

ZERO BEAT

Official Newsletter
Kingsport Amateur Radio Club
Bays Mountain Radio Club

April 2011

Important Dates

Every Sunday
2 meter Net on 146.970 (Tone 123.0)
at 8:30 PM
(Backup Repeater is Gate City 146.820)

May 12
KARC/BMRC Club Meeting
Toy F. Reid Recreation Building
Room 115
Wilcox Drive
7:00 PM

May 14
Breakfast Get-Together
Golden Corral, Eastman Road
8:30 AM

Birthdays

3 Paul Marcum (AC4QZ)
14 Walt Baldree (K4YCP)
14 Billy Taylor (KI4TNS)
19 Justin Holmes (AI4IS)
20 Phyllis Maness (KG4DTX)

2011 KARC/BMRC CLUB OFFICERS

KARC PRESIDENT BILLY TAYLOR,
KI4TNS
423-245-3336

KARC VICE-PRESIDENT JEFF FLANARY,
K4LMP

KARC SECRETARY PHYLLIS MANESS,
KG4DTX
423-246-6503

KARC TREASURER ROBIN OAKS,
KJ4NAW
423-963-0570

KARC CLUB LICENSE TRUSTEE
GARRETT STANLEY, KJ4HKI

BMRC VICE-PRESIDENT RICK LIGHT,
KG4WZG
423-279-0884

BMRC SECRETARY-TREASURER
PHIL ALLEY, KE4FFO
423-239-3113

Snacks

Interested in bringing snacks to the meeting?

Members can sign up on the club's website,
www.w4trc.org

Club Meeting

President Billy Taylor, KI4TNS, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Mike Jackson, KI4OJO, led the group in prayer.

The Treasurer Report was given by Treasurer Robin Oaks, KJ4NAW. A copy was given to the President.

Garrett Stanley, KJ4HKI, gave the Repeater Report. He told the club that the coax connectors need to be sealed. The club should have the packet node operational soon. Jeff Flanary, K4LMP, has a TNC that the club can use but we still need a power supply. Garrett stated that he has the key to get to the repeater. He also has sent in a form to SERRA that was last updated in 2005. He informed the club that we are still working toward having a 440 Repeater up on the mountain.

The Website Report was given by Earl Oaks, N4ZFA. He told the club that he has been adding new links to the site and will continue to add more. He would like to have input from the members, if you have any suggestions, contact him at earloaks@gmail.com.

Phil Alley, KE4FFO, will head a committee that will inventory the equipment at the club shack. The committee will see what to recommend keeping and what to get rid of. Jennifer Taylor, KI4TNT, and Earl Oaks will also help.

The club has decided that for now they do not need a PO Box.

David Gulley, KI4AAU, asked if someone could contact Bill Osborne who lives at 435 Forrest Hills Drive. He had noticed that he has some antenna equipment that has been damaged and wondered if he might need help putting it back up.

The club would like to round up all club equipment that is stored at member's homes. Such items include generators, power cords, tuners, analyzers, computers, radio equipment and antennas.

ARES Coordinator Walt Baldree, K4YCP, discussed an upcoming drill in May concerning the New Madrid fault.

Karen Jobe from the Kingsport Chamber of Commerce contacted David Gulley to see if the radio club would help her with the 4th of July Parade. They are taking over control of the parade this year. The parade will be held at the same location and keep the same name of Mack Riddle. There will be a hotdog supper on Tuesday, May 3rd at 6:00 PM at the Renaissance Center to work on plans for the parade. There will not be individual letters sent out this year.

Susan Rash came and talked to the club about a 25 mile and 50 mile bike ride on May 14th that she would like the club's help with. It will be the first annual Lost Mountain 50 Bike Ride. They have a website with information concerning the event. The website is <http://lostmountain50.com>. The ride goes through Sullivan, Washington and Greene Counties. The club will assist with communications. David Gulley will be the contact for the club.

Billy and Jennifer Taylor, KI4TNT, informed the club that Fred Hilton at Bays Mountain Park would like us to help during funfest with a Moonlight Hike. We also may be able to sponsor the event on the Tuesday night if it does not cost to do so.

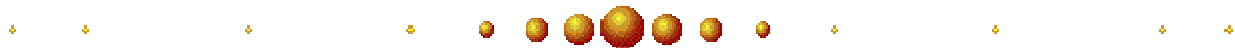


Billy Taylor will be contacting Bays Mountain to discuss utilizing the park for Field Day on June 25 and 26.

Earl Oaks and members of the code class asked if they could use the club's keyer for their code class. Phil Alley made a motion to allow the code class to use the keyer for their class. Mike Jackson, KJ4OJO, seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Phil Alley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike Jackson seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

After the meeting, Garrett Stanley gave a short presentation on Packet Radio.



Spread-Spectrum Question to be Dropped from Extra Class Question Pool

New Rules regarding amateur radio Spread-Spectrum communications will take effect April 29, by which time one question in the Extra Class exam pool will need to be removed.

The National Council of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) has advised all VECs and volunteer examiners who design their own tests to drop question number E1F13 from the Amateur Extra Class question pool. The question deals with the maximum power permitted on amateur radio Spread-Spectrum transmissions, and the FCC has just changed the answer!

Earlier this month, the FCC finally ruled on a petition filed five years ago by the ARRL, agreeing to drop the requirement for automatic power control on Spread Spectrum transmissions, but also dropping the maximum permitted S/S output power from 100 to 10 watts PEP. The new rule was published in the *Federal Register* on March 30, meaning that it takes effect 30 days later, on April 29. At that point, the answer to the exam question above will no longer be correct.

May Edition of WorldRadio Online is Live on the Web

You're invited to check out the May 2011 edition of WorldRadio Online magazine. It's posted free on the Web and is full of great news and features. For example, our cover story recounts the tale of Carl Mosley's trip to California in the 1950s to demonstrate his "new" TA-33 beam - and what happened to that antenna. The headline gives a hint: "*A Piece of Antenna History is Still Flying High.*" For the whole story and lots more visit: < <http://www.WorldRadiomagazine.com> >.

-CQ Newsroom, March 29, 2011

FCC Launches New "Beta" Website

The FCC has opened access to its new "Beta" website, the first major overhaul of the agency's website in a decade. Once you get past all the buzzwords in the announcement about it ("architected with a more intuitive user experience ... the *reimagined_FCC.gov* is proof that ... dot-govs can look, feel and run like dot-coms."), you'll find some interesting features, including blogs by Commission staffers and a very cool "spectrum dashboard" that lets you search for the allocations of various services or "browse" by frequency.



Unfortunately, the architects of the new site appear to believe the radio spectrum begins at 225 MHz and we haven't been able to figure out how to search for amateur allocations, even though they're listed on the chart. Check it out yourself at <<http://beta.fcc.gov/>>.

-CQ Newsroom, April 23, 2011

"Penny Postcard" Up Another Penny

Some of our readers may recall when the cost of mailing a postcard was just one penny. Well, as of April 17, it costs one penny *more* to mail a postcard. While rates on first-class letters did not change, the postcard rate increased from 28 cents to 29. Obviously, this affects any hams mailing QSL cards directly within the U.S.

-CQ Newsroom, April 23, 2011

Interested in placing information in the newsletter?

Contact Phyllis Maness, KG4DTX at kg4dtx@gmail.com