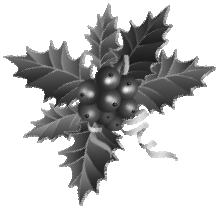


The Feedline

Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club Inc. December 2009

Season's Greetings



It's hard to believe we are well into December already. No sign of snow yet but I am sure it won't be long until it arrives.

Last month's meeting was well attended. Our thanks go out to GAMRU (see the minutes) for the overview of their services. I had no idea that the organization existed and thought it was a very informative session. Hopefully they will get their ham station running soon.

I plan to keep the business portion of this month's meeting to a minimum for a couple of reasons. First, we have 2 presenters this month. Second, not everyone can attend the December Christmas dinner so it would be nice if we had some extra social time this month. Let's spend some extra time catching up with our ham radio activities. Introduce yourself to some of those new faces in the crowd.

This month we have VA3KGS as a guest speaker who will be presenting a new club project. You will need to attend the December meeting to get the details as they won't be published here. Think of it as another great reason to attend the meeting. Not only will you be catching up with your NPARC friends but you will have something new to think about building.

Along with Kevin's project we have an additional project to be presented by David VE3BBN. I will tell you a little more about this one. It involves an antenna for 440. Be sure you are at the meeting to get the scoop on this project as well. More projects are planned for upcoming meetings. I hope everyone takes interest in them. Your presenters are very enthusiastic and have put in a lot of effort preparing.

At another upcoming meeting we plan to have 4 or 5 'areas' setup. Each area will have a specific topic or demonstration. Let us know if you have an idea for one of the areas. Either something you would like to see or even better - something you would like to demonstrate.

NPARC has many talented individuals. Why not share yours!

I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday.
Until next time.....73
Dale
VE3LVW



Dale VE3LVW

Silent Keys

We honour two local Ham operators who have become "Silent Keys":

VE3QW Dan Farr

Dan passed away suddenly at the Niagara General Hospital, Niagara Falls, on Nov. 14th in his 68th year. Celebration of Dan's life Nov 19th Thursday at 4 pm. Ballard-Minor Funeral Home
315 Broad Street, East Dunnville
Reporting station : VE3FOI Dave

VA3PAW Joe Robson

Passed 15 Nov 09
Resting at Cudney Funeral Home
241 West Main, Welland
Visitation at 2 & 4 and 7 & 9pm
Service same location 11 am 18 Nov 09
at the same location.
Reporting station: VA3DV Vince
Source: <http://www.ontars.net/>

Our best thoughts and wishes go to their families and their many ham friends, especially at this time of year.

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

Minutes of NPARC General Meeting Nov 2009

The meeting was opened at 1930 by President Dale Sackfie VE3LVW with 36 sign-ins including two guests. All attendees introduced themselves in turn with name, call, and home location

A minute of silence was observed for John Broczkowski VE3AUE SK, followed by a short memorial speech by Dave FOI.

Dale LVW changed the order of the agenda items to allow an early presentation of the guest speakers:

GAMRU, the Grimsby Auxiliary Marine Rescue Unit, was the interesting topic presented by John McNally VE3ISE and Doug MacKinnon VE3GJ. The unit is all-volunteer and forms an important part of the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary, covering the area of Lake Ontario between Hamilton and the Niagara River. VE3BGM, custodian VE3GJ, is the unit's station at Grimsby. Many aspects of the unit's activities and equipment were described in the approx 45 min presentation, which was well received.

(10 min coffee break)

Current business

Reading of last mtg minutes: These had been sent by email or handed out and members were given a few minutes to review. Moved by Wasi NAZ, seconded by Frank SQ that the minutes be adopted: **CARRIED**

Treasurer report: Kevin KGS reported that the final financial report for 08-09 had been completed and was handed over to Jim BCA and Oscar PIO independent for audits. He also reported that had talked to the (Ontario) Ministry of Consumer and Business Services re NPARC's (Notice of Change) report, and had cleared our situation in one long friendly phone call. Moved by Jim BCA, seconded by John ISC that the report be accepted: **CARRIED**

CNIB: Art AEK read a letter dated 15 Oct 09 from CNIB signed by Terry Bray VE3NED and asking for a donation of funds as usual for their Amateur Radio Program. (Money or equipment may also be donated by individuals). Due to uncertainty re Bray's current status with CNIB, it was agreed to **TABLE** the matter for a month or two.

