

# RAMBLER

SEPTEMBER 2023



VOL. 66 ISSUE 1

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

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CHECK-IN TIME 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@MYRAC.CA](mailto:VE3LC@MYRAC.CA) FOR INVITATION.

## MEETING:

**WEDNESDAY SEPT, 20**  
**IBEW LOCAL 586, 1178 RAINBOW ST.,**  
**GLOUCESTER, 7:00PM IN PERSON**  
**AND 7:15 PM VIA ZOOM**

## AGENDA

- **OPENING 7:15 NORM (VE3LC)**  
**GREETING TO GUESTS AND NEW MEMBERS, NORM VE2LC**
- **PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- **APPROVAL OF JUNE AGM MEETING MINUTES**
- **CRAIG DELMAGE VE3OP RAC DIRECTOR - ONTARIO NORTH/EAST**
- **YOTA CAMP 2023 PRESENTATION - ROGER VA3EGY**
- **CHAIRPERSONS REPORTS**
- **MEETING ADJOURNMENT POSSIBLE Q&A AND RAGCHEW (TIME PERMITTING)**

## OVMRC AFFILIATIONS





# OVMRC EXECUTIVE AND OFFICERS 2022-2023

## DIRECTORS

### **President:**

Norm Rashleigh, VE3LC  
ve3lc@myrac.ca

### **Vice-President:**

Rob Haddow, VE3RXN  
rjhaddow@yahoo.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  
alanmhotte@gmail.com

## **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  
amateur members and  
non-members are  
welcome

## **Ottawa Valley Mobile**

### **Radio Club Inc.,**

**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**



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## 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 Net**, Sunday night, 7:30 PM, 50.090 MHz., horizontal polarization. Join controllers Hugo (VE3KTN), Norm (VE3LC), Mike VE3FFK 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/repeater\\_s.htm](http://www.emrg.ca/repeater_s.htm)

## INFORMAL AMATEUR RADIO RESTAURANT GATHERINGS

- |  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| • <b>QCWA Chapter 70</b><br>Breakfast gathering every Tuesday morning at 7:30 to 10:00 AM, Summerhays Grill, 1972 Baseline Rd., Nepean - Restarted | • <b>Orleans Coffee gathering</b> every Friday morning at 9:00 AM, McDonald's 1890 Innes Rd., Ottawa, K1B 3K5 | • <b>QRP Group Dinner meeting</b> , Second Wednesday every month, 5:00 PM, Newport Restaurant, 322 Churchill Ave N., Ottawa | • <b>Phoenix Net monthly Breakfast gathering (on hold)</b> , usually the second Saturday every month at 9:00 AM, Check with Pete <a href="mailto:ve3xem@myrac.ca">ve3xem@myrac.ca</a> |
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## President's Ramblings

Welcome amateur radio enthusiasts to the 2023/24 season of the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club.

I want to begin this message with a mighty thanks to Barry Allison, VE3NA for his several years of leadership of the Club as president. Barry will be continuing his role as purveyor on behalf of the OVMRC to provide club members coaxial cable, connectors and other high demand items at cost.

I also want to welcome Rob Haddow, VE3RXH to the Club's executive team as Vice President. Rob is one busy ham that I'm sure will bring a lot of new energy to Club; his current interests focus on hidden transmitter hunts and radio orienteering. Thanks also to Nicole Boivin VE3GIQ and Alan Fricker VE3KAE; both are continuing as Club Treasurer and Secretary respectively charged with responsibilities to maintain the administration of financial and general records of the OVMRC as a corporate entity. Nicole also serves as our membership chairperson.

Big thanks, of course, to Alan Hotte VA3IAH who prepares and publishes the Rambler newsletter that is, in my opinion, the best newsletter of any of the clubs in the area. Alan also works closely with Adam Bird VA3IRD, our master of the OVMRC.ca domain and IT specialist. Thanks Adam for all the good work you do on behalf of the Club by giving us an outstanding presence on the Web.

Thanks as well to Roger Egan, VA3EGY for organizing special events for the Club. Roger is a wonderful promoter of youth in amateur radio; he was the lead on bringing the YOTA Camp Event to Ottawa this year. Look forward to Roger's presentation on how the "Camp" turned out at our first in-person meeting of the season scheduled for the evening of Wednesday Sept 20th at the IBEW local 586 meeting hall. This meeting will also be available using Zoom.

And last, but not least, thanks to Hugo Kneve VE3KTN, our Club's net manager and NCS conducting the club's Thursday evening net on repeater VE3OCE. For those that can, the OVMRC also conducts an 80 M SSB "Pot Hole" net Sunday mornings at 10 am on 3760 kHz with Ernie Jury VE3EJJ or Glenn MacDonell VE3XRA presiding. For those that want to practice their Morse code, please tune in on the "Pot Lid" slow speed CW net conducted on Sunday evenings, 7:30 pm on the 6 m band at 50.090 MHz.

Hopefully the lingering Covid virus will not keep us from continuing with our plans this season of the Club to conduct in-person meetings. As we concluded with our in-person AGM last season, meetings will be held at the premises of IBEW local 586, 1178 Rainbow St.



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We give a big thank you to Colin Guillas, VA3CSG for making this venue available. Coffee and donuts will be served. It is planned that all in-person meetings will also be available on-line by Zoom as a hybrid production.

