



# Feedline

## Club Meeting 7pm Thursday, March 14th, Niagara Region Headquarters, Thorold

Guest Speaker John Sluymer, VE3EJ, well known Niagara DXer talks about WRTC (World Radiosport Team Championship) competition.

2018 WRTC video available here. <https://youtu.be/mwf-2f0cbjk>

Rick, VE3MM, provide an interesting presentation on Contesting and DX'ing at our February meeting. He provide tips to cut through pileups, build a DX station and explained how contesting sharpens your operating skills. His Power-point video was followed by an informative question and answer session.



## **President's Report - Stephen Riddle, VA3FLF**

Well I don't have a whole lot to report this month. Winter is still dragging on and the winds last week were quite exciting. A fence in my back yard blew over (the neighbour's that is) and took out my 40 Meter dipole. I am sure most of you saw the ice wall that came over the barriers here in Fort Erie. (photo page 5) I am sure I'm not the only one who is ready for spring.

I only received one comment from the Big Event so I assume that everyone was happy with the event. It was a profitable event for us and the attendance was great. We have thanked ICOM for donating the first prize and Radioworld for the second prize as well as always coming down to support us. Again, if you have any comments that you think would improve the Big Event please sent them to [executive@nparc.on.ca](mailto:executive@nparc.on.ca). We still need a volunteer or two for the Big Event Committee. If you are interested in serving, please let someone on the Executive know.

As I mentioned last month, It is also time we start looking at the spring and summer event schedule. We have Field Day, Canal Days, and Fort George to name a few. The events are listed later in the Feedline. The sign-up sheets will be out at the general meeting.

Also, it looks like we are a go for Basic and Advance classes this spring. We will be posting the start dates and locations soon. If you are interested in taking the advance class please send me an email so I can have a count. I will need to know by the end of the month (End of March).

Finally, I have decided not to continue as Club President next year. It has been a fun year and a half but it is time someone else takes the lead. As a matter of fact, both the Vice President and Secretary are also coming off the Executive this year. We will have three openings so start thinking about opportunities to serve. A nominating committee will need to be started at the April meeting to find the new executive members.

It has been a privilege to serve as NPARC President. I will be making a presentation about the future of the club and our accomplishments at the May meeting.

We have a great speaker at the general meeting this month. John Sluymer, VE3EJ, will give a presentation on the WRTC (World Radiosport Team Championship). John is an interesting speaker and an avid contester. I am looking forward to hearing him. Also I want to thank Rick, VE3MM for his presentation on contesting last month. He did a great job. See you Thursday night, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.

**General Meeting    February 14, 2019    Niagara Region, Thorold**



As recorded by Denis VE3XC Club Secretary

The meeting was called to order by the President Steve, VA3FLF, who said that we would have only a short 30 minute Business meeting.

There was a round of self-introductions of those in attendance (about 28 members + 1 guest )

\*Moved by Jim VE3BCA / Seconded by Doug VE3DBK : To accept the minutes of the last general meeting as printed in the Bulletin. Carried.

Big Event: Steve thanked everyone for a great event. If anyone has comments or suggestions about our future Flea Markets, that they should email them to the Executive. One big issue right now is that this event is too big for one person to organize and that more volunteers must come forward in the future.

RAC Insurance: The Secretary will phone RAC again and find out where our invoice is.

Big Event: Clayton VE3AUO, Chairman of the Event gave a verbal report of various income and expense items. Paid entrances at the door, tables sold and complementary or free tables. Treasurer's Reporter's report included our bank balance.

\* Moved by Steve VA3FLF / Seconded by Dennis VE3XC: Adjournment. Carried



Stephen, VA3FLF and Dennis VE3XC have downloaded images from the ISS SSTV project a few weeks back. Curious? Come out to the March meeting and ask them how it's done.

