

RAMBLER

SEPTEMBER 2025



VOL. 68 ISSUE 1

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

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SEPTEMBER MEETING:

WEDNESDAY SEPT 17, 2025

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
RUSS PASTUCH, VE3FSN/VE3YOW,
VICEPRESIDENT@OVMRC.CA FOR AN
INVITATION.

OVMRC AFFILIATIONS





OVMRC EXECUTIVE AND OFFICERS 2025-2026

DIRECTORS

President:

Rob Haddow, VE3RXH,
president@ovmrc.ca

Vice-President:

Russ Pastuch, VE3FSN/
VE3YOW
vicepresident@ovmrc.ca

Treasurer & Membership Records:

Nicole Boivin, VE3GIQ
ve3giq@myrac.ca

Corporate Secretary:

Donald, VA3ZZI,
secretary@ovmrc.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

Newsletter Editor: Alan

Hotte, VA3IAH,
editor@ovmrc.ca

Webmaster & Social

Media: Adam Bird,
VA3IRD, web@ovmrc.ca

Keeper of Club Call

Signs: 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](https://ovmrc.groups.io/g/main);

All radio amateur
members and non-
members are welcome

Groups.io Moderator:

Michael Babineau,
VE3WMB.

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**



LOCAL NETS (ALL WELCOME)

- **Rubber Boot Net:** VE3OCE 146.880 MHz (-)136.5 Hz tone *weekday mornings* at 7:30 AM conducted by Roger, VE3NPO
- **Champlain STP Net:** VE3STP 147.060 MHz +, (114.8 Hz tone), held **Monday through Saturday** at 7:00 PM.

MONDAY

- **Former QCWA Chapter 70 VHF Net:** VE3OCE 146.880 MHz (-) 136.5 Hz tone, 7:30 PM conducted by Bryan, VE3QN.
- **Capital City FM Net:** VE2CRA 146.940 MHz -, (100 Hz tone), 8:00 PM.

TUESDAY

- **Phoenix Net:** VE3OCE 146.880 MHz (-) 136.5 Hz tone, 7:30 PM, Pete, VE3XEM.
- **Kemptville Amateur Radio Group (KARG) Net:** VE3NGR 145.250 MHz (-) CTCSS tone 110.9 Hz. 7:30 PM.
- **New Hams Ottawa Net:** VE2CRA 146.940 MHz -, (100 Hz tone), 8:00 PM.
- **Almonte ARC's D-Star XLX197b Net:** Tuesday evenings at 8:40 pm, Dale VE3XZT.
- **Upper Frequency Net:** Simplex 144.250 MHz using USB, 9:00 PM, Glenn, VE3XRA.

THURSDAY

- **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.

FRIDAY

- **Friday night C4FM Net:**7:30 PM, VE3TWO, 147.300(+).

SUNDAY

- **Sunday Morning Social:** 10:00am, D-Star (XLX197b) Rick, VE3RVV
- **Pot Hole SSB Net:** 3760 kHz, every Sunday morning at 10:00 AM, Ernie, VE3EJJ.
- **Pot Lid Slow Speed CW Net:** Sunday night, 7:30 PM, 50.090 MHz., horizontal polarization.

INFORMAL AMATEUR RADIO RESTAURANT GATHERINGS

Former 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 - Rob VE3RXH

CQ, CQ OVMRC. Welcome back to the new season of ham radio at OVMRC! I hope you all had a good summer and made some interesting QSOs. As you will see the new Club Executive are in place and are working to bring us an enjoyable year with nets, activities and meetings.

We welcome two new elected officials to the Executive committee, Vice President: Russ Pastuch (VE3FSN) and Secretary: Donald Seaman (VA3ZZI) with myself, Rob Haddow (VE3RXH), moving to become President. Biographies for all elected officials will shortly be available on our website at: <https://ovmrc.ca/about-ovmrc/ovmrc-executive/>. All members are encouraged to contact the Executive with feedback on Club activities and suggestions.

Many Club members took part in the summer POTA activations, these seem to be ever more popular and there was great support for the MS Bike event in August. More on those activities later.

September is a busy month for amateur radio around Ottawa with OARC's Hamfest at Carp on Saturday 6th; OARC's Radio in the Park on Saturday 13th at Walter Baker Park in Kanata; the OVMRC monthly meeting on Wednesday 17th at RAC HQ and a double header on Saturday 27th with the Eastern Ontario Hamfest at St-Albert in the morning and an OVMRC POTA activation at High Falls Conservation Area (CA-6209) just a short drive away in Casselman after the Hamfest.

