

Newsletter
January
2016

Kingston Amateur Radio Club 2016 Executive



Kingston Amateur News

President: Paul Taenzer, VA3LX
pres at ve3kbr.com

Vice-Pres: Carlyle Crothers, VE3WIO
vicepres@ve3kbr.com

Treasurer: Douglas Richards, VE3FFR
treas at ve3kbr.com

Secretary: Steve Cutway, VE3KC
sec at ve3kbr.com

Past-Pres: Assaf Shool, VA3PCI
pastpres at ve3kbr.com

2016 COMMITTEE CHAIRS:
Two Metre Net Manager:
Steve Cutway, VE3KC
netmanager at ve3kbr.com

Newsletter Editor: Assaf Shool, VA3PCI
news at ve3kbr.com

168 McMichael Street
Kingston, Ontario K7M 1N6 Canada
<http://www.ve3kbr.com>

VE3KBR Kingston
146.940(-) MHz
151.4Hz Tone
IRLP 2750

VE3KER Kingston packet
node
145.070 MHz simplex



VE3UEL Hartington APRS
node
144.390 MHz

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I'd like to wish KARC members and their families all the very best for healthy and prosperous 2016.

I'd also like to thank the membership for re-electing me as your president for 2016. I will do my utmost to work effectively with you and the other club officers to continue to make the club a vibrant and important part of your experience as ham radio operators.

This is also an opportunity to thank Larissa for her contributions in 2015 as our club secretary. It is always a pleasure to work with her and I hope that she returns to the club executive in future years. Larissa has 'passed the torch' to one of our most experienced previous club officers, Steve, VE3KC. I'd like to welcome Steve back to the club executive and look forward to working with you in the coming year.

During the January meeting we will be treated to a demonstration of the recommendations from the committee comprising Chip VA3KGB, Les VE3KFS and Carlyle VE3WIO, who have been looking into the technical aspects of implementing a club Remote HF Station. In addition to discussing the technical aspects of the project; I look forward to developing parameters for a plan to implement the station.

As I'm writing this; I'm reminded that Assaf VA3PCI has been diligently putting together our newsletter for the past five years. Thank you Assaf for incorporating interesting articles from the club's archives and for continuing to encourage us to submit original contributions. I would like to echo Assaf's request. Last year I committed to write a monthly column related to DX News. My experience has been that it takes less than an hour each month to do the research and writing to meet this commitment. I'd like to encourage all of you to think about an area of the hobby that's of particular interest to you and consider whether you might be able to commit to a similar project.

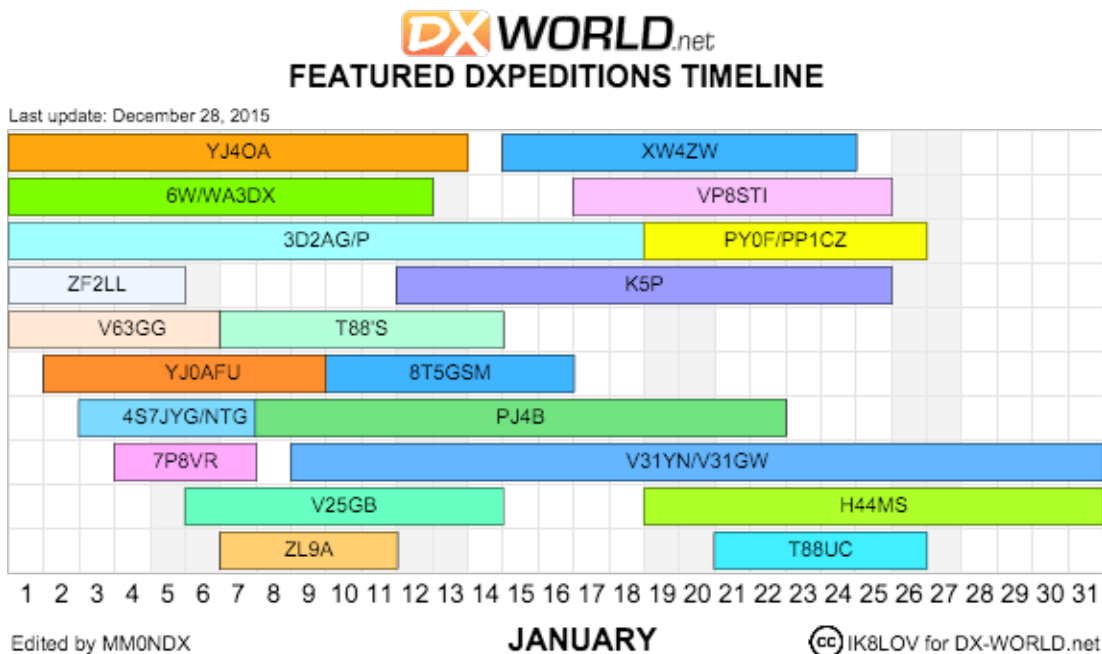
I'm looking forward to seeing you all at our first meeting of the year at Smitty's restaurant on January 6th at 7 PM.