With the resumption of in-person meetings, we plan to have door prizes of some of my vast assortment of radio and electronic stuff I've collected over the years. A door prize of significance will be one of the Nano VNAs won by several of the members at the June meeting. This one remaining NanoVNA is complements of Joe VA3JHT of Cornwall who returned his prize to the Club for a re-draw. Your executive committee has decided to restrict the draw to "new hams" that are members of the Club, the draw will be at the October meeting. A new ham for this draw is any current member who received their amateur radio certificate and call-sign anytime last year (2022) or this year so far and not one of the those fortunate souls that, by chance, won one of the NanoVNA's prize at the June meeting.

**Summer Happenings to be reported at September meeting:**

- Unfortunately, the Aviation and Space Museum grounds were not made available to us for Field Day at the end of June. Instead, the Club again made a good showing with individual entries on behalf of the Club. Pat VE3KJQ has provided us a brief update on OVMRC participation here in the Rambler.
- The YOTA camp took place as planned July 16-21 at Carleton U. Roger Egan will give a full report and presentation.
- Several club members provided check-point and mobile communications for MS-Bike. Nicole VE3GIQ was the Club lead on this event. She will be away for the September but should be able to give a full report at the October meeting.
- June 3rd - 4th weekend, 9 operators activated 12 unique parks on behalf of the Club as part of the POTA Plaque event using the Club callsign VE3JW. 577 QSOs were logged using CW, phone and digital modes See story of event by Rob VE3RXH in the Rambler.
- On Saturday August 26 the Club hosted a "POTA Picnic" and hidden transmitter hunt at Rockcliffe Park. Thanks to Rob VE3RXH and Roger VA3EGY for organizing the event. Over 30 folks attended; it was a good exposé to some of the new members on what ham radio can be all about.
- Ottawa resident Craig Delmange VE3OP became our new RAC Director for "Ontario North/East" by election this summer. Craig has also become a member of the OVMRC; he will be introducing himself with a short presentation at the September meeting.



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### October Meeting:

- For the October meeting, we are planning an Icom IC-705 transceiver show and tell evening. This has become a very popular QRP radio and several of the Club members now own one. The radio has a vast array of capabilities that will be described. We are going to have several owners describe how they use their 705 and what accessories they have made or purchased for the little gem.
- We plan to have Nicole VE3GIQ report on the MS Bike event.
- As well, an item of business: A motion and vote to accept the budget for the season; this proposed budget will be published in the October Rambler for review by the membership prior to the vote.

I hope all OVMRC members and their families had a good summer..

See you at the September 20th meeting.

**73 Norm, ve3lc@myrac.ca**

PS: New member and renewal dues are due. See new membership and renewal policy at: <https://ovmrc.ca/join-our-club/>

## OVMRC General Meeting Minutes

**Date / Time:** Wednesday, June 21, 2023 @ 7:44 PM.

**Location:** IBEW, 1178 Rainbow Street, Ottawa, and via ZOOM for on-line attendance.

### 1) Call to order:

OVMRC President Barry Allison, VE3NA, called the meeting to order at 7:44 PM. There were 43 members present and 16 participating via Zoom.

### 2) Welcome and Guest Greetings:

Barry VE3NA called for a moment of silence for two recently departed SK's Gord Grant VE3DY, age 104, one of the OVMRC founding members and events organizer. Very accomplished fellow. Bob Kavanagh VE3OSZ, age 91, examiner and instructor. Bob taught the course part time.

Announcement: Jim VA3BJO mentioned he is assisting Ed VE2WGO with the organization of the Carp Hamfest and is looking for volunteers.





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Barry VE3NA expressed his thanks to IBEW Local 586 for the use of their facilities and thanked Colin VA3CSG for making the arrangements to have the IBEW facilities available to the club. He mentioned that donuts and coffee were available this evening.

Norm VE3LC mentioned he has MFJ coffee mugs available for free.

Barry VE3NA extended a welcome to any guests, visitors, and new hams who had checked into the meeting. New ham, Rick VE3RVV has passed his Basic with Honours and congratulations to Rick for his achievement.

### **3) Agenda and Meeting Content:**

Barry, VE3NA outlined the agenda for the meeting.

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

**MOTION:** Moved by Richard VA3HBL and seconded by Wray VA3EO that the minutes of the OVMRC meeting held Wednesday, May 17, 2023, be approved with an amendment as follows:

“Neil VE3PUE provided an update on the change to RAC email addresses. Email aliases of the form [callsign@rac.ca](mailto:callsign@rac.ca) were disabled on May 15, 2023, but all existing aliases have been converted to [callsign@myrac.ca](mailto:callsign@myrac.ca) which continues to function and deliver mail. Many operational email addresses in the rac.ca domain continue to be used for RAC officials and volunteers, such as [president@rac.ca](mailto:president@rac.ca) etc.”

**VOTE:** No Objections.

**CARRIED.**

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

**Haves:** Richard VA3HBL has QST magazines to share at the September meeting.

**Wants:** Are there any OVMRC mugs or stickers available? Norm VE3LC to look into. Norm also made note of the OVMRC shirts that several members have. These shirts were available for purchase prior to COVID. He said that arrangements could be made for more shirts, jackets and hats with a call sign and OVMRC logo. Norm suggested that this could be worked on over the summer with a presentation at the September meeting.



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## 6. Year-End Door Prize Draw No. 1

Barry VE3NA outlined this year's door prizes – Nano VNA packages, including adapters and special connectors. The first 4 winners were:

- VA3JHT Joseph Tondreau
- VA3TEC Michael Kennedy
- VA3WBR Bill Redmond
- VA3EO Wray Jaques

## 7) OVMRC Candidates and Election:

Barry VE3NA then outlined the “candidate slate” for nominations for the OVMRC elected positions for the coming year. They are as follows:

- **President Position** Norm VE3LC
- **Vice-President Position** Rob VE3RXH
- **Treasurer Position** Nicole VE3GIQ
- **Secretary Position** Alan VE3KAE

Barry VE3NA then asked the membership for approval of the nominations. Bill VA3HWA moved to accept the nominations.

