

The Feedline

Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club Inc. June 2009

I would like to first congratulate the incoming executive for taking on the positions that they will be serving and hope that they will enjoy themselves as much as I have. Let's help them as much as we can.

The Russell Aviation Group Air Show will be over when you read this but I would like to thank Peter, VE3HM for putting it together this year and also thank the people that helped out at the show.

We still have the Niagara Wine Festival parade to do this year (Sept 18th—27th) and you might want to start thinking of getting on the crew for this. See Peter, VE3HM and give him your name now as it is so close to the first meeting in September that it makes it easier to have names now.

Then it is time to start putting the Big Event together. We need all the help we can get for this as it is our bread & butter so do your part. The more people we get the easier it is for all. If you can come up with a door prize that would be a big help also.

The annual BBQ (corn roast) will be held on August 9th 2009. Please contact Peter, VE3HM and let him know if you will attend and how many. We need this information in order to purchase the food & drinks. If you plan on bringing dessert or other, try to let us know ahead of time as this is a big help. There was discussion on charging a small fee this year to offset some of the cost as the event has grown to a great big event and a costly one but we dropped that idea and settled for putting a "pay what you feel" bucket at the gate. Please feel free to use it.

And last of all, Field Day 2009: this looks like it will be a super weekend (June 27th & 28th). I have heard that we have about 22 people signed up for regular operating. I just remind you that these are the people that will need to be fed -- I will be manning the BBQ for the burgers so if anybody wants to give me a hand I could use one person.

I would like to thank Dale, VE3LVW for putting this together. Dale has done a great job and it should be a fun weekend for everyone. If you are not part of the activity come and check us out and give us some support.

If you are looking for me at the September meeting you will have to turn around. I will be in

The LAST ROW :-)

Soon To Be Past President

John, VA3BOZ

President NPARC



Minutes of the May 2009 NPARC Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio club was held at the Royal Canadian Legion on Highway #20 in Fonthill.

The meeting was called to order at 19:30 local time with the usual round of introductions. There were 25 Members present and 1 guest.

It was moved by Jim, VE3BCA and seconded by Dave Flarity, VE3DVE, that the April meeting minutes featured in the May 2009 Feedline be adopted as read. Motion was carried

The Treasurer's report was read by Kevin, VA3KGS and it too was adopted as read. The motion to adopt was made by Frank, VE3SQ and seconded by Jim, VE3BCA and the motion was carried.

The Secretary read some correspondence to the members. These included a thank you card from the estate of George Ecclestone, VE3WGE.

Old Business

Dale, VE3LVW spoke about Field Day 2009 preparations and listed band captains and stations that are going to be operating. Questions were raised about the information table and whether we had any brochures and handouts to give to any prospective new amateurs. Dave, VE3FOI talked about the possibility of the club having a handout listing some of our public service events we have attended.

Peter Vince, VE3HM talked about several items; the first being the Russell Aviation Group Air Show preparations and the need for volunteers. He then spoke about the Welland Otters Under the Four Bridges 1K Swim Meet on the old Welland canal and the Canada Day parade in Niagara Falls and their need for radio operators..

Jake, VE3NCL updated the club members on repeaters. The 440 repeater is fine so is the 220 MHz repeater. VE3WCR had some minor problems and has been repaired. VE3NRS is still down with the controller having to be shipped to California for repairs. They have just contacted Jake and are beginning repairs on the controller.

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

Minutes of the May meeting. /Contd.**New Business**

John Boswell spoke about some minor problems with Feedline and these will be ironed out. The corn roast is to be held on August 9th.

It was moved by Peter, VE3HM and seconded by Leroy, VE3LB that the business portion of meeting be adjourned.

There was a 10 minute meet and greet period. After this there was an excellent and informative talk on avionics given by Denis, VE3KVE.

The meeting was adjourned at 21:30.

Jim Demo, VE3JXD

Updates on Field Day 2009

Hello everyone

Field Day 2009 will be held in Fireman's Park, Niagara Falls on June 27th and 28th as earlier announced.

Some of the operators have indicated that they're not sure how long they'll be available which means there will be an opportunity for more people to get involved "on air".

Remember, everyone is welcome to come out and participate! Just because you may not have "officially" put your name on the operator list doesn't mean you can't come out and take part. I'm sure the band captains won't mind if you stop by a station and make a few qso's.

