

Newsletter
APRIL
2014

Kingston Amateur Radio Club

2014 Executive



Kingston Amateur News

President: Assaf Shool, VA3PCI
pres at ve3kbr.com

Vice-Pres: Paul Taenzer, VA3LX
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Treasurer: Steve Cutway, VE3KC
treas at ve3kbr.com

Secretary: Shannon Coolican, VA3XRY
sec at ve3kbr.com

Past-Pres: Terry Barrett, VA3KLG
pastpres at ve3kbr.com

2014 COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Two Metre Net Manager:
Steve Cutway, VE3KC
netmanager at ve3kbr.com

Newsletter Editor:

Shannon Coolican, VA3XRY
news at ve3kbr.com

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Kingston, Ontario K7M 1N6 Canada
<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-1 Hartington APRS
node
144.390 MHz

FROM THE PRESIDENT

We're working this month to help the club meet the needs of new hams. During the March meeting, it was asked "Which radio should I buy?" by a new ham. Despite what some dedicated Yaesu fans will tell you, the best radio is dictated by what capabilities are desired, budget and operating environment among other things. The new ham asking these questions may not even be sure of what capabilities they want making it all the more difficult to answer.

To help answer this, we're preparing some presentations covering some of the radios we're familiar with and discussing a number of points relating to them. I would like to invite any of our hams to put together 1 or 2 slides and discuss their experiences with their own kit.

This presentation is currently slated for the April meeting, but it may be repeated in the future once the current ham course at CFSCE graduates and eager young hams seek out new, shiny radios.

No hamfest this year

During the last meeting, it was decided by the executive and membership to not hold a full hamfest this year. While they have fun in past years and a great way to mingle with fellow hams, hamfests are facing a number of challenges in today's world of global online shopping. One that I would like to highlight is the decreasing amount of quality used gear and ever climbing prices. Prices for used electronics, even if the stuff is more than 20 years old, are often close to or higher than brand new gear. Most hams don't want to buy an older radio that is in unknown condition, when for a small amount more, they can purchase new with a warranty. For buyers, online shopping provides a medium with better prices and selection. Spending our limited resources for a full hamfest to push old kit and a growing amount of what is essentially e-waste is not a smart business move. However, we may incorporate mini ham fests in the form of tailgating as part of a larger events such as a field day.



VE3KBR repeater decides to issue its own CW Challenge

As those of you who monitor 146.940MHz on a regular basis, we have been struggling lately with the CW identifier. Over time, it has sped up and up, and I estimate that it presently identifies at about 120 words per minute and continuing to grow faster. It has also become so loud that it wipes out any poor soul attempting to use the repeater when the identifier activates. We are not really sure what is wrong with it and are unable to wonder in on a whim to the repeater's restricted commercial site, but we have contacted someone who can and hope to report back on the issue soon.

Repeater troubles are also reported with the VE3KAR machine located in Claringdon. The machine is presently down, perhaps it has become self-aware and has taken a vacation (or perhaps not), however we are going to investigate this and with any luck restore the machine to normal operation.

Til next time
Assaf
VA3PCI
KARC President

KARC Club Contest News

Tim Gregory, VA3TIC, is the winner of our March contest: the North America SSB Sprint. Tim logged 75 contacts with 31 multipliers for a total 2325 points. I did not receive any other logs from club members to challenge Tim's excellent effort. Congratulations!

At the February meeting, the Ontario QSO Party was selected as the club contest for the month of April.

The OQP as it is affectionately known; is sponsored by the Contest Club of Ontario. This is a club that focuses on contesting with free membership available to Ontario amateurs. Here's the link to their website:

<http://www.va3cco.com/>

They have an email list similar to the KARC freelist that's a great source of contest related information and fraternal activities of the club such as an annual barbecue and winter banquet.

The OQP is held on the third full weekend of April. This year's contest times are as follows:

1800Z April 19 to 0500Z April 20, and 1200Z to 1800Z April 20

The object of the contest, for Ontario stations, is to contact as many stations as possible both in Ontario and worldwide. This is both an HF and VHF contest, (except for the WARC bands). It is both a Single Sideband and CW contest. There are suggested operating frequencies that you can also see listed on the link below.

