

RAMBLER

NOVEMBER 2025

VOL. 68 ISSUE 3



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

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- 2 OVMRC EXECUTIVE
- 3 NETS AND GATHERINGS
- 4 PRESIDENT'S RAMBLINGS
- 6 AGENDA
- 7 MINUTES
- 10 OVMRC POTA
- 13 OVMRC FD RESULTS
- 14 REMEMBRANCE
- 16 SERVICE RECORDS
- 17 6M DELTA LOOP
- 19 QUICK TIP
- 20 OVMRC NET ACTIVITY
- 23 LINKS & EDITOR'S NOTE

OCTOBER MEETING:

WEDNESDAY NOV 19, 2025

**IBEW LOCAL 586, 1178 RAINBOW ST,
GLOUCESTER, OTTAWA, ON , 7:00
PM 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, VE3JT,
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(+).
- **PACNET:** 7:30PM on VE3OCE Packet 145.030 with Ante VA2BBW.

SUNDAY

- **Sunday Morning Social:** 10:00AM, XLX197, with Rick, VE3RVV
- **Pot Hole SSB Net:** 10:00AM, 3760 kHz, with 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
--	---	--	--



President's Ramblings - Rob VE3JT

Last month's Club meeting included an interesting talk on Packet Radio from Norm (VE3LC) and Ante (VA2BBW). Although something of a blast from the past, since Packet has been around since the 1980s, it has certainly seen renewed interest around the Ottawa valley and with today's software TNCs, and many radios having built-in sound cards, it has never been easier to get on the air with this mode. If you have not tried it yet, I would encourage you to give it a go. Of course Packet is using the AX.25 protocol, that is also used by the Automatic Packet Reporting System, more often called APRS. APRS has great utility for tracking but also includes messaging and telemetry, such as that used by weather stations. Recently there have been some new services added to the APRS Information System (APRSIS), which is the internet backbone to share the data, such as an APRS to text message (SMS) gateway, and also the use of computer bots connected over the internet to reply with weather forecasts for the area requested. A bot is simply an automated system, I guess much like the old days when you could dial the weather service on your landline phone and get a local weather report. APRS will be a theme in our upcoming Club meetings and we have already heard about it's use supporting the MS Bike event.

It's always interesting to look back in the archives and see what was going on in years past, so I took a look at the November 2015 issue of the Rambler recently. My eye caught a comment in the President's Ramblings (written by Norm, VE3LC) about Club member Bryan Rawlings (VE3QN) who was to be the RAC special representative to the World Radio Conference 2015. It was during that conference that a worldwide amateur radio allocation in the 60m band was agreed. Here in Canada I understand that it took until mid 2022 for the updated privileges to be published in RBR-4. The 60m band allocation is essentially 'channelised'. In Canada, on 60m, we have 1 narrow band of 15 KHz and 4 fixed channels of 3 KHz each that allow for CW, data and SSB using USB with a maximum transmitted bandwidth of 2.8 KHz.

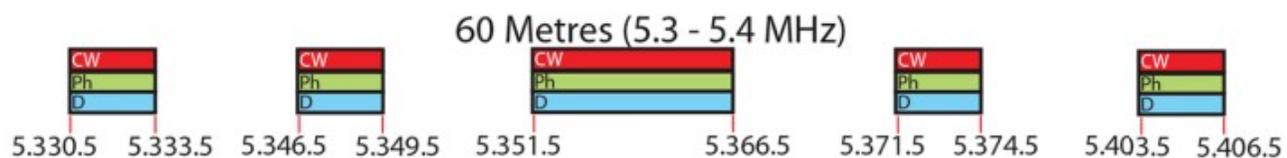


Chart of the Canadian 60m Band allocation, extracted from RAC Band Plan for 60m, at <https://www.rac.ca/operating/bandplans/>



It's thanks to the work of volunteers like Bryan and RAC that we continue to have access to a huge swathe of the electromagnetic spectrum and attendance at the meetings is funded by the Defence of Amateur Radio Fund (DARF) which OVMRC has been a regular contributor to. I will be adapting my 20m band end-fed half wave antenna to resonate on the 60m band this month to take part in an Emcomm Winlink P2P exercise on November 13th.

