

Newsletter

December 2009



Kingston Amateur News

Kingston Amateur Radio Club 2010 Executive

President: Steve, VE3KC

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Newsletter Editor: Joan Clarke

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Vice-Pres: Chip, VA3KGB

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Repeater Committee:

VE3KFS, Les Lindstrom

ve3kfs@rac.ca

Treasurer: Doug, VE3FFR

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VA3GST, John Snasdell-Taylor

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Secretary: David, VE3DZE

ve3dze@gmail.com

VA3KGB, Chip Chapman

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Past-Pres: Les, VE3KFS

les.lindstrom@sympatico.ca

VE3JCQ, John Wood

ve3jcq@rac.ca

2010 Committee Chairs

Two Meter Net Manager:

VECKC Steve Cutway

ve3kc@cogeco.ca

VE3MNE, Don Gilroy

ve3mne@rac.ca

P.O. Box 1402 Kingston Ontario K7L 5C6

<http://www.ve3kbr.com>

**VE3KAR
VE3KBR
VE3UEL
VE3KER
146.94(-) MHz**



**The 2nd Repeater is now
Operational
147.090(+) MHz**



A NOTE FROM YOUR OUTGOING PRESIDENT

As this is my last "Presidential Note" I want to thank all the members of the KARC for their support during my tenure as President. The cooperation and support I received made the job that much easier. Thanks again.

Now for newsy notes:

Signing authority for the club was completed on the 18th. The club is set financially for next year.

Don (MNE) now has access to the Clarendon site and we can get on with the reprogramming of the radios and the controller. Look for some changes shortly.

The FCARES group is moving ahead with their repeater project. It will see a fairly complex repeater system for the Kingston area, as well, it will have IRLP.

Speaking of IRLP - Martin (AKY) completed the install of the new computer at Altair on the 17th. Sounds great and with the new operating system Martin will be able to make upgrades remotely. Our continued thanks to John (NFK) and his staff for their cooperation and support of this capability.

Santa came early to some of our members with a new FT 950 and a 5000A making their appearances on the airwaves.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year everyone.

Les VE3KFS --... ..--

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR NEW PRESIDENT



Clubs or organizations of any kind do not run themselves. It is usually the same individuals time and time again who help.

"The President of the Kingston Amateur Radio Club is a volunteer position, although elected by the members, who heads the Executive and appoints Committees, and through the Club's activities shoulders the success or failure of the Club."

I found the above on the Club's web site. I think it's an excellent reminder of the role of volunteers and hobbies in people's lives.

As I begin my third term as President (my first was in 1974 and my second two years later), I'd like to thank the 2009 Executive for a job well done.

As KARC begins its 64th year, I'm amazed at what we have: two active, high quality repeaters, IRLP and EchoLink nodes whose use continues to grow, an active weekly net, a top notch newsletter and enthusiastic members whose interests run the gamut of available amateur modes. Thanks to everyone for making this possible.

So what will we have a year from now when my term ends? That depends on everyone working together. I'm ready to do my part but I can't do it alone. I'm not going to make any grand promises that I can't keep. I also appreciate that this is a hobby that competes for time and attention with many other things in today's world, far more so than when I got my license 37 years ago this coming March 13th. But I believe that KARC plays an important role in bringing the amateur community together. If I didn't, I wouldn't have run for President.

I wish everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous 2010 and I look forward to its opportunities.

VE3KC, Steve Cutway

From the Editor:

This is the beginning of a new year for a new executive. Congratulations to you all. Hopefully with the new year we will see more articles of interest, from the membership, in your newsletter. If you find something you think would be of interest please send it to me so, together, we can make an interesting and informative newsletter you all will read with interest.....Joan

KARC Tuesday Night Net Control Script and Instructions

Revised Dec. 28, 2009

[Before you start the net, please turn off the repeater identifier by issuing the key sequence '300' on your touchtone keypad. If you don't have a touchtone keypad, ask someone else to issue the key sequence for you.]

