RAMBLER

NOVEMBER 2023

VOL. 66 ISSUE 3

OTTAWA VALLEY MOBILE RADIO CLUB INCORPORATED

WHAT'S INSIDE:

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 NOVEMBER, 15
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
- BUDGET PRESENTATION AND VOTE
- CHAIRPERSONS REPORTS
- PRESENTATION: LAWRENCE VA3IQ, "ROVING" WITH THE IC-905
- MEETING ADJOURNMENT POSSIBLE Q&A AND RAGCHEW

OVMRC AFFILIATIONS

OVMRC EXECUTIVE AND OFFICERS 2022-2023

DIRECTORS

President:
Norm Rashleigh, VE3LC
ve3lc@myrac.ca

Vice-President:
Rob Haddow, VE3RXH
vicepresident@ovmrc.ca

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

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

STANDING COMMITTEES

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

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

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

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

Rambler Newsletter Editor and Production:
Alan Hotte, VA3IAH
editor@ovmrc.ca

OVMRC.CA & Social Media: Adam Bird, VA3IRD web@ovmrc.ca

OVMRC Repeater Keeper: Norm Rashleigh, VE3LC ve3lc@myrac.ca

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

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/repeaters.htm

INFORMAL AMATEUR RADIO RESTAURANT GATHERINGS

• **QCWA Chapter 70** Breakfast gathering every Tuesday morning at 7:30 to 10:00 AM, Summerhays Grill, 1972 Baseline Rd., Nepean – Restarted

• **Orleans Coffee gathering** every Friday morning at 9:00 AM, McDonald's 1890 Innes Rd., Ottawa, K1B 3K5

• **QRP Group Dinner meeting,** *(on hold),* 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

I believe our October meeting was a good success; there were 42 of us that met in-person at the IBEW Local 586 meeting hall while another 32 joined us by Zoom. I don't believe the Club had such a large number in attendance since the days a few decades ago when the OVMRC hosted their meetings in the large auditorium at the Science and Technology Museum. Of course, in those days, it was solely an in-person affair.

At this point in time, we are still learning the best way to properly conduct hybrid meetings based on the design of the AV system at the IBEW meeting hall. Unfortunately, for the folks tuning into the meeting remotely by Zoom, they will not be able to share the same experience as they would at the meeting in-person. Although there are four large monitor screens in the meeting hall, these are ported to show the on-site presentation material being given at the meeting and a feed of this is sent to the viewers at home. The folks on Zoom are not seen or heard by folks at the meeting except by Colin VA3CSG at the AV console. Colin will try to accommodate Zoom attendees that have questions following a presentation. It is best that such questions or comments be conveyed to Colin using keyboard chat. Besides this method of communications once the meeting begins, there is no good way for folks on Zoom to be part of the meeting other than to observe and listen. For the November meeting, we will endeavour to have wireless microphones well placed for in-person attendees to step up to when asking a question or giving a comment so they are heard by all folks in the meeting hall and on-line.

For the November 15th meeting, we have a guest speaker, Lawrence VA3IQ who is the current Vice President of the West Carleton ARC. He will be attending in-person and providing a presentation featuring his new IC-905 transceiver. He is likely the only ham in the Ottawa area that currently owns an IC-905. This transceiver is a rather exclusive radio that looks like the IC-705 but is designed for VHF, UHF and even SHF enthusiasts. The 905 covers the 144, 430, 1200, 2400, and 5600 MHz amateur allocations. With an optional transverter, it will also operate on the 10 GHz band and we understand a 24 GHz transverter is in the works at Icom. Lawrence will be describing how he has equipped his "Rover" vehicle using the IC-905 and the various high gain antennas he will be using out on the road as he hops from grid square to grid square during VHF contest weekends. I'm sure we will find Lawrence's presentation very enlightening.

For our Wednesday December 20th meeting, your club executive is proposing a "Pot Luck" holiday celebration dinner at the IBEW meeting hall with a 5 pm arrival time. This can also be a family affair and who

knows, maybe even Santa Clause can be encouraged to visit. We will discuss this at the November meeting and evaluate the interest.

Last but not least, look for the budget sheet in this issue of the Rambler covering the Club's operations for this year. It will be presented to the membership at the November meeting by our Treasurer Nicole VE3GIQ. A motion to accept this budget will be raised followed by a seconding and vote of acceptance by the membership.

That's all for now folks. We hope you all can attend the November meeting.

73 Norm Rashleigh, VE3LC

OVMRC October Minutes

Date / Time: Wednesday, October 19, 2023 @ 7:20 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 7:20 PM. There were 42 official check-ins present at the meeting and 32 via Zoom on-line.

2) Welcome and Guest Greetings:

Norm VE3LC extended a welcome to any guests, visitors, and new hams who had checked into the meeting. Norm then greeted this evening's guests - Dante Catalfalmo and Nabeel Rahimpour who let it be known that they were interested in progressing in the radio hobby and getting their amateur radio license. A big welcome to Dante and Nabeel.

3) Approval of minutes from previous meeting:

MOTION: Moved by Douglas VE3YDK and seconded by Fred VE3LAF that the minutes of the OVMRC meeting held Wednesday, September 19, 2023 be approved.

VOTE: No Objections.

CARRIED.

