

Newsletter
February
2016

Kingston Amateur Radio Club

2016 Executive



Kingston Amateur News

President: Paul Taenzer, VA3LX
pres at ve3kbr.com

Vice-Pres: Carlyle Crothers, VE3WIO
vicepres@ve3kbr.com

Treasurer: Douglas Richards, VE3FFR
treas at ve3kbr.com

Secretary: Steve Cutway, VE3KC
sec at ve3kbr.com

Past-Pres: Assaf Shool, VA3PCI
pastpres at ve3kbr.com

2016 COMMITTEE CHAIRS:
Two Metre Net Manager:
Steve Cutway, VE3KC
netmanager at ve3kbr.com

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

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

VE3KAR Clarendon Stn
147.090 (+) Mhz
(non operational)

VE3KER Kingston packet
node
145.070 MHz simplex



VE3KBR Kingston
146.940(-) MHz
151.4Hz Tone
IRLP 2750

VE3UEL Hartington APRS
node
144.390 MHz

MEETING MINUTES

KARC General Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2016, 7:00 PM

Smitty's Restaurant

2376 Princess Street, Kingston Ontario

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by the Vice-President, Carlyle VE3WIO, who welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Members and guests introduce themselves: 13 members and guests were in attendance.
2. Additions to the agenda: None.
3. Minutes of the February meeting (there was no business meeting in March): Steve VE3KC/Doug VE3FFR moved approval of the minutes as published in the March and April newsletters. There were no errors or omissions and the motion carried unanimously.
4. Treasurer's Report: Doug VE3FFR reviewed the February and March financial reports that were published in the March and April newsletters. Doug VE3FFR/Andy VE3FYA moved approval of the Treasurer's Report as published in the March and April newsletters. Carried unanimously.
5. Business arising from the minutes:
 - a. Ham Course progress: Andy VE3FYA reported that the course is going well. The class contains 22-23 students many of whom are members of 21EW. He hopes to have 20 new amateurs when the course finishes which should be after a few more classes and a session of practice exams. He complimented course organizers, Matt VA3OZI and Terry VA3KLG, for their behind-the-scenes work.
 - b. Field Day: Carlyle VE3WIO reported that the plan is in place. Field Day, which is June 25-26, will take place at Paul VA3LX's QTH on Wolfe Island. It will be a "greenish" event operating with solar panels, wind generator and batteries as much as possible. Activity will begin around noon June 25 and hopefully continue through June 26. Field Day contest rules are available at <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

c. IRLP Node relocation proposal: Steve VE3KC presented a proposal concerning the relocation of the IRLP node. It's attached as Appendix A to these minutes. Steve VE3KC/Andy VE3FYA moved that the IRLP node be relocated to the QTH of Doug VE3FFR; that the Club accept Doug's offer of an Icom IC-229 transceiver; and that the Club purchase a Nano-Node SE Echolink/IRLP Hotspot from Micro-Node International at a cost not to exceed \$750.00 Canadian to replace the current equipment. Andy VE3FYA asked how long the Nano-Node has been on the market and what kind of support we could expect. Steve VE3KC said that he doesn't know how long it's been on the market but he has had three telephone conversations with Mark at Micro-Node International and found him to be welcoming, friendly and informative. He prefers phone calls to e-mail which Steve VE3KC said he likes. Steve VE3KC added that Les VE3KFS had an e-mail correspondence with Mark during the committee's deliberations and was equally content with his interaction. Doug VE3FFR said that he has found 26 Nano-Nodes operating in Canada but he has no idea how many there are worldwide. Andy said he likes the simplicity of the all-in-one box making it easy to relocate should that become necessary in the future. Steve VE3KC said that the manual can be downloaded from the Micro-Node International web site. The motion passed unanimously.