“Good evening. This is [callsign], net control station for the Kingston Amateur Radio Club’s Tuesday night Net. My name is ----.

The Kingston Amateur Radio Club Tuesday Night Net is an informal net that meets at 1930 hours every Tuesday evening using the facilities of VE3KBR 146.940 MHz located in Kingston. We welcome participation by all amateurs.”

Before continuing, is there any emergency or priority traffic? Please call now.”

[Handle emergency or priority traffic if required]

The purpose of the net is to take check-ins; to inform you of KARC activities; to provide news from other radio clubs and 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, and then your name and location and indicate whether you have any traffic or announcements for the Net.

“Are there any mobiles wishing to check in? Please call now.”

[Take mobile check-ins, traffic and announcements]

“Are there any portables wishing to check in? Please call now.”

[Take portable check-ins, traffic and announcements]

“Are there any stations using EchoLink or IRLP wishing to check in? Please call now.”

[Take EchoLink or IRLP check-ins, traffic and announcements]

“Are there any base stations wishing to check in? Please call now.”

[Take check-ins, traffic and announcements]

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?”

[Briefly recap announcements (if any)]

“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 [callsign] returning the repeater to normal amateur use.”

[Please remember to turn on the identifier again after the net by issuing the key sequence '301' on your touchtone keypad. If you don't have a touchtone keypad, ask someone else to issue the key sequence for you.]

KARC NET CONTROL SCHEDULE

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
January - 5 - VE3VJF, Roy	February – 2 - VE3KC, Steve	March - 2 - VE3TD, Mike
January – 12 - VE3CAK, John	February – 9 - VE3MUD, Ian	March - 9 - VE3VJF, Roy
January – 19 - VE3DZE, David	February – 16 - VE3NFU, Bill	March - 16 - VE3CAK, John
January – 26 - VE3JPW, Warren	February – 23 - VE3SIQ, George	March – 23 - VE3DZE. David
		March – 30 - VE3JPW, Warren

APRIL	MAY	JUNE
April - 6 - VE3KC, Steve	May - 4 - VE3TD, Mike	June - 1 - VE3DZE, David
April – 13 - VE3MUD, Ian	May – 11 - VE3VJF, Roy	June - 8 - VE3JPW, Warren
April – 20 - VE3NFU, Bill	May – 18 - VE3VJF, Roy	June - 15 - VE3KC, Steve
April – 27 - VE3SIQ, George	May – 25 - VE3CAK, John	June – 22 - VE3MUD, Ian
		June – 29 - VE3NFU, Bill



FRONTENAC ARES Sunday night net on VE3KBR at 1930 hours. All are welcome to check-in.

FRONTENAC ARES Tuesday HF night net on 3.740 at 2030 hours.

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The **THIRD MONDAY** of every month at 7:00 pm.
is the **KINGSTON ARES REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**
at the Woodbine Firehall, second floor

KARC Web page designed and maintained by: VA3KGB, Chip

<http://www.ve3kbr.com/>

Publication Schedule of the KARC Newsletter will be January 27th, 2010

OF INTEREST

Members of The Kingston Amateur Radio Club extend sympathy to VE3KBN, Don and Joan Ede on the death of Don's sister, Dorothy Daley on December 20th, 2009.

December 2009 RAC Bulletin

RAC Bulletin - Croft Taylor VE3CT Appointed to Canadian Amateur Radio Hall of Fame

The Board of Trustees of the Canadian Amateur Radio Hall of Fame has appointed Croft Taylor VE3CT of Kanata, Ontario, to the Hall of Fame for 2009. Croft will receive his award at a presentation to be held in Ottawa later in the spring at which time a summary of his contributions will be published.

Details will also be included in the RAC CARHOF website. Appointments to the Hall of Fame are made to recognize a radio amateur for outstanding achievement for sustained service to amateur radio in Canada or amateur radio at large.

