

Newsletter

January 2006



KINGSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Kingston Amateur News

Kingston Amateur Radio Club 2006 Executive

President: Tom, VE3UDO

ve3udo@sympatico.ca

Vice-Pres: Steve, VE3KC

ve3kc@cogeco.ca

Treasurer: Terry, VA3TRM

va3trm@sympatico.ca

Secretary: Bill, VA3OL

ve3kgj@sympatico.ca

Past-Pres: Rob, VE3RPF

valveman_6146@yahoo.com

2006 Committee Chairs

Swap Net Manager:

VE3KFS Les Lindstrom

ve3kfs@rac.ca

Two Meter Net Manager:

VE3KFS Les Lindstrom

ve3kfs@rac.ca

Newsletter Editor: Joan Clarke

joan.g.clarke@sympatico.ca

Repeater Committee:

VE3KFS, Les Lindstrom

ve3kfs@rac.ca

VA3GST, John Taylor

va3gst@sympatico.ca

VA3KGB, Chip Chapman

va3kgb@rac.ca

VE3JCQ, John Wood

ve3jcq@rac.ca

P.O. Box 1402 Kingston Ontario K7L 5C6

<http://www.ve3kbr.com>

VE3KAR
VE3KBR
VE3UEL
VE3KER
146.94(-) MHz

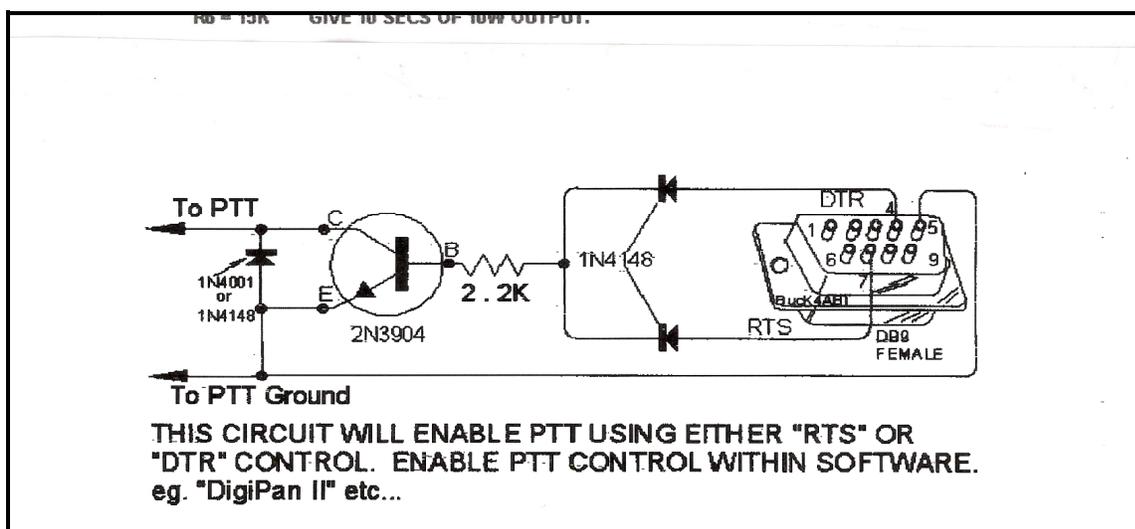


**The 2nd Repeater is now
Operational
147.090(+) MHz**

PRESIDENT'S WORDS

I wish to thank all the members who came to the Jan 4 meeting. As a follow up to my demo on SST and Digipan . Here is a simple schematic for those who would like to get into the digital side of Amateur radio.

VA3ZE Tom



A note from your Newsletter Editor

I would like to add a few words to this newsletter. I have agreed to take on the position as Editor of the Newsletter. I know it will take time to get things organized properly and I hope all of you will bear with me. I would appreciate any comments, within reason (hi, hi,), and any articles you would like to submit to be inserted in future editions of the Newsletter. Hopefully things will eventually run smoothly and you all will be able to download and read your Newsletter well in advance of the next General Meeting.

Joan Clarke (VE3VJF's XYL)

joan.g.clarke@sympatico.ca

COMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 1 K.A.R.C. Regular Monthly Meeting - 7:00 p.m., Smitty's back room.

March 1 K.A.R.C. Regular Monthly Meeting - 7:00 p.m., Smitty's back room.

