



## February 2026 Feedline



Hello fellow HAMS and welcome to my first edition of Feedline as your new Editor. It is my privilege to take the role to enable me to learn more about NPARC and our members and events.

I have posted a bit in the group chat about myself but will provide a bit of a bio here. My wife Eva and our Pug Genghis relocated to NOTL in June 2025 anticipating retirement at the end of the year. For the final decade of my career I was the CEO of Endress+Hauser Canada which is a private family owned Swiss company that designs and manufactures process control instruments with over 17,000 associates around the world.

These are the 'things' that measure 'stuff' in any kind of manufacturing environment around. Level, pressure, temperature, flow, density, pH etc and it was a wonderful company to end my professional career with.

I have my 12 wpm Advanced certificate that I earned in 1986 and in 1996 went off the air due to a relocation to China for a number of years and then I stayed out of the hobby to pursue other interests such as motorcycle touring and flying various types of aircraft. The motorcycle is long gone but I am still an active pilot and looking forward to the ice being out of the clouds.

I am a very active builder working with wood, metal ( I learned how to MIG weld for fun ) as well as 3D printing and I have a SainSmart CNC machine that is next on my bench to learn how to use. I also love projects that use the Raspberry Pi architecture and am a pretty decent Python programmer.

Now that we have settled into retirement we are enjoying NOTL with Yoga, Pickleball, bicycling, hiking and I have recently joined the Residents Association on the Land Planning and Development Committee. Quite a spicy topic in NOTL !

As I get back into amateur radio, I have an FT-991A feeding a ½ wave 2m and 70 cm vertical and an Alpha Delta DX-EE dipole which are both tucked away in the attic of our bungalow. I enjoy the afternoon SSB nets and am dusting off my CW as that is something that has always interested me.

Wow has the hobby changed while I was gone for 30 years with the advent and integration of all of the digital and IP technologies such as Wires-X, DSTAR, hotspots etc. SO MUCH MORE TO LEARN but I am a hard core geek and tinkerer and enjoying the journey.

I am glad I retired as there is no time for work !

So that is enough about ME and I hope to meet you all going into the future and already feel like a welcomed member to NPARC,  
73 de Tony Varga VE3ZAV

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## **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

## **Repeaters Update from Repeater Chair John va3wm**

Just a brief repeaters update. All 3 NPARC repeaters are operational. V

E3NRS (FM and C4FM digital), VE3WCD (FM) and VE3RNR (FM and C4FM digital with wires-x) operate with reliable 100% availability.

Any questions or concern may be sent to John va3wm at [repeaterchair@nparc.ca](mailto:repeaterchair@nparc.ca). Info may be found at <https://nparc.ca/repeater-list/>.

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## **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.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The first two months of the year have been very good to us. Our "Big Event" was also a BIG success. Everyone from the general membership all the way up to the club executive responded to our "Big Event" with enthusiasm and excitement. It was great to see everyone pulling together to make it the success it was. While the weather did not exactly work with us, it didn't stop most of our amateur radio friends from around the area from coming out too. We now have the expertise back to be able to do this again and make it bigger and better for next year. For all those who helped even in the smallest way, I want to say a big thank you for volunteering. It makes a difference when you volunteer and know that without you, we could not have had the success we had with the big event.

The other event we undertook was to enter into the Winter Field Day contest at the end of January. Again, the weather did not exactly help us out with the -20-degree cold but sunny skies. The turn out was more than we expected for the event. Twelve people braved the cold and put up eight portable antennas at our location. We even had a few interested individuals stop by to see what we were doing.

All that we did that day could work up a healthy appetite which we had covered with some great hot and cold foods and beverages to keep us going. To all who came out I say, Thank you for braving the intense cold that day to play radio together. It truly was a great club event in every sense of the word.

March is here and that means it won't be long before we can shake off our winter coats and start to enjoy the great outdoors again. That means portable outdoor operations like POTA, SOTA, DX'ing, and just plain rag chewing on location. Our future is bright and we are united. I look forward to hearing about your upcoming amateur radio experiences now that the good weather is almost here.

73s, Paul VE3WRP

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## In Memory Of

### Roy Blake and Paul Julian



Their contributions to the club and the amateur radio community will be remembered.



Well, it has come and gone- in spite of the weather advisory, Winter Field Day 2026 at a new location, Cooks Mills Hall, near Welland, On.

It was good to see the turnout, 14 of us, including some none participating guests braved the weather to come to help out or have a look see.

We had a total of 8 portable antenna set ups, including a Budipole, Budisticks, JPC 12, various other verticals, an internet Satellite link, and even an end fed long wire.

