

# The Feedline

Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club Inc. November 2009

## President's Message

Hello Everyone:

November is here. We are back to standard time. Cool days, early sunsets, cold nights and most of the leaves have fallen. All signs that winter is around the corner and -- more time for ham radio. At least we hope so. Ham radio is a great way to spend those long winter days and nights. It doesn't matter which facet of ham radio your interests lie -- be active on the bands. VHF, UHF or HF, SSB, CW or IRLP. It's all ham radio and being active is the best way to promote this wonderful hobby to keep it alive and growing.

Flea Market plans are well under way. John VA3BOZ has been working hard organizing the event and I am sure he can use more volunteers. Contact John if you can help at the "Big Event" as the club can never have too many volunteers.

Please take some time to introduce yourself to those hams on the repeater that you may not know. A friendly hello may be just what that person needs to hear on a dreary winter day. Invite them to a club meeting or one of the coffee nets that seem to be a daily occurrence at local coffee shops.

The Monday night VHF net has been successful thus far. A big thank-you to Dave VE3FOI and Art VA3AEK for their work as net controllers. Each week there have been a dozen or so check-ins. I think that's very good considering the technical issues VE3NRS has had and the last minute shuffles to VE3WCR. People still find the net. A dozen people may not seem like a large number but I'm sure if the club perseveres with the net those numbers will increase. Send me a message if you would like to be a net controller sometime. No long term commitments are required. Why not give it a try for one week?

I'm confident that VE3NRS will be back on the air with its new repeater controller by the time you read this. Thanks to Jake VE3NCL and Dave VA3UL for their continued work on the repeaters.



I hope to see all of you at the November meeting as well as on the air.

73, Dale VE3LVW  
President NPARC

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## Minutes of the October 8th 2009 NPARC meeting

**The meeting was opened** at 19:30 by President Dale Sackfie VE3LVW, at the Fonthill Legion. There were 29 registered members and guests present, all of whom identified themselves in turn with name, call sign and home location.

The president welcomed the members and guests and called for approval of the minutes of the previous meeting of 10th September 2009. Most members had already received and reviewed them; those who had not were given a few minutes to do the same with copies distributed. Moved by Andy VE3NDF, seconded by Bob VE3KYA that the minutes be adopted. **Carried.**

**Committee reports** were called for: (Dale VE3LVW mentioned that some committees are lacking chairpersons).

**Basic radio:** David VE3BBN reported the seven students are doing well, but he is having some difficulty arranging a suitable venue.

**Treasurer:** Kevin VE3KGS gave a summary report of current finances including mention of major expense items, the net result being favourable. Detailed financial report is now scheduled to be available at the next general meeting; copies will be distributed to the executive and also be available to any member. Jim VE3BAC moved, Frank VE3SQ seconded; motion to adopt: **Carried.**

**NRS controller:** Dave VA3UL described the situation, saying that the manufacturer of the old one is not available and the controller should be replaced. A need for having the phone patch was discussed; current use indicates the patch can be dropped with substantial cost saving. Moved by Denis VE3KVE, seconded by Dave VE3FOI, that the phone patch be dropped. **Carried.**

/Contd. overleaf

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

**October meeting Minutes (/Contd.)**

New controller equipment is available at a reasonable cost. Dave VA3UL agreed to send a final letter to the previous supplier who has been practically unreachable to determine the fate of the old units. Moved by Bob VE3KYA, seconded by John VA3BOZ, that the new items be procured.

**Carried.**

**News Group (Web page):** Dale VE3LVW led considerable discussion which indicated this area needs concerted management with several people involved. E.g. John VA3BOZ said management of all pictures on the website is haphazard. Dale VE3LVW will do work in this respect.

**Club history:** Jim VE3BCA said he still has a few copies of the book for sale. Bob VE3KYA moved that a copy be bought for donation to the St Catharines public library, seconded by John VA3BOZ. **Carried.**

**Flea Market:** John VA3BOZ reports good progress on preparations, but more volunteers are needed for misc. duties. An announcement for use by the various media is in preparation.

**Santa Claus Parade Niagara Falls:** This will take place on 28th November. Denis VE3KVE needs about six volunteers to help out. Times roughly 09:00 - 12:00.

