

**KARC General Meeting Minutes**  
**September 6, 2016**  
**7:00 PM**  
**Smitty's Restaurant**  
**2376 Princess Street, Kingston Ontario**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by the Vice-President, Carlyle VE3WIO, who welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Members and guests introduced themselves: 18 members and guests were in attendance. Thirty seconds of silence was observed in memory of Warren VE3JPW who became a silent key during the Summer. Warren was a longtime KARC member and KARC Tuesday Night Net Controller.
2. Additions to the agenda: Brian VA3BAH asked to add 'the possibility of the Club buying coax' under New Business.
3. Minutes of the June meeting: Steve VE3KC thanked Paul VA3LX for doing the Minutes in Steve's absence and Assaf VA3PCI for pointing out an item that should be removed for privacy reasons. Steve VE3KC/Chip VA3KGB moved that the Minutes be approved as published in the September newsletter. Brian VA3BAW suggested two corrections:
  - under 'Treasurer's Report', Brian's callsign was shown as VE3BAH rather than VA3BAH.
  - Under 'Dates and Location of Future Meetings', Brian VA3BAH was tasked with following up his suggestion of the Boys and Girls Club as a possible meeting location. Brian VA3BAH said that his understanding was that the Boys and Girls Club had been rejected because of the requirement for everyone to have a background police check done. The motion to approve the amended minutes carried.
4. Treasurer's Report: Doug VE3FFR reviewed the financial report that was published in the September newsletter and attached as Appendix A to these minutes. He corrected a calculation error that he made. He didn't deduct the cost of the Nano-Node from the closing balance. Doug VE3FFR/Brian VA3BAH moved that the corrected Treasurer's Report be accepted. The motion carried.
5. New Business:
  - a. NVIS Day operating event: Peter VE3POA announced that the event will take place Sunday, Oct. 16 between 13:00 and 16:00 local time. He summarized the history of the event saying that the idea started a couple of years ago at his former club, the Peel Regional Amateur Radio Club. The idea was to have an activity that would allow amateurs to experiment with Near Vertical Incident Skywave (NVIS) communication. Bands of interest will be 40, 60 and 80 metres. The clubs that have expressed interest in participating so far are Peel, Hamilton, York Region, Niagara, Kitchener and Kingston. Clubs in Ottawa, Quinte, Peterborough, Whitby, Barrie, Orillia and Georgian Bay have been contacted but haven't yet responded. RAC has been asked to promote the event on its web site. A similar event takes

place in Ohio so it may be possible to hold a joint event next year. Locally, a group effort could be mounted, individual stations could operate from their home QTH or in the field. Peter will give a presentation about the event at the October meeting. Steve VE3KC suggested that HF and VHF nets could promote the event. NVIS communication has been used by the military for decades.

b. Weather watch: Ron VE3GO circulated and reviewed a proposal, attached as Appendix B to these minutes. No action was required by the Club but rather by individuals interested in participating.

c. The possibility of the Club buying coax for sale to members: Brian VA3BAH proposed that KARC make a bulk purchase of a 1,000' spool of coax and resell it to interested members in smaller amounts they need. He circulated a cost analysis, attached as Appendix C to these minutes, that he and Greg VA3GGF prepared based on estimates from four retailers. He suggested that significant savings could be realized by making a bulk purchase. Ron VE3GO said that the only way he would support the idea would be that the coax was all spoken for before it was purchased. He added that he recently bought 300' of coax from Durham Radio for \$0.07-\$0.08 per foot more than the prices in the cost analysis and he got it immediately. Brian replied that when he put the idea on the Freelist, about 500' was spoken for. Doug VE3FFR pointed out that anyone can drive to Harold's QTH in Battersea and buy the coax they need without paying any shipping. Steve VE3KC mentioned the question that came up on the Freelist about storage. Brian VA3BAH said that he has storage but if the membership agrees with Ron, there will be no need for storage. Steve VE3KC suggested that then there's no point in the Club doing it. Doug VE3FFR pointed out that a 1000' spool of coax weighs between 300 and 400 pounds which will affect the cost of shipping as it will have to be shipped as freight. Brian VA3BAH said if we purchased from Harold, it could be picked up. Carlyle VE3WIO wondered if we could get enough people to buy 500' of the same type of coax. Steve VE3KC said that he doesn't support the proposal because there's no benefit to the Club being a pass-through. Peter VE3POA suggested that those interested in buying coax get together to see if they have common requirements. Carlyle VE3WIO suggested that Brian VA3BAH post an e-mail on the Freelist to see what response he gets. Carlyle VE3WIO commented that it was nice to see that all of the 'New Business' items concerned "active radio".

