



Feedline

Virtual ZOOM Meeting 7pm Thursday, June 10th. Contact webmaster@nparc.ca

President's Message

It was a crazy club year wasn't it? Through all the distractions, lock downs, and closings we were successful in holding things together. We managed to think outside the box and conduct regular meetings, breakfast meets, and tech nights to name a few. I look forward to September and I am still holding on to the hope that we will be able to return to in person meetings.

We have a lot of plans for next year so do not give up. At the June meeting, I will present some of the things we have in store for the upcoming year.

One of those events is ARRL Field Day. Field Day is June 26 and 27, NPARC is participating in Field Day this year much like we did last year. Individual members are encouraged to participate in Field Day from their own locations or a location they choose. Members can operate as Class C, D, or E. Each member will submit their scores and associate themselves as a station with NPARC. The clubs total aggregate score will be posted when scores are published. We would love to have as many participants as possible.

Last year we had 22 participants and 19 stations. Our aggregate score was 8418. I know we can beat that score this year. Each member signed up and submits a log will be eligible for a drawing on a \$200.00 gift certificate from Radio World. Henry, VA3OV will be the Field Day Coordinator this year. Unfortunately, we won't be delivering meals, hi!

During field day a 2 metre net on VE3RAF will keep members in touch and chatting about their successes and failures. One does not need HF equipment to participate in field day. FM Simplex is allowed as well as any other mode on VHF, UHF that do not utilize a repeater. I will be presenting the Field Day Plan at the June 10th meeting. There are also a couple of rule changes from last year regarding aggregate scoring. See you this week.

Steve VA3FLF

FOX Naming Contest

At the end of our May virtual club meeting those in attendance were asked to suggest a name for our new mini Bionic Fox Hunt transmitter. Feedline editor Denis Cahill, VA3ONO's Faux Fox was voted to be the best name submitted. President Steve, VA3FLF, donated, a 5/8th, 2 metre mag mount mobile antenna as the prize. Steve says, it also tunes on 6 metres.

THE NINE THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

Monthly club Zoom meeting June 14th 7pm. webmaster@nparc.ca

ARRL Summer Field Day June 26th & 27th.

Operate, portable or home shack. Contact vice-president@nparc.ca for info.

Annual Niagara Falls Canada Day Parade

Rain or shine. Contact vice-president@nparc.ca to sign up.

NPARC Summer Fox Hunt

Practice session and actual Hunt. Dates and locations to be determined.

Updating Club Membership List

You can opt in or out of certain personal details.

It cost \$101.70 to host the nparc website.

An E.L. Crossley graduate will once again receive \$200 from NPARC.

Canada Post's annual fee for our Grantham Plaza post box is \$247.87

Terry Talbot, VE3TOB won a new Icom IC-705 transceiver during the Contest University Youtube live broadcast on May 20th. Congrats to the lucky ham !! The radio was donated by DX Engineering, Icom America and Hamvention. Three other ICOM radios were given away. You had to be registered on Zoom for the day long event and be online to win a prize.

“Please help! My hair is falling out! Do you have something to keep it in?”

“Sure. Here’s a cardboard box.”

Mark Fuller, VA3BGL, Prepares For Fox Hunting Season

Well, I finished building an active attenuator, and I am happy with the result. I had some crystal oscillators on hand about 1.05 MHz and thought I would see how that worked out. The circuit is very straightforward and uses the mixer circuit from a November 1992 QST article. I have included the schematic here. The 9V battery is regulated to 5V to power the crystal oscillator. The 1.05 MHz square wave signal is used to switch on and off the 1N4148 diode causing that frequency to mix with the signal of interest. The products appear 1.05 MHz above and 1.05 MHz below the signal we are interested in. There is nothing magic about 1.05 MHz, it is just the crystal oscillator I happened to have. The QST article used 500 Khz, some people have used 1 MHz or 4 MHz. Your receiver needs to be able to receive these products and you don't want them conflicting with where there are other stations to give you a false reading.

I tried it out by receiving a continuous Canadian Coast Guard marine weather station at 161.775 MHz. The upper product from the Active Attenuator is $161.775 + 1.05 = 162.825$ MHz. When monitoring that frequency it is apparent that the signal strength to the station can be continuously adjusted. Very smooth action. I connected the active attenuation in line with the antenna lead going to my SDRPlay receiver. The signal strength without the active attenuator was -71 dBm. When I connected the active attenuator with minimum attenuation the upper product frequency, 162.825 signal strength was -86 dBm. Adjusting the attenuator reduced the signal all the way to the noise floor of the receiver at -128 dBm. So that is at least attenuating the station signal a range of 57 dBm and it seemed be be able to go farther yet.

If anyone is interested in building one of these things, I am happy to share extra components that I have. I have 3 extra of the crystal oscillator, just let me know. First come first served. And thank you to Jim, VE3BCA for his 1992 QST magazine.



Winter Field Day January 27th and 28th, 2021 Results

The Winter Field Day results are posted. You can search your results at <https://www.winterfieldday.com/2021-results>. Also, everyone who participated as associated with NPARC, had their results combined as an aggregate score for NPARC. The total NPARC score was 25,174 points. **Great Job!** There is one more score that I am trying to get added to the total, which will make our score 27,190. We had a great time. Story and pictures are in the February 2021 Feedline.

