

Newsletter
January
2013

Kingston Amateur Radio Club

2013 Executive

President: Terry Barrett, VA3KLG
pres at ve3kbr.com

Vice-Pres: Assaf Shool, VA3PCI
vicepres at ve3kbr.com

Treasurer: David Sellick, VE3DZE
treas at ve3kbr.com

Secretary: Larissa Reise, VE3KGC
sec at ve3kbr.com

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

2013 COMMITTEE CHAIRS:
Two Metre Net Manager:
VE3KC Steve Cutway
netmanager at ve3kbr.com

Newsletter Editor:
VA3PCI Assaf Shool
news at ve3kbr.com

168 McMichael Street
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

Kingston Amateur News

MEMBER ARTICLE

Packet radio infrastructure in Kingston written by **George – VE3GWS**

Some important changes have been made to the Packet radio infrastructure in Kingston over the past few months. These enhancements have put the main digital node back on par with its former glory and given us all more access to modern packet radio.

First and foremost, the digital node on the John Orr tower has been refurbished. It now boasts a new 20 watt commercial radio and a new power supply and is multicoupled into the BIG antenna up there (Thanks Don VE3MNE). These items, attached to the existing TNC (KING07/VE3KER-7), are providing a footprint which gives users access to local packet activity as well as the new RMS Gateway. This Gateway is a direct link to the Winlink 2000 email system which allows text messages to be sent to any valid email address in the world. Small attachments may be included (2k). However, these are limited due to the bandwidth restraints of the HF and VHF links. The motto “more with less” applies.

The callsign of the local WL2K gateway has now been changed to VE3FRG-10 and is open to all amateurs with a valid callsign. You may sign up at www.winlink.org.

The programs required to access the WL2K system are Paalink (along with Outlook Express) or the stand-alone RMS Express which works in various modes including Winmor on HF. A free version is available but the fully opened application is much more fun and of a reasonable cost. Both are available at www.winlink.org.

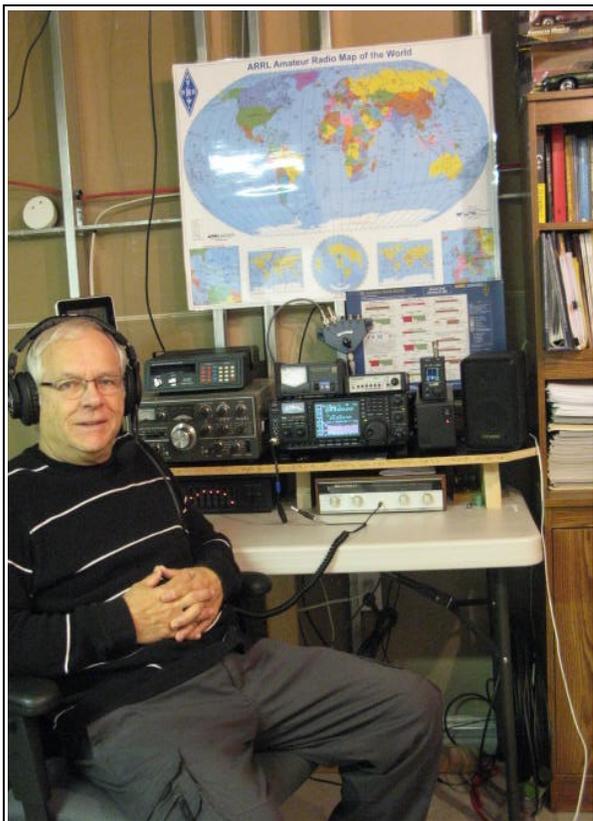


Work is being done to build one or more backup gateway stations to be used in the event the main system is inoperative or needs to be moved. A TNC, radio, and small computer in a suitcase along with a suitable power supply are required. The gateway can be set up anywhere in the vicinity where an Internet connection is available. Dave VE3DZE, Don VE3MNE and Les VE3KFS are working on this and have made the equipment available. Who knows, we might even get it running on a Raspberry Pi. Now wouldn't that be nice?

Good times in the digital world. All are welcome to use the system and there is lots of help available. Just ask.

QUA – Dave Fasken VA3DLF

Dave Fasken, VA3DLF joined us this year. He graduated from last winter's KARC course with honours (80%+), giving him immediate access to HF. He is now retired but always wanted to get his amateur license. As a teenager he had, and still has, a Hallicrafters SX-71 receiver that he used to monitor short wave and ham transmissions and sent out many signal reports to collect QSL cards. At one time he was able to copy CW up to 10 words per minute. That was all before he became interested in members of the opposite sex, marriage, raising a family and earning a living.



Dave has been married to his wife Anita for 42 years. They raised two sons with four grand children, which Dave admits, can be a real handful when they are all get together. Dave and Anita enjoy traveling and have visited Europe, Asia and South America.

Dave was educated in Toronto as an Electronics Engineering Technologist and joined Ontario Hydro in 1968 as a trainee. After 6 years with Ontario Hydro he was employed by Lennox GS as an Electronics and Instrumentation Technologist, specializing in burner management, static exciters, boiler controls and process computers. He was subsequently employed by Canada Cement Lafarge before returning to Lennox GS in Management until his retirement in 2002.

