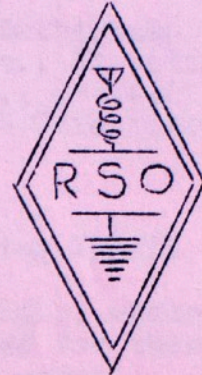
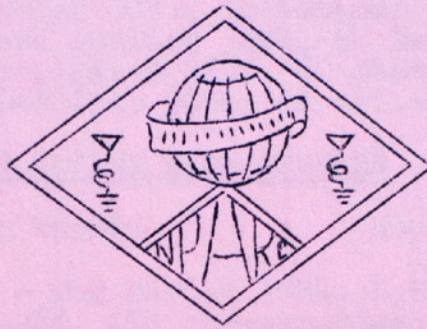
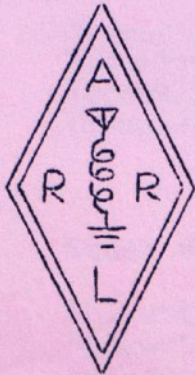


FEED LINE



VE3VM

NIAGARA PENINSULA

AMATEUR

RADIO CLUB

BULLETIN



Feedline

Virtual Zoom Club Meeting April 8th. Contact us for Logistics

Thanks to Glenn Wyant, VA3DX, for sharing his collection of 55-year-old Feed Line newsletters. Right off the top, it appears, Feed Line, was two words back in 1965. And the publication was called a bulletin. Glen was a SWL in those days and was issued call VE3PE2GE by Popular Electronics magazine. It was not unusual for Hams to come from the ranks of Shortwave Listeners which Glenn did months later. Remember, until the birth of cable TV, cellphones and the internet, the radio bands between regular AM commercial broadcasts up to 30MHz was a very worldly place. Popular Electronics encouraged the SWL hobby by offering DX certificates. But first you needed to register as a WPE shortwave monitor and receive your official callsign from the magazine.

At the back of our April newsletter I've included the rest of the April 1965 Feed Line. It makes for some very interesting reading. Because the VA3 prefix did not exist you'll notice the 'VE' is often dropped and club members are referred to as just, Ed Welch 3CBG. Approximately 65 people attend the March 1965 meeting. Some were visitors from New York State. And the club's bank balance was a tidy \$400 back in those days.

More of the old Feed Lines from the 60's will be republished here.

President's Message

I am writing this month's message while wrapping up my trip south. I should be back before the monthly meeting on Thursday. It has been a busy trip taking care of family issues but I was fortunate to receive my COVID vaccination on this trip into the United States.

We have learned of the passing of a former NPARC member and Club President. Ronald Robson, VA3DXN, became a Silent Key in February after a long illness. I was not a member when Ron was in the club but he will be missed by many of the members.

I brought my FT817ND with me and was able to have a few evenings of HF QRP operations. I worked some DX stations on 15 Metres and also a couple of NPARC members on 40 Metres running FT8. I used my PAR End Fed 20/40 and powered my station using a Bioenno 1215 battery. Some of my DX stations were Argentina, Dominican Republic, and Cuba, all on flea power of 5 watts. I have really gotten the QRP bug.

With the continued uncertainty of restrictions from the government, the Executive decided that we will conduct Summer Field Day the same method as last year. Each participant will conduct field day at their own QTH's and will upload their individual scores as NPARC Club aggregate score. We will

conduct a drawing for another prize for participants. Our goal will be to beat last year's score (8400 points). We can do that, no problem.

We have been asked to assist the City of Niagara Falls with the Canada Day Parade. The current plan is to conduct a drive through parade in the same manner of the Santa Claus Parade. More to follow as it gets closer but we will need volunteers.

This month's guest speaker is Zack Thompson, KM4BLG. Zach will be sharing a presentation on Raspberry Pi introduction and its use in Amateur Radio. I am looking forward to seeing everyone this week. For the last couple of meetings after we adjourn, several members have stuck around and we had some social time chatting about various topics. It has resembled the post meeting discussions we had at the Regional Building. The good part is that housekeeping doesn't have to chase us out.

