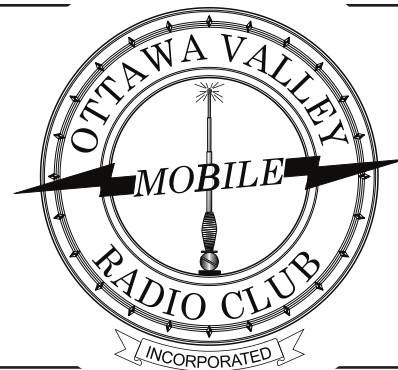


# Rambler

Newsletter of the  
Ottawa Valley Mobile  
Radio Club  
Incorporated



Oct 2020

Edition 58

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## President's Ramblings

This certainly is a changed world we live in these days. While we miss the social aspects of the hobby, I have to say the Amateur community is thriving with activity. Take local net activity for example, their popularity and traffic is booming to say the least. Also take a look at other nets; Provincial, Country, Continent and even world-wide nets (especially with the popularity of digital modes) are also thriving with activity. Add to this, virtual meetings, with the advent of easy to use conferencing platforms. Using our club meeting activity as an example, virtual meeting attendance is consistently 50 plus members whereas we typically had an in-person attendance at the museum of 30 plus members at each meeting. Yes, I know it's not the same but we're getting on with business in these trying times (I, too, miss the eyeball QSO's at the in-person meetings!).

There will be another positive to the virtual meetings this upcoming winter. I for one did not look forward to the possible sketchy driving conditions in the dark, especially during snow storms. I also am aware of others that simply did not look forward to the night driving during the

peak of the cold snowy winter months. Problem solved! (always looking for the positives of the situation).

This year we have a new Interac e-transfer method for payments of dues and other needs that has turned out to be very popular. The end of September statistics show a paid up membership of 70 plus members and add to that the Honorary and Life members we are pushing a club membership of close to 80 members, and there are still some memberships trickling into the roster. That represents the highest number I can recall in the 7 going on 8 years I have been involved with the club. (especially this early in the meeting year calendar)

I'm still planning on some sort of a club project for this year. It is more difficult to distribute the kits but if I can settle on something of value to the membership, we'll make it happen. The book is still open on this issue.

The executive is also working on an idea Ron, VE3LBU suggested which is to choose an appropriate item and auction it off at one of the meetings. More on this to come.

This month we are looking forward to another presentation from Bryan, VE3QN on the topic of television. This is one of his passions he has been working on for some time now and I'm sure (Continued on page 4)

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## Calendar

### Notice of Meeting

Wednesday Oct 21<sup>st</sup> 2020  
via Zoom

Check-in Time 6:45 to 7:15 P.M.

*Members and invited guests will be sent an invitation email several days before meeting date with login and password.*

#### Agenda:

- Welcome by President Barry VE3NA
- Chairperson Reports
- Vote on Budget for Season
- Feature Presentation by Bryan Rawlings VE3QN about:

Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club  
23 October 2020



Bryan Rawlings  
VE3QN

## OVMRC Executive and Officers 2020-2021

### President:

**Barry Allison, VE3NA**  
[ve3na@rac.ca](mailto:ve3na@rac.ca)

### Vice-President:

**Norm Rashleigh, VE3LC**  
[ve3lc@rac.ca](mailto:ve3lc@rac.ca)

### Treasurer & Membership Records:

**Nicole Boivin, VE3GIQ**  
[nlboivin@sympatico.ca](mailto:nlboivin@sympatico.ca)

### Corporate Secretary:

**Ron Smith, VE3LBU**  
[rjs3.smith@gmail.com](mailto:rjs3.smith@gmail.com)

*The above four positions are "Directors" and officers in charge of running the Corporate affairs of the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Inc.*

## Standing Committees

### Club Projects & Bulk Orders:

**Barry Alison, VE3NA**  
[ve3na@rac.ca](mailto:ve3na@rac.ca)

### Radio Course &

#### Accredited Examiner:

**Norm Rashleigh, VE3LC**  
[ve3lc@rac.ca](mailto:ve3lc@rac.ca)

### Meeting Reception:

**John McGowan, VA3JYK**  
[john.mcgowan1314@gmail.com](mailto:john.mcgowan1314@gmail.com)

### Nets & Radio Operations:

**Hugo Kneve, VE3KTN**  
[ve3ktn@rac.ca](mailto:ve3ktn@rac.ca)  
**Nicole Boivin, VE3GIQ**  
[nlboivin@sympatico.ca](mailto:nlboivin@sympatico.ca)

### Rambler Newsletter Production:

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[ve3lc@rac.ca](mailto:ve3lc@rac.ca)  
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[cw527@ncf.ca](mailto:cw527@ncf.ca)  
**Bill Hall, VA3WMH**  
[bmhall@rogers.com](mailto:bmhall@rogers.com)

### Club Web Site & Social Media:

**Darin Cowan, VE3OIJ**  
[ve3oij@amsat.org](mailto:ve3oij@amsat.org)

### VE3TWO Repeater Keeper:

**Norm Rashleigh, VE3LC**  
[ve3lc@rac.ca](mailto:ve3lc@rac.ca)

### Special Events:

**Roger Egan, VA3EGY**  
[va3egy@gmail.com](mailto:va3egy@gmail.com)  
**John McGowan, VA3JYK**  
[john.mcgowan1314@gmail.com](mailto:john.mcgowan1314@gmail.com)

