

RAMBLER

SEPTEMBER 2024



VOL. 67 ISSUE 1

NEWSLETTER OF THE OTTAWA VALLEY MOBILE RADIO CLUB INCORPORATED (OVMRC.CA)

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- 2 AGENDA
- 3 OVMRC EXECUTIVE
- 4 NETS AND EVENTS
- 5 PRESIDENT'S RAMBLINGS
- 8 NEAL VE3DHE (SK)
- 10 JUNE MINUTES
- 18 OVMRC QRP FIELD DAY
- 23 HAMPTON PARK POTA
- 26 SHIRLEY'S BAY POTA
- 27 POTA HUNTING VE3VIG
- 28 BOTA STATION CG3BUFO
- 33 2024-25 NETS VE3KTN
- 35 POT LID NET SCRIPT
- 36 OVMRC NET ACTIVITY
- 38 LINKS & EDITOR'S NOTE

MEETING:

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 18
RAC HQ OFFICES, 720 BELFAST RD
AT 7:00PM IN PERSON AND 7:15 PM
VIA ZOOM

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.

OVMRC AFFILIATIONS

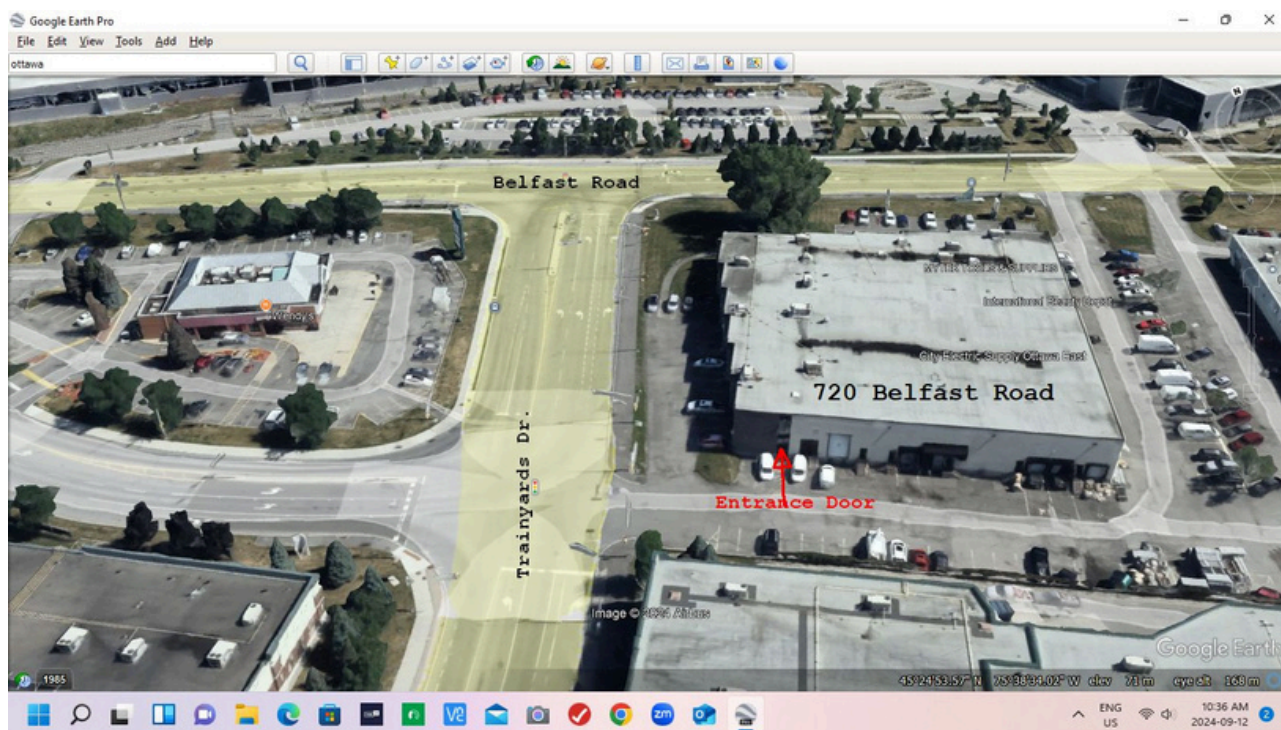




SEPTEMBER 18, 2024 - MEETING AGENDA

1. Greetings and welcoming guests and new members of the Club.
2. Acceptance of the June meeting minutes.
3. Review of summertime activities
4. Tour of VE3RHQ Station: Craig Delmage (VE3OP)
5. Meeting adjournment followed by social hour.

The September meeting of the OVMRC will be conducted at RAC HQ offices, 720 Belfast Rd at 7 pm. The following aerial view of the premises shows ample parking that should be available around the building and the south entrance door that will be open for club members attending the meeting. To get to the RAC office, take the stairs to the 2nd floor and proceed along the hallway to the 2nd floor on your left.





OVMRC EXECUTIVE AND OFFICERS 2024-2025

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:

Kathleen Murphy,
VA3WEX, murphy@ncf.ca

Director-at-Large:

Patrick Brewer, VE3KJQ
patbrewer@sympatico.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. ***new antenna / better coverage***
- **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, including VA3AAR, HH 94152 & AllStar Node 564012. 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 |
|--|---|--|---|

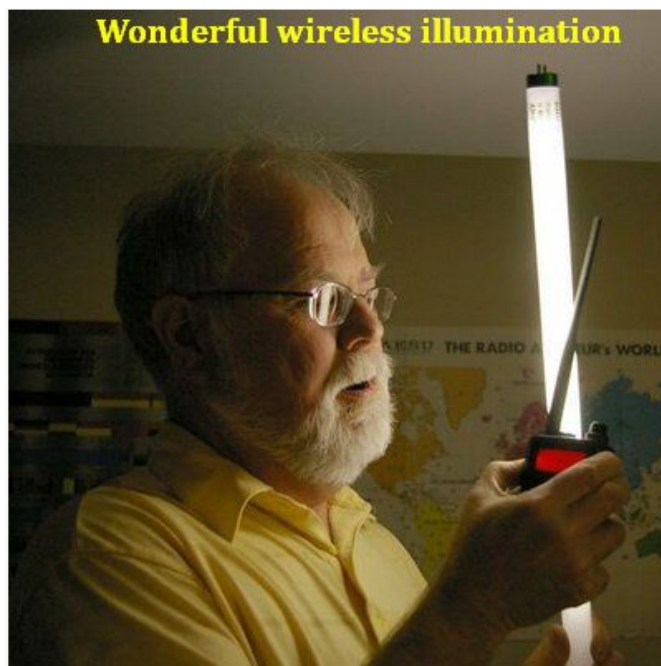


President's Ramblings

New Meeting Location

We are about to start another season of monthly meetings of the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club at a new venue, the second floor office and new ham shack of Radio Amateurs of Canada located at 720 Belfast Road.

