

Your  Feedline

Meeting & Memberships this Thursday Sept. 10th

FACE TO FACE CLUB MEETING

NPARC members are invited to attend the general meeting on September 10, 2020 at 7:00pm at the Niagara Regional Headquarters south parking lot. This will be an outdoor meeting, bring your chair. We need to act responsibly and follow the safety rules. We will be collecting membership dues for the coming 2020/2021 season. NPARC needs your support. Your participation is important because this will be our first meeting since March 2020. We need to plan for the coming year's activities. Stay Safe, Stay Healthy.

Henry Jarzyna VA3OV

From The Secretary's Desk

Hello All - I hope you've had a enjoyable and safe summer. It's certainly been a hot one. I'm sure ready for Fall.

We have received a thank you note from Tyler Greenwood, a student at E.L. Crossley Secondary School in Fonthill. He was the recipient of this year's NPARC bursary.

Don't forget that we need to elect our executive for the year. Since we weren't able to hold elections in June, we hope to finalize the executive at the meeting in October.

The current executive have been adapting to the unusual circumstances related to the pandemic for over five months with virtual meetings and friendship nets. Please do your best to attend the Sept. 10th outdoor meeting being held at 7pm in the Niagara Region parking lot. And please be prepared to pay your membership dues at that time. See you there!

April Lewis VE3BHG, Secretary

**VE3NRS weekly net has restarted.
Check nparc.ca for details.**

VE3XC TRACKS BIRDS IN THE WOODS

Denis Surek, VE3XC, invited fellow campers at Bissell's Hide-Away in Ridgeville to listen in as Commander Chris Cassidy aboard the International Space Station talked to American students during a fly-over of New York State on August 19th. Using the Bissell's Facebook page he sent a 2pm invitation and seven campers heard Cassidy answer questions posed by the young students. The downlink was Q5 during the pass. No attempt was made to listen to the uplink as Vestal, NY., is over 300 kilometres to the south-east. Denis has been using 'the birds' for radio contacts for several years. As a retired secondary school math teacher you could say he was the perfect guy to hold a radio demonstration class right there in the middle of the woods.



NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS

Geddie, VE3CJX, reports the following members have been contacted and agree to stand for nomination for the following NPARC executive positions for 2020 to 2021.

President: Steve Riddle VA3FLF, Vice President: Henry Jarzyna VA3OV,
Secretary: April Lewis VE3BHG, Treasurer: Clayton Mattatall VE3AUO and John Lorenc
VA3WM

Submitted by Geddie Pawlowski, member of the NPARC nominating committee.

RAC ONTARIO SOUTH ASSISTANT DIRECTOR CHANGE

Dennis Surek, VE3XC, has decided to step down from his position as RAC Assistant Director, Ontario South. We thank Dennis for his work in keeping us informed of RAC activities and developments.

Replacing Dennis will be, John Lorenc, VA3WM. John looks forward to keeping everyone apprised of RAC activities. John can be reached at VA3WM(at)RAC.CA

