

RAMBLER

OCTOBER 2026



VOL. 69 ISSUE 2

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 OCT MEETING AGENDA
- 7 BUDGET FORECAST FY26/27
- 8 SEPT MINUTES
- 11 DEMISE OF MY IC-705!
- 16 OVMRC POTA MER BLEU BOG
- 21 SOLAR CYCLE 25
- 23 QUICK TIP - PORTABLE DIPOLE
- 26 OVMRC NET ACTIVITY
- 29 LINKS & EDITOR'S NOTE

OCTOBER MEETING:

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 21, 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://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

- **Coffee Klatch:** VE2CRA 146.940 -, 100 Hz, **7:00PM**
- **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, LSB, **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

Last month the new season of Club meetings and Ham radio events got off to a flying start. It was great to see many Club members sporting their OVMRC T-shirts and name badges at the OARC Hamfest. The Hamfest was busy with lots of tables of interesting radio and associated merchandise and of course there were lots of eyeball QSOs going on. If you purchased something interesting, drop a note to Alan on editor@ovmrc.ca along with a photo of your find and tell us all about it. I was there to have a good look and socialise but I kept my wallet in my pocket as I know I have many projects at home still waiting to be started!

On Saturday 19th September a few of us met at Mer Bleu Bog for a Club POTA activation. It was a beautiful morning and I made 17 QSOs before wrapping it up to see how the other stations had got on, see my report later in this issue. There were also groups out at Radio in the Park in the west end and Chillicon (Ottawa Valley QRP Group portable operation from Rideau River Provincial Park), so there was something for everyone, everywhere!

At the September Club meeting we drew the year end prizes, selected and packaged by Barry VE3NA. Once again Barry put together a great prize consisting of a powerful, heat controlled soldering station with heat gun that can also be used as a rework station. Congratulations go to all of our winners:

1. Norm VE3LC
2. Pat VE3KJQ
3. Claude VA2ZCB
4. Nicole VE3GIQ Nicole swapped her prize for 2 years of Club membership fees and her prize was redrawn and won by: Claude VA3VLW
5. Colin VE3CTF
6. Tim VE3TXB
7. Colin VA3CSG
8. Roger VA3EGY

Thanks to Frank, VE3RFH for delivering two of the prizes to RAC HQ for the winners to collect and to Norm for passing on one more to the winner. Let's see some photos and hear about how those great soldering/rework stations have been put to use.



I mentioned above that it was good to see Club members wearing their OVMRC T-shirts and name badges at Carp Hamfest. Pat, VE3KJQ has offered to help get an order together for Club merchandise and so we'll be canvassing for help with that and to get your ideas, at the next meeting.

October is the time we present the Club annual operating budget and Nicole will take us through the budget proposed by the Executive, at the October meeting. In last month's Rambler I announced that the Club is investigating the possibility of establishing a Repeater at Algonquin College and we are moving ahead with the investigation of that. If we are able to move our Club Repeater there, we will need to purchase a suitable antenna and feedline, since we don't have that in our Club inventory. In order to be ready to move forward on that potential purchase, I will be asking for approval to hold \$10,000 in cash, that would normally be reinvested in our annual GIC when it matures in January. The GIC is not redeemable during the period, so if we needed to pay for the antenna during next year, we would lose all of the interest, that amounts to about \$400. By holding some ready cash, we can invest the remainder in the GIC (about \$6,000) and gain some interest. This is not authority to spend that \$10,000, that will come later when the Executive has prepared a budget for the Repeater and at that time we will request permission from the members to spend.

AMSAT Canada is now up and running. A new sub-organisation representing Canada within AMSAT is now open for membership, AMSAT-Canada see <https://amsat-ca.org/> This is great news for amateur radio satellite enthusiasts in Canada and I encourage everyone to check out AMSAT Canada and try making a QSO (or even just receiving) using an amateur radio satellite. I am hoping to recruit a satellite enthusiast to present at a future Club meeting and this is a theme we can build on throughout the year to encourage and support you to try operating through an amateur radio satellite. Hugo, VE3KTN put together a new satellite antenna system that he successfully used during Field Day to earn us bonus points with satellite QSOs. We will also be proposing that the Club becomes a member of AMSAT Canada at the October meeting and that we switch our donation to AMSAT Canada.

Look forward to seeing you all at the October meeting.

73. Rob VE3JT



OVMRC OCTOBER MEETING:

Hello to the Membership and Guests of the OVMRC.

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

Date and Time: Wednesday 21st October 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 September meeting minutes as published in the October Rambler.
3. Remote operation of Icom radios with wfweb – Ante (VA2BBW)
4. Annual budget.
5. Any other business as may arise.
6. Meeting adjournment.



PROPOSED BUDGET FORECAST FY 26/27:

