



November 2025 Feedline

From the Editor:

Welcome to the second edition of the Feedline that I've produced. I'm finding that my original idea of getting it out by the first of the month was a bit optimistic, but I **really** need to get it out a week before the general meeting. So please get me stuff by the beginning of the month! I can put in a few last-minute items and I'll run with whatever I have a week before the meeting.

Roy Blake, VE3OQP

roy.blake@gmail.com

Dues are Due!

Our membership year started Sept. 1. Dues are \$65 yearly for RAC members and \$80 for others. You can pay by Interac e-transfer or by bringing cash or cheque to a meeting. For details, see the NPARC website at <https://nparc.ca/membership/>

Club Nets

Monday, 8 pm, VE3RAF, 145.190+, 107.2 Hz: Community Communication Service Net

- A controlled net dedicated to community service work.

Wednesday, 8 pm, VE3NRS, 145.240+, 107.2 Hz: Social Net

- An informal net for general discussion of ham radio and other things.

All amateurs are very welcome at both nets.

President's Message

ON Volunteering...

So often what holds us back from volunteering is a fear of being asked to do too much, or not knowing what is to be expected of us. Volunteering can mean small acts taken with those of others, can amount to much more than what we could accomplish by ourselves.

Tremendous strides can be made when we co-ordinate these small efforts with those from others in our group. Multiply these efforts a number of times and our results become more grand than we could have imagined by ourselves. For those of us who are a little unsure of what to do, we can work together to make you feel comfortable when you help us. We at the club will always be grateful to receive your support when you step forward to help even in the smallest way. Volunteering is what our club has always been about, is now what it is about, and will continue to be what it is about way into the future. We look forward to seeing you at our club events...

Paul VE3WRP

NPARC Repeaters

VE3NRS

147.240+ 107.2 tone

Yaesu System Fusion Auto / Auto analog / digital – no wires-x

VE3WCD

147.300+ 107.2 tone

Yaesu System Fusion Auto / FM analog

VE3RNR

443.175+ 107.2 tone

Yaesu System Fusion Auto / Auto analog / digital – wires-x

NPARC Special Election and Members Meeting

Oct 9, 2025

A Special Election was followed by a Members' meeting at Black Creek Community Centre. A presentation on Experiences in Foxhunting by Glenn VE3NDW, followed.

In attendance: A total of 15 were present with 12 members in good standing.

Special Election Meeting: At 7:05PM the group was called to order by Carl VA3CK, and Glenn VE3NDW was asked to report on the nominations for election of the President. As Paul Walker VE3WRP stood nominated for President and after the required notification for 2 successive months and request for further nominations, Glenn VE3NDW again called for further nominations 3 times. Then a vote was called and so by a unanimous show of hands by the 12 members in good standing, Paul Walker VE3WRP was elected President.

The Special Election Meeting was thus closed and the regular Members Meeting continued with Paul VE3WRP as President and chair, Carl VA3CK as vice president with Glenn VE3NDW, Derek VA3FRQ as Treasurer, and Geddie VE3CJX as Secretary.

It should be noted that the meeting was to be available online, however the link provided was unsuccessful and it was considered important to continue on with the intention of on-line participation for regular meetings, especially with the oncoming winter season.

Silent Keys: Ian Johnston VE3IJJ. Link to obituary at <https://nparc.ca/silentkeys>. An honorarium of \$50, to be directed to the estate, was approved unanimously. Note in the financial report a line item for this expense. John Boswell VA3BOZ also has passed. A silent key notice appears on ONTARS and now includes a link to his obituary. Treasurer Derek VA3RFQ confirmed that honoraria are for active club members.

Roll call: allowed an introduction of everyone attending and provided an opportunity to welcome visitors and refresh an invitation for new members. One of the visitors brought bottled water to share with the group. Our thanks.

Feedline & New Editor: Roy Blake VE3OQP is our new Feedline editor and he published the October Feedline available on the NPARC website. In it are outlined the various proposals that were read by Paul Walker VE3WRP at the meeting of NPARC members in September. We thanked Paul for coming forward and taking on this task for us on behalf of the club. To highlight, Paul held up a book that he had recently read and offered it to others to read. It's about the Empress of Ireland and is reported on in the Feedline. The book describes how it came to sink in the St. Lawrence River involving lives lost in the order of 1000 people. Little was reported at the time although it was a major catastrophe, and the book gives details from the point of view of the captain.

What is Amateur Radio?: This question was among many that Paul Walker VE3WRP included in his presentation in September and Paul would like to prepare a response to that. Anyone wishing to add their voice for further discussion is sincerely invited to get in touch with the executive.

