



# Feedline

**Club Meeting 7pm Thursday, Jan. 9th, Campbell building, Niagara Region, Thorold**

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

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## VE3VM ENTERS RAC WINTER CONTEST



The club's VE3VM call was activated for the annual Radio Amateurs of Canada Winter Contest Saturday, December 28th at the Black Creek Community Centre in Stevensville. Several stations were setup including Mike's (VA3MPA) new Icon 7300 pictured above. A picture page is included inside FEEDLINE.

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## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES - December 12, 2019

Meeting called to order 7:05 pm. Roll Call showed 21 in attendance

Presentation re:Wires X by John Lorenc (VA3WM)

Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as published in the Feedline.

Treasurer's report given by Clayton (VE3AUO), accepted as read.

New Ham Academy--Steve (VA3FLF)

The New Ham Academy will take place on three Thursdays in January, beginning January 9. An invitation is being sent out to newly licensed hams to determine numbers. The final class will be Winter Field Day on January 25, 2020. The new hams will be tasked with setting up and operating for that day. Volunteers are still needed to teach classes and monitor Field Day setup. A potluck dinner has been suggested for participants on Field Day.

Discussion was invited regarding how best to honour Phil (VE3ACK) and Kevin (VA3KGS) for giving of their time to teach ham classes. Phil has been particularly dedicated, flying back to Ontario from Montreal when necessary. No conclusion has been reached.

Repeater Update--John (VA3WM)

The VE3NRS site still has issues which are likely being caused by dirty power. An industrial type UPS is being made available for the site and also possibly an AC filter to see if these will resolve the issues.

Big Event—Clayton (VE3AUO)

As of Dec. 12th commercial vendors who will be coming are Radio World, ICOM, RigExpert, and Yaesu. Dennis is currently seeking volunteers to help. An announcement will be made on the NPARC Groups.io site.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm

Minutes submitted by April, VE3BHG, club secretary.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Happy New Year to everyone and I hope that everyone had a safe and great holiday with their family and friends. January is a busy month with the Ham Academy, an ARES training session and preparations for Big Event 42. Please consider volunteering for the Big Event and the Ham Academy. Thanks to those who have already put their names in to help. The HAM Academy is designed to assist new hams. Classes are at the Black Creek Community Center on Thursdays from 7 to 9:30pm, January 9th, 16th and 23rd. We will finished with participation in the RAC Winter Field Day on Saturday, January 25th, also at Black Creek. To date we have seven signed up and have more room for any recent graduates who are interested. We are also looking for a few more instructors, those interested can reach out to Steve VA3FLF at [chiefexecutive99838\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:chiefexecutive99838@gmail.com).

As of Jan. 2nd, 30 Big Event tables have been sold. Sales have been similar to previous years from my understanding so we should see the remaining tables sold before February 1st. I believe we are looking for more volunteers, especially to assist with security. We have also agreed to buy a small advertisement in the local newspaper for the Big Event. Steve VA3FLF is arranging this.

Regarding problems with the VE3NRS repeater, there is issue that has yet to be identified regarding power. Two UPS units were donated to the club to contribute to bring the repeater back up and one of the recent graduates from the classes is a Radio Communications Technician and is working with Henry to get access to the repeater. They are aiming to get an understanding as to what the issue is within the next two weeks.

Finally just would like to remind all the members that we still have both the Public Relations and Vice President positions vacant. I encourage anyone who is interested to contact me. [president@nparc.ca](mailto:president@nparc.ca) Thank You All! 73

Alex, VA3RPK, President, NPARC

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## TREASURER'S TIDBITS

Well the "Season" is upon us and many of you are spending time with family and friends. You can never spend too much time with your elders though.

Many of our **elders** are why and how most of us got into this great hobby of amateur radio. Fun times being shared with one another.

Big Event #42 is creeping up on us and that is another fun time to share with friends. Mark the date of February 1st, 2020 on your calendar and act now to get your vendor tables for the event.

Tables are now \$20 each and \$5 for each admission with your table. This year we are offering discounts if you reserve 4 or more tables at once. Message or call for more details.

We are accepting Cash, Cheque, Paypal\*, Credit\* for payment this year to make things as easy as possible.

If you have any questions or you would like to reserve your tables, please call me at 1 289.273.4571 (**Please note the NEW phone number**) or email

Clayton Mattatall [vendors@nparc.ca](mailto:vendors@nparc.ca)

*Big Event Coordinator*

<http://www.nparc.ca>

<http://www.nparchistory.ca>

<http://www.bigevent.site>



**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: 289.273.4571

Coordinates  
43.142141  
79.208879

Talk-in Frequency  
147.300 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  
Approximate end at 2:00pm

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



MORE

## HELPERS NEEDED FOR BIG EVENT 42

Thank-you to the members who have responded. Here is who we have so far. However more help would be good.

