

Newsletter  
May  
2013

# Kingston Amateur Radio Club

## 2013 Executive



Kingston Amateur News

**President: Assaf Shool, VA3PCI**  
vicepres at ve3kbr.com

**Vice-Pres: Paul Taenzer, VA3LX**

**Treasurer: David Sellick, VE3DZE**  
treas at ve3kbr.com

**Secretary: Larissa Reise, VE3KGC**  
sec at ve3kbr.com

**Past-Pres: Terry Barrett, VA3KLG**  
pres at ve3kbr.com  
pastpres at ve3kbr.com

**Two Metre Net Manager:**  
Volunteer is needed!!

**Newsletter Editor:**  
VA3PCI Assaf Shool  
news at ve3kbr.com

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

VE3KAR Clarendon Stn  
147.090 (+) MHz

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

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Recently, I've sent out a survey to the members at large to find out about how they feel about the current monthly meetings. The reason for this was because of the decreasing turnout we've been experiencing. I know the reasons for some of this – the ham course which taking place at the same time, health issues etc but wanted to find out more.

The survey returned and many members have also voiced other gripes with the club. I'm going to address the biggest ones here.

### ***There is too much non-ham discussion at the meetings/meetings are not fun to attend***

Many have complained that the business meetings are too long, not technical enough etc. In the past, to allow everyone to voice their opinions, when a controversial topic came up it was allowed to be discussed to end. This has led to some very long meetings, and overtaxing of everyone's patience. Post-meeting, the exec agreed it was a mistake to allow topics to continue on for so long, and we're certainly not planning on repeating that in the future. Things will have to either be decided in a reasonable amount of time or post-phoned until the next meeting. All of the meetings this year have been coming to an end at about 45 minutes, sometimes even less. As well, I've lightened up the agenda somewhat, removing reports that we really had nothing to report on.

We still, however, need to have these meetings. It's your club, and members are encouraged to take part in decisions as to club direction, financial spending, and activities. The meetings are also needed for event planning, we can't plan out a field day event when there are only 3 members present.

Not all of it can be strictly radio-operating related because business still needs to be taken care of, and there is still lots of time for radio talk before the business meeting and afterward.

### ***Presentations: Not enough Presentations/Not Closely Ham Related***

We've had a wide of variety of topics presented at the meetings, not all strictly ham but many ham-related or it was incorporated into the presentation in most cases. Technical presentations were given about the island's wind mills, Arduino, Raspberry Pi, Environment Canada presented once about their systems, etc. We've also had many ham-centered ones, such as activating light houses.

Not all presentations can be made to be strictly ham radio – but I view it as an opportunity to expand my knowledge beyond just ham radio, and presentations have always remained technical in nature. We haven't had any on growing tulips or preserving endangered species of frogs and never will.

We're always working on finding new presentations as well. I encourage all of our members to create one. You can cover your operating station, something you have done, anything technical or ham related is welcome. Ask someone you know who may be able to give one to do so.

Presentations aside, do you have some neat gizmo or new radio that you would like to share? By all means, if it's not the size of an elephant, bring to the meetings and share! That's what meetings are about.

### ***The club doesn't do enough ham stuff***

This was one of the biggest complaints to be received, and it is not without a certain amount of merit. We've organized events in the past, such as a weekly HF net, but to do so we need both participants and controllers. The luke warm response to past attempts has made it challenging to encourage future ones.

I would like the club to start doing more ham stuff in the future, including Field Day this year, but I need member participation to do so. If you can, make the effort to come out to the meetings – everyone in one room makes it easy to organize and plan. Check-in to the Tuesday night net to let us you are interested.

Members with ideas for club activities are encouraged to share them. With club support, you can get promotion, financial support, and insurance coverage for the activity.

I also ask that members volunteer to head up a task when it arises. The club executive are all working professionals with very busy lives and it's not possible or fair for us alone to take on all the roles for running this club.

### ***The food served at the venue isn't up to my expectations***

You'll have to take that up with the cook.



### **Presentations Next Week**

For the May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013 meeting, Paul VA3LX will be giving a presentation on logging contacts with Ham Radio Deluxe and Logbook of The World. In addition, Ron VE3GO will be presenting pictures of communications equipment from his recent travels to historic battleships.