4. Agenda and Meeting Content:

Norm VE3LC outlined the agenda for the meeting that included:
- A presentation/demonstration of the ICOM IC-705 transceiver by Norm VE3LC.
- A review by Alan VA3IAH, of the contents of the current edition of the Rambler.
- A discussion about the inventory of equipment as posted in the Rambler to up date everyone what is available through the club for purchase.
- A draw for two nanoVNA kits. Norm announced the draw will apply to new hams (2022 and 2023) in good standing with the club. That draw will be for two nanoVNAs that were part of last year's draw, but returned to the club for re-raffle. Norm made made a call for any new hams who may not have a received a raffle ticket at the door.
- Norm VE3LC spoke about the availability of a continuity tester kit from Wayne VE3CZO.
- A report by Hugo VE3KTN and Ante VA2BBW briefly discussed historical/archival items related to the activities of the club under the call sign VE3JW.
- A sale of crimp tool kits. Norm informed that the club has some crimp tool kits for sale at the club cost of $115.00.

5. Historical QSL Cards from Station VE3JW – Hugo VE3KTN and Ante VA2BBW

Hugo VE3KTN mentioned he has a box of items, received from Ken Evans VE3EKN, who came into possession of a large storage tote of historical club items. It was on the verge of disposal, but Hugo has the box now. Ante VA2BBW and Hugo VE3KTN commented on the recently discovered QSL cards and log books from club station VE3JW that have historical value. There are 6 boxes of old QSL cards and Hugo has volunteered to scan them so they can be made available for the website. Hugo has four boxes and Ante has two boxes, that will be eventually merged. At the moment scanning them seems to be the best process.

There is also an approximately six inch high stack of logbooks that will be transcribed to upload to LOTW. The oldest logbook is from Jan 1974, almost 50 years ago. It's very difficult to decipher some of the content. Much is legible but some is not and it is difficult to figure out call signs and operator names and/or QTH information. There are other things from the tote labelled history that will be reviewed and there will be more to follow on that.

Colin VA3CSG mentioned that Bill VA3WBR has offered the services of a scanner.

Hugo VE3KTN mentioned that he understands there was a club historical committee in place years ago, but for now, Hugo is the de facto club historian. Norm thanked Hugo for his work and mentioned that it will be interesting to have the station logs transcribed. It is possible, the call sign, VE3JW may have have many awards that are unknown at this time.

Bryan VE3QN mentioned that about 15 years ago he decided to convert his paper logs to electronic logs and upload them to LOTW. He then actually received a confirmation from all the way back to 1972. He also discovered he had worked St. Paul Island which was a DXCC entity. He then went on-line and discovered the operator, after 32 years, was still active, and he got his QSL card after all that time.

6. Projects, Haves, Wants and Announcements

Haves: Colin VE3CSG mentioned he has a galvanic isolator and raspberry pi zero to give away or use for door prizes. The door prize draw then took place with the winners as follows:

Pi – Zero: Barry VE3NA
Galvanic Isolator: Will VA3ODW

7. NANO VNA Draw:

The draw for the two nanoVNAs then took place with the winners as follows:

1. Dan VA3DJU
2. Rob VA3ZRH

8. Continuity Tester Kit: Norm VE3LC

Norm VE3LC then demonstrated a continuity tester kit that is available ($45.00) from Wayne Getchell VE3CZO. Wayne has designed a unique circuit based on a 100 or 10 ohms selection option. It operates instantly unlike some VOMs that have a delay in response. This is very handy for checking circuit continuity. The kit is interesting to build as it requires steady hands and tweezers to assemble. Norm suggested that perhaps the club could hold a workshop for a group build session of the kit if there is enough interest. Wayne can come to the build session and offer assistance, and he also has spare parts which is very useful as there are so many surface mount components that may be a challenge. Norm asked for a show of hands for interest, and their seems to be enough interest from those

present at the meeting as well as Zoom participants as well. Roger VA3EGY pointed out the kits contains a lithium rechargeable battery which is a valuable and useful addition.

9. Current Rambler Update/Review - Alan VA3IAH and Norm VE3LC:

Alan VA3IAH noted that the Rambler has been published for over 60 years and this is his 3rd season as editor. The Rambler is the official record of the club is and mandated in the club by-laws. The Rambler is a source of history, and thanks to Adam VA3IRD we have a collection on-line going back to 1958 – with only a few gaps. Alan noted the value of the Rambler from a historical perspective and mentioned that the ONTARS Net, that celebrated it's 50th anniversary in 2022, was featured in the January 1972 edition of the Rambler. He then commented that we have gone from a hand drawn and/or typewritten and mimeographed version of the Rambler, to the digitally produced and distributed version in use today.

He further noted that the Rambler is the bridge between meetings. Alan then briefly discussed the contents of the October 2023 Rambler issue such as the club executive information, local weekly nets information, club gatherings and events, the President's Ramblings section, and the general minutes from the previous monthly meeting.

In this edition, Maurice-André VE3VIG contributed a piece on "Balcony Ops", as part of a series of articles he has done. His latest antenna experiment uses a Hustler mobile antenna and a special plate for a mount and ground plane. It was a very interesting article and Maurice-André pointed out the potential grounding issues with such a setup.

This edition included a congratulatory article related to Bryan VE3QN who successfully achieved a WAS triple play.

The issue included an article about the Hogs Back Park (VE-1596) POTA event including photos of the operators and their various setups.

There was also an article about the OVMRC history – put together by Hugo VE3KTN, regarding his adventures about being "gifted" the large of archive of VE3JW QSL cards. This included nice photos of the VE3JW QSL cards (40th anniversary card) depicting the station setup at that time.

