



Feedline

Club Meeting 7pm Thursday, Nov. 14 th, Campbell building, Niagara Region, Thorold

TIME TO RENEW YOUR NPARC MEMBERSHIP



Lest We Forget

Nov. 11th

St. Catharines

Cenotaph

2019

OCTOBER MEETING TECH NIGHT SHOW & TELL



Jim, VE3BCA, left, Glenn, VE3NDW & Rick, VA3WU, right.

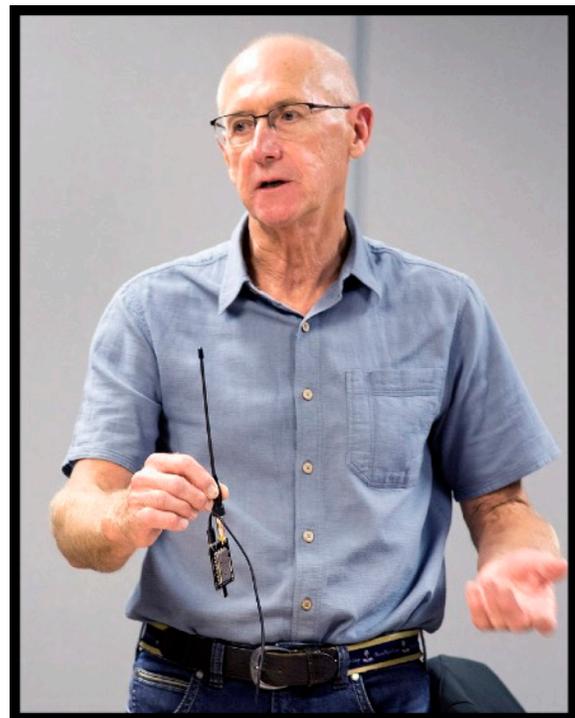
I brought two items to show and tell. A Surcom SW-33 RF power and SWR meter specifically designed for use on VHF/UHF hand held transceivers. It's the only one I have ever seen designed specifically for HT testing. The SW-33 comes with various adapters and a 5 watt dummy load. It is available for about \$35 on Banggood.

The other item was an IBG VHF/UHF field strength meter and frequency counter. Granted that it is a near field strength meter, suitable for distances up to about 3 meters. It cost about \$60 on Banggood.

I also brought various different configurations and types of hand held antennas. The purpose of the test instruments was two-fold. First, how much power does your hand held actually put out and second, do the different HT antennas actually make a difference, and if so, by how much? It is interesting to note that indeed, your 5 watt output Baofeng HT does put out 5.1 watts into a 50 ohm dummy load with a fully charged battery. The different antennas only marginally effect the HT power output (provided the antenna is indeed 50 ohms), but they do indeed effect the field strength. In general, they tend to verify the manufacturer's claim, the longer flexible whip antenna do increase the near field strength by about 2 db (as measured on the IBG field strength meter) and the telescoping antenna does increase the field strength by about 3 db. [Glenn VE3NDW](#)

I demonstrated my Light APRS Tracker. Wikipedia states that "Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS) is an amateur radio based system for real time digital communication of information of immediate value in the local area. Data can include object GPS coordinates, weather station telemetry, text messages, announcements, queries and other telemetry. APRs data can be displayed on a maps, which can show stations, objects, tracks of moving objects, weather stations, search and rescue data and direction finding data". APRS data is shared on 2M FM on 144.390 Mhz.

The LightAPRS Tracker is a self contained unit with a GPS receiver, GPS antenna, temperature and pressure sensors, 1 watt 2M transmitter and Arduino compatible CPU all on board a PCB that weighs 8 grams and is 3cm by 5 cm. It will run on an input voltage in the range of 4.5 to 15 volts, which makes it very versatile. You can power it from 4 AA cells in series, a solar panel or from your vehicle 13.8 volt power plug. It requires an external antenna for 2m which can be as simple as a couple 19" lengths of guitar string.



Rick VE3MM

The LightAPRS tracker has been used as a tracker in amateur radio equipped balloons and rockets. I am using it as a tracker in my vehicle or when I am out hiking. I can just attach it to my backpack with a small battery pack and head off on a hike.