In mid October I was very happy to pick up a two letter callsign, which are in great demand in VE3-land, so I will be joining the nets and signing as VE3JT. Google tells me VE3JT was once held by a Ham that was christened 'VE3 Juicy Tomatoes' so I guess that's a good way to remember it and a fun alternative to the international phonetic alphabet that I can use when band conditions are good and I'm sure that the DX station catches my sometimes unusual Canadian/Scottish twang!

For the November monthly meeting and onwards, we will be moving back to the upstairs meeting room at IBEW Local 586, 1178 Rainbow Street, Ottawa, ON. There is ample free parking on-site. Note that the entrance door remains in the same place as previously used, but the staircase has moved around the corner and a new elevator is available just inside the door. If you are joining the meeting on Zoom, look out for the meeting invite that will be sent by email a few days before the meeting date, and if you are not a member please contact me at president@ovmrc.ca to get the invite details. Myself and Russ, our Vice-President, are away travelling so Norm (VE3LC) will be the room anchor for the meeting.

73,

Rob VE3RXH/VE3JT





WEDNESDAY 19, NOVEMBER, 2025

Hello to the Membership and Guests of the OVMRC:

The October 2025 meeting of the OVMRC will be held at IBEW Local 586, 1178 Rainbow St, Gloucester, Ottawa, ON at 7 pm on Wednesday 19th November.

Time and Date: Wednesday 15th October 2025 at 6:45 PM Eastern Time.

The meeting will be called to order at 7:15 PM by Norm VE3LC. Zoom details to follow by email. Non members are welcome to attend or join by Zoom. Please contact president@ovmrc.ca

AGENDA:

1. Greetings and welcoming guests, new hams and new members of the Club.
2. Approval of the October meeting minutes as published in the November Rambler.
3. News and Happenings & Club Coming Events Schedule.
4. Packet radio demo by Ante VA2BBW and JD VA2OJD.
5. MS Bike APRS by Nicole VE3GIQ.
6. Other business as may arise.
7. Meeting adjournment followed by social hour. Coffee and donuts will be available.



OVMRC Meeting Minutes - Oct 15, 2025

LOCATION: RAC Headquarters

PRESENT: 52 participants (26 live and 26 online)

CALL TO ORDER: 19:12

1. GREETINGS: GUESTS AND NEW MEMBERS: Guests.--None New Members.--Reg VE3KNU and Stephan VA3SJJ. Vice-President Russ VE3FSN introduced himself to the group and stated he has been off the air for 30 years but recently got back in and is really enjoying being a ham again.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Moved: Will VA3ODW **Seconded:** Doug VA3GY Carried.

3. NEWS AND HAPPENINGS

-A This coming Saturday, October 18, there will be a POTA event at POTA site CA-1349 Bates Island from 10 AM to 2 PM

-B The annual Christmas Pot Luck dinner will be held on Wednesday December 17.

4. 2025/2026 Budget Presentation And Approval

presented by Nicole VE3GIQ

(Note: The budget spreadsheet presented on the big screen is in the October Rambler on page 9.) Nicole reviewed all items in the budget spreadsheet including the 4 sections of the budget, rows, columns and figures. We are well on our way to achieve our goals for new members and renewals. We are forecasted to have an \$89 surplus at the end of the upcoming year. The budget was moved by Bill VA3HWA and seconded by Tim VE3TXB and approved.

Right after this, Nicole noted to members that it really helps her with knowing where money came from when we put our call signs on our payments.

5. Full Report from MS Bike event presented by Nicole VE3CIQ. This will be delayed as Nicole is missing the data she needs. Only 25% of data from beaconing mobiles was received. A possible source of the trouble could be that the APRS settings were not done correctly. She will try this again next time.



