

Newsletter
January 2011

Kingston Amateur Radio Club

2011 Executive

President: Steve Cutway, VE3KC
pres at ve3kbr.com

Vice-Pres: Terry Barrett, VA3KLG
vicepres at ve3kbr.com

Treasurer: Doug Richards, VE3FFR
treas at ve3kbr.com

Secretary: David Sellick, VE3DZE
sec at ve3kbr.com

Past-Pres: Les Lindstrom, VE3KFS
pastpres at ve3kbr.com

2011 COMMITTEE CHAIRS:
Two Metre Net Manager:
VE3KC Steve Cutway
netmanager at ve3kbr.com

Newsletter Editor:
VA3PCI Assaf Shool
news at ve3kbr.com

Repeater Committee:
VE3KFS, Les Lindstrom (Chair)
rptr at ve3kbr.com

VA3GST, John Snasdell-Taylor
va3gst at kos.net

VA3KGB, Chip Chapman
va3kgb at rac.ca

VE3JCQ, John Wood
john686 at sympatico.ca

VE3MNE, Don Gilroy
dgilroy at cogeco.ca

P. O. Box 1402 Kingston Ontario K7L 5C6

<http://www.ve3kbr.com>

VE3KAR Clarendon Stn
147.090 (+) MHz

VE3KER Kingston
packet node
145.010 MHz simplex



VE3KBR Kingston
146.940(-) MHz
151.4Hz Tone

VE3UEL Hartington
APRS node
144.390 MHz

Kingston Amateur News



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year! I hope your holidays were everything you expected them to be.

Thanks to the 22 people who made the effort to attend the December meeting and who elected our 2011 executive. Thanks also to Terry VA3KLG for selling the 50/50 tickets again. He definitely has the magic touch.

Speaking of Terry, I'd like to welcome him to the 2011 executive as Vice-President and thank Chip VA3KGB for many years of executive service. Chip's departure from the executive doesn't mean his KARC contribution has ended. He will continue to be our webmaster and it's worth saying again that we are frequently complimented by visitors to our site and I have been told personally on HF what a great site KARC has. It's all due to Chip and I know I speak for everyone in saying 'thanks'.

January means it's time to renew your KARC membership for 2011 if you haven't already done so. Dues are the same as 2010, \$20.00. You can pay at the January meeting, anywhere you see an executive member, or complete the fillable online membership form available on the KARC web site: <http://www.ve3kbr.com>, print it and send it with a cheque to the address on the newsletter title page. Thanks for your continuing support of KARC.

At the December meeting, your executive and repeater committee were authorized to spend up to \$3,000.00 to purchase a new repeater. (See the December newsletter for details.) Those who attended the meeting already know about the generous offer made by a member's employer to sell us a repeater for \$500.00 US as long as it could be delivered to a US address. On Dec. 18, Les VE3KFS and I drove to the QTH of Dave KB3EFS near Alexandria Bay, NY, where we picked up our Kenwood TKR-750 repeater. As I write, it's sitting beside me waiting to be installed, which will happen as soon as convenient for Don VE3MNE who has access to our repeater site.

But as anyone who monitors 2 meters knows, our current repeater went off the air Dec. 21st. I think it knew it had reached the end of its life.

* * *

On Saturday, Nov. 6, 2010, Phil VE3HST posted the following note on the KARC Free List:

Date: Sat, 6 Nov 2010 09:31:02 -0700 (PDT)
From: Phil Somers <pwsomers@yahoo.ca>
Subject: [karc] Technical presentations at meetings
To: KARC FreeList <karc@freelists.org>

At breakfast this morning, there were brochures for a projector that can project JPG images directly from a USB stick without needing a computer. Such a capability offers an opportunity for more technical content in the monthly meetings from club members. Understandably, many people don't want to give long technical presentations at meetings but probably would like to give short show-and-tells about something they find interesting. People could bring along three or four JPG images on a USB stick and show them together with a few comments. If several people did that, it would provide an easy and very interesting addition to our monthly meetings.

What I would suggest is that the agenda for an upcoming meeting identify a theme such as "Photos of your shack", or "Photos of your antennas" or "Photos of your latest toy or project". Then people could share a few photos with

the group, and provide a basis of lots of interesting discussion. I think it would increase the appeal and attendance of the meetings, and it would be an easy way for KARC members to put more emphasis on radios, antennas, equipment, projects, electronics and experimenting, as well as other club activities.

