

Your Feedline

NPARC
Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Virtual ZOOM Meeting 7pm Thursday, Feb. 11th. Contact webmaster@nparc.ca

Memories of Dave Digweed SK VE3FOI January 27, 2021

Dave Digweed and I attended code and theory class taught by former board member Phil Pitman VE3DQK in 1962. Dave lived on Sherwood Ave. in St. Catharines and according to Phil had a little shed behind the garage where he had some gear and would practice morse code.



He began as a SWL with the call VE3PE5S. He was licensed in 1963. In an email Phil said, “Dave was a man of sincerity, a man doing good deeds for others, and a man always willing to share and help out.” Dave’s wife, Elaine, who was a delivery room RN at the St. Catharines General Hospital for many years told me, Dave, treated everybody with respect. He was a really down to earth type of person.

Glenn Holden, VE3CHH/VE3NDW was shocked when he heard the news. “I just heard him on the air a few weeks ago.” Glenn remembers Dave from the local RCAF air cadet squadron. They used the call sign, VE3BHF in the 60’s. They also attended the Civil Defence meetings (pre-dated ARES) on the second floor of the old fire hall on Lake St. with Dave Flarity, VE3DVE (SK). “Dave always looked on the bright side,” Glenn wrote.

Ed Blasinski, VE3ITH sent Feedline several photos from the special event station Dave put together by applying for the call sign XL3S. It was June 22, 2013, the ARRL Field Day weekend and Dave got permission to use a corner of the Laura Secord trail on the Niagara College campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake. The Friends of Laura Secord and all of Canada was celebrating the 200th anniversary of Secord’s walk during the War of 1812. It was Dave’s determination that got us the XL3S call and a front row seat on the hiker’s trail that day.

Lloyd Kubis, VE3ERQ, remembers Dave was one of the first Hams to reach out to me when he moved here from Australia. And we have maintained the contact since.

Doug Frame, VE3DJF, reminds us he worked with Dave on Canal Days, RAC and other ham related issues. “He was a real gentleman and always had a positive attitude. We will miss him.”

Kevin Smith, praises Dave as a good communicator and a true ambassador to our hobby. "He stayed in touch with us. He will be missed."

These are just a few comments I spotted on our group.io account after Dave's sudden passing.

Dave had been feeling unwell and was in the St. Catharines hospital undergoing tests when he passed. Please visit the Tallman Funeral Home site to read his obituary and leave a comment if you wish. www.tallmanfuneralhomes.ca

Dave held many NPARC executive positions over the years and earned himself the title of Life Member. Another valuable life member, Jim Thompson, VE3BCA, commented in his 1948 to 2008 History of NPARC, Dave was a young fellow who became a very solid member of the club. And he was a RAC QSL card sorter for many years. Looking back through Jim's history, Dave's name appears many times in the past executive category. As president, vice president, treasurer, publicity, call custodian, emergency coordinator and probably a few other posts.

In 2009 when I thinking of becoming a ham, Dave's eagle eye spotted me at the Big Event flea market. I bought the radio he suggested. I was pleased Dave kept in touch with me after I was licensed and joined the club. At that point he had been a ham for 50 years and I was just starting.

He was a man of Faith and enjoyed many years interaction with the Salvation Army and their emergency radio net.

Let's give Dave have the final word. Something he wrote recently and posted on his VE3FOI QRZ page.

I want to thank the Niagara Peninsula ARC and its wonderful Elmers back in the early 60's for helping a few of us to get our ticket. The Elmers (SK's now) Howard Cowling, VE3WT, Percy Foley VE3JZ, Cy Williamson VE3TW, my CW coach and still active Phil Pitman, VE3DQK. I've seen lots of changes to the hobby, keeps one mind active with all the new computer aided additions to rigs, etc. My new "Whiz Kid" helper is Brad, VE3XNC. He helps me with my remote operation via HRD. Boy O Boy, what are they going to think of next! Pse, QSL, via direct, bureau, EQSL..Always like the real paper QSL's. Haven't tossed any out in 50 years, Hi.

Thanks Dave Digweed, VE3FOI (SK) for your years of service from all the your friends at the Niagara Peninsula Radio Club past and present.

