NPARC
NiagaraPeninsula
AmateurRadioClub

November 2026 Feedline





Fall Chores, Crisp Air, and Shack Prep: Making the Most of Amateur Radio in Autumn

As the vibrant autumn colors settle across the Niagara Peninsula and the morning air turns crisp, November brings a wonderful rhythm change for amateur radio operators in our club.

While summer field days and portable operations in the sunshine are always a highlight, autumn is arguably one of the most rewarding seasons for getting serious about our hobby.

With the blazing summer heat behind us and the heavy snows of winter still ahead, November offers a unique sweet spot.

Propagation on the HF bands begins to perk up as ionospheric conditions shift, and the cooler weather makes spending an afternoon in the shack—or out in the yard tackling antenna maintenance—much more comfortable.

Here are a few tips and ideas to help you make the most of your amateur radio setup this fall:

1. Fall Antenna & Coax Inspection

Before the freezing temperatures, ice storms, and heavy winds of a Niagara winter arrive, take advantage of a pleasant autumn weekend to check your outdoor infrastructure:

Check the Coax Connections: Inspect outdoor feedline connectors for weatherproofing. Ensure tape, coaxial seal or heat shrink hasn't cracked, letting moisture creep into the coax braid.

Trim Overhanging Branches: Autumn winds can snap dead branches. Walk your property line or tower path to ensure falling limbs won't compromise your dipoles, yagis, or vertical radials.

Secure Guy Wires and Hardware: Give turnbuckles, masts, and ground stakes a once-over. Tightening things up now prevents emergency midnight fixes in sub-zero weather.

2. Embrace the Return of HF Propagation
As days shorten and solar absorption patterns change, lower-band and higher-band DX alike start showing interesting shifts.

Dust Off the CW and Digital Modes: Fall and winter traditionally mark the start of the heavy contesting season (CQ WW, Sweepstakes, and more). It's a great time to brush up on your Morse code speed or configure your soundcard interfaces for FT8/RTTY before the major weekend exchanges begin.

Check into Local Nets: Regular local nets—including our reliable NPARC repeaters (**VE3NRS**, **VE3WCD**, and **VE3RNR**)—are a fantastic way to catch up with fellow members as we settle back into our indoor routines.

3. Dive into Indoor Shack Projects
When the November rains keep you indoors, autumn is prime time for the workbench projects you put off all summer:

Microcontroller & Raspberry Pi Experiments: If you picked up any new gear or tinkering modules over the summer (like the U-Console or SDR setups discussed in recent club meetings), now is the perfect time to write that Python script, configure your hotspot, or wire up that kit.

Organize the Junk Box: Winter is coming—turn rainy Saturdays into inventory time for spare connectors, fuses, wire, and tools so you are ready for quick fixes.

Looking Ahead at NPARC

As we gather for our monthly meetings at the **Meridian Community Centre** (Dr. Gary and Mall Accursi community room), there is plenty of camaraderie, technical discussion, and equipment sharing to keep our skills sharp.

Remember, our club thrives on active participation and shared stories. If you tackled a unique fall antenna project or worked a rare DX station this season, share it with us for an upcoming edition of *FEEDLINE*!

Stay warm, check your feedlines, and I'll see you on the air and at the next meeting and please don't forget to renew your annual membership of you have not already !

73 de Tony, VE3ZAV



November President's Message

It's November, and now that the leaves have turned into beautiful shades of red, yellow, and orange, they are starting to drop to the ground. This is where our fall maintenance starts to clear fallen leaves, prune dormant bushes, and prepare our yards for the cold winter ahead.

We also need to check our gear that is outside to prepare for that cold winter. A final check for broken grounds, faulty coax, rusty nuts and bolts on our antennas will help us to stay warm and toasty during these short winter days and long winter nights.

A repair to our outside equipment now will save a very uncomfortable repair later in freezing bad weather. It goes without saying that it is all the better to stay warm and cozy in our shacks and play radio than digging your way out to a shorting connector on your transmission line.

Winter is a great time to contest, chase DX, build a kit, or check in at any number of nets. Doing any of these things makes the harsh reality of winter hardly noticeable and will provide hours of pleasure by playing radio during the winter. We at NPARC look forward to hearing about your latest amateur radio winter exploits at our next meetings.

Don't be shy, see you there!

73,

Paul Walker, VE3WRP

President, Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club

Community Communication Services Update

October saw the running of the annual Man a Mile event from Fort George to Niagara Falls, Oaks Park. I think it was the 105 running of the event, yup, you saw that right! This year, as in previous years, NPARC provided communications and updates of the progress along the route. Unfortunately, there was a glitch in the advertising this year, and the e-mail address was to a dead box, so initially the organizers thought that only 3 teams were registered, but at the time of the event, there were 5 teams in the running, so to speak. Unfortunately, medals and supplies, goodies, etc. were only ordered for 3 teams leading to a somewhat awkward moment at the awards. David was very apological that this year, the amateurs would not receive medals, or a bag of goodies, but asked us to please express to the club and the participants, their thanks for our efforts and would welcome our participation again next year. There are some pictures of the event submitted.

The next CCS event is the Santa Clause Parade in Niagara Falls on Saturday, November 14. This is also an annual event for the radio club, we provide backup communications throughout the parade route for many years. In this event, we normally operate outside with hand held units, so please dress appropriate for the weather and make sure your HH battery is charged. If you haven't volunteered yet, please let me know as I am route assigning positions and will shortly sent out detailed information.