... Phil VE3HST

At its December meeting, your executive discussed Phil's suggestion and thanks to the unexpected repeater cost savings, recommended that the idea of purchasing a multimedia projector with the capabilities he mentioned be pursued at the January meeting. The model we're considering is the Epson PowerLite Presenter Portable Projector/DVD Combo, at a cost of \$1,019.99 plus tax for a total cost of \$1,152.59. The product sheet and demo can be seen at:

http://www.epson.ca/c2c_cmc_upload/0/000/083/701/PL_Pres_Ed_ProdSpecs_1.pdf

* * *

We now have the details of the 2011 RAC Affiliated Clubs Insurance Program, which you can read on the RAC web site:

<http://www.rac.ca/en/rac/programmes/affiliated-clubs/insurance/>

If you do, you'll see that the insurance being offered is substantially different than the insurance we had in 2010. The eligibility requirements and cost have also changed.

Previously, RAC members automatically qualified for liability insurance coverage on their home antenna and equipment installations. Now, a RAC member must also be a member of an affiliated and insured Club to obtain home liability insurance. This is a requirement of the insurance carrier not RAC.

For the first time, RAC is offering equipment damage/loss insurance coverage to affiliated clubs and qualifying RAC members. This coverage is for the 'Actual Cash Value (ACV)' not replacement cost. As the result of a conversation I had with the RAC Insurance Manager, I don't believe it makes sense for KARC to purchase equipment damage/loss coverage. The actual cash value of the equipment in our four sites is offset by the policy's \$1,000.00 deductible, something not mentioned on the RAC web site.

At Wednesday's meeting, I will be seeking authorization to purchase liability insurance through the RAC Affiliated Clubs Insurance Program at a cost of \$440.81:

KARC 2011 Insurance Fee Calculation

Registration = \$150.00
plus \$1.00 per Club member (34) = \$34.00
plus \$11.00 per non-RAC member (18) = \$198.00
subtotal = \$382.00
plus 8% PST = \$30.56
subtotal = \$412.56
plus annual affiliation fee payment = \$25.00
plus 13% HST on affiliation fee = \$3.25
subtotal = \$28.25
Total = \$440.81

RAC's new insurance carrier, RSA Insurance, has given clubs a 2-week grace period from Jan. 1-15 during which

we will be covered but our payments must be received by Jan. 10. Also, students under 18, youth under 25 and honorary members as of Dec. 31, 2010, are exempt from the \$11.00 non-RAC member surcharge. I don't believe we have anyone who qualifies.

Some may question the \$11.00 surcharge per non-RAC member. RAC's justification is that the insurance program is offered as a benefit to RAC members and affiliated clubs. Your executive discussed the surcharge at our December meeting and we see no choice but to recommend a 2-tier KARC membership fee for 2012. We haven't finalized costs but our current thinking is \$25.00 for RAC members and \$35.00 for non-RAC members. It's not a change I like personally but I don't see a choice going forward. KARC cannot and should not carry the additional insurance costs for members who choose not to join RAC.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Jan. 5, 2011 meeting. Until our next QSO on the air, at the next meeting or in the next newsletter, 73s and good DX.

Steve VE3KC

MEMBER ARTICLE

"The Long Arm of the DOC"

By Phil VE3HST

In 1971 I went to Moosejaw for pilot training. I brought along my Mosley Classic 33 tribander and my new FTDX 400 transceiver. I was living in an apartment in town and had a very poor location for a big tribander. I put it on a 10 foot tower between my apartment and the apartment in the next building. That put the beam within about 10 feet of the TV of my neighbor who had a vintage set with, believe it or not, a round picture tube. So you might imagine this was an ideal set-up for TVI, and you would be right. The neighbor was so upset that, unbeknownst to me, he would unplug my block heater in the winter in Moosejaw, making it very difficult to get to the 6:00 AM weather briefing on the base to go flying.