### **Net Controllers & Net Managers Needed**

Steve, VE3KC, has recently stepped down from position of Net Manager for the 7:30 Tuesday night net after 4 years of service to the club. I would like to thank him for his dedicated service and filling this important role to KARC's on-air activities.

I am now seeking a new **net manager**. The net manager's job is to schedule controllers for the net, update the net script if needed, run the net on some nights, and advertise for new controllers. This position requires occasional time spent on creating schedules (usually done every 4 months), as well as running the net (1 – 2 hours) approximately every 4-6 weeks, depending on how many other controllers are available.

I'm also looking for **net controllers** as well. Many of our controllers are away, either due to work commitments or personal reasons, and right now we no longer have enough to sustain the net every Tuesday. Anyone with a valid Amateur license can become a net controller, and all you have to do is follow the scripts at the end of this newsletter.

As we currently do not have an HF net, the Tuesday night is the only regular on-air activity left in the club. Without a net manager or controllers, we don't have a Tuesday night net, we don't have any regular on-air activity, and we may soon no longer have a club. Let's make sure that doesn't happen!



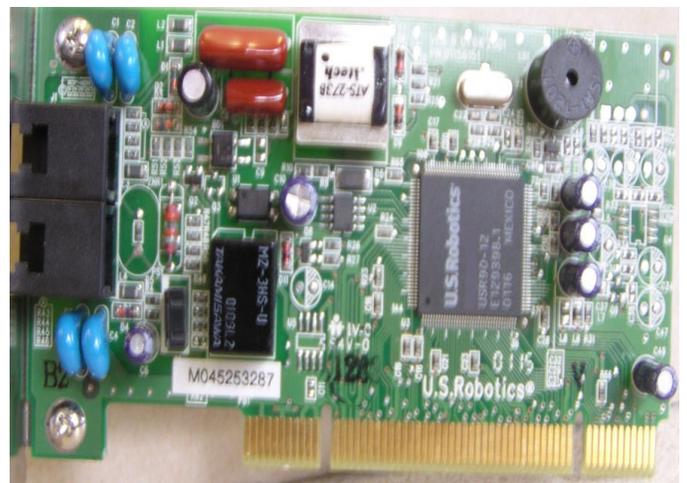
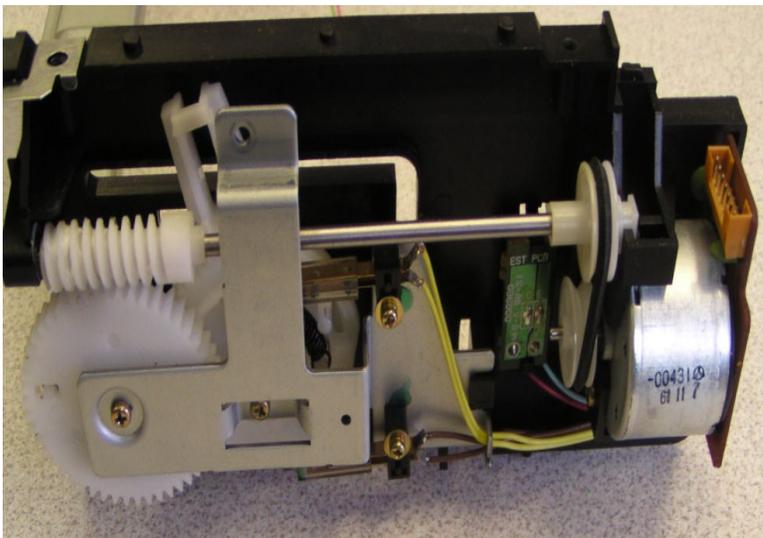
## **Swap Box**

Larissa, VE3KGC, has recently introduced a “swap box” to the meeting. This is a container intended mostly for bits and parts for ham radio. Take something, leave something else. Right now, the container is virtually empty, so if you have some unneeded bits lying around, bring them in to the next meeting and help fill up the box!