**Vote:** All in favour. There were no objections and the motion was passed. Barry VE3NA then welcomed the new executive.

## 8) Year-End Door Prize Draw No. 2

The draw was then conducted for the next 4 door prizes. The winners were:

- VE3XEM Peter Carrs
- VA3DXP Eric Boucher
- VE3NLW Larry Woram
- VE3DIJ Terry Moorby

**Additional Prize:** Ron Smith VE3LBG donated a QRP transceiver kit as a bonus prize, a uSDX single-band kit. The rig has the capacity to operate on all the HF bands with the right filters. It has a Class E amp and can be altered for sideband as well. There is a groups.io site for uSDX information. Ron says the software may need an update and he can help with that. The output power is about 2.5 watts. Ron can be contacted at [rjsmith@sympatico.ca](mailto:rjsmith@sympatico.ca). The winner of the draw for this prize was Dave Sampson VE3FCQ.





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## 9) Other Business:

### **Rob VE3RXH: Update on the POTA Plaque Weekend**

Rob VE3RXH provided a brief summary of the POTA Plaque Weekend event held on June 3 & 4, 2023. He mentioned that this was the second year participating and using the club callsign VE3JW. Rob mentioned that it was a great opportunity to get out of the shack and there are very nice plaques for top teams and operators in the categories of CW, phone and digital. The event had 9 operators this year who activated 12 parks. The Diefenbunker VE-5083 was also activated. There were a total of 577 QSOs which was more than double last year. Rob expressed his thanks to the club for its support for the event.

### **Roger VA3EGY: Update on the Carleton Youth on the Air Camp (YOTA Camp)**

Roger VA3EGY provided a brief status report on the YOTA event to be held on July 16-23 at Carleton University. Roger reminded the group that they had approached Carleton in August last year for use of their facilities, and planning and fund raising has been ongoing. He mentioned that there are 30 students (campers) coming for the event and that some of the campers are also instructors which ties into the philosophy of having a youth led camp. About 7 or 8 will be doing instruction.

The team has refurbished a room at Carleton University, and raised money and acquired equipment from local ham clubs and other contributing sources. A total of \$5,000 was donated by two local ham clubs. Their overall goal was to raise \$30,000 USD, however, final contributions totalled approximately \$60,000 CAD.

Roger mentioned that four antennas are now up, including Yagis, long wire and vertical antennas. He has permission to run a radio at the Scouts HQ remotely, and also at the Diefenbunker. Roger provided drawings of the setup and passed them around. Roger stated he wanted to recognize Norm VE3LC for all his assistance and that his efforts were really appreciated.

Roger indicated they were at the final stages of adding furniture to the facility and that external cabling was nearly complete. Roger noted that Barry VE3NA built the special jumper cables and feed panel which were available for viewing at the meeting. Roger expressed his appreciation to Barry for the fine work and thanked Barry for all his help. Roger mentioned he would be prepared to do a subsequent presentation in the fall.



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## **Transition to the New Club Executive:**

Barry VE3NA addressed the members and concluded his term by thanking the OVMRC membership for all the support over the past 8 years and then handed the meeting over to Norm VE3LC.

Norm VE3LC thanked Barry for continuing with the club coax program and mentioned that Barry will still be his “right-hand” person for the OVMRC. Barry indicated, that surprisingly, he has sold about 3 miles of cable to date.

Club President, Norm VE3LC then informed that Rob VE3RXH is now Vice-president who will “stand in” if Norm is unable. Norm then thanked the chair persons, Hugo VE3KTN - Net Operations, Adam VA3IRB - Web Master, Alan VA3IAH - Rambler Newsletter Editor and expressed appreciation for the newsletter as a first-rate publication, and also gave recognition to John VA3JYK who, with the resumption of in-person meetings will be our master greeter. Norm also thanked Roger VA3EGY, who is very much involved with the youth segment.

Norm then mentioned that perhaps the club could arrange for a mid-summer get-together with a picnic and QRP/POTA event at a park somewhere that could include a transmitter hunt. This will be something to work towards.

Norm mentioned the club will plan for some new events starting in September. Norm may run a ham radio course as it is very enjoyable to bring on new hams.

Norm VE3LC then asked for comments. Matt VE3FSB asked if there would be an “appetite” for an advanced course in the club. Norm indicated he has never given an advanced course but could possibly do it. The club certainly has a lot of equipment to help demonstrate things.

Nicole VE3GIQ provided a brief MS Bike Week update and Year-end Financial summary. Cash on hand is \$18,600.00 and the club has 130 members to date. There were 43 people in attendance tonight plus 16 attending via Zoom.

Nicole still needs volunteers for MS Bike, and she plans to follow-up those individuals who will be riding in vehicles. She mentioned that incidents will now be handled by net control - this is new. All requests for first aid and repairs will be routed through net control, so amateurs will be playing a greater role with respect to tracking and incident reporting. The new software is able to generate significantly more reporting data than in the past. She then thanked the group for ongoing support.



