

Your Feedline

Club Meeting 7pm Thursday, May 9th, Meridian Community Centre, 100 Meridian Way, FONTHILL

Speaker, Dana Shtun, VE3DS, TCA ‘Six Metres And Down’ columnist.

oo

President’s Report - Stephen Riddle, VA3FLF

Last month I commented on how the weather was warming up and that spring was in the air. I stand corrected.....things cooled off fast! I have decided to end my career as a meteorologist and stick to ham radio. Maybe I can do better at predicting space weather.....sunspots are low.

On a serious note, we have lost two former NPARC members this past month. Bob Mitchell, VE3KYA passed on April 2nd. I just learned yesterday that Nick Sawchuck,VE3DID passed away on the 25th of April. Please remember the families of these two Silent Keys (SK’s) in this time of loss.

The New Ham Class is well under way.They are off and running and learning all the fun stuff from Kevin and Phil.We ended up with about 13 students.The class update can be found later in the Feedline.

I want to mention Field Day again.As I stated last month, we have made a big change this year with a new venue.We will conduct Field Day at the Black Creek Centre in Stevensville.The plan is to operate our stations outside in tents or trailers on tactical power as we usually do and will have access to the hall for washrooms, dining, socializing and for breaks. In case we have inclement weather, then we will have rooms to fall back on. Also, this is a very public location and will allow for a nice GOTA station with displays and information on the club. Henry,VA3OV is our Field Day Coordinator. Sign-up sheets will be at the monthly meeting for Band Captains and other needed positions. Field Day this year is June 22-23.

Hopefully you have already heard that we are changing our meeting location for the May General Meeting.We will be meeting at the Meridian Community Centre at 100 Meridian Way in Fonthill.The meeting is on the second floor in a conference room.We have a great speaker this month and this worked out as a better venue.



Our May speaker is Dana Shtun, VE3DS. Dana is a writer for the TCA Magazine and writes the VHF/UHF section. He is coming down from Toronto to give us a presentation on VHF/UHF modes and operations. I am looking forward to meeting Dana. Some of the members know him and say he is a great speaker. So DO NOT miss the fun!

Fellow members, we have a potential serious problem brewing. As I write this message for the Feedline, we do not have any volunteers for nomination to the open positions on the upcoming Executive Board for 2019-2020. Clayton is willing to stay on as Treasurer but that leaves three open positions. By Ontario Not for Profit law, NFP Act, we need at least three board members.

So what happens if we do not have an executive board elected by the new fiscal year? The answer is we would have to dissolve as a club or at the very least become inactive until such time as one is elected. Does NPARC move forward or not? We just celebrated our 70th year as a club. I hope we can continue another 70 years. Please consider serving a term on the executive for the next year. After the program this month, we will need to nominate the Executive so we can conduct the election at the June Meeting.

oo

Nominations will be held for 2019-2020 Executive Positions at May General Meeting

- President: (required)
- Vice President: (required)
- Secretary: (required)
- Treasurer: Clayton Mattatall

- Non Voting Positions:**
- Public Relations: John Eagle
- Repeater Chair: John Lorenc
- Feedline Editor: Denis Cahill



Nick Sawchuk, VE3DID, SK passed April 25th at the Chartwell Niagara Long Term Care Residence in Niagara-on-the-Lake. He was 94. Predeceased by his wife Beverly and two daughters, he leaves four living children, sixteen grandchildren and many great grandchildren. In Jim Thompson's 1948 to 2008 NPARC history, Nick wrote, his family moved to St. Catharines from Prince Albert, Saskatchewan in 1937. He passed his code test and was licensed in February 1950. His first contact was with Harry, VE3BSA. He received his advance ticket in 1967 and built his own SSB transmitter with a pair of 6146's. The former CJ Net (Chicken Junction Net) was his home on Friday nights for about 30 years.

