

# RAMBLER

FEBRUARY 2025



VOL. 67 ISSUE 6

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

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## NEXT MEETING:

**WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 19**  
**RAC HQ OFFICES, 720 BELFAST RD**  
**AT 7:00PM IN PERSON AND 7:15 PM**  
**VIA ZOOM**

**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





# 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:** Harrie Jones,  
VE3HYS, harriej59@gmail.com

### **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:**

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  
Bill Hall, VA3WMH  
Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ  
Doreen Morgan, VE3CGO  
Bryan Rawlings, VE3QN  
Maurice-André Vigneault,  
VE3VIG

## OVMRC Repeaters

- **VE3RAM** Limited coverage to Orleans and East Ottawa  
443.700 MHz (+) DMR  
CC1 & D-Star Network  
connected to  
Brandmeister
- **VE3TWO** Limited coverage to East and South Ottawa  
147.300 MHz. +, PL 100.0 Hz.  
Analogue FM and  
C4FM

## **Special Event & Field**

**Day Call Sign VE3JW**



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## LOCAL WEEKLY NETS (ALL CHECK-INS WELCOME)

- **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.
- **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.
- **Kemptville Amateur Radio Group (KARG) Net:** VE3NGR 145.250 MHz (-) CTCSS tone 110.9 Hz. Tuesday evening at 7:30 PM. Various net controllers, <https://ve3ngr.ca/net.php>
- **New Hams Ottawa Net:** VE2CRA 146.940 MHz -, (100 Hz tone), Tuesday evenings at 8:00 PM.
- **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.
- **Phoenix Net:** VE3OCE 146.880 MHz (-) 136.5 Hz tone, Tuesday evenings at 7:30 PM conducted by Pete, VE3XEM
- **Pot Hole SSB Net:** 3760 kHz, every Sunday morning at 10:00 AM conducted by Ernie, VE3EJJ.
- **Pot Lid Net:** Sunday night, 7:30 PM, 50.090 MHz., horizontal polarization.
- **Former QCWA Chapter 70 VHF Net:** VE3OCE 146.880 MHz (-) 136.5 Hz tone, Monday evenings at 7:30 PM conducted by John, VE3ZOV
- **Rubber Boot Net:** VE3OCE 146.880 MHz (-)136.5 Hz tone weekday mornings at 7:30 AM conducted by Roger, VE3NPO
- **Upper Frequency Net:** Simplex 144.250 MHz using USB, Tuesday evenings at 9:00 PM conducted by Glenn, VE3XRA.

## 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

**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.

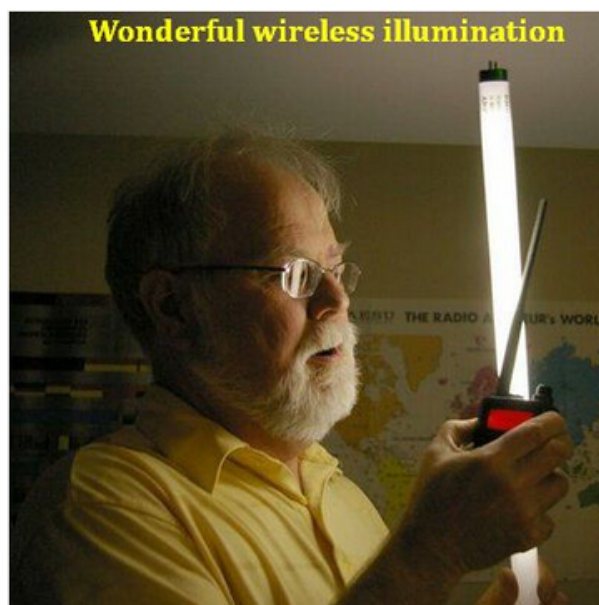
**Phoenix Net Breakfast**, 2nd Saturday of each month at Connors in Orleans, hosted by Pete VE3XEM



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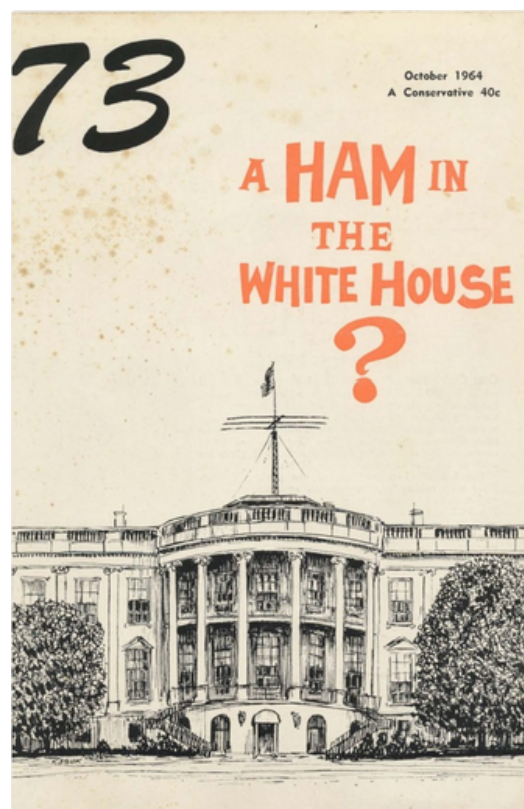
## President's Ramblings

Well this winter is sure wintery this year, isn't it? The people are skating on the Canal again and the ski hills are full of young and old folks alike and my allusions of global warming and planting a palm tree on the front lawn before I die have all but vanished. That all said, the propagation gods are good to us with the peak of solar cycle 25 and the abundance amateur radio products has never been greater to keep us amused well into our old age.



VE3LC

The only worry about that thought is the Canadian imposition of retaliatory tariffs on US sourced products will include amateur radio equipment. Indeed it may, so fairwell to US vendors of amateur radio equipment to Canadian customers. This of course is all a result of President Trump's tariff actions against Canada and Mexico. Talking about the US presidency and amateur radio, I recall decades ago when we lived in simpler times and I was first a ham in 1963 and then a year later US Senator Barry Goldwater became the Republican nominee in the US election for president. Of course, as most older radio hams know, Goldwater was an avid Arizona radio amateur operator, K7UGA. 73 Magazine at the time mused about the prospect of "A HAM in the White House?" on their front cover and several related cartoon pages therein. Of course that didn't come to pass; Goldwater lost the November 1964 election to Lyndon Johnson. See: <https://onetuberadio.com/2024/10/27/1964-a-ham-in-the-white-house/> for the Goldwater related cartoons in the magazine.





