RAMBLER

APRIL 2023

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Ottawa Valley MOBILE Radio Club INCORPORATED

WHAT'S INSIDE:

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.

MEETING: WEDNESDAY APRIL 19 7:15 P.M. VIA ZOOM

AGENDA

- **OPENING 7:15 BARRY (VE3NA) GREETING TO GUESTS AND NEW MEMBERS, BARRY VE3NA**
- **PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- **APPROVAL OF MARCH MEETING MINUTES**
- **PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ABOUT FIELD DAY**
- **CHAIRPERSONS REPORTS**
- **MEETING ADJOURNMENT POSSIBLE Q&A AND RAGCHEW (TIME PERMITTING)**

OVMRC AFFILIATIONS

OVMRC Executive and Officers 2022-2023

DIRECTORS

President:
Barry Allison,VE3NA
ve3na@myrac.ca

Vice-President:
Norm Rashleigh, VE3LC
ve3lc@myrac.ca

Treasurer & Membership Records:
Nicole Boivin, VE3GIQ
ve3giq@myrac.ca

Corporate Secretary:
Alan Fricker, VE3KAE
alanfricker@yahoo.ca

STANDING COMMITTEES

Club Projects & Bulk Orders: Barry Alison,
VE3NA ve3na@myrac.ca

Radio Course & Accredited Examiner:
Norm Rashleigh, VE3LC
ve3lc@myrac.ca

Meeting Reception:
John McGowan, VA3JYK
john.mcgowan1314@gmail.com

Nets & Radio Operations: Hugo
Kneve, VE3KTN
ve3ktn@myrac.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@myrac.ca

Special Events: Roger Egan, VA3EGY
va3egy@gmail.com,
John McGowan, VA3JYK
john.mcgowan1314@gmail.com

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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
Bryan Rawlings, VE3QN

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 STP Net,** VE3STP 147.060 MHz -, (114.8 Hz tone), held Monday through Saturday at 7:00 PM.
- **Phoenix Net,** VE3OCE 146.880 MHz (-) 136.5 Hz tone, Tuesday evenings at 7:30 PM conducted by Pete, VE3XEM

- **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.
- **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.
- **Weekend Allstar Nets,** on an ad hoc basis the EMV_E repeater will be linked temporarily to the Allstar Canada Hub for weekend nets.
  - https://thecanadahub.ca/
  - http://www.emrg.ca/repeaters.htm

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, McDonald's 4416 Innes Rd, Orléans, ON K4A 3W3

• **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@myrac.ca

President's Ramblings for April 2023

"Standards"

There are standards for all sorts of things. Receiver sensitivity, transmitter power output, carrier suppression, bandwidth, and on it goes. Then of course there are more standards defining how to measure some of these "standards". So where am I going with this?

Last summer, my neighbour noticed I had this odd looking connector installed on my garden tractor. It is an Anderson power pole connector. I use it to steal power from the battery (mainly to run the tire inflator) but also to charge the battery. He thought that was a cool set up and charged forward and bought his own supply of Anderson power pole connectors from the smile face source and made his own cable. Cool, end of story, but not so fast. He asked me to make up an extension cable for him over the last week or so and since I had everything on hand, I made the cable for him.

Screech to a stop. It didn't work! My extension would not plug into his cable. How can a wire and a connector not work? Especially Anderson power poles! Standards!

My neighbour is not an "electrically aware" sort of guy and slid the Anderson power pole connectors together the first way he saw fit. Now you can't say there is anything wrong with this approach, until you want to mate up with the outside world "standard" way of assembling these connectors.

I must admit, I checked several sources to make sure I had it right, but the bottom line is when you put two Anderson power pole shells together, use this rule: RRTT as you look into the connector from the front (ie NOT the wire side). This stands for Red Right, Tab Top. (Tab meaning the actual electrical connector). That is the "standard". Now in this instance, I am talking about the way we connect 12 volt sources to our equipment with red and black shells. I happen to have many other shell colours to which this "standard" does not apply.

Now here is the question: in the case of my neighbour's isolated application, does this "standard" even matter? I'll leave it all up to you to decide.

"Standards". Interesting, eh?

Reminder: to everyone who has an RAC alias: change your address to "mycall@myrac.ca"

Notes to OVMRC club members and all in the amateur community who are very welcome to join our club, our meetings and events:

Rambler submissions: Alan va3iah@myrac.ca
Coax / toroid orders: Barry ve3na@myrac.ca
Zoom custodian: Norm ve3lc@myrac.ca
Loan requests: Nicole: ve3just kidding

That's it for my April ramblings. Please join us at the 6:45 check in time on April 19 for the next OVMRC Zoom meeting. Anyone not receiving the check in credentials can do so by sending an email to Norm (Zoom custodian) ve3lc@myrac.ca.