For those people that don't want to operate, it is still a great opportunity to observe. You'll see various station setups, operators in action, computerized logging etc. Perhaps you know a new ham that hasn't had much exposure to HF and VHF operating - ask them to stop by.

Come out and support your club and it's members ! ! ! !

Your band captains are:

6 and 2 mtr VE3ERQ
440 packet VE3DVE (just added)
20 mtr PSK31 VE3JDF
20 mtr SSB VE3HNN
40 mtr SSB VA3UL
75 mtr SSB VE3ROC
GOTA VE3HM

Confirmed volunteers to date:

(As listed in the May 2009 Feedline)

There will be SSB and 2 types of digital - perhaps someone will operate a bit of CW as well?

There has been a lot of response from club members and I'm pleased with everyone's involvement and the amount of stations that will be operating.

See you at the June 11th meeting for another update....

Send me an email ve3lvw@yahoo.ca if you need more information.

Dale, VE3LVW

Silent Key

Doug Sargeant, VE3BTO passed away on June 4th after a lengthy illness. He was 92 years young. Doug was a long standing member of NPARC and an active CW operator while he was in good health. He was also a veteran of WWII where he served in the signal corps. Doug made many Field Day trips to the Niagara-on-the-Lake site over many years. Doug was always there to help out when possible. He was a retired GM worker and member of the Salvation Army in St.Catharines. His wife recently passed away and they are survived by three sons and one daughter. His VE3BTO (BIG TIME OPERATOR) call is now silent but his memory will be 599.

This Silent Key message was received from Dave, VE3FOI

2009 Canada Day Radio-thon for Charity

On July 1st, 2009, amateur radio operators from across Canada, including the Niagara Region, will get together to celebrate Canada's birthday by participating in the Radio Amateurs of Canada, Canada Day Contest.

Radio amateurs from all over the world will contact Canadian amateurs to obtain points in the 24 hour contest. In conjunction with the Canada Day Contest, members from the Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club (NPARC) will be holding their second annual Canada Day Radio-thon for Charity.

Last year, \$680.00 was raised for charity. To raise funds NPARC members will contact amateur radio operators during the Canada Day Contest. The more contacts they make, the more they will raise for charity unless a pledge is for a flat donation. NPARC Members will be canvassing the public for pledges in June 2009, so please be generous.

This year the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) Amateur Radio Program and the St. Catharines General Hospital Foundation will be participating. The CNIB Amateur Radio Program has equipment available for lease, sale or loan to Canadians living with vision loss, and provides a support network for 'ham' enthusiasts. The St. Catharines General Hospital Foundation (SCGHF) is a non-profit, fund-raising organization that supports the St. Catharines General Hospital site of the Niagara Health System in securing innovative health care equipment and state-of-the-art technology in modern facilities.

Other charities are invited to participate. This event is a great opportunity to promote amateur radio in a fun and challenging way and in the process raise funds for worthwhile community projects and charities. Please support your neighbourhood amateur radio operator or Ham when he or she comes knocking on your door. If you are an amateur or a registered charity and wish to get involved with this worthwhile community event for 2009 or have your club get involved, you can contact Peter at va3wet@rac.ca or radiothon@nparc.on.ca for more information.

This is a reminder to all NPARC and Non-NPARC members to bring your cheque book to the next General Meeting, on Thursday June the 11th at the Royal Canadian Legion in Fonthill. The Radio-thon for Charity will be held on Canada Day in conjunction with the RAC Canada Day Contest. More information is available on the NPARC website (www.nparc.on.ca).

I will be accepting pledges and donations for two great charities, the CNIB Amateur Radio Program and the St. Catharines General Hospital Foundation. I will be accepting cash if you forget your cheque book, though cheques are preferred. Thank-you for your support.

Peter, VA3WET

Editorial comment

Hello again!

There are several important events this month to be aware of, so please look at the specific items that interest you the most; Field Day is rapidly approaching (June 27th & 28th) and Dale has new information about it. He'll be presenting more up-to-date information at the meeting on June 11th.

The 2009 Canada Day Radio-thon for Charity is also highlighted with Peter's information. He'll also have more to add at the June meeting. Then there is the Russell air show on June 5th, 6th, and 7th, and (within the club), elections. We look forward to seeing you on June 11th at the Legion in Fonthill!

Please make sure that you read the write-up from Geddie on our longest serving club member—Ethel Williamson. She is a remarkable woman and has lived a fascinating life to-date.

This brings us to the end of another club year. The club Executive wishes every member a very good summer. We should all keep in touch both with the club summer activities and also on the air using our club repeaters,

See you all in September!

