RAMBLER

DECEMBER 2025

VOL. 68 ISSUE 4

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

WHAT'S INSIDE:

OVMRC POT LUCK SOCIAL -DECEMBER 17TH

IBEW LOCAL 586,
1178 RAINBOW STREET,
GLOUCESTER
STARTING AT 6 PM.

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

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OVMRC Groups.io Ongoing discussion Group at: 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

Since becoming a ham in 2017 I have been struck by the friendship from ham radio operators that I have met, both here in Canada and on my travels overseas to the UK, USA and Iceland. That should not be a surprise given that our hobby is primarily to make contact with others and despite the proliferation of 'digital' QSOs, that spirit of friendship and connection is as strong as ever. As we move towards the closing days of 2025 and approach the holiday season, I am reminded of the family feel that we create when we come together with a common interest and share, not just our experiences in amateur radio, but our food and drink. I encourage everyone to come out to the Club's Pot Luck social event on Wednesday 17th December at 6pm at the IBEW to remind ourselves of how lucky we are to share a common hobby with many welcoming, like minded people.

This month I took the opportunity to review some of the Club activities reported in our Rambler and to remind myself of the interesting presentations given at our monthly meetings over the last year. In January we heard about Hamclock from Norm (VE3LC), which is an app for your home computer that provides much useful information on DX propagation and the like, so much so that we have implemented it on our website for all to access. In February we reported that Mike Kelly (VE3FFK) had deservedly received the RAC Amateur of the Year award for 2024 for many years of supporting the amateur radio community and in particular his tireless work with the RHQ station. I know that Mike continues to devote much of his time to the excellent shack at RAC HQ and I encourage all hams to visit and if possible operate from the world class shack that has been put together.

March saw a new event, the Kemptville Hamfest, added to the calendar and from reports it was a resounding success. I know the Kemptville team are planning a few improvements for 2026, so look out for full details of that in future Rambler editions. April was our season opener Parks On The Air activation at Chapman Mills Conservation Area. 7 or 8 operators took part and we saw the usual wide array of radio setups, portable power and antennas. Portable operations are challenging and fun, so make sure you take in some portable ops next year. May saw preparation for the biggest event in our annual calendar, Field Day. Since we would be using a new antenna configuration for Field Day, we took the opportunity to run

a practise setup one Saturday morning at the IBEW and followed that up with a special Field Day CW training session held at RAC HQ on the Sunday. June was the Field Day event itself, and we were even more successful than in 2024, making about one third more points than the previous year plus the weather was much better! Make sure you have Field Day 2026 in your calendar, it always takes place over the last weekend of June and in 2026 that will be 26th – 27th.

Club members were active over the summer period supporting public service events such as the Rideau Lakes Cycle Tour that takes riders from Ottawa to Kingston and back and the MS Bike Tour with a route from Ottawa to Cornwall and back. The Club also held two very popular summer POTA and picnic events at Bate Island in July and Rockcliffe Park in August. August also saw a new event, a mobile radio clinic, aimed at assisting members with their mobile radio install and also focusing on APRS operation, that would be used during support for the MS Bike event. Don, VE3ZZI, took two great POTA camping trips that he made with his trailer and radio gear, see his write up in the October Rambler.

September is the traditional start of the new amateur radio season with Hamfests at Carp and St Albert, and we also had the official opening of the RAC HQ radio station and the RAC AGM held after the OARC Hamfest at Carp. The Club also arranged a road-trip POTA activation at Casselman, immediately after the Eastern Ontario Hamfest which was just a few kilometres away at St Albert. September saw the first of the new RAC Auxiliary Communications courses held here in Ottawa and there were many Club members attending. This new initiative is in partnership with the Province of Ontario, and includes the provision of fly away packs of Icom radios and associated equipment to allow amateur radio to support disaster recovery operations. The Fall also saw the initiation of a new radio net across the Ottawa-Gatineau region, PACNET, that takes place using Packet Radio on the 2m band utilizing the VE3OCE digipeater to ensure coverage over the whole area. Congratulations to Ante (VA2BBW) for getting that going and reviving interest in Packet Radio.

The October monthly meeting focused on Packet Radio, very apt given the success of the newly created PACNET with a history of

Packet Radio presented by Norm (VE3LC) and details of PACNET from Ante (VA2BBW). One final POTA activation was held at the popular Bate Island location and some great fall weather and good band conditions made for an enjoyable day out. And finally the November meeting where we got the great news on our Field Day results, heard about new satellite tracking software called Skyroof that makes satellite contacts even easier, written by Canadian Alex Shovkoplyas (VE3NEA), watched a practical demonstration on Packet Radio by Ante (VA2BBW) and JD (VA2OJD) and heard about the practical use of APRS during the MS Bike event from Nicole (VE3GIQ).

Taken together these activities and presentations demonstrate the breadth of our hobby and it's great to see so many Club members being active on the bands and with ham radio equipment, that proves the adage that ham radio is a hobby for life with seemingly endless opportunities to learn something new.

I hope you and your families enjoy the festive season and wish you all the best of health for a new year of amateur radio in 2026.

Rob, VE3JT/VE3RXH

OVMRC Meeting Minutes - Nov 19, 2025

LOCATION: IBEW at 1178 Rainbow Street, Gloucester

PRESENT: 57 participants (36 live and 21 online)

CALL TO ORDER: 19:13

1. **GREETINGS:** Meeting was chaired by Norm VE3LC
   GUESTS AND NEW MEMBERS: Guests.--None **New Members.--**None

2. **APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER MINUTES: Moved:** Marcel VE3MNO
   Seconded: Bill VA3HWA, **Carried:** unanimously.

