

Newsletter
November
2015

Kingston Amateur Radio Club

2015 Executive



Kingston Amateur News

VE3KAR Clarendon Stn
147.090 (+) Mhz
(non operational)

VE3KER Kingston packet
node
145.070 MHz simplex



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

VE3UEL Hartington APRS
node
144.390 MHz

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

I'm sure glad I got most of the antenna work done before the weather changed. But thanks to an innovation suggested at the October meeting by Jim VE3HOV, 'Haves and wants', I now have more antenna work to do.

Jim brought us the suggestion that, at the conclusion of the meeting we go round the room and ask members if there is gear or information they'd like or gear they'd like to give away or sell. Dave VE3DLF mention that he was aware of an interesting antenna for sale. Now I have a new antenna project to complete; hopefully before the snow comes.

Thanks Jim for a great idea that we'll carry forward into future meetings.

There's been another good idea that's been circulating during the Saturday morning coffees at the Star Diner that I'd like to bring to the club meeting in November.

Earlier this year, Carlyle VE3WIO, gave us a presentation on software solutions for station remote control over the Internet. That's gotten a number of us thinking about establishing a KARC remote station as a club project. I look forward to exploring this further and seeing where takes us.

This month where again privileged to welcome Cezar VE3LYC to tell us about his recent IOTA Dxpedition to Melville Island NA-248 in Canada's high arctic. Thanks Cezar for putting this remote Island On The Air for us!

I look forward to seeing you all at our next club meeting on Wednesday November 4th at Smitty's Restaurant on Princess Street.

vy 73s,

Paul
VA3LX

DX NEWS

As expected, things are looking up on the low bands! I'm sure glad I reconditioned that multiband vertical last summer.

Here are some of the highlights of upcoming DX extracted the DX World - www.dx-world.net and from NG3K's website - www.ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html.

Madagascar - 5R8IC - will be active from November 1 to December 12 on 40 through 10 m with QSLing via LOTW.

Several other African DXCC entities will also be active during November: Kenya – 5Z4HW from November 4-18; Equatorial Guinea – 3C7GIA from November 12-23 and Rwanda – 9X0NH from November 18 through December 2.

There will also be many operations from the Caribbean, many of whom will QSL through LOTW if you'd prefer not to pay postage and get a paper card.

QSLing is of course an important topic for active DXers. My preference has become LOTW – logbook of the world – that is. However, not everybody uses LOTW; so the "traditional methods" are still very valuable. Here are a couple of links with suggestions for successful QSLing:

www.ncdxc.org/presentations/2012/K6YP-Successful%20QSLing.pdf

<http://www.dxer.org/qsl101.html>

Good DX to you all

Vy 73s

de Paul
VA3LX

MARITIME MONITORING

By Ron Walsh VE3GO

Marine Radio Technology Sails On

(Originally appeared in October 2015 edition of The Spectrum Monitor, reprinted with permission)

I was just checking my July column about the consolidation of the US and Canadian Coast Guard radio stations when I remembered the end of VBH Kingston when it was joined with VDQ Cardinal radio. I also remember being at home and hearing the end of VDQ Cardinal Radio as it was consolidated into VBR Prescott Coast Guard Radio. They consolidated VBG Toronto as well. Towers at Font-hill, Trafalgar, Coburg, Orillia on Lake Simcoe, Kingston, Cardinal and Cornwall were now all remotely operated from

Prescott. They stated that a tower would be constructed in Gananoque to fill in a dead spot. This has been done to complete the 8 remote sites for Prescott. What I could not believe is that the announcement was made on the air in March of 1995. The station was officially opened on July 7, 1995. The passing of 20 years seems like only yesterday. The advances in marine radio communications continue to come. In early September, AIS maps near the Mackinaw Bridge began receiving synthetic AIS Aids to Navigation. These are believed to be the first such aids on the Great Lakes. There is no AIS onboard the buoys, but a virtual signal is sent from a nearby AIS station. The details of these AIS ATON stations are in the following Notice to Mariners.

“Straits of Mackinac - DeTour Passage to Au Goshance Point - Chart 14881. The following aids to navigation are scheduled to become Synthetic AIS ATON beginning late summer 2015. Synthetic AIS ATON is a signal broadcast from an AIS base station to coincide with an existing physical aid to navigation.

During periods when the aids are decommissioned for the season as advertised in the light list, these aids will become Virtual AIS ATON. Virtual AIS ATON is a signal broadcast from an AIS base station that is electronically charted, but non-existent as a physical aid to navigation.”