73, Denis, VE3KVE and Geddie, VE3CJX.

PS—We're always ready to receive information from members, about your shack; your antennas; your experiences on the air. Just email them to: feedline@nparc.on.ca

Ethel Williams—Amateur Radio call sign VE3DTW.

A remarkable woman who has had an incredible life up to now, and as she is only 102 years old, may have many other plans in mind!

When I first met Ethel Williamson, I was very much younger and I would have to guess it was in 1959. I was at Port Weller Public School in the 4th grade. One of my father's vessels, the Cato II, had washed up on the western pier after vandals had chopped through the mooring lines in Port Dalhousie. The boat was hauled out of the water and put on a transport float and taken back to Port Dalhousie along Lakeshore Road. It was an important event for our family. At that time Ethel was living with her husband and two young sons, tending the Port Weller lighthouse. When I was invited into the well decorated house, Ethel was so welcoming and enthusiastic. I thought she had everything a young family could want: the best view of Lake Ontario; the

front door to the newly built entrance to the Welland Canal; international ships and Canadian lakers, and all kinds of weather and sunsets that one could have.

Later in 1972, she had completed her first book, "A Light on the Seaway". It is a vibrant first hand account of her life in those times. This period marked the beginning of hydro-power development at Niagara Falls, closed circuit TV, information hotlines and other electronics and communications technology which has contributed so much to our Canadian way of life. Although the book has been out of print for quite a while, copies are available at the St. Catharines Public Library in both the special collections and in the stacks. I also found a book on the History of NPARC.

Early this year, Denis (VE3KVE) and I went out to visit with Ethel and found her knitting scarves and hats for the Red Cross and still interested in getting the big remote control to work with her flat screen TV. On another occasion, I brought my handheld along and we actually found a generous being on air who responded to our call. She is so beautiful and charming and doesn't seem to miss a beat. She is still very active in many ways. Ethel's latest article, which currently remains unpublished is titled, "The Hobby that Changed My Life". Can you believe Ethel was trained as a high fashion hairdresser and managed her own shop before she moved into the lighthouse, so remote and isolated from the rest of her community? She had been used to the city and all.

The lighthouse was in the Old Grantham Township then near a very small settlement with a great municipal beach. The radio and generators became a constant companion going all hours of the day. It is her great blessing of good humor and positive perspective that her experience in fact is so important to us. At the time she had to learn the Morse Code and was able to connect around the world with the similar ease we have come to take for granted with the cell phones and internet.

"It wasn't a particularly romantic lighthouse" nor were the quarters well kept when the Williamsons first came to live there with their two sons. Can you imagine at the end of winter just before the Welland canal opened up for the season. Can you imagine the generators and fog horn and sharing the 24 hour radio watch in the busy "aid to navigation" as the Coast Guard and Seaway Charts call lighthouses", as Ethel Williamson (VE3DTW) described the site at the time she moved there with her family.



**The Port Weller Canadian Coast Guard Lighthouse Circa 1947-53
just before Ethel moved in with her family.**

For this picture see: <http://www.lieuxpatrimoniaux.ca/visit-visite/image.aspx?id=10486&imgID=0&ver=1&ref=1>

For a more recent pictures see: <http://www.cyberlights.com/lh/canada/weller.htm> and
<http://www.rudvalicelighthouse.net/OntLts/PtWeller/PtWeller.htm>

The lighthouse no longer stands on the western pier at Port Weller on the south shore of Lake Ontario. This "aid to navigation" was demolished in 1972 and all that is left are some drawings and rare photos and many, many ham radio memories about the lighthouse keeper Cy Williamson (VE3TW - silent key) and his assistant and wife Ethel Williamson (VE3DTW). As she once said with mischievous eyes, "Crum, Cy was the Lightkeeper and I, the Light Housekeeper of the Port Weller Light".

Ethel continues to be one of our very important life members and historian to document NPARC's beginnings and she is still going strong! The new work published by Jim Thompson (VE3BCA) hits home how important the contributions of individuals of this organization have been to our vitality within our community now.

On March 21st 2007, Ethel celebrated her 100th birthday with fanfare. This year was a little quieter, however. In November 2007, Ethel donated to Ridley College an original manuscript of her patriotic song, "Hats Off to England" which had been aired on CKTB. It had been recently found amongst some of her papers. During the time when her

husband Cyril was first called away to war serving in England and India and the Middle East, she wrote lyrics and she handed the lyrics to her family's piano teacher...then Director of Music at Ridley College who matched it with a perfect tune. Ethel has had a remarkable life and she expects to achieve many more things before she departs this earthly life.

