

# RAMBLER

SEPTEMBER 2022



VOL. 65 ISSUE 1

NEWSLETTER OF THE OTTAWA VALLEY MOBILE RADIO CLUB INCORPORATED ([OVMRC.CA](http://OVMRC.CA))

---

## WHAT'S INSIDE:

<u>OVMRC EXEC</u>	2
<u>NETS / EVENTS</u>	3
<u>PRESIDENT'S RAMBLINGS</u>	4
<u>2022 AGM</u>	5
<u>FIELD DAY 2022</u>	8
<u>MS BIKE 2022</u>	9
<u>OVMRC.CA UPDATE</u>	11
<u>1 KW AMP BUILD (4)</u>	12
<u>DISTRACTED DRIVING</u>	17
<u>2022-23 NETS</u>	17
<u>XLX197 REFLECTOR</u>	19
<u>ANNOUNCEMENTS</u>	21
<u>EDITOR'S NOTE</u>	22

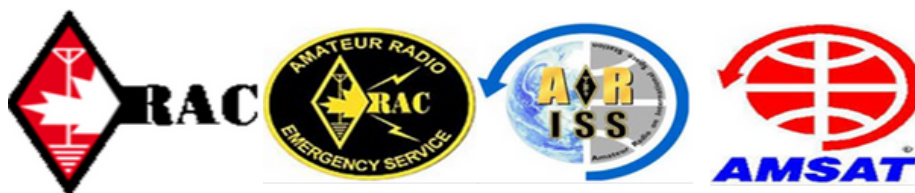
## MEETING: SEPT 21 7:15 P.M.

### AGENDA

- OPENING 7:15 BARRY (VE3NA)
- GREETINGS-GUESTS/MEMBERS
- PRESIDENT'S REMARKS
- MINUTES REVIEW/APPROVAL
- CHAIRPERSON REPORTS
- MEETING ADJOURNMENT
- RAG CHEW

CHECK-IN TIME 6:45 TO 7:15 P.M.  
MEMBERS AND INVITED GUESTS WILL  
BE SENT AN EMAIL INVITATION  
SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE MEETING DATE  
WITH LOGIN AND PASSWORD. OTHERS  
NOT ON OUR MAILING LIST PLEASE  
CONTACT NORM AT: VE3LC@RAC.CA FOR  
INVITATION.

## OVMRC AFFILIATIONS





# **OVMRC Executive and Officers 2022- 2023**

## **DIRECTORS**

### **President:**

Barry Allison, VE3NA  
ve3na@rac.ca

### **Vice-President:**

Norm Rashleigh, VE3LC  
ve3lc@rac.ca

### **Treasurer &**

### **Membership Records:**

Nicole Boivin, VE3GIQ  
nlboivin@sympatico.ca

### **Corporate Secretary:**

Alan Fricker, VE3KAE  
alanfricker@yahoo.ca

## **STANDING**

## **COMMITTEES**

### **Club Projects & Bulk**

**Orders:** Barry Alison,  
VE3NA ve3na@rac.ca

### **Radio Course &**

### **Accredited Examiner:**

Norm Rashleigh, VE3LC  
ve3lc@rac.ca

### **Meeting Reception:**

John McGowan, VA3JYK  
john.mcgowan1314@gmail.com

### **Nets & Radio**

### **Operations:** Hugo

Kneve, VE3KTN  
ve3ktn@rac.ca

### **Rambler Newsletter**

### **Editor and Production:**

Alan Hotte, VA3IAH  
editor@ovmrc.ca

### **OVMRC.CA & Social**

**Media:** Adam Bird,  
VE3IRD web@ovmrc.ca

### **OVMRC Repeater**

**Keeper:** Norm Rashleigh,  
VE3LC ve3lc@rac.ca

### **Special Events:** Roger

Egan, VA3EGY  
va3egy@gmail.com John  
McGowan, VA3JYK  
john.mcgowan1314@gmail.com

\*\*\*\*\*

### **OVMRC Groups.io**

### **Ongoing discussion**

### **Group at:**

**<https://ovmrc.groups.io>**

**[/g/main](#)**; All radio  
amateurs members and  
non-members are  
welcome

### **Ottawa Valley Mobile**

### **Radio Club,**

**Incorporated PO Box**

**41145 Ottawa, ON K1G**

**5K9**

### **OVMRC Life Members:**

Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ  
Maurice-André Vigneault,  
VE3VIG

Ralph Cameron, VE3BBM

Doug Carswell, VE3ATY

Doreen Morgan, VE3CGO

### **OVMRC Repeaters:**

- **VE3RAM** Limited coverage to Orleans and East Ottawa  
443.700 MHz (+) DMR CC1 & D-Star Network connected to Brandmeister

- **VE3TWO** Limited coverage to East and South Ottawa 147.300 MHz. +, PL 100.0 Hz. Analogue FM and C4FM

### **Special Event & Field**

**Day Call Sign **VE3JW****



---

## LOCAL WEEKLY NETS (ALL CHECK-INS WELCOME)

- **Rubber Boot Net**, VE3OCE 146.880 MHz (-)136.5 Hz tone weekday mornings at 7:30 AM conducted by Roger, VE3NPO
- **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**, Sunday night, 7:30 PM, 50.090 MHz., horizontal polarization. Join co-controllers Hugo (VE3KTN) and Norm (VE3LC) for accomplished and budding CW operators alike.
- **QCWA Chapter 70 Net**, VE3OCE 146.880 MHz (-) 136.5 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), held Monday through Saturday at 7:00 PM.
- **Upper Frequency Net**, Simplex 144.250 MHz using USB, Tuesday 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.
- **Phoenix Net**, VE3OCE 146.880 MHz (-) 136.5 Hz tone, Tuesday evenings at 7:30 PM conducted by Pete, VE3XEM
- **Almonte ARC's D-Star Net** Tuesday evenings at 8:40 p.m. carried on XLX197 and everything connected to it. Dale VE3XZT presides.
- **OVMRC 2-Metre Net**, Thursday Evenings, 8:00 PM, Club Net on FM will be held through VE3OCE 146.880 MHz (-)136.5 Hz tone conducted by Hugo, VE3KTN.

## INFORMAL AMATEUR RADIO RESTAURANT GATHERINGS

• **QCWA CHAPTER 70 BREAKFAST GATHERING EVERY TUESDAY MORNING AT 7:30 TO 10:00 AM, SUMMERHAYS GRILL, 1972 BASELINE RD., NEPEAN - RESTARTED**

• **ORLEANS COFFEE GATHERING EVERY FRIDAY MORNING AT 9:00 AM, MCDONALDS, 2643 ST. JOSEPH BLVD, ORLEANS**

• **QRP GROUP DINNER MEETING, 2 ND WEDNESDAY EVERY MONTH, 5:00 PM, NEWPORT RESTAURANT, 322 CHURCHILL AVE N., OTTAWA**

• **PHOENIX NET MONTHLY BREAKFAST GATHERING, USUALLY THE SECOND SATURDAY EVERY MONTH AT 9:00 AM, CHECK WITH PETE VE3XEM@RAC.CA**



---

# President's Ramblings

What a summer season it has been! Epic and damaging wind storms, fires, water shortages, short monsoon-like rain storms, (over 30 years of pool ownership, I have never pumped so much water out of the pool) a major data outage and the summer is not over yet.

