# RAMBLER

NOVEMBER 2026

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

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## NOVEMBER MEETING:

**WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 18, 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 (SK)

**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 (SK)

**********

**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

- **33 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

# President's Ramblings - Rob VE3JT

On Friday 30th October we learned the sad news that our Club member, Special Events coordinator and membership assistant John McGowan (VA3JYK) had suddenly become a silent key. Many of us had seen John at the Club meeting just a week prior and he was in fine form, so the news certainly came as a shock. John has been a stalwart supporter of the Club, supporting events and organising activities for many years. Rest in Peace John and 73.




**Photo 1:** John McGowan (VA3JYK) SK at Field Day 2026 (photo credit Dave (VE3ZZU))

Last month's presentation on remote operating by Ante (VA2BBW) was very well received and I hear that a few folks have been setting up their own remote access to their radio, which is great to see. I have downloaded POTACAT (https://potacat.com/) for my Windows laptop and have been using that to locally control my radio, with this being the first step towards remote operation. POTACAT is free and easy to install and setup. It works very well with my Yaesu FT-991A, controlling the rig and passing audio over a single USB

cable. Although POTACAT has its roots as a way to easily chase POTA Activators, it has been broadened to show spots from many sources and to include other useful features such as logging and direct access to the FT digital modes.

At this month's meeting we will expand the remote operating theme with a presentation primarily around a recently created application called QSO One (https://qso1.net/) that allows the user to connect to repeaters, talk groups, Wires X rooms etc using most of the available digital voice modes such as Echolink, Allstarlink, DMR, YSF, P25 and DSTAR. QSO One is currently available for Android and Windows with the versions for Apple and Linux expected soon.

Our primary focus in presenting the app is to allow Club members to join our Thursday evening 2m Net even if you are out of range of the repeater, but of course it is a great way to stay in touch with fellow hams and make new contacts at any time. I have previously used the app with Echolink to join the Club's Thursday evening Net several times while out of town and found it easy to use with good audio quality. I've also just got myself setup for Allstar and connected to the Club's Allstar Hub for the Net on Thursday 5th November. I found the audio quality was slightly better than Echolink, although the connection did drop out a few times. Details for the Club's Allstarlink Hub are on our website at: https://ovmrc.ca/about-ovmrc/allstar-hub/. Registering for Allstar is easy, you just need to create an account online and upload a copy of your callsign certificate at the website https://allstarlink.org/.

Next month the OARC are starting a soldering course that will be held over six Sunday mornings. This seems like a great opportunity for a kit build session to test your newly developed skills, or maybe you're a seasoned builder looking for a new challenge. Let us know if there's a kit you are interested in and we will consider it for a group buy and build. The build session will be held after the soldering course is complete. More details to follow.

As we approach the holiday period, it's a timely reminder that ours is a social hobby and so we have organised a Pot Luck Social for Wednesday 9th December, starting at 6 pm at the IBEW. Dinner is planned for 6.30 pm and everyone is invited to bring along a dish to share (along with their own drinks and cutlery/crockery). I know this is always a busy time, but please make space in your calendar

to connect with your fellow hams and I look forward to seeing you there. 73, Rob, VE3JT

## OVMRC NOVEMBER MEETING:

Hello to the Membership and Guests of the OVMRC.

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

**Date and Time:** Wednesday 18th November 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. Minute of silence for the passing of John McGowan, VA3JYK.
3. Approval of the October meeting minutes as published in the November Rambler.
4. Accessing repeaters with the QSO One application – Norm (VE3LC).
5. Any other business as may arise.
6. Meeting adjournment and social time.

**NOTICES**

- **Pot Luck Social** – A Pot Luck Social will replace the regular meeting for December and will take place on Wednesday 9th December, 6pm at IBEW 586. Please bring a dish to share if you can along with your drinks, cutlery and crockery.
- **Tall Pines Rally.** Volunteer Amateur Radio operators are still needed to support the Tall Pines Rally in the Bancroft area on Fri 20th and Sat 21st November. Details at https://www.tallpinesrally.com/volunteer/

# JOHN WILLIAM MCGOWAN (VA3JYK)

((https://www.arbormemorial.ca/en/kelly-walkley/obituaries/john-william-mcgowan/169876.html)

Passed away peacefully on October 30th, 2026, surrounded by his family. Born on February 23rd, 1969, in Ottawa, Ontario to Bill and Rose McGowan.

He loved horses, worked for many years at Greenbelt Riding School. Grooming the horses and main stable hand. He was a member of the Ham radio club. Loved it! Volunteered at the Deifenbunker. Enjoyed documentaries, and having discussions. Had no use for tomatoes, in any way. He was a good man, we will all miss him dearly.

He is survived by three sisters, Pam, Carolyn and Jackie. and her husband Jack. Many nieces and nephews and their partners. And many great nieces and nephews. And our cat “Sausage”. All his friends and companions at the radio club. Especially, Fred and Tim. Rest in peace John

Of course we all knew him in different ways. I always remember him wanting to make better coffee at all of the Club meetings, and in the past handing out door prize and 50:50 tickets at the meetings. Rob, VE3JT

# Monthly Minutes – October 21, 2026

**LOCATION:** IBEW Local 586, 1178 Rainbow Street, Ottawa
**PRESENT:** 44 participants (28 on location and 16 online)
**CALL TO ORDER:** 19:15

1. **GREETINGS: GUESTS AND NEW MEMBERS.** Guests.--None New Members.--None

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** Moved: Tim VE3TXB Seconded: Marcel VE3MNO Carried.