vy 73s,
Paul, VA3LX

DX NEWS

As noted in the December newsletter; there's lots of DX coming up for the new year thanks to DXpeditions to warm and sunny destinations and some not so sunny spots in the deep southern ocean that would be inaccessible at any other time of year.

The following image is a 'timeline of DX operations' scheduled for January 2016 extracted the DX World - www.dx-world.net with the permission of the editor Col MM0MDX. I find this timeline as very valuable resource for planning my 'operating time' and knowing what to look for on a given day.



Of particular note this month is the ZL9A operation on Antipodes Island by none other than our very own intrepid DXpeditioner and IOTA activator Cezar VE3LYC! Cezar is teaming up with an experienced international team to activate the Island. Here's the link to their website: <http://iotahunter.org/tour/antipodes-island-2016>

The New Zealand Antarctic Islands are number 37 on the CLUBLOG DXCC

Most Wanted List for December 2016: www.clublog.org/mostwanted.php

Also, don't forget VP8STI, South Sandwich Islands, number 3 on the 'Most Wanted List'! For further info see: www.intrepid-dx.com/vp8

See you in the pileups!

73s de
Paul VA3LX

Essential Tools for Every Ham

Over the years, I've collected and discovered tools I can't live without. While it's a long list, here are some of the essentials and my favourite inexpensive gadgets in no particular order. It's still not too late to buy yourself a late Christmas gift.

1. Component/ESR/LCR Tester



These are available inexpensively (<\$20 shipped) from ebay and offer you a lab full of tools in a small package. They can test capacitors for ESR and capacitance, inductors, transistors, SCRs, diodes and many other components and provide useful parameter measurements. Operation is simple, just install the component and the tester identifies it automatically.

<http://www.ebay.ca/itm/LCR-T3-Transistor-Tester-Diode-Triode-Capacitance-ESR-Meter-MOS-PNP-NPN-LCR-4HO1-/281789007771?hash=item419bef079b:g:G6EAAOSwqv9V51B->

2. DC Current Clamp Meter



While AC Current clamp meters are commonplace, DC ones are not. These meters simply clamp over a DC power cable and provide a readout for how many amps are being moved. They are useful for battery charging, standby power systems, solar panels and anywhere else you find DC. Unlike the current measuring built into your multimeter, you don't have to splice into the circuit to measure, and with the Uni-T UT204A meter I recommend, you can measure up to 600A of either AC or DC. It also comes with probes so you can use it as a backup multimeter if you have to, and a temperature measurement probe which can be quite handy.

Cost: About \$47 shipped

3. Resistor/Capacitor Variety Packs



How often do you have to hunt around to find a resistor or small capacitor you need for a project? Well hunt now more. You can buy packs with hundreds or thousands of resistors in through-hole or SMD for only a few dollars. They don't take up much room and arrive sorted and labeled.