**New Business;**

**ARES SET:** Dave VE3FOI expressed thanks to all ARES personnel involved, and especially the work of Dave Flarity VE3DVE for the work he put in on the simulated emergency test of 3rd October. Dave said that it was the largest and most successful such event in his memory.

**Chat net:** Dale VE3LVW recommended the re-initiation of a club chat net on VE3NRS 2m to improve member interchange and general club feeling. Time suggested; each Monday at 19:00.

Net controllers to take turns: Dale VE3LVW will lead off on 12th October, Art VA3AEK a week later. Volunteers sought or club member list can be used.

**Finance audit:** Kevin VA3KGS has requested an audit. Oscar VE3PIO moved, Jim VE3BCA seconded, that this be done as soon as the final report (FY 08-09) is available. **Carried**

**Xmas Party:** Geddie VE3CJX volunteered to arrange this event for 4th December approx. cost \$20, times 16:00 – 20:00.

**Bursary for E L Crossley School:** Dale VE3LVW announced to the membership the awarding of a \$100 bursary - already approved by the executive for a student named by the school but expected to have interests compatible with those of amateur radio.

**Work party:** Dave VE3FOI announced that Phil Atteck's (VE3GUO) wife is seeking help to dismantle his radio tower on Wed 14th Oct at 10:00., 41 Westgate Rd in St Kitts. Details from ve3foi@yahoo.ca.

**Surplus heliax:** (1) Dale VE3LVW announced the club had some 500' of 7/8 heliax now surplus, of which the club would retain about 150' for possible future use and sell the rest in one piece. Discussion was extensive but it was finally suggested that a group of members buy the remaining quantity and divide it up as desired. Moved by Dave VE3FOI, seconded by Frank VE3SQ that this be done. **Carried.**

**Club badges:** Dale VE3LVW said these would be ready for the November meeting.

**Club dues:** There are still many members who have not yet paid their dues. John VA3BOZ suggested that Peter VE3HM be asked to email all delinquent members as a reminder. Peter VE3HM was not present. Action: Dale VE3LVW.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Moved by Wasi VE3NAZ, actioned by Dale VE3LVW

The meeting adjourned just after 21:00 and was followed by the usual coffee, Tim-bits, and chat.

Art Kennedy VA3AEK, Secretary

**Silent Key**

On Wednesday, November 4th 2009 we lost a local Ham. John Broczkowski VE3AUE.

Our best thoughts and wishes go to the members of John's families and friends. We will miss you.

The following article (courtesy **ARRL Web News**) highlights how useful Amateur Radio can be — thought you'd like to read it.

### Ham Radio Operators assist in Catalina Island rescue

Around 9:45 on the night of October 23, while attending an overnight event at the Boy Scouts' [Camp Emerald Bay on Santa Catalina Island](#), Karl Tso, KI6PCW, and his wife, Deborah Ava, KJ6CRZ, of Topanga, California, decided to climb a hill to check out the view -- and to see if they could get into the repeater on the island with their hand-held transceivers. As they climbed the hill, the two radio amateurs heard a sound; Tso turned his high-powered flashlight on the source, only to discover a man who had fallen 48 feet to the rocks below, bleeding and severely injured.

According to Los Angeles County Disaster Communications Service ([LADCS](#)) Recruiting Officer Norm Goodkin, K6YXH, Tso and Ava were on Catalina for an overnight Cub Scout event. While on the 26 mile boat ride to the island, the couple turned on their radios and got on the local repeater; a fellow ham passed them the frequency of the repeater on Catalina Island and they programmed it into their radios. "Just the weekend prior, both Karl and Deborah attended one of our classes and in that class, we showed them how to program frequencies in their radio. They are members of the Topanga Disaster Radio Team (DRT), part of the Topanga Coalition for Emergency Preparedness (T-CEP)," Goodkin told the ARRL.

That evening on their walk up the hill, they discovered Peter Koll, 61, had fallen, crashing down to the rocks below. At the accident scene, Tso and Ava got on their radios and quickly made contact with Scott Bastian, KD6QZX, of Fullerton, who called emergency services. Joyce Wood, KD6HYO, of Costa Mesa, who stood by in case further assistance was required. Koll was evacuated by Bay Watch and airlifted to St Mary's Hospital in Long Beach. According to the LA County Sherriff's office, his current condition is unknown.

