



Niagara ARES

February 8, 2018

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Special points of interest:

- Niagara ARES Newsletter will be published periodically and emailed to ARES members in the Niagara Region. / Website: <http://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:

- ***"This is an Exercise"***
- Niagara ARES 2M Net Mondays at 2000 on 145.190MHz (Tone 107.2).
- Niagara ARES Digital Net on Wednesdays using Winlink and Outpost
- Testing of Digipeater network on-going
- **Next Meeting: Feb. 21, 2018**

'T' is an Exercise...Just Saying...

We are half way through our Canadian winter, the bad news Willie has predicted another six weeks of winter weather.

This is an Exercise. This is an Exercise. This is an Exercise.

A few *important words* to be included in our voice message exercise and repeated clearly over the air waves to prevent panic in our region. We do not want to outdo Hawaii emergency exercise.

We will continue our weekly voice message exercises after the Monday night ARES Net. We have included a local weather report with your individual Net check in. This is not intended as an official CANWARN Net but it is a good to be weather wise.

We have started a weekly digital net on Wednesdays. The purpose of this exercise is to retrieve a message on Outpost BBS VA3OV-1, frequency of 144.990 MHz, also on Winlink VA3OV-10 on 145.060 MHz addressed "TO" VA3OV. You may post acknowledgement on the BBS or the CMS server within 24 hours of the posting. Comments and suggestions are encouraged.

Doug VE3EQV is looking for you to connect to his BBS and Winlink and leave messages generating traffic to his station. He is testing a new digital mode BPQ32, that is compatible with Outpost and Winlink.

(Continued on page 2)

For Outpost BBS, "VE3EQV" on 144.990MHz.

For Winlink gateway "VE3EQV-10" on 144.990MHz

Use the digipeater VE3RFM to connect to Doug. We are testing also the coverage of the digipeater in the Niagara Region.

During the **week of February 26, 2018**, I plan to activate every radio stations located in the **Niagara Health System Hospitals**. We need to test the equipment and show our Niagara ARES colours. I would like to use digital mode in some locations if possible.

The hospitals are: St Catharines, Welland, Port Colborne, Fort Erie, Niagara Falls.

In early March 2018, I plan to activate radio stations in Grimsby Hospital, West Lincoln fire station (Beamsville), Niagara Falls fire station, Hotel Dieu Shaver, Niagara Region Headquarters, Thorold Fire station.

It is important that we are familiar with the emergency radio stations in our area.

This will not be a SET exercise but it is in preparation for one at a later date. I will need 6 to 8 volunteers each time to operate the radio stations for a duration of 60 to 90 minutes.

HF bands for emergency communications in the 100 to 500 KM distance coverage is in the plans. Using NVIS antennas (or cloud warmers) various ARES groups are demonstrating that it is a simple viable mode of communication to make contact outside of the disaster area. Anyone interested to try NVIS on HF. We may need to build an inexpensive antenna. At the next SET we could participate with other ARES Group from London, GTA, Ottawa, Sudbury in making contacts on HF voice and digital (Winmor)

For a change of topic on a personal note, I am planning to build a magnetic loop for HF (100W). It will be a portable unit for quick deployment. Coverage from 40M to 10M. We could expand from 80M to 30M. Anyone interested to join me in this project? Some kits are available, assembly required.

NPARC just completed their 40th Big Event, it was well attended. The next big hamfest is AMEX in Brampton on March 17, 2018.

Our next meeting on 21st February, 2018

Niagara Regional Headquarters, West Campbell Bldg,

Room C103

1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON

Thanks 73

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