

ZERO BEAT

Official Newsletter
Kingsport Amateur Radio Club
Bays Mountain Radio Club

February 2010

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

March 11
KARC/BMRC Club Meeting
Life Saving Crew Building
7:00 PM

March 13
Breakfast Get-Together
Golden Corral, Eastman Road
8:30 AM

Every Monday
KARC/BMRC Club Shack
Get-Together
6:00 PM

KARC/BMRC Amateur Radio

2010 KARC/BMRC Club Officers

KARC President Billy Taylor, K14TNS
423-245-3336

KARC Vice President Mike Jackson, K14OJO
423-914-6751

KARC Secretary Phyllis Maness, KG4DTX
423-246-6503

KARC Treasurer Robin Oaks, KJ4NAW
423-963-0570

KARC Club License Trustee Jeff Pierce,
WD4NMQ
423-239-5496

BMRC Vice-President Rick Light, KG4WZG
423-279-0884

BMRC Secretary-Treasurer Phil Alley, KE4FFO
423-239-3113

W4TRC Webmaster Earl Oaks, N4ZFA
423-863-3378

Zero Beat Editor Phyllis Maness, KG4DTX
423-246-6503

Station Committee Chairperson
Billy Taylor, K14TNS
423-245-3336

Activities Manager
Position Open

Chaplain Lynn Anderson, KA4LRU
423-765-0714

Club Photographer Jennifer Taylor, K14TNT
423-245-3336

Field Day Captain John Taylor, KJ4KYM
423-245-3336

Net Manager Ed Williams, AC4ED
423-246-1785

Meeting Dates – Members Providing Snacks

March 11	Rick Light
April 8	Robin & Earl Oaks
May 13	Betty & Mike Jackson
June 10	Lynn & Bonnie Anderson
July 8	Joe Aurelio
August 12	Annual Picnic
September 9	Phil Alley
October 14	Randy Smith
November 11	Walt Baldree
December 9	Christmas Party

Congratulations to Robin Oaks, KJ4NAW, she recently earned her Registered Nurse license!

Club Dues

The club would like for everyone to pay their membership dues as soon as possible. Membership is \$10.00 for an individual or \$15.00 for a family. You can pay at any meeting or you can send a check made out to KARC along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to KARC Treasurer Robin Oaks, KJ4NAW. Her address is 220 Blue Haven Drive, Kingsport, TN 37663.

March Birthdays

March 26 Rick Light (KG4WZG)

Belated Birthday Wishes to . . .

Jim Bronson, (K2YSR) January 10

Lois Bronson (KB1CWD) January 11

OOOPS!

In the January Member Showcase, it was printed that Mike Jackson, KI4OJO, has been licensed since 1996. This is incorrect; he was licensed in April 2006. Sorry for the error.

March Club Meeting

Due to the unavailability of the Toy F. Reid Employee Center in March, the club meeting will be held at the Kingsport Life Saving Crew Building located on Fort Henry Drive.

ARES

ARES meetings will be held every fourth Monday of each month at the Kingsport Life Saving Crew Building located on Fort Henry Drive at 6:00 PM.

The club would like to send its condolences to Phil Alley, KE4FFO, and his family for the recent loss of his father. Our thoughts and prayers are with them at this sad time.

Club Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Billy Taylor, KI4TNS, at 7:00 PM. Prayer was led by Club Chaplain Lynn Anderson, KA4LRU. Earl Oaks, N4ZFA, made a motion to accept the minutes as printed in the Zero Beat. Phil Alley, KE4FFO, seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The Treasurer Report was given by Robin Oaks, KJ4NAW. She informed the club that everything had been placed in her and President Billy Taylor's names at the bank. She told the club that the checking account is in one bank and the CDs are at another. She explained the advantages of combining all assets into one bank. After a discussion by the club, Paul Marcum, AC4QZ, made a motion to move everything to the First Bank & Trust on Stone Drive. Phil Alley seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The Repeater Report was given by Repeater License Trustee Jeff Pierce, WD4NMQ. Jeff stated that he will need help in fixing the antenna. This is due to the way it is currently set up. This will be done when the weather improves.

President Billy Taylor informed the club that he would like to change the position of Station Manager to a Station Committee. Current Station Manager Don Mullins, AE4IA, told the club that the last time he had been to the shack that he had been given a list of items that needed to be taken care of at the building. This list was given to the president. Don also told the group that there was a good possibility that the club may be allowed to place a dipole antenna between two specific trees at the site. Don also has possession of the large club generator at his residence and requested someone come to remove it.

Webmaster Earl Oaks told the club that the website is there and if anyone has any ideas or changes that they would like to see, just click on the links located on the website, to let him know. He also said that he has full responsibility of the website domain.