## 6. Updates:

a. Follow-up to the discussion at the June meeting about dates and location of future meetings: Steve VE3KC/Doug VE3FFR moved that we continue to hold our meetings on Tuesday night at Smitty's as long as possible. Ron VE3GO asked if we have an alternate location in case we're told we can no longer meet at Smitty's. Herman VA3QX suggested that we'll cross that bridge when we come to it. Speaking directly to the motion, Steve VE3KC said that any other place will cost money. He said that some members have raised concerns about the distance to other possible locations such as the Communications and Electronics Museum in East Kingston or elsewhere in Kingston West. Chip VA3KGB added that while the Communications and Electronics Museum would be happy to have us, they have staffing issues outside regular working hours. Jim

VE3HOV asked whether there had been any consideration moving the meeting to a Tuesday other than the first one. Carlyle VE3WIO said that there hasn't. Jim VE3HOV said that the Brockville Club, of which he's also a member, meets the first Tuesday of the month. Steve VE3KC pointed out that the meetings used to take place on Tuesday night prior to the Club moving to Smitty's. It only changed then because Tuesday wasn't available. The motion carried.

Herman VA3QX wondered whether the net should move to a different night, i.e. Wednesday. Steve VE3KC said that he cannot continue as Net Manager if the net changes nights due to other commitments. He cited tradition for keeping the net on Tuesday night saying that except for a few months after the meeting changed to Wednesday, the net shared Tuesday night with the meeting taking place on Tuesday nights when there wasn't a meeting. Ron VE3GO argued for moving the net to Wednesday night. Steve VE3KC/Doug VE3FFR moved that the net stay on Tuesday night. The motion carried.

- b. Field Day: Carlyle VE3WIO thanked everyone who came out for Field Day at Paul VA3LX's QTH. There were three stations operating consistently throughout the event. He met some new friends from Wisconsin as well as Greg VA3GGF, his XYL, their son, Mark, his XYL and their children. The BBQ was well attended by amateurs and their families. He's looking forward to next year for which a first planning meeting has already taken place.
- c. IRLP Node relocation update: Doug VE3FFR said that it's working well and getting regular use particularly by Les VE3KFS from Summerside, PEI, and VY2s checking into the net.
- d. Remote Station Project: Chip VA3KGB said the station is working fine. It experienced a couple of power bumps due to power outages at his place but recovered fine. Matt VA3MHB asked whether the station has 6 metre capability. Chip VA3KGB replied that it doesn't.
- e. Website: Chip VA3KGB said he'll update the web site to reflect the change of meeting night to Tuesday and add a note about there being no net on meeting night. He'll also add a link to the KARC Facebook group that was set up by Larissa VE3KGC some time ago.
- f. CFARS: No update.
- g. Freelist: Steve VE3KC said that users are going to have to live with the gibberish. He said the configuration change he made to try to reduce it made no difference. He had thought he might move the list to another provider over the summer but has decided against it.
- h. "Hearts and Flowers": Steve VE3KC said that an obit for Warren VE3JPW appeared in the Sept. 3 edition of the Kingston Whig-Standard and it can be accessed at

<http://www.yourlifemoments.ca>.

- i. Community acknowledgments: None.
  - j. Other updates: None.
7. Haves and wants: Ron VE3GO reminded the meeting about the swap net and encouraged everyone to look through their shacks for equipment and parts they no longer need. In response to a question, he said that the swap net is on radio only but people are welcome to send him listings by e-mail. Chip VA3KGB reminded the meeting that 2017 is the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of KARC and the 28<sup>th</sup> year the Club has had an internet presence. Ron VE3GO announced that FRG has acquired the callsign XM3CARF to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Canadian Amateur Radio Federation (CARF) that was founded by Art VE3AHU and others and had its headquarters here in Kingston. CARF and the Canadian Radio Relay League (CRRL) merged to become RAC May 1, 1993. The callsign will be available to be used from June 3 to July 3, 2017 in a similar way that VG3SJAM was used in January 2015. Two out-of-province requests have already been received.
8. Date of next meeting: October 4, 2016
9. Adjournment: Brian VA3BAH/Chip VA3GB moved adjournment. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 08:03.

Presentation: Assaf VA3PCI gave a compelling presentation about Wi-Fi security.

