

ZERO BEAT

Official Newsletter
Kingsport Amateur Radio Club
Bays Mountain Radio Club

March 2010



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

April 8
KARC/BMRC Club Meeting
Toy F. Reid Employee Center
7:00 PM

April 10
Breakfast Get-Together
Golden Corral, Eastman Road
8:30 AM

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

Meeting Dates – Members Providing Snacks

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



Special Election

There will be a special election to fill the vacant KARC Vice President position at the April club meeting. The club will be accepting nominations for this position before the election.

Happy Birthday

April 29
Denni Feagins
KI4YYV

2010 KARC/BMRC Club Officers

KARC President Billy Taylor, KI4TNS
423-245-3336

KARC Vice President
Position Open

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, KI4TNS
423-245-3336

Activities Manager David Gulley, KI4AAU
423-245-7272

Chaplain Lynn Anderson, KA4LRU
423-765-0714

Club Photographer Jennifer Taylor, KI4TNT
423-245-3336

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

Net Manager Ed Williams, AC4ED
423-360-7613

Club Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Billy Taylor, KI4TNS at 7:00 PM. Following the prayer led by Phil Alley, KE4FFO, and introductions by members present, Jeff Pierce, WD4NMQ, made a motion to accept the minutes as printed in the Zero Beat. The motion was seconded by Phil Alley. The motion carried.

The Treasurer Report was given by Robin Oaks, KJ4NAW. She has placed all club assets into the First Bank & Trust and received the debit card. She told the club that we have 34 paid members with 7 complimentary memberships at this time.

Jeff Pierce gave the Repeater Report. He is in the process of determining the source of the noise that can be heard on the repeater.

Webmaster Earl Oaks, N4ZFA, told the club that he is keeping the website updated. He requested that if anyone has any ideas or suggestions to contact him using the link on the w4trc.org website. One member stated that it was taking a long time for links to open on the website. John Taylor, KJ4KYM, checked this on his computer but did not have any problems.

Billy Taylor, Chairperson for the Station Committee, informed the club that they have not done anything at the shack recently. There was a question about whether the club will start lending equipment again. After a brief discussion, it was decided that the Station Committee would get together and determine the club's options. As Jeff Pierce is Club Trustee, he was added to the Station Committee.

President Billy Taylor asked David Gulley, KI4AAU, if he would serve as Activities Manager again this year. David consented.

(Club Meeting Continued)

David would like to have members' input on activities they would like to see or do. The club discussed the school/club roundups and made suggestions on what school groups the club could focus on. Tom Price, KI4CVU, and David will work on this.

Billy Taylor read a letter to the club from Mike Jackson, KI4OJO. Due to recent health issues, he is resigning from his position of KARC Vice President. The club accepted his resignation. Jeff Pierce made a motion to place a notice in the Zero Beat that this position is open and if anyone would like to nominate someone for this position can do so at the next club meeting. Don Mullins, AE4IA, seconded the motion. The motion carried. A special election will be held after the nominations at the April club meeting.

Don Mullins informed the club that the generator that he requested be moved from his residence has a flat tire. It was decided that this could be fixed easily.

KARC Secretary Phyllis Maness, KG4DTX, stated that after talking with David Gulley previously, she had decided that she would like to work on his idea of putting together a "Welcome Packet" for new members. She asked the members for their input on items that should be included.

There was a question about the availability of the Google Groups link located on the website to hams and non-hams. After a brief discussion, it was decided that this was not utilized very often by members and could be disconnected.

Scott Newland, AC3D, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM. Earl Oaks seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Ham Radio in School

Recently Bob Jones, N4BJ, was working 40 meters (7.245KC) LSB and made a contact with Bruce Weaver, K3LTM. Bruce is a retired fifth grade teacher who is the club advisor for the Cowanesque Valley School Amateur Radio Club located in Westfield, PA. Bruce holds an extra class Amateur Radio license. Mrs. Sue Harer, a first grade teacher, is the faculty assistant.

The club was formed in November 1994 at the Westfield Area Elementary School. The purpose of this club is to help members learn about the hobby of Amateur Radio, learn the fundamentals of good operating procedures, and take part in radio activities that will advance the general interest and welfare of Amateur Radio in the community.

