

# RAMBLER

APRIL 2024



VOL. 66 ISSUE 8

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

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## WHAT'S INSIDE:

- 2 MEETING AGENDA / NOTICE
- 3 OPERATOR CODE OF ETHICS
- 4 OVMRC EXECUTIVE
- 5 NETS AND EVENTS
- 6 PRESIDENT'S RAMBLINGS
- 8 MARCH MINUTES
- 17 MOBILE HF INSTALL
- 24 TONY VK3BBD (SK)
- 25 TOROIDAL CORES
- 27 OVMRC NET ACTIVITY
- 29 LINKS & EDITOR'S NOTE

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 APRIL 17**  
**IBEW LOCAL 586, 1178 RAINBOW ST.,**  
**GLOUCESTER, 7:00PM IN PERSON**  
**AND 7:15 PM VIA ZOOM**

**WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS OF THE OVMRC SINCE JANUARY 1, 2024**

- |                         |        |
|-------------------------|--------|
| • CHRIS PATTEN**        | VA3CJO |
| • SERGIO SLOBORDIAN     | VE3KSM |
| • ROBERT RADBURN**      | VE3YRK |
| • GEORGE-ANDRÉ CHANDRON | VE2VAB |
| • MICHAEL CARIGNAN**    | VA3CMG |
| • DON MCCALLAN          | VE3GFD |
| • CHARLES GUERIN**      | VA3CGF |

\*\* NEW AMATEUR THIS YEAR

## OVMRC AFFILIATIONS





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## APRIL 17, 2024 - MEETING AGENDA

1. **Greetings and special welcome to guests, new hams and new members to the Club.**
2. **Acceptance of the March meeting minutes published in the April Rambler.**
3. **Resolution for membership vote to donate \$2000 to the RAC VE3RHQ Builders Fund, Read President's Message**
4. **Chairperson Reports**
5. **Feature Presentation by Ante VA2BBW - RAC Awards Program**
6. **Other business that may arise.**
7. **Door Prizes**
8. **Formal meeting adjournment.**
9. **Social session following meeting adjournment. Coffee, donuts and 807s available**

### **\*\*\* OVMRC FOX HUNT AND POTA ACTIVATION \*\*\***

Saturday 20th April will see a number of tricky foxes placed in Vincent Massey Park for Club members and guests to seek out with their directional antenna and HT, but there will also be a number of contest level Yagis and Sniffer 4 receivers available for loan.

Following the fox hunt, there will be a POTA activation of the park, CA-6204 under the new designation of "CA" for Canadian Parks on the Air.

Timings are arrive at 10 am for the fox hunt with the POTA activation kicking off at 12 pm, but timings for the POTA are flexible so feel free to arrive and get on the air when you like. Coffee and donuts will be available around 10 am but bring your own lunch.



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# AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR CODE OF ETHICS

**Code of Ethics by Bill Wilson, VE3NR (SK):**

**The thoughtful Radio Amateur is:**

- **Responsible** - using courteous operating practice, complying with regulations and accepted technical standards;
- **Progressive** - striving to develop and improve operating and technical skills;
- **Helpful** - offering assistance, support and encouragement to other Amateurs, especially beginners; and
- **Public Spirited** - offering use of station, knowledge and skills as a public service whenever possible.

<https://www.rac.ca/operating/guidelines/>

*Bill was a long-time member of the OVMRC and was a Life Member.*

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## Eclipse photos from Norm VE3LC in Iroquois, ON





# OVMRC EXECUTIVE AND OFFICERS 2023-2024

## 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  
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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:**

Ralph Cameron, VE3BBM  
Doug Carswell, VE3ATY  
Bill Hall, VA3WMH  
Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ  
Doreen Morgan, VE3CGO  
Bryan Rawlings, VE3QN  
Maurice-André Vigneault,  
VE3VIG

## **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, (on hold)</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> |
|--|---|--|---|

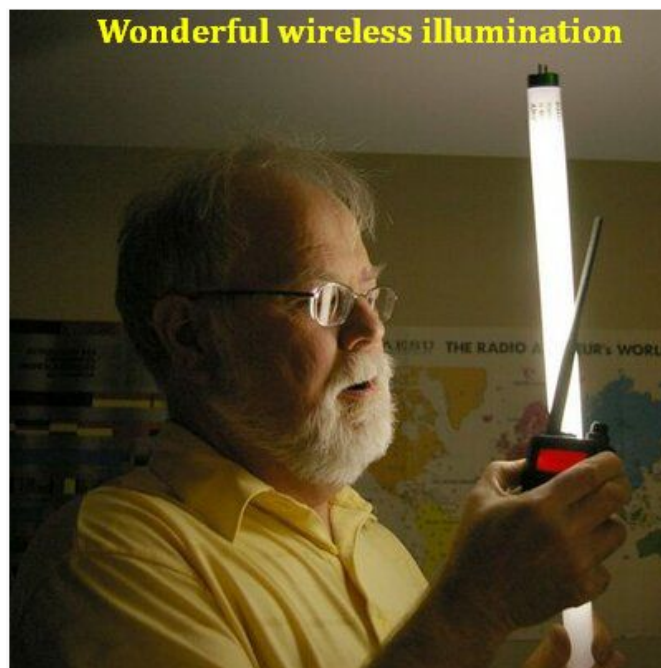


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## President's Ramblings

Welcome to the April Fool's edition of the Rambler. That said, there is no fooling around at the OVMRC, strictly serious ham radio fun and fellowship.

