RAMBLER

JUNE 2026

VOL. 68 ISSUE 10

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

WHAT'S INSIDE:

JUNE MEETING:

WEDNESDAY JUNE 17, 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

Ottawa Valley QRP Society meetings alternate each month between lunch and dinner at the Newport Restaurant. 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

The month of June brings the Club to the end of our year and an opportunity to look back and see what we got up to. The monthly meetings have hosted some interesting speakers with topics ranging from Packet Radio and APRS, to space weather and international operating. There were also a good selection of social events from Pete's cafe on Friday mornings to the Holiday Pot Luck Social held at the IBEW in December.

Members have been active in portable operations such as Parks on the Air and supporting public service events and last month saw the return of an in-vehicle and on-foot fox hunt which was very well attended.

Last Fall saw our Club meeting venue move from RAC HQ back to the IBEW's newly renovated facility where we have plenty of space to setup demonstrations such as the homebrew and testing night held in April. The Club radio nets on Thursday evenings and Sundays remain as popular as ever and a new net, the PACNET using Packet radio was born on Friday evenings, along with the renewal of The Wise Owl (TWO) round table on our Club 2m C4FM repeater, VE3TWO.

All in all it's been a busy year and after Field Day we will take the usual break from monthly meetings until September, although there are summer POTA activations in the schedule, so check out version 4 in this issue of the Rambler.

The Club Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Wednesday 17th June at the IBEW and online with Zoom. This is an important event in our calendar when the Directors and Committee Chairs report on relevant issues and of course we elect the new Directors to start in September. Since there were no other nominations to become Directors, I will be proposing that the existing Directors be approved to continue in their roles for another year. These are:

1. Director and President: Rob Haddow (VE3JT)
2. Director and Vice President: Russ Pastuch (VE3FSN)
3. Director and Treasurer: Nicole Boivin (VE3GIQ)
4. Director and Secretary: Donald Seaman (VA3ZZI)
5. Director at Large: Patrick Brewer (VE3KJQ)

Also at the AGM, we will discuss and vote on an increase to the Club membership fee for those that are not members of RAC. The reason for this fee increase is that the Club is losing a couple of dollars per non-RAC member, since RAC charges us $13 per non-RAC member and for the last many years we have passed on only $10 of that in OVMRC membership fees. The charge by RAC provides the Club with $2M of liability insurance that we need to hold our events in public locations such as IBEW, POTA parks and Field Day.

The motion to increase the membership fee for non-RAC members by $5 per year will balance up that undercharge. A full explanation and discussion will be held at the AGM.

Of course we will all be excited to see what Barry (VE3NA) has found for the year-end prizes! I understand there are 8 to give away and you will get a final entry 'ticket' if you attend the AGM, so you'd better be there! Bring along your treasures from the Kemptville Hamfest and show us the bargains that you found.

The Club has received a generous donation of some great radio equipment from former OVMRC member, Chris Mallam (VA3CME) including:

- Icom 7300
- Samlex 30A power supply
- LDG IT-100 Automatic Antenna Tuner
- LNR Precision End Fed antenna
- Plus ancillary cables and feedline.

Photo: Chris (VA3CME)

We are very grateful to Chris for his donation and will be putting this equipment to good use during Field Day!

And finally, here's another plug to come out to Field Day at the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum. Field Day is the premier event in our calendar and an opportunity to see how we operate from a field setup and of course to get on the air. Details in the Schedule of Activities later in this issue. I hope to see you there.

73
Rob
VE3JT

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AMATEUR RADIO
FD 26
A NATIONAL RESOURCE

ARRL Field Day is the most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June, more than 31,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations.

http://www.arrl.org/field-day

OVMRC JUNE MEETING:

Hello to the Membership and Guests of the OVMRC.

The details for the June 2026 meeting of the OVMRC are:

Time and Date: Wednesday 17th June 2026, doors open at 6:45 PM Eastern Time. The meeting will be called to order at 7:15 PM.

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, but are unable to take part in any vote. 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 May meeting minutes as published in the June Rambler.**
3. **Proposal to amend membership fees.**
4. **Directors and Chairpersons reports.**
5. **Election of Board of Executives.**
6. **News and Happenings and Club Coming Events Schedule.**
7. **Year end prize draw.**
8. **Field Day final preparations.**
9. **Any other business as may arise.**
10. **Meeting adjournment.**

Monthly Minutes - May 20, 2026

LOCATION: IBEW Local 586, 1178 Rainbow Street, Ottawa

PRESENT: 34 participants (24 on location and 10 online)

CALL TO ORDER: 19:15

1) GREETINGS: GUESTS AND NEW MEMBERS

Guests.--none

New Members.--none

2) PRESENTATION ON "INTERNATIONAL OPERATING" BY DAVE GOODWIN VE3KG, RAC'S REGULATORY AFFAIRS OFFICER.