In spite of the winter conditions, we were able to get all the antenna SWR's below 1.5:1, quite an accomplishment considering the frozen ground. Drilling a hole in the frozen ground provided a good solution for the verticals and for grounding!

And the variety of equipment, ranging from 10 watt POTA QRP rigs to full sized HF rigs, and even a couple of hand helds for UHF/VHF. And modes, we were able to work phone, CW and JS8 Call (digital). Just goes to show we could set up a complete communications center in the event of an emergency.

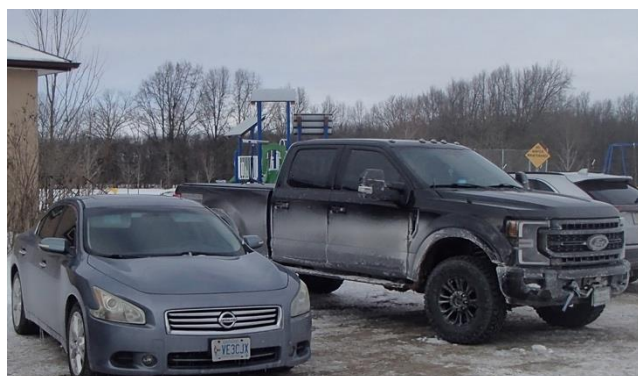
And the food, hot Chili for lunch, the inevitable Tim's Coffee and donuts, as well as countless other snacks and treats kept us warm and fueled up! Then, there was the car that wouldn't start to add to the excitement. Turns out our battery jumpers don't work as well as we expected.

In all, considering that we only operated for about 4 hours, with a lunch break, and the band conditions were certainly not the best, while we won't probably break any records, it was quite an accomplishment. If you missed it, then there is Summer Field Day to look forward to.

Glenn VE3NDW



Typical Setup



Satellite Truck Setup Page 4



Verticals Everywhere !



A New Keyboard !



Long wire



I Wonder What THIS does ?



JS-8 call DIGITAL !



Coffee PLEASE !



Satellite Internet



I Say Again ....



SHH..I'm Concentrating !



Buddi Pole

### Excellent Representation By

Geddie Pawlowski VE3CJX  
 Glenn Holden VE3NDW  
 Derek White VA3RFQ  
 Ashraf Botros VE3ANO  
 Bernard Spangl OE1BES  
 Lise Walker VE3WLJ  
 Paul Walker VE3WRP

Peter Teminski VA3WET  
 Nancy Farrell VA3NWK  
 Dan Botari VE3CMZ  
 Carl Krasnor VA3CK  
 Roy Blake VE3OQP (silent key now)

Trudy White and Carole Petite visited us and Glenn's friend Dale came by to help him set up.



## **NPARC Monthly Update – February Financial & Membership Report**

### **Financial Overview**

February proved to be a strong month for NPARC. Revenue exceeded typical levels thanks to the outstanding success of the Big Event, which delivered a significant financial boost for the club.

Operating expenses remained modest, limited to the Winter Field Day hall rental, the DSBN insurance policy, and donations made in memory of our Silent Keys. With income outpacing expenses, February closed as a profitable month, and the club's overall financial position remains healthy and stable.

As always, **detailed financial records are available to any member upon request**, reflecting our commitment to transparency and responsible stewardship of club resources.

### **Membership Snapshot**

- **36** Paid Members
- **2** Life Members
- **1** Honorary Member
- **Total Membership: 39**

### **Upcoming Planned Expenses**

Looking ahead, the club anticipates several scheduled expenditures, including:

- E.L. Crossley Scholarship
- Website domain renewal
- Mailbox rental

## **GREAT LEAPS FORWARD - Digital Modes - Tony VE3ZAV**

Back in the 1980's I thought our core group of enthusiasts in the London Amateur Radio Club were way ahead of our time with our PAKRATT 232 decoders, Window 95 and a 2 MBPS wireless internet link to UWO at our homes.... Before the browser was invented.... The good old days !

Coming back into the hobby 30 years later, I am amazed at the new radio technologies, software and integration with the internet for things like NETLOGGER and other leaps forward. Lets take a quick look at what we can play with !

**Firstly let's look at C4FM.** A lot of radios including the FT5 can operate in normal FM analog mode, or in digital mode. This is the same for some repeaters. C4FM is the system used for digital connections. As an example.... Two people using ft5's to talk...they can use analog FM or they can switch to digital and have conversations radio to radio.

The digital signal is usually clearer and is usually easier to hear if the signal is weaker. This is purely radio. So C4FM is just the name given to the digital side of the radio. It doesn't require any additional connection (internet) for it to be used.