As many folks know, OVMRC member Ante VA2BBW is the new Radio Amateurs of Canada Awards Manager. In that role with our National Organization, Ante will be giving our feature presentation at the April 17th meeting on the topic of the RAC awards program that I'm sure will include a description of all the new Canadian operating certificates and how to qualify for them.



VE3LC

As far as Field Day planning is concerned, we are still awaiting a definitive decision from the Aviation and Space Museum for permission to use their grounds in the open field just west of the reserve hanger. To that end, I will be having another meeting with their Officer in charge of Special Events on April 12th to further discuss our FD requirements and also to view the Buffalo aircraft stored in the Museum's reserve hanger. This aircraft comes into play with a special event amateur station operation being contemplated for August 9th along with activation at other Canadian Aviation Museums with retired Buffalo cargo aircraft on display at Comox, Winnipeg, Trenton and Summerside. Each station would have a special event call sign assigned to memorialize the 50th anniversary of Buffalo 461 being lost along with all 9 crew members in 1974. See:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/maple-leaf/rcaf/2019/08/remembering-the-buffalo-nine.html> . This is an initiative of Phill VA7XOZ in Comox, BC and Dave VE3OX in Trenton. I agreed to try to bring it together permitting an activation of the Ottawa site. If this turns out favourably, I may need some OVMRC club member volunteers to take turns operating this station set up beside or inside the Buffalo aircraft stored in the reserve hanger at the Museum. As this project develops, we will have more to say about it.

At the April meeting, Nicole VE3GIQ plans to talk further about volunteering to provide amateur radio communications for the May 5th CN Cycle for CHEO, the June 8-9 Rideau Lakes Cycle Tour and the MS Bike event August 17-18. This will be followed by Rob providing the scheduling of other OVMRC events planned for the season including a Fox Hunt and POTA picnic on Saturday April 20th at Vincent Massey Park.



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I want to thank Craig Delmage VE3OP, RAC Director for Ontario North/East, for his wonderful presentation at the March meeting about his tour of the ARRL Headquarters facilities and the W1AW station in Newington, CT. This was followed by another presentation by Craig on the renovations well underway at the expanded office accommodation of Radio Amateurs of Canada and the project to establish and outfit the VE3RHQ station at the RAC Headquarters on Belfast Road. To this end, the OVMRC executive committee met on April 3rd to discuss and decide an amount of money the OVMRC can reasonably contribute to the RAC VE3RHQ station project from the Club's cash reserves while still meeting our budget commitments for this fiscal season. The amount for this contribution was set at \$2000.

Therefore, the Directors of the OVMRC recommend the membership of the OVMRC vote in favour of the following special funding resolution:

***“Be it resolved that the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Incorporated contribute two-thousand Canadian dollars (\$2000) to the Radio Amateurs of Canada “VE3RHQ Honourary Builders Fund” in support of the capital, operations, and maintenance requirements of the RAC HQ amateur radio station to be located at 720 Belfast Road, Ottawa”***

This resolution will be put to an OVMRC membership vote at the April 17th meeting.

Last but not least, consider volunteering to be part of the executive committee team managing the affairs of the Club. According to our existing bylaws, for any of the existing 4 Director positions, the eligibility is to be a member in good standing of the OVMRC for a minimum of 2 years. In particular, Alan Fricker VE3KAE has expressed his desire to step down as Secretary after serving this term. Many thanks to Alan for serving the Club so well. If anyone is interested in serving the Club in this Director position, let us know as soon as possible. Furthermore, with the present task of rewriting of our bylaws in keeping with the requirements of the new Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, we are considering adding to the Club's executive committee another elected Director position with no specific officer duties (Director-at-Large). A resolution to this effect may be put to the membership at the May meeting.

73

Norm Rashleigh VE3LC  
President, OVMRC



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# OVMRC General Meeting Minutes

**Date / Time: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 7: 15 PM**

**Location: IBEW, 1178 Rainbow Street, Ottawa, ON, and via ZOOM on-line meeting**

## **1. Call to Order**

OVMRC President Norm Rashleigh VE3LC called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM. There were 60 total attendees present for the meeting, both in-person and participating via Zoom.

## **2. Agenda and Meeting Content**

OVMRC President Norm Rashleigh VE3LC outlined the agenda for tonight's meeting that includes:

- Acceptance of the February meeting minutes published in the March Rambler
- Door Prize draw
- Chairperson Reports
- A brief discussion about the RAC booth at the Canada-Wide Science Fair, Carleton University, May 25 to June 1, 2024
- A feature presentation by Craig Delmage VE3OP about his visit to the ARRL HQ complex and W1AW Station, followed by Craig's presentation on the progress of the RAC HQ office renovations and the new VE3RHQ station
- A report about planned on-the-air events celebrating of the 50th Anniversary of the OVMRC sponsored VE3JW exhibit station that opened at the National Canada Science and Technology Museum on March 19, 1974.
- Other related OVMRC business that may arise.
- Social session following the meeting adjournment.

## **3. Welcome and Guest Greetings**

Norm VE3LC opened the meeting by extending a welcome to guests, visitors, and new hams who were present for the meeting. Guests tonight include Tristan Giddens VE1TAG, from Fall River, N.S. who is studying at Carleton University. Tristan received his Advanced Qualification Amateur Radio Operators Certificate this afternoon and Norm VE3LC offered his congratulations to him. Tristan mentioned that he is going to Germany in May 2024 for a 16 month co-op assignment and he hopes to have access to radio equipment there.