As a reminder, Club membership fees are now due. The cost remains at \$25 for RAC members and \$35 if you are not an RAC member. The preferred payment method is by Interac e-transfer to the Club account ovmrc.e.xfer@gmail.com

I look forward to seeing all of you at the events, and especially our monthly meeting in person or online via Zoom.

73, Rob, VE3RXH



WEDNESDAY 17, SEPTEMBER 2025

Hello to the Membership and Guests of the OVMRC:

The September 2025 meeting of the OVMRC will be held at RAC HQ offices, 720 Belfast Rd, Ottawa at 7 pm on Wednesday 17th September. The meeting will be called to order at 7:15 pm by Rob Haddow, VE3RXH.

AGENDA:

1. Greetings and welcoming guests, new hams and new members of the Club. Introduce the new Exec members present or online.
2. Approval of the June AGM meeting minutes as published in the September Rambler.
3. News and Happenings & Club Coming Events Schedule.
 - a. Official opening of VE3RHQ station.
 - b. 27th September Eastern Ontario Hamfest and Club POTA activation at Casselman, CA-6209.
 - c. 27 -28th September RAC Aux Comm training.
4. Field Day 2025 - report on activity and results.
5. Committee Chair reports:
 - a. MS Bike.
 - b. Summer POTA Activations.
6. Other business as may arise.
7. Move to adjourn, followed by social hour. Coffee and donuts will be available.



OVMRC AGM Meeting Minutes - June 18, 2025

LOCATION: RAC Headquarters

PRESENT: 44 participants (30 live and 14 online)

CALL TO ORDER: 19:12

1. GREETINGS: GUESTS AND NEW MEMBERS: **Guests;** None, **New Members;** Michelle VA3PZA, and Josh VE3EAM. Oxana VE3OVV, XYL of Rick VE3RVV and a new member, was introduced in absentia by Rick.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Moved; Paul VE3PRB, **Seconded:** Richard VE3HBL, **Carried.**

3. NEWS AND HAPPENINGS

(President Norm VE3LC) **Alan Goodacre VE3HX became a silent key on June 17, 2025 at the age of 89.** He had a PhD in Geophysics and worked for the Dominion Observatory (and its later variations) for many years. First licensed in 1953, he was a keen CW operator, a member of the First Class Operators' Club (<https://www.g4foc.org/sk-member/alan-goodacre-ve3hx/>), and the QCWA. He had done research into "long delayed echoes" and written papers on the subject for QST. A short biography is here: <https://www.qcwa70.ca/Bios/VE3HX.htm> . His obituary is here: <https://cofamilyfunerals.com/tribute/details/9765/Alan-Goodacre/obituary.html>

4. YEAR END REVIEW

a. Meetings (President Norm VE3LC).--The 2024-2025 year for the OVMRC included the following meeting presentations:

- September: A review of Field Day 2024.
- October: Air Canada pilot Rob VE3RMJ spoke about uses of radios on aircraft as well as his experience working 20 m. amateur radio while in flight.
- November: Adrian VE7NZ and Scott VA7SL discussed amateur radio ballooning.
- December: Social gathering at Connor's Pub
- January: Norm VE3LC gave a presentation on Hamclock
- February: Charles VA3CGF discussed building an sBitx and also writing custom software for it.
- March: A show and tell of various projects members of the OVMRC had undertaken, including kit builds, satellite operations, and homebrewed dummy loads.



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- April: A review of Field Day 2024 and preparations for Field Day 2025.
 - May: Craig Foster discussed MeshCore (a system for text messaging using LoRa radios)

b. Financial Year-End Report (Treasurer Nicole VE3GIQ).--We ended the year with a slight deficit (expenditures exceeding income). Nicole detailed the types of income, assets, and expenses. **Move to Accept Report as presented:** President Norm VE3LC. **Seconded:** Douglas VA3GY. **Carried.**

c. Nets (Hugo VE3KTN). After the net on Thursday June 26, the OVMRC net season will be over for the summer and will re-start the Thursday after Labour Day. Pete's Phoenix Net will carry on over the summer. Will be attempting to revive the "Wise Owl Net" (a former net that died out) as a C4FM net on VE3TWO. Will do a test run on Friday June 20 at 7:30 PM.

5. UPCOMING SUMMER ACTIVITIES (President Norm VE3LC)

a. Radio Support to Rideau Lakes Cycle Tour, June 21-22. Coordinated by Richard Hagemeyer.

b. Field Day, June 27-29. OVMRC will be operating from the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum grounds.

c. OVMRC Group POTA activation, July 19, 10 AM - 2 PM, Bate Island CA-1349.

d. Radio Support to MS Bike Fundraiser, August 16-17. Coordinated by Nicole VE3GIQ. Different than in previous years, this will include linked repeaters at Moose Creek (2m) and Bonville (70cm) to cover the whole route. Net control will be in Vernon. To volunteer, contact psevents@ovmrc.ca

e. OVMRC Groups POTA Activation, August 30, Rockcliffe Park CA-1597, with social picnic.

