

The Feedline

Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club Inc. October 2008

While it is hard to believe that a month has already gone by and here I am trying to think of something to write, if you haven't noticed yet it is getting cooler and the leaves are starting to do their thing and it won't be long before we are complaining about the weather once more - I guess it's time for antenna work.



As you know, this year we will be just having a regular meeting in December and we have booked the Club Belvedere for a sit-down Turkey Dinner and you should get your tickets by the October meeting because after that they will be sold to family and friends. We are planning to have some door prizes and presentations so bring your wife, bring a friend or just bring yourself. Tickets are just \$23.00 per person and there will be a cash bar. See Jim Demo VA3JV for tickets as he is the only source.

The Big Event is fast approaching. We will need a lot of help with this and it is our best source of funds to keep things running. The contact is Peter Vince VE3HM. Don't wait 'till the last minute to volunteer as it makes it a lot easier on all to do it now.

Our Guest Speaker this month is Bob Cook VE3BDB, Vice- President, Field Services. He will be doing a new ARES presentation.

I received a phone call from the son of past member of the club and he told me that his father VE3AAN Charles Taylor was now in a senior's home and that they were selling his house. There were a lot of radio parts in the basement that the club could have and use to raise some funds. If we didn't want the items they were going to the dump. I went and got them that day and will be getting a table at the Hamilton flea market. Stop by.

If anyone has any ideas or suggestions for the club to do to get more interest and exposure please let us know as the executive cannot and should not be expected to come up with all the ideas. That is not what we are here for, as we do not know what you want unless you tell us.

We are also still looking for guest speakers for the future - any suggestions.

Also we are going to start an evening net again, possibly linking all our repeaters together. Try to check in when we get it up and running as the net controllers will be giving up their time to be there. We may also include a swap night - lets make it work.

Feel free to e-mail myself or any of the Executive for any club related questions.

**Niagara Grape & Wine Parade
Saturday, September 27th.
St. Catharines**

I would like to personally thank the 9 people who volunteered to help out with the parade on such a short notice. We were very much needed and appreciated for the help that we gave the marshals. The event organizers have had a lot of internal problems over the past two years but I believe that they are getting back on track and today was one of the best that I have worked on. My thanks again to ----

Peter VE3HM, Geddie VE3CJX, Dennis VE3DU, Denis VE3KVE, Brian VE3BMX, Bob VE3HNNH, Peter VE3WET and Dave VA3DPG.

de John, VA3BOZ

Minutes of the September 2008 NPARC meeting

The meeting started at 19:33

Introductions

Everybody rose and identified; special intro of Dana Truman VE3VDT by Len 'TC'; guest Justin.

Old Business

Opening Remarks

John mentioned and gave the club's congratulations to:
- Jim Servos' for his marriage to his XYL Sandy
- Peter 'WET for his work on Canada Day Radio-thon
- Dave 'BBN for his work on GWEN

Adoption of Minutes

Wasi NAZ moved and BCA seconded adoption of minutes as published.

Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

P.O. Box 20036 Grantham Postal Outlet, St. Catharines, Ontario L2M 7W7

Treasurer's Report

Kevin, KGS gave his Treasurer's report; mentioned last year's status; mentioned audit; mentioned upcoming large expenses; looking into cost cutting measures; will have detailed report on last year at another meeting.

BCA moved adoption of the report, SQ seconded; discussion: none; all in favour; no opposed; carried

Amendments proposed by Peter VA3WET

- Amendment re Club Membership Dues and privileges; no discussion; all in favour; no opposed; carried.

- Amendment re Diversity Statement; some discussion; read Peter's emailed version; called vote: all in favour; no opposed; carried

NPARC History Project by Jim VE3BCA

Jim 'BCA gave a report on this "book" project; has about 50 pages; mentioned it should be about 150 pages.

Corn Roast

Thanks to and applause for John "Rainmaker" VE3CNF for hosting this summer's Corn Roast.

9/11

Rick 'MFN suggested that those attending stand for minute of silence in memory of the Victims of 9/11.