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#### **4. Approval of Minutes from the Previous Meeting**

**MOTION:** Moved by Rick VE3RVV and seconded by Tim VE3TXB that the minutes of the OVMRC meeting held Wednesday, February 21, 2024 be approved.

**VOTE:** No Objections.

**CARRIED.**

#### **5. RAC Sponsored Amateur Radio Booth - Canada-Wide Science Fair**

Norm VE3LC reminded the members about the Canada-Wide Science Fair (CWSF) at Carleton University, May 25 to June 1, 2024. The CWSF showcases the talents of students from grades 7 through 12 who are winners of their respective regional STEM fairs. RAC will have a booth and display set up at the fair to promote the benefits of amateur radio and hopefully to entice young people to the hobby. Norm mentioned that RAC may issue a call for volunteers and that more information is expected to follow very soon.

#### **6. Door Prize Draw**

Norm VE3LC described this evening's door prizes which were assorted packages of coaxial cable from the Quick Pick store in Orleans. There are five packages of coaxial cable of assorted sizes and connectors.

Winners – Fred VE3LAF, Charles VA3CGF, Chad VE3OUO, Russel VE3FSN, Rick VE3RVV.

#### **7. Chair Reports**

##### **Club Activities re: 50th Anniversary of VE3JW - Hugo VE3KTN**

Hugo VE3KTN provided a brief overview and update of the planned activities celebrating the 50th year of the VE3JW station. Various OVMRC members including Hugo VE3KTN, Fred VE3LAF, Norm VE3LC, and Maurice-André VE3VIG, collaborated to operate as station VE3JW in recent days.

Events began on Thursday March 14th, as Hugo VE3KTN operated the weekly 2 meter FM net with the call sign VE3JW, and had 26 amateurs check in. On Saturday March 16th, Fred VE3LAF operating as VE3JW, began making calls at 0900 while operating on 2 meters simplex on 146.520, and continued through until 6 pm. Fred VE3LAF had a total of 38 QSOs and 13 “rag chews” and 17 duplicates who called back in.



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On Sunday March 17th, Hugo operated as VE3JW on 80 metres from 8:30 AM until noon including the Sunday morning Pothole Net and had 35 contacts. Denis VE3BF recorded the audio from the Sunday Pothole Net and the event is available on YouTube at [https://youtu.be/KtPdZdTBYRO?si=d6PxSc\\_a0BmHprxy](https://youtu.be/KtPdZdTBYRO?si=d6PxSc_a0BmHprxy).

Also on Sunday evening Norm VE3LC operated the 6 meter CW Net as VE3JW and had 9 check ins. On Tuesday March 19th, Maurice-André VE3VIG operated CW on various HF bands and logged 12 contacts. In addition Guy VE3QC logged 3 contacts, and Bob VE3AKV logged 25 contacts.

Norm VE3LC Indicated he made some additional VE3JW contacts on Tuesday night on the Upper Frequency Simplex Net as well. A complete final report on all the VE3JW QSOs will follow in the near future.

### **Membership and Treasurer Report and Update on Public Service Events - Nicole VE3GIQ**

Nicole VE3GIQ provided a brief update. The OVMRC bank balance is currently \$8296.00 and with an additional \$110.00 to be posted for deposit. The club holds a \$15,000.00 GIC that matures next year. Club membership is now at 136, which is possibly a new record. Nicole also announced the implementation of a new mail server that is now available - [membership@ovmrc.ca](mailto:membership@ovmrc.ca) .

Nicole then provided an update about the upcoming public service events and thanked Neil VE3PUE for his contribution to the MS Bike event.

There are three big events coming up and all need volunteers.

- May 5, 2024 CN Cycle for CHEO - a very large event (over 2000 participants) that raised over \$4 million last year.
- June 8-9, 2024 Rideau Lakes Cycle Tour - this event covers 400 kms in two days (to Kingston and back). Interested volunteers may contact Richard Hagemeyer VE3UNW at [hagemeister@gmail.com](mailto:hagemeister@gmail.com).
- August 17-18, 2024 MS Canada Bike event. This is from Kars to Brockville, ON - about 85 kms with an extra loop to extend to 105 kms for those who want to. Nicole is looking for volunteers and she may be contacted at [membership@ovmrc.ca](mailto:membership@ovmrc.ca) .

Nicole then displayed route maps of the events. The CN Cycle event has 4 different routes. These start at the War Museum and then loop back. The event is about a 6 hour event held on one day only.

The Rideau Lake Cycle tour runs from Algonquin to Kingston and radio operators are needed at all the checkpoints. The MS Bike Route Map shows



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individual amateur radio stations. Nicole will be holding a briefing session on Zoom for the volunteers. Last year repeater VE3IWJ was used. This year the Brockville club has a new repeater which should have a better signal. Nicole will be setting up at the Kars location.

Norm VE3LC thanked Nicole VE3GIQ for her update and her presentation.

## **8. Feature Presentation - Craig VE3OP**

### **Visit to the ARRL W1AW Facility and Update on the VE3RHQ Radio Station Initiative - Craig Dalmage VE3OP, RAC Director Ontario North/East Region**

Norm VE3LC introduced and welcomed tonight's featured speaker Craig Delmage VE3OP who had checked into the meeting via Zoom. Craig is the RAC Director for Ontario North/East Region and he will be giving a presentation about his visit to ARRL HQ and the W1AW Station, Newington CT. This will be followed by Craig's presentation on the progress of the RAC HQ office renovations and new VE3RHQ initiative.

Craig VE3OP led off by congratulating Tristan VE1TAG on achieving his advanced certification, and mentioned that he will be doing two presentations. The first is about his visit to W1AW in August 2023 and the second is about the VE3RHQ initiative.

