

RAMBLER

DECEMBER 2022



VOL. 65 ISSUE 4

NEWSLETTER OF THE OTTAWA VALLEY MOBILE RADIO CLUB INCORPORATED (OVMRC.CA)

WHAT'S INSIDE:

OVMRC EXECUTIVE	2
NETS/EVENTS	3
PRESIDENT'S RAMBLINGS	4
MEETING MINUTES	5
FIELD DAY	11
SBO-OVSAR LETTER	13
KILOWATT AMP (PART 5)	14
BRYAN VE3QN CARHOF	18
MO'S BENT DIPOLE	19
GROUNDING	21
OVMRC NET ACTIVITY	22
LINKS	24
EDITOR'S NOTE	24

NOTICE OF GATHERING: WEDNESDAY DEC. 21 7:15 P.M. VIA ZOOM

INSTEAD OF A FORMAL MEETING WITH A STRUCTURED AGENDA, REPORTS, PRESENTATIONS AND MINUTES WE ARE HAVING AN INFORMAL DROP-IN FOR RAG CHEW, SHOW-AND-TELL, AND A CATCH UP ON WHAT IS NEW AND EVOLVING WITH OVMRC MEMBERS AND GUESTS.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

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
ve3giq@rac.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,
VA3IRD 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 controllers Hugo (VE3KTN), Norm (VE3LC) and Ante VA2BBW 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.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

- **Canadian Ski Marathon 2023** The event dates are Feb 11-12, 2023. The radio ops volunteer site is at <https://hambone.ca/CSM>

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 (on hold)
every Friday morning at 9:00 AM, McDonalds, 2643 St. Joseph Blvd, Orleans | • QRP Group
Dinner meeting , Second Wednesday every month, 5:00 PM, Newport Restaurant, 322 Churchill Ave N., Ottawa | • Phoenix Net
monthly Breakfast gathering (on hold) , usually the second Saturday every month at 9:00 AM, Check with Pete
ve3xem@rac.ca |
|--|--|---|--|



President's Ramblings for December 2022

This hot off the press from the presidents' desk: **Very best wishes to all for the upcoming festive season!** While I am not a fan of a lot of snow, I guess I could go with a few days of it around the 25th of December. I can't complain too loudly though since I'll be spending the Christmas / New Years season in Hawaii. I'm attempting to align with some local amateurs while there but timing is problematic because of the time of year. We'll see, and I'll report back in January 2023.

Travel plans aside, amateur radio now. I have been testing with an end fed antenna for the past few months (thanks Fred, VE3LAF for loaning the antenna to me!) The particular antenna is a full length (130 ish ft) long wire, good for 80 through 10 m. I have it supported at the feed end with 4 Princess Auto plastic tent poles (~16 ft), no counter poise, and 135 ft away the far end is about 30 ft up in our apple trees. Wow is all I can say! When the bands cooperate, this antenna hauls!

I have previously been a fan of the G5RV, and it works, but this antenna has won me over. I'm fortunate to have the space to set up a full length long wire but I'm thinking here: "club project" for maybe a shortened version. I even loaded this antenna up on 160 m and made a contact. The antenna tuner earned it's keep but I made the contact! The club also has stock

of the required toroid core for the project @ \$1.50 ea. I'm thinking about pulling this project off for a very affordable club member cost for an antenna that could be a permanent or portable, multi band antenna.... that works! I'll canvass for interest, but I like working on kits and I think this may be of interest to many OVMRC members.

Now, on to other news. I would be remiss in my duties if we didn't offer congratulations to club member Bryan Rawlings, VE3QN, for his induction into the Radio Amateurs of Canada Hall of Fame. Well deserved Bryan!

Regarding year end door prizes, I have only received one suggestion so far (thanks Rob, VE3RXH). Cost limit is \$450.00 per prize, tax in. Dream on! Suggestions welcome. There will be at least three prizes, maybe more if costs are lower per prize.

The OVMRC contributes to the community in many ways. Nicole, VE3GIQ, our club treasurer, ensures we donate to some high profile organizations as approved by the membership, but we have also donated to new initiatives, with membership approval, such as the YOTA initiative upcoming next summer.

There was a new request for coax that came across my screen a while ago, and I thought this was something the club should donate.



I requested, through executive approval, that we should make this request a donation and received approval to do so. The request was from the SBO-OVSAR for coax for their mobile command post. The impact to the club was only \$83.00, but please see the letter of thanks elsewhere in this Rambler. The donation was very much appreciated!

Notes to OVMRC club members:

- contact Alan (Rambler editor) editor@ovmrc.ca for some guidance in submitting an article for the Rambler.

That's it for my December ramblings. Everyone is invited to join the OVMRC December Zoom meeting Wednesday December 21. Check in will start at the usual ~ 6:45 PM with a start time as close to 7:15 as possible. The meeting will be a rag chew session (similar to last year) since we were not able to pull off a festive dinner restaurant meeting. I may or may not be there because of travel plans but please stop by and say hello. 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 (if I can make it) at the December Zoom meeting. 73,
Barry, ve3na

Meeting Minutes

Date / Time: Wednesday, November 16 @1914 hrs

Location: Via ZOOM on line meeting

1) Call to order:

President Barry Allison, VE3NA called the meeting to order at 1914. There were 51 official check-ins.