## OVMRC Life Members

Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ

Maurice-André Vigneault, VE3VIG

Ralph Cameron, VE3BBM

Doug Carswell, VE3ATY

Doreen Morgan, VE3CGO

## OVMRC Repeater

VE3TWO

147.300 Mhz (+) 100 Hz tone  
FM & Yaesu System Fusion Digital  
Operation

## OVMRC Call Signs

VE3JW

VE3RAM

*The Rambler is the official newsletter of the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Incorporated and is published 10 times a year (monthly, except for July and August). Opinions expressed in the Rambler are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the OVMRC, its officers or its members. Permission is granted to republish the contents in whole or in part, providing the source is acknowledged. Commercial use of the contents is expressly prohibited.*

Submit articles and notices to:

Norm at [ve3lc@rac.ca](mailto:ve3lc@rac.ca)

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Radio Club, Incorporated**  
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[www.ovmrc.on.ca](http://www.ovmrc.on.ca)

## OVMRC Affiliations



## The Wednesday evening Cross Canada Weekly C4FM is again hosted on VE3TWO

OVMRC members can again check into the Wednesday evening Cross Canada C4FM net on Club repeater VE3TWO 147.300 (+ offset) thanks to a remote Wires X connection provided by Steve VA3MPS. Steve will be engaging his node station onto the repeater Wednesday Evenings at 9:00 PM. All check-ins are welcome using the Yaesu C4FM digital voice mode.

## Emergency Measures Radio Group: (EMRG)

Monthly Repeater Tests are conducted by Dave VE3KMY on the first Wednesday of each month at 8 PM on VE3OCE 146.880 MHz – (136.5 Hz tone). From initial contact on VE3OCE, you'll be asked to test VE3EMV/East 146.985 MHz – (100 Hz@ tone), VE3EMV/West 145.210 MHz – (123.0 Hz tone), VE3OFS 146.670 MHz – (136.5 Hz tone), VE3OCE 443.8000 MHz + 5 (136.5 Hz tone) and VE3EMU 444.9500 + 5 (136.5 Hz tone). It is advisable that all the EMRG frequencies be programmed into your radio. All check ins are welcome.

See: <http://www.emrg.ca/repeaters.htm>

## Informal Amateur Radio Restaurant Gatherings (All Cancelled until Further Notice)

- **QCWA Chapter 70** breakfast gathering every **Tuesday** morning at 7:30 to 10:00 AM, Summerhays Grill, 1972 Baseline Rd., Nepean
- **Orleans Coffee gathering** every **Friday** morning at 9:00 AM, McDonalds, 2643 St. Joseph Blvd, Orleans
- **QRP Group Dinner** meeting, **2nd Wednesday** every month, 5 PM, Newport Restaurant, 322 Churchill Ave N., Ottawa
- **Phoenix Net monthly Breakfast** gathering, usually the **second Saturday** every month at 9 AM, T-Basil Restaurant, 2440 St Joseph Blvd, Orleans. (get on Pete VE3XEM's mailing list for monthly reminder [VE3XEM@RAC.CA](mailto:VE3XEM@RAC.CA))

## OVMRC Repeater VE3TWO :

*147.300 MHz +600 kHz, 100 Hz Tone  
and Yaesu C4FM Digital Voice*

### OVMRC VE3TWO Weekly Net:

- **Thursday Evenings, 8 PM**, Club Net on FM conducted by Hugo, VE3KTN.

## Other Local 2 Metre Repeater & Simplex Nets: (all check-ins welcome)

- **Rubber Boot Net**, VE3MPC 147.150 ++, (100 Hz tone) mornings at 7:30 AM conducted by Roger, VE3NPO
- **Phoenix Net**, VE3MPC 147.150 Mhz +, (100 Hz tone), Tuesday evenings at 8:00 PM conducted by Pete, VE3XEM
- **QCWA Chapter 70 Net**, VE3MPC 147.150 MHz +(100 Hz tone), Monday evenings at 7:30 PM conducted by John, VE3ZOV
- **Capital City FM Net**, VE2CRA 146.940 MHz -, (100 Hz tone), Monday evenings at 8:00 PM.
- **Champlain Mini Net**, VE3STP 147.060 MHz -, (114.8 Hz tone), every evening at 6:45 PM.
- **Upper Frequency Net**, Simplex 144.250 MHz using USB, Tuesdays evenings at 9:00 PM conducted by Glenn, VE3XRA. Following check in on 2 m you can check your radios on 6 m at 50.150 MHz and 70 cm on 432.150 MHz as well using USB. All check ins are welcome.
- **Sunday Evenings, 8 PM**, Ottawa area 2M SSB Round Table Net 144.250 Mhz

## OVMRC HF Nets

- **Pot Hole SSB Net**, 3760 kHz, every Sunday morning at 10:00 AM conducted by Ernie, VE3EJJ, or Glenn, VE3XRA..
- **Pot Lid Slow Speed CW Net**, 3620 kHz, every Sunday morning at 11 AM conducted by Roger, VE3XRR.

(Continued from page 1) we'll be entertained with another stellar presentation.

Norm will have an update on the DMR repeater project and Hugo has some news on a stand-in net controller in the upcoming weeks.

The popular coax program is starting to slow a little so this may come to an end at some point in

time. There still is some stock of both LMR 195 and LMR 400 so I will continue the program as long as practical. There are also 6 sets of SMA to BNC female adapters remaining for a member cost of \$6.00 per kit of two adapters.