Steve Cutway VE3KC  
Secretary

Appendix A

**KARC FINANCIAL REPORT – Sept 2016**

September 05, 2016

**Opening Balance**

Cooperation Plus		6620.01
Dividends Savings	37.54	
Equity Shares	261.62	
Total		6919.15

**Income**

Interest	0.13	
Membership	0.00	
Total		0.13

**Expenditures**

Club Equipment	291.70	
Field Day Groceries	176.87	
Website	371.62	
Total		840.19

**Closing Balance**

Cooperation Plus	5114.98	
Dividends Savings	37.54	
Equity Shares	261.62	
<b>Total</b>		<b>5414.14</b>

## Appendix B

### *Amateur Radio Weather Watch*

Preamble – Like many amateur the weather has bene an interest of mine. I have been told that the weather watch during periods of inclement weather, weather warnings etc. is important to many local amateurs. Thus, I plan to organize it so that someone is always there during bad weather incidents. This will be a group of amateurs who are just there to assist other amateurs.

It will not be organized under any group or club but will be there for the benefit of all amateurs.

Public Service – One of the backbones of amateur radio is public service. This seems to be sadly lacking these days. My hope is that people will recognize this as an asset and increase awareness of amateur radio. I am also hoping this will increase the use of local repeaters causing amateurs to operate more and be on frequency more often. (The on-the-air swap shop seems to have helped this as well.)

#### Details:

- 1) When there is a weather warning for Kingston and area, a watch for our area and other local areas or a significant weather event occurring, one of the controllers will announce themselves on the repeater, give the information and stand by for communications. I plan to do this myself until we organize a list of people who will control the frequency and who can spell off the original controller. Controllers will stay on the air as long as they can or until the weather event has passed. Once on the air they can arrange coverage schedules, arrange for other local repeaters to be monitored or HF monitoring if the event is over a wider area. SHOULD THIS DEVELOP INTO A DECLARED EMERGENCY THE REPEATER WILL BE GIVEN OVER TO THE LOCAL EMERGENCY RADIO GROUPS. However, many people will already be on frequency and be of aware of the weather.
- 2) I would like all controllers to have had the Canwarn weather seminar and have a Canwarn number. If they do not then I would like a Canwarn trained person to be there so any reports considered significant can be sent to Canwarn as they have requested, particularly as they do not get as much winter weather information as they would like. (Canwarn requests that we do not give out their number to people who have not had the course.) PLEASE ONLY GIVE THEM THE REQUESTED INFORMATION AND HAVE IT READY WHEN YOU CALL! DO NOT PESTER THEM!
- 3) A back up battery supply, handheld etc. so you can participate or relinquish control, if you lose power is essential. It would help if the controller had access to Environment Canada on the internet, the Hydro 1 Storm Centre etc to give people information when possible. Scanners for public service are also useful as you hear where some troubles are and also hear when the weather is affecting local areas. (A list of useful frequencies can be provided although the local services are going to systems which require a fancy digital scanner, thus our knowledge gained from radio may be more important.) A weather radio with the SAME automatic warning codes is also useful. People who wish to participate in the group to run the watch can contact me on the air or by email at [ve3go@sympatico.ca](mailto:ve3go@sympatico.ca). Please say whether you want to be a controller, assist or just be aware of the watch.

Background – I have been doing this, along with several other amateurs, for many years. Every time I have come on frequency during a weather event, many other amateurs have checked in, helped control, monitored other area repeaters and given information for their area. We often receive information from west of Napanee to the Brockville and east rea. We get information from as far north as Kaladar (Highway 7) and Westport as well as reports from our fellow amateur in the northern New York State.

We have been able to assist amateurs (and some of their neighbours) with weather forecasts, conditions in other parts of the local area, details of power outages, road conditions etc. that we have on hand. Many amateurs use this as source of power information when their utilities fail during an emergency. Loss of internet and possibly phones usually occurs.

Perhaps our biggest help is to ride along with mobile amateurs until they safely reach home.

In the last year when this watch has been on at last 15 amateurs have checked in either to monitor or ask for information or assist control. Several of us have been thanked on many occasions for doing this service.

I hope this service will continue on the repeaters (HF relay if necessary) and show amateur radio's public service.

**Ron Walsh VE3GO**

P.S. I have used VE3FRG as the main repeater solely because the UHF input allows my scanner to stay on the air and not be swamped by my VHF transmission. VE3KBR is monitored and used as a standby frequency.

Appendix C

Proposal by Brian VA3BAH and Greg VA3GGF  
for Bulk Purchase of Coax

	MacFarlane Electronics	Durham Radio	Anixter	Maple Leaf Com.
RG-8X mini	\$0.435			
RG-213	\$0.85*	\$0.890	\$0.611	\$0.900
MR-400	\$1.19*		\$1.30*	
<p>All pricing is based on 1000 feet roll except where noted            *Will also do 500 feet at this price            NB:All pricing is plus 13% tax not including shipping</p>				