

RAMBLER

MAY 2024



VOL. 66 ISSUE 9

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 MAY 15
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





MAY 15, 2024 - MEETING AGENDA

1. **Greetings and special welcome to guests, new hams and new members to the Club.**
2. **Acceptance of the April meeting minutes published in the May Rambler.**
3. **Vote on resolution for fifth director position**
4. **Chairperson Reports**
5. **OVMRC Field Day, Norm VE3LC.**
6. **Other business that may arise.**
7. **Door Prizes**
8. **Formal meeting adjournment.**
9. **Social session following meeting adjournment. Coffee, donuts and 807s available**

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.



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

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



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

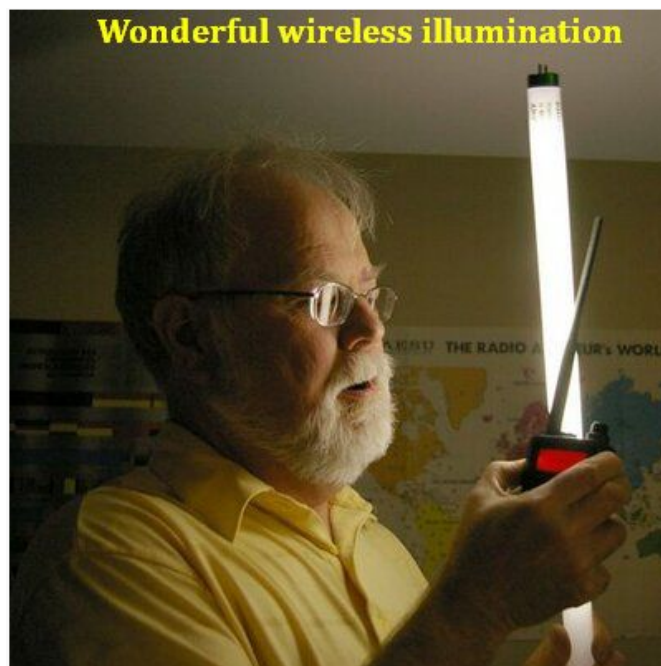
- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QCWA Chapter 70 Breakfast gathering every Tuesday morning at 7:30 to 10:00 AM, Summerhays Grill, 1972 Baseline Rd., Nepean - Restarted | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orleans Coffee gathering every Friday morning at 9:00 AM, McDonald's 1890 Innes Rd., Ottawa, K1B 3K5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QRP Group Dinner meeting, (on hold), Second Wednesday every month, 5:00 PM, Newport Restaurant, 322 Churchill Ave N., Ottawa | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

As I write this, it is still uncertain if the OVMRC will have a location for Field Day “In-the-Field”.

Last year, we attempted to resume our Field Day on the grounds of the Aviation and Space Museum (CASM) as we had done before in 2019 and several years previous to that, but alas; it seemed the CASM is under new management and doesn't seem interested in accommodating us in spite of myself making a fulsome presentation of our past association with the Museum and having held our Field Day there previously.



VE3LC

We had no better luck this year even though we initially approached them with our Field Day request in January. Unfortunately, the permission for such requests are granted by upper management, following a lengthy internal cost and benefit and risk analysis of our proposals. We pressed them for an answer by Friday May 3rd and this resulted in a response that did not support hosting OVMRC field day. So be it.

All that said, we were hopeful for a welcome reception at the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum (CHVM), located at 2940 Old Montreal Road, just east of the Village of Cumberland owned and operated by the City of Ottawa. It seems there is interest in allowing the OVMRC to conduct our Field Day there on a big open field near the western border of the Heritage Village with its various building exhibits of yesteryear. We have yet to clarify whether or not we can “camp” overnight and await a response from CHVM management.

Speaking about Field Day and operating it as a Club event for the first time in several years, we plan to spend a good portion of the May meeting in reviewing the rules especially for new hams and members of the Club that have not had an opportunity to participate in Field Day before. In particular, we will review the various qualifications for bonus points that can be obtained for such things as publicity, engagement with the public, having a visit to the site by an elected official, use of the solar power and making a contact by way of an amateur orbiting satellite to mention a few.



