



Your Feedline

Virtual Zoom Club Meeting Dec. 10th. Contact us for Logistics



President's Message

I trust this month's Feedline finds all of you still healthy and safe. What year this has been. Many people are looking for a fresh start in 2021 but I believe we still have a bit of a rough ride for a few more months. We continue to see the impact of COVID in all of our lives. There appears to be some relief on the horizon so let us all be hopeful and positive.

As another successful ham radio class ends, a big shoutout to our intrepid instructors is in order. We are very fortunate to have **Kevin Smith, VA3KGS, VA3AC** and **Phil Gebhardt, VE3ACK** as our resident instructors. Congratulations to our five new hams who receive a one-year NPARC membership. A sixth person will take their exam in January. We are working on a plan to mentor all of them, creating the New Ham Academy in the new year.

This month we have **Alan Boyd, VE3AJB**, as our guest speaker for the monthly Zoom meeting. Al will be talking about Hotspots. I must admit that I am not very up to speed on the topic so I am looking forward to the presentation. Next month will be **Phil McBride, VA3QR**, our RAC Representative for Ontario South.

I am keeping it short this month and I want to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and or Happy Holidays. Please be safe and take time to do something for someone in need. It doesn't have to be a major purchase because sometimes all anyone needs is just someone to talk too.

73 **Stephen Riddle, VA3FLF**, NPARC President

Contesting Corner

There are several club members that are interested in contesting. A few are avid contesters while others just listen in and hand out points. I believe there is enough interest in contesting that we should start a monthly column in the Feedline.

The Executive recently voted to join Contest Club Ontario as **VE3VM**. There is no cost and will put NPARC contest scores under the CCO. Hopefully by joining the CCO, NPARC can begin identifying members who wish to learn more and members who can teach them required skills.

This month, we have two contest awards. **Kevin Smith, VA3AC**, was awarded winner in the CQ 160 Meter SSB Single Operator Low Power, Canada region class. The CQ WW SSB contest was held in February 2020. The link to news about the contest is here:

https://www.cq160.com/results/2020_cq160_results.pdf



Steve Riddle, VA3FLF won 1st Place QRP in the PODX070 PSK contest Triple Play Low Band Sprint that was held in November 2020. It was tough going with 5 watts on 40/80 meters.

Looking down the calendar, the next two big contests are the RAC Winter Contest on December 19th, World Wide SSB Contest January 5th and Winter Field Day January 30 and 31.

I never was interested in contesting until I caught the QRP bug at Field Day last year. I have found enjoyment and realized you need a lot of patience trying to make contacts with only a few watts. Contests have multiple categories, power levels and operating modes. You might want to begin contesting by helping log contacts. You never know how fun it might be until you try.

by Steve VA3FLF

NPARC General Meeting November 12, 2020 Minutes

Held via Zoom. Meeting called to order 7:08 pm. 17 attendees online.

Observed a moment of silence for Remembrance Day

Guest Speaker **Dana Shtun VE3DS** Meteor Scatter. Which bands and how it works.

Business Meeting Minutes of previous meeting accepted as printed in the Feedline.

Treasurer's Report

We now have 39 members and 6 students, which is still down from last year.Spring Hamfest Motion brought forward to hold a Spring Hamfest on May 15th, 2021 at the Niagara Regional Exhibition Grounds in Welland. Vote carried. All were in favour

Membership Committee

Glenn VE3NDW has created a survey to be sent out to current and former members of NPARC. Geddie VE3CJX will be contacting licensed hams in the Niagara area to promote NPARC. Being able to have virtual guest speakers enables us to have more interesting topics for meetings, which will hopefully attract more hams

Tech Nights

Henry VA3OV is planning tech nights for the new year, possibly Saturdays, because we can be there longer. He is looking for suggestions for topics. We may have to charge a \$5.00/person fee to cover the extra cleaning costs at Black Creek.

Other

Steve VA3FLF has sent out a poll to see how many people would be interested in starting a contesting group within the club.

The Round Robin net is still active.

