

Newsletter
November
2014

Kingston Amateur Radio Club

2014 Executive



Kingston Amateur News

President: Assaf Shool, **VA3PCI**
pres at ve3kbr.com

Vice-Pres: Paul Taenzer, **VA3LX**
vicepres@ve3kbr.com

Treasurer: Steve Cutway, **VE3KC**
treas at ve3kbr.com

Secretary: Shannon Coolican, **VA3XRY**
sec at ve3kbr.com

Past-Pres: Terry Barrett, **VA3KLG**
pres at ve3kbr.com
pastpres at ve3kbr.com

2014 COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Two Metre Net Manager:
Steve Cutway, VE3KC
netmanager at ve3kbr.com

Newsletter Editor:
TBD

VE3KAR Clarendon Stn
147.090 (+) MHz

VE3KER Kingston packet
node
145.010 MHz simplex



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

VE3UEL-1 Hartington APRS
node
144.390 MHz

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Lots of fun at the KARC Barbeque

On August 9th KARC held its first BBQ in a number of years. I'm glad I had a chance to attend this and was very pleased with the great turn out of an estimated 33 people. Hamburgers, hot dogs, home-made beans made up just part of the main course. There was a scrumptious dessert table loaded with goodies, including a cheesecake I suspect someone may have traded their soul to the devil for. I may have put on about 5 pounds after the second dessert plate but it was well worth it!



Pictures courtesy of Herman VA3QX

On behalf of the club, I would like to thank Chip and Marilyn for graciously hosting this BBQ at their place. I'd also like to thank all the volunteers who helped contribute with the many logistics needed to prepare so much good food. It was great to see everyone who was able to make it to the BBQ and I hope everyone enjoyed it as much as I did!

Club Elections Coming

Club elections for executive positions are only a few months away. There will be 4 positions available: President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. Each one requires a commitment of about 3-4 hours per month.

I strongly encourage all of our members to consider becoming a part of the executive. KARC can't operate without an executive, and we very much need members who are willing to make the additional contribution. I'm looking for any volunteers who may be interested in club leadership positions to contact me, even if you just have a question.

More Options For Playing With Electronics

With consumer electronics going obsolete and getting thrown out faster than ever, every tinkerer now has more access to better and cheaper parts than ever before. Typically, the bigger more power hungry the device, the better the bounty. For example, a photocopier or plasma TV is loaded with powerful FETs, through-hole capacitors, diodes, interconnects, heat sinks and many other precious parts needed for your next creation or repair project.

Another source of bounty is the growing surplus of old DVD players and unwanted satellite receivers. Throw most of the guts away, and you get a professional-looking case with a high-quality power supply already installed for you and ready for your next project. (As a safety note, these built-in power supplies are usually not meant to be experimented with and have exposed high-voltage surfaces that are fairly lethal, so not really recommended for the beginner or anyone who isn't accustomed to working with high voltage)

Ham & Electronics Youtube Channels

Prior to the internet, if you wanted to have your own TV show, and you wanted to tackle a subject other than paternity test results or spousal fidelity, you needed to start your own community TV show. Not many people did, and the shows that were made had very limited reach and viewing audience. Thankfully, those dark days are gone now largely in part to the modern miracle of YouTube.

For us geeks, there are large number of high-quality channels made just for us. I'm going to highlight a few of these, focusing specifically on technical channels.

Alan w2aew

<https://www.youtube.com/user/w2aew>



Half-ham radio, half-electronics, Alan w2aew's channel focuses on a lot of electronic & ham topics ranging in level from beginner basics to advanced RF voodoo. Alan works as an engineer at Tektroniks and his knowledge could be considered encyclopedic in level. It's well narrated and has some really in-depth info while still being presented more like a casual video blog than a university course.