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Also take note of my article in this issue of the Rambler about over-the-air and Internet linking of VE3OCE to facilitate access to Hugo's OVMRC Thursday night FM net using the AllStarLink or EchoLink networks for those traveling abroad or just beyond the fringe of OCE's range.

Finally, as noted in the January Rambler, the feature presentation for the February meeting will be by Charles VA3CGF on his recent project to build, configure and operate his new sBITX HF SDR transceiver kit imported directly from India. Hopefully, this can be, in part, a live demo of the transceiver working and making contacts while connected temporarily to the HF antenna system of VE3RHQ station at RAC. More on Charles' kit can be read at: <https://www.hfsignals.com/index.php/sbitx-v3>

One further item before the Rambler goes to press, it was just announced today, February 13, that Mike Kelly VE3FFK is the 2024 recipient of the RAC Amateur of the Year Award. I am sure all that know Mike will agree he is most deserving of this award for his many years of dedication and contribution to local amateur community and more recently his labour of love making the VE3RHQ at RAC HQ an on-the-air success it is today. Read the full RAC Bulletin about Mike's award win at: <https://www.rac.ca/rac-amateur-of-the-year-2024-award-mike-kelly-ve3ffk/>

That's the wrap on my Rambings for this month.

73 all. Hope to see you all at the February 19th meeting of the OVMRC

Norm VE3LC  
OVMRC President

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**TO REPORT A SILENT KEY (SK) PLEASE CONTACT  
MIKE VE3FFK@GMAIL.COM**

## **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>



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## FEBRUARY 19, 2025 - MEETING AGENDA

1. Greetings and Welcomes to Guests and New Members
2. Approval January Meeting minutes.
3. News and Happenings to be announced
4. Treasurer and membership update by Nicole, VE3GIQ
5. Feature Presentation on the sBITx kit transceiver by Charles VA3CGF
6. Update on Web Site Features and Club media accounts by Adam VA3IRD
7. Canadian Ski Marathon – How did it go report from Neil VE3PUE
8. Door Prizes – If we have any
9. Motion to Adjourn meeting – Coffee, donuts and social hour to follow.

The February meeting of the OVMRC will be conducted at RAC HQ offices, 720 Belfast Rd at 7 pm. To get to the RAC office, take the stairs to the 2nd floor and proceed along the hallway to the 2nd door on your left.

***\*\*\* Please bring some indoor shoes as outside boots and shoes will need to be left at the RAC office door to help preserve the new floors! \*\*\****

***Also remember use the sign-in sheet, so the OVMRC can assess participation, with each meeting participation improving your chances at winning year-end door prizes!***



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## DOUG CARSWELL VE3ATY (SK) 1931-2025



Doug was a life member of the OVMRC and died on January 9th at the age of 93. His memorial service was well attended with about 50 people present who had connected with him over his lifetime in a variety of ways. A photo montage at the funeral showed a dedicated family man who enjoyed the company of many friends too. During his retirement Doug was a volunteer at the Canadian Aviation and Space Museum. His main contribution was transcribing pilot logs from World War II.

Doug was OVMRC president for three periods: 1989-1991, 1998-1999, and 2011-2012. He also taught the OVMRC course for a number of years. To provide a text for the course Doug coauthored a book "Amateur Radio for Beginners" which was published for about nine years and sold about 400 copies. The royalties from the book were donated to the OVMRC.

Doug and his wife Suzanne were married for 42 years. She is licenced as VE3SLC and is a graduate of the OVMRC course when Russ VE3FSN was the main instructor.

Pat VE3KJQ  
OVMRC, Director-at-Large

Obit: [link](#)



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## RAC AMATEUR OF THE YEAR 2024 AWARD: MIKE KELLY, VE3FFK



Radio Amateurs of Canada sincerely congratulates Mike Kelly, VE3FFK, on his appointment as Amateur of the Year for 2024.

See: <https://www.rac.ca/rac-amateur-of-the-year-2024-award-mike-kelly-ve3ffk/>

For more information about the RAC Amateur of the Year Award please visit:

<https://wp.rac.ca/rac-amateur-of-the-year/>

Allan Boyd, VE3AJB  
RAC President and Chair





# Kemptville Amateur Radio Group (KARG) Hamfest 2025.

**The First Hamfest of the sesason.  
Shake the winter blues!**

**15th of March 2025, at the WB George Center  
48 Shearer Street, Kemptville, ON K0G 1J0**

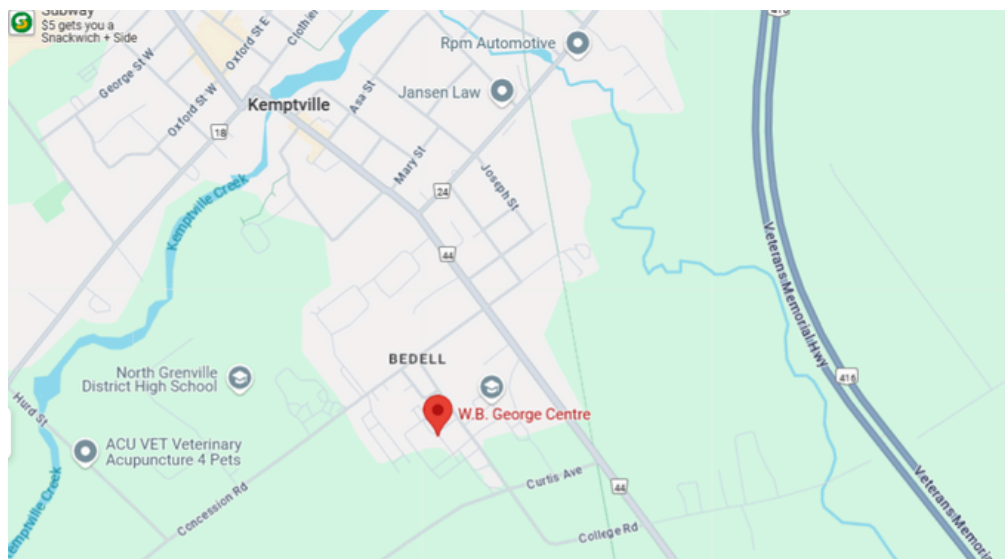
**Starting 7:30am for vendors, 9am for the general  
public**