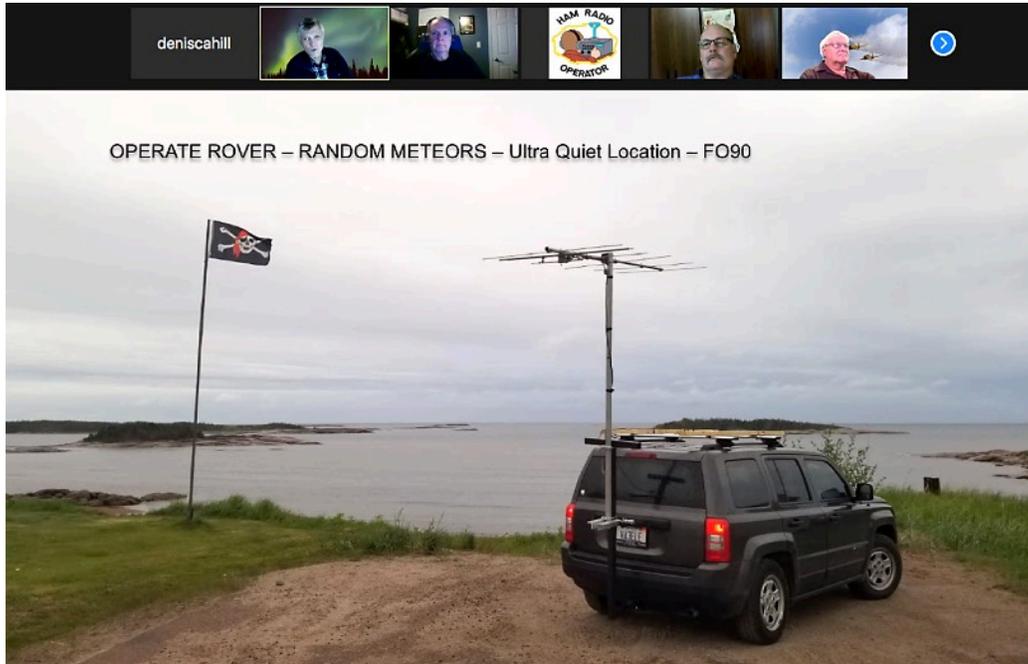
Meeting adjourned 9:30 pm

April Lewis VE3BHG Secretary



Dana Shtun, VE3DS, presenting his Meteor Scatter presentation during the NPARC's virtual Zoom club meeting, Nov. 12th.

Dana Shtun's meteor Scatter presentation included these slides. Peter, VA3ELE, parked on the eastern tip of Quebec on the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence.



Ping Jockey Central, a bulletin board for only meteor scatter discussions.

Ping Jockey Central.

Relief page	Skeds in-progress	CQ Announcements	JTSS Link
Refresh	Look back	Distance/Bearing Locator	Who's Earwigging?

This page is to be used only for the purposes of discussing matters related to amateur radio meteor scatter communications. Any non-meteor scatter use is strictly prohibited.

That means **DO NOT USE THIS PAGE TO WORK JT65 or for General chit-chat.**

Remember, in North America, 50.260MHz and 144.140MHz are calling not operating frequencies.

Exchanging any contact details on here before you're complete, invalidates the contact, and, if it's not HIGH-SPEED METEOR SCATTER, it doesn't belong here!

Enter your message here:

```

COM9M UTC
OMay 01:54 - CQ lat - 50.210 - Rxi 50.260 (KE9LLB Brad Co DM78rg 75.71.145.203)
OMay 01:54 Bud Bob calling you Zed: Good to see you here it's been a while. (W056/6/2 Brad TX DM1cl 52.128.53.7)
OMay 01:55 W056 OK BRAD CALLING U FIRST (KE9LLB Brad Co DM78rg 75.71.145.203)
OMay 01:55 crasher (W056/6/2 Brad TX DM1cl 52.128.53.7)
OMay 01:55 Some streams 100 miles NE Atlantic Chesapeake (W056/6/2 Brad TX DM1cl 52.128.53.7)
OMay 01:55 skull some vox out there Brad (W056/6/2 Brad TX DM1cl 52.128.53.7)
OMay 01:55 W056 Brad, well then I think I will call it a night not seeing anything here (KE9LLB Brad Co DM78rg 75.71.145.203)
OMay 01:49 KE9LLB looking at way Brad (W056/6/2 Brad TX DM1cl 52.128.53.7)
OMay 01:49 KE9LLB Bob (W056/6/2 Brad TX DM1cl 52.128.53.7)
OMay 01:49 KE9LLB Brad, buddy. (W056/6/2/212 Steveog TX EN10ub 70.123.153.241)
OMay 01:44 CO 2800 141-119 78877 88 08 ON OR (KE9LLB Brad Co DM78rg 75.71.145.203)
OMay 01:44 W056 Steve, Hello Steve (KE9LLB Brad Co DM78rg 75.71.145.203)
OMay 01:42 W056 Brad, So we are looking at 14109 MCT (KE9LLB Brad Co DM78rg 75.71.145.203)
OMay 01:38 CE quinta. ---08/ 8/2/222 and 23 cm --- (W056/6/2/222 Steve TX EN10ub 70.123.153.241)
OMay 01:37 END CO (W5THT Pat MS EM50K 110.3.41.90)
OMay 01:37 hebe sorry (KF1HI Mike MI DM84cb 108.99.227.104)
OMay 01:36 H1 Brad: Peak 01:05/2020 2611 UTC per Virgo (W056/6/2 Brad TX (K9BMY Mike MI EM84cb 208.99.227.104)
OMay 01:36 Peak 01:05/2020 2611 UTC per Virgo (W056/6/2 Brad TX DM1cl 52.128.53.7) (W2880 Paul NJ PR2011 173.61.15.195)
OMay 01:34 What time is peak. (KE9LLB Brad Co DM78rg 75.71.145.203)
OMay 01:33 OK Paul: too far away. (KE9LLB Mike MI DM84cb 208.99.227.104)
OMay 01:33 yes - let's try again tomorrow at wa peak (W2880 Paul NJ PR2011 173.61.15.195)
OMay 01:32 this is my first time - I'll read abt it later (W2880 Paul NJ PR2011 173.61.15.195)
OMay 01:32 not sure how stop we gave it a good try, maybe tomorrow if your around Paul (KE9LLB Mike MI EM84cb 208.99.227.104)
OMay 01:31 I am watching for some pligs here (KE9LLB Brad Co DM78rg 75.71.145.203)
OMay 01:31 seven they like 28m (KE9LLB Mike MI DM84cb 208.99.227.104)
OMay 01:31 in 6m operating (W2880 Paul NJ PR2011 173.61.15.195)
OMay 01:30 yes they are (KE9LLB Mike MI EM84cb 208.99.227.104)
OMay 01:28 pligs are very very RARE here (W2880 Paul NJ PR2011 173.61.15.195)
OMay 01:28 Hello, KD from 0552 du XE27P lat 50246 (KE9LLB Oscar WA DL52av 189.170.88.94)
OMay 01:28 I got a ping also, but did not decide (KE9LLB Mike MI DM84cb 208.99.227.104)
    
```

