

RAMBLER

OCTOBER 2024



VOL. 67 ISSUE 2

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

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MEETING:

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 16
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





OCTOBER 16, 2024 - MEETING AGENDA

1. Greetings and welcome of guests and new members.
2. Approval of minutes of September meeting
3. Report on New Bylaws
4. Feature talk by Rob McKenny VE3RMJ on operating HF aeronautical mobile.
5. Plans for an October POTA event and other Club sponsor events.
6. Committees Reports
7. Debriefing of MS Bike and amateur radio communications support by Nicole VE3GIQ.
8. Other business arising.
9. Meeting adjournment and social session.

***** Important Notice *****

The updated Draft Bylaws are posted at [OVMRC.ca](https://ovmrc.ca) / [About OVMRC](#) / [Bylaws](#) for membership comment until October 31, 2024. All comments should include the line reference number and be directed to: president@ovmrc.ca

The October 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 door 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

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editor@ovmrc.ca

OVMRC.CA & Social

Media: Adam Bird,
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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>

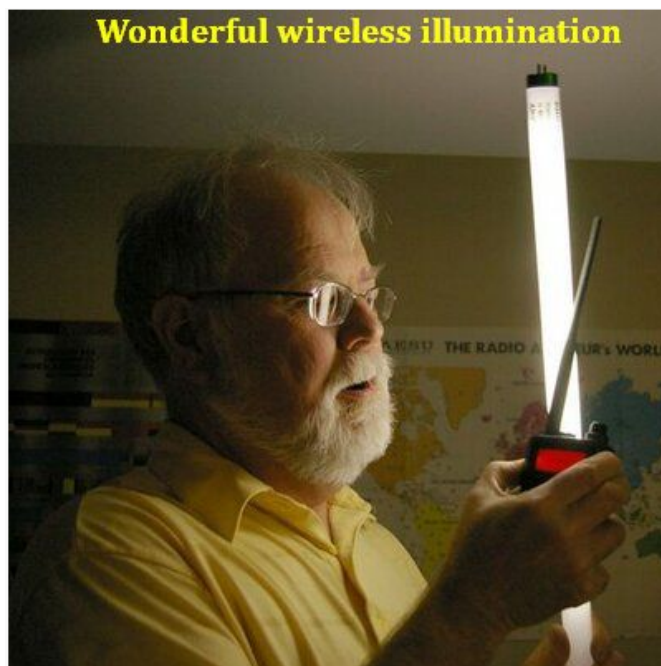
INFORMAL AMATEUR RADIO RESTAURANT GATHERINGS

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| • 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
Luncheon and Dinner meetings at Newport Restaurant are on again. See "OttawaValleyQRP" groups.io for details. | • Phoenix Net
monthly Breakfast gathering (on hold) , usually the second Saturday every month at 9:00 AM, Check with Pete ve3xem@myrac.ca |
|--|---|---|---|



President's Ramblings

I believe our kick-off meeting for the season went rather well at the RAC HQ office. For a good many attending, it was their first time there. We had 31 attending in person and 20 + on-line. For those attending the meeting in person, they had an opportunity to see the VE3RHQ station with its 3 operating positions taking shape with the furnishings and computers. The station is still awaiting the permanent complement of new radio equipment which we understand will be forthcoming from one or two of the major manufactures.



VE3LC

In the meantime, the OVMRC has donated on an indefinite loan basis some equipment including the Kenwood TS 590 S and TS 2000 transceivers that were in service at the VE3JW exhibit station at the Science and Technology Museum before the station had to be dismantled back in 2014 when premises underwent a project of complete reconstruction due to mold contamination. As folks may recall, this project took a few years to complete. A year into the project, we were called to a meeting with Museum officials advising us that an amateur radio station was not going to be included in the plan to remodel the exhibits. Needless to say we were very disappointed but their decision was firm.

OVMRC Bulk Purchase Stock

Harrie Jones VE3HYS has taken over the maintaining and ordering of the Club's bulk purchase stock from Barry VE3NA. Thanks to Barry VE3NA for managing the program so well for so long. In this issue, there will be a listing of the current OVMRC Bulk Stock of popular items than are on-hand for purchase by OVMRC members. We are sorry some stock items are more expensive, but the prices indicated are now the Club's costs including HST for items in the stock that were recently purchased. OVMRC members can contact Harrie for any new orders at [<orders@ovmrc.ca>](mailto:orders@ovmrc.ca) and arrangements can be made with him to get the goods. As before, all items purchased by members are paid for directly into the Club's account via Interac e-transfer.