Burt k1oik

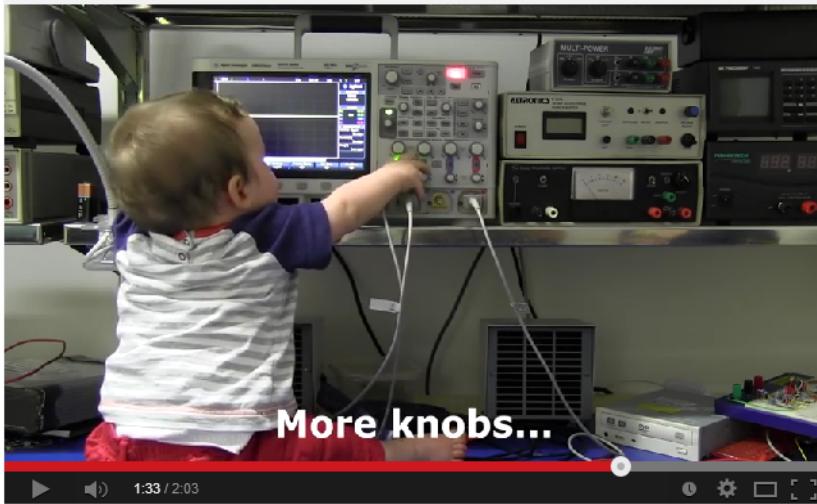
<https://www.youtube.com/user/burt2481>



A retired teacher, Burt K1OIK does equipment demos, opinion pieces and frequently travels to ham fests and other ham events. He also focuses more on operating practices than technical minutia, you won't see any 20-minute long lectures on the finer points of surface mount capacitors on this channel. Sometimes his strong opinions and dry humour touch on a few sensitive spots, and as a result not everyone in the amateur radio community is exactly in love with him. Controversy aside, his enjoyment of ham radio, extra-crusty persona and just fact the he is a bit of a peace-disturber in the ham world makes me interested in viewing.

EEVBlog

<https://www.youtube.com/user/EEVblog/>



Dave Jones' first video was a humble product review filmed with a grainy webcam. Constant improvement over 600 videos later, he is a popular and well-known youtuber in the world of electronics. Although not a ham, he does visit ham fests every once in a while and shoots video. He delivers in his own unique style, blending in a lot of his personality with off-the-cuff narration and helping make detailed technical topics that could put most of us into a deep sleep interesting and engaging.

His videos range widely from test equipment, to circuit board design, product teardowns, manufacturing facility tours, and a whole lot more related to the world of electronics. Sometimes it's just a simple video of his young toddler playing with an oscilloscope while a watchful mother stands nearby. Other times, it's an expletive-laden rant. You don't always know what to expect next, but he usually offers up something interesting.

(Please note: Pictured is not Dave Jones but rather his son)

These have been just a few channels that I like. During a future club meeting, I plan on doing a presentation on other hidden treasures for hams on YouTube including a few of my favourite video clips, so I hope to see you there!

Silent Keys

It is with sadness that I write about the passing of two former members of KARC, Heinz Doveling VE3IJA and Sherman Esliger VE3MNM. Heinz was frequently on HF and later used EchoLink to continue making contacts. Steve VE3KC described him as "a true gentle spirit". Sherman was very active in the club in the 80's and even into the 90's and was well known to long standing members of KARC. They will both be missed.

Assaf
VA3PCI

ARE YOUR USER MANUALS HANDY?

Ok, Hands up, how many have a radio or other piece of gear with all sorts of bells and whistles? Okay, out of this group, how many know how to access and configure all these bells and whistles, put your hands down. With this left over group, how many of you have your stack of user manuals beside your equipment at all times, base, portable, or mobile put your hands down.

If you are like me, the answer is no in most cases. For those whose hands are still up there is a solution. In the past I would have my manuals handy when at home but for portable and mobile stations, I rarely had ALL the equipment manuals handy. I do have my manuals and equipment notes on my laptop computer, however, if I want to change a setting on my mobile or portable station and my laptop is not with me, I have to fumble through or forget about it.

Most of us now have a smart phone, ereader, or tablet, and these are good places to have our user manuals within easy reach. Most of these smart devices have readers for PDF formatted documents. The PDF format can be read by most of the platforms out there, whether they are Apple, Android, Microsoft, etc. If you do not have a PDF reader you should be able to download one for your device

Not only do I have all my manuals including software manuals and notes on my radio desk computer and laptop, but they also reside on my ereader and phone. In the case of my phone, I have them stored on the SD card so that they do not take up room on the phone's physical storage. On my ereader I created a folder structure to keep all the manuals in one area but easy to access from the main screen.

Most manufacturers of our equipment/software have PDF formatted user manuals and other documentation on their websites available for download. I downloaded the ones I needed to my computer and then transferred the files from the computer to the ereader and phone using an USB cable.

Now I have all the information readily available on my ereader and phone no matter where I go. Although some documents are hard to read on a phone, you can zoom in on the text/diagrams to make it easier to read. Due to the small screen sizes of ereaders and phones I would not suggest trying to troubleshoot equipment using the full schematic diagrams as it would be quite easy to lose you place scrolling around.

