

The Feedline

Niagara Amateur Radio Club Inc. February 2009

Well here we are going into February and I sure am glad that we are. Not sure about you but I have found the last few weeks very cold or is it just the age thing. I hope I can last two more months then I will probably start complaining about the heat.



I hope by the time you read this, the flea market will be a done thing and plans will start for next year and this one is a success as a lot of club expense relies on the money raised.

Have you thought about Field Day? Let's start getting it together and someone come forward to head it up as we have to book the park & generators.

I would also like to see a couple of working displays set up in a mall or on a site. I have heard a couple of sites like Lock 7 or at the fort in N.O.T.L mentioned. Let's get a group together and set one up for a day.

The guest speaker has had to cancel for this month but will be back in the near future. In his place, Peter, VA3WET has put a power point presentation together for his Canada Day project and he would like for us to see it and make any comments or suggestion about it before he takes it on the road. I think it is a good idea for us to take a look as there is mention of the club.

Just a little information: there is a Net on 10 meters that a few of our members are running on Tuesday evening on 28.415MhZ I believe at 8:30 pm. This could be a very interesting net when the cycle starts to open so jump in and join them. Check with Rick, VA3WU or Kevin, VA3KGS for more information.

Just a reminder; Election nominations are only 3 meetings away.

John Boswell , VA3BOZ

Minutes of the January 2009 NPARC Meeting

Executive present: VA3BOZ, VA3UL, VA3KGS; absent: VA3JV (VE3HM Substituting).

Meeting Called to order at: 19:28

Introductions were made by all members, guests and executive.

SK Thomas Bilesko VE3AGB

A minute of silence was held in memory of Thomas Bilesko, VE3AGB who became a silent key. Jim Thompson, VE3BCA spoke a little bit about Tommy.

Feedline Delivery

If you did not get this month's Feedline, see Denis, VE3KVE after meeting.

January Minutes Adopted

Motion to adopt the January 2009 issue of the Feedline by Jim Thompson, VE3BCA with correction of a callsign: "Motion to adjourn January meeting was made by Leroy Braun, VA3LB. Seconded by VE3NDF, Carried."

Treasurer's Report

Kevin Smith, VA3KGS gave the Treasurer's Report. Motion to accept by member unknown; similarly seconded by member unknown; carried.

Old Business

220 Repeater

Andy, VE3NDF asked about the status of 220 Repeater. John, VA3BOZ replied that it was up and running at a temporary location. **/Contd.**

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

Minutes /Contd.**Canada Day Radio-a-thon**

Peter, VA3WET spoke about the 2nd Annual Radio-a-thon for Charity during RAC's Canada Day Contest.

Much discussion from the floor. More next month, when he is our guest speaker.

New Business**Lighthouse Event in August**

Geddie, VE3CJX spoke about a Lighthouse event - not the contest - in August that might involve Ethel Williamson, VE3DTW. More information at a later meeting.

Big Event #31

Peter, VE3HM reviewed list of Volunteers and their jobs then solicited volunteer suppliers of sandwiches: VA3UL, VE3BCA, VE3FOI. Various security related issues. David, VE3BBN started speculation about alternative locations for future Big Event. Andy, VE3NDF commented about the suitability of Optimist Hall; it not being as good as discussed. Oscar, VE3PIO talked about feeding the volunteers and was informed only the Ramp volunteers get a drink and a sandwich.

Meeting Adjourned at 20:07, Moved by Peter, VE3HM

Request from Dave VE3DVE:

WANTED: ARES – Red Cross need some old-style TV masts for an antenna they are constructing.

2 – 1 ½ in or 1 ¼ in steel, 10 feet long,
swaged (they fit together).

Call Dave, VE3DVE (905) 562-3956

Or write <dave.flarity@gmail.com>

Special Thanks to a Special Ham - David, VE3BBN

The following was given to me by Mamert VE3ZUK in recognition for all David's help during Mamert's illness and while he was in the hospital. I think we'll all enjoy reading this.

Peter, VA3WET

**To a very Special Ham
A Closely held dear Friend
Who gave a heart New Meaning
When fate near bade it's end;**

**To a man who put aside his own
To ensure another's part
All I can say is "Thank-you, David",
"Right from the bottom ... of my Heart."**

Sincerely thanks to David VE3BBN

Mamert VE3ZUK

Editorial comment

Another Big Event has come and gone! And looking at the numbers of vendors and people attending, I would say that it was a great success. Congratulations for all who contributed to this.

These Hamfests (flea markets) are great for re-connecting with old friends. There are two other Hams that I only meet twice a year, and that is at our "Big Event" and at the Burlington Hamfest held in July each year in Milton. It was obvious walking around the hall that others also enjoyed meeting old friends too. I have included some images from the Big Event, including those of one new Ham and one who has just passed his Advanced. Congratulations again, David! We also have a review prepared by Geddie, VE3CJX of David Wilson's presentation at the January meeting regarding "Noise Reduction".

