

Your  Feedline

**Next meeting 7pm, Jan. 12th Black Creek Comm. Centre, Stevensville**

# TECH NIGHT

**Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club is holding a Tech Night  
Thursday, January 12th, 2023  
Black Creek Community Centre  
2959 Baker Rd, Stevensville, ON L0S 1S0**

Maybe you are a new Ham or someone who wants to become an Amateur Radio Operator. This night is for you!

Club Members will be demonstrating and explaining how to set-up your ham radio station, the focus will be on VHF/UHF bands (2m and 70cm) we hope to cover subjects:

- Station Set-Up
- Logging of contacts (software)
- Antenna and Antenna Analyzing (the Club has an Antenna Analyzer)
- Joining a net

This is your chance to ask questions and meet members of the Club—All are Welcome Hams and Non-Hams, come out and find out about a hobby that connects you to the world by radio.

Part of the Jan. 12th meeting, will be testing our new VHF antenna atop the tower at the Black Creek site. Using the national two metre calling frequency, 146.520 and the club call VE3VM, will be on the air attempting to make contacts beginning 20:00 EST. If you are unable to attend the meeting listen for us and give us a signal report.

## IS MORSE CODE STILL USEFUL?

By Glenn Holden VE3NDW

I was asked to do a little introduction to Morse code for World Youth Day- unfortunately, the event got cancelled, but I thought that maybe some of us would be interested in one aspect of Morse code. A couple of days ago, Argentina were making some noise about annexing the Falkland Island again. The last time this happened was in 1982 when Argentina invaded the Falklands. The Falklands are an independent protectorate of Great Britain (and still are- recently 90% of the vote cast was to remain associated with Great Britain and not Argentina) just off the coast of Argentina. But what has this to do with Morse Code- well, finally after 30 years of Military secrecy, the truth has come out.

You have to remember that in 1982, there was no internet, no commercial satellites, (but there were Military ones) and no Elon Musk. There was no phone line/telegraph line etc. directly back to Great Britain, but there was a telephone line from the Falklands to Argentina. Fortunately, there was one ham in the Falklands (VP8LP) that had a more or less regular schedule QSO with a ham in Great Britain (G3UML). It turns out that G3UML worked for the BBC and had connections at high level to the British defence department. The ham in the Falklands reported Argentine warships approaching the coast of the Falklands to the ham in GB, who, of course notified the appropriate ministry in GB. The ham in the Falklands continued to report troop movements, landings, and all that sort of military stuff until the Argentine army sized his equipment, but they left his antennas up



Now the flotilla that was sent from Britain to repel the invaders included the modern destroyer HMS Sheffield, a communication ship that did have direct communication with all the other vessels in the fleet as well as land and sea forces. It even had a satellite link back to GB. Take a good look at the picture and you can see all the antennae and domes, radar installations, etc. The Argentines were not stupid and managed to put an Exocet missile into the hull killing 20 sailors.

While it took some time to sort out tactical communications, it was possible to co-ordinate communication between forces, but nothing back to GB! This is where our hero comes in. While the Argentine army had sized VP8LP's radio equipment, they did not realize he had an older, CW only rig which he activated and was able to resume contact with G3UML using plain language Morse code and co-ordinate back to headquarters in GB! Several times his life was at risk as an army officer in plain clothes would "visit" him and dispatches were exchanged between the task force and headquarters in GB. I guess no one in the Argentine listening posts knew Morse code! All this was covered by the official secrets act until 2013 when the secrecy time limit expired.

Could it happen again? Probably not, virtually all ships now include satellite communications equipment, but it's a true story how CW provided an essential link in 1982 between the Falkland Island and the UK.



**The conflict**

- Britain has controlled the Falklands since 1833
- Argentina claims the territory - which it calls the Malvinas - saying it inherited rights to them from Spain
- Argentinian forces invaded the Falkland Islands on 2 April 1982
- A British taskforce was sent to the area and regained control of the islands in June
- There were 255 British servicemen who died in the Falklands War during the 74-day conflict
- Three islanders also died
- The number of Argentinian dead was estimated at about 650.

BBC Website

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**HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR CLUB MEMBERSHIP?**

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

Ken Gansel VA3KWG President  
 John Lorenc VA3WM Treasurer  
 Web Master - John, VA3WM  
 QSL Manager - Mark, VA3BGL

David Van Koughnett VE3DVK Vice Pres.  
 Geddie Pawlowski VE3CJX Secretary  
 Club Examiner - Kevin, VE3RRH  
 ACS EC - Jack, VE3ZPL  
 Nominations Chair - Glenn VE3NDW

## The Burlington Amateur R.C. 220 Net

Thursday at 7 PM, on VE3RSB 224.740, -1.6Mhz, with a tone of 131.8 Hz.



Burlington Amateur Radio Club - Since 1972

Due to overwhelming demand for the Net, the 1.25 meter repeater has been taken down for maintenance. Please stay tuned for when the issues are resolved. Check [barc.ca](http://barc.ca) for more details.

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## JUMPSTART (Americans only)

### Free Dual Band HTs - QRZ Partnered With Gigaparts

We often talk about the demise of Amateur Radio. What will the future hold? The growth is in the low single digits yearly in North America. RAC reports 70,000 hams across the country. Unfortunately removal of SK's calls is haphazard in Canada. And still more are totally inactive. In the United States, they have possibly 750,000 amateurs. Over ten times more. One positive move I spotted recently was a partnership between [QRZ.com](http://QRZ.com) and [gigaparts.com](http://gigaparts.com). Newly licensed Technicians could register and receive a 'Welcome' kit that included the QRZ-I, branded, dual-band handheld. They report they gave thousands of kits away. What an amazing promotion available to new hams in the United States. The Americans sure know how to get your attention and promote.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This year marks our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! Plans are underway for a celebration in the summer or fall of 2023. If you have any ideas please let us know at a meeting or by email. It would be create if we could contact all area hams and past members and invite them to celebrate with us.

