

Newsletter

January 2009



Kingston Amateur News

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



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

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT (Les, VE3KFS)

Numbers for the up-coming radio course continue to increase and as of this date we have 6 and we are still looking for more. Kick off is set for the first Monday in March at 772 Electronic Warfare Squadron at 1900 hours. Instructors Rob (VE3RPF), Chip (VA3KGB), and Les (VE3KFS). Cost for the course was set at \$20 - at a previous club meeting.

Work on the 34/94 repeater is on-going, Don VE3MNE is doing the configuration. Expect the sub-audible tone of 151.4 to be established when the installation is completed, so dig out your manuals and prepare for the change.

Chip and I will be away for the meeting in February so Rob will be in the hot seat for the meeting. Looking forward to working a few of club members on Echo-Link during our work period in Quebec.



As Vice President, I will be chairing the February meeting. Les, VE3KFS and Chip, VE3KGB will be off to Valcartier during this period. I will require someone to volunteer to take the minutes of the meeting. Since it is February and Valentine's Day is coming up, you should be thinking of doing something special for that someone special. Perhaps take them out for supper. Supper does not mean taking that someone to McDonald's drive -thru and letting her large-size her meal because it's Valentine's Day! See you all at the next meeting on February 4th.

VE3RPF, Robert Parker (Vice-President)

**Don't forget the next club meeting on Wednesday, February 4th, 2009
7: 00 pm.
at Smitty's**

From the Editor:

It's another new year and time to start thinking of new projects and hopes for an early spring. ***Please note:*** A copy of the ***NEW*** By-Laws are included in this edition and will be voted on at the March meeting.

YOUR DUES ARE DUE

KARC, Inc. Dues are due January 1st of each year. If you pay for your dues after September then you are paid up for Sept - Dec and the next fiscal year. ie: you pay your dues at the September, 2008 meeting then you are a paid up member for 2009 [and of course the last part of 2008].

We also accept multi year memberships! Beat the rate increase and sign up for two years! [Oh, I should mention that there is no [repeat NO] intention at this time to increase membership dues.

WEEKLY NETS:

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

All are welcome to check-in.

SCHEDULE OF NET CONTROLS

February	March	April	May
03 VE3MUD	03 VE3NFU	07 VE3SIQ	05 VE3MUD
10 VE3JPW	10 VE3VJF	14 VE3KC	12 VE3JPW
17 VE3SIQ	17 VE3MUD	21 VE3NFU	19 VE3SIQ
24 VE3KC	24 VE3JPW	28 VE3VJF	26 VE3KC
	31 VE3CAK		

If there are any conflicts in the schedule please contact Bill at ve3clq@rac.ca and we'll juggle a few things.

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.



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 February 25th, 2009

OF INTEREST

A new sound from Picton: 146.730 TJU Repeater

Another ham course is in the works (probably starting March) – Please get the word out that all who have expressed an interest can pass their names along to Les, VE3KFS.

Robert, VE3RPF passes this along - LEARN CW ONLINE

Check this out: <http://qrper.com/?p=61>

Project Onondaga

<http://www.radioman.ca/submarine28.htm>

A SUGGESTION FROM VE3NFK, John

For those that cannot have antennas etc - this might be an option:

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

Does CW too and has contests etc. and is free...

73 John VE3NFK

As of the printing of this newsletter, Tom, VA3ZE, is a patient in the Kingston General Hospital.

Eastern Ontario Repeaters

NUMBER	CITY	CALLSIGN	FREQUENCY	STONE & NOTES	IRLP NODE #
0	Clarendon Station	VE3KAR	147.090 +		
1	Kingston	VE3KBR/ VE3KAR	146.940 -	151.4	2750
2	Napanee		146.490	Simplex	
3	Picton	VE3TJU	146.730 -		
4	Belleville	VE3QAR	146.985 -	118.8	2090
5	Trenton	VE3YTR	147.015 +		
6	Colborne	VE3RTY	147.165 +	162.2	
7	Campbellford	VE3KFR	145.330 -		2275
8	Smiths Falls	VE3RLR	147.210 +		
9	Lansdowne	VA3LGA	146.625 -	100.0	
10	Toledo	VE3HTN	146.865 -		
11	Westport	VA3TEL	145.230 -		
12	Brockville	VE3IWJ	146.820 -	100.0	
13	Lavant	VE3KJG	146.640 -		2947
14	Iroquois	VE3IRO	145.290 -		
15	Pembroke	VE3NNR	146.760 -		2520
16	Hammond	VE3PRV	147.330 +		2115
17	Foymount	VE3UCR	145.430 -		
18	Perth	VE3GWS	146.955 -		
19	Renfrew	VE3ZRR	146.910 +		
20	Franktown	VA3IGS	147.240 +	100.0	2220
21	Kemptville	VE3KPT	146.850 -	151.4	
22	Almonte	VA3AAR	147.270 +		
23	Ottawa	VE2CRA	146.940 -	100.0	2040
24	Ottawa	VE3TEL	147.030 -	100.0	
25	Ottawa	VE3TST	146.700 -	136.5	2210
26	Ottawa	VE3TWO	147.300 +	100.0	
27	Ottawa	VA3LCC	146.790 -	136.5	
28	Ottawa	VE3MPC	147.150 +	100.0	
39	Ottawa	VA3OFS	146.670 -	136.5	
30	Pembroke	VE3NRR	146.760 -		

