

The Feedline

Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club Inc. September 2008

Well another year has started; I hope everyone has had a good summer. The new Executive Team held their first meeting, it was a casual get together with a pre BBQ at Dave VA3UL's home put on by Dave and me. Thanks Dave for letting us use your new patio. We have started to work on a few items that you will probably have heard about before the September meeting but I will not discuss them here.

We are working on a couple of guest speakers and hope that if you know of anyone or have a topic you would like to hear, if you can help in this area please do.

For the September meeting Kevin VA3KGS will be giving us a photo presentation on his diving trip to North Carolina and swimming with the sharks 30 miles off shore this should be a good filler for this meeting.

There was a good turn out (despite the rain again) for the annual corn roast at John VE3CNF's and his wife Shirley's home. Thanks again to John and his wife for giving up their time and home for us. Also thanks to all who brought out the extras (salads & deserts), this really filled in a void and is much appreciated. I hope all enjoyed their day.

Don't forget that September is Dues month and I have most of the new I.D. tags ready.

Membership Year - The membership year shall run for a period of 12 consecutive months from **September 1st to August 31st** of the next year and club members shall enjoy all their respective rights, privileges and obligations for that period.

Peter VE3HM has started to prepare for the Big Event 31, He has a new flyer finished and being handed out and will be starting to put a volunteer list together. We are looking for a lot of help again this year as the more help we get makes it easier on the rest, mainly on security. Durham Radio will be supplying the Grand prize again this year. This has been a big savings to us over the past years.

Congratulations, If you haven't heard by now Jim VE3VLS and Sandy are now Mr. & Mrs. Servos. their contribution to field day .. again Congratulations.

Again I would like to personally thank Frank VE3SQ (ve3klm) as he will not be back on the executive team this year and has been so involved over the years, I am sure that if Frank is needed he will be there. tnx

Peter VA3WET also will not be returning. Thanks for the great job on the Web Page and also the super job on the FEEDLINE Peter.

John, VA3BOZ



Minutes of the June 2008 NPARC meeting

The meeting was called to order at 19.32 hrs. by John, VA3BOZ. After general introductions the minutes of the May meeting were approved as published in the Feedline, moved by Jim, VE3BCA and Wasi, VA3NAZ.

The treasurer's report, given by Kevin, VA3KGS, was approved as moved by Jim, VE3BCA and seconded by Peter, VA3WET.

Under old business Peter, VA3WET presented a motion for amendments to the by-laws which was seconded by Jim, VE3BCA. After considerable debate and several changes the amendments were to be re-written and again published in the Feedline for consideration at the September meeting. Bob, VE3HNNH gave more details about the Russell group air show which takes place this week end. He stressed the importance of all committed volunteers to show up, particularly on Sunday since many volunteers cancelled on that day last year.

Dave, VE3FOI listed the bands and band captains for field day. Pizza will be supplied for helpers only and breakfast will be at 7:00 hrs. Sunday morning. Set up will start Saturday June 28th at 10.00 hrs. Operating will commence at 14.00 hrs. and last for 24 hours.

Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 20036 Grantham Postal Outlet, St. Catharines, Ontario L2M 7W7

Minutes /contd.

Dave spoke about the planning of a simulated disaster test which will involve all agencies and is to take place in May 2009. Dave will act as the liaison officer between the Salvation Army and NPARC and he will attend NPARC's executive meetings as required.

Peter, VA3WET promoted the Canada day Radio-thon contest with the beneficiaries being the CNIB and the Red Cross. SATERN will not be involved this time.

John, VA3BOZ confirmed that the corn roast will be at Hillside Haven on August 10th 2008.

John also promoted the amateur radio display idea and requested that any one wishing to help out with this list his/her name with Peter, VE3HM.

Under new business Peter, VE3HM spoke about a swim meet which will be held on August 2nd in the old Welland canal. He needs help with communications and six volunteers came forward.

Dale, VE3IVW drew the 50/50 ticket and John, VE3CNF had the winning number.

Jim, VE3BCA conducted the elections and since there were no other nominations for any of the positions, the list of officers nominated became the list of new executives by acclamation. Several pictures of the new executives were taken after which Dave, VA3UL thanked Peter, VA3WET, who will be leaving, for maintaining the club's web site and for organizing the Feedline.

