



Feedline

Virtual Zoom meeting 7pm Thursday, May 12th. Contact webmaster@nparc.ca

GAME ON !



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE from Ken Gansel VA3KWG

What a bonus! Our unique Niagara 2022 Canada Summer Games callsign, VC3CG, was approved and a copy of our QSL card made the cover of The Canadian Amateur magazine, published by Radio Amateurs of Canada!

I am always pleased when we are in the news but making it on the front cover of Canada's premier amateur radio magazine was totally unexpected. The full article in the magazine appears on page 63.

Planing for the August 6th to August 21st summer games, being hosted in Niagara, has been going on for years.

With the assistance of Geddie, VE3CJX, we made an application for a special call to the Amateur Radio Service Centre of Industry Canada in Sault Ste. Marie, ON.

As a youthful shortwave listener, I have always had a collection of QSL cards. Today I still have reel to reel tapes of specific broadcasts. My signal report in most cases generated a QSL card reply from the broadcaster. As I embraced the hobby of Amateur Radio and yes, some CB as well, I created my own QSL card for many call signs, and these were mailed to anxious listeners.

Fortunately I have a few contacts with our Canada Summer Games organizing committee and prepared a detailed written proposal to become involved. We needed permission to use the Canada Games logo and venue photo on our NPARC QSL card. It would be a quick yet striking design. My submission had to explain who the Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club was and what the heck a QSL card was. Our formal application was processed within four hours!

As a club we will need volunteer operators to monitor a set number of frequencies across the bands during the 15 days of the Canada Summer Games and to make and record QSO's with amateurs around the world.

The VC3CG QSL card will be available to any Amateur Radio station that makes contact with a NPARC operator during the period of the games.

It is important to realize that this is not the first Canada Games QSL card, but it is the first in the past 16 years. I contacted other amateur radio clubs in cities that hosted previous games to verify. NPARC can say with pride that we will be participating in the Games by way of our QSL card to celebrate our Canadian heritage, and awareness of amateur radio in the Niagara Area.

More information will be posted on the club's web site at <https://nparc.ca/>, there will be a special page on the QSL card, frequencies and how to get the card, it might even be a real 4x6" card, and with by background it probably will be! A real card.

Canada Games:

<https://www.canadagames.ca/future-games/niagara-2022>

Canada's
Amateur Radio
Magazine

La Revue des
Radioamateurs
Canadiens

THE CANADIAN AMATEUR

MAY / JUNE 2022 – MAI / JUIN 2022

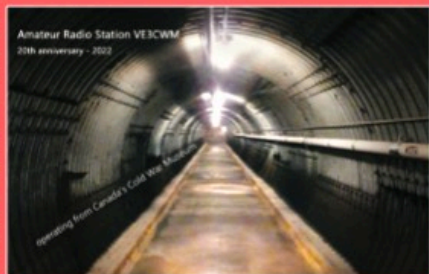


RAC Amateur of the Year 2021



RAC BC/Yukon Director, Keith Witney, VE7KW, presents Amateur of the Year 2021 Award to Hiroshi Takashi, VA7LET on March 8, 2022

Upcoming Special Events



Supporting Amateur Radio in Canada and Worldwide!

Publications Mail Agreement # 40025682 Registration # 09866



Special Event VE3CG to Celebrate the Niagara 2022 Canada Summer Games from August 6 to August 21

The Niagara 2022 Canada Summer Games will take place in Ontario’s Niagara Region to celebrate Canada’s top young athletes and Niagara’s art and culture. Niagara is also committed to honouring their Indigenous communities, while showcasing the region’s heritage and innovation throughout its history.

Consisting of more than 5,000 athletes and coaches, the Canada Summer Games will welcome our nation’s next generation of national, international, and Olympic and Paralympic champions as the best young developing athletes from across the nation assemble to compete in Canada’s largest multi-sport event.

The Niagara 2022 Canada Summer Games will feature a total of 18 sports – including the return of lacrosse after a 36-year absence and the first-ever rugby sevens competition. Additionally, over 4,000 volunteers will be essential to the success of the Games.

The Niagara Peninsula ARC has been granted a special call sign of VC3CG for “CG” Canada Games.