We'll see how this new location works out for our meetings; it certainly will not be as spacious as we enjoyed last season at the IBEW local 586 premises thanks to Colin VA3CSG. We should be able to seat at least 30 in the main room with spill-over for more in the ham shack.



VE3LC

We will continue to offer our meetings in a hybrid fashion on-line with the Club's Zoom account. Craig VE3OP should be on-hand at our September 18th meeting to give a tour of the new RAC premises and VE3RHQ station.

Since our last meeting in June (the AGM), the Club has been active with several summertime events including:

Field Day, June 22-23

Field Day this year was actually in the "Field" again. We were hosted at the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum. There, we conducted an all-QRP operation in the 2A Battery Class running no more than 5 Watts on all bands. Our score, including bonus points, was an impressive 4140 points resulting from a total of 151 CW contacts, 168 digital contacts and 8 contacts on phone. We had several visitors from the Museum looking on with interest to our operations. Our AC power was derived from my battery electric vehicle that kept the computers and stations powered for 24 hours. Thanks again to Marc VE3BOE for providing his wonderful enclosed trailer that housed our operations; it was well appreciated keeping us dry during the very wet Field Day weekend. Saturday evening we were well fed by a big pot of chili prepared by Louise, Bryan VE3QN's XYL. Also, Nicole VE3GIQ prepared and brought her famous shrimp jambalaya.



Thanks also to all club members that participated to make our first in-the-field FD event since 2019 a great success. Those that operated included: Rob VE3RXH (who camped out for the entire weekend), Kathleen VA3WEX, Will VE3ODW, and me, Norm VE3LC. Rick VE3RVV and Chris VA3CJO made contacts operating separately their own rigs as new hams under the “GOTA” provisions of the Field Day rules. Others that helped out with Friday evening setup and Sunday tear down included: Fern VA3LMA, Tevor VE3TAC, Nicole VE3GIQ, Don VA3ZZI and Hugo VE3KTN

POTA (Picnic) summer events:

1. Hampton Park (POTA CA-5958): A good many of the club members came out to activate this park on Saturday July 20th.
2. Shirley’s Bay (POTA CA-1621): This was another good crowd of club members activating this site August 31 morning on the shores of the Ottawa River at the north end of Rifle Rd. In spite of the damp weather, there was a good turnout that included Charles VA3CGF, Kathleen VA3WEX and Will VA3ODW and of course I activated the site (VE3LC) with 17 FT8 contacts on 15 m. Also attending was Tim VE3TXB and new amateur Richard VA3RAX.

August 9th and 10th Buffalo Aircraft Special Event Station CG3BUFO

In between the two OVMRC sponsored POTA activations, the Club operated a special event station (August 9th and 10th) on the grounds of the Aviation and Space Museum using the OVMRC sponsored special event call sign CG3BUFO. We were on the air along with other Special event stations located at aircraft Museums across Canada where retired Buffalo aircraft are kept. The other sites that participated in this event were Comox, BC (CG7BUFC), Winnipeg, MB (CG4BUFW), Hamilton, ON (CF3BUFH), Trenton, ON (CF3BUFT) and Summerside, PEI (XO3BUFS). The on-the-air event commemorated the service of the de Havilland DHC-5 Buffalo aircraft and National Peace Keeping day (August 9) when on that day in 1974 an RCAF Buffalo UN mission flight to Damascus was shot down taking all 9 Canadian souls aboard. A more fulsome write-up of this commemoration is included in this issue of the Rambler.

While on-the-air using the special event call sign CG3BUFO, we logged a total of 267 contacts that included operation on HF SSB, FT8 and CW and local contacts on 2 m FM. Thanks to all that participated that included: Rob VE3RXH, Roger VA3EGY, Fred VE3LAF, Eric VA3DXP, Will VA3ODW and Maurice-André VE3VIG who was given permission to use the call sign at home making CW contacts on Sunday, August 11. The only other Buffalo special event station we contacted during the event was CG4BUFW in



Winnipeg that was using the actual Buffalo HF antenna since the aircraft was parked outside and available for connection to the amateur radio set. Included in this issue of the Rambler are a few pictures of the operation and certificate of appreciation to those that operated or contributed to setup and tear down of the special event station at the Museum.

August 17th - 18th weekend: Amateur Communications for MS Bike.

During the weekend following the Buffalo aircraft special event station operation, many of the OVMRC members were engaged in providing communications for the MS Bike ride from Kars to Brockville (on the Saturday) and back again the following day. Net control for the event was located in the community centre in Kars where Nicole VE3GIQ, Kathleen VA3WEX and Douglas VE3YDK did duty as net control operators. Like last year, the VE3IWJ repeater near Brockville provided good coverage along the event route. Thanks go to all that participated and especially to Nicole VE3GIQ for spending several months before the event working with the MS Bike organizers to determine how best to meet their check point and mobile communications needs. We expect Nicole to provide the Club with a full debriefing on how things went and lessons learned at the October meeting.

ONCA (Ontario Not for Profit Corporations Act)

We have still not completed the task of creating a new set of bylaws and submitting them to the Ontario government. The deadline remains October 19. We will endeavour to have them ready to present to the membership before our October 16 meeting and vote for approval.

As a reminder, your dues to clubs are now due. \$25 for RAC members and \$35 if not. It is preferred payment be made by Interac e-transfer to the Club account. < ovmrc.e.xfer@gmail.com > If that is not available to the member, payment can be made by cash or cheque at Club meetings.

That's it for now.

Hope to see you all at the Sept 18th meeting at the RAC HQ office and home of VE3RHQ.

73 Norm VE3LC



Neal Petersen VE3DHE (sk)

I am sad to report that local radio amateur Neal Petersen VE3DHE passed away August 7 while in care of the Montfort Hospital being treated for pneumonia. I visited him that day around lunch time and we had a good conversation. I told him if he was still in hospital in a couple days, I'd come and visit him again. He died later that evening.