The software for the Arduino processor is open source and is easily modifiable. The LightAPRS tracker was developed by two Turkish hams and is sold and supported by QRP-Labs. The price of the unit is \$100US. Here is the link to the web page for the unit: <https://www.qrp-labs.com/lightaprs.html>

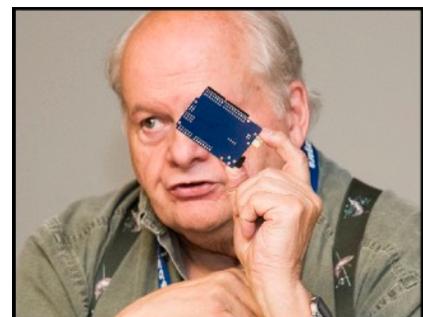
A new module has been developed that adds a WSPR transmitter to the unit making it even more useful. If you have any questions please contact Rick at ve3mm@rac.ca



Roy, VA3NP, left, Henry, VA3OV and Doug, VE3JDF.

Other 'Show & Tell' items at Tech night, the Elecraft QRP KX3 transceiver, complete with the accessory PX3 compact panadapter, the Elecraft AXI whip antenna and a small, lightweight, BioennoPower lithium iron phosphate 12vdc 15Ah battery.

Vice President [Garth, VE3HO](#), holds an Arduino Uno board he has integrated into his model railroad layout. Once programmed a DCC system (Digital Command and Control) can send digital messages through the metal rails. Equipment monitors and interprets the digital commands to control a model railroad setup with switches, signals, train speed, timetables, etc.



Garth, VE3HO

The passing of [John Eagle VE3HWE](#), came as quite a shock to NPARC members. He relinquished his Public Relations and Event Coordinator position last June as he and his wife were moving to Dundas. He died after a brief illness on Sunday, Oct. 27, 2019 at the Haldimand War Memorial Hospital. Several members of the club, Denis VE3KVE, Henry VA3OV, David VE3RNF, Steve VA3FLF, Glenn VE3NDW and Getty VE3CIX, attended his Celebration of Life at the Turner Family Funeral Home in Dundas on Nov. 3rd. Our condolences to John's wife, Rosemary and the rest of his family.



GENERAL MEETING - OCTOBER 10, 2019

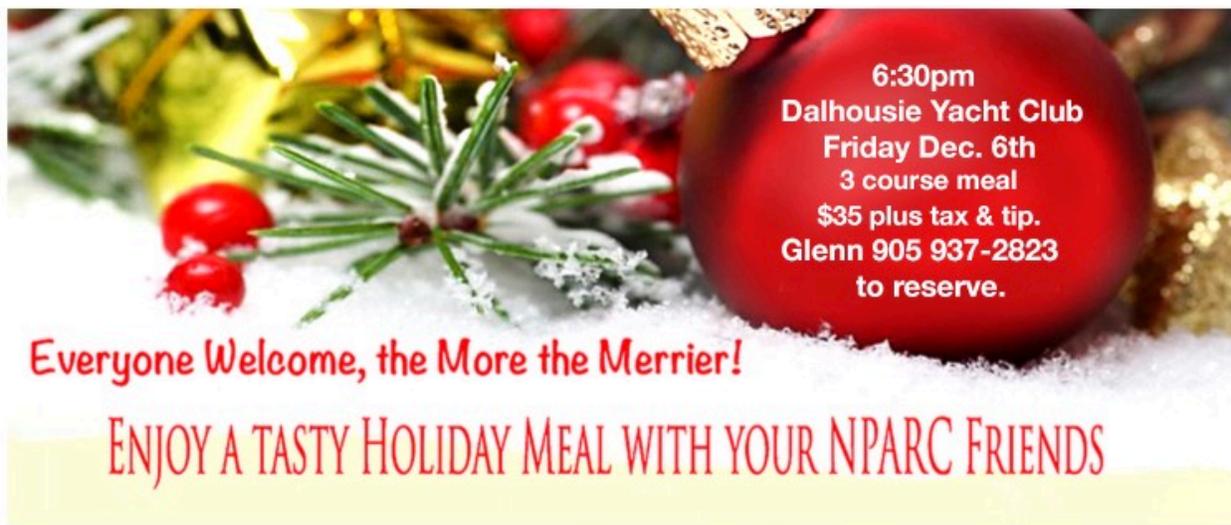
Call to order at 7:05 pm followed by the roll call. 29 signed in.
 Wished Roy (VA3NP) a Happy Birthday
 Time was set aside for those who had not yet paid dues.
 Minutes of last General Meeting were accepted as printed in the Feedline
 Announcement of Christmas Dinner at Dalhousie Yacht Club
 \$35/person—choice of beef or salmon
 6:30 pm for cocktails, 7:00 pm for dinner
 Possible door prize or 50/50 draw
 Contact Glenn (VE3NDW) to reserve a spot and choose your entrée
Tech Night Show and Tell was commenced.
 Denis (VE3KVE) has updated his Yaesu go kit.
 Denis (VA3ONO) flat, under door/window coax cable.
 Rick (VE3MM) small APRS/GPS receiver usually used for weather balloons.
 Garth (VE3HO) Arduino Uno board with many applications.
 Glenn (VE3NDW) SWR meter for handheld also can be a dummy load.
 And a UHF/VHF frequency and power output meter.
 Henry (VA3OV) go kit with Elecraft KX3 transceiver and telescopic antenna
 with coils for 17 & 20 meters.
 Coffee Break - time not recorded.
Upcoming Events Discussed
 Man-a-Mile Relay October 14 Fort George to Oakes Park start 8:00 am
 ARES Wednesday October 16 6:30 pm at Police Headquarters
 Tech Night at Black Creek Community Center Oct. 27 to setup for
 CQ Worldwide SSB Contest on weekend. Members encouraged to attend to operate.
 Monthly 50/50 draw won by [Garth, VE3HO](#) — \$24.00 Meeting adjourned 9:25 pm
 Minutes submitted by [April, VE3BHG](#), club secretary.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

