

Newsletter
January
2017

Kingston Amateur Radio Club 2016 Executive



Kingston Amateur News

President: Assaf Shool, VA3PCI
pres at ve3kbr.com

Vice-Pres: TBD
vicepres@ve3kbr.com

Treasurer: Larissa Reise VE3KGC
treas at ve3kbr.com

Secretary: Chip Chapman, VA3KGB
sec at ve3kbr.com

Past-Pres: Paul Taenzer, VA3LX
pastpres at ve3kbr.com

2016 COMMITTEE CHAIRS:
Two Metre Net Manager:
Brian Hopkins, VA3BAH
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>

VE3KER Kingston packet
node
145.070 MHz simplex



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

VE3UEL Hartington APRS
node
144.390 MHz

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I'd like to start off by wishing everyone a happy new year. I hope everyone had a great New Year's celebration and a great start to 2017. The new executive for this year are myself as President, Larissa VE3KGC as our treasurer, and Chip VA3KGB as the secretary. The vice-president position is currently open for nominations.

I think we can all agree 2016 had its high and low spots. We were spared a harsh winter and got to wear shorts every day during the summer. Some of the not-so-high spots were the results of the U.S. Election and CBS's 2 Broke Girls nearly getting canceled on only its 7th season. At least we managed to avert one of those disasters!

The club itself, and its members, have a number of accomplishments for 2016. Chip setup a remote HF station that allows hams without access to HF equipment to work the bands again. Thanks to a group effort, we've managed to scan almost all the archival documents belonging to the club and place them online at www.ve3kbr.com. We've had a great field day and fun social events as well. In addition, the club membership has actually grown compared to last year.

For 2017, I have a few things in mind that I would like us to do:

- Setup a field day committee.
- Bring back the post-Tuesday-night net HF net. When we used to have it, it was as a great chance for some of us to dust off the HF rig and be able to continue discussions after the net. It also served as a refresher for those of us who have become acclimated to the luxury of a VHF repeater on a dedicated frequency. On HF, trying to find a frequency, dealing with noise, and propagation that wasn't always easy to predict creating a more challenging communications environment. Because of some other issues as well we stopped doing the HF net, but if there is enough interest I'd like to appoint an HF net manager who will arrange times and controller.
- Arrange a 3D Printing day. How could I possibly write something without mentioning 3D printing? Well those that know me know I can't. There are at least four of us within the Kingston ham circle that own 3D printers, and I'd like to setup a day where we demo these machines and provide some answers surrounding this wonderful tech to anyone who might be interested.
- Abbreviate the business meeting. I'd like to slim down repetitive segments or things published in the newsletter where its possible to do so. In addition, we'll enforce a strict time limit on topics that become extended discussion point, tabling these to the next meeting whenever possible.

On a more personal note, this will be my third go as president of the club. Being part of the executive has traditionally held the unique privilege of getting to do all the work and accepting all the blame. I'm planning to buck this trend and make this year the one when we get everyone involved to make the club special rather than rely on a few volunteers. If we can't the membership to step up and play a role in the club, we're not doing it.

As well, I'm always looking for articles that you have written to publish in the newsletter. I'm very thankful for ones I get and I'd like to get at least a few more in 2017. We don't want to live in a future where Money Mart has already opened up its 30th franchise on the moon and the newsletter hasn't received an article since 2016. Your article can be short or long, and about any ham related topic or a topic that would be of interest to hams. Tell us what inspired you to become a ham or share a memorable experience. Email news@ve3kbr.org, we'd love to hear!

Finally I would like to say thanks to the outgoing executive, Paul VA3LX, Carlyle VE3WIO, Doug VE3FFR, and Steve VE3KC for their hard work and dedication to KARC. I look forward to this year being a prosperous and enjoyable one for the Kingston Amateur Radio Club.

--Assaf VA3PCI

DX REPORT

As is so often the case, the winter DXpedition focus is on the Caribbean and South Pacific. January tropical expeditions have been announced for Aruba, Micronesia, the North and South Cook Islands, Bonaire, Palau, Cayman Islands, Guadeloupe, Vanuatu, and the Dominican Republic. Check and see the details at the Announced DX Operations site: www.ng3k.com

There are also 'non-tropical' expeditions of interest coming up in January including the following: A70X from Qatar from January 1-7. XW4XR from Laos from January 3-21. ZS8Z on Marion Island from January 7-30 ZC4SB on Cypress from the UK bases from January 11-25. J5UAP from Guinea Bissau from January 20 to March 3. TU5MH from the Ivory Coast from January 22 to February 2.

Once again, have a look at the Announced DX Operations site for more information. Wishing you all great DX for 2017!

de Paul VA3LX

LETTER TO RAC

During the last meeting, the membership has voted to send a letter to RAC regarding KARC's support of the exception to ham radio radio from the Highway Traffic Act. The letter is below.