- Dave became a ham at age 15 in 1975, and authored the "Hamstudy Basic 2026" book and will be working on the new "Hamstudy Advanced" book once the new Advanced exam has been published.
- Canada has numerous reciprocal agreements with other countries for traveling hams. We can operate anywhere in Canada, the high seas, international air space and three DXCC entities owned by Canada. International regulations say we can talk to hams in other countries, and operate while in some countries. Each country has different rules. The US and Canada signed an agreement in 1952 that allows Canadian citizens to operate in the US while visiting there. And we can do in the US what our licenses permit us to do in Canada "where privileges intersect". We are to identify ourselves using "call sign/US zone" while there (most other countries require we say "zone/call sign") and we must have a copy of our certificate. No extra permits are needed. The US has seventeen DXCC entities. A map of US zones may be needed for extensive travels where the zone may change often.
- The CEPT Radio Amateur License is needed to be obtained to operate in 48 countries. This was set up in 1985 by the CEPT or European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations. Canadians must hold an advanced certificate to qualify. The RAC will supply this license for a fee. Identification is "CEPT country prefix/ Canadian call sign". Hams need to carry the CEPT license and Canadian certificate with them when travelling. The CEPT license also covers 90 DXCC entities.
- Canada does not participate in HAREC or Harmonized Amateur Radio Examination Certificate, nor in the CEPT Novice License.
- IARP or International Amateur Radio Permit is used in western hemisphere countries of Canada, US, Argentina, Brazil, El Salvidor, Panama, Peru, Trinidad & Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela. Apart from Brazil, each country requires Morse qualifications to operate all bands.

- Canada also has agreements with 19 other countries that we need to apply for permission to operate. ISED or Innovation Science and Economic Development can also get authorizations to a number of other countries like India and Malaysia. Australia and New Zealand allow foreign hams ninety days to visit with no paperwork.
- Canadian hams can operate from 161 of the 340 existing DXCC entities.
- Problem countries include China, Thailand, Mexico and others. Costa Rica requires a permit, and it may not be easy to obtain.
- Dave concluded his presentation with a message: Ham radio has use of 9 per cent of all radio spectrum. Many other groups would like to take away what we have. Please help keep our 9 per cent by becoming a member of RAC and donate to DARF or Defence of Amateur Radio Fund. The next World Radio Communications Conference or WRC-27 is in Shanghai next year. It will be expensive for our people to be there to ensure the continuation of amateur radio. Paul Coverdale VE3ICV is a Canadian delegate to WRC-27 and the WRC planning committees, and he will be paying for most of his own expenses while there.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL MEETING.

- moved by Nicole VE3GIQ and seconded by Tim VE3TXB, and approved unanimously.

4. CLUB NEWS.

- The schedule of events as laid out on page 10 of the May 2026 Rambler was reviewed.
- Paul Burggraaf VE3PRB noted that AUX-COMM will be holding exercises on July 4. The repeater at Camp Fortune will be used for most communications.

5. OTHER BUSINESS.

- There will be a ZOOM meeting on May 27 for a Field Day briefing.
- we have acquired the use of a pair of trailers of about twenty four feet length for use at Field Day. Should provide good comfort for operations.

6. MOVE TO ADJOURN.

- **Moved:** Fred VE3LAF. **Adjourned:** 20:29.

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

https://ve3ngr.ca/HamFest2026.php

Charles VA3CGF, Champ VE3QQQ, Marcel's XYL, Fred VE3LAF

Tim VE3TXB

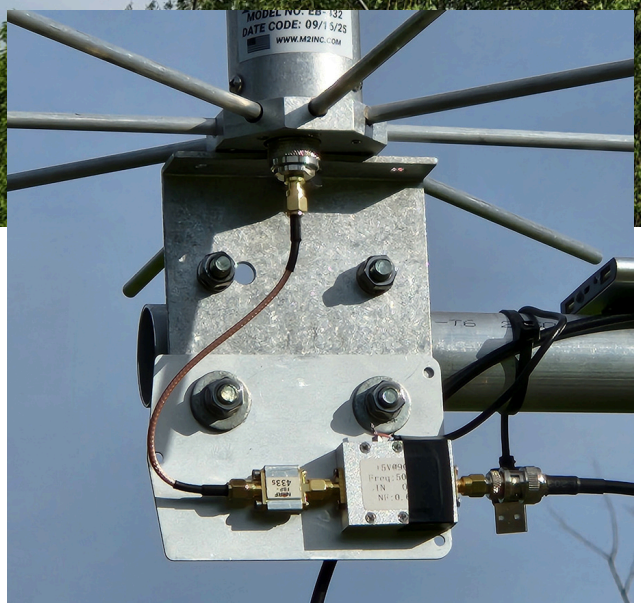
Champ VE3QQQ, Marcel VE3MNO & XYL, Charles VA3CGF, Ross VE3HYK

Ron VA2BRR with his door prize

Field Day “Eggbeater” Antenna

Thanks to Hugo VE3KTN for sharing these photos and his detailed preamp description description included below. Come out to the OVMRC Field Day and check out Hugo’s “eggbeater” antenna set up he hopes to deploy.