There were many high points as well, for instance, another successful DIY Field Day, a special Parks on the Air event, MS Bike, and even a mini DXpedition to Iceland (congrats Rob, ve3rxh). Also, there were the four lucky club members who won year end door prizes: Ralph, ve3bbm, & Neil, ve3pue received deluxe Nano VNA packages, Norm, ve3lc picked up the Daiwa watt meter and Jim, va3def picked up first prize of an Anytone top of the line DMR portable. Further to all of this, Adam, va3ird (our new webmaster) and Alan, va3iah have been diligently working all summer to update and refresh the website and the Rambler. Whew! Now I feel guilty about taking all that R&R over the break.

I would be remiss in my duties if I didn't provide a huge thank you on behalf of the club to Ron, ve3lbu, for providing his secretarial skills to the club for the past several years. Ron is stepping down as club secretary, but will remain as an active member of the club. Thanks, Ron! He will be passing the torch on to Alan, ve3kae who has volunteered to step into the position. Welcome Alan!

Then, just at the time my pen hits the paper, Her Majesty the Queen, Elizabeth II passes. Proceeding details are unfolding as I complete this writing. Pause and reflect. Moving on, regular club Zoom meetings will be resuming on Wednesday, September 21.

There will be a club notice with log in information sent out the weekend before the meeting. The usual procedure will start with the log in and chat at 6:45 PM and a meeting start time as close to 7:15 as possible.

Now about the meetings. Yes, I said Zoom meetings, for now. Norm is contacting the museum to explore the possibility of in person / hybrid meetings. There is nothing more to report on this for now other than we're working on it.



More to follow, soon, I hope!  
Currently, we do not have a guest speaker lined up for the September meeting. There is however a lot of information updates for the start of the new year of monthly meetings.

What would you like to see for upcoming meeting topics. Ideas are always welcome.

Notes to OVMRC club members:  
- contact Alan (Rambler editor) at editor@ovmrc.ca for some guidance in submitting an article for the Rambler.  
- subsidized pricing to club members for: LMR400 \$1.35 / ft, LMR195 \$0.80 / ft, RG316 \$1.00 / ft, PL 259 male for LMR 195/400 \$3.00 ea. type N male for LMR 195/400 \$3.00 ea. BNC male for LMR195 \$2.00 ea. FT 114-43 toroid \$1.50 ea. FT 140-43 toroid \$3.30 ea.  
That's it for my September ramblings. (I'm still in R&R mode) Everyone is invited to join the OVMRC September Zoom meeting Wednesday September 21. Check in will start at the usual ~ 6:45 PM with a start time as close to 7:15 as possible. Anyone not receiving the check in credentials can do so by sending an email to Norm (Zoom custodian) ve3lc@rac.ca.

The OVMRC meetings are open for all to attend. Club membership is not required (but of course we would like to have you as a member). Guests wishing to attend can submit a request to the Zoom custodian (see above) and joining credentials will be sent to you.

I look forward to seeing many club members and guests at the September Zoom meeting.

73,  
Barry, ve3na

## 2022 Annual General Meeting Minutes

**Date / Time:** Wednesday, June 15, 2022 @ 19:15

**Location:** Via ZOOM online meeting

### 1) Call to order:

President Barry Allison, VE3NA called the Annual General Meeting to order at 19:15. There were 52 check-ins.

### 2) Moment of silence:

For George Roach, VE3BNO (SK) who passed just recently.

### 3) Welcome to the AGM and

**Guest Greetings:** Barry, VE3NA extended greetings to everyone. Guests included Steve, VA3SAX.

### 4) Approval of minutes from previous meeting:

**MOTION:** Moved by Bill, VA3HWA and seconded by Douglas, VE3YDK that the minutes of the meeting held Wednesday May 18, 2022, be approved.

**VOTE:** No Objections.

**CARRIED.**



---

## 5) Projects, Haves, Wants and Announcements:

**Haves:** None noted.

**Wants:** None noted.

## 6) AGM Agenda and Meeting

### Content:

Barry, VE3NA outlined the agenda for the meeting and noted there was:

- A Quorum of eligible voting members present.
- **Vote and Confirmation of returning Executive.** By a show of hands, President Barry, VE3NA, Vice President Norm, VE3LC and Treasurer Nicole, VE3GIQ were all confirmed without objection for another 1-year term to August 31, 2023.
- **Vote and confirmation of new club Secretary.** Motion: To approve Alan Fricker, VE3KAE as OVMRC Club Secretary for the minimum term. Moved By: Fred, VE3LAF, Seconded By: Matt, VA3AL, CARRIED
- Alan replaces Ron, VE3LBU. Alan was welcomed warmly and is looking forward to his role.

### Announcements:

- OVMRC Website: Adam Bird, VE3IRD – will have the site restored and up and running within a few days.
- Smiths Falls Flea Market: Barry, VE3NA also reminded members that the Rideau Lakes Amateur Radio Club will be hosting their flea market at the Smith Falls Curling Club on Old Sly's Road, Saturday. Admission is \$5.00. The event starts at 9am.

- ARRL Field Day 2022: For those taking part, do not forget we are submitting individual scores as a group. When submitting your log files, search the ARRL drop down menu under 'Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club' and submit accordingly.

## 7. Chair and Director Reports:

**Net Operations:** Hugo Kneve, VE3KTN – Hugo will remain in his current role in Net Operations. The Thursday evening 2-meter net will go on summer hiatus following the last net of the season on Thursday, June 30. The Sunday morning Pothole net will be off for the summer as well.

**The Rambler:** Alan Hotte, VA3IAH – Alan had no further updates.

**Repeaters:** VP Norm Rashleigh, VE3LC – Norm advised that VE3TWO will undergo an antenna replacement shortly at the QTH of Marc, VE3BOE in Metcalf. The current antenna has become desensitized over time operating as both a receiver and transmitter. Intermods are at fault. A 2 metre isopole replacement antenna has been purchased. Norm also advised he is planning to meet with Peter Gamble to discuss the location status of both VE3MPC and VE3TWO. Equipment located at the east end firehalls are commercially managed making potential access to any club



equipment difficult. Access to the club repeaters would have to be negotiated for fair access.

**Treasurer's Report:** Nicole Boivin, VE3GIQ -

**Financial:** The Club has \$21,041 on hand.

**Membership:** stands at 130.

Community Events: MS Bikeathon is returning on the 20th and 21st of August. The event will run between Kars and Brockville with 5 rest stops and will overnight in Brockville. There is a need for up to 15 volunteer radio operators.

Repeaters in Brockville and Winchester will be the contact stations, but a third repeater would ensure maximum coverage. Norm, VE3LC offered to work with Nicole to set up a repeater currently available to the club.

**Transmitter Hunting:** Roger Egan, VE3EGY - Roger along with Harry, VE3HYS met recently with IARU Region 2 YOTA organizers and discussed the possibility of holding the annual YOTA summer camp event in Ottawa next year, using Carleton University as the base.

### **Annual Year End Door Prize**

#### **Draws:**

**Third Prize:** 1.A Nano VNAKit - to Neil Herber, VE3PUE.

2. A Nano VNA Kit - to Ralph Cameron, VE3BBM.

**Second Prize:** A Daiwa Watt Meter - to Norm Rashliegh, VE3LC

**First Prize:** An ANYTONE DMR handheld Radio Kit - to Jim Dodds, VA3DEF

Congratulations to the lucky winners. Contact Barry, VA3NA@rac.ca for prize pick up.