Since retirement he has been able to devote more time to his hobbies of radio control aircraft, wood working and electronics. While these are still his major hobbies he sees amateur radio becoming a close second in view of his long interest in all things electronic. He admits that CW code testing was a bit of a stumbling block but he says that now that he is retired and code is no longer a requirement he decided *to go for it and get his Basic+ in March of 2012.*

He describes his station as pretty basic with an Icom 756 Pro3 and two homemade OCF 80 and 40M dipoles which he tuned using a You-Kits Antenna Analyzer. He says that he wasn't very active during the summer due to golf and radio control airplanes. Now that winter is almost here, he plans to be more active in Ham Radio. He prefers DX but will from time to time make a few US/Canadian calls. He has very little interest in contesting and prefers to chat and talk about the station equipment and perhaps some projects of interest. His favourite band so far is 17M but also enjoys 10, 12 and 15M when they are open.

This winter he plans to finish up the dry wall and sound proofing in the shack to keep his XYL happy. He also plans to make a proper desk for his station.

Welcome aboard Dave !!!



NET REPORT

Thanks to the controllers who kept the net alive in December. Check-ins ranged from 11 to 18 and net duration ran from 26 to 36 minutes.

The net control schedule for January is in the January newsletter.

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

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

MEETING MINUTES

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF
THE KINGSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 5 DEC 2012
AT SMITTY'S**

The Kingston Amateur Radio Club meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by our president Terry VA3KLG.

1. The members present introduced themselves. There were 16 members in attendance.

2. Additions to the Agenda:

a) Paul's VA3LX HF interest group

b) Dave VE3ORP talked about SK John Taylor VE3GST's equipment. All proceeds went to KARC and Frontenac EMCOMM. Les VE3KFS said a TH7 HF Beam antenna is still available from Ken VE3XCT.

3. **Minutes:** Assaf VA3PCI motioned that the minutes be accepted as published in the newsletter, seconded by Roy VE3VJF.

4. **December Treasurer's Report:** There have been no expenses since last month, but a \$200 donation will be made to the CNIB Amateur Radio program. There is currently \$6127.00 in the bank account. David VE3DZE motioned that the statement be accepted as read, seconded by Roy VE3VJF.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes:

a) **Nametags:** Phil VE3HST brought up a motion for name tags. Assaf VA3PCI reported name tags will cost about \$6-\$9 per name tag. Les VE3KFS also suggested we can use the service at the C&E museum. Assaf said he will request an additional from Jeff Sehn, who has approached the club previously and offered his service to provide name tags.

b) **Kingston ARES:** At last meeting, Phil VE3HST wanted to send a request to Kingston ARES to formally invite KARC to one of their meetings. Terry VA3KLG said they just had a meeting at Picton, however giving upcoming changes at ARES, he would like to wait at least one month before requesting an invitation. Phil agreed.

c) **Club Activities:** Terry VA3KLG asks if any new ideas for the club doing some activities. Les VE3KFS brought up that there are a variety of activities that can be done on VHF. Paul VE3LX said a large list of topics have been generated surrounding HF and a list of activities or strategies that can be used to engage as a group. Topics that came up include ham radio software, propagation, remote control of radios, digital modes, mentoring newcomers in such things as working DX, contesting, split operations etc. This could be done in a variety of means, nets on VHF or HF, contests, workshops, or monthly in person meeting. There were also some suggestions about revisiting the club contests, or perhaps some type of KARC award. Paul would like to see if there are any additional ideas or have a discussion about what the club should do next.

Steve VE3KC said the majority of people who were on VHF went to HF the night of the net, and he thinks future things should be done on HF. He suggests we should establish a net for people to get together on and that it shouldn't be on Tuesday nights.

Paul VE3LX asked if there is anyone interested who don't have access to HF. One member indicated no access, another said he only has 10M. Paul asked if 10 Meters is a suitable frequency.

Paul also asked when the ideal night for a net is. Paul suggested Thursday, and most people agreed.

Phil VE3HST said the advantage of Tuesday night is that a lot of people are already assembled for the net, and that initially it should follow the 2M Tuesday net. Paul said Tuesday nights are not good for him, Larissa VE3KGC volunteered her services for net control.

Paul also asked about the RAC Winter Contest and if the museum station is operational. Les VE3KFS reported that the antenna has not yet been repaired.

d) **Insurance:** Steve VE3KC said the RAC requirement for insurance requires those who are RAC members as of December 31 2012. We have 6 members so far who not RAC members, and this will increase insurance cost to somewhere around 500. Steve reminds that those members who are also RAC members reduce the insurance cost for KARC. The insurance covers the club both for equipment installed and club activities. He said there is also way if you are a RAC members to get personal insurance on your equipment. Steve says it is a requirement with the agreement we have with Glentail that insurance is in place.

Terry VA3KLG asks if we need to make an amendment to the amount authorized last time to pay for RAC insurance. David VE3DZE motioned that we approve the expenditure for RAC insurance under the increase number of members in the club, not to exceed 700. It was seconded by Les VE3KFS. The motion was carried.

