

RAMBLER

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NEWSLETTER OF THE OTTAWA VALLEY MOBILE RADIO CLUB INCORPORATED (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 FOR INVITATION.

MEETING:

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER, 18
IBEW LOCAL 586, 1178 RAINBOW ST.,
GLOUCESTER, 7:00PM IN PERSON
AND 7:15 PM VIA ZOOM

AGENDA

- **OPENING 7:15 AND GREETING TO GUESTS AND NEW MEMBERS, NORM VE3LC**
- **PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
- **IC-705 PRESENTATION FOLLOWED BY SHOW & TELL**
- **CHAIRPERSONS REPORTS**
- **MEETING ADJOURNMENT POSSIBLE Q&A AND RAGCHEW**

OVMRC AFFILIATIONS





OVMRC EXECUTIVE AND OFFICERS 2022-2023

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OVMRC Groups.io

Ongoing discussion

Group at:

[https://ovmrc.groups.io](https://ovmrc.groups.io/g/main)
[/g/main](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



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

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 1890 Innes Rd., Ottawa, K1B 3K5 | • 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

Welcome to the month of October in the world of the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club. I believe our September meeting was a big success. Thirty-one people congregated in-person at the IBEW meeting hall while another 18 joined us by Zoom to see and listen to the proceedings that included an excellent and fulsome presentation by Roger Egan, VA3EGY about bringing the YOTA Camp to Ottawa in July. Roger's presentation is now posted on the OVMRC web site. Also attending the September meeting was Craig Delmange, VE3OP. Congratulations to Craig; he is our newly elected RAC Director for Ontario North/East. Craig has also become a member of the OVMRC; he also provided our meeting with an excellent presentation on why we all should be a member of RAC and what our National organization as a member society of the International Amateur Radio Union does for us in terms of services and advocacy with our regulator ISED by way of regularly scheduled CARAB (Canadian Amateur Radio Advisory Board) meetings. Craig's presentation material is also available on the Club's web site. Note that the OVMRC continues to be a RAC affiliated member club which provides us the benefit of a \$ 5 million liability group insurance policy afforded to affiliated clubs that are incorporated. The premium is based on the number of club members who are and are not also members of RAC with a surcharge for those who are not.

Following the success of our August POTA (Parks-On-The-Air) picnic and hidden transmitter(s) hunt at Rockliffe Park, by the time you read this message in the Rambler, the club will have staged another POTA picnic, this time at Hog's Back Park on October 7th. Thanks to John VA3JYK and Fred VE3LAF for organizing. For folks who are not entirely familiar with the POTA program, please sign-up on the POTA site at: <https://parksontheair.com/>. As a chaser, you can hunt for POTA activated parks and be eligible for the chaser awards. Several OVMRC members are frequent POTA site activators. I myself have now activated several local POTA designated parks and sites with my IC-705 go-kit on 20 m using FT8. It is amazing how easy it is to obtain responses to a CQ POTA.

Our October 18th meeting is again being hosted by Colin, VA3CSG at the IBEW local 586 meeting hall where coffee and donuts will be served. As mentioned at the September meeting, two NanoVNA kits will be giveaways by way of a draw that will be for new hams only (any time in 2022 until now) who are or will become a paid-up member of the OVMRC by our October meeting date. Besides the short business aspect of meeting, our main feature will be a presentation on the popular ICOM IC-705 transceiver. I will have my IC-705 on display for show and tell. I have extended an invitation to several local IC-705 owners to do the same.



Barry, VE3NA has in-stock a considerable inventory of coaxial cable including RG316 teflon, RG58U, LMR195 and LMR400. He also stocks a small inventory of crimp type connectors for the various sizes of coaxial cable and connector types. A complete list of items that Barry has available is included in this issue of the Rambler along with instruction how to order using the OVMRC e-store. Remember, since all things purchased and held by Barry are funded by the OVMRC for re-sale at-cost these are only available as a benefit to Club members in good-standing.

The proposed operating budget will be discussed at and voted on at the November club meeting.

Hope to see you all at the October meeting.

73 Norm VE3LC

OVMRC September Minutes

Date / Time: Wednesday, September 20, 2023 @ 7:23 PM.

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

1) Call to order:

OVMRC President Norm Rashleigh VE3LC called the meeting to order at 7:23 PM. There were 31 members present and 18 participating via Zoom.

2) Welcome and Guest Greetings:

Norm VE3LC welcomed attendees to the meeting, which is the first meeting of 2023-2024.

Norm also extended a welcome to guests, including Donald VA3ZZI, Cal VA3ZLA, Will VA3ODW, and Craig VE3OP. Norm then provided a brief review of the current OVMRC Rambler.

Norm then spoke about a recent SK, Ian Martin VE3PSK who lived in Orleans. Ian was a blind ham who was well known for his service dogs, having about 12 of those over the years. Roger VE3NPO mentioned he knew Ian from 30-40 years ago. Ian spent much of his time on HF and very much enjoyed the hobby. Unfortunately he became seriously ill. Norm then called for a moment of silence in honour of Ian.



3) Agenda and Meeting Content:

Norm VE3LC outlined the agenda for the meeting. The main speaker tonight is Roger Egan VA3EGY who will talk about the July YOTA camp which was a big success. Norm then introduced Craig Delmage VE3OP, who is the newly elected RAC Director for the Ontario North/East Region and Craig will have a RAC presentation for the club this evening as well.

