RAMBLER

MARCH 2026

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

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MARCH MEETING:

WEDNESDAY MARCH 18, 2026

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 ROB, VE3JT PRESIDENT@OVMRC.CA

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: At** 8:40 pm, Dale VE3XZT.
- **Upper Frequency Net:** An informal round-table on 144.250 MHz using USB, 9:00PM

THURSDAY

- **OVMRC 2-Metre Net:** At 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, Hugo VE3KTN and Denis VE3BF.
- **Pot Lid Slow Speed CW Net:** At 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 the Barley Mow restaurant in Orléans, hosted by Pete VE3XEM

President's Ramblings - Rob VE3JT

Last month I reported that I would be on a trip to Scotland for the month of February to help out family and I'm happy to report that I was able to make some good contacts on the 2m band during an event called “145 Alive” which has the intent of reviving activity on the 2m band across the UK. Individuals and groups such as clubs can request the allocation of a 2m simplex frequency to hold a 'net' of sorts, that everyone is welcome to join. Initially this event was aimed at getting more activity on 2m FM, but this has now been extended to 144 MHz to include CW and SSB. In my area there were two FM nets running during the Saturday afternoon of the event and I was able to check-in to both with my HT. I also managed one quick Summits On The Air (SOTA) activation of Goat Fell (872 metres), the highest point on the Isle of Arran, where I was staying with family. I certainly earned the 3 extra winter bonus points for the summit as there was about 6 inches of snow for the last 100 m of climb and a chill wind was blowing in from the East. My longest distance QSO was with MI0RTY in Northern Ireland, some 110 km, which was impressive for 5W and the HT rubber duck antenna.

VE3JT operating as MM7RXH on the summit of Goat Fell, SOTA reference GM/SI-006

At the Executive meeting held in the first week of March I heard that Rod (VE3RXN) had given an excellent presentation on super computing after his attendance at the annual supercomputer conference in St. Louis, MO last fall. It certainly sounds like supercomputers have incredible capability, with computing power roughly equivalent to 1 Billion Raspberry Pis! Thank you Rod! For March 2026 we will have another interesting presentation, this time on space weather by one of the leading experts, Robyn Fiori PhD from Natural Resources Canada. Make sure to be there or tune in on Zoom.

Also at the most recent Executive meeting we discussed our Field Day operation for this coming June, specifically if we should continue with our low power (or QRP) operation at 5 Watts or switch to operating each HF station at 100 Watts. The Executive has determined that we should include the views of Club members in our final decision and so we will take a poll of your views at the upcoming March monthly meeting. Make sure you attend in person, or login on Zoom to have your say.

Here are a few of my thoughts on the issues affecting the decision. I have no particular preference either way, I well remember operating the GOTA station at 100 Watts on SSB during my first Field Day and making my first DX contact to Puerto Rico. I also remember being at the mic in the closing stages of Field Day one year running a huge pileup on phone at 100 Watts with Nicole (VE3GIQ) rushing to keep up with logging my contacts! Those were fun and exciting times in my ham radio journey. But, are those realistic situations in emergency communications? I am also proud of the achievements of the Club with the QRP operation where we are well ahead of any other Canadian Club.

The major advantage of operating at 5 Watts is the score multiplier of 5 times awarded for every contact made, whereas a contact made at 100 Watts scores only a 2 times multiplier (and contacts made using between 100 and the max of 500 Watts have a power multiplier of one). This means that if we switch to 100 Watts output power, we would need to make more than double the number of contacts to score the same overall number of points.