For those who would like to read a little more, check out the AMSAT resource “Getting Started on the Amateur Radio Satellites” - **https://www.amsat.org/wordpress/xtra/Getting%20Started%203.pdf**



The closeup shows the 70 cm. low noise preamp I assembled in an attempt to improve the RX signal to noise and it does seem to give an extra 10 dB. or so better than connecting a cable directly to the antenna. It's powered from 5V coming from a 4 Ah cell phone power pack stuck to the cross boom with velcro. The power pack has solar cells to help maintain the charge which is ok but I've found that with the amplifier drawing 90 mA. the power pack will last for more than 48 hours without any charging. Plenty good enough for Field Day. 73, Hugo, VE3KTN

Foxhunt and POTA Activation – Saturday 23rd May 2026

On Saturday 23rd May the Club held a POTA activation with a twist! The twist was that the park could only be found by using radio direction finding techniques to track beacons on the 2m band, and find their source. Here's the story of how the day unfolded.

First to locate the park was Dave (VA3OOC) and his son Jason who found us at Hog's Back Park, CA-1596. Congratulations to Dave and Jason. Dave was using his Arrow handheld Yagi antenna to help with identifying the direction to the beacon, and he removed some elements to reduce the gain as he closed in, since the high power beacon was strong even at a few kilometres away.

Photo 1: Roger (VA3EGY) (left) the co-organiser congratulates Dave (VA3OOC) (right) and son Jason (centre) on being the first to find the fox and the Park.

Roger (VA3EGY) and Rob (VE3JT) had set up a high power beacon running 10 W using a J-pole antenna atop Roger's 30 foot mast and a low power beacon at 2 m above ground level with just 15 mW and its short antenna that could be used to find the chosen park.

Why two beacons at significantly different power levels? Although at first the hardest task for our hunters might seem to be hearing the beacon from their start location, in fact almost the opposite is true. Our radio receivers are so sensitive that even low power signals can be heard far away but as you get closer, the receiver maxes out, unable to discern whether the beacon signal is getting stronger or weaker, and thus they are no longer able to give you a direction to the source. Step in the low power beacon. The low power beacon running at just 15 mW on a separate 2 m band frequency allowed the hunters to discern if the signal was getting stronger or weaker as they searched the area, and thus close in and locate the park.

13 hunters successfully located the beacons at Hog's Back Park. But how was the park selected and how were the operating conditions defined?

Photo 2: Rick (VE3RVV), Oxana (VE3OVV) and Rebecca (VE3RGY) were second to arrive at the park

Where to put the beacons?

First up was to make an initial choice of park and then to model the VHF propagation to ensure that the hunters would have roughly equal opportunity to hear the fox from their start locations across the city, no matter the direction that they approached from. A quick review of the POTA website mapping tool identified the many POTA parks across the National Capital Region.

