

Newsletter  
April  
2012

# Kingston Amateur Radio Club

## 2012 Executive



Kingston Amateur News

**President: Terry Barrett, VA3KLG**  
pres at ve3kbr.com

**Vice-Pres: Steve Cutway, VE3KC**  
vicepres at ve3kbr.com

**Treasurer: David Sellick, VE3DZE**  
treas at ve3kbr.com

**Secretary: Assaf Shool, VA3PCI**  
sec at ve3kbr.com

**Past-Pres: Steve Cutway, VE3KC**  
pastpres at ve3kbr.com

**2011 COMMITTEE CHAIRS:**  
**Two Metre Net Manager:**  
VE3KC Steve Cutway  
netmanager at ve3kbr.com

**Newsletter Editor:**  
VA3PCI Assaf Shool  
news at ve3kbr.com

**Repeater Committee:**  
VA3GST, John Snasdell-Taylor  
va3gst at kos.net

VA3KGB, Chip Chapman  
va3kgb at rac.ca

VE3JCQ, John Wood  
john686 at sympatico.ca

VE3MNE, Don Gilroy  
dgilroy at cogeco.ca

P. O. Box 1402 Kingston Ontario K7L 5C6

<http://www.ve3kbr.com>

VE3KAR Clarendon Stn  
147.090 (+) MHz

VE3KER Kingston packet  
node  
145.010 MHz simplex



VE3KBR Kingston  
146.940(-) MHz  
151.4Hz Tone  
IRLP 2750

VE3UEL Hartington APRS  
node  
144.390 MHz

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Last month brought us 6 new Hams from CFCSE hopefully we will have a couple of more once they return from CFB Borden.

Thanks to everyone who attended the February's meeting and who enjoyed the excellent presentation by Phil VE3HST who talked about and showed pictures of the ARGO Software, which is used for QRSS, another interesting mode.

I'm sure you're all doing amateur radio activities that others aren't and would all benefit from your knowledge and experience, So if you have any suggestions for a presentation, or if you'd like to do one (it isn't hard), please contact me, va3klg "at symbol" bell.net and I will put it on the agenda.



Up coming Contesting –

CQ WPX SSB Contest – 240000Z Mar 12 – 250000Z Mar 12

Ontario QSO Party – 211800Z Apr 12 – 221800Z Apr 12

QRP to the Field – 281500Z Apr 12 – 290300Z Apr 12



Ron VE3GO has volunteered to host a Marine Restricted Radio License course some time in April. Anyone interested drop me an Email va3kg "at symbol" bell.net or contact Ron directly. This training is open to anyone who is interested so check with your boating friends to see if anyone is interested.

**INSTRUCTORS:** I am looking for volunteers to teach a Basic Amateur Radio Course  
If you are interested please let me know va3klg "at symbol" bell.net.