<http://www.ebay.ca/itm/600pcs-1-4W-1-Metal-Film-Resistors-Resistance-Assortment-Kit-30-Type-Each-20pcs-/301808762166?hash=item4645343d36:g:SigAAOSweW5VSH5I>

4. Antistatic Mat



Nothing says “amateur” (in the bad sense of the word, not the radio sense) like someone working on a circuit board without an anti-static mat. The static voltages on a plastic or wooden work surface can rise to thousands of volts and fry whatever you're working on. Avoid damaging components or having me stand across the room and shun you by using an antistatic mat and strap.

Cost: About \$22 shipped for a 50x60cm mat.

5. Laser Thermometer



Quite often you want to take the temperature of something without wanting to touch it. It may be way too hot, or have high voltage, or both. It's also great for taking the temperature of people (though where you choose to take that temperature is at your discretion), making the perfect cup of tea, finding car problems and many other uses. You can pick one up for \$100 from Canadian Tire or for less than \$12 from eBay.

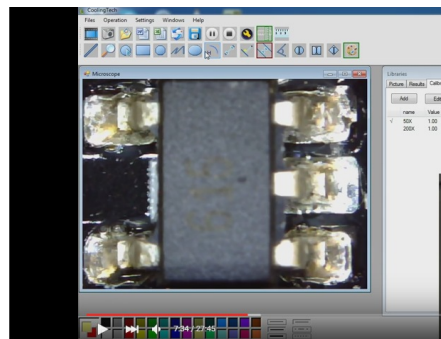
<http://www.ebay.ca/itm/Digital-Non-Contact-Laser-Temperature-Gun-Infrared-Thermometer-Sight-Handheld-LA-/252135068290?hash=item3ab46bd282:g:8f0AAOSw5ZBWJ2IL>

6. Digital Microscope Camera



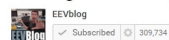
An inexpensive USB microscope has up to 500x magnification to allow you to inspect tiny components and solder joints on a big laptop screen. About \$23 shipped (there are cheaper versions but the stands are useless).

http://www.ebay.ca/itm/181968939157?_trksid=p2057872.m2749.l2649&ssPageName=STRK:MEBIDX:IT



https://youtu.be/H2P1_JZYnVc

EEVblog #566 - Cheap USB Microscope Reviews



108,169

7. Security Screw Removal Bit Set



Funny how manufacturers think they can keep us out of stuff by using weird screws. About \$8 shipped.

Assaf
VA3PCI

VHF NET REPORT

January 6, 2016

Thanks to the controllers who kept the VHF net alive in December 2015: Matt VA3MHB, Assaf VA3PCI, Carlyle VE3WIO, John VE3CAK and Shannon VA3XRY. Check-ins ranged from 10 to 19 and net duration ran from 16 to 39 minutes.

Thanks to Frontenac Emcomm for allowing us the use of the VE3FRG repeater while the VE3KBR repeater site was under renovation. It came back Dec. 9.

In my December Net Report, I mentioned that a long time net controller, Warren VE3JPW, had moved and was off the air. As a result, he was unable to continue as a net controller until he got a station set up at his new QTH. I'm pleased to be able to report that his station is operational again so his hiatus as a net controller was short-lived.

When VE3KBR came back on the air Dec. 9, I sent a revised net control script to the controllers and to Chip for posting on the web site. A revised net control schedule for January and February as well as the revised script are in the January newsletter.

Happy New Year on behalf of everyone involved in the Kingston Amateur Radio Club Tuesday Night Net.

Steve VE3KC

Net Manager

MEETING MINUTES

Kingston Amateur Radio Club meeting

2 Dec 2015

16 members in attendance.

1. Minutes of the last meeting:

Errors and omissions:

Assaf's callsign, VA3PCI was wrong, Chip's callsign, VA3KGB, was omitted, and it was erroneously reported that there is one CFARS net per month when in fact there are two.

Motion to accept amended minutes was made by Larissa VE3KGC, and seconded by Steve VE3KC. **Motion passed.**

2. Treasurer's Report (Doug VE3FFR).

As published in the KARC newsletter. Current account balance stands at \$7713.37.