6. NEW DIRECTORS: Motion to elect the following persons as Directors, with terms starting September 1:

- President - Rob VE3RXH
- Vice-President - Russ VE3FSN
- Treasurer - Nicole VE3GIQ
- Secretary - Donald VA3ZZI
- At-Large - Pat VE3KJQ

Moved by: Bill VA3HWA. Seconded by: Will VA3ODW. Carried.



7. YEAR-END PRIZE DRAW (Past-President Barry VE3NA): The following seven people won soldering kits with multimeters: Ken VE3QS, Rob VE3RXH, Russ VE3FSN, Alan VE3KAE, Bill VA3HWA, Kathleen VA3WEX, and Marcel VE3MNO.

8. FIELD DAY FINAL PREPARATIONS (Norm VE3LC):

a. Schedule will be as follows:

- Friday afternoon: gather at Cumberland to set up antennas and plan locations of / set up operating shelters.
- Friday night: Camping over-night on Friday will be Fern VE3LMA, Rob VE3RXH, and Rick VE3RVV
- Saturday starting approx. 10 AM: gather for more set up of shelters, power distribution, etc.
- Saturday evening: Chili will be provided by Bryan VE3QN
- Saturday night: camping and operating overnight: group from Friday night plus Kathleen VA3WEX, and Ante VE2BBW (with family).
- Sunday breakfast: Pancakes will be provided by Nicole VE3GIQ

b. Remaining Needs:

- Extension cords, and lots of them (**anyone coming to Field Day is asked to bring what you have**).
- Satellite Operations: worth 100 points to make just one satellite contact. Hugo VE3KTN will make attempt, with Kathleen VA3WEX and **room for another volunteer to assist**. (Satellite work requires one person to log the contact and one person to help track the satellite along with the radio operator).
- Visit by elected official: worth 100 points. Colin VA3CSG has contacts and will try to get someone. **Anyone else with contacts is asked to also make an attempt**.

9. MOVE TO ADJOURN: Moved: Richard VA3HBL. **Adjourned:** 20:51.

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

Silent Key Submission Guidelines

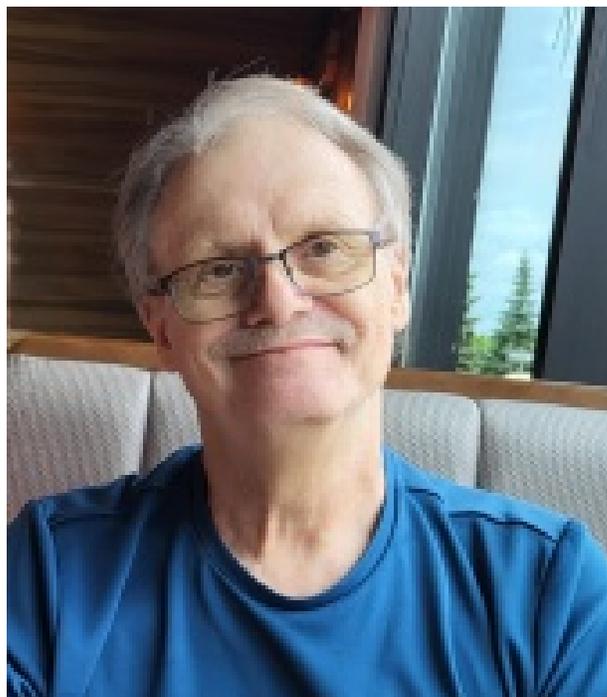
<https://www.rac.ca/silent-keys/>

..also please inform ISED

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



Frank Stratton VE3YY, SK August 6th, 2025



There is no doubt about it, we have lost a beloved and unforgettable “character” on our local airwaves; Frank Stratton VE3YY passed away peacefully by pre-arranged medical assistance in dying August 6th following a farewell gathering of his family and close friends that afternoon at his apartment on Uplands Drive.

We will miss him greatly on our radio nets and at club meetings; he always had something novel and interesting to say that was sometimes serious and often not.

The following is the eulogy prepared and read at Frank’s interment in Buritts Rapids by his eldest son Chris; he gave us permission to share it in our Rambler newsletter.

“On behalf of our family... thank you all for being here today, and for your kind words and support. We are deeply grateful.

I want to especially thank those who reached out to my dad in the weeks before his passing with phone calls, emails, and visits.

Those moments meant a lot to him... and to us.

If you knew my dad... you knew he was a bit of a free bird and I mean that in every way.



He believed his “bird” should be free – sometimes in spirit... sometimes in lifestyle.