The card will be available to any Amateur Radio station that makes contact with the the NPARC controllers during the period of the games, August 6 to 21.

NPARC will have radio operators monitoring and responding CQ on several frequencies throughout the games period, all times and frequencies will be posted to the NPARC Web site at www.nparc.ca under the Canada Games tab.

Ken Gansel, VA3KWG, NPARC President, commented “that this is not the first Canada Games QSL card, but it is the first in the past 16 years and is long overdue to celebrate our Canadian heritage and national pride”.

For more information visit:

Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club:

<https://nparc.ca/>

Canada Games:

<https://www.canadagames.ca/future-games/niagara-2022>

Report of the NPARC Nominating Committee, 2022

The nominating committee is pleased to report that the following club members have agreed to allow their names to stand for the following executive positions:-

President- Ken,VA3KWG

Vice President- David,VA3DVK

Treasurer- John,VA3WM

Secretary- Geddie VE3CJX

Past President- Steve,VA3FLF

In accordance with the club constitution, additional nominations for any of the above executive positions will remain open until the election.

In addition to the club executive, the following members have been contacted and indicated a willingness to stand as chair of the various committees that the club needs to maintain it's day to day operations:

Newsletter Editor- Denis,VA3ONO

Black Creek Community Coordinator- Henry,VA3OV

Repeater Chair- John VA3WM

Special Events Coordinator (City of Niagara Falls)- David,VE3RNF

Web Master- John,VA3WM

Club Examiner- Kevin,VE3RRH

QSL Manager- Mark,VA3BGL

ACS EC- Jack,VE3ZPL

Repeater Custodian- Geddie VE3CJX

Nominations Chair- Glenn VE3NDW

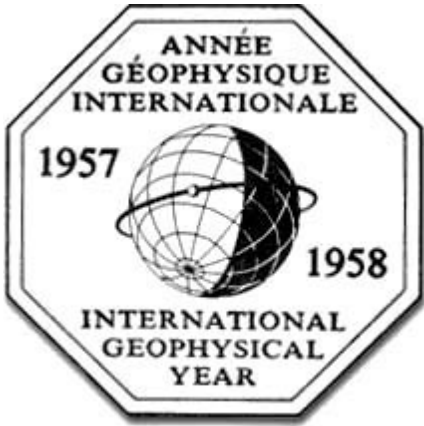
Canada Games Coordinator- Ken VA3KWG

Publicity Chair- Open for volunteers

Unassigned- Carl,VA3CK

Each of the committee chairs appreciate any help available. Various other sub-committees such as “Treasure in the Trunk”, “Summer Field Day”, “Big Event 2023”, Christmas Party, etc. will be formed as the year progresses.

TEENAGE PHONE PATCHERS BY Denis Cahill VA3ONO



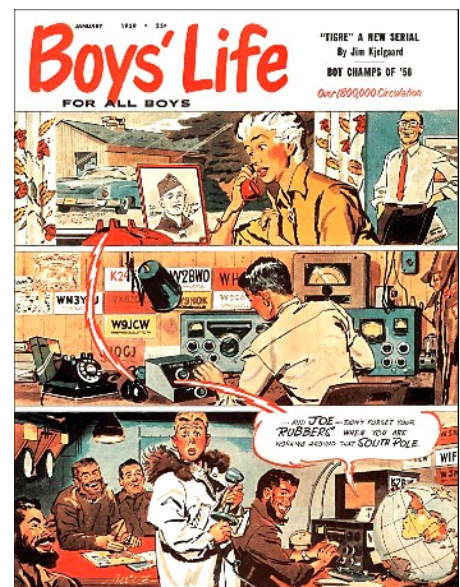
I'm totally addicted to YouTube and the multitude of videos they supply! Thousands on amateur radio.