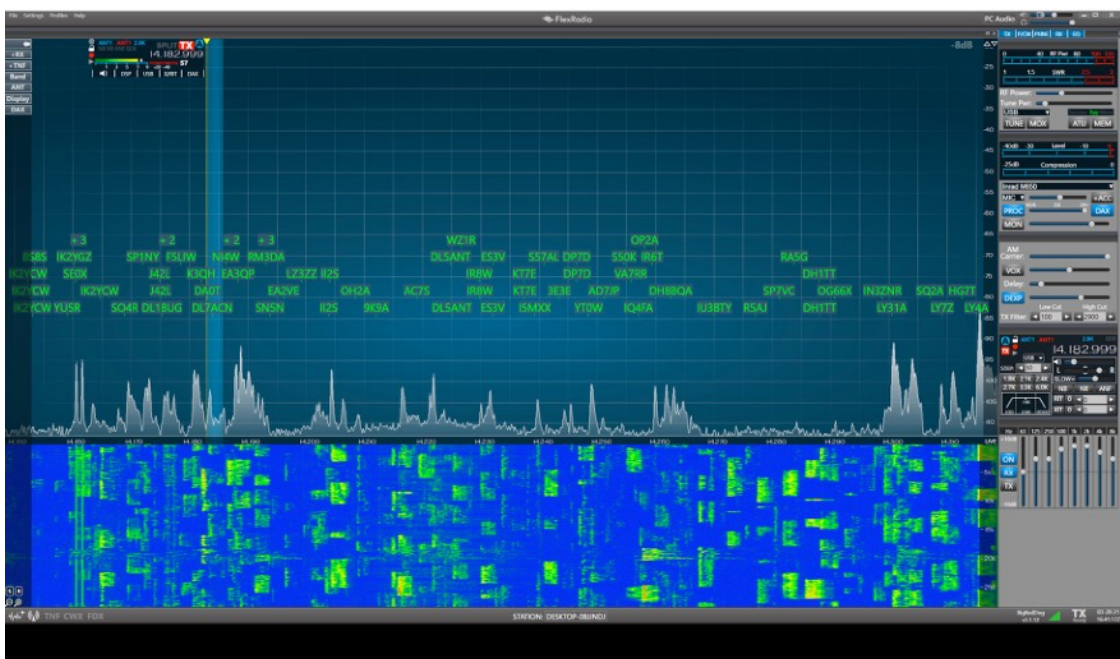
The Executive and myself are all committed to keeping the club activities going during the pandemic and restrictions. We will continue to have great guest speakers for our monthly meetings, Radio Nets, ARES activities, new ham classes, biweekly Zoom breakfast and other new activities. We are looking forward to local fox hunting, NVIS Antenna design and ARES Exercises. I am still hopeful that we can have our annual June meeting in person.

I hope to see you this week.

73 Stephen Riddle, VA3FLF, NPARC President

Contesting Corner

Some contest rules are being adapted to allow for participants to be assisted by DX cluster apps. I submitted a log for the recent CQ WPX SSB contest and clicked the 'assisted' box to be legal.



While I only made 35 contacts that weekend, Sunday during the last two hours, I used the cluster app to chase down several prefixes I could use as multipliers.

Gary, VE3DZP, was kind enough to send me a screen shot taken during the contest of his Flex 6600M's waterfall. Notice the integrated callsigns about the signal. I gather this is why contest rules are being modernized. SDR radios have the ability to display spots on a wide band waterfall in real time.

April 2021 has a number of interesting US State QSO parties. Our Ontario QSO Party is April 17 and 18. The Israeli Amateur Club's Holyland DX Contest is April 16 and 17. CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31.

Denis VA3ONO

NPARC General Meeting March 11, 2021 Minutes

Held via Zoom, called to order 7:07 pm, 25 in attendance

Announcements

We will be unable to hold a Spring Hamfest this year because the Niagara Regional Exhibition Grounds has decided not to host any events before June 2021 due to COVID.

The New Ham Academy was wrapped up with two Zoom sessions.

The next New Ham Academy will be held in three parts. An introductory seminar, new ham classes, and then an advanced class to help new hams get their shacks set up. It will be conducted in late summer, but no date has yet been set.

Field Day 2021 will be under the same rules as last year. Hams can work from home if they choose, and aggregate club scores will be tabulated by ARRL. Power will be limited to 150 watts. Scores for Winter Field Day are still being tabulated.