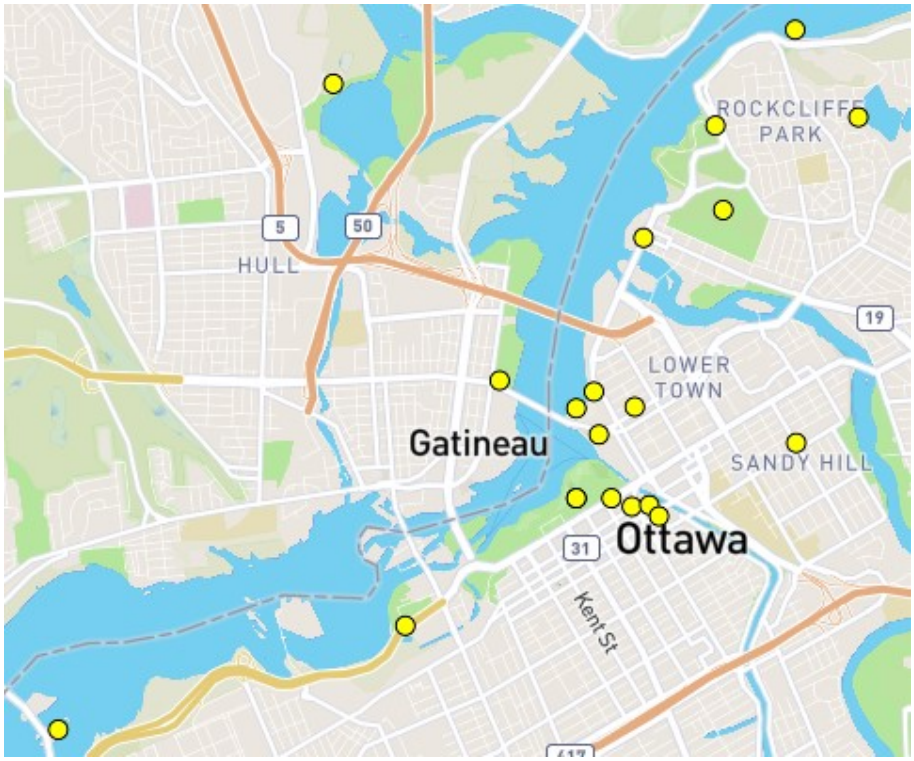
The major disadvantage of running at 5 Watts is that phone contacts can be more difficult to make, given the very high numbers of 100 Watt (and more) stations operating over the weekend. Low power, weak signals are not often heard, especially in the opening hours.

The advantage of running at 100 Watts is the greater opportunity to make voice (phone) contacts using SSB and this can be most keenly felt at the Get On The Air (GOTA) station that is operated by new hams or those not yet licensed (under supervision).

Further points for consideration are that CW and digital modes score two points per contact made, but voice (phone) contacts score only one point. A principle aim of Field Day is to operate in a simulated emergency communications role and it would be expected that digital modes would carry the bulk of the traffic, so practising with digital modes is more beneficial. I have read that newer hams prefer digital modes rather than talking on air and so perhaps the GOTA station should make use of digital where operating at low power is not such a disadvantage. As Sun Spot Cycle 25 fades out and we enter some lean years for HF propagation, QRP operation may become much more challenging, so perhaps we should make the most of that while we can. Finally many of us enjoy operating portable such as POTA and SOTA, where low power is commonly used, with modes such as CW and digital compensating for lower output power. I look forward to seeing the results of the poll on the night and finalising the way forward at the next Executive meeting.

With the arrival of spring and some warmer temperatures, outdoor operating season will be upon us soon, so I am publishing the first version of our Club activity schedule for this year. First on the list will be a busy weekend over Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th April which will see a GOTA station being activated at Ottawa City Hall to commemorate World Amateur Radio Day (WARD) on the Saturday. This coincides with a POTA Support Your Parks weekend, that has seen an OVMRC POTA activation and both the Ontario and Quebec QSO parties. Check the details on the Schedule of Activity. The proposal is to activate the downtown Ottawa/Gatineau POTA parks on Saturday 18th April, with timings to overlap with the WARD station at Ottawa City Hall. Rather than see all Club members

congregate in one park, the suggestion is to distribute ourselves among many parks and make VHF/UHF QSOs between the parks. You can then switch to a new park and go again.



