

KINGSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

Founded in 1947

March 2017

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Past President

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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

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HF Net Manager

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

New Look For Newsletter

After years of wrangling OpenOffice to try and format the newsletter properly, I've decided to give up and go back to using Microsoft Office. Despite the fact that Office is essentially the spawn of Satan after visiting corporate board rooms, I feel like I am going to smash far fewer computer peripherals trying to get text boxes to line up in Word versus OpenOffice Writer. Since the newsletter template had to be recreated from scratch, I also decided it is time for a refresh, so you may have noticed the title page looks slightly different.

Switch To Google Groups Nearly Complete

As I noted in the February newsletter, we've created a new mailing list to be the official digital club communications medium after encountering too many compatibility issues with the old Freelist mailing system. After about one month, we've got 60 people to join new mailing list out of the 75 original subscribers in the Freelist. There haven't been any complaints so far about the new Google Groups list and we've had no scrambled messages appearing either.

Name Tag Reminder

Freezing rain has cancelled the last meeting at Smitty's, so the March meeting will be your chance to order an official KARC name tag and increase your geek cred by 6 points. Pin-backed tags will cost \$5 and magnetic-backed tags will go for \$8.

Update Project for KARC Portable Station

The club owns a Kenwood TS-440 HF radio, an Alinco 2m rig and a large linear power supply to power it all. It's transported in a large black carry case with a plywood liner. If you think that sounds like it would be very heavy, well, you would be right. I'd like to consolidate all this by moving to a lightweight aluminum carry case like the one pictured, replacing the linear power supply with a surplus compact server power supply, and installing Anderson power pole connectors on the radios for hookup. The cost for all this should be less than \$100 and it will dramatically reduce the size and weight of the kit.



Field Day 2017

We're planning to conduct another Field Day this year, although we're still in the process of organizing a committee and deciding what the scope would be. One of the biggest challenges is finding a suitable location. I'm looking for anyone with a backyard large enough to house an HF antenna and that would be willing to volunteer to host the club for Field Day. The dates will be June 24-25th, 2017.

Photos of The Month Wanted

I would like to start publishing a monthly section with a photo or photos taken by club members that are related to ham radio. If you have something that might fit, please email it to news@ve3kbr.com.

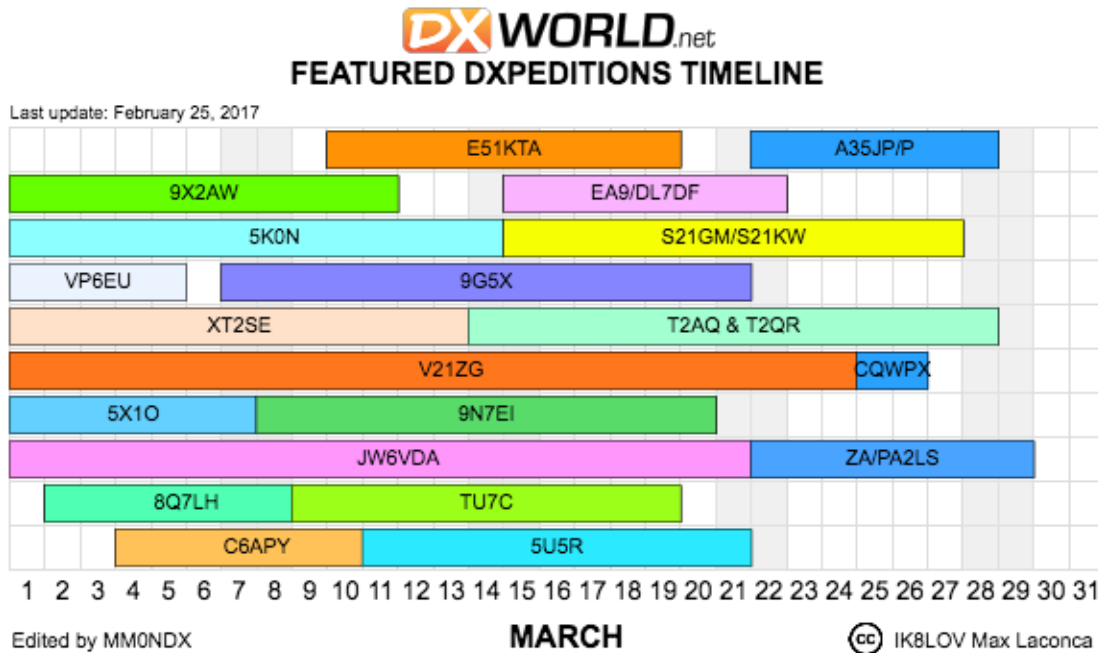
Assaf

VA3PCI

DX REPORT

DX News for March 2017

Last month I highlighted my favorite resource from the dx-world website; their monthly calendar. Here's the March calendar



As I noted; I keep this on my desk to remind me when DXpeditions are active.

