



October 2026 Feedline



Happy Halloween to members of the Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club!

As the leaves turn across the Niagara Region and a crisp autumn breeze settles in over the peninsula, it's a wonderful time to reflect on our club's activity and look ahead to the cozy operating season. Fall in Niagara is always a special time—not just for the views along the Escarpment and Parkway, but for the fantastic radio propagation that comes with the cooler weather.

Whether you're tuning into the local repeaters during your morning commute, setting up portable stations for an autumn POTA (Parks on the Air) activation before the snow arrives, or spending a chilly evening tweaking your HF rig in the shack, there's no shortage of ways to stay connected.

A few things to keep in mind as we roll into the season:

Antenna & Shack Prep: Now is the time to do those final outdoor checks on your antenna lines, tower mounts, and guy wires before the winter frost sets in.

Club Get-Togethers: Be sure to check our event calendar for upcoming monthly meetings, coffee chats, and technical presentations. It's a great season to share recent project builds and DX stories.

Contests & Nets: Fall brings a packed schedule of autumn contests and active nets. Join in on our local club nets to keep your signals strong and touch base with fellow members.

Thank you to everyone who continues to contribute articles, technical tips, photo submissions, and news to our newsletter. Your involvement keeps our club vibrant and informed. If you have an interesting project, a field report, or an antenna story to share, my inbox is always open for your submissions for the next issue!

Wishing you clear skies, low noise floors, and great DX this season.

73, Tony VE3ZAV

MESSAGE FROM
THE PRESIDENT

October President's Message: Duty to the Community

As the autumn leaves fall and the nights grow longer, October brings one of our busier times of the year. While neighbourhoods prepare for Thanksgiving, trick-or-treaters and spooky decorations, our club is gearing up for a different kind of seasonal tradition, the Man-A-Mile Relay Race, and the Niagara Falls Santa Claus Parade.

These are two incredible opportunities for **service to the community**. These deployments give us the chance to get out and “stretch our legs” and “strut our stuff” when it comes to community service. And, while we provide this vital service to the community, we also strengthen our club by getting together, sharing our company and fellowship with each other while we practice our radio skills. It is a whole lot of fun.

This month, our holiday spirit and community duty highlights the true value of ham radio. We aren't just a hobby group tinkering with antennas; we are a dedicated network of volunteers ready to step up whenever local coordination is needed.

As amateur radio operators involved with community communications, we are reassuring the community by our very presence keeping emergency channels clear and viable should the need arise to use them. The organizations we support with our efforts truly appreciate our services.

I want to extend a massive thank you to everyone volunteering for this year and for all of you that will step forward in the months to come. Your dedication turns our technical skills into a true public asset. So, let's grab our jackets, charge our batteries, and keep our community safe this Fall Season.

73,

Paul Walker, VE3WRP

President, Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club



Logging Software

Tony, VE3ZAV

I clearly remember my early days as a newly minted HAM long before the internet and when the Commodore 64 was the hottest machine money could buy ! What to do with 64 Megabytes of RAM !!

When I completed a QSO I hurriedly broke out a QSL card from the stack and addressed it with a short message, posted it in the mail and entered the contact into a lined book that I kept beside the radio.

How times have changed !

This article is focused on some of the logging software at our fingertips that integrate computers and radios to help keep track of who we chatted with.

Whether you are chasing rare DX, working towards your next Worked All Canada (WAC) award, or putting in serious hours during contest season like the annual Ontario QSO Party, keeping an accurate and efficient log is a cornerstone of the amateur radio hobby. Gone are the days when a paper duotang and a ballpoint pen were your only options (though they still have their nostalgic charm!). Today, a wealth of software packages exists to simplify your shack operations, integrate with your rig, upload to Logbook of The World (LoTW), and track your award progress automatically.

Let's take a tour through some of the most popular software packages available for logging contacts today.

1. General-Purpose Logging & Shack Management

For everyday ragchewing, DXing, and award tracking, you want a comprehensive logging suite that acts as the central hub for your station.

QRZ Logbook / CloudLog: Many operators now lean heavily on web-based logs or cloud integration. QRZ Logbook is universally accessible and integrates seamlessly with QRZ.com callsign lookups, instantly populating names, grid squares, and QTH information.

DXKeeper (DXLab Suite): For the operator who loves deep customization and raw power, Dave Bernstein's DXLab Suite is a powerhouse. DXKeeper handles massive logbooks effortlessly, manages QSL cards, tracks awards (like DXCC, WAS, and WPX), and integrates tightly with spotting networks and digital modes.