		Forecast 25/26	Actuals 25/26 Aug 31, 2026	Actuals 26/27 Sep 27, 2026	Forecast 26/27 Credit	Forecast 26/27 Debit	Notes
Assets							
A1	Bank & Cash		\$4,733.50	\$5,297.00			
A2	GIC (principal)		\$16,177.00	\$16,177.00	\$10,177.00		Matures Jan 8th @ 2.6%. Renew only \$6,000
A3	Bulk Inventory		\$1,594.00	\$1,419.75			effective Aug 31, 2026
A4	Equipment		\$1,418.00	\$1,418.00			only assets being tracked since Sept 2017
Income							
I1	GIC Interest	\$675.00	\$675.00	\$420.00	\$420.00		
I2	Memberships	\$3,145.00	\$3,245.00	\$1,120.00	\$3,245.00		
I3	Bulk Sales	\$1,500.00	\$1,010.27	\$0.00	\$1,000.00		sales are diminishing
I4	Donations to Club	\$500.00	\$125.00		\$0.00		radio repair / member donation add merchandise expense and income
Expenses							
E1	Bank Charges	-\$72.00	-\$72.34	\$6.00		\$72.00	charges for cash deposit
E2	GIC Reinvestment			\$0.00		\$0.00	
E3	Bulk Purchase	-\$1,500.00	-\$2,165.17			\$2,000.00	revised by club president, to include shipping
E4	Post Box Rental	-\$235.00	\$236.17			\$241.82	paid Oct 16 2026 good to Sep 27
E5	RAC Insurance	-\$800.00	-\$679.32			\$700.00	may increase due to membership increase
E6	RAC Affiliation	-\$27.95	-\$27.95			\$27.95	Did not go up. Now showing with HST 13%
E7	Zoom Leasing	-\$291.00	-\$296.46	\$114.10		\$114.10	paid to Sept 2027
E8	Shipping		-\$45.81	\$0.00		\$50.00	on bulk items
E9	ARISS	-\$140.00	-\$144.49			\$150.00	\$150 CAD
E10	AMSAT	-\$140.00	-\$144.49			\$150.00	\$150 CAD = \$80 membership + \$70 donation
E11	DARF	-\$200.00	-\$200.00			\$200.00	
E12	RAC Foundation	-\$200.00	-\$200.00			\$200.00	donate \$25 VE3HAZ from Accts Payable
E13	RAC HQ Donation	-\$500.00	-\$100.00			\$100.00	Was food for Winter Contest
E14	Food & Drink	-\$400.00	-\$367.32	-\$15.95		\$400.00	
E15	Yr. end Mbr Prizes	-\$700.00	-\$683.67			\$800.00	
E16	Christmas Door Prizes					\$50.00	
E17	Awards Program	\$100.00	\$0.00			\$100.00	
E18	Repeaters & Networking	-\$100.00	\$0.00			\$10,000.00	to be funded from GIC
E19	Domain Hosting / Registr	-\$456.00	-\$277.77	-\$227.26		\$300.00	
Liabilities							
L1	Accounts Payable			\$70.40		\$45.40	
L2	Prepaid Memberships			\$0.00		\$0.00	
L3	Assets & Liabilities	\$10,247.40		Forecast Totals	\$14,842.00	\$15,701.27	
L4	Surplus/Deficit	-\$859.27					



Monthly Minutes - September 16, 2026

LOCATION: IBEW Local 586, 1178 Rainbow Street, Ottawa

PRESENT: 41 participants (28 on location and 13 online)

CALL TO ORDER: 19:15

1. GREETINGS: GUESTS AND NEW MEMBERS

Guests.--on location Luke VA3LLU, online Bob VE3OH

New Members.--on location Frank VE3RFH and Matt VE3TYW

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY MEETING. Moved:** Marcel VE3MNO, and seconded by Steven VE3MVK. **Carried**

3. **DOOR PRIZES FROM LAST YEAR.** -Barry VE3NA presented and explained how the draw was weighted to attendance and how the draw used a PC to pick the winner. There were eight identical prizes of a solder iron/heat gun station. Barry listed off the extensive list of features each station had. Winners in order were:

1 Norm VE3LC

2 Pat VE3KJQ

3 Claude VA2ZCB

4 Nicole VE3GIQ, she declined to accept and instead took 2 years of dues prepaid on her membership in the club. This station was redrawn and won by Claude VA3VLW

5 Colin VE3CTF

6 Tim VE3TXB

7 Colin VA3CSG

8 Roger VA3EGY

4. **FIELD DAY REPORT.** -presented by Norm VE3LC. This year we operated on 100 watts instead of the QRP used last year. Norm presented charts showing the results from this year and last year. We had 494 contacts in 2025 versus 645 contacts in 2026. Points with multipliers were 4930 in 2025 versus 2432 in 2026. The bigger multiplier was due to using QRP last year which gave more points than 100 watts. Bonus points were 1200 in 2025 versus 1150 in 2026. Total points were 6130 in 2025 versus 3582 in 2026. Then a 10 minute break was held, during which photos from Field Day were shown on the big screens. Photos were taken by Dave VE3ZZU.

5A. **TREASURER AND MEMBERSHIP REPORT.** -presented by Nicole VE3GIQ. The current bank balance is \$4841.59, not counting the GIC for about \$16,000. Paid up memberships to date is 29. Nicole asked that each of us pay up our dues as soon as we can, and be sure to include your call



sign in the comment box of your Etransfer!! Also you do not need to fill out a membership form if there has been no change in your personal information from last year. Membership dues for non-RAC members are \$40 this year. Also we got seven new members over the summer.

5B MS BIKE 2026 EVENT REPORT. -presented by Nicole VE3GIQ. The MS Bike Event was held August 15 and 16, and ran from Vernon to Cornwall the first day and back the second day. The event went well with no major incidents. The event raised \$330,000 so far this year with an expected goal of \$360,000. Bicycle riders numbered 180. Nicole got 21 Radio Amateurs to help out with 3 from Cornwall. APRS was fitted on 8 mobiles so they could be tracked on 1 screen and logging on another screen in the net control center. Amateurs rode in 3 of these mobiles. Beacons were fitted in 3 vehicles including the one used by the lead Ride Marshal. Arthur VY2BIT was roaming on his motorcycle to keep track of stragglers. The lead Ride Marshal and Arthur were tracked using cell phones. The biggest issue to get this all going was the VE3SVC repeater at Bonville went off the air. The solution was to use the VE3OJE and VE3IRO repeaters. Everything was confirmed working just 2 days before set up. However the “extra loop” area of the course remains to be solved for next year. Nicole had special thanks to Brenda VA3HNB, Doug VE3YDK, Jeff VA3PEW and Norm VE3LC for extra help with making this project a success. There were many more that went above and beyond to help out. Nicole showed photos from the net control at Vernon, the start line at Vernon, the finish line in Cornwall, Brenda and John at Marionville and Arthur at Woodlands. Nicole showed the beaconing data map slides on the big screens that showed beacon positions for Saturday and Sunday. The maps showed good coverage over the course route except for areas around Cornwall and the “extra loop”. Tracking with logging in real time worked very well this year. Next year Nicole hopes to track more mobiles and the buses. Next year the server should be better able to integrate cell phone mobiles. Coverage should be better over the whole route with a new repeater with APRS gateway at the Osnabruck Centre. Needed for next year is a better suction cup mount for vehicles with non-ferrous roofs. RFID readers for tracking bikes would also be a good addition for next year. Nicole was able to show the tracking software in demo mode to replay the mobile movements to demonstrate how things appeared on screen.

