

# Your Feedline

Coming Soon 2020-2021 Memberships

## 2020 FIELD DAY IN PICTURES



Patrick, **VE3KPA** and his Jr. Assistant Station Manager, Lovell, teamed up during the June 2020 ARRL Field Day. They logged contacts across five bands as a ID from home. A number of NPARC members added the club's name to their log sheets for special recognition by the ARRL due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Lovell is an Havanaise.

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**VA3FLF's** FT-817 QRP rig is dwarfed by virtually everything on his table. Running 5 watts, Steve, operated digital mode from a screened tent in his yard. Steve, did you keep dry?



Dennis, **VE3XC**, waits to jump on passing satellites from his basement shack.



**VE3OQP** turned his trailer into a fully equipped driveway shack. Everything including antennas and power was completely separate from the home station. Roy operated 1B Saturday afternoon and evening, and a couple of hours Sunday, mainly 20M and some 15M SSB. He reported Sunday's conditions were the best for him. He sent the suggested packet messages on 2M FM and copied the ARRL Field Day bulletin. His antenna and location prevented 80 and 40 metre contacts.



Glenn, **VE3NDW** and Geddie, **VE3CJX** abandoned their 'Larchwood Cottage' enclosure to avoid the heat. The husband and wife team thought the plastic covered frame, with the nearby power generator, would best replicate a true Field Day experience. Instead they move inside and air conditioning. They warned their neighbours they would be prowling their yard with flashlights to replenish the generator's gas tank during the wee hours. Good for you guys as I'm sure the police would of arrived in force to 'capture' the intruders. They operated a digital station with a mobile Hustler antenna mounted on a deck railing and a borrowed G5RV. They got their PSK working and copied the ARRL bulletin for extra points.





J

John, **VA3WM**, operated 1E QRP station from his lanai. Like many others running 5 watts, he got hammered by high power ID stations. He also discovered a possible transmission issue with bad coax. On a positive note his 31 foot 40M vertical worked and looked great in his Niagara-on-the-Lake home with a beautiful sky and a vineyard in the distance. With 15 minutes left in Field Day, he got the ICOM 7100 out, changed the coax, and upped the power to 100 watts, still running on the Bioenno battery. His last minute Northern NJ contact was fun but couldn't be part of his QRP log. John did manage Winlink QRP, battery power, messages to the section manager and 10 others. He reward, an additional 200 points!

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Ken, **VA3KWG**, took advantage of his vehicle's HF rig to participate in 2020 Field Day.



Erick, **VA3ETN**, had his gear setup in a tent but rain intervened and he moved his FT-857 and LDG 100 tuner and battery to the house deck. He was using the club's Cushcraft R7 vertical on phone and until this event had never worked on bands higher than 40 metres. Erick passed courses offered by NPARC for Basic and Advanced. He was first licensed in 2018.

## Field Day Comments from Radio Station VE3FNY

Operators: Lynn Lemon **VE3FNY** - Kevin Lemon **VE3RRH**

Our operation consisted of 2 transmitters running on battery as class 2E. We had initially planned to run QRP but gave up when we were not able to break the pileups on 20 metres. The propagation on the bands did not seem to favour us here in Canada. We had to fight very hard to make contacts even though our station has a proven Contest / DX capability. Lynn ran our Yaesu FTDX1200 on SSB on the 20 & 40 mtr bands while I ran FT8 with my Yaesu FT900 on 10, 15, & 20. We both found it difficult to make contacts on Saturday.

We started our operation at 18:00 UTC on Saturday and shut down Sunday Morning at 1:00am when the 20 metres died. I turned off the radios and computers, and disconnected the antennas for the night. As I walked up stairs to the kitchen of our house I was greeted by a brilliant flash of light and a loud crash of thunder announcing a thunder storm in our area, we had shut down just in time. The thunder storm was rather impressive and being that we are also Canwarn spotters we sat out under the awning and watched the storm until 2:00am before going to bed. Needless to say our plans to get back into the contest Sunday started a little later than planned.

Sunday's operation found better propagation and easier communications than the day before. Lynn was getting comments like "Nice Signal", "and I love your callsign". She had a lot of fun, and it was especially fun for me watching her get back on the air and into contesting again.

I ran the other side of the station, using FT8 on 10, 15 and 20 metres, sent out packet messages and took part in the club's 2 metre FM net.

I ran into some difficulty on FT8 with a very frustrating action by some operators. It is becoming very common for operators to not finish an FT8 conversation, especially in contests, I had a number of QSO's where the operator would send his contact information but not close the QSO with a 73. Without this last step there is no confirmation that the contact has been completed, it is also impolite. These operators seem to think that it saves time. I'm not sure what they will think when they receive "Not In Log" to their QSL request.