**\$5 entry fee, tables are \$15 (includes one entry)**

**Talk-In on VE3NGR, 145.250, -0.600 MHz, Tone 110.9  
Hz**

**We hope this will become an annual event!**

**Organized by KARG - The Kemptville Amateur Radio  
Group - <https://ve3ngr.ca/>**





# OVMRC Meeting Minutes - January 15, 2025

**LOCATION:** RAC Headquarters

**PRESENT:** 29 in-person, 28 on-line, total 57

**CALL TO ORDER:** 19:15

## 1. GREETINGS: GUESTS AND NEW MEMBERS

Guests: Mike VE3FFK, Ron VA2BRR, Dave VA3KAV, Stuart VA3SGG; Dylan (no callsign)

New Members: Marcel VE3MNO, Mike VE3EOM

## 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER MEETING

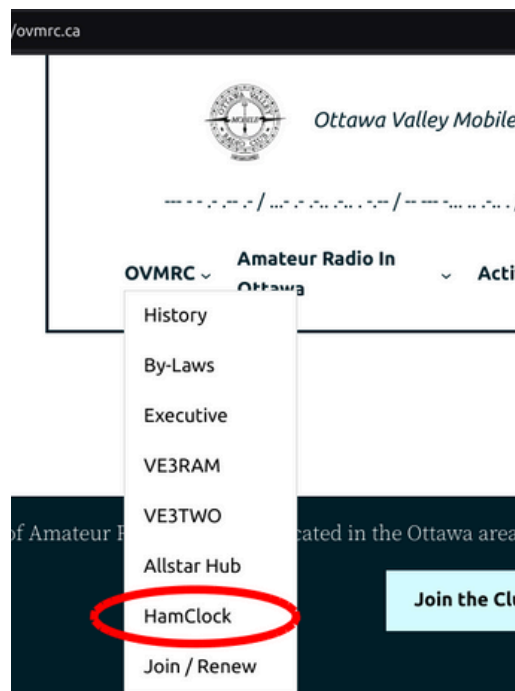
Moved: Doug VA3GY Second: Colin VA3CSG. Carried.

## 3. HAMCLOCK DEMO (President Norm VE3LC)

HamClock is a kiosk-style application that provides real time space weather, radio propagation models, operating events and other information particularly useful to the radio amateur. It is native to Linux Ubuntu and can be run easily on Ubuntu, PiOS, or other distros, Unix based machines, and also through Windows via the "Ubuntu Linux Sub System for Windows" on MS-Store. It is currently being offered in a "demo version" on the OVMRC Website (Figure 1).

The live version is available from <https://www.clearskyinstitute.com>

The HamClock screen contains the map as well as six customizable panels that allow different information to be displayed either on the map (in most cases) or within the small panel (Figure 2).





On the OVMRC demo version, for example, the “VOACAP DE: DX” window towards the top right is set to have the likelihood of getting propagation on the 20m band (green is good, red is bad, with shading in between). On the user-configurable version, other bands can be selected with a single click, with 80m to 10m is available (see Figure 3). The graph displays the current propagation (i.e., time = 0) as well as estimated propagation up to 20 hours in the future. The time axis represents actual UTC or DE time depending on what the user chooses for time zone. Current time is always at the extreme left edge and the prediction is extrapolated for Now+24 hours in 1-hour blocks. The upper left corner of the map in Figure 2 shows “20m/REL” indicating that this is the 20m propagation estimate by region with the dark circle around Ottawa indicating the skip zone with other skip zones concentrically around it. In the OVMRC demo version, the map alternates with a view of MUF around the world (see Figure 4). The map projection shown is only one of several possibilities, which includes azimuthal projection; alternative projections selectable from a drop-down menu within the map sub-window.

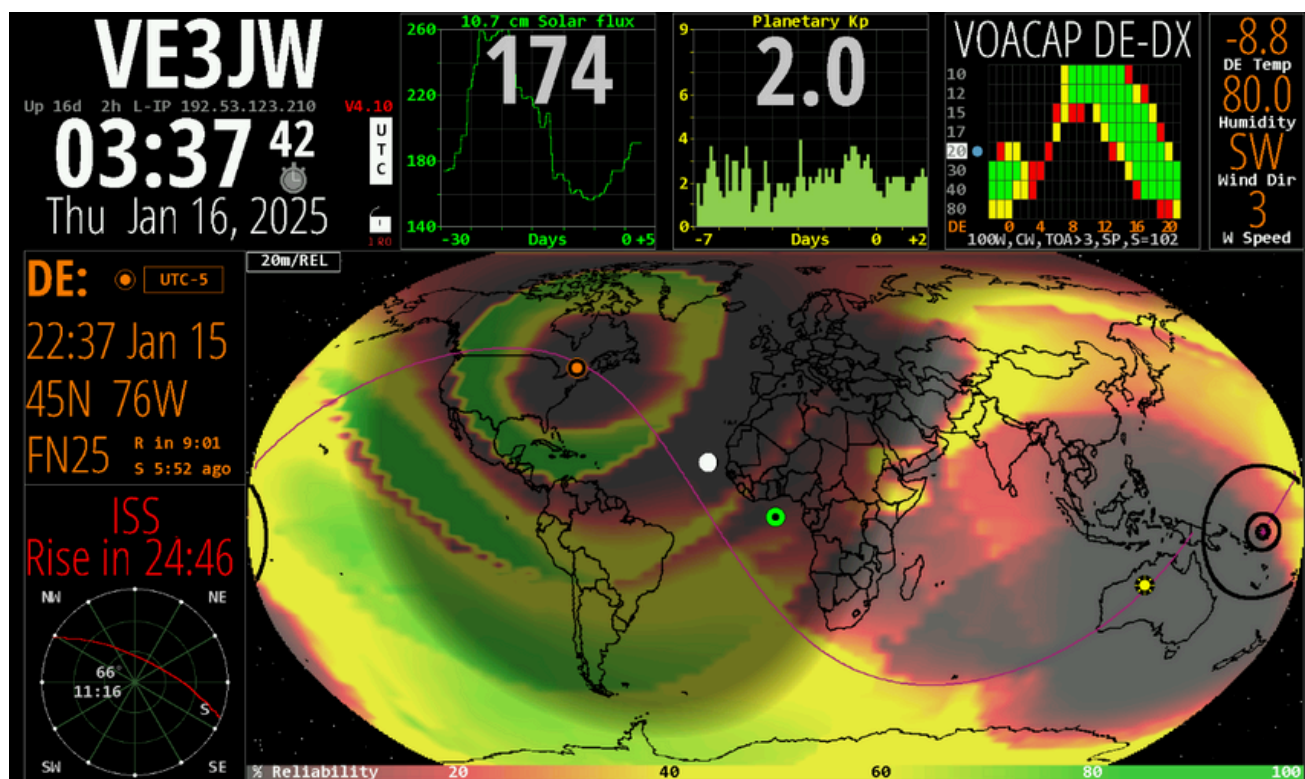
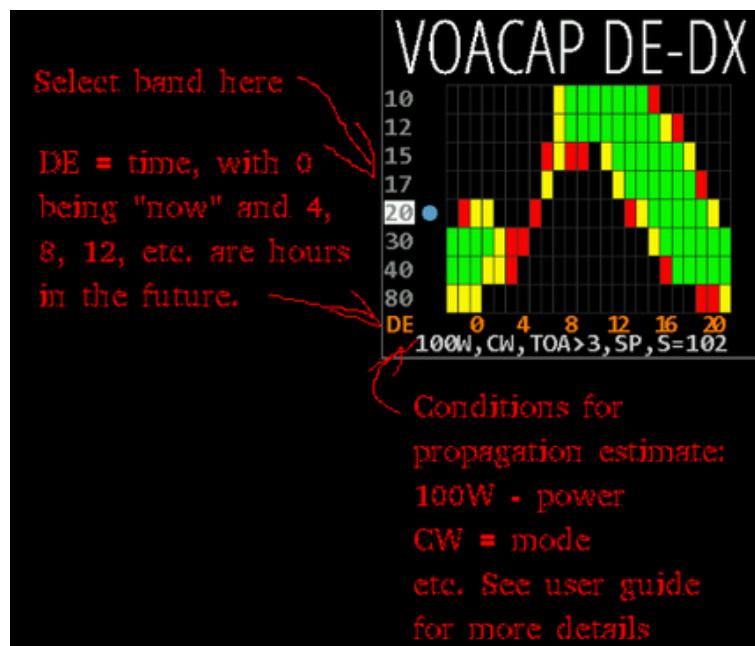