6. OTHER BUSINESS. -presented by Rob VE3RXH.

- We are working on setting up a possible repeater at Algonquin College
- The club budget will be presented next month. Some money from the GIC is to be set aside for the repeater.
- On 19 September there will be a club POTA event at the Mer Bleu Conservation area. The OARC will hold a radio in the park event.
- On 3 October will be the Eastern Ontario Hamfest followed right after by an OVMRC POTA event at Casselman.



- On 17 October will be a club POTA at the Chapman Mills Conservation Area.
- Dave VE3ZZU showed a photo with a write up of the radio station that many years ago was at the Museum Of Science and Technology. Dave also showed his T-shirt that he had made up at the Carp Hamfest with his call sign and pictures on the front and back. This was produced by Sassy Designs. Anyone interested in getting a similar T-shirt made up can contact Dave at ve3zzu@gmail.com and he can send you the Sassy Design's business card.
- Denny VE3OKD had a box of electrical goodies for giving away set up at the back of the room.

7. MOVE TO ADJOURN. -moved by Colin VA3CSG at approximately 21:00



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



O U C H !! The Demise of my Beloved ICOM IC-705!

As many folks know, I was the owner of a nice ICOM IC-705 transceiver mounted in a transit case along with a 10 Amp Hr LiFePO4 12V battery. The connection of power to the battery passed through a 4 port Anderson Power Pole distribution module that was designed and made available to many local hams by Wayne VE3CZO in kit form. Each of the 4 ports on the distribution module were fused by small automotive fuses; I choose to use 5 amp fuses for protection of the power connections to the IC-705 and another connection point for an adapter module that converted the 12V battery power to a 5V USB A type socket to provide power to my Raspberry Pi-400 that I often used to run WSJT-X for FT8/FT4 POTA activations in the field.

I was attending the “Radio in the Park” event sponsored by Ottawa Amateur Radio Club on Saturday, September 12th when I had a mishap connecting power to the Raspberry Pi-400 computer.

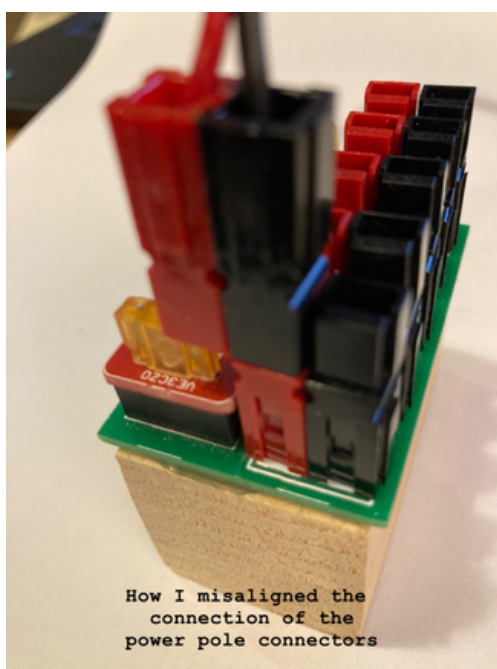
Part of the mishap was sequence of connection as follows:

1. First, I connected my Raspberry Pi-400 to the IC-705 properly with the appropriate USB cable;
2. Then, I connected a USB C power cable into my Pi-400;
3. Then, I plugged the other end of the Pi-400 power cable (a USB A type plug) into the mating socket of the 12V to 5V power converter module;
4. Lastly, I plugged the Anderson Power Pole connector to the other end of the 12V to 5V converter module cable into the mating pair of Anderson Power Poles on the VE3CZO power distribution kit.
5. Then, instantly, poof and a puff of smoke came out of my cherished IC-705.

Unfortunately, I was not paying attention doing the second last procedure in the above sequence and I misaligned (sideways) the placement of the Anderson Power Pole connector so that the black negative side slipped into the positive red side to the power distribution block. This created an instant short circuit of 12 V positive potential conducted on the negative side of the power USB connection into and through the Raspberry Pi-400 and from there into the my Icom IC-705. O u c h ! ... With a puff of smoke and the distinct odour of burnt circuit board, I knew that the situation was serious. Of course, the IC-705 would no longer “come on” and I declared it SK!