ARES Report – Originally titled *The Three Dave's* but amended to: *Two Dave's and a David*

Dave 'DVE gave a report about ARES activities and recent "exercises"; including:

- Dave Digweed VE3FOI – Field Day Report in TCA
- David Wilson VE3BBN – Fantastic articles on his new "girlfriend" GWEN in articles in TCA
- Dave Flarity VE3DVE – ARES EC's Report in TCA; mentioned that Dr. Jack N. Lightstone invited 30 groups of first and secondary responders to attend a seminar on emergency preparedness; mentioned that Brock University is very interested in implementing an ARES amateur radio station; that ARES (Niagara) has two friends at Brock: Ed Blasinski VE3ITH Director, Tcomm. & Ntwk Svcs, and also Mike Agnew Emerg'y & Life Safety Officer. And much, much more.

Head of Welland Regatta

Peter 'HM solicited volunteers to work the Head of Welland regatta on Saturday September 27th in Welland on the North Course; insufficient response.

Field Day

Dave 'FOI thanked those who participated in Field Day; John 'BOZ offered the prospect of a map of the park for next year's station placement.

New Business**Paws of Thunder**

Sue KG4SUE/VE3 solicited volunteers to work a "dry-land" dog sled, or in this case, chariot race sponsored by the "Siberian Husky's of the Niagara Frontier" on Saturday November 8th.

Radio-thon 2009

Peter 'WET looking for volunteers for another Radio-thon on July 1st, 2009 to repeat this year's extraordinary performance.

ARES Training & Equipment Allocation

VE3PIO and VE3FOI asked questions about training for ARES. Peter 'HM referred them to the ARES web site at <http://www.aresniagara.org/>. Kevin 'KGS, in reference to the announced upcoming installations asked about how ARES equipment was being allocated and why it appeared there was little equipment in the south end (of the peninsula). Dave 'DVE responded by pointing out that all of the hospitals in the Niagara Health System, as well as the two independents: Hotel Dieu Shaver and West Lincoln Memorial, have ARES stations that form the Hospitals Radio Network.

Elmering

VE3CJX asked about Elmering. John 'BOZ, president and chair, tabled the issue for later for the sake of moving the meeting to items on the agenda. ("*Elmering*" is an informal form of mentoring between experienced hams and new hams or between hams with experience in one particular aspect of ham radio to others who are interested in that aspect.) It seems some of our newer members are looking for some elmering.

Cost Cutting

John 'BOZ spoke about a couple of cost cutting measures:

- new location for storing club equipment at storage unit on Carlton St for \$40/month which is cheaper and much drier than storage in the Optimist club out-building;
- new mode for December social: To eliminate the expense of the club subsidized December meeting meal, we have booked a hall for Operation Merry Christmas at Club Belvedere in Thorold on Friday December 5th at 7:00pm for \$23/person for a turkey dinner served family style. Need 50 sold tickets to keep the hall booking price.

Much subsequent discussion of costs and budgets.

Coffee Proctor

John 'BOZ solicited a volunteer to take over from Bob VE3HNH who can no longer attend club meetings due to another commitment. Jim 'BCA stuck up his hand said he would do it.

Next Month's Guest Speaker

Bob Cooke VE3BDB RAC VP Field Services will be next month's (October) guest speaker. He will be giving a talk on ARES. If David VE3BBN forgets to bring the projector, Bob threatened to give a Song and Dance performance. To prepare for that eventuality, David solicited a "Song and Dance" cane.

Big Event 31 in 2009

Peter 'HM forgot to solicit volunteers for the Big Event – I will get you next meeting.

Adjournment

Dave 'BBN and Rick 'WU proposed a motion of adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 20:30

Following the business portion of the meeting, our own member, Kevin VA3KGS, gave a very interesting slideshow and talk about a Diving Trip in South Carolina as well as a recreational dive site in the Old Welland Canal in Welland.

de Peter, VE3HM

Niagara Grape and Wine Festival Parade.

The Niagara Grape & Wine Festival Parade held on Saturday, September 27th. In St. Catharines surprisingly roused out nine NPARC members, even with a very short notice.

As it turned out, the weather was steady and NPARC members provided assistance directly through the Niagara Parade Marshal Association. We expect to be notified earlier for next year's event, so mark it on your calendars now.

I have to say it attracted a good crowd and everything went off without incidence. The parade was entertaining and involved many high school bands and younger members of the community. The Mayor of St. Catharines notably walked the entire route. No fancy cars or carts for him!



