

Newsletter

March, 2007



Kingston Amateur News

Kingston Amateur Radio Club 2007 Executive

President: Ron, VE3GO/VE3IDW

ve3go@sympatico.ca

Vice-Pres: Les, VE3KFS

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Treasurer: George, VE3GHK

ghkennedy@sympatico.ca

Secretary: Bill, VA3OL

ve3kgj@sympatico.ca

Past-Pres: Tom, VE3UDO

ve3udo@sympatico.ca

2007 Committee Chairs

Swap Net Manager:

Bill Nangle, VE3CLQ

ve3clq@rac.ca

Two Meter Net Manager:

VE3CLQ, Bill Nangle

ve3clq@rac.ca

Newsletter Editor: Joan Clarke

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Repeater Committee:

VE3KFS, Les Lindstrom

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VA3GST, John Taylor

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VA3KGB, Chip Chapman

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VE3JCQ, John Wood

ve3jcq@rac.ca

P.O. Box 1402 Kingston Ontario K7L 5C6

<http://www.ve3kbr.com>

VE3KAR
VE3KBR
VE3UEL
VE3KER
146.94(-) MHz



**The 2nd Repeater is now
Operational
147.090(+) MHz**

PRESIDENT'S WORDS:

I must apologize for missing the February meeting but the day at the brier was fantastic. The level of curling was spectacular and I learned a great deal. I also toured some marine sites and checked out on the winter fit-out of the Great Lakes freighters.

Anyone who has not visited Liquidation World and seen the Radio Shack liquidation is missing a lot. They are adding new material every day and there is quite a variety. Just tonight I picked up battery cases for AA batteries complete with on-off switch and leads. I have also found a heavy duty soldering gun and soldering station. While away in the Niagara region, I purchased coax cable, copper antenna wire, connectors, plugs, jacks etc. etc. Tonight they had boxes which were not even opened. I also bought 1/4-inch screw connector phone plugs and jacks. Guy wire rings, coax preparation tools, tools for TV coax connectors, 5.0mm power plugs for scanners etc, and more can be found.

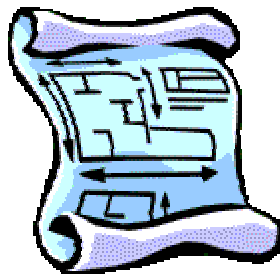
HF activity seems to be picking up and I have been back on CW for some contacts. I am also pleased to see the continued high check in count for our weekly net.

Hopefully the ARES exercise this Sunday will be a success.

In January I brought a box of parts etc. that I was no longer using. They all seemed to go and someone found them of use. I encourage all members to do the same. You may have a small piece someone else needs. I also plan to have my small laminator there again. Membership cards and material up to qsl card size can be laminated for free. (As long as I have plastic pouches left.)

I want to see everyone in April.

President, Ron VE3IDW



From the Editor:

The newsletter, this month, is much shorter than the previous two due to a lack of inserts. Guess we are having a dry spell of interest topics. When one comes along, please send it to me so I can get it out to the members of the club. Thanks to all those who do send me notes and articles. (ED.)

Every **TUESDAY** at 7:30 p.m. **K.A.R.C. Net VE3KBR**

SCHEDULE OF NET CONTROL STATIONS:

APRIL, 2007

03 April – VE3VJF
10 April – VE3MUD
17 April – VE3IDW
24 April – VE3CLQ

MAY, 2007

1 May – VE3CAK
8 May – VE3JPW
15 May – VE3RPF
22 May – VA3ZE
29 May – VE3NFU

JUNE, 2007

5 June – VE3VJF
12 June – VE3MUD
19 June – VE3IDW
26 June – VE3CLQ

If there are any conflicts please contact Bill at ve7cvq@rac.ca and we'll juggle a few things.

The net script has been posted on the Website



Every **Saturday** - Breakfast at Smitty's. Starts at 8:00 a.m. but come early, chat and mingle.



The **Third MONDAY** of every month at 7:00 p.m. is the A.R.E.S. REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING at the Woodbine Firehall, second floor.

There is now a repeater, VA3FOY 147.285(+) at Bancroft. Licensee is Doug Peckhover.



