

# KINGSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

Founded in 1947

April 2017

## *Executive Committee*

### **President**

Assaf, VA3PCI

pres@ve3kbr.com

### **Vice President**

Larissa Reise, VE3KGC

vicepres@ve3kbr.com

### **Treasurer**

Douglas Richards, VE3FFR

treas@ve3kbr.com

### **Secretary**

Chip Chapman, VA3KGB

sec@ve3kbr.com

### **Past President**

Paul Taenzer, VA3LX

## **KARC Repeaters**

VE3KBR

146.940(-) MHz

151.4Hz Tone, IRLP Node #2750

VE3UEL Hartington APRS Node

144.390 MHz

VE3KER Kingston Packet Node

145.070 MHz Simplex

## *Committee Chair Members*

VHF Net Manager

Brian Hopkins, VA3BAH

netmanager@ve3kbr.com

HF Net Manager

We're looking for one...

Membership Manager

Steve Cutway, VE3KC

Newsletter Editor

Assaf, VA3PCI

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's finally warming up enough that the normal chatter about moving to other planets is starting to die down for the year. With that, we only have two meetings remaining this year before we go on a summer break until September.

### *Field Day 2017*

I've made several calls during meetings at Smitty's for volunteers to help out with Field Day, only to be met in large part by silence fit for a eulogy. Even the ventilation system seemed to get a bit quieter. Because of the staffing needed for Field Day and the very tepid interest shown this year, we'll likely not pursue Field Day. Instead, I'm working to replace it with perhaps a 3D Printing day instead. 3D printing is used for a lot of things, and with some creativity it compliments ham radio very well. For example, I just 3D printed RF probes that would normally cost hundreds of dollars to buy commercially, and (after installing a few additional components) they work!

### *Name Tags*

Name tags have arrived all the from our supplier in British Columbia and we'll have these available at the next meeting. If you haven't prepaid, it's \$5 for a pin tag and \$8 for a magnetic one.

### *HF Net Manager Wanted*

Our first and last HF net manager, Carlyle VE3WIO, has recently had to step down due to other pressing commitments. I'd like to thank Carlyle for his efforts in getting the HF net off the ground and hosting several nets, and now I'm looking to replace him with a new volunteer. The HF net runs every 2 or 3 weeks after the Tuesday night VHF net, and the manager's role is to find a free frequency (usually on 80m) and informally control the net.

### *Portable Radio Miniaturization Project Ongoing*

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, I'm working to reduce the size and weight of the existing club radio set which consists of a Kenwood TS-440 and a 2M radio. I'd like to thank Dave Fasken VA3DLF has very graciously donated a portable aluminum case, lightweight switch mode power supply and connectors to help make this a reality and save the club money. I still have some soldering to do to put it all together but it should make life easier for any future activities involving the setup of those radios.