Craig said his visit to the W1AW was a life-long bucket list item for him but he was also interested in gathering information about their technical setup and bring that knowledge back to assist with the RAC HQ/VE3RHQ refurbishment initiative.

Craig then spoke about the history of W1AW and noted that the first QST magazine from 1915 is now a valuable item. The following is a brief summary of Craig's comments respecting his slide presentation.

He noted that there are about 750,000 amateurs in the USA and about 155,000 are ARRL members. Canadian participation is lower and RAC will be running campaigns in the coming year to improve participation.

ARRL HQ is just southwest of Hartford, Conn., and in a residential area. It was built in 1963 and on 7 acres. They have about 85 employees.

He noted that the ARRL raises funds through 13 funds (RAC has 5). The site has commemorative memorials that you can purchase and these are situated on the grounds.

ARRL HQ has a very nice storefront/reception area with a static display nearby where they rotate displayed items monthly. There was a Heathkit display set up while he was there, along with a display of Bandmaster



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radio equipment.

The building has wall displays on two floors of the building that are very professionally done. ARRL HQ has a lab and those who receive the QST magazine and read the tests and reviews of equipment would be familiar with it.

There are various displays of donated equipment and he noted a nice Hallicrafters display while he was there

Craig spoke about W1HQ which is a special place for ARRL employees and volunteers. The room showcases the latest equipment and contains three very modern operating stations.

The W1AW building, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial station was dedicated in 1938. It consists of three floors and he noted that the ARRL bulletins are sent from this location.

The site has 4 main towers - North, South, Centre and Satellite Towers. The largest tower is the 120 ft Centre Tower that is mostly used for bulletins. A multitude of rotatable and/or stacked Yagis are in service supplemented with an 160m dipole and collinear array antennas for VHF. Heliac is used for main runs and LMR is used where necessary. All coax goes under ground and goes to the W1AW building basement. Generally no switching is used. Instead they use antenna to radio patch panels. Full inspections are conducted twice a year.

Percy Maxim's original equipment is staged at the back door of the building and they demonstrated the spark gap transmitter to Craig while he was there. There are 3 glass wall studios that can be signed out by a visiting amateur to operate.

Craig spent the day with Joe Carcia NJ1Q who showed him the various equipment racks including the Digital Rack and the Bulletin Station Rack. There is one Bulletin Station rack per band consisting of an ICOM IC-7300 and ACOM 2000a PA. Craig then described some of the equipment set up in the studios. Studio 1 has a Kenwood TS-990S and a Yaesu FTDX-101MP. Studio 2 has an ICOM IC-9100 and a Yaesu FT-2000. Studio 3 has a Yaesu FTDX-9000 and a Kenwood TS-590S. Each station has an HP PC, Bandmaster II Band Decoder, and RF Kits amplifier.

Craig then outlined the station configuration and noted that the transceivers are set to 25-35 watts output. N1MM logging software is used and upload are made to LOTW.

Craig was able to operate one of the stations and received a special certificate from the ARRL, and concluded his presentation by stating that



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everything he observed was high quality and professional and that the facility was a phenomenal place to visit.

Questions? Peter VE3XEM and Wray VA3EO asked about the need for a reservation for a visit. Craig suggested to let them know you are coming ahead of time by just sending an email. Bryan VE3QN mentioned he has dropped in from time to time and visiting has never been a problem.

Craig VE3OP then moved on to his second presentation of the evening - the RAC VE3RHQ Radio Station Initiative. In his opening remarks, Craig gave credit and thanks to various members who have volunteered their time and expertise to RAC in this initiative including Ante VA2BBW, Will VA3ODW, Rylan VE3RVQ, and Colin VA3CSG.

Craig outlined what RAC is, and what RAC does. He mentioned his goal and dream is for every OVMRC member to join RAC. RAC is celebrating 30 years this year but the predecessor organizations go back much further than that. He then summarized what RAC does on a day in and day out basis, including the many events and activities that it is involved in.

Craig's presentation had a very comprehensive list of the various RAC activities and responsibilities and he singled out a few of those in his presentation including:

- RAC Operation Awards - Ante VA2BBW is the Awards Manager.
- DARF - Defence of Amateur Radio Fund and why it is so critical.
- Administration of the Basic and Advanced Courses. The recent Basic Course had 185 participants from across Canada.
- The Canadian Affiliated Club Liability Insurance Program of which OVMRC is a member.
- The growth experienced in Youth Education programs and Youth Radio Camps.
- Growing the RAC Field Organization (formerly ACS).

Craig then showed a slide of the Canadian Amateur Radio Frequency spectrum consisting of 28 amateur radio bands and he mentioned that we have 9% of all spectrum that RAC needs to protect for all amateurs in Canada.

He then spoke about the RAC regulatory work, outlining who the main contacts are and what the main initiatives are. He noted that last year RAC worked with the Canadian Military in their training programs. They appreciated the training so much and have asked for two more stints of HF training.

He then outlined the 2024 RAC Youth Initiatives including the Canada-Wide Science Fair event at Carleton University in May 2024. RAC expects 5000 youth to be there. This event represents a real opportunity to



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engage with youth and interest them in amateur radio.

There is also the YOTA Camp in Halifax in July 2024. RAC is working closely with the organization there and they are hoping for even more participation than 2023. Activities such as these really help the growth of amateur radio in Canada. In addition there are the ongoing Youth Education Program, the Scholarship Program and the Grant Program. There is also the ARISS program that is very much engaged with youth.

