

# The Feedline

**Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club Inc. November 2008**

Well yet another month has gone by and I feel like I am still writing for last month but I guess I might as well keep going.



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

I would like to thank VE3AAN Chuck Taylor for his donation of left over odds & ends from his amateur radio days the sale of which paid for a good part of a new laptop computer that we needed to go with our projector, it will also be available for other club use if needed. We have had a small plaque made to thank Chuck. If anyone would like to visit Chuck he is in the Niagara Arms retirement home. I am sure he would like to talk to old friends.

The evening nets have started, they are on Monday and Wednesday at 7:00 pm on VE3NRS. They have been slow to get going but it has been a while since we had evening nets so dust off the 2 metre radios and give the controller a check in. It's not that hard to do.

The Big Event is fast approaching and a lot of help is still needed. This is our main lifeline to keep the club going financially. It would be nice to see more participation from the membership to help with this important event. You can contact Peter VE3HM to volunteer. Don't forget its a free ticket in and you still get in on the door prizes.

It looks like at this time the membership is not too interested in any social events. I will be cancelling the planned Christmas dinner at the Club Belvedere as we could not get the 60 percent of the tickets sold by the November 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. We will refund the money for the tickets that were sold and we are looking at something else to still get together for the people that did respond.

The December meeting will still be a regular meeting and we are trying to line up a guest speaker. Anyone have any ideas LETS HEAR THEM.....

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

de John, VA3BOZ

## **Minutes of the October 2008 NPARC meeting**

The meeting started at 19:33. The meeting was called to order at the Fonthill Legion. Introductions were made and the format was changed to allow a demonstration of IRLP radio by VA3UL Dave Hodson. Dave connected with a club in Australia and there were several qso's made by the Aussie operators. This was followed by a short question and answer period.

In honour of a former member Albert VE3DMT who has become a silent key a minute of silence was held.

Peter (VE3HM) moved the minutes in the Feedline be adopted as read and was seconded by Wasi. The minutes were voted on and accepted as read.

The Treasurer's report was given by VA3KGS (Kevin). It was moved by Bob VE3HNN and seconded by Alvin VE3CFO. There was a discussion about expenses incurred and possible ways to save money. Dave (VA3UL) gave a short talk on setting up an in-house Audit committee as the books need to be audited. The following people have volunteered to form the committee Oscar (VE3PIO) Dale (VE3LVW) and Bob VE3KYA. The report was voted on and adopted as read.

## **Old Business**

SUE (KG4SUE/VE3) has asked for volunteers to help at a dogsled race being held at Heartland R.V. Park. This race is being held in November.

Dave Hodson (VA3UL) talked about the Club Dinner planned for Dec 5<sup>th</sup>.

Peter (VE3HM) took the floor and talked about the Big Event and requested volunteers to help out. The club makes most of its operating expenses from this venue and the club depends on volunteers to make it a success.

Doug Frame (VE3JDF), RAC representative gave a short talk on the new Band Plans adopted July 22<sup>nd</sup> 2008 by Industry Canada

**New Business**

John (VE3BOZ) announced that we are returning to a shortened Net structure beginning with Monday and Wednesday nights and the Monday night swap shop will be returning.

John (VE3BOZ) also thanked the volunteers who helped out at the Grape Parade as this was a last minute item and there was a great turnout from the members on such short notice.

John (VE3BOZ) also gave a short talk on the equipment donated to the club by former member Chuck Taylor VE3AAN this equipment was sold with members getting first crack. The rest was sold at the Ancaster Flea Market. The Money raised was used to purchase a new Laptop to be used in conjunction with the Projector given to the club in memory of Tom Vince formerly (VE3HM).

There was a short break and David Wilson(VE3BBN) gave a short talk entitled Reflections. The 50/50 draw was won by Joe VE3ABG

Geddie (VE3CJX) introduced the idea of developing a Ham Camp Program and asked for some help with setting up a curriculum for a one day camp and a week-long camp for Kids older than 9 years old, preferred age range 12 years old. Girls welcome!

de Jim, VE3XX

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## Editorial comment

Fall has certainly arrived and Halloween is over. This is our third edition as joint Editors of THE FEEDLINE and we (Denis, VE3KVE and Geddie, VE3CJX) will be creating each month's Bulletin.