The meeting adjourned at 21.45 hrs., moved by John, VE3JWH and Bob, VE3KYA.

Frank, VE3SQ

Canada Day Radio-Thon

The Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club, Inc. held its first Radio-Thon for Charity this past Canada Day and it was a success. Almost \$700.00 was raised for charity. The CNIB Amateur Radio Program will receive cheques in the amount of \$595.00 and the Niagara Region Canadian Red Cross for Disaster Relief will receive \$85.00.

During the Radio Amateurs of Canada, Canada Day Contest, three amateurs: Sue, KG4SUE/VE3; Dave, VE3DVE and Peter, VA3WET from the Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club with pledges in hand, made contacts with amateurs from across Canada and around the world to raise funds for Charity. During the fund raising process of obtaining pledges, the public became aware of amateur radio, the Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club and the Radio Amateurs of Canada. This event not only raised funds for charity and raised awareness of amateur radio, it was also a fun event to take part in. If you are an amateur and wish to get involved with this worth while project next year or have your club get involved, you can contact Peter at va3wet @ rac . ca for more information.

Thank-you to everyone who participated and everyone who made pledges. Your donations will make a difference.

Peter, VA3WET

NPARC Corn Roast 2008

NPARC's 5th or 6th Annual Corn Roast was held on Sunday August 10th at John VE3CNF and Shirley Faber's place Hillside Haven starting at 14:00.

It was a great success. We decided on Friday to go ahead rain or shine. So even though we got our usual more-rain-than-shine on that particular Sunday in August, it only rained ... well actually it poured ... near the beginning of the event and the bulk of the rain was over by 14:20.

In all 45 members and their guests attended out of a total of 61 members and guests who'd been RSVPed for. The conversations were pleasant. The corn was especially sweet. The burgers and sausages were expertly grilled by John VA3BOZ and Oscar VE3PIO. The side dishes that a few of the attendees brought, *especially the desserts*, were delicious.

If you have pictures of the event that you would like posted, send copies of them to John.VA3BOZ and he'll get them up on our pbase gallery. Check back here for links to the appropriate gallery.

73 Peter VE3HM

NPARC Field Day July 6th 2008

Just a very big thank you all those who helped out at this years Field Day, it was a first for many. The bad weather held off until we were done.

On 40 metres, Rick [VA3WU](#) did an excellent job with his NUMBER ONE logger, his daughter, that's one way of getting the young involved with the hobby.

Lloyd [VE3ERQ](#) had a great time working 6 metres - I think its the first time we operated a Field Day station on 6 metres.

Rick [VE3ROC](#) with John [VE3AUE](#) did well on 75 phone.

The GOTA station coached by Peter [VE3HM](#) had antenna problems but those where able to overcome with the help of Ken [VE3MAZ](#).

Bob [VE3HNN](#) was lonely on 20 meters - he will need help next year. Doug [VE3JDF](#) and Bill [VE3EBN](#) also helped out with their self contained digital 20 meter set up.

Of course I located the Field Day site in the wrong spot, let's have a map for next year hi.

Our claimed score for the 2008 Field Day is 2,762 points.

Thanks to John [VE3NWT](#) and Rick [VE3ROC](#) for getting the generators and returning them to Regional Works. Also, I'm sure there are others I've forgotten to name. So, sorry and thanks for all the help. And thanks to those that came and visited - we had about 35 plus show up (exceptions "the wedding group").

The Saturday evening pizza was consumed quickly. On Sunday, John [VA3BOZ](#) had his special breakfast and there wasn't any leftover, so it must have been good hi hi.

So, all in all, it was a good time, some little problems but that always happens and we will solve them over time.

73 Dave, [VE3FOI](#)

Welland Canal Swim Meet August 2nd

The following images are some taken at the Welland Canal Swim meet held on August 2nd, 2008. Several NPARC members contributed their time to assist in supplying communications, both on and off the water.