Vernon Erle Ikeda – VE2MBS/VE2QQm Dollard des Ormeaux, Quebecm RAC E-News/Web News Bulletin Editor, <racnews@rac.ca>

HAMFEST, 2009

(Apologies to VA3TRM/VE3AHU, Terry.....Terry's comments on the Hamfest should have been in the November newsletter. Unfortunately they were missed.....so I'd like to insert them now.....Ed.)

“Well the dust has settled, everyone made some great deals and some actually got rid of a lot of "good stuff".

We have three commercial vendors present and lots of tables and the crowd was at least 100 or more, there were over 55 persons for breakfast.

The end results was that the Military Communications and Electronics Museum received over \$300 in donations(thank you folks), KARC received \$80 and VE3RCS \$170. A special thank you to Ron, VE3GO, for dropping most of his sales into the Museum box. A thank you to Doug VE3FFR, Les VE3KFS and Les VE3HN for their help.

One of our great supporters in this was Nick VE3NJG who really pushed this event on-air during the Ontario Swap Net.

Most people agreed that this is the ideal time to hold this event as we catch all those who have returned from the cottage and those getting ready to head south. I think we should try this again next year, and maybe try a larger venue on Base.

Thank you all.”Terry, VA3TRM/VE3AHU

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Have you printed out a copy of Ontario's "Display Screens and Hand-held Devices" Law which is now in effect since 26 Oct 2009.....Section 13 - Amateur exemption for holding or using two-way radio until 1 Jan 2013? A copy of 'The Law' can be found on the KARC website: <http://www.ve3kbr.com/main.html> It is recommended that a copy of 'The Law' be printed out and kept in your vehicle. It might come in handy one day.
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Following is a copy of a 15 September 2009 KARC Freelist e-mail by Phil, VE3HST, which could make interesting reading for new members of KARC and a refresher for all members.

Two-Metre Activity in Kingston

Amateur radio has always been known for the high quality of ham radio communications. This quality was maintained through a comprehensive exam structure and well-defined on-air operating procedures. Most of the operating was done on HF where good radio discipline and procedures were required to operate through difficult propagation conditions and over DX distances. However, amateur radio has changed over the years. Many hams these days do not operate HF and may not even have an HF rig. The world of commercial, menu-driven VHF rigs and repeaters seems to have brought a considerable different style of operating that in some ways is eroding the way hams communicate. The following suggestions, mainly for two-metres, are offered with the sincere goal of improving the quality of operating procedures and techniques. Some of the points are personal preferences, and not everyone will agree with all of the points or even with the sentiment of the suggestions.

Callsigns

I believe that the correct use of callsigns is one of the key components of high quality amateur radio communications. Everyone has a personal callsign which he/she is justly proud of. It would seem important to operators to state their callsign slowly and clearly each time they use them, using standard phonetics when appropriate. The use of non-standard phonetics seems to cheapen ham radio. The recognized standard phonetic alphabet adopted by the International Telecommunications Union, and general used by hams world wide, is on the RAC website. On VHF, callsigns are frequently given very quickly and are very often difficult to distinguish, especially while mobile. Unfortunately, the VE and VA callsigns are often mistaken for each other, unless they are spoken very clearly. Often callsigns are spoken too quickly after the operator pushes the push-to-talk switch, and the first part of the callsign is lost. It takes some finite time for rigs and repeaters to start to transmit. A good procedure is to push-to-talk and pause ever so briefly before speaking. That pause often allows sufficient time for the brain to start transmitting also.

Clear QSOs

QSOs on HF often involve conversations with someone new in some other part of the world. So there is lots to talk about and the QSO proceeds back and forth with rather longer transmissions. Two meter operation is usually with well-known friends and tend toward shorter transmissions between "overs". So it is perhaps more casual, and that's fine. So the more formal procedures of HF tend to change into much more of a chat mode. But clear, strong and easily understandable speech should still be used to ensure that the communications is easy to

grasp. It is too bad that two-metre rigs don't have an output modulation meter of some sort like SSB to ensure that operators are speaking loudly enough but not too loudly. A recent recording of the KARC 2m net showed that a number of operators were modulating much less than all the others. It is often a good idea to ask from time to time if you are under or over modulating, especially after getting a new rig or a new microphone.