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3.NEWS AND HAPPENINGS & CLUB COMING EVENTS SCHEDULE

A. Wednesday 17th December - Club Christmas Pot Luck at IBEW, starting at 6pm. Family and guests are welcome. There will be a web page set up for everyone to enter what you are bringing to coordinate the dishes.

B. Norm VE3LC discussed the Field Day results that were published in the now available December QST magazine. We were again in the 2A Battery (QRP) Class with 5 Watt power restriction for all station transmitters. There were 10 in this Class of operation and we placed 5th overall and first in Canada. We made 494 contacts in total that included 197 cw, 295 using FT8 and FT4 contacts, 1 satellite and a single 2 metre FM contact. With "Battery" class and mode multipliers and bonus points, we scored a total of 6130 points which was exactly 2000 points more than last year. Our club had 30 participants this year compared to 15 last year.

C. Norm discussed SkyRoof Satellite Tracking Software written by Alex VE3NEA. Norm really likes this software and recommends we try it if we get involved in satellite work. SkyRoof works with SDR type devices, has a good database of satellites, will provide verbal audio output and will compensate for the Doppler effect on frequencies. It also supports the Icom 9700 and other radios, and is compatible with SkyCat radio controling software.

D. Nicole VE3GIQ gave stats on the club. We have 129 members and $6686 in cash.

4. Packet radio demonstration by Ante (VA2BBW) and JD (VA2OJD)

Ante began by demonstrating the Sound Modem and EasyTerm software. The digipeater of VE3OCE at 145.030 MHZ was to have been used for the demonstration, however reception was not good enough. Set up of the software is very important. Modem speed of 1200 baud needs to be used. The proper device needs to be selected for the sound card and other devices. The PTT port needs to be set correctly to match the hardware. Easyterm is used for typing the input and viewing the output. “UnProto” mode is used for the PacNet as no connection is established between stations, failure to do this will send many ACKs that will cause problems. Ante was unable to connect to the digipeater despite trying 2 different antennas, so a direct connection to JD’s PC was tried. This worked once the volume was increased. Numerous questions were asked and Ante answered them.

5. MS Bike event APRS by Nicole (VE3GIQ)

Nicole presented a deep dive into the MS Bike event and the APRS data gathered from the mobile units. This year the event used APRS (Automatic Packet Reporting System) for the first time to track 4 mobiles in real time on a map. The MS Bike event was successful with no major issues, but APRS was plagued by software and hardware issues. Nicole wrote a software tool to analyse the APRS data recorded by the system. The system polled data from servers every 2 minutes and mobiles beaconed at the same interval. Polling started at 08:23 and continued until the event ended at 16:04 for a total of 212 polls. Each data stream had gaps. One problem is the radios were set to 5 watts which was not enough to use outside the City with the distances involved. Nicole demonstrated the Event Logger Application at 120X speed. This showed locations where the mobiles were on a map from Vernon to Cornwall. Analysis of the data showed there were gaps in the beaconed data. Causes were powering off of the vehicles, smart beaconing, bad terrain, power output too low, long analogue transmissions and others. The problems showed the importance of getting the call sign and SSID set well ahead of time. Next year Nicole will do a redesign of the logging GUI software to include a bike counting function. Also it will include tracking of ride and track marshals. Better communicating between personnel will be done too.

6. Door Prize Draw –8 books were the door prizes.

7. MOVE TO ADJOURN.--Moved: Fred VE3LAF. Adjourned: 21:40.

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

6m Delta Loop: Describing a popular project

While reading the November issue of the Rambler, I came across an article written by Alan VA3IAH about a Delta Loop for 6 Meter with a link reference about the antenna. This piqued my curiosity and I set out to research more about Delta Loop for 50MHz. There are many different types of antennas for 6 Meter operations. Keep in mind that location, height, material used and whether the terrain is sloped or flat, along with many other factors will impact on antenna performance.

In his article, Alan describe the Delta Loop he built including a picture of it showing the Delta Loop configured as an upside down triangle with feed point at the base and a choke made of coax. While doing further research, I came across a video by Radio Prepper describing a DIY Delta Loop in great detail. I will attempt to describe this build in what follows.

Like in all antenna building you need a formula to determine the right length of wire. So let's starts from the beginning. The formula is as follows for Metric:

Length = 306.6/f metres, where f is the frequency in MHz.

Using the formula, we do 306.6 / 51.5MHz = 5.95 metres that you lay out in a triangular shape. Using an antenna analyser you will find out that the resonant frequency is lower than the target frequency with high SWR and the antenna impedance will be between 100 to 120 ohms meaning we need to match the antenna to the feeding coax of 50 ohms. A balun and matching section are both required. A simple current balun can be made from coils your 50 ohms coax about 7 turns about 7 inches in diameter. To transform the 100 to 120 ohms to the approximately 50 ohms required by the feedline coax involves using a matching section of 75 ohms coax. See page 12 for illustrations. Let build this matching section. Using this formula:

Length of wire / 4 = ¼ wavelength x 0.66 (velocity factor) = Length of matching section

Therefore, our 5.95 divided by 4 = 1.48 metres is our ¼ wavelength. Taking in account the velocity factor so 1.48 x 0.66 = 0.977 so approximately one metre. This matching section reduces the impedance to something closer to 50 ohms. Next we attach a Binding Post RF Coax coaxial splitter (a connector with two pole at the top and one BNC connector at bottom) to the Delta Loop wire at the bottom of the inverted triangle or if upright 50cm up the side leg from the horizontal leg, see illustrations on page 12. Attach a BNC connector to each end of the matching section with one end to the BNC connector of the Binding Post of the coaxial splitter and connect the other end to Female BNC to Female BNC connector. Remember the resonant frequency was lower at 48.18MHz with high SWR. Using this simple formula:

Frequency x Length = new denominator.