Neal had a career as a Mountie. We became associated in 1975 when I joined the RCMP as a civilian member and assigned to the same office as Neal; our business there was the provisioning of mobile radio systems and equipment for the Force.



Of course, amateur radio was always a side topic of conversation during the work day with Neal and others we worked with. I remember Neal as a very meticulous person, always keeping things in order and in their place after the work was done. After retirement from the RCMP, Neal took on employment for many years with CSE Canada. When I often visited Neal at his home in Beacon Hill his hamshack and workshop were always neat and tidy. He delighted in showing me his fine tools, always put away in custom drawers he had fabricated. He also delighted in showing me his fountain pen collection, some very rare ones I'm sure that only a person knowledgeable about such fine collectables could fully appreciate.

On one visit to Neal's home, he asked me if I wanted to take possession of his old Healthkit DX 35 transmitter and VF1 VFO that he used when he was first on the air in 1960 while on a posting to Nova Scotia. I said sure and put it on-the-air for one of the 80 m Pot-Lid CW net sessions Sunday morning conducted by Ed Morgan, VE3GX (sk). I discovered the vintage transmitter had very poor harmonic suppression emitting a very strong out of band signal at three times the 160 m VFO frequency when on 80 m (5.43 MHz). I reported the finding back to Neal and he confided that indeed, while using the transmitter, he had once received an out-of-band citation from one of the Department's monitoring stations at the time. Following Neal's passing, his son, Brent VE9EX, an Engineering professor at the University of New Brunswick made mention of the DX 35 transmitter he recalled his dad having and he couldn't find it in the house. I said I had it and asked if he wanted it back. I was glad to return it to someone that would appreciate it as a keepsake.



Although not on the air a lot in recent years, Neal would check into our local FM repeater nets from time to time as well as attending the Friday morning gatherings for local hams at the Orleans McDonalds. He was also a member of QCWA Chapter 70 and would often attend the dinner meetings with his wife Katharine; she passed away last April.

Neal was truly a gentleman and scholar. We'll miss him dearly.

His obituary can be found at:

<https://ottawacitizen.remembering.ca/obituary/neal-kenneth-petersen-1090432351>

Norm Rashleigh, VE3LC

Silent Key Submission Guidelines

<https://www.rac.ca/silent-keys/>

..also please inform ISED

<https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/amateur-radio-operator-certificate-services/en/contact-us>



OVMRC June Meeting Minutes

Date / Time: Wednesday, June 19, 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 7:19 PM. There were 38 members present at the meeting this evening.

2. Agenda and Meeting Content

Norm VE3LC began by mentioning that tonight's meeting (the Annual General Meeting) is the last regular meeting of the season. The main significance of this meeting is to elect the directors who will guide the club for the next season.

Norm then briefly outlined the agenda for tonight's meeting that includes:

1. Greetings and special welcome to guests, new hams and new members to the OVMRC;
2. Acceptance of the May 2024 meeting minutes as published in the June 2024 Rambler;
3. A vote on a resolution to elect the slate of the five OVMRC Director positions;
4. Chairpersons Reports;
5. An update and discussion about the coming 2024 OVMRC Field Day;
6. A draw for the Year End prizes - four Raspberry PI 400 computer kits;
7. Any other business that may arise;
8. Formal meeting adjournment, and;
9. An informal social time following the meeting.

3. Welcome and Guest Greetings

Norm VE3LC then extended a welcome to any guests, visitors, and new hams who are present for the meeting. This evening there were no new members or guests present.

4. Approval of Minutes from May 15, 2024 Meeting:

MOTION: Moved by Bill VA3HWA and seconded by Rick VE3RVV that the minutes of the OVMRC meeting held Wednesday, May 15, 2024 be approved.

VOTE: No Objections. **CARRIED.**



5. OVMRC General Election

OVMRC President Norm VE3LC read the following resolution and introduced it as a motion to the membership for a vote. This motion was seconded by Ryland VE3RVQ. "Be it resolved that Norm Rashleigh VE3LC, Rob Haddow VE3RXH, Nicole Boivin VE3GIQ, Kathleen Murphy VA3WEX, and Patrick Brewer VE3KJQ be elected as Directors of the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Incorporated for a term of one year and serve the Club to the best of their ability until the next Annual General Meeting in the month of June, 2025." Norm provided an opportunity for an open discussion about the resolution and there were no comments or questions related to it. The vote for the resolution was then conducted by a raise of hands, and the vote was unanimous.

Motion Carried.

Norm then briefly spoke about the various positions and the persons taking on the responsibilities for the coming year. Kathleen VA3WEX will be taking over the OVMRC Secretary position from Alan VE3KAE. The new "director at large" position will be held by Pat Brewer VE3KJQ who is not able to attend this evening. Norm informed that the purpose of this new position is to ensure there are no tie votes on issues raised at the executive meetings.

In addition to the newly elected directors, Alan VE3IAH, Rob VE3RXH, Roger VE3EGY, John VA3JYK, Hugo VE3KTN, Adam VE3IRD, have offered to stay on in their current roles. As well, Barry VE3NA will continue with the bulk order activity and Norm VE3LC will continue in the role as club examiner and call sign keeper.

Norm expressed his sincere thanks to those who have been leading the club for the last year, and will continue to lead the club in 2025. He also expressed a special thanks to Colin VA3CSG, who has made the marvellous IBEW meeting hall available to us.

Colin VA3CSG reminded the membership that the IBEW building will undergo renovations very soon and until those renovations are completed we cannot use the meeting hall. He suggested that if anyone has a lead on a temporary meeting space for 2024/2025 year, to let Norm VE3LC know as soon as possible. Norm thanked Colin and noted that this topic will need to be further discussed by the OVMRC executive.



6. Chair Reports:

OVMRC Treasurer Report: Nicole VE3GIQ:

Nicole VE3GIQ provided a brief presentation regarding club finances. The club began the year with a bank balance of \$4460.00 and the current bank balance is \$5650.00. The club holds a GIC in the amount of \$15,000.00 that matures in January 2025. Revenue from membership this year was slightly less than anticipated, however revenue from bulk sales was considerably more than budgeted. RAC donations were more than planned. Fixed expenses were as predicted. Nicole pointed out that in general, total assets are diminishing slowly. Club membership now stands at 140.

