



KINGSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

CLUB NEWSLETTER

DIRECTORS MESSAGE

As most of you should be aware by now, we did not have anyone run for President or Secretary at our December meeting. Tim (VA3TIC) has agreed to continue to stand as Vice President and Greg (VE3PJ) has agreed to remain as Treasurer and assume the position as Secretary. While this does not meet the requirements of the club's by-laws there was no other option put forth. We did not want to see the club fold so this seemed like the only option. If anyone wishes to assist as either President or Secretary, we would appreciate the help.

This is your club and we need to hear what you would like the club to do in 2024. Currently we have our monthly meetings and our Tuesday night net. The meetings have relatively low turnout, we would like to see more members attend. Bill (VA3EBK) is doing a great job in managing the net but would still like to add a few more Net controllers into the rotation. If you are interested in taking a slot, please contact Bill. We are in the early stages of planning another Hamfest in the fall, we still need to finalize a date with the Legion.

That's what we have going so far this year, we need to hear from the membership. This is a club and we all need to play a part into making it successful. If anyone has any suggestions, please forward them to Tim and/or Greg and we can get them on the agenda for the next meeting.

Tim (VA3TIC)
Vice President

Greg (VE3PJ)
Secretary/Treasurer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- President

Vacant
- Vice President
Tim Gregory, VA3TIC
vicepres@ve3kbr.com
- Treasurer/Secretary
Greg Foster, VE3PJ
treas@ve3kbr.com
sec@ve3kbr.com

KARC REPEATERS

- VE3KBR 146.940(-) MHz
Tone 151.4
IRLP Node# **2750**
- EchoLink Node **853129**
- AllStar Node **58939**
- VE3UEL, APRS Node
144.390 MHz

COMMITTEE CHAIR MEMBERS

- Membership Manager
Greg Foster, VE3PJ
membership@ve3kbr.com



KINGSTON AMATEUR RADIO Club Minutes

January 3, 2024

1. Welcome and self-introductions.

Meeting called to order by Tim (VA3TIC), at 19:05 hours local. Tim invited all present to introduce themselves by name and call sign. There were 10 members present.

2. Minutes November meeting

Greg (VE3PJ) moved that the minutes be accepted as published in the news letter, seconded by Chip (VA3KGB). When asked if there was any discussion Brian (VA3BAH) did not feel the section “New Business – KARC Election of Officers” adequately reflected what transpired. The section was read aloud and Brian agreed the topic was adequately addressed. There was a vote to accept the minutes and the motion passed with one dissenting vote.

3. Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer Report (Dec 2023) was read by Greg, and moved to be accepted as read. The motion was seconded by Rob (VA3RT), there was no discussion, motion passed.

Greg read a second report, 2023 Summary, seconded by Rob, there was no discussion, motion passed.

Both reports can be seen on the website- Members Only section.

Reminder: The 2024 dues are now payable and cover membership to December 31 2024. Dues can be paid using any of the following methods:

- i. E-transfer to tres@ve3kbr.com
- ii. Cheque made payable to KARC, and mailed to
 1. 744 Maple Road; Odessa, Ontario, K0H 2H0, or
- iii. Cash is always acceptable.



4. Reports

- a. **2-Meter Net** – Bill (VA3EBK) was unable to make the meeting and sent a report but it was after I had left. I will attach it to the minutes but as it was not part of the meeting, I will not include it here.
- b. **CFARS** – VE3KFS - Les gave a summary of the activities of CFARS with mention of continued training in the WinLink system.
- c. **HF Remote** – Chip (VA3KGB) provided an update it sounds like it is very near to be used. There is still some documentation require which will be posted on the website. People are reminded that in order to transmit with the remote site you must hold and advanced license.
- d. **Hearts and Flowers** – Tim reminded us of Ron’s (VE3GO) situation, he has started his treatment but it but it does make him tired.
- e. **KAREX** – Phil (VE3HST) remedied us that KAREX will be meeting again on Jan 13th.

5. Old Business

- a. **Link All Star** Update report as read by Greg, see attachment # 1
- b. **Communications Museum Update** – Les (VE3KFS) Things continue to move slowly, both Rick (VE3ORY) AND Les have their “paper work” submitted and are waiting for it to be completed.
- c. **Hats:** KARC hats are completed with the exception of Wayne (VA3UWA) and mine, errors were made. Greg will distribute those that were not distributed at the meeting. Anyone wishing a hat please contact Greg
 - i. Option 1 – Name and Call sign on the front \$18.00
 - ii. Option 2 – KARC Logo on the front \$20.00
 - iii. Option 3 - KARC Logo on the front with name and call sign on the side \$27.00
 - iv. For more information contact VE3PJ – Greg



- d. Election of Directors - Tim and Greg have decided they are OK acting as reduced executive to keep things moving along but would really like a couple of people to step up and fill the President and Secretary positions.

1) New Business:

- a) **Hamfest** - Planning is underway for a Hamfest in September or October of 2024. We hope to finalize the date in the next few days, tentatively Sept 21 or Nov 4th.
- b) **Course** - We were approached wondering if we would be willing to host a course for a small number of people (5-7) It was discussed and decided that timing was not good and it would be best to refer them to the RAC on-line course

Next Meeting February 7 2024, at 19:00

Meeting was followed by a presentation by Les WinLink



Attachment #1

An update on AllStar for the January meeting which I'll be missing again:

Despite the need for a couple additional tweaks, the node is now up. I have successfully talked with someone on the repeater from Pembroke, and Kevin VE3KJN has connected his node, and also bridged the KBR node into the Bay Bridge Hub.