[Denis Cahill VA3ONO Feedline Editor](#)

President's Message

Sadly, we are here again honouring the passing of another NPARC member. We lost David Digweed, VE3FOI, just a few days ago. David was a Life Member of NPARC. I had just received an email from David a couple of weeks before his passing. David was most gracious about the direction of club, the executive and his fondness of NPARC. David also was our QSL manager. He will be greatly missed by all of us.

It is hard to move on from such bad news but we have had a very successful month at NPARC. We are staying busy and engaged despite the restrictions we endure due to the COVID pandemic. We just completed the Winter Field Day contest. We had 18 participants working the contest from their own QTH's. We had a 2 meter net so participants could keep in contact with each other. It was fun and a very timely event to break the doldrums of winter. There is a full report later in the Feedline.

Our new hams completed a condensed session of a "New Ham Academy." We held the academy on Saturday January the 16th via Zoom. All of our new ham class graduates attended and we had a couple of extra students to sit in also. I want to thank John VA3WM, Kevin VE3RRH, Mark VA3BGL, and Henry VA3OV for helping me conduct the classes for the group. We are going to schedule another session sometime later in February to cover the topics we could not finish.

Barry Lisoweski, VE3ISX from ONTARS will be our guest speaker at this month's virtual Zoom meeting. Barry also has experience in remote station operations which one of the ideas for club down the road for our shut ins and those who are without the availability of amateur equipment.

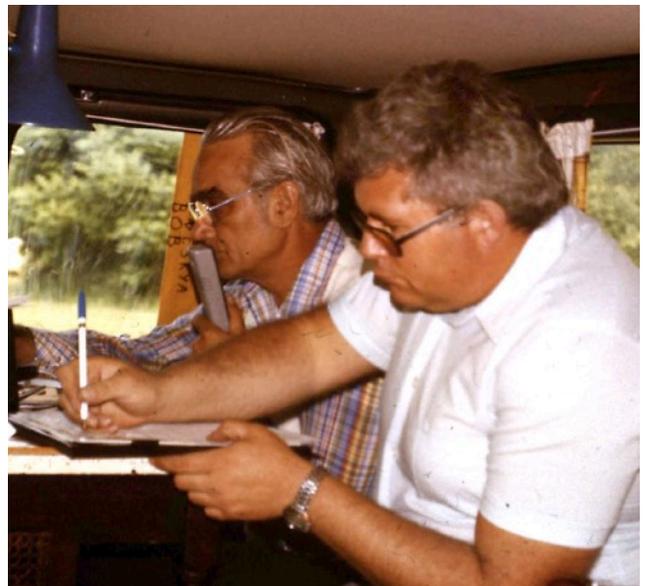
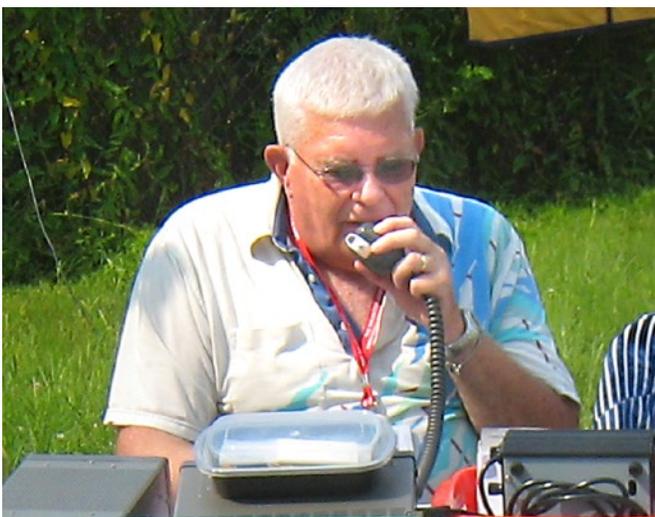
Plans for the rest of the club year are in a state of flux. We still do not know for sure if we can hold the May Hamfest in Welland. We are going to have to make a decision next month whether to go forward. It is not looking good right now but we will keep you informed. I am hoping that we will at least be able to have an in person outdoor general meetings in May and June.

We have not had a Public Relations Officer since the passing of John Eagle. We are now at a point where the membership committee has come up with some ideas for outreach to media and the possibility of public events starting again. We really need a Public Relations Officer. This position is the NPARC representative to external agencies, such as government entities, newspapers, radio, and working with the Executive about outreach and growing our club. If you are interested in serving in the position, please contact me, Glenn or Geddie, who are our current nominating committee.