Yaesu FTDX 400 (RigReference.com)

Eventually the neighbor filed a TVI complaint with the Department of Communications which was responsible for amateur radio in those days. So a DOC inspector showed up at my door one day. I had a nice new FTDX 400, a nice new tuner, nice new coax, and a quite new CL-33. So he checked everything out and found that my station was in compliance with the DOC emissions and harmonics standards, and the TVI problem was solely to be blamed on my neighbor's vintage TV. That was not really fair to my neighbor but it was a great relief to me. However, the DOC inspector noticed that my FTDX 400 was rated at 500 watts on CW. The regulations at the time (General Radio Regulations, Part II, Section 61) required a rig capable of 400 watts or more to be equipped with accurate metering on the final amplifier. That meant that besides the built-in ammeter showing 0.625 amps, I had to have a plate voltmeter showing 800 V on the pair of 6KD6 final tubes. But the FTDX 400 did not have such a voltmeter, even though it was being legally sold in Canada. So he issued me with a letter shutting down operations until I could comply with the regulations.

I wasn't anxious to be off the air. I also wasn't anxious to tap into the 800 V at more than half an amp just to measure a constant voltage. I contemplated an external voltmeter but that was just too dangerous. So I figured out a way to make a voltage bridge and ran it to the main meter via a setting on the meter selector for something that I didn't use. It might have been screen current or something like that. I tweaked it so that the meter pointed to an 8 on the dial, indicating

800 V. That satisfied the requirement. It was probably the only FTDX 400 in Canada, and maybe in the world, with a plate voltmeter. I communicated my fix to the DOC. The inspector issued me the letter below, stating that I was now in compliance with Radio Regulations. I could now operate again. And my neighbor's month of good TV was now finished. And to document this story as being true, I attach the DOC letter from 1971.

... Phil VE3HST

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS



MINISTÈRE DES COMMUNICATIONS

414 Post Office Building,
Regina, Saskatchewan.

December 8, 1971

IN REPLY QUOTE: 6202-1
RÉF. À RAPPELER:

Mr. Philip W. Somers,
Ste. 5 - 1346 Algoma Ave.,
Moose Jaw, Sask.

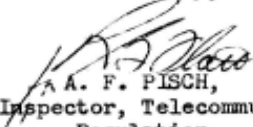
Dear Sir:

This refers to your letter dated December 5, 1971, advising that your Yaesu FTDX400 is now equipped with a meter showing plate voltage and, therefore, complies with General Radio Regulations, Part II, Section 61.

In the circumstances, we would advise that the restriction imposed on the operation of your Amateur Radio station by our letter dated November 3, 1971, is hereby withdrawn and you may resume operation of this station.

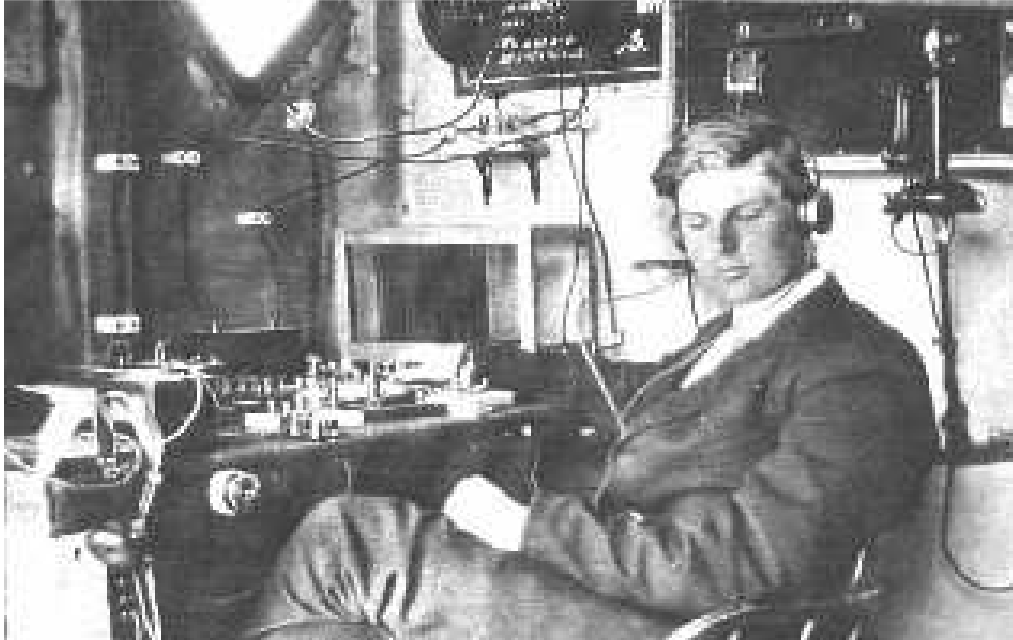
We will arrange to carry out a follow-up inspection in the near future.