Phyllis Maness, KG4DTX, Zero Beat Editor told the club that she enjoys doing the newsletter and appreciates everything that the members send to her. Mike Jackson, KI4OJO, stated that she does a great job on the newsletter.

Mike Jackson, the chairperson of the committee for membership ID cards, requested that the ID cards be tabled until a later date. Jeff Pierce made a motion to postpone. Joe Aurelio, ND2E, seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Tom Price, KI4CVU, brought up an idea of school-club roundups. The club could set up stations at schools to introduce children to amateur radio. The club discussed ways of accomplishing this. Tom will look into the details concerning the school systems and Jeff Pierce offered to provide help with the stations.

Phil Alley informed the club that he was unable to reserve the Toy F. Reid Employee Center for the March meeting. He said that he had reserved the Eastman Lodge at the Recreational area as

an alternative. Jeff Pierce asked Alan Lark, N4TBI, if he would check into using the Kingsport Life Saving Crew Building.

Billy Taylor suggested using the elected officials as a Repeater Committee. The committee would monitor repeater usage for inappropriate behavior. The Repeater Committee consists of Billy Taylor, KI4TNS, Mike Jackson, KI4OJO, Jeff Pierce, WD4NMQ, Phyllis Maness, KG4DTX, Robin Oaks, KJ4NAW, Rick Light, KG4WZG and Phil Alley, KE4FFO. Jeff handed out control information and informed the committee that if they had any problems, contact him.

KARC Secretary Phyllis Maness requested that the club fill the club job vacancies. Billy Taylor will ask David Gulley, KI4AAU, if he would like to continue as Activities Manager and informed the club that Ed Williams, AC4ED, consented to be Net Manager. Mike Jackson made a nomination for John Taylor, KJ4KYM, to be 2010 Field Day Captain. John accepted the position. Phyllis also read a thank you note from Phil Alley for the flowers sent to his family. Paul Marcum thanked the club for the flowers he received recently at the death of his father. The club also had a visitor, Joey Cooter.

Jeff Pierce, WD4NMQ, made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lynn Anderson, KA4LRU, seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Following the meeting, Joe Aurelio, ND2E, presented a program about Digital Modes. For information about Digital Modes (PSK, RTTY, MCW, MT 63, Packet, etc.) visit KARC/BMRC's Website, w4trc.org and click on "ND2E's Digital Modes PowerPoint" link.

Charlotte Hamfest

March 13 & 14, 2010
Saturday 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM
Sunday 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Cabarrus Arena & Events Center
4751 Hwy 49 North
Concord, North Carolina
Talk-In – 146.655

Exam - Saturday, March 13 at 1:00 PM
(Arrive by 12:30 PM to complete paperwork)

Prizes
Forums
Bingo
Radios
Swap Tables

For more information, visit their website at w4bfb.org/Hamfest.html

Member Showcase

Eddie Palmer
K4JP

Eddie was first licensed in November of 1955 as KN4LSP taking his novice test from Kingsport Amateur Club's member Bob Delius, now SK. He took his general test in Knoxville the next spring under the FCC, and became K4LSP in 1956. He again upgraded to Amateur Extra at the FCC office in Atlanta in 1976 and also got his 1st class radio telephone and 2nd class radio telegraph license the same day. The testing started at 8:00 am and he finished at 12:45 pm that day.

He applied for the vanity call of K4JP when the FCC first opened the vanity call signs. This was the call of his uncle living in Fort Lauderdale, Florida and he had been a SK for many years. This call had his initials and was issued to him in the first release of vanity calls.

Eddie is now trying to operate two different stations; one in Kingsport during the summer months and one in Venice, Florida during the winter. He operates a Yaesu FT-1000 MARK-V transceiver with a home brew linear and a Mosley PRO 67B antenna on a crank-up tower at 60 ft. in Florida. In Kingsport, he operates an Icom 775 DSP transceiver with a 2kw amplifier into a Mosley PRO-67B antenna on a 91 ft. crank-up tower with dipoles for 75 and 160 meters. He also has twenty watt transceivers on 2 and 1/4 meters in Kingsport and Venice, Florida. His back-up power in Venice is a 15 kw generator with automatic switching circuits.

Eddie would like to contact all the Kingsport Amateur Radio Club members on the low bands from Florida.



Interested in placing information in the newsletter?

Contact Phyllis Maness, KG4DTX

kg4dtx@gmail.com

News from the President

Reminder to all Amateur Radio Members

We would like to remind everyone that it is against Eastman Company Policy to bring firearms on premises. Please remember to leave any weapons at home before utilizing Eastman property.

Thank you for your cooperation.