In closing, I look forward to seeing everyone 04 Apr 12. Until our next QSO

73 de VA3KLG

Terry

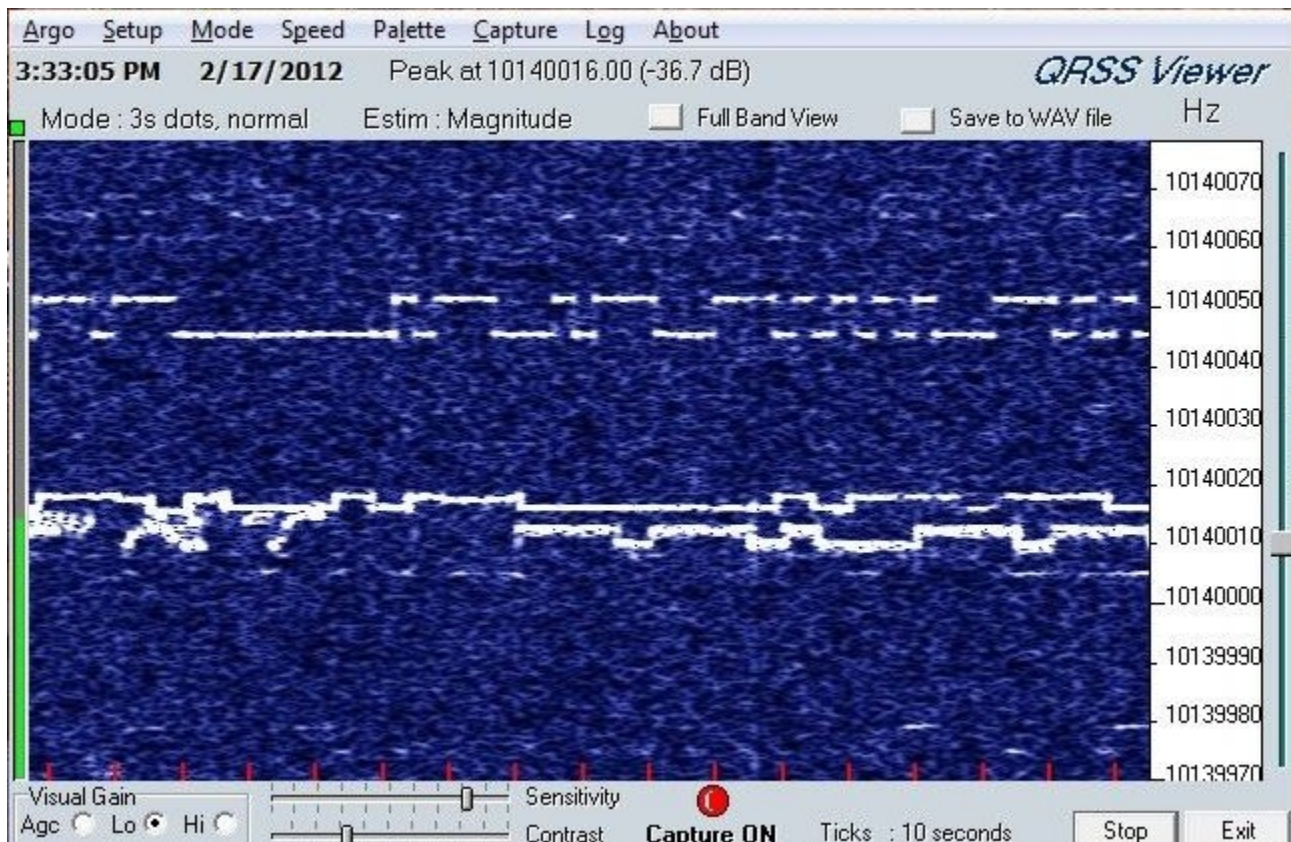
## MEMBER ARTICLE

### **QRSS Very-Slow-Speed, Very-Low-Power CW**

QRSS is a new mode to me and so far, I have only been receiving it. According to W0CH, QRSS is derived from QRS which is a CW Q-signal for "Please lower your code speed". And there is no doubt that QRSS is slow CW. It is very slow. The typical time for a "dot" is 3 seconds or 10 seconds, but it can also be 3 minutes or more. The other feature is very low power, typically around 50 milliwatts. The display resembles a waterfall for the other digital modes, but it usually goes sideways, from right to left.

The main idea of QRSS is to see how far your very low power beacon can be heard on the various bands, which include all the major bands. Typically, the ranges are inter-continental. The other remarkable feature of QRSS is that the various transmissions take up very little bandwidth. For pure CW, the separation can be just 3 or 4 Hz. Some modulation schemes are a few hertz each, so the separation may be about 10 Hz. So the whole QRSS sub-band is typically 100 Hz. Because of the very low power and small footprint, few operators on other modes even know that QRSS exists and it is usually totally inaudible to them.

There are about three applications to receive QRSS. The most popular is Argo which has built-in screen capture. Here is one capture from my QTH on 10 MHz. Notice the frequency scale on the right, and how detailed it is.