Christmas Party: Glenn VE3NDW reported that it has been tentatively scheduled for December 12, 2025, at 6:30pm at Betty's Restaurant in Chippawa, and we have confirmation that the place is available. The guest speaker will be Ken Gansel VA3KWG, sharing his experience at the Falkland Islands earlier this year. The cost is estimated to be \$32 and it would provide 3 to 4 different types of menu choices including vegan. We expect about 30 people to attend. The dessert would be included and there's also an option for unlimited drinks (non-alcoholic) and a salad. Further details will be presented in the November Feedline and as they become available. We encourage all members and their spouses and friends and family to come and join us and celebrate another year.

Man-a-Mile Event October 13, 2023: Glenn VE3NDW reports that he has spoken with race co-ordinator Daniel and seven teams have been registered and therefore this may be a little smaller event than usual. Eight volunteers have already come forward. As in the past, medals and goodie bags will be available for those that go to Oakes Park for the final pickup and the final announcements of the event. Safety vests will be available on the day of the event. This community event is not an ARES or ACS undertaking as the event is not considered to be an emergency. The service provided will be referred to as an NPARC Community Communication Service or CCS event. Our vests and ID information will need to be updated after confirmation with Al Boyd of RAC. Club and Community Service ID cards, banners, etc. will need updating due to recent changes.

NPARC Big Event: The last NPARC Big Event was held in 2023, however it is not to be confused with a recent Treasure in the Trunk event at the Black Creek Community Centre. Traditionally the Big Event was held the first Saturday in February. It is a good time to have the event because the winter is breaking and folks want to get together.

The insurance coverage for an NPARC Big Event, should we have it, was discussed and Kevin Lemon VE3RRH, as one of the leads for the RAFMARC, was informed of the fact that there is insurance covering those events. Kevin Lemon VE3RRH is an NPARC honorary member.

Going forward, NPARC Big Event should be without ambiguity about insurance coverage for the vendors, people using the radios and for those attending the event and those arranging parking and other site services. It was acknowledged that RAFMARC, SHARE-IT, ISED Radio Operator Exam Preparation courses and others meet at the Black Creek Community Centre.

NPARC Big Event Mailbox Update: Should we do the big event we'd have to ensure that the mailbox for the big event address is updated. Post-meeting reminder from John VA3WM that there is a long-existing mailbox, vendors@nparc.ca intended to be used for vendor table sales; bigevent@gmail.com should not be used.

Special Interest Groups: NPARC members also participate in weekly Winlink nets which include computer as well as digital radio and other opportunities for using the various modes available in Niagara and across Canada. Contesting is included for all NPARC members and is considered a way to further develop new radio skills in a larger scope. We were reminded that there had been a presentation available from Dave VE3DVK that he had prepared for another group about the Winlink software, how it works with your radio, use of specific local nodes, how they are named

and how it's to be used for communication. An update would be of interest to most members. Derek VA3RFQ shared with us that he can use his D-Star with a cell phone and also that Dana Shtun VE3DS will be hosting a meeting of the Ontario VHF and Western New York VHF Associations at Black Creek Community Centre. Though not an NPARC event, it may be of interest to members. There is a \$20 entrance fee. Dana reports and regularly writes in RAC TCA magazine.

Repeater Coordination in Niagara Area: No meetings of the Western New York Southern Ontario Repeater Council (WNYSORC) have been held since COVID. The group ensures cooperation between the various repeater owners in the Ontario and the Upper New York State area.

RAC- GH Auxcomm Service Exercise: New repeaters have been installed in Grassie (Upper Grimsby), and these new repeaters are under test and so may be heard on air. A repeater list used for the Golden Horseshoe Simulated Emergency Test is available from John VA3WM.

Recent changes are available at the RAC website <https://www.rac.ca/community-services-officer/restructuring-of-the-field-organization/> and Jason Tremblay, VE3JXT, Community Services Officer at community@rac.ca. Jack has made it known that he is now working at the provincial level with Jason Tremblay, VE3JXT of the RAC. In the meantime NPARC will continue to provide for "Community Communications Services" training in the field with our communities in the Niagara area, not to be confused with the Community Emergency Response Team or AuxComm Vehicle volunteer group directed by the Regional Municipality of Niagara, which was used to support the recent Bike the Benchlands event. Ken Gansel VA3KWG provided the AuxComm vehicle support for that event.

Membership Update: Derek VA3FRQ, Treasurer, reported 27 paid members as of October 9, 2025. Membership now includes \$25 for BCCC for hosting and storage. Insurance is through the RAC affiliation programme. No local radio class is currently underway but classes are available online for Basic and Advanced.

Kevin Lemon VE3RRH is an Honorary Member, an accredited examiner, and as well hosts internet service to RNR, Wires-X and Winlink communications.

