

Newsletter
April
2016

Kingston Amateur Radio Club

2016 Executive



Kingston Amateur News

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Newsletter Editor: Assaf Shool, VA3PCI
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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

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the April issue of the KARC newsletter.

A 'young' friend wrote the other day asking for advice and mentioned that, in April, it will be 45 years since he got his ham radio license. Holy smokes; 45 years! Then I got out my mental pencil and paper and realized that it has been 51 years since I got in my license.

I started wondering; what is it that sustains interest in the hobby throughout a lifetime?

Many of us started with the glow of vacuum tubes and are now cursing Windows 10 but persisting and finding solutions or workarounds as the case maybe. Leading me to suppose that one of the important resonances of this hobby is our innate sense of wonder and curiosity, not to mention our drive to solve problems even those of our own making.

A fine example of that, this past month, was the email conversation on the KARC experimenters' discussion list about 3-D printers. While not exactly a radio topic, there was no shortage of wonder, curiosity and community fellowship focused on helping one another resolve frustrating but yet technically interesting problems.

And I suppose that's another sustaining quality of amateur radio; fellowship and community. Many of us 'old-timers' have precious ham radio friendships that have lasted decades and are still excited to reach out to new comers and new hams and lend a hand when we're needed.

Looking ahead to the April and May meetings; I'm sorry to say that unfortunately my semi retirement it appears to be interfering with my KARC responsibilities. A business trip in April, and a cycling trip in early May will be taking me out-of-town. Many thanks, in advance, to our vice president Carlyle VE3WIO for chairing our April and May meetings.

I anticipate that in June we'll be making our final preparations for the ARRL Field Day 2016. Please mark your calendars for June 25 and 26th. Hope to see you then!

Vy 73s,

Paul

VA3LX, President KARC

[DX News](#)

Last month I carried on unashamedly about the spectacular DXing in February and the upcoming March DXpeditions to Heard Island and Juan de Nova Island, numbers 5 and 6, on the Clublog ‘most wanted list’ –

www.clublog.org/mostwanted.php

As I am writing this, on Easter Monday, the Heard Island expedition is underway; and is certainly living up to expectations. Propagation has been reasonable during the evenings on the low bands to VE3 land and there have been short openings around sunrise on the upper HF bands. You can read more about their operation on their website: vk0ek.org

What I’ve been quite excited about is a new DX tool that they are pioneering. It’s a website that they call ‘DXA’ [dxa.vk0ek.org] that’s updated continually during the operation. Among the useful features are: a listing of the bands they’re operating on, in real time - the stations that they’ve just worked and a real-time circular projection map that shows where the stations are located, a place for you to do a log search to see if you’re ‘in their log’, and a message board where the expedition team provides updates that are relevant to the DX community at large. In the photo below you can see what happens if you’re logged into their server and you’re lucky enough to work them. Now that’s pretty sweet!

=DXA=

VK0EK HEARD ISLAND
23 Mar - 10 Apr 2016

Welcome VA3LX

Just Logged

- PA4V5F
- OK1FIM
- IZ3QEU
- RD3K
- PD1DX
- YU3AA
- DF6PB
- NS4C
- VA3LX
- DK1FW
- RZ3DJ

Worked

- 1140 UTC
- OE6FYG
- SK3GM
- IK3VUT
- PM4X
- PY7ZZ
- DH6BH
- DL9YAJ
- 9A7V
- UA9FBC
- I28EDJ
- 1139 UTC
- K4XP
- SK3BJ
- LU7DR
- IU4CHE
- DF2UA

Message from VK0EK

2016-03-28 09:51:45Z: This afternoon we have a full complement of stations on the air, and have put up beverage antennas and a vertical dipole array for 15 m pointed towards the central US. It's very windy today, and walking into the wind can be very difficult. There are occasional squalls with graupel, and other gusts blow volcanic dust everywhere. The temperature is around 3 C (38 F).

Message From VK0EK

Congratulations VA3LX you just made a QSO with VK0EK.

QSO SEARCH

Please enter...
VA3LX

...a valid call sign

CONFIRM LOGGED

	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6
CW	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
SSB	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
DIGI	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

CURRENTLY WORKING

	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6
CW	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
SSB	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
DIGI	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

TIME REMAINING

13 d 4 h 19 m

Mon, 28 Mar 2016
11:40:48 UTC

TOTAL QSOs

21318

CW	SSB	DIGI
17201	3515	601

The Heard Island expedition will be active until April 10. The Juan de Nova Island operation is expected to come up on March 29 and will be active to April 11.

And of course, there's much more.....

See NG3K's DX Operations site for the latest: www.ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html

I count 25 DX operations starting in April!

Rare and exotic operations in April include: the Spratly Island's, East Timor, Guyana, Cambodia, Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands and the Maldives.

Looks like another month of sleep deprivation ahead for the DX community!