Mackinac Bridge Lighted Bell Buoy “1” (LLNR 12625)

Mackinac Bridge Lighted Gong Buoy “2” (LLNR 12630)

Mackinac Bridge Lighted Bell Buoy “3” (LLNR 12645)

Mackinac Bridge Lighted Gong Buoy “4” (LLNR 12650)

The US CG also identified 26 aids in the Little River and Winyah Bay area that had been equipped with AIS AtoN signals. On August 10, 2015 the USCG began AIS Application Specific Message (AIS-AMS) testing. Attached is the Notice to Mariners.

For AIS Users:

“On August 10, 2015, the U.S. Coast Guard will begin AIS Application Specific Message (AIS-ASM) testing. The test transmissions will occur between 0001-2359Z, 7 days/week. The test messages can be identified by their Maritime Mobile Service (MMSI) number: 300669139 or 00366613 and by the words ‘USCG TEST’ within the contents of the message.

Mariners are requested to contact the USCG Navigation Center at 1-703-313-5900 or TIS-PF-NISWS@uscg.mil with any questions, comments, or to report any safety and/or operational impacts caused by this testing. Application Specific Messages to be tested include: messages 6, 8, 25, and 26, DAC=367, FI's=22, 29, 33, 35; AIS Safety Related Text (SRM) messages: 8 (DAC=001, FI=0) and 14. The messages will be of various lengths, using repetitions of the text "USCG TEST".

For further information on AIS messages, DACs, and FI's visit <http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/?pageName=AISMessages>." (5th District LNM Week 31/2015)

The USCG also announced that the GPS Navigation Signal might be unreliable due to testing on GPS frequencies used by shipboard navigation and handheld systems that rely on GPS such as E-9112, AIS and DSC. This would be in a radius of 14.35 nautical miles from the Pautuxent Naval Air Station testing Center. Tests were to be conducted throughout the month of September.

It has been proposed that the Differential GPS System Coverage be reduced. The U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U. S. Department of Transportation seek comment on a proposal to reduce coverage provided by the Nationwide Differential Global Positioning System (NDGPS). The proposal calls for the shutdown and decommissioning of 62 NDGPS sites, leaving 22 operational sites available to users in coastal areas. Termination of the NDGPS broadcasts at these sites is slated for January 15, 2016. Any comments about this are to be received by November 16, 2015. It seems that like Loran, a "new" technology slowly fades into history. I guess it is no surprise that a visit to the local Costco store showed they did not have one music CD for sale. I guess time does march on! Tom and Mel Neale's East Coast Report is a great source for this information.

Locally, the number of people who are buying DSC marine radios has increased significantly and I hear the Canadian Power and Sail Squadron is doing a lot of license up-grades involving DSC. However, our local source for marine material is disappearing as West Marine is leaving Canada. I am also amazed at the number of pleasure craft that now have AIS aboard (www.marinetraffic.com is a good reference for AIS data from around the world). I was interested to see that some LF beacon frequencies are still listed for the Canadian Coast Guard and some coast -al vessels. I found them when searching the Industry Canada Database. I found 410 kHz listed, with cw markers, for the following coast guard vessels:

VE Sir William Alexander	WF Des Grosseilliers
WV Earl Grey	WW Edward Cornwallis
XF George R. Peakes	XB Sir Wilfred Grenfell
XF Griffon	XV Henry Larsen
YX Louis St. Laurent	ZA Martha L. Black
ZG Pierre Radisson	ZK Amundsen
ZQ Sir Wilfred Laurier	

Also coast vessels Mattea, Kometik and Vineland 413 kHz was listed for: Eckaloo, Leonard J. Cowley, Dumit and Namidik.

I also found 413 kHz listed for the Atlantic Hawk, Atlantic Eagle and Maersk Norseman. I would like to know if these frequencies are being still used. The Griffon works in Lake Erie over the winter and the Martha L. Black is often up here in the spring. I would appreciate any loggings from the east and west coast.

Again I have listings in the HF marine bands for the Canadian Coast Guard Vessels. The CCGC Terry FOX has a multitude of marine HF frequencies listed for it. I have not had any reports of activity there. I note 4125 listed for several ships. I am still looking for reports on 4041.4 on Sable Island and 4.174.4 as well as 5271.4 kHz for some shipping lines in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Also, a reminder that the Canadian arctic Coast Guard stations will soon be closing for the season so listen for them now. The VHF bands are used to alert boaters when there are dredging and construction operations. They often use channels 16 and 13. However, I did notice that channel 81A was used in some areas. That is a Coast Guard frequency in our area. Again, watch the marine VHF channels as coast guard aircraft show up there on occasion. I have heard USCG on 21A and a Transport Canada plane doing pollution checks this summer. The Transport Canada plane was having a serious conversation with one vessel in the Seaway.

