



# Niagara ARES

August 10, 2018

Volume 2, Issue 36

## 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](mailto:va3ov@bell.net).
- Newsletter prepared by Geddie, VE3CJX.
- To unsubscribe from this newsletter, contact Geddie at [ve3cjx@cogeco.ca](mailto:ve3cjx@cogeco.ca)
- **Niagara ARES Net every Monday 8:00pm VE3RAF**

## Contents:



- **Come Celebrate 70 Years of Radio Amateurs in Niagara**
- Join in the ARES Monday and Wednesday Nets/ see photos, etc.
- Check Our Activity Calendar
- Small Size Backup Battery System article by Dennis, VE3KVE
- **When's the Next Meeting?**
  - **August 15, 2018**

## Just look at News from Outside Niagara....

Summer is in full swing: one hot day after another. High temperature warnings are common daily news and also **lightning and thunderstorms** are part of the course. Continuous monitoring of the weather channels and CANWARN (weather alerts and CANWARN nets on 145.190MHz) can keep you abreast of potential danger in your local area. While traveling, do remember to stay hydrated, always keep some fluid in your vehicle and even on your person.

I have just returned from one week vacation in the Muskoka's. The faint **smell of smoke** in the air reminded us of forest fires raging just 60 km away. ATV trails were closed. Posting of outdoor fire bans were everywhere. Toronto's infrastructure was again tested with heavy rain bringing floods in low lying areas of the city.

We have many reasons to be grateful for living in Niagara where "nothing seems to happen" except being flooded by tourists on the weekend. We still need to remain alert and maintain a state of readiness for the benefit of our family and community.

**Tour for Kids** is back this year in Niagara Region on August 17, 18 and 19th. We are looking for volunteers to offer communication assistance along the various cycling routes. Each day, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, the cyclists depart the **Brock University grounds at 0800 to return by 1600 hours**. Volunteers will need to use a vehicle, a mobile radio (30 to 50W) and mobile antenna. The cycling course will take us in the fringe area of our repeaters, An HT (handi-talkie) and 5 W will not likely provide adequate coverage in this situation.

**Next meeting Niagara ARES Wednesday August 15 at 1900 at:**

**Niagara Regional Headquarters, West  
Campbell Bldg. Room C103  
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON.**

On the agenda we will cover TACTICAL CALLS uses with Winlonk 2000.

Thanks 73  
Henry VA3OV  
GC, CEC Niagara ARES  
[va3ov@bell.net](mailto:va3ov@bell.net)

**Celebrate Celebrate CELEBATE CELEBRATE**  
**OUR 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMATEUR RADIO**  
**IN NIAGARA!!! SEPT. 15TH / DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER!**

**SEE: <http://nparc.on.ca/index.php/club-event-listings/eventdetail/1/-/70th-anniversary-celebration>**

Contact ASAP: Dennis Surek, VE3XC at [secretary@nparc.on.ca](mailto:secretary@nparc.on.ca).

*Radio amateurs first got together in Niagara in 1948 to form local clubs. This history marks the privilege the Canadian federal government gave to its citizens across the country. The radio clubs have always been the mainstay for providing training, world wide networking and experimenting with new communications technologies of all forms and putting our efforts and providing our radios and talents to serve our local communities. Especially the **Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club, NPARC** has been continuously operational now for 70 years. Today we have many modes of analogue and digital wireless communications as well as Internet, Echolink, cell phones, gps, satellite communications, **all networked to share with Amateur Radio Operators around the world.** We continue with a spirit of adventure, discovery and enthusiasm. Our local amateurs are the backbone of the **Niagara ARES volunteers.** Thanks to all the pioneering radio amateurs that went ahead and for the **legacy of 70 years** we can now build upon. / Geddie, VE3CJX*



Check out the new look NPARC web site!

Who said "CARRY ON" on  
Dec 6th, 1906?

*We are looking forward to hearing  
from you!!*

For more information about the **RIDE for KIDS** event follow the link:

<https://www.tourforkids.com/ontario/ride/>

<https://www.tourforkids.com/ontario/ride/maps-3/>

Please consider volunteering for one, two or even all three days for this special event. To volunteer or ask a question, please send an email to ...