The June meeting will be our Annual General Meeting when we have mandatory elections for the four directors and officers of the Club to lead the show for the next season. There will be a motion and membership vote at the June AGM to elect this slate of returning nominees and a new nominees as for Directors and officers as noted below:

1. Norm Rashleigh VE3LC as President and board chairperson,
2. Rob Haddow VE3RXH as Vice President,
3. Nicole Boivin VE3GIQ as Treasurer.
4. Alan Fricker, VE3KAE, our current Secretary will be stepping down at the conclusion of the June meeting; thank you Alan for serving the Club so well for the past two years. In Alan's place as our forth Director and Secretary, Kathleen Murphy, VA3WEX has accepted the board's nomination to stand for election for this important position in the Club.
5. In addition, other board appointees making up your executive committee of the Club have agreed to carry on their functions and responsibilities organizing and administering the programs of the OVMRC including:
 - a. Membership and Public Service - Nicole VE3GIQ,
 - b. Rambler Newsletter - Alan VA3IAH,
 - c. Web Master and IT services - Adam VA3IRD,
 - d. Events - Roger VA3EGY and John VA3JYK,
 - e. Training and Examinations - Norm VE3LC, and
 - f. Bulk purchases and sales - Barry VE3NA (until another qualified club member is willing to volunteer for the position).

6. Furthermore, as we indicated in my president's message last month, we wish to create a 5th Directorship besides the existing 4 filled by the President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. This 5th Director would be a "Director-at-Large" position elected at the June Annual General Meeting along with the existing four Directors positions and would serve without any defined administrative role except to attend executive meetings to discuss and vote on matters of importance to the Club requiring a Board resolution.

To this end, we make the following resolution for a membership vote:

"Be it resolved that the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Incorporated add a 5th Director position with no specific responsibilities to the existing four Directors positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary and this position will be known as the Director-at-Large".



The Club's bylaws will be amended accordingly to reflect this additional Director position.

To this end as well, the OVMRC Board nominates Patrick Brewer VE3KJQ to stand for election at the Club's AGM for the position of "Director-at-Large" at the Club's AGM in June. Pat is a long time member of the OVMRC and has served the Club previously on various executive positions including President in 1984-1985.

To finish off my message for this month, you are reminded of the **OVMRC mobile Fox Hunt, Mobile Installation Show and Tail Gate Swap Meet** to be staged at the IBEW Local 586 parking lot, **Saturday May 25th**. For the mobile fox hunt, start time will be 9 am. For the mobile show and tail gate swap meet 10 to noon.

73 Folks and hope to see you at the May 15th meeting!
Norm VE3LC

NOTICE: KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS (KOC) AMATEUR RADIO EVENTS



The New Jersey Knights of Columbus Amateur Radio Club (NJKARC) will hold a set of KOC events in 2024 to mark various occasions, featuring Knights of Columbus and clergy from across the world as operators. Upcoming events are:

- August 4-8, 2024 - Supreme Convention in Quebec City, QC;
- August 12-14, 2024 - Commemoration of Blessed McGivney's birth, death and feast days;
- October 12-14, 2024 - Columbus Day; and
- October 31 to November 2, 2024 - Commemoration of Beatification of Blessed McGivney.

For more information please see Thomas Perrotti's N2JIE
(<https://www.qrz.com/db/N2JIE>)

This notice was provided to Norm VE3LC by OVMRC member Rick Lorenz VA3FRL (<https://www.qrz.com/db/VA3FRL>)



OVMRC General Meeting Minutes

Date / Time: Wednesday, April 17, 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 53 total attendees present for the meeting.

