

# Your Feedline

*Virtual Club Meeting, via Zoom, 7pm, Thursday, March 10th.*

## DAD'S ORIGINAL 1940 HALLICRAFTERS SX-25 RECEIVER

By Mark Fuller VA3BGL



I was about 5-years-old when my dad set me down on the sideboard in our dining room beside his big shortwave receiver that he had purchased new back in 1940. That's probably when I became fascinated with electrical lights and circuits. There was something pretty cool about the lighted dials, the glowing vacuum tubes inside and the sounds the radio emitted. I think my first electrical experiment was to insert the lead wires from a 6 volt lamp I had bought into a 120 volt electrical outlet. The light did come on (very briefly!) with a bright flash. I felt foolish afterwards but I did learn something about voltage. When I was about 8 my dad built me a crystal set. It had one earphone and I set it up in my room so I could listen to it after going to bed. Later, I liked to listen to the shortwave bands on an old tube radio that a neighbour gave me. One of the interesting stations to listen to was Radio

Moscow. It was the height of the Cold War and the communist propaganda was a blatant contrast to our local news broadcasts. When I was about 30-years-old my dad passed on his Hallicrafters SX-25 Super Defiant receiver to me. I treated with great respect and had it on a table beside my bed for many years. Sadly it went into storage when we moved. A few years ago I brought it out and restored it to new. Now over 80-years-old, Dad's old Hallicrafters is in regular use in my radio room and one of my most prized possessions.

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## THE ENTRY LEVEL DJI MINI 2 DRONE



Rick Barron, VA3WU, has ventured into the aviation world after purchasing a small quadcopter made by DJI. The control unit pairs with his android phone sending still images or videos to the phone. The DJI Mini 2 weighs under 250grams and a licence is not required to fly. The camera has a 2x zoom, 12MP resolution, can shoot Jpegs and Raw images, 4K 30 or 1080P 60 frame video. Rick will attempt to string antenna wire into high trees at his summer location using the drone. Right now he is learning to fly in his Thorold neighbourhood and sent a photo of the top of his radio tower.

Flight time is about 26 minutes. The unit is available on [amazon.ca](https://www.amazon.ca)



*After satellite guru, K6LCS, Clint Bradford's Zoom presentation at our February meeting, satellite chaser and club member, Dennis Surek, VE3XC, penned this article for Feedline.*

## SOME NON-EDIBLE SATELLITE TIDBITS

By Dennis Surek, VE3XC

I guess my interest in the Sats (I don't like using "birds") began with the ISS. We all know it's up there but not everyone knows you can see it, hear it on radio, transmit AX.25 Packet through it, chat with an Astronaut, download Slow Scan pictures from it, and now lately use it as an FM voice repeater in the sky.

Obviously Astronauts have better things to do but from time to time they schedule in Ham Radio QSOs. It's easy to do but you have to be both lucky and prepared. You have to know when they will be QRV and when our location (-79W, 43N) will be in the radio footprint on the ground. This information is easy to find out online. One evening I had just arrived home in the mobile. The rig is on scan and it had stopped at 437.800. My rig was set to the transmit split frequency of 145.990. I picked up the tail end of a QSO from the ISS. The astronaut had introduced himself as Doug Wheelock, KF5BOC using the callsign NA1ISS. He had a great signal but of course with simplex mode you stand very little chance of hearing the other station. I gave him a call and he answered. I told him my information and he repeated the same stuff to me that he told the others. Ten minutes later, he's gone. My antenna was a dual band whip on the van so when the sat get beyond 600km line of sight, your done. Naturally a yagi will give better results down to lower angles of elevation. My base antenna works well to even 2 degrees elevation and just over 2400km range (think about that a minute). Currently there are about 5 usable FM sats in Low Earth Orbit. AMSAT the organization that builds and arranges launches for our Ham sats can only afford to launch LEO sats by hitch-





hiking rides on commercial launches. At low altitudes with no propulsion system, these tiny cube sats tend to fall out of orbit in a few years. But wait, there's more: HEO and geo-synchronous sat planning has been ongoing for a while now. A lunar repeater is a pipe dream right now. Never say never.