6. Packet Radio -Breathing New Life Into An Old Technology

-A A Brief History Of Amateur Packet Radio presented by Norm VE3LC
Packet Radio was started by ARPANET in the 1960's. The University Of Hawaii followed on the work in the 1970's. Canada introduced the "Amateur digital radio operators certificate" in 1978. The "Montreal Protocol" was introduced in December 1978. The "Vancouver Digital Communications Group" started in January 1979. A commercial entity "Data Radio Inc" appeared in 1982 that did HDLC/SDLC using AFSK modulation on 2 meters. Doug Lockhart got in the Canadian Amateur hall of fame for his work on packet radio. In March 1980 the FCC caught up with Canada and allowed ASCII code for ham use. In 1981 the Terminal Node Controller TNC was designed. The Internet reserved 16.7 million IP addresses for ham use in 1981 (later half of this block was sold to Amazon for \$108 million in 2019). In 1982 the TAPR or Tucson Amateur Packet Radio was created as a ham standard. The TNC 2 became a standard device by 1985 and was used to connect a data terminal to a radio to handle transmit and receive data flow. In 1983 TCP/IP was adopted for the Internet, and the OSI 7 layer model was published in 1984. BBS or Bulletin Board Systems came into common use in 1984. In the 1980's network protocols were developed to solve networking problems and TCP/IP was brought to packet radio using PC's. In the 1990's the Ottawa "Packet Working Group" was formed. The Ottawa Amateur Radio Club developed and sold a PC board called a PI board and made around \$35K selling them. A 56KBPS RF modem called a Grapes Modem came into use around this time. The Ottawa ham community had a complex RF data network called Ottawanet connecting many sites and also linked to the Internet. In 1995 HTTP was added to the Ottawanet and APRS became available on GPS devices. However in 1997 the Internet was widely available to the public and the Ottawanet equipment was removed and the group disbanded.

-B Ottawa/Gatineau PACNET presented by Ante VA3BBW
Ante had used Bulletin Board Systems BBS in his past and never forgot them. A few weeks ago he went to Pete's Cafe and met Louis VA3LUI who told him that there were still some BBS on ham packet radio out there. He began experimenting with packet radio on his Yeasu FT-1800 and a Raspberry PI until it broke, then he used a PC. He found there are many BBS accessible from the VE3OCE digipeater on 145.030 MHZ. Many other digipeaters are on 145.010 MHZ. Ante was able to make keyboard to keyboard contacts with some local hams. Ante shared his discoveries with others and found there was plenty of local interest so he decided to launch PACNET last week. This is like a typical net such as the "Rubberbootnet" except it uses packet radio. PACNET is held on the VE3OCE digipeater at 7:30 PM on Fridays. The network script followed by PACNET is similar to the OVMRC's network script, and is filed on DISCORD for all to see. Acknowledgements are not used in the protocol



so the software needs to be set to “unproto” or “not connected” mode to work. Ante did a thorough demo of EasyTerm software, which is one of the most popular being used for packet radio. Set up of parameters is very important to make the software function. Ante warned that in PACNET we must never hit the connect button as this will flood the net with ACK requests. PERICON is another popular software in use and Ante demonstrated it too. The equipment required for PACNET is the 2 meter transceiver, and an interface to connect the transceiver to the PC. SoundModem and EasyTerm are the easiest to use software combo.