2) Welcome and Guest Greetings:

Barry, VE3NA extended greetings to everyone. Barry welcomed guests Jonathan Levesque VA2LOJ, Duane Avery VA3ODD, and Luc BelisleVA2RLM.

3) Approval of minutes from previous meeting:

MOTION: Moved by VA3HWA Bill and seconded by Tim VE3TXB that the minutes of the meeting held Wednesday, October 19, 2022 be approved.

VOTE: No Objections.

CARRIED.

4) Projects, Haves, Wants and Announcements:

Haves:

No haves.

Wants:

Barry VE3NA, mentioned 2 people want Hamshack Hotline phones.



5) Agenda and Meeting Content:

Barry VE3NA outlined the agenda for the meeting which included a feature presentation by Jonathan Lévesque VA2LOJ, about the Gatineau AREDN-BBHN mesh data network.

•Feature Presentation: Jonathan Lévesque VA2LOJ - Gatineau AREDN-BBHN Mesh Data Network

Jonathan VA2LOJ briefly explained the AREDN network which is basically an intranet.

Communicating on 2.4 GHz is very useful. There is no noise and the frequency is great to pass a wifi signal through a city. We can also use 900 MHz and 5.9 GHz as well, however 2.4 GHz is preferable as it has better penetration. It is important that antennas must “see” each other. Jonathan then referred the membership to the AREDN web site. He further explained that equipment is inexpensive. Most nodes can be bought from places like Amazon. The network will allow you to run VOIP phone, gateway, PBX, and cameras. It also allows for keyboard chat, mapping and network games. He mentioned that there is a camera located at the Hull hospital. There is a voter system that can be managed and shows useful statistics. He mentioned they set up a node just for field day use. They also have a chat room and a file repository. There are lots of YouTube videos about this.

Jonathan showed the local node map. On the map, he pointed out that there are three nodes frequencies - 5.8, 5.9 and 2.4 GHz. More nodes would be desirable and especially more in Ottawa. He mentioned that those interested can refer to the VE2CRO website to access the node map. He mentioned they have nodes on 2.4 GHZ and 5.9 GHz in Gatineau and would like to extend those to reach Camp Fortune.

Jonathan has his own node - VA2LOJ, and he provided an overview of how it is set up and what features are available and what can be shared. There is an application called Team Talk that is used for local video chat.

Equipment used includes Mikrotek, Ubiquiti, TP-Link, and Rocket. Jonathan says his favourite is the Nanostation NS M5 5 GHz which is available from Amazon. PicoStation equipment will also work although not officially supported. He noted that it's a very tiny station physically.

Dave VE3BOW mentioned he put up three stations at Camp Fortune and needs Jonathan's help for linking them, and also with software assistance to link back to the internet.

Luc VA2RLM mentioned that he provides internet service for the system and can provide assistance.

Dave VE3BOW mentioned the recent news is that the YMCA



building is to be taken down. Since Rick VE3CVG is an SK – and he was looking after the YMCA node(s), that could present a challenge for access and relocating equipment from there. This is something that will need to be addressed. Norm VE3LC mentioned the D-Star facility hasn't been on line in a long time. Access to the site is unclear at this time. Dave VE3BOW says the equipment is there and the repeaters are there, we just need to figure out what to do with it.

Roger VA3EGY mentioned that D-Star is of interest for the upcoming YOTA camp. He is wondering if Carleton University would host a D-Star repeater at their site as the university seems to be very interested in the YOTA activities.

Norm VE3LC mentioned he has two NanoStation M2 units on 2.4 GHz. He will attempt to establish a link to the network from his QTH. Jonathan mentioned the big problem is having a clear line of sight to facilitate the link.

Stuart VE3SMF posed some questions about starting out, what is the best route to go, and who would we contact to establish the tunnel into the AREDN network? Jonathan says you can go to the VE2CRO website – and ask for help. Stuart asked if there was any experience interfacing with WinLink.

Jonathan says we did not set this up with VE2CRO, but it is feasible and they can do it. They would be

pleased to host a WinLink server. Stuart also mentioned that programs like MS Outlook can interface with WinLink, and even if the internet is down the mesh can be used locally to resend information to an outside station. Stuart mentioned that historically one of the challenges was getting information outside a building to Emergency Systems.

Dave VE3BOW mentioned that city of Ottawa fire stations all have radio towers and perhaps there is something we could share or use there. Barry VE3NA commented that concerning the city, we are trying to install the club repeater at Alta Vista – and it's a difficult process. The tower there is about a 100 feet in height and might be useful.

Barry VE3NA mentioned he was surprised by the scope and the amount of work put into the network to date and expressed appreciation about the discussion that Jonathan's presentation generated, and he thanked Jonathan VA2LOJ for his presentation.

Duane VA3ODD mentioned he will help with any questions and provide assistance. He can be contacted at va3odd@gmail.com.