**Let's take System Fusion next.** This is a Yaesu development which only works on Yaesu equipment. It is so named as it 'fuses' together the automatic switching between FM analog and C4FM tx and rx. It monitors the signal and will automatically switch to the appropriate mode on so equipped radios. Again this is purely a radio feature and it doesn't require additional connections (internet).

**Wires X.....** This is an internet based system owned by Yaesu. It is hosted on servers run by Yaesu. It is essentially a series of 'chat rooms' which you can go into via your radio. You can even host your own room if you have the appropriate equipment. To be able to use Wires X you have to register with Yaesu who will issue a code which has to be entered on initial use.

To use the system you have to interface your radio to a computer (running wires x software) and connectivity to the internet is required. This is if you are setting up your own node. You don't need to register or interface to a computer or have internet connection if accessing Wires X via a suitably enabled repeater. All the internet stuff is done at the repeater site. All you need is Wires X function on the radio. Icom have a similar product called D Star.

**D-STAR ....** users the ability to connect via digital voice as well as slow and high-speed data communications. Slowspeed digital voice and data are transported at 4800 bps, of which 3600 bps is used for voice transmission, the remaining 1200 bps used for synchronisation and general use.



# Meeting Minutes



## Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club Inc

### General Membership Meeting February 12, 2026

**Call to Order:** President, Paul Walker, VE3WRP, shortly after 7:00pm called the meeting to order. Carl, VA3CK, Vice President, Derek, VA3RFQ, treasurer, Geddie, VE3CJX, secretary were present. There were 14 attendees in the room. Paul welcomed members and guests, followed by a round of introductions. A minute of silence was offered to friends and family of Roy Blake, VA3OQP, our long time member and recent Feedline Editor.

Our on-line speaker was and topic for the evening were introduced and the regular meeting began after the presentation and a short break. Other Silent Keys also acknowledged were Dan McGill, and Paul Julian, a long time NPARC member and former member of the Niagara Regional Police

The evening speaker, Allan Boyd VE3AJB/VE3EM was introduced by Paul, VA3WR. Al Boyd is President of Radio Amateurs Canada. Al is a retired Ontario Provincial Police Officer with 35 years of service and has been a Amateur Radio operator for 40 years, with Advanced certification.

He has held many positions with RAC including Emergency Coordinator (EC), District Emergency Coordinator (DEC), Section Manager for Ontario, Director Ontario North/East, Vice President and then President for Radio Amateurs of/du Canada. Al presently sits as Section Manager for Ontario North Section.

His is an accredited Volunteer Examiner with ISED, President Manitoulin Amateur Radio Club Inc. In addition, he sits as a Councilor and Deputy Mayor for NEMI Township. Al is into all forms of Amateur Radio including all the new digital formats. ( see <https://oarc.net/2026-02-15-oarc-monthly-meeting-february-2026-report/> for more information)

Of specific interest were the Canada-wide initiatives with respect to emergency and amateur radio services provided by RAC and affiliated clubs including: new digital and satellite systems, technology, implementation, available funding, interoperability and the RAC Auxiliary Communication Services training plans for the Niagara Region. Jack Benes, VE3ZPW is currently focused on interoperability issues with the newly formed Ontario Corps.

Discussion followed on a suggestion that Ken Gansel, VA3KWG, president emeritus, may considered the contact between NPARC and RAC/Ontario Corps

## **Big Event #45 / February 7, 2026 at Fireman's Park in Niagara Falls:**

As the New Year began, the organizing committee set to getting a site agreement in place, completed communications, registration of vendors, a hospitality plan and organizing members volunteering for the event. We were very encouraged to see a strong member and community support for the event and welcoming in the order of 150 paid entries.

## **Annual Field Day, The last weekend in June / June 27-28, 2026:**

Planning is underway and is being lead by Paul, VE3WRP. Venue to be determined considering the 24 hour event, communications, site plan, log submission, band captains, hospitality, traffic control, set-up and tear down all need volunteers to come forward. Paul invited all members to help with this 24 hour world class radio event and to make it a great success.

**Scholarship/ Bursary:** From previous discussions involving members and contributors Paul VE3WRP, will be in contact with Niagara College to discuss setting up of an award in the name of Roy Blake, VA3OQP, who had been instructor at the collage.

**Hospitality:** A hearty thank you to the members who provided hospitality for the evening.

A motion to adjourn was accepted by all and the meeting ended at 9:58pm.

**Minutes prepared by:** Geddie, VE3CJX, Secretary

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**In Summary ....** I hope you have enjoyed this edition of Feedline and remember; this is a newsletter that needs YOUR material to make it a success !

It takes a lot of work by all the contributors to put this together monthly so the more we all contribute the better it will be.

73's VE3ZAV Tony

**NEXT CLUB MEETING : Thursday March 12, 2026**  
**Black Creek Community Centre**