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### **E-Store:**

Hugo VE3KTN asked about the status of the E-Store project. When will it go live? Barry VE3NA indicated that the E-Store will assist with cable and connector purchases, will reduce the overhead of emails, and provide a payment system. The system has undergone testing with the club executive group and others as well. Barry says there will soon be an announcement about the opening of the E-Store. He indicated that at this point, there is just coaxial cable and toroids in the E-Store, as testing continues. Roger VA3EGY noted that it may be useful for orders of other items such as jackets and shirts, etc.

### **Other:**

Sandy VE3HAZ asked about any plans to get VE3JW back on the air again at the museum (Canada Museum of Science and Technology). Barry VE3NA reported that there were no plans to do this. Rental costs at the museum are too expensive. And further, it appears that the museum simply does not want the club to set up a station there.

Norm VE3LC mentioned that we were unable to secure a site for Field Day at the Canada Aviation and Space Museum. They have undergone a change in management there and the new people do not know the club. So this year we will do at home Field Day with aggregate scores. Norm suggested members go to the ARRL.org site to view the Field Day rules.

Norm VE3LC indicated that the previous “DIY ARRL Field Day” has given people lots of experience about the rules and how to do it, and submit results and we now have all this experience including how to maximize bonus points. Norm mentioned the club has a Field Day kit that can be provided including 2 - 43 foot masts, a tower section with a mast, coax cable and connectors etc. That could be used to set up remotely if someone had a suitable location.

At this point Barry VE3NA mentioned that it was very important to him to preside over one last in-person meeting before he stepped down as President, and he was pleased that he got his wish.

Norm VE3LC reported on the situation regarding use of the IBEW meeting hall for next year. Colin VA3CSG reported that the Union plans to replace the building and this will take time and be very expensive. In the meantime Colin says we can use this room on an ongoing basis - on a month by month basis for the 3rd weds of each month. Norm thanked Colin and mentioned that the meeting will be at this location in September, but then we will operate on a month by month basis depending on availability.



## 10) Adjournment:

MOTION: Moved by Colin VA3CSG to adjourn the business meeting at 8:51 hrs.

## 11) Next Meeting:

The next monthly meeting of the OVMRC will be held September 20, 2023, at the IBEW building, 1178 Rainbow Street, Ottawa, and via ZOOM. ZOOM for on-line attendance.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Secretary, Alan Fricker VE3KAE.

# Preliminary OVMRC Field Day 2023 Report

There is some good preliminary news about the club's performance in the 2023 ARRL Field Day in June as listed in the "entries received" report on the ARRL Field Day website. Final results with scores will be posted in the December QST.

This year the OVMRC once again did very well in terms of our participation levels. We came in an amazing 4th place in North America. We had 13 members enter the contest and list their scores with the OVMRC. Last year we were in 3rd place, so we are maintaining our status as a leading club. The 3rd place club this year had 15 participants. As you can see, the difference in placement can be very small and everyone's contribution is significant and important. This year the top two clubs had 28 and 27 participants. Most clubs had fewer than 10 participants although 2907 stations listed their score with clubs.

<u>CALL</u>	<u>CLASS</u>
VE3KTN	1E
CK3RXH	1B1B
VE3LC	1E
VE3IAH	1D
VA3WEX	1B1B
VE3BOE	1E
VE3KJQ	1E
VE3LBU	1D
VE3NA	1E
VE3SYZ	1D
VE3VIG	1D
VE3YDK	1E
VE3GIQ	1D

Of the OVMRC club members participating, two operated portable QRP using batteries, six operated home stations on emergency power, and five operated home stations on commercial power.

This year once again we have shown that we are one of the most active amateur radio clubs in North America.

73, Pat Brewer, VE3KJQ



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## DIY Field Day Set up

As the Rambler editor asked for pictures from our DIY setup, here goes:

The solar panels are, well, meh. Solar panels. I had to take this picture to get the 100 bonus points for natural power.



Those panels are driving the charge controller and its battery (which I bought from Rob, VE3RXH, at a VERY good price. Thanks Rob.)

Of the 3 DC leads flying off the battery, of course 2 of them are the regulated output of the charge controller. Another 2 are going to the powerpole distribution strip for powering the IC705. The third (out of picture) is wired into a cigar lighter with flying leads that is the socket for a CTC Eliminator 75W inverter. The inverter is quite efficient, passively cooled and was more than enough to handle the 23W drawn by the monitor and the minimal draw from the Pi4.



The end fed antenna seemed to work OK on 15/20/40 - it was cut for a half wave on 40. I checked it with my nano and the resonance point was ok on 40 but on the high side on 10/15/20. I could tune out the impedance with my Palstar but having the resonance points different from where I was operating means the antenna really wasn't all that efficient and I suppose it's unavoidable with a simple wire. As well, the impedance was around





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3500 ohms which didn't transform well through the 49:1 unun. I'm thinking of adding 1 turn on the secondary to make the ratio closer to 70:1. Maybe more to report on that later for the September Rambler.

All making good for a total score of 3040 points, a personal best on this 4th DIY effort, which has been submitted and accepted by ARRL in the name of the OVMRC.

73, Hugo, VE3KTN.

## **YOTA Camp 2023 - Ensuring the Future of Amateur Radio in Canada**



In 2020, Roger VA3EGY and Harrie VE3HYS attended HamCation (Orlando) by Zoom, when the in-person event was cancelled due to COVID. There was a day-long series of presentations focused on YOUTH. We attended them all. And, we were further invited to participate in a bi-weekly zoom call by Youth-On-The-Air led by a group from the US but with participation from Argentina, Mexico, Dominica, and several other IARU Region 2 countries.