The History Guy, https://youtu.be/uaTm_LUifUI, has a short video about two teenage brothers who actually became part of the International Geophysical Year as it played out in Antarctica in 1957-58. Jules Madey K2KGJ and his younger brother, John, K2KGH, were Amateur Radio operators who went to high school in Clark, New Jersey. Jules would spend as many as forty-nine hours each week handling phone patch traffic

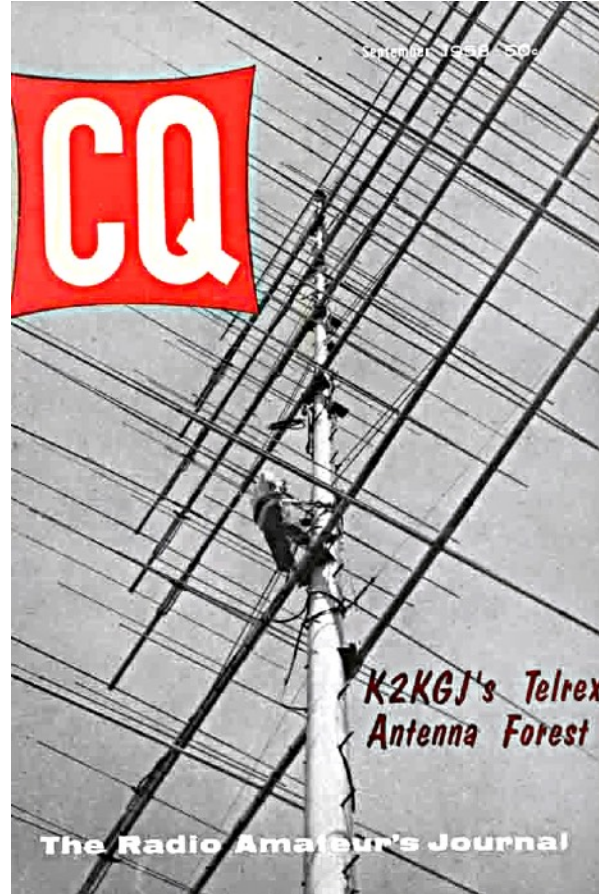


from several of the American bases located on earth's most remote continent. Several of the world's nations had scientific expeditions in and around the South Pole. The USA base at McMurdo Sound was one of the largest. It had 67 buildings, 1,000 personnel in the summer, a long snow covered runway, a military style communication centre and a small ham shack. KC4USV. It was 9,500 miles south of the brothers near Princeton University. Men stationed there got a moral boost talking to their wives, children or parents. World renowned scientists used to chat with the brothers, who both became scientists themselves. Jules was even flown to Antarctica via Hawaii, Fiji and New Zealand as a reward for all the good work he did. He also made it on the January 1959 Boys' Life cover.

Much has been written about the boys and their Collins equipped shack and mammoth 'Big Bertha' antenna system by Telex Antenna Co. I would consider it one of the top ham shacks of its day. Search the internet for more information the Madey brothers and the world's International Geophysical Year discoveries. https://youtu.be/jY6FTNL_J4g



The Madey brother's Telrex antenna forest on the cover of CQ magazine in 1958. The array was on a rotating tower that might of been 100 feet.



IAN BAKER VE3OZN SK



Ian Baker, VE3OZN, of St. Catharines, died at the St. Catharines Hospital in April 2022 after a lengthy illness. Beloved husband of 52 years to Joanna. Loving father to Andrew (Joanne), Shannon Bessey and Matthew (Danielle), cherished grandfather of five grand-children. Best Buddy to his four-legged friend, Rusty. Ian's QRZ page mentions he hailed from County Durham in north-east England and was in the Royal Navy before immigrating to Canada in 1967. He was a euchre enthusiast and enjoyed taking ship photos of vessels in the Welland Canal near his home in St. Catharines. According to another ship watcher, he was a Toronto Blue Jay fan. Cremation has taken place.

General Membership Meeting Minutes NPARC, Inc. / April 14, 2022

Notice

Notice of this on-line general membership meeting went out by email on April 11th for meeting ID 815 9629 4487.

Call to Order

The meeting began at 7:12 pm and was presided over by President, Ken, VA3KWG. Secretary, Geddie, VE3CJX was absent with notice, meeting notes were taken by Glenn, VE3NDW.

A Special Welcome was made to 2 new hams: James Newborn, VA3CGI and Bill Thompson, who is still awaiting his call sign. In all, 17 participants joined the Zoom meeting.

Minutes

The minutes of the March 10th NPARC General Meeting were approved as published in the April 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 with 3 new members sits at 54 members in total.