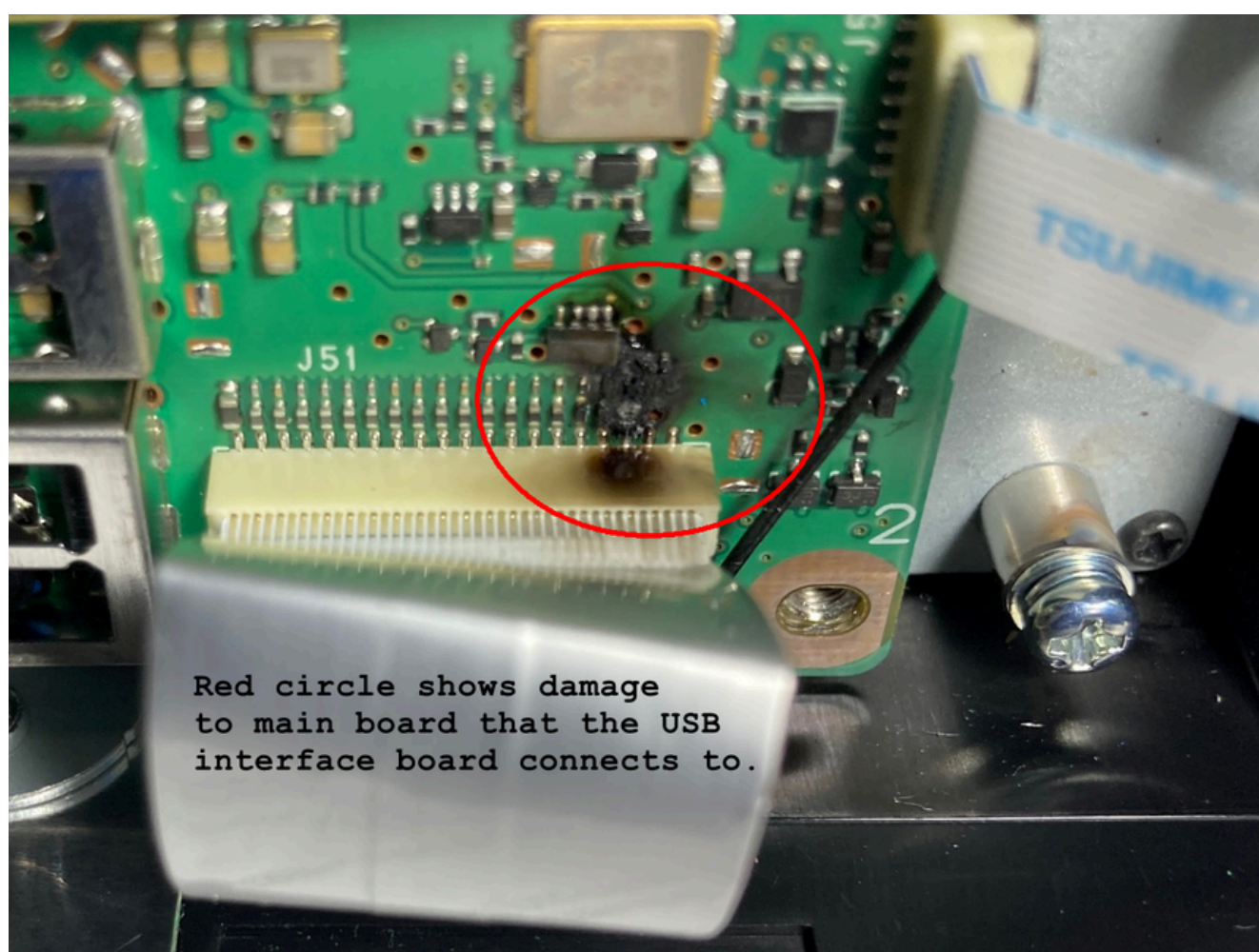
Following Picture Illustrates the Connections and the Current Path of Destruction.





If I had carried out the connection sequence in the reverse order with the same misalignment of connecting the Power Pole connectors, I would have recognized the connection error before connecting Pi-400 next since the pilot light LED in the 12V to 5V power module would not have illuminated and I would have corrected the problem before connecting next the power module to the PI400 and then the Pi to the IC-705. This was how I normally carried out the sequence of connections over the last few years of using the 705 for POTA activations. For some reason, I didn't do it that way and suffered the consequence.

When I got the radio home, I opened up the IC-705 and saw the damage:

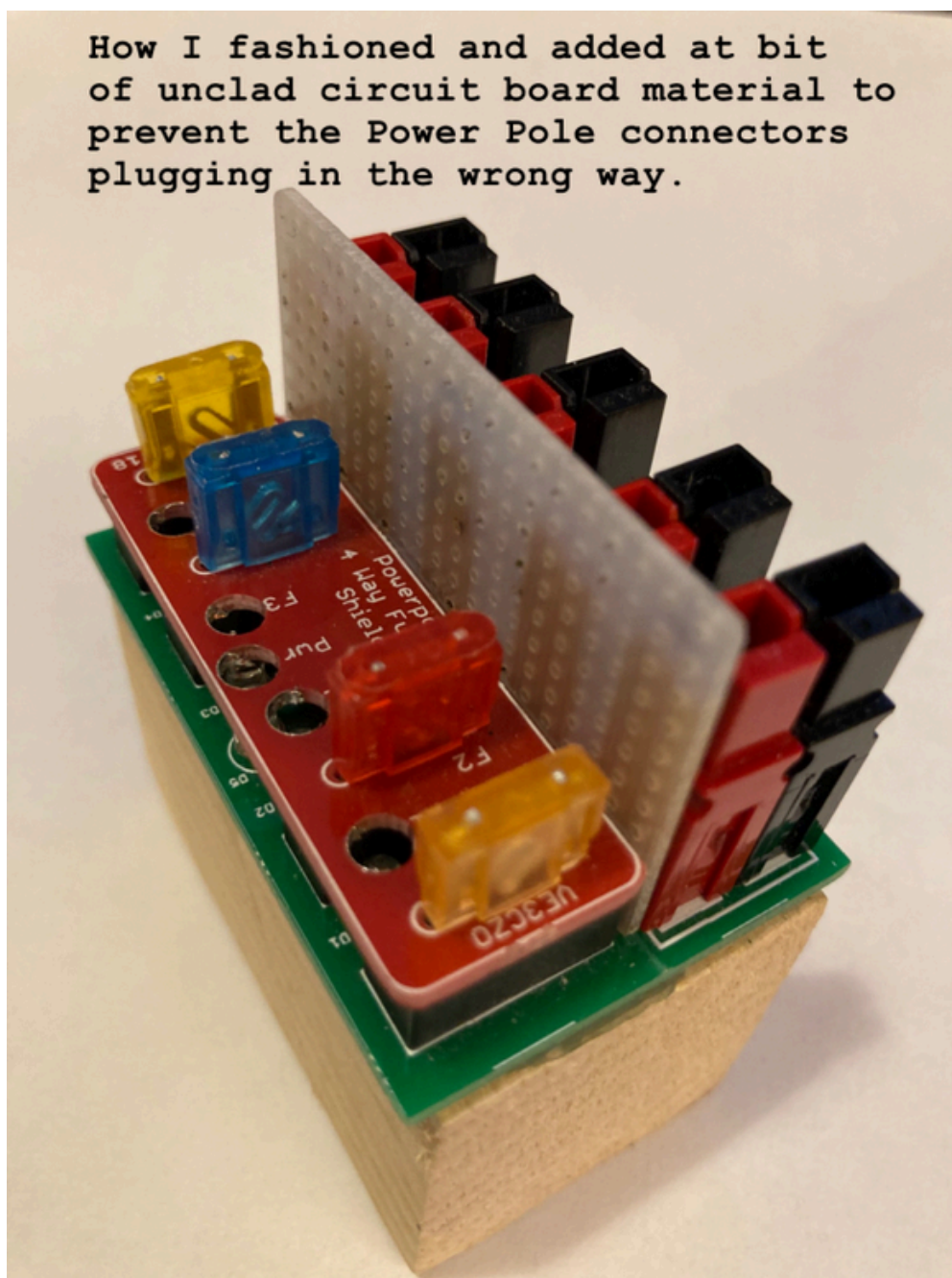


In addition to taking out the main control board in the IC-705, there was burn damage to the small USB and external connection interface board in the radio. It is hard to say if replacing those boards would restore the radio to proper operational condition. Instead of pursuing a repair, I obtained a used IC-705 locally for a reasonable price and I'll keep my damaged radio for possible future repair or spare parts if that ever becomes necessary.