October was a busy month for our club and Niagara ARES. Members provided radio comms along the route for the annual CIBC Run for The Cure and the Man-A-Mile run from Niagara on the Lake to Niagara Falls. A planned ARES emergency exercise called SET was held on the same weekend two HF stations were on the air from the Black Creek Community Association in Stevensville. Members were encouraged to drop by to operate during the CQ World Wide SSB Contest. With a R7 vertical and A-3S Cushcraft beam we racked up over 140 contacts operating only a few hours on Saturday and Sunday including VP6R, Pitcairn Island on 15 meters with 100 watts.

Our condolences go out to John Eagle's family after he passed on Oct. 27th. As usual we will offer a minute of silence at the November meeting. He was a friend to many and a stalwart in his club duties. Finally please consider joining us Dec. 6th for our Holiday dinner party at the Dalhousie Yacht Club in St. Catharines. Please contact [Glenn, VE3NDW](#) as soon as possible to reserve seats.

[Alex, VA3RPK](#), President, NPARC



REPEATER CHAIR - JOHN VA3WM

Reminder: NPARC weekly net, each Wednesday, 8:00pm to 9:00pm,
Where: VE3WCD Repeater 147.300+ 107.2 Hz tone

The VE3RNR UHF repeater, 443.175+ with 107.2 Hz tone, is now operational from E. L. Crossley School in Fonthill. The Yaesu System Fusion repeater is configured in Auto / Auto analog / digital mode. Wires-x connectivity is now up and running.

Useful wires-x rooms:

21080 - AMERICA-LINK, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/302566576932533/>, is by far the busiest with pretty much continuous chatter. The wires-x net occurs weekly on Saturdays at 21:00.

40678 - CQ-CANADA-VE1AO, <https://www.cqcanada.com/>. Many repeaters and nodes across Canada default connect to 40678. The cross Canada net, usually gets in the order of 40 check ins, is at 21:00 on Wednesdays.

21493 - MNWIS-FUSION. The Minnesota Wisconsin room, sponsored by Medtronic, [http://www.w0mdt.com/w0mdt/Bakken Amateur Radio Society - W0MDT.html](http://www.w0mdt.com/w0mdt/Bakken_Amateur_Radio_Society_-_W0MDT.html), the biomed company that makes heart pacemakers amongst other things. There is a very good technical net on Mondays at 20:30

40505 - CANADA-LINK. This is a multimode hub developed and managed by the Ottawa **3730** group, <http://www.ve3orf.com/>, that inter connects DMR, wires-x and Zello. The **3730** group is also on 80 metres, hosts a net on Tuesdays at 20:00

NIAGARA ARES OCTOBER 2019 REPORT

The weekly Monday night Niagara ARES Net continues to be busy. Nothing to report.

