



Niagara ARES

April 8, 2019

Volume 3 Issue 4

Special points of interest:

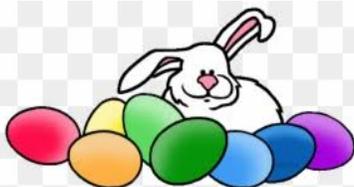
- Niagara ARES Newsletter will be published periodically and emailed to ARES members in the Niagara Region. / Website: <http://www.aresniagara.ca/>
- Niagara ARES CEC is Henry, VA3OV.
- Contact Henry at: va3ov@bell.net.
- Newsletter prepared by Geddie, VE3CJX.
- To unsubscribe from this newsletter, contact Geddie at ve3cjx@cogeco.ca
- **Niagara ARES Voice Net every Monday 8:00pm VE3RAF & Packet Net on Wednesdays.**

Contents:

- Join in the ARES Monday and Wednesday Nets, etc., Watch for Upcoming ARES Training and Events.
- When's the Next Meeting?

April 17, 2019

Niagara Region HQ, Rm C103



Niagara ARES is now officially an integral part of GTA ARES

The following municipalities and Region are represented in this group: Hamilton, Burlington, Oakville, Halton Region, Peel Region, Mississauga, Toronto, York Region, Durham Region.

March was a quiet month with little activity. We conducted four ARES Net on our regular repeater VE3RAF 145.190MHz. Check ins varied from 6 to 12 individuals. During our weekly net we changed repeaters to practice and prevent various communications issues.

A new **Fusion repeater on 442.250MHz is operational** at a new location in Fonthill offering great coverage throughout the Region. At the same location a **digipeater was installed** to offer access to the Winlink (WL2K) Gateway and the CMS server from every corner of the Region.

On the third Wednesday (March 20th), we conducted our regular meeting. We started 30 minutes early for a message handling exercise. In groups of two, we were dispersed with HT 's in hand within a 1km area of the venue. Three messages were send successfully. Debriefing was held to review points of interest. Some lessons were learned and corrective actions taken. We will be conducting more exercises throughout the spring and summer.

We are looking at ways to expand our digital capabilities in the future and additional testing will be conducted at another location to give us access to other Gateway in Peel Region.

The Spring SET will be held on Saturday May 11 from 0800 to 1400. For the first time we will participating in the exercise with our counterparts from the GTA. Details will be available in a timely manner. Scenarios will be discussed at our next ARES meeting.

At the next monthly meeting I will be **distributing some new power point training material** on a memory stick. Take advantage of it to review the content before the class sessions at a later time.

Jack VE3ZPW, Steve VA3FLF and myself we visited the Port Colborne and Fort Erie Hospitals to activate the radio stations and attempt to connect via **Packet Winlink**. Messages were exchanged with Kevin VE3RRH, Roy VE3OQP, David VA3DPG, John VA3WM via the VE3RFM Digipeater. It was not smooth sailing but the mission was accomplished. In conclusion the participants agreed: 1) we **need to familiarize with the software and hardware** to improve our performance. 2) we need to **maintain the voice link** while we send digital messages. 3) we need to **standardize our equipment**. To accomplish this will require some capital expenditures that Niagara ARES does not have, so, we will need to be creative to find ways to **raise funds** to acquire appropriate communication equipment. **Do you have any ideas?** I am open to hearing suggestions. To bring our project to completion will require determination and hard work from all of us. **This is always a TEAM PROJECT. I know as a Group we can succeed.**

CANWARN storm chaser training is scheduled this year for **May 8, 2019**. Check the Niagara ARES web site for more details.

Our next Niagara ARES meeting is on **April 17, 2019 at 1830**. More voice **message training exercises before meeting so we will assemble in parking lot, receive assignment.**

Location: NRH at 1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold. Room C103. Campbell West entrance. Check bulletin board in the entrance.

73

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Up Coming Events Calendar:

- CANWARN Meeting May 8
- Ride for Roswell June 22
- Field Day June 22- 23
- Canada Day Parade July 1st
- Canal Days August 2 to 5.
- Fort George August 24-25 ??
- Terry Fox Run September 15
- CIBC Run for the Cure September 29
- Run for a Mile October 14

The CNPOTA is in full swing in 2019 and Keep Informed!

Go out and make some HF contacts with or from a **Canadian National Park On the Air** (and Historic sites). Check the following link <https://cnpota.ca> for more details and rules.

Online Emergency Service Training Available from Provincial Government

Online Course Code	Name	Length	Delivery Method
EM 125	<u>Exercise Programs: An Introduction</u>	4 hours	Online
EM 131	<u>Accessible Customer Service for Emergency Responders</u>	4 hours	Online
IMS 100	<u>Introduction to Incident Management System</u>	4 hours	Online

Light Bulb QSO Party...So Cool?

From my point of view, I decided to try two different approaches to be ready for the light bulb QSO party on Saturday March 9-10, 2019 had 5 categories - one was the basic dummy load, which I did the most work on.

In the old days, it wasn't unusual to use an incandescent light bulb as a dummy load to test out your rig before going on the air. There is some speculation, that the longer the filament in the bulb, the better the radiator it would make. To this end, I used two 60 watt "Edison Style" decorative light bulbs, the ones with the long filaments, in parallel. A quick calculation shows that 4 bulbs in parallel at 120 volts, represents a 50 ohm resistive load, but 120 volts at the antennae would be quite high, so I modified this to two bulbs in parallel. Another complication arose recollecting that a light bulb increases in resistance as it heats up, the initial resistance being quite low. We actually did verify this during testing, initially, upon energization, the rig did show a high SWR, but almost immediately, it went down to about 1:1.2, and the bulbs took on a cherry glow.

Denis, VE3ONO, and I tried out the two-bulb combination on his portable rig on sideband. I had purchased a Chinese field strength meter, which we were going to use for prototype testing, but it only arrived the day before the big QSO party. Surprisingly enough, it measured 138 V/m field strength, at about 6 feet away, so indeed, the light bulbs were radiating. We put this combination on top of Denis's vehicle. The problem, however, was in receiving - while the light bulbs seem to transmit, they were not spectacular in the receive mode. If we had some more time, perhaps we might have rigged one antenna for receive and another for transmit to complete contacts.

I also had another combination, although similar to the club's "official" entry, based on the coil and open circuit light bulb design that Henry, VA3OV, and Steve, VE3FLF, championed, but that is another whole story. Mr. Murphy was indeed alive and well throughout the construction and set up of this arrangement, but I'm sure Henry will relate it to all. All I can say at this time, the official club design did radiate, I did measure a field strength of about 160 V/m again about 8 feet from the bulb. Unfortunately, we didn't have time to try my "open circuit" design either, but there will always be a next time.

In conclusion, it was a lot of fun, but I do indeed think another way to do this is with FT-8 or WSPR or similar very low signal communications, unless you use separate antennae for receive and transmit. Nevertheless, I will try this one again!!!

Related by: Glenn Holden, VE3NDW





March 30th CQ WW WPX HF Contest

The screenshot shows a software interface for a radio contest. The main window displays a list of call signs and frequencies, such as "143245 -12 0.9 745 - CQ WOLIRA GR37". Below the list, there are controls for frequency, mode, and power. A secondary window on the right shows a waterfall plot of the radio spectrum. A text box in the center of the screenshot reads "March 30th CQ WW WPX HF Contest".