

Kingston Amateur News

Jun 2002

P.O. Box 1402 Kingston K7L 5C6

No 136

NEXT CLUB MEETING

June 5, 7:00 p.m. (Wednesday)

MEETING PLACE: Smitty's

2376 Princess (next door to Chapters)

Come in early and have supper.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Proudly Affiliated
With RAC



KARC & ARES

Summer Picnic

Third Sunday in July 2002

Rotary Park

KARC Web page designed and maintained by: VA3KGB, Chip
<http://www.king.igs.net/~karc>



Every Saturday morning
at

Smitty's

Come and meet, get the latest in Amateur
Radio gossip and of course eat while you
talk!

2001 / 02 EXECUTIVE OF KARC:

President	VE3VJF Roy Clarke	384-5900	ve3vjf@rac.ca
V/President	VE3BGP Mike Beausoleil	634-0411	ve3bgp@rac.ca
Secretary	VA3HAW Brian Allen	545-0619	va3haw@rac.ca
Treasurer	VA3KDH Kim Hay	353-1189	va3kdh@rac.ca
Past President	VA3AIL Leo Ashley	354-6914	va3ail@hotmail.com

SWAP NET MANAGER:

VE3KFS, Les Lindstrom 634-4247 ve3kfs@rac.ca
(Please call Les if you have items for sale or wanted)

TWO METRE NET MANAGER:

VE3KFS, Les Lindstrom 634-4247 ve3kfs@rac.ca

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

VE3BGP, Mike Beausoleil 634-0411 ve3bgp@rac.ca

REPEATER Committee:

VE3KFS, Les Lindstrom	634-4247	ve3kfs@rac.ca
VA3GST John Taylor	353-7623	va3gst@king.igs.net
VA3KGB Chip Chapman	377-1359	va3kgb@rac.ca
VE3JCQ John Wood	549-8915	ve3jcq@rac.ca
VA3AIL Leo Ashley	354-6914	va3ail@hotmail.com

ARES MEETING

The next regular ARES meeting will be on Monday 17 June 2002 at Kingston West
Fire Hall, Woodbine and Bayridge roads at 19:00 hrs. Visitors are always welcome!

Visit our site at: <http://www.qsl.net/kingstonares/index.html>

The ARES web site is maintained by VA3KDH, Kim

**Kingston Amateur Radio Club
Treasurer Report
April 15 to May 15, 2002**

KARC-All Accounts

Account Balances Report

ASSETS	Acct	Balance
Cash and Bank Accounts		
	KARC Chequing	\$ 1840.74
	St. Mary's Hospital	.00
	Repeater Project	\$ 2050.00
	TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	\$ 3,890.74

Summary of Revenue and Expenses

INCOME

Income	Account	Expenses	Account
\$ 20.00	404 (Membership)	\$ 19.59	515 (Newsletter Postage)
\$ 20.00	404 (Membership)	\$ 10.00	507 (Flea market table)
\$ 1.29	414 (Bank Interest)	\$ 8.45	518 (News Letter) -
Total Income \$ 41.29		Total Expenses \$ 38.04	

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE KINGSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
HELD ON MAY 1, 2002
AT SMITTY'S**

- 1. Agenda:** Item 6-D was added by VE3XE.
- 2. Minutes of the April meeting:** Moved by VE3KDM and second by VE3SH that the minutes be adopted as read. Motion carried.
- 3. Treasurer's report:** Kim VA3KDH was not present, due to attending a wake. The report was included in the newsletter and all members present had read it. Moved by VA3KGB and second by VE3LXO that the treasurer's report be adopted as read. Carried.
- 4. OLD BUSINESS:**
 - A:** Field Day - VE3GLO: Has received 8 email replies. Bob will not be here on that date due to work and said if all goes well it will happen. The location will be VA3KGB's QTH.
 - B:** Cubbery - VE3BGP: Mike reported that this event is now cancelled due to lack of interest from the Cubs.
 - C:** Picnic Summer 2002: This club event will take place on July 21st at 12:00hrs to about 16:00hrs at the Rotary Park behind the Collins Bay Marina.
 - D:** Smith Falls Flea Market, May 11, 2002: A table has been acquired.
 - E:** Auction: A tentative date for sometime in September with the possibility of being held at Dug's VE3DUG place.
 - F:** Sky's the Limit: Still need a coordinator for this event.