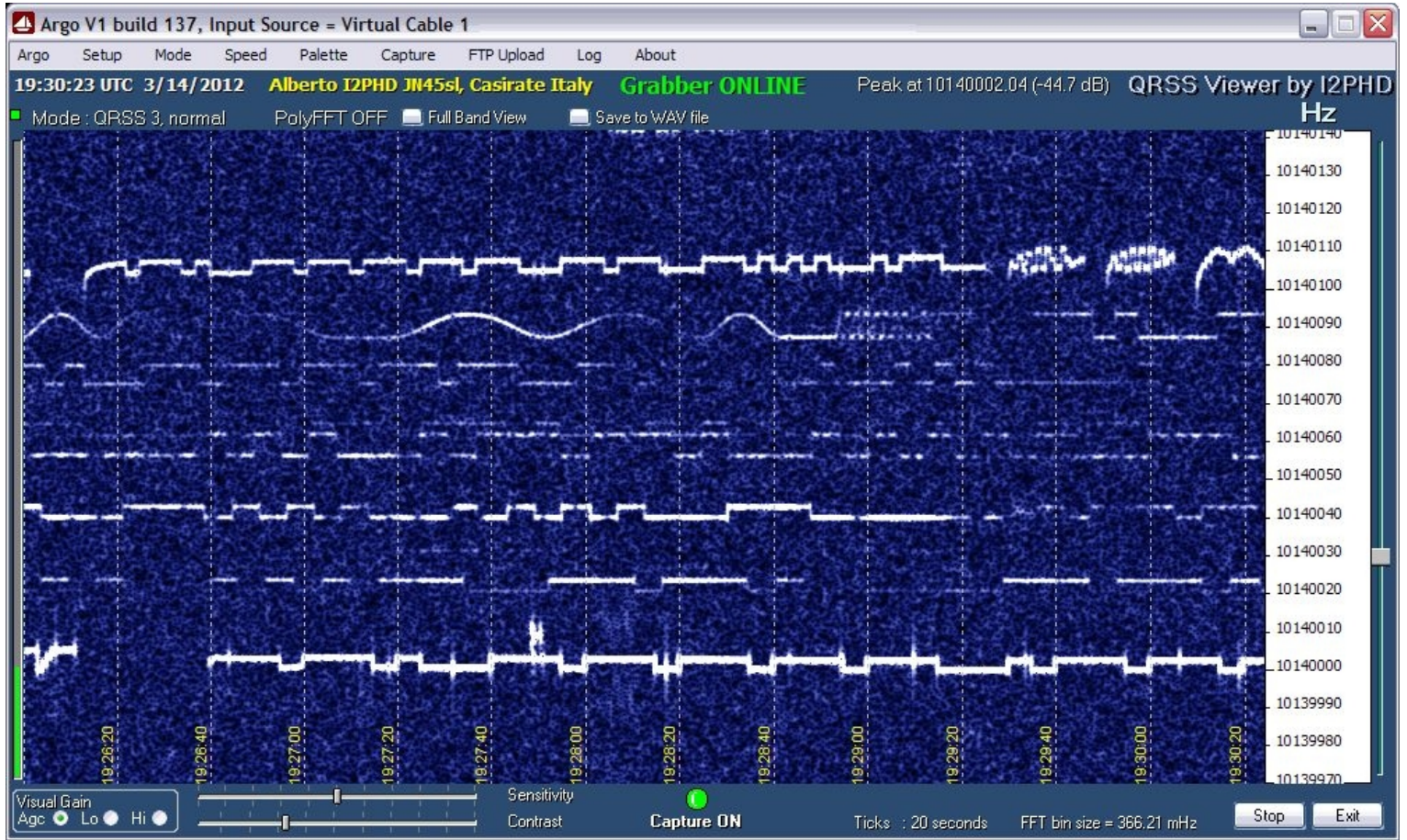


There are several modulation schemes; simple on-off keying, plus several frequency shift keying modes. One is a shift for dots and dashes. Another is a shift with dots on one side and dashes on the other. Other more complex schemes actually produce a "picture" of each letter, or strange but recognizable patterns.