Figure 2: HamClock demo version on OVMRC website.

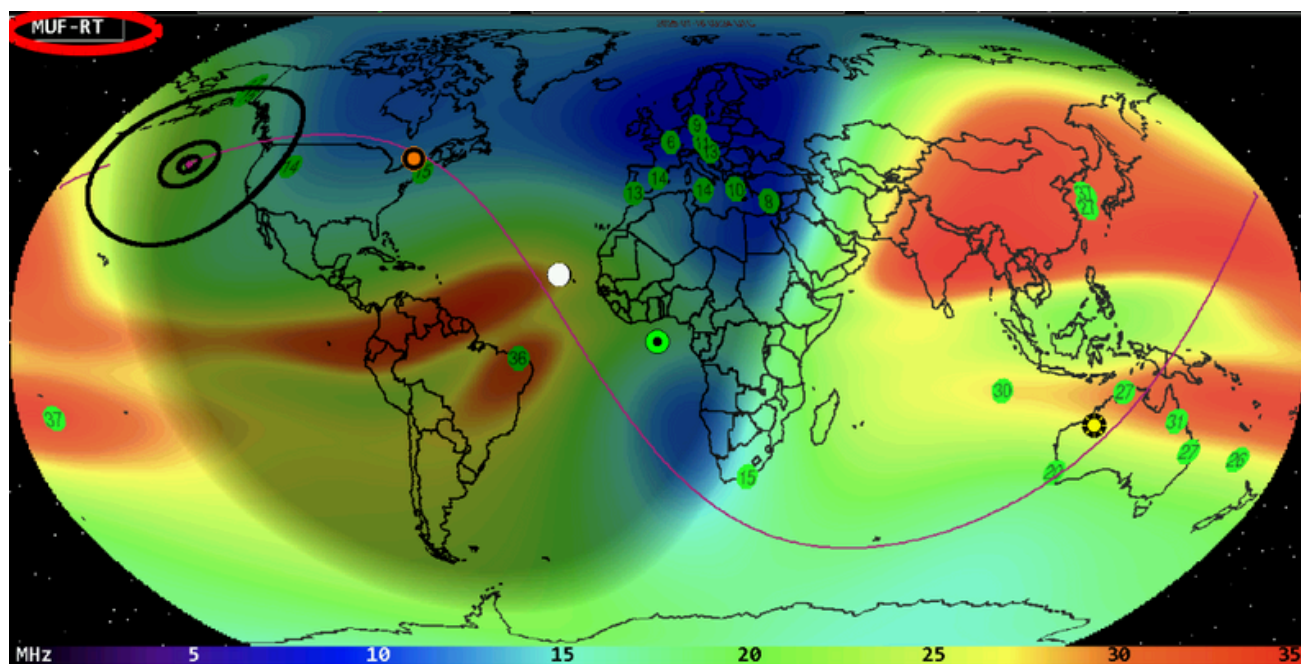


In fact, in the user-configurable version, the other sub-windows also have drop-down menus within them with alternative properties that can be displayed. For example, the bottom left corner of the demo version in Figure 2 shows the ISS rise and set times, but there are 20 other satellites that could be displayed therein. The windows in the demo version on the OVMRC website are not customizable like that.

This tool can be used to plan operating, as it gives projections into the future for propagation conditions, potential for aurora action, etc. But it can also be used for live operation, as it has rig and even rotor control potential within it, as selected at the time of installation and configuration.



**Figure 3:** Explanation of the VOACAP sub-window.



**Figure 4:** The other view of the map on the OVMRC demo version shows MUF. The MHz scale is along the bottom.



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#### 4. ARRL JANUARY VHF CONTEST (President Norm VE3LC)

The ARRL January VHF Contest will be held the weekend of January 18-20, 2025. All bands 6m and up and all modes are in play. There are various categories in which to operate. Cabrillo-formatted logs must be submitted within 10 days. Further details at the ARRL website: <https://www.arrl.org/January-vhf> There is a similar VHF contest coming up June 14-16, 2025.