Guest Speaker: RAC Presentation by Craig Delmage VE3OP

Craig VE3OP introduced himself and extended an invitation for the club members to meet him this evening. He says he has recently been more active on the nets so that RAC would have more of a “voice”. Craig is a newly elected RAC Director, since July 2023. He represents both northern and eastern Ontario – geographically a very large area. He mentioned that the Northern Ontario section is very active and Eastern Ontario has a unique blend of hams and clubs. Craig brought a selection of TCA magazines for club members. Craig mentioned he was recently in Halifax for a RAC Board of Directors planning session for next two years. He then provided a presentation about RAC and various RAC initiatives planned and underway.

The following lists the major points of Craig's presentation:

- What is RAC? RAC is now 30 years old, and is from the merger of the previous CARF and CRRL organizations. It is a non profit corporation and headquartered in Ottawa. Craig mentioned that RAC now has the call sign VE3RHQ and may be heard more on 2 meters. Craig then introduced Cal VA3ZLA who is the new RAC webmaster.

Craig outlined some of the things that RAC does, including:

- RAC Website - informational services (www.rac.ca)
- TCA magazine – print and digital
- Regulatory work including frequency acquisition and protection
- QSL Bureau
- RAC Foundation Scholarship and Grant Program
- RAC Canada Day Contest and RAC Winter Contest
- RAC Operating Awards
- RAC Amateur of the Year
- Defence of Amateur Radio Fund (DARF)
- Canadian Amateur Radio Hall of Fame
- RAC Basic and Advanced Amateur Radio Courses
- Canadian Affiliated Club Program
- Youth Education Program



-
- Liability Insurance Program
 - RAC Field Organization
 - RAC Certified Emergency Coordinator Program
 - CEPT and IARP permits

Craig reminded that RAC is a volunteer organization and has only two paid employees. The RAC board is supported by a national executive. There are several working committees and working groups and seven regional directors who are supported by assistant directors.

Craig then highlighted various RAC roles and responsibilities. He reiterated that RAC has a very important role respecting the radio frequencies and the advancement and protection of them. By example, he mentioned the recent work on the 60 meter band provisions and RAC's overall responsibilities for 28 amateur radio bands, which is 24 GHz in total, and 9 percent of the spectrum.

He also outlined RAC's work with the provinces, including changing provincial distracted driving regulations to accommodate amateur radio operators, and also the Auxiliary Communications Services (ACS) work with Treasury Board Secretariat Ontario on new Provincial emergency measures initiatives. More to come on this.

With respect to national regulatory work, RAC is very busy working with ISED and the Canadian Radio Advisory Board (CARAB). He also highlighted recent updates to RBR-4 (re: 60 meter band) and the 2022 call sign survey leading to proposed changes in call sign administration. Also RAC is working on changes to the regulations respecting CubeSats.

Regarding international activities, there are specialists on the RAC team. Paul Coverdale VE3ICV will be going to Dubai for the ITU WRC 2023 (WRC-23). Craig noted that the IARU is led by Tim Ellam VE6SH.

Craig then outlined current RAC initiatives including:

- Regulatory work with all levels of government.
- Auxiliary Communications Services (ACS) led by Jason Tremblay.
- Youth education and YOTA. YOTA is coming back to Canada in 2024.
- The RAC online store - new apparel.
- HQ refurbishment - needs refurbishment after 30 years.
- New VE3RHQ flagship station for RAC.

Craig says he is looking for volunteers in Ottawa right now. Craig says if anyone has questions, please feel free to contact him. Questions?



Rob VE3RXH asked if any work is being done with Mexico. Craig is not sure about Mexico. He will check and get back to Rob.

Craig VE3OP thanked Norm VE3LC for the opportunity to attend and speak at the meeting, and Norm thanked Craig for his presentation – what a great promotion for radio operators in Canada. Norm mentioned the OVMRC used to have a station at the Canadian Science and Technology Museum – it was a great educational tool. Norm says he expects new hams would be very interested in the new RAC HQ station.

ROB VE3RXH: POTA Plaque Weekend

Rob VE3RXH provided an update on the POTA Plaque Weekend event held on June 3-4th, 2023. As there was a comprehensive article about the event published in the September 2023 Rambler, Rob provided a brief overview and commentary about the event.

Rob reminded that this was the 2nd year for the POTA Plaque Weekend event and it has grown massively. This year there were 19 plaques awarded, up from 2 last year. Nine radio operators came out for the event and activity was spread across the city. He noted that the event is run on UTC time and starts locally at 8 pm on Friday evening.

POTA weekend event items of note:

- Richard VA3VGR made 24 contacts on FM and SSB satellites.
- The event took advantage of a wide range of parks, and the city has a great number of parks that can be activated.
- Rob VE3RXH had a great opening on 6 meters and operating only 5 watts.
- At the end of the day they had a total of 577 QSOs – more than twice last year's total.
- More parks were activated this year than last year.

Rob then spoke about the individual operators who came out and described their set-ups with photos. Rob noted that the full results of the event are not published yet. He reminded that if anyone is interested in portable operations this is a great opportunity to get out and enjoy it.

Norm VE3LC thanked Rob VE3RXH for his presentation. Norm mentioned he now has a “go-kit” that he will display at the October meeting. The plan is to have a special ICOM IC-705 evening next meeting as several club members have these interesting new radios.