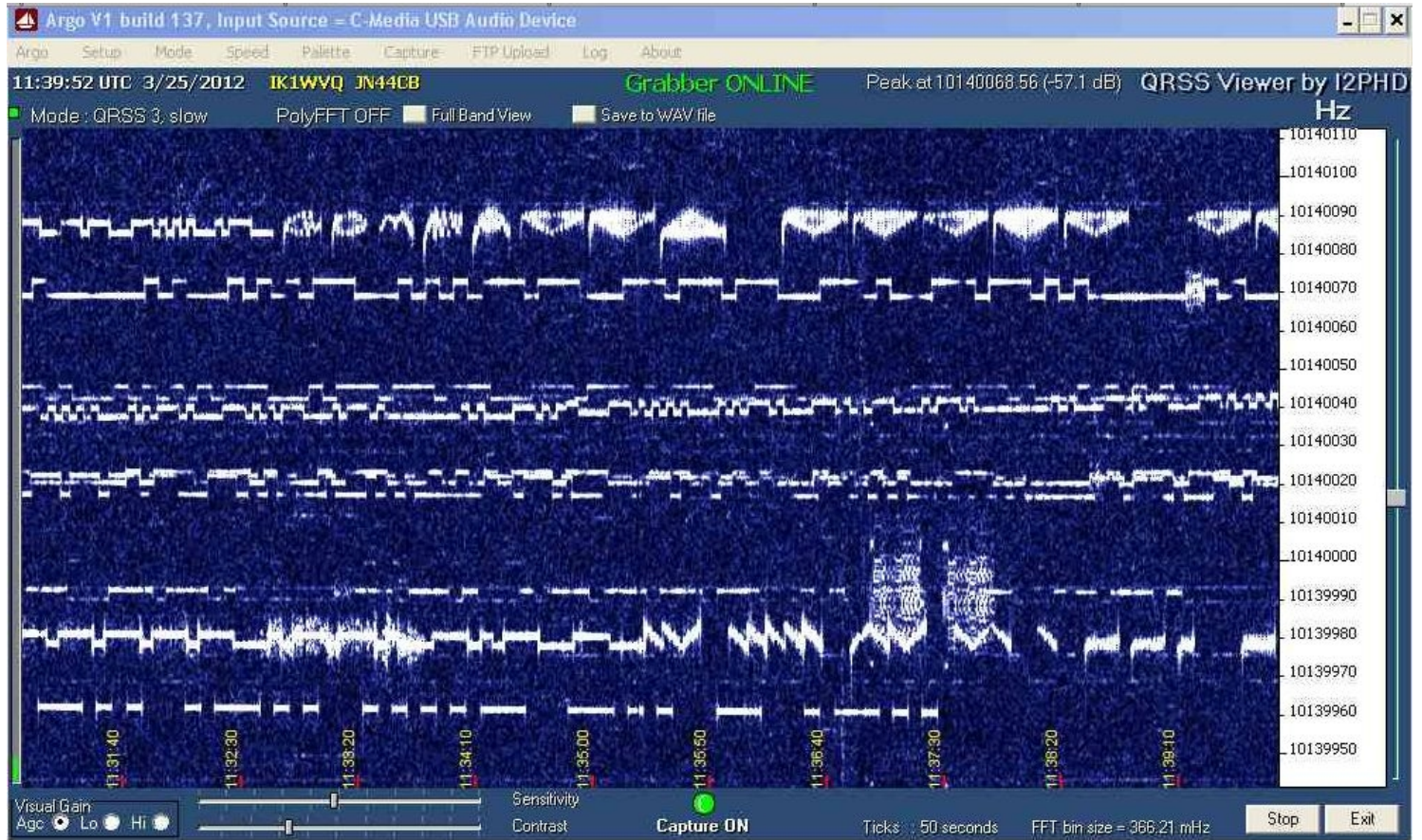
There is an extensive network of users (those who transmit and those who receive) on the Internet. So you transmit with your very low power beacon and often very modest antenna. Then you look on the Internet for sites (grabbers) around the world who may have received your signal.

Here are two very impressive so-called "grabs" from the Internet, published with the kind permission of Alberto I2PHD and Mauro IK1WVQ.

Alberto I2PHD:



Mauro IK1WVQ:



There is lots of very good information about QRSS on the Internet. Here are three links to get you started.

<http://knightsqrss.blogspot.ca/2010/01/getting-started-with-qrss.html>

<http://www.w0ch.net/qrss/qrss.htm>

<http://www.hanssummers.com/qrss.html>

Enjoy. It is a fresh change from the usually SSB, CW and the digital modes.