2. Agenda and Meeting Content

Norm VE3LC opened the meeting by outlining the agenda for tonight's meeting that includes:

- Greetings and special welcome to guests, new hams and new members to the Club.
- Acceptance of the March meeting minutes published in the April Rambler.
- Resolution for membership vote to donate \$2000 to the RAC VE3RHQ Builders Fund.
- Chairperson Reports.
- Feature Presentation by Ante VA2BBW - RAC Awards Program.
- Other business that may arise.
- Door Prizes.
- Social session following the meeting adjournment.

In his introductory remarks, Norm VE3LC spoke briefly about a useful and very customizable application called Hamclock that provides real time space weather, radio propagation models, operating events and other information particularly useful to the radio amateur and operates on a Raspberry Pi. Norm displayed the application on a screen and described what is displayed with respect to current propagation information, in this case upcoming 15 meter band predicted activity.

Norm mentioned he would be talking about Raspberry Pi 400 devices later in the meeting. He also had one for display, and mentioned the OVMRC executive has decided that for the OVMRC year end prizes - the club will purchase 4 Raspberry Pi 400 kits and these will be awarded to four winners at the end of the year.

3. Welcome and Guest Greetings

Norm VE3LC then extended a welcome to any guests, visitors, and new hams who are present for the meeting. Guests tonight included Michel Matteau VA3AVQ and Martin Bordt VE3MHA. In addition there were two new members - Frank Deluca VA3FSD and Allan Barnes VA2EH.



4. Approval of Minutes from March 20, 2024 Meeting:

MOTION: Moved by Rylan VE3RVQ and seconded by Sandy VE3HAZ that the minutes of the OVMRC meeting held Wednesday, March 20, 2024 be approved.

VOTE: No Objections.

CARRIED.

5. RAC VE3RHQ Station Funding Resolution

Norm VE3LC reminded the membership about Craig's VE3OP presentation at the March 2024 meeting about the VE3RHQ station at RAC HQ on Belfast Road. As the membership is aware, RAC has made a request for a financial contribution from the OVMRC. Norm outlined the benefits of the station and briefly described it's planned set up including operating features and equipment.

In consideration of the RAC request, the OVMRC has proposed a funding resolution which was recently communicated to the membership for consideration which is as follows and put forward as a motion for a vote. ***“Be it resolved that the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Incorporated contribute two-thousand Canadian dollars (\$2000) to the Radio Amateurs of Canada VE3RHQ Honorary 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”***

The motion was moved by Fred VE3LAF and the floor was opened for discussion. Craig VE3OP mentioned that station VE3RHQ will be operational this evening. Wray, VE3EO, asked about on-line and in-person voting and Norm VE3LC confirmed that all votes will be counted and Nicole VE3GIQ will ensure on-line votes are monitored. Norm VE3LC then called for any negative votes. As there were none, the final vote for approval was unanimous.

Motion Carried.

6. Year-end prizes: Norm VE3LC mentioned that the club planned to purchase four Raspberry Pi 400s for the year-end prize draw, and reminded the membership that the draw will be at the OVMRC (AGM) meeting on June 19, 2024.

7. Projects, Haves, Wants:

Haves: None

Wants: None.



8. Treasurer and Membership Report April 2024, and Upcoming Events - Nicole VE3GIQ

Nicole VE3GIQ provided a brief update of the OVMRC financial and membership status as of April 2024.

Nicole reported the following:

- Bank balance: \$8560.00 with an additional \$75.00 for deposit.
- GIC Investment: \$15,000 (matures Jan. 8, 2025)
- Available: \$7085.00 which does not include the \$2000.00 approved this evening for the RAC station.
- Membership is now at 140.

Nicole reminded that the new email address for membership or meetings is membership@ovmrc.ca

Nicole then spoke about upcoming events:

- May 5, 2024 - CN Cycle for CHEO,
- June 8-9, 2-024 - Rideau Lakes Cycle Tour.

Richard VE3UNW is the contact for both of these events and he is still seeking volunteers. He may be contacted at hagemeister@gmail.com. The website is <https://cncyle.radio-1.ca>.

- August 17-18, 2024 - MS Canada Bike Ottawa to Brockville.