In addition to fatally damaging the IC-705, I damaged everything else in the high current conduction path from the Anderson connector power block to the radio including the 12V to 5V USB module powering the Pi-400 computer and the Pi itself; neither of them now work properly.

The following picture shows the VE3CZO power distribution module and my “fix” by installing a barrier so I can’t insert the a mating plug on the side; that is, black negative to red positive on the block.





I advise a word of caution to all IC-705 owners, be careful when connecting external devices to the radio USB connector and/or jacks for the Morse code key, and/or the external keying and ALC signals to any power amplifier and/or a tuner that you may want to use with the radio. They all go through the same small circuit board with a common ground connection using a ribbon cable to the main board. If any unlimited current positive potential from the external battery powering the 705 is shorted to this board's common ground to any of the jacks involved, it would have the same effect as I experienced with my connection mishap. Indeed, this would include, for instance, the exposed frame of a Morse code key. Indeed, all radios may be vulnerable in the same way.

In conclusion, I am happy to report I am back in business with another IC-705 thanks to a local ham who sold me his at a significantly discounted price of a new one.

73 Norm VE3LC



OVMRC Parks On The Air activation at Mer Bleu Bog

Saturday 19th September was a beautiful sunny day, perfect for getting outside of the shack and making some radio contacts. Luckily it was also a Club POTA day at Mer Bleu Bog, park CA-1515, in Orleans, so I packed up my portable radio gear and headed for the park.

The park at Mer Bleu Bog has many great advantages for radio, it is electrically very quiet being far from any suburbs where noise on the bands can be a major challenge, there's a great pavilion to provide cover from inclement weather and many picnic tables around that provide for excellent operating positions when the weather is good, plus the parking area is close by so you don't need to carry your gear far.

When I arrived a little after 10 am, Steve (VE3MVK) was already set up for the 20m band with his portable station based on top of a beach cart that he also uses to bring his gear from his car.



Photo 1: Steve (VE3MVK) set up and operating on 20m with his Icom 705 and vertical antenna.



Steve made 20 contacts, more than enough to qualify the activation and then had to pack up to head out for another commitment.

I chose a picnic table across the opposite side of the open area for my station and setup a wire end-fed half wave for the 40m band.



Photo 2: Rob (VE3JT)'s setup for digital operations on the 40m band.

My standard setup for portable ops is a Yaesu FT-857 (in this case I also setup the matching FC-30 autotuner), power is from a Motomaster portable power station (converted to a 30 Ah LiFePO battery) and for digital ops I add a Signalink USB external soundcard. Recently I have been using a new Android app for WSJT modes called FT8TW, which is a fork of the original FT8CN. FT8TW also includes

FT4 and JS8Call (often called just JS8). JS8 is a keyboard chat mode using the FT8 protocol and is great for short QSOs Here's a screenshot of the JS8 screen:

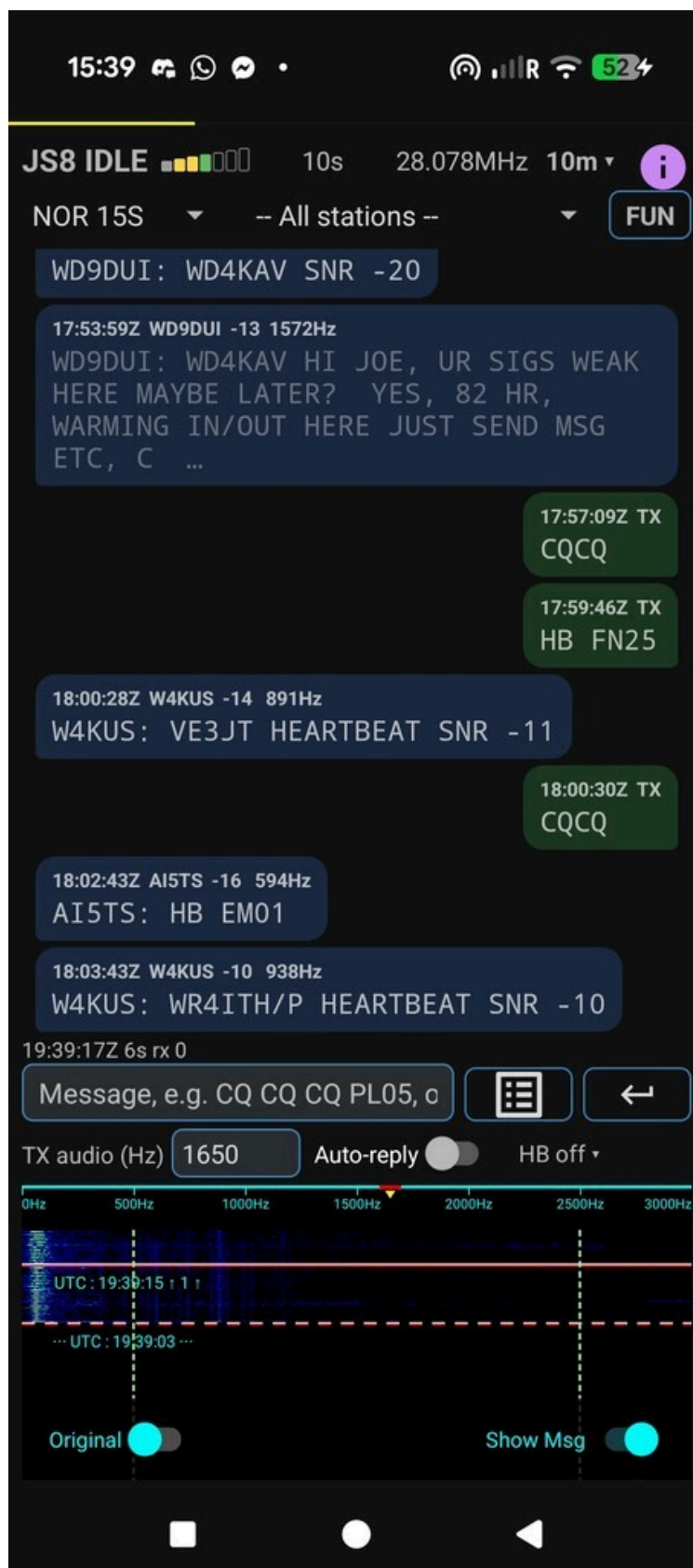


Photo 3: JS8 screen on the FT8TW Android app.



