

KINGSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

Founded in 1947

May 2018

Executive Committee

President

Larissa Reise, VE3KGC
pres@ve3kbr.com

Vice President

Brian Hopkins, VA3BAH
vicepres@ve3kbr.com

Treasurer

Douglas Richards, VE3FFR
treas@ve3kbr.com

Secretary

Chip Chapman, VA3KGB
sec@ve3kbr.com

KARC Repeaters

VE3KBR
146.940(-) MHz
151.4Hz Tone, IRLP Node #2750

VE3UEL Hartington APRS Node
144.390 MHz

VE3KER Kingston Packet Node
145.070 MHz Simplex

Committee Chair Members

VHF Net Manager
Steve Cutway, VE3KC
netmanager@ve3kbr.com

HF Net Manager
David Wendt, VE3EAC

Membership Manager
Steve Cutway, VE3KC

<http://www.ve3kbr.com>



Thousand Islands Event

The Thousand Islands Bridge system consists of 5 spans and extends between Northern New York State, USA and Southeastern Ontario, Canada covering a distance of 8.5 miles in the heart of the Thousand Islands region of the St. Lawrence River.

The American suspension span covers 4,500 ft and is 150 ft above the river from the mainland USA to Wellesley Island. The Canadian span covers 3,330 ft and includes a truss span from Hill island to Constance Island, a steel arch from Constance Island to Georgina Island and a suspension span from Georgina Island to mainland Canada and is 120 ft above the river. The International Rift Bridge at the international boundary is 2 parallel rigid frame arch spans between Wellesley Island and Hill Island.

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held on April 30, 1937 and after only 16 months of construction and ten weeks ahead of schedule, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Prime Minister Mackenzie King officially opened the bridge on August 18, 1938.

The Thousand Islands Repeater Club (TIRC), operating under our club callsign KC2TI, is planning a special event station on Saturday August 18th, 2018 in conjunction with the Thousand Islands Bridge 80th Anniversary celebrations to take place that day. We will be operating from 1400z – 1900z(10am-3pm) from the celebration site at the base of the American span. We anticipate operating on 14.250, 7.250 SSB and CW on request, with 2 meter simplex operation or possibly the 146.700- pl 151.4 repeater for local contacts. This is basically going to be a mini Field Day event for us and Shane Sanford at the bridge authority and the TIRC would love to invite our Canadian friends to set up a similar station at the base of the Canadian span for a true hands across the border special event. The event info will be listed before the event on our website www.tirepeaterclub.com and also in QST magazine.

We are in the process of designing a special event certificate for all verified contacts. The certificate will have an outside boundary of historical photos with an inside block resembling a QSL card with our callsign and the brief history appearing earlier in this article along with the contact info. The callsign could easily be changed on the certificate to whatever callsign is used for the special event on the Canadian side.

The Thousand Islands Repeater Club looks forward to working with you on this great special event. Please feel free to contact us if KARC has any further questions about the event at trgrant123@gmail.com.

Kingston Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of the Meeting

3 April 2018

Held at Smitty's Restaurant
Kingston, Ontario

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by the President Larissa, VE3KGC.
2. There were 14 members and guests present.
3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:
 - a. It was moved by Chip, VA3KGB, and seconded by Peter VE3POA, that the minutes of the December meeting be approved as posted in the April Newsletter.
 - b. Carried
4. Treasurer's Report:
 - a. It was moved by Doug, VE3FFR, and seconded by Dave, VE3EAC, that the Financial Report be approved as posted in the April Newsletter.
 - b. Carried.
5. Old Business:
 - a. KARC Logo Items :
 - i. Brian, VA3BAH, gave an update, looking into other companies .
6. New Business:
 - a. ARRL Field Day:
 - i. Feelers will be put out for interest and location, participation to be decided at the May meeting.
 - b. Iroquois ARC Ham Flea Market :
 - i. This Saturday in Iroquois.
7. Reports:
 - a. 2 Metre Net:
 - i. Steve, VE3KC, indicated the report was posted in the April newsletter.
 - b. CFARS:
 - i. Chip, VA3KGB, reported weekly nets are active although the last couple of nets propagation caused very little check ins.
 - c. HF Remote Station:
 - i. Nil report.
 - d. Hearts and Flowers:
 - i. Condolences were given to Steve, VE3KC and Nancy on the passing of Nancy's cousin.
 - e. KAREX:
 - i. Attendance has been up, experimenting with different methods including Internet of Things .
8. Date of Next Meeting: 1 May 2018.
9. 50/50 Draw:
 - a. A total of \$29.00 with Peter, VE3POA, and the Club splitting the winnings (\$14.50 each).
 - b. Brian donated the winnings back to the Club.
10. Adjournment:
 - a. It was moved by Peter, VE3POA, and seconded by Dave, VE3EAC, that the meeting be adjourned.
 - b. Carried
11. Presentation:
 - a. Nil.

Clifford ('Chip') Chapman, VA3KGB
Secretary
Kingston Amateur Radio Club

The 2 Metre Screwdriver Antenna by Chip, VA3KGB

When I bought my jeep four years ago I installed a 5/8 whip antenna on the back of the Jeep. The mounting bracket attached to the spare tire mount holes was made from a piece of thin wall tubing from a scrapped gazebo roof frame. I'm actually surprised that the tubing held up almost four years! The tubing with an NMO mount placed the spring of the whip at roof level. The whip portion has had a few incidents with the garage door and the mechanisms and ended up with a wicked bend and then a twist which apparently made it easy for other Amateurs in the area to recognize the Jeep.