The scoring is unique in that it's the only contest I'm aware of that gives multipliers for Ontario counties! There is a full list of counties available at: www.va3cco.com/oqp/OQPMultList.pdf

The rest of the scoring details and other information are available on the OQP website:

<http://www.va3cco.com/oqp/rules.htm>

As we saw in December with the 10 m contest, the OQP favors CW by giving two points for a CW QSO and a single point for a sideband QSO. Also unique to this contest, are 10 point scores for each contact made with the CCO club station VA3CCO, the ODXA club station VE3ODX, and RAC Ontario club station VA3RAC. Ontario-based stations can also claim one multiplier for each Canadian province/territory, US state and DXCC country worked on each band.

The total score equals the number of QSO points X the total number of multipliers.

The Ontario Contest Club website has the details for log submissions and the various awards that they offer. There are 12 different plaques available and at least 20 certificates.

For KARC members; we'd like to continue with our tradition of offering a \$10 Tim Horton's certificate for the highest Single Sideband score, the highest CW score and for the highest Overall score.

As before, please submit your contest summaries to me, VA3LX at my email address: ptaenzer@gmail.com

At the April club meeting on April 2 we'll have a discussion on strategies for approaching the contest such as which band to work when and when to call CQ and went to hunt for multipliers.

See you in the contest!

de,

Paul

VA3LX

Meeting Minutes – Kingston Amateur Radio Club – March 5, 2014

Time: 19:00

Location: Smitty's Restaurant, Princess Street, Kingston, Ontario

Members present:

Doug **VE3FFR**

Ian **VE3ABQ**

Tim **VA3TIC**

Derrick **VE3HRW**

Matthew **VE3MHB**

Carlye **VE3WIO**

Shannon **VA3XRY**

Assaf **VA3PCI**

Steve **VE3KC**

Rob **VE3RVC**

George **VE3BFH**

Dave **VA3BLF**

Phil **VE3HST**

Jim **VE3HOV**

Assaf VA3PCI brought the meeting to order. He mentioned that he was happy to see such a good turnout, especially given that some other members of the group were participating in the HAM radio course at the school on the base.

Minutes of December 2013 meeting were accepted. Motion put forward by **Shannon VA3XRY** and was seconded by **Carlye VE3WIO**.

Steve VE3KC gave the Treasurer's report. **Steve VE3KC** notified the club membership that we have received our certificate of insurance from RAC. The certificate of insurance is for commercial general liability and includes a) bodily injury (up to \$5 million) b) property damage (up to \$5 million) and Tenant's liability all risks (up to \$1 million). **Steve VE3KC** mentioned that members of KARC that are RAC members as well are eligible for personal insurance (including your equipment, towers) above and beyond standard homeowner's insurance policies. **Steve VE3KC** put forward a motion that the Treasurer's report be accept. **Doug VE3FFR** seconded the motion.

It was decided that there will be no KARC Hamfest this year due to a decline in interest of Hamfests in general. **Doug VE3FFR** put forward a motion that there be no 2014 KARC Hamfest. **Steve VE3KC** seconded the motion.

It was decided that the 'Sprint' QSO party on March 14, 2014 be the March Club contest. **Caryle VE3WIO** put forward a motion that that the 'Sprint' QSO party be the March Club contest. **Tim VA3TIC** seconded the motion.

Ian VE3ABQ was introduced as a new member. As well **James VE3HOV** was welcomed as a new member.

The next meeting of the Kingston Amateur Radio club will be held on Wednesday, April 2, 2014 at Smitty's restaurant in Kingston, Ontario.