Nicole VE3GIQ is the contact and is also seeking volunteers for the event. Those interested may send an email to Nicole at membership@ovmrc.ca.

Nicole then outlined the routes for the three events with the graphic depictions of the routes. She noted that with respect to the MS Bike event, to note that the rest stop location at Rideau River Provincial Park will alternate from one side of the road to the to the other on Saturday and Sunday for safety reasons.

For radio communications, the plan this year is to use the repeater at Ivy Lea. Martin VE3MHA from the Brockville club mentioned that the repeater is available to us, it runs on 20 watts, and Martin will make himself available for testing when Nicole needs him.

Nicole says that APRS will be used to track event assets including support vehicles and radio volunteers. This will require the testing of new software and perhaps a demonstration of this will take place at a future meeting. On-line training sessions are planned for July 2024.

Norm VE3LC thanked Nicole VE3GIQ for her presentation.



9. Upcoming OVMRC Events – Rob VE3RXH

Norm VE3LC then introduced OVMRC Vice President Rob VE3RXH, who will talk about upcoming events that will encourage members to get together and have some fun.

Rob VE3RXH talked about the OVMRC fox hunt event planned for Saturday April 20, 2024, that will be headed up by Roger VE3EGY, and held at Vincent Massey park, and the event will include a POTA activation as well. Rob says to come out for some fun and bring your portable radios and tape measure Yagis.

Rob reminded that parking is not free at the park and costs \$8.00 per day and the nearest free parking is probably at Hog's Back. There is a paved footpath to Vincent Massey Park. Parking may be paid using cash or credit card.

The plan is to run a 2 meter station for “talk-in” on 146.520 MHz. 146.580 MHz. will be used to coordinate to avoid interference. He reminded members to consider the weather and dress accordingly. Participants for POTA will operate under their own call signs. Event details will be posted to groups.io.

On Saturday, May 25, 2024, a “vehicle based” event is planned, consisting of an OVMRC Mobile and Portable Clinic, a vehicle fox hunt, and a mobile show and tell event. Rob also mentioned that anyone having a portable go-kit, to bring that as well for the show and tell.

This event will be held at the IBEW parking lot at 1178 Rainbow Street, Ottawa, ON. Members are invited to bring a lunch and items of interest for a swap meet. Rob anticipates a start time of 10:00 AM, however more details will follow.

Norm VE3LC thanked Rob VE3RXH for his presentation.

10. Field Day Location Update – Norm VE3LC

Norm VE3LC provided a brief update about the status of our request with the Canadian Aviation and Space Museum (CASM) to use their grounds and facilities for Field Day 2024. Norm and Rob VE3RXH met with representatives of CASM last Friday but there is still no confirmation from CASM about our request. Norm mentioned that Mr. Jerrod Smith of CASM appears to be enthusiastic, however, they are still considering our request. More to follow on this.



11. National Peacekeepers Day August 9, 2024 and Buffalo Aircraft Tribute - Norm VE3LC

Norm spoke briefly about an upcoming event that may be of interest, and concerns various retired RCAF Buffalo Search and Rescue Planes that are stored in various locations across Canada. Phil Tanner, VA7XOZ is organizing the event and it is expected that special call signs will be issued and activations will take place from the locations of the aircraft.

Norm VE3LC and Rob VE3RXH will attend a zoom session on coming Friday with interested parties about the potential event. As many are aware, CC-115 Buffalo, No. 115-452, resides at the Canada Aviation and Space Museum in Ottawa. Norm says that volunteer operators will be needed for the station. This may be a one, or two day event and may involve the issuance of special certificates as well. There may be a cost for this in the order of \$60.00 for a special call sign. Norm says more details will follow about the event.

12. Award Hunting, From QSO to QSL - Ante VA2BBW

Ante VA2BBW introduced himself and mentioned that since the middle of last year he has taken on the RAC Awards Manager position. He has been a ham radio operator since 2008, and in his very comprehensive presentation he talked about:

- What an operating award is,
- Why “chase” awards,
- Popular award programs, national and international,
- Specific Radio amateurs of Canada (RAC) awards
- How to prepare for and make the important QSOs and use your logs to assist with QSLs.
- How to apply for operating awards and the related costs, and what are the available resources and how best to use them.