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We decided to go to HamVention in 2022 to meet with these folks and coincidentally, Phil McBride was also there. We asked both the YOTA group and RAC if they would support delivering a camp in Canada in 2023. We submitted a proposal in September 2022.

Our challenge was to decide where to have this camp in Canada. We felt that it would be important to do this in Ottawa because that's where we both live and we knew that this would take at least 6 months of planning.

As a venue in Ottawa we identified Carleton University because it was close to the airport, and had the potential to provide rooms, meals, classrooms, lab space and is close to parks making outdoor operation feasible.

Our proposal was accepted by YOTA and we got the full support of RAC with Jason Tremblay, VE3JXT assigned as our liaison and with Alan Griffin providing Marketing and Communications support along the way.

We had a few meetings with Carleton University which had us quickly realize that we would not be able to get their attention easily with the sheer scope of their organization, how decisions are made and the relatively small size of our initiative - to support an external summer camp. That said, we were able to move ahead based on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which was presented to the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Design and then co-signed by Phil McBride, VA3QR (RAC President), Neil Rapp, WB9VPG (YOTA Camp Director) and Roger Egan, VA3EGY (YOTA Camp - Local Ottawa Co-host). That was at the end of December 2022.

From there, most of our discussions were around Risk Management, Safety. We learned that the work had to be done by Professional organizations who would sign off and take full responsibility for the work performed with high levels of restrictions on access and even higher requirements for Liability Insurance.

We even engaged Ward Silver (N0AX) the author of the ARRL publication on Bonding and Grounding because Lightning Protection became a pivotal issue to being able to proceed. Suffice to say that we had not started building the shack or installing the antennas on May 31, 2023. We were starting to panic! But the Dean of Engineering,



Larry Kostiuk, with the support of our champion Professor Alan Steele (VA3STL) helped us get everyone aligned to give us the green light.

It took just 6 weeks to have everything done and the Safety Code 6 testing and report were completed on Friday July 14th. The camp started on Sunday July 16th. We really had only tested SWR and had not operated any of the four (4) stations to that point.

On Sunday, 29 campers which included youth session leaders as well as another 10 adult chaperones and helpers came to Ottawa from around the world. There were 18 from the US, 7 from Canada, 1 from Argentina, and two from Europe (Germany and Croatia). They brought their own photographer and videographer to capture the highlights and another videographer back in the US who took raw footage and produced a highlights reel overnight which was published on YouTube by the following morning in time for our group meeting at 9:00am. You can view these 11 videos including opening ceremony, balloon launch, ARISS contact and the closing at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL16TZZ4ElQWHqa2LLpvE0dl1MpId6Qdc0>









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We were absolutely blown away with the level of expertise, enthusiasm and engagement that these young people had for Amateur Radio from the time they arrived until they climbed back on the bus to the airport on Friday July 21.

Our challenge now is to help Carleton University to make full use of this new Amateur Radio facility ongoing and for that we will establish a Volunteer Radio Group with an initial focus on Governance, Succession Planning and providing Amateur Radio courses to ensure a fresh group of new Radio Amateurs every year. We also plan to help the faculties to collaborate on bigger initiatives like is already being done at University of Alberta where Amateur Radio is just an enabler ( <https://albertasat.ca/about-us/> )

We would like to thank our financial partners in this initiative including: OVMRC, OARC, The Yasme Foundation, ARDC, IEEE, DX Engineering and ICOM. In all, we raised about \$60,000 Canadian and DX Engineering donated a further \$6,000 worth of equipment. These donations were made for the Facility at Carleton University over and above the financial commitments that many of these same folks have made to YOTA Camp every year. In fact, ARDC just announced a multi-year grant to YOTA in the amount of \$125K USD which ensures this camp will be able to double in size and continue to be offered in the Americas through the end of 2025 ( <https://www.ardc.net/wp-content/uploads/yota-americas.pdf> ).

A similar camp is delivered each year in IARU Region 1 (Europe, Middle East and Africa). This year the camp will be held August 5-12, 2023 in Hungary ( <https://www.ham-yota.com> ).

If you are in the business of selling Amateur Radio equipment or if you are a radio amateur having benefited from being in this great hobby whether for a few years or many decades, it is up to each and every one of us to step up to ensure the future of Amateur Radio in your own community. None of us can do this alone but we can help each other when you are ready to commit to this important initiative. We need more Youth On The Air. It takes time and it will take a lot of money. What are you doing with yours?

73, Roger Egan VA3EGY and Harrie Jones VE3HYS





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## OVMRC 2023-24 Nets Season Opens

Hello all OVMRC members and radio amateurs who enjoy our nets!

The OVMRC nets season is again in full swing after summer vacation starting with a massive attendance at the first session of the Club's 2 metre net.

The flagship 2 metre FM net resumed on Thursday, September 7 at its regular haunt on repeater VE3OCE. For newcomers to the Ottawa ham radio scene, we meet up at this repeater on 146.880 MHz. out/146.280 MHz. in, and requiring a 136.5 Hz. CTCSS tone. The format has changed very slightly starting this season; beginning with a call to portables/mobiles/new hams/visitors and then going directly to a call for Club news from Executive and Committee Chairs. The initial call is intended to give priority to those who may have difficulty getting into the net, new hams who are anxious to give their new radio a try and, of course, to visitors who may be in the National Capital region. Once the news from Exec is done, the routine continues with a call for all check-ins and the rag chew part of the net. I'm pleased to announce that Ante, VA2BBW, has agreed to stay on as our regular reporter on the DX and Contests scene and he will be giving his update as part of the news break after the first round of check-ins conversation. As I mentioned at the outset, the first net of the season enjoyed an attendance of 27 plus your faithful net controller. It was very encouraging to have so many on board for the initial net, even though my intention is to make the net an interesting place to be and not to set any attendance records. The most important aspect of the 2 m. net is to make it interesting and newsworthy to everyone.