KARC FINANCIAL REPORT - 2012

February 26, 2014

Opening Balance

Cooperation Plus	4,938.72
Dividend Savings	8.58
Equity Shares	216.44
Total Balance	5,163.74

INCOME

Donations (equipment sales, repeater and =miscellaneous)	1,146.50
Memberships (39)	975.00
Hamfest	659.50
50/50 draws at meetings	34.00
Interest and Dividends	<u>22.31</u>
Total Income	2,837.31

EXPENSES

Equipment liability insurance (RAC)	453.86
VE3KBR domain registration renewal and Doteasy web =hosting	291.06
Donation (CNIB ARP)	200.00
power supply, motherboard, RAM, and storage for the IRLP node computer	151.60
Frontenac EMCOMM share of Hamfest radio equipment sale	70.00
Speaker (VE3SRS) dinner Reimbursement at the May 2 meeting	16.19
KCCU annual membership dues	<u>7.00</u>
Total Expenses	1,189.71
Revenue Less Expenses	1,647.60

CLOSING BALANCE

Cooperation Plus	6,641.83
Dividend Savings	23.07
Equity Shares	216.44
Total Balance	6,881.34

KARC FINANCIAL REPORT - 2013

February 25, 2014

Opening Balance

Cooperation Plus	6,641.83
Dividend Savings	23.07
Equity Shares	216.44
Total Balance	6,881.34

INCOME

Memberships (31)	775.00
Hamfest	357.00
Donations (equipment sales, repeater and =miscellaneous)	340.50
Callsign name tags	130.00
50/50 draws at meetings	24.00
Interest and Dividends	<u>23.45</u>
Total Income	1,649.95

EXPENSES

Equipment liability insurance (RAC)	510.02
Donations (CNIB ARP and Glenburnie United =Church)	300.00
VE3KBR domain registration renewal and Doteasy web =hosting	273.81
Field Day	148.88
Callsign name tags	122.44
Hamfest (float)	100.00
Petty cash advance	100.00
KCCU annual membership dues	7.00
Postage and envelopes	<u>5.44</u>
Total Expenses	1,567.59
Revenue Less Expenses	82.36

CLOSING BALANCE

Cooperation Plus	6,709.15
Dividend Savings	16.39
Equity Shares	238.16
Total Balance	6,963.70

KARC FINANCIAL REPORT - DECEMBER - 2013

February 25, 2014

Opening Balance

Cooperation Plus	6,730.63
Dividend Savings	16.39
Equity Shares	<u>238.16</u>
Total Balance	6,985.18

INCOME

Memberships (4)	100.00
1 callsign name tag (VA3LX)	7.00
50/50 draw at December meeting	13.00
December Interest	<u>0.12</u>
Total Income	120.12

EXPENSES

Callsign name tags	36.16
Postage to send RAC insurance payment	1.50
Package of envelopes	3.94
Petty cash advance	<u>100.00</u>
Total Expenses	141.60
Revenue Less Expenses	-21.48

CLOSING BALANCE

Cooperation Plus	6,709.15
Dividend Savings	16.39
Equity Shares	<u>238.16</u>
Total Balance	6,963.70

KARC FINANCIAL REPORT - JANUARY 2014

February 25, 2014

Opening Balance

Cooperation Plus	6,709.15
Dividend Savings	16.39
Equity Shares	<u>238.16</u>
Total Balance	6,963.70

INCOME

Memberships (2)	50.00
1 callsign name tag (VE3OWE)	7.00
January Interest	<u>0.12</u>
Total Income	57.12

EXPENSES

Total Expenses	0.00
Revenue Less Expenses	57.12

CLOSING BALANCE

Cooperation Plus	6,766.27
Dividend Savings	16.39
Equity Shares	<u>238.16</u>
Total Balance	7,020.82

PETTY CASH

Opening Balance	100.00
December 2013 10 meter SSB contest prizes (3 TimCards)=	25.00
Closing Balance	75.00

KARC FINANCIAL REPORT - FEBRUARY - 2014

February 25, 2014

Opening Balance

Cooperation Plus	6,766.27
Dividend Savings	16.39
Equity Shares	<u>238.16</u>
Total Balance	7,020.82