Every **Wednesday** at 7:30 p.m. K.A.R.C. Net VE3KBR

SCHEDULE OF NET CONTROL STATIONS:

11 January - Bill, VE3NFU	22 February - Rob, VE3RPF
18 January - Warren, VE3JPW	08 March - Roy, VE3VJF
25 January - Ron, VE3GO	15 March - Bill, VE3NFU
08 February - Bill, VE3CLQ	22 March - Warren, VE3JPW
5 February - Tom, VA3ZE	29 March - Ron, VE3GO

Every **Thursday** Night - The **Fun Net** starting at 7:30 p.m. on 28.250 MHz. Listen for me (**Net Controller - VA3OL, Bill Rumball**) sending CQ KFN. I try to keep it slow - less than 10 wpm (actually I strive for 5 wpm but that is really tough for me). Give a listen and check in if you can. Depending on the number of checkins we generally run 30 to 45 minutes for the net. I will continue to call CQ until 8:00 p.m. even if I can't hear anyone, so if you are late, not to worry, I will be listening.

Every **Saturday** - Breakfast at Smitty's. Starts at 8:00 a.m. but come early, chat and mingle.

The **Third MONDAY** of every month at 7:00 p.m. A.R.E.S. has its **REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING** at the Woodbine Firehall, second floor.

* Please note: The Treasurer of the ARES group is now VE3ZJP, John Pederson, replacing VE3NB.

* There is a new repeater, VA3FOY 147.285(+) at Bancroft. Licensee is Doug Peckhover.

KARC Web page designed and maintained by:

VA3KGB, Chip

<http://www.ve3kbr.com>

Publication Schedule of the KARC Newsletter for February will be February 25, 2006

A CHEAP WAY TO BE ON THE AIR VA3OL, Bill

There are so many facets to ham radio that one doesn't know where to begin. But, perhaps the easiest way to begin is with an older HT (handy talky) or hand held radio.

These units typically put out 2 to 5 watts to the 'rubber ducky' and you can find older ones for as little as 20 dollars at a flea market. But to be fair you should expect to pay 50 to \$100 for one. I bought an older Radio Shack HTX-202 for \$60 at a flea market. It came in the original box and had all of the accessories and documentation. By that I mean that it had an 'expired' nicad battery pack but it also came with a 6 cell disposable battery carrier, charger, manual, rubber duck and belt clip. For a while I was satisfied with using the disposable battery carrier, but I used rechargeable batteries in it. Then I found some surplus 720 mah, 3.6 volt battery packs that I thought would work in the HT. Please see my article in a past issue of the KARC newsletter.

The beauty of this HT and many other older HT's is that they also accept 12volts in a connector in the top or side of the HT, so that you can use them in the shack or in the car with an external power supply (suitably fused of course). Don't get me wrong. HT's are a compromise due to their low power and lack of an efficient antenna. But they can do the job if you know how to treat them. I have installed a Ringo Ranger 2 meter antenna just outside of my shack on an 8-foot pole. By running some coax into the shack and using a PL-259 to BNC adapter I can use this antenna with my HT. Running 4 or 5 watts from Bayridge I can hit the Watertown repeater and all of the local repeaters. That's good enough for me!

Mobile, I use a cheap magnet mounted 2- meter antenna and a PL-259 to BNC adapter. But then I don't often take the two- meter rig in the car. When I do, I often just use the rubber ducky antenna and 'for the most part' that is good enough.

First item to look for in an old HT is what the original battery pack has in it's guts. Most of the ICOM packs have sub AA cells that are hard to find but some of them have AA cells that are easily replaced. But how can I tell what's in the battery pack? That is both hard and easy.... size does matter. You will find that the 6 cell standard AA packs measure about 2 to 2 ½ inches tall. They are bigger then the sub AA packs. By today's standards these old HT's are big and clunky but they serve us very well. Many of the newer HT's are very small, shirt pocket size, cover from 1 to a billion ghz but most won't accept anything but the specialized batteries that come with it and cost \$100 to replace just the battery. Since the life expectancy of a ni-cad battery pack is 3 to 5 years.... obsolescence is built in! A 5 year old HT with no battery is either land- fill or to expensive to rebuild.

The price. He wanted \$55.... No thanks.... He probably ended up getting his price or close to it.

Oh, and by the way, I did find an ICOM 6 cell alkaline battery holder at a flea market... something close to it because a lot of the old HT's have expired battery packs that cost between 50 and \$100 to replace. But I wasn't prepared to pay that price.

I have always found that the best place to get information is other hams. Ask around – what are other people using and what would they suggest.

Since minutes of the December meeting were not available at the January meeting , they are being included in this Newsletter.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE KINGSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
HELD ON December 7, 2005 At SMITTY'S RESTAURANT, PRINCESS ST.

The meeting opened at 7:09 PM by Rob, VE3RPF

1. All members introduced themselves

2. MINUTES of the last meeting were accepted as presented.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT was presented by Terry, VA3TRM, in Ferd, VE3SH's absence.

The club has a balance of \$5595.14.

Moved by Terry, VA3TRM that the treasurer's report be accepted. Seconded by Steve, VE3KC.
Carried

4. OLD BUSINESS

None

5: NEW BUSINESS

- Doug, VE3FFR advised that catalogues from Durham Radio are available and he will distribute them.

