

# RAMBLER

MAY 2026



VOL. 68 ISSUE 9

NEWSLETTER OF THE OTTAWA VALLEY MOBILE RADIO CLUB INCORPORATED ([OVMRC.CA](http://OVMRC.CA))

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## MAY MEETING:

**WEDNESDAY MAY 20, 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](mailto: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](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

<b>Former QCWA Chapter 70</b> Breakfast gathering every Tuesday morning at 7:30 to 10:00 AM, Summerhays Grill, 1972 Baseline Rd., Nepean	<b>Orleans Coffee gathering</b> every Friday morning at 9:00 AM, McDonald's 1890 Innes Rd., Ottawa, K1B 3K5	<b>Ottawa Valley QRP Society</b> meetings alternate each month between lunch and dinner at the Newport Restaurant. See OttawaValleyQRP@groups.io for details.	<b>Phoenix Net Breakfast</b> , 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

The homebrew and equipment testing night at the April monthly meeting brought out some interesting ideas and projects from our members, see photos immediately following the Ramblings. It's great to see the thought and work that has been put into solving some operating issues. Thanks to all that brought in and presented their projects. We also conducted some valuable equipment testing to ensure compliance with regulations and that we are getting the best performance from our gear. The evening was a reminder that we are all citizen scientists and testing our equipment, be it by making QSOs or making measurements on the work bench, is part of what we do. Every QSO contributes to our understanding of radio paths, propagation, transmit power, antenna efficiency and receiver sensitivity, to mention just a few. As we move into the summer period with the increased likelihood of operating portable and the many public service events that we support, that knowledge becomes more valuable in guiding us on factors such as the antenna height and transmit power required to have solid communications with the Net Control station during the event. Public Service events are a great way to expand our operating knowledge and build experience, plus you get the satisfaction of supporting our communities. I encourage all of our members to support public service events and these are regularly publicised in the Rambler and at our monthly meetings.

Speaking of outdoor and portable operating, the annual Field Day weekend will be coming up on Friday 26th to Sunday 28th June (<https://www.arrl.org/field-day>). This is the premiere event in the Club calendar and we want to see as many Club members come out as possible. You are welcome to get involved as little or as much as you can, so make the trip for an hour to see how we set up a portable operation or come out for all weekend and camp overnight; bring the family or escape household duties for a while! The Club will set up at the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum in the overflow parking field, just on the west side of the museum grounds. There is a separate entrance to the parking field, right off Old Montreal Road in Cumberland. This year we plan to operate two principal 100 Watt HF stations and an additional 100 Watt HF "Get on the Air" or GOTA station that needs to be operated by recently qualified hams, or those who have been inactive, for example they have taken an extended break from operating.



Those without a licence are also able to operate under supervision of a qualified ham. There will also be a VHF station covering the 6m and 2m/70cm bands and we aim to make a satellite contact too, as well as sending some emails over ham radio with Winlink. We need operators that are willing to sign up for a shift at the stations during the operating period of 2 pm Saturday to 2 pm Sunday, as well as volunteers to help with the setup and tear down of the antennas and the operating stations on the Friday late afternoon, Saturday morning and Sunday afternoon. Listen out for additional information during Club meetings and at a special Field Day Zoom briefing for all those interested on Wednesday 27th May at 7 pm. Zoom invite to follow by email to all Club members. Non Club members are always welcome to join in, please email [president@ovmrc.ca](mailto:president@ovmrc.ca) for the Zoom invite.

It was recently brought to my attention that the Club has lost another good operator, Armin Hachmer (VA3YB) SK, who passed away on the 8th April. RIP Armin. His obituary is available at: <https://blairandson.com/tribute/details/7179/Armin-Hachmer/obituary.html#content-start> Armin was a keen POTA activator and attended most of the Club POTA events, often using his Elecraft KH1 HF HT in walkabout mode!



Photo - Armin (VA3YB) operating pedestrian mobile at the OVMRC POTA at Chapman Mills CA-1385 in April 2025.



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The May monthly meeting will feature RAC's Regulatory Affairs Officer, Dave Goodwin (VE3KG), who will be presenting on operating overseas, so if you have questions on reciprocal licensing or taking your ham radio gear on vacation outside of Canada, this is the time to ask.

On Saturday 23rd May the Club will hold a POTA activation with a twist! The twist is that the park where we will operate from will not be published in advance! Instead a beacon operating on the on 2m band will guide you to the park, in the spirit of an in vehicle foxhunt. See full details later in this issue of the Rambler and on line at our groups.io site. The Club Schedule of Activity for the coming months has also been updated and published in this issue.

Also in this month's issue, you will see an appeal to locate the Club seal and Letters Patent that have been misplaced somewhere over the years. Please let the Executive know if you have any idea of their current location.

And finally, a reminder that our Executive positions are up for renewal at the AGM in June. Although the current Executive members have indicated their willingness to remain in position for another year, we are always looking to introduce new members to see how the Club runs. I will be looking for a replacement as President this time next year and all are encouraged to do their part to have a successful Club.

I look forward to seeing you all at the May monthly meeting.