Map with a sample of the many POTA parks available for activation in downtown Ottawa/Gatineau https://pota.app/#/map

I look forward to seeing how this works out and maybe it could become a version of the UK's '145 Alive' event. See you all for the March monthly meeting.

73

Rob
VE3JT

OVMRC Schedule of Activity 2026

Date/Time/ Location	Activity/Lead	Notes
18 April All day Ottawa City Hall	Individual activity: World Amateur Radio Day (WARD) Rod, (VE3RXN)	Volunteer operator/mentors needed at the GOTA station at Ottawa City Hall. Further details to follow.
18 April 10.00 – 14.00 Ottawa/Gatineau POTA parks	Club activity: POTA activation across the downtown Parks for the POTA Support Your Parks weekend and World Amateur Radio Day.	Contact the WARD GOTA station from your park. Timings to be adjusted to overlap with WARD GOTA station.
18 - 19 April	Individual activity: Ontario QSO Party	Details at: https://www.va3cco.com/oqp/
19 April	Individual activity: Quebec QSO Party	Details at: https://quebecqsoparty.org/
23 May, 10.00 - 14.00 hrs Location tbc	Club activity: POTA	
13-15 June	Individual activity: ARRL June VHF Contest	FM class available for those with only FM capability. Details at: https://www.arrl.org/june-vhf
28–29 June Fri (setup from 3 – 5 pm), Sat, Sun Cumberland Heritage Village Museum, 2940 Old Montreal Road, Cumberland, ON K4C 1G3.	Club activity: Field Day	Friday afternoon setup, Saturday all day, Saturday overnight and Sunday to mid afternoon. Field Day details: https://www.arrl.org/field-day
1 July	Individual activity: RAC Canada Day Contest	Details published at: https://www.rac.ca/contesting/
11 July 10.00 - 14.00 hrs Location tbc	Club activity: POTA activation and picnic	Bring your own picnic

1 August 10.00 – 14.00 Location tbc	Club activity: Mobile/portable radio clinic with APRS practical	Open to all. Station test in advance of MS Bike event. Bring your APRS setup too.
15 – 16 August All day Ottawa - Cornwall	Club activity: MS Bike Ride	Operators are needed to be Amateur Radio safety checkpoints and net control. Nicole, VE3GIQ, (psevents@ovmrc.ca) is organising the ham radio aspects and looking for volunteers. Details at: https://msspbike.donordrive.com/events/1354
29 August 10.00 - 14.00 hrs Location tbc	Club activity: POTA activation and picnic	Bring your own picnic

(Dated 8 Mar 2026)

If you have any suggestions for activities or would like to volunteer to organise an activity, please let me know: ve3jt@myrac.ca

OVMRC MARCH MEETING:

Time and Date: The March 2026 meeting of the OVMRC will be held at IBEW Local 586, 1178 Rainbow St, Gloucester, Ottawa, ON at 7 pm on Wednesday 18th March 2026. Doors open at 6:45 PM Eastern Time. The meeting will be called to order at 7:15 PM by Rob (VE3JT) via Zoom.

Zoom details to follow by email closer to the time. Non members are welcome to attend or join by Zoom. Please contact president@ovmrc.ca for the Zoom details.

AGENDA:

1. **Greetings and welcoming of guests, new hams and new members of the Club.**
2. **Presentation on Space Weather by Robyn Fiori Ph.D., a leading researcher from Natural Resources Canada.**
3. **Approval of the February meeting minutes as published in the March Rambler.**
4. **News and Happenings & Club Coming Events Schedule.**
5. **Poll on operating Field Day at 5 Watts vs 100 Watts.**
6. **Any other business as may arise.**
7. **Meeting adjournment followed by social time. Coffee and donuts will be available.**

SPACE WEATHER SCIENTIST TO SPEAK AT THE MARCH 2026 OVMRC MEETING

Our guest speaker for the March 2026 OVMRC meeting will be Dr. Robyn Fiori, a senior ionospheric physicist at Natural Resources Canada specializing in space weather and its impacts on communications and navigation. Her work centers on understanding how space weather affects the near-Earth environment, with a particular focus on the Canadian Arctic, where proximity to the north magnetic pole creates unique vulnerabilities to these systems. Dr Fiori's experience spans the full system from scientific analysis to operational implementation.