RAC is very involved in emergency measures and Craig mentioned that an announcement is coming regarding work with the Ontario Government.

Continuing with his presentation, Craig mentioned that the USA has their famous W1AW station and it provided the inspiration to have a station similar to W1AW, and the timing for this appeared to be right as RAC celebrates its 30th Anniversary to build a new permanent flagship radio station - VE3RHQ.

Craig then outlined some of the design and construction details of the station and then moved on to talk about the purpose of such a station. RAC wants it to be a really rich place providing an attractive and enjoyable working environment where amateurs around the region can use it to their advantage. The station will be very prominent on RAC contests. Anticipated total cost is over \$100k.

Craig says they were looking for a “wow” station and they sourced Flexispot desks (3 are ordered) with related modern shelves, cabinetry and other furniture.

Craig then described the plan for towers, antenna design and radio equipment for the three stations, but also mentioned that design details are changing all the time.

Craig then spoke about the VE3RHQ Honourary Builders Fund which was approved by the RAC Board of Directors in January 2024. There has been no official announcement at this time. The plan is that this fund will cover ongoing capital, operations, and maintenance requirements. RAC also plans to establish a “donor wall” at RAC HQ with a special website section for donors. There will be 5 levels of recognition for donors making a contribution to the fund. 2024 contributors will be inducted as fund founders and he mentioned that no charitable receipts can be issued.

He informed that there is a lot of interest in building this station, there are already two donors who have contributed more than \$5000.00. In addition RAC has received donations from the QCWA and the OARC already. There are also corporate contributors including MFJ, HEil, ICOM, Begali Keys, Alpha-Beta Canada, Premier Communications, IEEE Canada



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and MyAntennas.

Craig then spoke about Dr. Robert Thirsk, OC, OBC, a radio amateur and retired astronaut, who provided a very eloquent endorsement to the VE3RHQ Honourary Builders Fund.

Craig ended his presentation by thanking the membership for allowing him to share his presentation. He further mentioned that this exciting initiative will go down in history and invited all members to become a part of the event.

Norm VE3LC thanked Craig VE3OP for his wonderful presentation and for spearheading this very worthwhile endeavour. He mentioned we will have an executive committee meeting soon where we will deliberate on what the club will propose for a donation, and put it forward for a vote.

Craig asked for any questions. Roger VA3EGY asked if a member wished to make a donation right now how could that be done? Craig suggested make a cheque to RAC and make a note on the cheque for the VE3RHQ builders fund. Roger suggested it might be worthwhile for RAC to engage with a contributor website for the initiative. Craig thanked him and said he will take it under advisement. He says at this time, they have not established a specific dollar goal.

Barry VE3NA asked if a donation could e-transferred. Craig says it can and again, make a comment that it is for the VE3RHQ builders fund. Craig reminded that RAC is unable to provide a charitable donation receipt.

## **9. Solar Eclipse April 8th - Norm VE3LC**

Norm VE3LC reminded the membership about the solar eclipse on April 8, 2024 and an interesting activity related to amateur radio. The Case Amateur Radio Club at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, is asking for amateur radio operators to help with a research project centred around the April 8, 2024, solar eclipse.

The project centres around studying the effects of the eclipse on propagation to better understand the recombination time of the ionosphere and they are looking for volunteers who would be interested in recording the Ottawa CHU time station for a two week period. Amateurs can use use FLDIGI to collect data.

Norm VE3LC then described how to set up for the data collection but he noted that it may not be worthwhile for Ottawa participation due to ground wave reception and that any data collected may not be of any use. Bryan VE3QN mentioned that CFRB would be a better signal for Ottawa



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participants.

There were various comments related to this and it was mentioned that WSPR mode might be useful as well.

### **10. Haves/Wants**

Norm VE3LC mentioned that Peter VE3XEM had brought in a J-pole antenna for someone who had asked about it at the last meeting. The requester apparently is not present this evening as no one came forward for the antenna..

### **11. Field Day 2024**

Barry VE3NA asked if there was any news concerning the Field Day site. Norm VE3LC says he was in touch with his Aviation and Space Museum contact today and there is no confirmation from them yet. They plan to take the issue up with their team in a week or two.

### **12. Adjournment:**

As there was no further business, Norm VE3LC then asked for a call to adjourn the meeting.

**MOTION:** Moved by Colin VA3CSG to adjourn the business meeting at 9:24 PM.

Post-meeting activities continued with radio testing and general socializing.

### **Next Meeting:**

The next monthly meeting of the OVMRC will be held on April 17, 2024, at the IBEW facility, 1178 Rainbow Street, Ottawa, ON. The meeting will also be available on-line via Zoom. meeting, on December 20, 2023.

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





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## Mobile HF Radio Install

Back in October 2022 I purchased a 2017 Ford F-150 and it has taken me until now (April 2024) to get my HF radio installed. The final impetus was the upcoming Club mobile radio 'show and tell' event scheduled for Saturday 25th May. Here's a few words and photos to show how I chose to install the radio and antenna.

The first and for me the biggest dilemma is where and how to mount the antenna. I already own a Yaesu FT-100D mobile radio and an ATAS 120A, which is a mobile antenna like a screwdriver antenna, that is designed to pair with Yaesu's mobile radios (such as the FT-100D, FT-857, FT-891 and the FT-991A base station). The antenna whip is driven up and down outside of a tuning coil by an electric motor to achieve resonance on all bands from 40 m up to 70 cm.