Plans for the October and November meetings

As part of the October meeting, we have invited Air Canada Captain Rob McKenny VE3RMJ to join us in person to talk about operating HF aeronautical mobile when he pilots commercial aircraft equipped with HF radio and for the November meeting, we have a presentation lined up by Adrian Stimpson VE7NZ on the subject of “Amateur Radio Balloon Experiments”. Note that Adrian wrote an article on the same topic published in the September/October TCA magazine but since that article was written, Adrian tells me that there has been another launch and much more to talk about.

Also in this issue of the Rambler, please read the notice of the passing of Jack Belrose VE2CV who was well known by the senior members of the Ottawa amateur community. For the newer folks now engaged in the amateur radio and particularly those studying the many antenna books published by the ARRL and RSGB, I’m sure you will encounter the articles written by Jack. Also during the 1980s and 1990s when the Saint Lawrence Valley Repeater Council was active coordinating frequencies for repeaters, Jack served as Secretary/Treasurer of the Council.

October POTA event

John VE3JYK and Rob VE3RXH have organized another OVMRC POTA operating event for this coming Saturday morning October 19 at the Green’s Creek Conservation Reserve POTA CA-1425. Refer to the postings on this event on the Club’s “ovmrc groups.io” page.

New Bylaws for the OVMRC Inc.

Last but not least, as most members know, we are obligated to re-write our Bylaws in keeping with rules on governance process and procedure for the Club as dictated by the Not-For-Profit-Corporations-Act of Ontario. We are going to be a bit late submitting our new Bylaw document by the Oct 19th date to the Ontario government portal for such matters as we want, indeed are obligated, to give the members of the Club a chance to read them and comment if desired with reference to the line number of the section(s) involved. These new Bylaws are a product of the Club’s executive committee members and are now posted at: [OVMRC By-Laws - Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Inc.](#) Members written comments will be accepted up to October 31 by email to: president@ovmrc.ca . The new Bylaws will be the subject of a membership vote of acceptance at the November 20th meeting.



As for the September meeting, our October 16th meeting will be at RAC HQ premises, 720 Belfast Rd, Suite 217 at 7 pm. The meeting will also be covered on-line by the Club's Zoom Account.

We hope all members can attend.

73 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>



Dr. John S. Belrose VE2CV/VE3CVV (SK)



John (Jack) S. Belrose, VE3CV/VE3CVV became a silent key September 19th, 2024 in his 98th year. He was well known to the long time radio amateurs of the Ottawa area.

Jack grew up in Alberta and British Columbia and became a very accomplished radio scientist. His education and employment resumé at CRC are legendary.

- 1950 - University of British Columbia - Graduated with BAsC (Electrical Engineering) followed by a Masters Degree the year after.
- 1951 - 1997 - Employed by Communications Research Centre (Shirley's Bay) known originally as the Defence Research Telecommunications Centre. He retired as Radioscientist Emeritus there and continued doing personal research in the field of computational electromagnetic (antenna and near field problems) for several years.
- Life Senior Member IEEE Antennas & Propagation Society.



In his own words, he wrote in 2002 about his remembrances of his career, see: [Friends of CRC](#)

His amateur radio history is as follows:

- 1949 – First licensed as VE7QH in Vancouver, B.C.
- 1951 – VE3BLW when he moved to Ottawa, Ontario
- 1958 – VE2CV when he moved to Aylmer, Quebec
- 2009 – VE3CVV when he moved back to Ottawa but maintained his Quebec call sign VE2CV

Jack sponsored the call sign VY9CRC during his career at the Communications Research Centre. He also sponsored the first amateur radio repeater in the area with an automatic phone patch, VE2KPG located at Camp Fortune. Jack published many articles in amateur radio magazines including QST, QEX, Ham Radio, Communications Quarterly and the ARRL Antenna Compendium.

Jack served as a Director and Technical Editor of the Radio Club of America. There, he was responsible for publishing the Platinum Jubilee yearbook of the Club which included a co-authored paper entitled “Amateur Radio Contributions to the Art and Science of Communications – Revisited”. In 2007, the Radio Club of America awarded Jack, along with Walter Cronkite (KB2GSD - SK), the RCA Armstrong Medal for contributions to the art and science of communications.

Jack was a life member of the Quarter Century Wireless Association and a member of Ottawa local Chapter 70 where, at the February 2010 meeting, he gave a presentation on “Electric-Magnetic Electrically Small Antennas”. Locally as well, Jack served faithfully as the Secretary and Treasurer of the Saint Lawrence Repeater Council where he always had good words about a his friend Terry Daniels, a fellow member of the Radio Club of America and President and founder of Daniels Electronics, the B.C. company that made the MT2 repeater used at VE2KPG.

Jack’s obituary is posted at: [John "Jack" Skelton \(VE2CV\) Belrose | Obituary | Ottawa Citizen \(remembering.ca\)](#).

