

RAMBLER

APRIL 2026



VOL. 68 ISSUE 8

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

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APRIL MEETING:

WEDNESDAY APRIL 15, 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:

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Nets & Radio

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Webmaster & Social

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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:** 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
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President's Ramblings - Rob VE3JT

At the March 2026 monthly meeting, Dr Robyn Fiori from Natural Resources Canada gave us a mind blowing flight through space weather, from the surface of the sun to the ionospheric layers of our atmosphere, and the effects that we are on the receiving end of, when operating on our Amateur Radio bands. Wow, what a great explanation she gave and a real insight into the complexity of making a simple radio call from one location to another. It was great to see data from Amateur Radio QSOs being used to support research into space weather. Amateur Radio also contributed to two research projects during the solar eclipse in 2024 first by making QSOs in the "Solar Eclipse QSO Party" and second by reporting on signals from the CHU time signal that allowed monitoring of ionospheric changes during the solar eclipse. These and other amateur radio science projects can often be found by subscribing to the HamSci group at <https://hamsci.org/>. Dr Fiori is also interested in connecting with local Amateurs that would like to be involved with space weather research. Members interested in this opportunity are asked to contact Pat (VE3KJQ) at patbrewer@sympatico.ca who will liaise with Dr Fiori.

We were also teased with the possibility of a future presentation on Sporadic E from one of Robyn's work colleagues and I can assure you that the Executive will be following up to schedule that presentation for a future monthly meeting.

Also at the March monthly meeting we polled the attendees for their views on taking part in Field Day 2026 with either 5 Watts or 100 Watts transmit power. The response from attendees was in favour of operating at 100 Watts (see the Meeting Minutes in this issue) and at the Executive meeting held the week afterwards, we decided that after two very successful years operating at 5 Watts, this year we will switch to 100 Watts. Adjustments to the Field Day plan are underway. While I have your attention on Field Day we are always looking for a Field Day Captain to take on the organisation of the event. Specific knowledge is not necessary as there are many knowledgeable advisers available to provide guidance. If you are interested in becoming the event manager or in volunteering to bring equipment or take on a specific role, please don't hesitate to step forward. You can contact me at president@ovmrc.ca or speak to any Executive member at the monthly meetings.



I congratulate Rod (VE3RXN) on his successful quest to have Saturday 18th April proclaimed as World Amateur Radio Day (WARD) in Ottawa, by Mayor Mark Sutcliffe. Rod, West Carlton Disaster Relief and the OVMRC are planning activities to support WARD locally, so be sure to check our schedule of events in the March issue of the Rambler and plan your radio day to take advantage of the stations operating locally; across Ontario for the Ontario QSO Party and of course everywhere for the POTA 'Support Your Parks' weekend. If that wasn't enough it's also the Florida State Parks on the Air event (<https://fspota.org/>) and I will be taking part with the Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Club, callsign WA4GDN, from Warner-Boyce Salt Springs park near New Port Richey in west central Florida. I'll be sending as much good weather as I can to y'all ;-)) and hope we get a QSO in the log.

The April Monthly Meeting will be focused on homebrew projects with a wide range of ideas covering topics such as transceiver kits, microphone rewiring, portable power, Morse code and antennas. Anything with a possible link to ham radio fits the bill. Drop me a line at president@ovmrc.ca if you have something to present for about 10 minutes, or post on the topic on our groups.io. Barry (VE3NA) will also give a demo of putting a connector on coax. The presentations will be followed by an open discussion and testing session. We plan to have a roaming camera to give the Zoom attendees a flavour of what is going on in the room. So, bring your kit to be tested for transmit output power, receive sensitivity, FM modulation and harmonics.

73

Rob
VE3JT



OVMRC APRIL MEETING:

Time and Date:

Wednesday 15th April 2026, doors open at 6:45 PM Eastern Time.
The meeting will be called to order at 7:15 PM by Rob (VE3JT).

Parking: Ample free parking is available on site.