Wishing you all Good DX

de

Paul

VA3LX

VHF NET REPORT

Thanks to the controllers who kept the VHF net alive in March: Larissa VE3KGC, Matt VA3MHB, Assaf VA3PCI and Steve VE3KC. Check-ins ranged from 15 to 21 and net duration ran from 23 to 59 minutes.

The net control script and schedule for April and May are in the April 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

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE
KINGSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC
HELD ON
Wednesday 3 February 2016
At Smitty's Restaurant
2376 Princess Street, Kingston Ontario**

The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by the President, Paul VA3LX, who welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Members and guests introduce themselves: 15 members and guests were in attendance including Bill KB3UMN, sales representative for White Wolf Systems who are part of the military radio equipment conference at CFB Kingston.
2. Additions to the agenda: None.
3. Minutes of the January meeting: Steve VE3KC/Chip VA3KGB moved approval of the minutes as published in the February newsletter. There were no errors or omissions and the motion carried unanimously.
4. Treasurer's Report: Doug VE3FFR reviewed the report that was published in the February newsletter. He said the only change since the report was published was a membership renewal. Doug VE3FFR/Les VE3KFS moved approval of the Treasurer's Report as published in the February newsletter and amended at the meeting. Carried unanimously.
5. Business arising from the minutes:
 - a. 2016 Ham Course - volunteer class organizer found: Paul VA3LX announced that Matt VA3OZI has stepped up to coordinate the course which will take place at CFB Kingston and will be open to anyone interested in becoming a ham. The course is scheduled to start Sunday, Feb. 28 with a 'meet and greet' at the Communications and Electronics Museum. If you know anyone interested in becoming a ham, you should have them forward their name(s) to Terry VA3KLG who Les VE3KFS said will be looking after day-to-day course operation.
 - b. Winter social event: Paul VA3LX said that the idea of a winter social event had first been raised at the December 2015 meeting and that Larissa had offered to coordinate it. As she hasn't been at a meeting since due to work commitments, he asked if there was interest in having an informal, social get together in the form of a meal like we did in January 2014 at the Jiffy Grill at the Kingston Centre. A show of hands indicated some interest. Steve VE3KC said that he and Paul had discussed a possible date of Wednesday, Feb. 17. He said that the Jiffy Grill only requires 24 hours notice for the number attending. Partners and other family members are welcome. Anyone planning to attend should RSVP to Steve. The event will be announced on the net and on the Freelist.

6. New Business:

a. Field Day: Paul VA3LX said that the executive had briefly discussed Field Day and endorsed his and Carlyle VE3WIO's suggestion that this year's event be powered using wind and solar instead of a generator. He said that when the Field Day was held at his home in 2013, his XYL didn't like the generator but supports an alternative powered event; so his home is a possible Field Day location this year. He said that their gazebo could provide shelter in the event of rain without having to put up a tent. He said that he and Peter VE3POA have discussed the possibility of setting up one station using home brew gear. A show of hands indicated 5 or 6 people interested in participating and Paul suggested that further planning could be done via the Freelist. (Field Day is June 25-26).

b. IRLP Node relocation: Steve VE3KC gave a brief history of the IRLP node saying that it was a Club project lead 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 Linux software 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.

Steve said that while it may be possible to return the node to Altair, he wonders if it would be preferable for the node to be in a location more readily available, like a home, for convenient maintenance when necessary. What's required is space for a radio and computer, a stable, high-speed internet connection and a dedicated antenna. It's not known how much bandwidth the node uses but Steve didn't think it should be a lot as it's only transferring audio data. Les VE3KFS said that he'd be happy to house the node when (and if) he is able to get rid of the CFARS gateway but reminded the meeting that he's now away for three months of the year. Paul VA3LX said that Assaf isn't in a hurry. Matt VA3MHB offered his home as a possible location since he likes running Linux. His home is just about as close to the repeater as it can be and he has unlimited, high-speed internet. Paul VA3LX thanked him for offering and said we'll investigate further.

In answer to a question from Dave VA3DLF, Les VE3KFS explained the difference between IRLP and Echolink. Both use Voice Over IP (VOIP); IRLP is RF to RF communication while Echolink is computer to RF communication.

7. Updates:

a. Remote Station Project: Chip VA3KGB spoke on behalf of the committee saying that the remote station is up and running and has been tested by the committee members: Les VE3KFS, Carlyle VE3WIO and himself. He said that Les VE3KFS has had fantastic audio reports on voice and that some digital modes are working using the Ham Radio Deluxe software suite. There are still issues with Fldigi and some other tweaks that need doing. Otherwise, he feels that the station is ready for public use. The user's guide is about 95% done with the executive to review and amend, if necessary, the user guidelines. The only remaining expense is the purchase of the HRD software as the 30-day trial period runs out around Feb. 11. Les has donated a G5RV and the committee is looking for another wire antenna and a long run of coax. Paul VA3LX commended Chip on the quality of the manual observing that it appears he's written one or two in the past which Chip acknowledged is true.

