

RAMBLER

SEPTEMBER 2026



VOL. 69 ISSUE 1

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

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- 2 OVMRC EXECUTIVE
- 3 NETS AND GATHERINGS
- 4 PRESIDENT'S RAMBLINGS
- 6 SEPT MEETING AGENDA
- 7 JUNE MINUTES
- 10 QSO ONE
- 12 OVMRC FD 2026
- 13 CLUB LOGO GOES MOBILE
- 14 QUICK TIP - HEADPHONES
- 15 OVMRC NET ACTIVITY
- 18 LINKS & EDITOR'S NOTE

SEPTEMBER MEETING:

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 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 2026-2027

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

OVMRC Groups.io
Ongoing discussion
Group at: [https://](https://ovmrc.groups.io/g/main)
[ovmrc.groups.io/g/](https://ovmrc.groups.io/g/main)
[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)- EASTERN TIME ZONE

- **Rubber Boot Net:** VE3OCE 146.880 MHz -, 136.5 Hz tone, FM, **weekday mornings at 7:30 AM**
- **Champlain STP Net:** VE3STP 147.060 MHz +, 114.8 Hz tone, FM, 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**
- **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**
- **Kemptville Amateur Radio Group (KARG) Net:** VE3NGR 145.250 MHz -, 110.9 Hz tone, **7:30 PM**
- **New Hams Ottawa Net:** VE2CRA 146.940 MHz -, 100 Hz tone, **8:00 PM**
- **Almonte ARC's Weekly Digital Voice (DSTAR) Net,** Multi-Mode Reflector XRF197B at **8:40 pm**
- **Upper Frequency Round Table:** 144.250 MHz, USB, **9:00PM**

THURSDAY

- **OVMRC 2-Metre Net:** VE3OCE 146.880 MHz -, 136.5 Hz tone, **8:00 PM**

FRIDAY

- **Friday night C4FM Roundtable:** VE3TWO, 147.300, C4FM, **7:30PM**
- **PACNET:** VE3OCE Packet 145.030 **7:30 PM**

SUNDAY

- **Sunday Morning Social:** Multi-Mode Reflector XRF197B, **10:00 AM**
- **Pot Hole SSB Net:** 3760 kHz, USB, **10:00 AM**
- **Pot Lid Slow Speed CW Net:** 50.090 MHz, horizontal polarization, **7:30 PM**

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
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President's Ramblings - Rob VE3JT

Welcome back to the new season of OVMRC! I hope you all had a good summer and enjoyed some prime radio time. Don't forget to pen a short report on what you got up to for future editions of the Rambler!

Our new season kicks off with the restart of the Club 2m, 6m and 80m nets and our first Club meeting will be at IBEW Local 586 on Wednesday 16th September at the usual time, see the meeting invite later in this edition. The first order of business at the meeting will be to draw the year end prizes, that were delayed from the June meeting, so make sure to be there and see who wins big ... it could be you! (Note that you do not need to be present, or on Zoom, to win your prize).

Since it's the start of our new season, that also means that membership fees are due, so add that to your 'To Do' list and as a reminder, Club fees for non RAC members were increased this season to cover the extra charge levied by RAC.



Photo: Guy in his trailer (Photo credit to Dave (VE3ZZU))



Field Day already seems a long time ago, but it was great to see so many Club members coming out. This time we had the benefit of a great new support and operating trailer brought by Guy, as well as his shelter that was built outside of his trailer that housed the GOTA and 6m stations. We plan to make even better use of his trailer next year to bring all of the operating stations together, that will allow easier switching of operators and sharing of the bands.

I am excited to announce that the Club has been offered the potential for a repeater site at Algonquin College. Many years ago there was a ham club at the college and there remains some equipment on one of the building roofs. Norm (VE3LC) had a provisional meeting on site with Rod (VE3RXN) to investigate the options and we hope that the repeater site will move forward. More to follow on that.

September and October are busy months for radio:

- Saturday 12th September - OARC Carp Hamfest
- Saturday 19th September - OARC's Radio in the Park; OVMRC POTA activation at Mer Bleu Bog (CA-1515) and the Ottawa Valley QRP Group Chillicon at Rideau River Provincial Park.
- Saturday 3rd October - Eastern Ontario Hamfest in St Albert followed by an OVMRC POTA Activation at High Falls Conservation Area (CA-6209) in Casselman

I look forward to seeing you all at the Club meeting on 16th September or at some of these events.