**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 Hugo, VE3KTN to adjourn the business meeting at 21:16.

### **7. Next meeting:**

The next monthly meeting of the OVMRC will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, September 21, 2022, at 7:15 pm.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Secretary Ron Smith VE3LBU.



## OVMRC PARTICIPATION IN FIELD DAY 2022



Because of the on-going COVID-19 situation, Club members were on their own to operate Field Day and submit their results individually this year. Although we have to wait until the December issue of QST for the individual and aggregate Club score results to be published, we suspect the Club score will be better than 2021 even though the participation was a little less.

Thanks to the following OVMRC Club Members that submitted their logs to the ARRL for Field Day 2022.

<u>CALL</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>CLASS</u>	<u>SECTION</u>
VA3BGO	BRIAN	1D	ONE
VA3IAH	ALAN	1D	ONE
VA3THP	JASON	1D	ONE
VA3VGR	RICHARD	1B1B	ONE
VA3WEX	KATHLEEN	1B1B	ONE
VE3BOE	MARC	1E	ONE
VE3EUS	JOE	1D	ONE
VE3GIQ	NICOLE	1D	ONE
VE3KAE	ALAN	1D	ONE
VE3KJQ	PAT	1E	ONE
VE3KTN	HUGO	1E	ONE
VE3LBU	RON	1E	ONE
VE3LC	NORM	1E	ONE
VE3MB	TOM	1D	ONE
VE3NA	BARRY	1E	ONE
VE3NLW	LARRY	1D	ONE
VE3QN	BRYAN	1D	ONE
VE3RXH	ROB	1E	ONE
VE3SYZ	WALTER	1D	ONE
VE3VIG	MAURICE- ANDRE	1D	ONE
VE3XEM	PETER	1C	ONE
VX3OTW	JONATHAN	1B1B	ONE





## MS BIKE TOUR 2022



After a hiatus of 2 years thanks to Covid-19, The MS Bike Tour resumed this year with a very successful event held August 20-21st. The venue for the event was new. Having lost the use of the NAV Center in Cornwall, the event ran from Kars Ont. to Brockville, a riding distance of 85 km. 181 participants rode over an aggregate distance of 13,800 km. to raise over 2/3 of the target donations.

15 amateurs from the OVMRC, OARC and SVARC provided the event communications. First the first time in the history of this event the organizers requested that the amateurs take charge of dispatching the support vehicles. That was coordinated by Net Control.

There was some concern that a single repeater (the preferred solution) may not cover the entire route, given the 65 km. line of sight, so radio tests were conducted ahead of the event with 3 candidate repeaters.

The Brockville repeater VE3IWJ turned out to be the only viable option. I wish to thank Tim (VE3TXB), John (VA3JYK) and Fred (VE3LAF) for driving the route while I tested from Kars, the net control location.

The support by the amateurs was greatly appreciated by the riders, the rest stop volunteers, the support team and the organizers. For the most part the event went very smoothly, with only minor issues. The amateurs at several rest stops had to choose their locations to set up very carefully to assure good communications.





The organizers had originally asked if amateurs could ride in the support vehicles. That was not possible.

I had a total of 15 volunteers, insufficient to staff up all rest stops with 2 hams at each location on Saturday. I noted that there were fewer participants this year than in pre-pandemic years, and the organizers had difficulty finding sufficient volunteers to staff support vehicles. I attribute this to the Covid aftermath, and expect a better year next year.



Finally, I wish to thank the Brockville Amateur Radio Club for the use of their repeater. They have already confirmed their support for next year. My amateur volunteers all said that they enjoyed the experience. Expect me to be around after next March looking for you to volunteer!

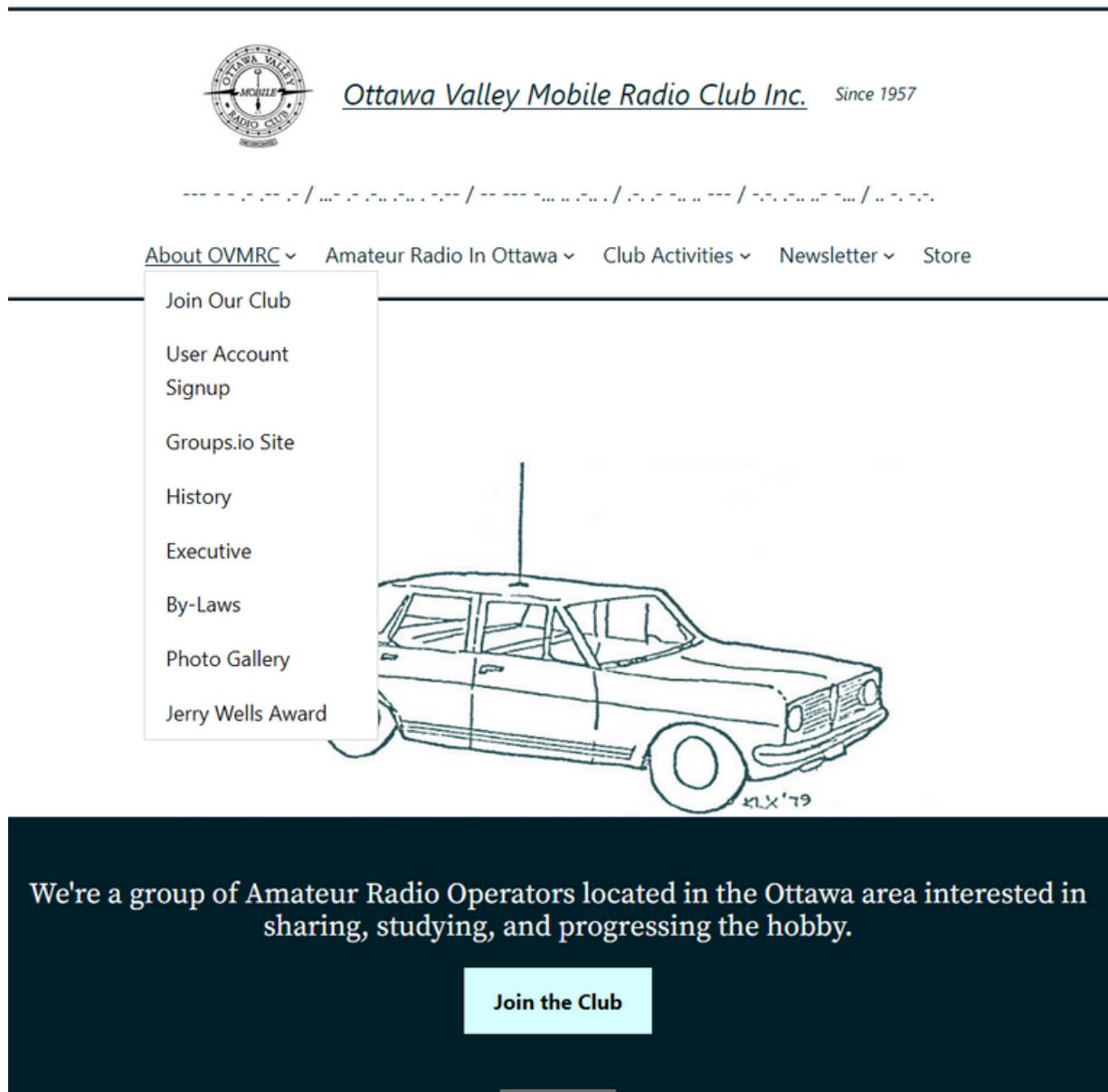
73, Nicole VE3GIQ  
Organizer of the MS Bike Amateur support



## OVMRC.CA UPDATE

Hello Ramblers. The Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio club website has had some work done over the summer. Most notably, the website can now be reached at a new domain <https://ovmrc.ca> rather than <http://ovmrc.on.ca>. So be sure to update your bookmarks!