Nicole then provided a brief update on public service events. Nicole participated in the Rideau Lakes Cycle Tour (RLCT) and that event is now over. Overall volunteer participation in the event was not as high as anticipated and the weather was an issue for Sunday. Nicole mentioned that for the event, she was able to successfully track 5 stations by APRS for the entire 7 hours of the event.

For the upcoming MS Bike Ottawa to Brockville event in August, she mentioned she has enough volunteers for now, and is waiting to hear from the Cornwall and Brockville radio clubs regarding their participation.

Chris VA3CJO asked about possibly having a future discussion about lessons learned from the RLCT. Nicole says that might be worthwhile doing this via ZOOM. Nicole mentioned that she always writes a report and perhaps this can be discussed in the fall.

Hugo VE3KTN asked if membership is increasing, why are revenues slightly declining? Nicole said she would look at this in further detail.

Norm VE3LC further added that before COVID we had several years of running the Basic Qualification Course which brought in quite a bit of cash (\$100.00 per course member) that contributed to the OVMRC revenue. He commented that perhaps we should consider running the course again. He also pointed out that our year end door prize budget was \$600.00 this year, slightly down from last year.

OVMRC Net Operations: Hugo VE3KTN:

Hugo VE3KTN provided a brief net status update and mentioned that we have one more net on the coming Thursday which will be the last 2 meter net for the season on VE3OCE. Overall he is very pleased with net operations and activity this year. Attendance has generally been constant.



It was however, a tough year for the 80 meter Pothole Net held at 10 AM on Sunday mornings because of poor propagation. Hugo mentioned Bob Sharp VA3QV, who now lives in Kingston, and calls in to the net just about every Sunday. Hugo provided a thanks to Ernie VE3EJJ for keeping the Pothole Net going and expressed his hope that Ernie will be back in September.

The Slow Speed CW Net has been running well and has about five consistent participants checking in on Sunday night. Hugo says he is looking for more participation, and reminded that the Pot Lid Net will start its 51st season in September. Hugo then thanked all for supporting the nets.

Norm VE3LC then commented on the Pot Lid Net and some of its history. He mentioned that 80 meters is a difficult band to get people on these days. The club ran the net on 2 meters for a while but then moved it to the 6 meter band, where it is more manageable. He pointed out that all the newer radios have 6 meter band coverage. The Pot Lid CW Net is still run in the formal way that it was originally done on 80 meters with a roster and call for new people.

Peter VE3XEM commented that the Phoenix Net will continue through the summer on Tuesday night, and Pete's Cafe at McDonald's will continue thorough the summer as well.

OVMRC President Norm VE3LC: No update.

OVMRC Vice-President Rob VE3RXH: No update.

OVMRC Secretary - Alan VE3KAE: No update.

Rambler Update - Alan VA3IAH: No update.

Web Site Update - Adam VA3IRB: No update.

7. OVMRC Field Day 2024 Update - Norm VE3LC

Norm VE3LC provided a brief status report of Field Day 2024 planning and preparation. Norm began by asking if there were some members present who were not at last Wednesday's Field Day meeting. Norm then provided a brief presentation and a related map image of the Cumberland Museum Field site. The following is a summary of discussion points and related questions:

- Bryan VE3QN asked about parking. Norm said that parking is available and showed the parking area on the map.
- Don Booker VA2EV (via Zoom) asked if we have to pay visitors entrance fees. Norm says no.
- Norm then showed other images of the site. To note is that the Canteen Building has washroom facilities for us to use - 24 hr use. There is also a go-hut on site. There is also a designated smoking area.



-
- Note that there are some power lines in the area that will have to be avoided.
 - Norm showed a photo of the TA33 antenna – he has made a new boom for it. He has also made some improvements on the 6 meter beam.
 - Norm expects to be on site at about 4 pm on Friday to start setting this up. He hopes to get the two towers up on Friday. The main trailer will be placed on site on Saturday morning at 0900.
 - Norm mentioned that a map of the site is available from the ARRL Field Day Station Locator <https://www.arrl.org/field-day-locator>.
 - Norm mentioned he has re-worked a certificate previously done by Dave Goodwin VE3KG for the recent Canada Wide Science Fair. This was of great interest to young people at the CWSF who used a code practise oscillator, and were able to obtain a certificate for sending their name and being able to copy it. Nicole VE3GIQ says she will have a display with the code on it.
 - Norm then spoke to the various items from his task list and and the club member(s) responsible for them – these are bonus points items:
 1. Inviting an elected official to visit the site. Councillor Mathew Luloff (Orleans East-Cumberland) to attend site during operations. Norm VE3LC – Done
 2. Site Safety checklist. Nicole VE3GIQ
 3. Public Information Table. Nicole VE3GIQ/Norm VE3LC
 4. Winlink setup to compose and send an email by amateur radio means to RAC Section Mgr Mike Hickey VE3IPC, email ontario.east@fieldorg.rac.ca
 5. Social media posting of the OVMRC operations. Rob VE3RXH
 6. Satellite contact bonus (just one contact required from the site). Nobody assigned yet.
 7. Visit from officer of Served agency. Douglas VE3YDK
 8. Education Activity on topic of Amateur Radio. Norm VE3LC
 9. Solar Power – any takers, if not, Norm VE3LC
 10. Copy the W1AW FD message. Several people will cover.
 11. Local media coverage. (local newspaper or whatever) Rob VE3RXH
 12. GOTA Station coaching. Various seasoned amateurs can cover.
 - Norm mentioned he has heard from the Ward 1 councillor's office from Orleans East Cumberland who said they had added a Field Day visit to his calendar.
 - Nicole will do the public information table but will need help with it.
 - Concerning Winlink - the message process needs to be finalized.
 - We do not have anyone for a satellite contact yet. Chris VA3CJO is willing to give this a try.
 - Douglas VE3YDK – will visit as the St Johns ambulance rep.
-



Educational Activity – ham radio related – Norm says one of the stations will be on CW. Will equip it with macros for sending and CwGet for receiving code. Norm says people can do this without knowing a dit. Norm says he will make this an educational activity and get people to sit at the CW station and make a few contacts. He will demonstrate how this can be done.