At the bottom of the screen is a small waterfall, that shows any signals across the standard 3000 Hz audio bandwidth, but each signal is only about 50 Hz wide. JS8 includes an automated 'heartbeat' that beacons and listens for replies that report on how your station was heard, much like having PSK Reporter built in but using RF signals only to send signal reports. That's a great way to know that your station is being heard.



Photo 4: Rob's tripod and mast with the POTA flag.



For my antenna I use a TV tripod with an MFJ fiberglass mast and a kit built 64:1 transformer with wire for either the 20m or 40m bands. The setup got me 17 QSOs in quick time before I shut down to see how the other stations were getting on.

While I was operating Philippe (VA3TWN) arrived by bicycle and setup in the wooded area just off the trail around the bog.



Photo 6: Philippe (VA3TWN) with his UbitX lightweight radio and vertical antenna.

Philippe also made enough QSOs to activate the park, so all in all it was a successful day out.

73, Rob, VE3JT



Solar Cycle 25 Update

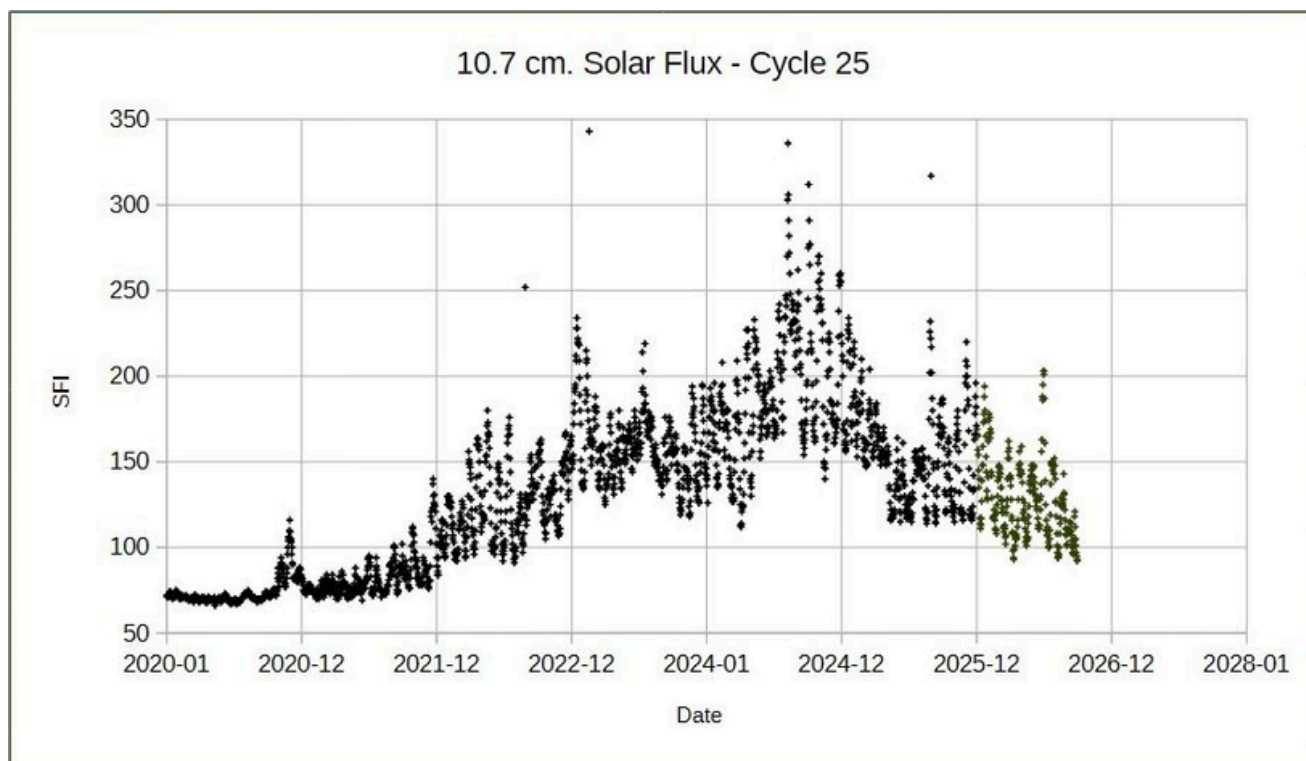
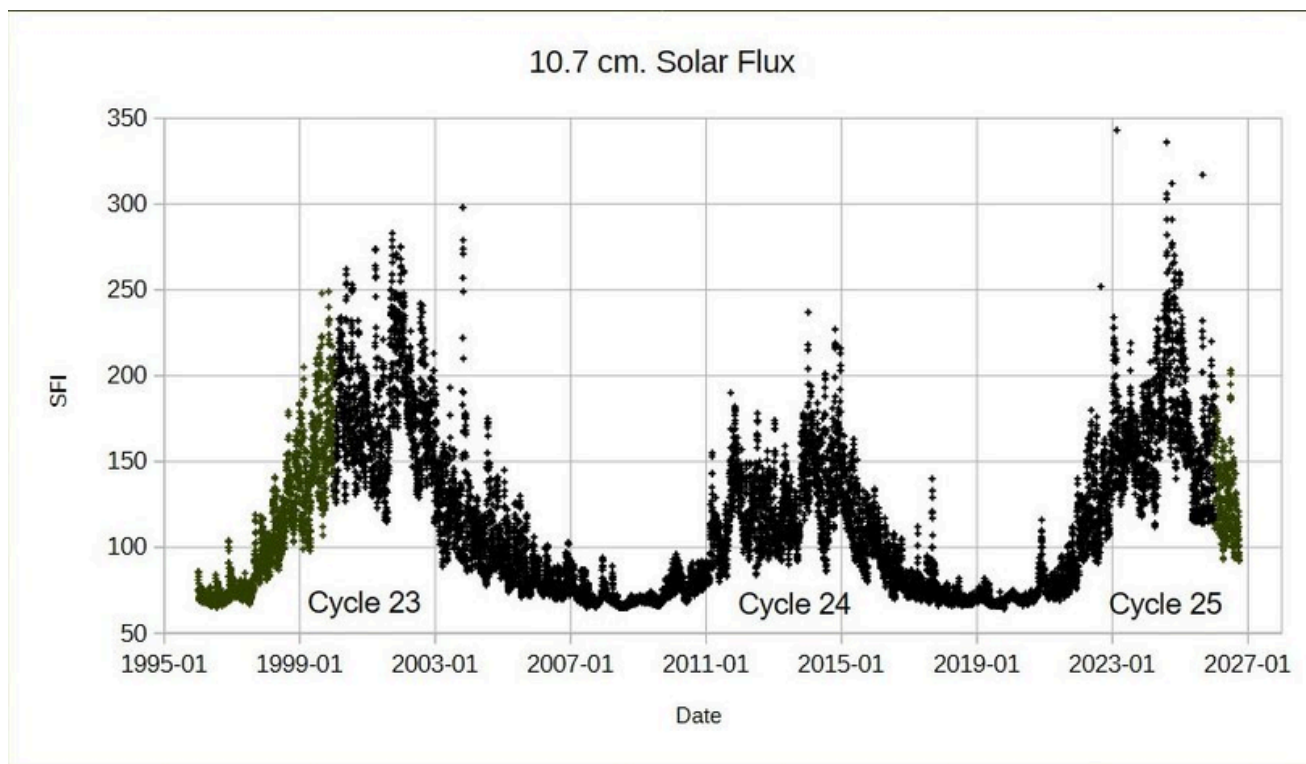
It is now three months since Field Day which seems as good a reason as any to have an update on the state of Solar Cycle 25. In short, solar activity is diminishing as might be expected, which means the strategy for working HF will have to change. To recap the rule of thumb, ultraviolet radiation from our sun has a distinct effect on the ionisation of the D, E and F layers which provide for long, and sometimes short, distance communication. There are several space probes which measure UV directly, however there is a well established correlation between UV level and an earth-based measurement of the sun's emission at 10.7 cm. and it is that latter measurement which we amateurs look to as an indicator of how propagation may be doing at any given time. Generally speaking, higher 10.7 cm. flux values correlate to higher UV emission, thus increased ionisation levels in the D, E, and F layers and it is those layers that give us trans-continental and trans-oceanic skip. However, the situation is something of a two-edged sword because of the action of the D layer versus that of, particularly, the F layers. The D layer is an absorber at frequencies below 7 MHz. but more transparent at frequencies above 7 to 10 MHz. What this means is that a more active sun, meaning higher 10.7 cm. flux values, will close the bands below 40 metres during the day but allow 7 MHz. (40 metres) and higher to reach the F layers which provide for daytime skip. This is especially the case at 18 MHz. (17 metres) and higher. A less active sun will have the opposite effect where diminished ionisation will mean less F layer refraction at the higher frequencies but also less absorption by the D layer at 160, 80, and 60 metres. The result is somewhat better paths on the low bands during the day.