Remote: 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. Approval of the March meeting minutes as published in the April Rambler.
3. News and Happenings & Club Coming Events Schedule.
4. Short presentations on homebrew projects.
5. Any other business as may arise.
6. Meeting adjournment.
7. Open session for project discussions and equipment testing.
Coffee and donuts will be available.

Members with a homebrew project that they are willing to present (approx 10 minute presentations) are asked to contact president@ovrmc.ca or post on the topic on the OVMRC groups.io.



Notices:

1. During Dr Fiori's presentation on space weather she asked if Club members were interested in getting involved with research projects looking into space weather. Members interested in this opportunity are asked to contact Pat (VE3KJQ) at patbrewer@ovmrc.ca who will liaise with Dr Fiori.

2. Field Day 2026. Following the poll taken at the last Club meeting and the Executive meeting held on 25th March 2026 it is announced that the OVMRC will take part in Field Day 2026 running 100 Watts on the HF and GOTA stations.

3. Annual General Meeting and Executive positions. The Membership is advised that the AGM will take place on Wednesday 17th June 2026 and will include the appointment or (re-appointment) of the Executive Members. Any Club member wishing to stand for appointment to the Executive should contact the Secretary, Donald (VA3ZZI), at secretary@ovmrc.ca or in person before the adjournment of the May monthly meeting. At this time all members of the existing Executive have indicated their intent to stand for re-election for the 2026 - 2027 term. Any member considering running for an executive position in June 2027 might consider joining the Executive this year to observe the running of the Club. All members are encouraged to take a turn on the Club Executive.



Monthly Minutes - March 18, 2026

LOCATION: IBEW Local 586, 1178 Rainbow Street, Gloucester

PRESENT: 56 participants (27 live and 29 online)

CALL TO ORDER: 19:15

1) GREETINGS: GUESTS AND NEW MEMBERS

Guests.--Wayne VA3FMB, Scott VE4TQ, Paul VE3SU

New Members.--Guy VE3GOI

2) **Space Weather Impacts On Radio Wave Propagation** by Dr. Robyn Fiori of Natural Resources Canada where she has worked on everything related from scientific analysis to implementation. The purpose of her department is to send alerts when space weather could cause problems for clients. Robyn gave an example of when space weather caused a big problem for NASA while launching satellites. A cluster of "Starlink" satellites were launched on a single rocket and held in low earth orbit for testing before sending them to a higher orbit. However, space weather caused the upper atmosphere to swell up and slow down the satellites before they could reach a safe orbit, and they burned up in an unexpected reentry. For us, our concern is the effect on radio waves in the 3 to 30 Mhz range. Space weather processes begin in the Sun and travel to Earth and affect us. Effects could be minor to major with newer technologies being affected more. Robyn showed us a diagram of the Sun cut away and explained that the upper layers affect us, with the magnetic field driving solar flares and coronal mass ejections (CME), and magnetisms varying a lot with time. Bursts of energy are seen in solar flares, solar winds and CME's. Earth's magnetic fields react to all of these to give us space weather. Robyn listed 4 types of events on the Sun that cause problems: Solar flares - large explosions on the surface of the Sun that cause a burst of energy and radiation. These take 8 minutes to reach Earth. These have less effect on us in Canada, but cause more problems near the equator. Corona holes - high speed streams of particles emerge from these holes and cause ionization in the upper atmosphere. Robyn gave an example of a hole that lasted 7 days and caused communications outages. CME's - These hurl plasma out from the Sun and hit Earth 3 hours later. After 1 to 3 days more particles hit Earth Solar energetic particle events - These create long lasting impacts to HF communications.

Sunspots are indications of activity on the Sun. There is a solar cycle to the sunspots of 11 years from maximum to minimum and back. We are exiting a maximum of the solar cycle right now. Earth is surrounded by a geomagnetic field. It is hit by the Sun's magnetic field and solar wind. Earth's field is compressed on the side facing the sun.