... Phil VE3HST

#### NET REPORT

Thanks to the controllers who kept the net alive in March. Check-ins ranged from 9 to 16 stations and net duration ran from 25 to 50 minutes.

The net control schedule for April to June 2012 is in this newsletter.

I'm always looking for new controllers. Controlling isn't difficult. The script is on the Club website.

But the most important thing is that you check into the net every Tuesday night at 7:30 because without you, it's pretty lonely.

Steve VE3KC

## North East Ontario Regional Directors Report for April, 2012



First I want to remind you of the Ontario QSO party that is coming up this month on April 21 and 22. For complete details check out the Contest Club of Ontario's web site located here, <http://www.va3cco.com/oqp/index.htm> VA3RAC will be operating portable from Manitoulin Island, so give a listen for them as well.

We are also coming into Hamfest season and two coming up in Ontario are the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Iroquois Hamfest on April 7<sup>th</sup> and the Smiths Falls Fleamarket on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Further information is available in the current TCA in the Coming Events section.

Recently the Board of Directors has created a new position of "Deputy Director". The job of the Deputy Director is to assist and advise the Director, and unlike the Assistant Directors can vote at Board meetings if the Director is not there. I am hoping to fill the position of Deputy Director for North /East Ontario Region. If you are interested in further information please don't hesitate to contact me. I will also be contacting various presidents in Eastern Ontario for their thoughts on this, so expect a phone call sometime in the future.

The Field organization in Ontario has recently been changed from one SM to four. We are always looking for people to fill in positions under the SM in the various jobs. Please give it a thought.

Finally, Mitch, VE6OH and his group is organizing a major Hamfest on the weekend of August 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. It is shaping up to be a pretty impressive looking weekend. Could this turn into Dayton North? You may want to mark your calendar for this one.

If you have any questions or concerns please email me at [ve3xt@rac.ca](mailto:ve3xt@rac.ca).

Bill VE3XT  
North East Ontario Regional Director  
Radio Amateurs of Canada

2012 KARC MEETING DATES

Wednesday, Feb. 1

Wednesday, Mar. 7

Wednesday, Apr. 4

Wednesday, May 2

Wednesday, June 6

Wednesday, Sept. 5

Wednesday, Oct. 3

Wednesday, Nov. 7

Wednesday, Dec. 5

## AGENDA

AGENDA  
Kingston Amateur Radio Club, INC.  
4 April 2012  
At Smitty's Restaurant 07:00 PM

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1. Members and Guests introduce themselves
2. Additions to the Agenda
3. Minutes of the last Meeting: errors / omissions / approval (Assaf VA3PCI)
4. Treasurer's Report (David VE3DZE)
5. Business arising from the Minutes:
  - a. Voice ID on the KBR repeater –
  - b. Meeting / Tour of Museum –
  - c. IRLP Node –
  - d. Digipeater –.
6. New Business:
  - a. Post Mail Box –
  - b. Club Laptop –
7. Reports:
  - a. President (Terry VA3KLG)
  - b. Repeaters (John VA3GST)
  - c. RAC (See RAC bulletins via the Free List.)
  - d. Net Manager (Steve VE3KC)
  - e. Web Page (Chip VA3KGB)
  - f. KARC Newsletter (Assaf VA3PCI)
  - g. Frontenac EmComm Group (George VE3SIQ)
  - h. Kingston ARES (Roy VE3VJF)
  - i. CFARS (Les VE3KFS)
  - j. "Hearts and Flowers "
  - k. Other Reports
8. 50 / 50 Draw
9. Date of next meeting: 02 May 2012
10. Adjournment
11. Presentation:



MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES OF MEETING  
**OF THE**  
**KINGSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC**  
**HELD ON**  
**Wednesday 7 Mar 2012**  
**At Smitty's**