Most presentations on the basics of Ham Sats usually touch only on FM Sats. The FM "Easy Sats" provide an inexpensive and simple way to start. Most likely you have everything you need already. The Linear (SSB, CW) Sats are a very different animal. Theoretically you could make SSB QSOs outside with a handheld antenna with a small all-mode VHF/UHF transceiver. Not everyone has an all-mode (SSB, CW, FM, AM) VHF/UHF, full duplex transceiver. Usually these full-featured radios are base station units. There are no SSB handi-talkies that I am aware of. You will also need an outdoor antenna. It doesn't have to be on a tall tower, but just have a unobstructed view of the sky as much as possible.

So if you want to work the Linear (SSB, CW or PSK )Sats you have to make a more serious commitment radio and antenna wise. Perhaps at a later time I could expand more on linear sats, antennas, computer software. Here are a couple pictures of my sat gear in my shack. It takes a fair bit of computer hardware to run the needed software. Of course it can be done without CAT control if you like more of a challenge. Same for rotator control.

Some programs will do both. I had a fair bit of trouble starting out so that when I eventually got separate software to work, I decided to leave well enough alone. Added to that, my computers are running HRD and VHF Packet with real comm ports, usb virtual comm ports, multiple video cards, CAT control of two transceivers, IR interface to Rotator Control, and interfaces for Radio programming. Needless to say setting all this up is not for the faint of heart. I did catch one break. The serial cable for HRD on my FT-847 does double duty as CAT control cable for SatPC32 (main Satellite software). Here are a couple pics of my gear. I kept the photos in tight so you can't see the messy space. One photo shows the computer running PSTRotator, Orbitron, and HRD for the TS-570. The other photo shows the other computer running SatPC32 for CAT control. You can see it tracking EO-88 a linear sat.



## General Membership Meeting Minutes NPARC, Inc. - Feb 10, 2022

### Notices

Notice of this on-line general membership meeting went out by email.

### Call to Order

The meeting began at 7:00 pm and was presided over by Ken, VA3KWG, president and secretary, Geddie, VE3CJX.

To especially acknowledge our friendship and contributions of Charlie Ferguson VE3WCK a minute of silence was observed. Charlie would join us every other week for our Zoom breakfast meet up and when he could, enjoyed the company of fellow Niagara hams. Obituary details may be found on the NPARC web site.

The chair invited all 33 participants to give their names, call signs and where they were from. We welcomed 8, special "out of town" guests including: Nick, K9GUM, Howard, W4PH, Grady, WA4RGE, Bill, N4OOC, Philip, N4HF, Karen, W6CJ, KL4W, Joey K9GVN,, some with 45 -35 years' experience as suppliers, Hamfest attendees, equipment designers and all round enthusiastic active hams, largely from the Ashville, Newport and Harrison, to list a few, living in North Carolina and who continue their close affiliation with Steve, VE3FLF/KM4FLF, past president, NPARC.

Among other interesting details, we heard some of our members had their licenses dating back to 1961 and Denis, VE3XC shared with us, he had worked some 30 grids and completed some 300 contacts via satellite. We maintained a quorum throughout and until adjournment.

Then, our evening's guest speaker, Clint Bradford K6LCS was introduced. Clint's topic was: "How to Work Amateur Satellites with Your HT". As way of introduction, our presenter, who himself has been a ham since 1994 told us he has found himself a niche in the hobby. Clint has been working amateur radio satellites with minimal equipment and is able to tell us all about it! He serves as liaison between NASA, the ARISS team, schools coordinating amateur radio contacts between the International Space Station and students. He has orchestrated a number of successful ARISS contacts, showing us some of his little tricks including how to get QSL cards from those people in satellites. Clint presented engagingly, a well-rehearsed set of slides and commentary, laced with a goodly sense of humour, holding our attention for the whole time. Trivia questions were interspersed, including "How do you spell and pronounce Niagara? ... these were launched throughout the session, just to make sure we were enjoying ourselves and following along. He was ably supported throughout, by his best friend, Karen Bradford, W6CJ. Karen affectionately recollected for us that her uncle had been a Morse code aficionado in her earlier years. More detail on how to get started including links are available at Clint's website. A Q & A followed. As a small token of thanks, we are sending Clint our limited edition NPARC coffee mug.