This causes auroras as the magnetic field makes particles hit the upper atmosphere. In Canada there is an area called the auroral oval where the aurora is most visible. Many technologies are affected such as satellites, GPS, avionics, navigation, power systems, and long conductors such as pipelines and railways. For us HF is the biggest concern. Signals can be weakened, enhanced, erased or garbled. Radio waves can be affected by absorption. The ionosphere has three regions that affect radio waves, the E, F and D. Absorption happens in the D region, which is also the lowest region. MUF (maximum usable frequency) and LUF (lowest usable frequency) determines the range of usable frequencies.

Space weather can reduce or eliminate the usable frequencies. Post Storm Depressions can affect MUF, expressed as % reduction of MUF. During a storm electrons and protons rain onto an area reducing MUF. This can be measured by a specialized device called a riometer (relative ionospheric opacity meter). Absorption is what Robyn specializes in and she listed 3 types of absorption.

Shortwave Fade Out - caused by X-rays from the sun causing more absorption. The effect is greater in the summer or in lower latitudes. Satellites can monitor X-rays to predict absorption. Fade out is monitored using automated transmitters that are checked for signal paths. This absorption will not damage anything on an HF system.

Auroral Absorption - this is linked to geomagnetic indices.

Polar Cap Absorption - solar proton events cause this. It affects a wide range of latitudes, and is strongest on the day side of the Earth. These last 1 to 2 days on average.

Monitoring is done at 30 Mhz for this. All 3 modes of absorption are added together to predict the impacts. The test transmitters broadcast in 6 HF bands. Numerous riometers are spread across Canada. There are 4 transmitters (including 1 in Ottawa and 1 in Churchill) that send to a receiver in CFS Alert on Ellesmere Island.

The web site www.spaceweather.gc.ca shows predictions of weather and weather of the past 4 days. You can sign up for alerts in an RSS feed.

3) Approval Of Minutes of February Meeting

Moved: Nicole VE3GIQ

Seconded: Marcel VE3MNO Carried.



4) Club News And Happenings - April 18 and 19 will be POTA weekend, World Amateur Day was declared by the City of Ottawa. A GOTA station will be set up at City Hall and POTA will be at some nearby parks. More details will be presented at the next club meeting on April 15.

- the Ontario QSO Party will be held on the 18th and 19th of April
- Georges-Andre Chaudron VE2VAB spoke about the Quebec QSO Party on the 19th of April. He mentioned that if you enter the Ontario QSO Party and log the county, that will automatically be converted to the right exchange if you submit your log for the Quebec QSO party.

5) Poll In Operating Field Day At 100 Watts Versus 5 Watts - A poll was held on which wattage should be used at Field Day. The result was 11 for 5 watts and 14 for 100 watts. The results of the poll will be taken into account by the Executive in deciding whether to run at 5 Watts or 100 Watts this year.

6) ANY OTHER BUSINESS- a letter of thanks was received from ARISS for the Club donation of \$100.

- Nicole VE3GIQ listed 4 upcoming public service events for 2026 that require volunteers to help out.
- Raisin River Canoe Race on April 11. Will be held north of Cornwall. Contact Earnest Vinson VA3EWV. Be sure to dress warm as the water will be very cold.
- CNcycle for CHEO on May 3. Will be a big fund raiser. See cncycle.radio-1.ca
- Rideau Lakes Cycle Tour on June 6 and 7. See cncycle.radio-1.ca
- MSbike Tours on August 15 and 16. Will be held from Ottawa to near Cornwall. Will use APRS for tracking of participants and volunteers, and will need many people. Contact psevents@ovmrc.ca

9) MOVE TO ADJOURN.--Moved: Douglas VA3GY Adjourned: 20:45.



