

Newsletter

April 2009



Kingston Amateur News

# Kingston Amateur Radio Club 2009 Executive

**President: Les, VE3KFS**

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**Vice-Pres: Robert, VE3RPF**

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**Repeater Committee:**

VE3KFS, Les Lindstrom

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**Treasurer: Bill, VA3OL**

[ve3kgj@yahoo.com](mailto:ve3kgj@yahoo.com)

**VA3GST, John Snasdell-Taylor**

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**Secretary: Chip, VA3KGB**

[va3kgb@rac.ca](mailto:va3kgb@rac.ca)

**VA3KGB, Chip Chapman**

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**Past-Pres:**

**VE3JCQ, John Wood**

[ve3jcq@rac.ca](mailto:ve3jcq@rac.ca)

**2009 Committee Chairs**

**Two Meter Net Manager:**

**VE3MNE, Don Gilroy**

[ve3mne@rac.ca](mailto:ve3mne@rac.ca)

**P.O. Box 1402 Kingston Ontario K7L 5C6**

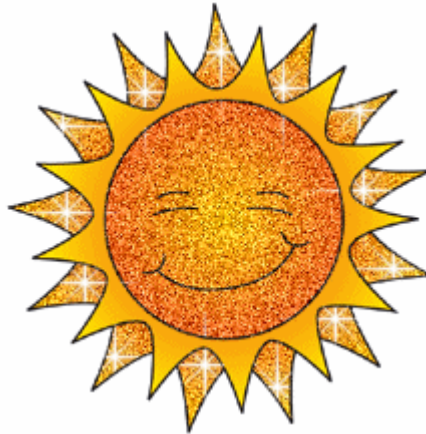
**<http://www.ve3kbr.com>**

**VE3KAR  
VE3KBR  
VE3UEL  
VE3KER  
146.94(-) MHz**



**The 2nd Repeater is now  
Operational  
147.090(+) MHz**

**NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT (Les, VE3KFS)**



**Have a great summer.**

**Then consider what the club can do to support RAC and its support of the Canadian Amateur.**

**What can the club do to support our community in the future?**

**Enjoy the hobby and support your fellow amateur.**

**Don't forget the next club meeting on Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**7: 00 pm.**

**at Smitty's**

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**From the Editor:**

This will be the last newsletter until September. If you come across an article, over the summer months, and think it's for your fellow ham please send it to me. It getting so much harder to give you what you would like. It really is up to you to make it a great newsletter.

**WEEKLY NETS:**

**KARC conducts a 2m weekly net on VE3KBR - 146.940 (-) each Tuesday evening at 7:30 P.M.**

**SCHEDULE OF NET CONTROLS**

**MAY**

05 VE3MUD

12 VE3JPW

19 VE3SIQ

26 VE3KC

There is no schedule for the summer months. **We need a new Net Controller.** Any volunteers please contact Les, VE3KFS. If a summer net control can be made up it will be sent as an e-mail on the KARC Freelist.

**The net script has been posted on the Website**



**FRONTENAC ARES** Sunday night net on VE3KBR at 1930 hours. All are welcome to check-in.

**FRONTENAC ARES** Tuesday HF night net on 3.740 at 2030 hours.

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**The THIRD MONDAY of every month at 7:00 pm.  
is the KINGSTON ARES REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
at the Woodbine Firehall, second floor**

**KARC Web page designed and maintained by: VA3KGB, Chip  
<http://www.ve3kbr.com/>**

Publication Schedule of the KARC Newsletter will be August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**OF INTEREST**

**SILENT KEY**

**VE3OKU, Ken Smith**, BASIC, MORSE CODE, ADVANCED

LM 298 - KE (Ken) Smith. Passed away on April 3, 2009 at the Kingston General Hospital.

Ken retired as a Major from the Forces after taking his commission from the rank of CWO. Ken was a good soldier, a good officer, a good friend and a true Signaller.

A "Celebration of Life" was held on Sunday 5 April 2009 at the Military Communications and Electronics Museum, CFB Kingston. Internment in Cataraqui Cemetery at a later date.

**MAY HE FOREVER REST IN PEACE**

**V V V**

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**SILENT KEY**

RAC Bulletin 2009-010E : **Catherine June (Cathy) Hrischenko, VE3FBL**

Popular TCA Columnist becomes **Silent Key** on March 26, 2009.