Approval of minutes from June 2023 Meeting:

- **Motion:** Moved by Tim VE3TXB and seconded by Bill VA3HWA that the minutes of the OVMRC meeting held Wednesday, June 21, 2023 be approved.
- **Vote:** No Objections.
- **Carried.**

Door Prizes:

Norm VE3LC announced this evening's door prizes. One is a 40 meter BITX radio kit from India. Roger VA3EGY mentioned he has a BITX case he will donate. There is also a multi-mode data controller which is still quite functional if you want to get it going. This evening, there are also other donations including keyboards and books.

Concerning next months meeting, there will be two NanoVNAs for door prizes. One is donated by Joe VA3JHT, and the other by Wray VA3EO. There will be a draw for these at the October meeting and the draw will be restricted to new hams. To qualify you have to be a new ham in 2022 or 2023 and a member of the OVMRC in good standing.

Main Speaker: Roger VA3EGY - YOTA Camp 2023

Following up from the excellent YOTA report by Roger VA3EGY and Harrie VE3HYS in the September OVMC Rambler, Roger provided a slide presentation about the YOTA Summer Camp 2023, held July 16-21 at Carleton University, Ottawa, On. Note that Roger's presentation will be made available for viewing on the OVMRC web site.

Roger started by thanking all those who made the YOTA Camp 2023 possible, including the Carleton University stakeholders, many local amateur radio operators including several from the OVMRC, local clubs and others who provided equipment and financial donations, DX Engineering and ICOM USA who donated equipment, and other organizations like Scouts Canada and RAC who provided other essential resources and assistance.

Roger thanked the local clubs for much needed funding donations. The YOTA project received funding from both the OARC and the OVMRC.

Roger then gave thanks to local hams as indicated on his slide. Harrie Jones VE3HYS has been involved with the project from the start. Harrie managed items such as structural drawings, Safety Code 6 certification and provided antenna work at a "bargain price".



Roger thanked Norm VE3LC for his contribution right from the beginning. Roger thanked Rob VE3RXH for help with satellite set up using equipment from OVMRC. Rob tested it while away in Florida, at his home in Kemptville, and on site.

Roger thanked Barry VE3NA for finishing the custom panel for the shack. There were over 30 cables that had to be built and also thanked Fred VE3LAF for his assistance and support.

Roger also gave a special thanks to RAC who gave permission to run the YOTA camp in Canada, approved the MOU, and provided insurance coverage. RAC also successfully sourced helium for the YOTA balloon launch.

Roger then described the various things that made for a successful camp that re detailed on the slide presentation. Roger noted that both he and and Harrie VE3HYS were the official camp hosts.

He then talked about the arrangement with ICOM to buy radios in Canada, and have ICOM radios also loaned from ICOM USA. ICOM also provided a representative who was present for the entire two weeks.

Roger then described what YOTA is and noted that the big YOTA milestones are December which is a month long contest, and June/July for the summer camp. In the USA, YOTA operates from the Voice of America facility.

YOTA camp 2023 was for and by young hams. The camp was limited to 30 participants and included 8 Canadian youth. Roger noted that a big part of the camp was creating international relationships and it worked very well. Roger noted that the same organizations that sponsored the facility paid to sponsor many of the individual campers as well. Roger then talked about the camp schedule for the week, the campers' experiences, and the camper survey responses. These are all outlined in the slide presentation.

Roger then spoke about the project approach and timeline. Again refer to the slides. The University first of all seemed to have little time to make a decision on the camp. Developing an MOU - Dec 2022 was critical. Approaching the funding partners starting in November 2022 and continued to February 2023. Unfortunately, things were delayed until the end of May 2023 resulting in the facility being built from June 1 until July 16, 2023, and by then there was insufficient time to fully test it. When the campers arrived - they turned on the equipment.

Roger then spoke about why Carleton was chosen and then described the the layout of the radio room and rooftop antenna layout. See slides with



various photos. He mentioned that they put a lot of effort into grounding for lightning protection.

He then provided an overview of the radio room and showed a graphic of the cabling setup and single point ground panel. All of this was provided by DX Engineering. He then showed the final equipment layout including the operator seating and setup in the shack.

Roger then went over the finances, including income and expenses, all carefully detailed on two slides in the presentation. He mentioned that after expenses there is about \$10,000 left and the plan is to spend that on youth initiatives/activities.

Roger then went through a YOTA photo album showing the radio equipment and computer set up on the bench and discussed the satellite equipment, the grounding equipment, masts and antennas

Roger then briefly discussed next steps, including where to go with the Carleton University facility. The idea is that the equipment will be donated to Carleton, but if it is not used, it will be taken back. Roger would like to achieve a goal of 10 licensed hams each year. He hopes that Carleton will embrace this facility and it will help generate much activity in the CubeSat program again.

Roger then opened the floor for questions. Craig VE3OP offered congratulations to Roger and asked about the radio station logging strategy? Roger said they used the N1MM logging software and the logs are still there. He also mentioned that N1MM was networked across the stations as well. The camp was using the special VE3YOTA call for the duration. A question was asked about the possibility of the OVMRC sponsoring a 2 meter facility at Carleton. Roger said we could approach Carleton about that. Roger then talked about how this kind of thing could be important in the context of Emergency Preparedness, especially when dealing with the province. Norm VE3LC mentioned perhaps we could get some interest in bringing in some of these commercial interests with respect to emergency preparedness.