Salvation Army: Dave FOI talked about the (SATERN) posts in Niagara, the Fort Erie branch having now an operational radio station with available emergency power, the St Catharines sta-

tion having been operational but currently being moved to another location in that city, and the Welland station being slated for early set-up.

Notes :

Peter WET : Radio-Thon 1 Jul 2010 ... publicity for NPARC in SC gen hosp pub ...possible meeting room for NPARC in Boys & Girls Club premises if current venue lost ...

Geddie CJX: discussed details of Xmas party 4 Dec .. everyone notify Geddie soonest ... (Coleen Beard, the librarian at Brock Map Library is willing to give our members special training at Brock to use the map library holdings including the electronically available material. The venue for training has space for about 10 participants...)

Dale LVW: discussed the NRS battery back-up, also mentioned that Greg Swick of Niagara College wants to build a tone encoder as a project, Alex ALS offered to supply a schematic.

The spare heliax has now been priced at \$1.45/ft; the club will keep 150 ft for possible future use and the balance (350 ft) is to be sold in one parcel if possible.

John BOZ: Big Event crews are now assigned ...

Denis KVE: Denis mentioned the Niagara Falls Santa Claus Parade and the volunteers on his list to date: JDF, BCA, FOI, ALS, CJX, AEK, WET, PCK, and stated his need for a couple more. He will ask to wear ID vests as publicity for NPARC.

New Business:

Jim BCA said that the wife of Don VA3OLS (SK) wants to sell Don's ham equipment and is seeking firm offers.

General discussion various topics:

- Kevin KGS raised topic of 2015 Pan Am Games and the use of the Niagara flat water courses, application for special call-sign(s), etc
- Dale LVW announced availability of club ID cards
- Geddie CJX suggested publishing received QSL cards in the Feedline, also requested ideas for archiving material now in storage
- Dave FOI suggested making a photoframe display of important historical documents
- QCWA

Adjournment moved by Wasi NAZ and carried

(from the editors: suggested changes to the emailed minutes, except for punctuation, are given within brackets.)

RAC Liability Insurance

The popular liability insurance programmes offered by the RAC to its members and Affiliated Clubs have been recently updated to better serve our members. These insurance programmes are offered as a benefit by the RAC on a "not for loss" basis.

The RAC organization offers two forms of liability insurance:

Personal liability insurance coverage for the member's own, individual amateur radio station.

- this is individual coverage is provided automatically to members of the RAC.
- it is provided at no extra cost to as a benefit of membership in the RAC.
- it provides liability coverage of up to \$5,000,000 for damage caused by the member's personal station and equipment.
- It DOES NOT provide any loss, theft or damage coverage for equipment.
- For complete details on the policy and coverage please contact the [insurance administrator](#) .

Club liability insurance coverage for amateur radio clubs affiliated with the RAC.

- this provides liability insurance coverage of up to \$5,000,000 for radio club activities that are NOT covered by individual member insurance such as Field Day, club repeater installations, public events and demonstrations.
- To be eligible for Club liability coverage, a radio club MUST be a [RAC affiliated club](#).
- Club liability coverage is offered at extra cost, as a benefit of being a RAC affiliated club.
- It DOES NOT provide any loss, theft or damage coverage for equipment.

Reprinted with permission from: <http://www.rac.ca/en/rac/services/insurance>

Don't forget...It's time again to renew your memberships...to stay connected and keep up the good work for another year!

Changes at RAC for 2010

Since October , there have been significant changes in the executive and directors of the Radio Amateurs Canada organization. On October 29th, 2009, the following new members of the Executive were elected:

- Geoff Bawden, VE4BAW - President
- Paul Burggraaf, VO1PRB - Secretary
- Margaret Tidman, VA3VXN - Treasurer

These individuals will assume their respective responsibilities on January 1, 2010.