Website Information Update: NPARC website page updates are under consideration, including Wordpress, security, cookies, and file checking. Zoom Workplace costs \$240/ year. Zoom Workplace is being used now for on-line meetings such as the Tuesday Morning Net. The NPARC Gallery page provides archived photos noting that the membership form provides for the addition of names to the photos. Email accounts are role-based.

Meeting Topics Under Consideration: Please come forward with suggested speakers and presentations for our meetings. A Winlink communications in Elliot Lake update by Doug Sigurdson VE3EQV, an NPARC member in Elliot Lake, was suggested. Boosting the value offered in scholarship for E.L.Crossley School found some support.

New and Renewed Memberships: Paul VE3WRP invited all members and visitors to encourage a growing engagement by membership and emphasized that folks are needed to fill positions such as QSL Card Management as Mark Fuller is stepping down. It is with great thanks for the many years of service to this group. We need a Big Event Co-ordinator, and Media Communications Director. We look forward to offering online access for regular meetings and encourage folks to participate in the locally available club Nets as well as those beyond. Sharing ideas is welcome, especially for improving NPARC.

Annual Field Day Food: The 2025 Field Day food was donated by a member. For the 2026 field day the co-ordinators may consider alternatives such as Swiss Chalet and other restaurant or catering providers. Chef Paul has been suggested.

A motion to adjourn was passed unanimously with a show of hands, thus beginning the presentation on Foxhunting.

Minutes prepared by: Geddie, VE3CJX, Secretary. (Oct. 31, 2025)

Fox Hunting



Glenn, VE3NDW, presented a talk on Fox Hunting (Transmitter Hunting), at the October Meeting. This involves using directional antennas to locate a hidden transmitter. NPARC has such a transmitter, operating on the 2 m band, and we had a successful hunt some years ago. We hope to do another one soon --- but someone needs to step up and organize it.

You can find the notes from Glenn's presentation here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/6yjqczb2c2uj2vmv63teo/Fox-hunt.pdf?rlkey=kg2y6ayzdmpzl3blf21imrlaq&st=foxzxdbt&dl=0>

Man-A-Mile Event



NPARC volunteers arrived at Oakes Park in Niagara Falls in the early morning of Thanksgiving Monday and were greeted by Dave Trotter and Laura and other colleagues. Our group of eight radio volunteers including John VA3WM, David VA3DPG, Derek VA3RFQ, Lise VE3WLJ, Paul VE3WRP, Carl VA3CK, and Geddie VE3CJX, was led by Community Communications Coordinator Glenn VE3NDW.



As there is a challenging and significant terrain change along the 15-mile stretch from Fort George in Niagara-on-the-Lake south to Oakes Park, Niagara Falls, we used the VA3WAJ repeater in Niagara Falls. Many thanks to James for setting up the repeater for the event.

Eight teams participated in the relay race, which began at 9 am. Each team had a baton which was passed along from one team member to the next. There were impressively large trophies for the winners, and goodie bags for the volunteers.

More information about the race can be found at their website: <https://manamile.ca/>



CQWW Contest Oct. 24-26

Group Effort at Black Creek

The CQWW SSB contest was held over the weekend of October 24-26 and twelve Niagara hams participated at Black Creek Community Centre, operating from trailers in the parking lot. This wasn't an official NPARC event but many of the participants were club members. We had two stations, one using a 40 m dipole and an ATAS-120A active tuning vertical antenna for 40 and 15 m, and the other using a beam for 10 and 20 m.

336 contacts were made, scoring 1,029 QSO points, with 221 multipliers for a total score of 227,409 total points. Top contacts made were Hawaii on 40 & 10, Alaska and Australia on 10. Excellent propagation was enjoyed on 10,15,20 & 40 m.

Initial reports are everyone had a good time, and we have also added 2 new contestors to the group.



Text: Kevin VE3RRH Photos: Roy VE3OQP, Glenn VE3NDW

Solo CQWW Effort from VA3ONO



Great to hear that NPARC might be in the running for the top club award for the CQ WW DX SSB contest! A small but dedicated group of testers! I was sorry I wasn't able to attend this year.

Like VA3OV, I found 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters very alive all weekend. Sorry, no antenna for 80 or 160 meters. It was a great weekend for propagation.

I jumped on and off my radio seven times for about four hours and twenty minutes of operating time. My best capture and a new country for me was the B4S, the Suzhou Contest Station in China on 15 meters.

It took me a while but I'm hoping the zone 24 station heard my VA3ONO call sign. I also worked two JA's on 15 meters. And our local DX tester, Yuri Onipko, VE3DZ, from Niagara-on-the-Lake on 40 meters. He was operating from Panama as HP3/VE3DZ. There were lots of contest stations on the air, especially from the Caribbean, most having 59-plus signals. And CR3A, a contest group on Madeira Is., zone 33, off the coast of Morocco in the Atlantic loud. Also in zone 33 was ED8W on the Canary Is. I found the Alaska Contest Station, KL5DX, on 15 and 10 meters. And the group of Italian hams that operate T70A from San Marino every year.