On Thanksgiving Monday twelve volunteers braved the cold weather to participate in the Man-A-Mile Run relay race from Niagara On The Lake Fort George parking lot to Oaks park in Niagara Falls along the Niagara Parkway.

We had radio operators/marshalls stationed around the course at key locations. One of our member patrolled on a motorcycle along the Parkway to monitor the runners along the way. Everything went well, there was no injury to report.

Santa is coming to Niagara Falls on November 16, 2019. We need more volunteers to man all the intersections along the parade route. Bring your HT and a spare battery. If you do not have one we will pair you with another radio operator. Contact va3ov@bell.net On Saturday October 26th Niagara ARES held a Simulated Emergency Training (SET) exercise. A chemical

plant was damaged when a tornado went through the Region. An emergency was declared and several mobile radio stations were dispatched to monitor wind speed and directions as a precaution. Radio stations at two area hospitals and a fire station were activated as part of the exercise. Voice and packet messages were exchanged. Niagara ARES also maintained radio contact with GTA Net Control. Attempt to make HF radio contact with York ARES and Ottawa ARES were not successful.

Our Niagara ARES members are working very hard to make every event a success. They are a dedicated group ready to offer their services when needed. Thank you ALL.

Henry Jarzyna VA3OV EC, CEC Niagara ARES
Net, Monday, 20:00, VE3RAF, 145.190+, 107.2 Hz Tone.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Overall the club is financially sound even though we have had some major expenditures last year. Our investments are holding and have actually been improved on since last year. Reports at each meeting are now going to be very concise and if there is any additional information you want, please see me after the meeting and I will look up your answers. On a personal note, when it is break time at the meetings, please allow me to have a break as well and if you must see me, please bring me a coffee. { HI HI }

Clayton, VE3AUO - Treasurer

TREASURER'S TIDBITS

So here we are near the beginning of another club year. As always happens during the first two months of each club year, I concentrate mostly on helping members renew their memberships and collect their club dues. These dues help provide you with access to a number of repeaters, covers the cost of repairs to this equipment, the new cost of the new club website, and a number of other items. I have noticed that there are some past members that have not yet renewed with the club. If you know of any of these amateurs, please talk to them and remind them that it is renewal time. They may have forgotten.

Planning for Big Event #42 is well under way and tables are selling. Please help spread the word about the our hamfest and pass along the flyer. You will always be able to find the latest flyer at <http://nparc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/BigEvent42Flyer.pdf> or at <http://www.bigevent.site/index.php/flyer>.

Help the club out and take the “**Big Event**” flyer along with you when heading out to any other hamfests. The “**Big Event**” is the main source of funding for the club for each year, so we need all the help that you can offer to make it a huge success. If you have any questions regarding it, please feel free to contact me at bigevent@nparc.ca



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
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!

CQ WW SSB CONTEST SETUP



Henry, VA3OV, Garth VE3HO & Alex VA3RPK

ZZ2T **eQSL**

WANDERLEY F. GOMES
 AV. 23 DE MAIO, 2966 AP. 1320
 SÃO PAULO - SP, 04008-000
 BRAZIL
 Loc: GG66NI ITU: 15 CQ: 11
 OPERATOR: PY2MNL
 ALSO: ZX2B

To: VE3VM This confirms our 2-way SSB QSO
 Date: October 26, 2019 Time: 20:41 UTC
 Band: 15M UR Sigs: 59

© Copyright 2008 eQSL.eu

9A9A

Zdravko Emil Balen
 P. O. Box 108
 Zagreb, 10001
 CROATIA
 Loc: jn75xs ITU: 28 CQ: 15
 Member of 9A1A team

What did Santa bring you?