FIGURE 1: DESKTOP LAYOUT



The website has been transferred to a new hosting provider, which will give us more storage capacity, and room to grow. A new theme has been applied, and many of the existing pages have been updated and reorganized. The new site behaves better on mobile devices than our previous website, but further mobile-optimization is still required. Page updates and mobile optimization work will continue throughout the season.



In the months to come we will be implementing new features with the goal of making the website a more active and valuable place for the membership. Some of these include a photo gallery, an improved membership registration form, and a modern event calendar. We would also like to increase the amount of relevant technical information on the site for new and old Hams alike. Stay tuned for future updates!

Questions and comments can be directed to **web@ovmrc.ca**.

73  
Adam VA3IRD



## KILOWATT AMPLIFIER PART 4 - MONITORING AND CONTROL

In this article I will provide a brief update on the amplifier's monitoring and control setup.

The amplifier kit boards, that I purchased from DX-World, included a protection and monitoring board that covered only the very basics; three LED alarm lights, a reset button, and a small 24-character LCD display (showing only power output and SWR). I wanted much more than that.

In keeping with the latest generation solid state amplifiers, I wanted both monitoring and control to be accomplished with a large colour touch screen display. I also wanted to have an ethernet interface, so that the amplifier could be remotely controlled via a simple web page style interface. Unfortunately, I did not know how to do any of that. So, the learning began.

Having spent only a few hours with an Arduino, several years ago, I was starting from scratch and watched a lot of YouTube videos (thank you YouTube!). I spent several weeks reacquainting myself with the Arduino, its code, the setup of sensors, and the programming of the touch screen display, as I figured this sort of setup would best meet my requirements.

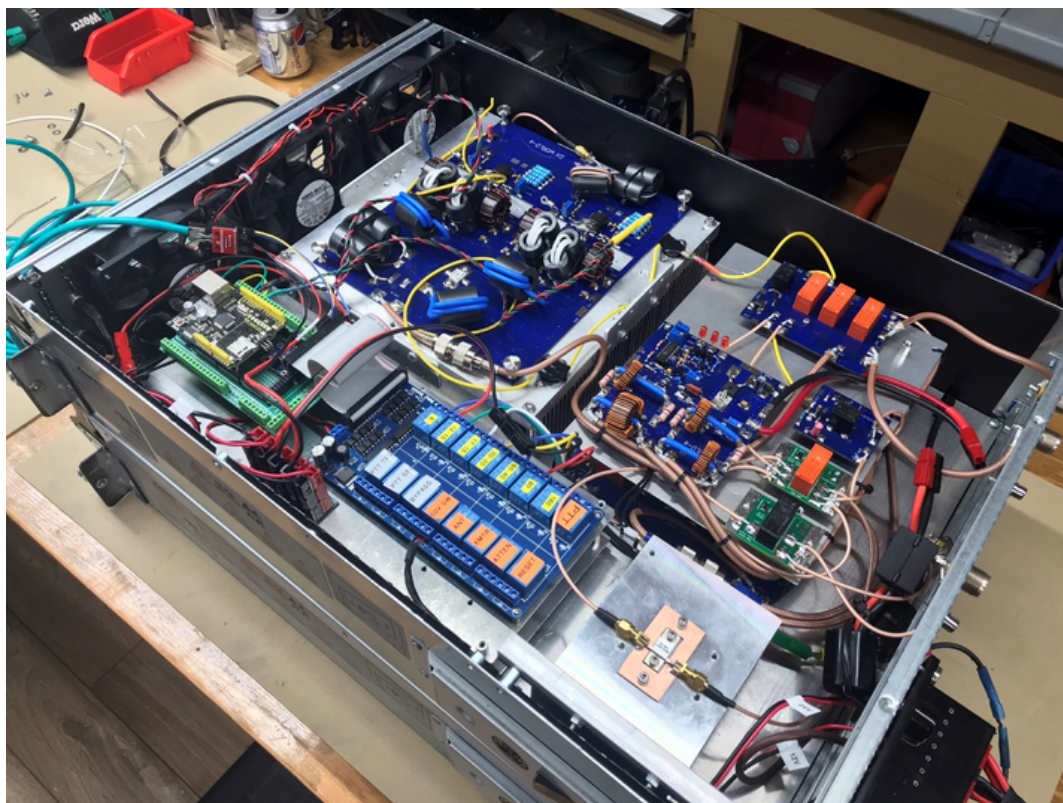


I have spent a considerable number of hours sourcing, collecting, and testing my sensors and their basic code. The LCD touch screen (Nextion) was also new to me, but after many more hours of education, I created what I think is a nice working interface for my amplifier. I spent a considerable portion of the overall programming time making the touchscreen work the way I wanted it to. It seems simple now, but the learning curve was steep for me.

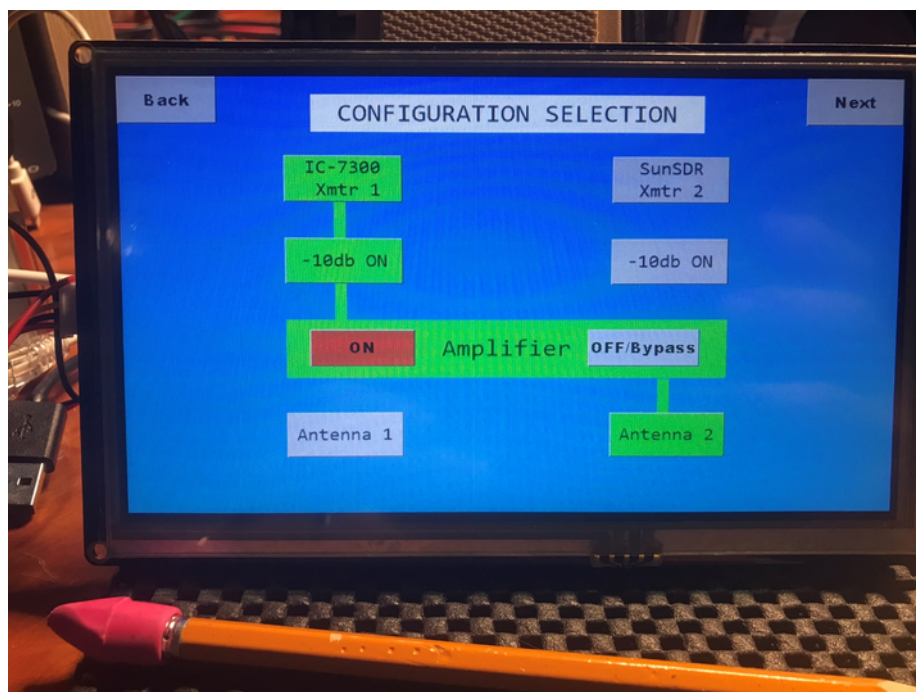
After writing over 1000 lines of code, I am very pleased with it's performance under test conditions.

