

# ZERO BEAT

Official Newsletter  
Kingsport Amateur Radio Club/Bays Mountain Radio Club

July 2009

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## Club Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Jeff Pierce, WD4NMQ. Phil Alley, KE4FFO, led the group in prayer. After self-introduction by those members present, Earl Oaks, N4ZFA, made a motion to accept the minutes as printed in the Zero Beat. Phil Alley seconded the motion.

Jeff Pierce gave the Repeater Report. He stated that he was going to go up on the mountain soon to determine our options for raising the W4TRC antenna. Jeff also warned that by raising the antenna higher, the ghost noise we hear from time to time could get worse.

Webmaster Earl Oaks stated that things are working well and he is trying to keep things updated. If you have any suggestions or complaints, contact him.

Treasurer David Stevens, WB2SIN, gave the treasurer report. All accounts are in good standing.

Activities Coordinator David Gulley, KI4AAU, informed the group that Field Day was a great success. He stated that the club made 1132 contacts. Thanks to everyone who helped and participated. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade was also a huge success. About 15 club members showed up to help. TV Channel 11 gave the club a good plug. David also told the club that Parade Planner Gordon Blessing is retiring.

Phil Alley, Chairperson for the committee to purchase coax, suggested that we wait until the Gray Hamfest to buy the coax and that we have the money available to make the purchase.

There was a question why the club used Port-O-Lets on Field Day instead of the park restrooms. Jeff Pierce explained how this came about.

Next month's meeting (August 13) will be the Annual Picnic at the Eastman Recreation Area at 6:00 PM. There will be hot dogs and hamburgers provided and each person is asked to bring a covered dish. There will be a sign up sheet on the website. Please sign up if you plan to attend.

Mike Jackson, KI4OJO, made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Joe Aurello, ND2E, seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

From: Club Station Manager  
To: All club members

Club equipment will no longer be loaned out to anyone.  
Reason: Possible equipment loss and liability.

Don Mullins, AE4IA  
Station Manager

### Important Dates

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

August 13  
KARC/BMRC Club Annual Picnic, Eastman Recreation Area, Shelter 9  
6:00 PM

August 15  
Breakfast Get-Together at Golden Corral, Eastman Road

August 17  
Test Session, Kingsport Computers, Ft Henry Drive  
6:30 PM

### SNACKS

August – Club Picnic  
September – Phil Alley  
October – Lynn Anderson  
November – Phyllis Maness  
December – Christmas Party

### Birthdays

14 Tom Price, KI4CVU  
22 Bill Lineback, KJ4BUD  
29 Robert Oyler, KJ4LJ  
31 Phil Alley, KE4fFO

### Going to the Club Picnic?

The club picnic will be on Thursday, August 13 at 6:00 PM at Eastman Recreation Area, Shelter 9. If you are planning to attend the picnic, please go the [w4trc.org](http://w4trc.org) website and sign up. This will help the club determine how much food will be needed. Bring a covered dish or desert. Everything else will be furnished by the club. Come and bring your family! There is no charge for the picnic.



### KARC/BMRC Club Officers

**President Jeff Pierce, WD4NMQ**  
**BMRC Vice President Rick Light, KG4WZG**  
**KARC Vice President Denni Feagins, KI4YYV**  
**BMRC Secretary Treasurer Phil Alley, KE4FFO**  
**KARC Secretary Phyllis Maness, KG4DTX**  
**KARC Treasurer David Stevens, WB2SIN**  
**Club License Trustee Jeff Pierce, WD4NMQ**  
**Chaplain Tom Jayne, KF4RLG**  
**Field Day Captain Denni Feagins, KI4YYV**  
**Activities Manager David Gulley, KI4AAU**  
**Zero Beat Editor Phyllis Maness, KG4DTX**  
**Station Manager Don Mullins, AE4IA**  
**Net Manager David Stevens, WB2SIN**  
**Club Photographer Jennifer Taylor, KI4TNT**  
**W4TRC Webmaster Earl Oaks, N4ZFA**



### Second Annual Dice Run for CMN August 29, 2009

The run will start and finish at the Walmart on Market Street in Johnson City. Registration starts at 9:30 AM. The stops will be Elizabethton, Roan Mountain State Park, Elk Park and Erwin, TN.



*Shelby Hamfest  
September 5 & 6  
Dallas, NC*

*For more information, visit their website at  
<http://www.shelbyhamfest.org/hamfest.htm>*



### Amateur Radio Test Session

A test session is scheduled at Kingsport Computers located on Ft Henry Drive on Monday, August 17 at 6:30 PM. All classes of testing are available. Remember to bring a copy of your current license and a photo ID. Walk-ins are welcome. Contact Ed Williams, AC4ED or Earl Oaks, N4ZFA, for more information.

## Monday Get-Together

Every Monday night at 6 PM, club members have a gathering at the Ham Shack at the Eastman Campground. Anyone interested in learning more about amateur radio, building antennas or just having a good time is invited to participate.

## Walter Cronkite, KB2GSD, SK

Legendary CBS Newsmen and ham radio ambassador Walter Cronkite, KB2GSD, passed away in July at age 92. A licensed ham since the mid-1980s, Cronkite narrated the ARRL's 2003 video, Amateur Radio Today, which focused on public service and emergency communications.

-July 27, 2009, CQ Newsroom

## FCC Begins Follow-Up on BPL Rules

The FCC is offering to "split the difference" with ARRL over the question of measurements taken to determine the strength of Broadband over Power Line (BPL) signals radiated into the air. In a Request for Further Comment and Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making released on July 17, the Commission finally began taking the action ordered by the U.S. Court of Appeals in 2008 after the ARRL had sued over its original BPL decision in 2004. One of the main points of contention had been the signal attenuation formula to use in extrapolating signal strength at certain distances from the radiation point. The FCC adopted a standard of 40 dB per decade, while the ARRL argued that it should be 20 dB/decade and the Court of Appeals agreed that the FCC had not provided reasoning for its 40 dB standard. In this new proceeding, the FCC does explain its original decision and claims that the data continue to support it, but also offers to change the standard from 40 dB to 30 dB/decade. It also proposes an alternate standard for making actual measurements as opposed to extrapolating them. For those interested in the technical details, the entire document is on the FCC's website. Scan the news releases or do a search in the Electronic Comment Filing System for ET Docket 04-37 or 03-104. W5YI will summarize the proposal in October's "Washington Readout" column.

-July 27, 2009, CQ Newsroom

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*Interested in placing information in the newsletter?*

*Contact Phyllis Maness*

*kg4dtx@gmail.com*

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*This newsletter is provided as a service to members of the Bays Mountain  
Amateur Radio Club and the Kingsport Amateur Radio Club.*