Ante's message was very clear that chasing awards was a very good way to encourage activity on the air. The awards often have a geographical, commemorative or historical theme related to them which makes them interesting. Many award programs are sponsored by national radio societies. And the biggest reason - it's fun.

Ante demonstrated many of his award certificates during his presentation including the DX Century Club, WAS and WAZ, WAJA, France award, Japan awards, SKCC Senator Award, a Gold Hunter POTA Certificate, WRTC 2023 Award, the Bacon Award as well as others. He also brought along a variety of interesting QSL cards and other items for display.

Ante spoke about the RAC Awards, consisting of four operating awards and one challenge award. These are the Canadaward, that has been around



since 1977, the Worked All RAC (WARAC) Award, the Canadian Century Club (CCC), the Worked All North America (WANA) Award, and the RAC Canadian Portable Operations Challenge Award.

Ante mentioned that a new certificate for the Canadaward was designed last year. The Worked All RAC (WARAC) is a new award, and available for working 10 RAC stations.

CCC is also a new award that RAC came up with last year. The award is for working 100 different amateur radio stations in Canada. At least one contact to be in each province and at least one contact in one of the territories is required.

WANA award was introduced last year for those specifically interested in chasing DX. There are 3 levels - Bronze, Silver and Gold for working 30, 40 and 50 stations.

There is also the RAC Canadian Portable Operations Challenge Award. This award is for RAC members only and was created in 2021 by Dave Goodwin VE3KG. Every month the top five scorers receive certificates and for 100 activations an operator will receive a gold certificate.

Information about the various RAC awards programs is available on the RAC website.

Ante then asked if there were any questions. Ante was asked if his slide presentation could be provided for a Basic Course Class, and he said yes it can.

Ante was also asked if RAC has considered a way for an award to be offered for a member in his/her first year in RAC. Ante is not aware of that, but he really likes that idea.

Norm VE3LC thanked Ante VA2BBW for his very interesting presentation that was very much appreciated by the members this evening.

Norm then offered his encouragement for all OVMRC members to join RAC.

13. Door Prize Draw:

This evening's door prizes consisted of various toroids useful for building antennas and the winners were:

- Harrie VE3HYS, Alan VA3IAH, Steven VE3MVK, Rob VE3RXH, Michel VA3AVQ and Rylan VE3RVQ



12. Chair Reports:

OVMRC President Norm VE3LC: No update.

OVMRC Vice-President Rob VE3RXH: No update.

OVMRC Treasurer Nicole VE3GIQ: No update.

OVMRC Secretary - Alan VE3KAE: No update.

Rambler Update - Alan VA3IAH: No update.

Web Site Update - Adam VA3IRB: No update.

Net Operations - Hugo Kneve VE3KTN:

- Hugo VE3KTN provided a brief net status update.

14. Adjournment:

Norm VE3LC then asked for a call for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION: Moved by Rylan VE3RVQ to adjourn the business meeting at 9:10 PM.

Next Meeting:

The next monthly meeting of the OVMRC will be held on May 15, 2024, at the IBEW facility, 1178 Rainbow Street, Ottawa, ON. The meeting will also be available on-line via Zoom.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Secretary, Alan VE3KAE.



OVMRC Fox hunt and POTA Activation at Vincent Massey Park

The Club Executive are committed to organizing activities for members to get together, learn about ham radio and have fun. The first outdoor event on the agenda for 2024 was a Fox hunt and POTA activation held on Saturday 20th April at Vincent Massey Park.

Although the day was a little damp that did not deter folks from turning up nor did it hold down the spirits of those that set off in search of the foxes (note: foxes are hidden very low power transmitters, no animals were involved!).

The fox hiders set out early to ensure all five foxes were in place before the hunters arrived.