In the next article, I will provide details on the monitored points and what type of sensors and controls were used for each. I will also describe how I implemented functions such as PWM fan speed control, automatic band pass filter selection, amplifier shut down sequencing, etc.

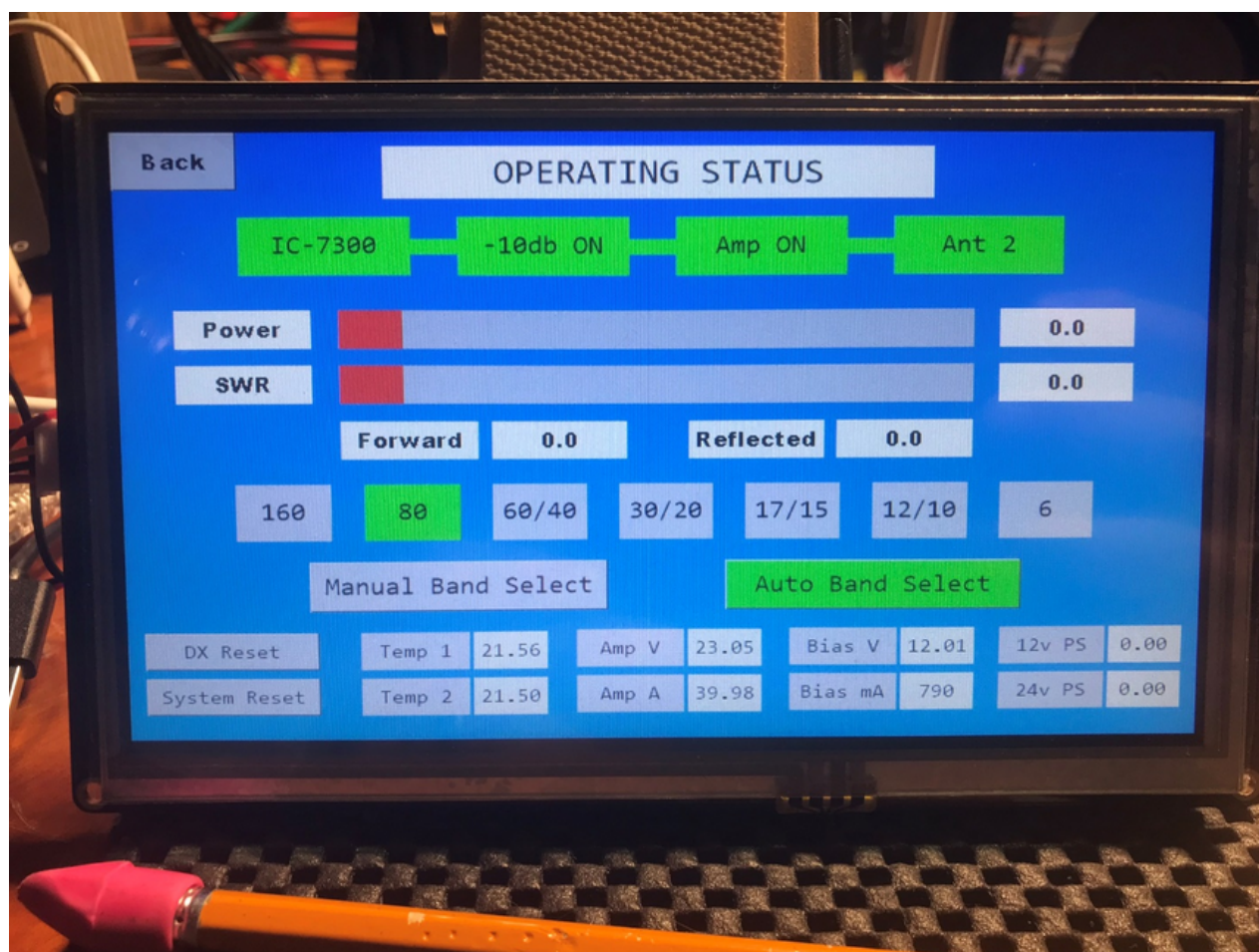
For now, here are a few pictures of the amplifier with all of the working controls installed, as well as a few pictures of the touch screen panels, so that you can get a sense as to how I have arranged things. Note that there are presently two main pages for amplifier control and monitoring, This is a touch screen, so most of the fields are also buttons that will perform different tasks, or are used to select different modes; transmitter selection, antenna selection, attenuator selection or bypass, manual band selection or automatic band selection, etc.



**Here is a picture of the amplifier with all of the monitoring and controls hardware installed.**

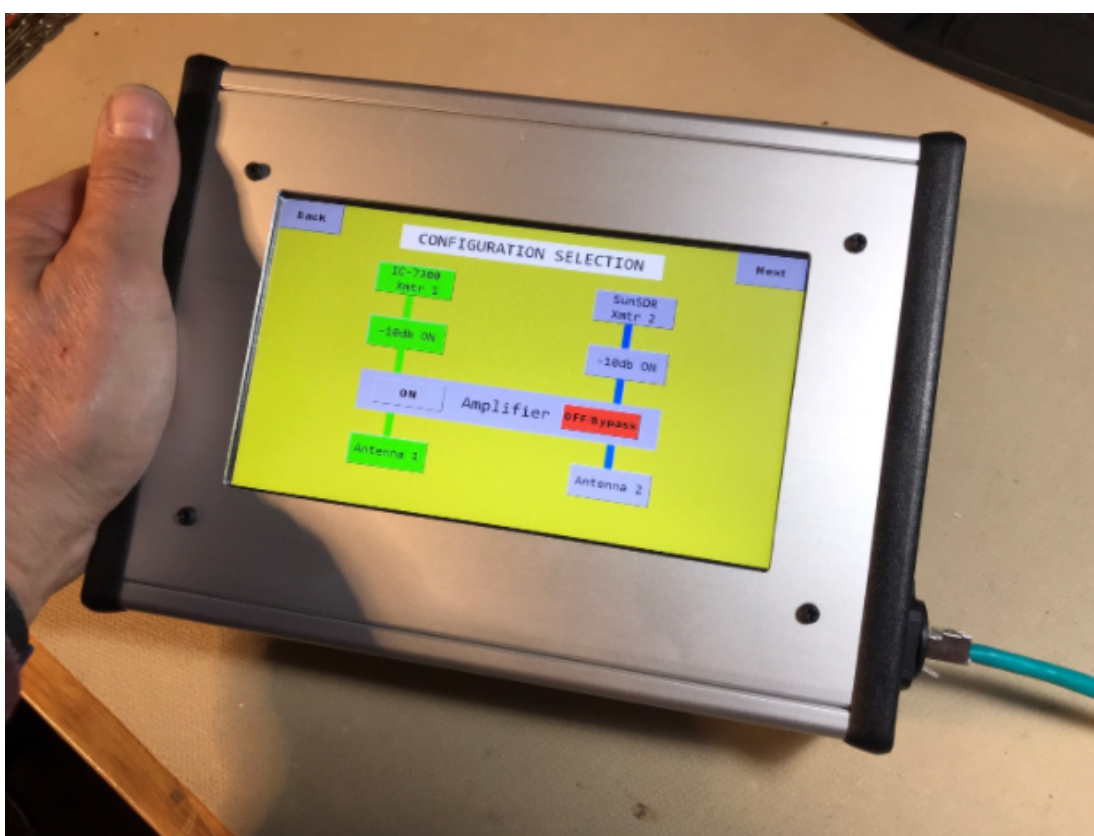


This is the “Configuration Selection” page that allows you to select the RF flow path. The available transmitters are shown on top, an optional -10db attenuator can be selected if required, the amplifier can then be selected as being ON or in Bypass, and finally you can select your output (Antenna). As you touch the various buttons, the flow path is updated and the colors change accordingly.