Thanks to all the members for persevering. We are trying to keep things busy with radio nets, special events, contests, and tech nights which will be starting back up very soon. If you are not a member of the groups.io (NPARC Reflector) please join up. We share club and ham radio news daily.

Steve Riddle VA3FLF President

Dave SK VE3FOI



NPARC General Meeting Minutes January 14, 2021

Zoom meeting called to order 7:05 pm with 22 in attendance.

An opportunity was given for members to share memories of SK Denis Grantham VE3KVE, and a moment of silence was observed. Denis's memorial service will be held via Zoom on Saturday, January 16th at 1:00 pm. All are welcome. The obituary, which can be accessed from the NPARC web page, has a link to the service.

Announcements

New Ham Academy January 16, starting at 9:15 am

Congratulations to Ham of the Year, Denis Cahill, VA3ONO

Winter Field Day 2:00 pm EST January 30 to 2:00 pm EST January 31

Spring Hamfest tentatively May 15, 2021, depending on COVID status.

The Membership Committee is preparing a presentation for the February meeting.

Presentation

Phil McBride, VA3QR, a Director of RAC and Training Officer for CFARS, gave a presentation on the state of Amateur Radio in Canada. He stated that the hobby is growing. He also described some of the undertakings of RAC, including ham classes and examinations.

Other Business

The virtual breakfast meeting is happening every first and third Tuesday of the month at 9:00 am. Minutes from the last general meeting were accepted as printed in the Feedline.

Treasurer's report was given and accepted.

Winter Field Day has the same rules as regular Field Day. Individuals participate on their own as Indoor, Outdoor, or Home. Logs can be submitted to Winter Field day Association with the club name included for an aggregate club score. There will be a prize of one \$150 gift card for Radio World. Contact Steve Riddle VA3FLF if you would like to participate. There will be a planning meeting a few days beforehand.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20pm