**The Kingston Amateur Radio Club meeting** was called to order at 7:00 PM by our president Terry VE3KLG.

1. The members present introduced themselves. There were 15 members in attendance.
2. **Additions to the Agenda:** No additions made.
3. **Minutes:** Les VE3KFS moved, seconded by Chip VA3KGB to approve the minutes of the February meeting which were published in the March newsletter. The motion passed.
4. **January Treasurer's Report:** David VE3DZE read the March financial report. We had a closing balance of \$5333.35. David motioned, seconded by Chip VE3KGB, that the Treasurer's Report be adopted as read. Motion carried.
5. **Business Arising from the Minutes:**
  - a) **Club Kit Build:** Much interest in SuperTuner II Kit. Terry will send a link out to it to gauge interest.
  - b) **Voice ID on Repeater:** Steve VE3KC spoke about returning Voice ID to the repeater. He placed a motion to spend amount not to exceed \$100 for link cable between the CAT-250 controller and the repeater controller (actual cost estimate around \$50). Doug VE3DZE seconded. There was some debate whether to have Voice ID or not. Chip VA3KGB will investigate if it is possible to disable the output tone on the repeater when it is transmitting automated broadcasts. Steve moved to table the motion until next meeting, Doug seconded.
6. **New Business:** No new business.
7. **Reports:**
  - a) **President:** Will come in next month.
  - b) **Repeaters:** Chip VE3KGB reported that both machines are working well.
  - c) **RAC:** Nothing to report. See RAC bulletins via the Free List.
  - d) **Net Manager:** See newsletter for report.
  - e) **Web Page:** Chip says he updated links for IC documents, and will continue updating other links as needed.
  - f) **Newsletter:** Assaf VA3PCI reminded everyone that articles for the newsletter should be sent to [news@ve3kbr.com](mailto:news@ve3kbr.com) a week before the monthly meeting and thanks everyone for articles that have been sent in. Phil VE3HST suggested we no longer publish the net control script. Consensus agreed we would take it out.
  - g) **Frontenac EMCMM:** Dave VE3DZE says there is a meeting coming up to do digital training using FLDIGI.
  - h) **CFARS:** Les VE3KFS reported that callsign restrictions imposed by Industry Canada have been removed and CFARS can get as many callsigns as it needs. CFARS is now a part of DND. Any ham can apply for a CFARS callsign through the CFARS webpage.

i) **Amateur Radio Course:** Had 18 students, 6 have graduated and others will soon upon completing rewrites. Instructors are in short supply and needed for future courses. He may be able to organize another course for the fall and is looking for 20-25 people.

j) **C&E Museum:** Terry reports that the museum has just received a new linear amp (AL80EX), antenna tuner, VHF rig for Echolink, CW key (straight) for ham side. For CFARS, new Kenwood TS480SAT radio for gateway. The amp arrived with a 240V plug but will be sent back to Durham Radio to have a standard 120V plug installed. Equipment is available for use by amateurs.

k) **'Hearts and Flowers':** Nil

l) **IRLP Machine:** Assaf VA3PCI reports IRLP machine is locking up, likely because the 10+ year old hardware is failing and suggests replacing it with new hardware. Les motioned that we allot an amount not to exceed \$275 for replacement hardware, seconded by Phil VE3HST. Steve moved to table the motion until more time is available to find out prices, seconded by David.

**8. Date of next meeting:** 4 April 2012.

Assaf VA3PCI

Secretary

Kingston Amateur Radio Club Inc.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Kingston Amateur Radio Club  
Financial Statement  
Mar 2012

Income	
Dividend Savings	23.07
Equity Shares	216.44
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Total Income	239.51
Expenses	
	0.00
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Total Expenses	0.00
Overall Total	39.50
Bank Balance	
As of Apr 1, 2012	\$5396.84

NET CONTROL SCHEDULE

Month	Date	Controller
April	3	VE3NFU Bill
April	10	VA3PCI Assaf
April	17	VE3VJF Roy
April	24	VE3CAK John
May	1	VE3DZE David
May	8	VE3JPW Warren
May	15	VE3NFU Bill
May	22	VE3KC Steve
May	29	VA3PCI Assaf
June	5	VE3VJF Roy
June	12	VE3CAK John
June	19	VE3DZE David
June	26	VE3JPW Warren