

Newsletter
February
2012

Kingston Amateur Radio Club

2012 Executive



Kingston Amateur News

VE3KAR Clarendon Stn
147.090 (+) MHz

VE3KER Kingston
packet node
145.010 MHz simplex



President: Terry Barrett,
VA3KLG

pres at ve3kbr.com

Vice-Pres: Steve Cutway, VE3KC

vicepres at ve3kbr.com

Treasurer: David Sellick,
VE3DZE

treas at ve3kbr.com

Secretary: Assaf Shool, VA3PCI

sec at ve3kbr.com

Past-Pres: Steve Cutway,
VE3KC

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:

VA3GST, John Snasdell-Taylor
va3gst at kos.net

VA3KGB, Chip Chapman
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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>

VE3KBR Kingston
146.940(-) MHz
151.4Hz Tone
IRLP 2750

VE3UEL Hartington
APRS node
144.390 MHz

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The New Year is full of promise, though you may also get a fair share of tough times. With each progressing year, you find yourself growing confident, experienced, and wise. That's the gift of the New Year. Raise a toast to the year that holds many promises.

Thanks to the 15 people who attended the January meeting and who enjoyed the excellent presentation by Ron VE3GO who talked about and showed pictures of the history of the shipping in our area.

Also thanks to Phil VE3HST for his presentation on JT65A and WSPR, Very interesting modes. If you want to check out the main WSJT website at: <http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/>.

I'm sure you're all doing amateur radio activities that others aren't and would all benefit from your knowledge and experience. So if you have any suggestions for a presentation, or if you'd like to do one (it isn't hard), please contact me, va3kig "at symbol" bell.net and I will put it on the agenda.



January also means it's time to renew your KARC membership for 2012, If you haven't already done so. Dues are now \$25.00. You can pay at any meeting, anywhere you see an executive member, or complete the 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.



I wish to thank Ron VE3GO for taking care of everyone during the bad road conditions we have had lately. Also Ron has volunteered to host a Marine Restricted Radio License course some time in April. Anyone interested drop me an Email va3kg "at symbol" bell.net this training is open to anyone who is interested so check with your boating friends to see if anyone is interested.

INSTRUCTORS: I am looking for volunteers to teach a Basic Amateur Radio Course
If you are interested please let me know va3kig "at symbol" bell.net.



In closing, I look forward to seeing everyone 01 Feb 12 and to enjoy Pat's VE3RNH presentation. Until our next QSO

73 de VA3KLG
Terry

GUESTED ARTICLE

Doug Forman, N7BNT, had purchased an Icom 746 from a German seller on eBay. Unfortunately, he failed to do a page translation into English prior to bidding.

The first portion of his harrowing tale begins below, and the saga will continue in the next newsletter ... --Ed

----- Original Message -----

From: Doug Forman
To: IC746@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Tuesday, October 02, 2001 11:44 AM
Subject: IC746 Repair Adventure - Part 1

Doug Forman wrote:

Greetings to all,
I bought a IC746 on eBay a couple weeks back. The fellow selling it was in Germany, so there weren't many bidders. The auction description was in German, and although I don't read German, the description was a one-liner, and I could make out part of it - "User Manuals in English and German" and the word "guarantee" which I suspected to be the warranty page. I only paid DM\$995 for it (about US\$470) and shipping was about \$100 via FedEx, so I was feeling pretty good! (I have not been on HF in years, and having recently upgraded to Extra, I decided to celebrate and get back on-the-air!)

The IC746 arrived ahead of schedule, and I eagerly set it up and turned

it on. The display came on and stayed with all of the display items "on" (like you would expect for a moment as things are initializing). And there it stayed. No audio, no response from any controls, everything active on the display. Doing a reset (two buttons plus power) adds a couple bands across the bottom of the display, but nothing else.

It was time to ask the seller what's going on. But first, it was time to translate that short eBay description to see if there was something I missed. Using www.translate.ru I was able to translate the German to English. The translation went something like this: "Handyman special - IC746 damaged by overvoltage - English and German user manuals, no guarantee."

Now feeling significantly less good, I had a look inside the case to see if there was anything black or "crispy" from overvoltage. To my surprise, everything looked just fine, above and below. In particular, the power circuitry looked absolutely normal. I live a couple hours from Icom in Bellevue, WA and I'm thinking about sending it up for repair and holding my breath for the news. While I was inside the case, I noted that the previous owner was a smoker, so I decided to do a little clean



up with 409 and a rag on the case, front panel, fan, and other areas I could get to. It cleaned up pretty nice, but there was still no obvious "overvoltage" damage to be seen. I did note that the connector for the computer link (next to the speaker connector on the back) was missing, and wondered if perhaps my 746 didn't come with one?