Whether it was his love of nature, the outdoors or his time in naturist camp, he lived life with a kind of freedom that most people only dream about.

He carried that spirit from the moment he left Corner Brook at 19 for the big city of Toronto.

But Newfoundland never left him.

The humour... the stories... the LOVE of life – they were always there.

His life was as varied as his hobbies and adventures.

Raising kids... twice.

The first set...and then when they survived, started all over again 25 years later with the other one.

Riding motorcycles. Kayaking. Running. Camping under the stars.

Behind a camera... capturing the world through his own lens.

Playing guitars and banjos.

And being part of so many groups – ham radio for decades...

the Masons... the Moose Lodge... the Legion... even the volunteer fire department.

He loved people... and he loved being part of something bigger than himself. And he went by many names: father... brother... son... friend... mentor... leader.

And yes – a few names from his “exes” that I won’t repeat here... in front of the Reverend.

But whatever you called him... one thing was true: he was ALWAYS on the move.

Even sitting still... he was reading, tinkering, or dreaming up his next project.



Growing up with him meant living in a kind of an adventure camp.

Nobody died from his radio towers... strange antennas...or engine parts spread across the garage.

We learned to dodge guy wires... and live wires...and if you got a little shock – well... it just became another story to tell.

He taught us by doing. We fixed cars and motorcycles. Framed walls. Tiled floors. Strung guitars.

Even built kayaks... all while still making it to school. But those lessons weren't just about skills.

They were about resilience... independence... and finding a way to make things work.

What made Dad special wasn't just what he DID... but how he LIVED.

Curious. Humorous. Unapologetically free. Always ready with a story or a helping hand.

He had a way of making friends wherever he went...and of reminding others not to take life too seriously.

His legacy isn't just in the projects he finished...or the organizations he joined.

It's in the PEOPLE he touched. For us, it's in the values he left behind:

Work hard... laugh often... stay curious...and never be afraid to let your 'bird' be free.

So today... even as we grieve... we celebrate him. His bird may finally be free...

but his spirit – his humour, his love of life, his photos, his stories, and his adventures – will ALWAYS stay with us.”

Chris Stratton.



To conclude, I was told that Frank was buried with one of his portable radios. So folks listen carefully on a clear channel at night and don't be surprised if you hear Frank VE3YY once again on the airwaves with an afterlife tale to tell.

Frank you have indeed touched us all! You now deserve to rest in peace for eternity.

73, Norm VE3LC.

Frank's obituary is posted at: <https://www.fco-cfo.coop/en/death-notices/frank-stratton-278656/>

His QCWA biography is posted at: <https://qcwa70.ca/Bios/VE3YY.htm>





OVMRC Report on Field Day 2025: Norm VE3LC



The OVMRC operated Field Day again this year, June 28th - 29th, 2025 on the grounds of the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum. Following an early morning rain, the weather was fine the rest of the weekend and we obtained the best overall points score for a 2A Club in-the-field operation in the last 10 years since I have been involved with the Club. This in part was due to our battery powered QRP operation using the CW and FT8 and FT4 modes, which combined, gave us a multiplier of 10 for each contact made. As well, besides the usual bonus points, we were able to score an extra 100 bonus points for attendance of an elected official, Jeff Leiper, Ottawa Councillor for Kitchissippi Ward 15 thanks to an invitation by Colin VA3CSG, another 100 bonus points for attendance by Daniel Boulet VA3GLB, President of the Ottawa Volunteer Search and Rescue representing a served agency. As well, Hugo VE3KTN using his IC-705 and assisted by Kathleen VA3WEX who hand held the antenna with precision accuracy, they contracted N2FYA through amateur satellite SO-124 for yet another 100 bonus points.



Our 2A class permitted two HF stations operating simultaneously; the CW station was sheltered in a pop up tent trailer provided by CW op Scott Hendry, VE3NPX and the FT4/FT8 station was housed in the “garage” section of Rob VE3RXH’s large travel trailer. The 6 m FT8 station was provided and operated separately by Steve VE3MVK.

Icom IC-705 transceivers were used for the 2 HF stations and another for the 6m station and another for making the satellite contact. Antennas setup on site were: 40m end-fed half wave, 80m/40m inverted V, a 4 element yagi for 6m and a 2m omni erected on the same mast as the 6m beam for the sole FM contact on 146.52.



Scott Hendry VE3NPX
was lead FD CW op.



Steve McIvor VE3MVK
comes self contained for
operations on 6m FT8



Six Metre Beam



Ante VA2BBW Camped overnight with his family



Rick VE3RVV & Fern VA3LMA making FT8 and FT4 contacts.



Bryan VE3QN and daughter Nicole bring two big crocks of chili for Saturday supper.