Log4OM: A modern, feature-rich logging application that offers fantastic integration with WSJT-X, various radio rigs, and cluster networks. It features a clean user interface, internal cluster support, and automated ADIF synchronization with online services like LoTW and eQSL.

2. Contest-Specific Logging Powerhouses

When contest weekend arrives, seconds matter. General-purpose loggers can sometimes feel a bit sluggish when you need rapid-fire serial numbers, exchange tracking, and real-time duplicate checking. That is where specialized contest loggers shine.

N1MM Logger+: Widely considered the gold standard for HF contesting worldwide, N1MM+ is free, incredibly powerful, and actively supported. It supports an enormous array of contests—including local favorites like the Ontario QSO Party—features multi-station networking, voice/CW keyer integration, and seamless digital mode interfacing.

N3FJP Software (AC Log & Contest Logs): Scott, N3FJP, offers a modular suite of logging programs tailored for specific contests (like state/provincial QSO parties) as well as a brilliant general logger (Amateur Contact Log). Known for clean, straightforward interfaces and stellar customer support, N3FJP software is a favorite for both casual contesters and everyday loggers.

TR Log / TRLog Contest: A classic choice that has evolved over the years, favored by many seasoned contesters who love a fast, keyboard-centric interface.

Writelog / CQ/X / SD Log: Other reliable tools frequently utilized in major domestic and international events, offering specialized features like mobile GPS tracking or streamlined Cabrillo file generation.

3. Digital Mode Specialists

If your primary activity involves FT8, FT4, RTTY, or JS8Call, your logging workflow is often tied directly to your transmission software.

WSJT-X & JTDX: While primarily transmission/decoding software rather than full-featured standalone logbooks, WSJT-X and JTDX maintain their own internal ADIF logs (all.txt) and can be configured to instantly push every completed QSO to your primary logging program or directly upload to LoTW and Club Log.

4. Cross-Platform & Alternative Options

Not every shack runs Windows, and Linux and macOS users have fantastic options too.

CQRLog: A robust, advanced logging program for Linux users, built around a MySQL database. It features native integration with CW Keyers, rotators, DX clusters, and digital modes via flrig/fldigi.

RucZLog / PyQSO: Excellent lightweight alternatives for alternative operating systems, ensuring that platform choice never holds back your logging capability.

Choosing the Right Tool for Your Shack

The "best" logging software ultimately depends on how you operate:

If you love **casual ragchewing and chasing awards**, a flexible tool like *Log4OM* or *QRZ Logbook* will serve you well.

If you live for **weekend pile-ups and contest exchanges**, installing *N1MM+* or an *N3FJP* module is practically mandatory.

If you run a **mixed Linux/macOS shack**, explore *CQRLog* or cross-platform web solutions.

The **World Radio League (WRL)** is a modern, web- and mobile-based logging and community platform designed for amateur (ham) radio operators. Created to bring 21st-century software standards to the hobby, WRL aims to bridge the gap between getting a license and actively getting on the air, offering an alternative to traditional, legacy logging applications.

Key Features

Modern, Cross-Platform Interface: Unlike older spreadsheet-style logging tools, WRL features a clean, responsive UI that works seamlessly across web browsers, desktop apps, and mobile devices with automatic cloud synchronization.

Offline Mobile Support: The mobile application includes offline capability, allowing operators to log contacts in the field without an internet connection and automatically syncing them to the cloud once reconnected.

Specialized Activity Support: Fully optimized for popular ham radio programs like **POTA** (Parks on the Air) and **SOTA** (Summits on the Air), featuring park references, autospotting tools, and streamlined exporting.

Live Contesting & Scoreboards: WRL supports live contest logging and is notably recognized as the official technology partner and live scoreboard provider for major events like the **World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC)**.

Integrations & Data Portability: Users can easily import and export standard **ADIF** files. WRL also integrates smoothly with other ecosystem platforms like QRZ, Logbook of The World (LoTW), and digital modes software like WSJT-X.

Analytics and Mapping: The platform automatically generates detailed analytics, dashboards, award tracking, and interactive maps of logged contacts.

WRL is free to use for core logging, manual ADIF imports/exports, and basic features. It sustains its ongoing cloud infrastructure and continuous feature updates through an optional supporting membership model.

Overall, the World Radio League has gained rapid popularity among both novice and veteran hams for its speed, sleek design, and emphasis on community connection

www.worldradioleague.com

No matter which package you choose, the best logbook is the one you use consistently. Back up your ADIF files regularly, keep your LoTW certificates up to date, and we will see you in the logbook—and on the air!

73 from the Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club.