- Concerning Solar power - we just need to make 5 contacts under solar power. Norm mentioned he has a solar panel and if others have panels please bring them. Douglas says he can supply a battery and setup that can supply 50 Ah. Norm says he would like access to any storage batteries that anyone has.
- Since it is all QRP operation we will not be using a lot of power. The main power source for electric power will be Norm's electric car using a 800 watt inverter. This can run all the computers and perhaps some lighting.
- No barbecues are allowed – it was asked if we can use small camp stoves – Norm says he thinks those will be OK.
- Peter VE3XEM say he has 3 IKEA led lights with converter boxes that he will lend for the event.
- The museum will supply tables and chairs but Norm suggests bring in your own folding chairs.
- The W1AW message will be handled by a few different people – this is Friday night and sent by two different stations.
- Concerning local media coverage – Rob VE3RXH has contacted the Orleans Star.
- Rick and Chris have offered to assist with the GOTA station – operating their own equipment and prob sharing antennas.
- Norm says there will be some food coming in. Nicole is bringing jambalaya for the event. Bryan says he will be bringing in chili. Anyone with special dietary needs should bring their own food. Also bring your own drinks, etc. This will be operated as a pot luck and Norm reminded there can be no alcoholic drinks as it is a public event.
- There was then some discussion about CW operating technique and skills.
- In summary Norm says we will operate QRP on 2 main HF stations using ICOM IC-705 radios – one on CW and the other on FT8/FT4, plus a 6 meter station (IC-705), a 2 meter FM station, and a GOTA station (IC-705). All of the radios will be supplemented with computers and related equipment.
- There was then a brief discussion about towers, and masts and related antenna equipment that needs to be set up. Everything will run on 12 volts supplemented by electric car power.
- 2AONE is the exchange for this field day.

As there was no further discussion and no further questions, Norm VE3LC concluded the briefing at this point.



8. Projects, Haves, Wants:

Haves: None

Wants: None

9. Other Business

POTA Update - Rob VE3RXH

Rob reported that on Saturday July 20, 2024, there will be a POTA event at Hampton Park just off Island Park Drive. Parking is available there with room for a wire antenna setup. This event will take place at 1 PM.

Also, there will be one more POTA event on Saturday August 31, 2024, at 10:00 AM at Shirley's Bay. This will be next to the boat launch just off Rifle Road. Bring your gear along for a POTA activation.

ONCA Bylaw Review - Norm VE3LC

Norm mentioned that some members will be busy over the summer with the ONCA review of our bylaws. Bylaw changes will need to be ratified by the membership and we may call a special Zoom meeting before September for that to happen.

Bulk Order Inventory Update - Barry VE3NA

Barry VE3NA says the club has RG316 and RG58U coax in inventory. The stock of LMR100 and LMR195 is all sold. Norm says we are not planning on buying any more and would like to wind the project down. It was a very popular program but a lot of work for Barry. Barry would make the purchases and the club would reimburse him. Norm said that if anyone wants to take over the bulk purchasing - the club would certainly support that.

10. Year End Prize Draw

Norm VE3LC then announced the draw for the year end door prizes which consists of four Raspberry Pi 400 kits. Norm described how the draw takes place and who qualifies for the draw. Norm will not be in the draw, nor will those who won last year.

The draw is for Raspberry Pi 400 kits that are worth about \$140.00 each. The original 16Gb. SD cards have been removed and replaced with 32Gb. cards with an updated operating system and the latest digital mode applications and VNC server. There are no monitors with these. You get a power supply and a mouse. Norm noted that these have a much better heat sink than a Raspberry Pi 4.



Nicole VE3GIQ has “digital slot machine” software she created for the draw. 382 tickets are in the “drum”. Winners of four Raspberry Pi 400 kits are:

1. Walter VE3SYZ
2. Chris VA3CWS
3. Alan VE3KAE
4. Richard VA3HBL

11. Adjournment:

As there was no further business, Norm VE3LC called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION: Moved by Rick VE3RVV to adjourn the OVMRC Annual General Meeting at 8:50 PM.

Next Meeting:

This is the final OVMRC general meeting of the 2023/2024 season. The next monthly meeting of the OVMRC will be held on September 18, 2024, at a location to be determined. The meeting will also be available on-line via Zoom.

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



OVMRC QRP Field Day

The weekend of June 21st and 22nd saw Club members deploy to our Field Day location alongside the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum. This was a welcome return to an in-person Field Day setup, using the enclosed vehicle transport trailer and shelter graciously offered by Marc, VE3BOE.



PHOTO 1 - OVERVIEW OF THE FD SITE AND SETUP

Having seen the success of operating QRP (or low power) in a couple of previous Field Day events, it was decided that this Field Day the Club would operate two QRP HF stations and enter in the 2A battery class, i.e., low power (5 Watts) powered by batteries without the use of the commercial electrical grid or electrical power derived from an internal combustion engine. As you will see from 'The President's Ramblings' in this issue our score was impressive and we look forward to seeing full results for the event when they are published this fall.

Electrical power was provided from the electric car owned by Norm, VE3LC, through an inverter and by a variety of mostly Lithium batteries brought by members. The primary radios used for HF were Icom IC-705s graciously loaned by Club members and we also ran a 6m band station (Yaesu FT-817) for FT-8 and a 2m band FM station on phone (HTs), all at 5 Watts output.

Antennas from the Club and a couple on loan from members were setup late on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning with a 3 element Yagi mounted horizontally on a tower for 10, 15 and 20 metres; a 43 foot vertical wire using an MFJ push up mast with home brew matching unit; a 4 element Yagi for 6m and a Comet GP3 for the 2m band station mounted on masts. Also used for part of the time was an end-fed half wave for the 20m band that was mounted horizontally from a mast near the trailer across the road into one of the tall trees.