6) Pat VE3KJQ ARRL November 2022 Sweepstakes Award and OVMRC Field Day Results 2022

Barry VE3NA introduced Pat



VE3KJQ who recently won an award for achieving first place in Canada operating in the SSB QRP category in the ARRL Field Day published in the November contest results. For this Pat received an 11X14 plaque. Pat mentioned it was his first contest win since 2013. Pat mentioned he looked up the club score in the November QST magazine, however the aggregate score is not in the magazine, and you need to look online to get the detailed scores.

Concerning the 2022 ARRL Field Day, Norm VE3LC mentioned that the OVMRC came in 3rd place in overall number of field day participants - 22 members. Considering the first and second teams were each tied with 35 members, we did very well. In addition, the OVMRC total score was 21, 087 which placed the club in 7th place overall. A few more points for next year and we could move up quite a bit. Last year we were in 23rd place. He further noted that Mark VE3BOE had 5091 contacts which placed him 5th overall in his class. Norm VE3LC had 261 contacts and Hugo VE3KTN had 206 contacts. Other member had over 1000 points each, demonstrating great results. Barry said that this was very impressive considering the event is North American wide and it shows that there is a lot of effort and activity in the club and it is great to see the level of participation.

7) SAUVETAGE BÉNÉVOLE OUTAOUAIS - Ottawa Volunteer Search and Rescue

Don VA2EV talked about the recent contest win by the Sauvetage Bénévole Outaouais - Ottawa Volunteer Search and Rescue (SBO-OVSAR) - of a fully equipped Land Rover Defender 130 through the emergency services organization. Don VA2EV mentioned that there were 800 submissions and down to 5 finalists in 5 categories. Once his group were part of the 5 finalists, the voting started with much support via social networking. The group will receive a new Land Rover Defender 130, fitted out with whatever accessories they want. The vehicle will have full vinyl wrap with logo, and will be a very useful vehicle for the organization as it covers eastern Ontario and Western Quebec - a huge area to cover. The vehicle is expected to arrive in the spring. Don thanked the OVMRC for the huge support to help with the win.

Barry VE3NA expressed a big congratulation and mentioned that if we have an in-person Field Day, perhaps the SAR group can show up with their new vehicle.

8) Neil Herber VE3PUE Canadian Ski Marathon (CSM) Update

Neil VE3PUE informed that the Canadian Ski Marathon will once again be held on February 11-12, 2023, after two years of "virtual" events. The event will depend on



Santé Quebec's decision concerning the event and the CSM will follow whatever guidance they set out. CSM is one of the longest ski marathons in the world - 160 kms over a two day event. The route is from Mont Tremblant to Montebello on Saturday, and Montebello to Buckingham on Sunday. Radio communications are required for checkpoints as cell coverage is spotty. There are six checkpoints per day and they are spaced about every 16 kms on the trail. Until 2018 CSM used 2 meter repeaters, but this became a problem as there were not enough volunteers to run the radios. In 2018 the event switched to rented commercial radios. These are DMR Tier 3 and pre-programmed. The event still needs net controllers and vehicle operators. For those interested in volunteering, please visit the web site at <https://hambone.ca/index.php/CSM2023/HomePage> as it includes the option to volunteer. Neil mentioned that the web site has FAQs and lots of helpful info. There is a newbies guide as well. To date registrations are lower than expected for volunteers and other groups are being canvassed. Neil may be contacted at ve3pue@rac.ca.

9) Chair Reports:

OVMRC Vice-President Norm VE3LC - Norm VE3LC informed he did not have much to report. There have been no examinations lately to report on. He mentioned that Rick Marcogliese has taken the

course, and perhaps after Christmas he will test.

OVMRC Treasurer Nicole VE3GIQ - Nicole mentioned that we have 51 participants at tonight's meeting. There are now 112 club members and we have one associate member on board tonight - Rick Marcogliese. Club net assets are a little over \$25,000. There have been no disbursements from this years budget yet. Nicole mentioned the CBC Remembrance Day Broadcast on November 11th and expressed congratulations to Marcel for the In Flanders Field recitation.

Rambler Update - Alan VA3IAH Barry VE3NA asked Alan VA3IAH for a Rambler update. Barry said he forgot to tell Alan that the Rambler was a "newsbook" vs a newsletter and referred to the huge November issue of the Rambler. Alan thanked everyone for their contributions and mentioned how he enjoyed putting it together. He mentioned that anything people are working on that could be used in the Rambler would be appreciated. Any ideas for such, and any article submissions, please get in touch with Alan VA3IAH at editor@ovmrc.ca.

Web Site: Adam Bird VA3IRB

Adam VA3IRB is soliciting any comments and/or suggestions on the recent web site format. Adam says he has turned his attention to club history as it needs some TLC. He wants to open



this up to input from the club membership for contribution articles. He wants to set it up by decade, and include events worthy of mention, and worthy projects etc. that members may recall and want to high light. If any member has something of interest, or something to offer, please contact Adam VA3IRB at web@ovmrc.ca.

