

Newsletter

May 2009



Kingston Amateur News

Kingston Amateur Radio Club 2009 Executive

President: Les, VE3KFS

va3kfs@rac.ca

Newsletter Editor: Joan Clarke

joan.g.clarke@sympatico.ca

Vice-Pres: Robert, VE3RPF

valveman_6146@yahoo.com

Repeater Committee:

VE3KFS, Les Lindstrom

ve3kfs@rac.ca

Treasurer: Bill, VA3OL

ve3kgj@yahoo.com

VA3GST, John Snasdell-Taylor

va3gst@kos.net

Secretary: Chip, VA3KGB

va3kgb@rac.ca

VA3KGB, Chip Chapman

va3kgb@rac.ca

Past-Pres:

VE3JCQ, John Wood

ve3jcq@rac.ca

2009 Committee Chairs

Two Meter Net Manager:

VECKC Steve Cutway

ve3kc@cogeco.ca

VE3MNE, Don Gilroy

ve3mne@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**

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT (Les, VE3KFS)



Thanks for your patience regarding the IRLP node. It is sometimes difficult to nail down time to make the necessary changes and do a re-install.

Keep in mind that this is a hobby not a full time job.

Everyone have a great summer. I hope to check in from time to time during our round trip to the west coast. Will be trying IRLP as well as ECHOLINK.

I should have a tracker operational as well. If not I will send along a QTH message when I pick up my e-mail on HF via WINLINK which automatically forwards the positional data to APRS.

73

Les

Don't forget the next club meeting on Wednesday, June 3rd, 2009

7: 00 pm.

at Smitty's

From the Editor:

This will definitely be the last newsletter until September. Your Editor goofed, but my request and message is still the same. If you come across an article, over the summer months, and think it's for your fellow ham please send it to me. It getting so much harder to give you what you would like. It really is up to you to make it a great newsletter.

OF INTEREST

RAC Bulletin 2009-017E - RAC new LF/MF/HF Band Planning Committee Chair.

2009-05-09

The Radio Amateurs of Canada President has recently appointed Jim Fisher, VE1JF, as Chair of the LF/MF/HF Band Planning Committee. Jim will take over from Bob Nash, VE3KZ, who resigned after a few years holding the position.

RAC wants to thank Bob Nash, VE3KZ, for the hard work he did on the committee. During his tenure, a complete revision of the Canadian HF Band Plan has been done and the process for an ongoing revision was implemented.

Jim brings with him an excellent and long experience on the bands that the committee is working on. We wish him all the best in his new position.

Daniel A. Lamoureux, VE2KA Vice-President for International Affairs - Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc.

(submitted by ve3kc, Steve Cutway)

GOOD PRICE ON BATTERIES

I bought a new digital camera which has a 'proprietary' battery. Best Buy wanted \$47 for a spare battery ... I looked around on the Internet and found the battery at <http://www.battdepot.ca>.

Price \$6.99! I bought two and the total was less then \$28 shipping, taxes included.

I ordered it on a Sunday afternoon and it arrived on the Tuesday afternoon.

No claims that this is a great company - just my single experience with them. In one of the next newsletters I'll give you an update on my experience with these batteries and if I made a good buy.

Bill, VA3OL

CTCSS Info

CTCSS (Continuous Tone Coded Squelch System) is a generic trade term used by the mobile radio industry, and is used to accept desired signals and reject undesired signals on a radio channel. It is also known as PL (Private Line) to Motorola users and Channel Guard to GE/Ericsson users.

The system involves the use of a sub-audible tone injected into the voice modulation line of the transmitter and a matching tone decoder after the FM discriminator (detector) in the receiver. When activated, the presence of a CTCSS tone on a carrier, opens the audio squelch circuit of the receiver, allowing the signal modulation to pass through to the transmitter.

The sub-audible tone modulates the transmitter at about +/-1.5kHz deviation whereas the voice level is about +/-3.5kHz deviation. The tone is selected from a frequency range of 67.0 Hz to 254.1 Hz and is designed to fall below the normal audio pass band of 300Hz-3kHz in a radio, so that it is not heard. If the repeater also generates a sub-audible tone when it transmits, then you can turn on your CTCSS and block all signals except the repeater. Useful to keep intermod from paging transmitters out of your receiver or distant repeaters during times of good propagation. This is most important on an HT since they usually have a very broad and hot front end. Many newer mobiles can also benefit from CTCSS due wideband coverage and broad front ends. CTCSS will not block signals arriving at your receiver at the same time as a desired signal. It will only keep the squelch closed unless the correct sub-audible tone is heard. Sometimes, what sounds like audio hum, may be heard from a radio, where the transmitter deviation of the CTCSS is set too high.