## Mystery Objects

by Phil VE3HST

Here are four photos of things I found around my shack. Call them One, Two, Three and Four. Some are easy and others may be a bit trickier. Can you figure out what they are? Send your answers to the KARC Freelist. The first to get all four correct will get a mystery prize. There may be runner-up prizes.



## **Radio On The Waves**

*by Ron Walsh VE3GO*

*Originally published in the April 2009 edition of Monitoring Times, reprinted with permission.*

Last winter my wife and I went cruising – and returned to bitterly cold weather and snow. Even so, the cruise remains a pleasant memory while we wait for spring to arrive. Our group went by bus to New York City and then boarded the Explorer of the Seas for a trip to the Caribbean. We visited San Juan, Puerto Rico, St. Thomas, USVI and Samana, Dominican Republic. Like all good radio enthusiasts, I had to take some gear along. My Sangean ATS 505, short wave portable, Icom T90A, and small marine VHF handheld found their way into the luggage, along with my camera. Although I did not have much leisure time for listening, it is surprising what you can pick up on HF using a whip antenna when you are 12 decks above the ocean. Here are some examples of what I heard:

- 2182 Canadian Coast Guard radio stations
- 2582 ZBR Bermuda Radio, weather broadcast
- 2598 Canadian Coast Guard weather broadcasts
- 2670 US Coast Guard weather
- 2749 Canadian Coast Guard weather
- 4125 Mainly Spanish traffic
- 6501 NMN Chesapeake, US Coast Guard “Iron Mike” weather
- 8420 WLO, Mobile, Alabama
- 8424 SVO, Athens, Greece
- 8502 NMG New Orleans, US Coast Guard “Iron Mike” weather
- 8983 CAMSLANT Chesapeake calling CG 2120

I had several crew and passengers ask me about the short wave radio and also listen to some of the traffic. Gander Radio’s weather on 3485, and New York air weather on 6605 kHz especially held their interest. I also got some air traffic on 8847 kHz involving Reach 1020 and a back up frequency of 13306 kHz. The most interesting air traffic was Honolulu Radio mentioning Fairbanks Alaska weather at 0259Z!

I also monitored some international short -wave broadcasters on various frequencies. Radio Canada International came in well on 9775 kHz and kept me aware of news at home. However, I was pleased to hear the shortwave service of CFRB, Toronto, on 6070 kHz, along the East Coast. The signal was strong in the mornings and I got some weather data that gave me an idea of what to expect on our trip home to Kingston from New York. I was most interested in the new frequency for CHU, the Dominion Observatory time signal from Ottawa. They recently moved from 7335 kHz to 7850 kHz. Signals in the 7 MHz segment of the spectrum are being shifted to eventually allow 7.0 to 7.2 MHz to be exclusively for amateur radio use. The 7850 signal was heard every evening during the trip. I also heard 3330 at night and did record their 14,670 kHz signal during the daytime. I have sent a report to CHU to verify the reception and also to verify their 7335 kHz signal which went off the air at 0000, January 1, 2009.

### **VHF/UHF En Route**

On the VHF marine band, I monitored some useful traffic. Channels 11 and 14 were heard in the New York Harbor area. While at St. Thomas, channel 12 was used for traffic and channel 14 was the local pilot. One of the

other cruise ships had to leave two people behind as they were late returning to the ship, and this was reported to the authorities. I sure hope it was not their last port of call before returning to New York!

The traffic in Samana was on channel 9. It consisted mainly of the local tenders talking in Spanish. They are the small boats which take the passengers ashore when the ship anchors instead of securing to a pier. I do not speak Spanish, but you could tell when something was going on. The NOAA weather frequencies were very useful as we did encounter some force 8 and even force 9 winds on the trip. The ship was large, 1021 feet long and had stabilizers, so it remained quite steady. Near New York I monitored 162.55 and 162.475 MHz with marine and land forecasts. In San Juan, I heard 162.4, 162.45 and 162.55 MHz with weather given in English and Spanish. St. Thomas also had weather radio on 162.45 and 162.5 MHz. Like most of the cruise ships, UHF frequencies were used to coordinate activities. The bridge here used 457.525 MHz. I was able to hear the tie up routines, when the ship was cleared by the port authorities, etc.