The business meeting began at about 8:30 pm shortly after the presentation.

### Minutes

The minutes were summarized orally followed by a motion, made by the Chair and was carried to approve the minutes of Jan 10, 2022, as published in the NPARC FEEDLINE.

**Reports**

The Treasurer’s Report was presented by John, VA3WM showing, by shared screen, the details and summary of transactions since the last meeting. Currently, membership sits at 47 members in total. For the Winter Field Day prize, a gift certificate with part sponsorship from Radioworld will be arranged by Steve, VA3FLF.

The Repeater Report was presented by John, VA3WM, updating the members that VE3NRS, WIRES-X are working. Repairs to WCD remains on hold, as access to the school has been limited.

The Black Creek Community Association Project was reported on by Henry, VA3OV. The “Treasure in the Trunk” event was a success last season and we may consider running 2 of these perhaps the first starting in mid-May. For the Annual Summer Field Day, we may be planning for an in-person event at Black Creek Community Association. Volunteers will be needed. Further information will be made available to members on Groups io.

VC3CG - Niagara Canada Summer Games. The Special Event Call Sign has been secured for the month of August for NPARC use. Ken, VA3KWG, showed a proposed sample QSL card. Details to be finalized.

Club Social Net now has scheduled the volunteer net control. Everyone is welcome to participate Wednesday nights at 8:00pm on VE3NRS at 147.240 MHz.

Niagara Region Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program was announced in the St. Catharines Standard. Henry VA3OV, and Jack VE3ZPW, will meet with the Niagara Regional Emergency Management Team on Thursday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. Those who are interested, should apply on-line as soon as possible to observe the February 25<sup>th</sup> cut-off date.

Auxiliary Communication System (ACS) Henry VA3OV, reported that there is a meeting on Wednesday, February 16, 2022, to conduct a working training session highlighting the new features in Winlink. Those who are already using and new to Winlink are invited to participate. The regular monthly on-line Zoom ACS meeting will be held on Thursday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, following the meeting with the Region.

Special Events Report was given by David, VE3RNF. The Hamilton Warplane Heritage Event. There appears to be some confusion so Henry & David will clarify member involvement and use of the associated Special Event Call Sign.

**Adjournment**

The next NPARC Executive meeting will be on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and a week later on March 9<sup>th</sup> the NPARC General Meeting. Following a motion, unanimously accepted, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45pm.

Geddie Pawlowski, VE3CJX

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Secretary  
NPARC Inc.

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Date of Approval

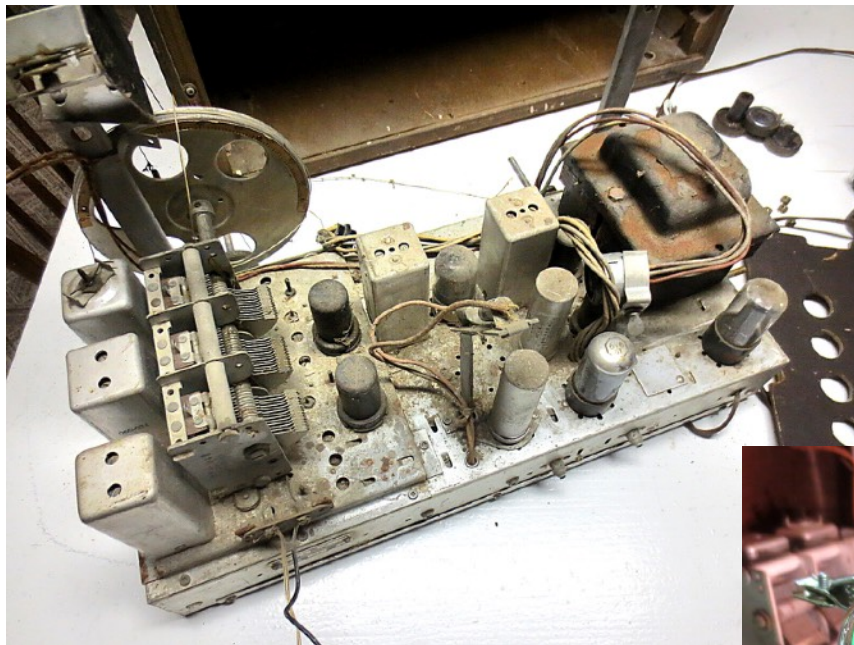
## BARN FIND TUBE RADIO NEEDS MORE THAN A BATH