### **Repeater Chair - John VA3WM**

NPARC Net, Wednesdays, 20:00, VE3NRS, 147.240+, 107.2 Hz Tone – always looking for check ins and net controllers. Niagara ARES Net, Mondays, 20:00, VE3RAF, 145.190+, 107.2 Hz Tone. Trans Canada IRLP Net, Wednesdays, 11:00, VE3WCD, 147.310+, 107.2 Tone, IRLP 9013

## Canadian National Parks On The Air 2019 - Nearby Niagara sites

1. Navy Island National Historic Site **NO PUBLIC ACCESS** <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/on/fortgeorge/decouvrir-discover/navyisland>
2. Ridgeway Battlefield National Historic Site <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/on/ridgeway>
3. Fort Mississauga National Historic Site <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/on/fortgeorge/decouvrir-discover/fortmississauga>
4. Mississauga Point Lighthouse National Historic Site <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/on/fortgeorge/decouvrir-discover/mississaugapoint>
5. Butler's Barracks National Historic Site <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/on/fortgeorge/decouvrir-discover/barracks>
6. Queenston Heights National Historic Site <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/on/fortgeorge/decouvrir-discover/queenston/visit> - land around Brock Monument, including the parking lot, is Niagara Parks jurisdiction, web site indicates picnic facilities and washrooms
7. Fort George National Historic Site <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/on/fortgeorge/decouvrir-discover/history-histoire>

In general, Amateur Radio operators are welcome to day use these Parks Canada sites. Some suggestions include parking in designated areas, operate from your vehicle, bring your own table and chair where there may not be a picnic table, use battery power, bring your own antenna which may be on a tripod or strung in the trees, proudly wear your NPARC member id, be safety conscious and use safety traffic cones to demarcate your operating area and mark your feedlines with caution flags. Note that popup sun shades are considered to be tents and as such are not permitted unless a permit in the order of \$2,000 per day is obtained.

I have agreed to keep my Parks Canada contact informed of any NPARC member planning to activate at one or more of the Niagara Region Parks Canada sites. As such, please send me an email, [repeaterchair@nparc.on.ca](mailto:repeaterchair@nparc.on.ca) / [va3wm@outlook.com](mailto:va3wm@outlook.com) with the dates on which you are planning to activate.

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## NIAGARA ARES

We've had several winter weather alerts this year. The polar vortex brought rain, freezing rain and snow to many areas of Canada and the United States. Luckily our area was spared the brunt of the storms. Niagara did experience some minor electrical power outages due to the bad weather, including high winds. You have to ask yourself are you and your family ready for the big one? Consider this just a practice run. Remember that you have to remain self sufficient in your home for 120 hours (5 days) Be prepared. Be safe.

Henry Jarzyna VA3OV - GC, CEC - [va3ov@bell.net](mailto:va3ov@bell.net)



*Do you have a photo that would make an interesting addition to Feedline? Send to [va3ono@icloud.com](mailto:va3ono@icloud.com)*

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### Weather Apps by John VA3WM