Yours truly,


A. F. PISCH,
District Inspector, Telecommunications
Regulation

Kingston Amateur Radio Club (KARC) Kit Build 2010

Robert Parker VE3RPF



Harold Beverage 1915

In the early days of Amateur Radio, companies like Kenwood, Yaesu, Icom and even Heathkit didn't exist. All Amateur gear had to be built by hand (homebrew). Scrounging for parts was a challenge, especially during World Wars as supplies were at a minimum in support of the War Effort. Nonetheless, early Amateurs made do with what parts they could find or build. Today, we have the luxury of choice. We can purchase equipment with a myriad of functions too numerous to mention. Ironically, many of these functions see little use. Most likely, these extra functions were included to help get the edge over the competition. Today's radios contain more bells and whistles that more often than not, see little use. This is not to say these companies don't make a fine product, it's just that building and making contacts with less complicated gear, is another facet of Amateur Radio that can be challenging as well as rewarding.



There is something cerebral about operating older/homebrew equipment. Operating this gear requires a different skill set than the all in one song and dance rigs do not. For example, Dipping the Grid, adjusting the preselector or manually adjusting the feed-line with an Antenna tuner are things not done with the newer rigs. This is not a rant against the newer rigs and they are quite amazing in what they can do, but sometimes operating a simpler rig and making contacts can bring a different kind of excitement. I'm not suggesting simple as in simple to operate, but simple in the terms of fewer bells and whistles and in the Homebrew Realm, you can go as simple or as complicated as you like.



In the homebrew realm, there are many choices. These include simple one transistor CW transmitters to fully loaded rigs. For most of us, the choice boils down to what modes we wish to work and how much it will cost to build. Fortunately, there are several companies selling kits. One such company is Dave Benson's (K1SWL) Small wonder Labs

(www.smallwonderlabs.com). Dave sells several very affordable kits to the amateur community. I have personally built and operated several of his kits. So when the KARC was looking for an Amateur Radio activity that the club could get involved in, I naturally thought of Small Wonder Labs and a club kit build.

The KARC membership, like other clubs, has a diverse knowledge base and expertise in many areas. However, it was soon identified that not everyone had experience in building kits. To assist in this build, members with building experience were solicited in helping with the build. For this reason, the choice of kit had to be one where it was easy to build and affordable. The 40M ROCKMITE QRP CW transceiver seemed to fit these criteria.



C&E Museum CFB Kingston

On 15th May 2010, the club builders got together at the Communications Museum located at CFB Kingston. KARC has been fortunate to use this facility for many events such as our yearly fleamarket. This does not go unnoticed and we have routinely provided donations to the Museum in appreciation for their generosity.



Rockmite QRP Transceiver

The ROCKMITE is a simple HF CW transceiver that is crystal controlled. It features its own programmed chip that contains a built in keyer, control and memory functions. The entire transceiver can be housed in a small tin Altoids Mint Tin thus making it ultra portable. Some KARC members found other imaginative containers to house their ROCKMITE.



Roy Clarke VE3VJF Rockmite Enclosure



Robert Parker VE3RPF Preparing to solder the microcontroller

Overall, most found the kit was fairly easy to assemble. All components were hole through components except the PIC Microcontroller. This device, a surface mount flatpack Integrated Circuit (IC) was too challenging for most to attempt. Fortunately, we were prepared for such an eventuality and with care, these devices were soldered in place for each team of the build that required it. I must confess, the first few I soldered, I aligned them backwards. This error was soon corrected when Phil Somers VE3HST politely pointed this out to me.



Kit building

During this kit building session at the Museum, everyone got a good start on their kits. Everyone seemed to enjoy the experience of building an actual transceiver as well as the chance to get together on an amateur related project. Lots of questions were asked and lots of questions answered by those with experience in building.