The most interesting traffic occurred when we were an hour out of Samana. We somehow had damaged a propeller while in the channel. The next morning, we stopped inside the Turks and Caicos Islands. The ship was allowed to drift while they sent divers down to examine the cause of the vibration from the starboard propeller. They also launched two fast rescue zodiacs to recover the divers as the ship was setting at 1.5 to 2 knots, in the wind.

The UHF frequencies for various lines are listed on several web sites. A Google search will turn up the line or vessel you are interested in.

#### ❖ Local Marine Radio Check

Back home in the radio shack, I got an interesting phone call. Wade, on the yacht Joanna, is planning a cross Atlantic journey next year. The yacht is being readied over the winter here in Kingston Harbour. He called to ask me how he should ground his radio. I put him in touch with Les, VE3KFS, who has done this on his own boats. Wade also wanted a signal check on his radio. He made a call on 8125 kHz and I monitored the signal. I returned his call and gave him a good report on signal strength and audio. I was reminded how important marine HF radio still is when I monitored the USCG and the disabled fishing vessel Green Acre on 2182. The 125 ton vessel was in need of a tow to port as the engines could not be restarted. Communications were not solid for a while, so I monitored until the communications improved.

The local VHF radio was very active this December. As the Seaway began to close for the winter our weather turned worse. The temperature dropped and the snow became heavy. The wind rose significantly. We had several gale warnings and two storm warnings. Many vessels sought shelter due to weather, both in our area and all over the Great Lakes. The Canadian Navigator reported winds of over 50 knots and seas of 25 feet plus on Lake Ontario.

One vessel had to stop at the Iroquois lock. She had accumulated so much ice on her super-structure that the weight caused the vessel to be over the allowed draft for transiting the seaway. The ice had to be removed to allow the vessel to rise in the water.

We also have a local project going on here. The 86 huge windmills are still being built on Wolfe Island. Transportation of windmill parts stopped for the winter, but the tugs Lac Manitoba and Vigilant 1 are still ferrying supplies back and forth from the island. Several marine channels are used in this project and they have had quite a time battling ice and wind this winter.

It is always a good idea to scan the entire marine VHF band occasionally. You will come across users you were not aware of. For example, I heard the USCG ask a station to answer primary: when I scanned the bands I found this was

channel 21A.

I also experienced a unique inversion here this fall. For about 6 hours, I could hear Seaway Long Point on Lake Erie using channel 11. This is far beyond the usual range here. This does happen during certain weather conditions, but usually those conditions are during the hot summer weather.

### ❖ Amateur Radio

If you want to hear amateur marine mobile stations, the best place is still the Maritime Mobile Service Net on 14,300 USB. You can also enjoy some Great Lakes information if you tune to the Transprovincial Net on 7055 kHz LSB at 1600 Eastern Time. Dave VA3SWO is an ex-Great Lakes sailor and loves to chat about the ships. You may even hear VE3GO there, as I frequently enjoy having a chat with my friend.

### ❖ Low Frequency DX

In previous columns I have mentioned copying Navtex Bulletins on 518 kHz using Multipsk to decode the signals. I can finally report reception of the transmission from Bermuda (B) on 518 kHz. They have resumed their transmissions using new equipment, but the signal is usually blocked out here by other stations. However, in between these stations I saw the text warning to stay clear of Bermuda Radio, broadcast by ZBR.

I also wandered down onto the LF bands this December. Although these beacons are not all marine beacons, it was great listening and the CW identifiers made it easy to know what station I was listening to. Over two nights I heard 42 different beacons between 216 and 416 kHz. My best catch was beacon CLB from Wilmington/Carolina Beach. It was weak but identifiable.

Equipment used was my sloper antenna and the Kenwood TS-570. I also heard WE2XGR/6 on 507 kHz. This station is part of the lowfer (low frequency experimental radio) test of the 500 kHz region, with the intent to get this designated as an historic frequency range and to allow amateur use of the frequency. I heard them between 225Z and 2305Z.

Reports are requested from listeners. The ID is by CW, but is slow and gives a person good Morse code practice.

