

VHF Happenings Around Southern Alberta:

My old friend Tino VE6MB in Calgary gave me a call on my trip to the big city yesterday and mentioned some things that I thought might be of interest to some of you out there regarding VHF/UHF happenings in Southern Alberta. He mentioned that they are looking for stations who want to participate in their operations and I have included his comments to me via email last night...

Hello Tom,

Some information to pass along to the Vhf/UHF weak signal operators out there in your neck of the woods. (We are looking for more people from the South and the East).

Firstly, there is an Alberta Weak signal Net (AWSN) that still operates weekly on Sundays @ 1000hrs local time. This takes place on 144.200Mhz USB. A bunch of us have been regularly congregating from Edmonton, Red Deer, and Calgary. If there is additional interest from persons your way....I can let the guys know and we can try and make sure we listen out to the south.

Here are some resources related to AWSN. First of all...there is a facebook webpage located at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/AlbertaWeakSignalNet>

Secondly, while a bunch of us are working weak signal (either during the net, or during contests, or just general on-the-air operating)....we are chatting in real time via something called the Slack Chatroom. That is located at: awsnworkspace.slack.com

Now, it might be possible that the access to the Slack Chatroom might be by invite only.....so if there are any "seriously" interested people....get them to drop me a line and I can send an "invite" (I didn't set up this system so I'm not necessarily the administrator of it; but I can send invites).

Also, for a number of years now, I have formed a working group of weak signal operators under the banner of SABVHF, Southern Alberta VHF Society.....which typically supports VHF/UHF+ operation, weak signal, etc. We have a bunch of people on there with a very diverse experience and skill set which includes, weak signal, satellites, EME and microwaves..... we all just yak about various things we are working on, etc, etc.

If some one is interested in wanting to join the discussion on SABVHF, you can find it on <https://groups.io/g/sabvhf> This would be an excellent way for someone to stay

in touch and maybe coordinate people that we should be listening out for on the weak signal net.

Lastly....the SABVHF is sponsoring an operating award.....rules attached in pdf. Here are the highlights:

- Promoting operation from the field
- Promoting less used frequency bands (220Mhz and above)
- All modes allowed; direct station-to-station modes only. (no repeaters or satellites, obviously).
- Promoting confirmation (QSL) of QSO via QSL card, LoTW, QRZ logbook, or eQSL

1st Prize: \$200 gift card from GPS Central (Radioworld) Calgary.

2nd Prize: \$100 gift card from GPS Central (Radioworld) Calgary.

I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

Tino VE6MB

Hello again Tom,

One other item I forgot to mention in my earlier email is that Alberta has a strong presence in SOTA operators (Summits on the Air). And in light of the SABVHF weak signal award that I mention below, which (among other things) promotes field operation..... there may be strong incentive to try this out.

SOTA is not exclusively VHF operation per se.....but I have included Ian Drummond VE6IXD in this discussion as he may be able to summarize SOTA with some online resources that may be of interest to those down there in the area of Lethbridge.

Tino VE6MB

And this is from Ian...

Hello Tom,

Taking the lead from Tino, here is some information on the Summit-on-the-Air program. The idea is "to encourage portable operation in mountainous areas", and the general information about the program can be found here. <https://www.sota.org.uk/>
As far as the actual SOTA summit lists in your area, the easiest way is probably via [SOTL.AS](https://sotl.as/)(mnemonic - SOTA Atlas).

For example, the first peak on the right as you drive into the Crowsnest Pass has information to be found here <https://sotl.as/summits/VE6/RA-081>

There is also a place to post Alerts (what the activator intends to do), and Spots (what the activator is actually doing) found here. <https://sotawatch.sota.org.uk/en/>
This is very useful for scheduled contacts especially for VHF/UHF contacts.

As Tino mentioned, the SOTA group is keen, and is open to try different bands and modes.

You can participate by chasing an activator on a summit, or if you would like to do an activation, try it yourself, or let me know and I am sure we can find an activator for company on a trip.

Ian ***VE6IXD***