Norm VE3LC thanked Roger VA3EGY and said he could not imagine many other people leading such a project as Roger had. Great stuff!

As a reminder Norm VE3LC mentioned we will have to put items on the agenda for the next meeting and also reminded the members about the OVMRC Thursday evening net, and the Pothole Net and CW Net on Sunday.



Door Prize Draw:

Will VA3ODW and Roger VA3EGY were the winners this evening. Congratulations to both.

Adjournment:

Motion: Moved by Daniel VA3GLB to adjourn the OVMRC general meeting at 9:31 PM.

Next Meeting:

The next monthly meeting of the OVMRC will be held October 18, 2023, at the IBEW building, 1178 Rainbow Street, Ottawa, and via ZOOM.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Secretary, Alan Fricker VE3KAE.

Balcony Op: Maybe a new "1B" contest category!

As the summer/fall season evaporates, opportunities for outdoor activities will diminish for most of us who no longer wish to tackle the hard weather. POTA, SOTA activities and the likes won't be as easily accessible for some of us and it will be time to look at setting up a station to operate from home.

Yet, for some of us apartment dwellers, it will be a challenge. If you happen to have a balcony, as I do, you might want to experiment with different kinds of antennas in order to find one that is acceptably efficient to enjoy the opening of the bands during this high spot in the 25th solar cycle.

I have done so over the years, using Ham Sticks, Bird Cages, different loops, base-loaded verticals as well as centre-loaded ones, and various home-made wire antennas, end-fed and bent dipoles.

A word of advice, do not use the metal on your balcony to ground your antenna. On HF it will propagate all through your building, which I know that from experience!

So, what are you going to use for a ground plane? It's not a problem with wire-dipoles as the two elements balance the load. My good friend Jos, VE3EUS, uses a 2x2 metal plate for his vertical mobile Hustler antennas. I have several mobile verticals and I wanted to try a plate for a ground plane on the balcony.



I put out a call on the CW Pot Lid Net, (Sundays, 7:30pm, on 6 meters 50.090 MHz) mentioning that I was looking for a 3x3 feet metal plate. Mike, VE3FFK who was attending the net, offered me a 3x3 galvanized steel plate that he was no longer using. I jumped at the offer and brought this plate home.

I laid the plate on the floor of the balcony, but I didn't have a proper magmount to use at the time. So, I ordered a magmount from Radioworld in Toronto. In the meantime, I had a trunkmount that I had been using on my Jeep. I proceeded to install this magmount on the edge of the metal plate and used a center-loaded Hustler antenna with a 20 meter resonator for a first test.

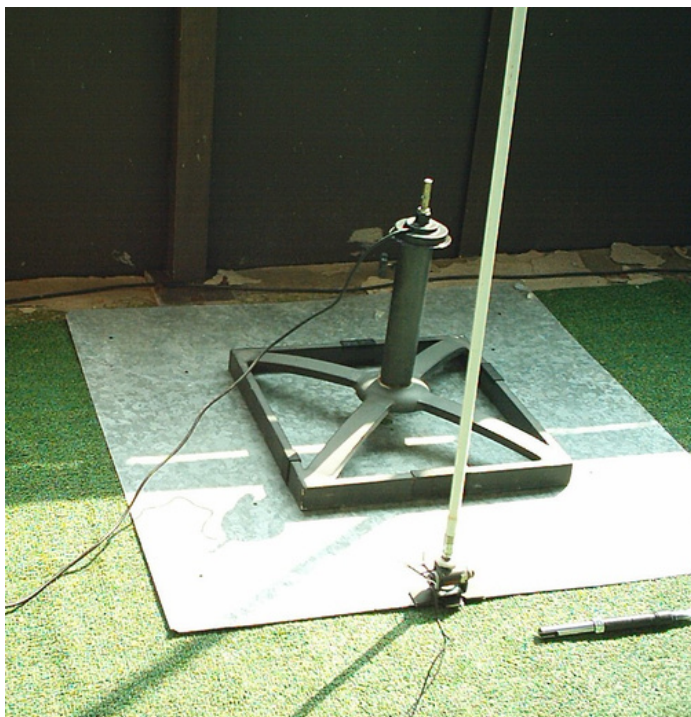
Am I being heard?

I brought up the Reverse Beacon (RBN) website on my computer and started to send general calls (CQ) in Morse code on the 20 meter band using 85 watts from my IC-7000. I had responses on the RBN coming from the west and the south, my balcony is facing south, Wisconsin, Illinois, Georgia, Florida, and such in those directions. But what was becoming interesting after a few calls were the returns from Alberta, Costa Rica, and one from Wales in the UK at 5000 km!

In the picture below, you see the metal plate and the trunk mount on the edge of the plate (bottom of pic). But there is more. Following advice from Mike to secure the plate so that high winds would not carry it away, I found a heavy metal umbrella support which I placed in the middle of the steel plate. I then mounted the mag base on top of this support and installed a quick disconnect stub on the mount.