3. **REMOTE OPERATION OF ICOM RADIOS WITH WFWEB** by Ante VA2BBW

By leveraging open source and web technologies we can operate our rigs remotely from anywhere. Ante believes strongly in open source software, particularly on Linux systems. Open source gives us the ability to really look at how the software works. Ante has an Icom 7300 version 1 and uses “WFweb” software to control it. There are many reasons to break free of the shack. Ante likes to sit on the sofa in his living room to work FT8 while his rig is in a room in the basement. Remote operation helps to bypass antenna restrictions or bad noise problems or lets us put the rig in the most uncomfortable room of the house while we operate in comfort. Ante often operates from work during free times. However remote operation does expose a radio system to Internet security problems that must be dealt with to eliminate.

**Open source** is where the source code is freely available to anybody. Different licenses are available depending on the software being used, and some software authors may try to get money for a compiled version of software. This is unlike proprietary software which is purchased and then controlled by a vendor, leaving you at the mercy of the company that sold it to you. You pay for permission to use the software, but do not get access to the source code. Ham radio can be considered as being similar to open source software as we can tinker with the radio equipment to suit our needs.

**Hardware requirements:** Remote operation requires a computer to talk to the radio. In the 1980’s and 1990’s radios had serial ports to connect to computers, however recent radios have USB ports. These give an interface the computer can attach to for adjusting the radio controls. An audio pipeline from the radio to the computer is also needed, as well as a means to transfer spectrum and waterfall information. Modern radios are compatible with “plug and play” to ease setup. Older radios can often use a USB sound card to get audio to the PC.control and audio to the PC.

**Software:** “Rigctld” is software to connect a radio to a computer for multiple applications to gain access to the radio, and is one of a suite of interfacing software provided by the

**Hamlib project.** (Rigctld is largely considered as “middleware” in the sense that it provides translation from software which uses the Hamlib api’s and converts to the command sets of most radios out there.) A layered approach to the software is used to get the computer to talk to the radio. (Ante prefers to use the Linux operating system on his computers as Linux and the software that runs on it is open source.) Layer 1 is the computer and the radio. Layer 2 is the tunnel and ingress layer. “Wiregaurd” is a VPN to securely connect the radio to the Internet. “TailScale” encrypts traffic between authorized devices. “Wiredoor” can provide tunnels back to the home network. Layer 3 is backend daemons. “Rigcld” sends radio commands. “Flrig” can also do this as part of the FLDigi suite and does much the same thing. “Wfview” gives radio control and audio functionality on a web page. “Mrrc” provides FastAPI based remote control. Layer 4 is the front end user interface for desktop applications such as “flrig”.

Ante showed the block diagram of how his shack network is set up and connects to the Internet through a firewall, with a PC that controls the radio. Ante stressed the need to secure access to the radio from the Internet to prevent hackers from operating the radio.

**Ante provided examples of software that do the following:**
-Network and security tunnels: headscale, tailscale, wireguard, and wiredoor
-CAT control and audio daemons: mumble, murmur, hamlib, rigcld
-Rig control and dashboard frontends: wfview, wfweb, rig-control-web, yaesu-web-control, potacat, echocat, mrrc, openrig

**Miscellaneous:** PAT winlink client, wavelog
Ante did a live demo connecting to his radio that was located at his house. He showed listening to FT8 at 28.074 MHz, SSB on 40 meters, and then talked to a POTA contact on 7.209 MHz.

**Ante stressed the importance of protecting the hardware with transmission safeguards and remote safety.** You are legally responsible to ensure there is no interference to other radio services such as the radio getting stuck in transmit mode or hackers gaining control over your radio. Always test your hardware thoroughly while you are near your shack before you operate from a distance. Your radio must not be exposed directly to the Internet. Use encrypted secure communications on the Internet to protect your radio.

**Staying legal on this is very important.** Remote control of a radio is regulated, and a basic license is not enough to stay legal. Operating from another room at home "may" be considered as remote and "may" require an advanced license, regulations are not that specific. Get your advanced license then there are no issues!!
Conclusion: Your radio does not have to be where you are for you to operate!

**NOTE:** Ante's slides from the presentation are in a posting on groups.io titled "Remote Operating by Ante (VA2BBW)" and dated October 22.

**4. ANNUAL BUDGET** by NIcole VE3GIQ. The budget was presented in spreadsheet format on the big screens in the meeting room. All figures presented were accurate as of September 27. The budget was very detailed and these minutes will cover just the important line items. We have 90 members that have renewed. The GIC for $16,177 needs to be renewed in January, however $10,000 will be kept aside for the repeater that may be set up at Algonquin College. Setting aside the $10,000 is not a commitment to spend the money however. Once the actual repeater costs have been determined the final decision on the Algonquin Repeater will be put to a vote of the membership. With Bulk Purchases we are almost out of LMR400 cable and $2000 will be put aside for the next purchase. We will have a deficit of $859 this year. Approval of the budget was moved by Fred VE3LAF and seconded by Brenda VA3HNB. A vote was held and the budget passed with 100% in favour.