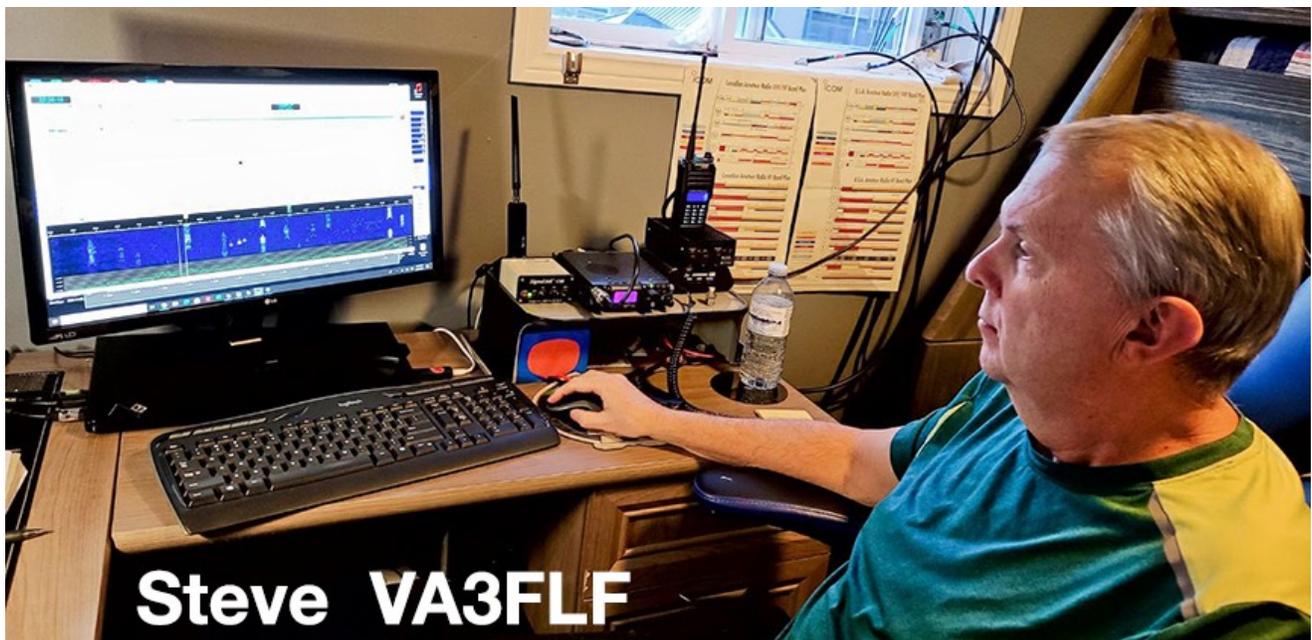
April Lewis VE3BHG Secretary

Winter Field Day Contest 2021

NPARC members played radio January 30th and 31st. Due to Covid restrictions clubs were able to combine their points. Denis VA3ONO spent several hours in a makeshift tent while the rest were warm inside their homes. Rick, VE3MM, entered the 'inside' category which meant he was not in his shack. Like the ARRL Field Day contest folks running portable could not erect antennas sooner than the previous day. The RAF repeater was put to use to link all participants. Jack, VE3ZPW and David, VE3RNF were net control. Several photos appear on pages 7 and 8.

The gold spots indicates the top five point earners.

2020 NPARC WINTER FIELD DAY PARTICIPANTS				
NAME	CALL	LOCATION	CATEGORY	MISC
Denis Surek	VE3XC	Welland	● 1H	
Steve Riddle	VA3FLF	Fort Erie	● 1H	QRP / Battery power
Rick Stasiak	VE3MM	St. Cath	● 1I	Away from home
Ken Gansel	VA3KWG	NOTL	1H	
Henry Jaryza	VA3OV	St. Cath	1H	
Glen / Geddie	VE3NDW	St. Cath	1H	
Garvin Cole	VE3GCZ	Port Colborne	1H	
Doug Frame	VE3JDF	Port Colborne	1H	
John Lorenc	VE3WM	NOTL	1H	QRP
Kevin Lemon	VE3FNY	Welland	1H	
Lynn Lemon		Welland		
Denis Cahill	VA3ONO	St. Cath	● 1O	Outdoors/Battery
Terry Talbot	VE3TOB	Stevensville	● 1H	
Erick Tuin	VA3ETN	Dunnville	1H	
David Van Koughnett	VE3DVK	Fort Erie	1H	
NET CONTROL				
NAME	CALL	LOCATION	CATEGORY	MISC
Jack Benes	VE3ZPW	Thorold	1H	Net Control / WFD
David Jarman	VE3RNF	Fenwick	1H	Net Control / WFD





HOW TO WORK THE WORLD IN 48 HOURS OR MAYBE A BIT LONGER

By Kevin Lemon VE3RRH

I have always enjoyed the challenge of talking to people in far away places, first into the other provinces of Canada and then into the USA and beyond. I started with a modest radio set up and a vertical antenna on the chimney of my parent's house then graduating to a tower and a yagii on my own house after getting married.

At that time I was limited to 25 watts and a few channels, but it didn't stop me from talking to people all over the world, back then the air waves were full of stations and the night time was prime time for DX.

In 1990 I finally got my Amateur License, the theory was easy enough, I had been into electronics since I was 10 years old, but the requirement for CW held me back. It took a year of study and 6 tries to finally pass my 12 wpm to get my license, then I had to spend 6 months and log a number of stations on CW before I could get access to the rest of the bands, it was a long and difficult journey for me. But I made it, and 2 years later I got my advanced.

As soon as I was allowed to use voice on the bands I was off and running.

My first real contest station was a Ten Tec Corsair and the external VFO, I had saved for about 6 months to buy it. For an antenna I was using the proverbial G5RV strung across my back yard. My first Contest was the ARRL International SSB contest in 1991, I worked for 20 of the 48 hours and made about 100 contacts, I was using a logging program by K1EA at the time, and I sent my log into the ARRL. The next contest was the CQWW DX SSB contest in March of 1991. I had upgraded my antenna to a multi element dipole, and I now had an Elmer, Barry VE3ZD was coaching me, in fact we were working contests and DX together and competing against each other.

In the summer of 1991 I installed a 40ft tower and 3 element TH33 Jr along with my wire dipole, I also added an inverted L antenna for 160, I was ready for another year of contests. Contesting and DX will drive you to learn how to operate your radio, and fine tune antennas, the antenna like a speaker on a stereo will make or break your ability to hear signals and make contacts.

In the CQWW SSB contest in 1992, I posted 618,748 points using the K1EA program and came in First in Ontario, single op, low power. My Wife Lynn VE3FNY won First in Ontario in the CQWW WPX SSB Contest single op low power in 1994, 3 years after she got her license, using the same station as me.