The Hustler antenna is a center-loaded antenna and you can see the bottom long arm of it on the trunk mount. At the right-bottom of the picture you see the matching case for the quick disconnect stub attached to a 20 meter base-loaded mobile antenna. I did several tests to compare both antennas on the mag mounng and on the trunk mount and found that the center-loaded Hustler on the trunk mount provided better efficiency.

I think that the capacitive coupling of the mag month is not as efficient as the direct coupling of the trunk mount with screws directly into the metal plate providing a better ground.



Another effect of the trunk mount is directivity. When I had this trunk mount installed at the back of my Jeep I would point the front of the car in the direction of the intended azimuth and had good results. I'm wondering if the same directional effect comes into play with the trunk mount at the rear of the plate.

Further test will tell, as I hope to reach out to South America, Argentina and Chile as I did with my bent dipoles, reaching out to 10,000 km or more. Jos, mentioned above, is reaching out to Australia, New Zealand, Japan and all over Europe on FT8 or CW with his 2x2 metal plate.

With reference to the title of this article, Jos suggested that we have a new category for us, operators on a balcony, plagued with limited installations: possibly a new "1B" category for one operator on a balcony. Good laugh! Keep on experimenting!

Maurice-André, VE3VIG

PS - As I finished writing this, I made a nice CW contact with Juan EA1X in Spain and with Mike EA6UP in the Balearic Islands using the Hustler on the trunk mount.

REFERENCE:RBN - <https://www.reversebeacon.net>



Congratulations to Bryan VE3QN for WAS Triple Play

The ARRL WAS Triple Play award is given to radio amateurs that have worked all 50 US States on CW, phone, and digital and logged these contacts on Log Book of the World (LOTW).

Congratulations Bryan, VE3QN!

Latest Triple Play WAS Award Winners		
Operator	Serial #	Date
Jeff Davis, KE9V	2,610	2023-10-10
Bryan Rawlings, VE3QN	2,609	2023-10-10
Jose Rodezno Coreas, AJ0SE	2,608	2023-09-25
Ron Kinney, KC0ZPS	2,607	2023-09-08
Steven Ruman, N8HRZ	2,606	2023-09-08
James Edmondson, N5JGE	2,605	2023-08-31
Janis Carson, AB2RA	2,604	2023-08-22
Otto Schellin, NO3U	2,603	2023-08-22
Harry Rudolph, WX8C	2,602	2023-08-21
Glenn Johnson, W0GJ	2,601	2023-08-14

[View All Triple Play Award Winners](#)



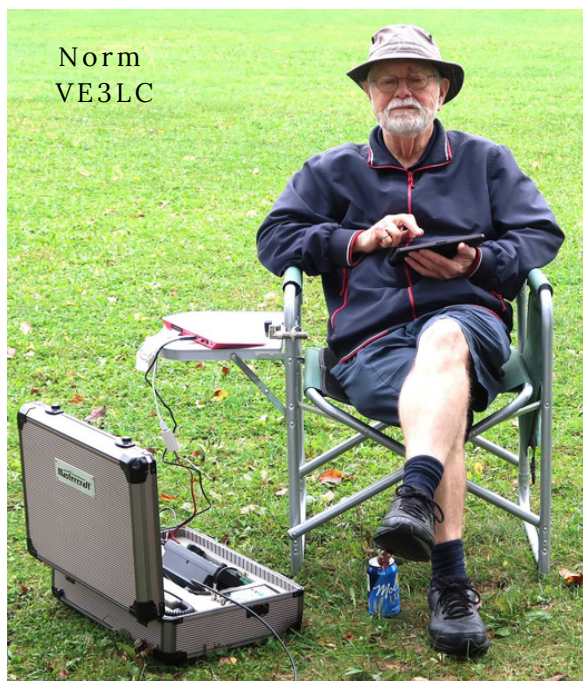
OVMRC POTA at Hogs Back Park # VE-1596

For the OVMRC POTA event at Hogs Back Park (# VE-1596) local operators gathered in less than perfect weather to enjoy some good RF propagation. While Norm VE3LC, and possibly others, activated the park. A total of six operating positions were set up and 18 people participated. This was a great opportunity for club fellowship and an opportunity to increase public awareness of amateur radio.

There was a good number of participants which included, Norm VE3LC, Bill VA3WBR, John VA3JYK, Tim VE3TXB, Norman VE3NPP, Cal VA3ZLA, Jonathan VA2LOJ, Barry VE3NA, Hugo VE3KTN, Wray VA3EO, Fred VE3LAF, William VA3ODW, Trevor VE3TAC, and possibly several other local operators.

Norm VE3LC operating condition included:

- FT8 using an IC-705 and Pi-400 running WSJT-X on 20m using a OPEK HVT-400B antenna mag mounted to the roof of his car.
- The IC-705 on FT-8 was operated from a tablet connected by WIFI, allowing Norm to roam around the part while operating through his tablet at the same time. Norm VE3LC made 38 contacts.