Enough Ramblings for this month! Looking forward to seeing as many members as possible at the Wednesday October 21 Zoom

meeting. Check in will start at ~ 6:45 PM with a planned start time as close to 7:15 PM as practical. Anyone not receiving the check in credentials can do so by sending an email to Norm (Zoom custodian) VE3LC@RAC.CA.

Stay safe!

73

Barry, VE3NA

## VE3RAM is On-the-Air as a DMR Repeater

I mentioned on my DMR presentation at the September meeting that we were developing a DMR repeater. This repeater is now on-the-air and working well at my home QTH in Orleans using the long time OVMRC call-sign VE3RAM which I hold on behalf of the Club. One of the Club's spare Yaesu DR1-X Fusion repeaters has been re-purposed for DMR operation by adding a STM 32-DVM (digital voice modem) board in combination with a Raspberry Pi-3 computer board. The Raspberry Pi runs "Pi-Star" software that is also the basis of most "Hot-Spots". The STM 32-DVM sits on top of the Pi-3 and connects through the Raspberry Pi board's GPIO header. The Raspberry Pi board communicates on the internet by WiFi to the router. In the operation of the VE3RAM DMR repeater, all 1500 + Brandmeister Talk Groups are available as well as the "TG6 Local Cluster" that comes out on the same TG on several other local repeaters including VA3ODG, VE3STP, VE3HOZ and VE2CRA (under development). All TG6 operation on VE3RAM and the other repeaters mentioned must be set to Time Slot 2 and operates through the XLX 196 mode B Reflector operated by Jeff, VE3EFF. VE3RAM and most other DMR local area repeaters, are on UHF channels as follows:

Repeater Call	Frequency	Colour Code	Coverage Area	Remarks	Dashboard
VE3RAM	443.7000 +	1	Orleans	TG6 on TS2	<a href="http://ve3ram.spdns.org:380/">http://ve3ram.spdns.org:380/</a>
VA3ODG	444.8500 +	1	Central Ottawa	TG6 on TS2	<a href="http://va3odg.ddns.net:380/">http://va3odg.ddns.net:380/</a>
VE3HOZ	442.3000 +	1	Carp	TG6 on TS2	<a href="http://ve3hoa.ddns.net:380/">http://ve3hoa.ddns.net:380/</a>
VE3STP	443.6000 +	1	Renfrew	TG6 on TS2	<a href="http://ve3stp.ddns.net:44480/">http://ve3stp.ddns.net:44480/</a>
VE2CRA	444.4000 +	1	Test Mode Perth	TG6 on TS2	

The Dashboard of the XLX 196 reflector can be viewed at: <https://xrf196.spdns.org/index.php>



Currently, the antenna is a ground plane at 30 feet AGL; we will be attempting to get a gain antenna up at least 50 ft in the near future. For folks in range, give VE3RAM a try using DMR or even FM (100 Hz tone).

Questions?

Norm, [VE3LC@rac.ca](mailto:VE3LC@rac.ca)



# New Whole-House Electrical Surge Protective Device;

## Something to consider installing in your Home.

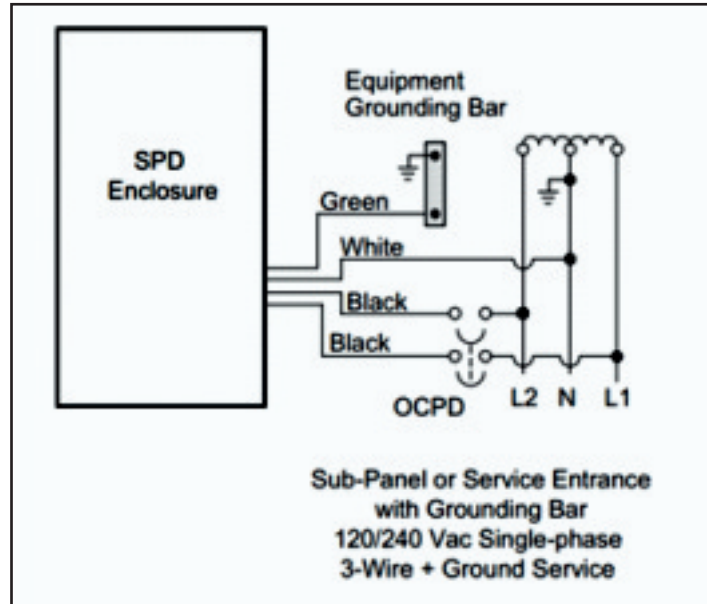
*(This article was inspired by Richard, VA3RLA having surge protector device installed in his home.)*

Power surges and voltage transients can threaten the stability of our AC power across all circuits in our home from time to time. These surges can result from lightning activity and even direct strikes to power distribution pole lines that cause momentary high voltage spikes to the AC power delivery system; however, more frequently, high voltage transients are caused within the home by switching off and on inductive loads such as motors in common home appliances. Besides AC power surge protection for our cherished ham radio equipment, we need to worry about protection for all household electrically powered equipment which nowadays has sensitive electronic circuitry. Such equipment includes our major appliances, the HVAC system, our computers and routers, our entertainment systems and the home alarm and surveillance systems; all could be wiped out or seriously damaged with a serious AC power high voltage transient.

Whole-house surge protectors have become available in recent years for installation directly at the power panel protecting all electrical circuits in the house. These units typically mount beside or inside the electrical panel

connected with two wires to both “hot” sides of the service (240 V) through a separate 15 or 20 amp dual pole breaker. A third wire is connected to the “neutral” bus of the panel to take any conduction due to a power surge to ground. A fourth wire is for safety ground bonding of the unit to the panel grounding bar.