Denis, VE3KVE and Geddie, VE3CJX.

Noise Reduction

A Presentation by David Wilson, VE3BBN at the January NPARC meeting

Isn't it amazing that one can learn so much in such a short time? Of course since David Wilson (VE3BBN) has had regular access to the laptop he has crafted some very informative lectures and has prompted numerous questions and of course discussions. At our first meeting of the year David entertained us with his presentation "Solving Line Noise". He logically covered the topics of where some of the sources originate and the steps one can take to "finding the faults". They seem to be everywhere such as damaged wires and loose or corroded connections, etc., in your own installation, your neighbour's and also from hydro transmission lines feeding the vital electricity to our homes.

Seems you can extend your hobby to detect the line losses as these generate noise in your transmissions. These noises are also energy losses which are unbillable. So, the power company is likely to respond when "hams" detect and report line losses. Searching for line losses or from the "ham perspective", detecting the source normally involves some sophisticated gear such as a VHF AM/SSB receiver and handheld beam antenna, infra-red night glasses, and ultrasonic detectors with a parabolic antenna.

However, a very important caution when going line loss hunting is the knowledge that guy wires on hydro poles can come into contact with hardware on the same pole resulting in the guy wire becoming electrically active and of course very dangerous. Most importantly don't touch the equipment and call the local utility company noting the utility pole number, details of the location, and then speak to the person in charge of maintenance. More recently but unrelated to overhead power lines, we have also had news reports about below-ground electrical chambers with metal tops flush with sidewalks causing an electrocution of a dog in the west Toronto area. One can easily convert the ideas to thoughts about how a weakening investment in hydro infrastructure can be of concern to the average citizen.

In typical fashion, David has built and demonstrated his home brew tunable electronic noise eliminator in the event that the "noise" does persist, and all at a cost of about \$2.00 for the nice looking box and some patience and

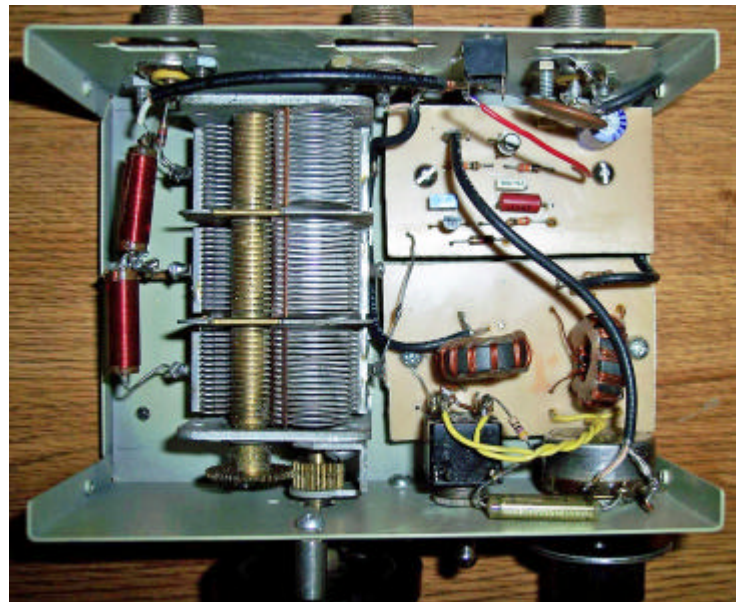
spare parts from the junk box. David explained that there are other methods to deal with "noise" and most will involve an investment of about \$200.00 and a lot more reading about digital signal processing (DSP), tunable band pass filters, and broadband phase cancelling devices.

Thank you David for a great talk and useful information.

Geddie, VE3CJX.



David's Noise Reduction Unit



2009 NPARC Big Event Images



Durham Radio



Radioworld



MAPLE LEAF Communications



Quite the Crowd!



Grand Prize Winner!
(Lee McMurter, VA3LHM)

2009 NPARC Big Event Images



Chris Fernick just passed his Basic Exam.
His prospective call sign is VA3ZSC



Scott Sandison, VE3XLX.
Just passed his Advanced Exam



The SATERN Group



John, VA3BOZ Holding Forth

Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
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NPARC 2008 – 2009 Executive

President:	John Boswell	VA3BOZ	president@nparc.on.ca	
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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, 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 Postponed until November meeting.
Thursday November 13 th 2008	Guest speaker Bob Cook VE3BDB, Vice- President, Field Services. He will be doing a new ARES presentation.
Thursday December 11 th 2008	Guest speaker Guenther Schweigl (Using Lead-free solder plus he is bringing a VNA (Vector Network Analyzer) to check antennas.
Thursday January 8 th 2009	Guest speaker David Wilson VE3BBN.
Thursday February 12 th 2009	Guest speakers Peter VA3WET and Kevin VA3KGS
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