The OVMRC meetings are open for all to attend. 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 club members and guests at the regular monthly Zoom meeting on April 19.

73, Barry, ve3na@myrac.ca

OVMRC March 2023 Minutes

Date / Time: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 @ 19:16
Location: Via ZOOM on-line meeting

1) Call to order:
OVMRC President Barry Allison, VE3NA, called the meeting to order at 19:16. There were 64 official check-ins.

2) Welcome and Guest Greetings:

Barry VE3NA extended a welcome to any guests, visitors, and new hams who had checked into the meeting.

Wayne Getchell, VE3CZO, Denis Rule VE3BF and Qasim (checking in with Pat Warner VA3LTN) were guest check-ins.

Barry VE3NA announced that Bryan Rawlings VE3QN has been inducted into the Canadian Amateur Radio Hall of Fame but he has not been officially presented with his plaque. A meeting to be hosted on Saturday April 15th by the OVMRC, and the OARC at the IBEW building in Gloucester. Refreshments will be served, and it is possible Phil McBride

VE3QR, RAC President may attend as well. More information to follow and please mark your calendars.

Barry VE3NA also informed that we want to appoint Brian VE3QN as life member of the OVMRC.Barry notes that the procedures for this are in the club bylaws. We were required to advertise this nomination, and this was published in the recent March newsletter. During this evenings proceedings, Barry VE3NA will read the nomination and the required vote will be conducted by Norm VE3LC.

3. Approval of minutes from previous meeting:

MOTION: Moved by Nicole VE3GIQ and seconded by FredVE3LAF that the minutes of the OVMRC meeting held Wednesday, February 15, 2023 be approved.

VOTE: No Objections.

CARRIED.

4. Agenda and Meeting Content:

Barry, VE3NA outlined the agenda for the meeting.

Special Agenda Item: Motion and vote for appointment of Bryan Rawlings VE3QN to life member status in the OVMRC.

Barry informed the membership that the nomination as published in the March Rambler was made by Barry Allison VE3NA, Norm Rashleigh VE3LC, Alan Fricker VE3KAE, and Hugo Kneve VE3KTN. Barry VE3NA, then read the motion:

Motion:

We move to nominate Bryan Rawlings VE3QN as a life member of the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club (OVMRC) for his contribution to the amateur radio service and his outstanding participation as a Canadian delegate for amateur radio to the International Telecommunications Union and the World Radio Communications Conferences 2012, 2015 and 2019.

Second: Bill VE3HWA

Voting: Norm VE3LC conducted the vote, which was open to OVMRC members who were present, and in good standing.

Vote: Carried

Feature Presentations:

Presentation by Wayne Getchell VE3CZO – Universal Serial Bus Overview

Barry VE3NA introduced Wayne VE3CZO and mentioned that he is sure everyone will find Wayne's presentation about USBs very informative.

Wayne introduced his presentation by stating that he began this journey by wanting to create a USB breakout board. And he discovered, that if he wanted to complete such a board, it would be a very complex project. So he backed out of his original idea to then consider what else he could build. He then discovered just how much USB devices had evolved and that led to this presentation.

Wayne then described the evolution of USB devices. USB devices are 30 years old this year – having been launched in 1993. Key design goals of the device are to have a device that is: inexpensive, user-friendly, have a high bandwidth capacity and able to power peripherals.

Wayne outlined general USB terms – host, embedded host, device, dual-role, enumeration and then went on to discuss the following timeline and evolutionary details.

- Windows 98 was the first op system to support USB.
- USB 1.0 and USB 1.1 introduced with speed of 1.5 Mb/sec and 12 Mb/sec respectively.
- Max cable length 5 meters for both.
- USB 2.0 introduced in 1998 with speed of 480 Mb/sec and known as high speed.
- USB 2 – black separator vs white.
- USB 2.0 introduced battery charging specifications and added 4 new connectors.
- USB on the Go – is also known as USB OTG or just OTG – enables non-USB host communication with peripheral.
- USB BC – battery charging – designs began to appear but had a lack of specification that lead to interoperability issues. Battery charging option did not get wide usage until USB 3.1 was introduced.
- USB 3.0 was released in 2008 and the release of USB 3.2 in 2013 introduced the faster 10 Gb/sec speed, and supported power delivery up top 15 watts. Max cable length was reduced to 1 meter.
- USB 3.0 is backward compatible with USB 2.