I need to make a couple more changes to enable connection by computer too and not just other nodes, but connections using DTMF codes for repeater to repeater linking are working from any 2M rig with a solid signal.

There have been reports that the audio is low and contradictory reports that the audio is the same as Echolink and quite acceptable. I'm happy to hear more feedback. It may be that I am using the digital connections to the radio which are purposely flat to improve tone twist performance. This would make some audio frequencies louder than others and if your radio is using aggressive noise filters, might make the audio sound low. I will try to add pre-emphasis and de-emphasis in the software to make the audio sound more like another 2M FM radio.

Again, many thanks to Dave VE3EAC for hosting the station and providing internet connectivity, not to mention tweaking his home network, being remote hands in the management software, and providing a dedicated antenna for the setup!

We can now link VE3KBR to several nets if there is a will to do so. I'd recommend starting with either the Cross Canada net on Sundays at 1:00 PM. or the Bay Bridge Net with PERC and QARC - perhaps worth of a discussion on the Tuesday night Net.

73,

Charlie



2 METER NET REPORT

Total reported check ins for 2023 was 672, with 591 being base stations, 39 mobile, 22 portable, and 8 Echolink.

We currently have a roster of 7 regular Net controllers and are always looking for more including standby by controllers in case someone can't make it.

As always, thanks to Ron for the Swap shop as it is a big draw to the net, and thanks to all the net controllers and participants in the net for checking in.

Thanks Greg,

I hope to be at the meeting next month!

73,

Bill, VA3EBK



WINTER (?) FIELD DAY

As some of you may know a few of us worked Winter Field Day from Greg's (VE3PJ) QTH, exercising Rick's new call VA3DO. I say Winter (?) because it really did not seem like Winter, the temperature was 0-3 degrees C. the snow was heavy and a challenge to slog through and in the very back yard we had to contend with a very large puddle, 0-6 inches of water. I blame Rick (VE3ORY) for the water as some of you may know Rick as an affinity to water on Fiel Day. If you look at the picture on the right you can see Rick's operating position for a past Summer Field day. (Make no mistake the water surrounds the tent; the Coast Guard was call to make a rescue!)



Back to this past weekend, we met at 7:00 am for our usual Saturday breakfast at the local diner and then off to start our set up. Our antenna configuration consisted of 1-160m OCF, 2-80m OCFs, 1-40m dipole and 1-144/440 vertical. All antenna test with low SWRs, requiring no external tuners in most cases and on a significant number of bands no tuner at all. With antenna set-up finished around 10:30 this left us with 3.5 hours for station set-up and testing. This part of the weekend went smoothly with only a few missing items (adapters, cables, etc.). We were completed by about noon with the only thing to do was to sit around and wait for 2:00 (start time).



Two o'clock came around and we were off to the races, 3 stations starting on SSB (10m, 20m, 40m) and one on CW. Our prime digital operator was unable to join us at the start so we felt we would pick those modes in the evening when he could join us. Everything appeared to be working fine with a few delayed database updates with the N3FJP logging software. As we progressed into the evening these delays became more frequent and of longer duration. It became so intolerable we decided to stop and reconfigure the network we:

- Established the server on a stand-alone desk top
- Took the lone Windows 11 laptop put of the network
- Moved the back up USB drive to the server
- Set the refresh rate on three machines to 60 sec. (recommended) instead of 7 or 9

We don't know which one or combination of items fixed the problem but we cleared up the delays and that is what we set out to accomplish.

The next issue we had to contend with was the fact that our Digital operator had a change in priorities and was not going to be able to join us which meant we had to at least get the minimum number of digital contacts (one per band, these are multipliers) they are also worth 2 points instead of the 1 point for phone contact. This required two operators to put their heads together and eventually get it to work (PSK-31) and we were able to get a few contacts only to have it fail awhile later. Another operator tried and failed to get PSK working on their machine. Eventually we were able to get it working again on the first machine and amassed a grand total of 43 Digital contact including 5 Mults.

With no more significant challenges to overcome our only challenge was to rack up the Qs! We continue to work through until 10:30 EST when we shut down until about 03:00 EST. We then worked through until 14:00 EST. We were pleased with our score now we just need to see how we stack up against others.

Total Contacts by Band and Mode:					
Band	CW	Phone	Dig	Total	%
160	1	1	0	2	0
80	14	99	3	116	12
40	59	158	7	224	24
20	106	216	19	341	36
15	16	136	13	165	18
10	3	87	1	91	10
2	0	3	0	3	0
Total	199	700	43	942	100

Tim (VA3TIC) Rick (VE3ORY) Barry (VE3NVW) Greg (VE3PJ) Bruce (VE3GND)



KINGSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Agenda – February 7 2024 19:00

1. Minutes of Last Meeting
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Reports
 - a. 2 meter net
 - b. CFARS
 - c. HF Remote
 - d. Hearts & Flowers
 - e. KAREX
4. Old Business
 - a. Election Of Officers
 - b. Allstar Node
 - c. 2024 HamFest
5. New Business
 - Club purchase of a climbing harness

Next Meeting March 6 2024 19:00