It seems to me that this effect is becoming evident with the club's Pot Hole Net which meets on 80 metres Sunday mornings. We've had three weekly runs of the net and I have to say at least from what I can hear, 80 metres at 10 a.m. is a lot better than it has been over the last two years while we passed through the peak of Cycle 25.

So, it would seem that for the next 7 years or so, propagation at 20 MHz. and higher will go relatively quiet but activity on 160, 80 and 60 will pick up. The following charts are an update to the daily 10.7 cm. flux values as recorded by NOAA* up to September 30, 2026.

Just how this all may pan out remains to be seen; nevertheless, and however it may unfold, good hunting to all.

73,Hugo, VE3KTN



* Charts are plots of data provided by NOAA at:

https://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/stp/space-weather/swpc-products/annual_reports/daily_solar_indices_summaries/daily_solar_data/



Quick Tip - Multi-band linked dipole antenna for portable operation

Many popular portable HF radios don't have internal ATUs. To use these radios on multiple bands in a portable environment you either need an antenna that is resonant across multiple bands (EFHW), can be resonated on the fly (telescopic whip vertical) or you need to pack a separate tuner. But what if you wanted a resonant multi-band antenna, specifically tuned for your bands of interest and perhaps including WARC bands like 30m or 60m where multi-band EFHW antennas normally don't resonate?

One solution is a segmented or linked dipole. This is just a single band dipole cut for your highest band of interest, with multiple wire extensions that can be connected in series to extend the length of the dipole legs to cause the antenna to resonant on successively lower bands. It is kind of like a trap dipole, but with the traps replaced by insulators and physical jumper wires to bridge them. This is where a picture is worth 1000 words so I'll refer you to the SOTABEAMS website for an excellent description: <https://www.sotabeams.co.uk/linked-dipoles/>.

My own linked dipole (see photos) covers 40m/30m/20m and is designed to be deployed as an inverted vee using a fiberglass or carbon fiber telescopic pole, nominally 20 feet or taller. It can also be suspended from a tree branch with fishing line. The center insulator is a plastic tee used for irrigation piping (Home Depot) and the insulators are tent guy line tensioners (MEC). I use a combination of automotive spade connectors and alligator clips to bridge the insulators to electrically connect or disconnect the additional wire segments. I have drilled the top of the plastic tee so that it slides down over the tip of my fiberglass pole to a point where the diameter of the pole is sufficient to tolerate the added weight. Also worth noting is the short length of RG-174 coax used as a feed. This is just long enough to reach down to a section of the support pole that is sturdy enough to handle the weight of a longer length of heftier coax such as RG-58 or LMR-195, avoiding unnecessary strain to the top of the pole. The only downside to this antenna is the requirement to lower the antenna to change bands but that can be done quickly.