Net Operations: Hugo Kneve VE3KTN Hugo VE3KTN mentioned that there was not a lot new to report. The nets are running well and he is pleased the nets are running with no signs of slowing. Ernie VE3EJJ and Glenn VE3XRA are doing good work covering the pothole net on Sunday morning. Space Weather lately has not so good. He reminded the membership of the Potlid CW net at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday evening and the flagship OVMRC net Thursday evening. The latest Nets Summary can be found in The Rambler.

Other Business: Roger VA3EGY and Harrie VE3HYS - YOTA Camp Update

Roger VA3EGY said he had three items he wanted to talk about.

He mentioned they will be hosting the First Kanata Scouts on Saturday November 19th at Walter Baker Park for a transmitter hunt event. They plan to bring out all the new kits including GPS receivers for the event. From 1-3 PM Rob Haddow VE3RXH and Tom Madden VA3TXL will be there. Roger and Harrie will be on site at

10:00 AM to hide transmitters. Club members are welcome to come out at noon. Roger is expecting 10-12 scouts in teams of two at the event. They are also doing another event on the following Saturday, November 26th. This one will be in a forested area in Manotick.

Harrie VE3HYS and Roger VA3EGY have been spearheading bringing the YOTA to Canada, There will a camp next July at Carleton University. The event is already advertised and a press release is to come out. RAC is on board with the project. Roger and Harrie are working with the people at Carleton to facilitate the camp whi9ch will include relevant activities and venue tours, etc. Roger outlined their planning regarding the satellite station setup there which will include two operating positions. They are also planning a couple of other stations on campus if possible. They also have discussions underway with the Diefenbunker organization. Equipment will come with the camp and he noted that ICOM is supplying equipment as well. Roger says he wants to make sure baseline equipment stays behind to ensure an ongoing station there so that the facility lives on even as students come and go.

Concerning funding, he expects bulk of money to start coming in January 2023. Rob VE3RXH may take the lead on one satellite station. Roger asked the members



if equipment could be made available to start working up a prototype satellite station? Norm VE3LC says we do have equipment that could facilitate things getting started sooner than later. Perhaps Rob VE3RXH and Norm VE3LC could start discussing this.

Roger VA3EGY mentioned that he has information on the Trillium Fund (courtesy of Maurice-André) but has not applied for funding as he is waiting to see where the shortfall might be before he goes ahead with an application.

Barry VE3NA thanked Roger and said he would keep him on the list for future updates.

10) Adjournment:

Barry VE3NA called for adjournment of the meeting at 2057 Hrs.

MOTION: Moved by Bill VA3HWA to adjourn the meeting.

No objections. All in favour.

Barry VE3NA closed the meeting for turnover to the following chat session.

Minutes recorded and prepared by OVMRC Secretary, Alan Fricker VE3KAE.

OVMRC Field Day 2022 Report

There is some very good news about the club's performance in the 2022 ARRL Field Day in June, as posted in the December 2022 QST.

This year the OVMRC came in an amazing 3rd place overall in terms of our participation numbers. We had 22 members enter the contest. Last year we were in 2nd place, so we are maintaining our status as a leading club. This year the top two clubs, both in the US, had 35 members each. Very few clubs had significant participation although many clubs did participate.

Not only that, but we did well in terms of our aggregate score from our club members. Our score of 21,087 points put us in 7th place overall. Only one team in the top six teams had more than 26,000 points. That gives us something to aim for next year. Last year we were in 23rd place with 17,307 points, so we have moved up in standing this year.

Club member Marc VE3BOE contributed greatly to that score with 591 contacts for a total of 6,360 points. That placed him 5th overall in the 1E classification. VE3LC had 261 contacts for 2,960 points, and VE3KTN had 206 contacts for 2,410 points.



VE3RXH, VA3THP, VE3QN, and VE3MB all had over 1,000 points.

Something to note from comparing ratio of scores to number of contacts, is the power of bonus points. You can score the equivalent to a lot of contacts by just taking advantage of some of the bonus points offered. In particular, note that VA3VGR made 355 points from just one contact.

If you are looking for the complete 1D or 1E results in QST, they only appear in the on-line version of the QST magazine.

Overall, the club performance in this contest says a lot about the enthusiasm of our club members and the active participation of the club's members in the hobby.

73, Pat VE3KJQ

CALL	CLASS	CONTACTS	SCORE
VE3BOE	1E	591	6,360
VE3LC	1E	261	2,960
VE3KTN	1E	206	2,410
VA3THP	1D	305	1,390
VE3QN	1D	274	1,246
VE3RXH	1E	88	1,190
VE3MB	1D	252	1,058
VE3LBU	1E	107	578
VE3KJQ	1E	22	470
VE3KAE	1D	78	452
VA3WEX	1B	45	375
VA3VGR	1B	1	355
VE3EUS	1D	70	330
VE3NA	1E	14	320
VE3LNW	1D	65	310
VE3XEM	1C	80	310
VE3VIG	1D	57	278
VX3OTW	1B	5	275
VE3GIQ	1D	49	148
VA3IAH	1D	27	104
VE3SYZ	1D	20	90
VA3BGO	1D	14	78



Letter of appreciation received from SAUVETAGE BÉNÉVOLE OUTAOUAIS - Ottawa Volunteer Search and Rescue