Tickets at Door: Mark VE3BGL and Dennis VE3XC (probably could use one or two more)

Security: Brian VE3BMX and Steve VA3FLF (probably could use one or two more)

Coffee and Snacks: Rachel VA3NMC and Allison (VE3XC harmonic) (help might be needed)

Talk-In Station: David VE3RNF on VE3WCD

Club Table: John VA3WM (help needed)

Draw Tickets and Photos: Denis VE3KVE and Denis VA3ONO

Vendor Entrance: Dale VE3LFR and Rob VE3GGR (probably could use one or two more)

Manpower and Other Odd Jobs: Dennis VE3XC

Setup tables Friday at hall: we need helpers

Big Event Chair, Clayton, VE3AUO & Dennis, VE3XC

## RAC WINTER CONTEST PHOTOS



(L. to R.) Glenn, VE3NDW, Dennis, VE3XC and Denis VE3KVE ready to pounce.



Mike,VA3MPA keeps an eye on his new IC 7300.



Brian VA3BDL, Henry,VA3OV as Kevin,VE3RRH, attempts to decode ISS images.



Glenn, VE3NDW tuning 40M.



Alex I3, grandfather, Phil,VE3ACK & Kevin,VE3RRH.



Geddie, VE3CJX and Dennis, VE3XC tuning 20 meters.

NPARC participated in the RAC Winter Contest, <https://www.rac.ca/rac-canada-winter-contest-2019/> on December 28, 2019 from 07:00 to 19:00 hours, at Black Creek Community Centre. Band conditions were poor but we still managed to put several hours on Mike's (VE3MPA) new ICOM 7300. Not as many came by as we hoped. However those who attended had a good time and our contest total was around 4,000 points. And the pot luck dinner, complete with Jack's jumbolia, hit the spot. Too bad some of you missed all the excitement! Many Thanks to Henry, VA3OV, for organizing. Let's do it again next year as VA3RAC!

[Geddie VE3CJX & Glenn VE3NDW.](#)

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Hello All! I was gently reminded as December 2019 draws to a close, we need to fill two vacant positions on the NPARC executive board. We are still in need of a Vice President and a Public Relations representative. **Please** consider giving your time to the club for a year to help us function as we should. Wishing you a belated Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

See you in January, regards,

[April Lewis VE3BHG NPARC Secretary 2019-2020](#)