Rob
VE3JT



OVMRC SEPTEMBER MEETING:

Hello to the Membership and Guests of the OVMRC.

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

Date and Time: Wednesday 16th September 2026, doors open at 6:45 PM Eastern Time. The meeting will be called to order at 7:15 PM by Rob (VE3JT).

Location: IBEW Local 586, 1178 Rainbow St, Gloucester, Ottawa, ON.

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 June meeting minutes as published in the September Rambler.
3. Year end prize draw (delayed from the June meeting).
4. Field Day report.
5. MS Bike event report
6. Any other business as may arise.
7. Meeting adjournment.



Monthly Minutes - June 17, 2026

LOCATION: IBEW Local 586, 1178 Rainbow Street, Ottawa

PRESENT: 36 participants (25 in room and 11 online)

CALL TO ORDER: 19:16

1. GREETINGS: GUESTS AND NEW MEMBERS

Guests.--Al VA3VV online New Members.--none

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY MEETING. Moved: Richard VA3HBL
Seconded: Ron Smith VA3LM **Carried.**

3. Proposal To Amend Membership Fees. Rob VE3JT presented remotely from Nova Scotia. The RAC charges \$13 for non-RAC members for insurance. Non-RAC members have been paying \$10 over regular membership to date. The proposal is to increase the dues paid by non-RAC members by \$5 per person to \$15 over standard club membership. This will fully cover the cost of the insurance. Full members that are also RAC members pay \$25 per year dues. Full members that are not RAC members will pay \$40 per year dues. The proposal was moved by Tim VE3TXB and seconded by Colin VA3CSG. The vote was 100% of those present in favour and 5 votes in favour online. The motion was approved and will take effect in September.

4. Directors and Chairpersons Reports. Rob VE3JT presented the President's report. The Club's monthly meetings started in September with introducing the new executive, discussing the summer's POTA and picnics, and the opening of the new RAC HQ station. October's meeting was the last one in the RAC HQ, and presented packet radio and a summary of RAC-AUXCOM training. November was the first meeting in the newly renovated IBEW, and had a demo of packet radio and a report on the MSBike event of the summer. December was the Christmas pot luck dinner social. January was a presentation on APRS and was the beginning of the Saturday CW training sessions. February was the presentation on Super Computing. March covered Space Weather by Dr Fiori. April was home brew and radio testing. The month also saw World Amateur Radio Day and our first POTA of the season. The May meeting covered operating internationally. We also did a fox hunt with POTA and had an online meeting to plan Field Day. Finally June was the AGM and we have the Field Day next weekend.



-Norm VE3LC presented on examinations in the past year. Oxana VE3OVV passed the exam in June. Luc VA3WRZ passed basic with honors in December. Brenda VA3HNB passed the Morse Code exam. In February Rebecca VE3RGY passed the basic exam and Stephan VA3SJL passed the advanced exam. Norm also discussed the repeaters he is involved with. VE3TWO needs a new site and Rod VE3RXN may be able to host it at Algonquin College. Networking of the repeater will probably be provided once it gets moved there. VE2CRA of the OARC may be upgraded to DSTAR. There is another meeting OARC will hold to discuss upgrades to the analogue repeater.

-Hugo VE3KTN presented his report on nets. He thanked all participants on the nets and commented that our Thursday evening net is the most dynamic in town with around 20 check-ins each night. The Pot Hole net is declining due to the poor conditions on the 80 meter band. This may require changing the time or frequency if conditions persist. The last 2 meter net for the season will be on the 25th, and the last Pot Hole net will be on the 21st. The Pot Lid net had stable attendance over the year and ended last Sunday for the season. All nets will restart after Labor Day. The Thursday evening after Field Day may be a debriefing net for the Field Day event.