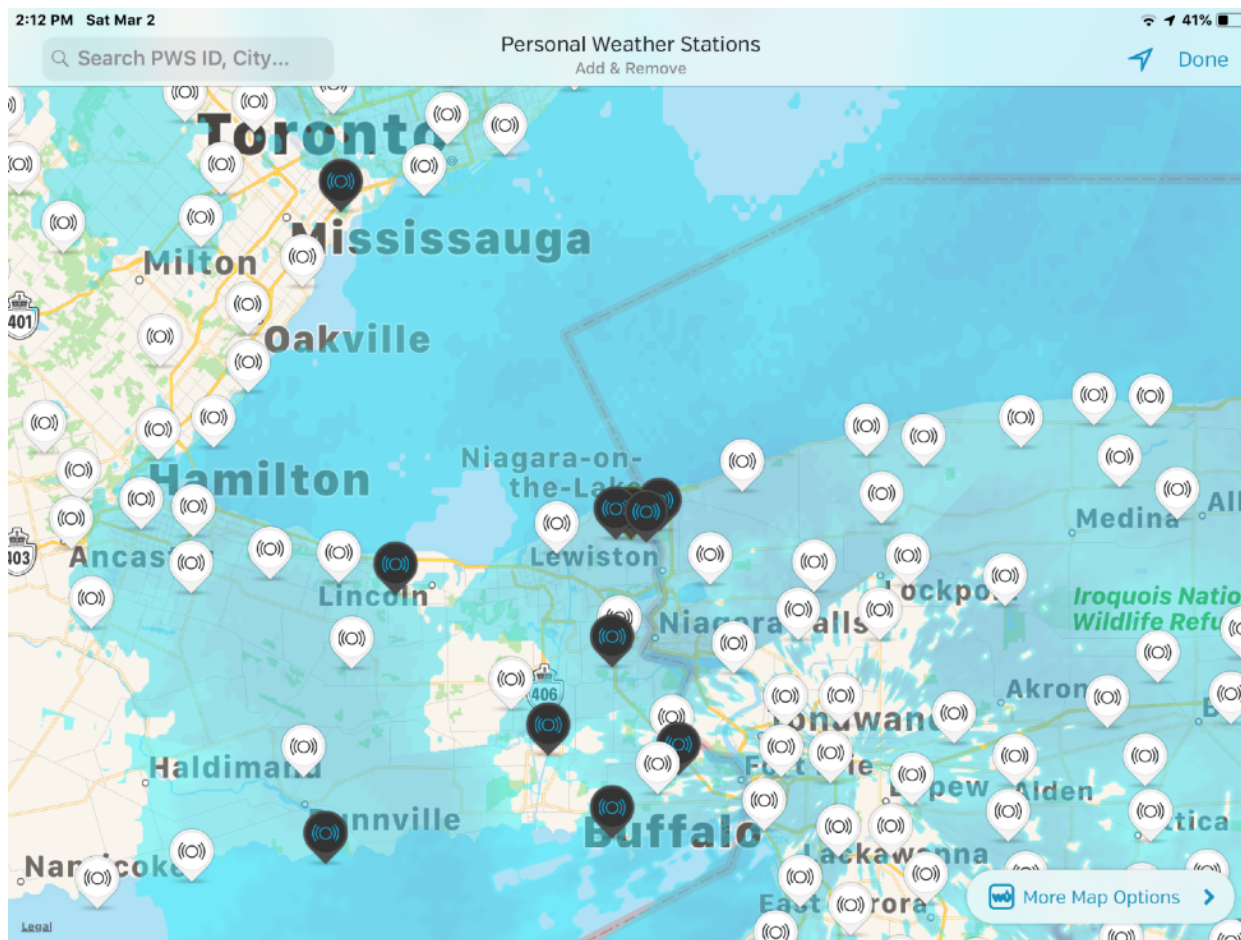
In rebuilding the ARES web site, I learned quite a lot about weather applications and along with the recent windstorm pounding Fort Erie after an ice boom break, I thought I would share some weather app info with Feedline readers.



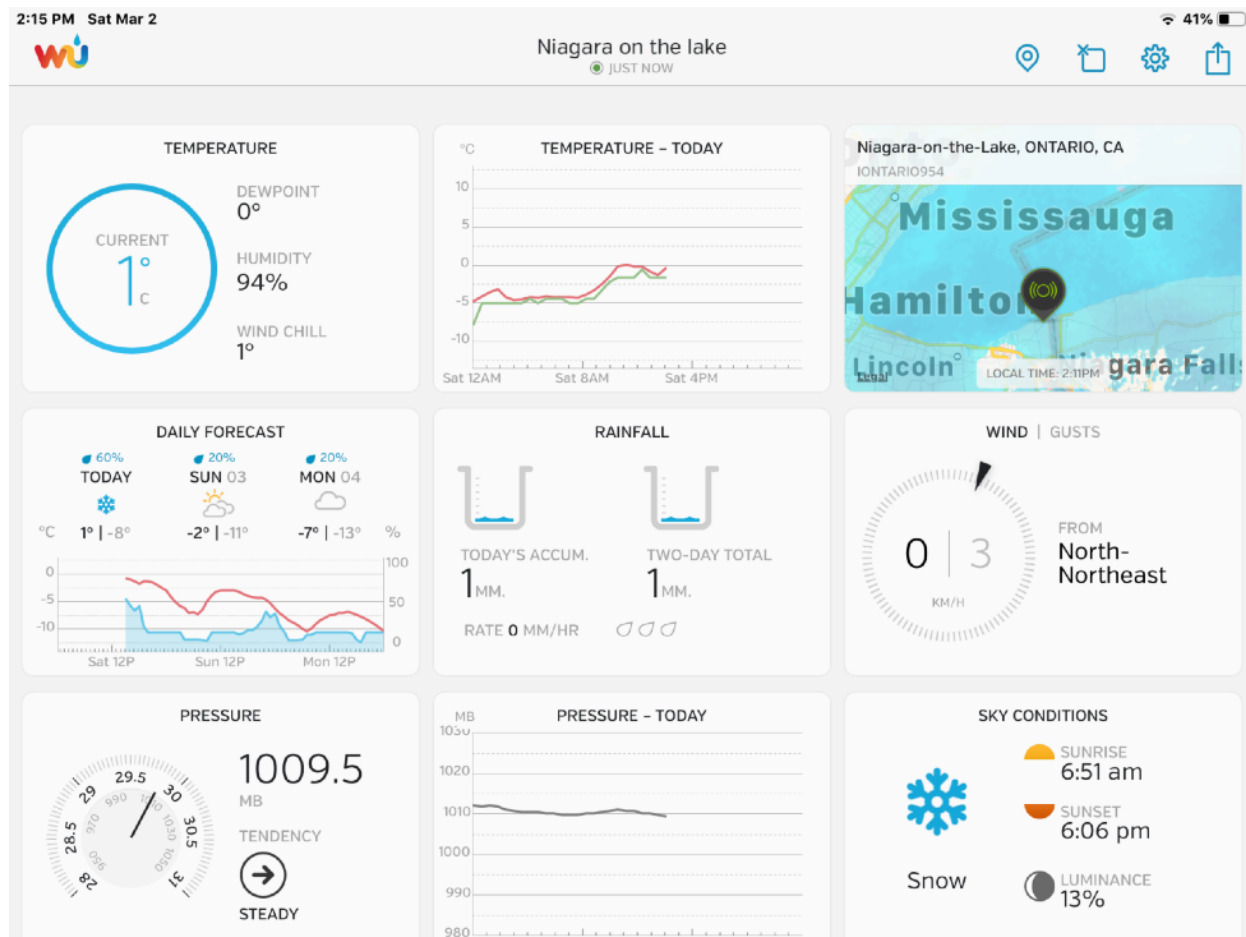
Photo c The Canadian Press / Tara Walton