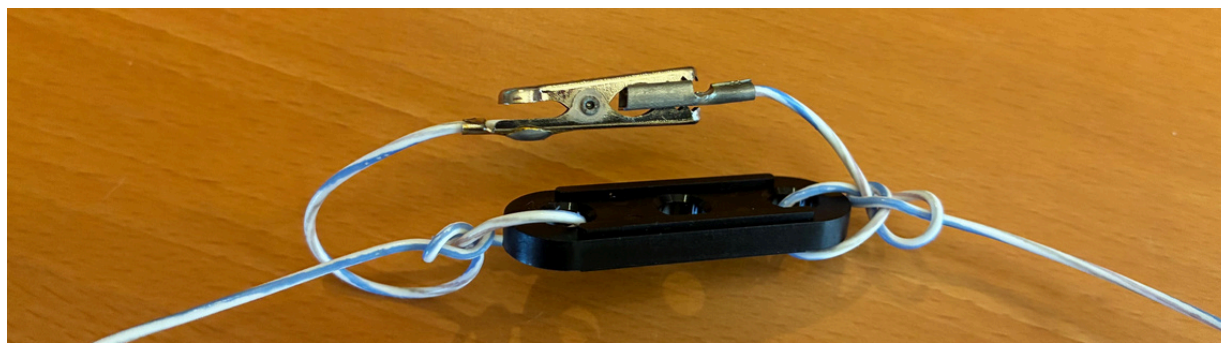
A logical extension to this idea of add-on segments is that you can also make additional segments for lower bands that are quickly detachable from the main antenna using fishing snap swivels. This means that you won't need to deploy a full length 80m dipole if you only plan on operating 40m/30/20m on that day.



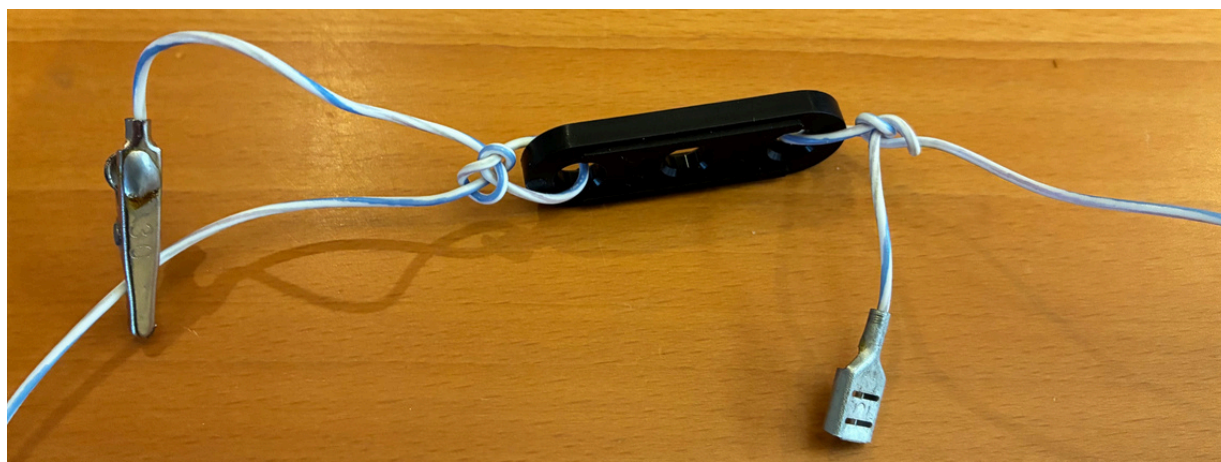
If you are not up to building your own linked dipole antenna then I suggest that you check out the Band Hopper antennas on the SOTABEAMS website (<https://www.sotabeams.co.uk/antennas/>). If you do want to build your own then do a web search on "HF linked dipole". There are lots of good websites and videos.

Cheers

Michael VE3WMB



Jumper closed



Jumper open



Segmented/ Linked dipole



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

Prepared by: Hugo Kneve VE3KTN

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

September 10	September 17	September 24
VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS
New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors
Frank - VE3RFH		Matt - VE3TYW
Check-ins	Check-ins	Check-ins
VE3LC VE3KJQ VA3IAH VA3TWN VE3NA VE3VHU VE3KAE VA3WBR VA3CSG VE3OKD VE3RRB VA3PSI VE3TXB VA3HBL VA3HNB VE3GOI VA3WEX VE3TYW VE3RZY	VE3OTW VY2BIT VE3VIG VA3ZZI VE3LC VE3KJQ VE3TXB VE3NPO VA3PSI VA3IEN VE3GOI VA3HNB VA3TWN VE3NPP VE3KAE VE3NA VA3LMA VE3VHU VA3IAH	VE3OTW VE3NPO VE3RFH VE3JT VE3LC VA3GFY VA2OJD VA3EGY VE3ZZU VE3KAE VA3PSI VA3UKK VE3TXB VE3RRB VE3NA VE3GOI VE3KJQ VA3HBL VA3IAH VE3VIG



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

September 13 SFI:109 A:7	September 20 SFI:97 A:7	September 27 SFI:101 A:12
VE3EJJ - NCS	VE3KTN - NCS	VE3EJJ - NCS
New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors
Check-ins	Check-ins	Check-ins
VE3LC VA2TXZ VA3IAH VE3KTN	VA2IAH VE3SYZ VE3EJJ VA2TXZ	VA2IAH VA2TXZ VE3KTN VE3SYZ VA3AO VA3GFY VE3OP

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.

September 13	September 22	September 27
VE3KTN - NCS	VE3LC - NCS	VA2BBW - NCS
New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors
	Scott – VE3NPX	Richard - VA3HBL
Check-ins	Check-ins	Check-ins
VE3LC VA2BBW VE3FFK VA2OJD VE3VIG	VE3KTN VA2BBW VA2OJD VE3QO	VE3KTN VE3LC 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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