**Kingsport Amateur Radio Club
President
Billy Taylor KI4TNS**

Ham Ranks Keep Growing

The ARRL/VEC reports that more than 30,000 new people entered the Amateur Radio Service in 2009, nearly double the number of new hams who joined the fraternity five years earlier. The numbers have been climbing steadily since 2005, when only 16,000 newcomers joined our ranks, hitting 21,000 in 2006, nearly 27,000 in 2007 and 28,000 in 2008. Overall, more than 122,000 new people have become hams in the past five years ... not bad for a hobby that some of us continue to insist is dying!

-CQ Newsroom, Posted January 26, 2010

Cheaper Solar Power on Horizon?

Energy from the sun is free, but the solar cells needed to convert the sun's photon energy into electrical energy are expensive. Now, though, Science Daily reports that scientists at Caltech have developed a new type of flexible solar cell that could significantly lower the cost of producing solar cells.

The new cell design uses arrays of thin silicone wires embedded in a polymer substrate, according to the report, provides enhanced absorption of sunlight and converting nearly all of it to electrical energy. Plus, the wires occupy only between 2 and 10% of each cell's surface area, and because they are flexible, the researchers believe they will be able to be manufactured in rolls rather than as brittle wafers. Both of these considerations should significantly reduce the cost of efficiently using solar power. For more details, see <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/02/100216140259.htm>.

-CQ Newsroom, Posted January 22, 2010

Several Unique Ham Satellites Under Development

Eight tiny "cubesats" carrying amateur radio payloads are scheduled for launch in the coming months, according to the AMSAT News Service, including one that is slated to head for Venus.

Three cubesats are slated to be launched by NASA in November, all of which were developed and built by university students in Montana, Colorado and Kentucky. Finally, graduate students at South Africa's Cape Peninsula University of Technology are working on a cubesat that will carry a camera, a parrot repeater and a transponder. No launch date has yet been set for this satellite.

-CQ Newsroom, Posted January 22, 2010

Construction Under Way for ARISSAT-1 Flight Unit

The AMSAT News Service reports that construction has begun on the ARISSAT-1 ham radio satellite, which is due to be hand-launched from the International Space Station later this year. ARISSAT-1 replaces the originally-scheduled SUITSAT-2 deployment, which had to be canceled when ISS crew members were forced to dispose of the surplus spacesuit in which the satellite was to be installed before work could be done. ARISSAT-1 will transmit greetings in 12 languages, along with telemetry and other data in several modes, including voice, CW, packet and slow-scan TV. It will also have a 16-kHz-wide transponder for making two-way contacts.

-CQ Newsroom, Posted January 22, 2010

ARRL Brings Back Updated "Novice Roundup" Contest

It's been 15 years since the ARRL stopped running its Novice Roundup contest, which served as an introduction to ham radio contesting for thousands of new amateurs. Now it is bringing back an updated version, dubbed the **ARRL Rookie Roundup**, to encourage hams licensed for three years or less to try their hands at on-air competition. The event will be split into three mode-based segments, starting with an SSB competition this month, followed by RTTY in August and CW in December, according to the *ARRL Letter*.

More experienced hams will also be encouraged to operate, but they will be limited to making contest contact with rookie stations; rookie stations will be able to contact anyone for points. Scoring will be done online, in real time, using a scoring system at www.getscores.org, which is also where interested hams may go for additional information and to download the required logging program. More information will also be in the April issue of *QST*.

-CQ Newsroom, Posted January 22, 2010

End of the Line for LORAN-C

LORAN-C, the low-frequency LOng RANGE Navigation system that has guided ships and airplanes for more than 60 years, has been shut down by the U.S. Coast Guard. According to the AMSAT News Service, the shutdown came on February 8. President Obama had called the system obsolete, now that virtually all ships and airplanes and many land vehicles, carry Global Positioning System (GPS) devices. The shutdown is expected to save the federal government some \$38 million a year. The only drawback to the move is that there is no longer a backup system in the event of a massive GPS failure.

-CQ Newsroom, Posted January 22, 2010

ARRL to Seek Limited Revision to 97.113

The ARRL Board of Directors has instructed the League's staff to file a petition with the FCC, seeking to add a provision to section 97.113 of the rules to specifically permit a ham to operate "on behalf of an employer" in emergency drills and training exercises as well as during actual emergencies. The question of appropriate ham radio operation by employees of public safety agencies and other organizations has been a hot-button topic for months, ever since FCC staff said the rules prohibited operation on behalf of an employer, even when an amateur was acting as a volunteer, on his/her own time. The ARRL Board's action came during its January meeting and was reported by CEO Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, in his editorial in the March issue of QST magazine.

CQ magazine's parent company, CQ Communications, Inc., and a group of three amateurs including Gordon West, WB6NOA, have each already filed petitions seeking similar changes.

-CQ Newsroom, Posted January 22, 2010