Salvation Army Emergency Communications:

As many of you know the Salvation Army is part of the Regional Niagara Emergency Plan. I am starting to set up communications personnel for the major areas of the Niagara Peninsula and would like to have amateur radio operators in the following areas involved: St.Catharines, Niagara Falls, Welland, Port Colborne, Fort Erie, Niagara on the Lake, and Grimsby. The Salvation Army will be working with the other services in this area, Red Cross and Niagara Region. Their arrangement with the Region is called Recovery and will take place during an emergency and then after the first 72 hours if needed. We will be working along with the other radio operators of ARES as a combined communications effort. So if anyone can help out or wants more information see me at a club meeting or email me at ve3foi@yahoo.ca or phone me at 905-562-7979 for more information.

I am also pleased to report that The Salvation Army has received a donation to buy a dual band (2mtr, 440 antenna) from George VE3AGS and his wife Jean. This antenna will be put up at the St.Catharines Salvation Army site on Niagara Street with a co-ax feed into the building so the operator can connect a rig to it. Hopefully we will have similar set ups at the others locations in the Niagara area soon. Thanks.

73 Dave, VE3FOI
SATERN Niagara Director Salvation Army

Kevin, VA3KGS gave us an excellent presentation of images he has taken when diving, specifically during a recent visit to North Carolina, and also images taken in the Welland area. The two images that follow are examples that Kevin has taken during his exotic trips.

Here are two of his many images that Kevin has captured during his diving exploits. Thanks, Kevin, for sharing your trip experience with us.



“GWEN”, an alternative Emergency Communication System (Part 2)

“GWEN” (Ground Wave Emergency Network) is a proposed Ontario Groundwave Network for Emergency Radio Communications. In the September edition of Feedline, we included some background information on GWEN. This month we continue with more information on how GWEN might be setup in the Niagara area.

Most commonly, radio signals used in emergency networks use skywave propagation. However, more recently groundwave radio transmission has been demonstrated by David Wilson (VE3BBN) with the help of a number of radio amateur buddies using a Niagara-on-the-Lake source, using HF to reach north across Lake Ontario to Aurora, west to Brantford, and south to Lowbank on Lake Erie near the border between Haldimand County and Wainfleet.

So, why the interest in applying groundwave technology for emergency communication? Power outages and the inherent limitations affecting VHF and UHF skywave transmission may provide an opportunity to apply groundwave propagation as a basis for an Ontario wide emergency radio transmission network. A single link can reach in the order of up to 100km.

Kind of exciting when you think about it. Setting up an amateur emergency network linking Niagara westward to Sarnia and eastward to Kingston and beyond would be ideal. If you are an ARES member, and if you have an HF transceiver capable of 100 watts output, a vertical antenna anywhere from 40 to 66 feet high, a minimum of 48 radials and an operator with 10 wpm CW skills, and would like to participate in some further testing, make sure you speak to VE3BBN!

The CW skills would be very useful especially if the SSB mode becomes unavailable. Also, having a backup power source with fuel to provide for one week of running in the event of a major power failure, would be very good according to David, VE3BBN.

What is new is that we have amongst our NPARC members those who can attest to the transmission capability. VE3BBN describes the tests in two articles appearing in the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) magazine, TCA (The Canadian Amateur) of May-June 2008 and July-August 2008 supporting an open discussion across Canada and elsewhere.

Groundwave, for those that are not too familiar, is the radio propagation that hugs the ground surface and allows transmission of radio signals to beyond the limits of line of sight and UHF/VHF. Considering that the line of sight means that the signal travels horizontally and where the horizon occurs, the wave just heads on out into space, hence the shorter distance limit of VHF and UHF propagation.

Geddie, VE3CJX and David, VE3BBN.

NPARC 2008 – 2009 Executive

President:	John Boswell	VA3BOZ	president@nparc.on.ca
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		Ron Kramer	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 Bob Cook VE3BDB, Vice- President, Field Services. He will be doing a new ARES presentation.
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

About Amateur Radio (repeated from the September 2008 Feedline)

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. David, 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@nparc.on.ca](#) or [ve3bbn@sympatico.ca](#), or by telephone at (905) 262-5588.

Directions (See map below)

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.

Amateur Radio class students with instructor David, VE3BBN, September 2008