73 Norm VE3LC



OVMRC September Meeting Minutes

LOCATION: RAC Headquarters, 720 Belfast Rd

PRESENT: 21 on line and 30 in person, for a total of 51 persons.

CALL TO ORDER: 19:15

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE AGM

Moved by Will VA3ODW, Seconded by Fred VE3LAF. Carried.

2. GREETINGS, GUESTS, NEW MEMBERS

Welcome extended to:

- Dante, no callsign yet (studying)
- Maurice, no callsign yet (studying)
- Dan VA3BBO, Basic and Advanced 2024
- Ryan VA3WSO, licensed 2024
- Nabeel, no callsign yet (studying)

3. EXECUTIVES AND DIRECTORS 2024-2025

President Norm VE3LC introduced the Executive and Directors for this year.

President and Treasurer/Membership are looking to step down after many years of service. Volunteers most welcome and indeed are being actively sought.

Treasurer Nicole VE3GIQ notes that the role of Treasurer has been significantly automated using an open-source software compliant with the General Accounting Principles and Practices (GAPP). This software linked electronically to the membership list. She is willing to provide a more detailed presentation on this software, and the members present in the room expressed some interest.

4. CLUB CALLSIGNS AND REPEATERS

President Norm VE3LC is the holder of the club callsigns VE3JW and VE3MPC as well as for the club repeaters VE3TWO and VE3RAM.

The club is looking for a new and better location for repeater VE3TWO and anyone who has access to a tower or who lives in a very tall apartment building and who would be able to have an antenna on the balcony is invited to contact Norm.



5. REVIEW OF SUMMER EVENTS

5.1 Field Day

Held at Cumberland Heritage Village Museum, this year OVMRC operated all QRP from batteries, making a total of 327 contacts (CW, FT8/FT4, and voice). These, with multipliers, and 910 bonus points, netted 4140 points in total, which is comparable if not superior to past performances via QRO. Contacts were made over much of the USA including Alaska and California, but oddly none in western Canada.

5.2 Club POTA Activations

Vice-President Rob VE3RXH described a well-attended club Parks on the Air activation July 20 at Hampton Park saw good weather and many contacts. The Shirley's Bay activation in August also got a strong turnout.

POTA activations provide opportunities to socialize, see each others' set-ups, and swap tips and tricks.

5.3 Buffalos On the Air

Also known as National Peacekeepers Day, this event commemorates the 50th anniversary of the loss of a CAF Buffalo aircraft over Syria in 1974 that took 9 souls. There were a total of nine stations (British Columbia, Winnipeg, Ottawa, Hamilton, Trenton, and Summerside PEI) on the air for the event. The OVMRC operated the Ottawa station from the Aviation and Space Museum, who have a Buffalo in their collection. We worked the Winnipeg station, which was using the original 45-foot longwire antenna from the Buffalo aircraft in their collection.

QSL cards are to be sent to requesting stations and we require one or more volunteers to help get these organized and sent out (through the RAC bureau). Contact President Norm if interested.

5.4 MS Bike

Held in August, this event went very smoothly from a radio perspective. A full presentation will be coming in October.

In terms of exciting events, one of the roving support vehicles found some downed and arcing powerlines near where the riders would be travelling. They contacted Net Control, who in turn advised Hydro One.

6. UPCOMING EVENTS

6.1 Club POTA Activations

Vice-President Rob VE3RXH invited members to the POTA activation of Chapman Mills on Saturday September 21. Details are posted to the OVMRC Groups.IO page.



The final Club POTA of the year will take place on October 19 to coincide with the “Support Your Parks Weekend”. Location to be determined.

6.2 St. Albert Hamfest

A Hamfest will be held September 28 in the town of St. Albert at the Community Centre. Doors open at 9 AM. There will be door prizes including a Xiegu G90 transceiver and a Panasonic Toughbook computer! Details at <https://prarc.tech/hamfest/>

7. TREASURER’S REPORT

The OVMRC has about \$4000 in the bank and a \$15,000 GIC maturing January 2025. At present, the membership stands at 38 (being 19 life members and carry-forward members, and 19 paid-up members).

Club dues for 2024-2025 are \$25 for those who are also RAC members and \$35 for those who are not. Note the extra \$10 for non-RAC members is in partial payment for insurance (actual cost \$12) which is provided through the RAC membership for those who are members of that body.

Members are requested to pay promptly, quoting your callsign along with your payment (to ease effort of cross-checking names vs. callsigns). Also, do NOT send in a new paper form unless something (e.g. address) has actually changed.

8. PRESENTATION BY CRAIG VE3OP ON THE NEW RAC HEADQUARTERS

Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) is the national association for Amateur Radio in Canada, supporting, educating, and advocating for Canadian radio amateurs. They offer a QSL Bureau, provide training in radio-for-emergency-preparedness, publish a magazine, liaise with the Government, represent Canadian amateur radio in the defence of spectrum, and many other activities.

