

# KINGSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

Founded in 1947

October 2018

## ***Executive Committee***

### **President**

Larissa Reise, VE3KGC

pres@ve3kbr.com

### **Vice President**

Brian Hopkins, VA3BAH

vicepres@ve3kbr.com

### **Treasurer**

Douglas Richards, VE3FFR

treas@ve3kbr.com

### **Secretary**

Chip Chapman, VA3KGB

sec@ve3kbr.com

## ***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***

### **VHF Net Manager**

Steve Cutway, VE3KC

netmanager@ve3kbr.com

### **HF Net Manager**

David Wendt, VE3EAC

### **Membership Manager**

Steve Cutway, VE3KC

<http://www.ve3kbr.com>



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

It seems like just yesterday the snow was melting and we were anticipating fair weather, yet now the weather has definitely become cooler and the trees are starting to consider changing into their colourful autumn pyjamas. Of course, that can mean only one thing - blustering antenna-repair weather! (Just kidding, ...mostly)

The regular meetings have resumed again, and I'm pleased to see that attendance has been consistent all year. The Tuesday Night Net continues to collect check-ins, too, although the beloved and much-anticipated Swap Shop still requires a new custodian since Ron VE3GO now has conflicting commitments.

I have to confess I haven't been involving myself too much in radio-related things lately; however, since I'm slated to provide an amateur radio presence for some Cubs and Scouts during the upcoming annual Jamboree on the Air (JOTA), I'm starting to get more excited about the possibilities and looking forward to what my station will look like. I operate in the field, completely portable in a similar fashion to emergency communications, running on generator power under tents. In the past I've had 2 HF, 1 VHF and 2 Internet stations (for the "Jamboree on the Internet", or JOTI, setup) in place simultaneously. It's an interesting time, and some of the kids really don't want to put the mic down! (future hams, perhaps?)

I invite you to submit stories, photos, or even just amusing musings on what you've been up to lately. I enjoy reading about the adventures of my fellow local hams and I'm sure I'm not the only one who does!.

## Stormy Weather and Changing Times

UR3IDD de VE3GO, 599, op is RON, bk.

It was nice to have an hf antenna back up and work a marine mobile, on cw, for the first time in a while. He told a previous contact he was at 25N, 97W and his web page showed him on the MV Margaretha. This reminded me that the hurricane season is upon us and I should be monitoring the Hurricane Watch net on 14.325 and 7.268 MHz. Hurricane Florence has become such a large storm and evacuation of the US east coast are necessary. Having been a visitor to Myrtle Beach, SC for many years, I hope that all my friends there, along with those in Wilmington, NC, are safe and have little or no damage. I know it dates me speaking of the 1950's Hurricane Hazel but one must respect these incredible storms. I monitor the emergency nets and will provide any assistance, relay or traffic handling that I can. It is important as these events can cause problems in Southern Ontario. Hurricane Gordon's remains dropped a lot of rain in northern New York and Southern Ontario recently. I have seen the effects in Myrtle Beach and also New York City of direct hits from a hurricane. As we approach the famous gales of November here on the Great Lakes monitoring the radio frequencies becomes important. We have also had a test of the issuing of weather alerts on our television stations here. It has had some glitches but is being improved rapidly.

We have had a lot of storms in this region this summer. The high heat and humidity have caused many thunderstorms and a lot of them have become severe. We have had a lot of warnings on the weather radio including one tornado watch for our area. We had no tornadoes here but there were two within the region that touched down. Lake Ontario had waterspout warnings and there were several tornados reported in the Montreal, QC area. The high temperatures and unsettled weather lead to many inversions on the vhf marine frequencies. The last one showed all the 7 weather radio frequencies as active and on three two stations were interfering with each other. Both of the Canadian marine weather broadcast channels could be heard here when I usually only hear one. Marine stations from the Welland Canal, Newcastle, Iroquois and the Eisenhower lock were also heard. I was copying ships across most of Lake Ontario. The local two meter frequencies had repeaters from Ottawa, ON and Syracuse, NY showing up on them. As stated in many articles, the Environment Canada / NOAA weather channels are the best predictor of inversions. This is also a good reason to keep your old analog scanner for marine monitoring.

I also heard the local Amherst Island Ferry contact their local fire department on 154.16 MHz during an emergency issue. A reminder to check the emergency service frequencies in your area during marine incidents as there may be related traffic.

One of the good sources of information on maritime issues is Tom and Mel Neale's East Coast Bulletins. They give a lot of navigational information as well as changes to the marine electronic and communications world.