There are many, many options for mounting the antenna. Initially I thought of using a stake pocket mount on the side of the bed at the back of the truck, but in my previous truck installation I found that with the antenna mounted in the back, it got in the way of loading the bed of the truck or putting a canoe on the roof, so I decided to put the antenna up front on the passenger side fender. I already had the same mount for my VHF/UHF antenna on the driver's side of the truck and have been very satisfied with that. So, I duly purchased the mirror image Comet fender mounting bracket, \$25 US from Ham Radio Outlet, to match the one on the other side of the truck.

The antenna mounting bracket uses an existing bolt under the truck hood and requires no drilling or adjustment. The  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch hole for the antenna is a bit large for the SO239 type attachment that the ATAS uses, but it works well enough. I will monitor the ground connection as this is one area that I have found troublesome in the past with the ATAS antenna, which can stop tuning if the ground connection becomes poor.

Having made the difficult decision, I then opted to put the radio under the passenger side front seat, since I can run the power and coax cables down the firewall and under the vehicle to a handily placed drain point that has a rubber grommet in the passenger side footwell. This means a fairly short power cable and coax run and there are easily removable panels along the door edge that allow me to hide the cables until they pop out at the side of the passenger seat.

For the radio, I chose to install my Yaesu FT-100D which is an all mode, all band 100W mobile radio with a removable control head that I have a mobile mounting bracket and separation kit for. The FT-100D (long out of production) is similar in design and operation to the FT-857 (now out of



production) and the current model the FT-891, and also similar to the QRP FT-817/818. I chose to mount the radio control head on my existing Lido bracket mounted in the forward cup holder. The only remaining task is to finalise a location and mount for the mic and to tidy the wiring between the control head and the radio body.

The pictures and descriptions will take over from here.



**Photo 1:** Comet fender mount in place, showing how it follows the contour of the fender and uses the existing fender bolt to hold it in place. The star washer on top of the antenna mounting bracket bolt improves the ground connection. Also in the pic is the SO239 type right angle connector with the coax running back towards the firewall.





**Photos 2 and 3 (previous page):** The coax connection to the mount was sealed up with 'Liquid Tape'. Threaded washers were used top and bottom on the SO239 connector to provide a good interface to the mounting bracket.



**Photos 4 and 5:** The power cable ends (fused on both the positive and negative wires) were connected directly to the positive and negative terminals of the battery and run to the fender.



**Photo 6:** The power cable runs alongside the fender, joins the coax cable, then down the firewall and under the vehicle.



**Photo 7:** ATAS installation and power cables completed.



**Photos 8 and 9:** The power and coax cables drop out of the engine compartment and run alongside the chassis to reach the through hole grommet at the passenger footwell.



**Photos 10 and 11:** The access point grommet was partly cut out to allow the cables to access the cab and then well sealed with Black Silicone sealant.



**Photo 12:** With the cables hidden inside the door edging, they are kept tidy and free from damage. From here they loop around the back of the passenger seat (under the floor mat) and up to the radio.



**Photo 13:** The radio sits under the front of the passenger's seat, again out of sight and protected from damage. Control head and mic cables are temporarily routed up to the center console.

The whole install was completed in an afternoon and required only common tools except for the power pole crimp tool, since I chose to use Power Poles on the radio power cable.

I have tested the install by tuning the ATAS to the 40, 20, 17, 10 and 6 meter bands and making about 10 QSOs. I also used it for a small number of my QSOs (and some attempted QSOs with Club members!) alongside a portable station while activating a POTA park and contesting in the Solar Eclipse QSO Party on Monday 9th April, so I'm happy to say the new mobile install works well. Tuning across the band and using the control head switches is an easy reach from the driver's seat, with the minimum of distraction.



Next steps. Standby for an update on some minor repairs to the radio mic and for the install of my VHF/UHF mobile radio to replace the handheld that I have been using for the last year or so! Let's see if I can get that completed before the upcoming Club mobile radio show and tell.



Let's see and hear about your mobile radio install.

**73, Rob VE3RXH**



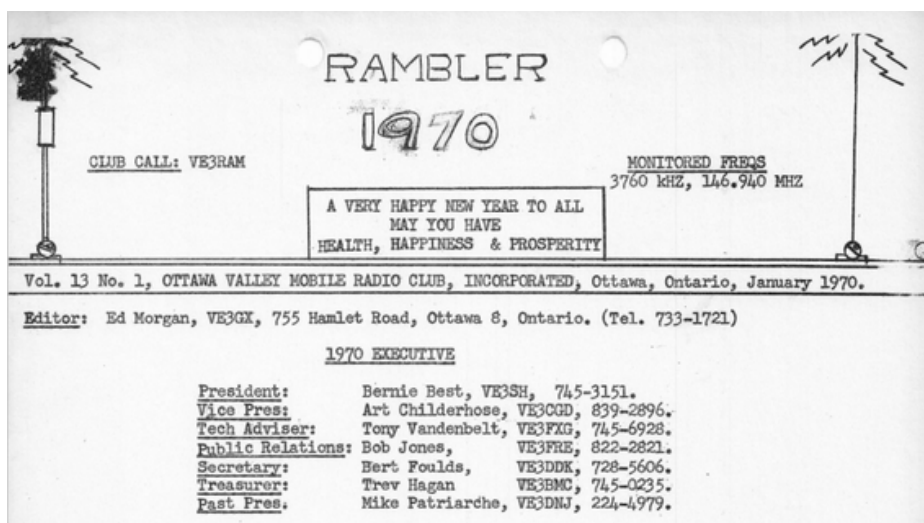
# Tony (AM) Vandebelt VK3BBD / VE3FXG (SK)

Graham VE3AMN received word from one of Tony's sons that Tony succumbed to Alzheimer's disease last weekend, in a home, in Melbourne Australia.

