

Your Feedline

Club meetings cancelled until further notice

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR NPARC MEMBERSHIP

COVID-19 EPIDEMIC



STAY HOME NIAGARA
STATE OF
EMERGENCY
DECLARED

Not to trivialize the situation but amateur radio operators around the world are hunkered down in their shacks wishing everybody a safe day.

Because we have HF communications plus area wide radio repeaters we are never alone. However many aren't so lucky and are isolated at home. A landline (Bell) QSO might be in order. Just say Hi, how are you doing? Call an old school chum, a neighbour. A few minutes on the computer and you can find just about anybody if you can remember their name. And if you have distant relatives across the country or world now is the time to call them and have an old fashion tongue wag.

NIAGARA ROUND ROBIN SOCIAL NET - 9AM / 9PM ON VE3RAF

JACK'S ON THE AIR!

Jack, VE3ZPW, of Fonthill, has been hosting the Niagara Round Robin Social net, during the COVID-19 crisis, for several weeks. His wife says over 40 hours on the air since mid March. Jack's kind-hearted voice drags people out of the woodwork each day at 9am and again at 9pm for an hour of meandering chit-chat. Now Jack is willing to share the task. If you would like to give Jack a much needed break, call out to him one morning or evening and I'm sure he'll be happy to appoint you as a guest host. He'll send you the preamble to assist running the free-form net. All you need is a good two meter signal into the Thorold repeater and snacks to last you an hour. And be aware the net can move to other local repeaters, as VE3NRS. 147.240z + 107.2



VE3RAF (-) 107.2 ALL WELCOME - JUST SIGN IN - ADMISSION IS FREE!

JACK'S SIDE OF THE STORY

So I guess we've been operating the net for 3 weeks now. Twice daily 09:00 and 21:00 EST. The idea for the net was formed after the weekly Tuesday morning breakfast meetings had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. We were discussing on the air that there were going to be a lot of "senior" hams being locked in isolation with minimal social contact. I agreed to host a "round robin" net so everyone would have a place to contact other amateurs and just chat. Since it's an informal free flowing net, I decided to call myself a "Host" vs Controller. My only job is to open the net and keep track of who's next in the rotation. No formal topics, everyone welcome twice a day. I never expected it to be received as well as it has. We've had contacts from around the GTA. Early in the process, Denis, VE3KVE suggested that some of the less active amateurs be contacted by telephone. He took it upon himself and brought even more amateurs onto the net. In order to keep the net going and to prevent host burnout, we've started to ask for volunteer "Hosts".

Anyone interested please contact me on the air or email me at [jack.bene\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:jack.bene@gmail.com) As for me I started in the hobby back in the early '90's eventually obtaining my advanced ticket with 15wpm. Quickly became involved with ARES and worked my way up to the Ontario Section Emergency Coordinator position. With 2 young children and a full time job as an E.R. RN, the SEC position became too much and I resigned. Not wanting to interfere with whoever followed, I became a dormant ham for many years. Now retired I'm finding the time to become active again. I live in Fonthill on top of the Fonthill kame just 20 feet below the crest of Lookout. With my chimney mount antenna, I am able to run VHF simplex across the peninsula.



Joseph Teminski 1929 - 2020

Peter Teminski's father, Joseph, passed on Saturday April 4th at home in St. Catharines. He had just turned 91 on March 23rd. Peter, VA3WET, said, "He had a full and good life and passed at home with his family. I give full credit to my brother and sister for being the caregivers he deserved." Donations will be accepted in his name by the Canadian Cancer Society. A Mass at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church and a celebration of his life will be held at a later date in more calmer times. Peter was on the executive when I joined the club. On behalf of all the members, please accept our condolences from the NPARC community.

GENERAL MEETING - MARCH 12, 2020

Meeting called to order. Roll call.

Minutes of previous meeting accepted as read. Treasurer's report accepted as read. Ham Academy certificates are available. David VE3DVK accepted his with thanks.

Upcoming Events

The CQ WBX contest will be taking place on March 29th. Leon Evans, retired Air Canada Captain, now a Lancaster pilot, has volunteered to speak at the April General meeting. Phil VE3ACK talked about meteor scatter and reception via 2, 6, 10 or even 15 meters. Volunteers are needed for the Niagara Falls Canada Day Parade. So far we have 6, and we need more like 19 people. Our Field Day Coordinator this year will be Steve VA3FLF. We were reminded that a Nominating Committee needs to be chosen in order to facilitate the executive elections in June. We also still require a new President and a Public Relations officer.