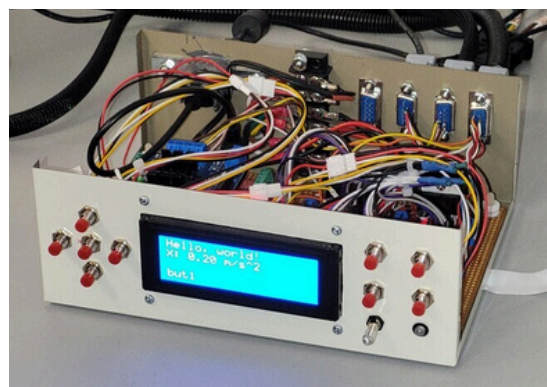
73

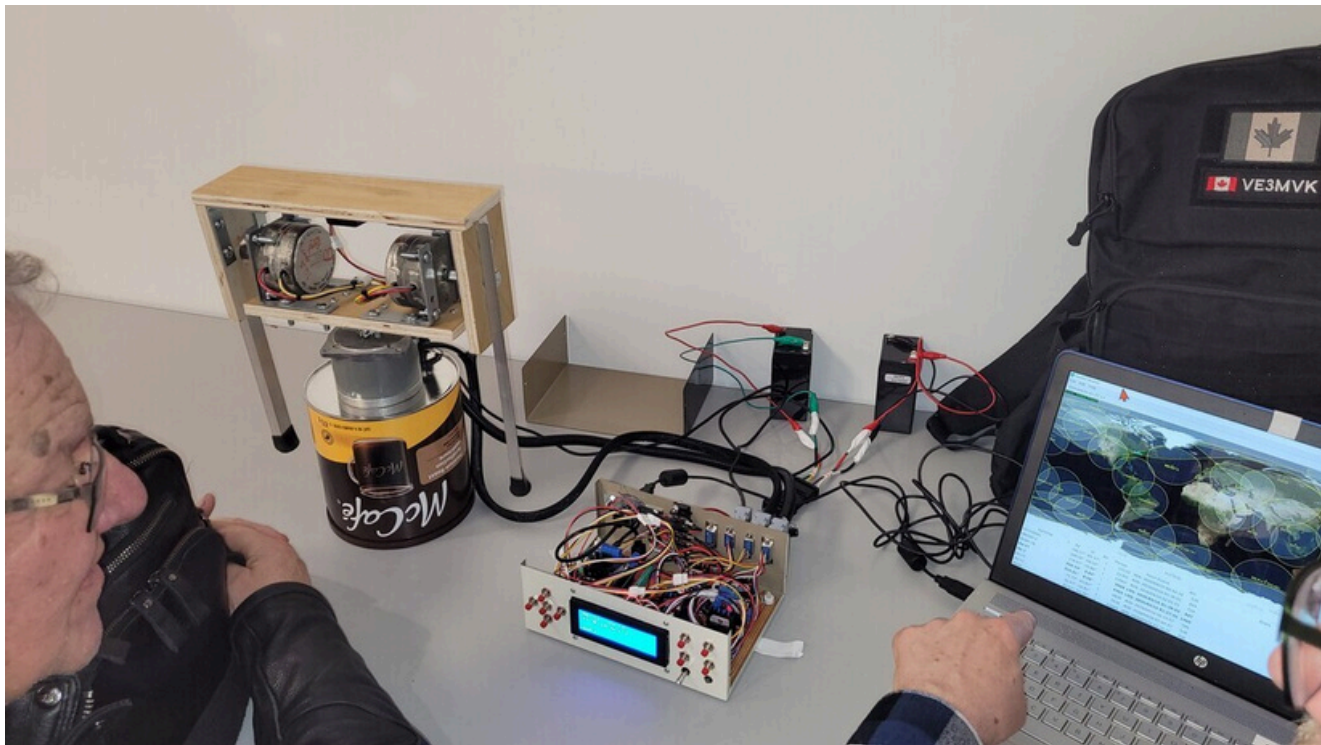
Rob  
VE3JT



# April Homebrew Night - Photos









## OVMRC SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES 2026 (VESION 3)

Date/Time/ Location	Activity/Lead	Notes
23 May 09.00 - 14.00 hrs Location SECRET (available from <a href="mailto:president@ovmrc.ca">president@ovmrc.ca</a> for those not foxhunting)	Club activity: Foxhunt and POTA activation Lead: Rob (VE3JT)	1. Vehicle foxhunt: Beacons will start at 9 am on 147.435 MHz with sufficient ERP to be heard across the central area of the city and 147.570 MHz very low power for the local area ~1km. 2. On foot foxhunt in the park. 3. POTA activation.
13 - 15 June VHF Bands	Individual activity: ARRL June VHF Contest	FM class available for those with only FM capability. Details at: <a href="https://www.arrl.org/june-vhf">https://www.arrl.org/june-vhf</a>
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 Lead: Rob (VE3JT)	Friday afternoon setup, Saturday all day, Saturday overnight and Sunday to mid afternoon. Field Day details: <a href="https://www.arrl.org/field-day">https://www.arrl.org/field-day</a>
1 July	Individual activity: RAC Canada Day Contest	Details published at: <a href="https://www.rac.ca/contesting/">https://www.rac.ca/contesting/</a>
11 July 10.00 - 14.00 hrs Rockcliffe Park and the Rockeries CA- 1597	Club activity: POTA activation and picnic Lead: John (VA3JYK)	Bring your own picnic. Meet on the grassy area around the pavilion. Note that construction work at the pavilion may be ongoing.
1 August 10.00 – 14.00 hrs IBEW Local 586, 1178 Rainbow St, Gloucester	Club activity: Mobile/portable radio clinic with APRS practical. Lead: Nicole (VE3GIQ)	Open to all. Test your mobile/APRS station in advance of the MS Bike event.