KARC Web page designed and maintained by:

VA3KGB, Chip

<http://www.ve3kbr.com>

Publication Schedule of the KARC Newsletter will be April 25, 2007

OF INTEREST

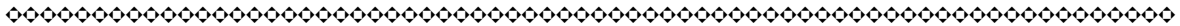
PLEASE NOTE: Lanark/North Leeds ARES

The **Lanark/North Leeds ARES Group** has added a new repeater to their network. VE3HTN, 146.865, located near Toledo, about 10k south of Smiths Falls, is now connected to VA3TEL 145.030; Christie Lake, VE3KJG 146.640; and Tweed, 145.370. These repeaters provide coverage from Trenton to Ottawa and Pembroke to the St. Lawrence River area in the neighbourhood of Brockville. There are no PL tones, IRLP (2947) is available from any connected repeater and a phone patch is available in to the areas of Perth, Smiths Falls and Brockville. All repeaters are linked full time.

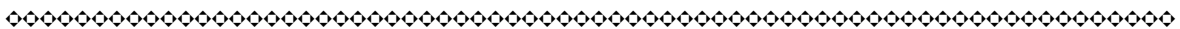


CLUB AND MEMBER NEWS

Don, VE3MNE has had a little glitch and returned to hospital early in March, but after a stay in hospital is now home and on the mend again. Again, all the best, Don.



CLUB BRUNCH: **On the last Sunday of every month** there will be a **club brunch** at various venues. This is an opportunity to treat your spouse to brunch and fellowship with members of the club and their spouses; this is not a 'couples' brunch – all members are encouraged to attend. The venue and time will be announced at the monthly meetings. The March brunch buffet has been booked to be held at Aunt Lucy's on Sunday, March 25, 2007, 12 noon.





60th ANNIVERSARY BUFFET DINNER

DATE: APRIL 28th, 2007

PLACE: NAPANEE LION'S HALL

TIME: 6:00 P.M.

COST: \$22/PERSON

The Kingston Amateur Radio Club (KARC) and the Quinte Amateur Radio Club (QARC) are having a joint 60th Anniversary Buffet Dinner and the two clubs are equally sharing costs.

I would hope a good number representing our club will sign up. (Non-members are also welcome.)

I would appreciate replies, if you are attending, sent to ve3vjf@rac.ca (Roy).

ANOTHER DATE TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR



**KINGSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
HAM FLEAMARKET**

Kingston, Ontario

2007

Date: Saturday Sept. 15, 2007

Location: Drill Hall Alpha, Vimy Barracks, CFB Kingston

(Hall Alpha is located at the back of the Forde Building)

East of Kingston on Hwy #2

South of the Communications Museum

Talk in will be on the VE3KBR repeater, 146.940 (-)

Opening times: Vendors (for setup): 7:00 a.m.

Doors open at: 9:00 a.m.

Cost: \$10.00 per table (includes admission fee)

Admission: \$5.00

There will be Door Prizes as well as a 50/50 Draw

Tables or other information is available by sending an email to:

ve3ffr@sympatico.ca

A map of directions will be placed on the Club Web Site:

www.ve3kbr.com

Doug, VE3FFR

CFS Alert

Part Four



VE8RCS ERA (mid-1964 to 1997)

This call sign change occurred in summer of 1964, sometime after the Bjorn Staib Polar expedition was over. Jim Troyanek was in Alert in 1964 and confirms operations under that call sign. It was registered to the Polar Amateur Radio Club, Wireless Station Alert, via RCAF Lancaster Park, Alberta.

VE8RCS, being in the most northerly inhabited place in the world, made it the most sought after station in the world. In second place was KC4AAA, the US Forces Station at Scott Base Antarctica followed the King of Jordan (JY1A). His wife Queen Noor was JY1B and his son, the current King of Jordan, was JY1C.

Under call sign VE8RCS, the station's contact address started as VE8RCS, Polar ARC, c/o CFS Alert, P.O. Box 5210, Stn. Forces, Belleville, Ontario. A 1974 call book listing shows the QSL manager as being W2GHK, Stuart Myer, Newark NJ. Then in 1987 it changes again to: Polar Amateur Radio Club, CFS Alert, MPO 310, Belleville, Ontario.