"It was a surreal experience that Deborah and I will never forget," Tso told the ARRL. "We were horrified, yet very happy that we were there for the gentleman that was injured. At the same time, we strangely felt empowered, knowing that the ham radio system works. As we hoped, the ham community is for the most part made up of people who want to be helpful to others in times of need. Deborah and I are new to the ham community, but we would encourage others to become involved."

### SATERN update

Niagara SATERN is still looking for operators in Fort Erie, Port Colborne, Welland and the Grimsby area. I Hope to have operators in these areas in place by the next SET. The Salvation Army serve with their Emergency Disaster Assistance program. If anyone knows of people other than radio operators that wish to get trained in this kind of volunteer work, please let me know and I will forward the information to those in charge. It is a great rewarding feeling when you can help others. Their mandate for Niagara is recovery assistance after a disaster. It can be a large one or a small one such as a house, apartment, industrial fire etc, where people are left without their homes, food, clothing etc. My mandate is to get dual band antennas and coax feedline set up at the various locations in Niagara. The Fort Erie office has a back up generator already installed. That's why I want to have a couple of operators familiar with this area involved. You can contact me at the club meetings or via [ve3foi@yahoo.ca](mailto:ve3foi@yahoo.ca),

73 Dave Digweed VE3FOI, VE3SAS SATERN

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### Editorial comment

Hello again! With Halloween over and the clocks changed back, we are truly into Fall now. Time to get busy on those Amateur radio projects that we shelve during the summer(!) months. Tell us about your projects you are building—we're all interested in what other Amateurs are doing.

We trust we will see you all at the first meeting on Thursday September 10th.

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](mailto:feedline@nparc.on.ca)

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# Christmas Party!

It's nearly time again for the NPARC Christmas party! Last year's party was a great get-together for everyone who attended. Why not make a date to not only come yourself, but to also bring someone who is special to you. This is a time to relax, enjoy a pleasant time together, tell a few lies, and enjoy a great meal. Perhaps even win a door prize!

This year the Christmas Party is on Friday December 4th and the location is North China Buffet, 525 Welland Avenue in St. Catharines. The price is \$20.00 per person.

Let Geddie VE3CJX know if you'll be attending and how many tickets that you'll need. You can get hold of her by email at <vice-president@nparc.on.ca>.

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## Big Event 32!

Yes — its getting closer so let's get organized!

When? February 6th 2010  
Where? Merritton Lions Community Centre  
7 Park Avenue, St. Catharines  
Cost? \$7.00 per person

This is always a great Hamfest, and many Amateurs mark this on their calendar as the first of the year, and a way to clear the post Christmas blahs, meet old friends, and perhaps buy that new radio they've been dreaming about. Or perhaps rent a table and clear their basement of all kinds of stuff that someone else will treasure.

John VA3BOZ is organizing it this year and is looking for volunteers to help with the event. He would love to hear from you! Email him at <bigevent@nparc.on.ca>.

David VE3BBN is looking after table rentals. These go quickly so if you wish to rent one tell David ASAP. Email him at <vendor@nparc.on.ca>.

More details on the Big Event can be found on the club website, <<http://www.nparc.on.ca/bigevent>>

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## **New Legislation for hand-held devices**

Are you a DIY Type? Then the following will be of interest. So far the new legislation for hand-held devices used by amateur radio has been effectively deferred to 2013.

When you read through the information available electronically, you see that there is an intention and hope to develop the hands-free technologies to adapt the existing radios. What you see right now is an effort to get new radio's into your hands, which while good for the economy as such and actually good for the capitalization of "research", where does the DIY and home brew devices fit in here? The incentive is a need to come up with adaptations using newly available technologies. The adoption of the new technologies may carry impediments because of product licensing issues needing perhaps technical agreements for the amateur radio community.

Here is an opportunity for DIY's and techies to participate in the development proposals to Industry Canada to fully participate in the research review panels and the design of the research initiatives. This participation would allow broader-based experimentation to include the needs and interests of the amateur radio community.

This is just a "brain-teaser" and a request that we think seriously about how we as Amateurs could participate in a proposal to industry Canada.

Let Geddie VE3CJX know your thoughts on this. You can get hold of her by email at <vice-president@nparc.on.ca>.

Geddie has just emailed me a web site that has a "YouTube" video created by a U.S. Amateur who talks about his hand-held setup. Thanks Geddie! This is the web site link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ypVUoRVv3U>

Over the next few months we as a club could have a lot of fun creating our own methods of working our radios "hands-free". How about it everyone - let's do it!