SO What DO You Need To Work The World:

You do not need a huge contest station like VE3EJ, or K1EA, K1AR.

You need:

- 1) an HF Rig,
- 2) an Antenna capable of supporting the HF bands
- 3) Information on how to contest, and or a mentor
- 4) Drive and determination
- 5) the willingness to learn from failure and mistakes.
- 6) And to love the thrill of winning.
- 7)

HF Rig:

A multi thousand dollar radio with all the bells and whistles would be a great rig to play with but if I could afford that I'd buy a new truck., I started with a pair of Kenwood 599 Twins that I bought when I first got licensed, they were old, basic, and not very good at separating signals, but I was on the air. I later upgraded to a Yaesu FT107M and then bought my first real contest radio a Ten Tec Corsair, it cost me \$1000 in 1992 and took 6 months to afford it, Since then I have used many different kinds of radios but I have yet to run a very high end rig. My go to contest radio is a Yaesu FT450, my backup rig is a Yaesu FT900, They are reasonably inexpensive, and easy to operate, they also work well.

Antennas:

Any antenna will work better than no antenna.

Do not frown on wire dipole antennas, those shiny expensive chunks of aluminum are nothing more than wire antennas with better packaging.

A wire antenna represents a 1/2 wave antenna and for the most part is very efficient at putting signals into the air, they are also easy to build, reasonably easy to put into the air, and work well. I have worked all over the world on pieces of wire strung across my yard. Yes a 40 – 90 ft tower is great, and a multi element antenna will do wonders but that takes cubic dollars and an understanding spouse. Start small, but start. Experiment, don't buy one, try building one, you can buy a lot of wire for the price of a store bought wire antenna, I use 14 gauge plastic coated wire in red or blue, if you get it high enough it almost disappears from sight.

Information:

An Elmer is a great asset if you want to learn Contesting, or DXing, if you can find one, great, be a sponge learn as much as you can.

As well as an Elmer, get on the internet, look for books, read, listen to You Tube, and ask questions. I learned a lot of my operating skills first from a fun to read book called DX POWER, Effective Techniques for Radio Amateurs by Eugene B. Tilton, it still appears to be in print for around \$30, don't look on Amazon their prices are crazy.

I was also blessed with an Elmer, VE3ZD, who was experienced in contesting. We worked DX together and some contests, while chatting on 2 metre simplex, that was a great time.

Research on the internet will get you all kinds of tips and tricks for operating as well as designs for a large assortment of antennas, and tips on station layout.

Drive and Determination:

This goes pretty much without saying, you have to be willing to work at this hobby to get anything out of it, Our hobby is an education and a learning experience.

The willingness to learn from failures and mistakes.

It is said we learn from our mistakes....I should be a genius by now.

Don't get discouraged when things don't work, keep trying, keep trying, keep trying. Our greatest thinkers and doers all made mistakes at some time, they just kept going.

The Thrill of Victory:

You will experience it, and it makes the hard work so worth it.

I have had many victories in this hobby, my biggest joy is busting through a huge pileup to work a DX station.

I worked Antarctica during a contest, while everyone was beamed North to work Japan on 15 meters, I heard and hunted down a weak signal only to find an operator at Byrd Station Antarctica calling CQ, we had a great QSO before I announced him to the rest of the world.

My Wife spoke with King Hussain of Jordan, that was quite the thrill. My kids have talked with 2 astronauts on the space station, and the list goes on. I have finally worked all the states on FT8, and also all of Canada on FT8.

One of the greatest thrills is seeing your callsign listed in the contest statistics in magazines like CQ, RAC, and the ARRL. I still have every magazine my callsign appears in.

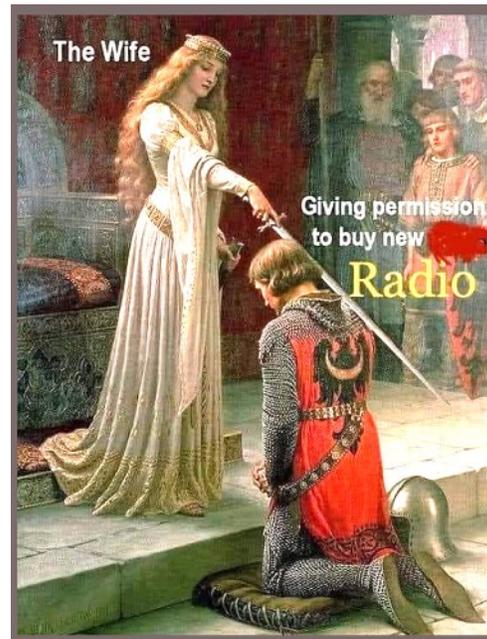
So How do you work the world in 48 hours?