A comment from Denis (VE3KVE). There are possible changes coming from our provincial government that if implemented as announced, could affect Amateur radio operations when mobile. This relates to the proposed Ontario Legislation Bill 118 that will prohibit the use of any communications device that involves direct intervention using one's hands whilst driving a vehicle. It is possible that this Bill will change how we can use Amateur radio in a vehicle whilst driving, or entail the use of a hands-free setup. This type of legislation is now in place in several other provinces and in approximately 50 countries around the world, so we will almost certainly have something similar here in Ontario soon. I have not yet been able to find how Amateurs in other provinces have responded, and as Amateur Radio comes under Federal legislation, there is a possibility that we might be exempted. RAC has already responded to the Ontario Ministry of transport concerning this proposed Bill and a copy of the RAC Bulletin outlining some of the RAC concerns and response is included in this Bulletin. Any legislation will take a while to pass, so we have time to make our own responses. My personal view is that some restrictions are necessary for public safety and we must expect to be affected. I recently purchased a U.K. manufactured hands-free unit for Amateur radio use that might be an effective way to use my mobile rig legally and safely. There are also other ways to go hands-free. Maybe this could be an interesting club project to create an effective solution that will still enable us to operate our radios whilst driving. Let's get our thinking caps on guys! I'll let you know in future Feedlines how this works out.

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](mailto:feedline@nparc.on.ca) or even just hand us a paper copy at one of the meetings.

Denis, VE3KVE and Geddie, VE3CJX.

## Subject: RAC Bulletin 2008-027E - Ontario Mobile Cellphone Bill and Amateur Radio

November 3, 2008

The Government of Ontario has tabled legislation intended to improve road safety by banning the use of some kinds of electronic devices by drivers. While the target of Bill 118 was intended to be cellular communication devices, the draft bill is written so broadly that many Amateurs are concerned that Amateur Radio mobile operation could be banned by the bill's provisions.

RAC has already taken steps to protect the interests of Amateurs in that province. RAC President Dave Goodwin VO1AU/VE3AAQ has written to Minister Bradley specifically requesting that Amateur Radio be excluded from the scope of the bill. This letter reminded the minister that similar legislation in Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia and Quebec explicitly or implicitly protects mobile Amateur Radio operation.

A careful reading of the bill reveals that any exemptions will be contained in regulations. RAC will shortly meet with Ontario transportation officials to make the case for protecting mobile Amateur Radio operation. This will be done in conjunction with the Canadian Association for Rallysport (CARS) Executive Director Alastair Robertson VE3RAA.

73,

Dave VO1AU/VE3AAQ  
President, Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC)  
Président, Radio Amateurs du Canada (RAC)  
<http://www.rac.ca>

Vernon Erle Ikeda  
Dollard des Ormeaux, Quebec

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Sent by the RAC Bulletins from RACHQ mailing list robot.  
Send comments to: [rachq@rac.ca](mailto:rachq@rac.ca)  
For more information about the email robot, please visit:  
<http://rac.eton.ca/racbullemail.htm>

## The musings of an ARES "SET" part (or 'How I learned to enjoy/survive the experience.) by Geddie, VE3CJX.

Are we really ready for an emergency, or is it a mind set?

The night before the exercise I was reflecting on the next morning's ARES Annual Exercise. Some people call this sort of thing a SET, or a Simulated Emergency Test. So, I pushed my personal, portable and trusty brain to create a list and the first things that came to mind were the radio and a whole bunch of items for my personal comfort. You know, the early morning coffee, a paper to read I case I needed to wait, a really warm coat, good shoes, perhaps some gloves, a hat, maybe a headache pill, some lunch and some candies. Then I thought about what happens when my batteries died. Well a back up would work: a full set or two of replacement batteries.