One item has been the AIS on actual and virtual navigational aids. It was unusual to see the AIS on some aids being turned off as this notice shows:

**AIS Discontinued, Ocean City Inlet:**

The Automatic Identification System (AIS) on the following buoys has been turned off.

Ocean City Inlet Lighted Buoy 8 (LLNR 4745), (MMSI) 993672676 in approximate position 38-19-24.780N 075-05-24.510W.

Ocean City Inlet Lighted Buoy 10 (LLNR 4750), (MMSI) 993672677 in approximate position 38-19-27.923N 075-05-30.310W.

Ocean City Inlet Junction Buoy OC (LLNR 4753), (MMSI) 993672678 in approximate position 38-19-35.064N 075-05-34.620W.

Ocean City Inlet Lighted Buoy 11 (LLNR 4755), (MMSI) 993672679 in approximate position 38-19-36.367N, 075-05-42.67 W.

Ocean City Inlet Lighted Buoy 12 (LLNR 4757), (MMSI) 993672680 in approximate position 38-19-38.978N, 075-05-47.019W.

*(5th District LNM Week 22/2018)*

The testing of these aids is ongoing and has reached several regions as the following announcements indicate:

**Synthetic Electronic Aids to Navigation Test, South Florida:**

U. S. Coast Guard Sector Miami is conducting a three day test of Synthetic Electronic Aids to Navigation that will be transmitting via the Automatic Identification System. This test will begin at 0800 on August 17 of and end at 0800 on August 20, 2018. Mariners equipped with AIS will see numerous Aids to Navigation being displayed on their integrated electronic navigation systems. If mariners do not wish to display these electronic synthetic aids to navigation, they should turn off Message 21 on their AIS systems. In the future, Coast Guard Sector Miami plans to turn on the Electronic Aids to Navigation via AIS once a Hurricane Warning is issued for their AOR and will secure this system once it is determined the Aids to Navigation system is made post storm. Please contact CWO4 Robert Wooten at (305) 535-4311 or via email at [robert.a.wooten@uscg.mil](mailto:robert.a.wooten@uscg.mil) with any suggestions, comments, or concerns about this test. *(7th District LNM Week 30/2018)*

**Virtual Electronic Aids to Nav AIS Test, Georgia Coast:**

The U.S. Coast Guard will be conducting a 60 day test of Virtual Electronic Aids to Navigation that will be transmitting via the Automatic Identification System (AIS). The test will begin at 0800 Tuesday September 4, 2018 and end at 0800 Monday November 5, 2018. The test will include 10 Virtual Electronic Aids to Navigation marking the new proposed Savannah River Entrance Channel. Mariners equipped with AIS will see these aids being displayed on their integrated electronic navigation systems. If mariners do not wish to display these Virtual Electronic Aids to Navigation, they should turn off Message 21 on their AIS systems. Once this test is completed, feedback gathered will be used to determine if some of these Virtual Aids to Navigation will be activated when the new channel is completely operational. Please contact Mr. A. Mark Engle at 305-415-6755 or via email at [Andrew.m.engle@uscg.mil](mailto:Andrew.m.engle@uscg.mil) with any suggestions, comments, and concerns about this test. *(5th District LNM Week 35/2018)*

There was also a notice that the GPS signal may be unreliable in certain areas. This is not the first time this has been mentioned and navigators should be cautious as this fact.

**GPS Testing, May be Unreliable, Offshore Brunswick, GA:**

The GPS Navigation signal may be unreliable due to testing on GPS frequencies used by shipboard navigation and handheld system. Systems that rely on GPS, such as E-911, AIS and DSC, may be affected at an approximate testing center point of 31° 12' 30N 79° 58' 30W, with a possible impact radius of 125NM from center point. GPS testing is scheduled to be conducted on 02 September 2018 (1600Z-2100Z). More information is available at the Coast Guard Navigation Center website: [www.navcen.uscg.gov](http://www.navcen.uscg.gov). During this period, GPS users are encouraged to report any GPS service outages that they may experience to the Navigation Information Service (NIS) by calling (703) 313-5900 or by using the NAVCEN website to submit a GPS problem report. *(5th District LNM Week 35/2018)*

This is an indicator of the many new digital items coming on the vhf marine frequencies. There is an AIS buoy in our area being tested. New towers have been installed at the VBR Prescott Coast Guard Radio remote site near Kingston indicating new services are in the offing.