The Maiden Voyage of “Ham N Egg”



In June of this year I was gifted a compact Boler trailer from my good friend Bob Knechtel, I have known Bob for over 40 years. My plan for the little Boler was to fix it up for camping and also as a radio communications trailer. The Niagara Falls Santa Parade was its maiden voyage.

The Boler is 13 feet and built in 1975. It has provisions for a dinette area that makes into a cosy double bed, a front seating area that can be converted to two small bunk beds, a small refrigerator, a furnace, 2 burner stove, 3 cupboards and a closet. The focus here is small.

Into this small package I have installed a series 27 AGM battery and a 45amp switching power supply that runs through a RIGrunner [PWRgate PG40S](#). When on battery the PWR Gate supplies power to the trailer; when plugged into shore power the power supply powers the trailer through the PWR Gate and charges the battery as well. A custom mount on the rear bumper handles a 20' fiberglass mast made from stacked army surplus tent poles available from Princess Auto, The mast holds a Diamond X50 antenna for VHF/UHF communications, there are also coax connections for an HF antenna.

Communications equipment consists of a home brew go box containing an Icom IC706 MK2G radio for HF,VHF,UHF, connected to a Signalink USB sound card. This configuration lets us run voice communications, packet, Vara FM and Vara HF and other HF digital modes. A Yaesu FT-8000 Dual Band radio is configured to a Kantronics Data Engine which allows for Voice Communications on VHF/UHF, Packet and the ability to run as a digipeater. A small 200 watt power inverter is mounted above the signal link to provide power for the laptop. On a shelf above the radio stack is storage for an HP laptop and power supply, above the shelf is a drawer which contains storage for the radio microphones, pens and pencils, paperwork and a power cord. The radios are powered from a West Mountain Radio RIGrunner Powerwerx inside the box. The radios and soundcard are connected to a powered USB hub which connects to the laptop via a shielded USB cable. On the back of the go box are connections for 12 volt DC power input, 3 antenna connections and an external USB port for access to the USB hub and as a charging port for my cell phone.

Power for the go box is provided by a 10 gage power cord between the box and the trailer.

The idea behind the trailer was to be used as a command trailer in an emergency, and for communications for parades, special events, and radio events like field day, lighthouses on the air, and some camping trips. I think it will serve me well.

On Saturday November 14 2020 Niagara Falls held a unique Santa Claus parade, a parade in reverse where the parade was static and the observers were mobile. All the performers and displays were arranged down one side of Queen St and the viewers were required to drive slowly along the street to see the displays, we were told 700 cars passed by the displays.



Henry VA3OV was in charge of the radio volunteers who provided additional communications for the parade organisers, and my wife **Lynn VE3FNY** and Myself **VE3RRH** provided Net Control from our little Boler trailer. Our simplex communications were very effective with good coverage of the parade area. Our efforts were appreciated by the parade organisers.