We take 48.18 (freq) x 5.95 (length) = 286.7 which is now our new denominator for our formula. Again, 286.7 / 51.5 = 5.57 metres the resonant length indicating that it is necessary to shorten the wire by 38cm. Reshape the Delta Loop with equal sides and reattach to the binding post. Once done, run the 50 ohms coax from the matching unit to the shack and you are ready to go.

Formula for Feet: 1005 / fMHz = Length

Same process applies. So 1005 x 51.5 = 19.51 feet that you lay in a triangular shape. The antenna analyzer will show the resonant frequency being lower than the intended frequency with high SWR and the impedance between 100 to 120 ohms. A matching section is required to reduce the impedance to 50 ohms. Again you can use a coax choke as describe above and build one using 75 ohms coax.

Length / 4 = ¼ wavelength x 0.66 (velocity factor) = Length of matching section

Taking the length 19.51 / 4 = 4.88 feet being the ¼ wavelength needed multiply by 0.66 giving us a length of 3.22 feet so 3 feet 3 inches for the matching section. The matching section can be attached to the Loop either at bottom (inverted triangle) or side leg 19.69 inches up from the horizontal leg (upright), see illustrations of page 12. Attach the antenna and matching section to the specific BNC connector as per above in Metric description. Remember the resonant frequency was 48.18MHz so applying the formula:

Frequency x Length = new denominator

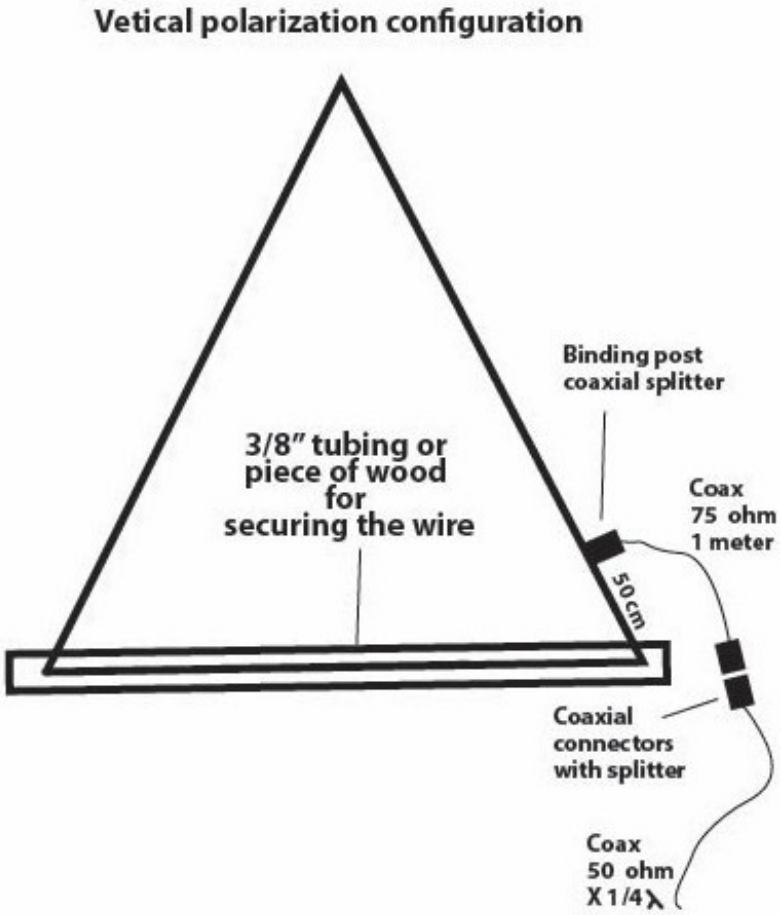
Thus 48.18 x 19.51 = 939.99 is now the new denominator for the formula. Then 939.99 / 51.5 = 18.25 feet now the resonant length for the intended frequency meaning we shorten the wire by 1.26 feet. Last, connect the 75 ohms to the 50 ohms coax run to the shack.

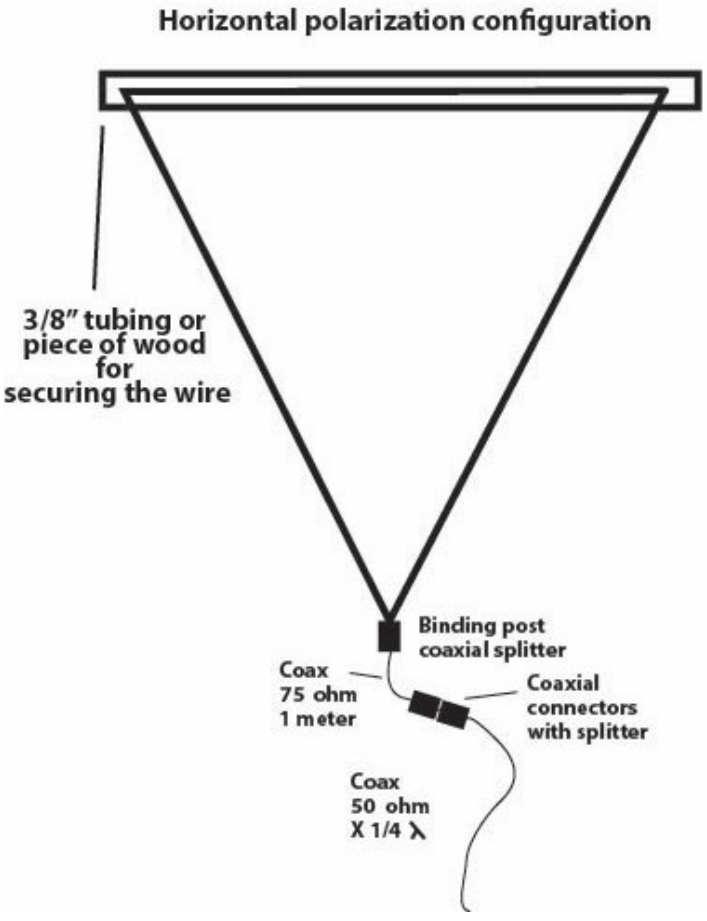
As in both measurement, the length of 50 ohms coax to the shack should be in multiple ¼ wavelength of the antenna in this case 18.25 / 4 = 4.56 feet so 45.6 feet or 5.57 / 4 = 1.39 metres so 13.9 metres would be a reasonable length. Again height and location will be deciding factors that will impact on what an ideal length is.