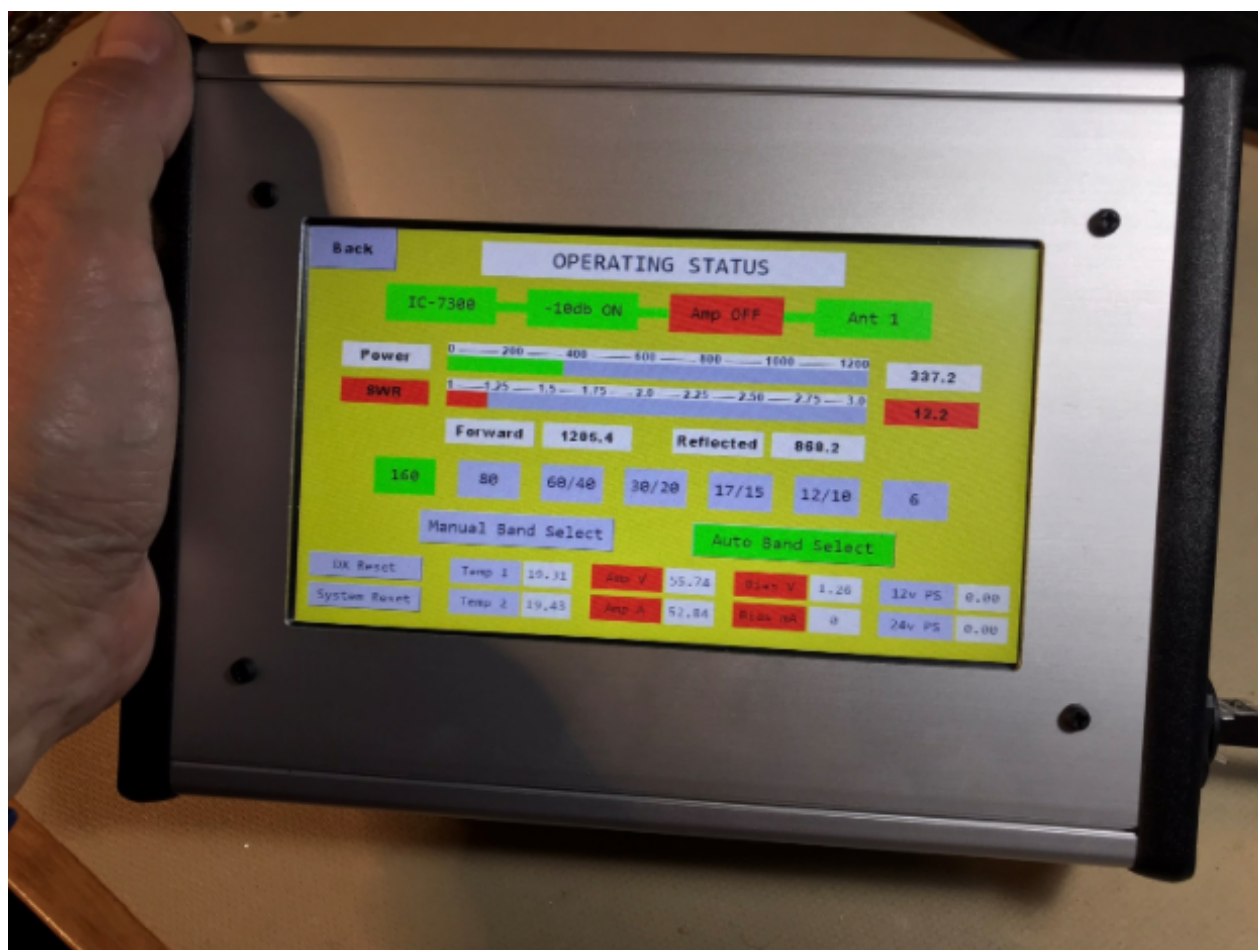




The “Operating Status” page is the main operating page that would normally be what you would look at during amplifier operation, after you have selected the flow path. You will note that the flow path is also actively shown from right to left at the top, and it will actively change colors and status as things change. Power and SWR are shown both as a dynamic bar graph, as well as posting the numerical equivalents to the right of the bar. The active band pass filter is shown highlighted in green and you can select whether you want to have the band selected manually or automatically by pressing either button. Two reset buttons are located at the bottom left and all other displayed monitored parameters are shown at the bottom. These are dynamic fields that update constantly and quickly.



This picture shows the touch screen mounted in its enclosure. It connects to the amplifier using a single CAT5e cable with a standard RJ45 jack. The enclosure also has a built-in regulated 5v power supply for the screen. The power is also sent via the CAT5e cable. Note that in this picture, the background is now bright yellow and the amplifier has switched itself to “OFF/Bypass”. This would indicate that an alarm condition occurred and the amplifier was automatically switched to Bypass.



For example, while still under the alarm condition, the “Operating Status” screen is also yellow and the flow path has been updated to display “Amp OFF” in red. Note that all of the out of tolerance alarm conditions are now in RED. In this test case the SWR is above 3 at 12.2, the Amp input voltage is above 50 volts at 55.74, the Amp input current is above 40 at 52.84, the bias voltage is below 12v at 1.26 volts, and the bias current is below 800ma at 0 (not realistic simultaneous alarm conditions but shown for demonstration purposes).

I hope this gives you a better sense of what I have been up to with this project. This part of the project was actually completed last spring. I intend to get back to this project in the fall when I will begin my real testing under amplifier power. I am also building a 1600 watt fan cooled load bank for the final testing phase. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to reach out to me at VE3BOE@rac.ca.

73, Marc, VE3BOE





---

## DISTRACTED DRIVING

**If operating mobile, reminder to carry copy of Ontario Regulation 366 when amateur while driving.**

A few weeks ago, Frank VE3YY was stopped by an Ottawa Police officer and given a \$650 ticket for distracted driving while hand holding the microphone and talking on his mobile radio during his morning drive to work. He explained to the officer that radio amateurs are exempt under the current regulations but at the time could not prove his claim. The police officer was probably not aware of this exemption. I believe Frank will challenge this ticket in court and we will be interested in the outcome.