Norm VE3LC's Ioniq 6 EV becomes the source of FD AC power from its 77 kW-Hr battery.



ALSO, THE POWER FOR THE FT4/8 STATION IN ROB'S TRAILER CAME FROM VE3KTN SOLAR CELLS & BATTERY.

OVMRC Field Day QSO Score Calculations			
Band	CW	Digital	Phone
80	23	22	
40	77	226	
20	97	38	
6		9	
2			1
Satellite			1
TOTAL QSOs	197 (x 2)=	295 (x 2)=	2 (x 1)=
QSO points	394	590	2
QRP Pwr (x 5)	1970	2950	10
Claimed Score	4930		

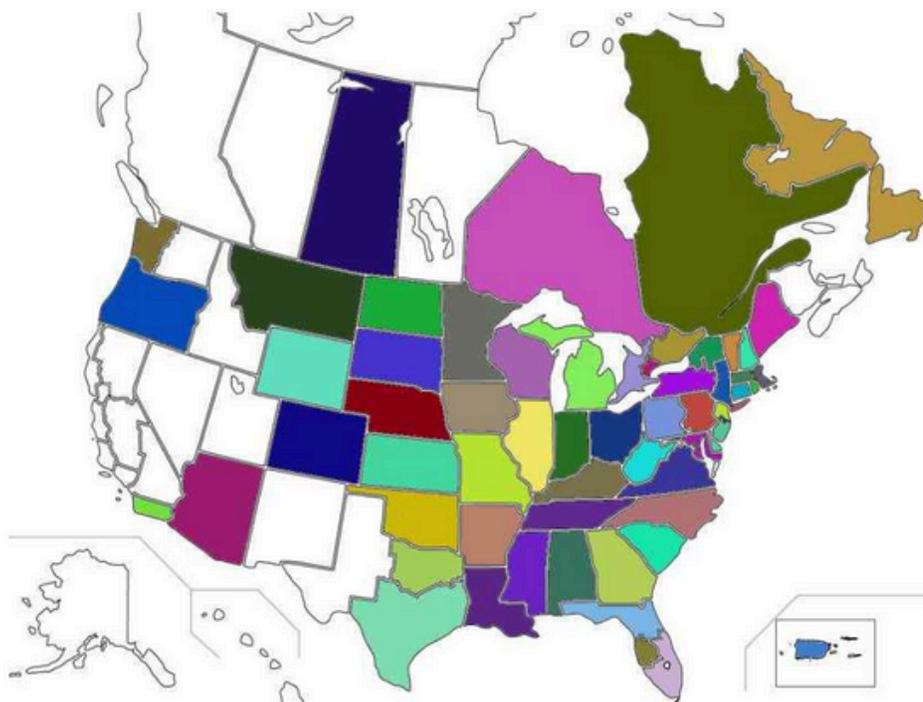


Claimed Bonus Points by OVMRC

Bonus Description	Points	Remarks
100% Emergency Power	200	All battery and solar
Public Location	100	At Cumberland Heritage Village Museum
Public Information Table	100	
Copied W1AW FD Msg	100	Tks to Hugo VE3KTN
Formal Msgs Handled x 5	50	Tks to Rob VE3RXH
Natural (Solar)	100	Tks to Rob VE3RXH & Scott VE3NPX
Visitation by elected official	100	Councillor Jeff Leiper Tks to Colin VA3CSG
Visitation by rep from served agency	100	Prez of OVSAR Daniel VA3GLB tks Norm VE3LC
Safety officer	100	Tks to Nicole VE3GIQ
Social Media	100	Tks to Rob VE3RXH
Satellite QSO	100	Tks to Hugo VE3KTN & Kathleen VA3WEX
Entry submitted via web app	50	By Norm VE3LC
TOTAL BONUS POINTS	1200	

Preliminary Total Score: 4930 QSO points + 1200 Bonus Points = 6,130

ARRL/RAC Sections Worked



Total of 61 of 86 sections plus "DX" worked.

73, NORM, VE3LC



OVMRC Summer 2025 POTA activity report:

Rob, VE3RXH

Club POTA events have become increasingly popular, both for their social aspect and the opportunity to see and discuss portable setups and operation. This summer the Club sponsored two POTA activations, first at Bate Island on Saturday 19th July and secondly at Rockcliffe Park on Saturday 30th August.

I was unable to attend the activation at Remic Rapids and Bate Island Conservation Park, CA-1349, due to a clash with another radio event, but I heard tales of a great activation, good weather and lots of entertainment from the rafting groups that were running down the rapids and then carrying their boats back up Bate Island to run the rapids again. 12 amateur operators attended with 5 guests observing. Five logs were uploaded to the POTA.app website with QSOs made on data, CW and phone.