Besides the Square D product, there are many other Whole House power surge suppression devices on the market made by Eaton, Leviton, Homeline, Siemens Electric and Intermatic; some of these products can be specific to the make of your electrical panel and install like a 2-pole circuit breaker.



All surge and transient suppression products use Metal Oxide Varistor (MOV) devices that shunt transients to ground when the threshold conduction voltage is exceeded by the device. For a complete understanding about MOV

Richard, VA3RLA reported he had installed at his residence a “Square D” product, model SDSB8011 shown below

devices go to: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Varistor>

*Norm VE3LC@rac.ca*



The basic specifications of the Square D model SDSB8011 include:

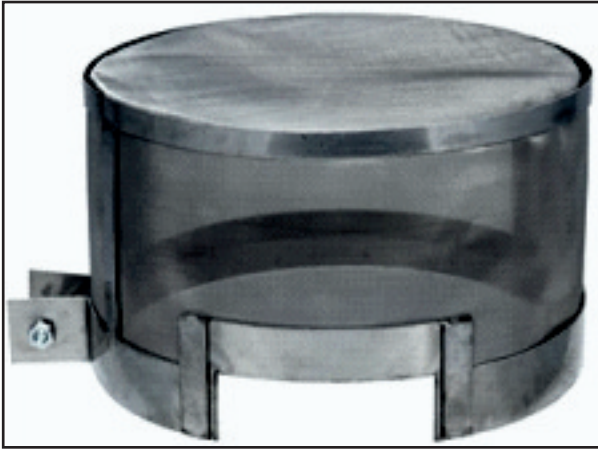
- Surge current rating of 80,000 amps
- Fast response by using Metal Oxide Varistor (MOV) devices
- LED indicators showing “OK” or “Replace” Status

The bottom module in the enclosure provides loop- through transient protection for Phone, LAN and TV cable systems.

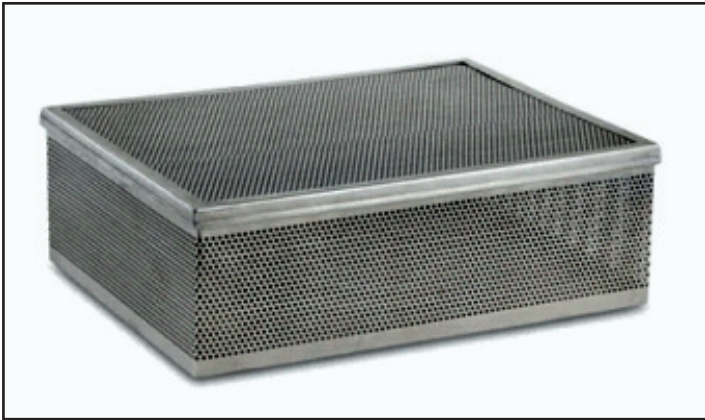
The LED status indicator may indicate “Replace” if the unit was hit with a large surge current that blows the MOV devices outright or degrades their capability to sustain other surge events.

## RF Shield for your Smart Power Meter?

Here's a product we now see on the market, a Smart Meter Cover RF Radiation Shield that claims proven to block ~98% of Smart Meter RF radiation.



The company making and selling the Smart Meter shield cover also offers for sale a WiFi Router RF Radiation Shield.



Companies involved in making and selling these products are capitalizing on the fear of some folks to the unsubstantiated ill effects of very low level smart meter and WiFi RF signals. The use of these products, although likely meeting the claims of suppressing the RF radiation from the devices they are applied to, will likely seriously impair their operating performance to communicate over the range intended. It is certainly not recommended to install a Smart Meter Shield on your Ottawa Hydro Smart Meter or you are likely to see a company representative attending your home to investigate why they are no longer receiving your electricity consumption data.

By the way, the Elster smart meters used by Ottawa Hydro transmit short 50 ms bursts of data at 245 mW in the 902-915 MHz range of the 33 cm ISM band (shared as a secondary amateur allocation) in a “mesh network” that relays the signal from meter to meter until it is finally received by area collector hubs that forward the data to the company’s computers for time-of-use billing. The system is very robust based on spread spectrum frequency hopping technology. Other smart meters deployed by Ontario Hydro use Trilliant modules operating in the 2.4 GHz ISM band at power levels up to 1 watt while others interface with common cell phone tower data infrastructure. Indeed, some systems have not worked well in rural environments, see the article: <https://nationalpost.com/news/canada/astonishing-hydro-one-pulling-plug-on-36000-rural-smart-meters-after-years-of-complaints>

Like WIFI routers, Smart meters used in Canada must be certified under RSS 210 (Radio Standard Specification) for Licence Exempt Apparatus and as part of that standard must also be compliant with RSS-Gen that in turn demands compliance with RSS-102 that covers the limits and testing requirements for “Radio Frequency (RF) Exposure of Radiocommunications Apparatus”. All these documents can be obtained by a Google search from the ISED web pages. Note that Ottawa Hydro Elster Smart meters have a certification number of IC 4557A-RX7 detailing testing and compliance with RSS-210.