The Winter Field Day prize is still outstanding. Several NPARC members participated in the CQWWX from the BCCC and there is a detailed write up in the April Feedline.

The new ham membership was questioned. Presently new hams do not get one year free membership at NPARC. It was moved by Henry, VA3OV and seconded by Carl, VA3CK, that all new hams in the area, be given a free membership in NPARC to the end of the year in which they passed their exam.

The Repeater Report was presented by John, VA3WM, updating the members that VE3NRS, WIRES-X are working. During spring break, the repeater VE3WCD at E. L. Crossley had the fuse block replaced and is now again on air.

Niagara Canada Summer Games / VC3CG: Ken, VA3KWG will organize a meeting for all those interested in participating in the event. Please let Ken know of your intentions. Further arrangements have been made for publicity including an article to appear in TCA magazine. The NPARC trailer site location set-up for the games is to be confirmed.

2022 Summer Field Day (ARRL – June 25-26th): The plan is to have the Field Day at Black Creek Community Centre, acknowledging any COVID protocols as required at the time. This is a 24 hour operation on emergency power. Volunteer Band Captains are needed. Some antennas are available at BCCC now, however additional antennas may be required depending on the final number of stations and will be coordinated as required by Henry, VA3OV. Further details will be available at the meeting in May.

Treasure in the Trunk at BBCC / /May 28th: Some additional vendors have now registered with Kevin, VE3RRH, and so the event is on. Please contact Kevin if you wish to register as a vendor for this event. There will be a club table. Although sufficient volunteers have come forward, we can always use more help.

Consideration is being given to host an indoor “Big Event 2023” in February.

Auxiliary Communication Service (ACS): A reminder was given by Henry, VA3OV, that NPARC members and all ACS members are encouraged to check into the Niagara ACS Net on Mondays at 8:00pm local time, on VE3RAF. A spring SET is being planned. This will include digital VARA FM and Packet as well as voice. Please check any ACS emails forthcoming regarding activity details.

Geddie Palowski VE3CJX Secretary

VE3NRS Club Net, Wed., 8pm 147.240MHz, PL 107.2 +600

Ken Gansel VA3KWG President

David Van Koughnett VE3DVK Vice Pres.

Geddie Pawlowski VE3CJX Secretary

John Lorenc VA3WM Treasurer



Rick Barron, VA3WU, submitted a gorgeous drone photo of his QTH tower taken at sunset.

A LOOK BACK ON CLUB HISTORY AND SOME GOOD FRIENDS.

By Kevin Lemon VE3RRH

The picture of the Amateur of the Year plaque brings back lots of memories, I worked with all these people during my time as president. There should be another plaque around as well, the first one was full and we started the second one that the picture shows. Lynn, VE3FNY, wore many hats back then, public service co-ordinator, bulletin editor, mailing the feedline, radio op for all the public events, feeding volunteers on larger events, ran the coffee shop for three Big Event Fleamarkets, elmered new hams, and taught morse code for 2 years with a 95% success rate. All while needing a hip replacement and dealing with other health challenges and raising our three kids and me.

Margaret Sewell, VE3HOX, worked with me as a volunteer, then became my Vice President and later the President when I retired.

Ron, VA3DXN and Isla Robson, VA3DXR worked every event and job during my time as President, they were our goto people when things needed done, as well as organizing the Field Day Events, They also served on the executive after me.

Margaret, Ron and Isla were responsible for getting the NRS repeater on the Thorold Water Tower when we got kicked off the radio tower in Thorold South, if it wasn't for them NRS may not be on the air today. Sadly Ron passed away last year, Margaret and Isla are still around although I have lost track of them in the years past.