Time does march on and some services are being relegated to history. The Loran station in Northern New York State is one of those that has been discontinued in recent years. I have used the MultiPSK program in the past to listen to the differential lf signals sent out near here. GPS errors have been greatly reduced as of late and this bulletin shows another service will soon disappear.

## **Differential GPS to be Discontinued:**

The Maritime Differential GPS system was established in the late 1980s to augment the existing GPS signal with accuracy corrections and integrity monitoring. This augmentation signal was broadcast over Medium Frequency from terrestrial broadcast sites. At the time, the publicly available GPS signal was intentionally degraded through Selective Availability (SA), and thus augmentation was necessary to meet minimum requirements for maritime positioning and navigation. Selective Availability was permanently discontinued in 2000, and as system technology has improved, observed positional accuracy for un-augmented GPS consistently meets requirements for harbor/harbor-approach navigation on modern GPS receivers. The USCG has continued assessments and outreach affirming that the positional accuracy provided by un-augmented GPS and GPS augmented by the U.S. Wide Area Augmentation System (WAAS) is sufficient to meet its mission requirements and navigational safety requirements for harbor approaches.

In accordance with the DGPS Discontinuance Federal Register Notice, the following DGPS site will cease broadcast on 30 September 2018:

This also reminds me that I would hope the readers will sign the petitions to keep WWV and WWVH on the air. I still find them useful and would hate to see them go silent. They are great propagation predictors among other uses. I have also written my member of parliament to help avoid any similar action to CHU.

As we rely on many new electronic devices the prospect of RF interference becomes important. We all know to check our computers that now populate the radio shack for many uses. I have had a great deal of interference here including a nearby plasma television that sends out incredible signals on hf. Hopefully it will die and a new LED set will be purchased. I recently purchased a new LED set and have no problems with it. However, even the LED lightbulb has come under scrutiny. I have purchased some and tested them for interference before leaving them in use. I was looking at some brand name ones recently that came from a United States supplier. They said that the bulbs conformed to FCC requirements and should not create interference in a proper installation. However, it said that it might still create radio communication interference even in such an installation. I am surprised at the amount of interfering signals on the vhf frequencies. The United States Coast Guard is warning mariners about the use of LED lightbulbs and possible rf interference to marine radio and electronics. The following bulletin has been issued:

With their low battery draw, cooler operation and sturdy construction, LED lights have been popular with recreational boaters. The lights may also be causing poor VHF radio and Automatic Identification System (AIS) reception, according to a [Marine Safety Alert](#) issued by the U.S. Coast Guard on August 15. The [BoatUS](#)

[Foundation](#) for Boating Safety and Clean Water is urging boat owners to follow the Coast Guard's simple test procedures for LED interference and report any instances to the Coast Guard Navigation Center.

The alert, issued for informational purposes, outlines reports received from mariners concerning radio frequency interference caused by LED lamps that "were found to create potential safety hazards." In some cases, the Coast Guard says, the interference may cause problems if mariners need to call for help. The interference can affect VHF voice communications as well as Digital Selective Calling (DSC) messages, and it may also affect AIS because they also use VHF radio. In particular, masthead LED navigation lights on sailboats may cause problems due to their close proximity to antennas.

The Coast Guard advises that it is possible to test for the presence of LED interference by using the following procedures:

1. Turn off LED light(s).
2. Tune the VHF radio to a quiet channel (for example, channel 13).
3. Adjust the VHF radio's squelch control until the radio outputs audio noise.
4. Re-adjust the VHF radio's squelch control until the audio noise is quiet, only slightly above the noise threshold.
5. Turn on the LED light(s).

If the radio now outputs audio noise, then the LED lights are causing interference and it is likely that both shipboard VHF marine radio and AIS reception are being degraded by LED lighting. Potential solutions include contacting an electronics repair facility to address the problem, changing the LED bulb to incandescent bulb or fixture, or increasing the separation between the LED light and antenna.

I guess we must all be alert to the things causing rf interference and be thankful we have a noise blunker, filters and DSP. I have been checking my house lately to remove anything I can that is interfering. Some noisy power adapters for a radio or two have been replaced by power from my 12 volt power supplies. The adapters that turn 12 volt cigarette lighter sockets into USB power sources and those in power bars etc are a real source of noise as well. I am checking the inverter built into my car too.