According to Richard Dillman W6AWO at the historic marine station KSM, a new coast station has been granted a license. Steve Russell of Stoneham, MD, was granted the call WNE for his station. WNE will use 500 watts on 500 and 472 kHz in the name of the New England Historical Radio Society. This station joins recently licensed KDR, Bellevue, WA (500 and 482 kHz) and WFT, Palmetto, FL (500 and 486 kHz). They are my next low frequency targets. I have heard KSM on the HF but I want to get them on 500 kHz.

### ❖ VE3GO

By the time this is printed, my wife and I will have enjoyed the month of March in Myrtle Beach, SC. I plan to take my 2 meter rig and a new Grundig Satellite radio with me so I can do some DX from the sunny south. Plans for the shack here include ground mounting my R-8 in the spring, as it takes too much punishment from the wind and ice on the tower, and adding a long wire for my S-38.

So what have you been hearing on the marine bands lately? Drop us a note at the email above or in care of the Brasstown office and let us know your listening preferences or what you'd like to learn more about when it comes to monitoring radio on the waves.

### CHANNEL LIST

9 156.450 11 156.550

12 156.600 14 156.700

## MEETING MINUTES

### MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE KINGSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 6 FEB 2013 AT SMITTY'S

The Kingston Amateur Radio Club meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by our Vice President Assaf VA3PCI.

1. The members present introduced themselves. There were 15 members in attendance.

#### 2. **Additions to the Agenda:**

Paul VA3LX – got software for SDR project loaded for show and tell, as well as some snapshots

3. **Minutes:** The February minutes are still being processed, and will be posted up to the Freelist once available. Assaf VA3PCI motioned to accept Jan minutes - seconded by Roy VE3VJF – passed

4. **Treasurer's Report:** Dave VE3DZE. As published in the newsletter. Current balance is \$6772.94. Ham course expenses: last meeting we authorized up to \$200 in expenses as proposed by Steve VE3KC. Nothing has been spent of it yet as they aren't expecting to start using it until April.

Motion by Dave VE3DZE to accept the Treasurer's Report, Roy VE3VJF seconded. Motion passed.

#### 5. **Business Arising from the Minutes:**

a) **KARC CD** for new members. Assaf VA3PCI brought a few along to give away if anyone wants one, and is always open to suggestions for inclusion. Paul thanked him for doing that.

b) **Signing authorities** on the club bank account. Dave VE3DZE wants to discuss signing authorities – Steve VE3KC mentioned it's a separate item to be discussed later in this meeting.

c) **Trillium funding** grant proposal. Norm up in Westport is looking for a Trillium grant in order to set up a station to serve as a link into the northern area to cover packet and digital. This would be very beneficial but in order to qualify, he needs an incorporated club to back him. We KARC would have to be responsible and accountable for the spending of this money, other clubs have done similar things in the past. (Dave VE3DZE presented details)

Assaf says we will have to defer this item as the executive has not had a chance to meet since last meeting.

#### 6. **New Business:**

a) **Club executive roles.** Our current president has decided to resign very recently, no reasons given, no discussion to be entertained. Motion by Assaf VA3PCI to accept Terry's resignation, as given in "writing" over email, seconded by Roy VE3VJF. Motion passed.

Motion by Doug VE3FFR to elect absent executive at next business meeting, seconded by Roy VE3VJF. Motion passed.

Assaf VA3PCI by default will assume presidential duties until elections, no motion necessary. Steve VE3KC asked whether Assaf will stand for the position of president – when will we be informed of his intentions? If he intends to stand then the election will be for the vacant position of vice president.

b) **signing authority:** (Dave VE3DZE's point from earlier) Doug VE3FFR pointed out quite accurately that Steve VE3KC still has signing authority if he has to use it. This matter deferred until elections.

## 7. Reports:

a) **President:** The repeater is showing much more activity this month than last. We also now have HF nets, build projects going on – the club is really taking off. Thanks also go out to those who wrote articles for the newsletter.

b) **Repeaters:** Chip VA3KGB is away at the ham course. Larissa VE3KGC mentioned that the Echolink on the repeater is still acting up, not releasing carrier.

c) **RAC:** Steve VE3KC called attention to the fact that RAC is still looking for a volunteer liaison working between the RAC president and Industry Canada. This is a prestigious position.