See http://www.ridleycollege.com/ftpimages/180/download/download_group3232_id351899.pdf
and <http://www.sstandard.com/PrintArticle.aspx?e=1309031>

As in Ethel's life, ham radio continues to offer a great opportunity to meet great people right around the world and within our own neighbourhood, even at retirement residences and high rises with new methods such as Echolink.

Geddie, VE3CJX

Presentation—Avionics, the fun part of Aviation!

This was a presentation given by Denis, VE3KVE at the May club meeting. The presentation included an outline of Denis' background, owning and operating avionics' facilities here in southern Ontario, and his subsequent work, both overseas in Zambia (acting as an avionics' technical representative with the Zambian Air Force working on De Havilland Buffalo aircraft), and also here in Canada as the Program Manager for an avionics' update on the CC-130 (Hercules) type transport aircraft operated by our own Royal Canadian Air Force.

Denis also included a look at the types of equipment required even in small General Aviation type aircraft, when they are equipped for IFR (Instrument Flight Rules) type flying. This part of the presentation included displaying the tremendous amount of frequency allocations and equipment required onboard an IFR equipped aircraft.

His presentation also included a look at a typical Military Air Show and the types of aircraft and weapons on display. In conclusion, he included a light-hearted look at some of the "Weird and Wonderful" aircraft that have been designed, built, and sometimes, flown.

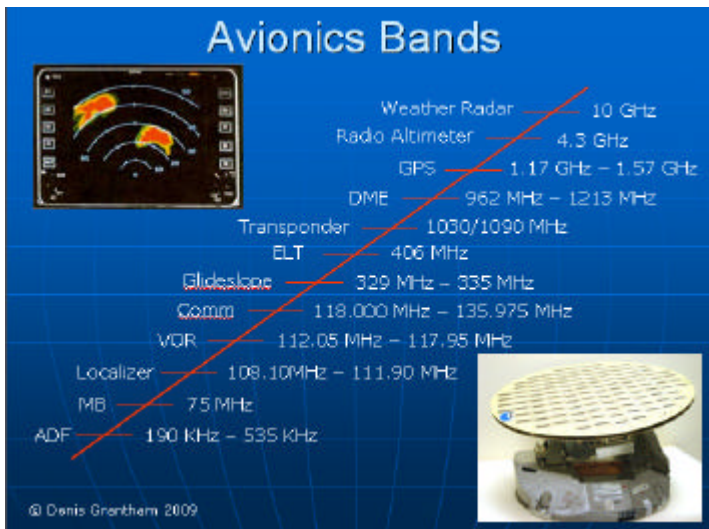


Denis' period with the Zambian Air Force



Typical General Aviation IFR Equipment

Images from Denis' Presentation



Frequency bands used in Avionics



Denis trying a jet fighter for size!

More images from Denis' Presentation



These from the Military Airshow Section



These from the "Weird" Section



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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	VE3VLS	events@nparc.on.ca
Repeater Committee				
Chairman:	Bob Miller	VE3HNN	repeaters@nparc.on.ca	
Bulletin Editor(s)	Denis Grantham	VE3KVE	feedline@nparc.on.ca	
	and	Geddie Pawlowski	VE3CJX	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, VA3KGS. Presentation of his diving trip to North Carolina.
Thursday October 9 th 2008	Guest speaker Postponed until November meeting.
Thursday November 13 th 2008	Guest speaker Bob Cook, VE3BDB, Vice- President, Field Services. He will be doing a new ARES presentation.
Thursday December 11 th 2008	Guest speaker Guenther Schweigl. Using Lead-free solder plus he is bringing a VNA (Vector Network Analyzer) to check antennas.
Thursday January 8 th 2009	Guest speaker David Wilson, VE3BBN.
Thursday February 12 th 2009	Guest speakers Peter, VA3WET
Thursday March 12 th 2009	Guest speaker Leon Evans
Thursday April 9 th 2009	Guest speaker Kevin Smith, VA3KGS Topic—working of the canal locks.
Thursday May 14 th 2009	Guest speaker Denis Grantham, VE3KVE. Avionics, the fun part of Aviation!.
Thursday June 11 th 2009	Guest speaker Club elections night—no guest speaker