laptop and connecting to the shack's WIFI, we navigated to the YAESU website. There, Jeff located the model of his HT, downloaded the necessary programming software, and began his programming adventure. We also referred to the SVARC website to print out repeater information. Jeff carefully selected the repeaters he wanted to program into his radio.

A Productive Outcome

Three hours later, Jeff had successfully programmed over ten repeaters, including some from the US. We tested the setup to ensure everything was functioning correctly, and it was a success. Just as we were wrapping up, our club President John arrived with a celebratory pizza, marking the end of a fruitful training session.

Embracing the Spirit of Amateur Radio

This experience was not only about programming but also about the spirit of learning and collaboration that is central to amateur radio. Helping fellow hams grow and succeed is what makes our community so special. Who's next in line for assistance? We're ready to help!



Summary From SVARC Fox Hunt – January 12, 2025

The SVARC held its' first Fox Hunt of 2025 on Sunday, January 12, 2025, starting at 1:00PM.

Roger (VA3GBV), John (VE2EQL), Earnest (VA3EWV) and Jeff (VA3RQS) participated. Earle (VE3IMP) hid the Fox on Lemay Street, just West of McConnell Avenue, Cornwall, using the pre-agreed-to boundaries.

The Club-owned FOX (a recently-purchased Byonics Micro-Trak MF-PC) performed as expected, using a 20-second on time, a 40-second off time and the callsign of VE3VSW.

John was the first to find the fox at 2:02PM. Roger found it 4 minutes later. Both had everything working for them (correct offset frequency, satisfactory attenuation and serviceable antenna) working well and as expected.

Earnest and Jeff needed a bit of coaching; Earnest had an incorrect squelch setting which prevented him from receiving the Fox. Jeff had an incorrect frequency spacing which prevented him from selecting the exact offset frequency.

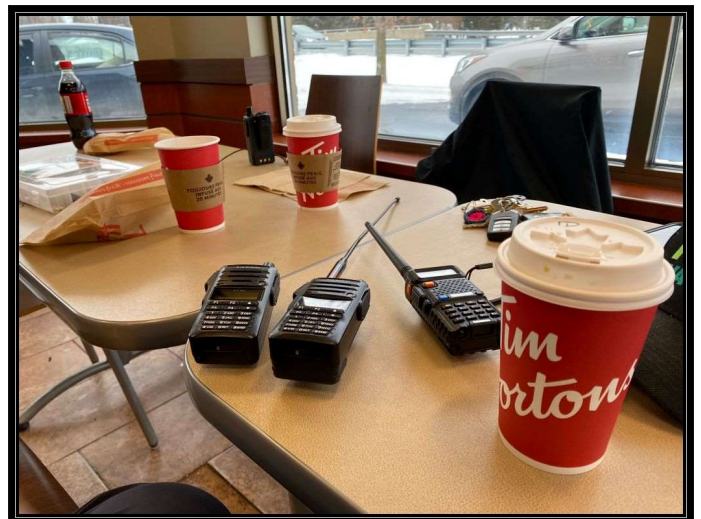
All enjoyed the socializing and Hunt post-mortem which followed at Tim Hortons.

John will hide the Fox for the next Hunt which is planned for February 2, 2025.

Attached are some photos which show the fun all had during the Hunt.

Submitted by: Earle DePass (VE3IMP)

Following are a few of the pictures taken at the Fox Hunt:



ANTENNA INSTALLATION AT JOHN GROW'S HOME IN MONKLAND

This January 14th. Earle Depass, VE3IMP, John Grow VE2EQL and Anthony Vinson (Son of Earnest VA3EWW) were at my QTH to help me mount my tilt over pipe mast. The mast is 37 ft. High and I was able to mount a Diamond X300 dual band antenna. I installed 3 marine pulleys with Dacron rope. Now I will be able to hoist 2 long wire dipoles to get on HF. We had to use the tractor to help push the mast up due to the weight. It finally went up and secured to the base. I would not have been able to do this by myself. I'm thankful for the help. Pictures are below.





Editor's Notes

I want to thank all those that have submitted articles and pictures for the newsletter.

Without your contributions the newsletter would be nothing more than blank pages.

In particular I'd like to thank Earnest, Roger, John, Earle, Sue. They have kept me very busy right up until Saturday noon in updating the additions to the newsletter.

Please note that the deadline for newsletter submission for the February edition will be Friday evening, February 21st. and that I will have the newsletter out by Sunday evening for distribution.

If you have trouble receiving your copy of the newsletter, please speak to John Grow (VE2EQL) or our club secretary.

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Business Cards

John was asked by Ken Beatson to include his business card in our newsletter with the offer of 10% discount at iPhix for SVARC members. This is great as he is more competitive than Amazon, and offers great service. He reported to me that he signed up for the RAC basic course.

Also, one of our club members Mike Berthiaume VA3HRO, whose business is patches & Embroidering has requested that his business card also be included in our newsletter. He has done a lot of golf shirts and hats for SVARC. His card is attached.



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