31	McArthur's Mills	VA3PLA	147.180 +		
32	Maynooth	VE3WPR	147.000 +		
33	Peterborough	VE3PBO	146.625 -		
34	Bracebridge	VE3MRT	146.865 -		
35	Scarborough	VE3RTC	146.745 -		
36	Scarborough	VE3TOR	146.940 -	103.5	
37	Toronto	VA3GTU	145.130 -	103.5	
38	Toronto	VE3WOO	145.110 -	82.5	
39	Toronto	VE3TWR	145.410 -	103.5	
40	Toronto	VE3SKY	146.985 -		
41	King City	VE3GSR	145.310 -	151.4	
42	King City	VE3YRA	145.350 -		
43	King City	VE3WAS	146.610 -	103.5	
44	Barrie	VE3KES	147.150 +	127.3	
45	Barrie	VE3RAG	147.000 +	156.7	
46	Lindsay	VE3LNZ	147.195 +		2870
47	Mount St. Patrick	VE3STP	147.060 -		
48	Cornwall	VE3SVC	147.180 +		
49	Cornwall	VE3YGM	145.170 -		
50	Watertown	KA2QJC	147.225 +		
51	Rice Lake	VE3RTR	145.150 -		
52	Oshawa	VE3OSH	147.120 +		
53	Whitby	VE3WOM	147.150 +	103.5	
54	Whitby	VA3SUP	147.045 +	103.5	
55	Ajax	VE3SPA	147.375 +		1404
56	Uxbridge	VE3RPT	147.060 +		2470
57	Bancroft	VA3FOY	147.285 +	118.8	
58	Coe Hill	VE3YAC	145.450 -		
59	Mallorytown	VE3IGE	146.970 -		
60	Manotick	VE3RIX	145.450 -		2596
61	Moose Creek	VE3OJE	145.370 -		
62	Barry's Bay	VE3RKA	146.970 -		
63	Tweed	VE3RNU	145.370 -		
64	Renfrew	VE3ZRR	146.910 +		
65	Morrisburg	VE3SVR	146.760 -		

DXpeditions and Contests for February

Planned DXpeditions for the month of February are:

5H1DF will be operating from Tanzania from 03 Feb -12 Feb. They will be operating on 10 – 160m, CW, SSB, RTTY, and SSTV.

3D2 will be operating from Fiji from 11 Feb - 16 Feb. They will be operating on 10 – 160m; mainly on CW, but some SSB and RTTY.

V8FHX will be operating from Brunei from 11 Feb - 23 Feb. No further details.

KP5 will be operating from Desecheo from 12 Feb - 26 Feb. They will be operating 6 to 8 stations on 10 – 160m.

A35HA will be operating from Tonga from 14 Feb - 21 Feb. They will be operating on 40 - 6m with a focus on 17m and 30m; will be operating SSB and CW.

T2 will be operating from Tulava from 17 Feb – 02 Mar. They will be operating on 160-10m; mainly CW, some SSB and RTTY; QRV for ARRL DX CW Contest.

S79JF will be operating from the Seychelles, 22 Feb – 06 Mar. They will be operating on 40 – 10m; will be operating CW, SSB and RTTY.

VP2M will be operating from Montserrat from 25 Feb – 07 Mar. They will be operating CW, SSB, and PSK31.

FH/G3SWH will be operating from Mayotte from 26 Feb – 05 Mar. They will be operating on 80 – 10m; mainly on CW.

January Contest Log

Here's a partial list of the contests happening this month:

10-10 International Winter Contest, SSB. 0001Z Feb 07 – 2359Z Feb 08.

North American Sprint, CW. 0000Z – 0004Z Feb 08.

North American Sprint, SSB. 0000Z – 0004Z Feb 15.

ARRL International DX Contest, CW. 0000Z Feb 21 – 2400Z Feb 22.

See you on the Bands !!

A chance to make a DX contact.

I will be QRV as V8FHX from 11- 23 February, mainly on CW but I will try ssb if conditions allow. Information from Brunei indicate that 0800z[ish] 20m is usually open to VE and VK {+JA, W7 etc} and Europe usually opens about 1200-1300z until 1500z [ish], also on 20m. After that 40m is the best bet. I will try all bands, depending on conditions and although mostly I will be on CW, I will have a look at some ssb as well. Bryan, M0OIC has agreed to be my "middle man" again and I will keep him in the picture as much as possible. We are hoping to go to Sabah on 16 and 17th February to see the Orang Utans so I will not be QRV on those dates. {I did look at the possibility of getting on air from 9M6 but it was going to be too much hassle and far too expensive for a 2 day visit}. Please keep the use of my call {V8FHX} to a minimum to try and keep the "unclean" away!! RSARS 1939 and RSARS F275 are available with the call.

(From Terry, VA3TRM. The note is from Sam Kennard in England.)

KARC-to-KARC HF Certificate



The purpose of the K2K HF Certificate is to promote local HF activity and to encourage KARC members to get more active on HF, which is really the essence of amateur radio.

The K2K HF Certificate is awarded to members of the Kingston Amateur Radio Club who work a specified number of other KARC members on HF. Certificates will be issued for 10 and 25 QSOs, with an endorsement for the number of qualifying QSOs. Higher-number certificates may be issued. HF will be any HF band from 160m and 10m, including the three WARC bands. There will be three different modes, CW, SSB and Digital. Each mode will be separate. Contacts on separate bands count as separate contacts. So if you contact the same station on 5 different HF bands, then you will have one KARC member and 5 qualifying QSOs. Obviously, members who live close to other members will have an advantage. An operator could have, for example:

KARC Members: 10
CW QSOs: 23
SSB QSOs: 40
Digital QSOs: 7

The certificates will list all three modes. The qualifying time period will be from 17 January 2009 until forever. In addition to the 10 and 25 certificate milestones, a listing will be maintained (probably on both the KARC Freelist and the KARC Web page) of the top 10 current scores of qualifying QSOs in each mode, such as CW: VE3zzz 17, SSB: VE3xxx 27, VE3yyy 23, etc. Contacts can be prearranged or set-up via any method such as 2m, e-mail, and telephone. No credit is given for contacts with non-KARC members. Contest "rules" may be modified a bit as we get started.