Radio Amateurs of Canada sadly reports the death of Catherine June (Cathy) Hrischenko, VE3FBL.

Author of the YL column in The Canadian Amateur (TCA) magazine for over 25 years, Cathy died peacefully at her home on Friday, March 20, 2009, surrounded by her husband George VE3DGX and her family, after a fight with cancer.

A funeral service was held at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 29, at Mount Albert United Church, 41 Alice Street, Mount Albert, Ontario, L0G 1M0.

Heartfelt condolences are extended to Cathy's family and friends by the RAC Board and Executive.

RAC President R.D. (Bob) Cooke VE3BDB

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Vernon Erle Ikeda - VE2MBS

Rédacteur de service des nouvelles RAC.

RAC News Bulletin Editor

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Vernon Erle Ikeda

Dollard des Ormeaux, Québec

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## **New RAC representative on the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee.**

April 14, 2009

After more than ten years as RAC's representative on the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee, David Shipman, VE7CFD, has asked to be replaced.

RAC has then chosen Sam Ferris, VE5SF, to replace David. The ARRL has already been advised of our choice and Sam is already starting his work.

Radio Amateurs of Canada wants to thank Dave, VE7CFD, for the many years he has served the Amateurs of Canada by being on this important committee. We also wish Sam, VE5SF, all the best in his work.

Daniel A. Lamoureux, VE2KA  
Vice-President International Affairs,  
Radio Amateurs of/du Canada

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### **Ham Links**

(Thanks to VE3OL, Bill)

It is truly amazing the information that is available on the internet as it relates to Ham Radio.

For a totally free on-line magazine checkout <http://www.ham-mag.com>

You can subscribe to the magazine and receive it as an email attachment each month.

Want to try to understand propogation??

Try: <http://www.spaceweather.com/> or <http://www.hfradio.org/propagation.html>

For a really neat propagation program try this. ...<http://www.g4ilo.com/voaprop.html>.

VOAprop is a nice graphic depiction of the world and clearly shows where in the world that your signal will be heard and it does it by each band separately. Not only that but the program allows you to indicate your home QTH so that your qth becomes the 'center of the universe' so to speak... AND it allows you to customize the program to take into consideration your power level and antenna height. These are not exact but they do show a nice graphic representation of how the propagation paths will change as you increase or decrease power or antenna heights. This program will also automatically go onto the internet and download the latest solar data so that the program is updated automatically.

John, AE5X has a really great website that has a wealth of information on batteries and how they perform under various situations... Checkout: <http://www.ae5x.com/>

John is also an avid QRPer and has quite a bit of data on qrp kits on his website.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY SAMUEL F. B. MORSE

April 27, 2009



Morse Code

by Tom Wheeler

If you've been to Google today (April 27, 2009)....just kidding...When you were at Google today you might have noticed the corporate logo replaced by the word "Google" spelled out in Morse Code. Alas, Morse code is one of the now worthless things I know.

With few exceptions Morse Code is a dinosaur. Pilots know it when they hear it because some of their navigation beacons still identify themselves by tapping out their call letters (though the dits and dahs are also printed on navigation charts making memorization unnecessary). Ham radio operators sometimes still use Morse because it's a simple mode that allows low powered transmitters to cover more ground than voice communications. I have spent many nights wearing headphones chatting with hams half a world away all while using a radio whose transmitter wouldn't burn out a flashlight bulb!

I'm writing about Morse Code here because it is arguably the world's first commonly used method of digital transmissions! As Wikipedia and others point out it's not a pure binary mode because the length of the elements varies, but there are only two states—on or off. Unfortunately, Morse was never designed to be 'copied' by anything other than a human ear and attempts at computer translation have been close but never perfect.

It is a simple method to get information from place-to-place, but not without it's problems. It was a bit of a surprise when transoceanic cable runs introduced capacitance and made the normally crisp code mushy and difficult to decipher. When the first transatlantic cable went into service in 1868 that design flaw meant transmissions were limited to a speed of two words per minute!

What Morse code did do was let us dip a toe into the information age. For the first time far away places could be connected in real time. Without Morse Abraham Lincoln could never have asked, “What became of our forces which held the bridge till twenty minutes ago...?” to a Civil War Colonel at Bull Run from a telegraph office in Washington. Tom Wheeler's book, “Mr. Lincoln's T-Mails” says the use of Morse's telegraph was a deciding factor in that war!