Dr. Fiori's talk is entitled "Space Weather Impacts to high frequency communications".

Space weather describes how activity on the Sun influences the near-Earth environment. Solar flares, coronal mass ejections, high-speed streams from coronal holes, and bursts of solar energetic particles travelling outward from the sun can cause disturbances in the Earth magnetic field and the ionosphere.

The ionosphere is a charged layer that reflects and refracts radio waves, allowing signal propagation over long distances. As the ionosphere changes, radio signals can become degraded or follow unexpected propagation paths. Canada's high latitude and proximity to the geomagnetic pole make it especially sensitive to these effects. Understanding how space weather affects the near-Earth environment and why monitoring it matters, helps support reliable radio wave propagation and strengthens the resilience of modern technology.

If you have questions about the ionosphere, the sunspot cycle, or propagation, this is your chance to get those questions answered.

Pat VE3KJQ

Monthly Minutes - February 25, 2026

LOCATION: IBEW Local 586, 1178 Rainbow Street, Gloucester

PRESENT: 47 participants (22 live and 25 online)

CALL TO ORDER: 19:11

1. GREETINGS: GUESTS AND NEW MEMBERS
Guests:--None **New Members:**--Joey McDonald VA3PKV, Chris Brown not licensed, Colin Tremblay VE3CTF

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF January MEETING
Moved: name not recorded; **Seconded:** Nicole VE3GIQ; **Carried** unanimously

3. NEWS AND HAPPENINGS
-Amateur Radio Day is April 18. Details are coming for OVMRC activities;
-Session to show how to put connectors on cables is planned for April or May, and
-Please let us know of any activities you would like to see the club do.

4. Presentation on "The Next Era Of Computing. How Super Computers Deliver The Data"by Rod Wilson VE3RXN on his experience with the annual supercomputer conferences including last year's "SC25 - SCinet" conference. Rod is the Chief Technologist For External Research at CIENA for advanced network architecture. Rod is also an IEEE Senior Member, and on the Algonquin College Board of Governors.

-Why High Performance Computing (HPC)?? HPC delivers deterministic modeling with scientific rigour. HPC provides for mission critical simulations and scientific discovery.
-Emerging HPC augmentation uses CPUs with GPUs (graphics processing unit). The CPU is like using a Ferrari to move one person at high speed while a GPU is like using a very fast bus to move a large number of people at the same time. Exascale is a common term that means 10 to the power of 18 operations per second. Such speeds would require 1 billion Raspberry PI's or a 1300 foot high stack of smart phones or 8 billion people each doing 1 operation per second for 4 years. Such computing power is needed for research into climate, genomics or energy.
-The fastest computer in the world is the US Department Of Energy's El Capitan. It has 11 million cores, runs at 2821 Petaflops, consumes 35 megawatts of electrical power, requires complex liquid cooling, costs $600 million and is the size of 2 tennis courts. It is used for fusion energy research.

-Quantum computing is an emerging technology. Traditional computing uses “either/or” while quantum computing uses “both/and”. Quantum computing should be able to solve problems really fast. It is being used to analyze millions of cancer cases with DNA to find commonalities. Spectacular research is being done in the medical field and in decryption using quantum computing. It is promising for optimisation, sampling, cryptography, sustainable fertilizer (green ammonia) and drug discovery. But quantum computing is not ready for prime time yet. By 2030 it should be known when quantum computing will be usable for the future of computing.