First Vice-President Ian MacFarquhar, VE9IM, pursuant to the RAC By-laws, will assume the duties of President until December 31st, 2009. (See the RAC website for further news.)

Learn or Keep up with Morse Code!

Reprinted from: <http://aa9pw.com/hammorse/>

Ham Morse allows you to practice Morse code on your iPhone or iPod Touch. It is designed particularly for Ham radio operators and others who wish to achieve or maintain a high level of proficiency in this classic mode of communication.

Details:

The code is sent using the Farnsworth timing, at speeds at or below 15 words per minute (wpm) the characters are sent at 15wpm with extra space added to slow the overall speed down to the target speed. Above 15 wpm the actual code timing is used.

Currently the application goes from 5wpm to 25 wpm with an audio frequency of 750Hz used for the code. An update has been submitted to the App store that will allow the application to go up to 50 wpm This should be available shortly.

You can practice a variety of sets of characters from individual random letters all the way to the current news stories from around the world. The available letters can be customized on the settings page and provide groupings similar to those used in the Koch and Candler methods.

Niagara Falls Santa Claus Parade.

On Saturday, November 28th members of our club participated in the Niagara Falls Santa Claus parade. Club members present were, Alex VE3ALS, Jim VE3BCA, Geddie VE3CJX, Dave VE3FOI, Doug VE3JDF, Paul VA3PCK, Peter VA3WET and Denis VE3KVE.

The city loaned us a table near the gazebo where hot chocolate was being served, and Dave VE3FOI setup a portable VHF station and Dog VE3JDF brought along some RAC flyers for those who might have an interest in our hobby.

The parade had over 90 floats and the crowds were impressive. We didn't create a lot of buzz for our hobby, but Peter VA3WET participated in an interview with a student group from Niagara College's video program who were using the parade as a class project. He was also interviewed by a reporter from a local newspaper, so we'll keep an eye open to see if he becomes a media personage!

There are not many community events available to us for this type of public service, so I was pleased that this gave us an opportunity to hone our skills a little and also become more visible in our community. We came up with several suggestions for improving how we can contribute to an event such as this and I'll be pleased to pass these along to the City of Niagara Falls Events committee (of which I am a member).

By Denis VE3KVE



Setting up the mobile 2 m rig inside the car. Not having a nifty handheld is no reason not to come out. Denis VE3KVE and Peter VA3WET. (photo © VE3CJX)



I know it's early, but is anyone out there? Dennis co-ordinating the parade marshals for the Santa Parade in Niagara Falls. (photo © VE3CJX)

OPERATION VIGILANT GUARD

The hospitals in Erie County were on 146.865 Positive offset 151.4 tone. This also included the two hospitals in Genesee County. WB2ECR

Niagara and Orleans Counties were on the 146.82 negative offset 107.2 tone. W2RUI

The regional repeater for communications between the EOC's and possible Canada was 145.31 negative offset 88.5 tone. W2IVB

The hams reported to the hospitals between 1700 and 1720hrs and were on the air for county roll call at 1800hrs. The drill was expected to last until 1930 or 2000hrs.

For the roll call at 1800hrs, the net operator used the tactical call of Niagara Region on the 145.31 repeater. Any traffic to be passed along was left to the end of the drill.

Information supplied by Gene N2OBW, RACES Erie County.

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OPERATION VIGILANT GUARD - REPORT TO NPARC

November 4, 2009 saw Western New York RACES/ARES operate a Western New York emergency hospitals network. ARES in Canada was invited to participate

The exercise started at 1700 local time. Erie County hospitals started checking in with Erie County Net Control over the WB2ECR repeater. The following hospitals were heard to report in:

Buffalo General, Children's Hospital, Miller's Suburban, Kenmore Mercy and Roswell Park. Some difficulty was reported with the cross-band link and more successful reports were on the output of the repeater direct. There was a noticeable squeal on some stations using the cross-band mode.