Sauvetage Bénévole Outaouais
Ottawa Volunteer Search and Rescue

Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club (OVMRC)
PO Box 41145
Ottawa, Ontario
K1G 5K9

Monday November 28, 2022

Re: OVMRC Donation of Communications Feedline Cable

As President of Sauvetage Bénévole Outaouais - Ottawa Volunteer Search and Rescue (SBO-OVSAR), I would like to thank Barry VE3NA as well as the Board of OVMRC for their generous donation of a 55 foot feedline communications cable. As you know, communications are of utmost importance during a search or emergency measures response and this cable will help ensure our system works when needed. Providing this cable, as well as having trained many members and helped them obtain their Basic and Advanced ham radio licenses goes to show how strong this relationship is.

Sincerely,

Lynn Dupuis
President, SBO-OVSAR



Kilowatt Amplifier PART 5 - 1600 W Fan-Cooled Dummy Load

In this article I will provide a brief update on the amplifier's build progress.

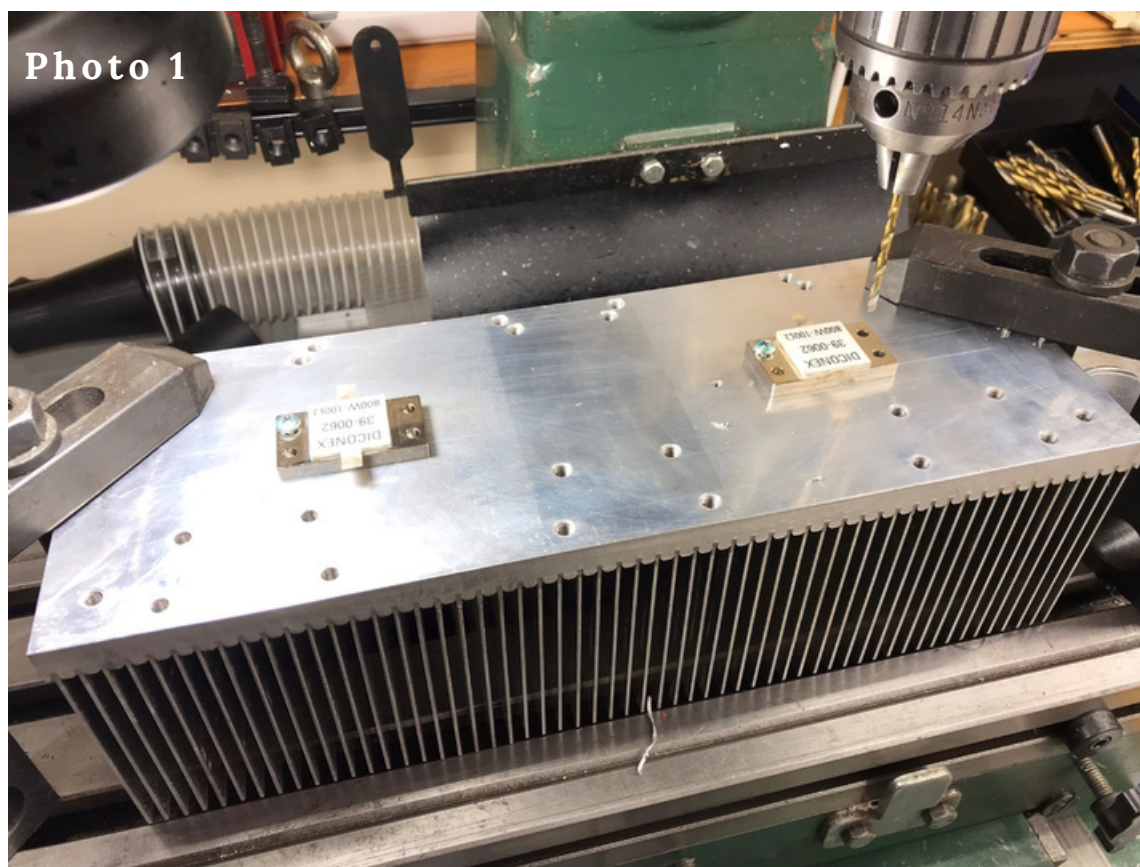
Like many of you, I tend to reserve most of my amateur radio construction projects for the cold winter months when the quiet and peace of winter tends to provide me with greater patience and inspiration. Having said that, not much has happened on the amplifier since the spring.

I have restarted the project in the last week of November by starting on the construction of a matching 1600-Watt fan-cooled dummy load (DL). I needed the DL in order to proceed with the testing phase of the project. The DL is based on two Diconex brand, 800 watt, 100 Ohm, stripline RF resistors, model 39-0062. Diconex is a French company located in Andilly in France. I purchased them from an authorized reseller, Radio 741, located in Greece. They were approximately \$80 each and shipping(mail) was about \$10. They arrive at my door in about three weeks.