**5. OTHER BUSINESS**
-Pat VE3KJQ will be looking into organising a club merchandise order for T shirts and mugs.
-Ante VA2BBW is involved with the RAC in putting on podcasts. He did a French episode just this evening. These can be found at www.rac.ca/thetcalive where 4 episodes are posted. If you have any ideas for episodes please contact Ante by email at podcasts@rac.ca
-Paul VE3PRB is involved with Auxiliary Communications Service and he talked about ACS testing that will be taking place on Sunday October 25. Also a course on ACS may take place in November.

**6. MOVE TO ADJOURN**.
Moved: Ante VA2BBW Adjourned: 21:17

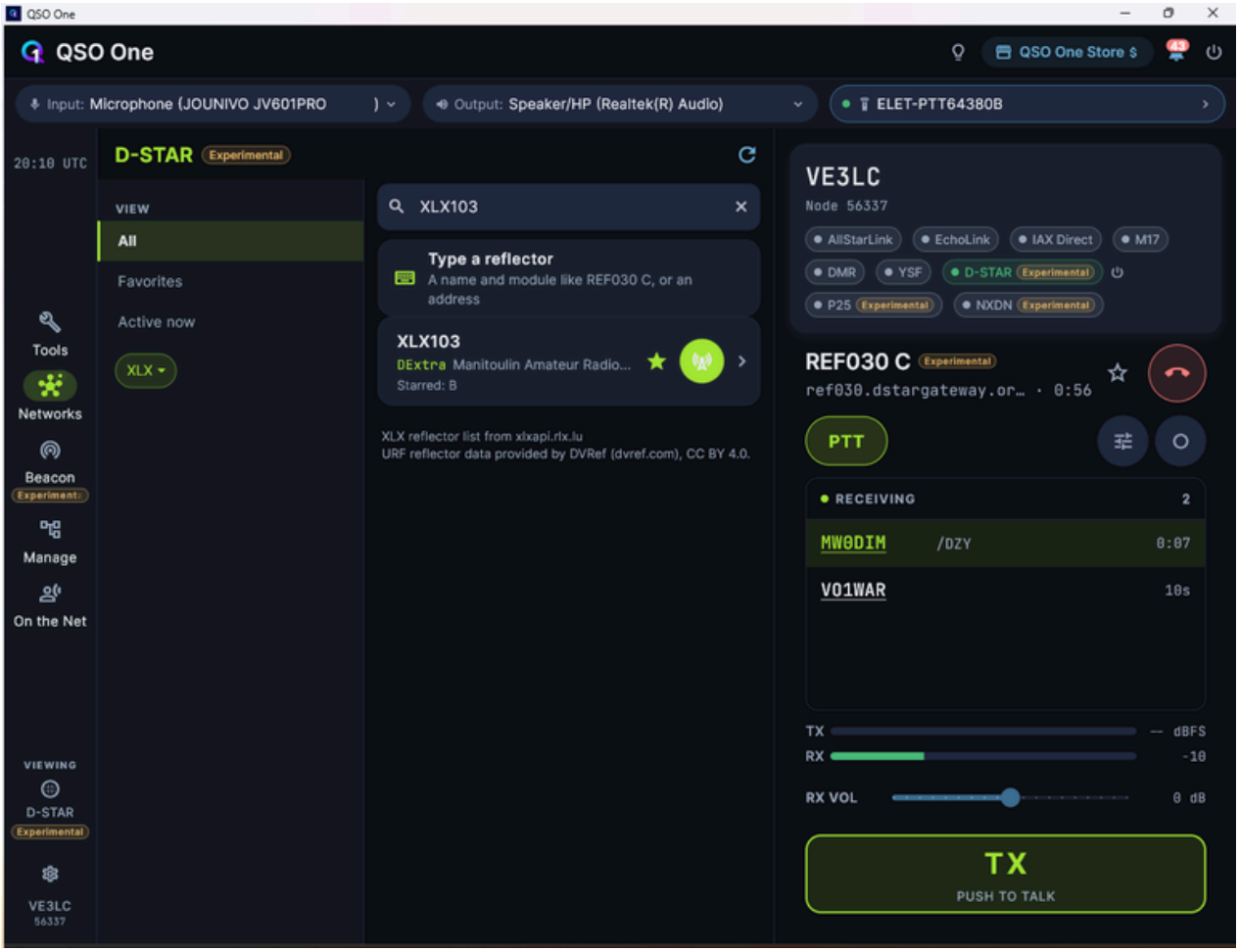


**Minutes prepared by Donald, VA3ZZI, secretary@ovmrc.ca**

# QSO-1 -- an All-In-One Computer and Mobile Device Application for on-line Radio Systems

QSO-One is a free, cross-platform, amateur radio software created by Frank Catena KD8JKK that lets ham operators connect to a multitude of different digital and analogue voice networks that are already well established with access over the public internet. At the time of writing, QSO-1 software is now available for Windows on the Microsoft Store and for Android on the Google Play Store. As well, it has just become available for the Apple Iphone and Ipad by invitation using the iOS "Test Flight" application. A Linux version is also in development.