There was a fun article by Alan VA3IAH about how artificial intelligence (AI) might generate a photograph of what an amateur radio operator might look like. It was interesting to see the different images that the algorithm used by the Midjourney application would generate based on the English, French and Spanish versions of text derived from a definition of amateur radio copied from the RAC website.

The October Rambler also included an inventory of the OVMRC Bulk Stock Inventory provided by Barry VE3NA and the monthly net check-in summary provided by Hugo VE3KTN – a summary included in every issue.

Norm VE3LC thanked Alan VA3IAH for his overview of the October Rambler.

Ernie VE3EJJ asked if the club exchanges the newsletter with other clubs? Alan VA3IAH responded that this is not done formally as the newsletter is readily available on the internet and many people do collect them. Norm VE3LC mentioned he has seen the OVMRC newsletters link posted on the ONTARS net.

Norm VE3LC then commented on Bryan' s VE3QN WAS Triple Play award as mentioned in the Rambler. This award is for working all 50 states on CW, phone and digital mode.

A big congratulations to Bryan! Bryan VE3QN said the it was hard to work Wyoming on CW. The Amateur Radio Club in Cheyenne had a two week event named "*Come Get Wyoming*", and he was able to eventually work a station. Norm VE3LC reminded that its a very good idea to take advantage of benefits of the ARRL LOTW.

10. ICOM IC705 Presentation and Show and Tell: Norm VE3LC

Norm VE3LC provided an overview of the specifications and features of the ICOM IC-705, a very popular and versatile transceiver. Norm outlined the following features of the radio in his presentation.

1. The radio has Software Defined Radio (SDR) technology with a real-time spectrum scope.
2. It is a QRP radio and covers all the HF bands and all-mode operation : SSB, CW, RTTY, AM, FM, DV (D-Star), WFM and Data
3. It has has 10 watts output with an external battery connected.
4. It also has an internal battery (7.5 volt lithium-ion) good for 5 watts output.
5. The radio has low battery consumption on receive and it draws less than 3 amps at 10 watts output.
6. The radio has a colour touch screen display.
7. There is a built in sound card and GPS receiver, and it has Bluetooth wireless connectivity.
8. There is WiFi connectivity for NTP server time sync., and it has WiFi access point connectivity for local remote control.
9. It has full QSK compatible CW and provision for CW messages, split VFO capable and RTTY decoding.
10. Images, voice recordings, operating parameters, channel information can be stored on a micro SD card, and the radio has USB connectivity.

11. The radio has an assortment of external connections including PTT and ALC, and connections for external amps and tuners, speakers and power, antenna, etc.
12. The radio can be programmed via CS-705 software from ICOM.
13. The radio will work with an iPad app called SDR-Control.

A question was asked if the radio will function with Android as well as IOS. Norm said there are some Android apps available for it.

Norm then outlined the Icom CS-705 programming software. He mentioned that with number of repeaters around, you really need to channelize it. Norm then showed the list he has set up in his personal radio and his thinking around the organization of that information in the radio.

Norm then talked about the benefits of its networking capability. SDR-Control is a SDR client for ICOM radios, which costs $70.00. You set up your radio in the field as an access point. Note that the IC-7300 is not a network radio on its own like the IC-705. The app will work with the IC-7610 and the IC-9700.

Norm then showed the screen for the SDR-Control app which allows you to operate the radio from anywhere. FT8 and FT4 operation is also included with the app. Norm says he has used it for POTA. It has logging as well. Norm then showed some of the other apps that are available for the radio. Some of these use the internet and therefore will not work if you are off-site but will work on your home network of course.

Norm also mentioned another app from ICOM, RS-MS11 which allows the sending of pictures via D-Star. Another free app is 705 Remote – which is a remote control app that works via Bluetooth. He mentioned there are now lots of accessories available for the radio, desk stands, cup holder mounts, seat bolt mounts, antenna tuners, special backpacks, antenna mounts for portable ops, and carry cages.

The IC-705 is ideal for POTA operations, however there is concern about field use because it is an expensive radio – approx $2000.00. However the radio is so handy to pack and carry – it is ideal for portable ops and travel. Norm then showed a mobile setup he has using his electric bicycle. Norm then discussed some local POTA listed park sites that are available for activation.

As there were no further questions, Norm concluded the presentation at this point.

The proceedings then moved to the show and tell demonstrations as several club members had brought their IC-705 radios in for demonstration

purposes. Many had interesting and unique packs, power supplies and antenna set-ups for portable operations.

Hugo VE3KTN mentioned that if you are using the IC-705 as a base station, you need to boost the power. One of the constraints of the IC-705 is that is only has one interface connector. Hugo then demonstrated his workaround using a triplexer which will separate the signals based on frequency.

Hugo also demonstrated a useful tuner that costs $85.00. It has an internal battery and will sense RF. Hugo noted the tuner is not good for 6 meters, but fine for the other bands. Norm mentioned he uses an Elecraft T1 tuner he built from a kit that works very well with the radio.

11. Chair Reports:

Because of the length of the meeting this evening, the meeting was concluded without chair reports.

OVMRC President Norm Rashleigh VE3LC: No report
OVMRC Vice-President Rob Haddow VE3RXH: No report
OVMRC Treasurer Nicole VE3GIQ: No report
OVMRC Secretary – Alan VE3KAE: No report.
Web Site Update - Adam VA3IRB: No report.
Net Operations: Hugo Kneve VE3KTN: No report.