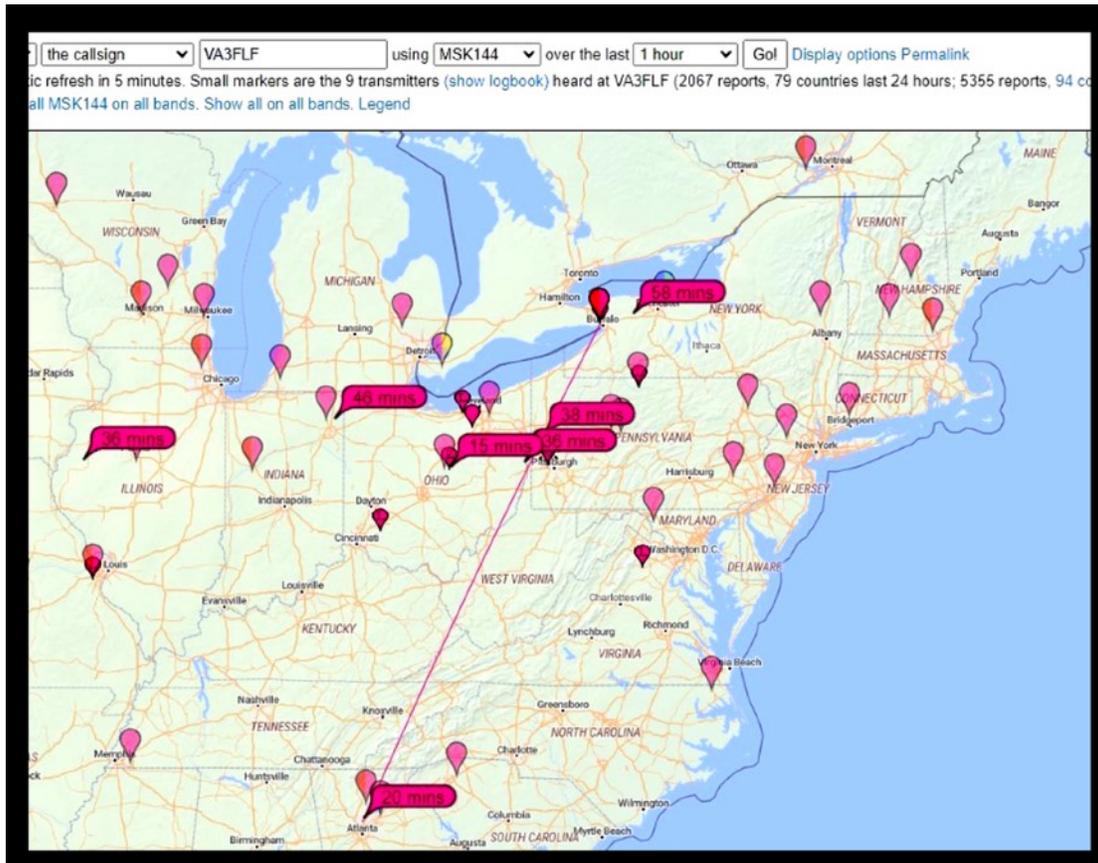
VA3FLF SPOTTED DURING METEOR SHOWER EVENT

By Steve Riddle VA3FLF

Back in January I was researching how to use a digital mode called MSK144 to reflect signals off the ionized trails of passing meteors. I participated in an online class about meteor scatter communications presented by Dana Shtun, VE3DSS, sponsored by the Rochester VHF/UHF club. With the WSJT-X MSK144 program running I heard signals on the 6 metre calling frequency but was never able to complete a contact.

Fast forward to this August and the annual Perseids Meteor Shower event. I was ready! On the morning of August 13th, I got up early and put my TS-590SG on 6 metres. As an afterthought, I decided to put my QRP FT-817 on 2 metres and connect a small 30 watt RFC amplifier. Calling CQ and listening for some time, I was about to give up all hope. Finally I saw several 2 metre signals on the laptop. I decided to answer and to my amazement I made my first scatter contact with N8AM in Ohio, about 225 miles south. A few minutes later I worked KE8FD.

I was never successful on 6 metres but 2 metres made up for it. My callsign was spotted on the PSK reporter as far as Georgia. My antenna was a small 4 element yagi on a tripod pointing south. Thanks to David, VA3DPG for his yagi. With some planning and research I was able to master a new digital mode. It doesn't take much to figure it out, so give it a try.



RAC Online Beginner's CW Course: October 2020

<https://www.rac.ca/rac-online-beginners-cw-course/>

HOMEBREW MOLSON PATIO UMBRELLA HEX BEAM

By Denis Cahill VA3ONO

So how do you create a six metre hex style beam in an afternoon? Easy if you have an old Molson Canadian patio umbrella. It can be any lightweight umbrella as long as it has only six arms and two hubs you can disassemble. Most have eight and the newer square umbrellas have just four arms.

Step 1. disassemble the plastic or wood hubs from a six arm patio umbrella saving any screws or wire rings.

Step 2. search the internet for driver and reflector dimensions. There are several sites. I cut my wires for the broad band design. The 'M' for the director, large 'U' with turned in lip, for the reflector.

Step 3. here's where you might a problem. My Molson umbrella had metal arms, painted to look like wood. I needed to butcher another umbrella to gain the longer wooden arms and hinged support pieces.