Doug Hyslop, VE9IZ, operated from Alert in April 1966 and recalls some of those memories "With the opening of Alert's broadcast band AM radio station, I got involved with broadcasting and together with a group of fellows, also formed the Alert Amateur Radio Club under VE8RCS. As a result of my enthusiasm, I was elected President of the club until I was posted to CFS Leitrim. In 1967, after becoming President, I had the privilege of making the longest contact on AM from Alert to "Little America" at the South Pole. At that time, that contact was written up in ARRL, QST and other magazines.

When it was my turn to start a station, I discovered that somewhere in the 1963-64 period the AN/FRT-501 transmitter previously used in amateur service had major problems and became unserviceable. In those days we had to fight for everything. Ottawa never had any aspirations of sending any amateur radio equipment to Alert because there was no stability or club who could look after the equipment.

A radio mechanic from Royal Canadian Sigs and myself modified the defective AN/FRT-501 transmitter to make an AM (DSB) mode station capable of transmitting on 20 meters round 14150 kHz. We used a WWII era BC-221 frequency meter to check the transmitting frequency. The rest of the gear consisted of a refurbished RACAL receiver hooked up to a 3-element beam, fixed in the southerly direction because the rotor was defective. The transmitter produced a delightful amount of power in the range of 50 to 150 watts. Since there was absolutely no EMI, noise nor interference from other transmitters, it made for an incredibly quiet receiving environment, something which I have never experienced anytime thereafter. For many hours, I would sit in the shack just listening to different places from all over the world.

After rebuilding the '501 and forming an amateur radio club our ability to organize and deliver the goods clearly demonstrated that there was a new 'crowd' in Alert who could make things happen. Now, when we requested something new, Ottawa listened. After instilling further confidence, we requested a better transceiver. It was requisitioned as a morale booster and another backup rig for the antiquated system for sending messages back to HQ. They must have paid attention to our request and after many months of deliberation we were sent a Collins "S" line station just as I finished my tour of duty in Alert and was flying out of there. To this day, I have not had the opportunity to use this fine amateur radio gear.

In the 1966 era, the station's QSL cards were printed in Ottawa and it was the QSL manager's responsibility to keep us supplied with cards. During my time in Alert, I was not the only operator using the station. When not operating, I studied for my amateur radio ticket, eventually being issued a temporary licence under call sign VE8YQ. It had to be temporary because there was no DOT inspector in Alert to administer the exam. A few others also studied for their ticket like myself but I'm not sure whether they got their temporary call or not.

I cannot overemphasize the importance of the phone patch for the morale of the personnel. It was not lost on the Commanding Officer (Cdr Stroud?), who by the way liked his phone patches too. To give you some idea, two weeks before Christmas and until the middle of January, the CO re-scheduled me from my regular duties and I was given the task of operating VE8RCS twelve hours on, and 12 hours off in order to accommodate the high volume of phone patch traffic.

After I left Alert, I had the intention of getting my permanent license, however, my family and expenses made me put it aside. I was not aware that I could have renewed my temporary licence".

Operating the Alert's amateur station was not without its own form of stress. For security reasons, no surnames were ever permitted on the threat of disciplinary action. The operator was not allowed to make reference to their home station, their rank, their home phone number or any other piece of personal information. It was forbidden to let it be known that you were at a military station, never mind mentioning that it was a radio station or what its function was.

The general rule at all navy stations in the Supplementary Radio System (SUPRAD) stated that no amateur radio communication was permitted with Iron Curtain countries. The list of forbidden countries was promulgated in Station Standing Orders. For those following the posted orders at Alert, they felt the rules to be especially draconian. (As if the Russians didn't know what was going on in Alert).

Jim Troyanek recalls an incident, which certainly tested his discipline. "Some time in 1964, I remember being in the shack after an evening shift. An amateur operating from Kabul, Afghanistan called me. He was so loud he could have blown the walls out. I replied. We had a short QSO and carried on in the usual manner. When I finished with him an RU ham called me with the same signal strength or even better. I couldn't respond because of the regulations. The operator kept calling me, so I finally just shut the rig down and went back to my quarters. This happened often and I suspect that some of the operators did actually answer these calls".