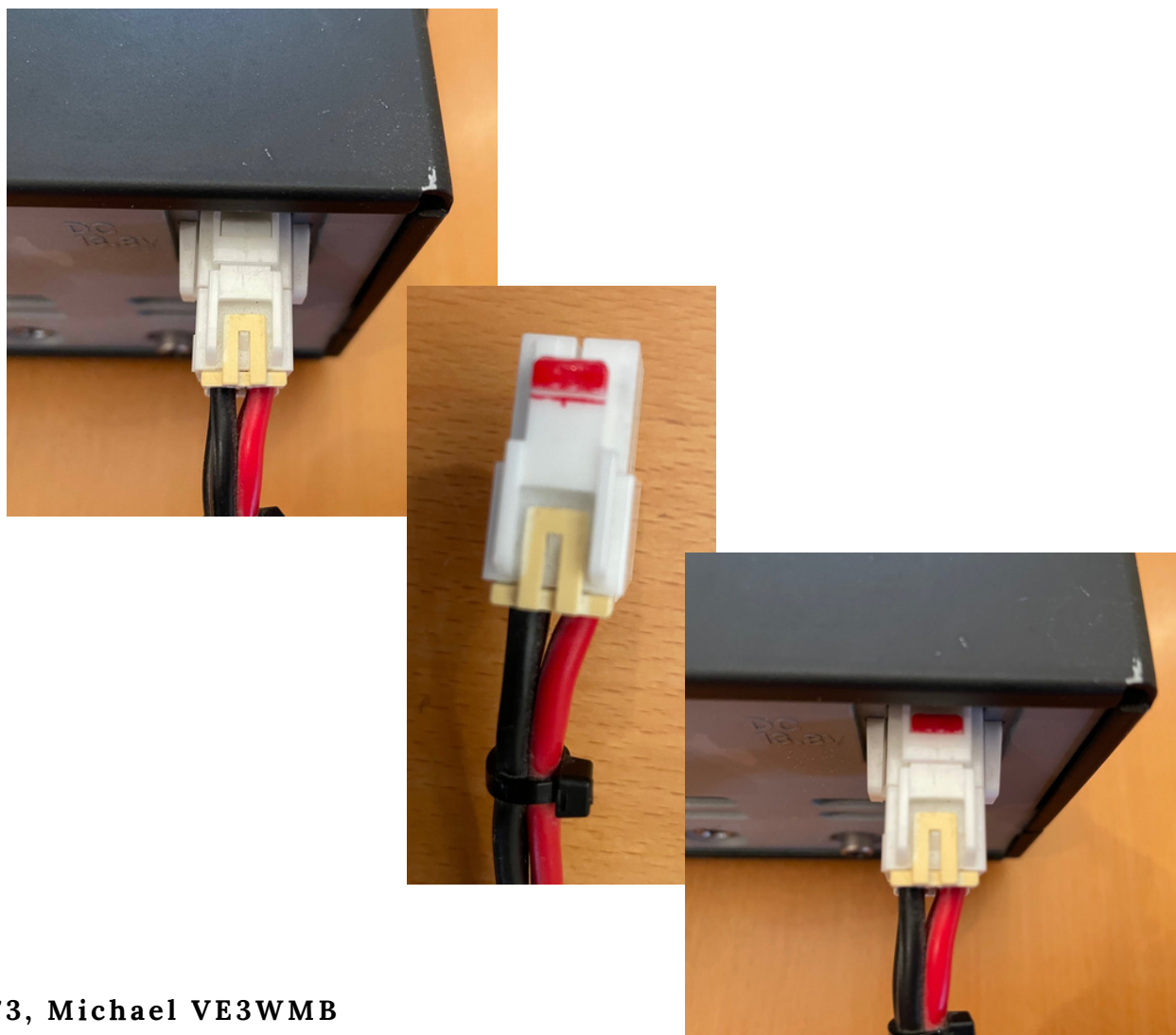
**Minutes prepared by
Donald, VA3ZZI,
secretary@ovmrc.ca**



Quick Tip - Colour code your HF rig power connector for easier disconnects

If you have ever struggled to figure out how to disconnect the power cord on your HF rig you are not alone.