Kevin Lemon VE3RRH published an article in the Feedline about contesting. Please remember to check it out.

The biweekly Zoom breakfast will be held this Tuesday March 16, 2021 at 9:00 am.

The 40M HF Net has been difficult due to rough band conditions.

Presentation

Phil Gebhardt VE3ACK gave a presentation on meteor scatter and radio transmission. Contact Phil if you would be interested in learning more.

New Business

Minutes of the February meeting accepted as printed in the Feedline.

Treasurer's Report accepted as presented.

The next ARES meeting will be March 17th at 7:00 pm. There will be a virtual Tech Night after the meeting. Send an email to Henry va3ov@bell.net to suggest topics.

Steve VA3FLF has purchased a 2M transmitter for fox hunting. The topic of fox hunts will be covered in a future meeting.

Membership Committee

Introduction cards can be printed by Vistaprint at a cost of \$120.00 for 500. An ad campaign in the local papers would cost \$275.00 to \$300.00 for 30 days. This can be used to advertise the Introductory Demo.

June Election

We require at the minimum nominations for a Public Relations Officer, a Secretary, and a Vice President for the new year. Please bring forward any nominations at the April meeting for publication in the May Feedline. Contact Geddie VE3CJX or Glenn VE3NDW with names.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm

April Lewis VE3BHG Secretary

VE3NRS CLUB NET, WED., 8PM 147.240MHZ, + 107.2 TONE

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

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

NIAGARA ARES

April is finally here but the Provincial shutdown is somewhat spoiling our Spring expectations. We need to be patient and remain safe for a while longer.

We are working on some Winlink training exercises in preparation for the American Red Cross and Winlink exercise on May 8th. Details will follow.

General meeting of the Niagara ARES will be on Wednesday 21, 2021 at 1900 on ZOOM. We will conduct some Winlink training and exercises covering VHF and HF mode after the meeting.

Henry Jarzyna VA3OV, Group Coordinator Niagara ARES
Certified Emergency Coordinator
va3ov@bell.net

NPARC MEETINGS - An informal Zoom get-together follows each meeting.

April 8th guest speaker Zach Thompson KD4BLG, raspberry pi & ham radio.


Tech Night after Niagara ARES meeting April 14th on the VE3RAF repeater.

May 13th guest speaker TBA - Topic, Fox Hunting with directional antennas.

June 10th Annual General Meeting and Field Day planning.

NPARC NEW EXECUTIVES

Members are reminded a new slate of club officers need to be in place when we reconvene in September 2021. Our nominating committee, Glenn VE3NDW and Geddie, VE3 will be calling you this spring and asking you if you are able to serve on the executive board. In addition we need an outgoing person to be the Public Relations Manager. This is a great opportunity for a person to enhance their people skills as they deal with agencies, the media and governments across Niagara.



STILL OWNS FIRST RIG

The last letters of this ham's first call were QZP and this is what remains of their first transmitter, a model 65A, Globe Scout.

Used from 1975 to 1978, would you like to guess who we are talking about?

Answer: Steve VA3FLF

OVER TO ME

Get Ready For E-Skip Season

As the temperatures warm and the sun returns to the Northern Hemisphere, you should start planning for the annual six metre tropo season. Some refer to six metres as the 'Magic Band'. I call it the Hurry Up & Wait Band. The E-Skip season starts each year in May and runs through July. There is also a small window possible in December. If the E-layer cooperates, conditions across the 50-54MHz amateur band will allow some very long distance communications considering it's part of the VHF low band. The caveat is you never know when or for how long conditions will be ripe.

I think many hams are unaware how much fun six metres can be. Remember, besides SSB, there are portions of the band to accommodate, CW, Digital and FM modes.

There are some tricks you can use to spot band openings. The best one is to dedicate one receiver in the shack to listen on 50.125MHz USB. I actually considered doing this using a baby monitor. I thought I would hear voices through the portable monitor and know when to head to the shack. Unfortunately our old baby monitor wasn't working. I will keep a look out for a used one at a charity shop. I was told people use radio scanners that have the CB AM band to determine if long distance skip is taking place. The same skip can affect ten metres and possibly six metres at the same time. Another more modern way is to install a dx cluster app on your smart phone. There are two that I use. iDX and DX Spots. I'll check my iPhone and once the band opens watch for nearby call signs and hope you can drop everything and get on six.