Photo 1: The fox hiders (l to r): Rob, VE3RXH; Harrie, VE3HYS and Roger, VA3EGY.



Photo 2: Spot the fox

Foxes were placed out of sight in locations around the park, and hung close to each fox was a small orange/white orienteering flag and a label with a commonly used Q code. Once the hunters found each fox using their receiver and directional antenna, they recorded the Q code.



Photo 3: Roger, VA3EGY sets up the fox hunting gear. Rebecca, VE3DLI and Will, VA3ODW prepare for the hunt.



First timers were given an introduction to fox hunting and a brief on using the Sniffer4 receivers and the 3 element Yagi antennas.



Photo 4: Harrie, VE3HYS gives a briefing to the first time fox hunters.



Photo 5: Daniella (harmonic of Charles, VA3CGF) sets off in search of the foxes (Photo credit Charles, VA3CGF)



Photo 6: David, VA3UDA and Monique, VA3NTB get some fox hunting tips from Roger, VA3EGY.



Photo 7: Donald, VA3ZZI sets off confidently to find all five foxes (Photo credit Charles, VA3CGF).



A total of 10 amateurs and a few with family members took part in the Fox hunt, with 6 finding at least one fox. Most were new to the activity and made use of our Sniffer4 receiver/antenna setup which greatly simplifies the tracking of foxes. Some tried to use an HT with a directional antenna but found that the signal was too strong and so they could not discern a direction. This where the benefit of an offset attenuator would help and some suggestions are:

- The 4 MHz Offset Fox Hunt Attenuator from Arrow Antenna - <https://www.arrowantennas.com/main/4ofha.html>.
- Byonics, the same folks who make our fox hunting transmitters - <https://www.byonics.com/attenuators>.
- There is also a good one from 3rd Planet Solar. <https://kc9on.com/product/fox-hunt-v7/>. (There was a Club bulk order and build day a few years ago). This one can also be purchased pre-assembled for a few extra bucks too.

Fox hunt certificates are to be awarded to:

- Donald, VA3ZZI, found all 5 foxes and was first to report back to the start/finish area.
- Team 1 - Harmonics of Rebecca, VE3DLI, found all 5 foxes.
- Charles, VA3CGF and harmonic, Daniella, found 4 foxes.
- David, VA3UDA found 2 foxes.
- Will, VA3ODW found 2 foxes.
- Rebecca, VE3DLI and OM, Matthew, found 2 foxes.

For the POTA activation, this was one of the POTA Support Your Parks (SYP) weekends, which take place seasonally, on the 3rd full weekend of the month (Saturday & Sunday UTC). These are 'activity weekends' where the main purpose is to get out in the parks, and have as much fun as possible. Dates are:

Winter - 3rd Full Weekend of January.
Spring - 3rd Full Weekend of April.
Summer - 3rd Full Weekend of July.
Autumn - 3rd Full Weekend of October.



The net result was that many more parks were being activated and many more hunters were standing by to make QSOs. Our activators were:

JD, VA2OJD (first POTA activation)
Chris, VA3CJO (first POTA activation)
Norm, VE3LC
Rob, VE3RXH

Here's a write up from Chris, VA3CJO:

Not only a great turnout at the park, we had great support from hunters. I focused my attention on the POTA activation but watched the fox-hunt demo with interest.

This was my first activation. Some comments and stats, bulleted for brevity:

- IC-705, 5-Watts max, iPad running "SDR Control" app for logging and digi-modes, phone as WiFi hotspot to bridge iPad and radio & provide data.
- Ground spike, coil-tuned, 17-foot telescoping whip with about a dozen radials, initially tuned for 40m, then 20m followed by moving a bit so as not to step on anyone.
- Several SSB contacts with the locals on 40m and into the USA on FT8.
- Retuned for 17m and 15m after moving under one of the shelters - made multiple FT8 contacts across Europe including Ukraine, Italy, Austria, Germany, in addition to the USA and Canada.
- Totalled 19 QSOs.