The defence of spectrum is a costly endeavour, as this involves travelling to ITU meetings. There is much that needs defending, particularly against the companies providing 5G phone service who seek to encroach on amateur spectrum. Canadian radio amateurs currently enjoy privileges on 9% of the spectrum, which is rather high all things considered.

One recent change was additional privileges on the 60m band, where one of the former channels has been expanded and amateurs may now move around within a 15 kHz wide (5351.5 to 5363.7 kHz) range of frequencies.

RAC also supports “Youth On The Air” (YOTA) activities. Ottawa hosted YOTA in 2023, an event which made the cover of QST.



RAC is now 30 years old, as part of the celebrations for this milestone, the groundwork has been laid to develop a station (VE3RHQ) within RAC headquarters which will be to Canada what the W1AW station is to the ARRL in the USA.

The plan is for three stations (HF, VHF, and UHF) which can be operated on site or remotely (the latter giving the opportunity for amateurs outside the Ottawa area to take advantage of the station). All funds came from donations to this effort, and not from RAC operating budgets. Local clubs provided funding, and individual amateurs are also warmly encouraged to be part of the project. Corporate donations of equipment have also been received. The upcoming grand opening of the VE3RHQ will be open to all donors, and that will include all members of OVMRC.

RAC will also need volunteers to keep the office open during the week. This would involve signing up for times on a regular basis, per week, per month, etc.

Craig VE3OP provided five books as door prizes, and President Norm VE3LC drew the winners from the tickets issued at the door to the venue.

MOVEMENT TO ADJOURN: Moved by Hugo VE3KTN. Carried.

ADJOURNED: 20:35

*Minutes recorded and prepared by
OVMRC Secretary, Kathleen VA3WEX.*



OVMRC Bulk Purchase Stock

OVMRC Current Stock Available for Purchase by Club members.

Contact Harrie Jones, VE3HYS at < orders@ovmrc.ca >

Description	Qty Available (feet)	Cost (Per Ft or Ea)
COAX		
RG 316 teflon	80	\$0.90
RG 58 U	694	\$0.16
LMR 195	500	\$1.08
LMR 400	500	\$2.05
Connectors		
RG 316		
SMA Male	12	\$3.39
SMA Female	5	\$3.39
BNC Male	8	\$2.71
BNC Female	6	\$3.39
RG 58 U & LMR 195		
PL 259	13	\$3.67
SO 239	17	\$3.39
BNC Male	17	\$2.54
Type "N" Male	12	\$5.59
Type "N" Female	10	\$3.39
LMR 400		
PL 259	29	\$3.96
SO 239	5	\$3.39
Type "N" Male	7	\$3.39
Type "N" Female	5	\$3.39



Adapters

SMA Female to PL 259	3	\$5.65
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Toroids

Ferrite

FT 114-43	46	\$1.70
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FT 140-43	18	\$3.39
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BN-73-202	7	\$1.13
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Powdered Iron

T106-2	15	\$1.41
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T200-6	6	\$7.35
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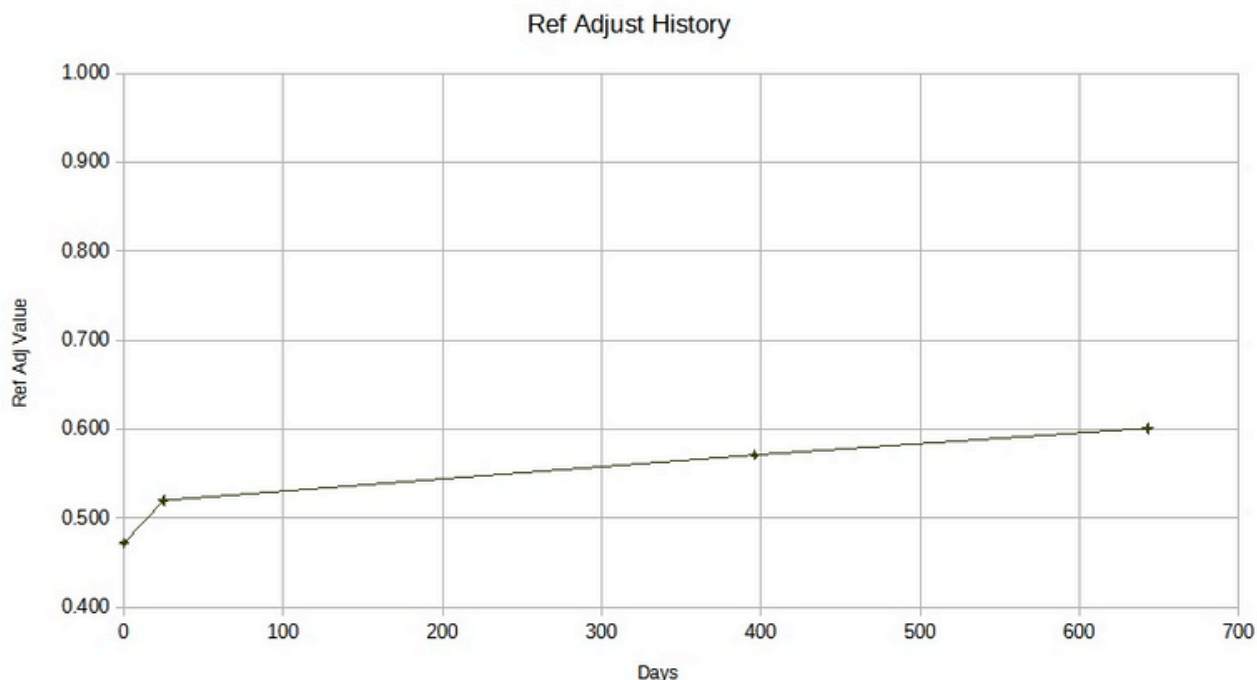
IC-705 Reference Stability