[public-relations@nparc.on.ca](mailto:public-relations@nparc.on.ca)

[va3ov@bell.net](mailto:va3ov@bell.net)

Cell: 289-407-4499

**NPARC-ARES activity Calendar:**

August 17-18-19

TOUR FOR KIDS, Niagara Region. Start and Finish at Brock University Campus, St Catharines.

September 15

\*\*\*NPARC 70th anniversary celebrations\*\*\*

September 16

Terry Fox Run at Gale Centre, Niagara Falls.



A youthful and ingenious new take on a “mobile” radio station had it’s début at the Canada Day Parade and celebration in Niagara Falls. ARES and NPARC members and volunteers came out to support radio communications at the event with new posters and pamphlets for the public. (above pictures provided by Denis Grantham, VE3KVE.)





Ride for Roswell,  
Being there,  
meeting the needs of  
the riders,  
sharing their journey  
and finishing together.  
Pictures submitted by  
Denis, VE3KVE and  
Geddie, VE3CJX



## *A Small Size Backup Battery System with Multiple 12 volt Outputs.—by Denis, VE3KVE*

In my first article in this series I talked about the Bioenno series of Lithium Iron Phosphate batteries. (Bioenno's web site: <https://www.bioennopower.com>). I recently sold my first Bioenno 15 AH Lithium Iron Phosphate battery and subsequently bought a smaller 12 AH size. (Courtesy Henry VA3OV who kindly picked up the smaller battery at Dayton). I wanted to build a **small 12 volt backup battery** supply that included a voltmeter and an Anderson Powerpole multiple set of output connectors.

This 12 AH smaller size battery fits my current ideas on my own backup systems. I still have my larger "Go Box" setup which includes both an AC Power Supply and also the 12 AH battery. However, I really wanted to give myself some leeway in using the backup battery for situations where I didn't need the full size "Go Box" facilities. Here below is my new variant on a backup battery system.

Literally I wanted to **add a digital voltmeter** (one of my pet "musts" for any backup battery system and a subject that I covered in my earlier article on Lithium battery backup systems). I also wanted to have several Powerpole sets of output connectors rather than just the one set that comes with the Bioenno battery, plus a master fuse for protection of the battery.

A web search came up with exactly what I was looking for. I could have knuckled down and built my own but decided an "off-the-shelf" version would suit me better. The one that I discovered is made by John Kalolai who operates Hamsource in Connecticut. (<http://www.hamsource.com/>). John has a number of similar type Ham related accessories but the one that I chose is his EZ-4 power strip. This unit is also sold by DX Engineering in the U.S. and so ordering anything from there you could save by combining shipping costs. The EZ-4 Power Strip sells for \$60.00 U.S. plus shipping.

This is a picture that shows the layout.



I decided to keep this setup simple, so I bought some Velcro self-adhesive strips from Canadian Tire (several in a packet for less that \$5.00).

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The end result can be seen in this picture of my Bioenno backup battery with the EZ-4 power strip fastened to the battery with a Velcro strip.

As you can see, it fulfills my requirements.

1. A master 40 amp fuse
2. A digital voltmeter
3. Four independent sets of Powerpole output connectors.

It also ships with a set of five Anderson locking pins for the Powerpole connectors. The black inline connector to the left of the picture is the mating connector for the special battery (LiFePO4) charger.

I can use this setup on my E-Bike. The battery and Powerstrip fit neatly into my self-designed and made (E-Bike) mobile Amateur Radio platform. It'll also be very useful as a powerful but small and lightweight 12 volt power source for all kinds of both Ham related and also for any portable system that requires 12 volts with a good Ampere Hour capacity.

I am in the process of adding Powerpole connectors to all kinds of Ham and non-Ham related 12 volt gadgets. This includes an AC Inverter; a 12 volt portable cooler/warmer box; and a 12 volt soldering iron.

For fun, I also created a holding box for the battery/EZ-4. I used the packaging that came with the battery and the result is shown here.

Denis VE3KVE  
Niagara Falls, Canada  
July 30, 2018