Looking ahead for the next several months I want to draw your attention to the following events planned and hope you will come out an participate.

- Our First Tech Night of 2023 – Thursday, Jan. 12th 7pm at BCCC.
- Radio Test – also on Jan. 12th at 20:00 on 146.520, we want to test the range of the new VHF antenna at Black Creek.
- Winter Field Day – Sat/Sun Jan. 28th and 29th, to be held at Black Creek Community Centre (BCCC).
- Our February Meeting is on SDR. We will have a speaker.
- The Big Event Fair Saturday May 27th at BCCC. Volunteers are require to help set and run the event.
- Work continues with the Region of Niagara's CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) to develop our skills as the "official" Auxiliary Communications (AUX-COM) arm of CERT.

Last point is a thank you to Glenn, VE3NDW and Geddie, VE3CJX, for arranging our Christmas dinner party at the Dalhousie Yacht Club. And thank you to those who attended.

Remember we are back to in person meetings on the second Thursdays of the month from Jan. 12th until the June 8th meeting. With our normal summer break, in July and August.

73 Ken VA3KWG VA3MF

Contact Henry, [va3ov\(@\)bell.net](mailto:va3ov(@)bell.net) to operate WFD with a group at Black Creek Community Centre on Jan. 28th or 29th.

# Winter Field Day

## January 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> 2023

### CQ, CQ, CQ...

During Winter Field Day you can:

- \* Set up a remote station & antenna
- \* Operate outdoors, in a trailer, or at home
- \* Operate cw, digital or SSB
- \* Participate in POTA at the same time.
- \* Earn bonus points for setting up outdoors, using alternative power or setting up field antennas.

More details, resources and the PDF field packet is available on our website.

For more information visit [www.winterfieldday.org](http://www.winterfieldday.org)

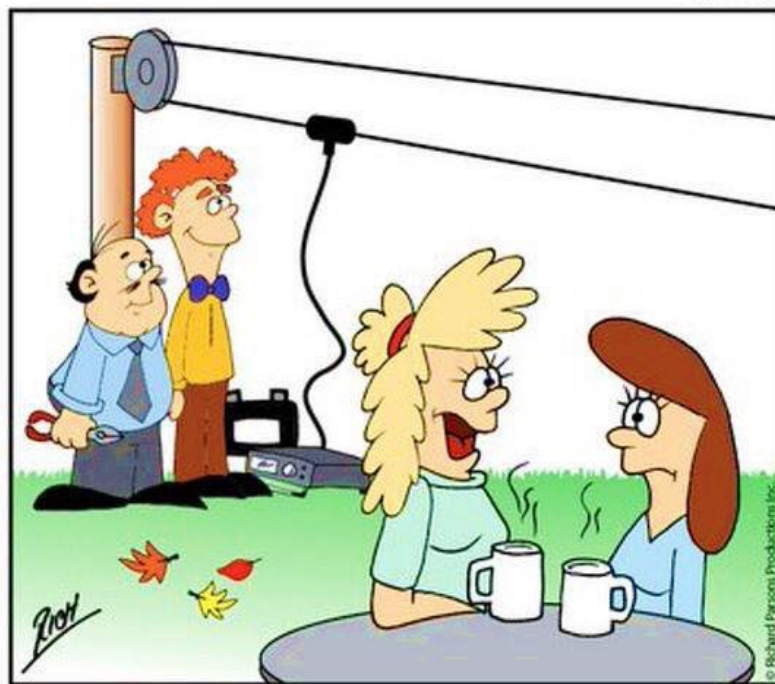




12volt solar sunscreen-charger!

**SUCH A HAM**

SH-005



Stan & Cliff have been working all day on installing my clothesline, Mary.

# OVER TO ME .....

*Denis VA3ONO Feedline Editor*

SK Jim Thompson, VE3BCA was a NPARC member for 64 years when I joined the club in 2012. He travelled to Arnprior, ON to attend the Canadian Civil Defence College in 1956, gained his Advance certificate in 1958 and in 1995 was a key member of the organizing committee for the Region 2, I.A.R.U. General Assembly held in Niagara Falls. Plus he published a comprehensive club history in 2008 to mention a few interesting things. You could say as a club member Jim Thompson paid his dues over and over.

On Dec. 29th, NPARC members, Ken, VA3MF, Mark, VA3BGL, Glenn, VE3NDW, Henry, VA3OV, Geddie, VE3CJX and myself, attended Jim’s ‘Ben Rockwood’ home for a gathering of his family and friends. Jim’s brother, Jack, a retired surgeon from Barrie, 91, welcomed over 40 people to the home Jim and his wife Edra built. in the 1960’s. Jim’s, sister, Jeanne, 97, travelled from Oshawa for the celebration of life. Other family members attended including Jim’s nephew, John, who flew from South Africa with his wife and children. The Thompson’s made everybody feel at home. John Howard, a good friend for 44 years remember Jim as a solid, energetic, Tintern Rd. neighbour. A former student of Jim’s wife Edra, Darlene, spoke about how Jim and Edra where like her second parents.

Photos and memorabilia were on the display and people were encourage to wander the unique home on the edge of the Niagara Escarpment. While in the Grimsby hospital he donated his radio gear to the NPARC. As was mentioned in the December 2022 Feedline, Jim was our last living charter member. He would of turned 100 in 2023. With our 75th anniversary celebration now in the planning stages, Jim would of been THE guest of honour.