I also have digital copies of my Amateur Radio Operator card and the Ontario Driving Distraction Law showing Amateur Radio exemption, in case I might need to show them if I get stopped for using my radio while driving. So far I have not had to do so but you never know.

I have kept this topic on Amateur Radio, however, I do have our vehicle manuals stored on the ereader and phone as well. The only limitation is the amount of storage room you have on your device.

Hopefully you put your hands down when you got past the first paragraph, if not you may put your hands down. No computers, ereaders, or phones were harmed during the writing of this article. Any Trademarks, Copyrights belong to their respective owners.

Cliff 'Chip' Chapman, VA3KGB

MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE KINGSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 1 OCT 2014 AT SMITTY'S

The Kingston Amateur Radio Club meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by our president Assaf VA3PCI.

1. The members present introduced themselves. There were 15 members in attendance.

2. Additions to the Agenda:

- a) Special Event Callsign
- b) Amateur Radio Station @ The Museum: Les VE3KFS reports that the station is being located to a new corner and co-ax cables, telephone and data are being installed. The setup will be similar to the one at the center of the museum and will also provide service as a CFARS gateway.

3. **October Treasurer's Report:** Steve VE3KC reports we spent no money in September nor did we take any money in except 11 cents in interest. Closing balance with dividends and equities for a total \$6926.08. Steve motioned to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Chip VA3KGB. Motion carried.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes:

- a) Yearly Membership Fees: Did not change from last meeting
- b) Special Events Callsign: A special event station to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Sir John A. MacDonald birth. There is a fee associated with of \$60 to obtain a callsign from Industry Canada. Steve motioned the club pay this fee, seconded by Andy VE3FYA. Motion carried.

5. New Business:

- a) **Business:** Assaf VA3PCI talks about club activity & participation. He says that social events seem to attract the greatest interest and turnout, however overall participation is declining. Steve VE3KC said that many clubs are in decline across the country. Discussion followed and many members shared ideas and other thoughts as to the future of the club.

6. Reports:

- a) **Net Manager:** Steve VE3KC thanks all controllers who helped keep the net alive. Checkins ranged from 8 to 11, net duration was from 23 to 43 minutes in length. He says if you do hear silence during the normal net times, any ham can jump in and control the net. He says that overall interest in the net seems to be increasing. Assaf thanks Steve for his report but calls him Chip.
- b) **Web Page:** Chip VA3KGB has been making regular updates to it. Members wishing to send file attachments may use the built-in forum.

c) **CFARS:** Les VE3KFS says he gave a briefing to the Summerside radio club on CFARS and a short seminar on RMS Express (packet email software). He says he is available to provide information on RMS Express to any who is interested. CFARS membership and the number of gateways are continuing to grow.

d) **Repeaters:** Claringdon repeater VE3KAR has been offline, Don VE3MNE and David VE3DZE picked up the repeater and Don will repair it. We don't know at this point what is the fault. Les VE3KFS says the site now hosts VE3UDO-7, a packet repeater and is operational. The VE3KBR repeater, IRLP and EchoLink all appear to be operating properly.

7. **Date of next meeting:** 5 November 2014 7PM at Smitty's.

8. No 50/50 draw this meeting

9. Assaf VA3PCI gave an interesting and informative presentation on Digital Oscilloscopes.

Minutes by:

Assaf VA3PCI

Kingston Amateur Radio Club Inc.

AGENDA - 5 NOV 2014

1. Members and Guests introduce themselves
2. Additions to the Agenda
3. Minutes of the last Meeting: errors/omissions/approval
4. Treasurer's Report (Steve VE3KC)
5. New Business:
 - a. Upcoming Club Elections
6. Business arising from the minutes:
 - a. Special Event Callsign
 - b. VE3KAR update
7. Reports:
 - a. Net Manager (Steve VE3KC)
 - b. CFARS (Les VE3KFS)
 - c. "Hearts and Flowers"
 - d. Other Reports
8. Date of next meeting: 03 December 2014
8. 50 / 50 Draw
9. Adjournment
10. Presentation: Carlyle VE3WIO on his "Hex Beam" antenna

NET CONTROL SCHEDULE

Date Controller

October 28 VE3JPW Warren

November 4 VE3KGC Larissa

November 11 VA3MHB Matthew

November 18 VA3PCI Assaf

November 25 VE3WIO Carlyle

December 2 VE3CAK John

December 9 VE3DZE David

December 16 VE3JPW Warren

December 23 VE3KC Steve

December 30 VE3KGC Larissa

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.