To counter the fears that some members of the public have particularly with regard to smart meters and WiFi signals exposure, the Department have done studies and published papers, references:

- “Case Study: Measurements of Radio Frequency Exposure of Wi-Fi Devices available at: <https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/smt-gst.nsf/eng/sf10383.html>;
- “Smart Meters” at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/health-risks-safety/radiation/everyday-things-emit-radiation/smart-meters.html>; and
- “Radiofrequency Energy and Safety” at:

<https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/smt-gst.nsf/eng/sf11467.html>

When it comes to amateur radio, perhaps the worst RF exposure is operating a 5 watt 2 metre portable radio. According to Safety Code 6, the worst frequency range for the human body absorbing and being heated by electromagnetic waves is in the range of 30 to 300 MHz. I might add that VHF and UHF portable radios being tested for certification (for the land mobile service) using their stock antenna must comply with Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) testing criteria of RSS-102 of no more than 8 watts/kg (of localized

head, neck and trunk body tissue) averaged over 6 minutes based on a 50% transmit duty cycle and positioned at 2.5 cm for the body. This limit of SAR is for the “controlled environment” based on the user having command of the radio PTT. For cell phones and the like, where the PTT is automatic, this limit is reduced to 1.6 watts/kg. So keep your transmissions to less than 3 minutes in any 6 minute period and keep the radio antenna at least 1 inch away from your head or you may be cooking your eye balls!

*Norm, VE3LC@rac.ca*

## An Interesting Tale of Interference Found and Resolved.

Back in July, OVMRC course grad of 2019 Jim, VA3DEF began telling us a tale on the Club’s Group.io list of serious interference he was experiencing affecting his 20 metre operations at his cottage. The interference was strong and appeared every 25 kHz as shown on the spectrum display of his IC 7300. He thought at first it may be coming in from his AC power supply.

“Rainfresh UV Water Purification System”. Indeed the interference was caused by the Rainfresh system that is used to disinfect the lake water supply by passing it through a long tube containing a 45 watt UVC germicidal lamp powered by an electronic ballast power supply. The ballast switching supply was generating the interference all over the HF spectrum with rich harmonics every 25 kHz. This energy was being conducted along the AC power cord and radiated by the wiring of the cottage. Jim noted in

with “Palomar Engineers” for a single 3” ID, mix 31 toroid core; it cost \$40 US. Looping the power cord through the cord 10 turns completely eliminated the interference being conducted along the AC wiring and radiating.

Bravo to Jim for fixing his problem. Below is a picture of Jim’s “FIX”.

*Norm VE3LC*



However, by disconnecting the antenna from his radio, it was quickly discovered the interference was picked up by his antenna. By way of initial advice from Michael, VE3WMB, Jim turned off circuit breakers at his power panel, one by one, until the interference stopped on the circuit used to power his

one of his emails: “It’s like that ballast has turned all the house wiring into a giant RFI generating antenna.” Jim advised the Rainfresh folks of the problem and they referred it to their engineer; there was no immediate remedy forthcoming. After suggestions from myself and others on the Groups.io, Jim placed an order



## Meeting Minutes

**Date / Time:** Wednesday, September 16, 2020

**Location:** Via ZOOM on-line meeting

### 1. Call to order:

President, Barry Allison, VE3NA called the meeting to order at 19:16 There were 51 check ins including new members VA2KEI, Jean Pichette VA3AUM, Adam MacLeod and VA3CSG, Colin Guillas.

### 2. Approval of minutes from June 2020, AGM.

MOTION: Moved by Christina Comeau, VA3WTZ and seconded by Fred Crowe, VE3LAF that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting, held Wednesday June 17, 2020 be approved.

**VOTE:** All in favour.

**CARRIED.**

### 3. Greetings:

Barry, VE3NA welcomed everyone back to the new club season and extended greetings to everyone including new and returning Members.

### 4. Projects, Dues and Announcements:

- Barry, VE3NA confirmed that the 6-metre dipole kit is postponed until such time as in person meetings can resume.

- Haves and Wants will continue this year and members are encouraged to share with everyone during the monthly meeting. Norm, VE3LC has an SDR kit that someone may want to assemble. Contact Norm for details at [VE3LC@rac.ca](mailto:VE3LC@rac.ca). The Club is also

selling its (Museum) Yagi. Contact Barry at [VE3NA@rac.ca](mailto:VE3NA@rac.ca) for information.

- The club now owns a coax stripper tool that is perfect for stripping and crimping coax. The club is selling HT adapters in pairs to allow a connection from the antenna port on various hand-held radios, including Anytone DMR and Yaesu Fusion, to your outside antenna. This will increase your HT reach and reception. The adapter 'set' is \$6.00. Contact Barry at [VE3NA@rac.ca](mailto:VE3NA@rac.ca)

- Membership dues must be paid now to Nicole via cheque or e-transfer. Paid up members who were current last year will owe \$10.00 if they are also RAC members, \$20.00 for Non-RAC. New members, who join RAC can join for \$25.00; non RAC new members owe \$35. Only paid members are eligible for the year end draw prize. Membership dues are valid for the September to August period. Check with Nicole to ensure you are current with your dues and see the September Rambler for instructions on using e-transfer.

<https://www.ovmrc.on.ca/Rambler/Archive/Ram2020-09.pdf>

- Barry acknowledged the contribution by Richard, VE3RLA who suggested a wording update to the current by-laws. This in response to the new meeting format via ZOOM made necessary by Covid-19. Barry advised the Executive will now take this under consideration.

- RAC's Advanced Fall Course is now full as well as the beginners' CW course. However,

members were encouraged to register for future courses. The RAC AGM is Sunday and members must pre-register for the on-line meeting.