No leader in history had ever possessed such a powerful tool. As a result Lincoln had to learn for himself how to use the power of electronic messages without precedent to guide him, Lincoln developed his own model of electronic communications—an approach that echoes today in our use of email.

Samuel Finley Breese Morse was born this day in 1791. Way ahead of his time we still owe him a lot.

**Kingston Amateur Radio Club Inc.**  
**Financial Statements for the Year Ended**  
**December 31, 2008**

<b>Balance Sheet</b>	<b>Dec. 31/08</b>	<b>Dec. 31/07</b>
Cash in Bank	5821.03	4689.67
KCCU dividend account	17.97	17.97
Fixed Assets	1000.00	1000.00
KCCU shares	150.00	150.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>6989.00</b>	<b>5857.64</b>
Liabilities	nil	nil
Members Equity	6989.00	5857.64
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>6989.00</b>	<b>5857.64</b>



## **Income Statement**

### **Income**

Memberships and Donations	1080.00
Breakfast Meeting	130.00
Miscellaneous	869.57
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>2079.57</b>

### **Expenses**

Equipment repairs	100.00
Donations	200.00
Website costs	106.25
Newsletter costs	44.66
Queen's U – Balloon Project	215.00
P.O. box rental	127.05
Insurance	150.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>942.96</b>

**Net Income for the year**                      **1136.61**

**Kingston Amateur Radio Club Inc.**

**Notes to Financial Statements for the Year Ended**

**December 31, 2008**

- 1. Kingston Amateur Radio Club Inc. is the continuation of a social club dedicated to the hobby of Amateur radio (Ham Radio)**
- 2. KARC Inc. owns assets which are nominally valued at \$1000.00 The assets are comprised mainly of two radio repeaters which have been hand built by the members. All assets are directly related to the hobby and provide no benefit to individual members.**
- 3. KARC Inc. is an Ontario corporation without share capital; a not for profit corporation under Section 149(1)(l) of the Income Tax Act.**
- 4. KARC Inc. maintains a website (ve3kbr.com) solely for the purpose of promoting the hobby and disseminating information to the members and the amateur radio community in general.**

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"Harold!!! What are you doing wasting money on more USELESS radio equipment!!!"

## Kingston Amateur Radio Club, Inc

### Treasurer's Report to April 17, 2009

	<b>This Month</b>	<b>Year to date</b>
	(April)	(2009)
Membership	200.00	540.00
50/50 Draws	9.00	39.50
Donations (from Tailgate )	0	0
Net Income from Breakfast	0	0
Other Donations	1	43.40
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>210.00</b>	<b>622.90</b>
 <b>EXPENSES</b>		
Repeater upgrade	0	525.02
RAC insurance	0	0
Queens Balloon	0	0
Post Box Rental	132.25	132.25
Newsletter expenses	0	24.39
Website Cost	0	136.24
Donation to Communications Museum	0	0
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>132.25</b>	<b>817.90</b>
<b>NET INCOME (LOSS)</b>	<b>77.75</b>	<b>(195.00)</b>

Note that this report covers a period beyond the normal (the report normally covers the meeting income and expenses) but because we received an additional income shortly after the meeting it has been included in the income.

## **AGENDA**

### **KINGSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC**

**MAY 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

At Smitty's Restaurant, back room

7:00 pm.

- 1. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS**
- 2. ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS**
- 3. MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING ERRORS/OMMISSIONS**
- 4. TREASURER'S REPORT**
- 5. OLD BUSINESS**
- 6. 50/50 DRAW**
- 7. NEW BUSINESS**
- 8. REPORTS:**
  - a) RAC
  - b) Net Manager - VE3CLQ
  - c) KARC Newsletter
  - d) Web page - VA3KGB
  - e) Any other reports
- 9. PRESENTATION:** Dave Lawrence, VA3ORP: The value of Radio Amateurs of Canada.
- 10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
- 11. ADJOURNMENT**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**OF THE**  
**KINGSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC**  
**HELD ON**

**Wednesday, 1 April, 2009**

**At SMITTY'S RESTAURANT**  
**PRINCESS STREET, KINGSTON, ONTARIO**

**1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** The President, Les, VE3KFS, called the meeting to order at 7pm and wished a "Happy Birthday" to those who are/were Air Force and/or from Newfoundland & Labrador.