**A Screen Shot of QSO-1 operating on my Windows 11 Laptop:**



This unified application allows direct-over-the-internet access without any radio or additional hardware to the following key Networks:

- AllStarLink nodes using primarily the ulaw audio codec.
- EchoLinknodes using the GSM 06.10 (Full Rate) audio codec
- DMR servers & systems, including Brandmeister, TGIF, FreeDMR and several others using a high quality implementation of the AMBE-2 vocoder.
- YSF (Yaesu System Fusion) YSF reflectors and XLX multi-protocol reflectors that support YSF using AMBE-2.
- D-Star with access to REF, XRF, DCS and XLX reflectors using a high quality software implementation of the AMBE vocoder.
- P25 with access to P25 reflectors and connected repeaters using the P25 Phase 1 software implementing the IMBE vocoder.
- NXDN also using the software implemented AMBE-2 vocoder.
- M17 using the open source Codec 2 vocoder.

Besides all the network modes of operation, the QSO One application implements an abundance of features including:

- User adjustment of TX and RX levels that are balanced over all the network modes of operation.
- Dynamic user display of TX and RX levels.
- On-screen display of who you are talking to.
- Logging of QSOs made over QSO-One that produce an .adi formatted file which is useful for uploading to QRZ.com for their awards program.
- Time-Out-Timer that is user adjustable between 1 minute (default) or 2 minutes or a max of 2 minutes and 50 seconds.
- PTT on-screen button that you can hold to talk, toggle on and off to transmit and then listen or both. The same PTT operation can be also applied to the keyboard space key or remote wireless PTT button.
- Optional PTT chirp beep tone on PTT make and/or an optional courtesy beep tone when you release for listen.
- Echo Test of your audio talk and receive levels.
- Any connection can be assigned to the “favourites” list for quick recall.
- A special “Beacon” network with “Rooms” are defined internal to the QSO-One application where group conversation can be conducted without linkage to any on-air activity. Users can setup their own Beacon “Rooms”.
- Voice recording and playback under user control of any QSO conducted on this application.

Computer, Smart Phone and Tablet applications that the unified QSO-1 client application will likely replace:

- **DroidStar and DudeStar:** These open-source clients have long been the standard for connecting directly to DMR, YSF, D-Star, NXDN and M17. Because DroidStar requires manual vocoder URL configuration for D-Star which relies preloading the TestFlight app on iOS devices, many operators view QSO One as a more direct and modern replacement app with a polished interface and built-in directory tools.
- **RepeaterPhone and Zoiper apps:** iOS users have relied on paid apps like RepeaterPhone or generic SIP/IAX dialers like Zoiper to access AllStarLink nodes. OSO-One's free cross-platform availability include PC MS Windows, Iphone and Mac OS using at the present TestFlight beta releases.
- **Official EchoLink App:** The standalone EchoLink mobile and desktop apps have remained virtually unchanged for years. Because QSO-One natively includes access to EchoLink repeaters & conferences, users no longer need a separate app just for EchoLink.
- **RF Shark "M1KE" wifi microphone:** Because OSO-One replicates nearly all the of the M1KE multi-mode internet capabilities on computer hardware hams already own for free, it removes the primary incentive to spend almost $600 Cdn on dedicated WiFi connected M1KE transceiver.

**In addition, QSO-One includes features of other applications such as:**

- **Net Directories and Schedules.** QSO-One features a Built-in "NetFinder" that tracks live and upcoming nets across the DMR, YSF, AllStarLink and EchoLink ecosystems reducing the need to check external websites or net-tracking spreadsheets.
- **Basic Callsign Lookup and Logging.** With integrated QRZ/HamQTH callsign lookups, live station maps and basic QSO audio recording/ logging, it replaces simple lookup tools during casual mobile operating.

Account registrations and prerequisites before using QSO-One
Core Requirements:

- **Valid Amateur Radio Basic Certificate and Call Sign:** This in order to transmit through QSO -One application linked over the internet to live on-the-air amateur radio networks.
- **One of several Supported OS Platforms and Devices** are supported for loading and running the QSO-ONE application including Windows, Android, iOS, macOS and soon Linux.
- **Internet Access:** A reliable internet connection is of course needed as OSO-One to route digital and analog voice over the internet rather than using amateur RF radio hardware.
- **Talk and Listen Audio** must be properly outfitted on your computer or mobile device in by way of internal or externally connected microphone and speaker/headphones. The application also provides optional PTT support to a computer keyboard or Bluetooth/BLE devices such as provided with the DMR Anytone Radios.