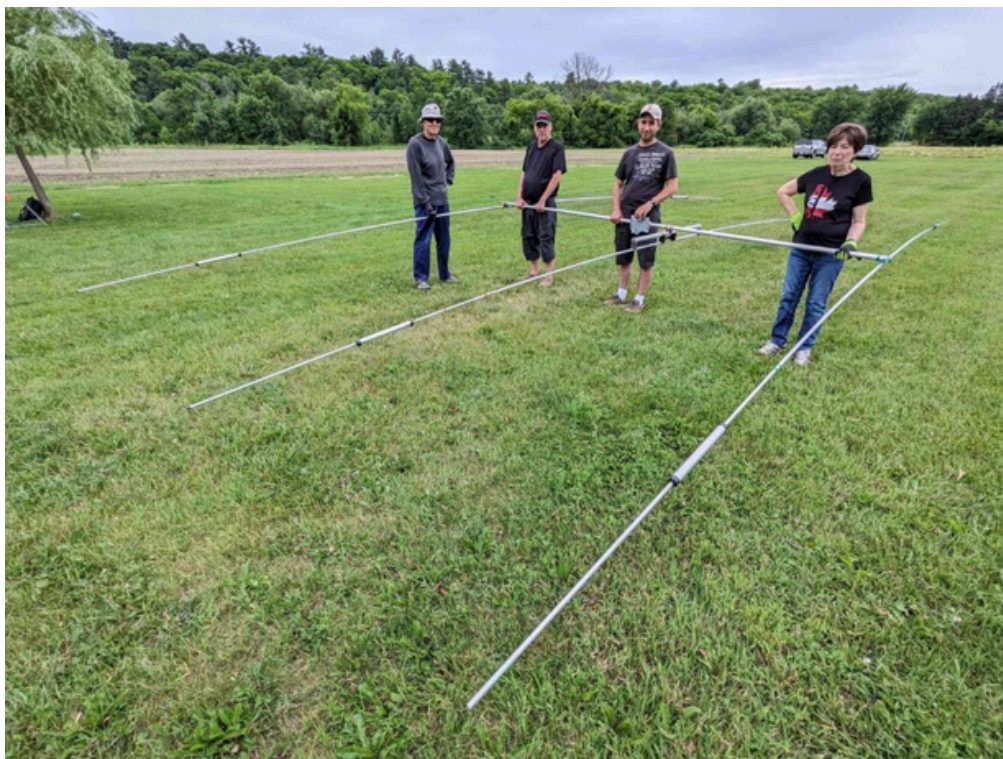


PHOTO 2 - TREVOR, VE3TAC; FERN, VA3LMA; RICK, VE3RVV AND NICOLE VE3GIQ SETTING UP THE TA33 TRI-BAND BEAM.



PHOTO 3 - NORM, VE3LC, ADJUSTING THE LOADING COIL TO TUNE UP THE 43 FOOT VERTICAL FOR 80M.



A 'Get on the Air' (GOTA) station for newer hams was setup behind the trailer and allowed some experimentation and testing by Chris, VA3CJO, Rick, VE3RVV, Fern, VA3LMA and Will, VA3ODW as well as making some contacts that will contribute to our final points score.



PHOTO 4 - RICK, VE3RVV AND FERN, VA3LMA OPERATING AT THE GOTA STATION.

Beside the trailer under a portable shelter was a public information station (gains extra points for our Field Day submission) and it also made a great social location for dinner on Saturday evening, with some great food provided by Club members (and their YLs).



PHOTO 5 - PUBLIC INFORMATION TABLE.



A number of operators took a shift at the key(board) running CW and FT-8 throughout the weekend with a few phone contacts on 2m FM. The trailer had sufficient space to setup two operating tables and work bench space for two more stations, plus some room for a few observers. The Museum provided the tables and chairs as well as roping off our operating area to keep it clear of any museum guests' or staff vehicles.



PHOTO 6 - AT THE OPERATIONS TABLE (FRONT TO BACK): NORM, VE3LC; BRIAN, VE3QN; WILL, VE3OD; AND STEVE VE3MVK.



PHOTO 7 - ROB, VE3RXH MAKING SOME FT8 CONTACTS AT THE 6M BAND STATION (POWERED BY HIS PORTABLE BATTERY BOX - SEE RAMBLER ISSUE FROM JUNE 2024)



Although the stations were not operated right through the night, Kathleen, VA3WEX and I, operated until about 2 am before closing down.



PHOTO 7 - NIGHT OPERATOR KATHLEEN, VA3WEX.

Many hands made light work of the teardown and we were clear of the site by about 3 pm on Sunday. All in all this was a very successful Field Day in a great location. Sadly the weather did not cooperate so we were very thankful for the comfort of Marc's trailer to keep us dry. Thank you to all of the members that came out to the site and contributed.

If you came out for Field Day, we'd love to have your thoughts and any ideas for next year. One suggestion is to have a practise event in advance, where we learn about setting up antennas and operating stations, and can test equipment. Look out for further details of that.

73, Rob, VE3RXH





Hampton Park (POTA CA-5958):

A good many of the club members came out to activate this park on Saturday July 20th, see a selection of photos below.



Armin VA3YB



Bryan VER3QN and Louise



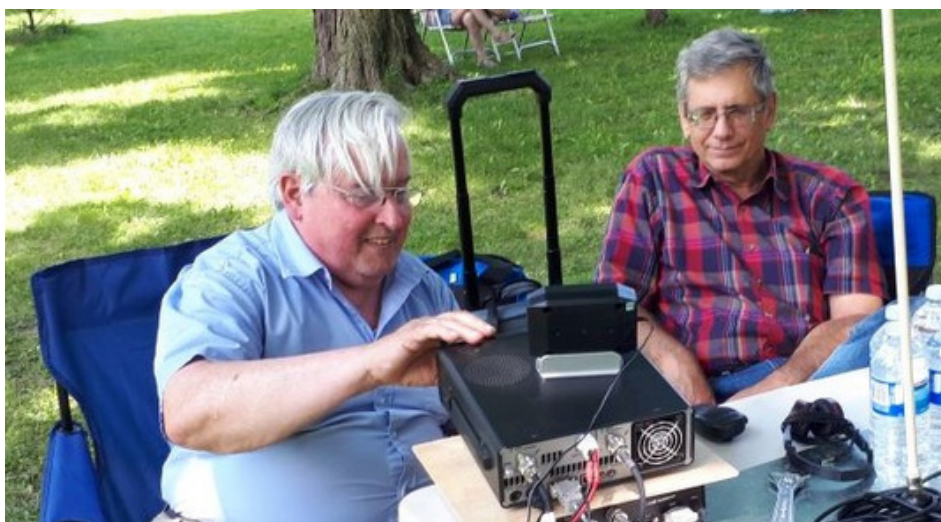
John VA3JYK, Fred VE3LAF and
Hugo VE3KTN