I think overall we did well and accomplished our goals for the weekend. Lynn got back on the air after a long hiatus. We ran a contest station together and had fun. We made 101 SSB contacts and 155 digital contacts,

## OVER 2 ME ..... a frustrated QRP 1E Field Day Participate!



With the ongoing Covid19 pandemic the ARRL Field Day committee unwittingly unleashed an abundance of high power, One D hams who managed to crush the lowly QRP SSB stations like me. I'm not bitter but somebody should of thought this through. With North American hams on lockdown because of the virus, naturally they would powered up their amps and in the process drown out the thousands of five watt, battery powered, SSB, amateurs.

Saturday morning I strung three PAR end-fed antennas as slopers on telescopic poles in my rear yard. I had a dual band 20/40, and short mono-band wires for 15 and 10 metres. The week before I built a 6 metre hex beam from a patio umbrella and mounted it on a 8 foot pole. Our gazebo became my Field Day shack with a FT-857D, a charged car battery, and a paper log book. Note, no tuner is required with my end fed antennas. So at 2pm I was pumped and ready to go. CQ Field Day, CQ, CQ, VA3ONO Field Day! It took me 24 minutes to make my first contact. K0VH, a 1E in Minnesota. Then 20 tries and another 35 minutes to get K9SH, another 1E in Indiana. So two contacts in 59 minutes. It was obvious I was fighting a multitude of high powered stations so I took a long break and hoped things would get better. Finally at 10:30 pm local I shut down after logging just 8 stations.

Right from the get go I new I was facing an up hill battle. OK some of it was just lousy band conditions. I called stations dozens of times and never landed a single contact. When I did get through a pileup, I was greeted with, "Hey, great signal for QRP!" I spent just five hours at the radio and pulled 37 contacts out of the ether. That was thirteen each on 40 & 20 metres, seven on 15 metres, two on 10 metres and two on the home-brew 6 metre hex beam. For the record, those were South Texas and Georgia.

I submitted my log to the ARRL and of course mention my club affiliation as Steve, VE3FLF, requested. Actually it was my time to get on the air during Field Day. It was fun to plan and setup my antennas and radio, not so fun when your not making contacts.

AND FINALLY,,,,, assembling the summer Feedline was a breeze. Thanks to all the members who took the time to send me their 2020 ARRL Field Day stories and pictures.

Denis VA3ONO FEEDLINE Editor

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**WHO, WHAT, WHERE and WHEN?**

## MEMBERSHIP DUES - CLAYTON VE3AUO - TREASURER.

I must remind the membership that as of September 1st, 2020 your membership dues are due. Please be prepared to renew at the September 2020 General Meeting. Location to be announced at a later date by the executive as we try to adhere to the limitations set out by the Government due to the current pandemic. Please note that we will only be accepting cash, cheques, credit card and PayPal as forms of payment. E-Transfers will NOT be available until further notice. Contact me for PayPal instructions.

If you cannot make the meeting, you can make your cheque out to NPARC, Inc. and mail to,

*Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club, Inc.  
P.O. Box 20036, RPO Grantham,  
St. Catharines, Ontario, L2M 7W7*

You will not have voting privileges until your membership is paid in full. Please write your RAC membership number on your cheque.

### **Benefits of Membership**

Supports three Niagara area repeaters: VE3NRS, VE3RNR and VE3WCD.

Include liability insurance for NPARC, Inc. related activities through Radio Amateurs of/du Canada, Inc.

Promotes amateur radio classes each year.

Supports monthly meetings with speakers and complimentary refreshments.

Supports activities such as special event stations and Field Day.

Supports the [www.nparc.ca](http://www.nparc.ca) website.

Supports the Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP) on the VE3WCD Repeater.

Supports a scholarship to a deserving student at E.L. Crossley Secondary School.

**Regular Membership (1) RAC Member 1 \$40.00 (Non-RAC Member) \$50**

**Family Membership (2) \$60.00 Associate Membership (3) \$60.00**

(1) Current, paid-up members of Radio Amateurs of/du Canada, Inc. as of September 1, 2020.

(2) Must reside in same household at same address. Family Membership is available to any amateur and his or her spouse and all dependants under the age of twenty-one years. Licensed amateurs under a family membership shall have the privileges of full membership;

(3) Associate Membership is available to individuals who are not fully licensed amateur radio operators but who show a genuine interest in amateur radio. Associate Membership is also available to licensed amateur radio operators who are not residents of the Regional Municipality of Niagara and who are unable to attend regular monthly meetings of the Club.