By Mark Fuller, VA3BGL

I like working on old radios. Before I retired I did not have too much time for it. My latest project is restoring a dusty 1947 Philips multi band table radio. My cousin gave it to me after it sat in his barn for many years. Then hid in my basement for about 9 years. The wooden cabinet is a bit rough and I plan to refinish it. Electrically it was in pretty good shape. A couple of the tubes were pretty worn out. Surprisingly, it started working on the medium wave band as soon as I powered it up. But two of the four shortwave bands were dead. There was no oscillation in the local oscillator circuit. After consulting the circuit diagram, it was apparent that the three bands all used the same oscillator coil. Upon careful inspection, I noticed that the iron tuning slug was broken. I looked through my spare parts and found a replacement. The new slug brought two more of the shortwave bands to life. I spent a long time getting the final shortwave band working. The local oscillator would not start up. The tuning capacitors checked fine on the tester. Finally I replaced the fixed capacitor and everything started working. It was a big help to find a servicing document for this radio on the internet. The radio really sounds quite good! A BFO would be a good addition. There are a number of ways I can tackle this. I'll have to think about that.

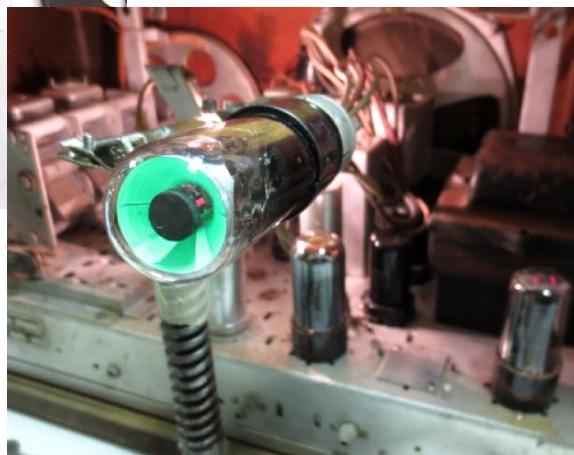






PHILIPS CM-25A  
MADE IN CANADA

Russian sourced 6E5C  
Magic Eye vacuum tube



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

*Membership information available at [nparc.ca](http://nparc.ca)*

Ken Gansel VA3KWG President

David Van Koughnett VE3DVK Vice President

Geddie Pawlowski VE3CJX Secretary

John Lorenc VA3WM Treasurer, Webmaster

Stephen Riddle VA3FLF Past President



**SK VE3BIU - Donald William Anslow, 87, Feb. 4, 2022, in Niagara Falls.**

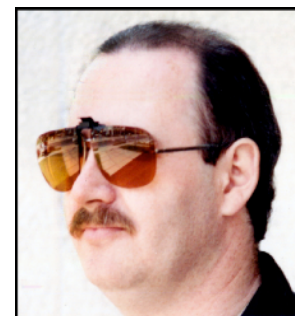
Fun-loving husband to Gladys for 65 years. He was a proud father, grandfather and great grandfather. Don was a 30-year employee at the Ford Glass Plant and retired at age 55. Don was a frequent two-metre simplex user in Niagara, even operating as a bicycle mobile. He was fluent in morse code because Don always said, "a real Ham should know morse code". Don served his country as a paratrooper during peace time in Germany and England. He was also school crossing guard for Prince Philip public school after his retirement. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. In Memory of Don please remember to do an act of kindness for one another.



Memories, photos, and condolences may be shared at [www.morseandson.com](http://www.morseandson.com)

**SK VE3SDI - Steve (Stephen) Dayes, 61, Feb. 14, 2022 in St. Catharines.**

Steve graduated from Grantham High School and later in life attended DeVry University, Toronto Campus. He enjoyed many hobbies including cars, CB radio, later becoming a licensed Amateur Radio operator, music trivia, shooting pool, golf and so much more. He was a past member of NPARC.