Nicole VE3GIQ, Dave VE3KMV, Cal VA3ZLA,
Kathleen VA3WEX, Chris VA3CJO



Pete VE3XEM and his go kit



Tim VE3TXB and Hugo VE3KTN



Wray VE3EO and XYL

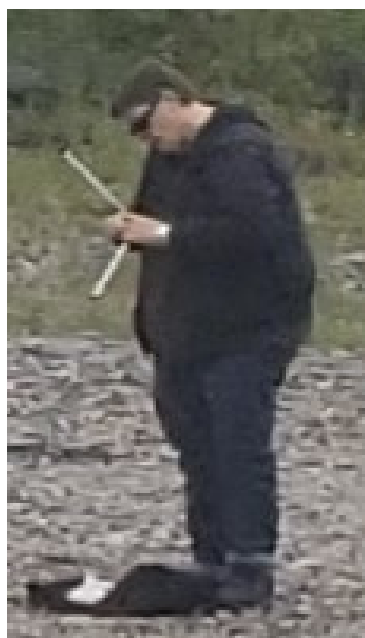




Shirley's Bay (POTA CA-1621):



Will VA3ODW and Charles and family



Kathleen VA3WEX



POTA “Hunting” from my apartment balcony- Can't beat the fun of trying

I always thought that the journey is where the excitement is rather than just the destination. Regardless of what end you reach, the experience of going through the effort has enduring value. In fact this is the root of what turns out to be success or failure in the end.

My recent attempt to “hunt” the POTA activation at Shirley's Bay from my home station turned out to be one such example.

Charles, VA3CGF, spotted himself on the POTA webpage indicating that he was operating on 17 meters at 18.098 MHz. I tuned on that frequency and heard digital signals being exchanged. Unfortunately, I am not set up for digital modes like FT8 etc.

Later on, he spotted himself operating on 20 meters at 14.214 MHz and shortly after he moved to 14.242 MHz. My antenna on the balcony is a vertical mobile Hustler antenna for the 20 meter band. I heard some faint SSB signal but could not make out the intelligibility of the transmission.

Among the challenges I faced in attempting to “hunt” a local POTA activation from my apartment balcony were the following:

First, the 20m skip would not allow capture of the signal, probably going way above my location, and certainly not be a ground wave as the signal was a fair distance from my station and operating QRP, I think.

Secondly, the operator was using a long wire which had the opposite polarization to my vertical antenna. This would provide a loss of signal in the order of 20db.

All this to say, for best result, consider location and polarization. But it was fun trying anyway.

Thanks to those participating and keep on activating new parks in the region.

73 de VE3VIG
Maurice-André



Buffalo Aircraft Special Event Station CG3BUFO

Buffalos On The Air 2024 An event for Amateur Radio and Aviation Enthusiasts alike



Comox BC, Winnipeg MB, Mount Hope (Hamilton) ON, Trenton ON, Ottawa ON, Summerside PEI:

Buffalos On The Air (BOTA) is an Amateur Radio (Ham Radio) event taking place 9-10 August 2024 to celebrate the contribution of the RCAF CC115 Buffalo aircraft through history. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the tragedy of Buffalo 461 being shot down in the Middle East 9 Aug 1974, resulting in the death of all crew members who are now known as the Buffalo Nine.

This tragedy was the catalyst to British Columbia creating National Peacekeeper's Day in 1993 and then later nationally through Federal legislation in 2008.



**Remembering the sacrifice of the Buffalo Nine
Who died 9-Aug-1974 on Buffalo 461**

Comox Winnipeg Hamilton Trenton Ottawa Summerside

Special Event Callsign for National Peacekeepers Day, Canada

CG3BUFO

Buffalos On The Air 9-AUG-2024



**You made radio contact with CC115 Buffalo 452
on display at the Canada Aviation and Space Museum, Ottawa, ON
confirming 2-way communication with _____
Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club, Ottawa, ON, Canada**



Amateur Radio operators will be using the HF antennas on the four Buffalos at Comox, Winnipeg, Trenton, and Summerside, as well as permanent or temporary antenna installations across Canada to conduct a radio event to contact other amateur radio operators around the world. Special event anniversary callsigns have been issued by Spectrum Management Operations, ISED Canada for each station. In Ottawa the local coordinator for CG3BUFO Ottawa ON, was Norm Rashleigh VE3LC.



Fred VE3LAF



Rob VE3RXH and Eric VA3DXP



Roger VA3EGY and brother (NAME?)



The event is also supported by the following Amateur Radio Clubs who put in a massive effort to make this event happen:
 CVARC Comox Valley Radio Club, 17 Wing Radio Amateurs, PERC Prince Edward Radio Club, QARC Quinte Amateur Radio Club,
 CARC Charlottetown Amateur Radio Club, SARCC Summerside Amateur Radio Club, Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club,
 and The Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum Radio Station VA3CWM.



This Certificate is presented to
Rob Hadow VE3RXH
 for volunteering to make BOTA 2024 possible and keep the memory of the Buffalo Nine alive.

With thanks and appreciation, 
 Phillip Tanner



Rob VE3RXH





OVMRC 2024-25 Nets Season Opens

Hello all OVMRC members and radio amateurs who enjoy our nets! The OVMRC nets season opens this year on Thursday, September 5 with the 2 metre FM Net, followed on Sunday by the 80 metre Pot Hole Net and 6 metre CW Net.

For newcomers to the Ottawa ham radio scene, the Thursday 2 metre Net meets on repeater VE3OCE, 146.880 MHz. out/146.280 MHz. in, and with a 136.5 Hz. CTCSS tone. The format remains the same as the previous season beginning with a call to portables/mobiles/new hams/visitors and then proceeding with a call for Club news from Executive and Committee Chairs. The initial call is intended to give priority to those who may have difficulty getting into the repeater, new hams who are anxious to give their new radio a try and, of course, to visitors who may be in the National Capital region. Once the news from Exec is done, the routine continues with a call for all check-ins and the rag chew part of the net. Ante, VA2BBW, has agreed to stay on this season as our regular reporter on the DX and Contests scene, however, because of family commitments he will pick up this task sometime in October; I will be filling in until then.

Sunspot Cycle 25 jumped into full action over the summer after a somewhat lackluster performance since the mid-2023. The solar flux started a marked rise around the end of June, in time for Field Day, and has remained well into the 200's up to this writing. In fact, there was a period at the end of August where there were sustained solar flux levels in excess of 300 and accompanied by reasonably low geomagnetic field Kp indexes. Despite this several OVMRC DX hunters have reported that activity at the higher HF frequencies haven't been as active as might be expected. I, for one, remember back in the peak of 1979 that 15 and 10 metres were jumping just about every day with solar flux in the mid-200's. For some reason, perhaps the numerous Coronal Mass Ejections, the level of activity I remember during Cycle 21 has not been repeated in Cycle 25.