- Harold has info on his website at Macfarlaneelectronics.on.ca

- Ron, VE3GO thanked those who helped with the flea market and don't forget to support the commercial vendors who attended.

- Ferd, VE3SH is not well and members wishing to visit him - please call ahead.

- Terry, VA3TRM volunteered to take over from Ferd as Treasurer.

- Ron, VE3GO suggested that the club act as net control for an entire day on the TPN (Trans Provincial Net). Terry suggested that the Museum station be used and the Museum call VE3RCS.

- Steve, VE3KC advised that the book "In the Shadow of the Shield" - a history of early radio in Kingston is available. He will investigate the availability and advise.

50/50 Draw: Won by VE3KDM (Kerr) - \$26.00. Kerr donated the money back to the club.

6: PRESENTATION:

7: REPORTS:

RAC: Ron, VE3GO advised that the band plans are being worked on by the ICW, ARRL, RAC and other countries. There should be a bulletin shortly.

NEWSLETTER: Kim will be stepping down as editor and we will need a new newsletter editor for 2006.

WEBSITE: Chip reported no problems. There were 13000 hits on the website last month.

Cont'd on Page 5

NET MANAGER VE3KFS - No problems noted at this time and the trivia section has been well received.

OTHER ITEMS:

Merry Christmas to all and Happy New Year.

Doug, VE3FFR moved that the meeting be adjourned.
Passed.

(From the notes of Les, VE3KFS)

Bill Rumball, VA3OL
Secretary KARC



TREASURER'S REPORT:

ACCOUNT BALANCES

As of 1/23/2006

BANK ACCOUNTS

KARC Chequing	\$5,127.89
Repeater Savings	\$ 623.42

TOTAL BANK ACCOUNTS \$5,751.31

Details of all activities will be available at the Feb meeting. **Note:** The process of changing the account from Bank of Montreal to the Kingston Community Credit Union (as directed by the membership at the Jan 2006 meeting) has started and will be completed prior to the Feb meeting. The account is set up as a "non-profit" organization; we do not pay any fees other than the initial purchase of shares (\$155), which is refundable upon close out of the account. It also gives us access to our account from either Branch here in Kingston. If you have any questions about our account please do not hesitate to contact me.

VE3TRM Terry Murphy
Treasurer
K.A.R.C.



KARC AGENDA

Meeting Date:

February 1, 2006

1. Introduction of members
2. Additions and/or deletions
3. Minutes of Monthly Meeting Errors/Omissions
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Old Business
6. 50/50 Draw
7. New Business:
8. Reports:
 - a) RAC
 - b) Net Manager - VE3KFS
 - c) KARC Newsletter –
 - d) Web page - VA3KGB
 - e) Any other reports

Program: Barry, VE3NWW will provide commentary and a video on 'fly-by-wire' aircraft.

Adjournment

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE KINGSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
HELD ON January 4, 2006 At SMITTY'S RESTAURANT, PRINCESS ST.

The meeting opened at 7:00 PM by Steve, VE3KC

1. All members introduced themselves

2. MINUTES of the last meeting were not available and reading of the minutes will be deferred until the next meeting.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT was presented by Terry, VA3TRM.

The club has a balance of \$5152.31.

A short discussion took place concerning moving our banking to the Kingston Community Credit Union. Moved that the accounts be moved - Ron, VE3GO, seconded by Rob, VE3RPF. Carried.

Moved by Terry, VA3TRM that the treasurer's report be accepted. Seconder was Les VE3KFS. Carried

4. OLD BUSINESS

None

5: NEW BUSINESS

Ron, VE3GO showed off some of his bargains obtained from various sources. They included: a clock suitable for use in your station - \$1.00; a Crank radio with WX/AM and FM \$2.99; a pair of FRS radios with rechargeable batteries \$15.00; a VOM \$7.00

As reported last month Ferd, VE3SH is seriously ill and will be operated on very shortly.

Ron, VA3GO suggestion that KARC members act as TransProvincial Net controllers for an entire day will be discussed at the next executive meeting.

50/50 Draw: Won by VA3ZE, Tom who donated the money back to the club.

6: REPORTS:

RAC: No report

NEWSLETTER: we will need a new newsletter editor for 2006. Roy will investigate several possible candidates.

WEBSITE: Chip was on vacation.

NET MANAGER VE3KFS Thank you to Bill, VE3CLQ for lining up controllers.

OTHER ITEMS:

Cont'd on page 8

We need Chairpersons for the following events:

Picnic	Sky's The Limit
Field Day	Flea Market

Bill, VE3NFU agreed to chair the Hearts and Flowers Committee.

Rob, VE3RPF moved that the meeting be adjourned, Seconded by Roy, VE3VJF. Passed.

Tom, VA3ZE gave a presentation of the digital modes using a computer projector.

Bill Rumball, VA3OL
Secretary KARC