

Kingston Amateur News

May 2002

P.O. Box 1402 Kingston K7L 5C6

No 135

NEXT CLUB MEETING

May 1, 7:00 p.m. (Wednesday)

MEETING PLACE: Smitty's

2376 Princess (next door to Chapters)

Come in early and have supper.

GUEST SPEAKER: VE3UIN, Drew PSK 31/SSTV and VE3UDO, Tom (from home)



Proudly Affiliated
With RAC



CALL SIGN BADGES

I noticed, at the last general meeting, that very few people were wearing their call sign badge. If you have a call sign badge, why not wear it???? You earned it, so let's show it with Pride!!!!

At the next meeting there will be no introduction of Club Members - Guests Only.

If you bring a guest it is your responsibility to introduce your guest.

LET'S LOOK LIKES A RADIO CLUB!!!

I will be checking various outlets as to availability of badges and prices for members who do not have one. I will accept a few design suggestions for a new Club Badge.

VE3VJF, Roy

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 21 May 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

PSK Primer - Part II - The software. (VE3UIN, Drew)

First I must correct Fred's call. Last time out I gave him VE3FPG, while he is VE3FBG. Sorry Fred. I know now that you don't live in Welland!

Last time I described the "PSK31 interface". It is simply a soundcard/RS-232 port interface that makes use of the analog/digital conversion capabilities of a simple SoundBlaster 16 or equivalent card to turn your computer into a radio asset. Commercial versions are available from Rigblaster, MFJ, Rascal and Timewave. Most of these have the benefit of having a microphone connection on the interface, avoiding the inconvenience of switching cords between voice and digital.

Simply put, by using one of these interface sand a modest computer running Win 95, you can conduct keyboard-to-keyboard chats across the world on minimal power. Even the VHFers such as myself, use the systems to connect across the continent. My latest PSK31 contact was XE1AOM on Dec 30, 50.290 MHz. I have received slow scan TV from California, but wasn't able to complete the QSO.

As with all amateur modes, if you need help, ask. There are Elmers out there that can get you up and running. The club has a tremendous pool of talent that generally can be tapped with a question on the 2m net or the email group, if you can't get to coffee in the morning or breakfast on Saturday.

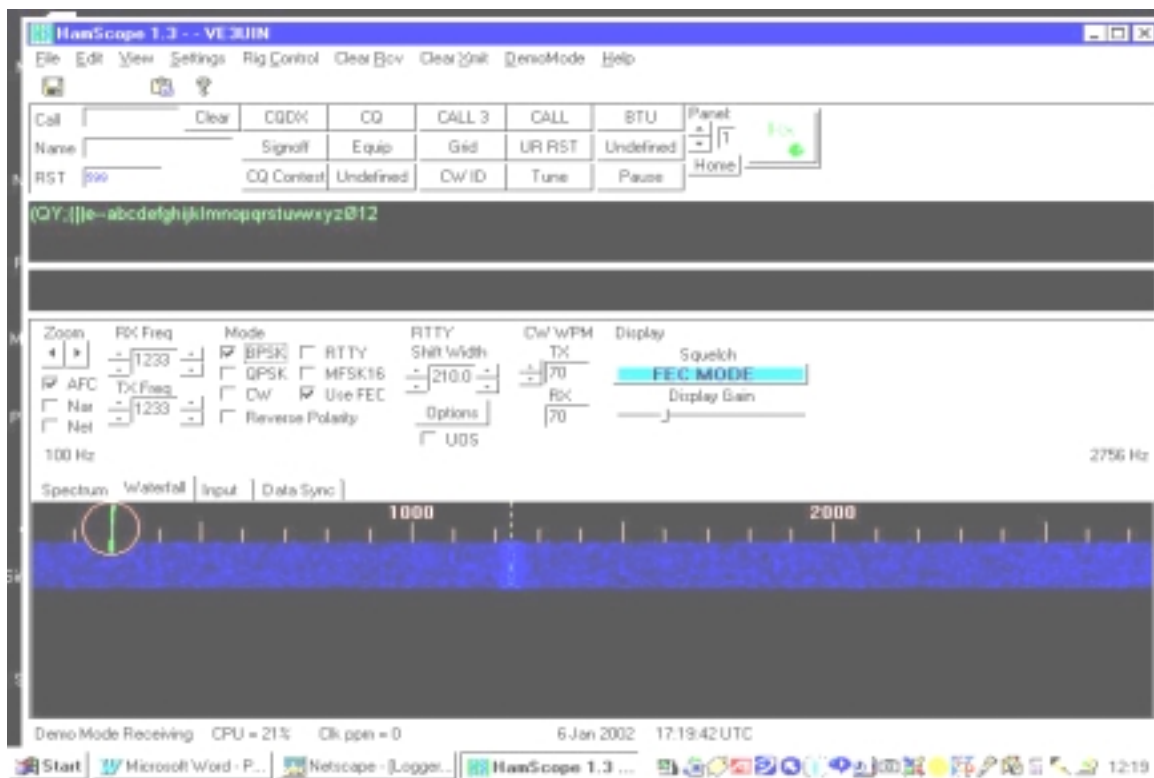
The secret to the whole system is the software. Each includes a few or more digital modes, and a method of picking one signal from many. The digital signals are generally presented as brighter than the background, and as time goes on you may see a lot of bright lines across the darker background. The spectrum is audio, and each line represents the Hz width of the chosen mode. For example, PSK31 is 31 Hz wide. So as you can see many signals may be crowded into the audio bandwidth is 300 to 2500 Hz typical of radio audio response.