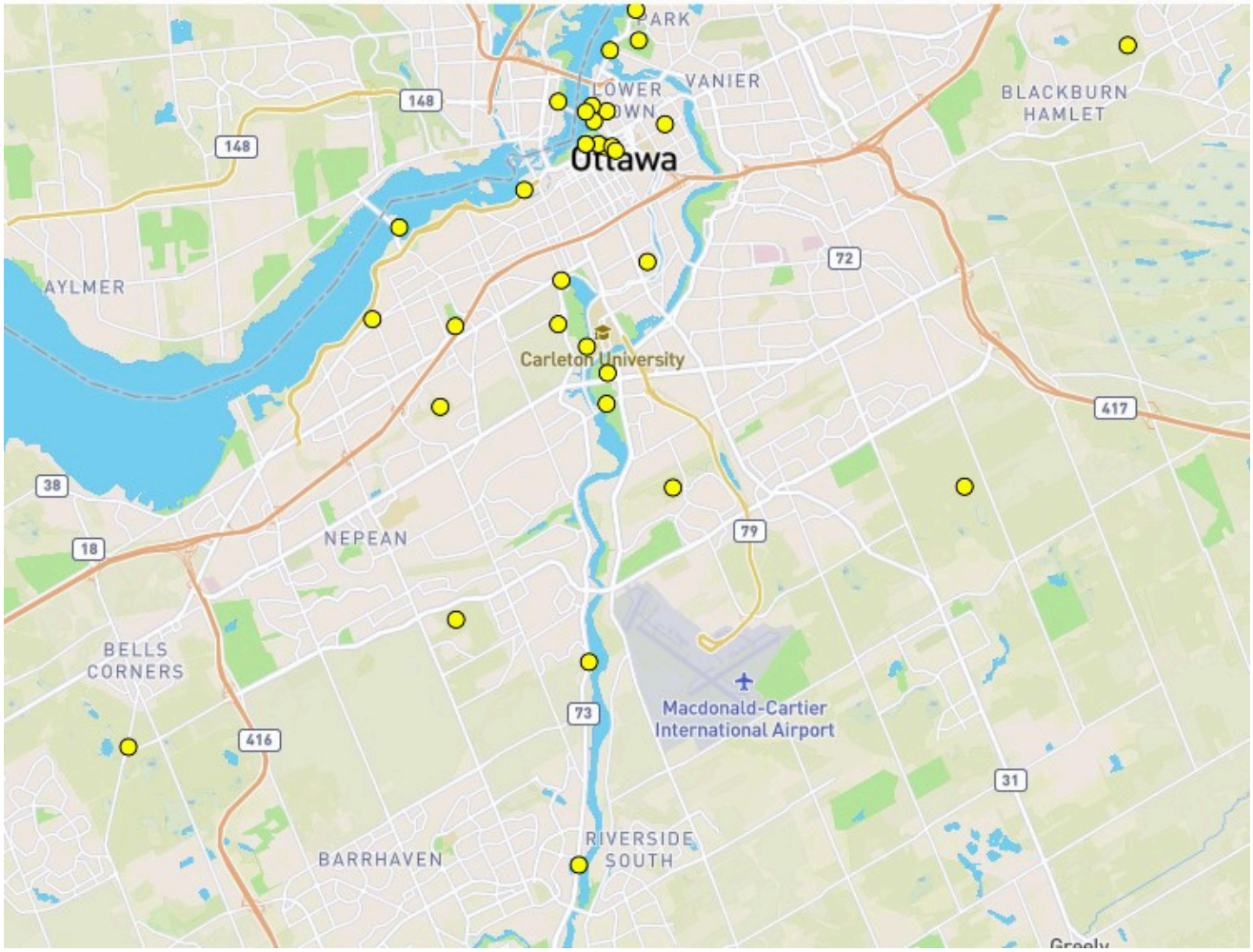


Photo 3: Map of POTA parks (yellow dots) in the Ottawa/Gatineau area.

Hog's Back Park was selected initially given its roughly central location and good elevation, plus suitable parking, access to washrooms and plenty of space to setup POTA stations. VHF propagation modelling using the Radio Mobile website was then used to confirm that the high power beacon was likely to be heard across the area, with a modest setup.

Photo 4: Bill (VA3WBR) was third to locate the park.

Two beacon types were available from equipment built by Roger (VA3EGY) and the OVMRC: a 'Big Fox' consisting of a Yaesu FT-70 HT with a Picon controller built into an Ammo Can with LiFePO battery, and the Byonics MicroFox 15 with just 15 mW TX power running from a 9 volt battery.

Photo 5: Big Fox and it's ammo can storage container.

Historical experience of using Big Fox at full 5 W TX power suggests overheating may be likely, so it was decided to run the HT at just 1 W. Local testing at Rob's home QTH in Kemptville suggested that 1 W would not be enough for wide area coverage, so an ingenious system was developed to boost the power to 10 Watts. The Yaesu FT-70 would be set to a simplex frequency on the 70cm band and minimum TX power, then Rob's Kenwood TM-D710GA installed in his vehicle would be used to cross-band repeat the HT signal to the 2 m band at 10 Watts.

Photo 6: MicroFox 15 in a clear plastic tube used as one of the on-foot foxes, with orienteering flag and Q Code label to prove you found the fox.

Photo 7: Kenwood D-710GA doing great work getting the beacon out on 147.435 at 10 W, with the picon controller and HT setting up the modulated tones and CW identifier.

Radio Mobile (https://www.ve2dbe.com/rmonline_s.asp) is a free online propagation modelling tool from Roger Coude (VE2DBE), that was used to model the likely propagation of the beacons. Propagation modelling was done using conservative values for the calculations to discover what coverage would be like:

High Power Beacon Modelling - Big Fox:
Antenna height above ground: 6 m
Antenna gain: 3 dBi
TX power: 10 W
TX line loss: 3 dB
Required reliability: 70%
RX antenna height: 2 m
Mobile antenna gain: 0 dB