OVMRC History

It is October 7, 2023 and I am on my way to collect a "box" from Ken, VE3EKN, who ended up as the temporary custodian of paperwork that was removed from the Museum of Science and Technology station, VE3JW, when it closed in 2015. Rather coincidentally, both Ken and I were going through a process of house un-cluttering for our own differing reasons. While I was uncovering various things under embarrassingly thick coats of dust, I came across a pile of QSL cards from VE3JW that were never sent out to the Bureau and a number of pages from the VE3JW log book spanning 1988-89. Not knowing what to do, I discussed this with President Norm, VE3LC, and he declared my penance to transcribe the info in the QSL cards and log sheets to electronic format suitable for uploading to the ARRL Log of The World. Having accepted that task, I set up an Excel spreadsheet which would automatically convert the raw input data to ADIF strings. The task was rather long but is completed, however it led me to wonder where all the VE3JW logs got to or even whether they still exist. A few requests on the 2 metre nets came back with responses that Ken, VE3EKN, had taken all the paperwork and so I connected with him; and none too soon. Ken's house cleaning operation did leave him wondering what to do with the contents of "the box" and, as he told me, he was a hair's breadth away from tossing out the whole lot at the time when I contacted him. Call it serendipity or just plain spooky that I came to the point of contacting him at such a critical time! So, to close on that story, I am now in possession of "the box".

You may ask: "What's in the box?". Well, I'm writing this on impulse after having gone through about a third of it all and wanted to pass along my findings as, perhaps, a first installment on preserving the history of not only VE3JW, but that of the OVMRC. Along with the VE3JW papers, there are also items having to do with the club, some dating back to its establishment in 1958 and various groups of interest formed by members who were involved with, e.g.: a satellite operations group, an historical group, a digital group, and perhaps others that I haven't uncovered yet. Oh, and yes, there are maybe half a dozen log books spanning roughly 1997 to 2013 which will be added to the electronic log for upload to LoTW. Even with the log books, there is one which is a parallel record of VE3JW operation from "Console #2" which seems to have entries over common time periods logged on "Console #1". There is also one log book dedicated to satellite operation, and another dedicated to VE3RAM. Just how I'm going to merge all of those in a suitable form for the LoTW upload remains an open question.

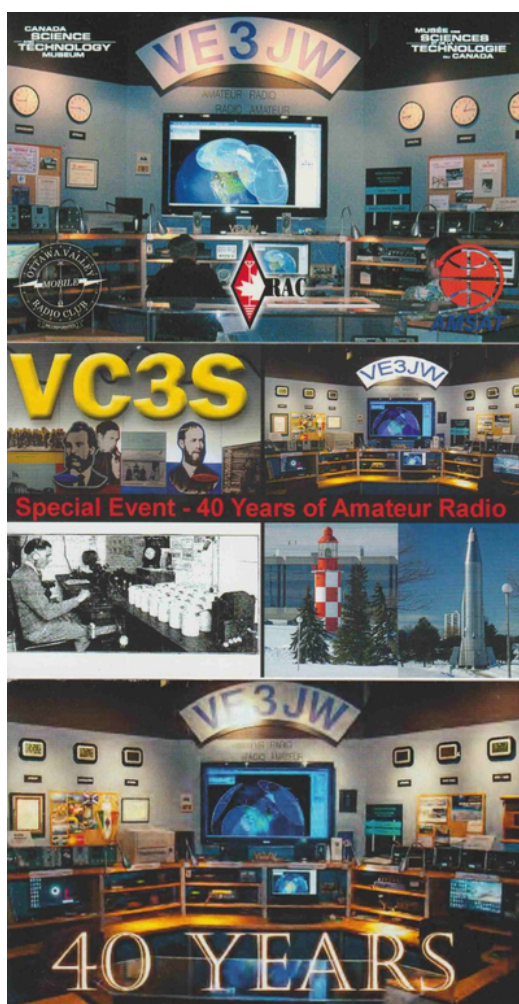
In addition to the log books and OVMRC History Committee files, there are several VHS tapes of events such as Field Day, a few 3.5 inch floppy discs which my computer may be able to read, several commemorative



plaques and framed certificates, QSL cards received and other things yet to be discovered. Regarding the VHS tapes, I do have a VHS deck which hasn't been used in many years but may still be serviceable so I might be able to at least review what's on them and figure whether or not to go the next step and convert the tape to mp4 video for archiving on our web site.

So, just when I thought my penance was paid off, it has opened up a much larger task that I'm happy to take on. At this point, I don't think it would lead to a revival of the former OVMRC Historial Committee, but who knows? Anyone out there interested in being the custodian of OVMRC history?

I leave you with some scans of what were probably the last QSL cards printed for VE3JW, one of them being a 40th Anniversary commemorative card bearing short biographies of Jim W. Cotter, VE3JW (SK), and Ed Morgan (SK), one of the founders of the OVMRC.



73, Hugo, VE3KTN

VE3JW

OVMRC PO Box 41145 Ottawa, ON K1G 5K9 Canada

Locator: FN25ej CQ Zone: 4 ITU Zone: 4

To Amateur Radio Station:

Via QSL Manager:

Confirming our QSO your SWL report

DATE			TIME	FREQ (kHz) or	QSO MODE	SIGNAL REPORT			
D	M	Y	(UTC)	SATELLITE		R	S	T	Q

Remarks:

Thank you for the nice contact. 73 and good DX!
 PSE QSL TNX QSL

Amateur Radio Station VE3JW is sponsored by the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club and is a live exhibit at the Canada Science and Technology Museum in Ottawa, Ontario. The station is active during business hours on all bands and modes.

