

CLUB NEWSLETTER

KINGSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



PRESIDENT MESSAGE



October President's Message

It is hard to think that we have entered into the fall season. 2023 seems to have gone by in a flash.

I have some reminders for the club members that this season brings:

- 1) We have a hamfest coming up on October 14 and volunteers are needed for the event. Please contact Greg, VE3PJ or Tim VA3TIC and offer your help on the day. We need people to make this event a success and have future hamfests continue.
- 2) If you want a table to sell items at the hamfest please contact Tim, VA3TIC.
- 3) We will be asking for nominations, at the Dec. meeting, for next year's executive. Some people have served for several years. Others may not be able to serve another year or wish to step down. Please consider serving in a position and have your club continue to stay strong.
- 4) We still are looking for more net controllers to set up a schedule for 2024.

I have been told the Keewatin will arrive in Kingston on October 14 as well. I am hoping that this will be a later day event as I plan to be at our hamfest to help out.

73'a

Ron VE3GO / VE3IDW

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- President
Ron Walsh, VE3GO
pres@ve3kbr.com
- Vice President
Tim Gregory, VA3TIC
vicepres@ve3kbr.com
- Treasurer
Greg Foster, VE3PJ
treas@ve3kbr.com
- Secretary
Wayne Anderson, VE3UWA
sec@ve3@kbr.com

KARC REPEATERS

- VE3KBR 146.940(-) MHz
Tone 151.4
IRLP Node# 2750
- VE3UEL, Hartington APRS
Node
144.390 MHz Simplex

COMMITTEE CHAIR MEMBERS

- Membership Manager
Greg Foster, VE3PJ
membership@ve3kbr.com

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Also a photograph of the female duck who has visited out back yard for six years. It is fall and she has gone now but I am sure she will return with her mate in the spring.

Ron





KINGSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

MINUTES – September 6, 2023

1. Welcome and self-introductions.

The September Meeting of the Kingston Amateur Radio Club held on September 6, 2023, opened at 19:02 by VE3GO Ron, President. Ron invited all present to introduce themselves by Callsign and First name. There were twelve in attendance.

2. Review the agenda.

VE3GO, Ron, asked if there were any additions to the agenda – there was one items:

- a. Club Ball Caps – requested by Greg VE3PJ

3. Minutes June meetings

The Secretary VE3UWA, Wayne, stated that the Minutes of June meeting were distributed by email, and asked if there were any errors or omissions. One spelling mistake noted by Greg VE3PJ. Move by VE3FFR - Doug and Seconded by VA3TIC – Tim. The President called for the vote; June minutes were – **APPROVED**.

4. Treasurer's Report

VE3PJ, Greg, read the August report moved by VE3PJ that his report be accepted as read, Seconded by VA3KGB - Chip. The President called for the vote; Motion **APPROVED**.

Greg, VE3PJ said that the 2024 dues could paid now and would cover membership to December 2024. Dues can be paid using any of the following methods:

- a. E-transfer to tres@ve3kbr.com
- b. Cheque made payable to KARC, and post mailed to: 744 Maple Road; Odessa, Ontario, K0H 2HO, or
- c. Cash is always acceptable.

5. Reports

- a. **2-Meter Net** – VA3EBK, Bill sent his regrets as he was at work. Secretary VE3UWA reported on behalf of VE3EBK an average net attendance has been

between 11 or 12 check ins through the June, July, and August period. Highest number for that period was 16 check ins on August 15th. Also, there is a requirement for more Net Control operators and there is a preamble, and it is on the web site. The Swap Shop continues to be a success and enjoyed by all who check into the net.

- b. CFARS** - VA3KGB gave an overview of CFARS said there was a lot of excellent information on the CFARS web page (<https://cfars.net>)
- c. HF Remote** – VA3KGB, Chip a large amount of work has been done on the remote system. There are still a few issues when starting up the software and Chip said he is in the process of developing a software patch to address this issue. Also work continues on the Handout for the remote system. To use the HF remote station the operator must hold an Advanced License.
- d. Hearts & Flowers** – VE3GO, Ron, stated that Jack Whittingham is in Providence Care and that he had spoken to Betty and Jack is settling in well. Also, a Silent Key VE3RXE Rodney Ellis, condolences to his family.
- e. KAREX** – VE3HST – Phil, stated that KAREX continues to have their Saturday meetings at the Branch 560 Royal Canadian Legion, but one was held at Rotary Park, and all went well. They invite any and all to attend their meetings as they have had some excellent presentations and will be having more in the future. If you would like to join contact VE3HST.