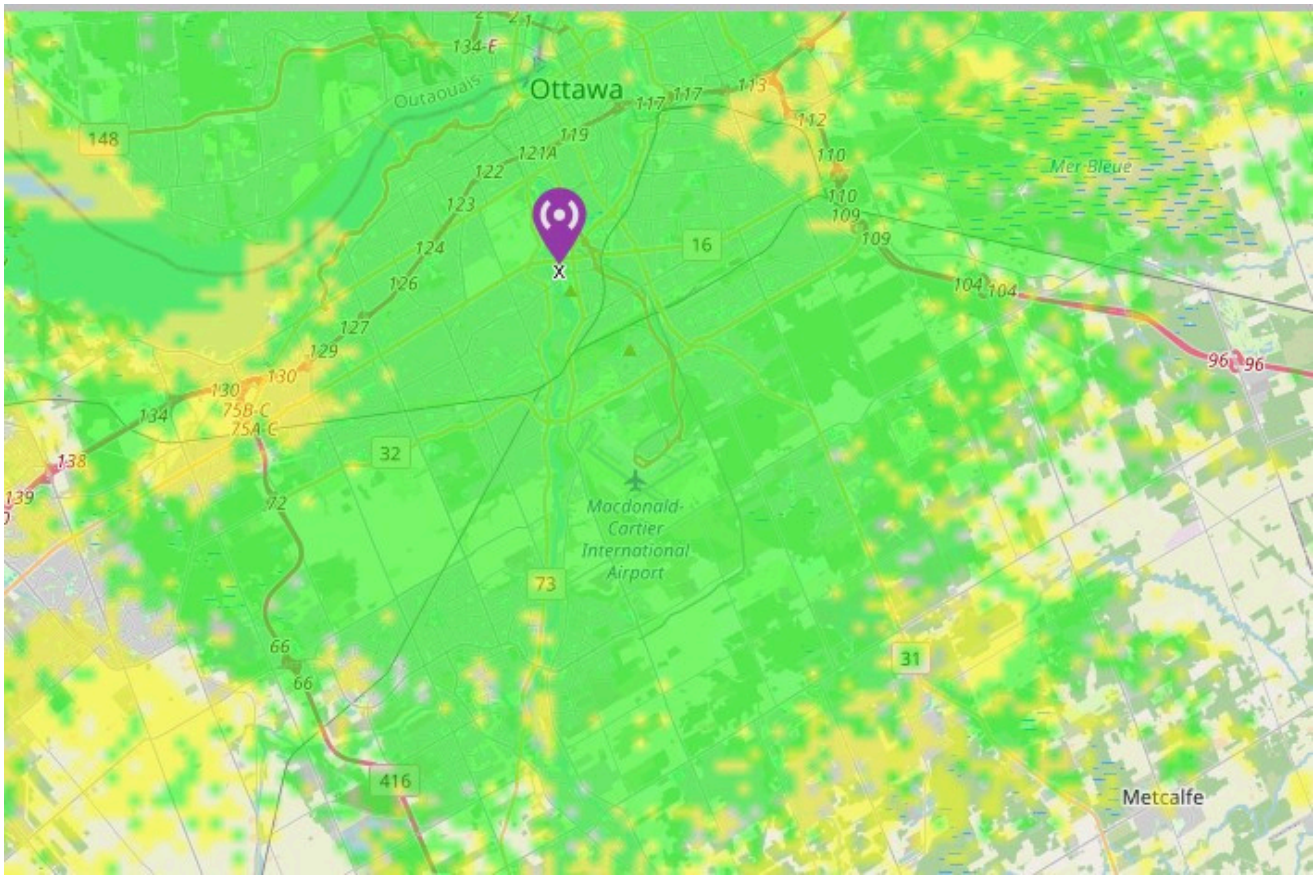


Photo 8: Map showing results of the modelling of VHF propagation of the high power beacon.

The results showed that reception of the high power beacon should be solid across a wide area of the city (green coloured area) with a couple of zones 'in the yellow' where the signal might be spotty, around the intersection of Highways 416 and 417 and again at the Highway 417/174 split, and so a boundary map was drawn up so that hunters would have a guide to the area of coverage.

The boundary map used Greenbank Road as the west boundary to avoid the poor reception area around the north end of Highway 416 and extended across the Ottawa River to the north, so as not to give away too many clues on the location of the park.

Ultimately an extra 10 feet of antenna elevation was achieved by using Roger's taller mast that would have improved the signal at the boundary edges and led to reports of hearing the beacon from Kanata to Limoges.

Photo 9: Boundary map (red line).

Low Power Beacon Modelling - Byonics MicroFox 15:

Antenna height above ground: 2 m
Antenna gain: 0 dBi
TX power: 0.015 W
TX line loss: 0 dB
Required reliability: 70%
RX antenna height: 2 m
Mobile antenna gain: 0 dB