Top five, total points:

| | | |
|--------------|--------|--------------|
| Steve Riddle | VA3FLF | Fort Erie |
| Denis Cahill | VA3ONO | St. Cath |
| Denis Surek | VE3XC | Welland |
| Rick Stasiak | VE3MM | St. Cath |
| Terry Talbot | VE3TOB | Stevensville |

| | | |
|---------------------|--------|---------------|
| David Van Koughnett | VE3DVK | Fort Erie |
| John Lorenc | VA3WM | NOTL |
| David Jarman | VE3RNF | Fenwick |
| Kevin / Lynn | VE3FNY | Welland |
| Erick Tuin | VA3ETN | Dunnville |
| Doug Frame | VE3JDF | Port Colborne |
| Jack Benes | VE3ZPW | Fonthill |
| Henry Jaryza | VA3OV | St. Cath |
| Glen / Geddie | VE3NDW | St. Cath |
| Ken Gansel | VA3KWG | NOTL |
| Garvin Cole | VE3GCZ | Port Colborne |

Also acting as Net Controllers:

| | | |
|--------------|--------|---------|
| Jack Benes | VE3ZPW | Thorold |
| David Jarman | VE3RNF | Fenwick |

NIAGARA ARES / ACS

The new acronym you will see attached to our name stand for **Auxiliary Communication Service.**

On May 29, 2021 the Niagara ARES group participated in a GTA Spring Simulated Training Exercise. We had to follow the provincial and regional health regulations that restricted the majority of our movements. In general we operated close to our QTH.

We were working with two scenarios. The first one a hurricane coming up the Ohio valley has gone through the city of Toronto overnight leaving a path of destruction and flood in its path northwards. The second one, the Pickering Power Generating Plant was attacked by Hackers. Operation of the Plant was compromised.

All our members operated safely at their respective QTH during the event.

THIS IS AN EXERCISE. THIS IS AN EXERCISE. THIS IS AN EXERCISE.

At 8:00AM I received notice of a declared emergency from the Niagara Region Emergency Management requesting communication assistance at key locations to provide timely information to the EOC (Emergency Operating Center).

At 8:15AM emails were sent to ARES members to advise of the declared emergency and report to the NET on the VE3RAF 145.190 MHz repeater

The plan was: Niagara Region Emergency Management was preparing to receive medical cases evacuated from the Pickering area to the regional hospitals. Shelters were also made available for minor cases. Critical cases will be air lifted to the regional airport Welland and Niagara in addition to the heliports available in the area.

Traffic was a stand still through the city of Toronto due to the hurricane damages.

At 9:00AM we dispatched mobile radio station capable of operating on VHF/UHF, digital (Winlink) to the St Catharines and Welland Hospitals, also to the Niagara Regional airport. A communication trailer with complete VHF / UHF / HF and digital (Winlink) was sent to the Welland airport.

Mobile radio stations VHF / UHF , digital (Winlink) were sent to shelters at the Niagara College Welland campus and the Niagara Regional Airport.

In the meantime Net Control and Niagara Emergency Operating Centre were exchanging voice and digital messages with the various ARES Group in the GTA. By 12:00PM we terminated the exercise after a busy morning exchanging radio and digital messages between the various locations.

We had a total of 110 Winlink messages processed and a greater number of voice traffic between Main Control NET, Hospital Nets and Shelter Nets.

No messages were lost or left unanswered .

I like to thank our members for giving up a Saturday morning to practice radio communications in an emergency setting. Until next time.

VE3RNF, VE3ZPW, VE3RRH, VA3DPG, VE3OQP, VA3WM, VE3GGR, VA3BGL,
VE3CJX, VE3NDW, VA3FLF, VE3DVK,

Henry VA3OV
EC, CEC Niagara ARES/ACS
va3ov@bell.net

ARRL Field Day Weekend is June 26-27.

NPARC will be conducting FD in the same format as last year. Each member can operate at their own or designated QTH. Remember you get extra points for portable operation off-grid and QRP. Each member will submit a log and associate their station with the Niagara Peninsula ARC. ARRL will publish individual and a club aggregate score for the event. There will be a drawing for a \$200.00 Radioworld gift certificate for everyone that participates and submits a log. The field day planning will be discussed at the June General Meeting and we will also have a Zoom Meeting prior to the event. ARRL FD rules can be found here:

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Field-Day/2021/2021%20Field%20Day%20Packet.pdf>

Annual Niagara Falls Canada Parade July 1st

We are looking for four additional volunteers for this event. We need to be on stations at 10:00AM. Parade will start at 11:00AM until 3:00PM. It will be operating the same way as the Santa Claus parade. Spectators will be moving in their vehicles along Queen St while the Floats and Displays will be on the sidewalks lining up the street. Please contact me. It's a great event! Henry VA3OV vice-president@nparc.ca

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

JUNE 2021 ELECTIONS

The election will take place at the June Annual Meeting. Standing for office or reelection are:

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Stephen Riddle | VA3FLF for President |
| David Van Koughnett | VE3DVK for Vice President |
| Geddie Pawlowski | VE3CJX for Secretary |
| John Lorenc | VA3WM for Treasurer |

CONTEST CORNER

June ARRL VHF Contest on June 12-14. Portugal Day contest, June 12th.