There are new connectors to support USB 3.0. 9-pin USB-A and USB-B is designated by a blue colour.
Micro A and Micro B connectors were introduced adding a 10 th lead for OTG.

Next steps for USB – incorporate 3 components - adoption of a single connector; adopt a standard for power delivery; and implement a transport protocol aspect.

- USB 3.2 Gen 2x2 – USB C connector mandatory. Max cable length 1 meter.
- USB 4.0 v1 introduced in 2019. Two lane operation with 40 Gb/sec. Uses USB-C exclusively. Max cable length – 0.8 meters. Provides for tunneling and support for Thunderbolt, DisplayPort 2, HDMI 2.0
- USB4 v2 released Sept 2022 and delivers 80 Gb/sec.

The USB C type connector was introduced in 2014. The plug pins are symmetrical – the plug can be flipped. Supports all USB data standards. The standard USB C connector has 24 pins. Wayne outlined the pin functions for the USB C connector. USB cables contain as many as 16 wires.

Wayne then provided an overview of the functions of the configuration channel (CC) (CC1, CC2 & Vconn, CC pins) which is key to managing the connections, and the USB-C power delivery capability via the flexibility of the power delivery pin configurations.

The original goal of the USB-C power delivery was for battery charging but that has greatly expanded over time. Cables can support up to 3-5 amps. Max power delivery - 240 W (48v @ 5A).

- USB PD v1 2012 – power delivery up to 100 watts. USB PD v2 – 2014 adds safety features and stipulates 5 power profiles – up to 100w provided by 20 volts at 5A.
- USB PD3.0 – 2015 provides battery description info and housekeeping functions. USB PD3 PPS 2017 – introduced further improvements in managing charging conversion losses.
- USB PD 3.1 – 2021 introduced extended power range. 28, 36, 48 volts up to 5A (240 watts max)

Note that some USB-C devices are used for power delivery only – no data. Anything USB powered at less than 15 watts is OK with USB 2 data speeds including keyboards, mice and single board computers, etc. USB devices are now quite flexible offering a variety of data and power roles. Of note: USB 3 and USB 4 speeds range from 5-120GB/sec. Not all USB-C cables will support speeds above USB 2.

So how to deal with variety and complexity? Wayne says to:

- Do your research to become familiar – what are your application needs?
- Read products specs carefully.
- Don't buy more performance than you need.
- Look to products that are USB-IF certified.
- Mixing cables and chargers can alter charging speeds.
- Certified cables typically show speed and power info on the connector.

Wayne then provided an overview about how best to improve your chances of inserting a USB connector the right way around the first time – especially important for legacy connectors. Wayne noted there are non-standard connectors out there – 8 pin camera connectors as well as Thunderbolt connectors as supported by Apple. Wayne provided a bibliography for information purposes.

Barry VE3NA mentioned it was impressive how much power is pushed through such a small plug. Norm VE3LC asked about the make and break of the connectors – how many insertions and removals? Wayne says that would probably depend on the quality of the connector. Norm, mentioned Apple was forced in the UK to go to a type C connector. What was their opposition? It may have to do with a license fee related to their phones.

Hugo said that there is a lot of USB devices still around in the ham radio community. There seem to be some problems with some radio interfaces. Often a good cable is the solution but how do you know what is a good cable? Wayne says to go to the implementers forum and the certified cables are listed. Generally they will work properly. Wayne says that the cables usually include a specific logo included with the advertising and generally you can rely on those qualified devices.

Barry VE3NA thanked Wayne for his presentation and noted that the presentation was recorded.

Presentation by Denis Rule VE3BF - Burning With Light

Barry VE3NA introduced Denis Rule VE3BF and his presentation about laser cutting wood.

Denis talked about his new tool in his woodworking shop. He has added a laser cutting machine to his shop.

Denis described a laser and how a laser works. There are three basic types of lasers in small shops. In his case he works with a blue laser diode type, 455 NM wavelength, and while these range up to 40 watts, he purchased

the 20 watt laser. He mentioned that the blue light laser is fantastic for wood. In addition, there are also IR lasers and CO2 lasers available for small shops.

Denis mentioned the packaging for the unit was very much like an IKEA box and he had to assemble the kit. This took about 2 hours to assemble. He then described the assembly process. There is an MDF plate for guiding and a honeycomb plate for heat absorption. A well ventilated area is required as there is smoke from the cutting, so an enclosure and vent was required.

Denis mentioned he is cutting as much as 3/4 inch thick pine with multiple passes. He pointed out that his basic cut is only .1 mm wide. He then showed some examples of his work including engraving/burning on wood, cork and slate tiles.