Again I want to thank Radio Prepper from YouTube for the formulas and how to build it. Be daring and search the internet. I found that YouTube has the best result searching for specific antennas with well detailed instructions. Note that I am not an expert in this field but past experience in dealing with numerous configurations for antennas be outside or inside like the attic or a room as in an apartment I manage. Again trials and errors are the best way to learn.

I believe this article would benefit new Hams as well as those in the hobby for some times. Having contact with other hams be local or outside your area using an antenna you built brings about a certain feeling of accomplishment and self-rewarding. Happy hunting on the wavelengths.

6m Delta Loop





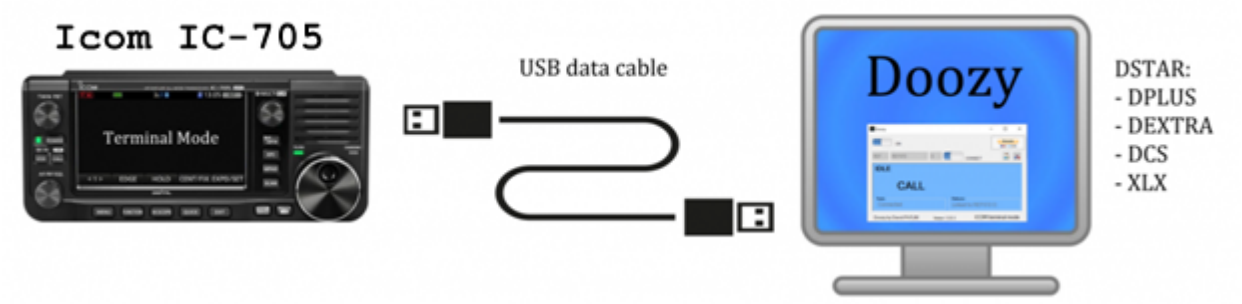
73 Marcel VE3MNO

“Doozy” software will make your IC-705 or IC-9700 agile over the D-Star reflector network using “ (external) Terminal Mode”

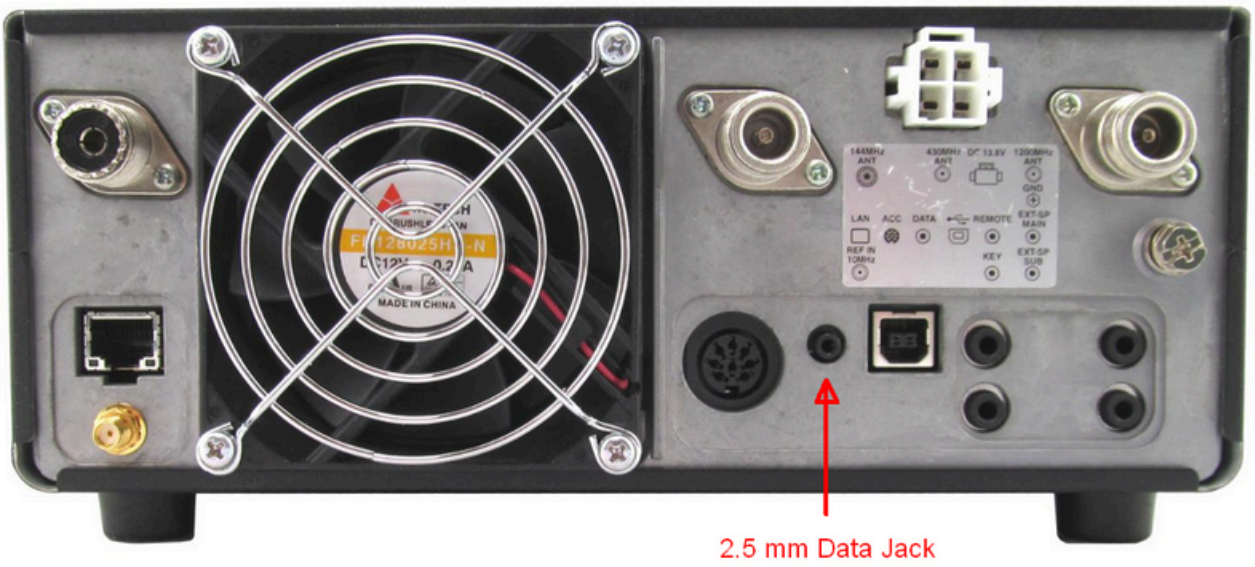
Doozy is a Windows based software available as a free download from: ***https://www.pa7lim.nl/doozy/***

The software makes use of the “Terminal Mode” operation already part of the workings of the Icom IC-705 and IC-9700 radio transceivers to provide very agile access by way of drop-down lists of all the DCS, XRF, REF, and XLX network reflectors that are designed to support D-Star conferencing of repeaters and hotspots. When using “Doozy” along with the above radios, the “Terminal Mode” functionality is set through the radio menus to “Ext”ernal as opposed to the default “Int”ernal setting that use the direct network connections inherently provided in the design of the 705 and 9700 radios. When these radios are placed in the External Terminal mode operation then the actual connection to the internet is done through your computer running the Doozy application as opposed to the 705 (WiFi) and 9700 (Ethernet) direct connections these radios provide through connection to your internet service router. In Terminal mode, the amateur band receiver and transmitter sections of the radios are not used.