On Saturday 30th August, 20 amateurs and 4 guests/visitors took part in the activation of Rockcliffe Park and the Rockeries Natural Area, CA-1597. The weather had looked a little threatening on the forecast but it turned out to be a dry and warm day, perfect for outdoor operations. The grassy area around the pavilion is ideal for stations to be set up, with plenty of space and access to tall trees to hang antennas. Band conditions were a little rough, so it was taking some time to get the minimum 10 contacts and data modes (predominantly FT-8) proved to be most successful. As of time of writing, seven logs have been uploaded to the POTA website. This is a popular park to activate, with over 170 activations recorded so far and the highest QSO count of 468 was certainly not achieved during the Club activation this year!

Here's a selection of photos from the activation at Rockcliffe Park.



PHOTO 1: DON (VA3ZZI) OPERATING PHONE ON HIS G90 (PHOTO BY VE3LC).



PHOTO 2: ELIZABETH (VA3LCE) ENJOYING A COFFEE AND OPERATING ON HF (PHOTO BY VE3LC).



PHOTO 3: WILL (VA3ODW) OPERATING QRP ON HIS ICOM 705 (PHOTO BY VE3LC).

PHOTO 4: DAVE (VA3OOC) HAS A NEAT GO-BOX SETUP FOR OPERATING FROM HIS CAR (PHOTO BY VA3VLW).





PHOTO 5: NORM (VE3LC) ALSO HAS A COOL GO-BOX FOR HIS ICOM 705 (PHOTO BY VE3RXH).



PHOTO 6: NORM (VE3LC) USED A MAG-MOUNT BASE ON A GARBAGE CAN FOR HIS LOADED HF MULTI-BAND ANTENNA (PHOTO BY VA3VLW).



PHOTO 7: L TO R: BILL (VA3WBR), ANTE (VA2BBW) AND RICK (VE3RVV) MAKING HF PHONE CONTACTS (PHOTO BY VE3RXH).

Thanks for the photo submissions: Norm (VE3LC) and Claude (VA3VLW).

The next Club POTA outing is a road trip to Casselman, High Falls Conservation Area CA-6209 starting after the Eastern Ontario Hamfest in St-Albert on Saturday 27th September. Look out for further details on the Club Groups.io.

73, Rob, VE3RXH



OVMRC 2025-26 Nets Season Opens:

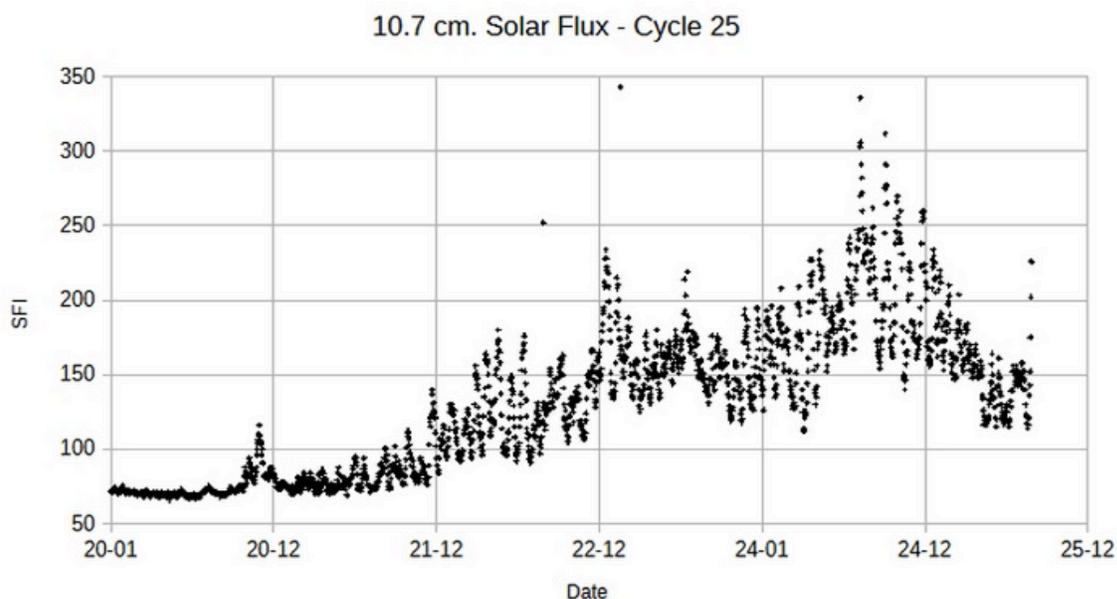
Hugo Kneve, VE3KTN, Nets & Radio Ops Chair

Hello to all OVMRC members and participants in our club's nets! The OVMRC nets season opens this year on Thursday, September 4 with the 2 metre FM Net, followed on Sunday by the 80 metre Pot Hole Net and 6 metre CW Net.