7. Door Prize

The door prize of a microphone headset for a BAOFENG radio was won by Reg VE3KNU

8. MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 9:06 PM

*Minutes prepared by
Donald, VA3ZZI,
secretary@ovmrc.ca*





OVMRC POTA Event At CA-1349 Remic Rapids And Bate Island Conservation Park On 18OCT25

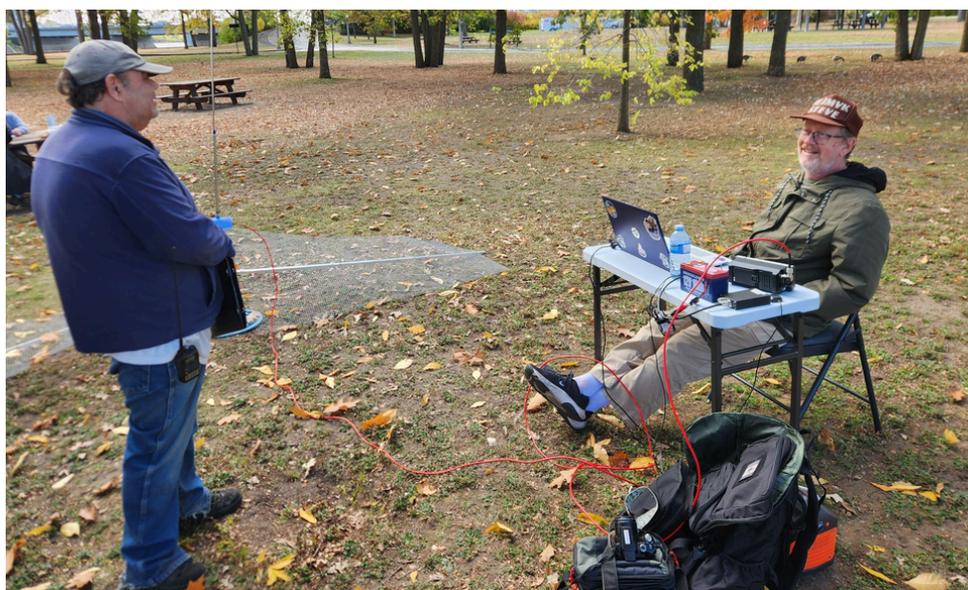
The formal club event held at CA-1349 was well attended with 11 ham club members and 2 non-ham guests attending. The weather was perfect sunshine with temperatures of 15 degrees and light winds. Space weather was also excellent with plenty of range and contacts on many bands.



Bate Island is an excellent park for POTA (photo by VA3JYK). The island is surrounded by the skylines of Gatineau and Ottawa on all sides. There is plenty of parking that is well spaced out around the perimeter of the island. Many large trees are spread around the island for shade and for holding up long wire antennas. Food is available from an outdoor restaurant that also has 3 Porta-potties. However I would recommend against setting up near the restaurant as it has a noisy generator that runs non-stop. Also the shore of the island that faces Gatineau is rather loud due to the white noise made by the rapids.



Fred VE3LAF at the radio and his guest Nelson, who is aspiring to become a ham (photo by VE3KTN). The single row of parking spread around the island gives many places perfectly suited for operating with a vehicle mounted antenna.



John VA3JYK and Steve VE3MVK and a vertical antenna with a large mesh ground plane (photo by VE3KTN). The interior of the island is over 100 meters across with wide open spaces that will support whatever large antenna you can dream up.



Russ
VE3FSN
operating
from the
tailgate
of his
pickup
truck
(photo by
VE3KTN).



I operated out of the
back seat of my car
in a well shaded
parking spot facing
Ottawa (photo by
VE3KTN). The ham
stick antenna
worked well on 40
meters where I got
all of my contacts.



This quiet location was far away from the restaurant's generator and the river here has no rapids so it flows silently. The side of the island facing upriver would also be quiet too. As of this writing 3 logs were uploaded on the POTA web site. Russ VE3FSN had 24 contacts on data and 2 on phone, Steve VE3MVK had 19 contacts on data and I had 26 contacts on voice. Until the next OVMRC POTA event...

Donald VA3ZZI



The June 2025 Field Day results are now available in the December issue of QST magazine.