15 – 16 August All day Ottawa - Cornwall	Club activity: MS Bike Ride Lead: Nicole (VE3GIQ)	Operators are needed to be Amateur Radio safety checkpoints and net control. Nicole, VE3GIQ, ( <a href="mailto:psevents@ovmrc.ca">psevents@ovmrc.ca</a> ) is organising the ham radio aspects and looking for volunteers. Details at: <a href="https://msspbike.donordrive.com/events/1354">https://msspbike.donordrive.com/events/1354</a>
29 August 10.00 - 14.00 hrs Centre de plein air du Lac-Leamy Regional Park CA-5004	Club activity: POTA activation and picnic. Lead: John (VA3JYK)	Bring your own picnic. Free parking at Lac Leamy North West parking lot on the north side of the lake, close to Saint-Eloi Café Bistro, 100 Rue Atawe, Gatineau, QC J8Y 6V8, Canada
12 September 09.00 – 12.00 Carp Agricultural Fairgrounds in Carp, Ontario	Individual activity: OARC Hamfest	<a href="https://oarc.net/activity/oarc-carp-hamfest-2026/">https://oarc.net/activity/oarc-carp-hamfest-2026/</a>
19 September 10.00 – 14.00 Mer Bleu CA-1515	Club activity: POTA activation. Lead: John (VA3JYK)	
3 October 09.00 – 12.00	Individual activity: SVARC Hamfest	<a href="https://eohamfest.com/">https://eohamfest.com/</a>
3 October 13.00 – 15.00 10 Riviere Nation N Rd, Casselman, ON K0A 1M0, Canada	Club activity: POTA activation at High Falls Conservation Area CA-6209. Lead: John (VA3JYK)	After SVARC Hamfest at St Albert. West side of the river at Casselman.

(Dated 15 May 2026)

If you have any suggestions for activities or would like to volunteer to organise an activity, please email: [president@ovmrc.ca](mailto:president@ovmrc.ca)



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## FOXHUNT AND POTA ACTIVATION - SATURDAY 23RD MAY 2026

On Saturday 23rd May the Club will hold a POTA activation with a twist! The twist is that the park where we will operate from will not be published in advance! Instead a beacon operating on the on 2m band will guide you to the park, in the spirit of an in vehicle foxhunt. Once at the park there will be an optional short on-foot foxhunt on 2m so bring your 2m band foxhunting gear like an HT, tape-measure Yagi and offset attenuator. There will also be a demo of 80m band ARDF/radio-orienteeing equipment.

Don't forget to bring your POTA gear too!

Here are the details.

**Organiser/Control Station:** Rob (VE3JT), email: [president@ovmrc.ca](mailto:president@ovmrc.ca). Foxes: Roger (VA3EGY).

**Date:** Saturday 23rd May 2026.

**Timings:** Foxhunt from 9 am. POTA from 10 am. Beacons will be off at approx 12 pm midday.

**Beacons:** Hi-power fox on 147.435 MHz FM with vertical polarisation cycling approx 15 seconds of transmitting tuneful tones including Morse identifier and 15 seconds off.



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Low power fox on 147.570 MHz FM with vertical polarisation, should be heard from approx 1 km away, cycling approx 15 seconds of transmitting tuneful tones including Morse identifier and 15 seconds off.

**Boundaries:** The hi-power fox should be heard over an area of the City of Ottawa with the following approximate boundaries (see map):

**North:**

- Boulevard Lucerne, Gatineau/Rue Laurier, Gatineau

**West:**

- Greenbank Road/North across Lac Deschenes/Chemin Vanier, Aylmer/

**South:**

- Strandherd Drive/Earl Armstrong Road/Rideau Road/Thunder Road

**East:**

- Highway 417/Aviation Parkway to Ottawa River.

**Repeater:** VE3OCE, 146.880/280 MHz, PL tone 136.5 kHz.

**On-foot foxhunt frequencies:** Programme your HT to receive the low power foxes on the following frequencies:

Demo unit: 147.570 MHz

Fox 1: 146.565 MHz

Fox 2: 147.585 Mhz



**Non-fox hunters:** Those not wishing to take part in the fox hunt may email Rob on [president@ovmrc.ca](mailto:president@ovmrc.ca) to obtain the park location, on strict orders not to reveal the park location to others! Park location emails will be sent one or two days before the event.





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## **OVMRC MAY MEETING:**

### **Time and Date:**

Wednesday 20th May 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.

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](mailto: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 “International Operating” by Dave Goodwin (VE3KG), RAC's Regulatory Affairs Officer.
3. Approval of the April meeting minutes as published in the May Rambler.
4. News and Happenings & Club Coming Events Schedule.
5. Any other business as may arise.
6. Meeting adjournment.



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## Notices:

1. **Field Day briefing:** A special Field Day briefing will take place on Zoom on Wednesday 27th May at 7 pm. This brief is intended for new hams that have not yet taken part in Field Day and those that plan to take an active role this year, but all are invited. Time will be allotted for general questions. Zoom details will be sent by email to all Club members shortly.

2. **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](mailto: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.