1994 photo

George Darte funeral home. His obituary may be found [here](#).

**MEETING DATES & UPCOMING SPEAKERS**

Mar. 10	Dave Goodwin VE9CB	RAC Portable Challenge
Apr. 14	Ask Elmer Night	Submit Questions Early
May 12	Michael Brickell VE3TKI	QSL Bureau
June 9	Field Day Planning and End of Year Business	

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Ken Gansel VA3KWG



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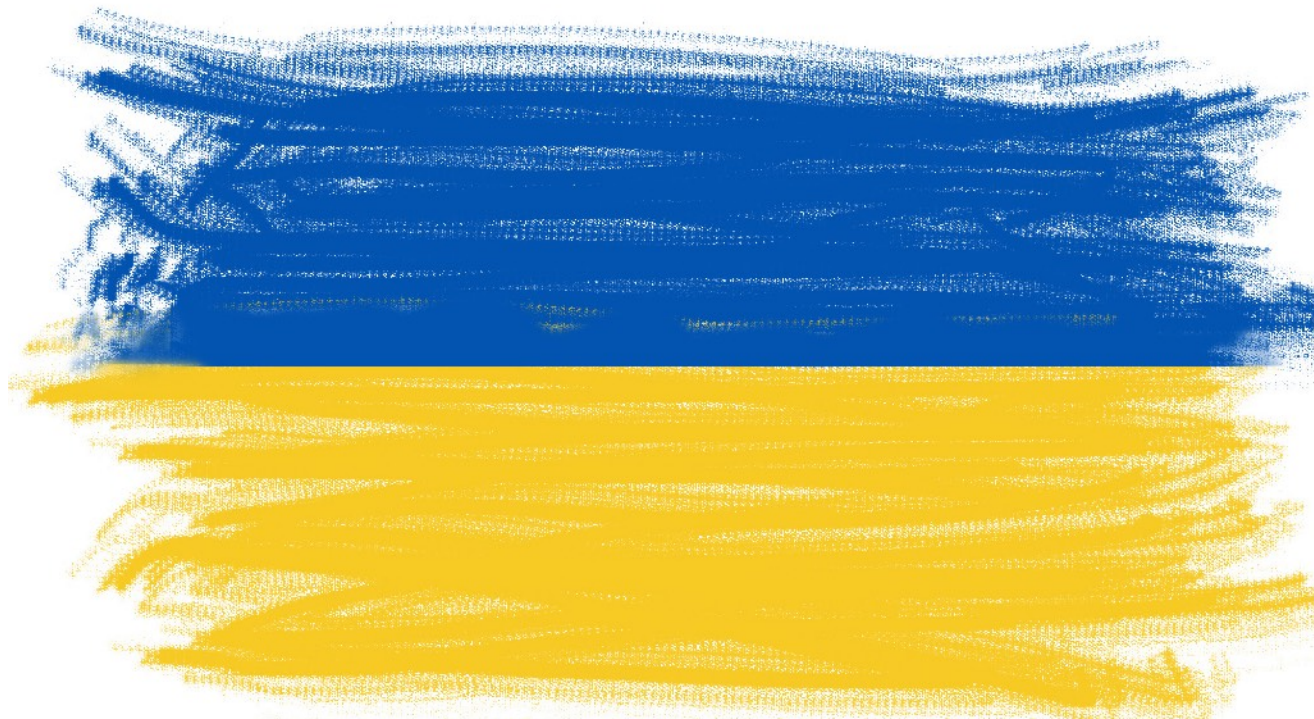
## OLYMPIC 2022 WINTER GAMES SPECIAL EVENT STATION



Approved by Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of the People's Republic of China, Beijing 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games special event amateur radio station has started to work until the closure of Paralympic Winter Games. Led by CRAC, the special event station(s) will base on radio control regulation published by Beijing government to work as many amateur radio stations all over the world.

## OVER TO ME .....

Who's heard of H.Ward Silver? Well he's an American ham you might want to know about. He began his career ..... TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH.



**February 24, 2022, Russia has launched a devastating attack on Ukraine, a European democracy of 44 million people, and its forces are on the outskirts of the capital, Kyiv.**

*Denis Cahill VA3ONO Feedline Editor*