INCOME

Memberships (1)	25.00
February Interest	<u>0.12</u>
Total Income	25.12

EXPENSES

Total Expenses	0.00
Revenue Less Expenses	25.12

CLOSING BALANCE

Cooperation Plus	6,791.39
Dividend Savings	16.39
Equity Shares	<u>238.16</u>
Total Balance	7,045.94

KARC FINANCIAL REPORT - MARCH 2014

March 14, 2014

Opening Balance

Cooperation Plus	6,791.38
Dividend Savings	16.39
Equity Shares	<u>238.16</u>
Total Balance	7,045.93

INCOME

Memberships (5)	125.00
Dividends	23.73
50/50 draw at March meeting	19.00
March Interest (estimate)	<u>0.11</u>
Total Income	167.84

EXPENSES

KCCU Membership Dues	<u>7.00</u>
Total Expenses	7.00
Revenue Less Expenses	160.84

CLOSING BALANCE

Cooperation Plus	6,935.49
Dividend Savings	9.66
Equity Shares	<u>261.62</u>
Total Balance	7,206.77

AGENDA – 2 APRIL 2014

1. Members and Guests introduce themselves
2. Additions to the Agenda
3. Amateur Radio News
4. Community Acknowledgments
5. Minutes of the last Meeting: errors / omissions / approval (Shannon VA3XRY)
6. Treasurer's Report (Steve VE3KC)
7. Business arising from the minutes:
 - a. Ham Radio Contest, Ontario QSO contest
7. New Business:
 - a. Field Day 2014
 - b. Repeaters
8. Reports:
 - a. Net Manager (Steve VE3KC)
 - b. "Hearts and Flowers"
 - c. Other Reports
9. Date of next meeting: 07 May 2014
10. 50 / 50 Draw
11. Adjournment

VHF Net Report
April 2, 2014

Thanks to the controllers who kept the VHF net alive in March. Check-ins ranged from 8 to 13 and net duration ran from 14 to 41 minutes.

The net control schedule for April is in the current newsletter; but if you hear silence any Tuesday night at 19:30 hours on VE3KBR, please jump in and control the net. The script is in the newsletter and on the KARC web site and if you follow it, you'll do fine.

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

NET CONTROL SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Controller</u>
April 8	VE3KGC Larissa
April 15	VA3MHB Matthew
April 22	VA3PCI Assaf
April 29	VE3CAK John
May 6	VE3DZE David
May 13	VE3JPW Warren
May 20	VE3KC Steve
May 27	VE3KGC Larissa
June 3	VA3MHB Matthew
June 10	VA3PCI Assaf
June 17	VE3CAK John
June 24	VE3DZE David

NET CONTROL SCRIPT

KARC Tuesday Night Net Control Script

Revised April 16, 2013

Good evening. This is *[name and callsign]*, net control station for the Kingston Amateur Radio Club's Tuesday night Net.

The Kingston Amateur Radio Club Tuesday Night Net is an informal net that meets at 1930 hours every Tuesday evening on the KARC repeater, VE3KBR. We welcome participation by all amateurs.

Before continuing, is there any emergency or priority traffic? Please call now.

The purpose of the net is to take check-ins; to inform you of KARC activities; and to provide news of interest to Radio Amateurs. Information about KARC may be found on the web site (www.ve3kbr.com) or by contacting any of our club executive members.

I will take check-ins giving priority to mobiles, portables and stations checking in via EchoLink or IRLP. When checking in, please give your call sign phonetically, your name and location, and indicate whether you have any traffic or announcements for the Net.

Are there any stations using EchoLink or IRLP wishing to check in? Please call now.

Are there any mobiles or portables wishing to check in? Please call now.

Are there any base stations wishing to check in? Please call now.

Trivia Time

Here's tonight's trivia question(s).

Swap Shop

Are there any items for the swap shop?

Closing

Are there any additional check-ins or announcements before I end the Net?

That concludes this evening's Kingston Amateur Radio Club Tuesday Night Net. Thank you for participating. We had *[number]* check-ins this evening. 73. This is *[name and callsign]* returning the repeater to normal amateur use.