So be prepared folks; download and print and carry in your car(s) a copy of Ontario Regulation 366 available at:  
<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/090366> Section 13 of the regulation reads:

Exemption for amateur radio operators: **13. (1) Drivers who hold a valid radio operator certificate issued under the Radiocommunication Act (Canada) may drive a motor vehicle on a highway while holding or using a two-way radio. O. Reg. 366/09, s. 13 (1), O. Reg. 253/12, s. 3 (1).**

You may also be required to show a copy of your ham certificate of proficiency so have that handy in your car too. However, any amateur operating mobile may also want to operate hands-free using new radios that support Bluetooth operation through the vehicle's speaker and microphone system intended for

mobile phone operation. Also, a simple single-ear wired head set and manual PTT (toggled) switch to the radio will work equally well.

73, Norm VE3LC@rac.ca

## OVMRC 2022-23 NETS SEASON OPENS

Greetings to all OVMRC members. By the time you read this, the OVMRC nets which took a summer vacation will have been back for at least a week. The summer break is a good chance to get a bit of relaxation in and do some thinking about next season, but all in all, it's good to be back on the air on a regular basis.

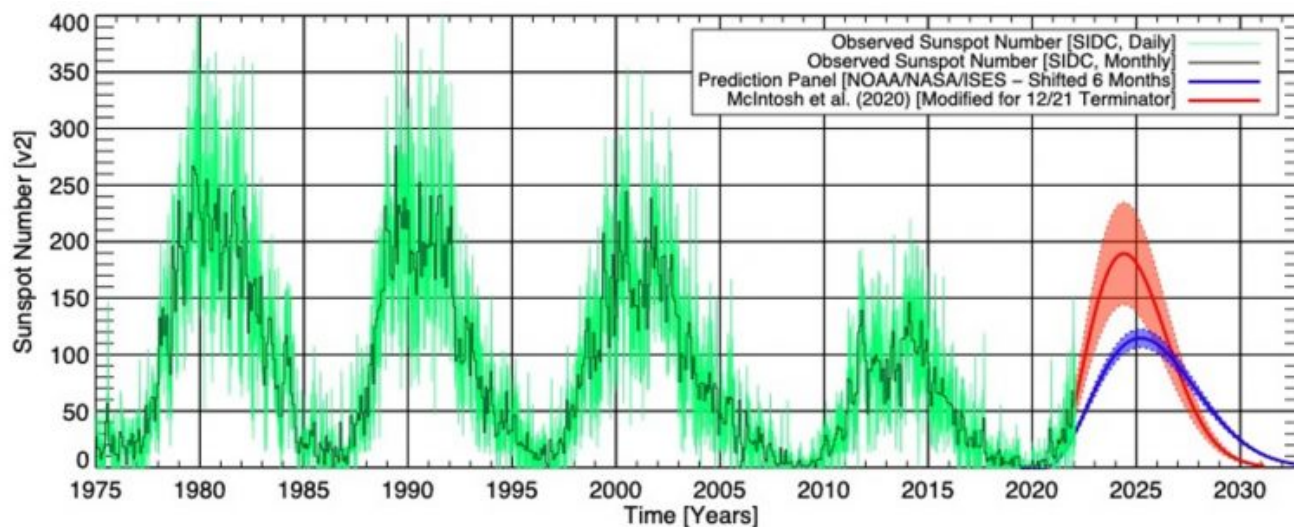
The flagship 2 metre FM net resumes on Thursday, September 8 at its regular haunt on repeater VE3OCE. For newcomers to the Ottawa ham radio scene, we meet up on the aforementioned repeater on 146.880 MHz. out/146.280 MHz. in, requiring a 136.5 Hz. CTCSS tone. The format remains unchanged from previous years starting with a call for in/out check ins for a quick hello/73/goodbye, then on to an invitation to Club President, Directors and Committee Chairs for reports on news and events relevant to the Club. Finally, an open invitation to any and all radio amateurs wishing to check in and have their say. After this first round, a break for any other announcements from check-ins, news from Net Control and then on to a second round of ragchew.



The past couple of years, the net has typically run for 90 minutes which is rather long for a 2 metre net even though the intent is to keep it to an hour or so.

The reason this net runs so long is partly my need to acknowledge each check in's words of wisdom, so I'm going to watch my Ps and Qs this season, but there's usually a topic of discussion that arises and many attendees have lots to say. So, be prepared for a 2 m. net that tends to run long again!

Afficionados of the HF bands will know that sunspot Cycle 25 is well underway with its usual effects on local and DX propagation. High sunspot numbers tend to be good for DX on the higher bands, i.e., 20-10 m., but the higher daytime ionisation of the D layer causes more RF absorption at frequencies below 10 MHz. making 160-30 m. a tough go during the day. As well, Cycle 25 has been intensifying more rapidly and is on a trajectory to be higher than the Cycle 24 peak according to measurements available from NOAA.



The Pot Hole Net has been an OVMRC mainstay since May 1959, now in its 64th year. Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ, will once more be the lead Net Control, alternating with Glenn MacDonell, VE3XRA. The net runs on every Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. Ottawa local time, 3760 kHz. LSB. The trend in solar activity will mean different things to different operators, but it does have implications on the OVMRC 80 metre Pot Hole Net as the D layer absorption at 3.7 MHz. will increase and perhaps degrade propagation during net time. The only way to check how things are going is to check in, so welcome one and all to the PHN.



---

The Pot Lid slow speed CW net (PLN) will also be running again this season, albeit on a new frequency. The PLN activity has been rather rocky since Roger, VE3XRR, retired as lead Net Control and we also took a risk last season, with an expectation of attracting new hams interested in CW, by changing the band from where it had been on 80 m. way up to 2 m. The thinking being that a big impediment to getting on the PLN was physical space required to put up a full size 80 m. wire antenna. While we had a few mainstays on 2 m., attendance dropped off significantly toward June and I did a rethink on this over the summer. After doing some tests on 10 and 6 metres with Maurice-André, VE3VIG, Joe, VE3EUS, and other participants, best signals were available on 6 metres, so that's where the PLN is moving to for the 2022-23 season. The thinking here is that most modern HF radios have 6 metre capability at a full 100 W. and a resonant dipole takes up very little real estate so there should be less of a headache getting on 6. Please join us on the PLN Sunday evenings at 1930 Ottawa local time, 50.090 MHz., horizontally polarised. All attendees regardless of skill will keep their speed at 10 WPM or less, so it's good code practice.

That's it for now, hope to hear you on the various nets.

73,

Hugo, ve3ktn.

## **XLX197 CALGARY BASED MULTI-PROTOCOL- REFLECTOR- AN INTERESTING NETWORK.**

**If you use a Hotspot to reach the Almonte Amateur Radio Club's D-Star Net you will need to update your configuration as XLX196 has been retired from operation and has been replaced by XLX197.**

Some members of the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club are active on the Digital Voice modes using DMR, D-Star or Yaesu C4FM Fusion. Some have accessed "Networked" reflectors and repeaters with these digital modes using their own personal "Hotspot" or by using local digital repeaters (also linked to the Internet) such as VE3RAM operated at my QTH, VE3LC in Orleans on behalf of the OVMRC and enabled on D-Star and DMR (Colour Code 1).

VE3RAM operates on the coordinated frequency pair of 443.7000 MHz + 5 and will respond on FM using 100 Hz CTCSS. It will only provide operation on one mode at a time. For D-Star, it is open for connection to reflectors that support D-Star using D-Star call-sign routing. When using DMR, VE3RAM is connected to the Brandmeister Canada master server and to all the Talk-Groups supported on that system; such traffic should be conducted by the user on Time Slot 1.