6. New Business: None.

7. Updates:

a. Remote Station Project: Chip VA3KGB reported that the station isn't getting a lot of use by more than a couple of amateurs. He said that it now has its own G5RV antenna installed in a temporary location. He is still looking for a second wire antenna to connect to the second antenna connector on the TS-570SAT. The station is still running on the HRD 6 30-day trial and although it's almost up, the license doesn't appear to affect the server side operation. Some work has yet to be done on the manual. Anyone who wants access should send him an e-mail and he'll send them a userid and password.

b. Net Manager: The update was published in the April newsletter.

c. Builders group: Peter VE3POA said that he will make a short project presentation following the meeting.

d. Website: No change.

e. Freelist: No change.

f. "Hearts and Flowers": No one was aware of any ailing or injured amateurs.

g. Community acknowledgments: Steve VE3KC acknowledged Andy VE3FYA as an active contributor to the Club since becoming an Amateur in 2012. Andy has been posted home to Petawawa as of May 9. He's been a course instructor and a regular net check-in. Steve VE3KC said he'll be missed. Andy VE3FYA said he'll try to check-in as often as he can from Petawawa, particularly once the new IRLP node is operational.

h. Other updates: None.

8. Haves and wants: Chip VA3KGB has a MFJ-1224 CW/RTTY TNC to give away. It has no cables but the manual can be downloaded from the internet. Stéphane VE3SBC has a number of TFT displays to give away that are suitable for use with the Raspberry PI. He also has a spool of solder, some quick connect brackets for use with PCs and several Windows XP computers and three Windows 7 computers, all for free. Pieter VE3NXE has a basement full of home brew components to give away as he has to down size to move to a smaller QTH.

9. Date of next meeting: May 4, 2016.

10. 50/50 Draw: None.

11. Adjournment: Doug VE3FFR/Chip VA3KGB moved adjournment. Carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 PM.

Presentation: Peter VE3POA gave a slide presentation about a project that he's built that he thought others might be interested in building. It includes a 49er CW 40 meter transceiver kit and a SI5351 DDS board kit and an Arduino Nano board.

Assaf VA3PCI was unable to do his presentation on internet security because Linux and the projector failed to communicate.

Steve Cutway VE3KC

Secretary

IRLP Node Relocation Project Proposal

April 6, 2016

Steve VE3KC

The IRLP node was a Club project led by Les VE3KFS in 2001 and it's been in operation since July of that year. The node uses a dedicated PC board and PC running the Linux Debian Operating system and requires a stable, high-speed internet connection as well as a dedicated radio and antenna.

From July 2001 until April 2011, the node was housed at Altair Electronics on Progress Avenue which was owned by John VE3NFK. (In 2001, high-speed internet was very new here and not generally available in homes.) In April 2011, after several months of the node being down, Assaf VA3PCI offered to see if he could repair it. It was moved to his home where he quickly had it up and running again and although that move was intended to be temporary, it's remained there ever since. Now, he's asked that it be relocated.

At the February 2016 Club meeting, Matt VA3MHB offered to house the node at his QTH. Paul VA3LX (Club President) thanked him but said that further investigation would be undertaken before any recommendation was made.

The executive met Feb. 6 to discuss the IRLP node relocation. Les VE3KFS (the original catalyst for an IRLP node to be located here) made the executive aware of newer IRLP node technology that can also function as an Echolink node. At that meeting, Doug VE3FFR (Club Treasurer) offered to host the IRLP node at his QTH saying that he already had stable, high-speed internet, an unused antenna in the air and an Icom IC-229 transceiver that he'd be willing to donate to the project. Larissa VE3KGC offered her QTH during the KARC dinner at Jiffy Grill Feb. 17.

Following the Feb. 6 executive meeting, Paul VA3LX contacted John VE3NFK to determine the possibility of the node returning to Altair Electronics where it had been until April 2011. John said that it was possible. At the same time, Paul VA3LX created an ad hoc committee consisting of himself, Steve VE3KC (Club Secretary and repeater license trustee), Assaf VA3PCI (current host of the IRLP node), Les VE3KFS and Terry VA3KLG (owner of the EchoLink node).