To qualify, submit a brief log, such as:

VE3HST Claimed Score
KARC Members: 2
CW: 4
SSB: 2
Digital: 0

Detailed Log:

CW
2009-01-18 VA3GST 80m
2009-01-18 VE3KFS 80m
2009-01-18 VA3GST 40m
2009-01-18 VE3KFS 40m

SSB
2009-01-18 VE3KFS 20m
2009-01-18 VA3GST 17m

Each time an update is submitted, please submit the "complete" log, showing claimed scores plus qualifying QSOs for all dates/modes. Max VE3TMT has designed a very nice certificate that will be issued to qualifying KARC members.

Submit logs to VE3HST (pwsomers@yahoo.ca)

On January 18, 2009, VA3GST, VE3KFS and VE3HST tried for some K2K qualifying QSO's. We made CW and HF contact on 80m, 40m, 30m, 20m, 17m, 15m and 10m. That is a lot of contacts and reports among three callsigns. We didn't have antennas that would work on 160m and 12m. It was a lot of fun figuring out where to operate on all those bands (for example: CW only on 30m), and seeing what propagation was like over about 20 km distances.

Phil VE3HST

Kingston Net (80m SSB- Tuesday Evenings)

To encourage more HF activity in the Kingston area, a new HF 80m net met for the first time on Tuesday, 20 January 2009. There were 12 Kingston area check-ins, from Napanee in the west to Athens in the east. Many of the reports were 59 and 59++. Some were down near the noise level but relays stepped in and helped a great deal. We talked mainly about what rigs we were using, how much power and what antenna.

Net Name: Kingston Net

Day: Tuesday

Time: Directly following the 146.94 KARC Net, around 20:00.

Frequency: 3.680 MHz LSB. If the frequency is in use, the net will move up to a clear frequency, hopefully only 3 KHz or so.

Format: Directed Net with a round-table chat.

Style: Very informal

Net Control: Variable. First night: VE3HST. Out of town controllers should ask for an in-Kingston secondary controller.

Propagation: Variable.

This net is not intended as a place to make HF contacts for the K2K HF Certificate on SSB. It disrupts the net too much. Please make your own one-on-one SSB contacts for that. However VA3OL Bill's CW net (KFN) is ok for K2K CW contacts if signal reports are exchanged among all stations, which has been the case in the past.

Phil VE3HST

CQ to Accept eQSL Confirmations for Award Credit:

(Hicksville, NY and Bedford, TX, January 13, 2009)

CQ magazine will accept contact confirmations made on the eQSL.cc electronic confirmation system for its operating awards effective immediately, CQ Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU, and eQSL Founder and Webmaster Dave Morris, N5UP, announced today.

There will be certain limitations and procedural differences for different awards, at least to start. Only confirmations from "Authenticity Guaranteed" members of eQSL will be accepted, and in accordance with existing eQSL policy, a membership level of bronze or higher is required in order to participate in award programs via eQSL.

"This is the first time that CQ has formally accepted anything other than traditional paper QSL cards for its awards," said Moseson. "We have been working with Dave Morris and his team for several months to assure that the integrity of our awards programs will be protected and to create mechanisms to make it easy for both award applicants and award managers to use eQSL credits toward our awards. All of our award managers have been involved in this process and support this action."

"We want to express our great appreciation to Dave and his team for their willingness to do whatever was necessary to make this agreement possible," Moseson added. "It has been a pleasure working with them and we look forward to a long-lasting relationship."

We are pleased to be adding CQ to the top of our list of amateur organizations that accept electronic QSLs," said Morris. "CQ has some of the most highly sought-after awards, and we have been working behind the scenes for years to create credit submission mechanisms that would ensure the integrity of their programs without introducing any additional labor for the award managers. We believe the electronic QSL can drastically reduce costs, and the award application mechanisms we have developed will provide for more efficient processing at reduced cost for both the applicant and the award manager."

Applicants for the CQ DX and CQ DX Field Awards must print out their eQSLs and submit them along with their traditional QSLs to a CQ checkpoint or to CQ DX Awards Manager Billy Williams, N4UF. eQSL has an automated process in place for applicants for CQ's Worked All Zones, WPX and USA-Counties awards. N5UP explains how that will work for the applicant:

"The applicant goes to the My Awards screen. He clicks on the particular award he wants to apply for. This brings up a list of the credits our system 'thinks' he is entitled to. There are checkboxes that allow him to check which ones he wants to use, and we automatically pre-fill one credit per category so he doesn't have to do anything if he wants to take the defaults. At the bottom of the screen are two buttons: 'Submit to CQ' and 'Print Paper Application'."

The "submit" button will place all the selected QSOs into a file for the award manager to access, while the "print" button will generate a printed list to be submitted along with the traditional application. PLEASE NOTE that ALL applicants must send the award fee payment to the CQ Award Manager, regardless of how the application is submitted. Some CQ award managers are now accepting PayPal; see individual award web pages for details. All awards will continue to accept traditional QSLs as well as eQSLs. For the USA-Counties Award (USA-CA), applicants must note on their record books (or printouts) whether each county has been confirmed traditionally (with an "X" to the right of the entry) or electronically (with an "E" next to the entry).

For more information on eQSL, visit <http://www.eQSL.cc>. For more information on CQ awards, visit the awards page on the CQ website at <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/>.

Please note that the award rules posted on the website have not yet been updated to reflect the acceptance of eQSLs. This will be done as soon as possible, but the policy takes effect immediately.

Why Learn Morse Code (CW)?

Over the past few weeks, both Bill (VA3OL) and Phil (VE3HST) have been trying to get KARC club members and listeners interested in working CW. Phil, in copying CW following the weekly Tuesday night net, and Bill by having a slow speed CW check-in net on HF, @ 1930hrs, on 3.542 MHz, plus or minus QRM.

I applaud the efforts of both Bill and Phil for doing this for the club and sparking some interest in CW. It does appear that over the past couple of weeks, if nothing else, there have been several more check-ins on the Tuesday night net. Now is this because of the CW and the practice in copying CW after the net, or just a great deal of interest to hear what 40 and 50 words per minute (WPM) CW sounds like? I hope it is the former.