At 1800 "Region Command" on the W2IVB repeater was in contact with Niagara County (north-western N.Y) and Orleans and Genesee Counties.

The only glitches noticed were that cross-band squeal and some of the operators failed to use tactical calls.

"Niagara Region" from Canada reported in with "yours truly" at the mic. No traffic was passed from Canada other than to check in. Our check-in was acknowledged with thanks. All repeaters were copied here loud and clear.

For the record anyone wishing to put Buffalo/Western New York repeaters into their VHF rig memories:

WB2ECR – Buffalo 146.865 MHz (up 600 kHz) tone 151.4Hz

W2RUI – Lockport, NY 146.820 MHz (down 600kHz) tone 107.2 Hz

W2IVB – Colden, NY 145.310 MHz (down 600kHz) tone 88.5 Hz

It's a good idea to stay in touch with our American cousins, never know when we will need each other.

73 Dave VE3DVE
ARES EC
St Catharines.

Surf in': A Wireless Dilemma

(reprinted with permission from: <http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2009>)

That's fine -- unless you are a ham trying to transceive in a wireless world. Wireless equipment transmissions have been interfering with our ham receivers since just about Day One and [we have learned how to deal with that problem.](#)

But what about ham radio transmissions interfering with wireless equipment receivers? In a recent e-mail, a Surfin' reader asked, "I wonder if the topic of wireless routers used in the ham shack has ever comes up? I expect a large percentage of hams use wireless in their homes, and I imagine many are like me and have their Internet connection and router in the shack, close to their amplifier.

"I had used satellite Internet until a few months ago, when I switched to a local WiFi network. The WiFi network is faster and less expensive than satellite, but the WiFi system seems to be more sensitive to the particular type of router I use. I used a D-link router successfully with the satellite system, but it tends to disconnect at random with the WiFi system.

"I was told by the WiFi provider that they had good luck with Belkin routers, so I got a Belkin unit. It does not disconnect at random, but it does disconnect when I transmit more than about 500 W. I've tried all the usual things: Ferrite cores on the cables, grounding the unit, etc., but nothing helped. It simply must not be designed for an RF environment. So I would like to find out which wireless routers other hams use that do not have problems when they transmit high power."

Any ideas? I figure that some you out there in the Surfin' audience have encountered and overcome this problem. If you have, please share your experience. Until next time, keep on surfen'!

By Stan Horzepa VA1LOU

Editor's note on the web site: Stan Horzepa, WAILOU, wonders "When did 'wireless' become 'radio?'" To contact Stan, send him [e-mail](#) or add comments to his [blog](#).

Welcome the New Ham Class of 2009!

Cliff Blakely, Dave Randall, Dave Whitehead, Kevin Kennedy, Kurtis McCartney, Eduardo Campo, Ray Gibson have taken on the challenge of meeting the examination requirements to get the Certificate of Proficiency in Amateur Radio from Industry Canada. David, VE3BBN diligently meets with the candidates every week and takes the class through the paces. This year, they even introduced the use of SKYPE for one of the members, who couldn't physically be there to take the class.

The class sessions were completed early this year and a few have at this time been awarded their call signs. These folks automatically become NPARC members for one year. So let's give them a very warm welcome!

What is particularly encouraging is that Cliff was heard on air on the Nov 30th Monday NPARC Members Net. This takes place at 7:00 pm on 147.240 with a +600 offset and 107.2 tone using the NPARC call sign VE3HM. The net controller was Peter VA3WET.

This new net was started up again this fall with the active support of Art Kennedy VA3AEK who has been net controller and the group is always looking for more participants on the 2 meter band! Thanks to the 10 or so folks that participated. What a nice way to meet and chat!

Also on the 2 meter band at 8:00pm, the Norfolk Amateur Radio Net was on air. At 6.925. The net was clearly audible here in North St. Catharines on Nov 30th right after the NPARC Members Net.

Don't just sit there join a class to get updated or upgrade you license or join one of the many nets and activities that we as a club have planned during the course of the year!



Planning for the New Year?

