

Kingston Amateur News

Sep 2003

P.O. Box 1402 Kingston K7L 5C6

No 147

NEXT CLUB MEETING

Sep 3, 7:00 p.m. (Wednesday)

MEETING PLACE: Smitty's

2376 Princess (next door to Chapters)

Come in early and have supper.

GUEST SPEAKER:



Proudly Affiliated
With RAC



"SILENT KEY"

On Sunday, August 3, 2003, VE3-LRM (Larry Mullin) became a 'Silent Key'. He was a member of the K.A.R.C. and also of the A.R.E.S. Group. He was always willing to help when and where he could.

It was as a member of A.R.E.S. that I really got to know Larry as we operated as a team during our various exercises and events. He was always cool, calm and thoughtful and it was with anticipation that I looked forward to the Verona Days and the Sharbot Lake Marathon with my team-mate.

Alas, that will be no more. We will certainly miss you, Larry. "REST IN PEACE ."

VE3-VJF
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!

2003 / 04 EXECUTIVE OF KARC:

President	VE3VJF	Roy Clarke	384-5900	ve3vjf@rac.ca
V/President	VE3BGP	Mike Beausoleil	634-0411	ve3bgp@rac.ca
Secretary	VE3NFU	Bill Mason	389-3991	ve3nfubill@sympatico.ca
Treasurer	VA3TRM	Terry Murphy	389-9546	va3trm@rac.ca

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:

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

VE3BGP, Mike Beausoleil 634-0411 ve3bgp@rac.ca

REPEATER Committee:

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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 15 Sept 2003 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

Postal Stamps increase again

Jan 12 2004 From Canada to Canada 0-30 g... \$0.49

Jan 12 2004 From Canada to USA 0-30 g... \$0.80

Jan 12 2004 From Canada to DX 0-30 g... \$1.40

<http://www.newswire.ca/releases/June2003/27/c8316.html>

35 WARA QuarterWave
VOLUME 9, ISSUE 2

Subject: S7 noise levels

(Found on the Internet)

Posted by: VA3OR<va3or@rac.ca> **Posted on:** 2002-09-30

I moved to a new location in July. I now sit on top of a hill in FN14th. It is mostly a rock and sand terrain, thus, drainage is quite good. It was a dry summer here in Kingston Ontario. My noise level has been creeping up higher and higher and finally, I was informed after the VHF contest, that lots of stations were calling me, but I could not hear them! Searching around, I found a broken ground wire on the hydro/telephone pole across the street, and hydro was out the next day and fixed it. Still no change in the noise level. I have proven to my neighbours that I am not a spy, but a certified nut, by crossing the street, with garden hose in hand, and soaking the ground stake soundly each evening. No noticeable change (in the noise level that is, not the neighbours suspicions of me). Finally it rained...and rained for 6 hours. My S7 dropped to a happy S1! My SWR went from a healthy 1.1:1 to 3.1:1, where my resonant freq on the beam rose from 50.125 to 53.100. The antenna is grounded, the radio is grounded. Does anyone have any ideas? It is a Kenwood TS680s on a Cushcraft 5 element beam up 35 feet. I have removed all fuses (one at a time) from the electrical panel, and thus, I believe that I have ruled out the interference from our house. Maybe I just have to wait for the rainy season again.