Steve VE3KC asked how the use of the station will be rolled out to the community. Chip VA3KGB said through the Freelist and the net and that access instructions will be included in the manual. He estimated that rollout should be able to begin in about two weeks. Paul VA3LX wondered whether a workshop would be helpful and Chip agreed that it would be as long as it focussed on using the remote station not teaching individuals how to use their radios. Paul VA3LX and Chip VA3KGB suggested that the workshop could be held at a Club meeting. Paul VA3LX commended the committee on a brilliant job and Chip VA3KGB for a fantastic manual.

b. Net Manager: Steve VE3KC's update wasn't included in the February newsletter because it was published before the last net in January. Steve VE3KC gave an update which is attached as Appendix A to these minutes.

c. CFARS: Les VE3KFS gave a presentation today to approximately 60 people from business, industry and the military attending the military radio equipment conference at CFB Kingston. He said it was well received particularly by hams who didn't know that CFARS is still an active organization within our military.

d. Builders group: Paul VA3LX said that he and Peter VE3POA have been considering projects. He said that their thinking is that those interested could come up with their own Arduino-based projects. He said that Assaf VA3PCI is willing to repeat the Arduino workshop he did in November 2013. Dave VA3DLF said that he's interested in building a CW reader and Paul VA3LX is interested in building a rotor controller.

e. Website: Chip VA3KGB said that the web site is running normally and anyone experiencing problems should contact him. Dave VA3DLF asked why he gets '404 errors' when using a tablet. Chip VA3KGB suggested that it may be related to the vagaries of tablets, i.e. Android version, or internet hiccups.

f. Freelist: Steve VE3KC said that some users' e-mail continues to be gibberish but there is no common culprit. It's happening to some tablet users and users of Windows Live Mail in Windows 8.1, possibly Windows 10 and Windows 7. Outlook, Thunderbird and Apple device users don't appear to be having any problems. The Freelist organization has tried to help but as yet has no solution. Steve VE3KC said that if the copy of your message you get back from the Freelist is gibberish, forward it to him privately and he'll post it to the list as that appears to work.

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

h. Community acknowledgements: Carlyle VE3WIO commended Assaf VA3PCI for getting the newsletter out early before he left for his out-of-town work assignment and Chip VA3KGB for the work he's done on the remote station.

I. Other updates: None.

8. Haves and wants: Deferred to allow more time for the presentations.

9. Date of next meeting: March 2, 2016.

10. 50/50 Draw: None.

11. Adjournment: Chip VA3KGB/Doug VE3FFR moved adjournment. Carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 PM.

Presentations: There were two very educational and informative presentations about wire antennas and amazing masts. Bill KB3UMN, sales representative for White Wolf Systems who were part of the military radio equipment conference at CFB Kingston, discussed and demonstrated their product line of military grade wire antennas and roll-up masts. While appropriate for amateur radio use, they're probably beyond the price point of most amateurs. See <http://www.whitewolfsystems.com/> for more info.

Carlyle VE3WIO discussed and demonstrated through a multimedia presentation his home brew Near Vertical Incident Skywave antenna.

Steve Cutway VE3KC
Secretary

AGENDA - 6 April 2016

1. Members and guests introduce themselves
2. Additions to the agenda
3. Minutes of the February meeting (there was no business meeting in March - Steve VE3KC)
4. Treasurer's Report (Doug VE3FFR)
5. Business arising from the minutes:
 - a. Ham Course progress
 - b. Field Day
 - c. IRLP Node relocation proposal (Steve VE3KC)
6. New Business:
7. Updates:
 - a. Remote Station Project
 - b. Net Manager (Steve VE3KC)
 - c. Builders group (Peter VE3POA)
 - d. Website (Chip VA3KGB)
 - e. Freelist (Steve VE3KC)
 - f. "Hearts and Flowers"
 - g. Community acknowledgements
 - h. Other updates
8. Haves and wants
9. Date of next meeting: May 4, 2016
10. 50/50 Draw
11. Adjournment

Presentation: Assaf VA3PCI, internet security

FINANCIAL REPORT

March 29, 2016

Opening Balance

Cooperation Plus	6642.08
Dividends Savings	24.13
Equity Shares	261.62
Total	6927.83

Income

Int Mar	.06
50/50	0.00
Membership	50.00
Dividends	13.41
Total	63.47

Expenditures

Closing Balance

Cooperation Plus	6692.19
Dividends Savings	37.54
Equity Shares	261.62
Total	6991.35

NET CONTROL SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Controller</u>
April 5	VE3WIO Carlyle
April 12	VE3CAK John
April 19	VA3XRY Shannon
April 26	VE3KC Steve
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.