12. Adjournment:

MOTION: Moved by Norm VE3LC to adjourn the business meeting at 8:57 PM.

13. Next Meeting:

The next monthly meeting of the OVMRC will be held at the IBEW, 1178 Rainbow Street, Ottawa, ON, and via Zoom on-line meeting, on November 15, 2023.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Secretary, Alan Fricker VE3KAE.

Proposed OVMRC 2023-2024 Budget

Item/Project	Sub-Items	Forecast 2022/2023	Actuals 2022/2023	Forecast 2023/2024 Credit	Forecast 2023/2024 Debit
Bank	Account Expenses	$60.00	$60.00		$72.00
	Bank account interest	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	
	Interest on GICs	$0.00	0	$675.00	
Memberships	All Categories	$2,340.00	$3,075.00	$3,200.00	
Club Tags and Clothing	Name Tags	$0.00			
	Regalia	$0.00			
Club Obligations	Facility Rent	$0.00	0		$0.00
	RAC Liability Insurance	$647.00	$831.18		$900.00
	RAC Club Affiliation	$31.58	$27.95		$27.95
	Postal Box Rental	$230.52	?		$235.00
	Zoom Leasing	$226.00	$226.00		$291.36
Radio Course	Tuition				
	Books				
	Administer Exams				
License Examiner Expenses		$50.00	$0.00		$50.00
Club Projects	6M Dipole Kits				
Bulk Purchases		$1,487.27	$5,937		
Bulk Sales			$3,233.00	1707.65	$500.00
Club Discrectionary Donations	Yota Camp Carleton U	$1,250.00	$1,250		$0.00
	ARISS				
	AMSAT				
	DARF	$150.00	$150.00		$200.00
	RAC Foundation	$200.00	$200.00		$200.00
	CNIB HAM Support	$150.00	$0.00		
Special Events and PR	Club Outings (FD, POTA)	$500.00	$0.00		$250.00
	Transmitter Hunts				
	Club Meeting refreshments				$200.00
	Christmas Meeting additionals	$200.00	$0.00		$200.00
	Promotion Events	$100.00	$77		$0.00
	Awarda Program		$30.00		$150.00
Meetings	Monthly Door Prize(s)				
	Year End Door Prize(s)	$1,200.00	$1,381.00		$700.00
	Christmas Party Prizes				
Equipment	Repeaters & Networking	$200.00			$400.00
Web Site	Hosting Fees	$85.00	$244		$250.00
	Domain Registration	$56.50	$56.50		$56.50
	Software Tools				$224.80
Expenses			$10,585.00		$4,907.61
Income			$6,345.00	$5,582.65	
Operating balance			-$4,240.00		$675.04
Assets (Nov 7, 2023)	Bank Balance			$23,089.70	
	GIC principal			$15,000.00	
	Bulk Item Inventory			$1,707.65	
	Equipment			$1,295.60	
Liabilities	Accounts Payable			$232.00	$40.00
End of FY position				$26,767.99	

Membership: 116 members in total as of Nov 7, 2023

Ham Shack Hotline on WiFi

There are several hams in the National Capital Region who have joined the Ham Shack Hotline VoIP service. For those who aren't familiar with this, it's essentially a VoIP telephone service tailored and restricted to use by radio amateurs world-wide. There is no monetary cost to join or use this service, only to register your call sign with the Ham Shack Hotline (HSHL) providers in the U.S. and get a personal phone number in return. To learn more about it, go to the HSHL web site:

https://hamshackhotline.com/

To the point of this article: while the HSHL service works rather well and provides access to internet-connected radio nets in addition to the VoIP service, it has been an inconvenience to me having to hard-wire the phone deskset to my router and I've long thought about whether there is a way to concoct a wireless interface so as to make the phone more portable. Well, yes, there is a way and it's called a WiFi Range Extender. These are available from most electronics retailers for something between $50-100, however, being a ham and having the natural "do-it-on-the-cheap" streak that comes with it, I was looking for a less expensive solution. Trying to configure a conventional consumer-grade WiFi router among those resting in my parts collection just didn't work although I'll admit I didn't explore it very deeply and there might be a way to convince a WiFi router to work as a client interface; but to my great fortune, a solution fell into my lap as a result of the ongoing house un-cluttering mission. It must have been 10 years ago that I bought a DLink range extender inan attempt to improve the WiFi signal in the ham shack. That didn't work too well so it went into a box along with other stuff that wasn't useful at the time, but kept in the hope of use in the future. Well, the future is now and after doing a bit of setup, the range extender is now functioning admirably well as a wireless client interface to my Cisco phone.

So - problem solved. A few tests of voice conversations with Jonathan, VE3OTW and Norm, VE3LC confirmed that the system works just as well as it did when it was hard wired to my router. As for details, the device is a DLink DAP-1360 Wireless N Range Extender and the phone set is a Cisco SPA504G. The DAP-1360 is at least 10 years old and is probably obsolete by now but there are equivalent devices currently available from DLink and other manufacturers.

There are a few caveats to consider. Firstly, if you're looking to use a range extender, make sure that it has an ethernet port and is configurable as a "WiFi Client". The DAP-1360 can be configured as a WiFi Repeater, Access Point (aka hotspot) or Wireless Client. It is the wireless client mode that applies here in which the normally wired device plugs into the range extender's LAN port and is connected to the home LAN through the WiFi link as another network WiFi client.