Sunspot Cycle 25 seems to have stalled over the summer after its initial promise of very high solar activity in the Spring and early Summer. The solar flux trend in May-June might have suggested the values may be well into the 200's by now but over July and August I've seen it hang around in the 140-160 range and, as of writing this report, is still bouncing in that same range. It does suggest that DX would be fair to good on the higher HF bands but not as spectacular as it could be with flux numbers around 200, especially on 15 through 10 metres. In fact, I found during Field Day that 15 and 10 metres were unusually quiet, especially over the Field Day weekend, and many others have reported the same experience. So, as is usually the case, the only way to know what's really going on is to get on the air and find out.

The OVMRC Pot Hole Net has also commenced, now in its 64th year, and again under the guidance of Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ, together with Glenn MacDonell, VE3XRA. The net runs every Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m.



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Ottawa local time, 3760 kHz. LSB. The higher solar flux does hurt this net with 80 metres usually closing up shortly after local sunrise, so it's a tough go to check in while fighting both poor propagation and an increasing amount of interference attributed to the myriad of electronic devices that do their part to raise the overall noise floor. Some participants have discovered that it's easier to at least hear the net over an internet connection to an SDR receiver located in a much quieter area. The most popular is one provided by Phil Lytle, VE3HOA. If you can't hear the PHN directly off the air, try connecting to Phil's SDR at - <http://ve3hoa.ddns.net:8073/?f=3760.0lsbz10>

The Pot Lid slow speed CW net (PLN) has also begun a new season on it's 6 metre frequency of 50.090 MHz., horizontally polarised. The PLN has dropped the "slow speed net" attribute this season since most of the regular check-ins are able to operate at higher speeds, so now the Pot Lid Net is simply that, and not a deliberate slow speed net. Nevertheless, net controllers will always limit their speed to not (much) more than 15 wpm and will always slow down to match the speed of anyone checking in who needs it. I will say that despite this change, many of the regular ops are still running at between 10-15 wpm and thanks to them for making this CW net as attractive as possible to new participants.

We do have a new net controller in the rotation this season, thanks to Mike Kelly, VE3FFK, for helping to share the load. That now makes the rotation going among me, VE3KTN, Norm, VE3LC, Ante, VA2BBW, and now Mike, VE3FFK.

This is a good place to practice CW for real instead of copying machine generated code from sources such as W1AW, so please join us on Sunday evenings, 1930 Ottawa local time.

That's it for now, I look forward to hear you on the various nets.

73,

Hugo, VE3KTN,  
OVMRC Nets & Radio Ops Chair





# Club Activation using VE3JW for the POTA Plaque Weekend

Since its inception in early 2017, Parks On The Air (POTA) has become a hugely popular programme where activators set up their portable station in a POTA designated park and make contacts with hunters at home, mobile or in other parks. Every QSO is worth 1 point and there are many awards for the number of QSOs made, parks activated and bands used etc.

The POTA Plaque weekend is an annual event in the Parks On The Air schedule, that started in 2018 when two plaques were awarded, one for the top activator and the other for the top hunter. This year there were 19 plaques awarded – sadly none to the OVMRC Club activators, but we still had fun, made lots of QSOs and gained some great experience with portable operations!

The POTA Plaque event was held over the weekend of 3rd – 4th June 2023 and nine activators operated from POTA parks within the Ottawa area using the OVMRC Club callsign, VE3JW. The parks chosen ranged from Rockcliffe Park to Fitzroy Provincial Park to Foley Mountain near Perth and many in between for a total of 12 unique POTA parks.

The team that took part this year consisted of:

<b>Callsign</b>	<b>Name</b>
VE3RXH	Rob
VA3BJO	Jim
VA3EGY	Roger
VA3DXP	Eric
VA3WBR	Bill
VE3LAF	Fred
VE3JYK	John
VA3WEX	Kathleen
VA3VGR	Richard



*Eric, VA3DXP, (left) working CW and Jim, VA3BJO (right) working SSB from Jim's RV at Fitzroy Provincial Park, VE-0212.*



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A few of the group met at Bate Island, VE-1349, on the Friday evening just on the UTC date change to get things kicked off, while others activated at their choice of park.

VA3DXP, Eric, and VA3BJO, Jim, operated mainly from Fitzroy Provincial Park where Jim has stationed his RV. Jim worked SSB on 40, 20 and 15 metres while Eric tapped out code on 80, 40, 20 and 15 metres.

During their operation, VE3LAF, Fred, and VE3JYK, John, paid them a visit to see how a successful portable operation can be run.



***VA3JYK, John (right), and VE3LAF, Fred (back to photo), in portable operation at Fitzroy Provincial Park***

Also of particular note were the 26 satellite QSOs achieved by Richard, VA3VGR, no mean feat when holding the mic and pointing the antenna to track the satellite with one hand, while simultaneously tuning two radios for Doppler shift with the other!

Richard, VA3VGR, activated from three separate parks over the weekend, including VE-4882 the Rideau Canal.





VA3VGR, Richard, making FM and SSB satellite contacts at Bate Island, VE-1349.



VA3VGR, Richard's Arrow portable satellite antenna overlooking the Rideau canal.