As I was poking around, I decided to remove the "main unit" circuit board from the bottom just to "see what I could see" and paying particular attention to how hard it would be to add that little missing computer interface jack. As I removed the circuit board, I noticed a black spot on the aluminum chassis near the missing connector in the back. As I examined where the connector should be, I noticed that it had obviously been removed. All of the lights started coming on... the "overvoltage" had been applied to the computer interface jack. And, what a mess! Traces on the circuit board, both below and above, were melted away. It looked grim. I'm calculating in my mind how much a replacement "main unit" board is going to cost...

Thinking that I had nothing to lose anyway, I got out the (included) schematics, and started following the burnt traces. As I highlighted the corresponding lines on the schematic, it all became very clear. And it appeared to be very isolated to only traces and a few components associated with the external computer interface. It looks like someone applied external power to that jack, and it took out the traces, a couple driver transistors and an 8-pin inverter IC. Thank God for good schematics!! The 8-pin inverter (IC1703) interfaces with a massive 100-pin IC1704, and I'm praying that the inverter gave it's life to protect the mother-ship (IC1704).

Wearing the strongest cheap reading glasses I could find (+3.25) and using a magnifying glass with them as needed, I carefully removed what was left of the burnt traces and cleaned up the solder pads. A little 91% alcohol and q-tips helped a lot. Then a trip down to Radio Shack for a spool of wire-wrap wire and a tiny soldering iron. I carefully replaced each burned trace with the wire-wrap wire, referring often to the schematic and using a DVM to confirm continuity between beginning and ending points. I secured the wire to the circuit board with a few carefully placed drops of fingernail polish over the wires. Looks darned good, if I do say so myself!

Sunday night i created a list of parts I needed (decided to replace all of the components in and around Q1701, Q1702 and IC1703 just for good measure) and faxed the parts request to Icom. I also asked for the price of a replacement "main unit" board even though I'm sure I really don't want to know... It's Tuesday noon and I have not heard back from them yet, so I'm headed out to my local electronics supply house to see what I can find.

I'm now cautiously optimistic that I can fix this myself! If I can,



I'll have a "bonding" with my new IC746 that I could never have gotten by taking it out of the box and just using it. Sort of like that warm-fuzzy feeling when the Heathkit you spent a million hours building finally works? If I have bigger problems with the board than I can see now, all I've lost is a few bucks for parts and some of my time - the board was probably a candidate for replacement anyway.

If (ah, let's say "when" instead?) I get this thing on the air, I'd enjoy some contacts with other IC746 owners out there. I hope you've enjoyed reading along and I'll post the next instalment when there is news...

Cheers and 73,

Doug N7BNT

2012 KARC MEETING DATES

Wednesday, Feb. 1
Wednesday, Mar. 7
Wednesday, Apr. 4
Wednesday, May 2
Wednesday, June 6
Wednesday, Sept. 5
Wednesday, Oct. 3
Wednesday, Nov. 7
Wednesday, Dec. 5

AGENDA

AGENDA
Kingston Amateur Radio Club, INC.
01 February 2012
At Smitty's Restaurant 07:00 PM

1. Members and Guests introduce themselves
2. Additions to the Agenda
3. Minutes of the last Meeting: errors / omissions / approval (Assaf VA3PCI)
4. Treasurer's Report (David VE3DZE)
5. Business arising from the Minutes:
 - a. Echolink –
 - b.
6. New Business:
 - a.
 - b.
7. Reports:
 - a. President (Terry VA3KLG)
 - b. Repeaters (John VA3GST)
 - c. RAC
 - d. Net Manager (Steve VE3KC)
 - e. Web Page (Chip VA3KGB)
 - f. KARC Newsletter (Assaf VA3PCI)
 - g. Frontenac County ARES (George VE3SIQ)
 - h. Kingston ARES
 - i. CFARS (Les VE3KFS)
 - j. "Hearts and Flowers "
 - k. Other Reports
8. Date of next meeting: 07 March 2012
9. 50 / 50 Draw
10. Adjournment

Presentation: Pat VE3RNH (Weather and Road conditions permitting)

Pat will give us an update on Mobile Hands-Free Operation and the goings on in RAC. She was recently appointed NARED Manager. Pat also sat on the board Ontario Restructuring Commission that was chaired by Bill Unger, VE3XT. Pat is also very active with ARES and the Barrie Amateur Radio Club.

OF THE

KINGSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC

HELD ON

Wednesday 4 Jan 2012

At Smitty's

The Kingston Amateur Radio Club meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by our president Terry VE3KLG.