Denis VE3KVE

## **New Legislation for hand-held devices /contd.**

Now that the Ontario legislation bill 366-09 has passed into law here in Ontario, we as Amateurs have been given a three-year "window" during which time we can still use our hand-held microphones or portable radios without being subject to prosecution. However, I believe that when we are using our portable or mobile Amateur radios in our vehicles whilst driving, we would be wise to carry with us in our vehicles, the following documentation.

1. A copy of our Amateur radio licence. (We should carry this with us anyway, but particularly now, as we need to prove that we are in fact Amateur radio operators).
2. A copy of the relevant pages (Section 13) of the legislation that exempts us from the legislation for the three year period. A copy of the legislation can be found on this web site link:

<[http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/source/regs/english/2009/elaws\\_src\\_regs\\_r09366\\_e.htm](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/source/regs/english/2009/elaws_src_regs_r09366_e.htm)>

Having these two documents in the vehicle could save a lot of hassle, as it is possible that you may be stopped by a law-enforcement officer who is not conversant with the exemption.

Denis VE3KVE

## **City of Niagara Falls Santa Claus Parade**

Just an update on this special event to be held on November 28th 2009. As I am on the City of Niagara Falls committee that organizes special events, I am privileged to assist in the discussions related to them. As a result, we as members of NPARC have been asked if we would supply radio communications for the Santa Claus parade. In return, the city will be supplying a table and chairs at the gazebo (free Tim Horton's hot chocolate!). This gives us a great opportunity to do some PR for the club. We'll have a display that will be viewed by many. In addition, I have asked members who will participate in this event, to each wear one of the green vests with the "Emergency Communications" on the back, and a badge (NPARC or RAC) on the front. Let's make sure that the local citizens see who we are and how professional we look when we work on these community events. I met with the other (marshall) volunteers earlier this week and they all know who we are too.

Denis VE3KVE

## NPARC 2008 – 2009 Executive

<b>President:</b>	Dale Sackfie	VE3LVW	president@nparc.on.ca
<b>Past President:</b>	John Boswell	VA3BOZ	past-president@nparc.on.ca
<b>Vice-President:</b>	Geddie Pawlowski	VE3CJX	vice-president@nparc.on.ca
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Kevin Smith	VA3KGS	treasurer@nparc.on.ca
<b>Secretary:</b>	Art Kennedy	VE3AEK	secretary@nparc.on.ca
<b>Public Relations:</b>	David Wilson	VE3BBN	public-relations@nparc.on.ca
<b>Special Events:</b>	Peter Vince	VE3HM	events@nparc.on.ca
<b>Bulletin Editor(s)</b>	Denis Grantham	VE3KVE	feedline@nparc.on.ca
and	Geddie Pawlowski	VE3CJX	feedline@nparc.on.ca
<b>Web Site:</b>	Peter Vince	VE3HM	website@nparc.on.ca
<b>Forum:</b>	Kevin Smith	VA3KGS	forums@nparc.on.ca
<b>SATERN Liaison:</b>	Dave Digweed	VE3FOI	satern@nparc.on.ca
<b>Repeater Tech:</b>	Jake Voogt	VE3NCL	repeatertech@nparc.on.ca
<b>Ham Class Instructor:</b>	David Wilson	VE3BBN	instructor@nparc.on.ca
<b>Examiners</b>	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 2009 - 2010

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 10 <sup>th</sup> 2009	Guest speaker (various)
Thursday October 8 <sup>th</sup> 2009	Guest speaker
Thursday November 12 <sup>th</sup> 2009	Guest speaker John McNally VE3ISE from the Grimsby Auxiliary Marine Rescue Unit.
Thursday December 10 <sup>th</sup> 2009	Guest speaker
Thursday January 14 <sup>th</sup> 2010	Guest speaker
Thursday February 11 <sup>th</sup> 2010	Guest speaker
Thursday March 11 <sup>th</sup> 2010	Guest speaker
Thursday April 8 <sup>th</sup> 2010	Guest speaker
Thursday May 13 <sup>th</sup> 2010	Guest speaker
Thursday June 10 <sup>th</sup> 2010	Guest speaker Club elections night—no guest speaker