VA3WBR, Bill had great success activating Black Rapids Creek, VE-1319 and Rockcliffe Park, VE-1597, on 20 and 40m SSB. Sandwiches made an important addition to everyone's portable operations!



VA3WBR, Bill's portable setup of a Yaesu FT-710 and Wolf River Coil & vertical antenna (not shown)

Rob, VE3RXH, had a great 6m band opening on the Friday evening, making 20 FT8 QSOs with just 5W from Bate Island using a roll up Slim Jim, modelled on the OVMRC 2m band roll-up Slim Jim kit put together by VE3NA, Barry, a couple of years ago.



VE3RXH, Rob, operating at Bate Island VE-1349





VA3EGY, Roger, had a great setup with his Yaesu FT-818, LDG 817 tuner and Signalink for digital operations, powered by a Bioenno LiFePO battery.



VA3EGY, Roger operating at  
Bate Island, VE-1349



***VA3EGY, Roger's portable setup of a Yaesu FT-818 with LDG 817 tuner and Signalink powered by a Bioenno LiFePO battery.***



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Every QSO was valuable and Kathleen, VA3WEX, added nearly 60 SSB QSOs using the 40 and 20 metre bands, while Fred, VE3LAF and John, VE3JYK added more using the 80, 40 and 20m bands.

Overall it was a very successful weekend of portable radio operations, making some 577 QSOs which was more than twice the number made the previous year. All modes were used with phone being the predominant mode and thanks to Eric, VA3DXP, we counted nearly 50 CW QSOs in our total.

Bands used were 80, 40, 20 and 15 metres, with one 6m opening. Satellite QSOs were cross band using the 2m and 70cm bands and there were a couple of 2m band FM QSOs with local operators, thanks for those!

Many of the group got together for a breakfast at Sonny's Bar and Grill behind the Ikea store a couple of weeks after the event where the discussion centred around our successes and failures, band conditions, portable power options and many more portable radio topics.

Full results are not yet available for the event, however we do know that the first place Club, K4YTZ, York County Amateur Radio Society, achieved 6664 QSOs over the weekend, so we have some work to do to catch them! We are all looking forward to next year's event and welcome any other operators to join us.

73, Rob Haddow, VE3RXH





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## Amateur Radio Digital Communications Inc.



The Amateur Radio Digital Communications Inc. is a not-for-profit organization incorporated in 2011 in the state of California that is now in the business of making grants to worthy amateur radio needs, causes and projects. It provides significant funding for the annual Youth-On-The - Air Camp such as was hosted this summer at Carleton University. This will be the topic of the main presentation at our September meeting by Roger Egan, VA3EGY who was the lead promoter that brought the Camp to Ottawa this year.

Currently the assets of the ARDC are over \$135 million US. So where did all this money come from to be held by an organization that is not-for-profit?

### **The History:**

Amateur Radio Digital Communications (not the corporate entity it is today) started in part in Canada with the promotion in 1978 by then Director General, Dr John deMercao, of the Department of Communications Telecommunications Regulatory Service who introduced the “Amateur Digital Radio Operators Certificate” to foster the use and advancement of evolving packet switching and channel sharing technology by multiple users. This soon evolved in the early 1980s with the AX25 data link layer protocol that we still use today for the likes of APRS. AX25 (an amateur adapted version of the X25 protocol) got its main advancement and promotion in the early 1980s from an organization called TAPR (Tucson Amateur Packet Radio) that set protocol standards and developed micro-processor based hardware by offering the TNC-2 (terminal node controller) in kit form which was later picked up and marketed by commercial makers of amateur radio equipment. Amateur packet radio soon evolved and was active throughout the mid 1980s to most of the 1990s with infrastructure of amateur digi-peaters, nodes and auto forwarding bulletin board systems using 1200 and 9600 baud over 2 m FM radio channels and HF paths at 300 baud. As such, messaging was global.

Also in the early 1980s, there were discussions among the amateur radio folks that were learned in such matters that the new concepts of digital communications using IP (internet protocol) could be used to route amateur radio digital communications onwards; this resulted in 1981 by



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radio amateur Hank Manuski taking the initiative to obtain a Class A Netblock of 16.7 million IP addresses for the amateur radio service worldwide at no cost. His forethought pre-dates the public internet by over a decade. At the time, the “Internet” was conceived only to benefit research organizations and places of higher education and was never thought would be used for commercial purposes. His Class A Netblock of (44/8) addresses was called the AmprNet for “Amateur Packet Radio”. Internet gateway services, administration and hosting of DNS services was carried out at the supercomputing -centre at the University of California, San Diego. Originally, the address allocation plan reserved half of the Class A NetBlock for use by the US hams and the other half for hams in the rest of the world based on subnet numbering on a national basis. For Canada, our IP addresses were 44.196.xx.xx. Local amateur IP coordinators administered the requests for IP addresses and associated domain names created by users for their various host computers on the local networks; the regional and local volunteer administrators ensured these assignments were updated on the master DNS in California.

Obviously, this Class A block of IP addresses was very much larger than would ever be required by the radio amateur community worldwide. Following the creation of a not-for-profit corporate entity called Amateur Radio Digital Communications Inc. in 2011, the American Registry of Internet Numbers approved a request to transfer ownership of the whole 44/8 network block of the AmprNet to the newly formed company. In 2018, ARDC had limited financial resources to fulfill their corporate mission to issue grants to educational institutions, scholarship, foundations and other worthy organizations. In 2019, the company sold off half of the AMPR.org domain of IP addresses to Amazon for \$109 million; this has grown to over \$135 million at year end 2021. In that year, for example, ARDC provided a one-off grant of \$1.6 million to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology amateur radio club (W1MX) to save and rebuild the radome on top of the MIT Green Building. Also, in the same year, ARDC awarded a five year grant, for a total of \$1.3 million, to support US-based amateur radio activities on the ISS (ARISS-USA). Maybe, there could be funding as well for well developed plans and projects to further amateur radio in Canada!