I had fun and still got my chores done around the house, spending under five hours on the radio during a contest weekend. A modest 26,676 points with 91 contacts but it was easy hunting when the bands are in good shape.

My station is a shack-in-a-box Yaesu FT-991A and a PAR 40, 20, 15 & 10 meter end-fed antenna. The sixty-three-foot wire runs from my chimney to a fiberglass pole in the corner of my yard. This antenna is still for sale from DX Engineering. Low SWR across the bands plus it works on 12 meters with my internal tuner.

I use Scott's, N3FJP, AC Contest Log, on an old Dell desktop computer. I sent my log to the contest organizers and moved the ADIF files to my QRZ logbook on my Mac computer. When I did, I found 15 confirmations were waiting from South American stations.

Oh did I mention, you won't find any Russians in my log? Not a fan of anything Russian since they invaded the Ukraine.

Denis Cahill VA3ONO St. Catharines. Club member since 2012.

CERT Exercise

In October this year, there was a joint, real time exercise in the Wainfleet fair grounds involving the police, fire, ambulance, chemical de-contamination, EMS and SAR regional teams. The Niagara Region Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) was there as backup support as well. Some members of NPARC are also members of CERT and the associated CERT AUX COMM team. While this was primarily an exercise for the professionals, CERT supplied communications back up, and even more important, the food for breakfast and lunch. Attached are a few pictures of some of the NPARC & CERT Team members.

We really felt sorry for the CERT members that had volunteered to act as casualties, it rained all day and they were soaked!

Glenn VE3NDW CERT Team Lead.



Coming Up

General Meeting Nov. 13

Our next meeting will be Thurs. Nov. 13, 7 pm at the Black Creek Community Centre, 2959 Baker Rd., Stevensville. Kevin Smith will give a presentation on how to read Smith Charts.

Niagara Falls Santa Claus Parade Nov. 15

The NPARC Community Communication Service will be providing communications for the Niagara Falls Santa Claus Parade on Saturday Nov. 15. The parade starts at 4 pm but we will arrive at about 3 pm to set up. The parade should be over by 5 pm but it may take until about 6 to clear the site. For more information or to volunteer please contact Glenn, VE3NDW.

NPARC Christmas Dinner Dec. 12

Plans are well under way for the Annual NPARC Christmas banquet. The event starts at 6:30 and extends into the evening, until closing if necessary. Thanks to some generous individuals, we have managed to obtain items for the draws, but we can always use some more - Tim's cards, old equipment in working order, etc. And Ken has offered to give us a glimpse of the Falkland Islands.

We will shortly be asking you to confirm your attendance. Here is the menu for those that were asking for more details.

Betty's Restaurant

DINNER: Cost \$32 plus tax and tip.

Clients may select when seated.

Dinner roll

Choice of: Fish & Chips or Roast Beef or Chicken Parmigiana served with penne & sauce

Potato & Vegetable de Jour

Fresh Baked Pies

Beverage

905-295-4436 <https://www.bettysrestaurant.com/>

8921 SODOM ROAD,

NIAGARA FALLS, ONTARIO L2E 6S6

Note - alcoholic drinks may be purchased from the bar.

A vegetarian option is also available

Additional Salad, apps, etc can be purchased at a slight increase in cost.

Random Signals

Origin and Use of The Term “Roger”

Paul ,VE3WRP, found an interesting article on the origin and the varying use of the term “Roger” in voice radio, along with a history of phonetic alphabets in general. It’s too long to reproduce here, and anyway there could be copyright problems with that, but you can find the whole article at this link: <https://simpleflying.com/why-pilots-term-roger-instead-yes/>

Use of the proword “Roger” began in the early days of voice communication as a phonetic version of the letter R that was (and still is) used in CW to indicate that a transmission has been successfully received. Sometimes people assumed that this meant that any requests in the message would be complied with but that was never the intended use of “Roger.” Some services appended “Wilco” to indicate agreement with instructions, but later this tended to be replaced with “Affirmative.”

In the first half of the 20th century various phonetic alphabets were created, and some of them used “Roger” for the letter R. When the alphabets were finally standardised, “Romeo” was settled on, but “Roger” is still often used to indicate reception success.

There’s lots more in the article, linked above.

Over-the-Horizon Radio in the Kawarthas

Geddie, VE3CJX, mentioned at the October meeting that it looks as if the Federal Government will be building an over-the-horizon military radar system with a transmitter site in the Kawarthas, in Central Ontario. These systems use high-power pulsed transmissions in the HF region. Could get interesting! Your noise blanker may see some more use. See <https://www.canada.ca/en/departement-national-defence/services/operations/allies-partners/norad/aothr.html>