-Nicole VE3GIQ presented the budget spreadsheet. We have \$4115 in cash and a GIC of about \$15000 that matures in January. Memberships for the year brought in \$3125 and \$411 was spent on bulk purchases. Other expenses were reviewed and explained. The Club sent out some donations including \$142.60 for AMSAT. The budget had \$210 for food but that will be exceeded somewhat. The 8 door prizes for this evening's draw was almost exactly what was budgeted. Memberships currently stand at 142 members. Nicole also talked about the MSBike event in August. The event still needs more volunteers. They have lost use of the primary repeater VE3SVC and I-GATE but gained use of repeater VE3GIE in Moose Creek. More testing of the radio comms needs to be done to ensure things will work for the event. APRS will be by radio and phone along the route. Support vehicles will be equipped with trackers that may use a software backdoor originally meant for other purposes. Nicole will present the event outcome and what software was used in a meeting in the fall. A second meeting will cover HAAT (height above average terrain) and repeater coverage maps.

5. Election Of Board Of Executives. Rob presented a motion to keep the existing board of executives as is unchanged.

- Motion moved by Douglas VA3GY
- Motion seconded by Ron VA3LM
- Vote was 100% in the room and 8 votes in favour online



6. **News, Happenings And Coming Events.** Field Day set up will be from 3PM to 5PM on Friday June 26th on site at the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum. Setting up will resume on Saturday at 10AM with Field Day radio operating starting at 2PM Saturday and the event wraps up at 2PM Sunday with the site clean up. The RAC contest is Canada Day. Our next POTA event is July 11 at Rocklife And The Rockeries CA-1597.
7. **Year End Prize Draw.** Barry VE3NA arranged for the 8 prizes of solder/desolder stations with built in heat guns and accessories. Unfortunately the software to run the draw was not working so the draw will be held in the September meeting.
8. **Other Business.** President Rob VE3JT made special mention to thank Chris Mallam VA3CME for donating his Icom 7300 and supporting equipment to the OVMRC that will be used on Field Day. Thanks also to Pat Brewer VE3KJQ for mediating the handover and looking after the equipment to date. Paul VE3PRB is a coordinator for AUX-COMM and he said that on July 11 from 8AM to 4PM there will be a prep day at Scouts HQ using WINLINK to prepare for a major exercise in September. The goal is to use WINLINK and HF radios to communicate in the event of a disaster. All are welcome to participate. Colin VA3CSG said the IBEW thanks all that have used their space for our meetings. He noted that the IBEW requests our help by signing a petition going to the City of Ottawa asking that the City pays fair wages for those that work on City projects.
9. **Field Day Final Preparations.** Norm VE3LC showed an aerial view of the site for Field Day at the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum and explained how things will be laid out.
10. **MOVE TO ADJOURN.**
--**Moved:** Richard VA3HBL **Adjourned:** 21:04



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



QSO One: A software application by Frank KD8JKK

This is a relatively new and free software application for hams to talk and listen on several popular digital voice and VOIP amateur radio networks. It is probably the most full featured application of its type to allow radio amateurs today to explore the digital voice networks that are linked over the internet. To use the application and obtain a password, you must prove you are a radio amateur by submitting a photo of your radio amateur certificate in the application process.

At the present time, the QSO One app supports access to the following networks:

- M17 reflectors
- Yaesu System Fusion (YSF) reflectors
- AllStarLink and Echolink nodes
- IAX repeaters and direct
- DMR talk groups on the Brandmeister and TGIF systems

To use the DMR mode, you must first obtain a DMR id number at <Radioid.net>. Also, separate registrations will be required to use both the Brandmeister and TGIF systems. For Brandmeister DMR system, the QSO One configuration will require your hotspot password that matches the one you provided in your Brandmeister “Self Care” account.

Currently, the QSO One software is only available for the Android and MS Windows OS platforms. Look for the Windows version on the MS Store for a no hassle download and installation. The author plans in the future to offer iOS, macOS and Linux versions. For Ottawa local amateurs interested in accessing the XLX197B multi-protocol reflector which in turn cross connects to the XLX196B reflector and the 70 cm VE2CRA D-Star repeater as well as several other digital voice repeaters in the area, using YSF mode on the QSO One app and selecting reflector “CA-xlx197” works fine.

In the AllStarLink mode of operation, try using the QSO One app connecting to the OVMRC AllStarLink Hub, node # 601110 which I will have RF linked into the VE3OCE repeater for the OVMRC Thursday evening FM net. To obtain your AllStarLink node number you must set up an account at: <https://www.allstarlink.org/>.