### **Local History and the Ottawa Amateur Radio Packet Group.**

Back in the early 1990s, some amateurs in the Ottawa area, including myself, became active in the OARC Packet Working Group. Established then was a 56 kbps radio LAN working cross band (433/220 MHz) with the hub site at the Dunton Tower on the campus of Carleton University which of course had ready access to the precious CarletonU campus internet feed. All equipment used on the high speed radio LAN consisted of up and



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down converting (using transverters) to the operating frequencies from the 10m base band kit obtained from “Grapes” (the Georgia Radio Amateurs Packet Enthusiast Society. This was supported by the “PI” (packet interface) board that was the interface of the Grapes radio modem with the PC; it was an ISA bus board that was designed and manufactured by the Ottawa Packet Working Group and sold to hams all over the world at the time, that were interested in high speed amateur radio data-communications. It raised over \$35,000 for the Group that was turned over the OARC after the Group disbanded in the late 1990s.

All amateur radio users of JNOS or other Network Operating systems used in amateur radio were assigned one or more 44.196.xx.xx IP addresses. The IP address administrator for our Ottawa subnet and guru for the local system at the time was Barry McLarnon VE3JF. The PCs (286 and 386 machines) used as local hosts at the time were assigned AMPRnet IP addresses. Our local host domain names usually incorporated our call sign such as “ve3lc.ampr.org”. The basic software we operated was developed and maintained by Phil Karn, KA9Q and called “JNOS” (NOS meaning “network operating system”). This software could be compiled to provide the various internet client and server services required for desired operation. JNOS supported such services and POP and SMTP email, FTP, gateway and tunneling services, DNS and even as a web server when Netscape and the world-wide-web came into play. Amateur over-the-air operation of the IP network and transport layers was encapsulated with the AX25 protocol data link layer that carried the call sign identification of radios stations involved. In the early days, it was wonderful to experience and explore the “Internet” that otherwise was limited to the privileged few at universities and places of higher learning around the continent and the world. Beyond tunneled connection to other AMPRnet LANs as they emerged worldwide, we did have access to the open internet as it was in those days through the AmprNet gateway service at UCSD. Also working with JNOS on the AMPRnet was a wonderful learning experience on how the emerging internet and its various protocols and RFCs worked in the overall system.

I hope you enjoyed this story.

73 de Norm VE3LC

#### References:

- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AMPRNet>
- <https://tapr.org/>
- <https://www.ardc.net/about/contact/>
- <http://www.arrl.org/news/amateur-radio-digital-communications-releases-2022-annual-report>
- <https://packet-radio.net/jnos/>



# OVMRC Net Activity, Check-ins for June, 2023

Prepared by: Hugo Kneve VE3KTN

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

June 1	June 8	June 15	June 22
VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS
<b>New &amp; Visitors</b>	<b>New &amp; Visitors</b>	<b>New &amp; Visitors</b>	<b>New &amp; Visitors</b>
	Fern – VA3LMA Lance – VA3LP	Rick - VE3RVV	
<b>General Check-ins</b>	<b>General Check-ins</b>	<b>General Check-ins</b>	<b>General Check-ins</b>
VE3RUU VA3EO VE3KAE VE3NA VE3LC VA3IAH VA3GFY VE3RVQ VE3VIG VA3PSI VA2BBW VE3KJQ VA3WBR CK3OTW VE3NPO	VE3RUU VE3ZZU VE3NPO VA3AIH VE3NA VE3LC VE3KAE VA3IAH VE3NPP VA3EO VA3PSI VA2BBW VA3GFY VE3KJQ VE3RXH VE3LBU VE3LPH VE3YY VE3VIG CK3OTW VA3HJR	VE3RUU VE3ZZU VA3EO VE3NPO VE3NA VE3LC VE3KAE VA3IAH VE3YY VE3OKD VE3OTW VA3PSI VA2OJD VE3SYZ VE3RXH VE3VIG VE3KJQ VA3VGR VE3DNU	VE3ZZU VE3NA VE3LC VE3KAE VA3IAH VA3EO VE3NPO CK3OTW VA2BBW VA2OJD VA3PSI VE3LBU VE3RVV VE3DNU VE3VIG VE3RXH VA3HJR





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

<b>June 4</b> <b>SFI:165 A:5</b>	<b>June 11</b> <b>SFI:161 A:5</b>	<b>June 18</b> <b>SFI:158 A:8</b>
VE3EJJ - NCS	VE3EJJ - NCS	VEXRA - NCS
<b>New &amp; Visitors</b>	<b>New &amp; Visitors</b>	<b>New &amp; Visitors</b>
Rod - VE3SHQ		
<b>General Check-ins</b>	<b>General Check-ins</b>	<b>General Check-ins</b>
VE3LC VE3CWM <sup>1</sup> VA3EO VE3SYZ VA3IAH VE3XRA VA3PSI VE3KTN VE3NPO	VA3NAH/MM VA3IAH VE3KTN VA3PSI VE3RXN VE3SYZ VA3EO	VE3LC VA3IAH VE3YY VE3EJJ VA3EO VA3BGO VE3KTN

Notes:

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

1 - Fred, VE3LAF at the mic

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

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