Some time ago, I wrote a product review for my new Icom IC-705 and one of the observations was on the setting accuracy of the radio's master reference oscillator. At the time, I noted that the "REF Adjust" value set at the factory was markedly different from the value I ended up setting on the radio in order to place known reference frequencies at the centre of the radio's spectrum display.

The phenomenon of aging in crystal controlled oscillators is well known and manufacturers often subject oscillators they either supply or use in their products to a pre-delivery burn in to deal with it. Crystal oscillator aging is a characteristic where the unit's mean frequency will slowly drift over time; the characteristic is normally monotonic and asymptotic to a "final" frequency which occurs after a very long time. Knowing the aging characteristic vs. time, manufacturers will burn in their products over the minimum time period until the aging rate slows down to one where periodic compensation, usually by adjusting some form of trim capacitor or synthesiser divider loop, will maintain the oscillator frequency within spec over a guaranteed number of years.

So, what about the IC-705, or, in this case, my IC-705? The first assessment shortly after receiving the radio was against the WWVH time signal running at 25 MHz. and found the REF needing adjustment by a substantial amount - from factory value of 47% to a new value of 52%. About a year after that in January 2024, I bought a Leo Bodnar GPS-disciplined clock oscillator (GPSDO) and did a re-check only to find a need to trim the radio's REF from 52% to 57%. - another substantial change. Another check against the GPSDO in October 2024 revealed the need for another REF adjustment from 57% to 60%.





It's all a bit concerning that the radio's master oscillator is still aging along a rather linear curve instead of slowing down, but there are only three data points available and things may get better as time goes on; it remains to be seen. Even assuming the current linear trend remains unchanged, an extrapolation suggests that it will be 10 years before the REF adjust runs out of range. I imagine by that time technology will have advanced and it will be time to replace the, by then, old faithful.

To be continued - I'll be keeping watch on the REF characteristics in nominally 6 month intervals.