Step 4. the hardest part is reinstalling the two hubs with the spokes pointing skyward on your umbrella post.

Step 5. cut the wires to the correct length and assemble, including the spacers. Drill 1/8" holes at the end of each arm where you can slip a small cable tie to hold the wire. Place the patio umbrella in a stand so you can easily pass the wire around the arms from ground level. You should end up with equal lengths back at the centre post where you will attach the coax. I used crimp connectors to add nylon string that separates the driven from the reflector. You may want to fabricate the wire elements with string or cord the first time around. You can tighten and space the wire by sliding the bottom hub upward. There should be some play. I needed several tries to get the wire tension right. Using 16 gauge solid copper insulated wire



it was easy to keep each spreader 60° apart, true to the hex design. Your wooden arms will move around otherwise.

HAVE I LOST YOU YET?

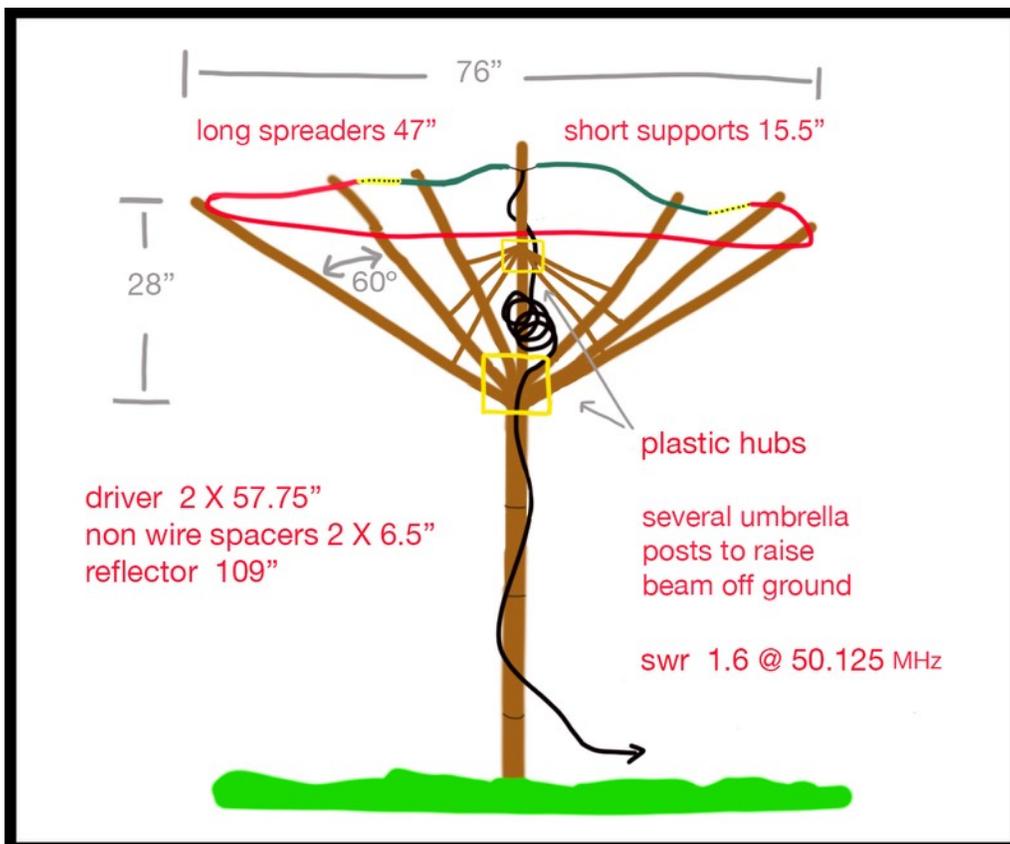
Step 6. strip back a length of coax to leave a 2" of centre wire and 2" braid. Here is were you experiment by lengthening the bare coax wire and braid to adjust the total dipole length to achieve the best SWR. My coax ended up 4' away from the centre pole

Step 7. smear silicon over the bare wire after you solder them. I added an ugly choke to the coax and a PL-259 on the end. Using a barrel connector you can extend the coax feedline to your rig.