Assaf

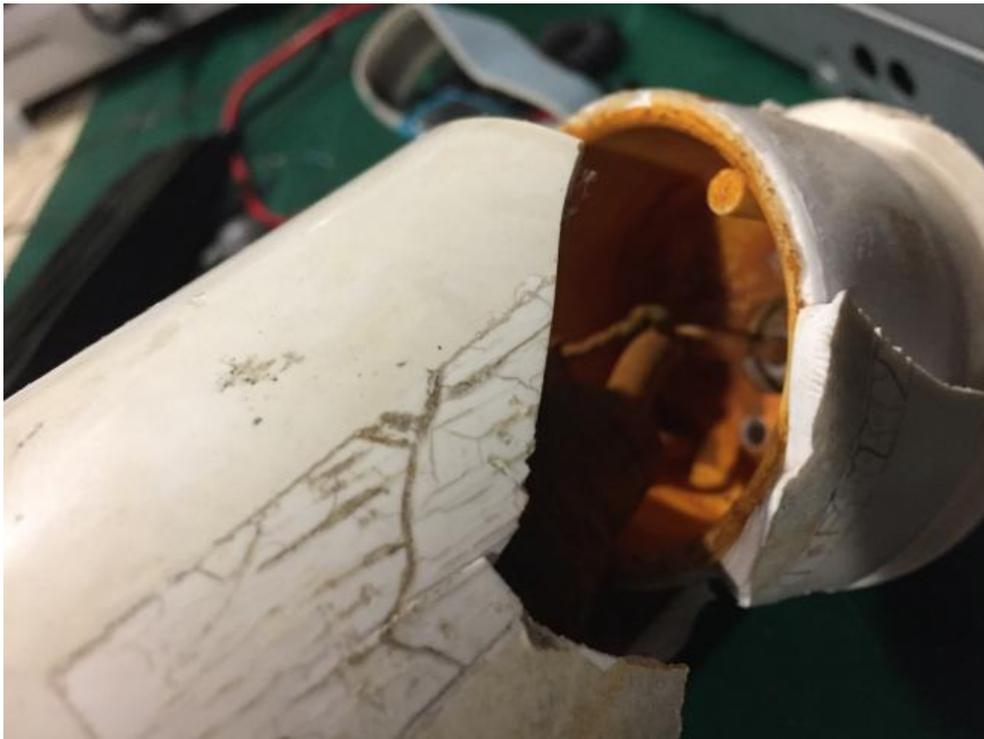
VA3PCI

MEMBER ARTICLE

I recently resurrected my HF antenna back into service but not without any issues. Most notable was the high vswr at higher power levels. I relocated the antenna, changed the coax, and cleaned all of the connections but the problem persisted. Soon after, the receive performance also became very poor.

The last component I changed was the balun. I've purchased it from a commercial manufacturer, though over the years I've forgotten the make and the stickers on the front have worn off. It has always worked very well and I didn't expect it to suddenly stop working but replacing it with another old balun seemed to help. I wanted to look inside of it but these devices were not meant for servicing, instead they are glued shut for life as an inexpensive way to keep water out. That's right, hams have been gluing things shut and rendering them totally unrepairable even before Apple had the "courage" to "innovate" it into their product line.

With no other choice, I placed the balun in my bench vice and using some gentle persuasion, the PVC gave way and revealed what secrets were hiding inside:



I was surprised to see how much rust and corrosion had collected over the years, which made me wonder how it could have possibly even worked this long. There was no transformer inside, just a coax cable with 9 ferrite rings around it creating a common mode choke or "ugly balun" as it is sometimes referred to.(This type of balun connects the coax shield braid to the counter radiating element of a dipole, so common mode suppression is added to prevent the entire feedline from becoming part of the antenna and radiating.)

I could have just thrown the whole thing into the trash at this point and ordered a new one, but why spend \$45 or more when all I really need is some new PVC, a bit of coax and some new screws? I headed out to the hardware store to purchase stainless steel fasteners, sealant, PVC endcaps and a PVC pipe. The PVC pipe was only available in ten foot lengths, so after using about five inches I have nine feet of new sewer pipe left over to do with as I please. I cleaned up the old chokes and the SO-239 connector for reuse, and reused some old coax that was laying around. I also drilled a small hole in the bottom to allow water to escape.



*Figure 1: The balun after rebuilding*

In the end, after a few of hours of hard work and \$40 worth of stuff from the hardware store, I got the balun rebuilt and my station back on the air again.

Assaf

VA3PCI

**MEETING AGENDA FOR 4 April 2017**

1. Members and Guests introduce themselves
2. Additions to the Agenda
3. Minutes of the last Meeting: errors / omissions / approval (Chip VA3KGB)
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Old Business:
  - a. Update on Club Portable Radio Set
6. New Business:
  - a. No new business
7. Reports:
  - a. Net Manager (Brian VA3BAH)
  - b. CFARS
  - c. "Hearts and Flowers"
  - d. Other Reports
8. Date of next meeting: 04 April 2017
9. 50 / 50 Draw
10. Adjournment
11. Presentation: Assaf VA3PCI will give a presentation on 3D printing technologies.