With the trailer parked on the corner of Queen and Buckley and the NPARC Banner wrapped around one side it garnered a lot of attention for our club and our hobby.



Kevin VE3RRH

NPARC will be conducting a **Virtual New Ham Academy** in January for the newly licensed hams. If you are interested in sharing your knowledge and being a mentor to the new group, please send contact **Steve VA3FLF** at president@nparc.ca Details will be published as soon as we finish putting together our topics and set a date.

And check the NPARC.ca website for an **important survey** the club is conducting and how to link to a **virtual club meetings** over the internet.

MONTH	SPEAKER	TOPIC
DECEMBER	AL BOYD VE3AJB	HOTSPOTS
JANUARY	PHIL MCBRIDE VA3QR STEVE RIDDLE VA3FLF	RAC WFD PLANNING
FEBRUARY	BARRY LISOWESKI VE3ISX	ONTARS
MARCH		
APRIL		
MAY		
JUNE	BUSINESS MEETING YEAR END FIELD DAY PLANNING	

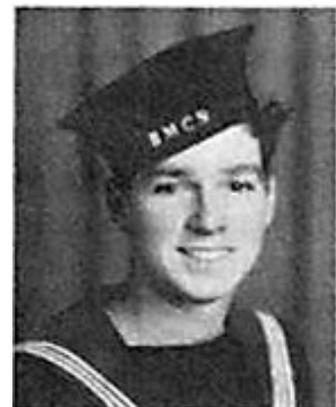
Steve Riddle, VA3FLF, President, Henry Jarzyna, VA3OV, Vice President

John Lorenc, VA3WM, Treasurer, April Lewis, VE3BHG, Secretary.

VE3NRS Club Net, Wed., 8pm 147.240MHz, + 107.2 Tone.

JOHN LESLIE VA3AL Silent Key

John, formally of Welland, passed in Edmonton, Alberta Nov. 9, 2020 at the age of 96. He enlisted in the Royal Canadian Navy in 1943 at age 19 and served on the HMCS Glace Bay on North Atlantic convey duty. He retired from the Welland County General Hospital in 1989 holding the position of stationery engineer in the maintenance department. He and his wife Mary (1991) raised two children and have three grandchildren and a great-granddaughter, Adeline of Edmonton. John was active in the Welland amateur radio club and was an auxiliary member of the Welland Police Department. Condolences can be sent to ron.leslie@dal.c



OVER TO ME

I was happy to read that NPARC past president **Kevin Smith, VA3KGS, VA3AC**, won a contesting award from CQ Magazine in 2020. He was the Canadian winner of the 160 metre in the low power SSB class. Congratulations! I recall when he was club president he kept us informed on his 160 metre, folded counterpoise wire antenna design. You'll find the plans linked to his callsign on QRZ. Kevin worked as an electrical engineer at the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority, the people who operate the Welland Canal in Niagara. Many may not realize the canal, that opened in 1932, has its own hydro electric power plant located at the base of the flight locks just inside the St. Catharines city limits. The intake penstock is above lock seven in Thorold. Maintaining the electrical infrastructure along the old 43 km waterway between Lake Ontario and Lake Erie kept him busy. Besides teaching and testing new hams, he has rejoined the workforce as an electrical engineer for a Burlington, ON., company.

So how many of us have operated on 160 metres? I haven't! Not only is Kevin operating on the low band, his signal is winning awards. I know he moved from a large lot in Fonthill years ago to rural Stevensville. Perhaps he has more room to erect low band antennas something I would love to do but live on a small city lot.

Recently I came across YouTuber, Steve, VE6WZ's videos on low-band DXing and 160 metre antenna construction. I suggest you take a look. Briefly he operates a Flex remote station, a forest of phased beverages and a circle array for low noise receiving. A 100 ft US Tower topped with yagis and surrounded by buried radials. The tower is his 160 metre antenna and is shunt fed to increase the bandwidth. Two tall vertical aluminum irrigation pipes become parasitic elements. He keeps an eye on the location, two hours north of Calgary, with eight security cameras. Take a look at his collections of videos. He admits, low-band, is his passion. And when you view his videos you can see why.

Meanwhile,,, back at my shack, I'm hoping to stretch a long wire out of my window from my MFJ Versa Tuner II during the RAC Winter Contest Dec. 19th. With any luck I'll make my first 160 metre contact. I have worked RAC Canada Day but never this contest. With C19 still around, many of us are homebound and have the time to get on the air.

https://www.rac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Canada_Winter_Contest_Rules-2020_e.pdf

Everyone please stay healthy, happy and enjoy the holidays as best you can.

Denis VA3ONO Feedline Editor