My antenna rebuilding was delayed due to a large tree that had to come down and another that had to be trimmed. No sense putting antennas up and the taking them down for this operation. Also the tree was an anchor for one of my vertical guy ropes and as such a new design had to be set up. Ice load and a broken guy rope had allowed the R-8 to sway in heavy spring storms and it broke near the base. I must say that antenna has been up for several years and survived a lot of winter weather and ice / snow loads. New stronger guys ropes are also in the works. This delay did allow some cable checking and replacing. My new multiband dipole is up and

considering the small lot we have it does well. The R-8 will also let me use 30 metres and 6 metres to complete my station. I am being dragged into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and FT8 will soon be activated here. I suppose I will have to include an electronic log after 46 years on paper logging. I am looking forward to checking out some digital marine radio and the many frequencies listed by Hugh Stegman in his utility column. I hope to provide some loggings. However with a SN of 0 today there is little to listen to.

Monitoring the marine radio has also allowed me to catch two ships on their first trip to the Great Lakes . The McKeil Spirit was photographed on her first trip to Picton to load cement. I also recently photographed the NACC Argonaut on her first trip to Bath to load cement. These vessels are converted ocean vessels and took the place of some aging cement carriers that are now at the Port Colborne scrap yard ready to be cut up or as the sailors say “made into razor blades.” I also just photographed the Cedarglen at the Iroquois lock of the Seaway. She is an older vessel made up of the stern of an ocean vessel and a new lake ship body. She is nearing the end of her life and sister ships have already been scrapped. I used a photograph of the Manitoba in my last column and she has just recently left Montreal under tow of the tug Ocean Delta for the scrap yard in Aliaga Turkey. Radio monitoring also indicated this is the last trip for that tug as she will probably also be scrapped at the end of this journey.

Reports of snow in western Alberta have reminded me to get on with the antenna work as the annual rush to get out of the Great Lakes will be over when I do my next column. Time and the seasons do march on!



*I the old ocean ship stern of the Cedarglen.*



*2Cedarglen in the Iroquois lock of the Seaway.*



3NACC Argonaut on first trip to Bath for load of cement.



*4NACC Argonaut bow showing the ocean style bow.*



5Cedarglen approaching the Iroquois lock of the Seaway.



6 The metal above water gets hot and the metal below water stays cold. Thus the top expands and the ship bends so the bow and stern go deeper than allowed. Decks are cooled so the ship stays on an even keel.



**“Ohhh... YOU thought I was a radiologist! No,  
I’m a radio-ologist! I repair radios!”**

## MEETING MINUTES

Kingston Amateur Radio Club

### Minutes of the Meeting

4 September 2018

Held at Smitty's Restaurant

Kingston, Ontario

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by the President Larissa, VE3KGC.
2. There were 15 members and guests present.
3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:
  - a. It was moved by Chip, VA3KGB, and seconded by Doug, VE3FFR, that the minutes of the May meeting be approved as posted in the September Newsletter.
  - b. Carried
4. Treasurer's Report:
  - a. It was moved by Doug, VE3FFR, and seconded by Pieter, VE3NXE, that the Financial Report be approved as posted in the September Newsletter with the correction that the Opening Balance Total should read \$5,658.40 instead of \$6,129.30.
  - b. Carried.
5. Old Business:
  - a. KARC Logo Items :
    - i. Greg, VE3PJ, gave an update. Digitizing set up would be \$20.00. Blue hats with logo will be \$18.25 each based on an order of 1 – 10 hats. Greg will post order request on the Google Groups List.
  - b. Weather Watch Net Controllers:
    - i. Ron, VE3GO, would like to see the VE3KBR repeater monitored during severe weather, accidents, power outages, so that information can be passed on to Amateurs and authorities as required. (Take turns as Net Controller).
    - ii. CANWARN comes in on IRLP.
    - iii. Last weather event several requests/ road conditions information was passed.
    - iv. If checking in as a mobile station check out as at your destination or going out of range.
  - c. Swap Shop:
    - i. Ron, VE3GO, stated that due to commitments, he would not be able to continue the on air Swap Shop Tuesdays and Sundays. Looking for someone or a team to take over.
6. New Business:
  - a. NVIS Contest Sunday, 16 September
    - i. Peter, VE3POA announced that there would be a NVIS contest and would post details on the Google Group List
  - b. Sulley's International Rooster Roster Picnic Saturday, 15 September
  - c. Larissa, VEKGC announced the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Picnic. Larissa will post details on the Google Group List
7. Reports:

- a. 2 Metre Net:
  - i. Steve, VE3KC, thanked the controllers and participants who were on the nets over the summer.
- b. HF Net:
  - i. Dave, VE3EAC, home station is progressing, will co-ordinate HF Net activation during 2m Nets
- c. CFARS:
  - i. Chip, VA3KGB, reported ops normal with propagation causing some problems.
- d. HF Remote Station:
  - i. Chip, VA3KGB, reported station is available for Advanced Amateurs.
- e. Hearts and Flowers:
  - i. Nil.
- f. KAREX:
  - i. Dave, VE3EAC, informed that the summer meetings were quiet.
- g. Other Reports: Ron, VE3GO, reported that there is an electronic only edition of Spectrum Monitor which is the successor to Monitoring Times which Ron was a contributing author.