Web site: [HTTP://ve3jw.tripod.com](http://ve3jw.tripod.com) Twitter: @VE3JW Email: VE3JW1@GMAIL.COM
 US300 print

VC3S

OVMRC PO Box 41145 Ottawa, ON K1G 5K9 Canada

Locator: FN25ej CQ Zone: 4 ITU Zone: 4

Twitter: VE3JW Email: VE3JW1@GMAIL.COM WWW: http://ve3jw.com

To Amateur Radio Station:

Via QSL Manager:

Confirming our QSO your SWL report

DATE			UNIVERSAL TIME	FREQUENCY	QSO MODE	SIGNAL REPORT			
D	M	Y	(UTC)	MHz		R	S	T	Q

Remarks:

VC3S is a special callign commemorating 40 years of amateur radio at the Canada Science and Technology Museum in Ottawa, Ontario. The station callign is VE3JW. It opened on 19 March, 1974 and has operated continuously since then. The station is supported by the Museum and the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club. It is staffed by volunteers from the amateur radio community who dedicate thousands of hours of personal time to bring amateur radio to the community.

Pictures
 Upper Left: Alexander Graham Bell (A) and Heinrich Hertz (H) at the entrance to the Museum's communications exhibit.
 Upper Right: VE3JW station at the Museum.
 Lower Right: Cape North lighthouse and Atlas missile.
 Lower Left: Jim W. Cotter at his station C3EN in Ottawa in 1925. Jim was issued the callign VE3JW when Canada was assigned the VE prefixes. He was one of the first blind amateurs in Canada. The VE3JW exhibit honours his memory.

Thank you for the nice contact. 73 and good DX!
 PSE QSL TNX QSL

Jim W. Cotter, VE3JW, SK, 1902-1969

Jim received his amateur radio licence in the early 1920's, operating first as C3EN, then as VE3JW when "VE" prefixes were assigned. He is probably the first blind radio amateur in Canada.

Jim a reçu sa licence radioamateur au début des années 1920, utilisant l'indicatif C3EN, puis VE3JW lorsque les préfixes «VE» ont été attribués. Il est probablement le premier radio amateur non-voyant au Canada.

Ed Morgan, VE3GX, SK, 1920 - 2013

Ed obtained his amateur radio licence at the age of 17 and championed amateur radio for the next 76 years. Ed's leadership in 1974 led to the establishment of the Amateur Radio station VE3JW as a permanent exhibit at the Canada Science and Technology Museum in Ottawa, in honour of James W. Cotter.

Ed a obtenu sa licence radioamateur à l'âge de 17 ans, et a fait la promotion de la radioamateur pendant 76 ans. Sous sa direction, la station de radio amateur VE3JW fut établie en tant qu'exposition permanente au Musée des sciences et de la technologie du Canada, dédiée à la mémoire de James W. Cotter.



Picture this: What does an artificial intelligence algorithm “imagine” what an amateur radio operator looks like?

We have all likely heard the adage that “a picture is worth a 1000 words” but given the development of AI-based image generating algorithms, can this well known adage be inverted? Can fewer than 1000 words create an interesting picture?

The relatively new phenomena of AI image generators is an intriguing new frontier and as such naturally I asked Chat GPT to tell me all about it!

AI image generators represent a remarkable intersection of technology and creativity. These ingenious systems employ advanced algorithms, particularly Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs) and deep learning models, to autonomously produce images that can range from stunningly realistic to abstract and surreal. Through the analysis of vast datasets, these generators learn intricate patterns, textures, and styles, allowing them to generate visuals that mimic the artistic style of renowned painters, create fantastical landscapes, or even synthesize entirely fictional characters. This technology has found applications in various fields, from design and entertainment to research and simulations. It has revolutionized industries like fashion, gaming, and filmmaking, enabling rapid prototyping and visual conceptualization. However, ethical considerations regarding copyright, authenticity, and deepfakes remain essential points of discussion. As AI image generators continue to advance, their potential to inspire, innovate, and push the boundaries of visual artistry is boundless, promising an exciting future for the intersection of artificial intelligence and creative expression. (ChatGPT)

As a starting place some readily accessible standard text sources describing what amateur radio is were drawn from the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) web site, Wikipedia as well as a more free-form approach using a small number of words.

This little inquiry started with my daughter Maggie providing me with access to her paid up subscription to Midjourney available through Discord. At the Midjourney prompt of “/imagine” I used the key word instructions “portrait” and “photograph” along with some descriptive text to generate the images that appear below.



Starting with RAC's description of "What is Amateur Radio?" and further playing up the importance of the slogan "if you can see it you can be it" Midjourney focuses on the gender pronoun used in a 254 word sample from RAC's description of "What is Amateur Radio?" to generate images, including the ones below. Along these lines there is some interesting history in the "YL Sparks Stories" on the RCA web site.

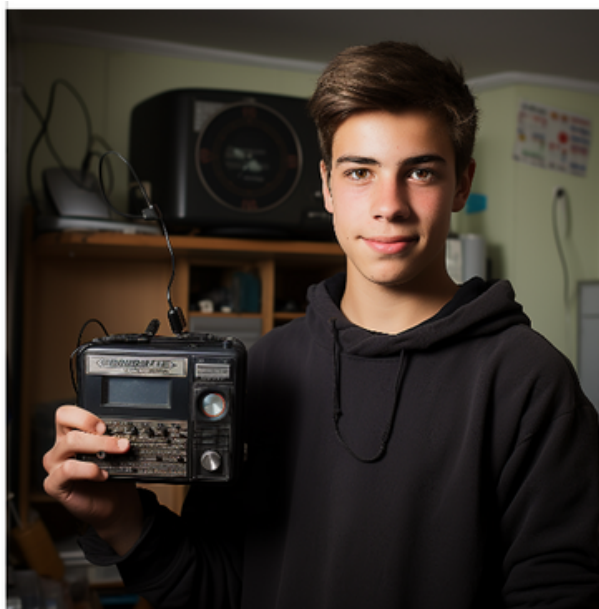


Interestingly, if you take the 254 word description from the RAC web-site and Google-translate it into French and then run it through the Midjourney algorithm, two male and two female images are generated including the following images.