-Networks used to connect supercomputers is what Rod is involved with. 3 maps were presented that showed global data networks between research centers. Networks remove the tyranny of distance from research projects. An example was how researchers in South Africa were remotely using cryomicroscopes in California as if they were in the same room.

-Rod was involved with the network used for the “SC25 - SCinet” conference last year. It was a 1.2 terabit network with 2000 KM span for use by the conference. This used $75 million of equipment and was set up by all volunteer teams. Peak capacity hit 11 terabits per second and moved 232 petabytes of data for 23 cutting edge applications over the week-long conference.

- Rod’s favourite application of the conference was the “Vera Rubin Observatory”. This is a very powerful telescope with an 8.4 meter wide mirror. It is located on a high mountain in Chile and the data is analyzed in the US. Each night 20 terabytes of images are sent from the telescope in Chile to the US researchers. Acceptable packet loss is only 0.001%. The cost of the telescope was $600 million. (For more info on this telescope see https:/rubinobservatory.org)

- Supercomputer networks can be compared with ham radio. Both are involved with Maxwell’s Equations, bending of light waves, photons, speed of light, reflection, refraction, diffraction, scattering, absorption and digital signal processing.

- What would your supercomputer powered radio do??

5. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 20:20

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

WX Radio - SK

Environment Canada is permanently disconnecting its national Weatheradio and Hello Weather phone services effective March 16, 2026. This shutdown affects the 50-year-old, 185-transmitter network due to obsolete technology and high maintenance costs as claimed by Environment Canada. Users are advised to switch to the WeatherCAN app or interactive weather maps for alerts.

Key Details Regarding the Shutdown:

Alternative Services: While the VHF radio network is closing, marine forecasts will still be available through the Canadian Coast Guard, which operates a separate radio broadcast in locations like the Great Lakes. It provides marine forecasts for commercial and recreational boaters. Instead of Weatheradio, Environment Canada is pointing Canadians to its WeatherCAN phone application as a way to access its forecasts.

NOAA Weather Radio: In areas near the U.S. border, Canadians may still be able to receive broadcasts from the American NOAA Weather Radio network, which is remaining in service.

Reasons for Closure: The system, which covers 90% of the population, faces $4 million in annual operating costs, which was a factor in its decommissioning.

“The technology used to operate Weatheradio and Hello Weather is obsolete,” said an Environment Canada spokesperson in an email.

Accessing real-time weather information is much easier than 50 years ago, when the Weatheradio network launched. Environment Canada cited the growth in cell phone and data coverage, as well as the expansion of satellite communications, as factors behind its decision.

The ministry cited higher costs and maintenance challenges as reasons for the shutdown. The service was launched in 1976, and was modernized in 2004.

Environment Canada said operating the network costs about $4 million per year, and the cost to decommission Weatheradio and Hello Weather will be $2.5 million over two years.

Impact: Concerns have been raised by users regarding the loss of a critical, independent safety backup for rural areas, especially during power outages when cellular service may fail.

Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) recognizes the evolving nature of communications technology, however any transition away from dedicated broadcast alerting services must ensure that no Canadians are left without timely access to critical warnings. Redundancy in emergency communications systems is not a luxury – it is a necessity.

Amateur Radio operators across Canada remain committed to supporting emergency management partners at the municipal, provincial and federal levels. Our volunteers stand ready to assist with communications support when conventional systems fail or become overloaded.

Lifesaving service: Some people who do backcountry tripping say they have come to rely on Weatheradio when they travel beyond the range of cell towers. Sudbury's Roger and Susanne Couture were on a multi-day paddling trip among the shoals and islands of Georgian Bay in 2023. Partway through their trip, Roger noticed a shift in the winds and some clouds began to build in the west. Even though they had checked the forecast before they left, Roger Couture knew to carry a weather radio with him. He was formerly a canoe guide, and said weather can change rapidly. "When you're on big lakes, you've got to be cautious, extra cautious," he said. "We found out that we were in fact quite right, something was coming our way and it wasn't going to be pleasant." They quickly broke camp and paddled back to their launch point, which took about seven hours. By the time they reached the mainland near Killarney, it was after 9 p.m. and strong winds and rain had arrived. Roger Couture said they were out of cell service for much of this trip, and while satellite communications are getting more common, those still largely require expensive devices and monthly service plans.