Wouldn't it be nice to know local current weather conditions rather than those periodically reported from Environment Canada, usually airport, locations? Well, I prefer to use Weather Underground and their mobile apps for Android and Apple. It should not be a surprise that with the agriculture economy in the Niagara Region, there are quite a few personal weather stations that feed current and trending local conditions to the internet.

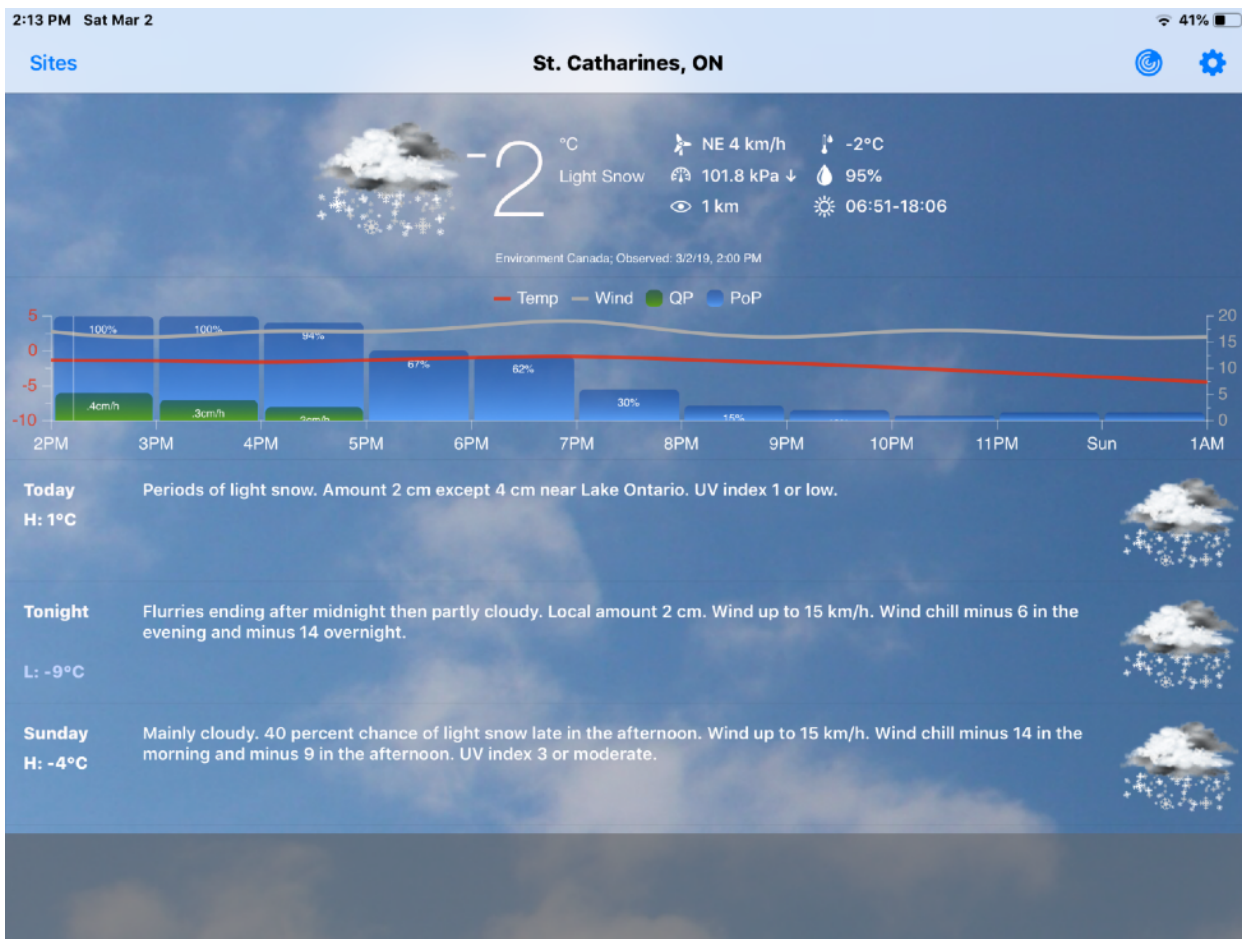
Here is a **Wunderstation** (only available for i-devices) map from my iPad of Weather Underground locations throughout the Golden Horseshoe and western New York. The shading indicates precipitation is the area.