A packet BBS, VE3VW, was his retirement project and it ran until 2002. Nick was always tinkering and as a teen in 1936 constructed a crystal radio heating sulphur and mixing it with lead to form a crystal. A service was held at the Haine Funeral Chapel in Thorold, on Monday April 29th. Condolences to his family, including his son Wes, VE3ADU, St. Catharines and granddaughter, Lindsay, VE3XKY, Grimsby.

BOB MITCHELL, VE3KYA, SK, passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, April 2, 2019 at the St. Catharines hospital at the age of 83 surrounded by his three children. Beloved husband of over 47 years to the late Sally (2006). Loving Dad to Adam (Ingrid) of Brampton, Alison (Rob) Patten of Kitchener and Andrew of St. Catharines. Dear Grandpa of Erik, Emily, Dylan and Ryan. Dear son of the late Robert and Ida of Welland. He will be dearly missed by his brother Gordon (Mary) and his nephews. Bob was a former member of the Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club. In accordance with Bob's wishes, cremation has taken place and there will be no service.

General Meeting April 11, 2019 Niagara Region HQ, Thorold

Minutes taken by Dennis, VE3XC, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by the President Steve, VA3FLF at 7:18pm. There was a round of self-introductions of those in attendance (about 24)

Announcements : Steve VA3FLF

New Ham Class: The class will be starting on April 18th at Black Creek with about 15 to 20 students interested in attending. The group may be split between Steve and Phil VE3ACK. The class should be ready for their test by late June which means that we could combine the test with Field Day.

Next Month's Speaker: Dana Shtun, VE3DS, a regular contributor to TCA magazine will speak on variety of topics within his specialty of 50 MHz and Up or "Six Metres and Down" as he writes in TCA.

June Meeting: This meeting is our Annual General Meeting. We will have Committee reports and election of Club Directors. This will be followed by Pizza, Coffee, and Donut fellowship time.

Club Forum: Presently there are 31 members to our online forum at groups.io. Steve encouraged more members to join up and participate.

Canal Days: We need a co-ordinator. If no one is interested we may have to re-consider our participation in this event. Steve and John VE3HWE met with representatives and did not come away with a definite location for our set-up. It seems that we don't get the same welcome from the Canal Days group as we do with the Niagara Falls events.

At this point Andy Mill, KD2WA, a Yaesu representative, spoke about Yaesu System 2, C4FM Fusion Mode, Wires-X, and the various model of Yaesu repeaters including the DR2X

*Moved by David VE3RNF / Seconded by Garth VE3HO: To accept the minutes of the last general meeting as printed in the Feedline. Carried.

It was noted by Steve that in the minutes there was no vote on the Treasurers Report last meeting. No action was deemed necessary.

Public Relations: John VE3HWE: John reviewed our Club activities over the next few months. Members were asked to sign the volunteer sheets. Events are listed on our Web Site. Next up is the Ride for Roswell and Field Day.

Canal Days: A short discussion of where and why we should participate.

*Moved by Garth VE3HO / Seconded by Dennis VE3XC: That we not participate in Canal Days this year. Carried.

CanWarn: Brian VE3BMX: The training session will be May 8th at 7pm at Regional HQ.

Field Day: Steve VE3FLF for Henry VA3OV: Location Black Creek Community Centre in Stevensville. We have inside facilities available and lots of space outside. We may buy a couple tents. Food will be provided and presently we are looking at 3 stations plus GOTA.

Storage Unit: Steve: We are waiting for a site at a new location. At the time of the move we will clean out what we don't need. Steve asked for volunteers when that day comes.

Repeater: John VA3WM: The UHF repeater and Power supply have been sold.

Correspondence: Dennis VE3XC: We have a letter from E.L. Crosley High School wishing to know if we will continue with our \$100 scholarship this year. A correction from the floor indicated that we had increased that to \$200.

*Moved by David VE3RNF / Seconded by Lloyd VE3ERQ: To make the \$200 scholarship available to an E.L. Crossley graduate as we have done before. Carried.