He has been having fun designing call sign plaques and he showed some prototypes created using Photoshop. He provided a demonstration of the design method and how the laser actually engraves a plaque and showed the finished product.

He says he has a special offer for amateur radio clubs. He has four templates to choose from and offers two types of wood. These are usually offered at $30.00 plus $8.00 shipping and an extra $5.00 for lacquering if desired. He is offering this for $25.00 for the clubs as a group sale. A plaque can be made from walnut for $30.00. He would be happy to make a plaque for club members.

Denis VE3BF may be contacted at **ve3bf@myrac.ca.**

Barry VE3NA mentioned there seems to be very much interest in this and asked about delivery? Denis informed that it takes about 27 minutes to print but there is prep and finishing. He probably can turn an order around in a week. He says he could do a group delivery if desired. Norm said it might be best to bring them to the April 15th gathering for Bryan Rawlings.

Denis mentioned a group meets at Tim Hortons on Merivale road every Saturday at 1PM – come and meet for a coffee. Nicole VE3GIQ asked about payment specifics – Denis says an email transfer could be done and that he can provide details upon order.

There was a question about power consumption of the laser cutter - Denis says it is very low. He also mentioned that as far as plaque sizes, he would prefer to use the one size that he has. Denis noted that it is possible to work with acrylic materials. He may purchase the IR module in the future.

Barry thanked Denis for a very interesting presentation.

Rob Haddow VE3RXH – POTA Plaque Weekend:

Barry introduced Rob VE3RXH and his presentation regarding the upcoming POTA Plaque Weekend on June 3/4. Rob mentioned that planning is underway for the event.

Rob mentioned that participants are not required to operate for the whole weekend. The event will use the club VE3JW call sign and he said he would like to get a few more operators out than last year.Operation this year will be on the main amateur bands only, and can include satellite operation. The event has made a change concerning park credits - if you are in two parks that overlap, you now only get credit for one park.

Rob mentioned that the event is great fun to be out in the fresh air, working in a group and using the 2- letter club call sign and getting an award. He noted that the DX Region 2 award excludes the big USA stations – a bonus. He mentioned there is also an award for the club that has the most activators. QRP should work well with the current band conditions. Participants can come out and work any park they wish.

Rob mentioned that further details will follow, and a coordination/planning meeting will be held. He would like very much to improve on last years scores. If interested, send Rob an email at **ve3rxh@ myrac.ca.** Rob noted that a note will be posted on Groups.io as well.

Norm VE3LC mentioned he is the holder of VE3JW and asked for clarification about multiple operators at multiple parks using the call sign – and does this respect the regulatory requirements of call sign use? Rob mentioned that electronic logs are used for the event and results will be consolidated in a single log. Logs will also contain the individual operator call sign.

Rob mentioned that all Canadian clubs are doing the same thing and that clubs were using a dash and a number last year. POTA did release a guide. Norm VE3LC mentioned he would research the use of the club call sign in this context.

Barry VE3NA says he will bring Rob back to a future meeting for an update – possibly the May meeting.

5. Projects, Haves, Wants and Announcements

Haves: Barry VE3NA has a NanoVNA - for free. Fred VE3LAF says he will take it.

6. Chair Reports:

OVMRC President Barry VE3NA:

Barry VE3NA reminded the OVMRC membership that club elections will take place in June. Barry also reminded everyone holding a RAC email address to update theircall sign alias to "callsign@myrac.ca" .

OVMRC Vice-President Norm VE3LC:

Norm VE3LC mentioned that he does not have any new candidates for amateur radio examination. No other updates.

OVMRC Treasurer Nicole VE3GIQ:

Nicole VE3GIQ provided a brief financial update. As of the meeting date, the club has $8322.00 in the bank, $15,000.00 in GICs and $23,322.00 in total assets. The OVMRC has 128 members as of last month. The meeting attendance is 64.

Nicole mentioned that the MS Bike Tour will be on Aug 19/20 this year, with a similar venue as last year. The route will be from Kars to St. Lawrence College in Brockville and she is seeking volunteers for the event. There will be new responsibilities this year – taking over dispatch functions. Nicole expects twice as many event participants as last year, and she anticipates more details will be available for the April OVMRC meeting. Please contact Nicole VE3GIQ via email to volunteer. Nicole then expressed her appreciation for this evenings fantastic presentations.

OVMRC Secretary – Alan VE3KAE:

No news to report.