As a member of the Canadian Forces for over 36 years, and the Communicator Research Trade, I have been copying and/or working with CW for most of that time. This is a mode that I really enjoy. And as an Amateur I also enjoy making CW contacts.

Why did I learn CW? I learned CW because it was part of my job with the Canadian Forces. Now I only learned how to copy CW. It was not required as part of my job to send CW. My copy is much better than my fist. But my fist is improving.

Why should you as an Amateur learn CW?

I don't have an answer for you on this one. But I guess there are several reasons. First, in an emergency and if you really have to get a message through, even during really poor propagations, CW is the mode that, if no other will get through, CW most likely will. It is the mode where your output power goes straight to the carrier, which you turn on and off, to generate the characters, and is not shared between the carrier and the signal, like with single side band. As we communicators say, if any signal is going to get through, Morse code will. So, reason one would be to enable you to send and receive emergency traffic.

From there it depends on what interests you have as an Amateur. If you have no interest in working CW, then learning CW is out of the question. If you enjoy rag chewing on the air, then you would learn CW to rag chew. If you enjoy contesting, then you would learn CW to work contests, and if you just like collecting DX contacts, then you would learn CW to help you make that contact with the weak DX station out there.

And I can tell your first hand that it is much easier for two weak stations to make a contact using CW than with SSB. I had first hand experience at this during the recent DX trip to CFS Alert (VE8RCS/VY0). During that trip I knew, via email, that a station from Guam (AH2 – Land) wanted to work us as he needed Zone 2. While searching the bands I just happened to hear him working CW on 40 meters. He was quite strong to me, Q-5 copy Strength – 1, Quality – 9. So from South to North he was not a problem. But from North to South it was a problem, even with 300 watts. It took him almost 20 minutes to confirm my call sign. But since I knew he was looking for us, and I heard him and he was trying to confirm the contact, we stuck with it, and when all was said and done we had a confirmed contact. My received signal strength from him was 339. Anyone can make a

contact with a 599 station, but it takes persistence and dedication to stick it out with weak stations and make those tough ones. I am sure if we had been trying this with SSB we would not have had a successful contact.

How can I learn or improve my Morse code skills?

What is the best way to learn Morse code? I don't have an easy answer to that question. I can however make some suggestions. I've been told that if you are musically inclined, you will likely grasp Morse code easier than someone who is not. I am not musically inclined and it took me quite some time to grasp it. If you are tone deaf, from my experience as an instructor at my trade school, you may not have a hope. So, if you are trying to learn Morse code and having trouble, maybe it is because you are tone deaf.

For those out there who wish to learn or improve your CW skills, I would suggest:

1. use the **Koch or Farnsworth** methods. The Farnsworth method is where you learn the characters at the speed you ultimately wish to copy. So if you want to learn Morse code at 25 wpm you would learn the characters at a speed of 25 wpm, but you would adjust the space between characters to a much slower speed, say to start with 5 wpm or so. As you learn the characters and your ability to copy effectively, you would then adjust the spacing between characters to a faster speed. I would say don't adjust too fast at first. Say, not more than 2 wpm each time, 5, 7, 9, etc. Jumping from 10 to 20 wpm character spacing is quite a jump and would only set you back, or even frustrate you to the point you may even quit.
1. Set practice times. You cannot learn Morse code by practicing for 5 minutes a week. Starting off you would need to set aside 30 minutes or even an hour of practice time once or twice a day. As you become more efficient with the characters, you can shorten your time and/or reduce the practice sessions to three or four times a week. However, I would encourage you to not reduce your practice times until after you have learned to recognize all the characters.
1. What's available to help? If you have Internet access, then Google – **Koch or Farnsworth** and you will find some shareware programs that you can download and help get you on the way. I have looked at some but have not tried them. I may suggest you check out "Just Learn Morse Code." From a quick glance, you can select the characters you wish to learn, set the character speed, and the character spacing. And after your period of practice, you can see how well you did. I do believe the character speed for this program is limited to 25 WPM.
1. There is also a program by G4FOM "Koch trainer." You can make similar settings and practice. You can start with as few as 2 characters, and as you master them, you can add a character. When you start the program it will send characters for five minutes. You type what you hear, and it will display the character it sent. At the end of the five minutes you can check to see how well you did on the characters. If you have 90% or better it suggests you add another character. If under 90%, it recommends you practice that 5 minute session again.

Those are two methods, there are many more out there and available. I cannot recommend one over the other as I have not used them for more than 5 minutes to see what they do.

When will I be ready to get on the air with Morse code?

Don't go it alone for the first time.

Right from the beginning I highly recommend you find an "Elmer." An Elmer is a person or mentor who will work with you and help prepare you for your first time on the air. And with the help of your Elmer, your first on air experience is more likely going to be successful.

Most likely the hardest of all is breaking the ice. By that I mean getting on the air and making a contact using Morse code after you have learned this skill.

It is also important to practice your sending. Just because you may be able to copy Morse code, this does not mean that you can send it. It takes lots of practice to send good Morse code. So put this in your schedule as well.

You can practice receiving by doing the above classes, and of course listening on the air. By listening on the air you will experience exactly what it is going to be like, especially during a contest weekend. I would highly recommend that getting on the air for the first time during a contest would not be the best choice to make. There are plenty of amateurs on the airwaves and lots of interference, and folks sending at speeds that are not normal, and sometimes at unbelievably high speeds. Chances are if you try for the first time to get on the air using Morse code during a contest, you will not be satisfied and may not try it again.

I would recommend that to break the ice, you ask a local club member to meet you on the air and make that your first few contacts. Your friend will be honest with you and help you along the way. This will build your confidence and make getting on the air with a stranger much easier. Again I would suggest that your “Elmer” be with you when you make your first couple of contacts just to help you out should your run into a problem.

After a couple contacts, then I would say head out on your own. Remember, most amateurs are very friendly and will reply to you at a similar speed to what you are sending.