We (the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club) placed 5th in a field of 10 clubs in North America in the 2A - Battery Class (QRP) and 1st in Canada again this year beating out the only other Canadian entry, the Lanark North Leeds ARES group by 3000 points. Congratulations to all OVMRC members that participated. Refer to the September 2025 issue of the Rambler for a more complete report of the OVMRC Field Day 2025 activities.

Here are our results along with all other clubs and groups that competed in the 2A Battery Class.

By comparison, this is what the OVMRC did last year in the same 2A Battery Class.

2A — Battery	2025			
510 Radio Grp.				
N1A (+NE1C)	1,183	5	8	14,020 WMA
QRP Pals				
K9A	822	5	5	8,870 WI
Reelfoot ARC				
K4RFT (+N4MJ)	659	5	11	8,665 TN
Wilson's Wonders				
WA7NCL	615	5	4	6,830 EWA
Ottawa Valley Mobile RC				
VE3JW	494	5	30	6,130 ONE
Lanark North Leeds ARES				
VE3LCA	261	5	15	3,130 ONE
Colorado QRP Club				
W0CQC	228	5	3	2,580 CO
Genesee Radio Amateurs				
W2RCX	212	5	4	2,580 WNY
Boschveldt QRP Club				
W3BQC	75	5	3	1,090 EPA
Univ. of Southern California ARC				
W6YV	52	5	3	870 LAX

2A — Battery	2024			
Colorado QRP Club				
W0CQC (+KC0VFO)	1,063	5	22	11,440 CO
510 Radio Grp.				
N1A	945	5	6	10,300 WMA
QRP Pals				
K9A	966	5	5	10,110 WI
Wilson's Wonders				
WA7NCL	654	5	5	7,470 EWA
Ottawa Valley Mobile RC				
VE3JW (+VE3RAM)	327	5	15	4,140 ONE
Lanark North Leeds ARES				
VE3LCA	164	5	9	2,145 ONE
Boone and Hamilton Co. ARES				
K0KWO	104	5	9	1,545 IA

73 Norm VE3LC



Radio and Remembrance 2025 - David Lloyd Hart



Following up on a suggestion from Ed VA2XC, here is a brief remembrance sketch of David Lloyd Hart of Montréal, who joined the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals during the Second World War and would see action in the Dieppe Raid on August 19, 1942.

Hart, 25 years old at the time, was a radio operator aboard a tank landing craft that was to go ashore at Dieppe.

His ship was hit by the enemy off the beach and the men were trapped on board as the landing craft came under additional fire as they approached the beach.

While the Allied landing forces suffering terrible losses in the raid, two Canadian infantry units had successfully come ashore at the nearby seaside village of Pourville, but had not received this message to pull back.

Sergeant Hart got permission from the officers to take over the airwaves to try to reach them himself. He succeeded and enabled the rescue of about a hundred Canadian soldiers.



Then-Sergeant Hart was awarded the British Military Medal (MM) for bravery by His Majesty, King George VI, at Buckingham Palace.

The Dieppe Raid remains as the bloodiest single day of combat for Canada's military in the entire Second World War.

After the war, Honorary Colonel Hart joined the Army Signal Reserve, eventually being promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in 1961 to command 11th Signal Regiment. He retired from active service in 1965 but served continuously in honorary positions until his death.

In 2013, Honorary Colonel Hart was one of the first recipients of the Communications and Electronics Colonel-in-Chief's Commendation. The commendation was presented by Anne, The Princess Royal, for a lifetime of outstanding service to the Communications and Electronics Branch of which she is the Colonel-in-Chief.

Hart became Canada's oldest and longest-serving officer and died on Wednesday, March 27, 2019 at the age of 101.

A decorated Dieppe Veteran, Honorary Colonel David Lloyd Hart, MM, CD led an extraordinary life in service to Canada.



Segment of a painting of Sergeant Hart (crouched before his communication system) during the Dieppe Raid.

