



# Feedline

**Club Meeting 7pm Thursday, Dec. 12th, Campbell building, Niagara Region, Thorold**

## CLUB DEDICATED TO TRAINING NEW HAMS

Nine candidates wrote and eight passed the Industry Canada exam this fall. They follow a group who successfully attained their Advance qualification early this year. Club members, Kevin Smith, VA3KGS and Phil Gebhardt, VE3ACK, volunteered their time to instruct the classes. New Amateur Radio operators include, Brian Lobbezoo, VA3BDL, Rob Kremble, VA3RBK, Karen Kremble, VA3KFK, Frank Joseph, VA3FJJ, Chris Murphy, VE3WAW, Brian Letourneau, VE3HOU and Terry Ciantar, VA3ZBE. The new Hams will receive a one-year membership to NPARC. Rob Moed, VE3GGR, was sidelined by a knee surgery, but studied online and wrote the exam with the others. Rob is retired from the Oakville F.D. and now lives in Beamsville.

## HUNDREDS OF VOLUNTEERS BRING SANTA TO NIAGARA FALLS



*Lori Albanese*

A feature article in the NiagaraLife magazine outlines how Lori Albanese manages to organize the annual Niagara Falls Santa Claus Parade every December. She gives credit to the hundreds of volunteers including the Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club. Our members are staged along the parade route, portable radios in hand, to give organizers, up to the second information on problems that might arise along the busy parade route. Dave Jarmin, VE3RNF, also serves on the general committee that works year round preparing for Santa's December arrival. (Niagara This Week photo)



Sitting, left, David, VA3DPG, Glenn, VE3NDW, Geddie, VE3CJX, and Roy, VE3OQP. Standing, David VE3DVK, Alex, VA3RPK, Henry, Va3OV and David, VE3RNF. (VE3KVE photo)

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## GENERAL MEETING - NOVEMBER 14, 2019

Meeting opened at 7:00 pm

Announcement regarding the resignation of Garth (VE3HO) from the role of Vice President. A request was made for nominations, none received.

Observed a moment of silence for SK John Eagle (VE3HWE)

Roll Call—15 in attendance

Presentation by Henry (VA3OV) re NPARC's participation in CQ Worldwide, October 26<sup>th</sup> at Black Creek Community Center. A total of 142 contacts made. Two contests that may be of interest to members are CQ Worldwide CW at the end of November and the RAC Winter Contest at the end of December.

In the previous meeting minutes it was not mentioned that it was Roy's (VA3NP) 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Minutes were adopted as published in the Feedline.

Discussion was invited regarding topics for future club meetings. One suggestion was to cover Wires X now that the VE3RNR repeater is set up for it. Jim Thompson suggested that the club purchase some Arduino kits to put together for various purposes.

Steve (VA3FLF) is proposing a New Ham Academy with the idea that it will end in time for Winter Field Day on January 25<sup>th</sup>.

### Financial Report

As of October 31, 2019

**Outlined was** petty cash, bank balance and the GIC with interest. Costs incurred include the storage locker, \$ 515.28, Region of Niagara payment of \$195.77 and forwarding \$334.39 to the John Eagle east.

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## TREASURER'S RAMBLINGS

First off, my apologize for not being able to attend the November meeting. I was in Toronto the whole day till around 10pm. What a day! One stop I had to make was at the head office of [Sayal Electronics](#) located on Victoria Park Avenue just south of Steeles. A very large selection of items for your hobbyist needs. (No that was not an advertisement. Just an FYI for all the other builders like me.) So on to the Treasury stuff... Not much has changed since last month. More paperwork done and a few expenses will be reported at the meeting. Again, if you know of anyone who has not yet renewed their membership, please remind them to do so. The benefits of renewing are numerous and helps keep the club running for another year. Thank you to all members present at the November meeting who each donated some change to help support the club in lieu of our usual activities.





All donations are always gladly welcome and appreciated.

Our new coffee carafes have arrived and will make their appearance at the December meeting. I purchased two of the largest ones I could find on Amazon. They are [3L Coffee Urns](#) and can be looked up on Amazon [here](#). They should work for us coffee hounds. At this point, I would like to put forth my condolences to the Braun Family. I was very shocked to hear about the passing of Leroy. He will be sadly missed at the club. On to my next article.... 'Till we meet again.

Clayton, VE3AUO 2019-2020 Treasurer

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### *NPARC EXECUTIVE*

President, Alex Roglic, VE3RPK, Vice President, **vacant**, Secretary, April Lewis, VE3BHG, and Treasurer, Clayton Mattatall, VE3AUO.

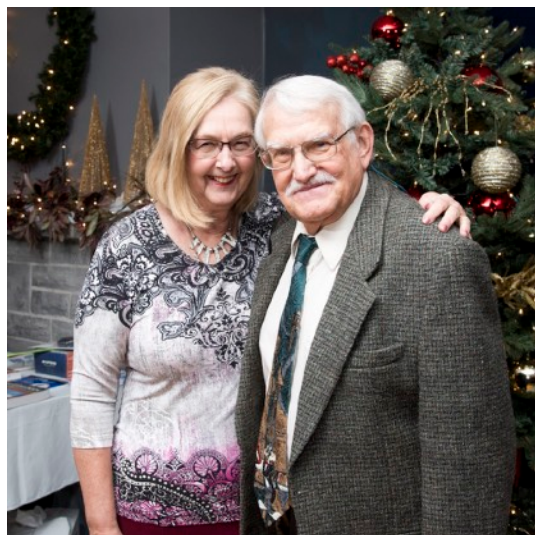
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### *Leroy Braun, VA3LB SK*



*Sadly the FEEDLINE reports another longtime club member has passed. Leroy, VA3LB, died Oct. 13th after what is believed to be a serious fall outside his St. Catharines home. His wife Shirley, told Dave Digweed, VE3FOI, the family is having a hard time after Lee spent weeks in intensive care with a head injury. A proud Canadian Navy Veteran, he was a member of a local gun club and was a regular on 147.525 St. Catharines with friends.*

# CLUB CHRISTMAS DINNER 2019









A friendly group of ARES and NPARC members arrived at the Dalhousie Yacht Club December 6th at 6:30pm. The menu was a Waldorf salad, beef steak, salmon and a large slice of cheese cake. A draw for door prizes was held after dinner with RadioWorld gift certificates and a HT which included a clip on mic and an extended life battery.