Tony was born in the Netherlands, and emigrated to Canada after the war with his parents and siblings.



Whilst in Ottawa, Tony was very active in amateur radio, serving as president of the OARC and "Technical Advisor" with the OVMRC on the 1970 executive (see below).



He was a repeater builder and was one of the five of who built VE3DVQ, then a 2M to 6M cross-band machine, at Lavant. Tony and Graham VE3AMN were at the top when Graham VE3AMN snapped the attached picture. Anyone who knew him will remember his smile! Tony left Ottawa as a "transmitter man" for the CBC.

In 1978, Tony, his wife Kay and their three sons and two daughters moved-on to Australia. He got back into radio & TV of course and was active on HF and VHF. He retired from Channel 4 Television, where he was again a "transmitter man" and a designer/builder of special circuits & projects.

He predated the days of buying off the shelf to get on the air. He was a builder's builder.

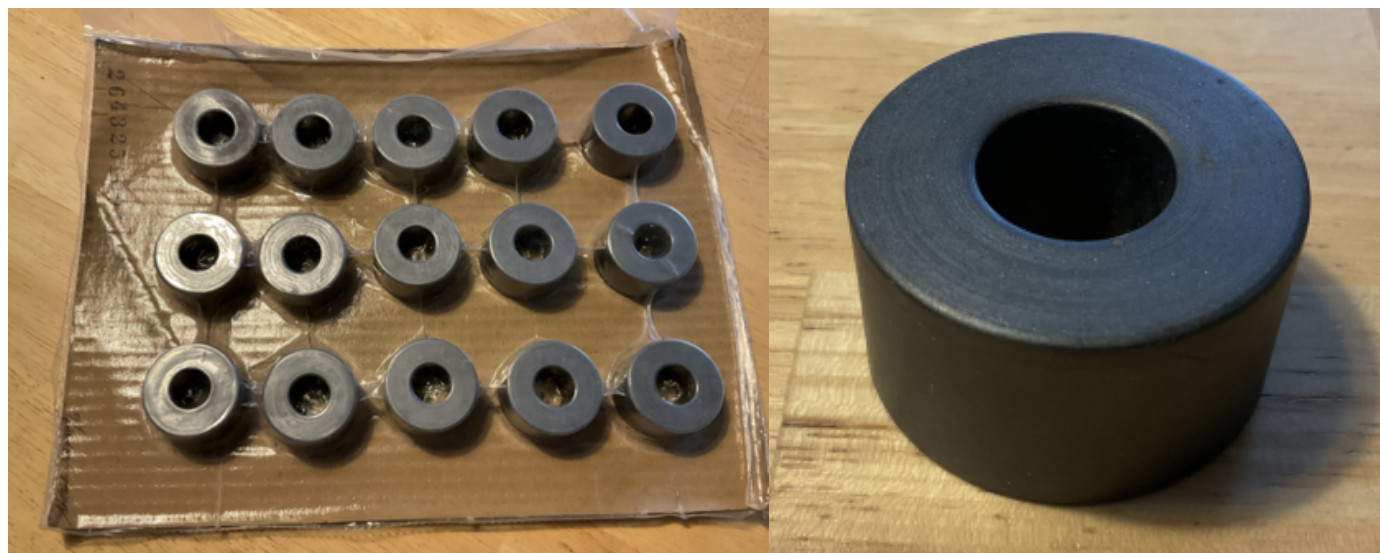




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## Toroidal Cores for Sale: \$5.00 each (all money goes to the OVMRC)

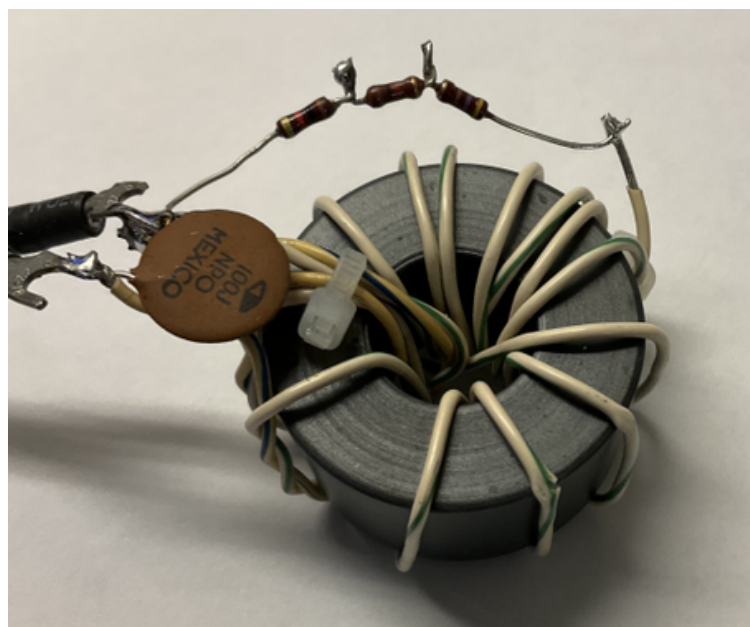
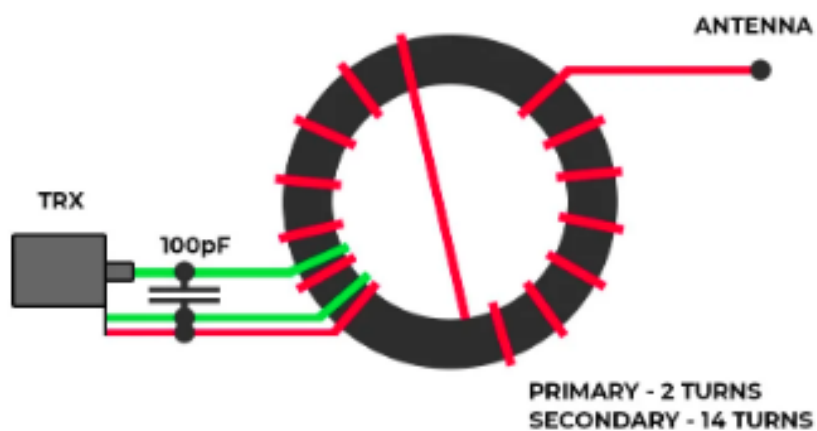
Norm VE3LC has come into possession of more than 60 Fair-Rite toroidal ferrite cores, part number 2643251002. See: [Round Cable EMI Suppression Cores \(2643251002\)](#).