Posted by: Brian, VE6XX<ve6xx@rac.ca> **Posted on:** 2002-09-30

Greetings from the land of single wire ground return power transmission : You think YOU have powerline noise problems!!!
VA3OR, Sir, Madam, Ms. : You neglected to supply a first name, so I will be compelled to use the informal mode of address "Hey You!". Your question is fraught with undisclosed specifics regarding configuration of station grounds, whether or not your beams are "DC" grounded if continuity is exhibited between the centre conductor of the RF connector & shield, then the antenna has a "DC" ground), & a number of other considerations. Since I have no knowledge of the local driven ground rod resistance, I will attempt to explain several possible ground problems. Wherever an earth ground is required(as in a station ground for amateur use), good engineering practise demands that the measured resistance from the ground system to physical earth be as low as possible. Power electricians will usually use an instrument known as a "megger" to measure this. In rocky, sandy soil where water retention is low & the natural ground resistance high, it is common to drive multiple parallel ground rods & possibly also buried wire mesh to achieve a "low" ground resistance. I personally try for a measured value of under 1 ohm. Since I am not an electrician nor an electrical engineer, nor do I claim any credentials whatsoever along these lines, I merely pass along to you what has worked for me, & what common technical sense implies. It may very well prove impractical to provide a 1 ohm or less ground, in which case, do the best you can. My own tower has three lengths of "lightning rod cable" (much like welders cable), each cable attached by hydraulically crimped "Burndy" connectors to the tower legs & 10 foot X 3/4 inch copper ground rods, driven full length into the ground, & all tied together using the same crimp connectors. Each tower section has a flat copper braid "jumper" across the section joints to maintain DC continuity the length of the tower. The bundle of feedlines are routed underground to help dissipate "unusual" electric currents. A second ground system is in place at the entry to the building, & the "lightning rod cable" enters the building & terminates to the flat copper strip style station ground. I have yet to be electrocuted! To return to your situation, in the hot moist climate of eastern Ontario, antenna elements acquire an accretion of "gunge" comprised of industrial pollutants, corrosion, dust, dirt, bird droppings, & other undesirable agents. Insulators on power distribution equipment suffer the same malady, & it is usual for this "gunge" to form a "low Z" path across the insulators, resulting in surface currents or miniscule arcs that produce the well known "sizzling" sounds. In the presence of a protracted period of precipitation, this "gunge" is washed of the insulators & they no longer arc. Ergo! the noise abates.

S7 Noise Level (continued on p. 36)

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S7 Noise Level (continued from p. 35)

The rain also sluices the "gunge" from your beam(s) but almost certainly leeches some of it into RF connectors, baluns, traps, etc etc. This is the likely cause of your problem with resonance shift. If your beams or other antennas are "DC" grounded, then the resonance shift occurs as a result of the altered drive impedance of the antenna caused by the newly available "low Z" water

sodden ground. In areas of "poor RF grounds" it quite often helps to build a "dam" of some description (earth berm, galvanised window casement etc) around your ground rod area & soak it with a copper sulphate bath. I have no idea whether or not this is legal in your area, but it is used commercially or rather was used...I am not currently exposed to that part of the industry, so can't state with certainty if Copper sulphate is in current use. Rock salt would also do, as would virtually anything that forms an electrolyte. I know nothing of the legal ramifications...your problem. There are a lot of variables & without detailed info I can only suggest the foregoing. I hope that this reduces your enigma somewhat, & I wish you the best of British Luck in your attempts to resolve the problem. CHEERS! Brian, VE6XX, operator, Radio Free Cayley, & down to "earth" operator

Posted by: VA3OR<va3or@rac.ca> **Posted on:** 2002-10-01

Thanks, Brian. I am going to attack the problem again, using some of your suggestions. I am going to put the jumpers on the tower, and then add the extra ground stakes. I am leery of going to the top of the tower and having to extend my reach out to work on the gamma match. Copper sulfates??? Hmm not sure, but if the aforementioned does not totally fix the problem, I may try making my own brand of sulfate...perhaps drinking a 6 pack of Molson Golden (its the closest thing in colour to Copper that I can think of in name) and thenwell, then applying the bodily processed Golden's onto the three tower legs. If it even helps a weeee bit...I will proceed onto the next 6 pack until the problem is fixed! Hey, probably lots of folks around here that would volunteer to help me process the Golden's :) Seriously though, I wonder how much Hydro would entertain the suggestion of washing the insulators on the three poles in close proximity to me. 73

Kevin

“Let’s Have a Fleamarket”

At the Tuesday 7 May 1985 K.A.R.C. meeting, Jean VE3MNI (VA3FW) reported that the Smiths Falls Club had held a very successful fleamarket and she would like to see the Kingston club do the same thing.

“Let’s get going”, said Jack VE3YC, and he agreed to organize a fleamarket. What better man could there be than Jack, for as everyone knows, Jack loves wheeling and dealing. At the Tuesday 3 September club meeting Jack said the Fleamarket would be called the K.A.R.C. Eastern Ontario 1st Annual Radio Fleamarket. He made a motion to this effect, it was seconded by Stew VE3IVX and carried.

Where to hold the Fleamarket was discussed by the committee and St. Margaret’s United Church Hall was decided upon. This is close to the Kingston Shopping Centre, easily accessible from Hwy 401 and an extra inducement for XYLs to visit Kingston with their husbands.