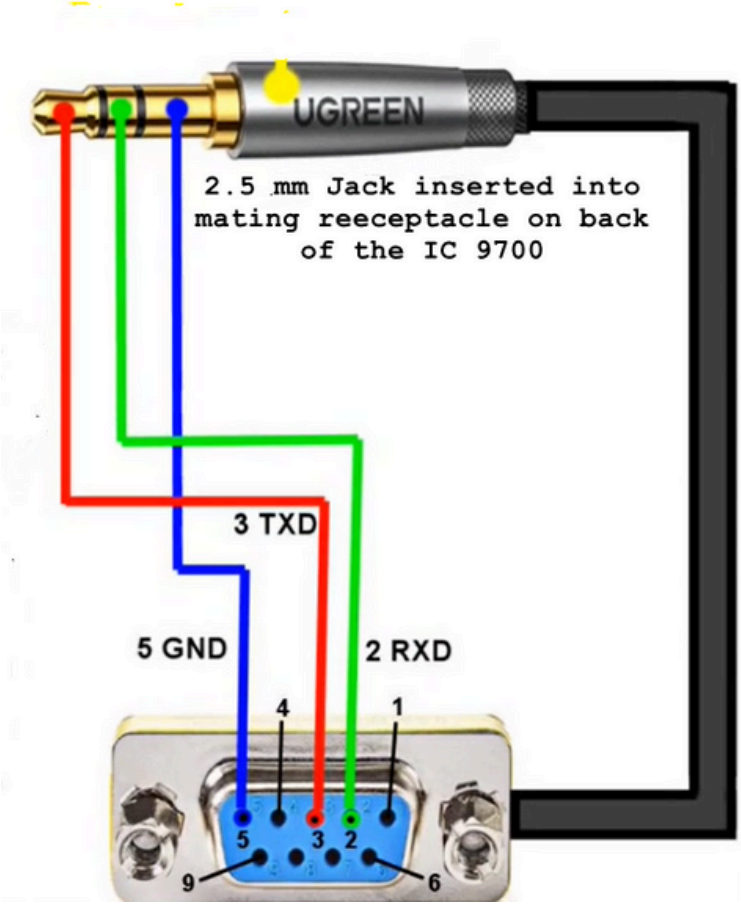
In the case of the IC-705, all that is required for physical connection of the radio to the computer is a single USB cable between the two as you would for running other digital mode applications on the computer for control, modulation and demodulation to and from the radio such as illustrated in the following picture.



However, for the IC-9700, the physical connection is ideally made by using the Icom proprietary cable, type OPC-2350LU, with a 2.5 mm “stereo” plug on one end and a USB A type connector on the other end. The 2.5 mm plug is inserted into the serial “Data” port on the back of the IC-9700.



That said, the Icom proprietary OPC-2350LU cable is a rather expensive accessory (Cdn > $130). The same type of connection can be achieved by acquiring a relatively common and inexpensive USB to RS- 232 adapter cable from Amazon or otherwise, ideally with the FTDI chip set. Mate the RS 232 male end of the adapter cable with a female 9 pin DB type connector using pins 2, 3 and 5 to a 2.5 mm stereo jack plug and insert in the 2.5 mm “Data” receptacle in the back of the 9700 and you’re in business. The wiring of the 2.5 mm jack plug to the 9 pin DB type female connector is illustrated on the right:

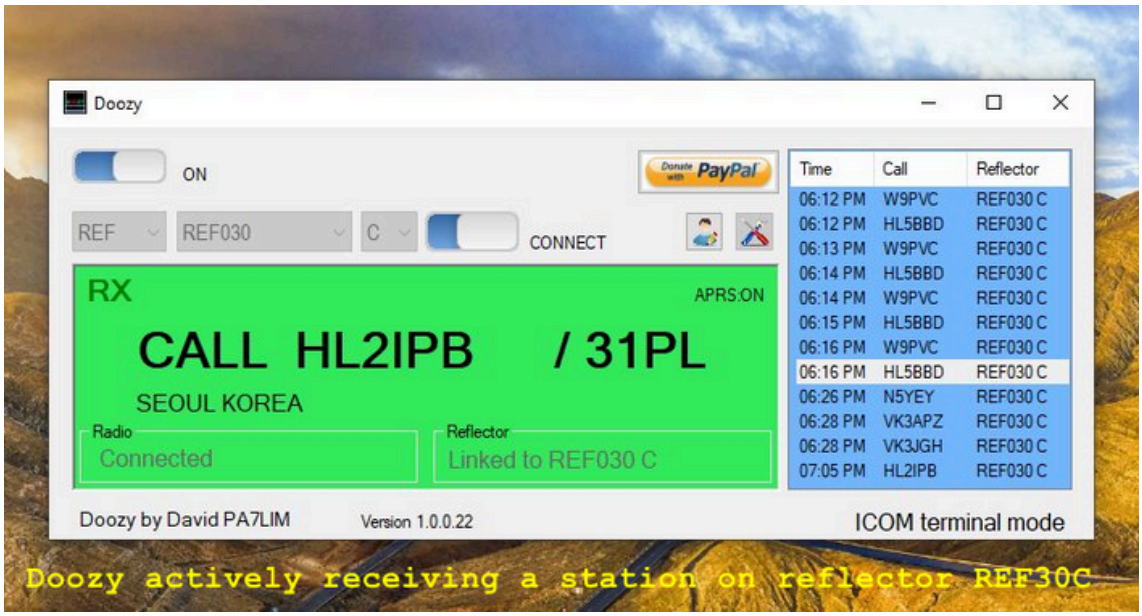


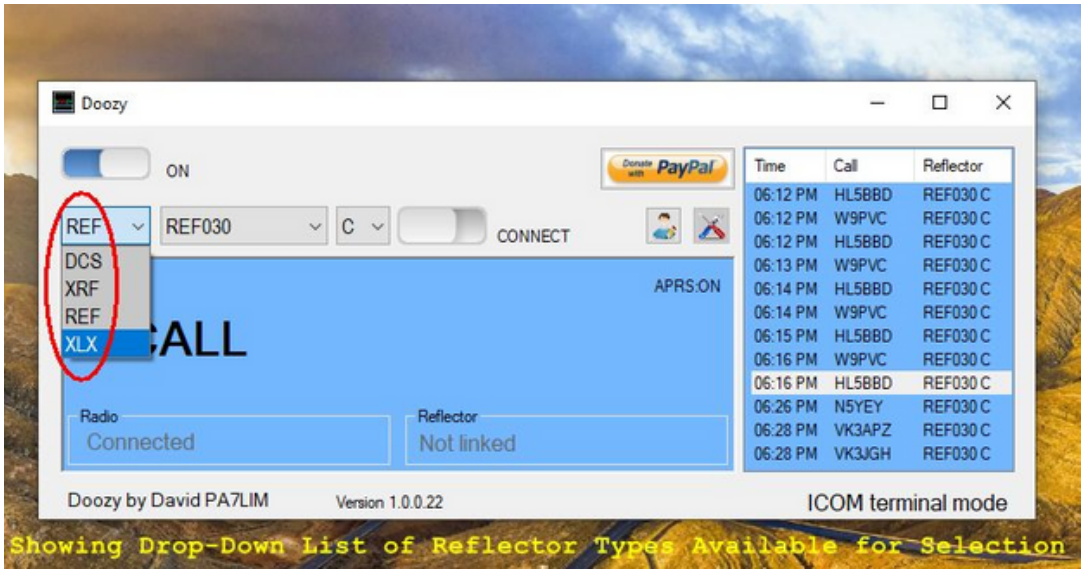
DB 9 female connector

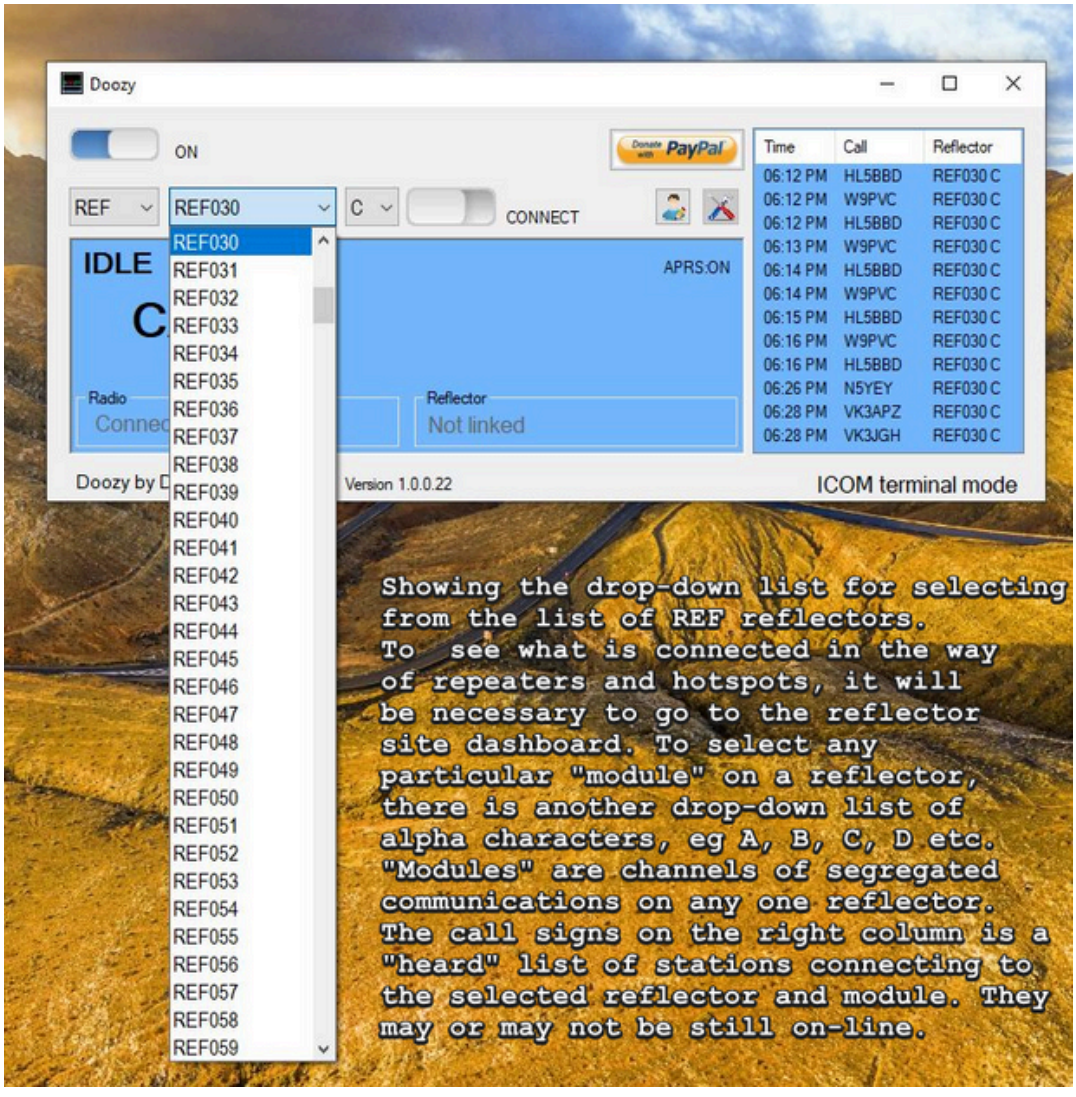
The DB 9 connectors and 2.5 mm jack plugs are available from Accessotronik on Industrial Road, Ottawa.