#### 5. WKUSB CW KEYSER (President Norm VE3LC)

WKUSB “WinKeyer” is a CW interface for a Windows computer that can send CW without the inherent timing delays of the Windows operating system. It is supported by most logging programs wherein contest macros (like “CQ CQ”, “VE3LC”, “FN25”, and “TU 73”) can be programmed into various F-keys. Then with a push of the appropriate button, the WinKeyer will send that text to the radio in CW format and speeds selectable up to 99 wpm. The device has PTT Out ports for sending signals to up to two outputs. The device does not decode, but other software such as CwGet can do that.

#### See website for more details:

- **Full size:** US \$139 bare + US\$7 or US\$9 for various cable options  
<https://www.hamcrafters2.com/WKUSBX.html>
- **Mini:** US\$59 bare and US\$69 with cables: <https://www.hamcrafters2.com/WKminiRevB.html>

#### 6. DOOR PRIZES

1. Mug: Will VA3ODW
2. Mug: Ron VA2BRR
3. Portable Chair: Colin VA3CSG

#### 7. OTHER

Pete VE3XEM announced there will be another breakfast at Connor's Irish Pub & Eatery (2401 St. Joseph Blvd., one block east of Orleans Blvd.) on February 8, 2025.

#### 8. MOVE TO ADJOURN

Moved: Doug VA3GY Adjourned: 21:30

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



## Decode Colours in WSJT-X

Some users of WSJT-X may not be fully aware of the power contained in its application of coloured fore- and backgrounds to decodes and transmissions. I use this capability to prioritise decodes in addition to colour coding as an aid to pouncing on more desirable decodes that may appear rather than visually sifting through them or having to use additional FT-4/8 software such as Gridtracker and JTAlert.

Colour coding and setting the precedence of specific text strings managed by WSJT-X is set in the **File-Settings-Colors** tab; an example showing how I have it set up for my operation follows.

### Decode Highlighting

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Transmitted message
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	My Call in message [f/g unset]
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	New DXCC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	New Call [f/g unset]
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	New Call on Band [f/g unset]
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CQ in message
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Continent [f/g unset]
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Continent on Band [f/g unset]
<input type="checkbox"/>	New CQ Zone [f/g unset]
<input type="checkbox"/>	New CQ Zone on Band [f/g unset]
<input type="checkbox"/>	New ITU Zone [f/g unset]
<input type="checkbox"/>	New ITU Zone on Band [f/g unset]
<input type="checkbox"/>	New DXCC on Band [f/g unset]
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Grid [f/g unset]
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Grid on Band [f/g unset]
<input type="checkbox"/>	LoTW User [b/g unset]

If you compare the definitions of the first six rows in my setup with yours, it may not be the same and you may ask *why?* or *how did you change that?* As to why, I chose this row order so decodes will appear in a specific way in the **Band Activity** and **RX Frequency** windows. As to how did I do that, quite simply left click and hold to move a particular row up or down in the list to raise or lower its colour coding priority. A normal right click on a row will open a sub-menu allowing the user to choose from a broad range of foreground (text) and background colours.



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So, what does this mean? Referring to the colour settings picture above:

First check is to determine if I'm transmitting a message. If yes, then code it as yellow text with a red background. This check is unique in that it is the only message type involving a transmission; all other checks are done on decodes.

Next check is on whether my call is in any decode. I set this to top priority of decodes as I should deal with it first.

Next check is on whether any decode contains a callsign that is a new DXCC, as determined from the contents of the WSJT-X adif file and presumably the list of DXCC entities carried by WSJT-X. The purple background will over-ride any of the lower row colour backgrounds. Whenever I see a purple decode, I jump on it without even looking at it as it's a new DXCC for me and worth a shot under any conditions before I have to fight the imminent pileup. I'd still have to verify against possible contacts made in the past on CW, SSB or other modes but my memory is pretty good for this sort of thing.

If not a new DXCC, the next check is whether I've worked the callsign at all on any band. It colours dark blue and is applied on stations calling CQ.

If I have worked the station, but not on the current band, the CQ will colour light blue. Useful when hunting for multi-band DXCC together with **New DXCC on Band**.

Finally, if the CQ station has been worked on the current band, it's coloured light orange and I can leave it as a lowest priority. The remaining rows have their boxes unchecked as I have no interest in their criteria, therefore not tested by WSJT-X.

I've found this ordering of CQ types very useful, especially when running the at-home Field Day as it gives me a quick view of what stations to call and which are already in the log. The next picture shows a typical sequence picking up on a new station calling CQ and going through the QSO to its conclusion as shown in the **RX Frequency** window.



WSJT-X v2.6.1 by K1JT et al.

File Configurations View Mode Decode Save Tools Help

Band Activity					Rx Frequency				
UTC	dB	DT	Freq	Message	UTC	dB	DT	Freq	Message
----- 30m -----									
212845	-1	0.1	1481	~ CQ KP4JFR FK68 Puerto Rico	212715	-3	0.0	1482	~ CQ KP4JFR FK68 Puerto Rico
212845	15	0.1	1706	~ CQ W8WEJ EM99 U.S.A.	212730	Tx	1600	~ KP4JFR VE3KTN FN25	
212845	3	0.1	2087	~ CQ KX4RC FM16 U.S.A.	212745	-10	0.1	1481	~ VE3KTN KP4JFR +06
212845	8	-0.0	330	~ CQ WB2UBW EM67 U.S.A.	212800	Tx	1600	~ KP4JFR VE3KTN R-10	
212845	-7	0.1	781	~ CQ 9A4AA JN75 Croatia	212815	-7	0.1	1482	~ VE3KTN KP4JFR RR73
212845	-12	0.0	678	~ CQ IU4QQE JN64 Italy	212830	Tx	1600	~ KP4JFR VE3KTN 73	
212845	-11	0.0	633	~ CQ F11FD TN03 France	212845	-1	0.1	1481	~ CQ KP4JFR FK68 Puerto Rico

CQ only   Log QSO   Stop   Monitor   Erase   Decode   Enable Tx   Halt Tx   Tune    Menus

30m   **10.136 000**    Tx even/1st    Hold Tx Freq

Tx 1600 Hz   Rx 1482 Hz   Report -10    Auto Seq   CQ: None

H   DX Call   DX Grid   Az: 163   3074 km    Auto Seq   CQ: None

FT8   KP4JFR   FK68    Tx 1   KP4JFR VE3KTN FN25

FT4    Tx 2   KP4JFR VE3KTN -10

MSK    Tx 3   KP4JFR VE3KTN R-10

Q65    Tx 4   KP4JFR VE3KTN RR73

JT65    Tx 5   KP4JFR VE3KTN 73

Tx 6   CQ VE3KTN FN25

FT8   Last Tx: KP4JFR VE3KTN 73   21   0/15

Here's another run where I saw a new DXCC pop up. Unfortunately, no success and I gave it up to look for other fish.