Allan Boyd, VE3AJB
Director Ontario North/East
Radio Amateurs of Canada
27 Red Mill Road, Box 208
Little Current, ON P0P1K0

December 8 2016

Re: Amateur Radio Exemption - Ontario Highway Traffic Act

Dear Allan

I am writing on behalf of the Kingston Amateur Radio Club (38 members) to inform you that the club supports maintaining the exemption Amateur Radio operators have in Ontario that allows us to use two-way radios while driving our vehicles. We hope that the exemption can be made permanent at this time so that the Ontario Act aligns with other jurisdictions in Canada.

The Kingston area Amateurs use our two-way radios to communicate with other Amateurs while on the road as well as to provide communications for public service events. As well, many Kingston area Amateurs are trained and prepared to assist local authorities during emergency situations.

Failure to maintain the exemption will seriously impact the ability of local Amateurs to meet our community service and emergency communication commitments and will have a negative impact on communication plans for these activities.



Paul Taenzer
VA3LX
President, Kingston Amateur Radio club

Wife: We're not talking over the radio. This relationship is over.

Me: This relationship is what? Over.



MEETING MINUTES

KARC General Meeting Minutes
December 6, 2016
7:00 PM
Smitty's Restaurant
2376 Princess Street, Kingston Ontario

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by the President, Paul VA3LX, who welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Members and guests introduced themselves: 21 members and guests were in attendance.
2. Additions to the agenda: None.
3. Minutes of the November meeting: Steve VE3KC/Les VE3KFS moved approval of the minutes as published in the December newsletter. The motion carried.
4. Treasurer's Report: Doug VE3FFR reviewed the financial report that was included in the December newsletter. We received \$425.00 in membership dues, a \$15.00 donation and \$0.08 interest. We spent \$431.18 for insurance. Doug VE3FFR/Chip VA3KGB moved approval of the financial report as published and presented. The motion carried. Steve VE3KC thanked Steve VE3SHU for his donation to the repeater and welcomed him to Kingston now that he's moved here from Godfrey.
5. New Business: Distracted driving exemption support letter to RAC: Paul VA3LX referred to the RAC bulletin that was also posted to the KARC Freelist that outlined initiatives being taken across Canada to extend or make permanent the exemption to the distracted driving regulations enjoyed by mobile amateur radio operators in most provinces. He said that Greg VE3PJ had approached him about this matter. Greg VE3PJ reviewed the situation in Ontario explaining that the current exemption in the Highway Traffic Act will expire Jan. 1, 2018. He said that the two RAC Directors for Ontario South and Ontario North and East are seeking support letters from individual operators and amateur organizations. Greg VE3PJ/Les VE3KFS moved that KARC prepare and send a supporting letter to RAC. In the discussion that followed, in response to a question as to who would write the letter, Steve VE3KC said that while it might be reasonable to expect the Secretary to do it, he didn't feel he could, as a non-driver who can't relate to the issue personally. There were also differing opinions as to whether or not the current exemption includes the use of handheld radios while driving; but it was agreed that this lack of clarity in the definition section of the Act should not be mentioned in, or affect the writing of the letter. The motion carried with several members opposed. It was not decided who would write the letter.
6. Updates:
 - a. President: Paul VA3LX referred to his President's Message in the December newsletter. He added that this will be his final meeting as President. He thanked the members for our support during the past two years and thanked Les VE3KFS for chairing the Nominating Committee for the 2017 elections. He looks forward to working with the new executive. He also reminded the members about the RAC Winter Contest, Dec. 17.
 - b. Insurance: Steve VE3KC reported that his estimate of \$431.18 presented at the November meeting was accurate to the penny. As Doug VE3FFR reported, our cheque has cleared so we're now liability insured for the 2017 calendar year for our repeater and for any KARC sanctioned activity no matter where it occurs.
 - c. Net Manager: The report was published in the December newsletter.

d. Remote HF station: Chip VA3KGB reported that the second antenna, an off-centre-fed Windom donated by Tim VA3TIC, is now up. He said it has problems tuning on 160 meters. It doesn't allow the tuning screen to finish but if you close it, it does. The station will be shut down from Dec. 11 to Dec. 30. Chip thanked those who brought RF chokes to the meeting as he'd requested on the Freelist. Paul VA3LX asked about usage to which Chip VA3KGB replied that the station is getting a fair bit of use now that our snowbird members have gone south for the winter. Anyone wanting to use the station should contact Chip. Associate Club members who aren't yet licensed can use the station in receive only mode.

e. CFARS: Les VE3KFS said that there will be an exercise in January. There are Tuesday night nets now that are doing Automatic Link Establishment (ALE) which emulates the 118/110 military modems software. CFARS has the capability to exchange encrypted messages. Five new members from across Canada will be joining CFARS shortly. Responding to a question from Paul VA3LX about membership eligibility, Les VE3KFS said that membership is open to all amateurs with preference given to those holding Advanced licenses with big stations. Full details are available at <http://cfarsoperations.ca/>

f. "Hearts and Flowers": None.

g. Community acknowledgements: Steve VE3KC thanked Tim VA3TIC for donating the off-centre-fed Windom antenna to the remote station and said that Tim is very happy about the way it's working. Paul VA3LX added his appreciation on behalf of the Club. Assaf VA3PCI thanked the outgoing executive for its service this year to a round of applause.

h. Other updates: Steve VE3KC, wearing his hat as Membership Chair, said that 24 members have renewed for 2017. He's accepting memberships now. Dues are \$25.00. He reminded the meeting about the motion passed at the October meeting to no longer send electronic membership cards but said that he will provide them as PDF files on request.