**MINUTE OF SILENCE:** A minute of silence was observed in memory of Tom, VE3UDE/VA3ZE.

**INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS:** There were 25 members and guest present. Les thanked those who were able to attend Tom's Celebration of Life, which was appreciated by Tom's family.

**2. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS:** Nil

**3. MINUTES:** It was moved by Chip, VA3KGB, and seconded by Doug, VE3FFR, that the minutes of the meeting of 4 March 2009 be adopted as published in the Newsletter. Motion carried.

**4. TREASURER'S REPORT:** It was moved by Bill, VA3OL, and seconded by Micheal, VE3PRW, that the Treasurer's report be adopted as published in the Newsletter. Motion Carried.

**5. OLD BUSINESS:**

**a) Club Inventory:** Bill, VA3OL, has an old list of Club equipment. Bill would like the list updated, Please contact Bill with serial numbers etc of any Club equipment you have in your possession. The list will be posted in the KARC Newsletter.

**b) RAC Insurance:** As far as the interim President of RAC is aware, there have not been any claims of liability against RAC. Confirmed by Steve, VE3KC, who received an email from the VP of RAC indicating the same.

**c) Repeater Updates:** Most of the programming has been done. Will be ready for placement in a couple of weeks, at convenience of site operators. Tones of 151.4 will be implemented. The repeaters will have a voice announcement indicating tone 151.4 is required.

**d) Amateur Radio Course:** Presently 11 students, and a class for one Saturday will be held at the C&E Museum.

**e) Bob, VE3GLO:** Bob new call is VE1RSM, out of Nova Scotia, however he will be active out of Whithorse for the summer.

**f) "Amateur of the Year":** Terms of reference are written by Dave, VA3ORP, and Phil, VE3HST. Nominations will be taken in sealed envelopes. Terms of reference will be published in the Newsletter.

**6. 50/50 Draw:** George, VE3SIQ, won \$18.00

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

**a) Donation in Memory of Tom, VA3ZE:** Steve, VE3KC motioned and seconded by Doug, VE3FFR, that the Club make a donation to the Humane Society in Memory of Tom, who was well known to bring in food etc to them. Discussion on whether this would set a precedent. Should be a private donation. Private donations are eligible for charitable tax receipt. Corporate donations are not. Motion not carried.

**b) K2K - Kingston to Kingston:** There was an initial interest, but it has dropped off to zero. It was motioned by Phil, VE3HST, and seconded by Terry, VA3TRM, that the K2K Certificate program be dropped. Discussion followed as to persons not available at some times, others had no HF antennae, and that interest drops off during the summer months. Over half the members present had been on HF during the last week. Areas of K2K operation include SSb, CW and digital modes. Motion was withdrawn by Phil and Terry.

**c) DXpedition - Nunavut:** VY0A will be on Fox Island, for 3 days 14.040 CW, SSB on 20m.

**e) RAC:** Dave VA3ORP gave his "Rant" on why we should be members of RAC. General discussion followed as to the problems with dealing with RAC, for example outdated information on web pages, cost of TCA, TCA should be digital format, lack of response to questions to RAC, lack of confirmation and length of time to be activated when sending dues, how quick you are not a member if you don't pay dues. Liability insurance. Volunteer organization but no full time manager to maintain continuity. The Club needs to present a submission of a collection of comments and concerns and provide solutions. These will be gathered through the KARC list and email.

**f) Relay For Life:** Dave VA3ORP, is gathering a team for the Relay for Life 5/6 June 2009 at RMC. A team of ten to raise \$1000.00. 12 hrs 7pm - 7am. Looking at having one member with mobile on track at all times. Cut off date for Dave's team is 12 April.

**8. REPORTS:**

a) **RAC:** Steve, VE3KC is flipping RAC Bulletins over to the KARC list.

b) **Net Manager:** Lots of checkins.

c) **Newsletter:** Send articles to Joan.

d) **Web Page:** Send articles, links, dead links, etc to Chip, VA3KGB.

**9. PRESENTATION:** None

**10. NEXT MEETING:** 6 May 2009.

**11. ADJOURNMENT:** It was motioned by Roy, VE3VJF, and seconded by George, VE3SIQ, that the meeting adjourn at 8:35 pm. Motion carried.