Repeaters

There is no doubt that repeaters are very convenient and enable excellent VHF communications, including mobile, subject of course to the outcome of the new Ontario mobile operating law. In any case, drivers should be extra vigilant to ensure safe driving, and to be quite prepared to suspend talking when they encounter more complex traffic conditions. Clear and concise voice and callsigns make it easier for mobile operators, and thus safer. One personal preference in mobile operation is the pronunciation of "mobile". Standard usage in normal conversation is "mo" plus "bile". It seems strange that some hams change that when driving to "moble" or worse, "mobeel". There is no doubt that the advent of tones on the KARC repeater has improved the repeater experience in Kingston, especially if your rig also has tone activated squelch on receive. Gone are most of the unwanted distant repeaters and the local noise beeps and burps. However, the "mad kerchunker" is alive and well, unimpeded by tone access. This character chooses to test his rig and the setting of his volume control and squelch by transmitting briefly without identifying, just to hear the reassuring kerchunk coming back from the repeater. Very annoying. There is still far too much kerchunking on the Kingston repeater. It soon becomes apparent who the kerchunkers are.

Use of the KARC Repeater

Certainly the Kingston repeater is under-utilized. Most activity occurs around the nets and rather not much at other times. Out of town hams tend to have difficulty talking to anyone as they pass through Kingston. Many calls go unanswered. Calls from IRLP and Echolink to the repeater often go unanswered. That is either because not enough hams are monitoring the repeater, or not enough take the time to answer these calls. Everything reasonable should be done to encourage more monitoring and more use, including keeping unnecessary distractions, such as time announcements, to a minimum. As well, all too often the repeater identification interferes with QSOs, including the ID switch to CW.

Nets

Local nets seem to be the most popular 2m activity in Kingston. The regular net controllers are to be commended for their excellent service, week in and week out, to run these nets. We should do as much as we can to ensure that the nets remain an interesting and enjoyable part of the local 2m activity. People who check in should try to offer something of interest to the group. There is not nearly enough technical and "amateur radio" discussion on the nets. A favorite bugbear is the operator who hasn't used his rig in a week who checks into the net only to say that he has nothing to say, and that he only wants to "add a bean to the pot". It doesn't take long to think of something of interest to the group, even if you have to look back in your logbook or glance on the Internet. But please, no more beans for the pot. For some reason, check-ins are often encouraged to give their callsigns, preferably with phonetics, and if they want, their name and location, and for the ARES nets, if they have any traffic or not. That procedure is a sure recipe for doubling, which occurs all too frequently. A clear, crisp callsign, with phonetics if the net controller may not be familiar with your callsign, works best. Then when

it comes your turn, that is the time to give the rest of the information. That is a fundamentally sound operating procedure. The net controllers do a great job. Let them control the net. Avoid unnecessary break-ins and "help". Let the net controllers control whose turn it is, and ask and get permission to talk directly to other check-ins. Minimize this one-on-one chat during net time. Arrange to meet after the net if necessary. Again, give your callsign clearly and distinctly each time you speak during a net. It makes it easier for the net control and it ensures that the net doesn't disintegrate into a mess. Again, pause briefly after push-to-talk so that your first few syllables aren't cut off, adding to confusion. The best nets, although they tend to be rather long, are the nets where the net controller offers comments back to the check-ins, and goes an extra round with the check-in. Much friendlier and more interesting.

So these comments are offered in the spirit of making the local two-metre activity more enjoyable for all. Discussion and further comments are welcomed and encouraged.

... Phil VE3HST



"Harold!!! What are you doing wasting money on more USELESS radio equipment!!!"