Closer to home, Russ VE3FSN/VE3YOW shared his 2014 experience in Algonquin park where a tornado went through Lake of Two Rivers campground, killing two. Weather radio in the absence of cell phone coverage, gave Russ enough warning to get to a concrete washroom facility while he was camping in an adjacent campground in Algonquin Park.

Role for new cell phone-based services: Cell phone providers are beginning to roll out satellite services for mobile phones. Last summer, Rogers launched a trial of that service. It works with smartphones that have satellite compatibility, saving the cost of purchasing a separate communicator. In October 2025, Bell announced it had completed a successful voice-call test through a satellite connection, with the hope of launching those services to the public in 2026. Telus has also been developing its satellite service in recent years.

Various sources including AI were used in drafting this article.
73, Alan VA3IAH (OVMRC Rambler Editor)

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https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/weatheradio/find-your-network/ontario.html
https://www.cbc.ca/lite/story/9.7111797
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https://www.rac.ca/rac-responds-to-the-closure-of-the-weatherradio-service-in-canada/

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Weatheradio: find your network

Change to services:

Starting March 16, 2026, Weatheradio and Hello Weather services will be permanently disconnected.
You can get radio marine forecasts via the Canadian Coast Guard. For your local weather forecasts and alerts, visit the interactive weather map or download the WeatherCAN app.

Click on the map to find out your network

Computing and the future of amateur radio

Computing will continue to revolutionize amateur radio by shifting the hobby from completely hardware-constrained operations to data-driven, high-performance digital environments.

The greater integration of modern computing within the broad context of amateur radio may foster and promote a more technically engaging hobby that attracts younger generations by combining traditional radio skills with modern, high-tech digital solutions.

Core Roles of Computing:

- **Advanced Propagation Modelling:** Supercomputers can perform trillions of calculations per second to simulate complex radio wave interactions with the ionosphere, terrain, and space weather. This allows for near real-time, high-precision forecasting of the best communication frequencies and times.
- **AI-Enhanced Signal Processing:** High-performance computing (HPC) enables sophisticated AI algorithms to analyze signals in real time, effectively removing background noise, interference, and distortion even in crowded bands.
- **Cloud-Based "Virtual Shacks":** Future predictions suggest the "shack" may move to the cloud, where computing resources handle the heavy lifting of Software-Defined Radio (SDR) processing, allowing operators to use minimal local hardware to reach global networks.
- **Complex Digital Mode Decoding:** Emerging digital modes and weak-signal protocols (like FT8 or M17) benefit from the massive computational power required to decode signals that are buried deep within the noise floor.
- **Antenna Design and Optimization:** Computing allows for deep-dive simulations of antenna performance across diverse terrains and local conditions, helping amateurs optimize their setups without expensive trial and error.

Various sources including AI were used in drafting this article.

73, Alan VA3IAH (OVMRC Rambler Editor)

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https://www.youtube.com/shorts/6cuk4ckUTsQ

Quick Tip - Pool Cue Case for Long Telescopic Whips

Seventeen foot stainless steel telescopic whips have become popular portable antennas as they allow you to create a resonant HF vertical on each band from 20 meters through 6 meters, simply by adjusting the length of the whip. They can also be used with reasonably good efficiency on lower bands by inserting a loading coil at the base of the whip.

The problem is that when they are collapsed they are typically around 20 inches long, or sometimes longer. This is an awkward size to store and carry. My solution is to use a Pool (Billiards) Cue case for both storage and transport. These cases can be purchased for as little as $20 on Amazon and provide you with ample storage for a few whips, an antenna base and spike and even some additional accessories like radials.