By taking part in a contest, especially HF contesting, you can spend hours turning a VFO knob looking for that distant station, but in a contest, they are looking for you. As the world turns and the sun shines on different parts of the world the propagation will change and let them be heard, and worked. In a contest nearly every country big or small can be found at some time or another. It just takes practice and patience but it is doable, and all with 100 watts or less. Try, you might just like it.

**I have some tips and tricks to share...but thats for another time.
Put your name in to the NPARC pool for contesting, I'll be there,
as will others, and we will all help your learn. Kevin VE3RRH**

ZOOM VIRTUAL CLUB MEETING SPEAKERS

Feb. 11	Barry Lisoweski VE3ISX	ONTARS, Remote Operation
March 11	Phil Gebhardt VE3ACK	Meteor Scatter Operations
	Glenn Holden VE3NDX	Membership Report
April 8	TBD	Raspberry Pi & Ham Radio
May 13	TBD	
June 10	Field Day Prep, Last Business Meeting Until Sept. 9th.	



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.

Membership information available at nparc.ca

9AM ZOOM BREAKFAST MEETING FEB. 16TH



sit back & relax. bring a coffee and a donut.
talk or just listen. [webmaster\(at\)nparc.ca](mailto:webmaster@nparc.ca) for zoom invite.

INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

Dennis, VE3XC, informed club members via groups io email about an ARISS Multiport Telebridge International Space Station event Friday, Feb. 5th. With a 2 metre radio you monitor the downlink conversation in Niagara for about 9 minutes on 145.800 FM. The lucky children were from an Ottawa, Ontario grade school that were holding virtual home learning sessions. You can watch the entire event as captured for YouTube.

<https://youtu.be/Ery1JYmk72o>

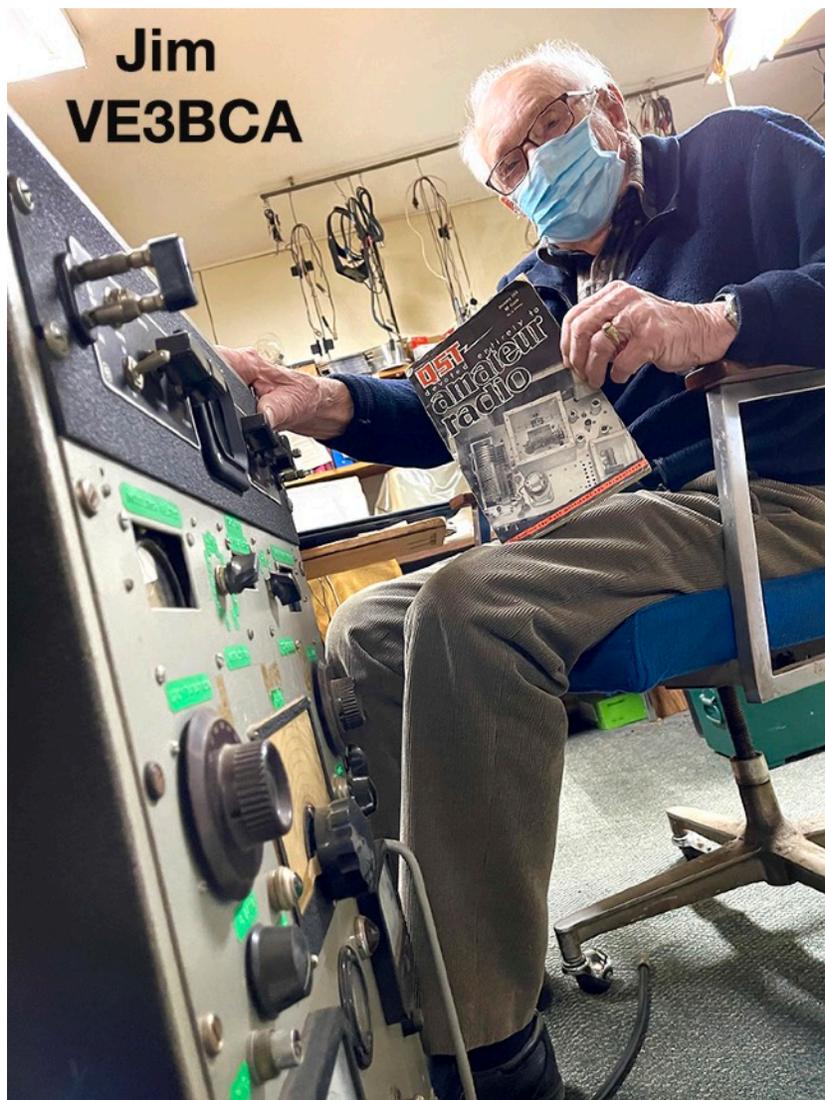
JIM THOMPSON VE3BCA NEARS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Jim, VE3BCA, one of two living charter members of NPARC was licensed in 1947, the year before the Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club created. Jim has held many executive positions over the years and was still driving to general meetings until Covid 19 hit the world in March 2020.