References:

- 1) [Veterans Affairs](#)
- 2) [RMR](#)



How to look up Canadian service records

For those interested in learning more about their relatives who may have served, check out the link below and note that **all** First World War records are open and digitized on Library and Archives Canada website. Also please note that only the War Dead records for the Second World War are open and digitized on Library and Archives Canada website. As Pat VE3KJQ observed, the service records for those who survived WWII can also be obtained but with more difficulty as an access to information request may be required and will likely to take months.

Check out service records at [Service records](#)

As an example I was able to look up 72 pages of records for my great uncle, Frederick Reginald Henry, born Feb 22, 1895 who joined the 3rd University Company of the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force on July 28, 1915, as a private when he was 20 years old.

He served in Canada, England and France with the 3rd University, Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry, 49th battalion, attached to the Royal Flying Corps., and Alberta Regimental depot. His regimental number was 475878. I also learned from the records that he was wounded (1916-12-15), was a Prisoner of War (1917-4-8 to 1918-12-14) and was demobilized 1919-04-19.

Sadly, and possibly as a result of his service, he died 1925-3-15 at 31 years of age in Edmonton Alberta.

73, Alan VA3IAH



6 Meter (50 MHz) Delta Loop Antenna: Easy to build and tune

The Pot Lid Net (Sunday 1930, 50.090 CW) and Bob VE3AKV's Almonte Net (Thursday 2030, 50.200 USB) provided the incentive for me to look at improving my limited six meter capability.

For the six meter band I built a Delta Loop and Squalo antennas. As I'm still working on tuning the Squalo antenna, after some less than promising initial testing results, I will focus on the Delta Loop in this brief article.

My guide for building the six Meter Delta loop was a You Tube video with the appealing title of "[Easy to adjust DIY Delta Loop antenna for 50MHz \(6 meter band\)](#)" which demonstrated a successful antenna which could be built from common materials around the ham shack.

As a requirement the antenna was intended to be horizontally polarized, so the feed point would be at the top or bottom. The triangle or delta shape was inverted with the top being the flat base (1.84 meters) and the sides (2.16 meters) tapering to the point of the triangle which was the feed point where a SO-239 connector closed the loop and made the connection to coax.

As demonstrated in the You Tube video, the tuning of the delta loop simply involved twisting the wire at the feed point to achieve a reasonable SWR for the part of the six meter band you may be interested in tuning in to. The VNA image below shows a scan of the antenna.





Below is the six meter Delta Loop antenna on a mast of fibreglass army surplus tent poles at about 25 feet.



For a 2M/70 cm Delta Loop, check out Gerald DL5BBN's [post](#) that utilizes 210 cm of wire in an inverted triangle shape with a top flat section of 30 cm suspended by window suction cups for easy tuning and shaping of the antenna!

73, Alan VA3IAH

OTHER LINKS OF INTEREST:

[John VA3KOT " An outside the Box version of a Delta Loop Antenna"](#)
[KB9VBR HF Loop Antennas](#)



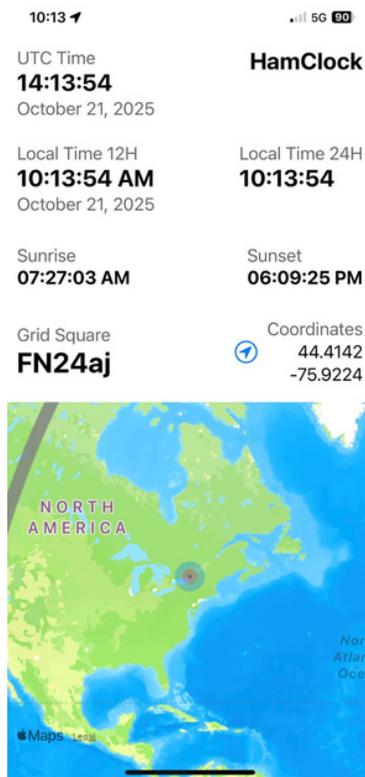
Quick Tip - For iPhone users: Determining Maidenhead Grid Square when operating portable, Michael VE3WMB

There are a number of reasons why a portable operator might want to be able to quickly determine their Maidenhead grid square. Some examples include portable satellite operation, portable or rover VHF contesting and portable FT8 operating. All of these examples include grid square as part of their exchange so it's great to have a means of easily determining it in the field.