There are a myriad of antenna choices for 6 metres. I have a portable Buddipole that I can transform into a simple rigid dipole, use it as a vertical or a 2-element beam. In my attic my PAR half wave end-fed is taped to a Walmart telescopic fishing pole and suspended horizontally. And I built a 6 metre hex beam from a wooden patio umbrella that's got my SSB signal into the east coast of the United States last summer. Dan VA3DO, passed along a Ringo AR-6 vertical that I need to set it up.

I'm hoping your HF rig covers six metres and for few dollars you could solder up a wire dipole as it only needs to be a bit over 9 feet in length. Glue some small diameter PVC pipe together with a T joint in the centre and place the wire inside. Hang it in a window or outside in a tree. You'll be amazed how easy it is to make contact six metres when the magic E-Layer gods come alive.

Let me know how you make out.

Denis VA3ONO Feedline Editor

BACK IN THE DAY.....



..... WHEN THE PENTIUM 4 RULED!

APRIL 2021 - A New 28 Day Lockdown



-- NIAGARA PENINSULA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB --

VE3VM

-- FEED LINE --

APRIL 1965

-- MEMBERSHIP RATES --

- FULL MEMBERSHIP (AMATEUR) - \$4.00 (incl. RSO Fee)
- SWL MEMBERSHIP - \$2.00
- BULLETIN MEMBERSHIP - \$1.00 (by invitation only)

N.P.A.R.C. EXECUTIVE

- President - Ed Welch 3CBG, 18 Admiral Rd., St.Catharines.
- Vice-Pres - Howard Cowling 3BTI, 64 Dunkeld Ave., St.Cath.
- Secretary - Dave Digweed 3FOI, 80 Sherwood Ave., St.Cath.
- Treasurer - Ed LaPointe 3CWQ, 62 Valley Rd., St.Catharines.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Ethel Williamson VE3DTW Howard Cowling VE3BTI

Bulletin Editor - Rog Harley 3CEG, R.R.1, Fonthill. Phone Ridgeville 892-3386. All correspondence intended for this bulletin should be mailed to the editor at the above address and must be received by the first of the month to be included in that month's paper.

N.P.A.R.C. MAILING ADDRESS - P.O.BOX 692, ST.CATHARINES.

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APRIL MEETING - On Friday night, April 9th, at 8:00 pm sharp the regular monthly meeting of the NPARC will get under way. The location for all this revelry will be, as usual, at the EMO Building, 113 Eake St., St.Catharines. Our speaker for the evening will be the well known Rowland Beardow VE3AML. Rowland's topic will be "Facets of Amateur Radio." He is the Chairman of the Public Relations Committee of the RSO, active in AREC and his voice is well known on 75 around Ontario Phone Net time. Rowland is one of those Hams who spend a good deal of their time in and for Amateur Radio. We are all, I'm sure, looking forward to meeting him in person and listening to his remarks come the 9th. We should have a full house at this coming "do" for the exec has received word that there will be a representative contingent, approx. twenty, from the N.F.N.Y. club coming for a visit. What with all the new SWL members we have acquired, we are going to be using every available chair. There will probably be a little business to bring before you, and a very surprising treasurer's report. We are making sure that there will be coffee and donuts this month, Johnny was sick last time, and there will be some "Call Book" door prizes. Sounds to me like a real "fun" evening. Come on out, meet all our guests, enjoy yourself. BCNU there.

The Last Meeting - of the NPARC was held on Friday, March 12th. There was very little business. There were plenty of guests, among whom was Ed W2JUV from Lewiston N.Y. Ed took some pictures of the gathering and promised to send some prints over (these have since been received). The meeting was then turned over to our auctioneer Howard 3BTI who proceeded to carry on with the auction of goods donated for the club transceiver project. The action was lively and lucrative and there were plenty of good buys made. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. There were approximately 65 in attendance. All the club 2m xtals were sold. Guess everyone went home happy.

16 YEARS AGO TODAY - The next regular meeting of the NPARC was held on April 8, 1949. The QTH was the Polish Hall and Emile Hicks was in the chair.

The secretary read the minutes of the last meeting. Moved by Jim Thompson, seconded by Morey Englander, that the minutes be adopted as read. Carried.