Photo 8 and 9: Chris, VA3CJO, used his Icom 705 and coil tuned vertical antenna to reach Europe and across the US/Canada (Photo credit Chris, VA3CJO).

Kathleen, VA3WEX had a full dress rehearsal at setting up radio and antenna (ask her about it next time!).



Photo 10: Kathleen, VA3WEX setup for POTA (Photo credit Norm, VE3LC)



Fred, VE3LAF and Michael, VE3WMB activated from nearby Hog's Back Park, CA-1596.

Thanks to all those who came out and for their contributions as noted:

1. VA3JYK, John (lead for the POTA activation and brought coffee and donuts which were essential sustenance for the chilly weather)
2. VA3EGY, Roger (lead for the fox hunting setup)
3. VE3HYS, Harrie (fox hunting setup)
4. VA3CGF, Charles and harmonic, Daniella
5. VE3DLI, Rebecca with OM, Michael and harmonics
6. VA3WEX, Kathleen
7. VA3ODW, Will
8. VA3ZLA, Cal
9. VE3LC, Norm
10. VE3RXH, Rob
11. VA3NTB, Monique
12. VA3UDA, David
13. VA3CJO, Chris
14. VA2OJD, JD

The next event in the calendar is the vehicle based fox hunt (details to follow), mobile radio show and tell (bring your vehicle with mobile installation and/or portable setup) and tail gate (bring your lunch!) on Saturday 20th May at the IBEW Local 586, 1178 Rainbow St., Gloucester, ON.

73, Rob, VE3RXH





Yaesu FT-100D Microphone Surgery

Rambler readers may recall my mobile HF radio install from last month's issue where I installed my Yaesu FT-100D mobile transceiver and ATAS-120A antenna in my Ford F-150. When testing the radio after the install, I encountered a problem with the radio microphone. When I tried to transmit using the mic PTT switch, the radio "chattered", switching rapidly between transmit and receive. I had once previously encountered that with another radio when the battery voltage was low, but in this case it was a different problem.

After some elementary fault finding with a continuity tester I diagnosed a faulty microswitch inside the mic. Before ordering a replacement mic or microswitch I took a shot at repairing it and found that it was just a build up of surface corrosion on the mic switch contacts that was causing the issue.

A quick squirt of "DeoxIT D5" and a scrub with a Q-tip cleaned up the contacts and returned the mic to normal operational use. Here's some pictures to show the repair.

I first attempted to spray DeoxIT from outside of the microswitch enclosure, but this did not penetrate far enough inside to clean the contact surfaces, so it was necessary to pop open the microswitch enclosure. The edges of the plastic enclosure were prized open carefully with a small screwdriver and the top cover popped off.



Photo 1: Yaesu MH-36B hand mic supplied with the Yaesu FT-100d



Photo 2: DeoxIT D5, spray cleaner for metal to metal connections.