Dimensions are shown at: <https://www.fair-rite.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/2643251002cat.pdf>

Norm VE3LC wound up one of these cores as a classic 49:1 HF RF transformer ideal for feeding end-fed antennas.

With a 2470 ohm resistor load on the output of the 49:1 transformer, Norm VE3LC swept between 2 and 30 MHz using an MFJ-259B and the SWR was found to be less than 1.5:1 on all HF bands.



Suitable wire to wind the core for a RF impedance transformer in the prescribed way can be 18 or 20 gauge enamel insulated wire for up to 100 watts. You will need approximately 45 inches of wire to wind up this RF transformer. These cores would also be suitable for a 1:1 current balun if wound using very small diameter coaxial cable such as RG174 or RG316.

Norm VE3LC will have the toroid cores available at the April 17th meeting for anyone interested along with ceramic 100 pF capacitors. I will also have them available at the Smith Falls fleamarket and afterwards. All proceeds go the OVMRC.

Norm VE3LC



# OVMRC Net Activity, Check-ins for March, 2024

Prepared by: Hugo Kneve VE3KTN

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

March 7	March 14	March 21	March 28
VE3KTN - NCS	*VE3JW - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS
New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors
Chris – VA3CWS			
<b>General Check-ins</b>	<b>General Check-ins</b>	<b>General Check-ins</b>	<b>General Check-ins</b>
VE3RUU VE3OTW VA3CGF VE3LC VE3KAE VA3IAH VE3LAF VE3XIU VA3CJO VE3ZZU VE3RRB VA2OJD VA3ODW VE3KJQ VE3NA VE3VIG VA3LMA VA2BBW VA3HJR VA3VGR	VE3ZZU VE3NPO VE3OTW VA3ODW VA3ZZI VE3LC VA3CJO VA3PSI VE3EJ VE3BOE VE3KJQ VE3OKD VA3JYK VA3IAH VA3CWS VA3LMA VE3LAF VA3EO VE3RUU VA2BBW VE3NA VE3KAE VE3VIG VA3CGF VE3RRB VA3WEX	VE3RUU VE3OTW VE3LC VE3KAE VA3IAH VE3CWM <sup>2</sup> VE3FSN VE3VIG VA3PSI VA2BBW VE3NA VA3CJO VA3LMA VE3KJQ VE3YY VA3HJR VE3NPO VA3VGR VE3LEB VE3LAF	VE3RUU VE3OTW VA3CGF VE3LC VE3KAE VA3IAH VA3CJO VA3ZZI VA3PSI VE3NA VE3KJQ VA3LMA VA2BBW VA3HJR VE3CWM VE3FSN VA3ODW VE3VIG VA2EV

Notes:

- \* - Special event hosting the net from Club Call "VE3JW". Hugo, VE3KTN at the mic.
- 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.

March 3 SFI:152 A:5	March 10 SFI:135 A:12	March 17 SFI:144 A:3	March 24 SFI:209 A:36	March 31 SFI:140 A:5
VE3EJJ - NCS	VE3EJJ - NCS	*VE3JW - NCS	VE3EJJ - NCS	VE3EJJ - NCS
New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors
		Fern- VA3LMA		
General Check-ins	General Check-ins	General Check-ins	General Check-ins	General Check-ins
VE3LC VA2EV VA3ZLA VA3BGO VA3IAH VE3YY VE3KTN VA3PSI VE3CWM <sup>1</sup> VA3EO VE3BQ	VE3LC VA3IAH VE3SYZ VE3BF VA3EO VA3BGO VA3PSI VE3BQ VE3KTN	VA2OJD VE3BF VA3QV VA3BGO VA3LMA VE3EJJ VA3EO VE3LC VE3RXN VA3PSI VE3YY VA2EV VA3IAH VA3ZLA VE3BQ VE3SYZ VE3CWM <sup>1</sup> VE3EKN	VE3BF VA3EO VE3LC VA3ZLA VA3IAH VE3SYZ VE3YY VA3PSI VA3BGO VE3KTN VE3CWM <sup>1</sup> VE3BQ VA2ZCB	VE3BF VA3QV VA3EO VA3BGO VE3LC VA3ZLA VA3IAH VE3KTN VE3YY VA3PSI VE3BQ

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:

- \* - Special event hosting the PHN from Club Call "VE3JW". Hugo, VE3KTN at the mic.
- 1 - Cold War Museum. Fred, VE3LAF at the mic.



## General Links of Interest:

### 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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