Rambler Update - Alan VA3IAH:

Alan VA3IAH mentioned theMarch edition of the Rambler is out and he is now looking for article submissions such as projects and undertakings or something like the POTA Plaque Weekend event. He noted that the last instalment of the amplifier build series by Mark VE3BOE is coming up in the April Rambler. Contact Alan VA3IAH if you have something to offer. Alan noted that he will include a link to the video of this evening's presentation on the website.

Web Site Update - Adam VA3IRB:

Adam VA3IRB was unavailable this evening. He had no news to report per Barry VE3NA.

Other Business: Roger VA3EGY - University of Ottawa Makers Space Build session

Roger spoke about the status of the University of Ottawa Makers Space Build session. He noted that they offer free workshops and one of them is laser engraving.

Roger outlined the Continuity Tester build project by Wayne Getchell VE3CZO. Wayne had ordered parts and the boards to build his high performance continuity testers of his own design. Wayne and Harrie Jones VE3HYSput the kits together. Wayne had done a presentation a few years ago and had asked the membership if there was enough interest in the kit for a build session. And then COVID came along and delayed things.

There are now three dates booked for build sessions and these are posted on Eventbrite.ca. Roger mentioned he will also post information on Groups.io this evening. There are still 20 kits available and if you are interested in a kit please send Wayne an email and order from him. The kits cost $45.00. Kits can be picked up at his residence if desired.

Wayne VE3CZO will be at the build sessions to help people with soldering SMD components and troubleshooting problems. Roger will be there as well. Participants can come out for one session or all three if they prefer. Roger noted that Wayne has other kits as well. Roger says this is an opportunity "to get social". The room will hold 25 people but they would be happy with 15. The build session is open to all clubs in the area. Roger anticipates it may take two sessions to build the continuity tester. Parking is free in the area and parking is also available in the Minto garage close by.

Net Operations: Hugo Kneve VE3KTN:

Hugo VE3KTN provided a net status update. He informed that the nets are doing well. With the change to Daylight Savings Time (DST)he noted that performance on 80 meters seemed a little different last Sunday. The Sunday Pothole Net had 11 check-ins vs 5 or 6typically. He pointed out that now might be a good time to take advantage of propagation conditions and check into the Pothole Net.

7. Adjournment:

MOTION: Moved by Douglas VE3YDK to adjourn the business meeting at 21:18 hrs.

8. Next Meeting: The next monthly meeting of the OVMRC will be held via Zoom Wednesday, April 19, 2023.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Secretary, Alan Fricker VE3KAE.

Bryan Rawlings VE3QN inducted into the Canadian Amateur Radio Hall of Fame (CARHOF), QCWA Century Club and OVMRC Life Membership

On Saturday April 15, 2023 there was a special in person event sponsored by the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club; Ottawa Amateur Radio Club and, the National Capital Chapter (70) of the Quarter Century Wireless Association to honour the long-standing contributions to amateur radio of Bryan VE3QN. Special thanks to Colin Guillas VA3CSG, VP IBEW Local 586, for providing access to a wonderful venue for this special event.

The meeting was brought to order by Barry VE3NA, OVMRC President, who provided some initial remarks noting some of the procedural challenges in nominating and conducting a club vote in Bryan's OVMRC life-membership.

Dave VE3AV with the assistance of Pat VE3KJQ made some initial remarks and presented Bryan VE3QN with the Quarter Century Wireless Association with the QCWA Century Club Award, issued to QCWA members whose age, when added to their number of continuous years as a QCWA member totals 100 or more.

Norm VE3LC, OVMRC Vice-President, picked it up from there with some introductory remarks and the introduction of Phil McBride VA3QR, President, Radio Amateurs of Canada to present the Canadian Amateur Radio Hall of Fame (CAROF) award. More on Bryan's contribuition to amateuir radio can be found on the RAC website at: https://www.rac.ca/bryan-rawlings-ve3qn-appointed-to-hall-of-fame/
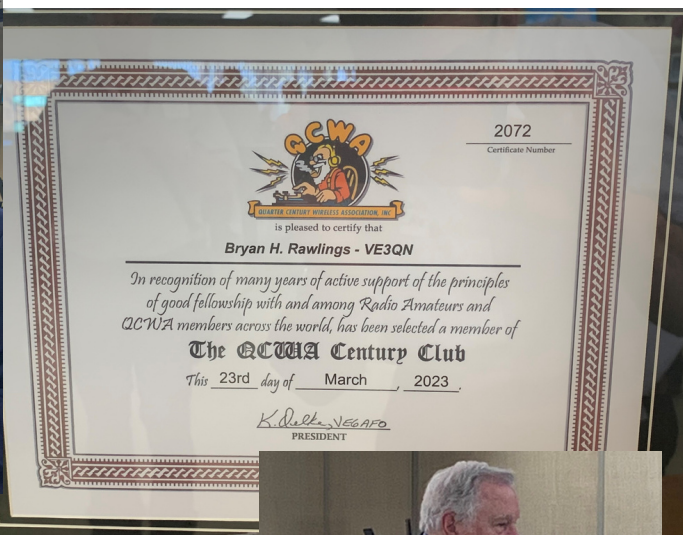
Then It was Bryan VE3QN's turn to provide some remarks in response in which he spoke eloquently about his time working with ISED on the international representation of the interests of Canadian Amateur Radio in maintaining and gaining further access to amateur radio RF spectrum. He later wrote to the OVMRC executive sharing his thanks with a statement that read:

I would like to thank the Executive and members of the OVMRC for the magnificent event they staged on April 15th in my honour. It has been an honour to serve Canadian radio amateurs for the past many years and your reception today makes all my efforts worthwhile. Thanks. Bryan VE3QN

Bryan Rawlings granted a Life Membership in the OVMRC

Did you work the Sable Island DXpedition CY0S?

There are three DXCC entities in Canada:

- All of Canada is one DXCC entity including 10 provinces and 3 territories;
- St Paul Island (Nova Scotia) assigned the Prefix CY9 and;
- **Sable Island (Nova Scotia) assigned the Prefix CY0**

From March 20 for 11 days a team of 8 American well seasoned DXers conducted the most extensive DXpedition multi-mode operation on Sable Island in history using the call sign CY0S on bands 160 m through to 70cm. Although not so much DX as far as distance is concerned for North American hams, it was still a challenge to contact the Sable Island operation because of the "pileups" from all hams world-wide seeking a contact with this relatively rare DXCC entity activation. Sable Island is ranked number 49 on the most wanted DXCC entity list and the last time there was a DXpedition was in 2012. The CY0S team has now departed from Sable Island after making over 84,000 QSOs. I managed to work them on 12 out of their 43 band slots including one on 20 M using the built-in RTTY functionality of my IC 7300 transceiver.

Here shows the CY0S "ClubLog" confirming my efforts:

VE3LC   [Find QSOs]

VE3LC has worked CY0S on 12 out of 43 band slots

Propagation from CANADA / ZONE: 4 / Geo Propagation Map

	70cm	2m	6m	10m	12m	15m	17m	20m	30m	40m	60m	80m	160m
SSB	red	red		red	red	red	✓	red		✓		red	
MFSK	red	red	red										
JT65		red											
MSK144		red	red										
CW			red	red	red	red	red	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
FT8			red	red	red	✓	red	✓	✓	red	red	✓	red
RTTY			red	red		red	✓		red				
FT4						red				red			

Norm VE3LC

References:
https://t-rexsoftware.com/cy0s/index.htm
https://www.dx-world.net/cy0s-sable-island-dxpedition-2023/
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sable_Island

Spotlight on Amateur Radio Explorations:

Welcome to a spotlight on various project and explorations that local amateurs have come across or are engaged with which might serve as conversation starters for on-air nets or eye-ball QSOs.

For April a couple of items - at least new to me are reflected below:

1) FreeDV (https://freedv.org/)

From: Bob N4CD by way of Curt VE3ZN

If you operate in the SSB parts of the band, and hear some strange noise on the following frequencies: 1.997 3.730 3.817 5.403 (5.355 daily DV and SSB from 1500 UTC) 7.177 7.190 14.236 14.240 18.119 21.313 24.933 28.720.

Then you may have come across some of the FreeDV suggested frequencies. FreeDV is a Digital Voice mode for HF radio. You can run FreeDV using a free GUI application for Windows, Linux and OSX that allows any SSB radio to be used for low-bit-rate digital voice.