**Need for Network Specific Credentials:**

Depending on what network server you use, some require an independent system registration and these credentials must also be entered into the QSO-One app for the following:

- **DMR Networks** (including Brandmeister, TGIF, FreeDMR) require a 7 digit DMR id number to assign to your DMR radio to identify on every transmission your call sign and name. Obtaining a DMR ID is obtained at : https://radioid.net/ This same ID number must also be transmitted by QSO-One for DMR mode transmissions. Further DMR registration must be made to use the Brandmeister System at: https://brandmeister.network/ and if you want to use the TGIF system, additionally, registration at: https://tgif.network/ is necessary.
- **For AllStarLInk Network of nodes.** You can obtain an AllStarLink node number associated with your call sign by establishing an account registration at https://www.allstarlink.org/ . Alternately, you can connect to AllStarLink nodes with a method called “Node/WT” (Web Transceiver) mode supported by QSO-One; in this way, you don’t require a node number as you would if you setup your own node for linking into the ASL system using the likes of a Raspberry Pi connected to a radio.
- **EchoLink Network** can be accessed by QSO-One; however, the QSO One app requires you provide your EchoLink password as you would logging into the EchoLink application. You can register as a user of EchoLink at: https://www.echolink.org/ to create there, your system password for that network

- **D-Star** reflectors and repeaters need no particular registration other than the user having a valid amateur radio already recorded in the setup of QSO-One. These DStar network protocols XRF, DCS and XLX and URF reflector family. However, you wish to access the original US Trust "REF" reflectors, your call sign must first be registered at: https://regist.dstargateway.org/Dstar.do .

I have no experience on the other mode network ecosystems such as P25, and M17 available on QSO-One and therefore you are on your own establishing whatever registrations may be required.

There is much more to write about the QSO-1 application. I have it installed on my Windows 11 ThinkPad as well as my Apple IPhone and IPad. It sounds very good and works on all digital voice modes very well and seems to have well balanced audio levels between the use on YSF, DMR and D-Star, EchoLink and AllStarLink modes I've tried to date. I've checked into the Monday evening "Northern Ontario D-Star" net by connecting to the XLX103 B reflector. All reports were good sounding audio as if I was using a D-Star radio. The same reports applied to checking into the "Almonte ARC Mini D-Star Net" Tuesday evenings on reflector XLX197 B. Note that both these nets are carried on the OARC VE2CRA 70 cm D-Star repeater. I will be giving a presentation and hopefully live demonstration of the QSO-1 application at the OVMRC Wednesday November 18th meeting.

**73 Norm VE3LC**

# NanoVNA OBSERVATIONS

I have had my NanoVNA for several years but just finally got around to powering it up and learning its features. I must say, for such a small, inexpensive device, it does a wonderful job of letting you fine tune your antennas.

**Failure To Respond To Presses**

I decided to have a go at my Dentron 4V vertical 4 band antenna on one of the last fine, warm days in October. This is the antenna that AI says doesn't exist, leading me to wonder what is in the backyard. The documentation consists of two pages of typewritten text and hand drawn pictures. But I digress.

I set myself up in the shade, connected the VNA to the laptop and proceeded to raise and lower antenna sections looking for the best match. After several hours, I was done, happy with the result, disassembled things and moved back into the shack.

Next day, I turned the VNA on and it wouldn't respond properly to touches. I could change screens, but it didn't act the way it supposed to. Looking very closely at the entire assembly edge on, it seemed to me that the back plate was bulging.



I removed two screws from the side furthest from the battery and the plate sprang up, leaving a gap between the threaded post and the cover.

My first thought was that the battery was failing and swelling. I took the unit apart and squeezed the battery, which seemed solid and not squishy. Close inspection revealed that the battery seemed to be pressing against the plate due to its mounting pad being slightly too thick (factory issue?).

Googling the problem, I discovered that pressure on the digitizer will cause touch problems. Hmmm I installed some thin washers, and the plate looked much flatter and the unit responded as it should.



Moral of the story – If your VNA acts up, get some of those computer washers you have hoarding to eliminate the problem.

**How To Brick Equipment**

I decided to upgrade the firmware from the 2019 version to something slightly more current. I went off in search of firmware, downloaded the latest version, installed the loader and flashed the memory. When I turned the unit on, I had the white screen of death! Crud! What had I done wrong? I followed the instructions to the letter. I made sure I downloaded the latest firmware for the H4. Crud x 2! I have the small one, not the H4.

Another short search on Google explained that if I shorted out the VDD and BOOT pins on the board, you can see them through the side of the unit (no case), turn the unit on, remove the jumper and then plug in the cable to the computer, you can bypass the white screen and upload firmware.



I downloaded the latest firmware, flashed the memory, nadda. What?? Several, actually, many tries later, I finally tried loading the oldest firmware there was and success. It seems there have been many variants of the NanoVNA over the years, using different chips and you have to make sure you have the firmware that matches the chips used.

I decided the safest approach was to keep flashing newer and newer versions of the firmware, watching in the documentation as chips changed, making sure I downloaded the appropriate software. Hours later, my VNA has spanking, new 2026 firmware.

Moral of the story – Don't panic, you haven't killed the machine, just upset it a bit.

So now that I have that working as it should, I need to look around to see what else I can muck about with.

Russ VE3FSN/VE3YOW
VP OVMRC

# Did you know the origins of “33”?

In updating the Local Nets page in the Rambler, I deleted the “33” in the title of the new Thursday night **“33 *Coffee Klatch net on* VECRA *at 7pm*”**, assuming that it was a typo!