Wireless Client Mode
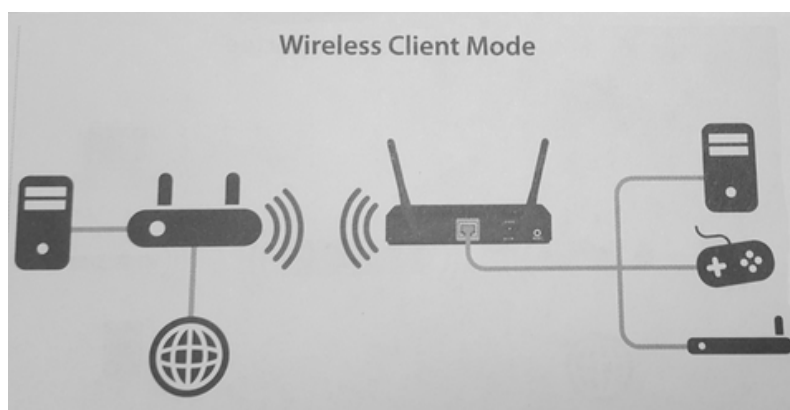
Another aspect to consider is how heavily one's WLAN is loaded, such as the number of simultaneous wireless gaming connections that might be running due to family harmonic activity. The WLAN "pipe" has only so much capacity and you could run into contention issues which would cause packet drops/retransmissions on the VoIP link. As Bill, VA3WBR pointed out in a conversation, one way to mitigate this is to assert a quality of service (QOS) constraint on the HSHL link. You'd have to dig into the advanced settings of your primary router to do this if bandwidth contention is a problem. I don't have this problem as my WLAN is very lightly loaded, so you're on your own there.

There is also a link security consideration. For users in urban areas, link encryption should be applied to get some assurance that your VoIP link remains private and there's no "open" port to your router that could allow easy entry for a mobile hacker. Even though I don't have this problem, I did enable WPA encryption with an 18-character key on my equipment and it didn't have any noticeable effect on the voice quality.

I hope this is of help to those who want to have their HSHL desk set situated in a place of their choosing rather than be tied down by a hard wired connection.

73, Hugo, VE3KTN

The JPC-12 - A POTA antenna candidate

As part of building a my first station suitable for "tail-gate" or vehicle-based POTA activations, the consideration of which antenna provided the greatest flexibility led me to consider the JPC-12, which I acquired from DX Canada.

The antenna is quite compact and fits into the provided carry bag that is 35cm long and 24 cm high. In the bag are included a base, ground spike and mid-antenna coil, four antenna sections and a telescopic whip for the top of the antenna, see photos below.

Also included in the antenna bag was a ribbon cable counterpoise that attached at the top of the ground spike which screws into the antenna base with the coax connection. Not included in the bag was a mag mount base assembled from some general purpose magnets available from Princess Auto . The magnets included 1 x 95lbs strength magnet for the antenna base and 2 x 45lbs magnets for guy lines. Intended for static mobile set-up, remain untested.

Initial set-up was easy, although the whip part of the antenna is a little flimsy and the third section for the top became disconnected from the rest upon first use and required some clear hockey tape to be held in place. For field use I may acquire an additional 2.5M telescopic whip as it appears to be easily damaged. Also it is important to know that the bolt connections are all M10 x 1.5 metric and not 3/8 x 24 as you might expect. As such the antenna won't work with existing tri-pods or other mounts using 3/8 x 24 bolts without an adapter. For the home-made mag mount I acquired an M10 x 1.5 tap and drill to fit a 30mm M10 bolt into the general purpose magnet. The use of a 5m 10-wire ribbon cable for the ground spike counterpoise was innovative although, as you can tell from the photo easily tangled when the wires were separated into five separate 5m 2-wire counterpoise branches. I acquired two additional 15 foot lengths of 10-wire ribbon cable to either extend the current counterpoise or add additional radials, more experimentation for future along with use of a mag mount.

Tuning this antenna required different combinations of parts and it is advised that an antenna analyzer would help with fine tuning. There are several YouTube videos on tuning this antenna and the table on the next page reflects tuning suggestions which I was generally able to replicate.

Other than testing in my yard with my NanoVNA, I have yet to try the JPC-12 at a park and look forward to doing so - maybe with a back-up wire antenna handy should any additional challenges come about!