The committee considered the relocation offers from Matt VA3MHB, Doug VE3FFR, Altair Electronics and Larissa VE3KGC and recommended that the node be located at Doug VE3FFR's QTH. It also thanked Doug VE3FFR for his offer to donate a transceiver to the project. The executive supports this recommendation and thanks Matt VA3MHB, Altair Electronics and Larissa VE3KGC for their interest and support. The committee also considered whether to replace the current node with newer equipment and recommended that it should be done. It identified the Nano-Node SE Echolink/IRLP Hotspot from Micro-Node International in Henderson, NV, at a cost of \$495.00 US (approximately \$650.00 Canadian) plus shipping. The executive supports this recommendation.

The NANO-SE is a complete ECHO/IRLP Node Computer in an ultra small package measuring just 5" (127mm) W x 3" (76mm) L x 1.7" (43mm) H. The unit comes complete with the ECHO/IRLP Debian Operating system pre-installed with node number assigned (new or existing). "Just Plug And Play". No Knowledge of Linux Required. More info is available at <http://micro-node.com/>

While it is possible for the Nano-Node SE to function as both an IRLP and Echolink node, it doesn't have to because the Echolink software is dormant until activated. However, Paul VA3LX talked to Terry VA3KLG and he's ok with it doing so. (The Club will have to obtain its own Echolink node using the VE3KBR callsign.)

At the April meeting, I moved, seconded by Andy, that the IRLP node be relocated to the QTH of Doug VE3FFR; that the Club accept Doug's offer of an Icom IC-229 transceiver; and that the Club purchase a Nano-Node SE Echolink/IRLP Hotspot from Micro-Node International at a cost not to exceed \$750.00 Canadian to replace the current equipment.

Front view:



Back side:



Audio screen:



AGENDA

**KARC General Meeting Agenda
May 4, 2016
7:00 PM
Smitty's Restaurant
2376 Princess Street, Kingston Ontario**

1. Members and guests introduce themselves
2. Additions to the agenda
3. Minutes of the April meeting (Steve VE3KC)
4. Treasurer's Report (Doug VE3FFR)
5. New Business:
6. Updates:
 - a. Ham course progress
 - b. Field Day (Carlyle VE3WIO)
 - c. IRLP Node relocation update (Steve VE3KC)
 - d. Remote Station Project (Chip VA3KGB)
 - e. Net Manager (Steve VE3KC)
 - f. Website (Chip VA3KGB)
 - g. Freelist (Steve VE3KC)
 - h. CFARS (Les VE3KFS)
 - i. "Hearts and Flowers"
 - j. Community acknowledgements
 - k. Other updates
7. Haves and wants
8. Date of next meeting: June 1, 2016
9. Adjournment

Presentation: Carlyle KC2MAZ - home brew VHF antenna, a colinear array successfully receiving 5 watt data transmissions out 75 miles.

VHF NET REPORT

Thanks to the controllers who kept the VHF net alive in April: John VE3CAK, Carlyle VE3WIO, Shannon VA3XRY and Steve VE3KC. Check-ins ranged from 13 to 18 and net duration ran from 25 to 53 minutes.

The net control script and schedule for May and June are in the May newsletter.

So join us every Tuesday night at 07:30 PM on VE3KBR for the net. It's your participation that makes it worthwhile.