AMATEUR RADIO AT ALERT: THE STATION THROUGH THE YEARS



VE8AT : This early QSL card used graphics printed from a lino block. The colours were then filled in individually. Used from 1957 to 1958. *(Image courtesy Jim Troyanek)*



VE8TU : QSL used from 1960 to mid-1964. Printed by VE6AV. *(Image courtesy Jim Troyanek)*






VE8RCS : This card bears the CARF (Canadian Amateur Radio Federation) logo. Since CARF spanned the years 1967 to 1993, this card can be anywhere from that year range. *(Image courtesy Rick Nay VE3RNY).*



1957: Earle Smith, VE8AT is manning the Ranger transmitter (65 watts) and AR88 receiver combo. *(Image courtesy Jim Troyanek's Alert web page)*



Early 1968: This photo, from CQ Magazine May 1968, shows the same configuration as in 1964 but the SP-600 receiver is gone. The oval speaker panel seen in the 1964 photo has been mounted in place of the SP-600 receiver. *(CQ Magazine photo)*

	<p>January 1972: A Collins "dream" station being operated by Brian Sullivan, a naval rate. The equipment consists of 30S1 Linear Amp; 32S3; a Desk Console (hidden behind Jim); Xmtr-Exciter and 75S3 Receiver. <i>(Photo submitted by Jim Troyanek)</i></p>
	<p>1996 - Inside: Yaesu FT-767 transceiver with Alpha RF amplifier. <i>(Photo by Richard Nay, VE3RNY)</i></p>
	<p>1996 - Outside: Looking south. The beam antenna in the foreground is a Hy-Gain TH7-DX and in the background a Hy-Gain TH-6 beams. In this era, the station also had Cushcraft AP-8 vertical antenna plus a multiband dipole. <i>(Photo by Richard Nay, VE3RNY)</i></p>

One Communications Research operator who was stationed at Alert provides this anecdote on obtaining a ham ticket. "I personally love CW. It was a major component of my Military Occupation Code -- Comm Research 291 Intercept Operator. I copy CW at 60 wpm and send at about 30. I failed the Morse section on my amateur radio examination in 1982 because the code was being sent at 5, 10 and 15 wpm. All I could hear was E's and T's. About 12 others besides myself all failed the Morse test as well. We demanded that the Radio Inspector get faster tapes. He went to the Operations Department and got the 25 and 30 wpm tapes. He thought he would beat us but we all aced the test. Sometime around 1984, Industry Canada, the amateur radio regulator, made one exception for the Morse test. Any 291 type who was field qualified could get their ticket without writing the Morse portion of the test since the trade qualification was 25 wpm. That was 10 wpm faster than what was required for the Advanced Operators certificate." In 2003, the minimum Morse requirement for qualification has dropped to 16 wpm as noted in a National Defence recruitment pamphlet.

When the microwave link from Alert to Eureka was installed in the early 1980's, it brought telephone service to Alert for the very first time. As a result, there was less for phone patches but a normal operating schedule was still maintained by VE8RCS. Being able to phone home from Alert became one of the "job benefits". Jim Troyanek explains. "We never paid to call home - it was one the *bennies for* being there. At first, and for several years afterwards, it was a strictly controlled service for the personnel of the base. I believe each person was allowed one 15-20 minute call per week. I remember the scheduling list where one would write their name in a "call time" slot. If I recall, there were two phones and they were constantly in use for most of a 24-hour period, particularly in the summer when the summer crews were there. There was always someone behind you waiting to use the phone.

That system was still in effect in 1986 when I was there, but by 1989 the restrictions had pretty much been lifted to allow personnel as many calls as they liked provided it was kept within reason. Call durations were monitored but as far as I know, there was no abuse of the system".