I may also suggest that as you start out, don't venture into the very low ends of the bands, 1800-1810, 3500-3510, 7000-7010, 14000-14010; etc until you are comfortable. These portions of the bands are considered there for the experienced Morse operators, and some amateurs will be rude and run you out of there if you do not work up to their standards. Again this may turn you away from Morse code.

What can you expect on the CW bands?

Well, you can expect almost anything: slow Morse, fast Morse, extremely fast Morse, bad Morse, good Morse, interference (both man made (QRM) and static (QRN)), fading (QSB), loud signals, weak signals, noise caused by the sun, noise caused by lightening storms, Arctic Flutter (a strange effect on signals normally north of 60 degrees North), friendly operators and rude operators, etc. I suggest you listen on the bands and get used to what you may expect.

What is the best method to generate Morse code?

Simple answer here is practice.

There are several methods out there to help you send Morse code:

1. **Straight Keys:** These are the hardest to learn and master. It takes a lot of time and practice to send perfect Morse code with a straight key. If one is not good with the straight key, the result will be bad Morse code, and believe me there is a lot of bad Morse code out there. And if I were to send on the air with a straight key, I would be one of them. I have not learned to send Morse code with a straight key. I do however, know a couple of folks who send perfect or nearly perfect Morse with a straight key, Dave (VA3ORP), Kevin (VA3OR/VE3RCN) and a US Navy friend of mine Don (NF7R). I've heard and seen them send Morse with a straight key and it was as close to perfect CW as you can get. So good that a computer can copy it.

Yes, a computer. There is software out there that will copy Morse code for you, but it has to be near perfect. Computers will not copy bad Morse. If your burning desire is to use a straight key, then I suggest you practice sending and allow your computer to copy what you send. If it copies what you sent, then you are good to go. If not, then the person at the other end will also have trouble copying you. But the human ear is much more forgiving than the computer.

1. **Bugs (IE: Vibroplex).** Bugs are referred to as semi-automatic Morse code. These devices send automatic dits and you insert the dahs. Again it takes practice, but not as difficult to use as the straight key.

2. **Automatic Keyers:** these devices send automatic dits and dahs. The speed is adjustable and they send a near perfect character as long as you send the right number of dits and dahs. For me, I believe this is the easiest device to learn to send Morse code with, but I am sure many will argue, that the bug or straight key is. I have several straight keys, (cheap ones) and two bugs and one MFJ keyer and one Bulldog keyer. I like the keyers. But then when I was using my bug I really liked the bug. See I am even arguing with myself.

3. **Keyboard:** And of course there is the keyboard generated Morse. Now this is the easiest. All you need is a transmitter that you can interface with your computer and you are off to the races as long as you have a program to use. All you need to do is type the character(s) you want to send and they will be sent. This is as close as you will ever get to perfect Morse code. You can even preprogram messages and use your "F" keys to send them. Lazy man CW.

As a person who enjoys Morse code, I was too scared to use a straight key on the air. Just could not send good Morse with it, mostly because I did not practice enough with it. I first used a bug, enjoyed it and one of these days I plan to go back to the bug. If I am making general contacts I use one of my two keyers, mostly the MFJ keyer. And if I am working a Morse contest 99% of the time I will use the Keyboard. Actually I use N1MM (a Contesting Program) and it does most of the work for me. I just need to copy the call sign and the report and the computer does the rest. If I need to repeat something, I will then use a keyer.

So for what it is worth, these are a few comments from Bob (VE3GLO) on Morse code. I enjoy it and like making contacts with it. I copy faster than I can send. And as you can see, I use different methods to send my CW.

To date, my best experience with CW was during my trip to CFS Alert. I was there with Les (VE3KFS), Ken (VE3SRS), and Scott (VA3XA). We operated using the old call sign of VE8RCS/VY0. It has been at least 10 years since anyone had operated from Alert (82 Degrees North) and the amateur world was pleased to have the station activated again. Because I wanted to operate CW, I chose to work the night shift. Of the over 5,600 contacts, you will see that over 3,000 of them were with CW. And these contacts were shared between Les and I. Ken did make a few after his arrival, but Scott just stuck with the SSB contacts. The interface did not work properly between the transmitter and the computer, so we had to use the keyer for all of our contacts. Believe me, after 300 contacts your Morse skills improve. And after a few thousand contacts, they have really improved. But the best of all this was being a DX station, and being the hunted and not the hunter.

No matter what mode we were using, Morse, Voice, Teletype, once we were spotted on the DX cluster, rest assured we had no rest. It was pile-up after pile-up. We worked through difficult propagations, Arctic Flutter, sunspots, used split frequencies, and anything else that worked. It was exciting and I hope that one day I will have the chance to do it all over again. Morse was my mode of choice and the pile-ups were awesome.

Comments from Bob, VE3GLO.

Added Comments by Phil Somers

1. I think everyone should learn first on a straight key. I believe it is the easiest. And it is fundamental and basic. It promotes simple, even QRP-like operation. I don't think anyone should be encouraged to use a bug any more. A keyer is wonderful once you have mastered basic CW on a straight key. I use a keyer except on QRP where I use a straight key. I think a bug or a keyer would be very frustrating for a beginner.
2. Another option for CW practice. CW Player: <http://www.florl.org/cwpeng.htm> It does everything you have mentioned and much more. It is extremely accurate. It goes to 50 WPM. Lots of options. It will copy your sending. You might want to try it.

Robert, VE3RPF is suggesting this site to learn Code: <http://qrper.com/?p=61>

What Are They Smoking? Charlie Young, KY5U

From the beginning, amateur radio operators have provided communications, both in times of emergency and times of celebration. A ham, for instance first issued the news that Charles Lindbergh had landed in Paris after his non-stop trans-Atlantic flight. Amateurs, completely without formal organization, would quickly organize traffic nets to all points from the scenes of natural or other disasters.