To: VE3VM This confirms our 2-way SSB QSO
 Date: October 26, 2019 Time: 15:54 UTC
 Band: 20M UR Sigs: 59

AF5BG

To: VC3NPARC7Ø This confirms our 2-way PSK(PSK31) QSO
 Date: September 28, 2018 Time: 14:48 UTC
 Band: 20M UR Sigs: 599
 Special Call for the Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club

I09A

Milazzo Contest Team

Milazzo, 98057
 Sicily Island - Italy
 Loc: jm78of ITU: 28 CQ: 15
 IOTA: EU-025

I09A
 CONTEST CALL
 SICILY ISLAND
 ITALY

To: VE3VM This confirms our 2-way SSB QSO
 Date: October 26, 2019 Time: 19:39 UTC
 Band: 20M UR Sigs: 59

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

NPARC SPONSORED ADVANCE LICENCE CLASS





***"A Canadian trailblazer,
Fern Blodgett Sunde, was the
first woman to work as a wireless
radio operator at sea, serving aboard an
Allied merchant ship during the Battle of
the Atlantic."***

A volunteer steering committee, along with its community partner, the [Cobourg Museum Foundation](#), will erect a life-sized bronze statue commemorating Fern Blodgett Sunde (1918-1991), the first Canadian woman to earn a professional radio operator's licence, and the first female radio operator – a "Sparks" – to work at sea. Breaking naval barriers, Fern served aboard the *M/S Mosdale* during the Second World War's Battle of the Atlantic, which was the long, deadly struggle between the Allied and Axis powers to control vital shipping lanes.

Educational materials, as well as an unveiling ceremony in October 2020, will pay tribute to Fern, and to all Canadian naval forces and merchant mariners who served at sea during the Battle. The statue and plaque will be located at the Cobourg, Ontario waterfront. [Tyler Fauvelle](#), a Canadian professional sculptor whose public bronze monuments include three military commemorations, will create the artwork.

How a young Canadian found herself the only woman on a Norwegian merchant vessel, serving her country as a radio operator during 78 dangerous transatlantic crossings in a theatre of war, breaking educational and maritime barriers to get there, is a fascinating story. The Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) is committed to telling that story. A tribute to Fern Blodgett Sunde was published in the September/October 2019 issue of *The Canadian Amateur* magazine and is freely available at www.rac.ca.

"We are very happy to promote this exciting event," says RAC President Glenn MacDonell, VE3XRA. "Many of us use skills developed in the Amateur Radio Service to provide communications support for community events, and in times of emergency. We are keenly

interested in the history of communications, and we're proud to share the story of the first female Sparks at sea."

Next year marks the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, and of the Battle of the Atlantic. October, when the monument will be unveiled, is Women's History Month in Canada. "We need to see more notable Canadian women celebrated in our communities, with these types of public commemoration," says Leona Woods, Committee Chair. "This is also a story of remembrance – Canadians played an important role in the Battle of the Atlantic, and we must not forget."

For more information about the commemoration, contact Committee Chair Leona Woods at leonaewoods@gmail.com.

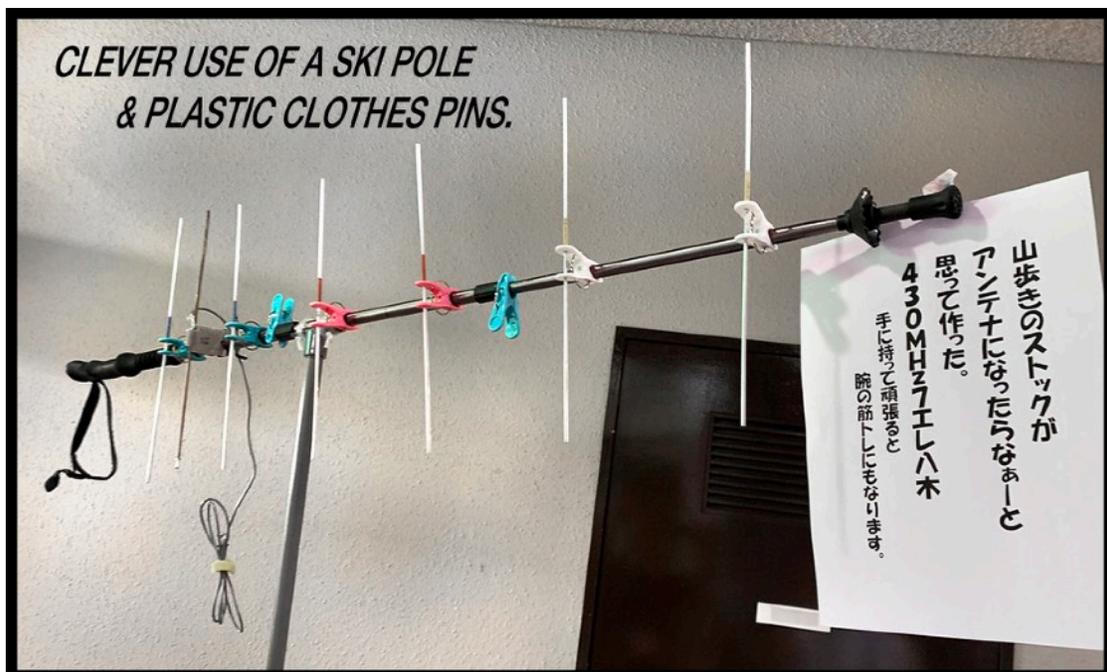
Donations may be made online at the Cobourg Museum Foundation website: www.cobourgmuseum.ca. Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$20 or more.