FreeDV is being developed by an international team of radio amateurs working together on coding, design, user interface and testing.
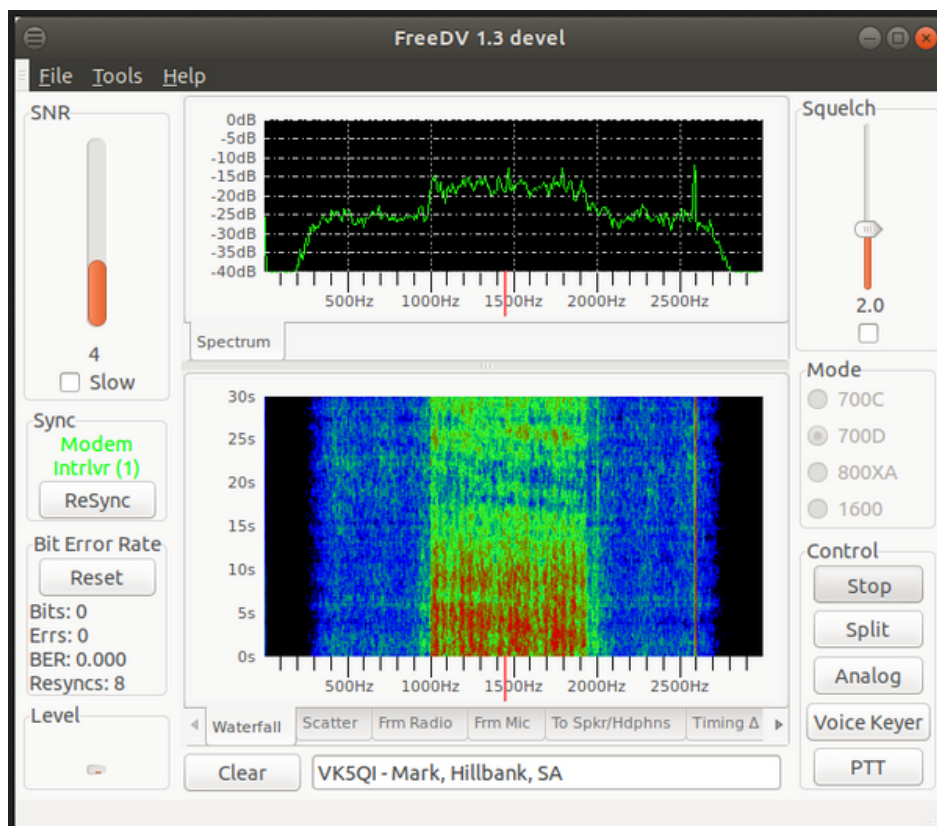
2) **Meshtastic** - An open source, off-grid, decentralized, mesh network built to run on affordable, low-power devices (**https://meshtastic.org/**)

There are now several amateur radio operators in the Ottawa Valley who have purchased and installed these devices to support text exchanges among operators. As a mesh network these devices together can extend the reach of any individual operator. There have been casual reports among local operators of ranges up to 30km for messages. Apparantly the record is around 160Km. Part of the appeal is the relatively low cost of around $55 for these boards which may be effectively used when coupled with an existing outdoor antenna, a battery and smart phone software.

I ordered the **433Mhz** and **soldered OLED** version of the LILYGO board depicted below found at: **_https://www.lilygo.cc/products/t-beam-v1-1-esp32-lora-module?variant=42204034891957_**

Now that I have just recently received my Lilygo board, I may have more to report once it is configured and up and running.
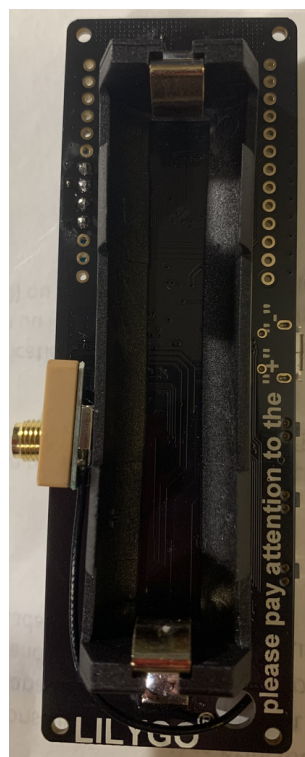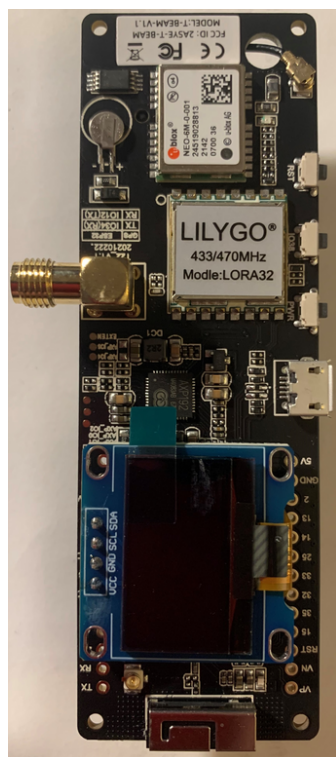
Please identify where your amateur radio inquires have lead you and send me a few lines, relevant links and pictures at editor@ovmrc.ca.