8. Date of Next Meeting: 2 October 2018.

9. 50/50 Draw:

- a. Not held.

10. Adjournment:

- a. It was moved by Doug, VE3FFR, and seconded by Chip, VA3KGB, that the meeting be adjourned.
- b. Carried

11. Presentation:

- a. No Presentation.

Clifford ('Chip') Chapman, VA3KGB

Secretary

Kingston Amateur Radio Club

## MEETING AGENDA

### KARC Meeting Agenda 2 October 2018

1. Members and Guest introduce themselves
2. Additions to the Agenda
3. Minutes of the Last Meeting: errors / omissions /approval (Moved by the Secretary, Chip, VA3KGB)
4. Treasurer's Report: (Moved by the Treasurer, Doug, VE3FFR)
5. Old Business
  - a. Logo items (Greg, VE3PJ)
  - b. Online Swap Shop
6. New Business:
  - a. Membership Dues for 2019
    - i. Executive's Recommendation
    - ii. Membership's move / approval
  - b. 2019 Executive Elections (Dec Meeting)
    - i. Nominating Committee/Chair
  - c.
  - d.
7. Reports:
  - a. 2M Net Manager (Steve, VE3KC)
  - b. HF Net Manager (Dave, VE3EAC)
  - c. CFARS (Les, VE3KFS)
  - d. Remote HF Station (Chip, VA3KGB)
  - e. KAREX
  - f. "Hearts and Flowers"
  - g. Other Reports
8. 50/50 Draw
9. Presentation: TBD
10. Date of Next Meeting: 6 November 2018
11. Adjournment

## FINANCIAL REPORT

### KARC FINANCIAL REPORT – September 2018

**Sep 25, 2018**

#### **Opening Balance**

<b>Cooperation Plus</b>	<b>4802.98</b>
<b>Dividends Share</b>	<b>289.81</b>
<b>Equity Shares</b>	<b>25.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>5117.79</b>

#### **Income**

<b>Int</b>	<b>.04</b>
<b>50 50 Draw</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Donation</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Membership</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.04</b>

#### **Expenditures**

<b>Closing Balance</b>	
<b>Cooperation Plus</b>	<b>4803.02</b>
<b>Dividends Share</b>	<b>289.81</b>
<b>Equity Shares</b>	<b>25.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>5117.83</b>

## NET CONTROL SCHEDULE

January 9 VE3POA Peter  
January 16 VE3WIO Carlyle  
January 23 VE3CAK John  
January 30 VA3BAH Brian  
February 13 VA3PCI Assaf  
February 20 VE3KGC Larissa  
February 27 VE3NXE Pieter  
March 13 VE3POA Peter  
March 20 VE3WIO Carlyle  
March 27 VE3KC Steve  
April 10 VA3BAH Brian  
April 17 VA3PCI Assaf  
April 24 VE3CAK John  
May 8 VE3KC Steve  
May 15 VE3KGC Larissa  
May 22 VE3NXE Pieter  
May 29 VE3POA Peter  
June 12 VE3WIO Carlyle  
June 19 VA3BAH Brian  
June 26 VA3PCI Assaf  
July 3 VE3CAK John  
July 10 VE3KC Steve  
July 17 VE3KGC Larissa  
July 24 VE3NXE Pieter  
July 31 VE3POA Peter  
August 7 VE3WIO Carlyle  
August 14 VA3BAH Brian  
August 21 VA3PCI Assaf  
August 28 VE3CAK John  
September 11 VE3KC Steve  
September 18 VE3KGC Larissa  
September 25 VE3NXE Pieter  
October 9 VE3POA Peter  
October 16 VE3WIO Carlyle  
October 23 VA3BAH Brian  
October 30 VA3PCI Assaf  
November 13 VE3CAK John  
November 20 VE3KC Steve  
November 27 VE3KGC Larissa  
December 11 VE3NXE Pieter

December 18 VE3POA Peter

## **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](http://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.