Now I had an idea of how long the battery lasted in my rig and it wasn't impressive, perhaps a few hours at best. Now what I still don't know is what actually happens to my signal as the battery drains. Can I listen longer than I can talk? Does it all stop at once? Which battery type is best? Too late now, it was after 11:00 pm, so I threw my pencils and note papers into my bag to hope for the best.

As I took my radio in my hand, the older dual band Yaesu, which had been in the well seasoned hands of VE3HM Sr., I reflected on what he would have thought about getting ready to participate in an ARES exercise. He must have been a very young man when he first took up radio, perhaps 17 or so I'm told. In his time, he actually took his turn to put such exercises together. He would have had to organize a few volunteers, come up with a scenario, and notify the served agencies that the morning radio traffic was a SET.

The rules of the game typically are for the Lead to get started at an appointed time, have people take positions at various locations throughout the Peninsula and just start connecting into the Net.

Well, finding the spots and meeting up with partners doesn't always go as planned, especially in the City of St. Catharines. People have assigned names to locations which you can't find on a transit map, or any map for that matter and I found myself in a parking lot right where I thought I should be and couldn't see my contact.

I'm glad I switched on the radio as soon as I got there. But why didn't I do this sooner, well concern for my battery. I recognized my partner's voice on the air. And from the weekly ARES Net, I knew his call sign. I had forgotten to find out what vehicle he would be using. Now while I was listening, I wasn't really sure where everyone else was and if they were really there or if they were just pretending for the sake of the exercise. Even though I grew up in the area, in this role I felt like a newcomer!

A roster call was completed. Just to get started, there is the "Hi all on Net", then some idea about weather, a road condition or other quick comment before resuming standby. The

exercise scenario unfolded.

A formal message test was send for us to use the special standard radiogram form with spaces for writing individual words, and other particulars. These forms are used to keep an orderly record of short messages that can be numbered and that need to be send to others or returned to the Lead. To make sure of names and details the messages need to be clearly readable to transfer by voice later and to track and document activities.

The things I learned: make sure you have a radio that works, and with back-up batteries to last the day; know the frequency of the repeaters you are using (mine were pre-programmed); use low power whenever you can; have a clip board; some message forms; a good supply of pencils and pens; scratch paper; international letter code; a good map you can put marks on; during the roster call make a list of the participants and their call signs and where they say they are; re-evaluate your backup battery choices (This can be done by referring to a web site: [http://www.mpower.com/images/energy\\_density.gif](http://www.mpower.com/images/energy_density.gif)) and; do some homework to get an idea of the locations and up-to-date names of hospitals, emergency food, aid and shelter stations being used; and don't forget to ask your partner what vehicle to look for.

Through these exercises, the ARES volunteer community gets ready to scramble at the call of the District Emergency Coordinator. In the mean time, David Wilson continues to work on the groundwave back-up communication method on the 80M Band in case our repeaters are down.

Geddie VE3CJX

**Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club, Inc.**

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

## NPARC 2008 – 2009 Executive

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### 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> 2008	Guest speaker Kevin Smith (Presentation of his diving trip to North Carolina).
Thursday October 9 <sup>th</sup> 2008	Guest speaker Postponed until November meeting.
Thursday November 13 <sup>th</sup> 2008	Guest speaker Bob Cook VE3BDB, Vice- President, Field Services. He will be doing a new ARES presentation.
Thursday December 11 <sup>th</sup> 2008	Guest speaker TBA
Thursday January 8 <sup>th</sup> 2009	Guest speaker TBA
Thursday February 12 <sup>th</sup> 2009	Guest speaker TBA
Thursday March 12 <sup>th</sup> 2009	Guest speaker TBA
Thursday April 9 <sup>th</sup> 2009	Guest speaker TBA
Thursday May 14 <sup>th</sup> 2009	Guest speaker TBA
Thursday June 11 <sup>th</sup> 2009	Guest speaker TBA