For menu setup instructions of the IC-9700 and IC-705 transceivers operating in “Ext”ternal “Terminal Mode” to work with the Doozy software, refer to the Doozy Web site: ***https://www.pa7lim.nl/doozy/***

The following are some of the screen shots of Doozy working:







73 Norm VE3LC

60th anniversary of the Canadian Ski Marathon

As you may know, 2026 marks the 60th anniversary of the Canadian Ski Marathon. They are planning some special events and have returned to the northern point-to-point trail, which means that more than the usual number of volunteer radio operators are needed.

So check out the Radio Operator volunteer website:

English: https://hambone.ca/csm
French: https://hambone.ca/mcs

Any additional radio related queries can be directed to: **Neil VE3PUE (VE3PUE@hambone.ca)** or **Harrie VE3HYS (harriej59@gmail.com)** and **not** to the Canadian Ski Marathon (CSM) organizers.

Thank you, 73, Neil VE3PUE

CANADIAN SKI MARATHON
CANADIEN DE SKI

Struggling to get on the air in Morse Code?

If you have struggled with getting on the air for Morse Code QSOs, perhaps some zoom-based practice sessions may build your confidence!

WHAT: Practice slow CW QSO's with Fred VE3LAF, Alan VA3IAH, and me Ken VA2TXZ.

WHO: For anyone looking for help getting on air or getting back on air.

WHEN: Saturday mornings 10: AM! Starts on Jan 3rd, 2026! Contact Ken at va2txz@myrac.ca for additional questions and to join in.

How I got here: Last autumn my XYL (Karin VA2KSQ), and I took the CW course offered by Scott VE3NPX of the OARC. The in-person learning experience was just what I needed to keep me motivated to keep up with the group. Scott is an excellent instructor and by the end of my first course I managed to pass the sending part of the exam.

With this under my belt I decided to take the course a second time. Fred VE3LAF was attending the classes as well. Even though an OM when it comes to code, he joined with the intent of brushing up his rusty skills. It wasn't long before he led a group of us who had taken the course but were struggling to pass the exam. This "intermediate" group would break out to a separate room at Scout HQ and work on sending and receiving.

These in person practice sessions were the key to me and Karin achieving our CW certification, Thanks Mike VE3FFK for testing us!

Yippee!!

Now what?

Get on the air!!

Easier said than done. As many know CW isn't what it used to be. Back in the day, when code was mandatory, the airwaves were full

of new hams working to improve their code. From what I hear it was easy to find slow new operators to practice with. Yes, there still are some slow nets and a few operators working slow but opportunities are limited. If you tune into the CW portion of the bands, you're more likely to find machine generated code than slow code and those who are using a key or paddles are usually sending at 20 WPM or more. We have all heard Norm VE3LC say, "You can work CW without knowing a Dit" and he's right. Programs like CW Get will get you on air and making contacts as fast as you please, indeed if you aspire to contesting you need every advantage available. But this isn't for me, yet.

I got talking with Fred VE3LAF about my situation. I can send OK but struggle with my copy. I'm not ready for engaging with real world speeds and honestly, I have only a marginal confidence in the various QSO formats. We decided that I needed an intermediate proving ground. A place where people like me or, maybe you can hone our skills.

But how?

After talking we realized that I'm not the only person who is in this situation. We heard from more than a few people that they would like to be active, but their skills have lagged and people like me who don't have the skills to start with. Either way, new ham or old, it's hard to gain experience or hone your fist in a modern fast paced environment.

Fred and I started looking into Zoom to practice making a QSO in an off-air environment. Fred then called Alan VA3IAH into our test session and the three of us discussed what we need to do to get on air and why Zoom is the tool of choice.

Why Zoom you ask?

1. One with Zoom is that our signals are kept off air. There is no worry that someone on a remote island in the South Pacific will be bothered with bad code.
2. If you have a question about what someone is sending you can just ask without having to figure out how to ask in code.
3. If you're having issues, your group of peers is there with you.
4. It's just us on the call, local hams helping each other

What's the plan?

The first session will be a general get-to-know-each-other and verify connections. There are some audio settings that need to be adjusted. Echoes are a common problem but easily fixed. Success in the first session will be getting Dits and Dahs from everyone to everyone. If people have specific things they would like to practice these will be added to a list of topics to cover.

Moving forward from there the next session will be working on the QSO format for POTA as these are very popular and follow set script. We will take turns activating a fictitious park while the other participants hunt the activator.