Once you select the stations for which you would like to see local micro conditions, you are presented with a dashboard. The dashboard displays a nice rainfall view.



Another app that I use, available for both Android and Apple, is **Weather Office**. It nicely presents forecast precipitation probability and per hour rates, as well as any alerts. The radar map is also available.





Lastly, Environment Canada has just published the **Weather Can** app. It's a great app that is vision friendly for those over 40. It presents the radar map and alerts as well.



If you have any questions or comments, you can post them on the nparcgroup at groups.io. Not a member yet, you can sign up following instructions at <https://groups.io/g/nparcgroup>.

## OVER 2 ME... Denis VA3ONO Feedline Editor

I'm really looking forward to hearing John Sluymer, VE3EJ, speak at our March meeting. Rick, VE3MM, did a marvellous presentation on contesting at the February meeting. I took advantage of his advice to test my station (100 watts and an end-fed PAR antenna) during the ARRL International phone contest March 2nd and 3rd. With so many DX stations on the air you could literally pick and chose the country you wanted to contact. I certainly got lucky hearing and working CB1H, Chile and PJ4G, Bonaire, on 40 meters, both running a kilowatt on Friday night. And around 2pm Saturday I tuned around 15 meters and tagged ZX5J, Brazil, HQ9x, Honduras and TI7W, Costa Rica. Thanks to the contest I was able to make phone contacts to both South and Central America. So contests are a great time to get your DX fix and play radio for an hour or two even when band conditions are marginal at best.

Thanks to John, VA3WM, for his article suggesting weather apps for your phone or tablet. I've been using Weather Underground on my main Mac for years and now have the app on my iPhone. If I can add one more to John's list try [www.beamsvillewx.ca](http://www.beamsvillewx.ca). Ann-Marie Keenan, is the owner, operator and she is on Twitter @beamsvillewx. Her web page contains many links to weather sites displaying area and North American radars, satellite feeds, METAR reports, forecasts, road conditions, mesomaps, marine, live lightning maps, extreme weather and tropical conditions, current advisories and even displays her own live Davis Vantage Pro2 weather station console.

A tip of the hat to our current executive for providing engaging speakers over the past months and for keeping the business side of the program short. As you have read in the President's report Stephen, as well as vice-president, Henry, VA3OV and secretary Dennis, VE3XC, are all stepping away from their executive positions beginning September 2019. It will be difficult to replace any one of them, let alone all of them. When it is nomination time, please think seriously of putting your name forward for an executive position.