Tommy Bilesko reported on the Field Day arrangements, and suggested the secretary write to the Canadian National Carbon Company regarding "B" batteries for the rigs. Bob Cummings described a proposed site at Fonthill.

Tommy Bilesko introduced Gordon Coleman, VE3ANY, who spoke on V.H.F. Bob Potter moved the vote of thanks.

Chuck Knapp reported on the progress of the Spring party

Jim Thompson moved that the meeting adjourn. Seconded by Graham Peacock and carried.

Coffe and doughnuts were served and a great eye-ball QSO followed. That's all for the month of April fellows. See you on the 9th.

73 Phil 3DQK

-o-

While we are on the subject of the old NPARC the 1951-52 membership list was recently found. How many of you "old timers" can remember all the names that go with the following calls? - 3AAN, 3ACY, 3AFI, 3AGB, 3AGS, 3AGX, 3AHZ, 3AKQ, 3ASH, 3AUQ, 3AUR, 3AYS, 3AZI, 3BCA, 3BKO, 3BNW, 3BQI, 3BRQ, 3BSA, 3BTI, 3BTO, 3DAC, 3DBM, 3DCE, 3DDO, 3DHK, 3DIA, 3DIV, 3DJY, 3DKA, 3DNJ, 3DNT, 3DNU, 3GH, 3TW, 3UL, 3VM, and then there was Stan Walpole.

-o-

According to a list just received from Dick Roberts 3NG, our SCM, there are 51 Amateur Radio clubs in Ontario. Of these there are 24 of them that will exchange bulletins. Now we do not send one of ours to all 24, but we do pretty well, including three outside of the province. As editor I have never refused to exchange a bulletin with any club that wanted to do so. As a matter of fact I have sent bulletins to some clubs, at their request, for some time without ever having received one in exchange. We are all well aware that there is some cost entailed, and perhaps some of the clubs are too small to be able to foot this expense but somehow to me there is something lacking in the ham spirit when a club down right refuses to exchange bulletins. Perhaps this is of little importance to you as a reader, but I can assure you, the bulletins from other groups are a never ending source of enjoyment and information. The exchange of ideas has always been the life blood of amateur radio, perhaps we are entering a new era, everyone for himself, the heck with you Jack, I'm all right, the drawbridge is up, I'm safe. If this attitude grows we are going to be in real trouble, as a group. Oh well; I guess it takes all kinds.

-o-

"Three fourths of the earth's surface is water, and one fourth is land. Therefore it is quite clear that the good Lord intended that man should spend three times as much time fishing as he does working." Del please note. The above sage information came to us via the Sydney N.S. A.R.C. bulletin. See what I mean?

4

The following is a reproduction of a notice that you will find tacked up in the shack of Tom 3CKU. I line with our policy of providing for you, the member, all kinds of services, we are printing it here just in case you would like to have it framed and hung in your own shack. I'm quite sure Tom wont mind.

VERBOTEN NOTISCHER

ACHTUNG ALLES LOOKENSPEAKERS IN DAS HAMSHAKEN. DAS RADIOMACHINEN IST NICHT FUR GEFINGERPOKEN. UND MITTEN GRABEN IST EASY SCHNAPPEN DER SCHPRINGENWERKEN, BLOWEN FUSEN UND POPENKORKEN MITT SPITZENSPARKEN. IST NICHT FUR GEWURKEN BI DAS DUMMKOPFEN VITCH NICHT HAVA LICENZE FROM DER DEE OH TEA. RUNNEN DAS RADIOMACHINEN BI DUMMKOPFEN MITTOUT LICENZE MAKKIN HOOSEGOW GEPUT OR MARKS GEPAYEN. DAS RUBBERNEKEN SIGHTZEER KEEPEN HANDS IN DAS POCKETS, RELAXEN TO DAS GOOFY SPRECHEN GELISTEN, UND DAS BOUNCING METERISH POINTER GEWATCHEN.