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# Monthly Minutes - April 15, 2026

**LOCATION:** IBEW Local 586, 1178 Rainbow Street, Gloucester

**PRESENT:** 53 participants (33 live and 20 online)

**CALL TO ORDER:** 19:15

## 1) GREETINGS: GUESTS AND NEW MEMBERS

**Guests.**--Scott VE4TQ

**New Members.**--David Elliot VE3OJU and Tommy Reddit VA3GEL

**2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY MEETING. Moved:** Marcell VE3MNO  
**Seconded:** Tim VE3TXB **Carried.**

**3) NEWS AND HAPPENINGS** -We had a great presentation by Dr Fiori last month. If you are interested and would like to participate in related research projects contact our Director At Large Pat VE3KJG at [patbrewer@ovmrc.ca](mailto:patbrewer@ovmrc.ca)

-We will be operating at 100 watts on Field Day on our HF and GOTA stations after the poll from last month and consideration by the Club Executive.

-Annual General Meeting and Executive positions . The next 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 election to the Executive should contact the Secretary, Donald (VA3ZZI), at [secretary@ovmrc.ca](mailto: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.

-POTA in downtown parks will take place this coming weekend for World Amateur Radio Day. A quick poll at the meeting showed four Members are expected to participate. Be sure to try to contact the Club President who will be on the air in Florida.

**4) PRESENTATIONS ON HOMEBREW PROJECTS** -Donald VA3ZZI presented his Roll Up Ham Stick Antenna Carry Bag. Sewn from a piece of denim fabric measuring 17.5 inches wide and 103.5 inches long with individual pockets for 6 antennas. The bag carries these antennas securely and in sorted order for rapid deployment on POTA trips. -Barry VE3NA showed how to install PL259 connectors on the end of LMR195 cable. First slide the heat shrink and crimp ring on the cable. Then mark the cable with a grey marker where the cable will be stripped to, and strip the cable using a stripper tool on the grey mark. Twist the



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unwanted insulation back and forth a couple of times and pull and everything should come off the centre pin. Use a knife to strip the outer insulation that would be under the crimp ring. Put on the connector under the exposed braid until it is on all the way with the centre pin exposed. Put a small amount of solder on the centre pin so nothing will move. Slide the crimp sleeve over the braid so the sleeve touches the connector. Use the crimping tool on the sleeve with as much force as is needed so that the tool will release. Clean the solder iron tip then do the final soldering of the connector centre pin. Slide the heat shrink over the crimp ring and use a heat gun to shrink it. Start at the connector end while pushing the wrap into the connector to prevent a space from forming. Be sure to heat and shrink the entire wrap. Last step is to clean the connector tip with 99% isopropyl alcohol. The resulting patch cable made by Barry was added to the door prizes. (Note; the Club does own a crimping tool that can be lent out, and the Club has a stock of assorted cables and connectors for sale to members. A future Rambler should have a price list of what is available. Contact Harrie VE3HYS harriej59@gmail.com for more info.)

-Hugo VE3KTN showed his Portable Power Box. This was made from a Canadian Tire marine battery box worth \$30 with a large LiFePO battery he put inside. On the back side of the box is a 300 watt inverter to provide AC power. Binding posts were put on the top of the box for 12 volt connections. Also a volt meter is on the top to show the charge state of the battery. Hugo also showed a choke line he had made for use with dipole and end fed antennas to prevent RF power from going back to the transmitter on the coax cable. To make this he put 25 ferrite beads on a 1 meter length of LM400 cable, with adhesive-lined heat shrink wrap over the beads and cable. One end has a male connector the other end is female so this can be put at the end of an existing cable.

-Norm VE3LC talked about the equipment that would be used for testing radios after the regular meeting ends. He brought in test equipment for sensitivity, power output and FM deviation. Norm explained the meaning of 12dB SINAD which is an audio signal-to-noise parameter relative to a 1000 Hz. tone when determining R.F. receiver sensitivity. To accomplish this test on our equipment Norm brought an RF signal generator with a calibrated RF output and modulated with a 1000 Hz. signal at +/- 3 kHz. deviation, and also a SINADDER instrument to measure noise and distortion while filtering out the 1000 Hz. modulation of the RF signal generator. Norm also brought a device he built himself to interface an automatic antenna tuner to his Icom 705 radio. This device contains a PIC12F683 8 pin DIP. The schematic shown contained the DIP and 2 transistors and other components and ran on 4.5 volts. The software for the DIP was written by the original circuit designer and Norm loaded the software using a loading device called a "PIC chip programming hardware" and cost \$15.

-Dave VA3DPL showed a "fan dipole" dual band vertical antenna for



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2m/70cm bands that he is working on. The dual elements are made from copper coated mild steel welding rods from Princess Auto. Modelling of the antenna design was checked using MMANA-GAL software that showed there will probably be some interaction between the elements. The inactive element will probably act as a director causing some distortion of the radiating pattern. When finished the entire antenna will be encased in a PVC pipe. Dave's goal is to be able to run 2 rigs at the same time on different bands using this antenna.

**5) UPCOMING ACTIVITIES** -Nicole talked about 3 upcoming events that need volunteer hams to help support event activities.

-First is the CN CYCLE FOR CHEO on May 3. Info can be found at [cncycle.radio-1.ca](http://cncycle.radio-1.ca) . Contact Richard Hagemeyer VE3UNW for more details.

-Second is the RIDEAU LAKES CYCLE TOUR on June 6 and 7. The contact for more details is also Richard Hagemeyer VE3UNW with info also at [cncycle.radio-1.ca](http://cncycle.radio-1.ca) .