Faber Estate: The final result of sales is a cheque to Shirley Faber of \$2,539.53 which will be presented to her. A discussion of the work involved in handling similar estates and whether or not the Club should get involved in this service again. We also have a letter from Bill Manning to sell his equipment for him. Considering the work involved in handling such sales, Steve asked Bill to provide a list of his equipment and perhaps the upcoming new hams from our class might be interested.

Treasurer's Report: Clayton VE3AUO: General account bank balance, current value of our GIC, and estimated value of club assets was announced. There was some discussion of how detailed the Treasurer's report needs to be. The cheque to Shirley Faber has not been included in the figures.

*Moved by Jim VE3BCA / Seconded by John VE3HWE: To accept the Treasurer's report as given. Carried.

Glenn VE3NDW suggested that we contribute \$ 25 to the Black Creek Community Center. Steve commented that we have been making contributions to them on a case by case basis.

Nominating Committee: The two members are David VE3DVK and John VA3WM. We are required to have three directors. The members approved of the nominating committee.

*Moved by Garth VE3HO/ Seconded by John VE3HWE: Adjournment. Carried.

APRIL MEETING - Andy Mill - KD2WA - C4FM Fusion Presentation



SPRING 2019 NPARC HAM CLASS

The New Ham Class is now underway at Black Creek Community Centre in Stevensville. Kevin and Phil have their hands full with thirteen eager students. They are in the third week of training already. Several students were seen leaving the building with glazed over eyes after the Ohm's Law math class.

The plan right now is to have the class write the exam on the Saturday morning of Field Day. Hopefully the group will all be ready on that day. Several of the students have some electronics background or knowledge. Overall, this is a younger aged class. We have about four students in the early 20's with the oldest of the group being in his mid to late 40's. It is good to see younger people interested in the hobby.

The President polled the students as to how they heard about the class. Five saw the newspaper article about the lightbulb antenna event, two from the website, a couple others from friends, and both Kevin Smith and Kevin Lemon (VE3RRH) referred three or four. Publicity of NPARC events definitely paid off this time around.



The Executive voted to give the class membership rights for the 2019-2020 club year. This is one of the latest classes we have held and they graduate after the last meeting of the summer. It is the fair thing to do for the group. We need to work as a club next fall to Elmer the class and keep them interested and active in NPARC.

Special Event Prefixes for the 50th Anniversary of the Official Languages Act of Canada

ALAN GRIFFIN Editor, TCA Magazine

Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada, at the request of Gerry, VE1RM, VY1AAA, has granted special event prefixes to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Official Languages Act of Canada. The Official Languages Act of Canada came into effect in 1969, making English and French the two official languages, and equal status in government.

The following special event prefixes will be available **March 28 to May 28, 2019**

- VA stations may use the CJ prefix
- VE stations may use the CK prefix
- VO stations may use the CY prefix
- VY stations may use the CZ prefix

Current special event listings in Canada can be found at the following link
[https://apc-cap.ic.gc.ca/pls/apc_anon/query_spev\\$.startup](https://apc-cap.ic.gc.ca/pls/apc_anon/query_spev$.startup)

Congratulations to President Steve, VE3FLF. He's awaiting the certificate for Mixed DXCC from LoTW for his Canadian call. SSB & FT8 I believe. Speaking about FT8, my Elmer, Gary, VE3DZP, downloaded Joe Taylor's latest creation, FT4 on April 29th. He was quick to make contact with other FT4 users in Europe on 20, 30 and 40 meters around 7pm that evening. Gary did mention his LoTW logging program doesn't recognize the new digital mode so thinks most logging programs will need software updates.

2019 EVENT LIST - VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

JUNE 22 - Ride For Roswell, JUNE 22/23 - Field Day, JULY 1 - Canada Day Parade, JULY 1- RAC Canada Day Contest, AUG. 25 - Ft. George, SEPT. 15 - Terry Fox Run, OCT. 6 - CIBC Run for the Cure, OCT. 14- Man-A-Mile, OCT. 20 - Jamboree OTA, NOV. 17 - N.F. Santa Claus Parade.