This went on for some time before the concept of a formal Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)TM was formed and subsequently implemented. This was seen as progress toward more standardized emergency communications, in that it added some regimentation. However, amateur radio remained completely free of any need for infrastructure in order to successfully maintain communications under less than ideal conditions.

Later came the development of Memorandums Of Understanding (MOUs) between the amateur community and various agencies that from seek our assistance. So, multiple contractual obligations were then in play.

Then, certain of those agencies decided that they needed to require a completely separate and distinct credentialing system for those whose expertise they wished to employ for free. One, especially, was not well received in that amateur radio operators who wished to volunteer were required to sign a form agreeing to complete background checks – not just criminal records, but also their credit histories and so called ‘lifestyle’ checks. And best of all, that data was to be collected and used by a small business in California that nobody ever heard of.

Meanwhile, some ‘leaders’ in the amateur community began promoting the use of technologies that require infrastructure in order to work. The stated motive was that ‘served officials’ are used to receiving all their information via e-mail. This leads me to ask if they are ‘used to’ dealing with disasters like Katrina.

I remember quite distinctly listening to a live NPR interview which he disputed that there were any refugees at the New Orleans convention center. The interviewer told Mr. Chertoff that he was watching live TV coverage of the scene at that moment. He was told it was impossible, that he had no such reports via e-mail. Meanwhile, virtually every American and many in other nations knew he was wrong. Days had passed before Mr. Chertoff finally got a clue and turned on a TV. When he did, he found that TV crews were live on the scene while FEMA/DHS personnel were nowhere to be found.

A few moments later, the interviewer reported that Mr. Chertoff had called back to say that, indeed, there were refugees there. So much for ‘used to getting all information via e-mail.’ Chalk that up, hopefully, as lessons learned. Does anyone really believe that, in an emergency, officials in charge of response will ignore on-scene information from those who don’t have the ‘proper credentials,’ have not been officially checked into the scene, and provide critical information via any method other than e-mail? If that is indeed the case, we are deep, very deep trouble.

All this bureaucratic Bull Sausage will slow our response time, and with it the flow of information, require not just a rig, dipole and battery, but also a computer, proprietary modem and – probably – an amplifier along with a sufficient power source. And this is viewed as ‘progress?’

The point of all this is that I am forced to ask this question of those ‘leaders’ who are driving a switch to infrastructure dependence: **WHAT ARE YOU SMOKING???** Amateur radio should, and really must, remain able to provide emergency communications without any external infrastructure. Plainly put, anything else is pie in the sky, sure to line someone’s pockets while simultaneously failing to get the job done.

KINGSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

(By-Laws to be voted on at the March KARC meeting)

BY-LAW NUMBER ONE

A By-Law Relating Generally to the Transaction of the Business and Affairs of **KINGSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.**

SECTION ONE - GENERAL:

Article 1. Head Office.

The Head Office of the Club shall be located at the City of Kingston in the Province of Ontario, Canada at the place therein where the business of the Club may from time to time be carried on. [The head office of the club is 796 Old Colony Rd. Kingston, ON K7P 1E7; this motion presented and passed at the January, 2008 general meeting]

Article 2. Publication.

The Official Publication of the Club shall be the Kingston Amateur News and each member of the club shall be entitled to receive a copy of each issue thereof. The publishing of any notice of the Club shall constitute notice to the members. The newsletter shall be made available on the club website. The newsletter will also be available via postal mail upon request.

SECTION TWO - MEMBERSHIP:

Old article 3 has been removed in it's entirety

Article 3. Classification of Membership.

There shall be three (3) classifications of membership in the club, namely:

(a) **Full Members:** Persons who hold a Canadian Certificate of Proficiency in Radio of at least Amateur class as defined by the "Radio communication Act". A full member shall be entitled to attend and to vote at meetings of the members and to hold any office in the Club.

(b) **Associate Members:** Persons who have an interest in Amateur Radio who do not hold a Canadian Certificate of Proficiency in Radio of at least Amateur class as defined by the "Radio communication Act". An Associate Member shall be entitled to attend Club meetings but may not hold office or vote on matters pertaining to Amateur Radio.

(c) **Honorary Members.** Persons nominated by the Executive and approved by the membership as worthy of special recognition by the Club because of service or contribution to the Club, or to Amateur Radio. An honorary member shall be entitled to the rights and privileges of a Full Member and shall not be required to pay the annual membership dues.

Article 4.

Withdrawal from Membership. Any member may withdraw from membership in the Club by sending a written notification of resignation to the Secretary.

Article 5. Termination of Membership.

Members who conduct themselves in such a manner as to bring disrepute to the hobby maybe subject to a verbal warning, a written warning or termination of membership. The membership of any member may be terminated by a vote of three-quarters or more of the members present at any monthly meeting of the members. For this purpose notification of termination of membership shall be by registered letter.

SECTION THREE - MEETINGS:

Article 6. Meetings of the Members.

General meetings of the members shall be held at such places and such times as the Executive may from time to time determine. Any general meeting may also constitute a special general meeting to consider, deal with, and dispose of any business that may be considered, dealt with or disposed of at a special general meeting.

Article 7.

Special Meetings. Special meetings of the members may be called at any time, by the order of the President, or by order of a majority of the Executive and shall be called by the President on the requisition of not less than one-tenth of the total number of Full Members.

Article 8. Notice of Meetings.

Notice of any special general meeting of the members and a brief summary of the purposes of the meeting shall be given to the members by publishing same in the Club's official publication and/or published on the club website.

Article 9. Quorum.

Five Full Members, or one-tenth of the Full membership, whichever is the greater number, shall constitute a quorum for all purposes at any meetings of the members.

Article 10. Votes to Govern.

Unless otherwise required by the By-Laws or Regulations of the Club, every question submitted to the members shall be decided by a simple majority of the votes duly cast on the question. The President shall be entitled to a second or casting vote in case of an equality of votes.

Article 11. Adjournment.