As expected, February turned out to be a pretty good month for low band propagation. Enough so, that I finished 160 meter DXCC, before my inverted L came apart in the wind mid-month.

NG3K's Announced DX Operations website [www.ng3k.com] indicates that there are quite a few DXpeditions planned for March. Nothing very rare, but a number that worth paying attention to.

Svalbard, JW6VDA, will be active from March 1st through 22nd on all the HF bands and will be using LOTW.

A large group of Irish hams will be active from Nepal as 9N7EI from March 8th through 20th and are also using LOTW.

A team of 12 ops will be active from the Ivory Coast as TU7C from March 9th through 19th from 160 meters through 6 meters and once again will be using LOTW.

Can you tell that I'm rather fond of LOTW?

Although they are not using LOTW, I'd like to also highlight the week log DXpedition to Bangladesh using the call S21KW from March 21st through 27th. S2 is a long haul for us and is not often on the air. This DXpedition is also operating all bands from 160 meters through 10 meters.

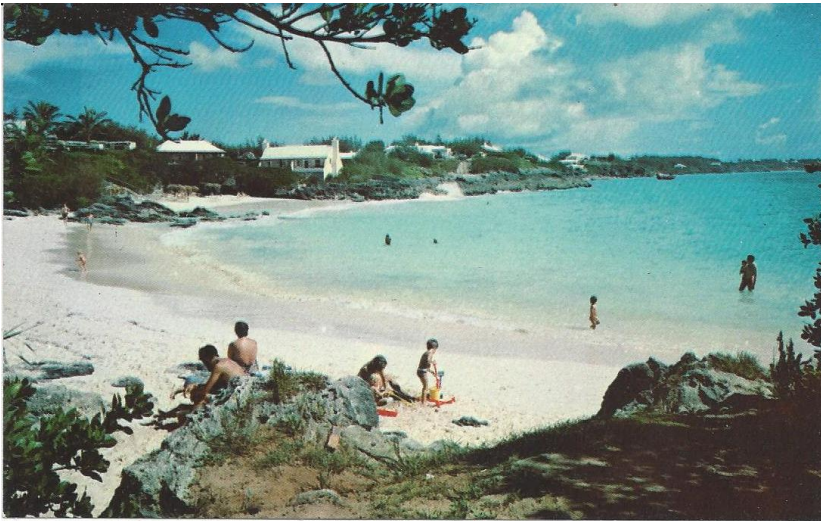
Wishing you all a good month and good DX

de Paul VA3LX

QSO between Lahr, Germany and Bermuda in 1977 by Phil VE3HST (ex-DA2WO)

From 1975 to 1977, I was stationed at Canadian Forces Base Lahr in Germany, flying tactical helicopters. The Lahr Amateur Radio Club consisted of about 10 Canadian amateurs and we were all very active. On 20 metres, it was one-skip distance into Moscow. Even during the Cold War, when we were patrolling along our side of the Iron Curtain, we still were allowed to work other hams in the then USSR. One year, my security clearance came up for renewal. On the renewal form, there was a question about whether you had any contact with people in the USSR. I put down something like "Yes. Several hundred". A bit later, I was asked by the military police to explain the situation. They were satisfied and we all continued to make lots of such contacts on 20 metres. One time, I happened to make a contact with a ham in Paris who turned out to be a classmate from high school in PEI. We then visited him and his wife in Paris and they visited us in Lahr. We still keep in touch. They live in Vienna.