1. The members present introduced themselves. There were 15 members and one guest in attendance.
2. **Additions to the Agenda:** No additions made.
3. **Minutes:** Roy VE3VJF moved, seconded by Les VE3KFS to approve the minutes of the December meeting which were published in the January newsletter. The motion passed.
4. **January Treasurer's Report:** Doug VE3FFR read the Jan financial report. We had a closing balance of \$4948.72. Doug moved, seconded by Chip VE3KGB, that the Treasurer's Report be adopted as read. Motion carried.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes:

- a) **RAC Insurance Coverage:** Phil, VE3HST, has a question about how the RAC insurance is maintained throughout the year as members may have their RAC membership expire in different times of the year. Steve VE3KC's response from RAC was published in the last newsletter but still left some unanswered questions.

6. **New Business:** No new business.

7. Reports:

- a) **President:** Terry wishes everyone a happy new year. Looks forward to the new year.
- b) **Repeaters:** Les VE3KFS reported that both machines are working well. Echolink and IRLP are also working well. Phil VE3HST said he was able to make a crosslink contact through EchoLink via IRLP to Toronto. Phil has also suggested that we enable multiconnecting on EchoLink and Terry says he will look into it.
- c) **RAC:** Nothing to report. See RAC bulletins via the Free List.
- d) **Net Manager:** Steve VE3KC thanks everyone who did the net and says he will have the stats for the next meeting.
- e) **Web Page:** Chip VA3KGB says he will work on a form for online membership.

f) **Newsletter:** Assaf VA3PCI reminded everyone that articles for the newsletter should be sent to news@ve3kbr.com a week before the monthly meeting and thanks everyone for articles that have been sent in. He also said that the newsletter is available to other amateur radio groups to publish events as well as KARC.

g) **FCARES:** Dave VE3DZE says things are going well and that there are a number of activities lined up. They are continuing to train and experiment with their stations. He requested use of the KARC projector for their meeting on Jan 19th and was approved by Terry VE3KLG.

h) **CFARS:** Les VE3KFS reported that when satellite Anik F1 went down, CFARS was asked by the RCMP to activate in order to relay messages from the arctic. 27 operators were up within the hour.

i) **'Hearts and Flowers':** Peter Murphy VE3PJM has passed away.

j) Steve VE3KC has brought up that Ontario's 40th anniversary is coming up in a few days.

8. **Date of next meeting:** Feb 1st, 2012.

9. **Fifty fifty:** Doug VE3FFR won \$14.50.

10. **Adjournment:** Roy VE3VJF seconded by Carlyle VE3WIO, moved to adjourn. Motion carried.

Ron VE3GO did a presentation on ships and bridges of the Great Lakes using his many photographs.

Assaf VA3PCI
Secretary
Kingston Amateur Radio Club Inc.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Kingston Amateur Radio Club
Financial Statement
Jan 2012

Income

| | |
|------------|-------|
| Membership | 25.00 |
| 50/50 Draw | 14.50 |

| | |
|--------------|-------|
| Total Income | 39.50 |
|--------------|-------|

Expenses

| | |
|--|------|
| | 0.00 |
|--|------|

| | |
|----------------|------|
| Total Expenses | 0.00 |
|----------------|------|

| | |
|---------------|-------|
| Overall Total | 39.50 |
|---------------|-------|

Bank Balance
As of Jan 19, 2012

\$4,978.15

NET CONTROL SCHEDULE

| Month | Date | Controller |
|--------------|-------------|-------------------|
| December | 27 | VE3JPW Warren |
| January | 3 | VA3PCI Assaf |
| January | 10 | VE3VJF Roy |
| January | 17 | VE3CAK John |
| January | 24 | VE3DZE David |
| January | 31 | VE3JPW Warren |
| February | 7 | VE3KC Steve |
| February | 14 | VE3NFU Bill |
| February | 21 | VE3JPW Warren |
| February | 28 | VE3VJF Roy |
| March | 6 | VE3CAK John |
| March | 13 | VE3DZE David |
| March | 20 | VE3JPW Warren |
| March | 27 | VE3KC Steve |
| April | 3 | VE3NFU Bill |
| April | 10 | VA3PCI Assaf |
| April | 17 | VE3VJF Roy |
| April | 24 | VE3CAK John |
| May | 1 | VE3DZE David |
| May | 8 | VE3JPW Warren |
| May | 15 | VE3NFU Bill |
| May | 22 | VE3KC Steve |
| May | 29 | VA3PCI Assaf |
| June | 5 | VE3VJF Roy |
| June | 12 | VE3CAK John |
| June | 19 | VE3DZE David |
| June | 26 | VE3JPW Warren |

NET CONTROL SCRIPT

KARC Tuesday night net Control Script

Revised March 7, 2011

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.