A Finished kit in an Altoids Tin

It was not long before we started to see finished kits and hear about new 500mW qrp contacts. There has even been some talk about getting together to build an antenna and key for these rigs.



New QRP Transceivers and their owners

L-R

Dave Sellick VE3DZE Phil Somers VE3HST Roy Clarke VE3VJF Doug Richards VE3FFR Terry Barrett VE3KLG John Taylor VE3GST

Activities such as this are fun but more importantly, bring renewed excitement into this hobby. I think everyone who participated would agree that activities like this are rewarding, fun and educational. I encourage other clubs organize similar activities and have fun.

AGENDA
KINGSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC
January 5, 2011
At Smitty's Restaurant, back room
7:00 p.m.

1. Members introduce themselves
2. Additions to the agenda
3. Minutes of the December 2010 meeting: errors/omissions/approval (David VE3DZE)
4. Treasurer's reports: monthly and year end (Doug VE3FFR)
5. Business arising from the Minutes
 - (a) Correspondence: a 'thank you' card from Joan
 - (b) Other items
6. New business:
 - (a) Motion to purchase a multimedia projector for meeting presentations (Phil VE3HST)
 - (b) Insurance update (Steve VE3KC)
 - (c) Other items
7. Reports:
 - (a) President (Steve VE3KC)
 - (b) Repeaters (Les VE3KFS)
 - (c) RAC (Steve VE3KC)
 - (d) Net Manager (Steve VE3KC)
 - (e) Web page (Chip VA3KGB)
 - (f) KARC Newsletter (Assaf VA3PCI)
 - (g) 'Hearts and Flowers'
 - (h) Other reports
8. Date of next meeting: Feb. 2, 2011
9. 50/50 draw
10. Adjournment

KINGSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC
HELD ON
Wednesday 1 Dec 2010
At Smitty's Restaurant
Princess Street, Kingston Ontario

The Kingston Amateur Radio Club meeting was called to order by our president Steve VE3KC at 7:00 PM.

1. The members present introduced themselves. There were 22 members in attendance.

2. Minutes: our president asked for approval of the Nov. meeting minutes as published in the newsletter. There was a spelling mistake brought to attention and it will be corrected. The motion was moved by David VE3DZE and seconded by Les VE3KFS and was passed.

3. November Treasurer's Report: The report was read by Doug VE3FFR. We had a closing balance of \$6823.95. Doug VE3FFR Moved, seconded by Michael VE3PRW, that the Treasurer's Report be adopted as read. Motion carried.

4. Old Business: there was no old business.

5. New Business:

a) The Kingston Amateur Radio Club presented to Joan Clarke an award for her years of service as newsletter editor.

b) Les VE3KFS, chairman of the repeater committee, made a motion to buy a new repeater (the current machine is on its last legs) cost not to exceed \$3,000.00, the motion was seconded by Rob VE3RPF. After discussion during which Steve VE3KC described his and Les VE3KFS's research, the motion was passed.

6. Reports:

a) **President:** See the report in the December newsletter.

b) **Repeaters:** Les VE3KFS reported that Don VE3MNE was able to repair VE3KBR; and while it's working, it's growling and definitely needs replacing. Our other repeater, VE3KAR, is working fine. Also, the FCARES simplex IRLP node is running well.

c) **RAC:** Rob VE3RPF reported that the RAC transformation continues. A recent bulletin from RAC told of changes to the insurance they provide.

d) **Net Manager:** Steve VE3KC reported that there was no Tuesday night net for the 3 weeks the repeater was off the air. He said it is impractical to run a net without the wide coverage the repeater provides as not every one has an antenna 65 feet in the air. There were 2 nets in November and Steve thanked Bill VE3NFU and Assaf VA3PCI for controlling them. The revised net controller schedule will be published in the January newsletter. Steve thanked those who contributed trivia, a popular segment of the net. He said we are always looking for net controllers; the script is on the web site. But the most important thing is that you check into the net, Tuesday evenings at 7:30 PM because without you, it's pretty lonely.

e) WebPage: Chip VA3KGB reported that the website is working well. He is currently working on a search engine script for the web site. Please report any dead links to him and if you are a KARC member and want access to the members-only section, send Chip an email including the login name you want and a password of your choice. Chip's email address is VA3KGB at RAC dot CA.

f) Newsletter: Assaf said that articles for the January newsletter should be sent to news@ve3kbr.com a week before the January meeting (Dec. 29th).

g) Flea market: The Flea market was a resounding success coordinated by Terry VA3TRM and Terry VA3KLG. \$600.00 was raised for the Military Communications and electronics Museum and \$210.00 for the Club. The Museum has invited us back in 2011 and the flea market is booked for Nov. 12th.

h) Hearts and Flowers: Jim VE3XJS is recovering from surgery.