Most HF radio manufacturers still use a large Molex-style power connector that is monochromatic white. These connectors snap-in very securely to the mating connector on the rear of the radio. There is a sweet spot on the top of the connector, close to the rig, that requires downward pressure on a tab to initiate release. If you don't have your reading glasses handy or the lighting is poor it can be difficult to see where to apply the pressure. The problem is a lack of contrast between the tab and the body of the connector (everything is white). The trick that I use is to colour the "sweet-spot" with a permanent marker so that it is obvious where to press to get the connector to disengage.



73, Michael VE3WMB



OVMRC Net Activity, Check-ins for March, 2026

Prepared by: Hugo Kneve VE3KTN

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

March 5	March 12	March 19	March 26
VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS
New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors
Scott – VE4TQ/2 Andy – VA3PNW	Scott – VE4TQ/2 Guy - VE3GOI		Brenda - VA3HNB
Check-ins	Check-ins	Check-ins	Check-ins
VE3OTW VE3JT VE3FSN VE3LC VE3GIQ VE3KJQ VA3IAH VA3JYK VA2TXZ VA3CJO VE3XIU VA3HBL VE3CTF VE3OP VE3VHU VE3RRB VE3NA VE3ZZU VE3CWM ¹ VE3LAF VE3VIG	VE3OTW VE3FSN VA3ZZI VE3LC VE3KJQ VA3IAH VE3NA VE3CWM ¹ VA2TXZ VE3CTF VA3PSI VE3ZZU VE3RRB VA3CWS VE3KAE VA3EO VA3CGF VE3JT VE3VIG VE3LAF	VE3JT VE3FSN VE3LC VA3HBL VE3CTF VE3NA VA3CWS VE3RRB VE3GOI VE3KAE VE3ZZU VE3VIG VA3PSI VA2BBW VE3OTW VE3NPO	VE3OTW VE3GIQ VE3LC VE3KAE VE3CTF VE3NA VA3PSI VA3CGF VA3IAH VE3RRB VE3GOI VE3IBX VE3TXB VA3MVW VE3KNU VE3ZZU VE3KJQ 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.

March 1 SFI:141 A:8	March 8 SFI:135 A:18	March 15 SFI:112 A:3	March 22 SFI:107 A:44	March 29 SFI:162 A:10
VE3KTN - NCS	VE3BF - NCS	VE3EJJ - NCS	VE3BF - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS
New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors
	Brian – VE3BHD		Dave - VE3QFM	
Check-ins	Check-ins	Check-ins	Check-ins	Check-ins
VE3BF VE3OP VA2TXZ VE3SYZ VA3IAH VE3RXN VE3EJJ VE3LC	VE3RXN VE3KTN VE3SYZ VA3IAH VE3RHQ ¹ VA3AO	VE3CWM ² VE3OP VE3BF VA3PSI VE3KTN VE3SYZ	VE3LC VE3KTN VE3RXN VE3EJJ VA3IAH	VE3LC VE3RXN VE3SYZ VA3IAH VE3EJJ

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 visitors and volunteer radio amateurs of the National Capital Region.

1 - Craig, VEOP at the mic.

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

2 - Fred, VELAF at the mic.



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

March 1	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29
VE3KTN - NCS	VE3LC - NCS	VA2BBW - NCS	VE3FFK - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS
New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors
Check-ins	Check-ins	Check-ins	Check-ins	Check-ins
VA2BBW VE3FFK VE3QO VE3MNO VA2OJD VE3LC VE3IDN	VE3KTN VA2BBW VE3FFK VE3QO	VE3KTN VE3LC VE3FFK VE3QO	VE3KTN VA2BBW VE3LC VE3QO VE3MNO VE3SHU VA2OJD	VA2BBW VE3LC VE3FFK VE3QO VA2OJD



General Links of Interest:

ARDF Ottawa



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

RCJ



Volunteer radio ops help
scouts on the Rideau
Challenge Journey

New Hams Ottawa



Information for new hams with
an Ottawa focus

Editor's Note:

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

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