Motion to accept minutes by Doug VE3FFR, seconded by Les VE3KFS. **Motion passed.**

3. Business arising from the minutes:

a. Archive project - Assaf VA3PCI was not present to make a report.

b. Fall projects discussion (Peter VE3POA) - Discussion thus far has covered Arduino, QRP transceivers, and remote control of stations. The next meeting will likely be held in January. Another three members are interested but were not able to make it to the last meeting, which would bring the total number of members up to 7 or 8.

c. Website update (Chip VA3KGB) - The swapshop section of the website will probably disappear. The software that was used to create it is no longer recognized by the new server software. In the meanwhile, Ron VE3GO has volunteered to coordinate an on-air swap shop and receive new items from members to be mentioned on the Tuesday Night Net.

d. Yahoo/Freelist update (Steve VE3KC) - The Freelist is okay, other than one issue. Due to Canada's anti-spam legislation, Steve can no longer "subscribe" people to the list. Rather, members themselves must join the list and Steve just gets notified. Sometimes people reply to a Freelist message and it gets sent to Steve for approval - when this happens, it's because the address they use to reply from does not match the one they used to originally subscribe with. [Sec'y note: especially common among users of multiple email address which are "linked" and accessed from mobile devices, which tend to use the user's "primary" address rather than reply with the one they received the original message with]

e. Repeater update (Steve VE3KC) - No news is good news. No correspondence has been received from anyone, period. Updated info: The outage due to tower replacement was always predicted to last four to five months, not the one month that we were originally told. Because we have never been billed a rental fee, Steve is a little hesitant to make inquiries as to timelines because we are not sure how SBA, the new owner of the site (since they bought it from Glentel) will take it having a non-commercial entity occupying space on a commercial tower. Ron VE3GO has not had success in his inquiries to locate an alternate/backup site for our repeater.

f. Remote station planning committee (Les VE3KFS) - Testing on HRD, TeamViewer, and Skype are all proven technologies. The hardest part is finding time to get everyone together. Ron VE3GO asked whether there was any chance to go with an existing remote station - discussion ensued (covering topics such as ensuring only appropriately licensed hams accessed the station, etc.)

g. 2016 Ham License course (Les VE3KFS) - Les, Chip and the crew have been doing courses for six or twelve years, and they aren't being exactly overwhelmed with interest at this point. They have only three people interested so far. Also, Jim from Brockville wants to run a course.

h. RAC insurance (Steve VE3KC) - For the first time ever, RAC has actually agreed, to the penny, with Steve's calculations. Accordingly, Steve moved that we spend \$433.26 on RAC insurance. Doug VE3FFR seconded the motion. **Motion passed.**

4. New Business

a. Winter social event - Larissa VE3KGC volunteered to arrange something in the new year. It will likely be something like last year's successful dinner at Jiffy Grill. More to follow.

b. Elections: the meeting was turned over to Les VE3KFS for conduct of the elections.

Secretary:

Doug VE3FFR nominated Steve VE3KC, who accepted.

Les VE3KFS nominated Larissa VE3KGC, who declined.

No other nominations - Steve VE3KC is pronounced the new secretary for 2016.

Treasurer:

Steve VE3KC nominated Doug VE3FFR, who accepted.

No other nominations - Doug VE3FFR will continue as treasurer for 2016.

Vice President:

Doug VE3FFR nominated Carlyle VE3WIO, who accepted.

Steve VE3KC nominated Paul VA3LX, who was not present at the meeting. However, Carlyle VE3WIO had spoken to Paul previously and he had indicated he was not interested in standing for vice president.

No other nominations - Carlyle VE3WIO will be vice president for 2016.

President:

Paul VA3LX stands for president. There being no other nominations, Paul will remain president for 2016.

5. Reports

a. Net Manager (Steve VE3KC) - it's been published in the newsletter.

b. CFARS (Les VE3KFS) - Same as always. Excellent net on Sunday. 14MHz and 6 MHz nets. 27 check-ins on 14. 27 check-ins on 6. Both were cross-Canada. Amazing! Yesterday, 3-4 different frequencies, the western net couldn't even hear each other. Three more recent CFARS operators have been accepted. CFARS prefers that applicants have Advanced qualification, with good capabilities (tower, etc).

c. Community acknowledgments - Steve VE3KC acknowledges Doug VE3FFR for moving Steve's antenna off a dead tree which will be coming down, and Steve's been getting reports that his signal is better than ever.