73, Alan VA3IAH

Table 1: JPC-12 Tuning Recommendations

Heinrich DO1HFS*	Morten LB0FI**
40m: Config: Earth spike/ radials / feed point / 4x aluminum rod / coil / telescopic whip; **Method:** Extend the telescopic whip completely and place the coil between the four aluminum rods and the telescopic whip; **Coil adjustment:** Align coil slider with lower red mark for 7 MHz, to optimize coil slider setting with a VNA, slider can be pushed up one or two turns of wire on the coil. An average SWR of 1.1-1.4 is possible.	**40m:** Started tuning at four turns from the bottom of the coil and found resonance at 6.940. Made antenna slight shorter by moving up one turn of wire on the coil to the fifth turn and achieved SWR 1.07 or 1.08
30m: Config: Earth spike/ radials / feed point / 4x aluminum rod / coil / telescopic whip; **Coil Adjustment:** Eight turns of wire below the top red mark on the coil or 12 turns from the top of the coil; An average SWR of 1.1-1.5 is possible.	**30m:** Found that there was the need to lengthen the antenna by adding two additional turns of wire (moving the slider down and additional two rows).
20m: Config: Earth spike/ radials / feed point / 4x aluminum rod / coil / telescopic whip; **Coil Adjustment:** Place slider on the top red mark for 14MHz. An average SWR of 1.1 – 1.4 is possible.	**20m:** Found that there was the need to lengthen the antenna by adding two additional turns of wire (moving the slider down and additional two rows)
17m: Config: Earth spike/ radials / feed point / 4x aluminum rod / (no coil) / telescopic whip; An average SWR of 1.2 – 1.7 is possible. NOTE: Fine adjustments can be made by reducing the telescopic whip section.	**17m:** With no coil achieved SWR of 1.1 at 18.130
15m: Config: Earth spike/ radials / feed point / 3x aluminum rod / (no coil) / telescopic whip; **Method:** Use three aluminum rods and extend the telescopic whip completely; An average SWR of 1.2 – 1.5 is possible. NOTE: Fine adjustments can be made by reducing the telescopic whip section.	**15m:** Fine adjustment by lowering whip section.
12m: Config: Earth spike/ radials / feed point / 2x aluminum rod / (no coil) / telescopic whip; **Method:** Use two aluminum rods and extend the telescopic whip completely; An average SWR of 1.2 – 1.7 is possible. NOTE: Fine adjustments can be made by reducing the telescopic whip section.	**12m:** Fine adjustment by lowering whip section.
10m: Config: Earth spike/ radials / feed point / (one aluminum rod) / (no coil) / telescopic whip; **Method:** Extend the telescopic whip completely; An average SWR of 1.2 – 1.5 is possible. NOTE: Fine adjustments can be made by reducing the telescopic whip section.	**10m:** Fine adjustment by lowering whip section.
6m: Config: Earth spike/ radials / feed point / (no aluminum rods) / (no coil) / telescopic whip; An average SWR of 1.2 – 1.7 is possible. NOTE: Fine adjustments can be made by reducing the telescopic whip section.	**6m:** Found that five sections of whip where required

*Translation from the original German provided by Lasse LA5PPA; ** Morten (LB0FI) YouTube video reference - *The JPC-12 - Third time's a charm? LB0FI Norwegian Hamventures* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4D-yaBrHRWI

REFERENCES

JPC-12 Quick Deploy Portable HF Antenna With A Neat Carry Bag
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QwexpBJ4MyM

The JPC-12 - Third time's a charm? LB0FI Norwegian Hamventures
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4D-yaBrHRWI

Slow Scan Television:
"Who says hams should be heard and not seen?"

From the launching of the concept of Slow-scan television in the late 1950s, through the use of this technology to transmit some of the classic pictures from the early days of space exploration and on to amateur radio applications beginning in the late 1960s and up to current SSTV transmission from the International Space Station (ISS), slow-scan television has had a lasting appeal.
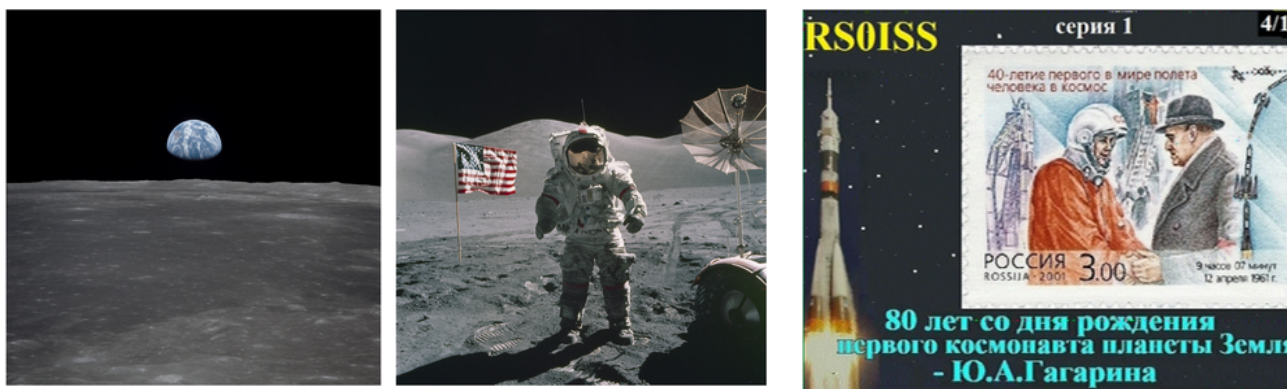
For current images from the ISS check out the ARISS SSTV images page where Terry VE3DIJ / VE3BQ posted several issues he captured, two of which appear below.

See: https://www.spaceflightsoftware.com/ARISS_SSTV/bycallsign.php

Perhaps at the centre of the appeal of SSTV is the simple wonder of being able to share still images over thousands of kilometres. This is done by software that provides a line-by-line slow scans of images received and sent by converting colour and brightness variations into audio tones without error correction via an ordinary SSB transceiver.

As noted by Ramon Glidden in a September 1997 QST article this mode can be added to the whole host of other auditory communication that hams enjoy to have "visual" QSOs through an exchange of pictures. As Ramon notes "Who says hams should be heard and not seen?" Also hams being "seen" has a fairly low threshold for amateurs to participate in given ready access to both computers and free software.