Greetings, fellow hams and members of the Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club! October is officially here, bringing crisp autumn air, falling leaves, and fantastic autumn propagation across the bands.

Whether you are operating QRP in the field or warming up the shack for fall contests, there is plenty happening across the amateur radio world this month.

Here is a roundup of top news, events, and developments in amateur radio for October:

On the Air: Major Global Events

Jamboree on the Air (JOTA-JOTI)

October brings one of the largest youth events of the year! Millions of Scouts and Guides around the globe will connect via amateur radio and the internet during **Jamboree on the Air (JOTA)**.

It's a prime opportunity for local hams to mentor youth, demonstrate HF and VHF operations, and foster the next generation of amateur radio operators. Keep an eye on local frequencies and the VE3NRS / VE3WCD repeaters to see if local youth stations are active!

Fall Contest Season Heating Up

With Solar Cycle 25 keeping HF propagation dynamic, the October contesting calendar is packed:

CQ World Wide DX Contest (SSB): Mark your calendars for the final full weekend of October! Hams worldwide will be competing on 160 through 10 meters in one of the year's premier DX events.

State & Regional QSO Parties: Keep an eye out for regional QSO parties running throughout the month, perfect for working towards Worked All States (WAS) or logging rare counties.

Technology & Spectrum News

Space & Satellite Operations

ARISS SSTV Events: Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) continues regular Slow Scan Television (SSTV) transmissions and school contacts, celebrating STEM education and youth outreach. Check local pass schedules for 145.800 MHz FM to capture image transmissions from orbit!

A Century of the Yagi Antenna: Contest University (CTU) and the global ham community are celebrating 100 years since the invention of the Yagi-Uda beam antenna in 1926. A century later, it remains the gold standard for directional gain from HF through microwave bands!

Digital Voice & Next-Gen Modes

Discussion around spectral efficiency and robust voice digital modes continues to make waves. Hams are increasingly experimenting with low-bandwidth digital modes and remote station operating, making DXing accessible even on noise-plagued neighborhood lots.

Local Reminders for NPARC Members

Club Net: Don't forget to join our weekly VHF Net every Wednesday night at 20:00 hrs on the **VE3NRS repeater (147.240 MHz +600 kHz, CTCSS 107.2 Hz)**.

Monthly Meeting: Be sure to attend this month's regular NPARC club meeting on the second Wednesday of the month for key updates, presentations, and camaraderie with fellow Niagara hams.
NPARC

73 and good DXing to all NPARC members!

*Got news, photos, or project updates you'd like featured in a future edition of **The FEEDLINE**?*

Send your submissions to feedline@nparc.ca.



Roy Blake, VE3OQP 1947-2026



Roy taught electronics for over 30 years at Niagara College in Welland, where he was a shop steward in the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, and wrote several communications technology textbooks which were taught around the world.

He loved teaching, which let him combine his knowledge of technology with his ability to relate to people. He was active in his community as part of the Unitarian Congregation of Niagara, the Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club, PROBUS, and the Niagara College Retirees Association. He continued as a technologist into his retirement, voluntarily using his skills for all these organizations and helping sundry other people with their technical problems.

Roy enjoyed hiking, cycling, and canoeing. As a lover of nature, he especially enjoyed camping in many of Ontario's magnificent parks such as Algonquin, Arrowhead, and Murphy's Point. He also had a keen interest in all arts — visual, cinematic, musical, and literary. He spent his retirement enjoying the outdoors, his hobbies, and travelling the world.

Roy will be dearly missed by his two children, Adam and Shira Blake, his wife of 53 years, Penny Blake, and all who were touched by his generous nature and memorable laugh.



And Finally.... Some members have inquired about the artwork for our club business card and here it is.



73's VE3ZAV Tony

NEXT CLUB MEETING : Weds November 11, 2026

Meridian Community Centre

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.

VE3NRS (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. Info may be found at <https://nparc.ca/repeater-list/>.

Nets

All certified / licensed operators are welcome.

NPARC Thursday weekly net 8:00 pm, on VE3NRS 147.240+ 107.2 Hz tone Net on hiatus during July and August.. Net preamble may be found [here](#). SWL's can check in by e-mail or text to netcontrol@nparc.ca.

Niagara CCS (Community Communications Service) net on VE3RAF, 145.190- 107.2 Hz tone Monday 8:00 pm.

Trans Canada IRLP net on VA3WAJ, 442.425+ 107.2 Hz tone, IRLP 9013, Wednesday, 11:00 am.

ONTARS daily net 3.755 +/- 7:00 am to 6:00 pm.