----- 12m -----				
UTC	dB	DT	Freq	Message
202845	-12	-0.2	2157	~ CQ K8BL EN91 U.S.A.
202845	-13	0.1	1760	~ CQ K8OIT DN70 U.S.A.
202715	-20	0.3	1472	~ CQ V51PJ JG82 Namibia
202730	Tx	1250	~ V51PJ VE3KTN FN25	
202800	Tx	1250	~ V51PJ VE3KTN FN25	
202830	Tx	1250	~ V51PJ VE3KTN FN25	
202900	Tx	1250	~ V51PJ VE3KTN FN25	

There it is folks, hope it makes your FT8 operation easier.

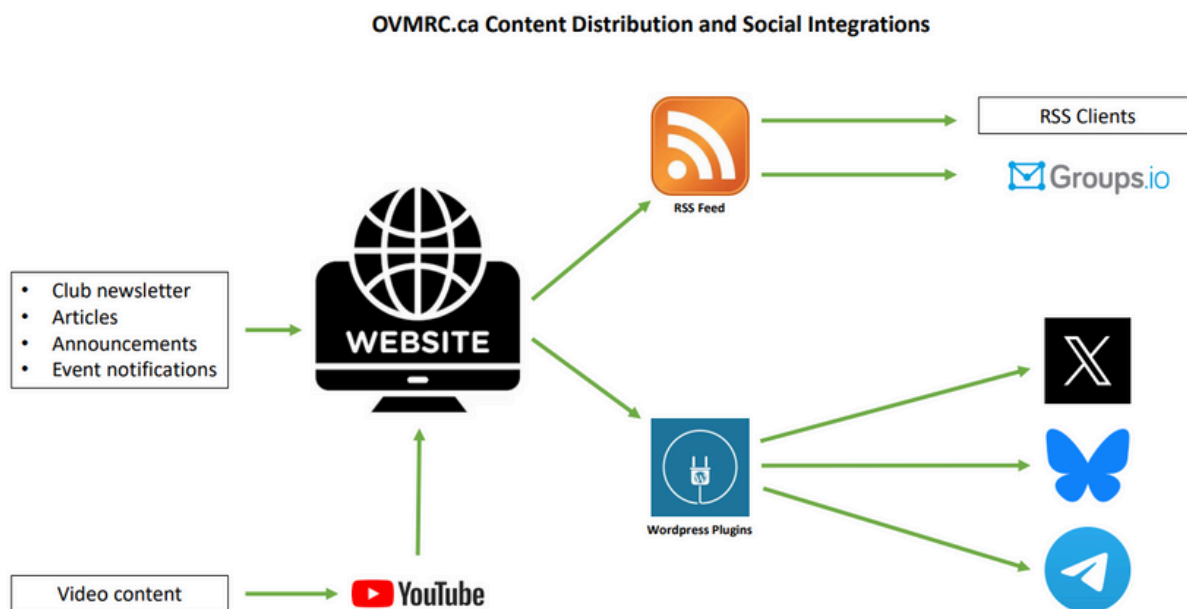
73, Hugo, VE3KTN  
 OVMRC Nets / Radio Operations





## Website Feature Highlight 4: Content Distribution

The OVMRC website has many connections to other online platforms and services. They provide convenient options for member and non-members to access OVMRC content with their preferred tools and platforms.



### Website

All content is primarily posted and accessible on the website itself [ovmrc.ca](https://ovmrc.ca/). Content will remain accessible from the website regardless of age. We are also actively working on uploading a comprehensive catalogue of newsletters going back to the founding days of the club. <https://ovmrc.ca/>

### Groups.io

The OVMRC Groups.io page is the primary location for long-form discussion between members. In addition to discussions, you will find all new website posts are automatically posted to the groups.io via an RSS feed. This is a great way to follow ovmrc.ca content if you are already an active groups.io user. Groups.io is also a great way to continue the conversation about a particular Rambler issue or other website post. <https://ovmrc.groups.io/g/main>



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## **Direct RSS Feed**

The RSS feed that aggregates content to the groups.io page can also be accessed directly using your RSS client of choice. This will allow you to read new website posts in a manner similar to how email is delivered to an inbox. Many existing email clients support RSS.

RSS - Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Inc.

## **X/Twitter, Bluesky, Telegram**

Twitter/X, Bluesky, and Telegram are social media and messaging platforms. All new website posts are delivered to these feeds via website plugins. These platforms are convenient for users who prefer to get their information in their existing social feeds. These platforms also expose our club to new audiences who many not have heard of the OVMRC, or amateur radio in general!

**X/Twitter:** <https://x.com/VE3JW>

**Bluesky:** <https://bsky.app/profile/ve3jw.ovmrc.ca>

**Telegram:** [https://t.me/+jZCucti\\_8BxmMjYx](https://t.me/+jZCucti_8BxmMjYx)

## **YouTube**

The OVMRC YouTube channel is the repository for all video content that we produce. All video content will be featured in website posts and will therefore be available through all avenues described above. The YouTube channel can also be accessed directly at:

Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club (OVMRC) - YouTube

**Adam, VA3IRD**

**OVMRC Webmaster / Social Media**



# AllStar Link node access to VE3OCE for OVMRC Thursday Evening FM Net.

Norm (VE3LC) has established a Radio Link controlled by an AllStarLink (ASL) node for remote radio access to VE3OCE (or other area repeaters). This will be made operational for over-the-internet access to VE3OCE when Hugo VE3KTN is conducting his Thursday evening OVMRC FM net at 8 pm for folks that want to check-in but are out of radio range to the repeater.

The connection is facilitated by the AllStar Link hub configured and installed on rented Linux VM space in-the-cloud on behalf the OVMRC by our IT specialist and OVMRC webmaster Adam VA3IRD. The dashboard of this hub can be seen from the OVMRC tab drop down list on the Club's main page web site at: <https://ovmrc.ca> or more specifically at: <https://ovmrc.ca/about-ovmrc/allstar-hub/>

The AllStarLink node address is: 601110. The node can also be accessed by way of the EchoLink network at node number: 197954 or under the call sign selection VE3JW-L using your common Echo Linked equipped repeaters or Computer or Smart Phone apps for Echolink.