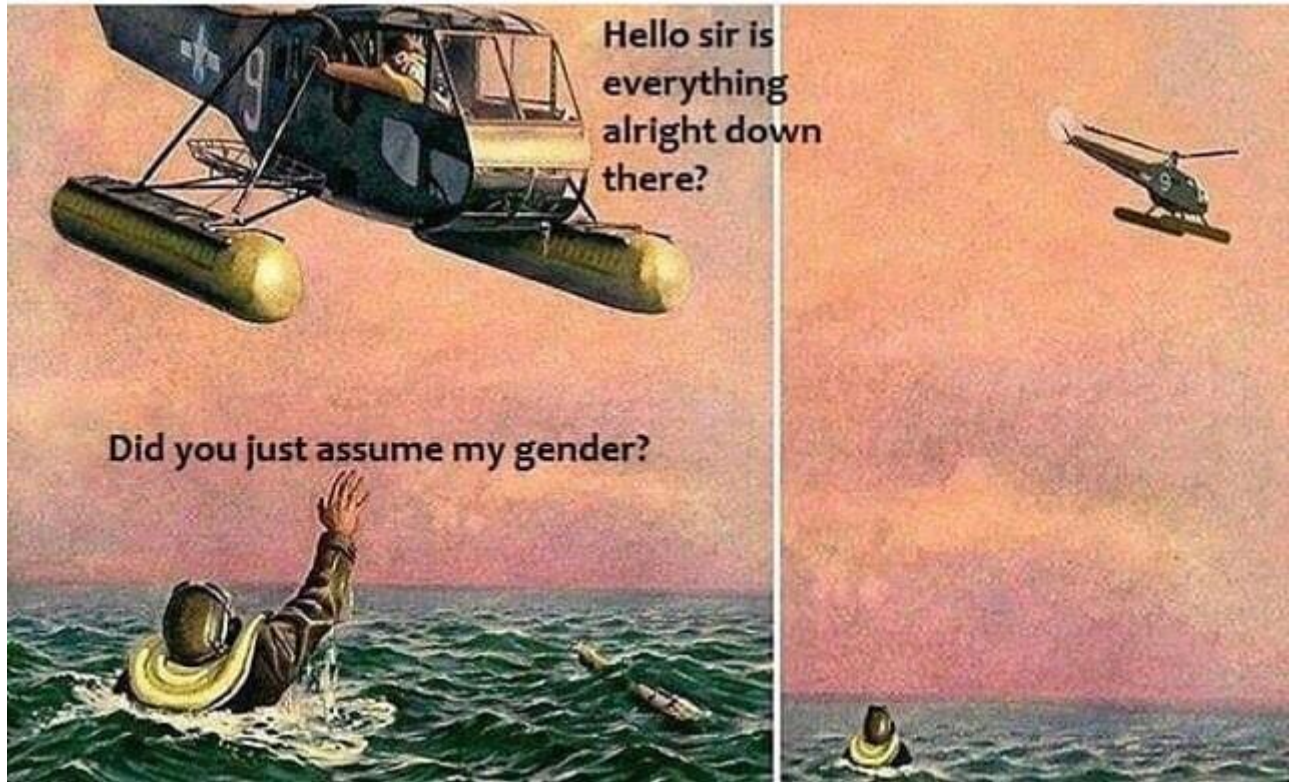
But we worked lots of other countries as well. One long weekend, we organized a wonderful DXpedition to Liechtenstein. About five of us and our spouses stayed at a small hotel just outside a town, and operated day and night for the weekend. Lots of fun. Then back in Lahr, on 22 May 1977, I had a QSO with VE7DRL/VP9 in Bermuda. His name was Les. We now know Les as VE3KFS. A couple of days ago, I was looking through my old QSL cards and I came across the QSL card Les sent me via the QSL bureau in Hamilton, Bermuda. On the card, Les says ""Wrk for CF also Phil CU back in VE". Twelve years later in 1989, I met Les when we moved into the house across the street from him and his wife in the married quarters at CFB Kingston. However, neither of us remembered the QSO back in 1977 until I discovered the QSL card a few days ago in 2017. I checked my old logbook and sure enough, there is the QSO. However, I must apologize to Les that I apparently never sent him a QSL. But I scanned in his card and sent it to him on email. Here is that card.



TO DA2WO CONFIRMING QSO		
DATE	GMT	BAND
22-5-77	2030	14
MODE 2X.....	REPORT	
SSB	SS	
P.S. QSL		
73 FROM:— VE7DRL/VP9		
WRK FOR CF ALSO		
PHIL CU BACK IN		
VE		
QSL BUREAU HAMILTON		Les BOX 275 BERMUDA

DA2WO

Phil



MEETING AGENDA FOR 7 March 2017

1. Members and Guests introduce themselves
2. Additions to the Agenda
3. Minutes of the last Meeting: errors / omissions / approval (Chip VA3KGB)
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Old Business:
 - a. No old business
6. New Business:
 - a. Name tag order
 - b. Field Day 2017
 - c. Update to Club Portable Radio Set
 - d. New mailing list
7. Reports:
 - a. Net Manager (Brian VA3BAH)
 - b. CFARS
 - c. "Hearts and Flowers"
 - d. Other Reports
8. Date of next meeting: 04 April 2017
9. 50 / 50 Draw
10. Adjournment

FINANCIAL REPORT

Feb 28, 2017

Opening Balance

Cooperation Plus	5494.14
Dividends Savings	37.54
Equity Shares	261.62
Total	5795.30

Income

Int	.04
Membership	.00
50 50 Draw	.00
Donation	.00
Total	.04

Expenditures

Closing Balance

Cooperation Plus	5496.18
Dividend Savings	37.54
Equity Shares	261.62
Total	5795.34

NET CONTROL SCHEDULE

Tuesday, 14 March: Assaf, VA3PCI

Tuesday, 21 March: Steve, VE3KC

Tuesday, 28 March: Larissa, VE3KGC

Tuesday, 11 April: Peter, VE3NXE

Tuesday, 18 April: Carlyle, VE3WIO

Tuesday, 25 April: John, VE3CAK

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.