6. Old Business

- a. HamFest** – VA3TIC, Tim said the HamFest is a go for October 14th, and still looking for volunteers to assist with set up and clean up after the event. Seven tables have been spoken for as of tonight's meeting. There will be a "Club Table" and if you have 1 or 2 (two max) to be sold on this table please consider a donation to the club after your item is sold.
- b. All-Star proposal** - VE3XCC Charlie said that the All-Star system had been up since June, there are still a few issues that he is address and working through. There is a requirement for a radio that can handle the set up and this is being looked into.

- c. **Communications Museum Update** – VA3KGB, Chip stated that the poles are now in place and the rigging to get the antennas in place is the next step in the process. More to follow.
- d. **Proposal to establish Radio Station on the SS Keewatin:** VE3GO – Ron SS Keewatin work is continuing in Hamilton, the call sign for the ship VA3VGC has been transferred to Ron – VE3GO, also Ron has received a commercial BALUN, copper wire and insulators. Ron is to attend a meeting on the 7th of September, and we will have more information to follow.
- e. **Summer Field Day June 24th and 25th:** VE3PJ, Greg, stated that they were very disappointed in the attendance and support from the Kingston Amateur Radio Club. Those who were there carried on and made Digital, SSB and CW contacts and a high percentage of the contacts were on 40M Digital. There is Winter Field Day in the planning, more to follow.
- f. **Back up Repeater for KARC Club:** VE3PJ, Greg said that with the results of the test that both he and VE3XCC, Charlie had completed. Greg felt that it is not in the club's interest to move forward with obtaining this back up repeater at this time.
- g. **Fox Hunt:** Happened on Sunday June 18, VA3TIC said there were only 3 showed up for this. Granted it was Father's Day and on a Sunday. There is a planned fox hunt for October. If the club wants these activities, there must be support from the club to carry out these events.

7. New Business:

- a. **KARC QSL Cards Policies – QSL Manager, Cost of printing and post of paper cards:** No agreement was reached with regards to this policy. Greg VE3PJ had volunteered to be the QSL manager if a simple process could be set up. Ron VE3GO to validate whether or not ISED says the trustee address has to be the main address in QRZ.com.
- b. **Club Call Signs:** VE3GO stated that the VE3KBR is the repeater call sign, VE3UEL is the digipeater call sign. VE3KER is the remote station call sign, and,

VE3KAR is available for club use by all members on a first come first served basis. Use of this is to be confirmed with the Trustee of the call signs. VE3KC.

Note: There was a disagreement if VA3VGC was to be a club call sign. To avoid conflict, it will remain with the Keewatin Radio Amateurs and associated with the Great Lakes Museum.

c. **Hats:** VE3PJ – Greg proposed: purchase of Navy Blue ball cap and your choices are:

- i. Option 1 – Name and Call sign on the front \$18.00
- ii. Option 2 – KARC Logo on the front \$20.00
- iii. Option 3 - KARC Logo on the front with name and call sign on the side \$27.00
- iv. For more information contact VE3PJ - Greg

8. **Presentation:** there was none.

Ron, VE3GO asked if there was any further business. On motion – moved by VE3FFR, Doug and seconded by VA3KGB, Chip, the meeting adjourned.

Submitted for Approval by: Wayne Anderson, VE3UWA, Secretary

Next Meeting October 4th, 2023, at 19:00



KINGSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Agenda – October 4, 2023

1. Welcome and self-introductions.
2. Review the agenda.
3. Minutes of the June meeting
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Reports
 - a. 2-meter net
 - b. CFARS
 - c. HF Remote
 - d. Hearts & Flowers
 - e. KAREX
6. Old Business
 - a. Ham Fest Update
 - b. All Star Link update
 - c. Communications Museum update
 - d. SS Keewatin update
 - e. KARC QSL Cards
7. New Business
 - a. KARC Official Address – a discussion
 - b. KARC Ball Caps – Greg VE3PJ

Next Meeting November 1st, 2023, at 19:00 – Branch 560 – Royal Canadian Legion

COLLECTING STAMPS VS. SEASHELLS-- AND WHY THIS IS NOT WILDLY O.T.

by Wayne Burdick - Founder of Elecraft

Written August 15, 2023

During my childhood, I watched my dad indulge his hobby: collecting stamps.

Most of the time his collection hibernated in two large photo albums on a shelf in the family room, seemingly forgotten.

Then once a month, by prior arrangement, he'd receive a package of envelopes and postcards in the mail. Each item sported one or more canceled stamps. Dad would fill a bowl with water, soak the stamps until they floated free, then lay them on a piece of wood by a window to dry in the hot San Diego sunshine. Once they were dry enough to handle, he'd pull out the albums and cement the stamps to blank pages in perfect rows and columns.

Sometimes I'd ask him questions about their monarchs, palaces, and currency denominations. But Dad seemed most interested in the fact that they were each slightly different -- their social, political, or geographical nature was secondary.