The Thursday 2 metre Net will, again, meet on repeater VE3OCE, 146.880 MHz. out/146.280 MHz. in, and with a 136.5 Hz. CTCSS tone. On behalf of the OVMRC, I would like to extend thanks to Pete Gamble VE3BQP for allowing us to run the net on his repeater. 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. Once all check-ins have had their say, there's a break for a summary of ham-related news and an overview of the DX and Contests situation for the coming weekend, followed by a second run through the check-ins for any last words.

Sunspot Cycle 25 is showing all signs of starting to taper off with a marked decline in the average 10.7 cm. flux levels over the summer, however there are the occasional jumps back into the 200 range, notably in the last week of August. Solar activity is certainly one of the larger drivers of how well radio propagation is going to behave, but it does cut two ways. When the flux levels are high, frequencies above 10 MHz. benefit from ionospheric skip and QRP operation on 20 metres and higher are the place to be however 40 metres and lower suffer from enhanced D layer absorption during the daylight hours. Lower flux levels will reverse this situation as Cycle 25 ends giving better opportunities on the low bands. It's early days, but be prepared to change operating habits.

The OVMRC Pot Hole Net (PHN) has also commenced, now in its 66th 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. It remains to be seen if the PHN will benefit from the lower solar flux levels; for those of us with long dipoles, we can only hope.



Once again, participants in urban environments might find it easier to at least hear the PHN over an internet connection to Phil Lytle's VE3HOA SDR receiver located in the west end. It's 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. 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, VE3KTN



Mobile/portable radio clinic: Stuart, VE3SMF

On August 2nd 2025, a Mobile/portable radio clinic was held at the IBEW Training Centre, with the purpose of testing radio stations and Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS) functionality in advance of MS Bike event. Participants were instructed to bring their APRS setup, manuals and programming cables.

The MS-Bike 2025 event was held on August 16th - 17th, 2025 and amateur radio communications support was utilized. The planned net operation used both RF voice communications on VHF and Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS). Various amateur radio operators attended to test out and receive mentoring on the use of APRS. The focus was to trouble shoot settings and cables for mobile APRS systems.

Norm (VE3LC) brought out radio testing equipment to test RF output strength and test SWR on installed equipment on 144.390 MHz.

Various models of APRS capable equipment and a wide range of antenna were on display. This provided a great opportunity to look at various transceivers, antenna for both mobile and stationary use, and power supply options.



Photo 1: Various pieces of RF testing equipment provided by VE3LC. Do you know what all the items are, and how to use them?

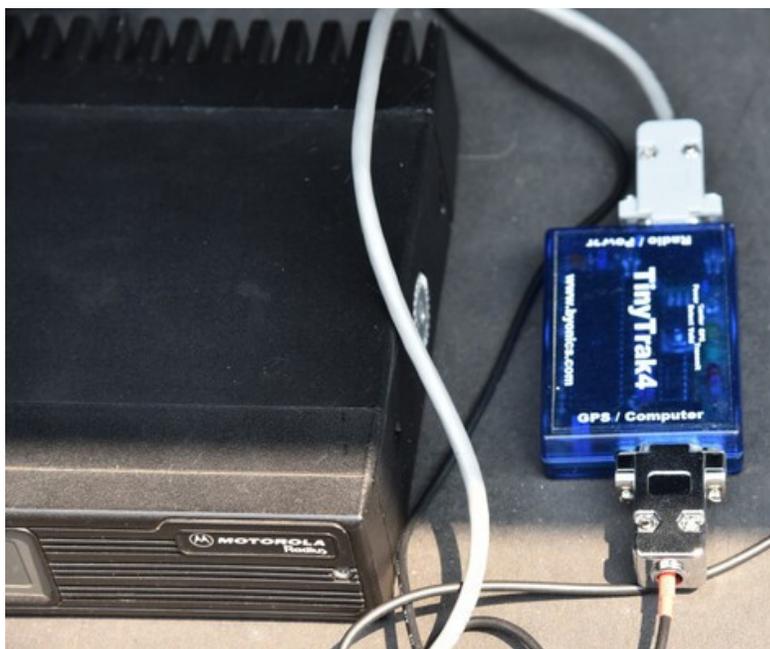


Photo 2: Besides using a typical APRS capable transceiver, it is possible to use an APRS tracking device in combination with a single channel VHF transceiver to be installed in a vehicle to provide automated tracking of the vehicle. This is an excellent way to install a tracking APRS device in a support vehicle such as a Support and Gear (SAG) vehicle or a First Aid vehicle to see their location on the APRS maps.