- Ron VE3GO sends along thanks to the guys who have revived the Trans-Provincial Net, which runs on 7.055MHz LSB from 0800-1700 local time; Monday through Friday. They have a full slate of controllers, too. Les VE3KFS added kudos for Bill VE3CLQ, who kicked some butt to get the revival off the ground. (More info on the Trans-Provincial Net available at tqn7055.com)

d. Haves and Wants (Ron VE3GO) - Chip VA3KGB is offering an old 25-pin switch with all 25 pins intact.

- Ron VE3GO still has his barely-used marine radio up for grabs.

- Les VE3KFS has an old reel-to-reel machine with lots of tapes.

6. Next meeting - 6 Jan 2016 at Smitty's as usual.

50/50 draw was run. Each of the club and the winner took \$9.50. Larissa VE3KGC was the lucky winner!

Doug VE3FFR moved to adjourn, Roy VE3VJF seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2009h.

AGENDA – 6 JANUARY 2016

1. Members and guests introduce themselves
2. Additions to the agenda
3. Minutes of the December meeting (VE3KGC):
4. Treasurer's Report (Doug VE3FFR)
5. Business arising from the minutes:
 - a. Update on archives project
 - b. Follow-up on Fall projects discussion (Peter VE3POA)
 - c. Website and Freelist Yahoo update
 - d. Update on VE3KBR and acknowledgment of FRG for using their repeater
 - e. 2016 Ham Course; volunteer class organizer needed – Les VE3KFS
 - f. Winter social event [Larissa – VE3KGC]
6. New Business:
 - a. TBD
 - b.
7. Reports:
 - a. Net Manager (Steve VE3KC)
 - b. CFARS – (Les VE3KFS)
 - c. "Hearts and Flowers"
 - d. Community acknowledgments
 - e. Other Reports
8. Haves and wants
9. Date of next meeting: February 3, 2016
10. 50 / 50 Draw
11. Adjournment

Presentation: Demonstration of remote station technologies and discussion of planning for implantation of a KARC remote station: Les VE3KFS, Chip VA3KGB and Carlyle VE3WIO

FINANCIAL REPORT

Dec 30, 2015

Opening Balance

Cooperation Plus	6677.62
Course 2015	750.00
Dividend Savings	24.13
Equity Shares	261.62
Total	7713.37

Income

Int Dec	.06
50/50	9.50
Membership	300.00
Total	309.56

Expenditures

Rac Insurance	432.26
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Closing Balance

Cooperation Plus	6554.98
Course 2015	750.00
Dividend Savings	24.13
Equity Shares	261.62
Total	7590.73

Kingston Amateur Radio Club
Year – end Financial Report
Jan 01 – Dec 31, 2015

Income

Uncategorized	271.47
50 50 Draw	29.50
Dividends	19.47
Donations	10.00
Gift Received	25.00
Interest	.58
Membership	575.00
Total Income	931.02

Expenses

Education	195.52
Bank Fees	5.00
RAC Insurance	432.26
Software	56.49
Website	393.83
Total Expenses	1,083.10

Transfers

Course2015	750.00
Total Transfers	750.00

Overall Total **597.92**

NET CONTROL SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>		<u>Controller</u>
January	5	VE3JPW Warren
January	12	VE3KC Steve
January	19	VE3KGC Larissa
January	26	VA3MHB Matt
February	2	VA3PCI Assaf
February	9	VE3WIO Carlyle
February	16	VE3CAK John
February	23	VA3XRY Shannon

NET CONTROL SCRIPT

KARC Tuesday Night Net Control Script

Revised April 16, 2013

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Trivia Time

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

Swap Shop

Are there any items for the swap shop?

Closing

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

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