## JANUARY 2020 REPEATER UPDATE

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

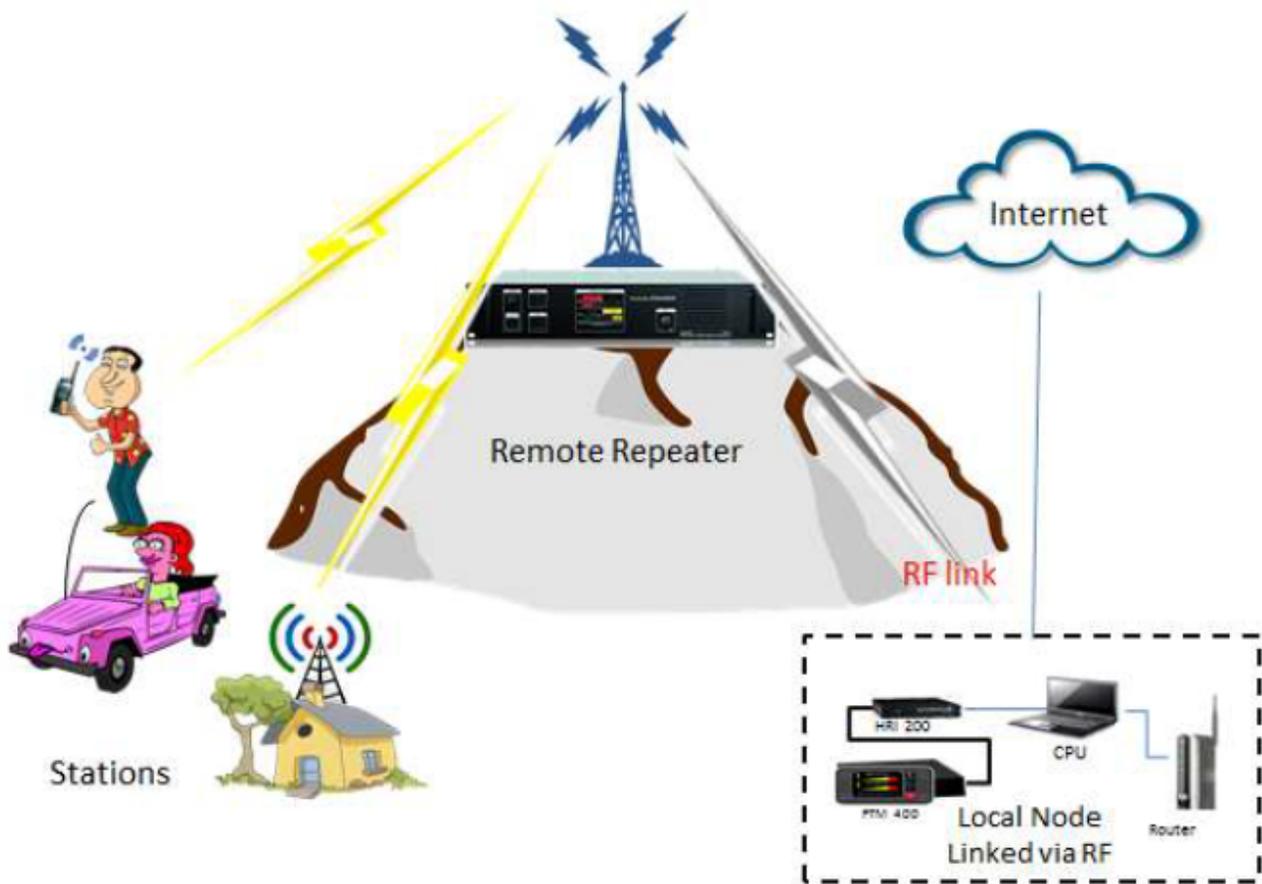
It is good to see the increasing uptake in usage of the VE3RNR Fusion Repeater (443.185+ 107.2 Hz tone). Wires-x network connectivity is operational to give opportunity to club members to connect to rooms hosting nets and rag chews. A favourite net of mine is the Minnesota-Wisconsin Technical Net held at 20:30 hrs on Mondays is the Wires-x MNWIS-FUSION room hosted by the Bakken Amateur Radio Society. The friendly net controllers invite technical questions, but do not scold folks that check in to say hello. There is a good number of experienced Yaesu System Fusion and Wires-x operators standing by to answer technical questions during this net. The Wires-x presentation, see VE3RNR implementation diagram below, I gave at the December meeting is posted in the Files area of the [nparcgroup.groups.io](https://nparcgroup.groups.io) forum, <https://groups.io/g/nparcgroup>. If you are not yet a member of the forum, it is easily joined by sending an empty e-mail to [nparcgroup+subscribe@groups.io](mailto:nparcgroup+subscribe@groups.io). The forum offers a great way for NPARC members to exchange information.

Yaesu hosted two “Everything You Wanted to Know About Wires-x but Were Afraid to Ask parts 2 and 3” webinars on December 23 and 30. These are worthy to view when they are posted to YouTube. I will post a message to nparcgroup when they become available.

During the RAC Winter Contest, a recently minted technically qualified in commercial radio communications ham, came forward and offered to help NPARC with the aged VE3NRS power and noise maladies. We’ll save the intro to a later Feedline. Anyone wishing to come along to the VE3NRS repeater site to learn about repeaters is welcome to do so. Please e-mail [repeaterchair@nparc.ca](mailto:repeaterchair@nparc.ca) with your interest.

Weekly NPARC nets at 20:00 hrs on VE3WCD 147.300+, 107.2 Hz tone will resume on Wednesday, January 8. April VE3BHG and I have been net controllers for the NPARC weekly net. Your check in is most welcome and is useful in confirming your radio and antenna system is working as you believe. If you experience silence during the Wednesday night net, it is because there is no net controller. Anyone certified to operate can assume this role. No need to be shy or ask permission. Just do it. Last, I too often hear people missed the net because they have forgotten. To help, I have implemented calendar reminders on the [nparcgroup.groups.io](https://nparcgroup.groups.io) forum. This is an added benefit to subscribing to the forum. If not a member, send an empty e-mail to [nparcgroup+subscribe@groups.io](mailto:nparcgroup+subscribe@groups.io).

### VE3RNR 443.175+ 107.2 tone auto/auto RF Linked Repeater to Wires-x



JOHN, VA3WM, NPARC REPEATER CHAIR



THEY IS NOT HERE.