Members serving in the Amateur Radio Emergency Service ARES are trained locally and practice their readiness and other procedures during SET exercises. These exercises involve many agencies and hospitals throughout the Niagara Region. Each has its own emergency staff and contact.

Our emergency co-ordinators in 2009 have been Peter Vince VE3HM, Doug Frame VE3JDF, and David Flarity, VE3DVE, who have worked throughout the year to ensure radios and equipment are ready and that the supporting agencies and hospital staff are aware of what our role is during an emergency. The new ID badges show your photo as well as your call sign to be sure that folks on-site recognize you and to help clear your access when necessary. So when, and if you are called out, it is recommended that you have your jump kit ready as well as the RAC/ARES badge.

Those wishing to send in for the RAC/ARES I.D. the application form is at: <http://www.rac.ca/fieldorg/aresmemberid.htm>

Payments of \$4.00 CAN, can now be sent to a new address:
 Doug Mercer, VO1DTM
 Box 1042
 84 Main Road
 Goulds NL A1S 1H
 Email: vo1dtm@hotmail.com

Are You Ready for An Emergency Call to Service?

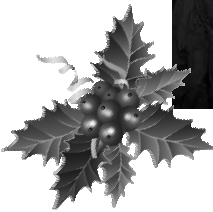
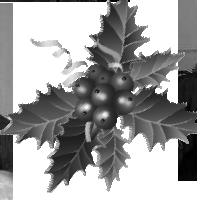
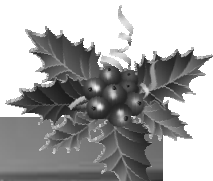
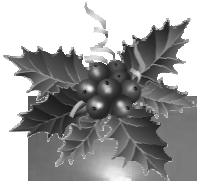
An emergency occurs when local radio and TV broadcasts advise something dangerous to the public good is about happen. Loss of electrical power and telephone or cell phone is another good indication. Remember: Keep your batteries charged. and get familiar with ARES folks who meet weekly on the net Tuesdays, 7 PM at the above frequency.

The Niagara Peninsula emergency frequency is:
 VE3RAF — 145.190 MHZ (- 600) TONE SQUELCH 107.2 Hz

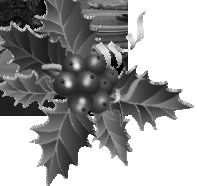
We are still in need of **A FEW GOOD HAMS**. This means licensed hams who are able to operate at Niagara Peninsula sites, already paid for by tax payers. Some knowledge of emergency operating procedure is needed but nothing beyond the ability of the average ham who is willing to spend a little time getting used to the procedures.

73, Dave VE3DVE, ARES EC St Catharines

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



NPARC Christmas



NPARC 2009 – 2010 Executive

President:	Dale Sackfie	VE3LVW	president@nparc.on.ca
Past President:	John Boswell	VA3BOZ	past-president@nparc.on.ca
Vice-President:	Geddie Pawlowski	VE3CJX	vice-president@nparc.on.ca
Treasurer:	Kevin Smith	VA3KGS	treasurer@nparc.on.ca
Secretary:	Art Kennedy	VE3AEK	secretary@nparc.on.ca
Public Relations:	David Wilson	VE3BBN	public-relations@nparc.on.ca
Special Events:	Peter Vince	VE3HM	events@nparc.on.ca
and	Jim Servos	VE3VLS	events@nparc.on.ca
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and	Geddie Pawlowski	VE3CJX	feedline@nparc.on.ca
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Examiners	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, 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm at the Royal Canadian Legion Hall, Branch 613, 141 Hwy 20 East, Fonthill, Ontario.

All are invited to attend, so mark your calendars.

Thursday December 10 th 2009	Guest speaker tba
Thursday January 14 th 2010	Guest speaker tba
Thursday February 11 th 2010	Guest speaker tba
Thursday March 11 th 2010	Guest speaker tba
Thursday April 8 th 2010	Guest speaker tba
Thursday May 13 th 2010	Guest speaker tba
Thursday June 10 th 2010	Guest speaker Club elections night—no guest speaker

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