The dashboard looks like this:

- Support
- Digital Dashboard
- Display Configuration

[ Weather conditions for Ottawa, Ontario - K1Y: 11°F, -11.6°C / Mostly Cloudy ]

Node 601110 => OVMRC Hub Ottawa Ontario <a href="#">Bubble Chart</a> <a href="#">LsNodes</a>						
Node	Node Information	Received	Link	Direction	Connected	Mode
601110	Idle					
56337	VE3LC Orleans, Ontario	000:15:15	ESTABLISHED	IN	35:07:42	Transceive
62598	VE3MPC Orleans, Ontario	038:40:12	ESTABLISHED	IN	34:47:45	Transceive
1991	Node not in database	Never	ESTABLISHED	OUT	52:05:16	Transceive

/  
System maintained by: [VA3IRD](#)



Shown on the visual above is the dashboard of the OVMRC ASL HUB. It indicates two connections at the moment: My Node 56337 assigned to VE3LC that interfaces with “DINAH node hardware and Raspberry Pi3 that is connected to my FT-817 radio dialed to the frequencies of VE3OCE. Also shown is ASL Node 62598 that is assigned to the VE3MPC repeater equipment that I have currently on my workshop bench and outfitted with another Pi3 with ASL software configured as a repeater controller. See pictures to the VE3MPC gear further on in this article. It is hoped in the near future we will be able to restore the VE3MPC repeater to operation at a good site to provide radio coverage again to the City of Ottawa with ASL access. **If there is any ham in the Ottawa area that lives in a high rise up 15 floors or more and would want to host the VE3MPC repeater with a good antenna on the outside balcony, be in touch and we can discuss.**

Below is a picture of my FT-817 working with a Raspberry Pi-3 running ASL software along with DINAH interface which is cable connected to the data port of the FT-817 with the radio selected on “PKT” mode. With the radio dialed to the frequency pair for VE3OCE, Rob VE3RXH while vacationing in Florida was able to check into the OVMRC FM net on VE3OCE.



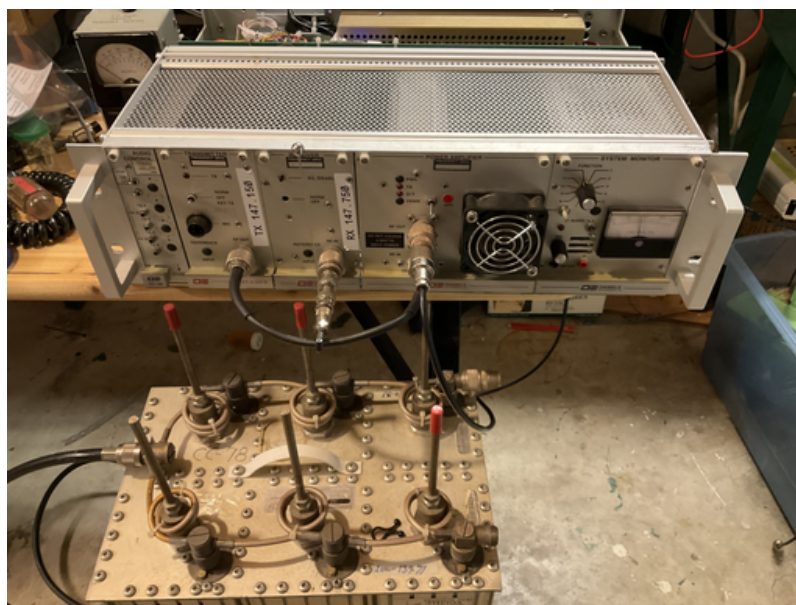


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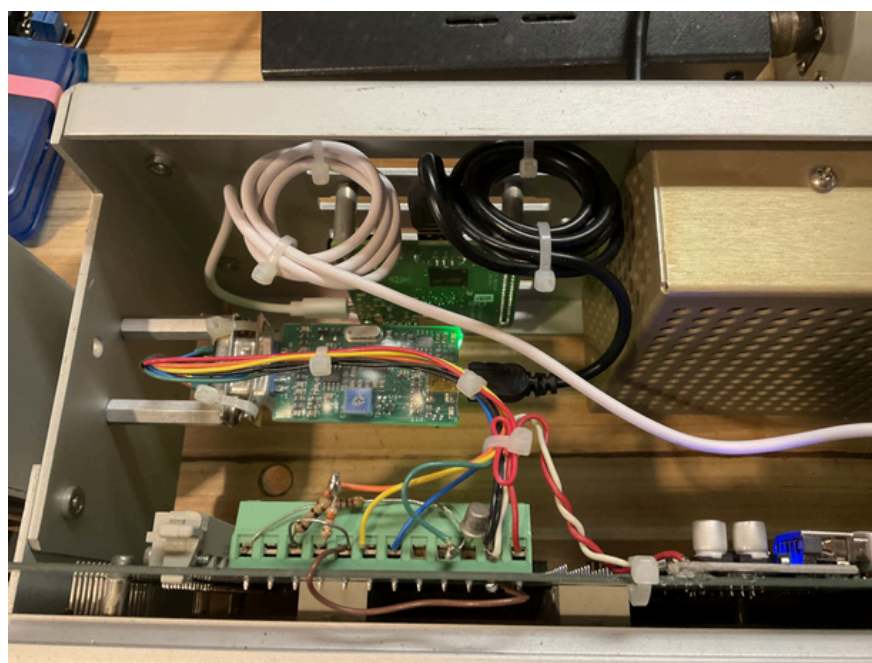
Below are pictures that show the VE3MPC Canadian made Daniels Electronics “MT3” 30 Watt VHF repeater fitted with a Raspberry 3A computer running AllStar Link software complete a “RIM Lite” interface board designed and marketed by the Repeater Builder.