PHOTO NAMES: Page 5, from top left.

Dave & April, VE3BHG, Susan & Rick, VE3MM, Roy, VE3OQP & Penny, Lloyd, VE3ERQ & Suzanne, VE3EPO, Geddie, VE3CJX & Glenn, VE3NDW, Andrea & Henry, VA3OV.

Page 6, Ken VE3KWG, Clayton, VE3AUO, Phil, VE3ACK, & Denis VE3KVE. Laura & David, VE3DVK, Ann & John, VA3WM, Kevin, VE3RRH, Lynn, VE3FNY & Kimberly, VA3KID, David, VE3RFN & Diane, Pat & David, VA3DPG.

Page 7, Paul, VE3WRP & Lise, Denis VA3ONO & Bridget.

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## REPEATER CHAIR - JOHN VA3WM

The VE3RNR UHF repeater, 443.175+ with 107.2 Hz tone, is now operational from E. L. Crossley School in Fonhill. The Yaesu System Fusion repeater is configured in Auto / Auto analog / digital mode. Wires-x connectivity is still being worked on.



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

**'42nd' BIG EVENT!**

**Hamfest & Electronics Flea Market  
February 1st, 2020**

For more information  
 Web: <http://www.nparc.ca>  
 E-mail: [bigevent@nparc.ca](mailto:bigevent@nparc.ca)  
 Phone: 289.646.9222

Coordinates  
 43.142141  
 79.208879

Talk-in Frequency  
 147.240 MHZ+ Tone 107.2 Hz  
 Callsign: VE3VM

**Merritton Community Centre  
7 Park Avenue, St. Catharines, L2P 1P9**

Doors Open  
Vendors 7:00am \*\*\* Public 9:00am

General Admission \$8.00  
Children 12 and under FREE

Vendor Tables \$20.00 + \$5.00 Admission  
Table Discounts at 4+ tables

Snack Bar w/ Coffee and Soft Drinks

50/50 Draw, Door Prizes, and Raffles

ALL tables are six (6) feet long,  
sold in advance and are non-refundable.  
Table selection not guaranteed, book early!

Accepting Cheque, Credit, Debit, and Cash  
Make cheque or money order payable to:  
*Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club, Inc.*

Send to:  
NPARC, Inc. c/o Table Co-ordinator  
P.O. Box 20036, Grantham Postal Outlet,  
St. Catharines ON L2M 7W7

**Vendor Announcements Soon!**



## VHF NETS

NPARC Net, Wednesdays, 20:00, VE3WCD, 147.300+, 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

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## WIRES-x PARROT by John VA3WM

There has been a lot of excitement in the wires-x rooms about operators with high audio levels and overmodulated signals. For the most part, these signals are coming from operators on bridged DMR, YSF and FCS networks that operate at the mercy of whoever setup the bridge into the wires-x network. The bridges do not offer signal levelling when transcoding between networks.

Interesting that Yaesu's North American Sales Manager, John Kruk N9UPC, seems to want the problem to go away by casting 'spots' in a negative light and even suggesting blocking bridged connections into the wires-x network. Yes, this would solve the problem, but will just upset hams that like to experiment and drive them away.

Another opinion that keeps being beaten to death in the SystemFusion.groups.io forum is the lack of a Parrot capability (record your voice and play it back) in wires-x. Parrot/EchoTest exists in IRLP, EchoLink, DSTAR and DMR. Yaesu's John Kruk deflects this opinion by saying the distributed architecture of the wires-x network does not support Parrot capability.

Ah, then comes an innovative thinking Swiss ham, Martin HB3YDL, that posts on **SystemFusion.groups.io** an equivalent to Parrot, but does not call it that per se.

Here's his method:

1. connect to a wires-x node (any node will do, but suggest using local VE3RNR-room, rather than overexciting the AmericaLink room cops)
2. go to news station
3. push upload
4. select voice
5. speak your message
6. go back and push download
7. select voice, now you see the list with the messages
8. select your message and listen :-)

I have confirmed this works as advertised and may be helpful in your setting your mic gain.

**OVER 2 ME...** Feedline Editor - Denis VA3ONO

I'm helping renovate our bathroom. Not a great idea just before Christmas. I should be laying in the grog and mincemeat tarts for the holidays. Take my advise and don't make serious home improvements weeks away from the Yule Time Season. Today was tile cutting day. Tomorrow is grouting and vinyl floor laying day. Last weekend I soldered enough half inch copper pipe to make several 2 meter j-poles and a homemade loop antenna. The project must wrap in four days. So while I still have my whits about me, Best Wishes and Happy Holidays from the FEEDLINE team. That's me and all our contributors to the NPARC newsletter. I hope Santa brings you the radio of your dreams. Let me know if you get new gear. Better yet send me a photo of you, your new rig with a holiday theme. Maybe you'll make the January FEEDLINE front page.



**NPARC's  
HolidayDinner  
Dalhousie Yacht  
Club  
Dec. 6th.**

**Festive photo by  
Clayton VA3AUO**