Series of Webinars will also be run, and Steve VE3KC would be interested in participating if available.

d) **Net Manager:** Nothing really to add other than an appeal in response to Dave VE3DZE's question – it would be useful if the VHF net controller would know whether or not the HF net would be happening. Last week the HF net had 8 check-ins, 9 the week prior. But last night the VHF net received several enquiries both before and after the VHF net as to whether the HF net would be happening and at which frequency. Steve VE3KC isn't able or willing to manage both nets. Paul VA3LX mentioned that Tuesdays happen to be an unfortunately bad night for his availability.

Larissa VE3KGC suggested that someone from the HF call in maybe 5 or 10 min before the VHF net with a suggested frequency. Steve VE3KC pointed out that it's the nature of HF that sometimes, a frequency that was perfectly clear and vacant an hour ago will suddenly be busy just before it's time to start the net. Paul VA3LX suggested it might be better to assemble a list of potential net controllers, like Steve VE3KC does for the VHF net, and have each HF net controller announce the night's frequency during the VHF net.

e) **Web Page:** Chip VA3KGB is away. Steve VE3KC mentioned several people have asked how they get access to the members only area – answer: email Chip [VA3KGB@RAC.ca](mailto:VA3KGB@RAC.ca) directly with your choice of username and password to get into this area. Current list as of 19 Feb 2013 is up there.

f) **Newsletter:** Assaf VA3PCI indicated that it was a long one this time, 19 pages. Thanks to all who contributed as it would be pretty dull and blank without them. The newsletter was issued twice, and the revisions made to the second one included: the Frontenac EmComm schedule was added, Ron's article was missing its byline, and the meeting agenda was updated.

g) **Frontenac EMCOMM:** Dave VE3DZE – packet work is still going on. We're mainly utilizing WinLink which allows us to go into an area under disaster, ie hurricane, and allow you to send an email thru HF and receive the reply, by battery power. Works quite well, and we have gateways in Kingston, Westport, and are seriously thinking about an auxiliary digipeater up in Sydenham firehall. We have permission to do that, we just need to acquire a TNC, battery, antenna and we'll have another station on the air.

h) **Kingston ARES:** no member present. No reports for this month.

i) **CFARS:** Les VE3KFS and Chip VA3KGB are both away at ham course.

9. **Date of next meeting:** April 3, 2013, 7pm at Smitty's.

10. There will be 3 **presentations** tonight: Richard VA3VDP (aka Major van der Pryt from RMC), Doug VE3FFR has a video for us, and Paul VA3LX has some presentations about the SDR project.

11. **Motion to adjourn** by Assaf VA3PCI, seconded by Roy VE3VJF. Meeting adjourned at 19:31

Larissa VE3KGC

Secretary

Kingston Amateur Radio Club Inc.

## AGENDA – 1 MAY 2013

1. Members and Guests introduce themselves
2. Additions to the Agenda
3. Minutes of the last Meeting: errors / omissions / approval (Larissa VE3KGC)
4. Treasurer's Report (David VE3DZE)
5. Business arising from the Minutes:
  - a. Swap Box
  - b.
6. New Business:
  - a. Field Day
  - b. Net Manager & Controller
  - c. Club Activities
7. Reports:
  - a. President (Assaf VA3PCI)
  - b. Net Manager (Steve VE3KC)
  - c. Web Page (Chip VA3KGB)
  - d. Frontenac EmComm Group (David VE3DZE)
  - e. CFARS (Les VE3KFS)
  - f.. "Hearts and Flowers"
  - g. Other Reports
8. Date of next meeting: 03 October 2012
9. 50 / 50 Draw
10. Adjournment

FINANCIAL REPORT

Kingston Amateur Radio Club  
Financial Statement  
April 20, 2013

Income	
Donations	20.00
Name Tags	18.00
<hr/>	
Total Income	38.00
Expenses	
	0.00
<hr/>	
Total Expenses	0.00
Overall Total	38.00
Bank Balance	
Co-Operation Plus Account	\$6773.89
Dividend Savings	\$16.39
Equity Shares	\$238.16



## NET 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](http://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.