Kingston Amateur Radio Club, Inc

Treasurer's Report to Dec. 31, 2009

	This Month	Year to date
	(Dec)	(2009)
Membership	170.00	1150.00
50/50 Draws	10.00	99.50
Other Donation	80.00	237.57
Interest		3.47
TOTAL INCOME	260.00	1485.54

Expenses

Repeater upgrade	0	525.02
RAC insurance	0	150.00
Queens Balloon	0	0
Post Box Rental	0	132.25
Newsletter expenses	55.02	112.67
Website Cost	0	242.71
Donation to Communications Museum	0	0
TOTAL EXPENSES	55.02	1162.65
NET INCOME (LOSS)	204.95	322.89

Cash in Chequing Account Dec. 31, 2009 **6133.38**

Petty Cash on hand 0.00

VA3OL, Bill Rumball

Treasurer, KARC

AGENDA

KINGSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC

JANUARY 6th, 2010

At Smitty's Restaurant, back room

7:00 pm.

- 1. Introduction of members**
- 2. Additions and/or deletions to the agenda**
- 3. Minutes of the December 2009 meeting - errors/omissions**
- 4. Treasurer's report**
- 5. Old business**
- 6. New business**
- 7. Reports:**
 - a) RAC
 - b) Net Manager - VE3KC
 - c) KARC Newsletter
 - d) Web page - VA3KGB
 - e) Other reports
- 8. 50/50 draw**
- 9. Date of next meeting**
- 10. Adjournment**

MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE
KINGSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC
HELD ON

Wednesday, 2nd December, 2009

At SMITTY'S RESTAURANT

Princess Street, Kingston, Ontario.

- 1. Call to Order:** The Meeting was called to order by the President, Les, at 7 pm.
- 2. Introduction of members and guests:** There were 17 members and guests present.
- 3. Minutes:** Chip, VA3KGB, moved and Doug, VE3FFR, seconded that the minutes of the meeting of 4 Nov 2009 be adopted as published in the Newsletter. Motion carried.
- 4. Treasurer's Report:** It was moved by Bill, VA3OL, and seconded by Roy, VE3VJF, that the Treasurer's Report be adopted as published in the Newsletter. Motion carried.
- 5. Old Business:**

a) Breakfast/Fleamarket: Saturday 14 Nov. Very good feedback and Terry, VA3TRM, has volunteered to organize it for next year. Nick, VE3NGK, did a lot of advertising for us along with the ONTARS Net. The Military Communications and Electronics Museum received over \$300 in donations. KARC received \$80 and VE3RCS \$170. A special thank you to Ron, VE3GO for dropping most of his sales into the Museum box.

b) FCARES Quad Repeater: Will be established at John Orr Tower using call of VE3FRG with a 2m input of 146.805(+) T 151.4 Hz. Other frequencies will be announced later. It will have IRLP Node # 2512 activated.

6. 50/50 Draw: Doug, VE3FFR, share was \$10.00.

7. New Business: NIL

8. Reports:

a) RAC: The more members of the Club that are RAC members allows the Club to have a lower insurance premium. Steve, VE3KC, is going to see about the RAC Station Bulletin, which is different than the normal bulletins sent by RAC. This bulletin is read on the ONTARS Net at 1700 hours on 3.755 MHz.

b) Net Manager: Nets have been very active and Steve, VE3KC, thanked the Net Controllers and is looking for a couple more. There has been nights with 25 checkins! There has been an average of 17 checkins with an average duration of 45 mins with good trivia. If you have trivia questions send to Steve, VE3KC.

c) Newsletter: Joan again has published another excellent Newsletter. Send articles and updates directly to Joan.

d) Website: Website is being updated with new look, is faster loading, and hopefully dead links caught/repared or removed as pages the new pages are uploaded.

e) ARES: There will be practice of formal traffic for those who wish to join in on the net Sunday night.

9. Les, VE3KFS, thanked the incoming Executive for taking on their postings effective 1 Jan 2010.

10. There was no presentation tonight.

11. **Next Meeting: 6 January, 2010.**

12. **Adjournment:** It was moved by Roy, VE3VJF, and seconded by Dave, VE3DZE that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

CJ 'Chip' Chapman, VA3KGB

Secretary

Kingston Amateur Radio Club