6. New Business:

a) **Hamfest:** Changing the dates of the hamfest. Terry VA3KLG was approached by the museum staff and told September was open if we wish to move the dates. He suggested 14-21st of September. He said it may be better with better weather.

Larissa VE3KGC suggested a later date in September would be better due to the pocketbooks of young people. After discussion, Sept 28th was decided as the date.

7. Reports:

a) **President:** In the newsletter.

b) **Repeaters:** Currently we don't have access to the repeater site for VE3KBR.

c) **RAC:** Notices are posted on the Freelist.

d) **Net Manager:** Steve VE3KC is looking for additional net controllers. He also asks if there would a net on Christmas eve or New Years eve.

e) **Web Page:** Chip VA3KGB has been making regular updates to it. Members wishing to send file attachments may use the built-in forum.

f) **Newsletter:** Assaf VA3PCI reminded everyone that articles for the newsletter should be sent to news@ve3kbr.com a week before the monthly meeting and thanks everyone for articles that have been submitted.

g) **Frontenac EMCOMM:** David VE3DZE said they held a digital net last Monday with 5 check-ins on Olivia 8/500. He said it went well and there were a variety of different topics. He thanks everyone who checked in. He said he plans to have one every Monday to see how far away contacts can be pulled in.

h) **Kingston ARES:** No reports for this month.

i) **CFARS:** Les VE3KFS said he will give 5 TS-480 SAT transceivers to Assaf VA3PCI to open up the transmit. This will allow 5 PACTOR gateway to be installed in the arctic which will be part of CFARS and US Army MARS. The gateways will be mutually accessible to both CFARS and MARS. CFARS is going to come out with a joint directive for CFARS and MARS to allow interoperability. There are currently 135 members in CFARS with 9 gateways operational now, and 5 additional ones once the TS-480s are operational.

j) **Hamfest:** Doug VE3FFR thanks everyone who has helped with the hamfest. All 29 tables were sold out. Door prize was a 6m/2m mobile antenna and was won by one of the vendors. Income: \$91 door prizes, 50/50 was \$81.50, KARC was about \$231, for a total income of \$651.75. Doug VE3FFR said he will be willing to run the ham fest next year.

k) **Ham Radio Course:** Les VE3KFS says he has 27 students, with an additional 5 that may join. He is currently working on getting a classroom. They will start on the 6th of February. Any club members will be welcome for the meet and greet prior to start of the course. Les says the new process for getting callsigns is very fast and one recent member was able to receive his callsign on the same night he completed his examination.

9. **Elections:** The following members were elected:

President: Terry VA3KLG

Vice President: Assaf VA3PCI

Treasurer: David VE3DZE

Secretary: Larissa VE3KGC

10. **Date of next meeting:** January 10, 2013, 7PM at Smitty's.

11. 50/50 Draw: Les VE3KFS won \$11.

12. No presentation was given.

Assaf VA3PCI

Secretary

Kingston Amateur Radio Club Inc.

AGENDA – 10 JANUARY 2013

1. Members and Guests introduce themselves
2. Additions to the Agenda
3. Minutes of the last Meeting: errors / omissions / approval (Assaf VA3PCI)
4. Treasurer's Report (David VE3DZE)
5. Business arising from the Minutes:
 - a.
 - b.
6. New Business:
 - a.
 - b.
7. Reports:
 - a. President (Terry VA3KLG)
 - b. Repeaters
 - c. RAC (See RAC bulletins via the Free List.)
 - d. Net Manager (Steve VE3KC)
 - e. Web Page (Chip VA3KGB)
 - f. KARC Newsletter (Assaf VA3PCI)
 - g. Frontenac EmComm Group (David VE3DZE)
 - h. Kingston ARES
 - i. CFARS (Les VE3KFS)
 - j. "Hearts and Flowers"
 - k. Other Reports
8. Date of next meeting: 06 February 2013
9. 50 / 50 Draw
10. Adjournment

FINANCIAL REPORT

Kingston Amateur Radio Club
Financial Statement
December 21, 2012

Income

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Donations (VE3GST's estate) | 977.50 |
| Donations (VE3XCT equipment sale) | 295.00 |
| Hamfest | 269.50 |
| Membership | 125.00 |
| 50/50 Draw | 11.00 |

| | |
|--------------|---------|
| Total Income | 1678.00 |
|--------------|---------|

Expenses

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| CNIB Amateur Radio Program | 200.00 |
| Frontenac ARES (from sale of radio) | 70.00 |

| | |
|----------------|--------|
| Total Expenses | 270.00 |
|----------------|--------|

| | |
|------------|---------|
| Net Income | 1408.00 |
|------------|---------|

NET CONTROL SCRIPT

KARC Tuesday night net Control Script

Revised March 7, 2011

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

The Kingston Amateur Radio Club Tuesday night net is an informal net that meets at 1930 hours every Tuesday evening on the Kingston repeater, VE3KBR, 146.940 MHz, with a 151.4 Hz tone required on the input, 146.340 MHz. 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; to provide news from other radio clubs and 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 wishing to check in? Please call now.

Are there any 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 [callsign] returning the repeater to normal amateur use.