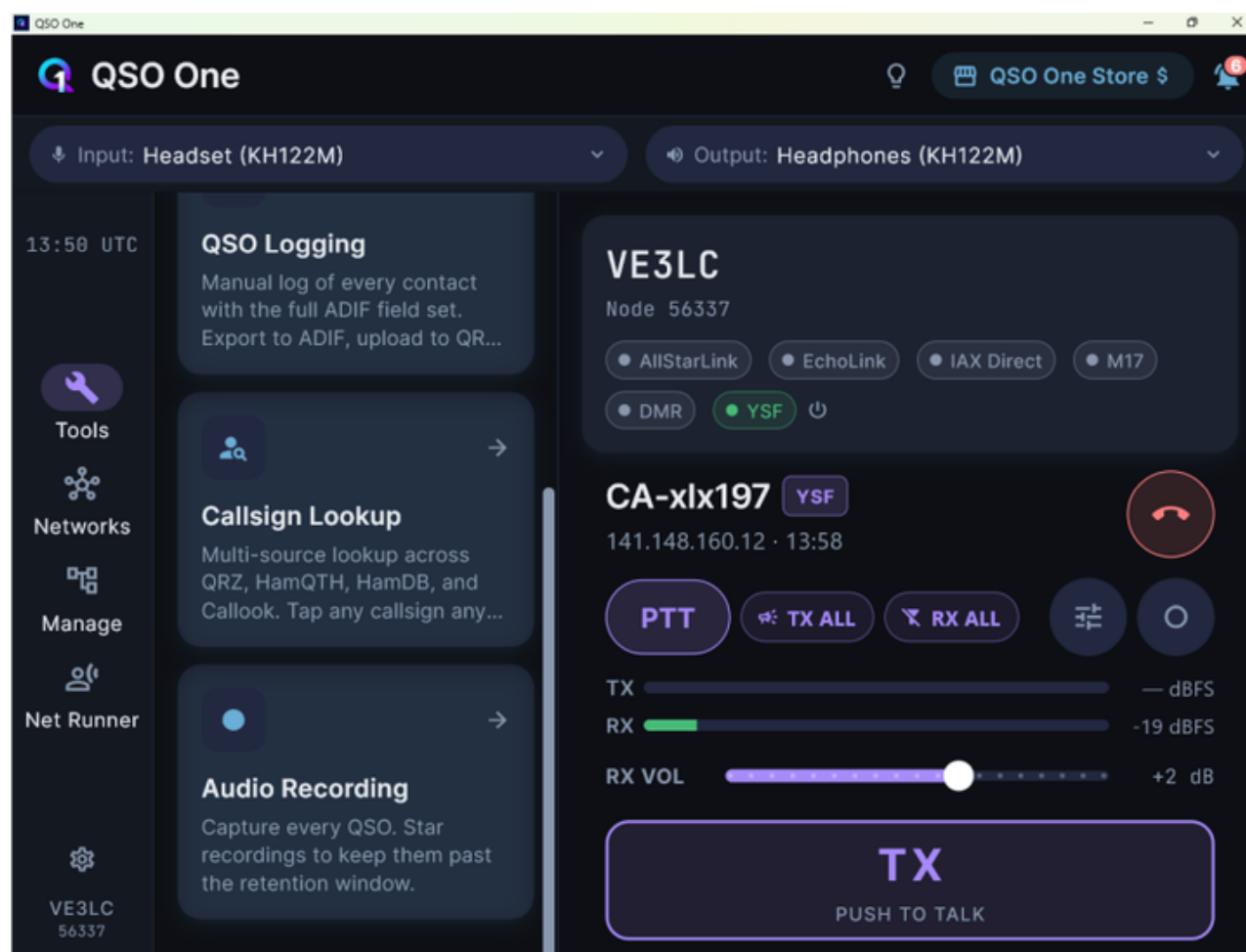


Note 1: The XLX196 and XLX197 reflectors are sponsored by the Almonte Amateur Radio Club.

Note 2: Why does the QSO One app not support D-Star directly? The QSO One software, I believe, uses the open source libraries based on the AMBE-2 vocoder that is the basis of the YSF and DMR radios and the open source Codec2 high efficiency vocoder used in M17 radios. Since D-Star radios use the AMBE vocoder which is best implemented using the patented DVSI AMBE chip. It is, therefore, not practical a for the QSO One software app and the like to offer direct D-Star operation on a user individual basis. The transcoding conversion is best handled by connection and use “on_line” to a XLX multi-protocol reflector equipped with a physical AMBE vocoder(s) for conversion of D-Star to modes such as YSF and DMR using the software derived AMBE-2 vocoding function.