---

The Brandmeister network connection is termed “Dynamic” and for any particular chosen TalkGroup, it will engage only by transmitting into the repeater on your chosen TG number and will stay engaged for only 10 minutes after your last transmission and then the TG specific connection will be dropped.

However, VE3RAM’s connection to the XLX197 reflector is “Static”. This means that any traffic present on the reflector be it DMR, D-Star or Yaesu Fusion will be transmitted out on VE3RAM on DMR using TalkGroup 6 and Time Slot 2; that providing the repeater is otherwise not busy with other traffic on DMR Time Slot 2 or D-Star or FM.

The diagram accompanying this article was prepared by Andrew VE6EN in Calgary; he is the master of XLX197. Please note that it shows all present connections of repeaters to the reflector. It does not include VE2CRA DMR on UHF or VA3ODG. VE2CRA, although operative, is no longer connected because it lost its internet connection at the Camp Fortune site. VA3ODG is inoperative at the YMCA site on Argyle; we don’t know when it will be restored to operation.

Of special interest to AllStar users, the XLX197 reflector is bridged with an AllStarLink node, number 564013 and has a permanent link established to feed the Almonte, ON FM repeater VA3AAR on 145.550 MHz; this repeater was formally D-Star mode exclusive.

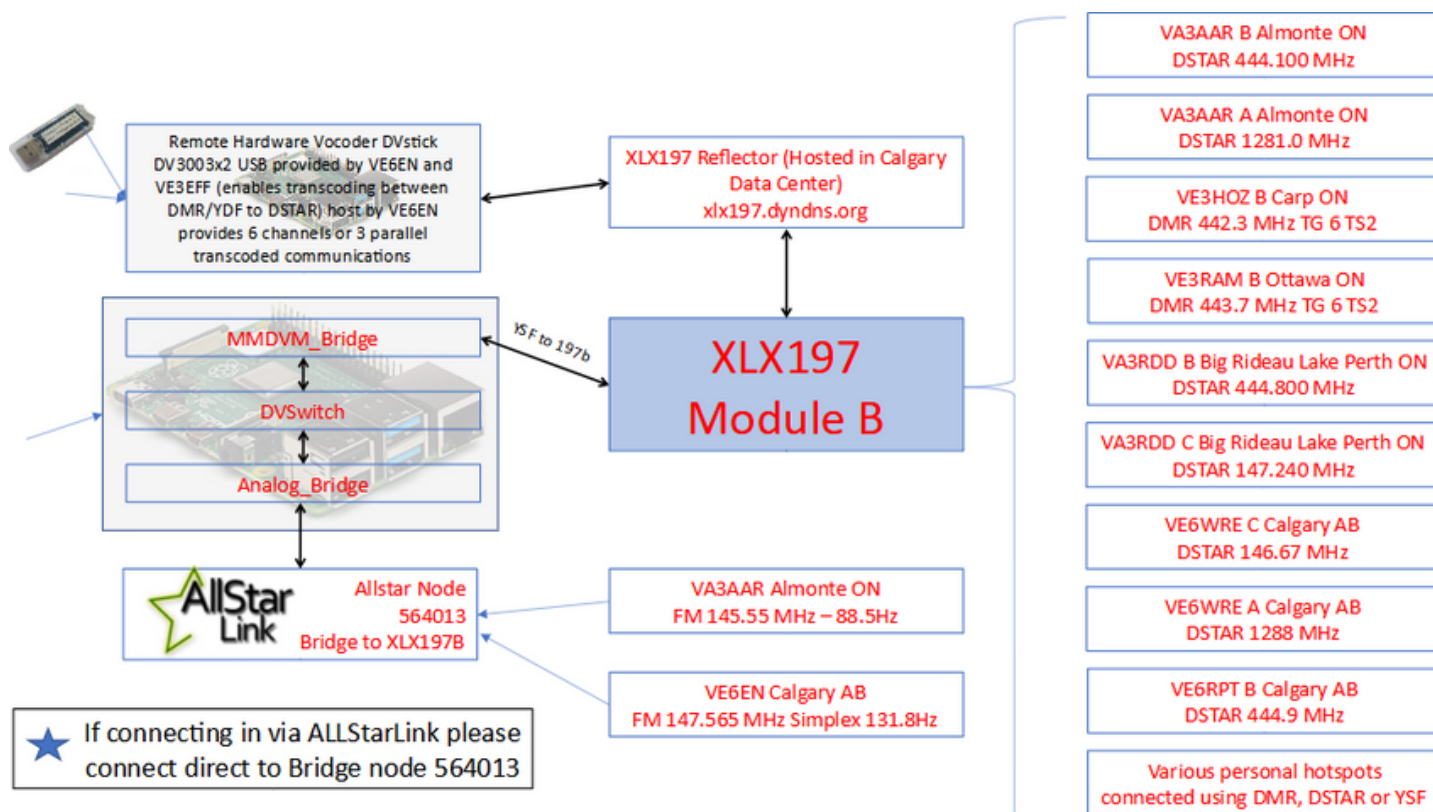
For those accessing the XLX197 reflector using other modes than DMR, they should obtain a DMR registration number at: <https://www.radioid.net/register>. This registration will be taken up by the Reflector from the database and allow the DMR outbound stream from XLX197 to DMR users to properly identify the non-DMR sender of the transmission.

For folks that are fortunate to have an ICOM IC-9700 or IC-705, you can assess the XLX197 (module B) Reflector using D-Star and the connected by the radio’s “Terminal Mode” using IP address of the reflector: 44.184.136.20.

Listen and check into the Almonte Club’s D-Star Net Tuesday evenings at 8:40 p.m. carried on XLX197 and everything connected to it. Dale VE3XZT presides.

73 Norm ve3lc@rac.ca

\*\*Editor's Note: Among the many ways into the Tuesday night net also includes using a hotspot and pistar to connect to YSF TG 16666 linked to XLX197.



## **\*\* ANNOUNCEMENTS \*\***

### **Pot Lid slow speed CW net (PLN):**

Please join us on the PLN Sunday evenings at 1930 Ottawa local time, 50.090 MHz., horizontally polarised. All attendees regardless of skill will keep their speed at 10 WPM or less, so it's good code practice.

### **VE2OJ contest team looking for new members:**

The area VE2OJ contest team wishes to add a couple of new members to support its efforts in the upcoming winter ARRL 160m CW and CQWW 160m CW contests. More specifically, we are looking for ops that love CW to join the existing team, to spend a weekend at a Québec cottage in December and January.

VE2OJ has a 40+ year colourful history of competing in these contests. We balance seriously contesting with a lot of weekend fun. More information about the contesting team and its history can be found at: <https://www.qrz.com/db/VE2OJ>. Interested persons should send an email to Craig at [ve3op@rac.ca](mailto:ve3op@rac.ca).



---

### **Editor's Note:**

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: Alan at [editor@ovmrc.ca](mailto:editor@ovmrc.ca)  
73, Alan VA3IAH

**FOR DMR RADIOS, HOTSPOTS, ANTENNAS, QRP HF RADIOS AND MORE**



**\$15 DISCOUNT TO OVMRC MEMBERS ON \$300 OR MORE**