As a fairly non-technical amateur radio operator (aka appliance operator) there is security in numbers when configuring radios, sound card interfaces and computer software. Thus my journey into digital modes has been mediated by a small group of American and Canadian amateur radio operators who participate in a weekly "weird-and-wacky-digital-modes-play-group" zoom meeting where digital modes such as FreeDV, JS8Call and now SSTV are explored. Thanks to Bob VE3YX for suggesting I think about joining the group when he heard me on the air doing some POTA hunting and inadvertently interfering with one of the frequencies the group was exploring!

Part of the security in numbers comes when we all agree to use one particular software and have some guidance from anyone who may have more experience with the software or be able to share their struggles to date. Part of the fun is that we all muddle along together and work in real-time to transmit and receive over HF bands and share the results from both sender and receiver at the same time.

As the "play group" coordinator Don (KM4UDX) put it in his endearing invitation to come play with SSTV and the MMSSTV program -

"Got FT8 working? Worked every T8 country/grid/zipcode in the world? Why not try SSTV? If you thought it was one of the worst communication modes possible, you were right. hahah. The hottest thing (50 years ago), SSTV has no error correction, is sort of slow, full of kitsch, of limited use, and has only one freq 14.230. Which makes it perfect to play with!"

This captures nicely the spirit of the group and sets appropriate expectations for experiencing SSTV!

A screen shot of the main page of the MMSSTV program appears on the next page, with only a partial image appearing in the receive window with the rig tuned to 14.230MHz, one of the most popular frequencies for SSTV. The QSOs are accomplished by receiving or sending a CQ using customizable templates as overlays for pictures you can import into the "S.Pix" menu which appears to the right of the "S.Templates" menu.
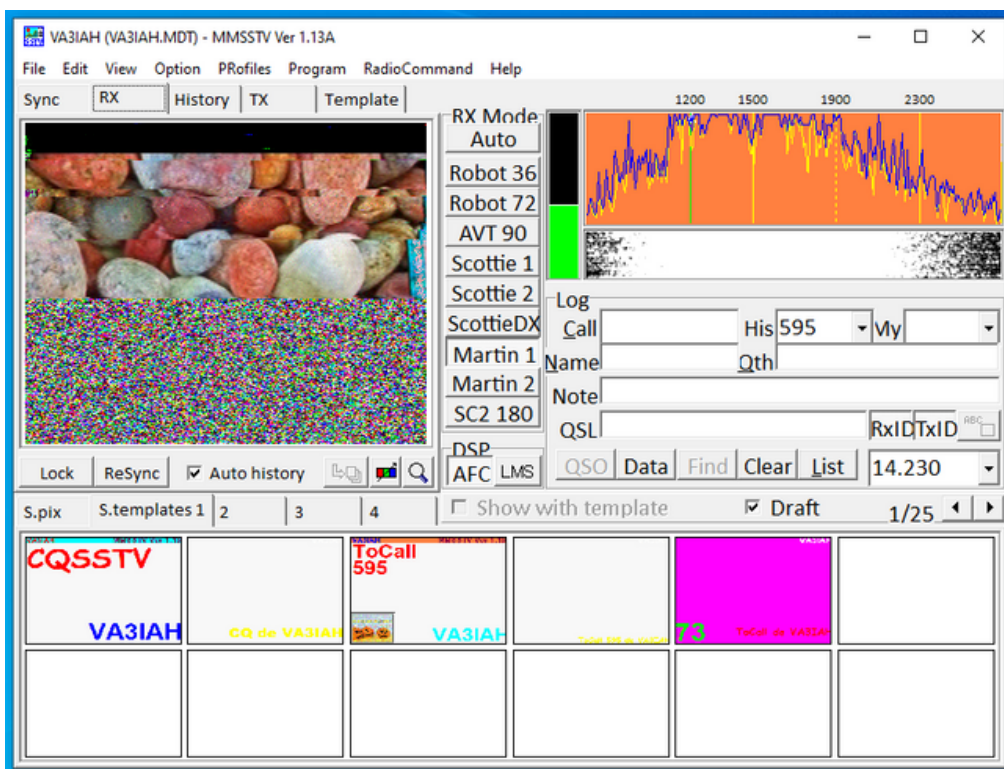
Best Picture Quality I received.
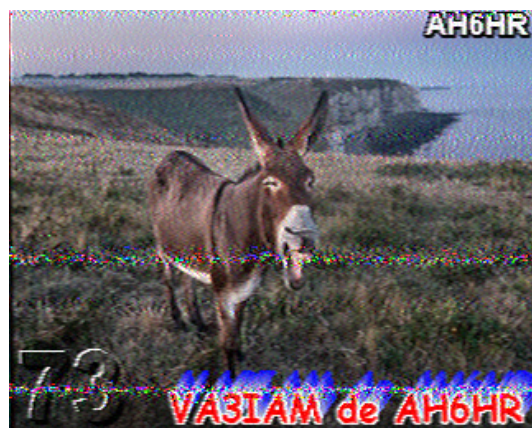
While AH5HR's picture on the previous page was the best picture quality I received my fumbling to make an SSTV QSO working various images and likely sending a variety of images may have influenced his choice of images to acknowledge our QSO! Typically as appearing on the previous page a QSO can also be acknowledged by embedding the CQ image in a 73 reply image.

Anyway i hope this has provided a bit of the flavour of some SSTV related activities and may warrant having SSTV running in the background of the shack sometime.