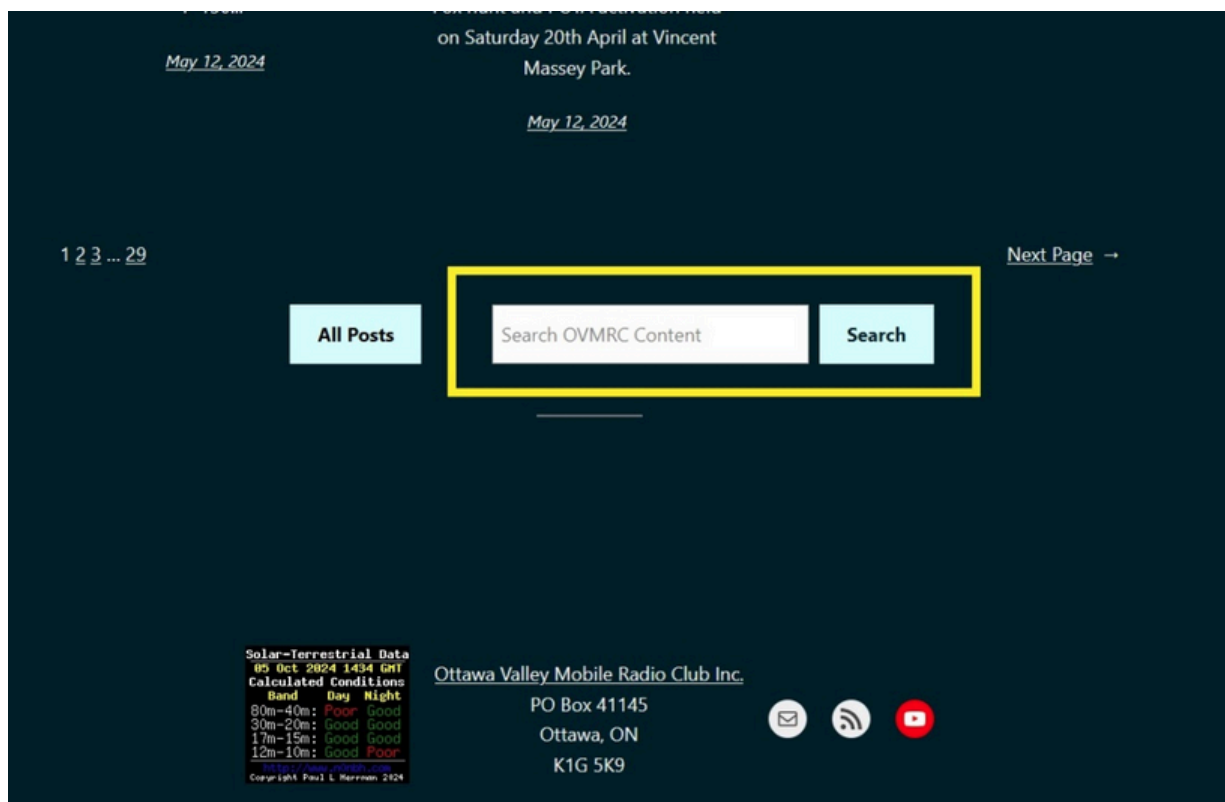
73, Hugo, VE3KTN

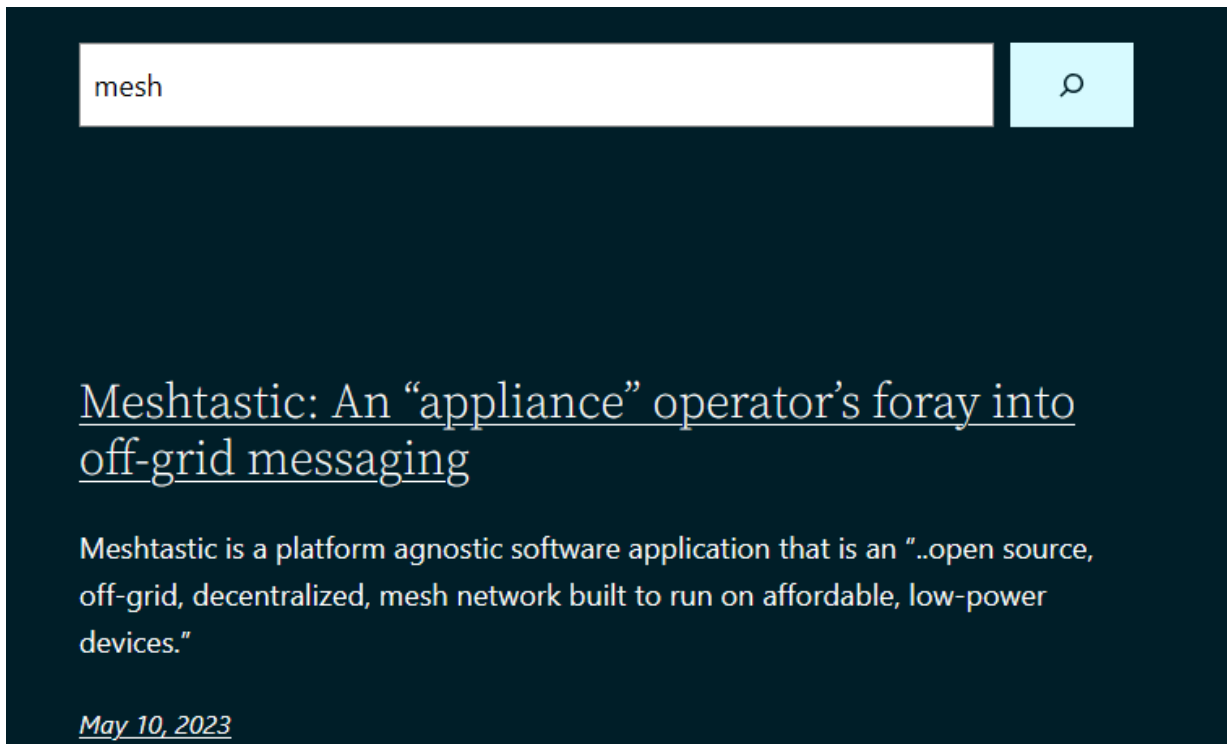


OVMRC.CA - Spotlight on Searching for content

USING THE SEARCH BOX

ovmrc.ca has been posting featured articles from the RAMBLER for a couple of years now. At this point we have started to develop a decent back catalogue of articles, and presentations that are still relevant to local hams. On the home page, articles are arranged in chronological order with newer posts at the top and older posts towards the bottom. If you are looking for something specific though, you can use the search box located at the bottom of the home page:





For example, searching for the keyword “mesh” calls up a featured article on the Meshtastic project from May 2023. Searching for “Rambler” will bring you to a page of all recent Rambler pdf posts.