My intent was to build this DL to match the existing amplifier and power supply cases. I also wanted it to be controlled, monitored, and powered (fans) from the amplifier touch screen and power supply. It will be connected to a dedicated and switchable full power RF output connector on the back of the amplifier so that it can be selected and placed in circuit using the amplifier touch screen controller. I intend to use a dedicated Arduino Nano mounted in the case to operate the three temperature controlled PWM variable speed cooling fans and well as provide basic RF power measurements.

From time to time on rainy days over the past few months I experimented with the DL using inexpensive used 100W 50 ohm stripline resistors purchased on eBay for about \$25. My experiments revealed that the DL SWR values were greatly affected based on their relative placement on the heatsink and the routing of the interconnecting wiring and/bussing. Simplifying the design by using only two 800-watt resistors as mounted in the following picture gave me the best results.

The resistors have been mounted on a repurposed aluminum heat sink with a base plate measuring ½" thick by 5" wide and 14" long. There are a total of 70 fins measuring 3.5 by 5 inches attached to the base plate. A total of eight holes were drilled and tapped to mount the resistors securely. I applied thermal paste before final mounting.



I used LMR-400 Ultra Flex to connect the resistors in parallel to give me a 1600 watt 50 ohm DL. You will note that the interconnections between the two resistors were made with the braid and the centre conductor of the LMR 400, see Photo 2 and Photo 3. This proved to provide good results. I am NOT an RF engineer or expert and came to this configuration after several tests by trial and error.

My MFJ-269 antenna analyzer displayed a consistent 50 ohm value throughout the 160 m to 6m operating range of the amplifier, see Photo 4. The 269 reported SWR values of 1.0 up to 12 MHz, and then 1.1 to 50 MHz.

I will report back as additional progress is made. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to reach out to me at ve3boe@rac.ca.

73, Marc, VE3BOE



Photo 2





Photo 3

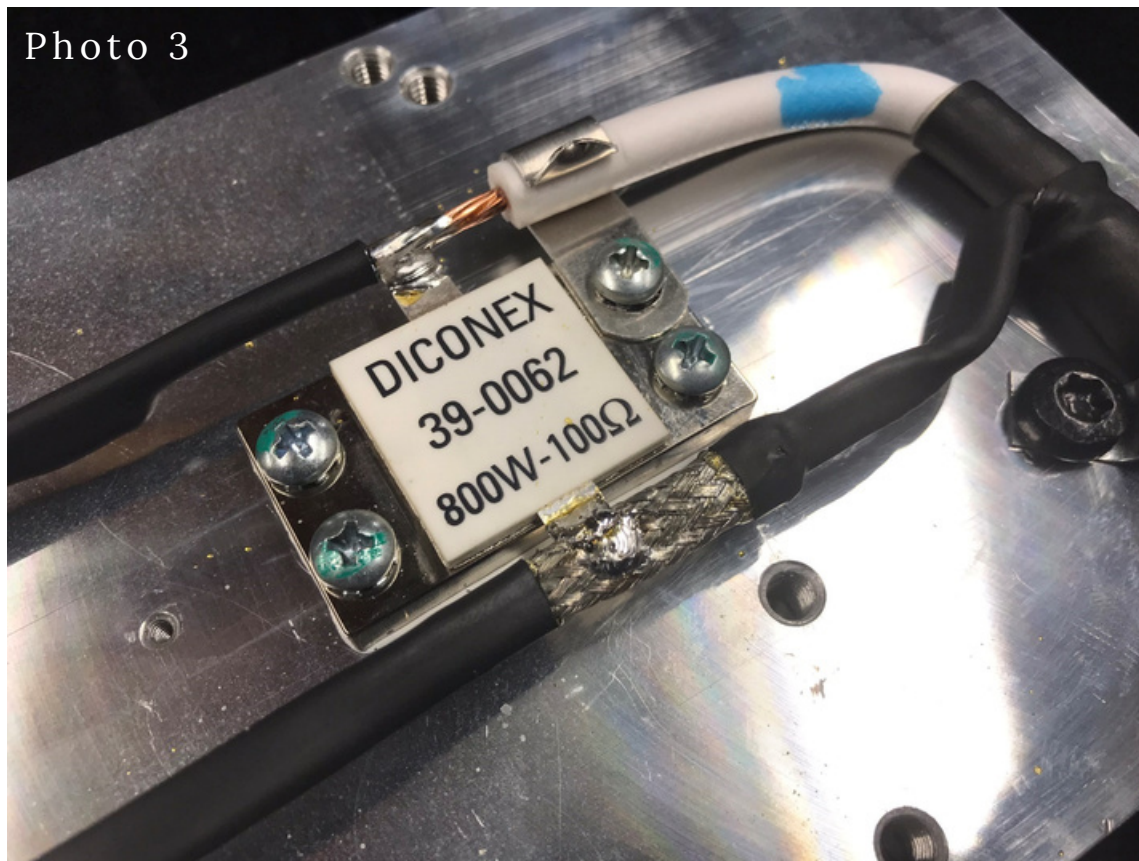


Photo 4





Bryan Rawlings, VE3QN, appointed to Canadian Amateur Radio Hall of Fame (CARHOF)



The OVMRC would like to congratulate Bryan VE3QN on his appointment to the Canadian Amateur Radio Hall of Fame (CARHOF). Bryan was first licensed as VE2AME in Montreal in 1959. Despite long absences from Amateur Radio while living overseas (Saudi Arabia 1978-88 and 1995-2001, and Russia 1992-1993), Bryan renewed his interest in amateur radio as VE3QN for the last two decades. Bryan is active in several local Amateur Radio clubs in the Ottawa area and is also active on the air on both HF (CW, SSB and digital modes) and VHF (FM).