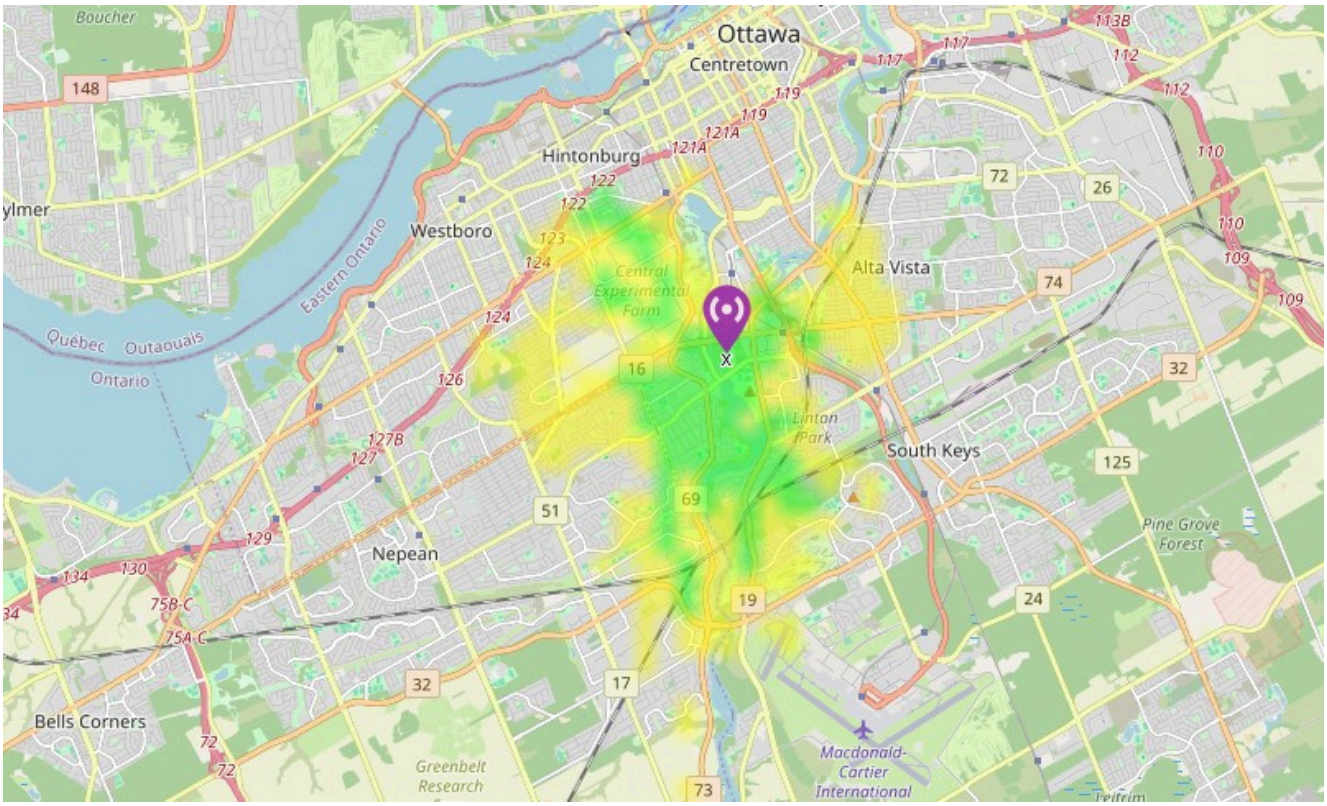


Photo 10: Modelling of VHF propagation of the low power MicroFox 15 beacon.

The modelling results for the MicroFox showed that it would reach out about 1 km, which is far enough to assist hunters when the high power beacon is too strong to discern direction.

So, what were the results and the tips and tricks of the hunters?

Who found the fox?

The first three successful trackers arrived only a few minutes apart and 13 people successfully found it:

1. Dave Hall (VA3OOC) and son Jason at 9:44 am
2. Rick (VE3RVV), Oxana (VE3OVV) and Rebecca (VE3RGY) at 10:11 am
3. Bill (VA3WBR) at 10:13 am
4. Hugo (VE3KTN)
5. Norm (VE3LC)
6. Brenda (VA3HNB) and John
7. Fern (VA3LMA)
8. Donald (VA3ZZI)
9. Jeffrey (VA3PEW)

Total: 13 people

Photo 11: Great discussions on fox hunting techniques

Close but not quite (those that searched for the beacon location but didn't find it):

Natalie (VE3IBX) and Maurice (VA3TNO).

Photo 12: Secret foxcam image that may or may not represent Natalie (VE3IBX) and Maurice (VA3TNO) searching for the beacons!

Non-fox hunters that visited and/or activated the POTA park:

- Charlie (VA3CGF)
- Guy (VE3GOI)
- Ante (VA2BBW) and family

Photo 13: Charlie (VA3CGF) setup to activate the park.

Listeners - The following stations reported hearing the beacon:

- Chris (VA3CJO)
- Roger (VE3NPO)

VE3OCE Monitor:

- Fred (VE3LAF)

Photo 14: Fred (VE3LAF) monitoring VE3OCE to assist those hunting the fox, like Brenda (VE3HNB) and John.

Photo 15: Direction sensing loop antenna built by Hugo (VE3KTN) based on YouTube video https://youtu.be/R4CXJ68sbUQ

On-foot Fox Hunt:

A couple of additional low power beacons were set out in the park area, ready to be found on foot.

Photo 16: Donald (VA3ZZI) direction finding on the foot fox hunt.