Adam, VA3IRD



OVMRC - POTA “radio-active” at Chapman Mills CA-1385





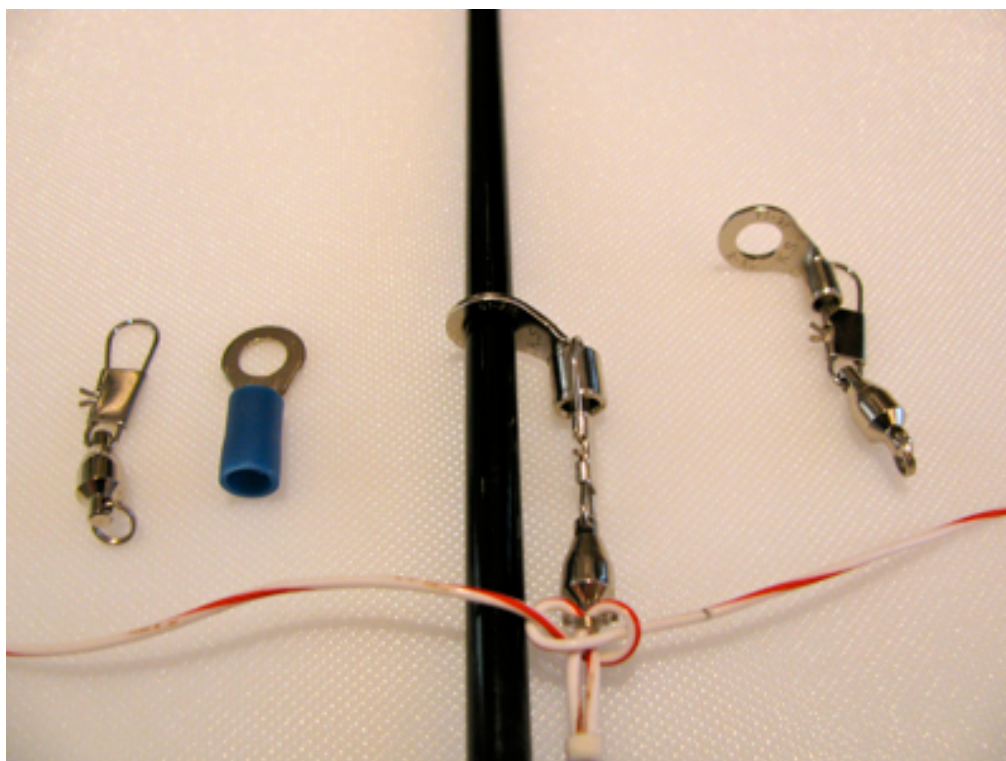




Quick Tips #1 - Attaching wires to a fiberglass mast

Attaching wire antennas to a fiberglass mast for portable operation can be a challenge and it often results in the tip of the mast eventually getting broken. Here is a solution that takes the strain off the fragile tip section of the mast. You need a fishing snap-swivel and a crimp ring-terminal. You simply remove the plastic insulation off of the ring-terminal and bend the ring part to a 90 degree angle with pliers. The snap part of the swivel clips on the part of the ring terminal that would normally get crimped. The ring terminal then slides down the tip of the mast and the wire is attached to the little ring on the bottom of the snap-swivel. If you are using a heavier gauge wire, you can simply choose a larger ring terminal so that the support slides further down the mast. It is also worth noting that #22 to #28 AWG wire will easily handle 100 watts of RF so you can put your portable wire antennas on a diet by using a smaller wire gauge.

Cheers, Michael VE3WMB





DX from the Top of the Mountain with an E-Bike: A New Spin on Portable HF!

Dave VE3ZZU, with permission of Network Radios, forwarded the following content for those wanting to push the limits on bicycle mobile operation!

Ever dreamed of activating remote mountain peaks for some epic DX but worried about lugging your heavy HF gear? Enter the e-bike—your new best friend for portable operations! Combining an e-bike’s ease of access with the magic of HF communication makes mountaintop DXing simpler and more fun than ever before. Let’s take a look at how you can get to the top of a mountain, set up your rig, and enjoy the thrill of a pileup—all with the help of an e-bike.