SOME NON-EDIBLE SATELLITE TID-BITS (Part 3)

By Dennis Surek VE3XC FN02

Have I sparked any new interest in the sats ? I hope so. So let's see what's left to discuss. Antennas and software. I think everyone is familiar with the handheld, dual band Arrow, or Elk, or homebrew tape measure antennas. These are used in the field with HT's for FM sats. (See below for programming your HT for FM Sat SO-50 omitted last month)

HT Programming Five Channels for SO-50

SO-50 (V/U Mode)	Downlink (U)	Uplink (V)
Activate SO-50	---	145.850 MHz + 74.4 Hz Tone
Acquisition of Signal	436.805 MHz	145.850 MHz + 67.0 Hz Tone
Early in Pass	436.800 MHz	145.850 MHz + 67.0 Hz Tone
Mid Pass (TCA)	436.795 MHz	145.850 MHz + 67.0 Hz Tone
Late Pass	436.790 MHz	145.850 MHz + 67.0 Hz Tone
Loss of Signal	436.785 MHz	145.850 MHz + 67.0 Hz Tone

Let's talk about the Linear Sats and a home base station SSB/CW transceiver. Most operators use separate VHF and UHF yagi antennas. These are mounted together outside and have separate feedlines. Naturally you will want low-loss coax and short coax runs. I had to use about 70 ft runs of LMR-400 which still works fine. Near the rotator you will need the flexible type coax. Personally I don't trust commercial lengths of coax with crimp on connectors. They may look pretty, but I find the only thing holding the connectors on is the shrink wrap. The coax just pulled right out. Trust only you and put on the connectors yourself.

The antennas don't need to be particularly high up, but they need a good clear view of the surrounding sky. These yagi antennas are not large, so that an inexpensive TV-type rotator will give you Azimuth control for under \$200. You will have to get creative to homebrew elevation control or simply set your elevation to the lowest angle that clears most of your surrounding obstructions. Try for 20 to 35 degrees. This fixed elevation method will work quite well. It turns out multi-element yagi antennas do have a narrow horizontal beam width but a much larger vertical beam width. You will get a significant null only when the sat is nearly overhead. Since a commercial Az-El rotator will cost at least \$1,000, you will do quite well with an Az only rotator. This is what I have: M2 LEO Pack 2m/70cm circularly polarized antennas on 20 ft of tower with RCA TV rotator. I also homebrewed and mounted a manual elevation rotor but I no longer use it. A Google search will show several home made Az-El rotator projects.

Other than rotating beam antennas you could go with an omni-directional antenna system. There are turnstiles, eggbeaters and lindenblad antennas, both commercial and homebrew, that will work and you will be happy with any of them most of the time. Unfortunately your QSO range will be reduced, but given time, you will still work lots of grid squares.



Now, how do you get the yagi antennas to follow the sats automatically ? How do you control your transceiver's Up/Down frequencies for doppler variation? There are several free software programs that handle both of these jobs: Ham Radio Deluxe and SatPC32 are two. You will need working CAT control of your transceiver, and either a serial com port control of your rotator or a USB Uirt device (universal infrared receiver transmitter) to provide isolated infrared control of the rotator control box. So if you have HRD working now, then you are half way there.

The interface for sats on HRD is very similar to the SatPC32 interface. I prefer SatPC32 only because I got it working first. I do not use the rotator feature but use instead PSTRotator on another computer, again only because I got it working first. Certainly using one program for everything would be simpler. For one thing you would only have to download your latest Keps file (Keplarian Elements) once every couple weeks. Then also the various programs will always place the sats on the same path. For some reason, even with updated Keps, once in a while, not very often, the programs will not agree on where a particular sat is located. One day I will figure out what's up with that.

That's it for now. There are several VE3/VA3 (guessing 20 or 30) on the linear sats. I wouldn't mind having a local NPARC member up there also to compare notes with. If one of you do operate the linear sats, please let me know and we can set up a sked. 73 for now.

TREASURES IN THE TRUNK MAY 28TH



Treasures in the Trunk is back at the Black Creek Community Centre, 2959 Baker Road, Stevensville, ON., for the second year. Exit QEW at Netherby Road. Baker Road is located on the east side of the QEW. Use the overpass if heading southbound towards Ft. Erie. Vendors enter at main entrance to the centre. Sell from your tailgate, trunk or bring your own table. Vendors \$5.00 per person at the gate. Shoppers will park in the church parking lot on Black Creek Rd., behind the building. Signs will be posted. Vendors 8am. Public at 9am.

VENDORS PLEASE CONTACT KEVIN, [ve3rrh\(at\)gmail\(dot\)com](mailto:ve3rrh@gmail.com) TO REGISTER.