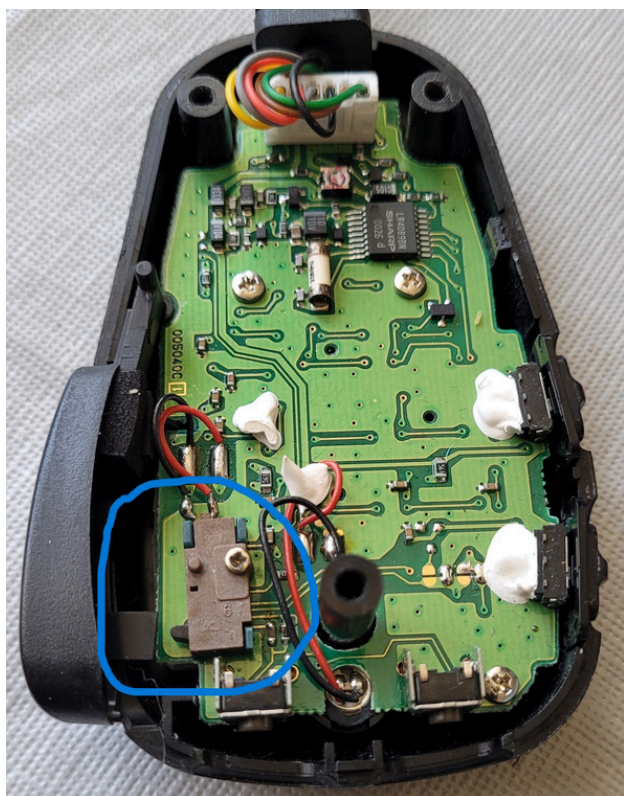


Photo 3 (LEFT): MH-36B with back removed showing the PTT microswitch circled on the bottom left of the photo



Photo 3 (right): The microswitch was easily removed from the circuit board



Photo 4 (left): microswitch enclosure opened showing the PTT contact



With the microswitch enclosure opened, the spring contacts can be seen. The interaction of the straight and semi-circular metal strips gives that satisfying “click” when making and breaking the contact, just like a computer mouse button. The left most end of the semi-circular strip (see arrow in photo) is what makes contact with the flat strip, to put the transceiver into Tx. It was this contact area that I cleaned well with DeoxIT. It is a surprisingly small contact area.

Once cleaned and reassembled I was happy to see that the PTT switch was working correctly again. I am expecting to give the mic PTT switch a good work out on a road trip to the Rocky Mountains in July.

73

Rob, VE3RXH





OVMRC Net Activity, Check-ins for April, 2024

Prepared by: Hugo Kneve VE3KTN

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

April 4	April 11	April 18	April 25
VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS
New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors
	Bernie – VE3KJZ	Dan - VA3DFX	
General Check-ins	General Check-ins	General Check-ins	General Check-ins
VE3RUU VE3OTW VA3CWS VA3CGF VE3LC VE3RXH VE3KAE VA3IAH VE3GIQ VA2BBW VA3PSI VE3NA VA3ZZI VA3KXU VE3LAF VA3HJR VE3CWM ¹ VE3RRB VE3YY VA3WEX VA3EO VE3VIG VA3LMA	VE3RUU VE3OTW VA3ODW VE3LC VE3KAE VA3IAH VE3CWM ¹ VA3CSG VA2BBW VA3PSI VA3CJO VE3PIS VA3WEX VE3NA VA3HJR VA3CWS VE3KJQ VE3VIG VE3NPO VE3RRB	VE3OTW VA3HJR VA3ODW VA3GFY VE3LC VE3KAE VA3IAH VE3RXH VA3EO VE3CWM ² VE3OKD VA3WBR VE3NPO VA3ZZI VA3CJO VA3CGF VA3WEX VA3CWS VE3KJQ VE3NA VA2BBW VA3LMA VE3RXN VE3VIG VE3LAF	VE3OTW VA2BBW VA3WBR VE3LC VE3KAE VE3RXH VE3CWM ¹ VA3ZZI VA2OJD VE3NA VE3KJQ VA3CJO VE3RRB VA3LMA VA3EO VA3CWS VA3WEX VE3VIG VE3LAF

Notes:

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

- 1 - Norman, VE3NPP at the mic.
- 1 - Cal, VA3ZLA at the mic.



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

April 7 SFI:123 A:10	April 14 SFI:161 A:6	April 21 SFI:210 A:12	April 28 SFI:153 A:12
VE3EJJ - NCS	VE3EJJ - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS
New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors
General Check-ins	General Check-ins	General Check-ins	General Check-ins
VA3LMA VA3QV VA3EO VE3KTN VE3RXN VE3YY VA3IAH VE3LC VA3BGO VE3BQ	VA3EO VE3RXN VE3YY VA3PSI VA3IAH VA3BGO VE3LC VE3BQ VA3QV VE3CWM ¹	VA3QV VE3RXN VE3LC VE3SYZ	VA3QV VE3RXN VE3LC VE3CWM VE3OWV VA3EO

Notes:

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

1 - Fred, VE3LAF at the mic.

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



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
73, Alan VA3IAH

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