-Third is the MS BIKE TOUR OTTAWA-CORNWALL on August 15 and 16. The tour will leave from Vernon going to Cornwall on the first day and return on the second day. There will be more options available for radio tracking this year, and more testing of APRS will be done in advance of the events. The tour will need volunteers to cover the rest stops and observers. To volunteer contact Nicole VE3GIQ at [psevants@ovmrc.ca](mailto:psevants@ovmrc.ca)

**6) DOOR PRIZE DRAW** - Natalie VE3IBX won a magmount antenna

-Pat VE3KJQ won a magmount antenna base

-Dave VA3DPL won 50 feet of power wire

-Scott VE4TQ won 60 feet of power wire

-JD VA2OJD won a collection of dog bone insulators

-Douglas VA3GY won the antenna patch cable made by Barry during the cable crimping demo earlier.

**7) MOVE TO ADJOURN.**--Moved: Richard VA3HBL. Adjourned: 21:11.



**Minutes prepared by  
Donald, VA3ZZI,  
[secretary@ovmrc.ca](mailto:secretary@ovmrc.ca)**



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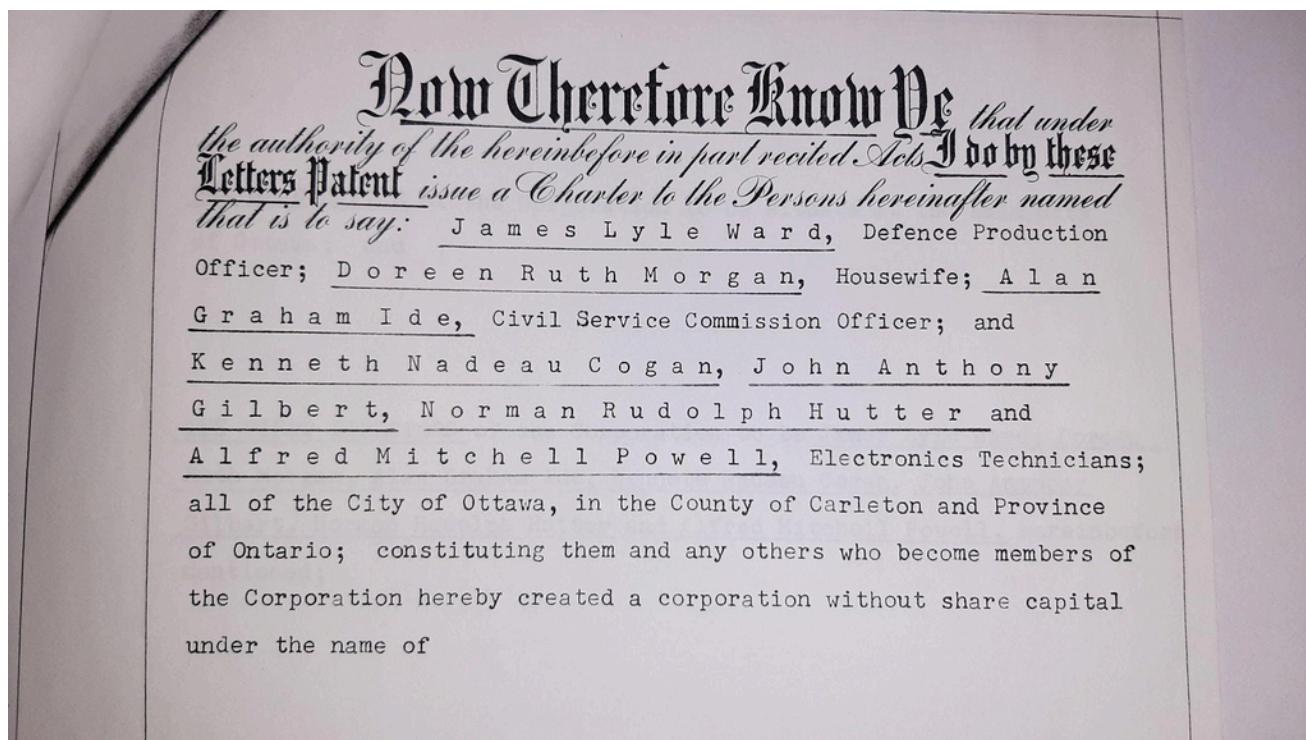
## HAS ANYBODY SEEN THE OFFICIAL OVMRC CLUB SEAL EMBOSSEY OR LETTERS OF PATENT?

Six months into my term as the OVMRC Secretary I was told that one of my duties was to be the keeper of the official OVMRC club seal embosser and of the original letters of patent for the Club. After talking to the previous Secretary I was able to acquire the official OVMRC ink stamp and old photocopies of the letters of patent. I made several inquiries to others that may have known the whereabouts of the embosser and original letters but none had either item. This article is a last attempt to get more information and track them down.

The embosser is a stapler sized object with a lever on the top as shown below. Ours is of an older design and may be taller. The embosser was used to force an inkless 3D imprint of the Club logo into certificates and award papers similar to the image below.