## WHAT SHOULD WE EXPECT FROM WD-40



According to articles by the Royal Signals Wireless Set 19 Group and Wikipedia, the well known chemical concoction known as WD-40 has no place in the radio workshop. An industrial chemist on the Boatanchors radio forum writes harshly. The spray is notorious for starting off the slow disintegration of certain plastics, a process that does not manifest the full effect for ten years. For car engines and industrial machinery, WD-40 has a number of applications but in domestic electrical apparatus, many of its properties are counter-productive. The aerosol contains around 50% Stoddard solvent (a refined kerosene), about 15% petroleum based oil (actually a paraffin solvent refined mineral oil), 25% LPG (isobutane & propane liquefied petroleum gas) and 10% proprietary corrosion inhibitor. This makes it pretty flammable and calls for thoughtful use. However internet descriptions of the secret formula vary. For example the 25% LPG has been altered to just 2-5% carbon dioxide as a propellant. And 60 to 80% could be old fashion lighter fluid or naphtha. The original purpose was water displacement, hence the initials WD. The company website explains it took 40 tries before it was perfected. The company name was changed from the Rocket Chemical Company in 1969 to WD-40 Company. One report credits the discovery to a home inventor who sold the formula to

Rocket in 1953 for \$500. The Stoddard type solvent gives the spray a low surface tension, which allows it to penetrate small cracks and crevices. After the kerosene has evaporated, the oil is left with a small amount of corrosion inhibitor. The oil has some limited lubricating properties but it does nothing to clean oxidized switch contacts and acts more as an insulator. The only way it can protect a surface from oxidation is by physically covering it and like all paraffin oils, it attracts dust and reacts slowly with oxygen in the air and can produce a residue. As a cleanser it has some good properties as the kerosine dissolves old grease buildup but is not suitable in electrical applications.

Thanks to David, VE3RNF, for providing links and background information for this article.

Let me say I always have a can of WVD-40 spray on my workbench. I realized long ago it is not the be-all, end-all lubricating spray but keep purchasing it as some form of addiction. There is one thing WVD-40 does right for me. A few sprays on a rag will clean the sticky mess that Duck tape leaves on my vehicle. I use Duck tape to secure coax feedline on the roof and tailgate. The spray can soften and remove hardened tape goo with ease. Remember to wear eye and hand protection and please no-smoking! Like the former company name this stuff is like rocket fuel.

Denis VA3ONO, Feedline editor

## OVER 2 ME... Feedline Editor, Denis VA3ONO



I was wondering the other day what was the status of the VE3NRS club repeater.

It seems to be off the airwaves now for weeks. I emailed the executive branch of the NPARC to ask for an update I could publish here in Feedline. Our Repeater Chair replied as did our President. As Feedline editor I was asked by many hams what happened to NRS. Months ago it was making strange noises but now it has gone completely silent. When I joined the club in 2012 I learned members with commercial VHF background were servicing our three repeaters. Dave, VA3UL and Jake, VE3NCL were two, as both worked in the commercial VHF

radio sector and understood the equipment. NRS has great coverage and was part of our daily routine here in Niagara. I often connected from the north side of Lake Ontario and up the 400 highway or just heading to club meetings on Thursday nights. Well I have great news to report. On Dec. 28th at the club's RAC Winter Contest site I photographed a chap who dropped by the Black Creek Community Center. Brian, VA3BDL, is a new ham looking to set up his first ham shack. But I also discovered while talking to him he is a communications technician overseeing a variety of radio systems, spread around the region, operated by St. Catharines Fire Services. Analog, P25 digital, MDT's and tone controlled paging across multiple tower sites. With over 30 years experience dealing with RF he has offered to troubleshoot the old GE repeater housed in the base of a water tower atop the Niagara Escapement, the fabled home of VE3NRS. A four bay Sinclair antenna is perched on the very top of the huge steel structure giving the NPARC what must be one of the best amateur radio repeater sites in Ontario if not Canada. The most expedient way to finish this story is to say, the club will know shortly, thanks to Brian, what ails NRS and if it can be given a new lease on life.

And while I'm talking repeaters, there is much positive chatter about the new Yaesu Fusion/analog UHF repeater, VE3RNR, the club purchased a few months ago. Happily it is working away up at the Fonthill site as promised. I have used the analog side but sadly don't expect to have a Yaesu Fusion digital radio anytime soon. If you are enjoying the Fusion experience please write me and I'll publish your comments. Please include a photo and contact me at [va3ono\(at\)icloud.com](mailto:va3ono(at)icloud.com)