73 Norm VE3LC

Screen Shot operating the QSO One App on PC Computer connected to the XLX197 B reflector using YSF.





OVMRC Field Day 2026



OVMRC Summary:

Participants: 20

Club/Group Name: Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club

Power Source(s): Battery, Solar, Other: AC power from Battery Electric Car

Power Multiplier: 2X

Preliminary Total Score: 3,582

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>



AMATEUR RADIO
FD★26
A NATIONAL RESOURCE



OVMRC Club Logo goes Mobile with Rod VE3RXN



Thanks to Norm VE3LC, for suggesting that the photo be shared in the Rambler.



Quick Tip - Headphones for portable operation that don't break the bank

I feel that it is generally a good idea to use headphones or earbuds when operating portable. They block out a lot of external noise that might make copy difficult for you and help to keep the peace with the general public who might not appreciate the noise emanating from your radio intruding on their walk or picnic.

There are a lot of choices out there and I have tried many of them but I always come back to these two options for over-the-ear and in-ear (earbuds) phones that are comfortable and durable, sound good and don't cost a fortune.

If you prefer over-the-ear style headphones then the Sony MDRZX110 is a great choice. These sell for around \$20, have a 1.2 meter long cord and will fold flat for travel.

My choice for in-ear earbuds are the Panasonic RP-HJE120 ERGOFIT which sell for around \$14. These come with different sized rubber bits to fit the ear canal and have a 1.1 meter cord. Both of these headphones have a standard 3.5mm TRS stereo audio plug and both are available from Amazon.ca. These are both good headphone choices for SSB or CW operation, in my opinion.

Michael VE3WMB





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

Prepared by: Hugo Kneve VE3KTN

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

June 4	June 11	June 18	June 25
VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS
New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors
Ross – VE3HYK Dylan – VA2TAU		Matt - VE3TYW	
Check-ins	Check-ins	Check-ins	Check-ins
VE3QQQ VE3FSN VE3LC VA3IAH VE3KJQ VE3NPP VA3CSG VE3KAE VE3GOI VE3NA VE3OKD VA3CGF VA3PSI VE3OTW VE3CTF VA3CJO VE3VIG VE3LAF	VE3OTW VA2OJD VE3JT VE3LC VE3KJQ VA3IAH VA3CJO VE3NPO VE3QQQ VE3GOI VE3NA VE3RRB VA3DFX VE3NPP VE3KAE VA3WEX	VE3OTW VA3LMA VE3GIQ VE3KJQ VE3LAF VE3NPO VE3GOI VA3HNB VE3CTF VE3NA VE3RRB VA3WRZ VA3PSI VA2OJD VE3ZZU VE3LC VA3HJR	VE3JT VE3FSN VA3ZZI VE3LC VA3HNB VE3NA VE3KAE VE3OKD VE3CTF VE3RRB VE3LPH VA3TWN VA3HBL VE3IPC VE3ZZU VE3GOI VE3OTW VE3NPO VE3TYW VE3VIG VE3LAF



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

June 7 SFI:138 A:17	June 14 SFI:122 A:13	June 21 SFI:113 A:7	June 28
VE3EJJ - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3EJJ - NCS	Field Day
New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors
Michael – VA3CMG			
Check-ins	Check-ins	Check-ins	Check-ins
VE3OP VA3IAH VE3KTN	VA3CMG VE3EJJ VA3IAH VE3SYZ	VE3KTN VA3IAH VE3SYZ	

*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:



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

June 7	June 14	June 21	June 28
VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	No Net – Father's Day	Field Day
New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors
Check-ins	Check-ins	Check-ins	Check-ins
VA2BBW VE3RHQ ¹ VE3QO	VA2BBW VE3FFK VE3QO VE3LC VA2OJD		

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

1 - Mike, VE3FFK and Marcel, VE3MNO at the key.



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

FOR DMR RADIOS, HOTSPOTS, ANTENNAS, QRP HF RADIOS AND MORE



\$15 DISCOUNT TO OVMRC MEMBERS ON \$300 OR MORE