- Around the World club notes: Barry, VE3NA shared the web address of the Radio Amateurs of Australia Inc. at: <https://vkradioamateurs.org/blog/> where members can read their magazine at: <https://vkradioamateurs.org/qtc-e-magazine/>

5. There are no monthly prize draws during the pandemic; however, there will be a year-end prize of value. Members earn a ticket for each Zoom meeting attended through June 2021.

### 6. Agenda and Meeting Content:

Barry, VE3NA outlined the agenda for the meeting which included:

- Hugo, VE3KTN Nets Update:

The new Nets season has started for 2020-2021. Sundays at 10 am, join the Pothole Net at 3760 KHz, LSB, with NCS Ernie, VE3EJJ followed by the 47<sup>th</sup> season of the Potlid Slow Speed CW Net at 3.620 KHz at 11 o'clock with NCS Roger, VE3XRR. The Club's 2 metre weekly VE3TWO Net on 147.300, is held Thursdays at 8:00 PM. Hugo has launched a new feature during this net; a 'Swap Net' will be held during the net's second round...buy or sell. Other weekly nets include the 2 metre Phoenix Net, Tuesdays at 8:00 PM on VE3MPC, 147.150, with NCS Pete, VE3XEM. During the pandemic, you can also join Pete, VE3XEM for 'Pete's Café' Friday mornings at 9:00 AM. Finally,



every weekday morning at 7:30 A.M. the Rubber Boot Net on VE3MPC with NCS Roger, VE3NPO. (Editor's Note: OVMRC members can again check into the Wednesday evening Cross Canada C4FM net on Club repeater VE3TWO 147.300 (+ offset) thanks to a remote Wires X connection provided by Steve VA3MPS, at 9:00 P.M.. All check-ins are welcome using the Yaesu C4FM).

For a detailed summary of regional weekly nets, including the monthly EMERG Radio Group repeater checks, see the listing in the Rambler here:

<https://www.ovmrc.on.ca/Rambler/Archive/Ram2020-09.pdf>

- Roger Egan, VA3EGY Radio in the Park update:

Radio in the Park is scheduled for this Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at Walter Baker Park, Kanata, just off Terry Fox Drive. This year, Radio in the Park will be divided into two activities: the traditional portable radio activity, and a Fox Hunt / ARDF (Amateur Radio Direction Finding) event organized by Roger, VA3EGY. Hams are welcome to try their hand at Fox Hunting starting at 1:30P.M.. Between 9A.M. and 1:30P.M., Roger will be introducing ARDF to sponsors and stakeholders. Due to Covid considerations, Roger has specific times for presenting to invitees of IEEE, Scouts, Christie Lake Kids, and the Ottawa Orienteering Club. The picnic shelter will be used for the ARDF presentations and as the starting point for Fox Hunting from 1:30 P.M. to 5 P.M.. Starting at 9 A.M., hams are welcome to set up their portable stations in the park

around the picnic shelter using either any available existing park tables, or their own. Mains electricity is unavailable, so hams will be expected to operate on battery with portable antennas.

- A Field Day 2020 Summary by Norm, VE3LC:

A summary and operator highlights are available in the September 2020 Rambler on page 5 here:

<https://www.ovmrc.on.ca/Rambler/Archive/Ram2020-09.pdf>

The Club's tally of our aggregated score will be published in the December issue of QST magazine. During the meeting, members shared their FD experiences including Barry, VE3NA Pete, VE3XEM Michael, VE3MWB Bryan, VE3QN operated 1E, and Norm, VE3LC who powered his station using his electric car. In general, turn out and participation this year was excellent.

- A DMR Radio presentation from Norm Rashleigh, VE3LC:

Norm presented an excellent detailed review of Digital Mobile Radio and its astounding growth all over the amateur radio world. You will find a copy of Norm's presentation on groups.io by going here:

<https://ovmrc.groups.io/g/main/topic/76908828>

- Treasurer's Report on Interact E-Transfer by Nicole, VE3GIQ:

Nicole reported the new electronic banking arrangements which include e-transfer capability, is working very well. Some members have paid using the new system, and while mailed cheques are still ok, members are encouraged to

sign up with their financial institution. It helps everyone keep better records and financial tracking is immediate. The club email address for using e-transfer is [OVMRC.e.xfer@gmail.com](mailto:OVMRC.e.xfer@gmail.com) 63 members are currently registered for the new club season including 10 new or returning members. Nicole also summarized the dues structure for the new season as found in the September Rambler.

- An update on the PICO balloon project by Michael Babineau, VE3MWB

Michael noted that affiliation between OVMRC and the Aries Project has been suspended. This eliminates the potential liability to the club. Aries itself has been suspended in favour of a smaller, lighter project known now as SPRITE. The SPRITE project will be self funded by Michael and a group acting as 'individuals', independent of OVMRC. No funds will flow to Sprite from the OVMRC, and there will be no further updates provided to the OVMRC. The SPRITE project call sign is VA3BLN. Michael's presentation is available here:

<https://ovmrc.groups.io/g/main/files/Aries%20Balloon%20Project%20Monthly%20Update%20Slides/Project%20Aries%20-%20OVmrc%20update%20September%202020.pdf>

- 2020-2021 Budget by Nicole, VE3GIQ:

Nicole reminded members that the draft budget has been posted in the September Rambler and is available for review and feedback. Donations will continue except for ARISS and AMSAT. The budget

will now go to a vote at the October meeting. The OVMRC will be operating at a deficit this year mainly due to the loss of revenue by not conducting the amateur radio course this year because of the Covid 19 pandemic. The deficit for 2020-2021 is further increased by the decision of the Club executive committee to reduce dues for this year. The operating deficit will be covered by the considerable cash reserves the Club built up over the last number of years of surplus budgets. No money has been put in for Field Day this year. If things improve with the Covid pandemic situation by June 2021, we may request a special budget amend-

ment for Field Day expenditures. The budget summary can be viewed here:

<https://www.ovmrc.on.ca/Rambler/Archive/Ram2020-09.pdf>

### 7. Upcoming contests:

For more detailed information on upcoming contests, see the WA7BNM contest calendar:

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/>

RAC Members can login and go here:

<https://wp.rac.ca/amateur-radio-contest-calendars/>

ARRL Members can log in and go here:

<http://contests.arrl.org/>

### 8. Adjournment:

MOTION: Moved by Nicole Boivin, VE3GIQ to adjourn the meeting at 9:36PM.