NPARC 2008 – 2009 Executive

President:	John Boswell	VA3BOZ	president@nparc.on.ca
Past President:	Wes Sawchuk	VE3ADU	past-president@nparc.on.ca
Vice-President:	Dave Hodson	VA3UL	vice-president@nparc.on.ca
Treasurer:	Kevin Smith	VA3KGS	treasurer@nparc.on.ca
Secretary:	Jim Demo:	VE3JXD	secretary@nparc.on.ca
Public Relations:	David Wilson	VE3BBN	public-relations@nparc.on.ca
Special Events:	Peter Vince	VE3HM	events@nparc.on.ca
	and	Jim Servos	events@nparc.on.ca
Repeater Committee			
Chairman:	Bob Miller	VE3HNNH	repeaters@nparc.on.ca
Bulletin Editor(s)	Denis Grantham	VE3KVE	feedline@nparc.on.ca
	and	Geddie Pawlowski	feedline@nparc.on.ca
Web Site:	Peter Vince	VE3HM	website@nparc.on.ca
Forum:	Kevin Smith	VA3KGS	forums@nparc.on.ca
SATERN Liaison:	Dave Digweed	VE3FOI	satern@nparc.on.ca
Repeater Tech:	Jake Voogt	VE3NCL	repeatertech@nparc.on.ca
Ham Class Instructor:	David Wilson	VE3BBN	instructor@nparc.on.ca
Examiners	David Wilson	VE3BBN	examiner@nparc.on.ca
	Ron Kramer	VE3MX	examiner@nparc.on.ca

NPARC Repeaters

VE3NRS	147.240 MHz +	PL Tone	107.2 Hz
VE3RNR	443.175 MHz +	PL Tone	107.2 Hz
VE3WCR	147.300 MHz +	PL Tone	107.2 Hz
VA3NRS	224.580 MHz +	PL Tone	107.2 Hz

NPARC Meeting Schedule for 2008 - 2009

Meetings are held monthly, September to June, 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm Royal Canadian Legion hall, Branch 613, 141 Hwy 20 East, Fonthill, Ontario. All are invited to attend.

Thursday September 11 th 2008	Guest speaker Kevin Smith (Presentation of his diving trip to North Carolina).
Thursday October 9 th 2008	Guest speaker TBA
Thursday November 13 th 2008	Guest speaker TBA
Thursday December 11 th 2008	Guest speaker TBA
Thursday January 8 th 2009	Guest speaker TBA
Thursday February 12 th 2009	Guest speaker TBA
Thursday March 12 th 2009	Guest speaker TBA
Thursday April 9 th 2009	Guest speaker TBA
Thursday May 14 th 2009	Guest speaker TBA
Thursday June 11 th 2009	Guest speaker TBA

Head of Welland Regatta (To be held September 27th. 2008).

Rick VE3ATM, our liaison with the SNRC, recently confirmed that they would like our help with public safety and event communications.

So, NPARC Special Events Co-ordinator, Peter VE3HM, is definitely (pending approval of the executive) looking for radio operators to volunteer to work at the Head-of-Welland regatta on Saturday September 27th 2008. If you're interested and available, then contact him by email at events@nparc.on.ca or at the September club meeting to get more details.

These are fun events with great people. Niagara hams (NPARC Members and non-members) are encouraged to volunteer to help. These events also serve to spread the word about amateur radio.

The regatta will be hosted by the [Niagara South Rowing Club](#) in Welland, Ontario on the Old Canal, sorry ... I mean the Welland Recreational Waterway. See the map on the right.

As in past head races we'll probably be looking at 3 or 4 stations with each station being operated continuously from 07:00 until 15:30-16:00 (no later) so that means two or three watches with ideally two people per watch and hopefully a photographer / spare / relief.

Given the executive's permission, I will be emailing the membership as well as speaking briefly about this event at the next club meeting.

73 Peter, VE3HM



About Amateur Radio

Amateur radio is not just about learning electronics, acquiring and building equipment and talking to another ham in your own city or on the other side of the world. Amateur radio can be harnessed for the good of humanity. In times of disasters and power outages amateur radio can bring together families and emergency services when telephones, cell phones and commercial radio systems go down. If you wish to donate some of your time to train and be ready for a disaster then Google on [CANWARN](#), [ARES](#), and [SATERN](#) to find out more.

Amateur radio is also about sending and receiving emails via radio. It is about sending and receiving photos, motion pictures, Morse Code and text. For more information, go to the [Radio Amateurs of Canada](#) web site at www.rac.ca

Amateur Radio Classes

NPARC Sponsors at least one no-charge amateur radio class each year. Your only cost is the price of the text book. If you can get a "loaner", then there is no cost.