Based on Bryan's professional and international experience, he was recruited by the late Ken Pulfer, VE3PU and Jim Dean VE3IQ as a "Special Advisor" representing RAC on the national stage from 2006 until 2020. Bryan represented Canadian Amateur interests as the main RAC contributor to the planning for and attendance at the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) World Radio Conferences in 2012, 2015 and 2019. This involved not only attendance at the Conferences themselves, but also national and international meetings in preparation for the Conferences. Bryan was also known to provide "tweets" on the progress being made during these conferences ensuring that Canadian Amateurs were well informed on the latest international developments impacting on the amateur radio service.

Of significance in Canada and in other countries, radio amateurs can now enjoy operating on the expanded amateur radio allocations on the 630 and 60 meter bands thanks to the considerable efforts of Bryan.



Bryan was successful in establishing and maintaining excellent relationships with our regulator – Innovation Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) – and was instrumental in obtaining Canadian support for both of these spectrum issues. He has also contributed greatly through numerous articles, as well as well produced and thoroughly researched presentations to amateur radio clubs.

Congratulations Bryan on this well deserved honour!

73, Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club

Links of Interest:

<https://www.rac.ca/bryan-rawlings-ve3qn-appointed-to-hall-of-fame/>

http://www.radioalumni.ca/x_DeanJamesG.htm

<http://www.arrl.org/news/j-kenneth-pulfer-ve3pu-sk>

<https://www.rac.ca/maurice-andre-vigneault-ve3vig-and-doug-leach-ve3xk-appointed-to-hall-of-fame/>

Mo's bent dipole - An update on the “Shortened Dipole for Balconies” (Rambler, Jan 2022, Vol 64, Issue 5)

In a previous article in the January 2022 issue of the OVMRC Rambler I reported experimenting with a linearly-loaded induction dipole, shortened for use on a balcony. Since the length of this dipole is longer than my balcony allows, I bent this dipole into a "W" configuration.

Using this antenna, I participated in the IARU HF World Championship to assess the directivity, that is the antenna's path of radiation. As my balcony faces to the south, I was not expecting trans-arctic signals to make it through my building.

As expected, I worked stations to the south as far as Chile and Argentina and was covering well the Caribbean, Central America and the USA. But I also had a pleasant surprise with large number of European stations that could be worked with this antenna configuration.

I was curious to find out if this antenna would work as well in an altered configuration. I set it up in an inverted "U" configuration but didn't encounter much success, probably due to the fact that the top portion of the inverted "U" was very close to the roof of the balcony.

As other configurations were also possible, I set my dipole in an "M" configuration for the CQ WorldWide CW contest (<https://www.cqww.com/>). While I don't spend much time on contests, it was a great opportunity to test his revised configuration with approximately 100 QSOs.



It was interesting to find out that this "M" configuration was performing about the same way as the "W" configuration. Here, again, the signals from Europe were abundant, as well as the stations to the south. My furthest contact was 13,083 kilometres away in South Africa.

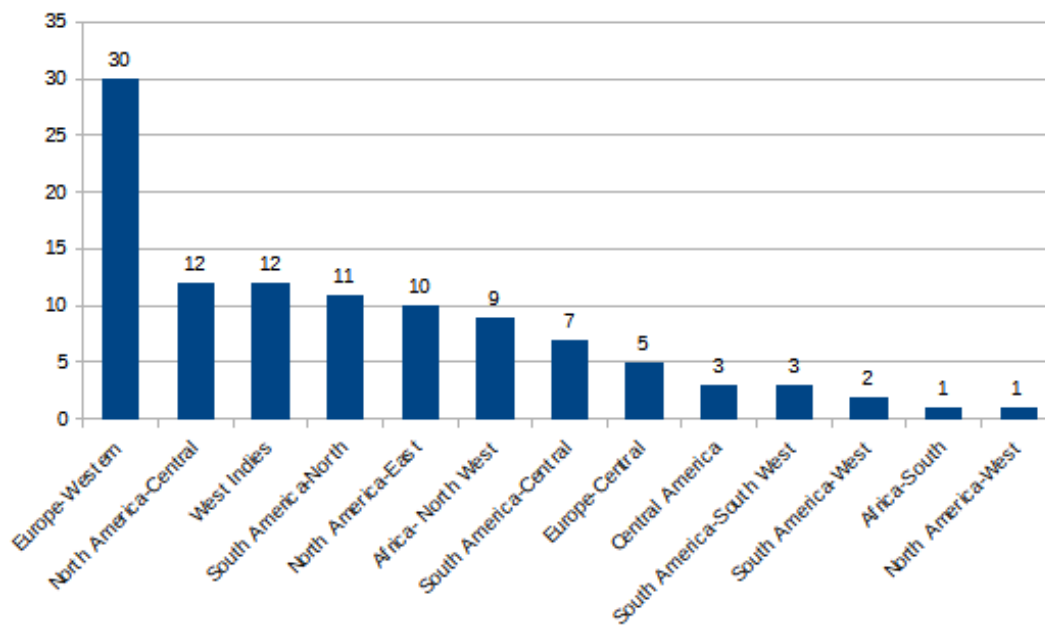
In the CQ WW CW contest, we look for "zone" worked and countries for multipliers. There are 40 CQ Zones. In the short time I operated the contest, I manage to list 13 of them which gave me 89 multipliers for a total of 25K points.