### 9. Next meeting:

The next virtual monthly meeting of the OVMRC will be held Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 7:15 P.M. using ZOOM meeting. Please watch for your email meeting invitation and link to Zoom.

*Minutes recorded  
and prepared by Secretary  
Ron Smith, VE3LBU.*

## Ottawa ARDF Group Fox Hunt Demonstration

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2020 saw the Ottawa ARDF Group set up in Walter Baker Park in Kanata for the first official ARDF demonstration event, alongside the OARC Radio in the Park event. The Ottawa ARDF Group displayed the equipment that they had purchased and built, and allowed key sponsors, target audience groups and local area hams to try it out by searching for five mini-transmitters hidden in the Park area.

ARDF stands for Amateur Radio Direction Finding and is also known as fox hunting, transmitter hunting, bunny hunting and radio-orienting. Please note that none of these activities actually involve hunting or animals! The Ottawa ARDF Group was formed by Roger Egan, VA3EGY, Special Events Coordinator for OVMRC in fall 2019 and is made up of Ottawa

Amateur Radio operators mainly from the OVMRC and OARC with an interest in ARDF. Since formation the Group has been building a collection of world class ARDF equipment such as the purchase of 12 Sniffer mk4 receivers specifically designed and built for ARDF by VK3YNG and 3 element flexible Yagis principally built by Ottawa ARDF Group member Emily, VE3EMI. The Group also arranged the bulk purchase of KC9ON Offset Attenuators and held a build session at the Maker-space in uOttawa back in the early spring.

The demonstration event was attended by 18 representatives from a diverse range of interested parties including the IEEE Ottawa Section that provided most of the funding for the equipment purchases; adult leaders and Scouts from local Scouts Canada troops; organizers from the Christie Lakes Kids group and Orienteering Ottawa leadership. Local amateur

radio operators also took part. A short introductory brief was given to each group of fox hunters which included an emphasis on the STEM aspects of radio direction finding and an explanation on using the equipment to find the 'fox'.

The demonstration was 100% successful in introducing the target audience to transmitter finding and created a lot of interest and immediate requests for setting up events! The ARDF Group are working to organize more fox hunting events in the coming weeks, details to follow.

All current Covid 19 measures were maintained with the equipment being cleaned between uses. Masks were worn when at the registration and briefing area. All participants returned having successfully found the hidden transmitters.

For further information on ARDF and for details of upcoming local



events, check out our brand new website at: [www.ARDFOttawa.ca](http://www.ARDFOttawa.ca).

The full story of the demonstration day is given in the following pictures and descriptions:

*Rob Haddow, VE3RXH*

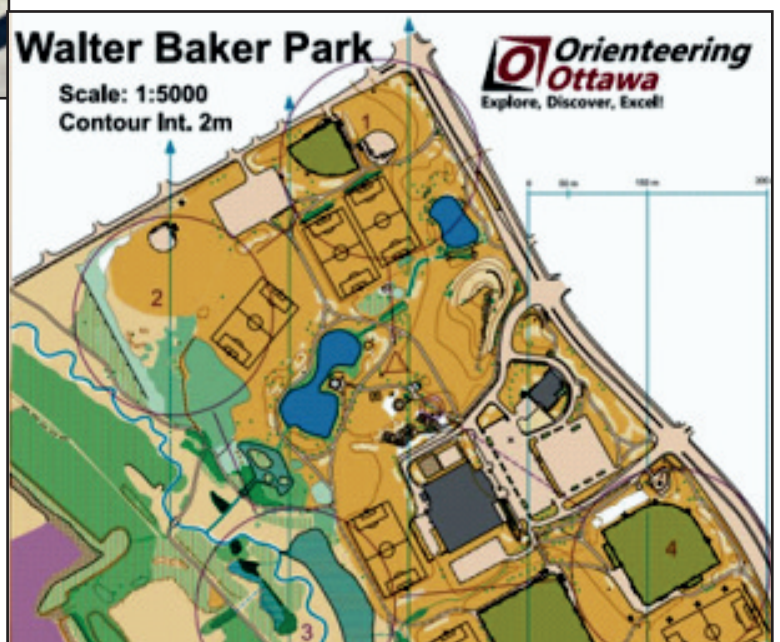


*The local IEEE Ottawa Section provided most of the funding for the ARDF equipment and some Section members were given a demonstration of how the equipment works and had a chance to try it out.*



*Scout leaders and a few Scouts learn about transmitter finding and get hands on with 3 element Yagis and Sniffer 4s. Members of Orienteering Ottawa and local hams also took part.*

*A sample of the map created for the radio-orienteering demonstration. The transmitters were not hidden at the centre of the circles, but could be identified from anywhere along the circumference. Base map provided by Orienteering Ottawa.*