The date chosen was Saturday 19 September 1985. The tables were set up Friday evening. The kitchen serving hot and cold food was operated by George VE3LXA (VE3GWS) and family. Harold MacFarlane Electronics (VE3BPM) was there and a pretty good crowd attended considering the short notice. At the 5 November meeting Bill VE3DXY reported a profit of \$250 after all expenses were paid.

This was the beginning of an annual event that went on for 13 years, until rental costs became too expensive and enthusiasm waned.

The Fleamarket was revived by Roy Clarke VE3VJF and the Kingston A.R.E.S. group and continued for a few years in the Glenburnie United Church Hall. It was a small hall and could not attract enough people to support a visit from the out of town radio dealers. We were again supported by our good friend, Harold MacFarlane Electronics VE3BPM who has been a regular exhibitor from the very beginning.

Thanks to Doug Neil, VE3DUG, small auctions and fleamarket have been held in his large garage. As members like fleamarket and meeting with friends even small events are welcome, especially when enhanced by the smell of frying onions.

VE3NB Club Historian

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE KINGSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB HELD ON JUNE 4th, 2003 At SMITTY’S RESTAURANT, PRINCESS ST.

1. AGENDA - Presentation by VA3QX Herman Kuipers added.

2. MINUTES OF THE MAY MEETING AS PRINTED IN THE NEWSLETTER Moved by VE3FFR Doug Richards, seconded by VA3KGB Chip Chapman.....carried.

3. TREASURERS REPORT (\$5,207.51 in bank) Moved by VE3TRM Terry Murphy, seconded by VE3LRM Larry Mullin.....carried.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A: Club Name Tags available (See Roy Clark or Terry Murphy \$5.25)

5: NEW BUSINESS

A: CLUB PICNIC - VA3GST John has arranged for July 13 from 12 to 4 at Rotary park. Bring dessert or salad if possible.

B: FIELD DAY - to be held at Hay Bay, June 28/29 at cottage of VE3MNE Don Gilroy See VE3TMT Max Donoghue for maps and information.

A motion was made by VE3TMT Max Donoghue asking for \$100 for food etc. for the Field Day event. Seconded by VE3BGP Mike Beausoleil.....carried

C: SKY'S THE LIMIT - July 5th at the cricket Field, see VE3RBF Rob Parker.

D: FALL FLEA MARKET - To be arranged.

50/50 DRAW was won by VA3QX, Herman Kuipers (\$13.50)

PRESENTATION (7:12 p. to 8:00 p.m.) A program called WINLINK 2000 was shown with slides etc. by VA3QX Herman Kuipers. Herman spends the winters on his boat called the KOALA. Boaters use this program to report their positions and email their friends and families all over the World. Herman says that 150,000 messages are handled each month using WINLINK. It also has a built-in propagation program, which is very valuable to sailors. Herman also asked for help with putting up his antenna.

7: REPORTS:

VA3OR Kevin Clements reported that 5 new frequencies will be available on 60 metres starting July 3rd for USA Amateurs.

VA3TRM Terry Murphy reported that On Labour Day Weekend in honour of the 100th Anniversary re Military Communications. Participants will be invited to our club breakfast at that time.

RAC: No report.

NET MANAGER VE3KFS Les Lindstrom is on vacation with his new mobile home..

KARC NEWSLETTER: VE3BGP Mike: Thanks to those who supplied copy, next newsletter in September.

KARC WEBSITE: VA3KGB Chip Chapman made a motion that \$50 be donated to one of the servers that hosts the website. Seconded by VE3FFR Doug Richards...carried.

REPEATER: VA3KGB Chip Chapman is working on program for text messages.

RMC STATION is in the process of being set up by VE3BGP Mike Beausoleil

ADJOURNMENT: (8:15) by VE3AHU art Blick

VE3NFU Bill Mason
Secretary KARC

AGENDA

3 September 2003



1. Additions/Deletions
2. Minutes of June Meeting - Errors/Omissions
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Old Business
 - a) Name Tags (See Roy or Terry)
5. Other Old Business
6. New Business
 - a) Fall Dinner - October 4, 2003, at Glenburnie United Church
 - b) Repeaters Reports and Discussions with a vote if necessary
 - c) 1 minute silence for silent key: VE3LRM, Larry; VE3PXJ, Bill
7. 50/50 draw
8. Reports
 - a) K.A.R.C. Newsletter - VE3BGP
 - b) Web Page - VA3KGB
 - c) R.A.C.
 - d) Net Manager - VE3KFS
 - e) Any other reports
9. Adjournment