Getting to the Summit with Ease

E-bikes are a game changer for portable radio operations, allowing you to travel further and climb steeper terrain without breaking a sweat. With electric assistance, you can conquer challenging inclines and trails that would otherwise be exhausting on foot. For this, I recommend the [VTUVIA Fat Tire E-Bike](#). Its 750W motor and fat tires make it perfect for tackling rough mountain paths while offering a comfortable and smooth ride.





Packing Your Gear with Panniers

Once you've got your e-bike ready, you need to make sure your gear is securely packed and easy to carry. A good pair of durable panniers, like the [BV Bike Panniers](#), will allow you to store your transceiver, antenna, power supply, and other essentials. These panniers are spacious enough to carry a complete portable HF station and rugged enough to handle the bumps and scrapes of mountain biking.



Setting Up Your Portable HF Station

After reaching the summit, it's time to set up your station and get on the air. A lightweight, multi-band HF antenna is key for quick deployment. The [Super Antenna MP1DXMAX](#) is a great option for this. It covers 80m-10m, is highly portable, and sets up in just minutes. You can mount it using a tripod or directly onto the ground, making it perfect for rugged, uneven terrain. Next, power your transceiver with a reliable compact battery.

The [TalentCell 12V LiFePO4 battery](#) provides excellent portability, long life, and consistent power output. This lightweight battery will keep your rig running for hours without weighing down your pack, and it's perfect for high-efficiency radios.



Calling CQ from the Clouds

With everything set up, all that's left is to call CQ and wait for the pileups to roll in. The elevation from the mountain peak will give you a significant advantage, offering clearer signals and better line-of-sight for DX. Whether you're operating SSB, CW, or digital modes, expect to make contacts from all corners of the globe. Just imagine the thrill of working distant stations from a peaceful mountain top!



Why DXing with an E-Bike?

Using an e-bike for portable operations offers an unbeatable combination of accessibility and adventure. It's environmentally friendly, gives you access to remote and elevated locations that enhance your signal propagation, and allows you to carry all the gear you need without the back-breaking effort. Plus, it's a lot of fun!

So, if you're looking to expand your horizons in portable HF operations, grab your e-bike, pack your panniers, and head for the hills. The pileups are waiting!

73 and happy pedalling!

Affiliate Disclosure: Some of the links provided are affiliate links, meaning that the author may earn a small commission from qualifying purchases at no additional cost to the consumer.



OVMRC Net Activity, Check-ins for September, 2024

Prepared by: Hugo Kneve VE3KTN

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

September 5	September 12	September 19	September 26
VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS
New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors
Arthur - VA3UKK	Chris – VA3FCN Wafron – VE2WDY		
Check-ins	Check-ins	Check-ins	Check-ins
VE3RUU VA3WBR VE3LC VE3RXH VA3WEX VE3KAE VA3EO VE3KJQ VA3PSI VE3CWM ¹ VA3HBL VE3NPO VA2TXZ VE3RVV VE3VIG VE3LAF VA3ODW VA3CJO VA2BBW VA3LMA	VA3WBR VE3OTW VE3ZZU VA3GFY VE3RUU VE3RVV VE3LC VE3GIQ VA3IAH VE3RXH VE3CWM ¹ VA3HBL VA2TXZ VE3OKD VA3PSI VE3NPO VE3NA VE3KAE VA3LMA VA3ODW VE3RRB VA2BBW VA3IEN VE3VIG	VE3RUU VA3ZLA VE3OTW VE3ZZU VE3LC VA3WEX VE3KJQ VE3RXH VA3IAH VA2BBW VE3NA VE3KAE VA3FCN VE3NPO VA3ODW VE3FFK VE3LAF	VA2OJD VE3RUU VE3LC VA3WEX VE3RXH VE3CWM VE3KAE VA3EO VA3FCN VE3OKD VE3RRB VA3PSI VE3NPO VE3ZZU VA2TXZ VE3NA VE3KJQ VE3LPH VE3OTW VA3CJO VE3VIG

Notes:

- 1 - Cold War Musium. Norman, VE3NPP at the mic.



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

September 8 SFI:222 A:7	September 15 SFI:172 A:21	September 22 SFI:158 A:6	September 29 SFI:195 A:7
VE3XRA - NCS	VE3EJJ - NCS	VE3EJJ - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS
New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors
Check-ins	Check-ins	Check-ins	Check-ins
VE3LC VA3EO VA3PSI VE3EJJ VE3YY VE3CWM ¹ VE3KTN	VA3PSI VE3KTN VA3IAH VA3ZLA VE3CWM ¹ VA3EO	VA3PSI VA3ZLA VA3IAH VE3KTN VE3SYZ	VA2IAH VE3LC VA3EO VE3SYZ VA3PSI VA3QV

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

Notes:

- 1 - 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
73, Alan VA3IAH

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