7. 2011 Elections: Nominations from the floor were made for:

President

Terry VA3KLG and Steve VE3KC were nominated. Steve **VE3KC** was elected.

Vice President

Terry VA3KLG, Mike VE3TD and Chip VA3KGB were nominated. Terry **VA3KLG** was elected.

Secretary

Phil VE3HST, David VE3DZE, Chip VA3KGB, Herman VA3QX and Terry VA3TRM were nominated. All declined except David **VE3DZE** who was acclaimed.

Treasurer

Ted VE3VSZ, Dan VE3SEW and Doug VE3FFR were nominated. Ted declined the nomination. Doug **VE3FFR** was elected.

The Treasurer's books will be reviewed by Dan VE3SEW and Rob VE3RPF in January 2011.

8. Date of the next meeting is January 5th, 2011.

9. Adjournment Roy VE3VJF seconded by Doug VE3KXA, moved to adjourn. Motion carried.

10. 50/50 draw: \$48 worth of tickets were sold. Les VE3KFS won \$24.00 which he donated back to the club.

David Sellick VE3DZE

Secretary

Kingston Amateur Radio Club Inc.

Kingston Amateur Radio Club
Financial Statement
Dec 2010

Income

Membership	210.00
Repeater	100.00
50/50 Draw	48.00
Bank Interest	.39
Total Income	358.39

Expenses

Repeater/Shipping	631.32
Roy/Joan's meals	48.40
Purchases (award frame)	12.42
Website Cost	118.38
Total Expenses	810.52

Overall Total -452.13

Bank Balance
As of Dec 31, 2010 **\$ 6,381.82**

FINANCIAL STATEMENT - YEARLY

Kingston Amateur Radio Club
Financial Statement
01 Jan – 31 Dec 2010

Income

Membership	1,200.00
Flea Market Tables	20.00
Repeater	140.00
Donations	172.50
Bank Interest	32.88
50/50 Draw	265.00
Flea Market Float	200.00
IRLP	40.00
Donations (other)	25.00

Total Income **\$ 2,095.38**

Expenses

Donations	150.00
Repeater	631.32
Insurance	130.05
Post Box Rent	137.63
Postage	41.47
Flea Market Float	200.00
50/50 Draw	18.68
Cards	6.43
Meals and Ent	48.40
Purchases	12.42
RAC Affiliation	25.00
Website Cost	297.56

Total Expenses **\$ 1,698.96**

Overall Total **\$ 396.42**

NET CONTROL SCHEDULE

Month	Date	Controller
January	4	VE3DZE David
January	11	VE3JPW Warren
January	18	VE3KC Steve
January	25	VE3NFU Bill
February	1	VA3PCI Assaf
February	8	VE3SIQ George
February	15	VE3TD Mike
February	22	VE3VJF Roy
March	1	VE3CAK John
March	8	VE3DZE David
March	15	VE3JPW Warren
March	22	VE3NFU Bill
March	29	VE3KC Steve
April	5	VA3PCI Assaf
April	12	VE3SIQ George
April	19	VE3TD Mike
April	26	VE3VJF Roy
May	3	VE3CAK John
May	10	VE3DZE David
May	17	VE3JPW Warren
May	24	VE3KC Steve
May	31	VE3NFU Bill
June	7	VA3PCI Assaf
June	14	VE3SIQ George
June	21	VE3TD Mike
June	28	VE3VJF Roy

Revised Apr. 19, 2010

[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 on the Kingston repeater, VE3KBR, 146.940 MHz, with a 151.4 Hz tone required on the input, 146.340 MHz. 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; 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, 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 wishing to check in? Please call now.

Are there any 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 [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.]