If you're interested in attending, amateur radio classes will be taking place at the Salvation Army, 400 Niagara Street in St. Catharines in September, 2008.

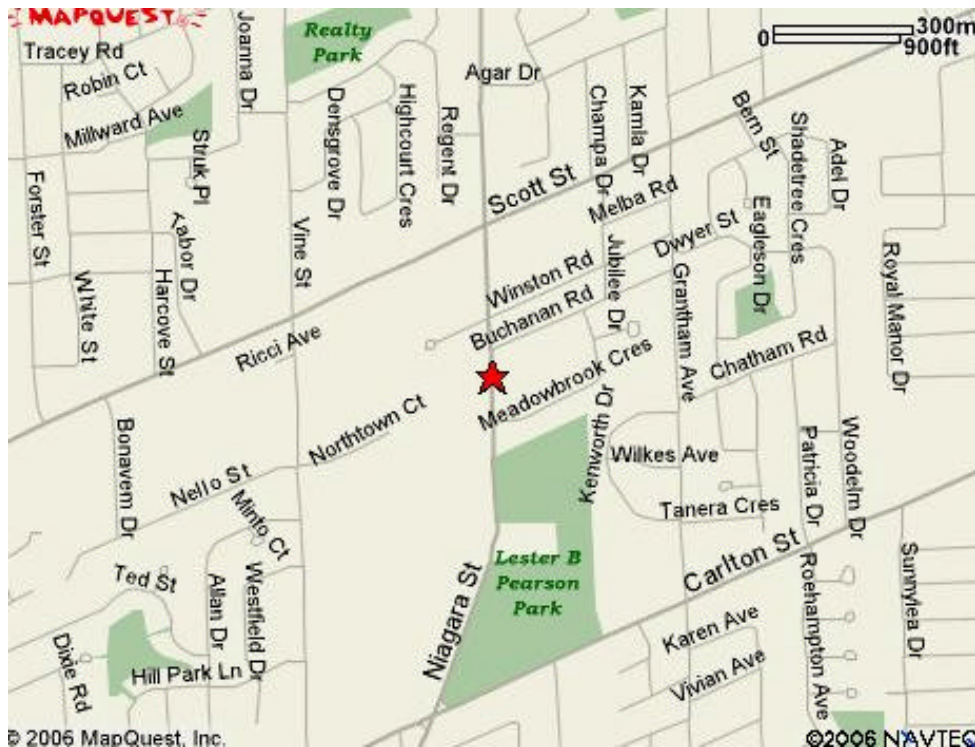
Classes will be every Monday at 6:00 pm and run for approximately twelve weeks. You will learn basic electricity, safety and regulations necessary to pass the Basic Amateur Radio examination. By attending class you will obtain the latest information, books and study guides to help you pass. Dave, VE3BBN, an avid experimenter, is your instructor. He looks forward to helping you with any problems you may have. Your only cost is the purchase of the books and the time and the desire to learn.

Upon successful completion of the course you will be awarded NPARC membership for the remainder of the year and the opportunity to legally communicate on the local radio repeaters. Your instructor will be David Wilson VE3BBN. For more information contact Dave by email at either [instructor\(a\)nparc.on.ca](mailto:instructor(a)nparc.on.ca) or ve3bbn@sympatico.ca, or by telephone at (905) 262-5588.

Directions (See map attached)

The Salvation Army at 400 Niagara Street in St. Catharines is located between Scott Street and Carlton Street. From Hamilton or Niagara Falls take the Q.E.W. to St. Catharines and take the Niagara Street exit, Exit 44. Turn North on Niagara Street and continue north past Carlton Street and look for the Salvation Army Citadel on your right after Lester B. Pearson Park.

Map showing location of the Salvation Army facility where the classes will be held.



Proposed amendments to the NPARC By-Laws for discussion:

The following proposed amendments to the club by-laws were initially discussed at the June 2008 club monthly meeting. At that time, it was decided that a revised version of the amendments would be published in this Bulletin and voted upon by the club members at the September monthly meeting.

The executive asks that each member review the proposed amendments printed below and be prepared to vote on them at the September meeting.