Although not part of the Community Communications Services I'd like to remind everyone of the NPARC annual Christmas Banquet, held again, this year at Betty's in Niagara Falls on Friday December 04. We try to make this event a social occasion rather than a "radio" event, this year was the 100th anniversary of route 66 and we will have a talk by Ken Gansel about his trip along the historic route 66. There is further information on Groups i/o but please inform me if you plan to attend and what your menu selection would be. Oh yes, door prize donations welcome, anything you might want to consider, it doesn't have to be "ham" stuff, the usual Timmy's cards, things you bought and never used, etc. even gently used items that work and someone could use.

Glenn Holden

VE3NDW NPARC CCS Coordinator

man-a-mile

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE TO NIAGARA FALLS RELAY RACE



















Tony, VE3ZAV

As the autumn weather sets in and we find ourselves spending more time in the comfort of our shacks, November is shaping up to be an action-packed month for amateur radio operators.

From massive citizen science grants to deep-space tracking and major on-air events, there is plenty to explore. Here is a look at what is making waves in the ham radio community right now.

NASA Awards HamSCI $5.5 Million Space Physics Grant

The biggest headline this month comes from the intersection of amateur radio and academic science. The U.S. space agency NASA has officially awarded a **$5.5 million citizen science grant to HamSCI** (the Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation).

Led by founder Nathaniel Frisell, W2NAF, the multi-million-dollar initiative is titled *"Discovering the Spark: Space Physics through Amateur Radio."* The funding is designed to bring space weather tracking, ionospheric research, and RF propagation experiments straight into community spaces like schools, museums, and libraries.

It is a massive nod of respect from NASA, proving once again that amateur radio operators provide vital, real-world data for understanding the physics of our atmosphere.

Catch Space Shuttle History via ISS SSTV

Keep your eyes on the downlinks! The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) team is hosting its **Series 35 Slow Scan Television (SSTV) event from November 9th through November 16th**.

This event's theme celebrates Space Shuttle history. The station will transmit historic images on **437.550 MHz** using the Robot 36 mode. If you track the passes and successfully decode the images, you can submit your received pictures directly to the official ARISS online gallery to participate in the global celebration.

Amateur radio is undergoing a rapid technological transformation.

The hobby is shifting significantly toward deep software integration, automated operation, and smarter ways to separate weak signals from environmental noise

The New Tech Frontier: How AI and Smart Software are Reshaping the Shack

Amateur radio has never been a hobby that stands still, but the technological leap forward we are witnessing right now is truly historic. The days of hardware being the sole defining factor of a station's capability are fading. Today, the cutting edge of amateur radio is defined by artificial intelligence, cloud-linked ecosystems, and cross-platform flexibility.

AI Meets the Airwaves: Smart Noise Reduction

Perhaps the most intriguing development this year is the introduction of machine learning to signal processing. Software suites like **Ham Radio Deluxe Version 7** are actively building AI integration into their digital mode modules (like DM780).

Instead of traditional, blunt-force DSP filters that cut out wide swaths of audio bandwidth, new AI algorithms are trained to recognize the distinct geometric rhythm of Morse code and digital waveforms amidst a wall of heavy static. The software can intelligently separate the signal from the noise, predicting and smoothing out text displays even when a sender's fist or signal conditions are far from perfect.

The Rise of Transceiver-less Digital Apps

For years, digital voice protocols like DMR, D-STAR, and System Fusion required specific handhelds or a dedicated MMDVM hotspot. A wave of new software, highlighted by universal applications like **C4FM (QO1)**, is entirely decoupling network access from physical radios.

Available across Windows, tablets, and Android devices, these applications allow hams to directly bridge into Allstar, Echolink, BrandMeister, and the open-source M17 digital networks using just an internet or cellular connection. By utilizing synchronized cloud profiles, you can seamlessly switch from your desktop at home to your phone on the road, staying connected to global repeaters without carrying a single piece of RF hardware.

Next-Gen Visualization: Unified Command Centers

Logging and station control software are getting a massive visual overhaul to match the multi-screen, 4K realities of modern shacks. The upcoming release of **HRD Global View** represents a new trend of hyper-dense data integration.

Rather than running separate programs for your logger, grayline tracker, and spot visualizer, new interfaces fuse elements of GridTracker, HamClock, and Geochron into a single hardware-accelerated dashboard. These dashboards can map propagation paths in real time, automate directional rotor switching, and project live DX data cleanly onto secondary monitors or smart TVs.

Cave-Dating Digital Networks & Earth-Penetrating RF

Innovation isn't just happening in software; it's also happening out in the field. This month, look no further than recent emergency operations in Alberta, where volunteer cavers successfully deployed **custom digital radio equipment to pass text messages through 500 meters of solid limestone** during a mock rescue inside Canmore's Rat's Nest Cave. This breakthrough relies on ultra-low-frequency digital techniques paired with automated station systems—reminding us that hams are still finding ways to push signals where no commercial cell tower can reach.

From the automated station disconnects that protect our gear from lightning strikes, to advanced weak-signal protocols updated regularly on SourceForge's Open Source WSJT-X Project, the modern ham shack is smarter, faster, and more adaptable than ever before.

Hope you found this interesting !

73,
The Feedline Editorial Team



And finally …. I would like to make a shout out and special thanks to Paul Walker and the NPARC Executive for the hard work and due diligence that led us to our new meeting home at the Meridian Community Centre !

It took work and time to investigate various venues and features versus the cost to find the best option, and I think we can agree that they NAILED IT !

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.