A great deal can be learned from visiting:

<http://www.digitalham.net/>
<http://www.kender.es/~edu/software.html>
<http://www.qsl.net/kk7lk/psk31.htm>

It started with *P31sbw* by G3PLX, Peter Martinez, which was also available in a DOS version. The selection of software is now expanded to include CW, RTTY, PACTOR, HF and VHF Packet, Slowsan TV as well as BPSK31 (a weak signal version of PSK31), MFSK16 and others.

WinPSK by AE4JY, Moe Wheatley, <http://www.qsl.net/ae4jy> arrived early in the game, and is one of the simplest PSK software packages around. It's a great way to start out.



One of the best all round packages is MixW. This software will operate CW, PSK31, MFSK16, RTTY, Pactor and others. The software is available off the web. The cost is \$US49.95 for a registered version but you can operate the

current version without cost as long as you don't mind re-entering your station data. [MixW was created by UT2UZ, Nick Fedoseev, and is available at <http://tav.kiev.ua/~nick/mixw/mixw.htm> or <http://users.nais.com/~jaffejim/mixwpage.htm>]

Another all in one package is Hamscope. It will run PSK, RTTY, CW and MFSK. It also has a demo mode, which is very useful for learning to recognize the various modes. Created by Glen Hanson, KD5HIO, it relies heavily on MMRTTY from JE3HHT Makoto (Mako) Mori, and WinPSK by AE4JY. It's a good one to start out with and doesn't require a registration. There is a forward error correction mode (FEC) available under BPSK, which enhances weak signal work while slowing throughput considerably. <http://users.mesatop.com/~ghansen/>

I've included a screen shot so you can see the software interface in demo mode. It is in FEC mode as well, and the data signal can be seen as the distinctly brighter line on the waterfall spectrum display.

Other software packages are emerging daily. Zakanaka (<http://www.qsl.net/kc4elo/>) is one which comes with it's own logger. I haven't tried this one yet.

Digipan by KH6TY, Howard Teller, [<http://members.home.com/hteller/digipan>] is how I started out. It has two-channel mode so you can talk to two at once if you must.

Stream by IZ8BLY <http://space.tin.it/computer/aporcino> is a very interesting piece of software that takes some getting used to. I'm still getting used to it, but it's free and it offers some interesting variations of MFSK and PSK.

An exciting development for 6 meter enthusiasts such as myself is WSJT, developed by K1JT. In the author's own words; "WSJT stands for "Weak Signal communications, by K1JT". The program provides a high-speed mode for amateur communication using reflections from underdense meteor trails. It uses four-tone frequency-shift keying (FSK) at a speed of 147 characters per second or 8820 letters per minute (LPM). WSJT is available from <http://pulsar.princeton.edu/~joe/K1JT> and presents a tremendous chance for 2m and 6m ops such as myself to stretch our reach on those days when the openings elude us, by using the traces of meteor trail ionization that always exist, even when there is not a major meteor shower scheduled.

There is a rapidly growing spectrum of digital users out there, using slowscan tv, psk31 or it's variants, to regain interest in radio. Talk to Fred, VE3FBG, Bill VE3NFU, Doug VE3DUG and Tom VE3UDO if you want to gain some insight into what digital can do for you. Tom wants to run a slowscan 2m FM net Wednesday nights before or after the club net.

A computer running Win 95, a radio and the interface I described last time is all you need to get in on of the great innovations to come by. With this setup you can expand your abilities to communicate across the City or across the world, even on 6.

Hope to see you on the bands. 73 de Drew VE3UIN.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE KINGSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
HELD ON APRIL 3, 2002
AT SMITTY'S

Introduction: It was decided that the club would no longer do the introduction of members, instead the members are asked to wear name/callsign badges. If a guest is present they will be introduced.

Agenda: Dave VA3ORP had new business to add and 5. C. Was deleted.
Moved by VE3KXA and second by VE3FFR to accept the agenda as amended. Carried.

Minutes of the March meeting: Moved by VA3ORP and second by VA3KGB that the minutes be adopted as read. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report: Moved by VE3AHU and second by VE3FFR that the report be adopted as read by VA3KDH. Motion carried.
Moved by VE3KDM and second by VA3ORP that an amount of \$2000.00 be tagged for the repeater project, until all expenses for the project have been finalized.

Carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

A: Field Day: Bob VE3GLO was not present.

B: Cubboree: The club will provide security at Lemoine's Point from about 10am to 3pm Saturday May 11. Mike VE3BGP is looking for help.

D: Picnic: Les and Mike are still in the planning stage, more to come.