The good news is that if you are an Apple iPhone user, there is an app by developer Ben Sinclair specifically for this purpose. It also provides local and UTC time as well. The app is called "HamClock" (not to be confused with the Linux application of the same name).

If you are also an Apple Watch user there is a version of this app for the watch too. Android users might note that there is a "HamClock" app in the Google Play store but unfortunately it is not the same app and it only provides UTC time, which is still useful.

73 de Michael, VE3WMB





OVMRC Net Activity, Check-ins for October, 2025

Prepared by: Hugo Kneve VE3KTN

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

October 2	October 9	October 16	October 23	October 30
VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS
New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors
Stephan VA3S JL				Mike – VE3EOM Ron – VA3RLG
Check-ins	Check-ins	Check-ins	Check-ins	Check-ins
VE3RUU VA3WBK VE3RXH VA3ZZI VE3KJQ VE3LC VE3VIG VA3EO VA3ODW VE3KAE VE3NA VE3CWM ¹ VA2OJD VE3TXB VE3OKD VA3WEX VE3ZZU VA3HBL VA2BBW VA3LMA	VE3RUU VE3LC VA3IAH VE3CWM ¹ VE3NA VE3RRB VE3VIG VE3RVV VA3WBR VE3KNU VE3HVA VA3EO VA3ODW VE3TXB VE3ZZU	VE3OTW VA3HEC VE3RUU VA3ZZI VA3IAH VE3LC VA3EO VE3CWM ¹ VA2OJD VA3HBL VE3NA VA3ODW VA3PSI VE3ZZU VA3BVO VA3CWS VA3UKK VA2BBW VA3WBR VE3KAE VE3VIG VA3GFY	VE3OTW VA3WBR VA3ZZI VE3LC VA3IAH VE3RVV VE3KAE VE3FSN VA3CWS VE3NPO VE3EAM VA3ODW VE3TXB VE3NA VE3BOE VE3CWM ¹ VE3ZZU VE3KNU VA3CJO VE3VIG VE3LAF VA3WEX	VE3RUU VE3OTW VA3ZZI VE3LC VE3MNO VE3CWM ¹ VE3TXB VA3ODW VA3CWS VE3RRB VE3NA VA3PSI VA3HBL VE3ZZU VE3KAE VA3CJO VE3VIG

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.

October 5 SFI:158 A:20	October 12 SFI:131 A:17	October 19 SFI:156 A:36	October 26 SFI:127 A:9
VE3EJJ - NCS	VE3EJJ - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3EJJ - NCS
New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors
Check-ins	Check-ins	Check-ins	Check-ins
VA2TXZ VE3KTN VA3WBR VA3IAH	VE3KTN VE3LC	VE3EJJ VE3LC VA3IAH VE3SYZ	VE3KTN VE3SYZ VE3LC VE3KAE VA3WBR

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.



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

October 5	October 12	October 19	October 26
VE3KTN - NCS	No net. Thanksgiving.	VE3LC - NCS	VA2BBW - NCS
New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors
Check-ins	Check-ins	Check-ins	Check-ins
VE3LC VA2BBW VE3FFK VE3QO VA2OJD		VE3KTN VA2BBW VE3FFK VA2OJD VE3VIG	VE3KTN VE3LC VE3QO VA3IAH



General Links of Interest:

ARDF Ottawa



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

RCJ



Volunteer radio ops help
scouts on the Rideau
Challenge Journey

New Hams Ottawa



Information for new hams with
an Ottawa focus

Editor's Note:

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

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



Your Canadian Hamshack!

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