Tone Squelch (CTCSS on transmit only) is useful to access a repeater with Tone squelch access, such as our club VHF repeater. The repeater controller hears the subaudible tone and opens up the receiver squelch to pass your signal and ignores all other signals. A typical amateur grade mobile radio is supplied with tone squelch installed only and full CTCSS may be added as an option. Some newer models are coming fully CTCSS equipped. Most HTs have full CTCSS installed at the factory. Some of the newest generation radios, can also automatically search for CTCSS tones when you are listening to new repeaters. A useful feature when travelling.

Thanks to http://www.marc.on.ca/marc/services/serv_ctcss.asp

NEW NET CONTROLLER

I volunteered to assume the duties and responsibilities of KARC Net Manager at the May Club meeting following Bill VE3CLQ's resignation. I would like to acknowledge the work Bill did reviving interest and participation in the net. Thanks Bill.

This is the third, fourth or maybe even the fifth time I've been Net Manager during my 36 years as a ham. I have always enjoyed net controlling be it locally or on HF and I hope to get back into controlling HF nets soon, particularly once I get my Barker and Williamson BWD-90 All-Band Folded Dipole up (if it ever comes. :-)

The net meets every Tuesday night at 19:30 hours (07:30 PM) local time on VE3KBR (146.940-) and we welcome check-ins from anyone anywhere. If you're out of town, check-in via EchoLink or IRLP (node 2750).

I'd like to thank those who agreed to continue as net controllers and I would like to welcome David VE3DZE and Ron VE3GO, no stranger to net controlling, to the group. I encourage others to join us. There is nothing difficult about controlling the net. The script is available on the KARC web site (thanks Bill for writing it) or from me.

I welcome your ideas and suggestions for improving the net. Let's replace "I don't check-in because I have nothing to say" with "I look forward to the net every week." But we need your participation to do that.

Ron is probably the only one who remembers the nets in the '70s when we'd typically get 40 or more check-ins. In those days, we did the net by roll call and it usually lasted an hour to an hour and a half.

We're off to a good start with Warren VE3JPW's 21 check-ins May 12th and George VE3SIQ's 12 check-ins May 19th.

So wherever you are Tuesday night at 7:30, whatever you're doing, please take five minutes to say hello to your fellow KARC members. Get out those handhelds and take them outside with you to your decks, backyards or gardens.

Cheers & 73s,

Steve VE3KC

WEEKLY NETS:

KARC conducts a **2m** weekly net on **VE3KBR - 146.940 (-)** each **Tuesday evening at 7:30 P.M.**

SCHEDULE OF NET CONTROLS

JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
June 2: VE3CAK, John	July 7: VE3SIQ, George	Aug. 4: VE3JPW, Warren
June 9: VE3JPW, Warren	July 14: VE3VJF, Roy	Aug. 11: VE3KC, Steve
June 16: VE3KC, Steve	July 21: VE3DZE, David	Aug. 18: VE3MUD, Ian
June 23: VE3MUD, Ian	July 28: VE3GO, Ron	Aug. 25: VE3NFU, Bill
June 30: VE3NFU, Bill		Sept. 1: VE3SIQ, George

The net script has been posted on the Website



FRONTENAC ARES Sunday night net on VE3KBR at 1930 hours. All are welcome to check-in.

FRONTENAC ARES Tuesday HF night net on 3.740 at 2030 hours.

* * * * *



The THIRD MONDAY of every month at 7:00 pm.
is the KINGSTON ARES REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
at the Woodbine Firehall, second floor

KARC Web page designed and maintained by: VA3KGB, Chip
<http://www.ve3kbr.com/>

Publication Schedule of the KARC Newsletter will be August 30th, 2009

Kingston Amateur Radio Club, Inc

Treasurer's Report to May 19, 2009

	This Month	Year to date
	(May)	(2009)
Membership	0	540.00
50/50 Draws	9.50	49.00
Donations (from Tailgate)	0	0
Net Income from Breakfast	0	0
Other Donations	0	43.40
TOTAL	9.50	632.40
EXPENSES		
Repeater upgrade	0	525.02
RAC insurance	150.00	150.00
Queens Balloon	0	0
Post Box Rental	0	132.25
Newsletter expenses	0	24.39
Website Cost	0	136.24
Donation to Communications Museum	0	0
TOTAL EXPENSES	150.00	967.90
NET INCOME (LOSS)	(140.50)	(335.50)

AGENDA

KINGSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC

JUNE 3rd, 2009

At Smitty's Restaurant, back room

7:00 pm.