Amendment I Membership Dues

Each member shall pay membership dues in amounts and at times as described by resolution. No dues are payable by Life members or Honourary members. **Full membership dues are not paid by Amateur Radio Candidates for the remainder of the year who successfully pass their amateur radio examination and receive their call sign when they are instructed through the Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club, Inc.** There shall be no pro-rating of membership fees or dues.

Note: An Amateur Radio Candidate shall be a person not licensed to operate in Canada and is studying through the Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club, Inc. classes to obtain their call sign.

Amendment II Membership

Diversity Statement – We the members of the Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club, Inc. welcome all people equally. We will not tolerate discrimination and/or harassment on the basis of race, creed, colour, ancestry, place of origin, ethnic origin, sex, age, marital status, family status, citizenship, sexual orientation, gender identity, or handicap.

From the Editors

This is our first edition as joint Editors of THE FEEDLINE and we (Denis, VE3KVE and Geddie, VE3CJX) will be creating each month's Bulletin. We will be doing our utmost to keep you in touch with both local happenings at our club but also intend to bring you information, news, and articles about changes in regulations and technology that will affect us all. As in other aspects of life, Amateur radio is changing and we all need to be aware of these changes. Many Amateurs have decided that as a group we need to increase our involvement with the community, both when supplying our own brand of communications when emergencies occur, but also in everyday support to our local community.

We would like to offer a strong thank you to Peter, VA3WET for all of the great effort and time he has devoted in the past to both THE FEEDLINE and also to the club web site. Thank you Peter, and enjoy the travelling that you will be doing.

We would also like to ask for feedback by you, the members. Let us know what you would like to see in THE FEEDLINE; send us (in any form) write-ups on Amateur radio related subjects that we could include in the Bulletin. You can contact us at feedline@nparc.on.ca or even just hand us a paper copy at one of the meetings.

Let's all have a good 2008 – 2009 year of meetings and get-togethers, both face-to-face and also on the air. Let's try to wear out those repeaters!

Denis, VE3KVE and Geddie, VE3CJX.

“GWEN”, an alternative Emergency Communication System

GWEN: not just a pretty face! GWEN is a reliable and secure back-up system that ensures that emergency communications can be sustained during power outages and fuel shortages which would likely cause our NPARC repeaters to fail.

Think of how many hours your rechargeable battery can work full power. Think of how many gallons of fuel are required to run the battery charger. How many gallons can you legally store on your property before you have problems complying with the small print in your home insurance policy? How long can your system last? Have you ever calculated these numbers for your systems that rely on these types of power sources? These are all the types of questions you might think of in an emergency. But before an emergency occurs, to be prepared how can you predict what will happen? In a future article we could provide tips so you can calculate them for yourself.

But even if you don't take the time to do the calculations, in Ontario we have experienced brown-outs and power failures. When this happens your phone is often interrupted, and the gasoline station pumps can't fill up your car or any jerry can for that matter. So it is inevitable that a power outage will eventually cause repeaters to lose power and communication systems to collapse.

GWEN will be there in spite of our weakness in planning and weakness in operations. GWEN stands for Ground Wave Emergency Network. GWEN fills in the gap in your communication ability until you are finished the calculation and your power runs out.

So how does GWEN do the job? In NPARC we have a system of repeaters we maintain. Each of us has radios and back up power. We use the repeaters to ensure good transmission of signals that are better than just station to station, mobile to station.

The backbone of GWEN rests in the amateur HF frequencies utilizing the 80 meter band. We would be operating within rules set out by Industry Canada and have no part in the military GWEN setup as such. To have a look at our Band Plans which apply refer to the Band Plans page url at RAC at:

< <http://www.rac.ca/service/bandplans/>>

Using short distance ground wave propagation, we have an alternative for sending signals and traffic in the VHF (50 mhz - 300 MHz) or UHF (300 - 3,000 mhz) bands. We would have to identify stations that are capable, are well spaced and tested to effectively create our local relay network for use in the event of a repeater failure and to maintain communications for critical functions of our systems and security during a power failure.

Geddie, VE3CJX

PS: Come out to the ARES meeting on Tuesday, Sept.9th to find out more.

Time: 19:00 hrs

Location: In Room 217

of Academic South

a.k.a South Block at Brock University.

**(Junction of Glenridge Ave. and St. David's Road.
Check with Peter, VE3HM for parking locations)**