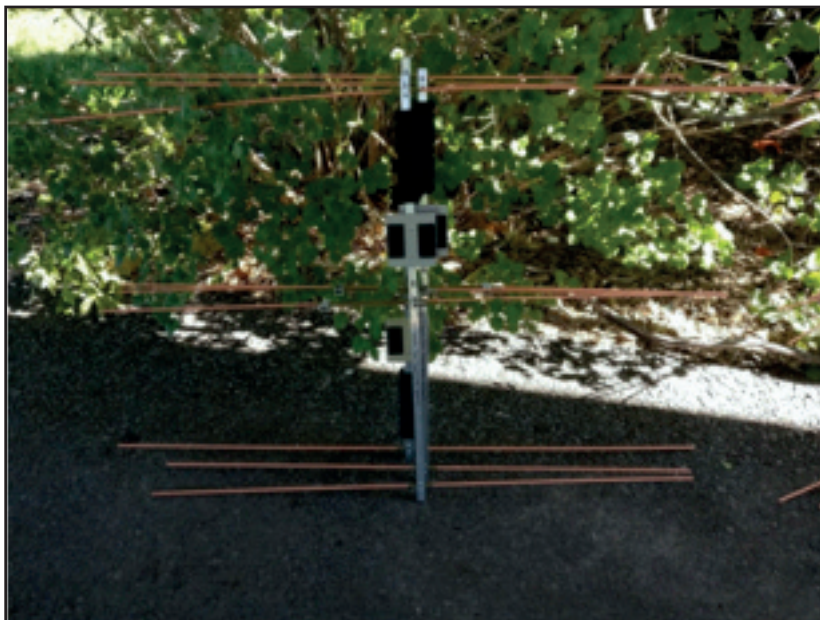






*Taking all the standard precautions in these Covid days.*

*Roger, VA3EGY, made up the tubes to safely store the mini transmitter and allow it to be secured to a tree or fence. The transmitters are Byonics, this one with mini antenna (almost a dummy load!) to lower the ERP.*



*Emily, VE3EMI did most of the work to build these awesome Yagis with flexible elements and a plate to mount the Sniffer 4.*





*Roger, VA3EGY, has made up an excellent carry box for the Sniffer 4 receivers and the mini transmitters.*

*A 3 element Yagi and Sniffer 4 all set to go find the 'fox'.*



*Small orange and white Orienteering flags marked the transmitter location along with a "Q" code labels that participants had to copy down to confirm they found each 'fox'.*



*Transmitter locations were discreetly concealed but not too hidden. The orange and white flag indicates you have found the 'fox'.*



## OVMRC Net Activity, Check-ins for September, 2020.

Prepared by: Hugo Kneve VE3KTN

**OVMRC 2 Metre Net: VE3TWO 147.300+ 100 Hz. tone, Thursdays 8 p.m. local.**

September 10	September 17	September 24
<b>VE3KTN - NCS</b>	<b>VE3KTN - NCS</b>	<b>VE3KTN - NCS</b>
<b>New &amp; Visitors</b>	<b>New &amp; Visitors</b>	<b>New &amp; Visitors</b>
VE3RVB VA3CSG	*KK4OXY	VE3TON
<b>General Check-ins</b>	<b>General Check-ins</b>	<b>General Check-ins</b>
VE3ZZU VA3EO VE3RUU VE3NA VE3LC VE3GIQ VE3LBU VE3YY VA2EEK VA3RLA VE3KMV VE3RXH VE3LAF VE3KAE	VA3AOD VE3ZZU VE3TSC VA3WTZ VE3GIQ VE3RUU VA3HJR VE3NA VE3LC VE3LBU VA3EO VA3AUM VA3PSI VE3TXB VE3RXH VA3RLA VA3BIT VE3KJQ VA2EEK VA3IAH	VE3RUU VE3TSC VA3HJR VE3NA VE3LC VE3GIQ VE3LBU VE3FCQ VE3YY VA2EEK VA3EO VA3RLA VA3AUM VA3PSI VE3RXH

\* - Alex in Lewiston, NY.

**OVMRC Pothole Net: 3760 kHz. LSB Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. local**

<b>September 6</b> SFI:69 A:6	<b>September 13</b> SFI:68 A:5	<b>September 20</b> SFI:69 A:3	<b>September 27</b> SFI:73 A:24
VE3XRA - NCS	VE3EJJ - NCS	VE3EJJ - NCS	VE3XRA - NCS
<b>New &amp; Visitors</b>	<b>New &amp; Visitors</b>	<b>New &amp; Visitors</b>	<b>New &amp; Visitors</b>
		VA2ZCB	
<b>General Check-ins</b>	<b>General Check-ins</b>	<b>General Check-ins</b>	<b>General Check-ins</b>
VA3YB VE3MKX VE3LC VE3EJJ VE3NA VA3PCJ VA3BGO VE3KAE VE3KTN VE3BOW VE3NPO VE3BAE	VE3BF VE3KTN VE3LC VE3BOW VE3KAE VA3BGO VE3NA VE3MKX VE3NPO VE3ORM VA3PSI VA3PCJ VA3EO	VE3MKX VE3NA VE3KAE VE3LC VA3PCJ VA3BGO VE3NPO VE3KTN VA3PSI VE3BOW VE3YY VA3BIT	VE3BOW VE3NA VE3KAE VE3LC VA3PCJ VE3YY VA3NAH VE3KTN VE3BAE VE3XRA