- 1. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS**
- 2. ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS**
- 3. MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING ERRORS/OMMISSIONS**
- 4. TREASURER'S REPORT**
- 5. OLD BUSINESS**
- 6. 50/50 DRAW**
- 7. NEW BUSINESS**
- 8. REPORTS:**
 - a) RAC
 - b) Net Manager - VE3CLQ
 - c) KARC Newsletter
 - d) Web page - VA3KGB
 - e) Any other reports
- 9. PRESENTATION: (If one has been arranged.)**
- 10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
- 11. ADJOURNMENT**

MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE
KINGSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC
HELD ON
Wednesday, 6 May, 2009
At SMITTY'S RESTAURANT
PRINCESS STREET, KINGSTON, ONTARIO

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: The President, Les, VE3KFS, called the meeting to order at 7pm

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS: 22 members and guests present.

2. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS: Nil

3. MINUTES: It was moved by Chip, VA3KGB, and seconded by George, VE3SIQ, that the minutes of the meeting of 1 April 2009 be accepted as published in the Newsletter. Motion Carried.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT: It was moved by Bill, VA3OL, and seconded by Michael, VE3PRW, that the Treasurer's report be adopted as published in the Newsletter. Motion Carried.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

a) "Amateur of the Year": Dave, VA3ORP, gave a brief on the initial outline of the "Amateur of the Year", to be called "Outstanding Service Award". Very good terms of reference, with criteria, certificate and plaque. Discussion followed. It was moved by Dave, VA3ORP, and seconded by Steve, VE3KC, that the Club does not proceed with this award. Motion Carried.

b) Club Inventory: A list of inventory will be published and who to contact.

c) Repeater Tones & IRLP Status: IRLP tone card has been installed, but is not behaving properly. Will be worked on, most likely bandwidth will be opened up.

d) Comments for RAC: Dave, VA3ORP, gave a brief on the Club's responses to our concerns with RAC and proposals. A submission will be made to have a RAC Section for Eastern Ontario and Representative. Rob, VE3RPF, is willing to take on this position if created by RAC.

6. 50/50 Draw: VA3PCI, Assaf, won the 50/50 draw.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

a) Silent Key: A moment of silence was held in remembrance of Ken Smith, VE3OKU. Steve, VE3KC, gave a quick brief on Ken's activities.

b) Freelist: It was asked why members of the Freelist are not listed. (It's an Admin function only). Membership list with Name and Call could be published. It was moved by Phil, VE3HST, and seconded by Steve, VE3KC, that a membership list be published after Club membership renewals are completed (approx. March). An Amendment was moved by Rob, VE3RPF, and seconded by Dave, VA3ORP, that the members could give a notice to opt out. The amendment was defeated. The original motion was carried.

c) RMC FLOAT (Balloon) Project: Pascal, and Raymond gave a brief on the balloon project called FLOAT. It was moved by Raymond, and seconded by Steve, VE3KC, that the project be supported by the club by the loan of our Tracker (using callsign VE3KAR-11). Motion Carried. Approx launch from Wingham, ON is week of the 19th May, weather and equipment permitting.

d) Repeater Announcements and Identifiers: It was moved by Phil, VE3HST, and seconded by Steve, VE3KC, that the repeater announcements and identifiers be reduced to absolute minimum and the courtesy beep be removed. Motion Carried.

e) Racial Receivers and Supplies: George, VE3GHK, after 9 years, would like to remove approx 16 cu ft of Racial receivers and modules from his place and would like someone else to store it.

8. REPORTS:

a) RAC: Nil.

b) Repeaters: See above.

c) Net Manager: Steve, VE3KC has volunteered to take over as the 2m Net Manager.

d) Newsletter: Send articles and corrected emails to Joan.

e) Web Page: Send articles, dead links etc., to Chip, VA3KGB.

f) ARES: Dave, VA3ORP, gave a brief on the ARES exercise where CB radios worked for approx 4-5 km and FRS radios worked approx 2.5 km.

9. PRESENTATION: If one has been arranged.

10. NEXT MEETING: 3 June 2009

11. ADJOURNMENT: It was moved by Roy, VE3VJF, and seconded by George, VE3SIQ that the meeting adjourn at 8:45 pm. Carried.