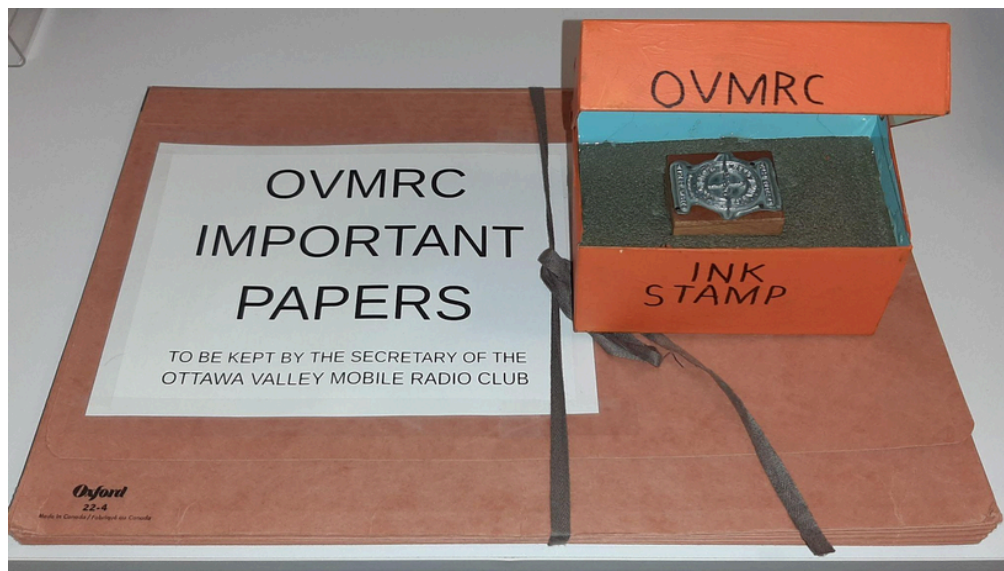


The letters of patent would be the originals of the photocopy below. The font and wording is very official looking. The paper of the letters is of formal and expensive quality and is rather fragile



If you saw these items or have an idea where they could be please let me know.

I am taking steps to prevent these items from being misplaced in the future. The official ink stamp is now in a foam lined metal box painted an obnoxious color and clearly labeled what it is and who is supposed to have it. When the seal embosser is found or replaced it will also go into a similar labeled box. The copies of the letter of patent are in a file folder that now has a label affixed to the front. I will affix a photo of all three items posed together on the back of the file folder and the photo will also be placed in the Club's digital archives to prove these items did exist at one time.



Best Regards  
Donald VA3ZZI



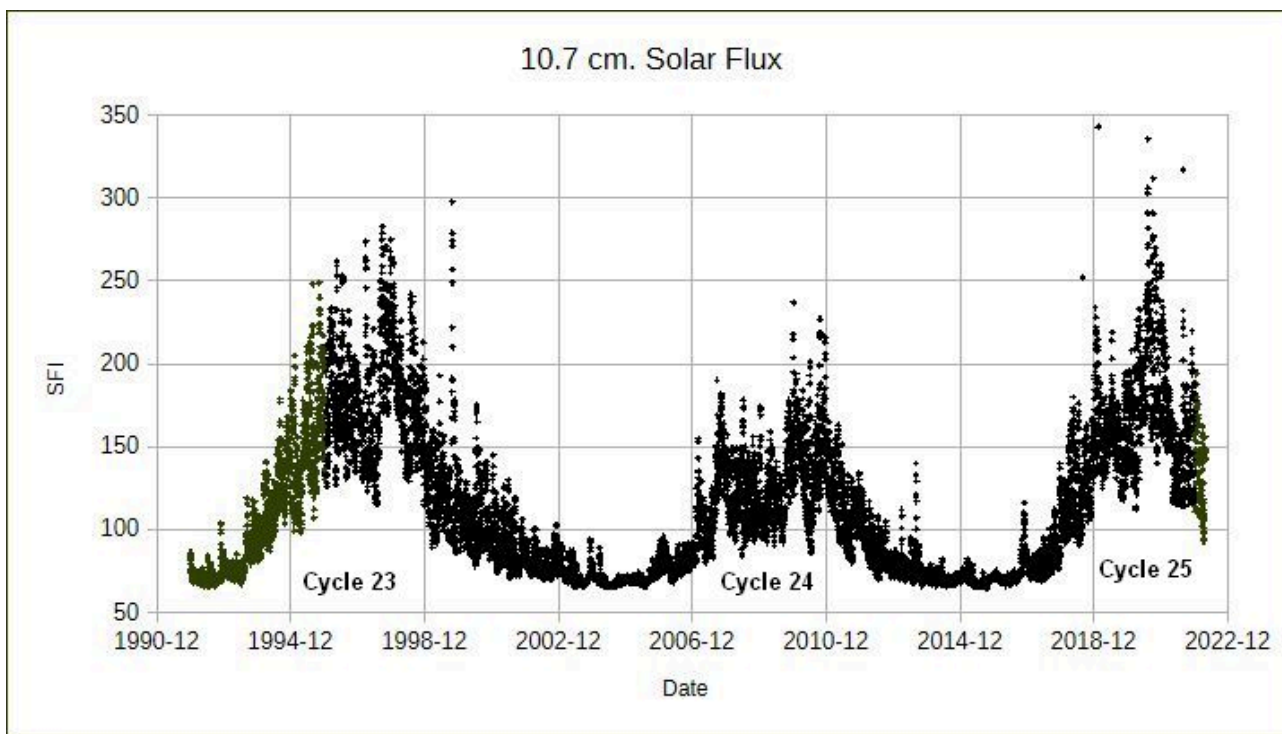
## Solar Cycle 25 and Where The Bands Are