The installation of remote control equipment in the 1997 time frame downsized the staffing level in Alert. This action sealed the fate of VE8RCS. Mike Lonke (call sign HA/W0YR), in Budapest, Hungary announced the final date on 20 meter SSB. "In a QSO with VE8RCS on 12 May at 0848Z on 20 meter SSB, operator Steve at VE8RCS told me that amateur radio station VE8RCS on Ellesmere Island would be closing down on May 15th, 1997. Steve, an unlicensed but authorized operator who is studying for his own call, said the final QSOs from the world's farthest northerly station will terminate around 1000Z on May 15 after 30 years of operation. Steve said the conversion to full automation had been contemplated for some time but the project moved along much faster than anyone had thought. All we have left now is this 100-watt transceiver, the microphone and the 5 element Yagi. Everything else has been boxed up." VE8RCS also had a web page but that too is long gone. Due to the popularity of the site, all that's left now is trail of broken links.



2004: Station Chief Chris Dennahl chats to wife and son on the web cam. After Alert was downsized in 1997 and equipped to operate under remote control, that rendered amateur radio obsolete. Since those personnel who are left are not radio operators, they use the satellite link to contact home. *(Photo by Alex Urosevic -- Toronto Sun)*

(To be cont'd in next newsletter – Part Five, Radio CHAR-FM)

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Kingston Amateur Radio Club Inc.

As of 19 March 2007

For period – 15 Feb 2007 to 19 March 2007

BALANCE AT FEB. 15, 2007 **\$4788.41**

<u>INCOME</u>	MEMBERSHIP	\$ 20.00
	50/50 DRAW	<u>\$ 15.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME		\$ 35.00

EXPENSES

	PAYMENT TO QUINTE ARC FOR HALL RENTAL – 60th ANNIVERSARY DINNER	<u>\$ 150.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$ 150.00

<u>BALANCES</u>	KCCU	\$4513.41
	Dividend Savings	\$ 10.00
	KCCU Shares	<u>\$ 150.00</u>

TOTAL CLUB ASSETS **\$4673.41**

George Kennedy, Treasurer, KARC
19 MARCH 2007

KARC AGENDA

Wednesday, APRIL 4th, 2007

At Smitty's Restaurant, back room

7:00 p.m.

- 1. Introduction of members**
- 2. Additions and/or deletions**
- 3. Minutes of Monthly Meeting:** Errors/Omissions
- 4. Treasurer's Report**
- 5. Old Business**
- 6. 50/50 Draw**
- 7. New Business**
- 8. Reports:**
 - a) RAC
 - b) Net Manager - VE3KFS
 - c) KARC Newsletter
 - d) Web page - VA3KGB
 - e) Any other reports
- 9. Presentation:** Dave, VA3ORP will give a presentation on NVIS antennae
- 10. Adjournment**

HELD ON MARCH 25th, 2007
At SMITTY'S RESTAURANT, PRINCESS ST.

Les, VE3KFS, opened the meeting at 7PM

1. All members were introduced

2. **MINUTES:** There are two corrections to the February minutes.

- a) In section 9 the frequency should be 147.090;
- b) Doug, VE3FFR did not give a report on the Flea Market.
- c) Moved that the minutes of February be accepted by Tom, VA3ZE and seconded by Chip, VA3KGB.....carried

3. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Presented by George, VE3GHK . Moved by VE3GHK that the treasurer's report be accepted. Seconded by Bill, VE3CLQ.... carried

4. **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business

5. **50/50 Draw**

Won by Doug, VE3FFR, the winnings were \$14.50

6: **NEW BUSINESS:** There was no new business

7: **REPORTS:**

1) **RAC:** Nil report

A list was circulated and people were asked to indicate if they were a member of RAC. A discussion ensued about club insurance, which we get through our affiliation with RAC.

2) **NET MANAGER:** VE3CIQ reported that participation continues to be good.

3) **IRLP:** No report

4) **KARC NEWSLETTER:** VA3KGB complimented Joan on yet another fine newsletter. Thanks Joan.

5) **Webpages:** Chip is looking for pictures, articles etc for the website.

6) **Flea Market:** Put the date on your calendar! September 15th! We now have 12 commercial tables and 2 'individuals'

7) **Presentation:** Eric, VE3GSI gave a presentation on his contesting station for RTTY and CW. Well done Eric.

8) **ADJOURNMENT:** Moved by Roy, VE3VJF.....Carried

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE KINGSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC
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