The error of my assumption was pointed out to me and I was given information on the origin and use of “33” in Amateur Radio. Thank you Michelle, VA3PZA and Monique VA3NTB.

“*..the use of 33 dates back to 1939, when a group of female amateur radio operators formed the Young Ladies Radio League* (YLRL). *They wanted a sign-off that expressed friendship and affection between* YLs, *as 73 means “best regards” and 88 means “love and kisses.” So they adopted 33, meaning “love sealed with friendship.” It's a lovely tradition that's been part of amateur radio for more than 85 years! While 73 is for everyone, 33 is traditionally exchanged between YLs. Which is why we call it the 33 Coffee Klatch in honour of long-standing YL ham tradition.*”

In the next column you’ll find an origin story which appears on the Young Ladies Radio League web page (https://ylrl.net/) The language is dated now, but the sentiment comes through.

Alan VA3IAH
Rambler Editor

**The Birth of 33!**

Clara had her ticket
She also had a rig
Because she was just startin
It wasn’t very big

She slowly tuned the crystal,
And watched the meter drop.
Then tapped the key a couple times
To be sure it wouldn’t stop.

Now everything was ready,
She called a short CQ
And received an answer
On thirty-six sixty -two.

They chewed the fat “bout stuff and things.
“bout dresses, work and dates.
They finally called it QRT
The girl sent eighty-eights.

Clara though it might be funny
Whether it be Miss or Mrs.
To end a perfect QSO
By sending “Love and Kisses”

It sounds too sentimental;
Just a little too much “goo”
To be sending “Love and Kisses”
to a girl the same as you.

For an entire week she pondered;
Wouldn’t even touch the rig.
She pushed her slide rule by the hour,
Employing “logs” and “trig”

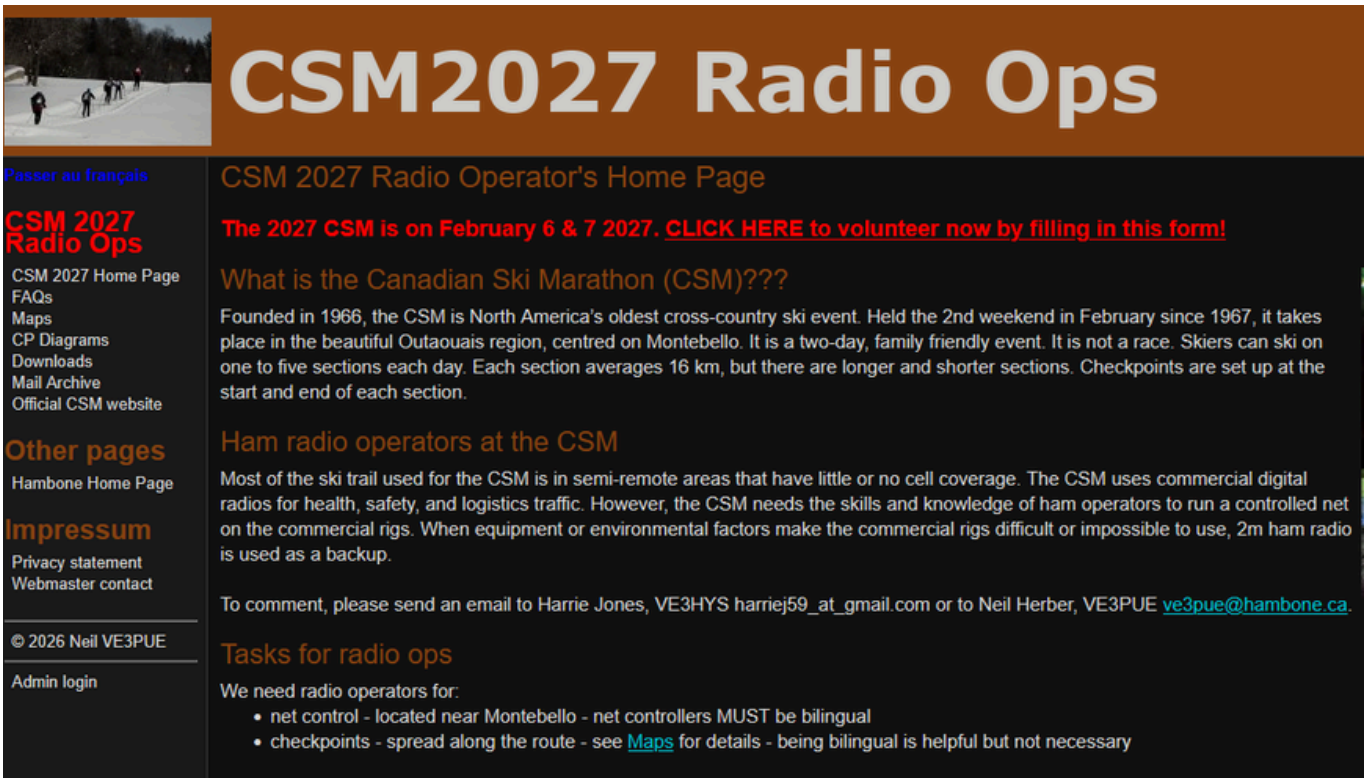
She added and subtracted.
What could the answer be?
To reach a happy medium
Twixt eighty-eight and seventy-three.