Repeater Update

Thanks to Brian, VE3BDL, the WCD repeater is back online after being retuned. A follow-up to test the controller will be done.

Other Business

We are still missing a couple of safety vests from the Big Event. They were not found in storage. 50/50 draw was won by Steve VA3FLF, who donated his winnings back to the club.

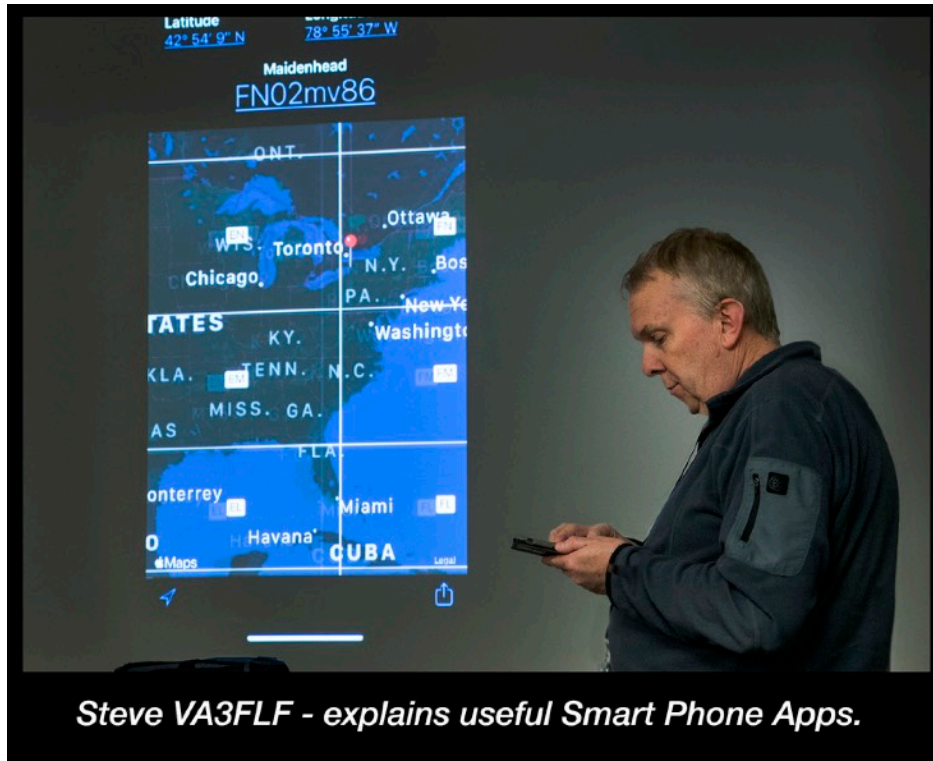
Steve, VA3FLF, gave a talk on the many cell phone apps available that are related to ham radio, such as Repeater Book, which locates repeaters around you or in a specific locale. There's also a Ham Antenna Calculator, Morse Key, QRZ, Ham Prep and Echolink. These will be posted in Groups.io.

The next Tech Night will be March 19th at Black Creek Community Center, commencing at 7:00 pm

Meeting adjourned at 9:23 pm [April Lewis VE3BHG, Club Secretary.](#)



Steve VA3FLF presents certificate to David VE3DVK



CORONAVIRUS CALL SIGNS

According to the Radio Amateurs of Canada some countries around the world are now allowing Radio Amateurs to use special “STAYHOME” call sign suffixes. Michael Shamash, VE2MXU is using VC2STAYHOM. The ‘E’ has been dropped as Canadian call signs are limited to seven characters. However in Australia, AX2020STAYHOME, was approved and that may be a record for the world’s longest call sign.

Watch for these other call signs:

8A1STAYHOME - Indonesia,

9K9STAYHOME - Kuwait,

A60STAYHOME - UAE,

HZ1STAYHOME - Saudi Arabia

TC1STAYHOME - Turkey



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 Round Robin Social Net, Daily 09:00 & 21:00, either VE3RAF or VE3NRS.