7. Election of 2017 officers: Following a 10-minute break, Les VE3KFS conducted the 2017 election. He said that he telephoned everyone on the KARC membership list for whom up-to-date information was available. Two members expressed interest in serving, one of whom was present. None of the current Executive members is willing to continue so all positions are open. Les called for nominations from the floor and got one candidate for each Executive position. These members accepted the nominations and were acclaimed as 2017 Executive members:

President: Assaf Shool VA3PCI

Vice-President: Shannon Coolican VA3XRY *(Editors note: Shannon has since stepped down)

Secretary: Chip Chapman VA3KGB

Treasurer: Larissa Reise VE3KGC

(Chip VA3KGB volunteered.)

Les observed that all of the 2017 Executive members have served previously.

Steve VE3KC reminded the meeting that, as mentioned in his last two net reports, he will not be continuing as Net Manager in January. He said he hoped that members consider the continuation of the net important. Brian VA3BAH volunteered to be Net Manager for 2017.

8. Announcements: Les VE3KFS mentioned that there are four Amateur Radio groups in Kingston: KARC, Frontenac EMCOMM, Kingston ARES and the Kingston Amateur Radio Experimenters Group (KAREX.) KARC and Kingston ARES have membership dues, Frontenac EMCOMM and KAREX don't. He encouraged members to support as many of the groups as possible depending on interest.

Paul VA3LX thanked the new Executive and said that as Past President, he will support them any way he can. He said he will continue to publish his DX news column in the newsletter and thanked Ian VE3DJI for his article in the December newsletter about 10 meter beacons. He encouraged everyone to consider writing an article for the newsletter. He wished everyone a happy holiday season.

Peter VE3POA announced that he has co-authored an article about the NVIS operating event that took place October 16 that will appear in the next issue of TCA.

9. Date of next meeting: January 3, 2017

10. Adjournment: Brian VA3BAH/Doug VE3FFR moved adjournment. The motion carried.
was adjourned at 08:05 PM.

The meeting

There was no presentation.

Steve Cutway VE3KC
Secretary

NET REPORT

Thanks to the controllers who kept the VHF net alive during December: Assaf VA3PCI, Carlyle VE3WIO and John VE3CAK. Check-ins ranged from 11 to 17 and net duration ran from 26 to 38 minutes. Thanks also to Larissa VE3KGC for continuing to do the swap net. If you have items to trade, buy, swap or sell, get hold of her.

Thanks to Brian VA3BAH who volunteered at the KARC December meeting to assume the duties of Net Manager January 1, 2017.

Thanks finally to everyone who has participated in the KARC Tuesday Night Net during my 7½ years as Net Manager. I know you join me in welcoming Brian to the position and I know you'll give him the same support you gave me.

Steve VE3KC
Former Net Manager

AGENDA - 3 JAN 2017

1. Members and Guests introduce themselves
2. Additions to the Agenda
3. Minutes of the last Meeting: errors / omissions / approval (Chip VA3KGB)
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Old Business:
 - a. Letter to RAC
6. New Business:
 - a. Executive Appointments
 - b. Interest in holding HF net after Tuesday night net
7. Reports:
 - a. Net Manager (Brian VA3BAH)
 - b. CFARS
 - c. "Hearts and Flowers"
 - d. Other Reports
8. Date of next meeting: 02 February 2017
9. 50 / 50 Draw
10. Adjournment

FINANCIAL REPORT

Kingston Amateur Radio Club

Year – end Financial Report

Jan 01 – Dec 31, 2016

Income

50 50 Draw	12.00
Dividends	13.41
Donations	15.00
Interest	.54
Membership	1,050.00
Total Income	1,090.95

Expenses

RAC Insurance	431.18
Website	371.62
Misc	20.86
Groceries Field day	176.87
Club Equipment	2,053.99
Total Expenses	3,054.52

Overall Total **-1,963.57**

KARC FINANCIAL REPORT –Dec 2016

Dec 28, 2016

Opening Balance

Cooperation Plus	5123.92
Dividends Savings	37.54
Equity Shares	261.62
Total	5423.08

Income

Int	.04
Membership	225.00
Total	225.04

Expenditures

Sympathy Cards/Stamps	20.86
Total	20.86

Closing Balance

Cooperation Plus	5328.10
Dividend Savings	37.54
Equity Shares	261.62
Total	5627.26

NET CONTROL SCHEDULE

Date **Controller**

3 JANUARY 2017: Dinner Meeting; NO NET

10 JANUARY 2017: VA3BAH Brian

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.