The OVMRC Pot Hole Net (PHN) has also commenced, now in its 65th year, and again under the guidance of Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ, together with Glenn MacDonell, VE3XRA. The net runs every Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. Ottawa local time, 3760 kHz. LSB. The higher solar flux does hurt this net with 80 metres usually closing up shortly after local sunrise, so it's a tough go to check in while fighting both poor propagation and the ever increasing amount of interference from electronic devices our society enjoys so much. Once again, participants in urban environments might find it easier to at least hear the PHN over an internet connection to an SDR receiver located in a much quieter area.



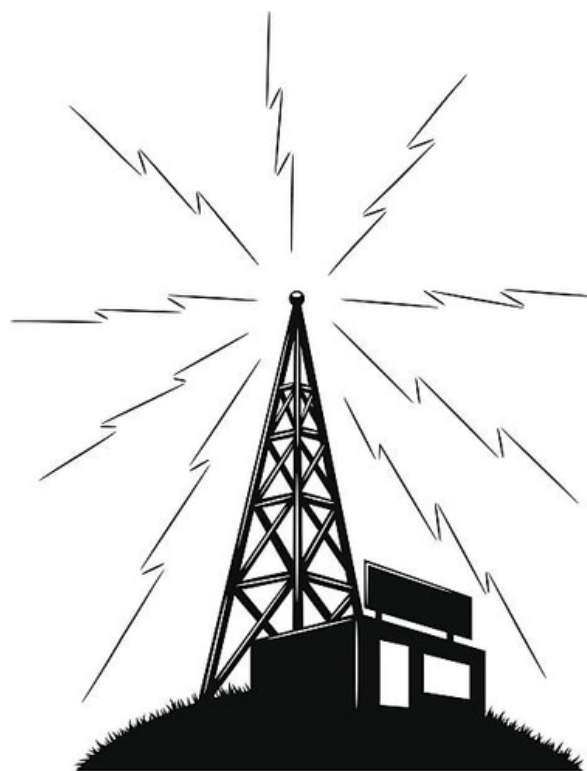
VE3HOA, run by Phil Lytle, remains on line and is a good indicator of how well 80 metres is behaving in the National Capital Region. If you can't hear the PHN directly off the air, try connecting to Phil's SDR at - <http://ve3hoa.ddns.net:8073/?f=3760.0lsbz10>

The Pot Lid slow speed CW net (PLN) is also on for another season at it's 6 metre frequency of 50.090 MHz., horizontally polarised. All of the net controllers, Norm, VE3LC, Ante, VA2BBW, and Mike, VE3FFK have kindly agreed to resume being part of the NCS rotation along with me - thanks guys.

There has been some feedback from some who may have wanted to check in to the PLN but were unfamiliar with the net routine. Consequently, you will find a copy of the PLN routine on the next page in this issue of Rambler. Hopefully this will help new attendees to understand the net procedure and have them check in. The PLN is a good place to practice CW for real instead of copying machine generated code from sources such as W1AW, so please join us on Sunday evenings, 19:30 Ottawa local time.

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

73, Hugo Kneve, VE3KTN, Nets & Radio Ops Chair





Script for the OVMRC Pot Lid Net

CQ CQ CQ POT LID NET PLN DE [NCS Callsign] <BT>

ROLL CALL FOLLOWED BY QNI? THEN QSP? <BT>

PLN DE [NCS Callsign]

- Roll call of each station that checked in to the previous week's net, each station responds as their callsign is given: DE [their call sign] [optionally GE + name of the NCS] K
- NCS responds with their call sign, GE (for good evening) + [Op's name] <AS>. If there is no response from the called station, NCS issues: NIL and proceeds to the next callsign.
- Following the roll-call and acknowledgements, NCS asks for check-ins not on the roll list with: QNI? K. Any stations wishing to check in will do so and each is acknowledged by the NCS. These check-ins are added to the roll call list for the next week's net. When there are no further responses to a QNI?, NCS sends: NIL HRD. NCS then sends: QSP? which requests any station on net to relay other stations they may have heard but not acknowledged by the NCS.
- The NCS goes through all additional check-ins and end with a final QNI? QSP?
- If nothing heard, then the net will conclude with the NCS making a final transmission: TNX ALL FOR CHECKING IN, PLN QNF (Net is now closed) DE [NCS Callsign] 73 ES GE



OVMRC Net Activity, Check-ins for June, 2024

Prepared by: Hugo Kneve VE3KTN

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

June 6	June 13	June 20
VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS
New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors
General Check-ins	General Check-ins	General Check-ins
VE3RUU VE3LC VE3RXH VE3KAE VA3IAH VA3HBL VE3YY VA3ZZI VE3NA VA3PSI VA3WEX VE3KJQ VA2OJD VA3CJO VE3RVV VA3LMA VA3ODW VE3OTW VE3VIG	VE3RUU VE3OTW VA3ODW VE3LC VE3RXH VE3KAE VE3CWM ¹ VA2BBW VA3EO VA3PSI VE3NA VA3LMA VE3VIG VA3WEX VE3OKD VE3KJQ VE3ZZU VA3CJO VA3ZZI	VE3RUU VE3OTW VE3LC VA3IAH VE3KAE VE3VIG VA2OJD VE3YY VA3PSI VE3RXN VA3ZZI VA3ZLA VE3OKD VE3NA VA3CJO VA3WEX VE3ZZU VA3ODW VA3EO VA2EV VE3HVA

Notes:

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

1 - Norman, VE3NPP at the mic



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

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

June 2 SFI:188 A:5	June 9 SFI:190 A:14	June 16 SFI:171 A:18
VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VEKTN - NCS
New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors
General Check-ins	General Check-ins	General Check-ins
VE3BQ VA3IAH VA3ZLA VE3YY VE3KAE VE3EJJ VE3LC VE3OWV VA3LMA	VE3LC VE3QN VE3OWV VA3IAH	VA3QV VA3EO VE3RXN VE3EJJ VE3XRA VE3LC VE3KAE

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

FOR DMR RADIOS, HOTSPOTS, ANTENNAS, QRP HF RADIOS AND MORE



Your Canadian Hamshack!

\$15 DISCOUNT TO OVMRC MEMBERS ON \$300 OR MORE