Niagara ARES

December 10, 2017

Special points of interest:

- Niagara ARES Newsletter will be published periodically and emailed to ARES members in the Niagara Region. / Website: www.aresniagara.ca

- Niagara ARES CEC is Henry, VA3OV.

- Contact Henry at: va3ov@bell.net.

- Newsletter prepared by Geddie, VE3CJX.

- To unsubscribe from this newsletter, contact Geddie at ve3cjx@cogeco.ca

- Niagara ARES Net every Monday 8:00pm VE3RAF.

Contents

Another year has gone by. There were good times and sad moments but we will persevere to continue on our journey.

I like to thank every member of the Niagara ARES Group participation in all the activities in 2017. We had a busy year, 2018 could be equally demanding, if we choose to do so. Hopefully more people and organizations in our community are aware of our hobby and organization Niagara ARES and NPARC.

On Sunday, November 26, I attended a meeting of the GTA ARES Group at Red Cross Headquarters in Mississauga. We reviewed the Fall SET exercise accomplishments. Voice messages were transmitted across the region and to various clients. Clients in the various sections of the GTA have not standardize on the IMS 213 forms creating issues in delivering messages across the area. There is a push in providing digital communication but using a common platform is not in the immediate plans.
The need to revitalize the National Traffic System in Canada was presented. It is alive in the US, supported by ARRL.

http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Public%20Service/NTS_Manual2015.pdf

There are only 5 NTS coordinators in Canada. In a country wide emergency there is nothing to support our need for communicating across the province and country. In the past many radio amateurs operators have used packet to communicate with fellow Hams sending messages across the country and the world. It was a cheap and reliable way to keep in touch. With the advent of internet and email, NTS has all but disappeared by the way side. If you have some interest to rekindle the NTS in our area and southern Ontario, share your intention and we can work on a project with other interested parties.

We have a group of hams that decided to look at new technology and work on a Raspberry Pi project that will replace the TNC's at a fraction of the cost and be as dependable. They will demonstrate the communication package early in the New Year at one of our meetings. Something I am looking forward to.

What would you like to see and do with our fellow ARES members in 2018?

The agenda for our regular December 20 meeting is changed.

Instead we will meet at 1800 for a dinner at the

Cat's Caboose Restaurant
224 Glenridge Avenue, St Catharines

You may come along with your YL or XYL.

Please confirm by email your presence no later than December 14, 2017

I will take this opportunity to wish You a Merry Christmas and the Best that you may wish for 2018.

Thanks 73

Henry VA3OV
GC, CEC Niagara ARES
va3ov@bell.net

A Little Bramble in the Raspberry Patch…
from your editor, Geddie, VE3CJX.

So What's New? Recently, I've been going through 10 years of accumulation of "radio" stuff and I'm amazed. I was so proud of the good deals I found and added to my collection. I was proud just to be able to describe the new technical features. Now, I have to look up in a manual! So what's a radio life span these days? Folks are living well beyond 7decades. This means virtually needing to buy and replace old radio equipment almost continually. There are folks I know that grew up with the first personal computers in the 70"s and are hanging on to the feed paper for the old printers! A "life time" in the computer field is so very short and "being around since 2012" is touted as proof of longevity: an old technology? So if you missed the introduction of "Raspberry Pi" earlier in 2012, here is a chance to bring a credit sized programmable device into your ham shack. Now one can program them to run new operating systems. So as you may have been involved with amateur radio for years and years, this is exciting news really. Although the attractiveness of perhaps lower costs, there remains the great fun to be the first on the block to be successful and proficient to make a practical application work in the field of emergency services. The technology may be "niche" and it is a very rich opportunity for learning and camraderie in carrying out the work at hand in a fresh new way.

Cheers for now, Geddie