Clara finally looked up from her work
All smiles and not forlorn.
Twas July in Nineteen Forty
That thirty-three was born.

There’s no real definition
But it’s meaning is known well.
It’s how a YL says good evening
To another friend YL.

Author Unknown.
(source https://ylrl.net/33-2/)

# Volunteer Opportunity: Canadian Ski Marathon 2027




Check out the CSM pages for more information:

The starting page in English: https://hambone.ca/csm
The starting page in French: https://hambone.ca/mcs

This comes to the OVMRC via Neil VE3PUE

A great local volunteer opportunity.

73, Alan VA3IAH
Rambler Editor

# Quick Tip - Mobile Antenna Window Clip Mount for VHF/UHF

Using a temporary VHF/UHF antenna mount on a vehicle is getting more difficult as auto manufacturers move away from using steel in their vehicle roofs. Mag-mounts will simply not work on many new vehicles. My car has a panoramic roof and what isn't glass is either plastic or aluminum, leaving nothing to stick a mag-mount to. I don't operate VHF/UHF much but when traveling I do like to bring an HT and to have some way to extend its range with an external antenna so I purchased a Window Clip mount to use with a lightweight 1/4 wave whip for 2m. (I do strongly recommend using a very thin lightweight whip antenna or rubber-duckie so as not to damage your car window.)

This short Youtube video from N2MAK summarizes these mounts very well :https://www.youtube.com/shorts/URAlCDGHtnM

Note that the antenna connection and coax termination are both BNC. If you want to buy one then search on "Window Clip Antenna Mount BNC" on Amazon or Aliexpress.

Here is a bonus tip. When I first set this up and ran a scan with my antenna analyzer I was a bit surprised to see that the SWR was well over 3:1 across the entire 2m band. To improve on this, I have added a snap on ferrite to the feedline with 3 or 4 turns of the feedline looped through it.

Using common mode current on the feedline to my advantage, I positioned the choke such that the antenna acts as a vertical dipole, with the outer braid of the coax, from the antenna to the choke, acting as the bottom 1/4 wave leg of the dipole. I started with the choke positioned on the feedline about 19 inches from the mount and via trial and error, and with the aid of my antenna analyzer, I found a location for the ferrite that resulted in an SWR of under 2:1 across the entire 2m band. I also source these snap-ons on Aliexpress or Amazon.

I'm a bit hesitant about using this setup at highway speeds but it is certainly fine for stationary mobile operation and likely ok while underway around town. See the photos that follow on the next page.

Cheers
Michael VE3WMB


TA-WCM



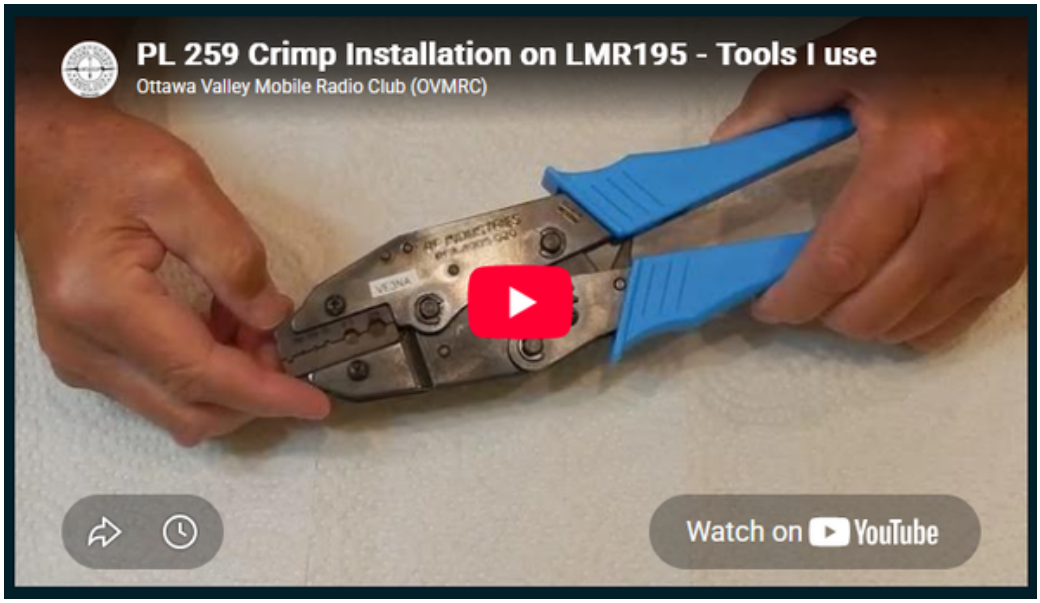
# Installing PL 259 Crimp Connectors on LMR 195 Coax

After encountering some connector issues in my shack I needed to revisit some videos that Barry VE3NA made, these are a great resource and check them out at: https://ovmrc.ca/2020/07/installing-pl-259-crimp-connectors-on-lmr-195-coax/ 73, Alan VA3IAH, Rambler Editor,

I created some short videos video showing how I install PL 259 crimp connectors on LMR 195 coax.




Here are the tools I used for the connector installation and some supplemental photos showing various aspects of the connector installation.



