



Niagara/GTA ARES

January 4, 2020

Volume 4 Issue 1

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.**

[ARES Training Session](#)

[Part 1 of 3](#)

[January 11th, 2010](#)

[Black Creek Community](#)

[Centre](#)

[&](#)

[Next Meeting: January 15, 2020](#)

[Niagara Regional Police HQ,
Niagara Falls](#)

2020 has now Arrived..

Will You Give Your Very Best?

The world is changing, there is no doubt. Free time spent in group activity seems to be falling off and even perhaps becoming scarce. Are the interests in serving the community as radio amateurs keeping up? Or has the "experience fatigue quotient" reared it's head to become a barrier? It seems an ever-changing attitude and perspective to define effective a single technology solution just wobbles along.

It takes confidence to collaborate, to find common ground for using this technical knowledge and skill specifically in community service. A variety of service governance models within the new Niagara/GTA ARES is apparent, however substantive guidance is available and is offered in the ARES training manual available at the Niagara ARES web site.

How will the local amateur radio community work together and how effective can it be remains to be seen. Radio amateurs have since the beginning been heavily involved with discovery and **delivering practical methods and procedures** that were considered marginal back in the time of Reginald Fessenden. We have now reached a crossroad where younger hams with new radio modes have the opportunity to commit themselves meaningfully, just as previous radio amateurs have done, to be prepared for an emergency on behalf of the community.

So yes, we have come a long way by simply hanging together and enjoying what we can do with our resources and intellect. Time will likely be the judge not ourselves, however **without training and leadership** it is very hard to prove anything.

Some folks lead by doing, some lead by recognition, others lead because they care. The RAC ARES training manual has plenty of scope, many pages and enough detail for everyone to find a small area of interest. The new repeaters are up and operational so is the time right for younger hams to come out, to make it their own and build the hobby for the future generation to come? **Is it now your turn now to lead us into the future?**

**So now is a great opportunity to come and join other local
radio amateurs with the Niagara ARES.**

We will be holding a training session, **Part 1 of 3** on **Saturday January 11 from 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM**, **Black Creek Community Centre, 2959 Baker Road, Stevensville.**

Refreshments and snacks will be provided, however to save time we plan to work through lunch time, so please bring your own Lunch as the restaurant is 4 km away. Bring your own writing materials, laptops, a copy (PDF) of the RAC Training Manual and IMS forms all available from Niagara ARES web site (<https://aresniagara.ca/training/>)

Training material is based on [RAC ARES Training Manual 2015](#). The following topics that will be covered in this Part 1 of 3 Sessions are: Introduction to ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Services); Emergency Preparedness; Use of Power Poles; IMS 213 Form; Voice Message Transmission VHF; Winlink Packet VHF; and Winmore HF. ***Please RSVP latest Wednesday January 8 to va3ov@bell.net*** .

ARES Niagara members and all local hams are invited to participate also in a field exercise to be scheduled sometime in January to apply what we have learned so far and test the equipment. For news updates, events please consult our web site aresniagara.ca.

Our next Niagara ARES meeting will be on **Wednesday, January 15 at 1900 will be at
Niagara Regional Police Headquarters, corner of Stanley and Valley Way.**

73, Be prepared. Stay safe.

Henry Jarzyna VA3OV

EC, CEC Niagara ARES va3ov@bell.net

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AndRecently:

ARES groups in the City of Hamilton and in the Regional Municipality of Niagara indicated that it would be beneficial for them to move from the Ontario South Section into the Ontario GTA Section.

Niagara and Hamilton are located on the west and southwest borders of the GTA Section and both groups have a history of working with the GTA teams on Simulated Emergency Tests (SETs) and many public service events. As a result, the border between the Ontario South and Greater Toronto Area Sections is being moved to better reflect operational needs within ARES and its served agencies.

Amateurs in the City of Hamilton and in the Regional Municipality of Niagara are together with the Greater Toronto Area Section, not the Ontario South section as before.

If you go to the RAC Radio Amateur Canada's web site you will see there is an urgent need and opportunity for hams all cross Ontario to volunteer their skills. So please consider offering your skills to this community service now. For this reason this training is urgently needed to fill in the gaps that have developed as Ontario's population centres have grown so much.

See: <https://www.rac.ca/update-on-the-amateur-radio-emergency-service-ares-program/>

Geddie, VE3CJX

Shinning Up the Silverware:

Do we need a little old fashioned brushing up on Amateur Radio Modes? What they are and how to communicate to non-techies/ non-insiders or new hams as to what this means to you and your new found radio skills? Look at your radio...look at the internet.. Is it an issue that Wikipedia knows more than you do? That shouldn't be a surprise. No longer is voice or Pulse or CW the new kid on the block anymore. Internet and computer systems and networks certainly have changed the landscape since I first took an interest in amateur radio practices and procedures. The radios we had were the limiters once we got the antenna concepts under our belt.

Now our computer and it's interoperability with radio devices such as cell phones and now our amateur radios ...where are we at? We rarely use HF as in AM except where we use Simplex in short distance setups for community events. CW is something I still have an ambition to develop a skill in, however it is time consuming and although telegraphy is romantic, it's main applications currently is the focus of testers.

So where does that leave the newly licensed radio amateur...who have jobs, family responsibilities and were thinking of amateur radio as a decent hobby that challenges the mind, requires a community of practitioners, and has the respect of being useful to our neighbours in an emergency? So here we go... your journey is about to begin. First off, communication is something we do naturally however we have our own dialects, expressions and language backgrounds. Truly the nice thing about radio is rarely an issue of accent as English has become the dominant lingua franca. So when I get on air, I am interested in meeting someone new, some new conversation other than the gossip and exasperation of social media, some new encouragement to participate in the radio community.

The microphone was scary for me. I couldn't hear myself. I wasn't sure whether I was saying the right words, using the right tones, the right pace and volume; I was flustered into silence. With digital modes, this is no longer an impediment. Tone of voice is not so relevant as choice of capitals and exclamation marks. In emergency communication is direct and factual...Just give me the facts, Max...used to a favourite saying in the office. We got to know the "code words" as we interacted with one another, but we had to do the time.

As ARES Radio Operators, this is precisely where the upcoming training will help us work better as a team and be more welcome when we join our team experts with those in actual authority. When we market our talents and service to the community emergency personnel tasked with guardianship of community safety and support during an emergency, we need to have some common ground.

So in Niagara we have upgraded our repeater **VA3RFM "Fusion"** system. We have at our disposal and use a **Winlink Gateway address VA3OV-10** and **VE3RFM Digipeater**, as well as a Packet capability to transmit using our computers linked to your radio to send and receive messages. The client software in your computer and the amateur radio network will provide the links beyond cable connections, antenna limitations and allow a much wider and longer distance for effective communication. Yes the early principles of a relay network are still a useful concepts, however they are no longer linear. There are many combinations and permutations for setting up how your radio, even your little handheld, can be used with nominal effort on your part to set up your individual configuration customized to your call sign. I encourage every effort for you to just "Get Digital"!

Geddie, VE3CJX

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