Photo 3: Demonstration of a VHF VHF Slim Jim style antenna that is mounted in the back of a truck. The Slim Jim is mounted away from the aluminum mast on stand off, and can be raised on the mast when stationary. Getting elevation for an antenna is one of the best way to increase signal strength on VHF.



Photo 4: Installation of a Kenwood TM-D710G dual band VHF/UHF APRS capable transceiver. This can be set up to operate VHF voice and VHF APRS at the same time. This is a nice example of a stable mobile radio mount that can be operated by the mobile radio operator.



Photo 3: 1986 VW Vanagon Westfalia (with the pop-top open), that is often used for portable radio communications in the Ottawa region by VE3SMF and VE3LOI. The rear hitch has an approximate 5 foot high mast that can support a magnetic VHF/UHF antenna and can also support additional 4 foot military surplus aluminum supports to provide a 16 - 20 ft mast to mount an Arrow dual band VHF/UHF J-Pole antenna. This vehicle has been used regularly for local events such as CN-CHEO, Rideau Lakes Cycle Tour, Scouts Rideau Challenge Journey, etc.... The plan for MS-Bike 2005 is to use it for a two day deployment for MS-Bike 2025.

DE Stuart VE3SMF



Quick Tip: Drying off your telescopic whips and masts, Michael VE3WMB

Packing up wet portable antennas during or after a rain storm isn't fun. Many of us use compact verticals or dipoles with telescopic whips. I don't like collapsing things up when they are still wet so I always pack a piece of old T-shirt to dry my vertical antenna components off before putting them away. This year for Father's Day one of my gifts was a backpacking towel (see photo). These are extremely compact and are both incredibly absorbent and fast-drying so they are perfect for this application.

I do also highly recommend extending and air-drying whips and fully disassembling and drying telescopic fibreglass masts when you get home, if the mast or antenna has been up for a while in heavy rains. These steps will ensure that your telescopic antenna gear doesn't develop a mould problem.

Cheers

Michael VE3WMB





OVMRC Net Activity, Check-ins for June, 2025

Prepared by: Hugo Kneve VE3KTN

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

June 5	June 12	June 19	June 26
VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS
New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors
Adrian – VA3UAC	Barry - VA3FCQ	Reg – VE3KNU	AI - VE3XJT Scott – VE3NPX Josh - VE3EAM
Check-ins	Check-ins	Check-ins	Check-ins
VA3PZA VE2BJZ VE3LC VE3RXH VA3IAH VE3KJQ VE3CWM ¹ VA3HBL VA2TXZ VE3NA VA3BVO VA3EO VA2OJD VA3CJO VE3VIG VA2BBW VE3OTW VE3FFK VE3LAF VA3LMA VE3TXB	VE3OTW VA3PZA VA3UAC VE3LC VE3RXH VA3IAH VE3KJQ VE3KAE VE3CWM ¹ VA3ZZI VE3NA VE3ZZU VE3OKD VE3VIG VE3LAF VA2OJD	VE3LC VE3RXH VA3EO VE3KAE VE3NA VA3WBR VE3YY VE3LPH VA3PSI VA3IAH VE3TXB VA3PEW VA3ZZI VA3BVO VE3RVV VA3LMA VA2OJD VE3OTW VE3VIG VA2BBW	VE3RXH VE3LC VE3NA VA3CJO VE3KAE VA3PSI VA3ZZI VA3CGF VA3HBL VE3LPH VE3OTW VA3LMA VE3VIG

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.

June 1 SFI:164 A:16*	June 8 SFI:121 A:20	June 15 SFI:151 A:24	June 22 SFI:120 A:12
VE3EJJ - NCS	VE3XRA - NCS	VE3EJJ - NCS	VE3EJJ - NCS
New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors
Check-ins	Check-ins	Check-ins	Check-ins
VA3EO VE3YY VA3PSI VA3IAH VA3TBW VE3KTN VE3LC	VE3LC VA3PSI VA2IAH VE3YY VE3KTN VE3EJJ VA3EO	VE3YY VE3KTN VA3TBW	VE3YY VE3KTN

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:

* - Geomagnetic field activity very high this day. Kp = 7.3 at net time.



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

June 1	June 8	June 15	June 22
VE3KTN - NCS	VE3FFK - NCS	No Net – Father’s Day	VE3KTN - NCS
New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors
Check-ins	Check-ins	Check-ins	Check-ins
VE3FFK VE3LC VA2BBW VE3QO VA2OJD	VE3KTN VA2BBW VE3LC VE3QO VA2OJD		VE3LC VE3FFK VE3QO 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:

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73, Alan VA3IAH

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