Once again, if you take the 254 word description from the RAC web-site and google-translate it into Spanish and then run it through the algorithm, only male images appear including the following images.



When I engaged Midjourney with the 262 word description of Amateur Radio available from Wikipedia, the male image below was among those generated.



Other images of amateur radio operators generated by Midjourney when the words “Canadian” or “white beard” get added to the standard “imagine” (i.e., /imagine) prompts of “portrait and photograph” with the words “amateur radio operator” resulting in the following images among many variations.



What do you think of these representations? Do you feel you might even “know” some of these folks or possibly have met them at a ham-fest somewhere? Certainly the operating environments or “shacks” have an air of authenticity about them.

Anyway hope you have enjoyed this inquiry.

73, Alan VA3IAH



OVMRC Bulk Stock Inventory - Barry VE3NA

OVMRC Bulk Stock Inventory (23-10-02)

Description	Qty Available	Cost
COAX		
RG 316 teflon	112 ft	\$0.80 / ft
RG 58 U	709 ft	\$0.10 / ft
LMR 195	116 ft	\$0.80 / ft
LMR 400	592 ft	\$1.40 / ft
Connectors		
RG 316		
SMA Male	12	\$3.00 ea
SMA Female	8	\$3.00 ea
BNC Male	8	\$3.00 ea
BNC Female	6	\$3.00 ea
RG 58 U & LMR 195		
PL 259	14	\$3.00 ea
SO 239	21	\$3.00 ea
BNC Male	13	\$3.00 ea
Type "N" Male	7	\$3.00 ea
Type "N" Female	10	\$3.00 ea
LMR 400		
PL 259	13	\$3.00 ea
SO 239	6	\$3.00 ea
Type "N" Male	7	\$3.00 ea
Type "N" Female	5	\$3.00 ea
Adapters		
SMA Female to PL 259	3	\$5.00 ea
Toroids		
Ferrite		
FT 114-43	52	\$1.50 ea
FT 140-43	24	\$3.00 ea
BN-73-202	7	\$1.00 ea
Powdered Iron		
T106-2	15	\$1.25
T200-6	6	\$6.50
Tool Kit		
Coax crimper tool kit	2	\$115.00



OVMRC Net Activity, Check-ins for September, 2023

Prepared by: Hugo Kneve VE3KTN

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

September 7	September 14	September 21	September 28
VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS
New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors
VE3CWM ¹ Jon – VA2LOJ Bob – VE3RRB Susan - VE3FSS		Will - VA3ODW	
General Check-ins	General Check-ins	General Check-ins	General Check-ins
VE3OTW VE3RUU VE3SYZ VA3GFY VE3LC VE3RXH VE3KAE VA3EO VE3LBU VE3OKD VA3PSI VA3LMA VA2BBW VA3WBR VE3NA VE3KJQ VE3VIG VE3LAF VA3HJR VE3DNU VE3TXB VE2OCQ VE3XEM	VE3OTW VA2XC VE3LC VE3RXH VE3KAE VE3LBU VA3PSI VE3NPO VA3GLB VE3NA VE3OKD VA3HBL VA3EO VE3VIG VE3DNU VE3SYZ VA3IAH VE3YY VA2OJD	VE3XEM VE3OTW VA3HJR VE3ZZU VE3RUU VE3OKD VE3LC VE3KAE VA3IAH VA3HBL VE3YY VA3PSI VE3NA VA3LMA VE2MPP VA2BBW VE3NPO VA3EO VA2OJD VE3VIG	VE3OTW VE3RUU VE3LC VE3RXH VE3KAE VA2BBW VE3LBU VE3YY VE3OKD VE3ZZU VE3NA VE3DNU VE3KJQ VA3EO VA3HJR VE3VIG

Notes:

- 1 - VE3CWM for Sep 07 had a guest student, Ahmed, at the mic with the radio under control of Thane, VA3TTM.



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

September 10 SFI:161 A:8	September 17 SFI:140 A:7	September 24 SFI:172 A:10
VE3EJJ - NCS	VE3EJJ - NCS	VE3XRA - NCS
New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors
General Check-ins	General Check-ins	General Check-ins
VA3BGO VE3LC VA3IAH VA3PSI VE3EKN VE3KTN VE3CWM ¹	VE3LC VE3XRA VA3EO VA3PSI VE3KTN VE3SYZ VA3BGO VE3CWM ¹	VE3EJJ VA3PSI VA3BGO VA3EO VA3IAH VE3KTN VE3CWM ¹ VE3SYZ VE3NPO

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.

Notes:

- 1 VE3CWM, the Cold War Museum in Carp with Fred, VE3LAF, at the mic.



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

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