I have been monitoring the local VHF channels and the St. Lawrence Seaway web site to keep track of the cruise ships that venture into the Great Lakes this year. The Pearl Mist and Hamburg are now touring but I have not been able to catch them in the daylight. The St. Laurent has been re-paired and is back on her Great Lake runs. In fact, she was in Kingston two days ago.



Port Colborne Coast Guard Auxiliary vessel.



Algoma Equinox at Iroquois Lock.

I did catch the Algoma Equinox at the Iroquois Lock of the Seaway and at Mariatown, near Morrisburg. This was just after the television program Mighty Ships did a one-hour documentary on her. I also got to visit Port Colborne and did get some great photos there. You can still get close to the ships around lock 8 of the Welland Canal. Channel 14 and 11 give you the ship traffic. Channel 17 gives you up bound communications with the individual locks while channel 66A is used for down bound vessels at the locks. A handheld radio is all you need to hear the traffic.

October will bring the start of the heavy weather season on the lakes with November usually being the worst month. We can expect many gale warnings and a few storm warnings here. I am sure my weather radio will give me some alerts and the marine channels will have a number of advisories. We had several waterspout advisories during the hot weather this summer. Predictions are for a temperate winter but I have winter birds arriving here now. That is very early indeed. I wonder what is really in store. There will no doubt be some kind of incident, which will delay traffic in the system. We will also get water level warnings. The effect, called a seiche, will pile up water at one end of the lakes, particularly shallow Lake Erie, and thus cause low water levels at the other end of the lake. This is a result of sustained winds and air pressure differences.

Hurricane season along the coasts has so far seen little landfall so far. Let us hope this continues. The tenth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina makes everyone stop and think. The Hurricane Watch Net on 14 325 kHz USB has not been very active. However their web site, www.hwn.org , is great for forecasts, graphics etc.

My own radio shack has been disassembled and moved to a small room on a lower level of our split-level house. I am now looking at 300 feet of RG213U cable that has to be cut, fitted with PL259 connectors, and run through my garage to the shack. My R-8 vertical has a new matchbox and new guys. I have a trap dipole to go up for 80 meters and shortwave listening. My VHF packet station is running and I will soon have a newer computer on that for digital operations, logs etc. I also want it for computer programming of two handheld and a mobile. I also want to program my FT897 by computer. This location is quite good for a radio shack. I have rearranged shelves for easier operation and picked up an Icom 706 MKII for portable operations and backup. My new Ford Escape will soon have the mobile radio in it. My shack has been down for most of the summer but will be back in operation soon. I am suffering from a lack of HF radio and CW. I am looking forward to listening to some of the frequencies listed in Hugh Stegman's listing.

I hope everyone has good DX.



Port Colborne pilot boat, large yacht Unity and vessels awaiting scrapping at Port Colborne. Large Yacht Unity entering the canal. Never know who is aboard these expensive yachts.



Lock 8 bridge lifting for the Algolake.

MEETING MINUTES

KARC General Meeting Minutes

October 7th 2015

12 members were present

Amendments to agenda:

- dues
- insurance
- repeater
- haves & wants

Minutes - as published in the last newsletter. Motion to by Paul (VA3LX), Assaf (VE3PCI) seconded. Motion carried

Treasurer report - as published in the last newsletter. Motion to accept the report by Doug (VE3FFR), seconded by Andy (VE3FYA). Motion carried

Builders group - will just get started and let the club know when activities get planned.

Les, VE3KFS, mentioned: in 2018 we will lose the ability to operate our radios while driving a vehicle. Has any research been done into a universal (works with all radios) hands-free solution? An item for future discussion.

Freelist – Steve, VE3KC, reiterated that the "gibberish" emails received by the Freelist all originate as HTML formatted emails sent by Windows Live Mail. If Windows Live Mail users ensure their messages are sent as Plain Text messages they seem to go through all right but not as HTML. Steve is considering whether the list may move from Freelist to another server (such as one of those run by QSL.net) in future.

Repeater update - No news is good news. The tower work is done and it appears that some equipment has been (re)installed, but not all. Since the city is changing over to digital, they apparently have forgotten to apply for frequency allocations from Industry Canada, so the holdup is waiting for the frequency approvals and assignments so that the cavities can be appropriately tuned. Thus there is no concrete timeline on the install/restoral. Once the go-ahead is received and the (re)installation resumes, the antennas for the higher frequencies will be installed first which means ours will be the last one up.