When I was six or seven, I started collecting coins in binders, emulating the lazy rhythm of my dad's pastime. This didn't last long because I was soon consumed by an obsession with seashells in all their varied species.

I lived in the perfect place for it. San Diego is famous for its beaches and coves, and I took full advantage of both. On summer weekends, my mother would take my friend Jeff and me to La Jolla, then let us roam while she stretched out on a lawn chair to read and tan. She was oblivious to the risks we were taking.

We found three effective ways to collect shells in their native environment, with escalating levels of difficulty.

First, you could arrive at the beach earlier than anyone else, at low tide, and scavenge for shells among the piles of pebbles and seaweed. This you would do barefoot while dodging sharp stones, jellyfish, and rogue waves.

Second, you might wander far out onto the sandstone formations to find tide pools that hadn't been raided. The substrate was slippery with moss; pockmarked with littoral snails, mussels, and keyhole limpets; and periodically doused by breakers. Yet with luck, you might reach deep into a bucket-sized hollow and find a well-polished chestnut cowrie among the anemones and hermit crabs. Native Americans used these egg-shaped cowries as wampum, and considering their beauty and diversity of form, it's easy to see why.

These two methods soon gave way to what Jeff and I really craved: searching the ocean floor itself for living mollusks. Once we'd both acquired masks, snorkels and fins, there was nothing to stop us and no one to teach us how to do it right. We learned the hard way, swallowing seawater and popping our eardrums in pursuit of the deepest free dives we dared attempt. This was probably no more than 15 or 20 feet. But when you're ten years old, this made you the next Jacques Cousteau. We swam with bright orange garibaldis, snapper, and the occasional bat ray as we scanned the coral shelves for whelks, queen's tops, turrets, cones, and other spectacular univalves.

Now, we could have collected shells the easy way by simply purchasing them from the Cove Gift Shop, like everyone else. We considered this cheating, though, taking pride in our arduous adventures. Our treasure was hard-won.

A few years later, armed with a ham license, I began a new collection. I worked stations all over the world first in CW mode, then SSB. Even as a teen, I drew a parallel between seashells and DX, not just in terms of rarity or diversity, but in the visceral nature of the hunt.

CW is not any easy skill to master. SSB also requires considerable skill with equipment, on-air technique, timing, and etiquette. Both allow the freedom to carry on short or long QSOs, over wide segments of spectrum while expressing your individual style. Both can be pursued at home or in the field, even operating hand-held, no computer required.

CW and SSB signals are there if you know where and when to look. They're hidden within atmospheric noise, like colorful shells of all sizes hidden by grains of sand. The hunt is still rewarding these days, but more difficult thanks to other preoccupations.

Speaking of which, if you get tired of collecting stamps, let's say with your VFO parked at 14.074 MHz, wander up or down the band and take a crack at doing things the hard way, using

other modes. Listen. Search. Wade knee-deep among the hazards, taking chances, employing new skills.

Better yet, become a mollusk. Get outdoors and call CQ from a wild, windy perch. Or from home, aim your beam in a new direction and pound some old brass.



Tim, VA3TIC; Greg, VE3PJ; and Rick VE3ORY; the organization committee for the KARC October 14th HamFest have requested that this email be sent to the club Membership.

So far requests have been received for 25 tables at this event. Doug, VE3FFR and Petir, VE3NXE will be at the door collecting money from the attendees, Steve VE3KC will be working the talk in; and Ron VE3GO and Wayne VE3UWA will be working the Club Table.*

Also Tim, VA3TIC will be speaking to the staff from Capers to ensure they will be there for anyone wishing breakfast etc.

What is required is more volunteers to help setting up the room and at the end of the event volunteers to disassemble and clean up the room. The start of setup is set for 07:30 with the Vendors setting up and then the doors open to the public at 09:00. The event runs until 12:00 so if you could please contact Tim, Greg, or Rick and let them know that you can come and volunteer and assist with the setup and clean up.

*Club Table if you have one or two items you would like to sell, please bring them to the club table...maximum of two...and if your items sell please consider a donation to the club after your sale.

Thank you and looking forward to a successful HamFest on October 14th.

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Also, a reminder of the Monthly Meeting on October 4th at 7pm at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 560 – 734 Montreal Street. Capers will be there if you would like to have a meal with the group prior to the meeting.

Wayne D Anderson, VE3UWA

Home: 613-634-3029

Mobile: 613-453-7791*

**not always attached to my hip*

CLUB CALANDAR

Oct 4 Club Meeting

Oct 14 Kingston Hamfest

Note: Club Net on the repeater every Tuesday at 19:30 (local time)