It was in 1954 Jim spotted an article in January QST and turned his hand at building a 500 watt VFO controlled AM/CW multi band transmitter receiver. The massive radio still sits in its wonderful stained wooden cabinet in his basement shack. The chassis is on rollers but requires muscle power to move in and out. Looking around Jim's shack, you see past and present ham gear. A workbench with parts drawers and test equipment. A newer Yaesu rig and a large screen TV where Jim says he can relax and watch TV in the evenings. Over on the stone wall thick coax cables find their way out of the hand dug basement.

He and his late wife Edra built a magnificent home on the Niagara escarpment above Vineland in the 1960's. When Jim wanted a private 'man cave', he cut through a basement wall and built an entirely new room by chiseling out the bedrock. Heavy stones were smashed and wheeled away. A new foundation had to be poured.

Jim's wife passed away in December 2017. She was a teacher, school principal, writer, etc., etc. She was a very gifted individual. They were married on the University of Toronto campus and shared 66 years together. Jim is an avid reader, gets out to pickup groceries and can often be heard chatting on the VE3RAF repeater in the morning. Give VE3BCA a call. His hand-held is usual on 145.190MHz.



OVER TO ME

Operating outdoors at -4°C. Why was I so brave?

Elsewhere in this newsletter you have discovered I was the lone survivor volunteering to operate Winter Field Day in the great outdoors.

Now here's the check list I needed to pull this off. Small all-band, all-mode radio. My FT-857D. A solar panel and two large lead acid batteries. Portable antennas, coax cables and telescopic poles. Several PAR end-fed antennas and a home-brew 6 metre hex-beam. I had all these things.

Now for the all important shelter! I didn't have a tent so had to fabricate a shelter out of a painter's pole and old construction tarps.

What I ended up with was a pup tent that was just 40" high and 30" wide. To enter, I crawled in after pulling an old blanket to one side. Only room for a child's table and chair inside. I thought some warmth could be provide by a bathroom heat lamp but discovered there was no safe place to clip the lamp without melting me or the tent.

Setting up my end-fed antenna farm using fibreglass poles required removing gloves, climbing a ladder and putting bungee cords in trees. When a piece of coax failed to respond to RF, more gloves off and more climbing was required.

The radio part of this experiment worked out well. It was the first time I ever used a my Heil Micro-Mini headset with the FT-857D. Without a foot switch I was forced to Macgyver an old SpeedX straight key to act as my PTT. I used a paper log to record 51 phone contacts, most on 40 and 20 metres. I only weathered about six of the 24 hours in the tent. Not having 80 metres meant no overnight camping when the temperature would be even lower.

The week of planning and setup was a great diversion since the total Ontario wide Covid19 lockdown. Getting outside in January in Ontario was very refreshing!

Denis Cahill VA3ONO - Feedline editor



REMEMBER, TUESDAY, FEB. 16th

9AM ZOOM BREAKFAST MEETING FEB. 16TH



**sit back & relax. bring a coffee and a donut.
talk or just listen. [webmaster\(at\)nparc.ca](mailto:webmaster@nparc.ca) for zoom invite.**