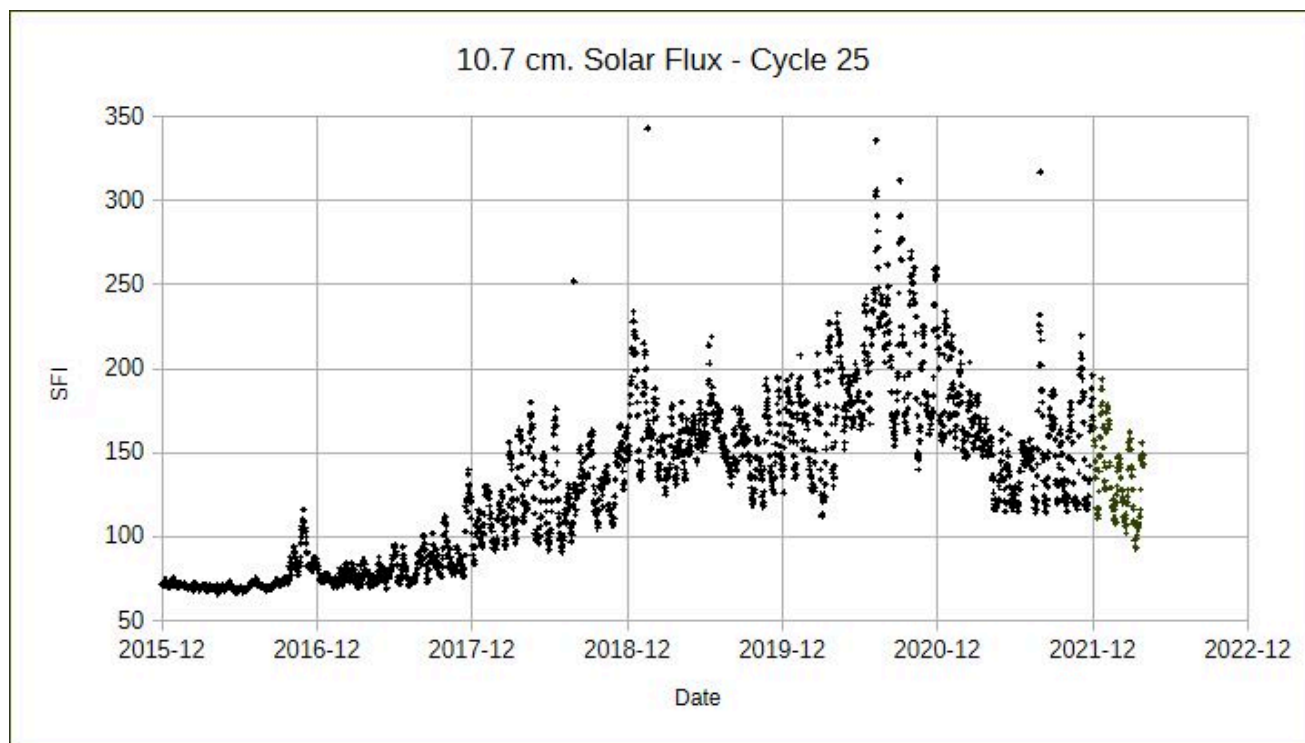
Here we are, roughly 6 weeks out from Field Day weekend and the HF bands all appear to have taken a turn for the worse. Even when the space weather indexes suggest propagation should be good, the bands are flat, even on FT8. Today, April 26, I was spending some time in mid-afternoon on FT8 between 30 and 15 metres and the only band that had any degree of fullness was 20 m.; maybe 17 as well, but wandering down to 30 and up to 15, let alone 12 and 10, was met by mostly silence. This was with the 10.7 cm. solar flux at 148 and geomagnetic field Kp at 1, which only a month ago would have correlated to wall-to-wall signals on any band from 20 to 10 metres.

So, what's going on? Hard to say, only that the solar flux index is definitely showing a declining trend, marking the approaching end of solar cycle 25. Following are the charts showing the SFI evolution from Cycle 23 up to April 30, 2026, and a chart of Cycle 25 alone.

Source data is courtesy of NOAA -

<https://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/stp/space-weather/swpc-products/annual-reports/daily-solar-indices-summaries/daily-solar-data/>





The deteriorating space weather conditions vis-a-vis ham radio propagation is one of the factors considered by OVMRC Exec group in deciding whether we should continue with a QRP operation for Field Day 2026, or go high power, the result of course being the decision to go QRO. If the space weather trend continues as the Cycle 25 chart would indicate, propagation might be expected to be about the same or a bit worse than what we had the last time we did Field Day as a QRO operation in 2019. If you look closely at the Cycle 25 chart, you can see there is something of a short term oscillating trend which I would attribute to the sun's 25 day rotation period. We can only hope that the sun's active region would favour us on the Field Day weekend.

73,  
Hugo - VE3KTN



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## Quick Tip - Portable vertical antenna radials: How many, how long?

Compact loaded multi-band vertical antennas such as the JPC-12 have become popular for POTA activating as they are easy to transport, quick to deploy and offer reasonable performance. A common question when using these antennas is, "How many ground radial wires do I actually need and how long do they need to be?"

The topic of ground radials has been well covered in a couple of excellent ARRL articles. The first is by John Stanley, K4ERO ("Optimum Ground Systems for Vertical Antennas", QST, Dec 1976, pp.13-15) and the second by Brian Edward, N2MF ("Radial Systems for Ground-Mounted Vertical Antennas", QST June, 1985).