73, Alan VA3IAH

OVMRC Net Activity, Check-ins for March, 2023

Prepared by: Hugo Kneve VE3KTN

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

March 2	March 9	March 16	March 23	March 30
VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS
New & Visitors	**New & Visitors**	**New & Visitors**	**New & Visitors**	**New & Visitors**
			Rylan VE3RVQ	Russell VE3FSN
Check-ins	**Check-ins**	**Check-ins**	**Check-ins**	**Check-ins**
VE3ZZU	VE3RUU	VA3EO	VE3RUU	VE3RUU
VE3NA	VE3ZZU	VE3ZZU	VE3YY	VE3ZZU
VE3LC	VA3GFY	VE3NPO	VE3NA	VE3NA
VE3KAE	VE3NA	VE3RUU	VE3LC	VE3LC
VA3IAH	VE3LC	VE3NA	VA3IAH	VE3KAE
VA3WBR	VE3KAE	VE3LC	VA3EO	VA3IAH
VA3PSI	VA3IAH	VE3KAE	VE3RXN	VE3RVQ
VA2EV	VE3LAF	VA3IAH	VA2OJD	VA2BBW
VA2BBW	VA3HBL	VE3LBU	VA2BBW	VA3CSG
VE3DNU	VE3NPO	VE3XEM	VE3OTW	VE3DNU
VE3LBU	VA2BBW	VE3DNU	VE3ZZU	VA3GPJ
VA2OJD	VE3OTW	VE3RXH	VE3LBU	VA2OJD
VA3HBL	VE3YY	VA2BBW	VE3DNU	VE3LBU
VE3CWM[1]	VA3CSG	VE3VIG	VE3BOE	VE3YY
VE3OTW	VA3GLB		VE3KJQ	VA3WBR
VE3NPO	VA3EO		VE3VIG	VE3VIG
VA3BGO	VA2XC		VA3TEC	
VA3CSG	VE3LEB		VA2XC	
VE3VIG	VE3XEM		VE3LAF	
	VA2OJD		VA2WEC	
	VE3VIG			

Notes:

VE3CWM is the "Diefenbunker" Cold War Museum station operated by volunteer Ottawa radio amateurs.

1 - Norman, VE3NPP at the mic.

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

March 5 SFI:182 A:15	March 12 SFI:157 A:7	March 19 SFI:140 A:8	March 26 SFI:160 A:15
VE3EJJ - NCS	VE3EJJ - NCS	VE3EJJ - NCS	VE3EJJ - NCS
New & Visitors	**New & Visitors**	**New & Visitors**	**New & Visitors**
Check-ins	**Check-ins**	**Check-ins**	**Check-ins**
VE3LC	VE3CWM[2]	VE3LC	VA3BGO
VE3XRA	VE3LC	VA3BGO	VA3NAH
VA3BGO	VE3NPO	VE3RXN	VE3YY
VA3EO	VE3RXN	VA3EO	VA3EO
VE3KTN	VE3SYZ	VE3KTN	VA3IAH
VE3SYZ	VA3EO	VE3OWV	VE3KTN
VE3CWM[1]	VA3IAH	VA2EV	VE3LC
	VE3XRA	VE3CWM[1]	VE3CWM[1]
	VA3BGO	VA3IAH	VE3NPO
	VE3KTN		VE3SYZ

Notes:

VE3CWM is the "Diefenbunker" Cold War Museum station operated by volunteer Ottawa radio amateurs.

1 - Fred, VE3LAF at the mic.
2 - Eric, VA3DXP at the mic.

The "SFI" and "A" values are the Solar Flux Index and Geomagnetic A-Index respectively as reported on the N0NBH 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:

- YOTA Camp on the RAC web site: *https://www.rac.ca/youth-on-the-air/*
- Volunteer opportunities - see **https://radio-1.ca**
- For various local amateur radio related information and volunteering opportunities, don't forget to bookmark **https://hambone.ca/**
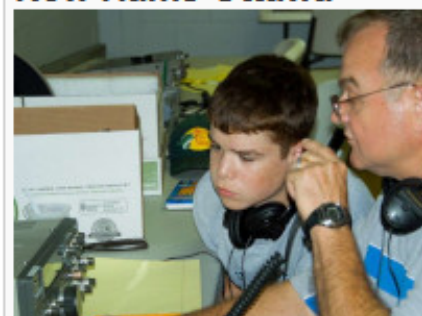

ARDF Ottawa

Go t-hunting with ARDF (Amateur Radio Direction Finding) Ottawa

RCJ

Volunteer radio ops help scouts on the Rideau Challenge Journey

New Hams Ottawa

Information for new hams with an Ottawa focus

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