The chairman at any meeting of the members, with the consent of the meeting and subject to such conditions as the meeting may impose, may adjourn the meeting from time to time and from place to place and no notice of such adjournment need be given.

SECTION FOUR - EXECUTIVE:

Article 12. Composition of the Executive.

The affairs of the Club shall be managed by the Executive. The executive shall consist of the President, the Vice- President, the Secretary, the Treasurer and the Immediate Past President.

Article 13. Qualifications of Executive Members.

All members of the Executive shall be, at the time of election and throughout the term of office, a full member in good standing of the Club.

Article 14. Term of Office.

Executive members shall be elected annually at the **October general** meeting and shall hold office for one calendar year commencing on the first day of January of the year for which elected.

Article 15. Method of Election of Executive Members.

Any qualified member of the Club may be nominated for any office by a person entitled to vote at a general meeting of the members. All nominated candidates shall give consent to serve in the position for which nominated. If more than one candidate is nominated for any one position, one candidate shall be selected by a roll call vote, by a show of hands or by secret ballot.

Article 16. Tabulation of Votes.

The Secretary shall tabulate all votes taken and shall announce the results of each vote immediately after such tabulation has taken place. The candidate receiving a majority of votes cast shall be considered elected to the position.

Article 17. Vacation of Office.

Any Executive office shall automatically be vacated:

- (a) if the member ceases to have any of the qualifications designated in Article **13**,
- (b) if the member dies, or
- (c) if the Club receives the written resignation of the member.

Article 18. Removal from Office.

Any member of the Executive may be removed from office by the members present and entitled to vote at a special general meeting of the members.

Article 19. Vacancies.

A vacancy in the Executive may be filled for the remainder of its term of office by a vote of the members present **at a general meeting**.

Article 20. Meetings and Notice.

Meetings of the Executive may be called by the President and shall be called by the President on the requisition of any **two members of the Executive.**

Article 21. Remuneration.

No honorarium shall be paid to members of the Executive but all members of the Club may be reimbursed for their out-of-pocket expenses incurred in handling the business and affairs of the Club **subject to providing adequate documentation.** Such expenses shall be detailed and given to the Treasurer for payment on approval of the Executive.

SECTION FIVE - BY-LAWS AND REGULATIONS:

Article 22. Enactment of By-Laws.

The Executive may enact such By-Laws not contrary to law as may be requisite and may repeal, amend or re-enact, any such By-Law. But every such By-Law, repeal or amendment shall not be enforced or acted upon until it has been confirmed by the members at a general meeting.

Article 23. Regulations.

The Executive may make, repeal or amend such regulations as shall be deemed necessary or expedient for the conduct of the business of the Club, provided that no regulation shall be inconsistent with the By-Laws of the Club. But every such regulation, repeal or amendment shall not be enforced or acted upon until it has been confirmed by the members at a general meeting.

SECTION SIX - OFFICERS:

Article 24. Officers.

The Officers of the Club shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined and held by the same person.

Article 25. Duties of the President.

The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Club and shall be charged with the general supervision of the business and affairs of the Club. The President shall preside at all meetings of the members and of the Executive.

Article 26. Duties of the Vice-President.

The Vice-President shall, in the absence or incapacity of the President, perform the duties and exercise the powers of the President. The Vice-President shall also perform such duties and exercise such powers as the Executive may prescribe or as the President may delegate to such office.

Article 27. Duties of the Secretary.

The Secretary shall record the minutes of all meetings of the members and of the Executive in the books to be kept for that purpose. The Secretary shall give, or cause to be given, all notices required to be given to the members and to the Executive and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the By-Laws, regulations or by the Executive. The Secretary shall be the custodian of all current records, other than financial, of the Club.

Article 28. Duties of the Treasurer.

The Treasurer shall keep full and accurate records of all financial transactions of the Club; shall be responsible for the deposit of all monies of the Club in such bank, or banks, as may be designated by the Executive; shall control the disbursement of the funds of the Club; and shall render to the Executive, whenever required, an account of all transactions undertaken by the Treasurer and of the financial position of the Club. The Treasurer shall prepare an Annual statement for the incoming Executive. The Treasurer shall also perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Executive.

SECTION SEVEN - SIGNING OFFICERS:

Article 29. Execution of Documents.

Contracts, documents, or other instruments in writing requiring the signature of the Club, other than determined by the By-Laws, shall be signed by either the President or the Vice-President and by the Secretary. Financial documents shall be signed by either the President or Vice-President and by the Treasurer.

SECTION EIGHT - DATE:

Article 30. Effective Date.

This By-Law shall come into force and effect on the date when it shall receive approval of the Executive and by the members at a general meeting.

ENACTED and PASSED by the Executive this XXXX day of XXXX, #####

President :

Secretary:

CONFIRMED by members present at a general meeting of the members called and held on the xxxxx day of XXX, #####

President

Secretary

KINGSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB REGULATIONS

1. ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP

Any person who is qualified for membership as a Full or Associate Member shall be admitted to membership upon payment of the annual fee applicable.

2. MEMBERSHIP FEES

The annual fees for Full and Associate membership in the Club shall be determined by the Executive and approved at a general meeting. This fee shall be payable on admission to membership annually for the fiscal year January 1 to December 31. Any dues paid on or after September 30 shall be for the next fiscal period, but shall not preclude the member from participating in the club business for the period of October 1 to December 31 of the preceding year.

3. PAYMENT OF EXPENSES

(a) Expenses authorized by the Executive and approved by the membership, and incurred by Officers, Officials and members of the Club in carrying out the work of the Club, shall be paid by the Treasurer upon presentation of an expense voucher supported, where necessary, by appropriate receipts covering the items of expense.

(b) At the Treasurer's discretion, approval for payment of any expense may be requested from the Executive before payment.