For more information about Radio Amateurs of Canada, and to read the article, please visit www.rac.ca.

Media contacts:

- Dr. Leona Woods, Committee Chair, leonaewoods@gmail.com, 905-372-7624
- Alan Griffin, RAC MarCom Director, tcamag@yahoo.ca, 613-244-4367

Alan Griffin - RAC MarCom Director



OVER 2 ME Feedline Editor Denis VA3ONO

As I am typing this column, I'm coughing, my nose is running and it's 1:55 in the morning. Feedline is ready to go to press, as we use to say in the newspaper business. Oh, did I mention it was -8°C and the Niagara Region is buried in foot of snow? The storm hit Nov. 11th in the late afternoon and continued all night. I dug a path down our driveway at midnight to put the trash out including four heavy leaf bags. (those frozen leaf bags are still there! That's another story.)



But what I really want to write about is my October adventures in ham radio. Probably the biggest amateur radio contest is held on the fourth weekend in October. It's the annual CQ World Wide SSB contest. Let's say I'm not a contester and don't even have a contesting logging software but realize it's a great time to play radio and work stations in unusual DXCC locations. During the lead up to the contest I managed to log just one real distant DXpedition station. D68CCC, on Cormoros Island off the east coast of Africa on 17 meters SSB from my home QTH. Many hams were basking in the sun in the Gulf of Mexico. One was, Rob, PJ2/VE4GV, who said he would be operating at the well-equipped, Caribbean Contesting Consortium 'Signal Hill' contest station on Curacao Island as PJ2T. He and others had no problem hearing my 100 watts emanating from the ICOM 7000 and PAR end-fed antennas. On the Saturday of the contest I drove to Stevensville with my cameras to take photos for Feedline of the two stations that were set up by the club

at the Black Creek Community Centre. Garth, VE3HO, showed me how to operate the FT-991 transceiver, tuner and more importantly how to use the logging program on the laptop and handed me the Heil headset. It was the first time I operated an unfamiliar station. And to put the icing on the cake, I was using a three element beam for the very first time. Well I searched and pounced across 20 meters with the beam pointed east. Then we to pull the rope, tied to concrete blocks, to turn the beam south, and worked lots of SA and Caribbean stations on 15 meters. Man was this a blast! It was here I heard VP6R, the DXer's in the south Pacific on Pitcairn Island. After a couple of tries, he came back with the club callsign, VE3VM and I logged the contact. It was about 5pm when Henry and Alex, VA3RPK talked me into closing the station down and turning out the lights at the community centre. As it turned out, Garth and I casually made around 90 contacts on Saturday. Sadly not many club members took advantage of this opportunity to get on the air. My thanks to Henry, VA3OV and his crew who set up VE3VM in Stevensville.

Part of the audience at the Oct. 10th Show & Tell Tech Night



Left to right, David, VA3DPG, Paul, VE3WRP, Brad, VE3XNC, Kevin, VE3RRH, Jim, VE3BCA, Lynn, VE3FNY, Rick, VA3WU, Arnie, VA3LW, and Brian, VE3BMX