NPARC FEATURED IN APRIL 2020 QST



David Day, N1DAY

The Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club of Hendersonville, North Carolina, challenged hams to tune their transmitters using a lightbulb antenna to make DX contacts. The idea caught on and, within several months, a number of amateurs in the United States and Canada began experimenting with lightbulb antenna designs. They discovered that some of the larger incandescent lightbulbs containing several feet of tungsten filament could serve as the radiator for these antennas, with enough efficiency to work DX in several digital modes.

Michael Moroney KD7RF and his completed lightbulb antenna. [Michael Moroney KD7RF photo]



QSO Party Points

This activity culminated in the Lightbulb QSO Party on March 9 – 10, 2019, on the 160-, 80-, 40-, 20-, 15-, and 10-meter bands. The event was designed to encourage amateurs to further develop their lightbulb antennas and test their designs in a contesting environment. Contacts were worth one point, unique grid squares were worth three points, and DX contacts were worth four points. CW, phone, and all digital modes were allowed.



The Niagara Peninsula ARC getting ready for the event. [Dennis Carill, VA3ONO, photo]

08 May 2020 QST www.arrl.org

David Day, N1DAY, of Hendersonville, NC., penned a story that appears in the April 2020 QST magazine that included photos of NPARC members competing in last year's Lightbulb QSO Party. If you forgot, the theory was to turn light bulbs into antennas. David mentions, the NPARC Team made 4,200 mile FT8 contact to a station in Genova, Italy. Go to www.hamsignal.co for information about this illuminating subject.

APRIL'S APRIL NOTE

Hello, All,

I hope you are all keeping busy during this time of enforced self-isolation, and that you are not going crazy. My extrovert OM is doing his best to drive me there. Hi Hi. We are purging our attic while we have this chance. As you may have guessed, we will not be able to have regular NPARC general meetings until further notice, due to the closure of the Niagara Region Building to non-essential services, and the fact that gatherings of over 5 people are prohibited. I hear that there is a "gathering" twice a day on the RAF repeater, at 9:00 am and 9:00 pm. Maybe when I get a break from the attic purge I will be able to join you. If you have any radio related questions or concerns, feel free to contact us at executive@nparc.ca, and we will do our best to provide an answer.

Take care of yourselves and stay safe. Practise social distancing and wash your hands.

April Lewis VE3BHG Club Secretary

<https://www.rac.ca/get-on-the-air-on-world-amateur-radio-day-event/>

On Saturday, April 18, 2020 (1200Z to 2359Z), Radio Amateurs of Canada is organizing a special on-air event to celebrate World Amateur Radio Day.

OVER 2 ME - Feedline Editor Denis VA3ONO

Reporters are taught to ask the 5 W's when covering any story. Who, What, When, Where and Why. And don't forget the letter H, for How.

I've watched and listened to hundreds of hours of TV and radio reports about the coronavirus attacking the world. Read countless newspaper and online articles about the pandemic and how's it's affecting all of us. Truly, my head is spinning. What is truth, what is fiction.

'Who' is it affecting? Both mentally and financially? Unknown issues for years to come.

'What' are governments and health care professionals saying? Often difficult to decipher. Lots of updates as landscape keeps changing. Every level of government involved across the media platform.

'When' will it be safe to travel, go back to work, get a paycheque, see our families again? Nobody can say for sure.

'Where' will this virus hit next? Will it return before we have developed a vaccine?

'Why' are some positive with Covid-19, but show no symptoms while others are dying. So staying home will prevent the health care system from being overrun. We sure understand that!

'How' did the world end up in such a mess? How many lives will be lost? How do we rebuild a fractured economy? Provide resources for the unemployed?

If you are having trouble sleeping at night, like me, now you know why. Just too many W's stuck in your brain.

Stay At Home for now. In a few weeks we'll better understand what's happened and how to fix it.

Thank you QRZ.com forum

Amateur Radio guide to Social Distancing

“In the current climate, Social Distancing is very important and Keith G6NHU has put together a reminder for radio amateurs showing how to remember the recommended distance to keep apart”

Amateur radio enthusiast guide to
SOCIAL DISTANCING
Keep one wavelength apart at 144 MHz



144 MHz
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(2.0M)



MY KIND OF SOCIAL DISTANCING.