St.Mary's: A thank you letter from the hospital was read.

Moved by VE3VOB and second by VE3NB that the \$156.00 in the St. Mary's account be moved to the club account. Carried.

Moved by VE3AHU and second by VA3ORP that the HF equipment from St. Mary's be sold with the proceeds going to VE3HWS if he wants it to purchase new HF equipment. If he does not want the money then it will go to the club. The 2 meter equipment is to be given to Gary. Carried.

50/50 was won by Kim VA3KDH who in turn donated it to the club.

NEW BUSINESS ARISING

Dave VA3ORP announced that the VE3RCS station would need a new sponsor, as Dave will be stepping down due to other commitments. The sponsor will have to have an advance certificate.

Roy VE3VJF will be booking a table at the Smith Falls Flea Market on May 11. Anyone interested in selling from the table will be asked to give a 10% commission to the club.

A coordinator will be needed for the Sky's the Limit Festival on July 6.

Kim VA3KDH reported that the usual donation of \$50 to Highland for the repeater VE3KBR site was not sent. It was moved by VA3KDH and second by VE3FFR that the club would send \$100 this year. Carried.

Kim also gave a brief report on the clubs insurance and the cost of insurance for the repeater project from other companies. It was moved by VA3KGB and second by VE3JCQ that the club stay with current insurance company and policy until the repeater project is worked out. Carried.

REPORTS:

RAC: Ron was not present. Brian VA3HAW read the RAC bulletin and also invited members to the C&E museum on Saturday April 6 for a tour of the museum with the Brockville Amateur Radio Club. The tour was to be given by KARC's own Dave VA3ORP.

VE3KFS: Les was not present. Chip VA3KGB gave a brief report on the repeater and IRLP node

KARC Newsletter: Mike VE3BGP is requesting input.

KARC Website: Chip VA3KGB informed the club that there is now a travel guide for IRLP node on the site and that both the e-list and swap page are back up and running.

HEARTS AND FLOWERS: Stu is in St.Mary's and is putting on weight as well as trying to walk. He is planning to go home soon.

Doug VE3FFR reported that the HMCS Gatineau is still not a go and will probably be dry-docked. Pcsat is down but he has made a few APRS beacons through it. Doug also passed pictures of the APRS setup that was to go on the Gatineau.

Moved by VE3FFR and second by VA3HAW that the meeting be adjourned at 20:05. Carried.

Brian Allen
VA3HAW
Secretary

THE PHONE

What did we do before phones became a must item? As a boy, growing up in England, we never saw a phone let alone used one. If things were really getting out of hand you could always walk to the next village where, "Wonder of Wonders," there was a telephone kiosk. Other than that, a critical message was delivered by the local policeman on his bicycle. How times have changed!

It now is a status symbol to own your very own cellular phone. One often sees drivers trying to negotiate a parking spot with one hand clamped to a phone. And when one is leaving a parking garage it's almost certain that the attendant will have the phone crooked to the shoulder while giving change! Just what are all these people talking about?

How many times have you been in a store and there they are, 'on the phone again,' while you wait for some sort of service? Have you ever tried to phone your children to find your grandchildren are growing up to the wonders of instant communication re: homework, boys, girls, and what to wear? (The line is busy, and busy, and busy, etc.) The disease strikes at an early age.

"Let me answer the phone," and your misery starts as you get into a three-way conversation with a young child and a frazzled mom.

Then, there are the wrong numbers! Once the holiday season starts, they start. Now with the advent of answering devices, it's, "Ah, let it ring!" Nice if one is in the shower, but really, do you need all the commotion when a real person answers - squall\!! "Just a minute and I

will turn it off. What did you say?" With two people trying to compete it can get hairy.

Phones can be a blessing or a curse. It just depends on the timing. Observations by Grandpa!

Roy VE3VJF

**Kingston Amateur Radio Club
Treasurer Report
Mar 15 to Apr 15, 2002**

KARC-All Accounts

Account Balances Report

ASSETS

	Acct	Balance
	Cash and Bank Accounts	
KARC Chequing		\$ 1837.49
St.Mary's Hospital		.00
Repeater Project		\$ 2,050.00
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts		\$ 3,887.49

Summary of Revenue and Expenses

INCOME

Income	Account	Expenses	Account
\$ 20.00	404 (Membership)	\$ 24.95	515 (Newsletter Postage)
\$ 50.00	412(Repeater)	\$ 100.00	516(Donations)
\$ 9.52	413 (Donations)	\$ 14.10	518(News Letter) -
\$ 19.00	418(50/50 Draw)	\$ 462.24	522(Insurance)
\$ 10.00	427(IRLP)	\$ 77.04	524(Canada Post -Rental Box)
\$ 10.00	428(Antenna Analyzer Income)	\$ 9.50	534 (50/50 Draw)
Total Income \$ 118.52		Total Expenses \$ 687.83	

This space was reserve for you to put your article, story.

What else would you like to see?

Do you have something for sale? This is a good place to advertise it.

Do you have a project? Would you like to write about it?

Contact Mike ve3bgp@rac.ca