The vibration, in/out of the garage, and movement of the Jeep going over the roads finally took its toll and the tube mount snapped at the top mounting screw. I had planned on upgrading the tube to a stronger material but why change something that is working.

Over the years as a military radio operator, technician, and Amateur, I have used several non-standard items for an antenna including paper clips, coat hangers, fence lines, and a slinky. Surprisingly I had very good results using the slinky as a helical vertical antenna hanging in the barracks window at CFB Borden. Of course it helped that I was using the steam water pipe system as the ground/counterpoise.

HF operators have been using a "Screwdriver" antenna for years, which got its name from the use of a cordless screwdriver mechanism to change the tuning length of the antenna. There have been many homebrew and commercial Screwdriver antennae for HF. For years I have kept an eye out at flea markets etc for a screwdriver I could turn into a 2 Metre antenna. Problem was most had wood handles and the price on them didn't justify buying them and converting them.

A little while ago, the local antenna parts store, mislabeled as "Princess Auto" had a sale on 24 inch flat tip screwdrivers with a resin handle for \$4.99. I bought two of them and picked up a heavy duty spring and antenna connector at the truck stop in the CB department. I already had a mirror mount bracket in my antenna parts box which I cleaned up.

Using small drill bits and moving up to larger bits I drilled a hole in the end of the handle down to the shank of the screwdriver. Using another screwdriver in the hole I knocked the shaft out of the handle. The shaft was cut down to provide 1/2 inch for screwing into the spring with the total length of the shaft, spring, and antenna connector together being 19 inches. Doug, VE3FFR, threaded the end of the shaft for me and he said it was not perfectly straight but SWR reading was 1.5:1. Not a problem as the bend could face the front of the Jeep and might straighten the antenna out in the wind.

I drilled out the handle so the shaft could extend through it to the spring. Unfortunately my freehand drilling wasn't straight and the size of the hole I drilled was a bit smaller and the handle split part way. For visual esthetics I'll dig out the drill press and use the handle from the second screwdriver to replace the split one.

I purchased 3/4 inch aluminum box tubing for the mounting bar which should last a lot longer than the original thin wall tubing. The antenna was assembled and coax run through the Jeep tailgate grommet and connected to the radio. Initial on the air test with Tim, VA3TIC, indicated the radio and antenna work good together. Other reports while mobile also indicated good voice quality.

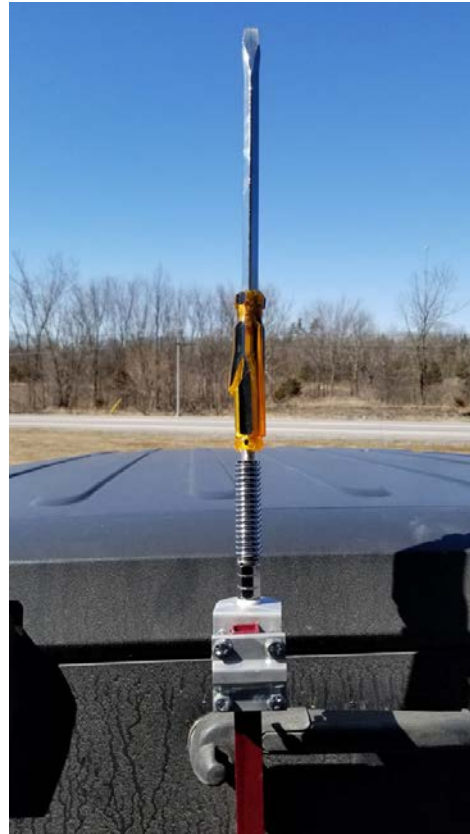
So if you come across a red Jeep Wrangler with a screwdriver sticking up in the air at the back, you'll know it's me, Chip, VA3KGB, and I'm literally using a screwdriver as my antenna.



Screwdriver showing split handle and threads.



Mount, Antenna Connector and Spring



2m Screwdriver Antenna Rear View



2m Screwdriver antenna from front of Jeep, radio control head and speakers can be seen on the dash

KARC FINANCIAL REPORT – Apr 2018

April 24, 2018

Opening Balance

Cooperation Plus	5724.99
Dividends Share	289.81
Equity Shares	25.00
Total	6039.80

Income

Int	.05
50 50 Draw	14.50
Donation	
Membership	75.00
Total	89.55

Expenditures

Closing Balance

Cooperation Plus	5814.49
Dividends Share	289.81
Equity Shares	25.00
Total	6129.30

NET CONTROL SCHEDULE

March 13 VE3POA Peter
March 20 VE3WIO Carlyle
March 27 VE3KC Steve
April 10 VA3BAH Brian
April 17 VA3PCI Assaf
April 24 VE3CAK John
May 8 VE3KC Steve
May 15 VE3KGC Larissa
May 22 VE3NXE Pieter
May 29 VE3POA Peter
June 12 VE3WIO Carlyle
June 19 VA3BAH Brian
June 26 VA3PCI Assaf
July 3 VE3CAK John
July 10 VE3KC Steve
July 17 VE3KGC Larissa
July 24 VE3NXE Pieter
July 31 VE3POA Peter
August 7 VE3WIO Carlyle
August 14 VA3BAH Brian
August 21 VA3PCI Assaf
August 28 VE3CAK John
September 11 VE3KC Steve
September 18 VE3KGC Larissa
September 25 VE3NXE Pieter
October 9 VE3POA Peter
October 16 VE3WIO Carlyle
October 23 VA3BAH Brian
October 30 VA3PCI Assaf
November 13 VE3CAK John
November 20 VE3KC Steve
November 27 VE3KGC Larissa
December 11 VE3NXE Pieter

December 18 VE3POA Peter

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.