Interpreting the research, here are some practical recommendations. Keep in mind that the goal for portable operating is not for optimal performance, but for a compromise between good enough performance and ease of antenna deployment :

- Ground radials should be at least  $1/8$  wavelength long on the lowest operating frequency of the antenna. For the JPC-12 and similar multi-band loaded verticals that translates to radials that are approximately sixteen feet long (i.e.  $1/8$  wavelength on 40m).

- Unless you plan to use much longer radials then efficiency improvements realized by adding on more radials diminishes at just above 20. So the answer to how many radials are actually needed is something between about four and twenty. Your mileage may vary depending on ground conductivity but most often I use five to ten radials that are sixteen feet long, with good results.

- Return ground currents are weak so radial wire diameter doesn't much matter in terms of efficiency. My suggestion is use the smallest practical stranded wire diameter (i.e., something around 22 to 26 AWG works great) to minimize weight and bulk.

- NEC antenna modelling shows that the shorter a loaded vertical is, as compared to a full quarter wavelength, the more the ground return currents are focused closer to the base of the antenna. What this means practically is that in this scenario you are always better off using more shorter radials than just a few longer ones.

**73, Michael VE3WMB**



# OVMRC Net Activity, Check-ins for April, 2026.

Prepared by: Hugo Kneve VE3KTN

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

April 2	April 9	April 16	April 23	April 30
VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS
<b>New &amp; Visitors</b>	<b>New &amp; Visitors</b>	<b>New &amp; Visitors</b>	<b>New &amp; Visitors</b>	
	Jim - VE3JJE		Philippe – VA3TWN Jason – VA5JEP	
<b>Check-ins</b>	<b>Check-ins</b>	<b>Check-ins</b>	<b>Check-ins</b>	
VE3KAE VE3JT VE3LC VE3KJQ VA3IAH VE3VIG VE3YPD VE3NA VE3GOI VE3CTF VE3RRB VE3ZZU VA3PSI VE3KNU VA2BBW VE3FSN VE3NPO VE3OKD VA3HNB	VE3FSN VA3ZZI VE3GIQ VE3LC VA3HBL VE3NA VE3CWM <sup>1</sup> VE3KAE VA3PSI VE3GOI VE3CTF VE3RRB VE3ZZU VE3QQQ VA3HNB VE3OTW VE2WDY VE3VIG	VA3ZZI VE3LC VA3IAH VE3KJQ VE3NPO VA2OJD VA3HNB VE3CWM <sup>1</sup> VE3JT VE3GOI VE3ZZU VE3CTF VE3NA VE3LAF VA3HBL VA3PSI VE3XIU VA3LMA VE3VIG	VE3JT VE3KJQ VE3LC VE3QQQ VA2BBW VE3CTF VE3CWM <sup>1</sup> VA3PSI VE3NA VA3CGF VE3GOI VE3JJE VE3FCQ VE3RRB VA3IAH VE3ZZU VE3LAF VA3HNB VE3OTW VA3CJO VE3VIG	VE3OTW VE3JT VE3GIQ VE3LC VE3KJQ VA2BBW VE3CWM <sup>1</sup> VE3LPH VE3KAE VA3PSI VE3GOI VE3CTF VA3HNB VE3NA VA3EGY VE3RRB VA3HBL VA3TWN 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.

<b>April 5</b> <b>SFI:128 A:3</b>	<b>April 12</b> <b>SFI:93 A:12</b>	<b>April 19</b> <b>SFI:105 A:23</b>	<b>April 26</b> <b>SFI:148 A:9</b>
VE3EJJ - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3BF - NCS	VE3EJJ - NCS
<b>New &amp; Visitors</b>	<b>New &amp; Visitors</b>	<b>New &amp; Visitors</b>	<b>New &amp; Visitors</b>
		Robert – VE3KS	
<b>Check-ins</b>	<b>Check-ins</b>	<b>Check-ins</b>	<b>Check-ins</b>
VA3PSI VE3OP VE3KTN VE3SYZ VE3BF	VE3LC VE3EJJ VE3SYZ VA3IAH	VE3RHQ <sup>1</sup> VE3OP VE3SYZ VE3EJJ	VE3RXN VA3IAH VA3PSI VA2TXZ 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.*

Notes:

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

1 - Mike, VE3FFK at the mic.



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

<b>April 5</b>	<b>April 12</b>	<b>April 19</b>	<b>April 26</b>
(No Net - Easter)	VE3LC - NCS	VA2BBW - NCS	VE3FFK - NCS
<b>New &amp; Visitors</b>	<b>New &amp; Visitors</b>	<b>New &amp; Visitors</b>	<b>New &amp; Visitors</b>
<b>Check-ins</b>	<b>Check-ins</b>	<b>Check-ins</b>	<b>Check-ins</b>
	VE3KTN VA2BBW VE3FFK VE3QO VA2OJD	VE3LC VA2OJD VE3MNO VE3FFK	VE3KTN VE3LC VA2BBW VA2OJD VE3QO



## General Links of Interest:

### ARDF Ottawa



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

### RCJ



Volunteer radio ops help  
scouts on the Rideau  
Challenge Journey

### New Hams Ottawa



Information for new hams with  
an Ottawa focus

### Editor's Note:

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73, Alan VA3IAH

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