POTA Activation:

Photo 17: Rick (VE3RVV) setup for his POTA activation, but trouble was afoot ... ask him!

Photo 18: Brenda (VA3HNB) and Norm (VE3LC) discuss Field Day while Norm makes FT-8 contacts to activate the park.

Next Event:

Well this one certainly seemed to generate a lot of interest, so I'll have a look at the schedule and see if there is room for one in the Fall. If any of you are interested in setting one up, let me know!

Thanks to all that helped out and to those that searched for the beacons. I hope you had fun!

Rob
VE3JT

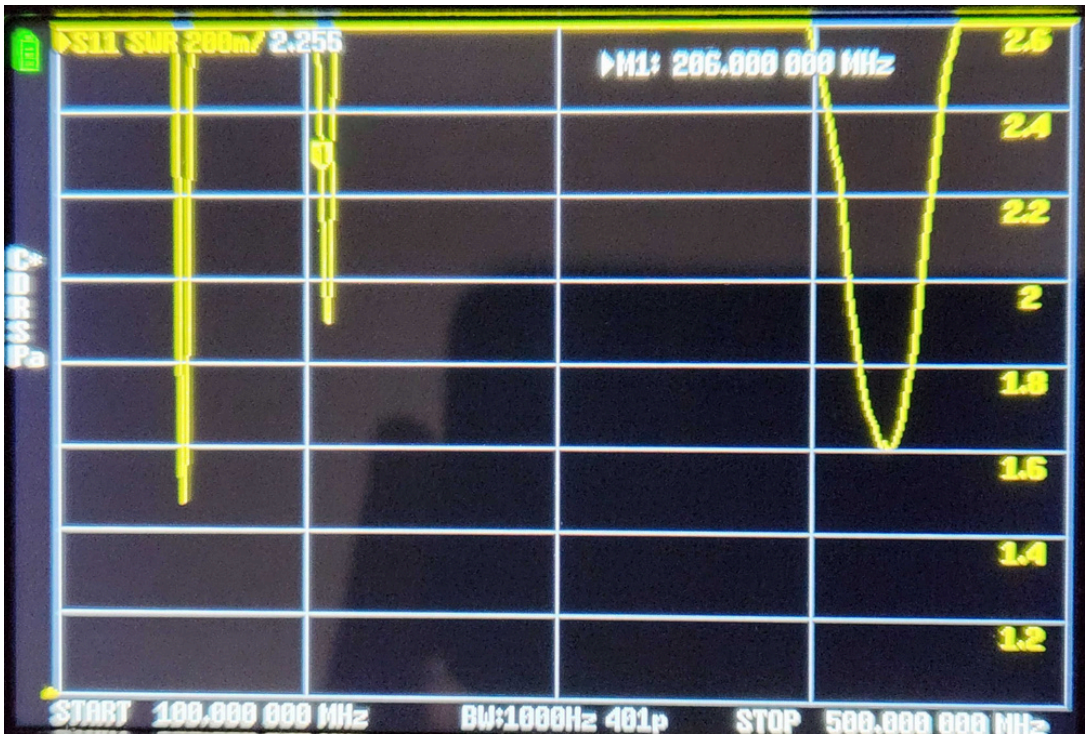
How Good Is That Rubber Duck?

The 2026 Kemptville hamfest was another great show put on by the Kemptville Amateur Radio Group and caused me to exchange several dollars for items that have been on my list for a long time. Among the purchases was a QYT KT-8R handheld, new in the box, for a VERY low price. I wasn't looking for a high performance HT, simply a unit that would be handy for local comm on '52 and serving as a compact beacon receiver for foxhunts put on by the Ottawa clubs. Nevertheless, I was interested in finding out just how well it might perform and the first thing was: How good is that rubber duck antenna?

Just about any ham operator with HT experience will look askance at a rubber duck antenna, considering it to be only just better than a dummy load, or worse – a short circuit, so I decided to put mine to the test. The problem with testing rubber duck antennas is that they operate together with the radio and to a certain extent the operator's body as well, acting together as a counterpoise; so how does one test it fairly? It occurred to me that an ordinary soup tin is about the same size as this HT, so with the aid of a drill and an RG-316 cable assembly terminated in an SMA-F bulkhead (which is part of my nanoVNA kit), a soup tin was quickly converted into a substitute for the HT.

I even went so far as to offset the position of the bulkhead on the can so as to duplicate the mounting on the radio.

So how does it behave for match on the 2 m., 1.25 m. and 70 cm. bands? The specs on the radio claim it to be “quad band”, those bands being the aforementioned and a band spanning 350-390 MHz. which we in Canada don’t care about. Following are the nanoVNA return loss and summary VSWR plots covering 100 – 500 MHz.