## MEETING MINUTES

Kingston Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of the Meeting

7 March 2017

Held at Smitty's Restaurant

Kingston Ontario

1. Assaf, VA3PCI, called the meeting to order at 7pm.
2. There were 23 members and guests present.
3. Minutes of the previous meeting:
  - a. It was moved by Chip, VA3KGB and seconded by Doug, VE3FFR, that the minutes of the January meeting be approved as published in the February Newsletter.
  - b. Motion carried.
4. Financial Report:
  - a. It was moved by Doug, VE3FFR, and seconded by Carlyle, VE3WIO, that the January/February financial reports be approved as published in the February/March Newsletters respectively.
  - b. Motion carried.
5. New Business:
6. Name Tags:
  - a. Name tags will be ordered at a member cost of \$5.00 for pin type and \$8.00 for magnetic type.
  - b. Assaf proposed that the Club subsidize the cost of the name tags and shipping at a sum of \$50.00
  - c. It was pointed out the Executive has a discretionary approval for funds that does not need to be pre-approved by the Club membership. Assaf pointed out that it was being stated for financial transparency.
  - d. It was motioned by Larissa, VE3KGC, and seconded by Eric, VE2PEF, that \$50.00 be allocated to subsidize the cost of the name tags and shipping.
  - e. Motion carried.
7. Field Day 2017:
  - a. Assaf asked who had volunteered to help out for Field Day. Doug, VE3FFR, and Paul, VE3LX, stated they had volunteered to help Assaf with Field Day. Members were asked to provide input where, operation times, etc.
8. Club VHF/HF Portable Radio:
  - a. It was proposed by Assaf that the Club radios which currently in a large heavy suitcase, be housed in a lighter case with replacement of the heavy power supply to a lightweight repurposed server power supply. This would make the system more portable by Club members as the weight and size would be decrease significantly.
  - b. Dave, VA3DLF, indicated that he had a case, power supply and Anderson Power Pole connectors he would donate to the cause.
9. Google Groups List/Freelist:
  - a. The Google Groups list has had 62 members of the Freelist switched over. Steve, VE3KC, has unsubscribed all members off the Freelist, who coincidently told Steve when he asked Freelist to delete our group that they know how to fix the gibberish on Freelist which Steve had been trying to resolve through Freelist the last couple of years.
10. Reports:
11. Net Manager:

- a. Brian, VA3BAH, reported the 2m Net has been averaging 15 checkins.
12. HF Net:
  - a. Carlyle, VE3WIO, reported a couple of nets have been held. The HF Net is held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday after the 2m Net.
13. CFARS:
  - a. Les, VE3KFS, reported that a Fanlite diople has been temporarily erected at the Museum of Communications and Electronics in order to put the radio station on the air vor the Vimy 100 celebrations in April.
14. Hearts and Flowers:
  - a. Nil Report.
15. IRLP:
  - a. The problems with the IRLP when the ISP was changed have been rectified after configuration settings in the equipment/network.
16. Next meeting:
  - a. 4 April 2017.
17. Adjournment:
  - a. It was motioned by Brian, VA3BAH, and seconded by Eric, VE2PEF, that the meting be adjourned.
  - b. Motion carried.
18. 50/50 Draw:
  - a. Brian, VA3BAH, won the draw (\$8.00) donating his share (\$4.00) back to the club.
19. Presentation:
  - a. Chip, VA3KGB, gave a presentation on WWV – More Than Just A Time Signal.
  - b. The presentation (including audio, links, video links) will be posted on the Club website.

FINANCIAL REPORT

**KARC FINANCIAL REPORT –Mar 2017**

**Mar 28, 2017**

**Opening Balance**

<b>Cooperation Plus</b>	<b>5496.14</b>
<b>Dividends Savings</b>	<b>37.54</b>
<b>Equity Shares</b>	<b>261.62</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>5795.34</b>

**Income**

<b>Int</b>	<b>.04</b>
<b>Membership</b>	<b>50.00</b>
<b>50 50 Draw</b>	<b>8.00</b>
<b>Donation</b>	<b>4.50</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>62.54</b>

**Dividends Income**

<b>Dividends Income</b>	<b>8.35</b>
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**Expenditures**

<b>Name Tags</b>	<b>129.67</b>
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**Closing Balance**

<b>Cooperation Plus</b>	<b>5429.05</b>
<b>Dividend Savings</b>	<b>45.89</b>
<b>Equity Shares</b>	<b>261.62</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>5736.56</b>

**NET CONTROL SCHEDULE**

Tuesday, 11 April: Peter, VE3NXE

Tuesday, 18 April: Carlyle, VE3WIO

Tuesday, 25 April: John, VE3CAK

## **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](http://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.