LIVE IN PERSON EVENTS

NIAGARA ACS GTA SET Spring Exercise, May 14th. Please confirm your participation with Henry Jarzyna VA3OV Certified Emergency Coordinator. If you haven't thought about doing more with Amateur Radio, consider being an ACS member, it is rewarding as well as performing a community service to the citizens of Niagara.

**NPARC Annual General Meeting Thursday June 9th at 7:00pm
Black Creek Community Centre 2959 Baker Rd, Stevensville, ON**

**ANNUAL ARRL Field Day, Saturday & Sunday, June 25th and 26th
Black Creek Community Centre, 2959 Baker Rd, Stevensville, ON**

EXPANDING MY SKILLS

By Rob Moed VE3GGR

I passed my Basic + exam in December 2019 and only participated in a couple of Ham events before Covid shut everything down. During lock-down, I decided to learn as much as I could about amateur radio and turn a bad thing into a good thing, sort of! I appreciate all the help and advice along the way from club members. The funny thing is Henry, VA3OV and Kevin, VE3RRH were telling me about their radio collection and suggested that was probably in my future too! I thought no way, I really only want to do local VHF/UHF. Well I was wrong. My collection began with an old realistic HTX212, a 2M mobile and a pair of Baofeng HT's. A weak start! I took an interest in WIRES-X, Yaesu's System Fusion. Then I saw you Niagara ACS members doing Winlink and wanted to try that. A year later Denis, VA3ONO, hooked me up with an used Icom 738 HF transceiver. That was quite the learning curve!

Now fast forward to the last Saturday in April and here I am with two mobile radios and a new Icom 7300 running on battery power out of my truck sending Winlink messages on packet, Vara FM, and Vara HF. I was part of a large turnout at the Black Creek Community Association centre in Stevensville for a planned Niagara ACS exercise. What a good way to test your skills on a beautiful sunny day, coffee in hand, with fellow Hams in south Niagara. I would like to encourage any new or older hams or interested ham adjacent people to attend one of these training/testing sessions. Once you witness what can be accomplished, you'll want to get involved.



Brad, VE3SBI, Kevin, VE3RRH, Henry, VA3OV, Steve, VA3FLF, Roy, VE3OQP, David, VE3RNF, Mark, VA3BGL, Glenn, VE3NDW and writer, Rob, VE3GGR.

The equipment: FTM100, Icom 208, Icom 7300, dual band, high gain mag mount antennas, a 80-10 shorty end fed half wave wire antenna, a 72 amp hour AGM battery, a 400 watt power inverter and my old laptop. All worked well.

It's nice to know when commercial power is unavailable, Hams are ready to provide emergency communications.

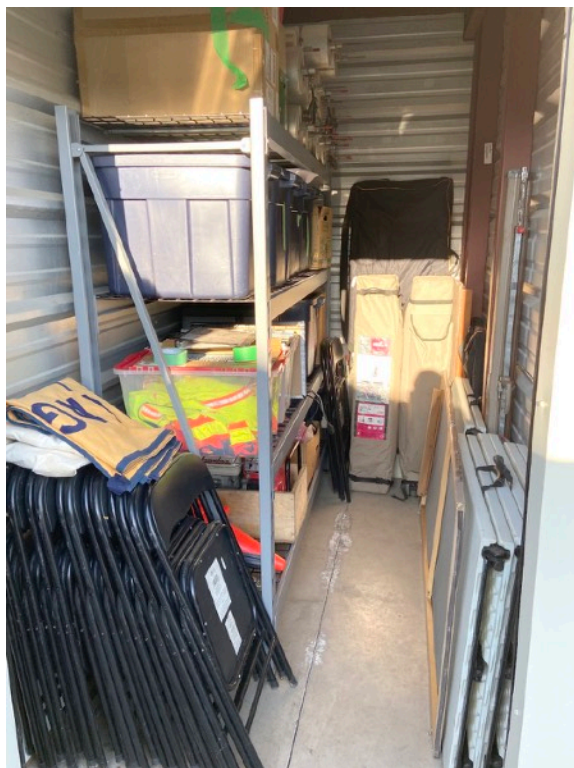


Niagara ACS members gathered at Black Creek Community Centre's parking lot April 30th. NPARC President, Ken Gansel, VE3KWG, right, admiring VA3OV Henry's trailer. The Boler above is VE3FNY, Lynn and VE3RRH, Kevin's trailer with several mounted antennas. Two Diamond X50 dual band and a Comet CHA250 multi band H.F vertical. Inside a Icom 706 MK2G multimode radio, a Yaesu FT 8000 Dual Band Radio, Signalink USB sound card and a dedicated HP Laptop. The trailer is powered from a 100Ah AGM battery and a 2KW generator. Below VE3GGR, Rob was outfitted with this Go-Box for the exercise.