5. 50/50 draw was not held due to Kim not being present.

6. NEW BUSINESS ARISING

A: Guest Speaker Drew VE3UIN did a presentation with the help of Tom VE3UDO (who was at home) on PSK31 and SSTV. Tom showed up at the end to answer questions. (note: this took place after all club business was finished)

B: Program Director: Brian VA3HAW asked if anyone was interested in filling this new position. The director would be responsible for finding guest speakers or any other type of activity to have at club meetings, instead of just having business meetings. This position is not part of the executive but will work with them. No volunteer's came forward.

C: Appreciation to Smitty's: Discussion was held on different ideas. It was decided that a QSL card type of design that could be hanged on the wall would be used. One would be made for Smitty's with the other going to Andrew for his great service. Dave VA3ORP will be looking after this project.

D: Eric VE3XE reported that for the Queens Jubilee in Slough Buckingham shires in the Windsor Castle a ham radio special event station has been set up, with the call sign of GB50.

THE CLUB HAS 2 NEW MEMBERS: VA3ADW - ALLAN WALKER, AND VE3RPF - ROBERT PARKER.

7. REPORTS:

RAC: Ron was not present.

VE3KFS: Les was not present. Roy VE3VJF read an email received from Les stating that IRLP nodes are up to 420 world wide, and the drop out bug seems to be repaired thanks to John and Sven. The repeater and nets are running smoothly. No further development on the repeater project.

KARC Newsletter: Mike VE3BGP reported that he got some good input last month and would like to see that again for this month's Newsletter.

KARC Website: Chip VA3KGB asked that if members find any bad links to report them to him.

HEARTS AND FLOWERS: No reports given

Moved by VE3AHU and VE3NFU that the meeting be adjourned at 20:03hrs. Carried

Brian Allen
VA3HAW
KARC secretary

WTB / FS

Did you know you could advertise in the Newsletter, you can? Would you like to buy, sale or looking for something a special piece of equipment, this is the place.

Contact Mike VE3BGP ve3bgp@rac.cva

Monkey Business II

Not long ago I dropped in to see my friend Chuck. He had his transceiver tuned to one of the provincial nets. We were chatting away when suddenly we heard a dog barking. "Woof Woof Woof" comes out of the speakers.

"Are they licensing dogs now on the Amateur bands? He must have an Amateur license instead of a dog license".

"Oh," Chuck replied. "Someone's gone out and left their transceiver on in the VOX position. This is nothing new, I remember an American Amateur who did the same thing except he had a talking parrot. The darned bird would whistle, call CQ CQ, then come out with a few choice phrases."

Tell me Chuck do you think it possible to train animals to operate radio equipment?

"Oh yes," he said. "And that reminds me. Write to my friend Peter Benbow in England; he has a UK license G2DKW, you can look up the call. He can tell you something interesting.

I wrote Peter and here is his story:

In World War II, I was a wireless operator or telegraphist, as they were known in Royal Navy. In 1943 I was stationed on one of the larger islands of the Seychelles group, which is in the western end of the Indian Ocean. We were isolated; there were four of us operators to stand watch and look after the cooking. A local native lives on the island and they would bring us fish and fruits in return for our Spam, fags, and tea. We would monitor the 500 kc/s frequency for distress calls such as SOS, SSS (submarine sighted) and RRR for an enemy Q ship or raider.

German submarines were very active in the Indian Ocean and merchant shipping losses were heavy. When we picked up a distress call we would take a DF bearing and pass this information to Naval HQ. There was also a clandestine radio station operating aboard an impounded German ship in the neutral Portuguese colony of Goa and we would copy his transmission to the U-Boats.

Life was pleasant, but boring; one diversion was when our natives' sweeper, bent over seeping, backed in through the open back doors of our big RCA transmitter and discharged the high voltage capacitors across the cheeks of his backside. There was a great snapping sound and with a shriek he took off at full tilt, never to return. I am afraid we couldn't help laughing over that one. He is probably still branded to this day - positive on one cheek and negative on the other.

