

Newsletter
June
2014

Kingston Amateur Radio Club

2014 Executive



Kingston Amateur News

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

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Ham Radio As A Secret Superpower

Ham radio today is an ultra-niche hobby. Most non-hams have a unfavorable impression of amateur radio, mostly out of a lack of knowledge of what ham radio is. They may imagine the Hollywood stereotype of ungainly equipment, high voltages and a great deal of effort and complication to send a simple message, something they can easily do with their phones.

These and other stereotypes are largely untrue but they certainly don't help the hobby. Until Katy Perry or Lady Gaga get their ham tickets and write some hit singles on contesting on the 80M-17M bands, it's likely to stay that way.

As such, the general population is largely ignorant on the operating principles of radio communications. Radio technology is continuing to advance in phones, cars, and innumerable commercial applications but it seems most people are perfectly happy accepting the benefits and leaving the science out. News media are aware of this and will dedicate a week of front page coverage to Justin Bieber's latest haircut or taxi mishap, but if a new chip technology comes out that will change the way people live and work and there won't be so much as a whisper.

But the science does matter, and having ham knowledge can be invaluable in non-ham applications. One example - when a WiFi router does not seem to be working well, hams know that installing it inside the electrical breaker box was probably not the best idea (many "professional installers" will place WiFi devices there).



I find applying the knowledge I've learned about coax cables to be very useful outside the ham world. For example, satellite and cable TV both rely on coax cable to function. How many people understand the difference between the junk "bargain" cable that will radiate out most of the signal while absorbing RF interference from here to Timbuktoo versus top-quality double-shielded RG-6? They are both white after all, at least until your TV show is stopping and starting every few seconds. I've seen many self-installers and even, yes, some 'professionals' use junk coax and wonder why the system is working so poorly.

Those are just a couple examples and I'm sure there are many more. If you have ever demonstrated your ham radio know-how to fix a non-ham problem, you know there's a certain fun mystique to doing so. Even some basic knowledge of antennas and transmission lines, when applied in a practical fashion, can garner looks normally reserved for Wolverine. Ok, it might not land you a date with a supermodel, but amateur radio can pay dividends in ways you may not expect.

Assaf
VA3PCI
Club President

Do You Own A Smart Phone, eReader, or Tablet?

Have you run into a problem trying to remember the sequence or menu items to add a new frequency or tone to your radio or another function but you left the owners manual at home? The newer the radio the more bells and whistles they have and even the simplest operation setting is not so simple to change anymore. The manuals for some my radios are huge in size and weight and I leave them at home on the shelf for easy access in the radio shack. However there have been times that I could have used my owners manual for my mobile or handheld radio to change some settings and didn't have them available.

I no longer have that problem. As most smart phones, eReaders and tablets have the ability to open PDF files natively or have an app, I have all my owners manuals on my smart phone and eReader. I also have copies of the manuals on my laptop as well. Most of the Amateur Radio equipment manuals are available as PDF downloads, so it becomes a simple matter of downloading them from the manufacturer's support site and then uploading them to your portable device. This saves carrying the original manuals around with me wherever I go but have instant access to the manual when I need it or if I want to read up on a procedure or bell and whistle I don't use that often.

Depending on our portable device you can create folders to allow you to easily locate the required manual. Prior to uploading the manual to your portable device I would suggest checking the filename and renaming it to something that makes sense rather than just a number.pdf etc., for example rename 32456.pdf to radioname_OM.pdf.

As long as I have wifi access or cell service I can also use the internet to download a manual or find information via a search engine such as Google.

Cliff 'Chip' Chapman
VA3KGB

Meeting Minutes – May 7, 2014 - Kingston Amateur Radio Club Meeting - Smitty's Restaurant - Princess Street – 7:00pm

In Attendance

Ron VE3GO
Les VE3KFS
Chip VA3KGB
Andy VE3FYA
Matthew VE3MHB
Harold VE3BDM
Roy VE3VJF
Shannon VA3XRY
Paul VA3LX
Assaf VA3PCI
Steve VE3KC
Dave VA3DLF
Phil VE3HST
Mike VE3HEO
Doug VE3KXA
John VE3JCQ
George VE3DHF
Doug VE3FFR

New Introductions

Mike VE3HEO was introduced to the group. He received his Ham Radio ticket in April 2012. He is a Phd. candidate at the Royal Military College. He operates **VE3RMC** station at the Royal Military College.

HAM Radio News

Steve VE3KC relayed a RAC announcements that we now have access to 472-475 Khz band. 5 watts maximum.

Community Acknowledgments

Paul VA3LX acknowledgment **CHIP VA3KGB**. **Chip VA3KGB** found the software for the Ontario QSO contest that allowed windows users to use the dos based logging program. **Chip VA3KGB** gave step by step instructions on how to use the program.

Steve VE3KC acknowledged all the instructors that made it out 7-8 Wednesday nights to teach the Ham Radio course. Chip, Andy, Les. Steve said that it requires a significant commitment of time. Steve mentioned that it is not the first time this group has done this. They have been doing it for at least 3 years.