See: <https://www.repeater-builder.com/products/usb-rim-lite.html>

**Note the Sinclair Q2330E ResLoc VHF duplexer in the foreground.**



**This below shows the back of the Daniels MT3 repeater chassis where I mounted and connected the Raspberry Pi3A board and RIM Lite interface board for ASL.**





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**Further AllStar Link references:**

**Register and get a node number:** <https://www.allstarlink.org/>

**Node List:** <https://www.allstarlink.org/nodelist/>

**ASL DTMF Commands:** [https://wiki.allstarlink.org/wiki/AllStarLink\\_Standard\\_Commands#Mandatory\\_Command\\_Codes](https://wiki.allstarlink.org/wiki/AllStarLink_Standard_Commands#Mandatory_Command_Codes)

Norm VE3LC

OVMRC President





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## Quick Tip: Use a legal-sized clipboard as a lap desk when operating from your car

One of the challenges in operating stationary mobile when doing POTA activations is that you have limited space but you need something for logging contacts. Most operators will use a notebook paper log, a phone/tablet or maybe even a wireless keyboard, for computer logging. Rather than trying to balance things on your legs, a more stable solution is to use a legal-sized clipboard (15.5" x 9") as an inexpensive lap desk. If you have a trail friendly (controls on top) QRP radio then a legal-sized clipboard is big enough to put your whole station in your lap, as I often do when POTA activating from the car in bad weather. Legal-sized clipboards are readily available at office supply stores such as Staples. If you find yourself needing something even bigger, you can get sketching clipboards (15.5" x 11.75") from Amazon.

Cheers Michael VE3WMB





# OVMRC Net Activity, Check-ins for January, 2025

Prepared by: Hugo Kneve VE3KTN

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

January 2	January 9	January 16	January 23	January 30
VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS
<b>New &amp; Visitors</b>	<b>New &amp; Visitors</b>	<b>New &amp; Visitors</b>	<b>New &amp; Visitors</b>	<b>New &amp; Visitors</b>
	Ryan – VE3DPW Ian – VE3RIM	Jeff - VA3WJD	Geoff – VE3YCB Mike - VE3UAY	
<b>Check-ins</b>	<b>Check-ins</b>	<b>Check-ins</b>	<b>Check-ins</b>	<b>Check-ins</b>
VE3OTW VE3RUU VA2OJD VE3LC VA3WEX VA3CJO VE3KAE VE3FSN VA2BBW VA3PSI VA3ZZI VE3OKD VE3DNU VE3CWM <sup>1</sup> VE3NA VE3ZZU VA3EO VE3LAF VA3CGF	VA3IAH VE3KJQ VE3LC VA2BBW VE3FSN VE3KAE VE3NA VE3CWM <sup>1</sup> VE3ZZU VA3EO VE3OTW VA3CGF VE3HVA VE3RRB VE3YY VE3DNU VA3LMA	VE3RUU VE3ZZU VE3LC VA3WEX VE3NPP VE3FSN VE3KAE VE3NA VA3EO VA3PSI VA3LMA VE3NPO VE3MNO VE3HVA VE3LAF VE3VIG	VE3RUU VE3OTW VE3LC VE3RXH VA3IAH VE3FSN VA2BBW VE3CWM <sup>1</sup> VE3NA VE3YY VA3QV VA2OJD VA3ODW VE3RRB VE3ZZU VA3HBL VE3YPD VE3NPO VE3WWJ VA3EO VE3VIG VA3LMA	VE3RXH VA3IRD VE3OTW VE3RUU VA3WJD VA3IAH VE3LC VA3WEX VA2BBW VE3NA VA3ZZI VE3NPO VE3RRB VE3ZZU VE3KJQ VA2OJD VA3WBR VA3EO VE3YY VE3LAF

Notes:

VE3CWM is the “Diefenbunker” Cold War Museum station operated by volunteer radio amateurs of the National Capital Region.

1 – Norman VE3NPP at the mic.





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

<b>January 5 SFI:209 A:32</b>	<b>January 12 SFI:156 A:7</b>	<b>January 19 SFI:222 A:10</b>	<b>January 26 SFI:182 A:3</b>
VE3EJJ - NCS	VE3EJJ - NCS	VE3EJJ - NCS	VE3EJJ - NCS
<b>New &amp; Visitors</b>	<b>New &amp; Visitors</b>	<b>New &amp; Visitors</b>	<b>New &amp; Visitors</b>
<b>Check-ins</b>	<b>Check-ins</b>	<b>Check-ins</b>	<b>Check-ins</b>
VE3RXN VE3LC VA3PSI VA3IAH VE3YY VA3EO VE3CWM <sup>1</sup> VE3KTN	VA3EO VE3YY VE3OP VE3CWM <sup>1</sup> VE3LC VA3PSI VA2TXZ VA3IAH VA3ZLA VE3BF VE3KTN VA2OJD	VE3KTN VA3ZLA VA3PSI VA2TXZ VE3OWV VE3YY VA3EO VE3CWM <sup>1</sup>	VE3LC VE3YY VA3PSI VE3XRA VA2TXZ VA3IAH VE3CWM <sup>1</sup> VE3KTN VA3EO

*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:

VE3CWM is the “Diefenbunker” Cold War Museum station operated by volunteer radio amateurs of the National Capital Region.

1 - Fred VE3LAF at the mic.



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**OVMRC Pot Lid CW Net: 50.090 MHz. Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m. Ottawa local.**

<b>January 5</b>	<b>January 12</b>	<b>January 19</b>	<b>January 26</b>
VE3KTN - NCS	VE3LC - NCS	VE3FFK - NCS	VA2BBW - NCS
<b>New &amp; Visitors</b>	<b>New &amp; Visitors</b>	<b>New &amp; Visitors</b>	<b>New &amp; Visitors</b>
<b>Check-ins</b>	<b>Check-ins</b>	<b>Check-ins</b>	<b>Check-ins</b>
VE3LC VE3FFK VE3QO VA2OJD	VE3KTN VA2BBW VE3FFK VE3QO VA2OJD VA3IAH	VE3KTN VE3LC VE3QO VA3IAH VA2OJD	VE3KTN VE3LC VE3FFK VA2OJD



## General Links of Interest:

### ARDF Ottawa



Go t-hunting with ARDF  
(Amateur Radio Direction  
Finding ) Ottawa

### RCJ



Volunteer radio ops help  
scouts on the Rideau  
Challenge Journey

### New Hams Ottawa



Information for new hams with  
an Ottawa focus

### Editor's Note:

The Rambler is the official newsletter of the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Incorporated and is published 10 times a year (monthly, except for July and August). Opinions expressed in the Rambler are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the OVMRC, its officers or its members. Permission is granted to republish the contents in whole or in part, providing the source is acknowledged. Commercial use of the contents is expressly prohibited. Submit articles and notices to: Alan at [editor@ovmrc.ca](mailto:editor@ovmrc.ca)  
73, Alan VA3IAH

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