There are distinct nulls showing a fair match to 50 ohms at 147, 225 and 430 MHz., give or take which came as a pleasant surprise. The position of the nulls did shift around when nearing the setup with a hand and also touching it so, just where a match may occur is still anybody's guess depending on how the HT is held and proximity to the user's body. You can see on the three return loss plots that the marker is always

slightly below the null point which is because the nulls shifted from where they were when I was touching the nanoVNA. The match isn't particularly good, also being dependent on user proximity to the setup, but I'd give it 10 dB. (2:1 VSWR) or better under most conditions. While manipulating the setup I could see the nulls drop down to the 20 dB. range, so body contact is a very sensitive factor in the net impedance of the antenna.

That's about all I can say for this antenna. It does seem to be a keeper for this radio, hopefully your HT's would be as good.

73,
Hugo, VE3KTN

Quick Tip - JPC-12 Vertical alternative mounting options

The Chinese-made JPC-12 multi-band portable vertical antenna has developed a loyal following in spite of the somewhat odd M10-1.5 metric threading that it uses. The supplied ground spike generally works pretty well, but what if the ground is either too hard or too soft?

Fortunately M10 (10mm) is very close in size to the more commonly used 3/8 inch mobile antenna mounts (3/8 inch = 9.525 mm). What this means is that any CB/Ham antenna mount can take a M-10 bolt in place of a 3/8 inch stud mount. Stainless steel M10-1.5 bolts and nuts are readily available on Amazon in small quantities. I recommend a 30mm bolt length as it will fit through a mobile mount, plus a nut and still have enough length to thread into the base of the JPC-12 for a secure mount.

The most versatile mount is the JAWS-style clamp. I have seen these clamped to sign posts, vehicle tow hooks etc. These are available for about $40 CAD if you order from the US Amazon site. Search on "Workman QRCS3". They are exactly the same quality and finish as much more expensive Chameleon ones that sell for $100 or more.
I have also repurposed a heavy-duty plastic beach umbrella auger-mount by drilling a hole through it and adding an M10 bolt for mounting my JPC-12 in the sand.

I hope that this gives you some ideas for alternative mounting arrangements for your JPC-12. It is also worth noting that other Chinese-made verticals, such as the 17 foot whip antenna that comes with the red base, also use M10-1.5 threading so the above mounting ideas apply equally to that as well.

Cheers, Michael VE3WMB

OVMRC Net Activity, Check-ins for May, 2026.

Prepared by: Hugo Kneve VE3KTN

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

May 7	May 14	May 21	May 28
VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS
New & Visitors	**New & Visitors**	**New & Visitors**	**New & Visitors**
Jo-Anne – VA3JLZ Bruno – VE2BMQ			
Check-ins	**Check-ins**	**Check-ins**	**Check-ins**
VE3JT VA3ZZI VE3LC VE3KJQ VE3CTF VE3QQQ VA3HBL VE3NA VA3PSI VE3GOI VE3KAE VA3WRZ VE3OTW VE3VIG VE3LAF VE3RRB	VE3OTW VA3VGR VE3QQQ VE3FSN VE3KJQ VA3ZZI VE3LC VA3HBL VE3NA VE3GOI VE3RRB VA3HNB VE3NPO VE3NPP	VA3IAH VE3LC VE3NPP VE3QQQ VE3GOI VA3CJO VE3CTF VE3JT VE3NA VE3KJQ VA3HNB VA3PSI VA2TXZ VE3OTW VA3EO VE3VIG VE3LAF VE3RVV	VE3OTW VA3DFX VE3LC VE3JT VA3ZZI VE3GIQ VE3CWM[1] VA3PSI VE3KAE VE3NA VE3GOI VA3HNB VE3CTF VA3TWN VE3QQQ 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.

May 3 SFI:159 A:7	May 10 SFI:122 A:5	May 17 SFI:109 A:34	May 24 SFI:137 A:3	May 31 SFI:142 A:18
VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3EJJ - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS
New & Visitors	**New & Visitors**	**New & Visitors**	**New & Visitors**	**New & Visitors**
Check-ins	**Check-ins**	**Check-ins**	**Check-ins**	**Check-ins**
VE3EJJ VE3OP VA2TXZ	VE3SYZ	VA2TXZ VE3OP VE3EJJ	VE3OP VA2IAH VA2TXZ VE3SYZ VE3KTN	VA2TXZ VA3IAH VE3OP 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.

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

May 3	May 10	May 17	May 24	May 31
VE3KTN - NCS	(No Net – Mother's Day)	VE3LC - NCS	VA2BBW - NCS	VE3FFK - NCS
New & Visitors	**New & Visitors**	**New & Visitors**	**New & Visitors**	**New & Visitors**
Check-ins	**Check-ins**	**Check-ins**	**Check-ins**	**Check-ins**
VE3LC VA2BBW VE3FFK VE3QO		VE3KTN VE3QO VE3MNO	VE3KTN VE3LC VE3MNO VE3QO	VE3KTN VE3LC VA2BBW

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