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

*Prepared by: Hugo Kneve VE3KTN*

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

| October 1 | October 8 | October 15 | October 22 | October 29 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| VE3KTN - NCS | VE3KTN - NCS | VE3KTN - NCS | VE3KTN - NCS | VE3KTN - NCS |
| **New & Visitors** | **New & Visitors** | **New & Visitors** | **New & Visitors** | **New & Visitors** |
| Luc - VA3LLU | Luke - VE3XNQ | Bob - VE3OH | Claude – VA2ZCB | |
| **Check-ins** | **Check-ins** | **Check-ins** | **Check-ins** | **Check-ins** |
| VE3MNO | VE3OTW | VE3OTW | VE3OTW | VE3OTW |
| VE3KAE | VE3FSN | VE3JT | VE3NPO | VE3ZZU |
| VE3JT | VE3LC | VE3FSN | VE3JT | VA3TWN |
| VE3FSN | VE3RRB | VE3KJQ | VE3FSN | VE3KNU |
| VE3KJQ | VE3NA | VE3LC | VA3ZZI | VE3JT |
| VE3LC | VE3MNO | VA3ZZI | VE3LC | VE2JT |
| VA3IAH | VA2OJD | VA3HBL | VE3NPP | VE3FSN |
| VA2BBW | VE3NPO | VE3NPP | VE3KAE | VE3LC |
| VA3PSI | VE3KAE | VE3NPO | VE3NA | VA3IAH |
| VE3ZZU | VE3GOI | VE3KAE | VE3TXB | VE3NPO |
| VE3NPO | VE3TXB | VE3NA | VA3PSI | VE3KAE |
| VA3CMG | VE3ZZU | VA3PSI | VE3RRB | VE3NA |
| VE3TXB | VA3PSI | VA3HNB | VE3ZZU | VE3GOI |
| VE3GOI | VA3HBL | VE3TXB | VE3GOI | VA3PSI |
| VE3NPP | VE3TYW | VE3ZZU | VE3TYW | VE3RRB |
| VE3NA | VA3IAH | VE3TYW | VA2BBW | VE3TYW |
| VE3RRB | VA3LMA | VE3GOI | VE3VIG | VE3NPP |
| VE3OKD | VE3VIG | VE3OKD | VA3IAH | VE3KJQ |
| VE3OTW | VE3LAF | VE3VIG | | VA3HNB |
| VA3EO | | | | VA3GFY |
| VE3VIG | | | | VE3LAF |
| VE3LAF | | | | VA2BBW |
| VA2OJD | | | | VA2ZCB |
| VE3LPH | | | | VE3LPH |
| | | | | VE3VIG |

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

| October 4<br>SFI:93 A:7 | October 11<br>SFI:126 A:46 | October 18<br>SFI:137 A:6 | October 25<br>SFI:93 A:5 |
|---|---|---|---|
| VE3KTN - NCS | VE3EJJ - NCS | VE3KTN - NCS | VE3EJJ - NCS |
| **New & Visitors** | **New & Visitors** | **New & Visitors** | **New & Visitors** |
| Randy - VE3CVA<br>Denny – VA3OZ | | | |
| **Check-ins** | **Check-ins** | **Check-ins** | **Check-ins** |
| VE3LC<br>VE3OP<br>VA3BGO<br>VA3PSI<br>VA3IAH<br>VE3EJJ | VE3KTN<br>VA3BGO<br>VE3SYZ<br>VA3AO<br>VA3PSI | VA3IAH<br>VE3LC<br>VA3PSI<br>VE3EJJ<br>VE3OWV<br>VE3SYZ<br>VA3XV<br>VE3CVA | VA3CMG<br>VE3RXN<br>VA2TXZ<br>VA3IAH<br>VE3KTN<br>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.*

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

| October 4 | October 11 | October 18 | October 25 |
|---|---|---|---|
| VE3KTN - NCS | No net.<br>Thanksgiving. | VE3LC - NCS | VA2BBW - NCS |
| **New & Visitors** | **New & Visitors** | **New & Visitors** | **New & Visitors** |
| | | | |
| **Check-ins** | **Check-ins** | **Check-ins** | **Check-ins** |
| VE3LC<br>VA2BBW<br>VA2OJD<br>VE3MNO<br>VE3VIG | | VE3KTN<br>VA2BBW<br>VE3QO<br>VA2OJD<br>VE3VIG | VE3KTN<br>VE3LC<br>VE3QO<br>VE3MNO<br>VE3VIG<br>VE3FFK |

# General Links of Interest:

**ARDF Ottawa**



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

**RCJ**



Volunteer radio ops help scouts on the Rideau Challenge Journey

**New Hams Ottawa**



Information for new hams with an Ottawa focus

**Editor's Note:**

The Rambler is the official newsletter of the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Incorporated and is published 10 times a year (monthly, except for July and August). Opinions expressed in the Rambler are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the OVMRC, its officers or its members. Permission is granted to republish the contents in whole or in part, providing the source is acknowledged. Commercial use of the contents is expressly prohibited. Submit articles and notices to: Alan at **editor@ovmrc.ca**
**73, Alan VA3IAH**

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