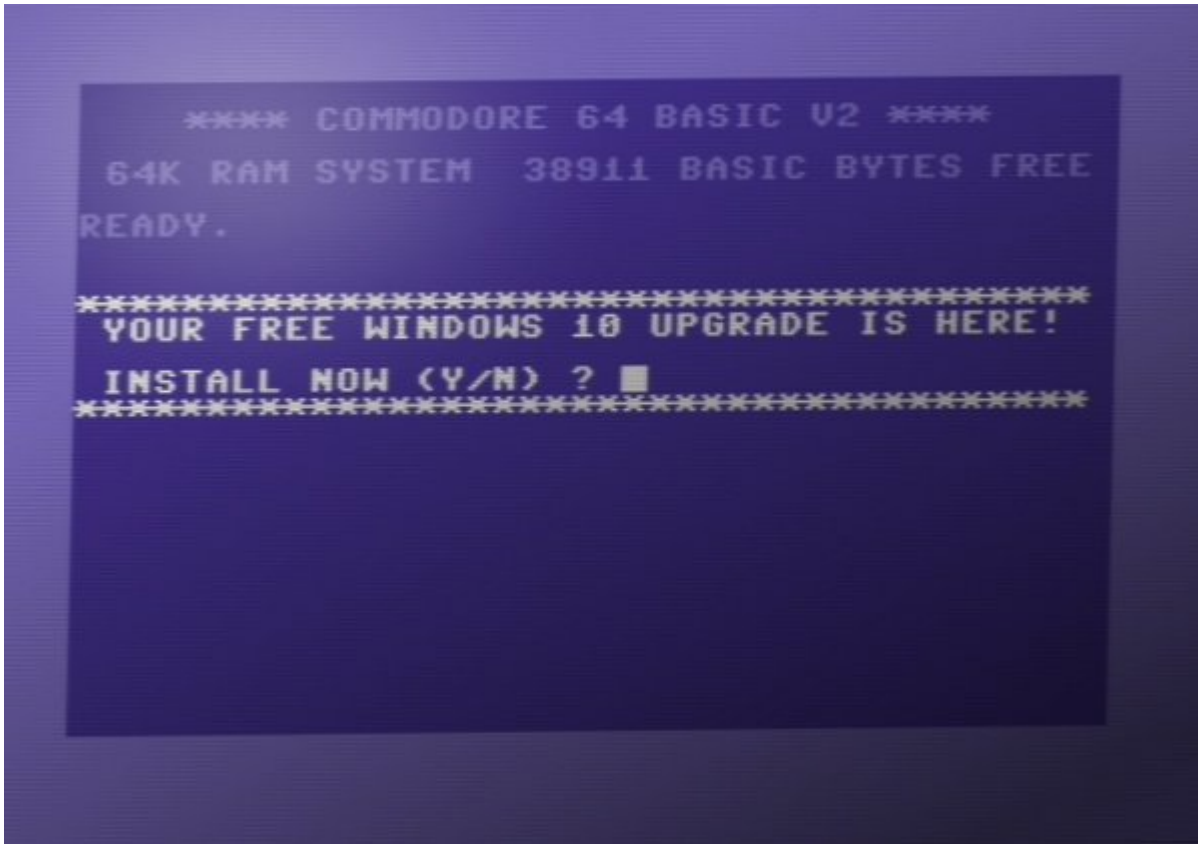
Steve VE3KC
Net Manager

MORSE CODE:

A visual guide



HUMOUR RATION



FINANCIAL REPORT

April 26, 2016

Opening Balance

Cooperation Plus	6692.19
Dividends Savings	37.54
Equity Shares	261.62
Total	6991.35

Income

Int Mar	.06
50/50	0.00
Membership	100.00
Total	100.06

Expenditures

Closing Balance

Cooperation Plus	6792.25
Dividends Savings	37.54
Equity Shares	261.62
Total	7091.41

NET CONTROL SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Controller</u>
May 3	VE3KGC Larissa
May 10	VA3MHB Matt
May 17	VA3PCI Assaf
May 24	VE3WIO Carlyle
May 31	VE3CAK John
June 7	VA3XRY Shannon
June 14	VE3KC Steve
June 21	VE3KGC Larissa
June 28	VA3MHB Matt
July 5	VA3PCI Assaf
July 12	VE3WIO Carlyle
July 19	VE3CAK John
July 26	VA3XRY Shannon
August 2	VE3KC Steve
August 9	VE3KGC Larissa
August 16	VA3MHB Matt
August 23	VA3PCI Assaf
August 30	VE3WIO Carlyle
September 6	VE3CAK John
September 13	VA3XRY Shannon
September 20	VE3KC Steve
September 27	VE3KGC Larissa
October 4	VA3MHB Matt
October 11	VA3PCI Assaf
October 18	VE3WIO Carlyle
October 25	VE3CAK John
November 1	VA3XRY Shannon
November 8	VE3KC Steve
November 15	VE3KGC Larissa
November 22	VA3MHB Matt
November 29	VA3PCI Assaf
December 6	VE3WIO Carlyle
December 13	VE3CAK John
December 20	VA3XRY Shannon
December 27	VE3KC Steve

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) 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.