NPARC's STORAGE UNIT SPRING CLEANING

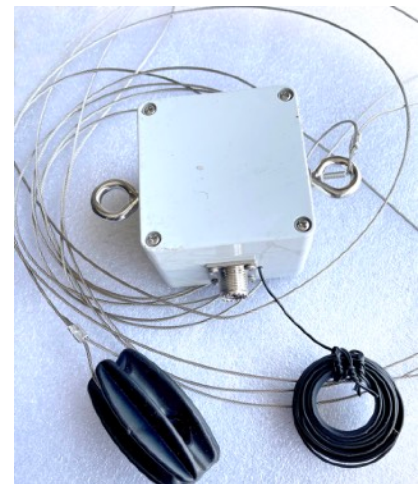
Club Vice President David Van Koughnett, VE3DVK takes a selfie outside our storage unit with Henry Jarzyna, VA3OV at Niagara Mini-Storage on Carlton St. in St. Catharines recently. Looking at the pictures, bins are labelled and on shelves, chairs, tables and tents are against the wall. Several repeater tuning cans are on a top shelf. Did they need to sweep and dust? Hard to say.



OVER TO ME

I've been waiting for this! What's it called? Sporadic-E season.

Around noon on Saturday May 7th I set up my portable station on a table just inside our garage. My Yaesu 957D, LDG Z-11 Pro tuner, lithium iron phosphate 12vdc, 20 Ah battery and my 120 watt Eco-Worthy folding solar panel just outside the door in the bright sunshine. I was trying out an end-fed that was built by SK, Lloyd, VE3ERQ, possibly when he lived in Australia. I'll give a review of that antenna in the next Feedline when I learn more about it.



Saturday I was in and out of the garage, cutting and edging the lawn. Generally keeping myself busy after spending two days of working to get the May Feedline finished. I was able to make several contact during the New England QSO Party using the OZI-Wire end-fed up a fibreglass pole. A 7.2 metre radiating element made from stainless steel aircraft wire.

It was a pretty nice day but a strong, cold wind was blowing from the north. The temperature was 11C by mid afternoon. I had heard that 6 metres was waking up. Local hams told me they were making phone and FT8 contacts. To be ready I took my home brew, 6M hex-beam I made from a Molson Canadian patio umbrella out of the shed. I added a couple of lengths of centre pole and the wire elements were about 9 feet above the driveway.

I unfolded the arms and made sure the 14 gauge solid copper insulated wire was positioned correctly. I checked the SWR and it was 1.5 to 1 at 50.125MHz, the primary SSB frequency. The SWR is still low when you need to move up the band to get off the calling channel. When the band is wide open you'll find stations have moved up as far as 50.225MHz. The [www.DXMAPS.com](http://www.dxmaps.com) shows 6 metre contacts across North America, May8th



It was around 5pm that Dave, VA3UL or maybe it was Gary, VE3DZP, made a callout on 147.525MHz that they were hearing chatter on 6 metres. And sure enough when I switched from the OZI-Wire to the Molson Canadian hex I was hearing voices. I called, CQ six and made seven contacts into the southern United States. From the Carolinas, south to Georgia, between 6 & 7 pm with 100 watts and my beer umbrella hex-beam. From the front of the house I can point east, west and south. Unfortunately the antenna's shape does draw some looks from passers-by as it stands between our cars in the driveway.

If you have a radio with 6 metres now is the times to build some type of antenna and get on phone or digital. The antenna doesn't need to be expensive or elaborate. A few years ago I worked a Florida station with 5 watts and a rubber ducky from my second floor window!

Denis Cahill VA3ONO Feedline Editor