I was very fortunate as my SWR was about under 2:1 in the SSB part of the band. (150.125MHz)

The same day I finished the project I pointed the beam east and made eight SSB voice contacts with 5 watts to Maine and Connecticut. A week later, during ARRL Field Day, I added two more to my log. There was another opening July 5th with another five contacts.

If you need help with this project please contact me. In the meantime check your neighbourhood on trash day to find a discarded 6 arm patio umbrella!



OVER 2 ME

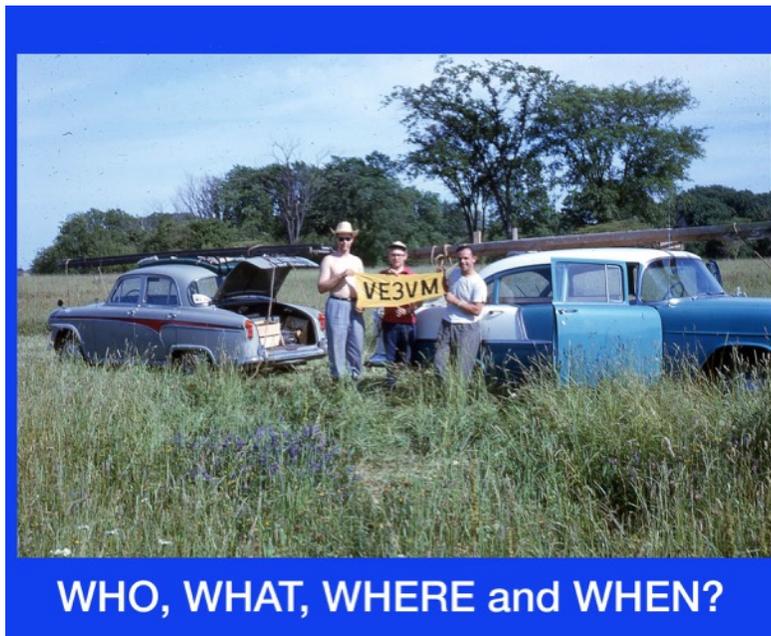
I'm rushing to finish FEEDLINE so everybody sees that we will convene a general meeting in the parking lot at the Region of Niagara headquarters on September 10th. As reported elsewhere, bring a charged HT or use your vehicle's mobile for our first 'in-person' meeting since March 12th, 2020. If the weather cooperates we will be outside our vehicles, so bring a chair and observe distancing.

A few minutes ago I spoke with Tyler Greenwood the recipient of NPARC's \$100 bursary. I actually thought we had voted to raise the bursary to \$200. Tyler graduated from E. L. Crossley in Fonthill and has been accepted at MacMaster University in their four-year engineering degree program. The 18-year-old Wellandport resident plays guitar, drums and bass guitar, often with his musical father and grandfather. He has no idea why he was chosen for the bursary but his grandmother said he's an exceptional student.

I was shocked my picture showed up on the cover and inside the TCA September magazine. I read editor Alan Griffin was looking for pictures and stories as Canadian hams were adjusting to new contesting restrictions during the Novel Coronavirus. I fired off a brief note in early July with a couple of photos showing my portable backyard QRP setup. It was David, VE3RNF, who contacted me after he opened the online version of the magazine. Thanks to Radio Nord Fenwick for his, Chapeau Monsieur, salutation. In my eight years as an amateur I wasn't really into contesting until the pandemic came along. I worked a few hours as a battery, 5-watt, phone entry during both the ARRL Field Day and RAC's Canada Day contests and submitted my logs. I was able to raise three portable PAR end-fedz antennas and my brand new hex 'style' beam, to get on five bands from our garden. It isn't hard to build a 6 metre broad band hex if you can lay your hands on a six-arm umbrella. I was lucky as I saved a couple of old patio umbrella's in my shed. So far the Molson Brewery has not contacted me to pickup my case of beer! Seriously a big shoutout to Alan Griffin, editor of The Canadian Amateur magazine for including me in the publication.



DENIS VA3ONO - FEEDLINE EDITOR and a proud Canadian!



WHO, WHAT, WHERE and WHEN?

Phil Pitman, VE3DQK, left with Dave Flarity, VE3DVE, SK and charter member, Harry Borsato, VE3BSA at the DOD gunnery range in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Field Day location mid 60's.