Thanks to Joe VE3EUS for the graph below Europe-which shows the zones I worked and the QSOs in each of them, providing an indication of directivity of the "M" antenna configuration.

So, even though you may be confined to an apartment with a balcony, you don't necessarily have to give up on the fun of HF. You can find an appropriate configuration that works for you, possibly including what I call the "Mo's bent dipole".

73, de VE3VIG
Maurice-André

VE3VIG - 106 QSOs by Zones for CQ WW CW





Grounding challenges and excesses!



Thanks Hugo VE3KTN !

Speaking of grounding! Some Grounding Links of Interest:

<https://w8wky.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Bonding-And-Grounding-SARA-meeting-9-2018-PDF.pdf>

<http://radioaficionados.com.ar/revistas/Grounding%20and%20Bonding%20for%20the%20Radio%20Amateur%20%20ARRL.pdf>

<https://www.contestuniversity.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/6-NOAX-All-Together-Now-%E2%80%93-Grounding-and-Bonding-For-Contest-Stations-CTU-2019.pdf>



OVMRC Net Activity, Check-ins for November, 2022.

Prepared by: Hugo Kneve, VE3KTN

OVMRC 2 Metre Net: VE3OCE 146.880-, 136.5 Hz. tone, Thursdays 8 p.m. local.

November 3	November 10	November 17	November 24
VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS
New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors
			Michael - VA3BIX
General Check-ins	General Check-ins	General Check-ins	General Check-ins
VE3RUU VA3LS VA3GLB VE3YY VE3LAF VE3NA VE3LC VE3KAE VA3GFY VE3VIG VE3OTW/p VA2BBW VE3NPO VE3LBU VE3KJQ VE3BOE VE3ZZU VE3RXH VA3WEX VA3HJR	VE3RUU VE3NA VE3KAE VA3IAH VE3LC VA3HBL VE3ZZU VA3HJR VE3YY VA3PSI VA2EV VA3TXL VE3KJQ VA2BBW VA3WEX VE3LAF VE3VIG VE3OTW/p	VA3EO VE3RUU VE3NA VE3LC VE3XEM/m VE3LBU VE3OTW/p VA3GLB VE3YY VA3WEX VE3KJQ VE3RXH VE3VIG VA2BBW VE3NPO VE3ZZU VA3AL VA3HJR	VE3RUU VE3NA VE3KAE VE3LC VA3IAH VE3CWM* VE3VHU VE3QO VE3VIG VE3KJQ VE3RXH VE3BF VA3HJR VE3LBU VA2BBW VA3WEX VE3YY VE3OTW

* - VE3CWM, Diefenbunker Cold War Museum with Natalie, NW6S at the mic.



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

November 6 SFI:131 A:10	November 13 SFI:138 A:5	November 20 SFI:115 A:5	November 27 SFI:107 A:10
VE3EJJ_-NCS	VE3XRA_-NCS	VE3EJJ_-NCS	VE3XRA_-NCS
New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors
General Check-ins	General Check-ins	General Check-ins	General Check-ins
VE3LC VE3XRA VE3KTN VA3IAH VA3QV VE3OWV VE3NPO VE3CWM	VE3NPO VE3EJJ VE3YY VA3PSI VA3IAH VE3CWM VA3BGO VE3KTN VE3SYZ	VE3NPO VE3XRA VA3PSI VA3BGO VE3SYZ VE3KTN VA3EO VE3CWM	VE3EJJ VA3BGO VE3RXN VA3PSI VA3EO VA3IAH VE3EKN VE3KTN VA3QV VE3CWM

The “SFI” and “A” values are the Solar Flux Index and Geomagnetic A-Index respectively as reported on the NONBH Space Weather web site: <https://www.hamqsl.com/solar.html>. Values are taken within 30 minutes prior to net start time.



General Links of Interest:

1) Check out the YOTA Camp on the RAC web site:

--> <https://www.rac.ca/youth-on-the-air/>

2) See if you can hear Bernard Bastien's experimental 8M
CYA373 station on-the-air - for more see VA2CY on QRZ

<https://www.qrz.com/db/VA2CY>

3) The University of Montana journalism students put together
this video about "HAM Radio" for the Montana PBS station that
may be of interest to a lot of club members. Thanks Barry
VE3NA and Ralph, VE3BBM.

<https://www.montanapbs.org/programs/ham/>

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

73, Alan VA3IAH

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



Your Canadian Hamshack!

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