All Asian DX CW Contest, June 19-20. His Majesty King of Spain SSB Contest June 26-27.

RAC Canada Contest, July 1. IARU HF World Championships, July 10-11.

For a complete contest calendar, go to <http://www.va3cco.com/> and click contest calendar.

[NPARC General Meeting Minutes May 13, 2021](#)

Held via Zoom. Called to order 7:10 pm 20 in attendance - no roll call

Announcements

Field Day in June will have the same format as last year, that is, individuals can participate from their QTH and submit scores for an aggregate club score. A net will be set up for folks to communicate with each other during the event. There will be a draw among participants for a \$200 Radio World gift card.

June 10 is our annual meeting. Reports from various departments are due at that time.

A free event called Contest University will be held on May 20th

Mark VA3BGL is our new QSL manager

Don't forget: Winlink Wednesday, Bi-weekly Tuesday Zoom breakfast meeting, Daily Social Net at 9:00 am on VE3RAF, Groups.io for club news and views.

Presentation

Steve Riddle, VA3FLF, gave a presentation on fox hunting.

Business

Minutes of previous meeting accepted as printed in the Feedline

Treasurer's Report accepted as presented

ARES - Henry VA3OV has stepped down as Emergency Coordinator, and Jack Benes VE3ZPW will be taking over as of September 1st. Next ARES meeting is May 19th at 7:00 pm

Executive Nominees

President—Steve Riddle VA3FLF

Vice President—Dave VE3DVK

Treasurer—John Lorenc VA3WM

Secretary—Geddie Holden VE3CJX

Repeater Chair—John Lorenc VA3WM

QSL manager—Mark Fuller VA3BGL

Public Relations Officer—TBD, possibly Peter VA3WET

Subject to approval at June meeting

NPARC will be donating a \$200 scholarship to E. L. Crossley again this year, and we will also offer one year of club membership to the recipient. A vote took place to form a committee to investigate giving a \$200 scholarship to another school as well to promote ham radio among youth.

Canada Day Parade—David Jarman VE3RNF

The parade is scheduled for July 1st from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm using the same format as the Christmas parade, but may have to be cancelled if COVID lockdown is still in effect. Volunteers are needed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm

[April Lewis VE3BHG](#) Secretary



1963 or 1964 NPARC ARRL Field Day site.

L. to R. Phil Pitman, VE3DQK, Dave Flarity, (SK) VE3DVE and life member Harry Borsato, VE3BSA. (photo from Phil Pitman collection)

[OVER TO ME](#) *Denis Cahill VA3ONO Feedline Editor*

Let's hope everybody is looking forward to ARRL 2021 Field Day weekend. Another year without operating from a common location as a amateur radio club. It sounds like the

COVID restrictions means you will be in your shack or running portable from your garage or patio. It's unclear to me, but heading to local or faraway park or campsite may be restricted in some cities or towns. One good thing is the HF bands have been picking up. I'm leaning on backyard portable again,. I'm not sure if I should go QRP but I will power up with a solar panel charging a car battery whether I run 5 or 100 watts on SSB. NPARC is hoping to win big this year when ARRL tallies combined club points. Let me twist your arm and recommend you operate on your deck under a big, bright coloured, patio umbrella. The best photo I'm sent will make the cover of a special summer Feedline edition about field day. Please make an effort to play radio June 26 and 27 along with the rest of the club. Remember there is a chance to win a \$200 gift certificate from Radioworld if you send in your log. Wouldn't it be nice to see NPARC finish in the top ten among Canadian clubs.

Looking back at a 1965 Feedline, the club was heading to Niagara-on-the-Lake, Department of National Defence property off Lakeshore Rd for the annual ARRL Field Day, also on June 26 and 27. The Canadian Army supplied the tents! Large generators was set up and operating positions were all mapped across a large field near lake Ontario. Besides the members, SWLers were encouraged to attend and would be given jobs as loggers or runners delivering hand written messages between the tents. Strict instructions on how to treat the generators were spelled out. Check the oil every 10 hours! Engaged the clutch before you yank on the cord? Keep the gas cans in the shade, tops on tight, away from the running generators. An DON'T fiddle with the generator controls!!

The area must of been a sea of operating tents. The band list is long. Phone and CW on four bands. And phone on 10 metres, 6 metres and 2 metres. That's eleven tents with eleven transmitters and eleven receivers. And maybe eleven miles of coax cable! Ladders, poles and TV towers were taken to the site to support antennas.

Here's a partial list of things hams should expect to bring to the field day site.

A clock, spare tubes, soldering iron, nails, axe, shovel, guy pegs, halyards, chair, zone chart, gas stove, fly spray, cube taps?, raincoat, yellow light, sunglasses, knife, fork, spoon, bed roll, camera, towels, soap and a comb.

Man do we have it easy now! So sign up today. It's a NPARC tradition.