4. AD HOC COMMITTEES

(a) The Executive may create Ad Hoc Committees and may appoint members of these committees as deemed necessary for the furthering of the business and affairs of the Club. The term of such committees shall expire with the term of the Executive.

b) Ad Hoc Committees may include the following:

a) Field Day

b) Repeater

c) Interference

d) Newsletter

e) Website

f) Hearts and Flowers

5. AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

a) The Club may affiliate with such organizations as may be necessary to further the business and affairs of the Club.

b) Any ARES Group within the area served by the club, upon written request and approval at a general meeting, maybe an affiliated service organization of the Kingston Amateur Radio Club Inc.

c) Frontenac County Amateur Radio Emergency Services became affiliated at the April, 2008 general meeting.

ADOPTED AND PASSED AS Regulations of the Club by the Executive this XXXX day of XXX, #####.

President:

Secretary:

CONFIRMED by the members at a general meeting of the members duly called and held on the XXXXday of XXX, #####

President:

Secretary:

Kingston Amateur Radio Club, Inc

Treasurer's Report for January 7, 2009

	This Month (Jan)	Year to date
Membership	130.00	130.00
50/50 Draws	11.50	11.50
Donations (from Tailgate)	0	0
Net Income from Breakfast	0	0
Other Donations	11.50	11.50
TOTAL	153.00	153.00
Expenses		
Repeater upgrade	0	0
RAC insurance	0	0
Queens Balloon	0	0
Post Box Rental	0	0
Newsletter expenses	0	0
Website Cost	136.24	136.24
Donation to Communications Museum	0	0
TOTAL EXPENSES	136.24	136.24
NET INCOME (LOSS)	16.76	16.76
Change in Cash Position Dec. 2008		
Opening Balance in Chequing a/c	5813.96	
Opening Petty Cash	7.07	5821.03
Ending Balance Chequing a/c 7 Jan/09	5968.96	
Ending Petty Cash	3.07	5972.03
Net Difference in 'cash' account balance		151.00

Bill Rumball, VA3OL
Treasurer
Kingston Amateur Radio Club

AGENDA

KINGSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC

February 4th, 2009

At Smitty's Restaurant, back room

7:00 pm.

- 1. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS**
- 2. ADDITIONS ANDOR DELETEIONS**
- 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: (If one has been arranged)**
- 10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
- 11. ADJOURNMENT**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
KINGSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC

HELD ON

Wednesday, 7 January 2009

At SMITTY'S RESTAURANT,

PRINCESS STREET, KINGSTON, ONTARIO

- 1. Meeting** was called to order at 7pm by the the President, Les, VE3KFS
- 2. Introduction** of members and guests, 18 members and guests present.
- 3. Minutes of the Last Meeting:** It was motioned by Chip, VA3KGB, and seconded by David, VE3DZE, that the minutes of the 3 December 2008 meeting be adopted as published in the Newsletter. Motion carried.
- 4. Treasurer's Report:** It was motioned by Bill, VA3OL and seconded by Bill, VE3CLQ, that the Treasurer's report be adopted as presented. Motion carried.
- 5. OLD BUSINESS:**
- 6. Amateur Radio Course:** Looking at a March - June on Monday evening timeline with Les, VE3KFS as OPI. Minimum of 10 persons required. Cost - Approximately \$20.00 (To be finalized)
- 7. 50-50 Draw:** Won by Michael, VE3PRW, who donated the \$11.50 winnings to the Club. 50/50 was #23.00.
- 8. NEW BUSINESS:**
- 9. TOM, VA3ZE:** Tom is receiving treatment for cancer. Will be undergoing treatment for a while. Tom currently sponsors the Club Callsigns. Don, VE3MNE, volunteered to take over as sponsor of the callsigns and will get letter from Tom.
- 10. Club's Corporate Address:** It was motioned by Bill, VA3OL, and seconded by George, VE3SIQ, that the Club's corporate address will be changed to Don's address. Don will also be sponsor of Club Callsigns, see above.
- 11. Constitution Update:** The constitution as presented, has errors and requires updating. Greg, VE3SXX; Bill, VE3CLQ; and Bill, VA3OL will update the Constitution and Bylaws.
- 12. FCARES:** Bill, VE3CLQ. Very active. Have held a practice emergency, There is an exercise coming up at Lemoine's Point. There is a Sunday net on the Kingston Repeater at 1930 hrs.
- 13. Kingston ARES:** Larry, VE3LDM. New ARES documents are available on the RAC website for download.

14. Profanity over the Air: Recently there has been some problem with profanity on the Kingston Repeater. As we all know that is against the Radio Act, and is up to each operator to refrain from profanity. It is also up to any operator hearing to inform all those on the repeater that profanity is not acceptable. Do not get into an argument, Leave it at that and let one of the Executive know. Recordings are required for prosecution, which can be set up. Note that several members in the Club have the ability to turn the Repeater OFF remotely, but would prefer to leave the repeater on for all Amateurs

15. IRLP Link: Someone has also been dropping the IRLP Link when it is being used, DF will be used to located the offender if it continues.

16. REPORTS:

a) **RAC:** Nil.

b) **Repeater:** The new controller arrived just prior to the start of the meeting. The new radios also give us 100% redundancy for TX/RX and we will have a spare repeater. Remember that there will be 151.4 tones on both the TX and Rx shortly on VE3KBR and VE3KAR repeaters. Updates will be on the KARC Freelist.

c) **Net Manager:** There has been an average of 16 checkins.

d) **Newsletter:** Send articles etc directly to Joan. Also update you email for front page of Newsletter. There are a couple of corrections to the Repeater list in the newsletter. VE3KBR/VE3KAR 151.4 tones to be added, Trenton Repeater is VE3YTR and no tones.

e) **Web Page:** Send articles info to Chip, VA3KGB. For all those who remember the Russian "Woodpecker" there is a link to pictures of the now unused antenna arrays.

17. Next Meeting: 4 February 2009.

18. Adjournment: It was motioned by Don, VE3KBN, and seconded by Don, VE3MNE, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:50 pm. Motion Carried.

CJ Chapman, VA3KGB
Secretary, KARC