Corrections to Minutes

Assaf VA3PCI said the IRLP is based at his house. **Steve VE3KC** mentioned that Carlye's name was misspelled. Motion put forward by **Andy VE3FYA** and seconded by **Chip VA3KGB**. Motioned Carried.

Treasurer's Report

Steve VE3KC reviewed the Treasurer's report as provided in the May 2014 newsletter.

Steve VE3KC said the website is up for renewal by dotEasy Dot Com. Steve VE3KC would like to make a request to spend up to \$300.00 Chip VA3KGB normally gets the bill in June and Steve was just trying to be proactive. **Steve VE3KC** put forward the motion and **Doug VE3FFR** seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Steve VE3KC moved that the April 2014 newsletter be accepted. **Les VE3KFS** seconded. Motion carried.

Business arising from the minutes

Assaf VA3PCI reported that we will not be conducting field day this year because of logistics and participation.

Sydenham Wireless now owns the Claraden Station and McAdoo's Lane sites. They have no record of our repeater equipment at either site. **Don VE3MNE** does not have access to the side of the **McAdoo's Lane** repeater. **Don VE3MNE** is planning to recover our equipment at the site and bring it back to his shop for inspection.

Ontario QSO Party - Results Paul VA3LX 185 Contacts , Tim VA3TIC 48 contacts Chip VA3KGB 3 contacts. We will be having a break in contest activity and resume in the fall.

New Business

Les VE3KFS said that **Terry VA3KLG** now has the Echolink at his house and **Assaf VA3PCI** has the IRLP at his house and they both are operation.

Les VE3KFS gave an update on the renovations to the Communications and Electronics Museum at CFB Kingston. We will have a room in the corner of the new museum. It will initially be 'uniform' only, but may eventually expanded to a group of trusted individuals. There will be a new Delta antenna.

Ron VE3GO was considering offering a Marine Radio Course in Kingston this year and was . It is a 3 hour radio course.

2014 Ham Radio Course -

Les VE3KFS said that 23 people started the course and 13 graduated as new amateur radio operators. **Les VE3KFS** mentioned that it was a very successful course and that the course is still being offered free of charge.

Meeting Adjournment

Roy VE3VJF moved that the meeting be Adjourned. **John VE3JCQ** seconded the motion.

KARC FINANCIAL REPORT - MAY 2014

June 4, 2014

Opening Balance

Cooperation Plus	7,035.62
Dividend Savings	9.66
Equity Shares	<u>261.62</u>
Total Balance	7,306.90

INCOME

Membership	25.00
Donation	50.00
MOTORSPORT CLUB OF OTTAWA FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE VE3KAR REPEATER WHICH THEY WEREN'T ABLE TO USE FOR THEIR LANARK-HIGHLANDS FOREST RALLY 03/04/2014	
50/50 draw at May meeting	7.50
May Interest	<u>0.12</u>
Total Income	82.62

EXPENSES

Total Expenses	0.00
Revenue Less Expenses	82.62

CLOSING BALANCE

Cooperation Plus	7,118.24
Dividend Savings	9.66
Equity Shares	<u>261.62</u>
Total Balance	7,389.52

PETTY CASH

Opening Balance	50.80
Newsletter printing for May meeting	6.75
Closing Balance 44.05	

AGENDA –4 JUNE 2014

1. Members and Guests introduce themselves
2. Additions to the Agenda
3. Amateur Radio News
4. Community Acknowledgments
5. Minutes of the last Meeting: errors / omissions / approval (Shannon VA3XRY)
6. Treasurer's Report (Steve VE3KC)
7. Business arising from the minutes:
 - a. Marine Radio Licenses
 - b.
7. New Business:
 - a. Discuss ideas for club events
8. Reports:
 - a. Net Manager (Steve VE3KC)
 - b. "Hearts and Flowers"
 - c. Other Reports
9. Date of next meeting: 03 Sep 2014
10. 50 / 50 Draw
11. Adjournment
12. Presentations: TBD

VHF NET REPORT -June 4, 2014

Thanks to the controllers who kept the VHF net alive in May. Check-ins ranged from 10 to 17 and net duration ran from 26 to 49 minutes.

The net control schedule for June to September is in the current newsletter; but if you hear silence any Tuesday night at 19:30 hours on VE3KBR, please jump in and control the net. The script is in the newsletter and on the KARC web site and if you follow it, you'll do fine.

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

JUNE– SEPTEMBER, 2014 – NET CONTROL SCHEDULE

June 3 **VA3MHB** Matthew
June 10 **VA3PCI** Assaf
June 17 **VE3CAK** John
June 24 **VE3DZE** David
July 1 **VE3JPW** Warren
July 8 **VE3KC** Steve
July 15 **VE3KGC** Larissa
July 22 **VA3MHB** Matthew
July 29 **VA3PCI** Assaf
August 5 **VE3WIO** Carlyle
August 12 **VE3CAK** John
August 19 **VE3DZE** David
August 26 **VE3KC** Steve
September 2 **VE3JPW** Warren
September 9 **VE3KGC** Larissa
September 16 **VA3MHB** Matthew
September 23 **VA3PCI** Assaf

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.