One-day a ship's lifeboat, loaded down to the gunnels, arrived at the island. It held the survivors of the 7,000-ton merchant ship *Llandaff Castle*. The wireless op was one of the survivors and he had with him his pet chimpanzee. I asked him where he picked up the chimp and he said he bought it in Mombassa from an air force guy who had got it when stationed in Sierra Leone.

"We will soon be repatriated back to England and I will leave the chimp with you, if you like. He is about six to eight years old, male, and we call him Whiskers because of the white hairs on his chin." To feed him was no problem, so we agreed to keep him.

Chimpanzees are probably the most well known of the primates from appearing in Tarzan films and other Hollywood movies. They are native to the forest regions of Africa from the central west coast to the lower east coast. As chimpanzees are not aggressive, we enjoyed his company and started to teach him tricks. "I wonder", said one of the ops "if he could send or receive code. He is pretty smart at understanding what we say." Why not? So we made up an oscillator and key and kept repeating our callsign, VSB. After lots of efforts and rewards - by Jove he got it - and when he heard our call come out of the speaker on our HF link to HQ on 6215 kc/s he would jump up and down and hoot at us. He would sit in front of the speaker for hours and could distinguish with unfailing accuracy our callsign, VSB.

Whiskers was good and relieved us from some of the drudgery of watch keeping and boredom of listening for our callsign. Then we tried to get him to send code. Chimp's fingers are long and the thumb is small which prevents precision grip between tip of the thumb and index finger but that didn't prevent him from getting a good grip on the key, and as we had opened the gap up he was able to bash out the letter R and the wait - signal AS when our callsign came over the HF link. Then he would come and get one of us from the beach. We agreed that we must keep this sort of thing quiet. If the Lords of the Admiralty got wind of this we would be replaced by chimps and they'll work for peanuts. As it was we got periodic visits from a big ape of a Petty Officer.

This idyllic situation went on until the end of the war with Whiskers getting more proficient in sending code, but this writing still wasn't worth a damn. All good things come to an end we were repatriated back to England by ship in the autumn of 45. What to do with Whiskers, who had grown in size. We decided to take him with us. We dressed him in naval clothes, passed him off as a stoker and managed to hide him and get him back to England. The ship was so full of returning troops that a hairy little man was never noticed. I am told that if you spend many years in ship's tiller flats and engine rooms you may get to look like Whiskers.

Back in England my girlfriend said, "It is either me or Whiskers" so that settled that. Whiskers was taken to Regent Park Zoo in London - he didn't mind, as I told him there were lots of girl chimps there. I used to pass the cage where he lived with the other primates and whistle VSB in morse code and he would come over to see me.

Whiskers died in 1969. He must have been about 35 years old. He was a remarkable monkey and certainly made our service life a lot more pleasant.

Peter Benbow G2DKW Brighton, UK thanks VE3NB Bernard

**The Ottawa Amateur Radio Club
is pleased to announce its 6th Annual**



Hamfest

Saturday, August 31, 2001 (Labour Day weekend)

Tailgaters Open and Building Vendor setup: 9 am

Building Opens: 10 am until 1 pm

Radio Amateurs of Canada Forum and Technology Update: 1pm-4pm (approx)

**Carp Agricultural Fair Grounds
3970 Carp Rd (at Falldown Lane)
Ottawa (Carp), Ontario**

Highway 417 East to Carp Road exit, North to the fairground

We are in the Arena, so follow the signs on the site

\$5 general admission

\$10/table (plus admission)

\$5/tailgate (plus admission)

A Special Door Prize will be very generously donated by:



Bytown Marine Limited

5 Corvus Court

Nepean, Ontario, K2E 7Z4

Phone: (613) 723-8424

The OARC is proud to once again sponsor the RAC Forum and Technology Update. This highly informative event follows immediately after the close of the Hamfest at 1 pm. We are very fortunate to have Doug Leach (VE3XK), RAC's Ontario North Director, as Moderator.

For further information or reservations contact:

Greg Danylchenko (VE3Y TZ)

Tel: (613) 236-9291(H)

Email: fleamarket@oarc.net

Web address: <http://oarc.net/fleamarket>

Talk-in VE3RCA 146.94 / 34