VHF NETS

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

NIAGARA ARES

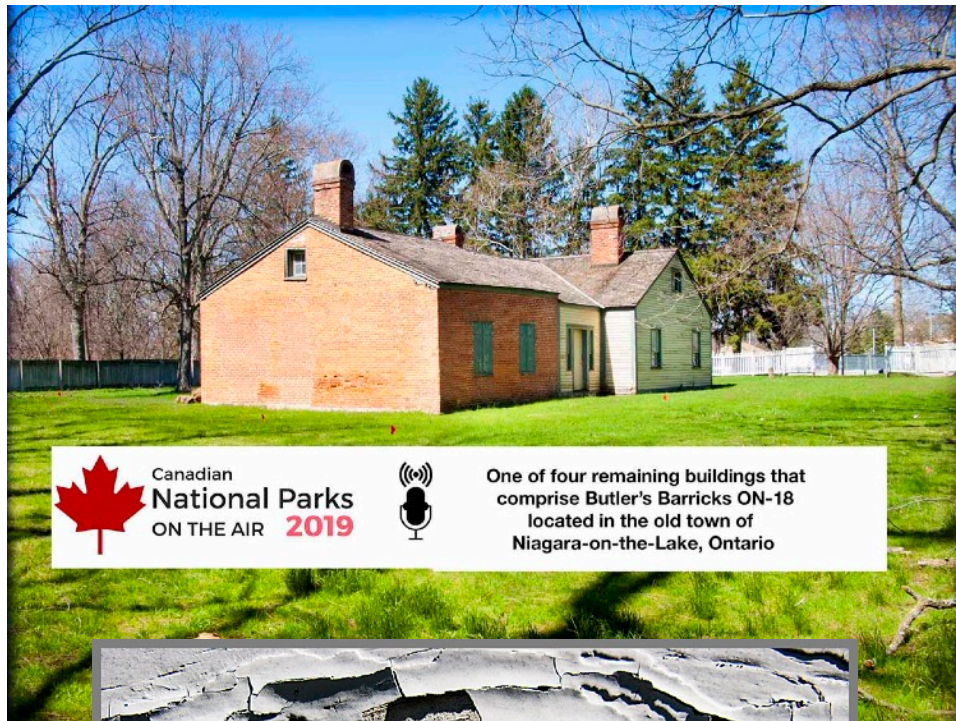
Environment Canada CANWARN Storm Spotter Training, Wednesday, May 8th at the Niagara Region HQ, Thorold.

OVER 2 ME... Feedline Editor Denis VA3ONO

As we head into warmer weather, I hope a few local hams take advantage of the great outdoors and operate portable during the 2019 Canadian National Parks On The Air event. I have checked out five of the nine locations here in Niagara. Butler's Barracks National Historic site, not far from Fort George in Niagara-on-the-Lake, is a great location for a parks activation. I was there last week with my FT-857D, battery, antenna and telescopic pole BUT forgot my 50' of coax cable. At least I had a camera and have included a photo of the Junior Commissariat Officers' Quarters. There are four buildings still on the site just behind the Royal Canadian Legion Br. 124 on King St. In 1854 there were over twenty military buildings on site. Today just four remain, with only one having been totally restored. I found a picnic table at the little house the Officer's used and a suitable fence post to lash my 31' fibreglass antenna pole to. I have a PAR 20/40M, 25 watt, max end-fed antenna I can install as a sloper.

The Friends of Fort George are in the process of renovating this 1816-17 Georgian style brick and wood house. If you plan to activate, register online, then upload your logs to get confirmations and earn points. Earning points is the tricky part. If your contact, called a chaser, isn't registered and never uploads, you may end up point less. Oh well, fresh air is free and the experience promoting Canadian National Parks and Parks Canada historic sites is priceless!

P.S. John Lorenc, VA3WM, has agreed to keep Parks Canada informed if any NPARC member plans to activate at one or more of the Niagara Region Parks Canada sites. As such, please send John an email, repeaterchair@nparc.on.ca / va3wm@outlook.com with the dates on which you are planning to activate.



MAY MYSTERY PHOTO