Other exercises could include:

1. How to check into the Pot Lid Net
2. Vanilla DX exchange
3. Various popular contest formats
4. Working split
5. Casual rag chews
6. Moving to CW on-air perhaps on 2m or 6m for a more authentic local experience

So if this feels like something of interest send me an email: va2txz@myrac.ca

73, *Ken*, VA2TXZ

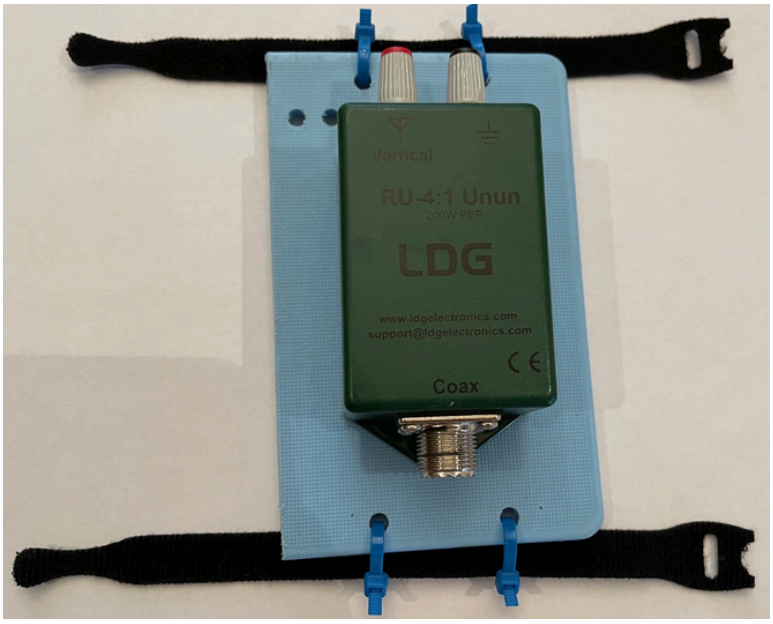
Quick Tip – Mounting a BALUN/UNUN on a portable mast

Here is my solution to mounting an UNUN or BALUN on a portable fiberglass mast.

The mount is constructed from a piece of thin IKEA cutting board, miscellaneous hardware to mount the UNUN to the board, nylon cable ties and reusable Velcro cable ties. The reusable cable ties adapt to different sized masts and allow the UNUN to be installed and removed quickly without the use of any tools, tape, additional ties, etc.

Bonus tip: These reusable cable ties come in different lengths and also work great to secure coax and wires to a mast or to manage wires or coax for transport and storage. They are available at most hardware stores and Amazon.

Happy Holidays and 73 de Michael,
VE3WMB



OVMRC Net Activity, Check-ins for November, 2025

Prepared by: Hugo Kneve VE3KTN

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

November 6	November 13	November 20	November 27
VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS
New & Visitors	**New & Visitors**	**New & Visitors**	**New & Visitors**
			Bert – VA3PXE Peter – VA3FXR
Check-ins	**Check-ins**	**Check-ins**	**Check-ins**
VE3LC VE3RXH VE3CWM[1] VE3NPO VE3KAE VE3TXB VA3PSI VE3IBX VA3CWS VE3ZZU VE3LAF VE3MNO VE3NA VA3HBL VE3OTW VE3YPD VA3IAH VE3VIG VA3ODW	VE3LAF VE3OTW VA3ODW VA3IAH VE3NPP VE3MNO VE3KAE VE3NA VE2WDY VE3ZZU VA3HBL VA3EO VE3NPO VE3VIG VA3CJO VE3LC VA3PSI	VE3OTW VE3RUU VE3KAE VE3NPO VE3OP VE3RXH VA3ZZI VA3IAH VE3LC VE3VIG VA3EO VE3NA VE3VHU VE3KNU VE3ZZU VE3KJQ VE3CWM[1]	VE3OTW VA3ODW VE3FSN VE3LC VE3RXH VE3RVV VE3CWM[1] VE3KAE VA3PSI VE3NA VE3VHU VA3SJL VA3WEX VE3ZZU VE3VIG VE3KNU VA3IAH

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.

November 2 SFI:115 A:14	November 9 SFI:172 A:36	November 16 SFI:132 A:9	November 23 SFI:119 A:6	November 30 SFI:160 A:20
VE3KTN - NCS	VE3EJJ - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3EJJ - NCS
New & Visitors	**New & Visitors**	**New & Visitors**	**New & Visitors**	**New & Visitors**
Ken - VA3AO				
Check-ins	**Check-ins**	**Check-ins**	**Check-ins**	**Check-ins**
VE3LC VE3EJJ	VE3RXN VA3IAH VE3OP VE3KTN	VE3LC VE3SYZ VE3EJJ VA3IAH	VE3RXN VA3IAH VE3SYZ VE3EJJ	VA2TXZ VA3IAH VE3KTN

The "SFI" and "A" values are the Solar Flux Index and Geomagnetic A-Index respectively as reported on the N0NBH 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.

November 2	November 9	November 16	November 23	November 30
VE3FFK - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3LC - NCS	VA2BBW - NCS	VE3FFK - NCS
New & Visitors	**New & Visitors**	**New & Visitors**	**New & Visitors**	**New & Visitors**
		Marcel – VE3MNO		
Check-ins	**Check-ins**	**Check-ins**	**Check-ins**	**Check-ins**
VE3KTN VE3QO VA3IAH VA2OJD VE3LC	VE3LC VA2BBW VE3FFK VE3QO VA2OJD	VE3KTN VA2BBW VE3FFK VA2OJD VA3IAH	VE3LC VE3KTN VE3FFK VA2OJD VE3QO VE3VIG	VE3MNO VE3KTN VE3LC VA2BBW VE3VIG 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**
73, Alan VA3IAH