Insurance – Steve, VE3KC, has received the forms from RAC. There is no change except that Steve doesn't know what formula RAC uses (because they won't share their formula). Normally a club just applies for insurance and then receives an invoice from RAC. Last year, the invoice we got was incorrect and we questioned it, and then got the corrected invoice afterwards. Steve wondered how many clubs just over- or underpaid without questioning their invoices. And Steve cannot understand why this is the only type of insurance that does not automatically renew, or provide their rates up front, rather requiring multiple pages of annual re-application. Steve is wondering whether there is an alternative, perhaps local, to RAC insurance. Steve will explore local and/or alternative options, such as the local commercial insurance that the Brockville club uses.

CFARS – Les, VE3KFS, reported that everything's in a holding pattern right now. Only Ex NOBLE SKYWAVE is running coming up later this month, and teams from Kingston will be operating from Les' QTH. Les will send a note to the Freelist with the dates and details if anyone wishes to stop by to visit during the exercise.

Community Acknowledgments - Paul would like to acknowledge the Frontenac Radio Group for their awesome cooperation in continuing to allow us the use of their repeater. Andy, VE3FYA, suggested that once our own KBR repeater is finally back on air, perhaps KARC might wish to make a tangible token of appreciation to FRG.

Next meeting Date: November 4th 2015

Jim, VE3HOV moved to adjourn, Assaf, VE3PCI, seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 1940.

Presentation by Jim VE3DLF about model aircraft.

AGENDA - 4 NOV 2015

1. Members and guests introduce themselves
2. Additions to the agenda
3. Minutes of the October meeting:
4. Treasurer's Report (Doug VE3FFR)
5. Business arising from the minutes:
 - a. Update on archives project
 - b. Follow-up on Fall projects discussion (Peter VE3POA)
 - c. Website and Freelist Yahoo update
 - d. Update on VE3KBR site construction
6. New Business:
 - a. Possibility of developing a KARC HF remote station
 - b. KARC officer election nominating committee and elections in December
 - c. Other
7. Reports:
 - a. Net Manager (Larissa VE3KGC)
 - b. CFARS – (Les VE3KFS)
 - c. "Hearts and Flowers"
 - d. Community acknowledgments
 - e. Other Reports
8. Haves and wants
9. Date of next meeting: December 2, 2015
10. 50 / 50 Draw
11. Adjournment
11. Presentation:

Cezar VE3LYC – What's new in IOTA program and his recent DXpedition to Melville Island

FINANCIAL REPORT

Kingston Amateur Radio Club

Financial Statement

October 26, 2015

	Opening Balance
Cooperation Plus	6823.14
Course 2015	750.00
Dividend Savings	24.13
Equity Shares	261.62
Total	7858.89
	Income
Int Oct	.06
	Expenditures
Room Rental Course 2015	195.52
	Closing Balance
Cooperation Plus	6627.62
Course 2015	750.00
Dividend Savings	24.13
Equity Shares	261.62
Total	7663.37

NET CONTROL SCHEDULE

Date	Controller
January 6	VE3KGC Larissa
January 13	VA3PCI Assaf
January 20	VE3WIO Carlyle
January 27	VE3CAK John
February 3	VE3DZE David
February 10	VE3JPW Warren
February 17	VE3KGC Larissa
February 24	VA3MHB Matthew
March 3	VA3PCI Assaf
March 10	VE3WIO Carlyle
March 17	VE3CAK John
March 24	VE3DZE David
March 31	VE3JPW Warren
April 7	VE3KC Steve
April 14	VE3KGC Larissa
April 21	VA3MHB Matthew
April 28	VA3PCI Assaf
May 5	VE3WIO Carlyle
May 12	VE3CAK John
May 19	VE3DZE David
May 26	VE3JPW Warren
June 2	VE3KC Steve
June 9	VE3KGC Larissa
June 16	VA3MHB Matthew
June 23	VA3PCI Assaf
June 30	VE3WIO Carlyle
July 7	VE3CAK John
July 14	VE3DZE David
July 21	VE3JPW Warren
July 28	VE3KC Steve
August 4	VE3KGC Larissa
August 11	VA3MHB Matthew
August 18	VA3PCI Assaf
August 25	VE3WIO Carlyle
September 1	VE3CAK John
September 8	VE3DZE David
September 15	VE3JPW Warren
September 22	VE3KC Steve
September 29	VE3KGC Larissa
October 6	VA3MHB Matthew
October 13	VA3PCI Assaf
October 20	VE3WIO Carlyle
October 27	VE3CAK John
November 3	VE3DZE David
November 10	VE3JPW Warren

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.