Niagara/GTA ARES

February 14, 2020

Volume 4 Issue 2

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.**

Next Meeting:

Feb 19th, 2020

Niagara Regional HQ

Rm 103,

Campbell West

Entrance

Warming Up the Airwaves but Please... Don't Forget Your Valentine!

NIAGARA ARES conducted a **Training Session, Part I of III**, covering the ARES Organization and basic preparations. We were introduced also to the Incident Management System or IMS. Jack VE3ZPW has spent many hours refining the training material to meet our needs in the Region. The training session was well attended. We are all **looking forward for Part II in late spring.**

Some of us participated in the **HAM Academy** and **Winter Field Day**. Some of us left with a better understanding of the hobby and additional knowledge. We will **continue to run Technite monthly** or more if the interest is there. We all have important knowledge and do enjoy sharing once we are together.

With the help of some able volunteers, we reprogrammed the radio at every hospitals and at Niagara Fire Hall to a **common frequency list**. In the last couple days we conducted communications exercise at all location using **repeaters, simplex frequencies on VHF and UHF.** Also we sent Winlink Packet messages between all locations. In some areas we could not complete direct line of communications. We had to use **repeaters and digipeater**. Documentations will need to be drawn for future reference. We will continue to run **Packet NET and voice message transmission** to maintain proficiency. and comfortably working with a Net Control.

On Sunday February 9, I attended a **quarterly GTA ARES meeting** in Mississauga. We shared our problems, our success and future plans. We are all plagued by the same issues but we are determined to make it work. **Yaesu DR2X Fusion repeaters are very popular through out Southern Ontario**. We are looking in setting up a **WIRES-X Room for GTA ARES, similar to the NWO ARES in Northwest Ontario.**

Kevin VA3KRA, EC in Burlington has agreed to receive and post information on **all public service events** in the GTA. Listing will be posted on GTA ARES group including request for assistance. You can contact Kevin at va3kra@cogeco.ca to list the information. For the listing of local public service events in 2020 consult our web site at niagaraares.ca. Check your calendars, again we will need volunteers to participate in these events.

The **VE3NRS repeater GE Master II will be used for training purposes**, and introduction to repeater operation.

In the process we hope to bring **VE3NRS back to life**. **Brian VA3BDL** has offered to provide technical assistance with our repeater system. He works and lives in the Niagara Region. He will be an asset to the club and the amateur radio hobby. We will conduct a **training session at Blackcreek on Technite February 27th at 1900. Interested HAMs need to sign up for this session. It will run for about 3 sessions.**

So Please make a Note Now: Change in venue and date: for our May Niagara ARES regular meeting originally scheduled for Wednesday, May 20th has moved to Thursday May 21 in Black Creek Community Centre at 1900.

Our next Niagara ARES meeting: Wednesday, February 19th at 1900 will be at Niagara Regional Headquarters, Campbell West entrance, Room CE103. 1815 Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON

73 Be prepared. Stay safe.

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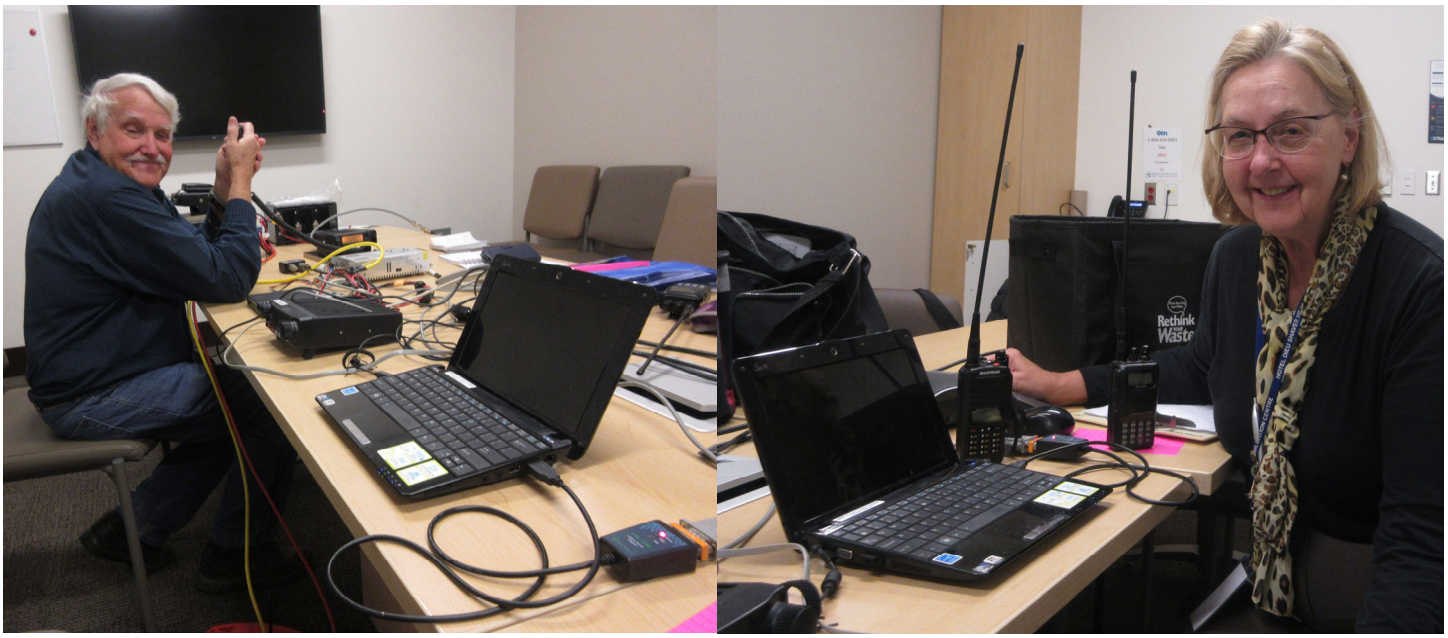
What to do on Days when…….?

...It is too cold to take the dog for a walk; too warm to take the cat out for a walk:; you're too tired because you caught up on the activities of your favourite sports team.; the 4th coffee isn't helping ; and you just found another episode of Forged in Fire you missed.

Well some answers come to mind: call one of your HAM friends and check out what's doing; turn on the radio and see who beat you to your local voice frequency; get your go-kit flashlight and see how long it takes to drain the battery to half power...Well I think you might have gotten my drift.

The latest advice for this circumstance is to do a different job or task; add some more responsibility or challenge to what you already do; reorganize your work and your day and your work space; and especially once you have done all that… CELEBRATE with your HAM friends, who so understand.

….Based on some inspiration of an article published previously by Priscilla Claman, Harvard Business Review 2016.

General set up of Niagara ARES Hospital radio equipment with voice (IC 207H) and packet capability (Yaesu FT-2900, TNC KP3+, and computer, being tested on February 10, 2020. We discovered and verified that setting the radio in this case the IC-207H directly over the power supply as shown in this photo is not a good practice. The voice transmission cuts out unexplainedly.