DANKA

SOAP BOX DEPT. - Besides the perennial question about novice licenses that seems to be coming to a head at this time, the question most discussed in Ontario amateur radio circles has been, for the past two or three years, "what is the RSO doing for me?" "What am I getting for the buck I kick in with every year?" I guess the answer to these questions is "what do you expect to get?" Some try to compare the RSO with ARRL and point out that they get plenty for their money, others disagree and call it (the ARRL) an American run outfit, and why can't we have an organization that is truly Canadian? The comparison is unfair, if for no other reason than that the ARRL is many years older than the RSO and so by the process of time has ironed out most of the problems that surely must have confronted it when it (the ARRL) was a young idea. Sure there have been internal troubles, haven't you ever heard of 'growing pains?' There are a great many amateurs in the province who have spent considerable time and effort, to say nothing of their own money and resources, for no other purpose than to see RSO get ahead and become the organization it was intended to be. It is a healthy sign that the amateur in Ontario are asking questions about RSO, I'm sure the directors want it that way, but let's be fair about it. If we all get behind the directors and our local trustees, let them see that we want a Canadian organization that will work, and not fall by the wayside as so many other well meaning groups have in the past, be a little patient with the infant, ask questions when you have a legitimate one, and in general be co-operative. RSO has a good start. Now it's all up to you.

FOR SALE - HQ129X rcvr - no spkr - \$85.00
 Doug Sargeant 3BT0, 25 Margery Ave., St.Catharines.

HQ170A - with clock - originally cost \$557.95 - will sacrifice
 for \$350.00 - Howard Cowling 3BTI, 64 Dunkeld, St.Catharines.

Ranger I - mic - \$175.00 or best offer
 Rog Harley, R.R.1 Fonthill.

Most of his shack - selling out - contact
 Phil Pitman 3DQK, 15 Spruce St., St.Catharines (weekends)

-o-

SPLATTER - I heard Oscar the other night, of course it had been taped first by someone else..... Speaking of Oscar, from official ARRL bulletin NR 997 - Mar, 18/65 - W6NLZ wrkd K2GUG & K6HMS wrkd K4IXC on orbit 35, W1BU wrkd DL3YBA on orbit 61, WA6MGZ wrkd KH6AQP on orbit 64 & KL7CUH on orbit 65, W6QJW wrkd LU3DCA on orbit 69 - and Dean 3CHH hrd Oscar on his Twoer..... If you haven't renewed your license yet, get off the air.... They tell me there is a FB 2m xmtr in Apr. 65 Popular Electronics, mod. & pwr supply too.....Howard 3BTI and Phil 3DQK, working from Howard's shop, during the last DX contest made 241 contacts, about 70 countries. Good show fellows..... They report that Harry 3ADO has been in the hospital, and I understand he is now recuperating. Speedy recovery Harry... Please bring your QSL's for the PR man (Ray 3FOH) to the next meeting..... Speaking of cards, the SWL members will be able to pick up their membership cards at the next meeting.....That deal about the club getting a HW12C sounds good. The rig has been professionally wired and is only a couple of months old. It sounds FB on the air too. Since we have two Gonsets available for 2m, we could use a 75 rig as well. There are half a dozen or more ssb mobiles in the area now, perhaps we could include them in a hidden xmtr hunt next time, if we had the xmtr to do it..... Incidentally the Liability policy that the club took out three years ago is due on the 3rd of this month. Premium is \$37.50 for three years. Coverage is \$5,000 for one, \$10,000 for more, \$1,000 for property damage. This is good insurance, it should be renewed at the next meeting..... The club letter head hasn't been drawn up yet, maybe by next month..... Did you notice the new cover?..... I haven't been on the air in so long I don't know what is going on..... There is a new 2m mobile on the air, Ray3FOH wid his twoer..... They tell me Howard 3BTI is going "S Line". He's looking around for a 75S3..... Rumour has it that Maurice 3BVD and Gil 3FPG are going HI PWR with linears..... Del 3AYS has a full size 20m beam up, built by 3BTI, plenty of room for the neighbourhood starlings to warm their feet.....There should be lots of activity at the coming meeting, lots of guests from N.F. way, Rowland to speak to us, coffee in abundance, I hope, sounds all vry FB.....Why do Eskimos wash in Tide? Betauth it'th too told to wash out tide.....Knock knock, Who's There? Doris. Doris who? Doris locked or I wouldn't be knocking..... Definition - Nothing, Balloon with the skin taken off..... Well that's enough nonsense for this month. Better get busy and run off these stencils, got 120 to address this month.

See you on the 9th, come and welcome our guests.

ROG3CEG