These cases come in a variety of capacities designed to hold either a single cue or multiple cues and sometimes include extra external pockets, carry handles and a shoulder strap. Mine is a single cue case but Chris, VA3CJO uses one for the same purpose and his has a larger capacity and external pockets to store additional accessories.

Cheers

Michael VE3WMB

OVMRC Net Activity, Check-ins for February, 2025

Prepared by: Hugo Kneve VE3KTN

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

February 5	February 12	February 19	February 26
VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS
New & Visitors	**New & Visitors**	**New & Visitors**	**New & Visitors**
Colin – VE3CTF			Alex – VA3XMR Mario – VA2MFO
Check-ins	**Check-ins**	**Check-ins**	**Check-ins**
VE3FSN VA3ZZI VE3LC VA3IAH VA3HBL VA3CJO VE3OTW VE3NA VE3KAE VE3ZZU VE3CWM[1] VA3MVW VA3CWS VE3OKD VE3LAF VE3VIG VA3PKU VA2BBW VA3ODW	VE3OTW VE3FSN VE3LC VA3CJO VE3YPD VE3KAE VE3NA VE3CTF VE3RRB VE3ZZU VA3HJR VE3VIG VA2TXZ VA3HBL VA3IAH	VE3OTW VE3FSN VA3IAH VE3KJQ VE3LC VA3EO VA3PSI VE3MNO VE3ZZU VA2BBW VE3KAE VE3CTF VE3RRB VE3OKD VA3WRZ VE3IPC VA3MVW VE3YPD VE3VHU VE3VIG	VA3ZZI VE3LC VA3IAH VE3KJQ VE3YPD VE3UAY VE3CWM[1] VE3NA VE3KAE VE3CTF VA3WRZ VE3RRB VE3ZZU VA3EO VE3OKD VE3OTW VA3HBL VE3VIG VE3LAF

Notes:

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

1 - Norman, VE3NPP at the mic.

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

February 1 SFI:141 A:5	February 8 SFI:169 A:15	February 15 SFI:117 A:11	February 22 SFI:110 A:16
VE3EJJ - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3BF - NCS	VE3EJJ - NCS
New & Visitors	**New & Visitors**	**New & Visitors**	**New & Visitors**
			Bob - VE3AKV
Check-ins	**Check-ins**	**Check-ins**	**Check-ins**
VE3BF VE3SYZ VE3LC VE3KTN VE3QN VE3CWM[2]	VE3BF VE3RHQ[1] VE3RXN VA3IAH VE3EJJ VA2TXZ VE3LC VE3SYZ	VA3IAH VE3KTN VE3CWM[2] VE3RXN VA2TXZ VE3EJJ VE3SYZ VE3LC	VE3BF VA3PSI VE3KTN VE3LC

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.

Notes:

VE3RHQ is the Radio Amateurs of Canada Headquarters station operated by volunteer radio amateurs of the National Capital Region and visitors to RAC HQ.

1 - Fred, VE3LAF at the mic.

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

2 – Fred, VE3LAF at the mic.

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

February 1	February 8	February 15	February 22
VE3KTN - NCS	VE3LC - NCS	VA2BBW - NCS	VE3FFK - NCS
New & Visitors	**New & Visitors**	**New & Visitors**	**New & Visitors**
	Steve – VE3SHU Pierre – VE3IDN Ken – VA2TXZ		
Check-ins	**Check-ins**	**Check-ins**	**Check-ins**
VE3LC VA2BBW VE3FFK VE3QO VE3VIG VE3MNO	VE3FFK VE3QO VE3VIG VE3MNO VA3IAH VA2BBW	VE3KTN VE3LC VE3FFK VE3QO	VE3KTN VE3MNO VE3LC VA2BBW VE3QO VE3VIG VE3SHU

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