73, Alan VA3IAH

REFERENCES
Fast start guide: https://www.hamuniverse.com/sstv.html
A Guide to MMSSTV: https://mcbainsite.co.uk/a-guide-to-mmsstv/

You Tube Ham Radio - SSTV overview:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I7Vy63sfdjk
http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/tis/info/pdf/19320.pdf
http://ariss-sstv.blogspot.com/
https://www.essexham.co.uk/sstv-the-basics
https://hamsoft.ca/pages/mmsstv.php

Primer: https://hamsoft.ca/pages/mmsstv/sstv-primer.php

Getting started (1990):
http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/tis/info/pdf/99753.pdf

OVMRC Bulk Stock Inventory - Barry VE3NA

OVMRC Bulk Stock Rev 16 (23-11-06)

Description	Qty Available (feet)	Cost (Per Ft or Ea)	Income Expected	
COAX				
RG 316 teflon	100	$0.80	$	80.00
RG 58 U	0	$0.10	$	-
LMR 195	116	$0.80	$	92.80
LMR 400	429	$1.40	$	600.60
Connectors				
RG 316				
SMA Male	12	$3.00	$	36.00
SMA Female	8	$3.00	$	24.00
BNC Male	4	$3.00	$	12.00
BNC Female	6	$3.00	$	18.00
RG 58 U & LMR 195				
PL 259	0	$3.00	$	-
SO 239	21	$3.00	$	63.00
BNC Male	13	$3.00	$	39.00
Type "N" Male	7	$3.00	$	21.00
Type "N" Female	10	$3.00	$	30.00
LMR 400				
PL 259	7	$3.00	$	21.00
SO 239	6	$3.00	$	18.00
Type "N" Male	7	$3.00	$	21.00
Type "N" Female	5	$3.00	$	15.00
Adapters				
SMA Female to PL 259	3	$5.00	$	15.00
Toroids				
Ferrite				
FT 114-43	52	$1.50	$	78.00
FT 140-43	24	$3.00	$	72.00
BN-73-202	7	$1.00	$	7.00
Powdered Iron				
T106-2	15	$1.25	$	18.75
T200-6	6	$6.50	$	39.00
Tool Kit				
Coax crimper tool kit	2	$115.00	$	230.00
Total Expected Income			$	1,551.15

OVMRC Net Activity, Check-ins for October 2023

Prepared by: Hugo Kneve VE3KTN

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

October 5	October 12	October 19	October 26
VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS
New & Visitors	**New & Visitors**	**New & Visitors**	**New & Visitors**
			Elizabeth - VA3LCE
General Check-ins	**General Check-ins**	**General Check-ins**	**General Check-ins**
VE3OTW	VE3RUU	VE3OTW	VE3OTW
VE3LC	VE3OTW	VE3RUU	VA3WBR
VE3KAE	VE3LC	VE3LC	VE3LC
VA3IAH	VE3KAE	VE3KAE	VE3RXH
VA2BBW	VA2BBW	VA3IAH	VE3KAE
VE3RVQ	VE3CWM[1]	VA2BBW	VA3IAH
VA3EO	VA3EO	VA3PSI	VE3VIG
VE3KMV	VE3LBU	VA3ZLA	VA3PSI
VA3PSI	VE3VHU	VE3DNU	VE3YY
VE3ZZU	VE3NA	VE3RVV	VE3RRB
VA3HJR	VE3NPO	VE3NA	VA3LMA
VE3NA	VE3SYZ	VA2OJD	VE3ZZU
VA3ZLA	VE3KJQ	VA3LMA	VA2BBW
VE3VIG	VA3LMA	VE3ZZU	VE3LBU
VE3NPO	VE3RVQ	VE3KJQ	VE3DNU
VE3DNU	VE3RRB	VE3VIG	VE3LAF
VE3OKD	VE3DNU		
	VE3XEM		
	VE3VIG		

Notes:

1 -   Cold War Museum. Fred, VE3LAF at the mic.
2 -   Cold War Musium. Norman, VE3NPP at the mic.

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

October 1 SFI:159 A:10	October 8 SFI:157 A:4	October 15 SFI:148 A:8	October 22 SFI:123 A:22	October 29 SFI:128 A:19
VE3XRA - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3XRA - NCS	VE3EJJ - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS
New & Visitors	**New & Visitors**	**New & Visitors**	**New & Visitors**	**New & Visitors**
				Bob – VA3JIN Grace – K3LR
General Check-ins	**General Check-ins**	**General Check-ins**	**General Check-ins**	**General Check-ins**
VE3NPO VA3BGO VA3EO VA3PSI VE3KTN VE3LC VE3CWM[1]	VE3VIG VE3LC VE3SYZ VA3EO VE3EJJ VA3PSI VA3BGO VA2OJD VE3CWM[1] VE3HHS	VA3BGO VE3EJJ VA3EO VE3KTN VE3NPO VE3CWM[1]	VA3EO VA3PSI VE3YY VE3KTN VE3LC VE3KAE VE3CWM[1] VA3IAH VA2EV VA2OJD VE3XRA VE3SYZ VE3SHQ[2]	VE3BAE VE3OWV VE3LC VE3NPO VA3EO VA3IAH VE3RXN VE3KTN VA3PSI VE3YY VE3CWM[1]

The "SFI" and "A" values are the Solar Flux Index and Geomagnetic A-Index respectively as reported on the N0NBH Space Weather web site: https://www.hamqsl.com/solar.html. Values are taken within 30 minutes prior to net start time.

Notes:

1 -   Cold War Museum. Fred, VE3LAF at the mic.
2 -   Scouts HQ, Ottawa. Rod, VE3RXN 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