In March of 1995, the club became an American Relay League Affiliated Club. In February of 1997 the CVSARC received their own FCC issued club station call, KB3BRT. Their station is located in the "Larry Kuehn Memorial Amateur Radio Center" at the school. They now have access to all the popular HF ham bands 160 through 10 meters, 6 meters, 2 meters FM and Packet as well as 70 CM. They also have satellite capabilities. The favorite activity of the club is the School Club Roundup in October and February.

The contact brought back memories of when Bob was in school and they had an amateur radio class. The part of the contact that he enjoyed the most was when Bruce held the microphone up to the 5th graders and they all said, "Hi Bob". That really made his day.

-Bob Jones, N4BJ and QRZ.com

Amateur Radio

FCC Releases NPRM on Employer Communications

The FCC has issued a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) addressing the question of whether hams should be able to communicate on behalf of their employers in certain limited circumstances. The NPRM proposes adding a narrow exception to the general prohibition on communications on behalf of an employer for amateurs involved in government-sponsored emergency drills. It also seeks comments on whether certain other drills that are not sponsored by government agencies - such as those conducted by hospitals - should be included in the proposed exemption as well.

The proposed new language for Section 97.113(a) of the FCC rules would read as follows:

A control station operator may participate on behalf of an employer in a government-sponsored emergency preparedness or disaster readiness test or drill, limited to the duration and scope of such test or drill, and operational testing immediately prior to such test or drill.

The complete text of the NPRM may be found on the FCC website at http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-10-45A1.pdf.

Comments may be filed online via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS). Reference WT-Docket 10-72. Comments are due 30 days after the NPRM is published in the Federal Register (which usually takes about a week after release).

-CQ Newsroom, March 24, 2010

Industry News: GRE, Alinco, Passport to World Band Radio

GRE, Inc. is now the exclusive North American distributor for Alinco brand ham radios. GRE will provide equipment to the Alinco dealer network and will offer customer support and both warranty and non-warranty service on Alinco gear, according to *Newsline*.

The publishers of *Passport to World Band Radio*, who ceased publication of their print guide in 2009, are now shutting down their website. "Timing is inexact," according to an announcement on their web page, "but the wire should be snipped late March."

-CQ Newsroom, Posted: March 23, 2010

FCC Quietly Goes After High-Power CBers

You won't know it from looking at the "Amateur Actions" page on the website of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau, but over the past year, the Commission has been quietly cracking down on CBers operating with excessive power.

Between March of 2009 and February of 2010, FCC Special Counsel Laura Smith has sent letters to more than two dozen CBers believed to be using illegally high power. Many of the letters cite interference ... to other CBers, to hams and to neighbors' home electronics. The letters have not been posted on the Enforcement Bureau's website, but were dug out by reader Steve Karnes, K9HY, who keeps track of these actions.

-CQ Newsroom, Posted: March 23, 2010



*Interested in placing information
in the newsletter?*

Contact Phyllis Maness, KG4DTX
kg4dtx@gmail.com

FCC Permits Law Enforcement Robots on 70 cm.

The FCC has issued an order permitting the use of robotic reconnaissance devices in the 430-448 MHz band, which encompasses much of the 70-centimeter amateur band. Amateur radio has a shared secondary allocation on the band, along with certain non-federal radiolocation systems; federal government radiolocation has the primary allocation.

The "Recon Scout" device, which was the subject of a waiver request by manufacturer ReconRobotics, is a remote-controlled surveillance robot used in areas that may be too hazardous for people to enter. According to the *ARRL Letter*, the FCC said that due to the device's low power output (1 watt peak), it is unlikely that its use would cause interference to the services with which it shares the band. (*Our concern would be the other way around - that a strong amateur radio signal might unknowingly interfere with proper operation of the Recon Scout in a critical situation. - CQ Newsroom Editor.*)

-CQ Newsroom, Posted: March 23, 2010



A sign posted on the wall of an Army mess hall read:

Don't Waste Food – Food Will Win the War

Beneath these words someone had scrawled:

That's fine, but how do we get the enemy to eat here?

News from the President

Reminder to all Amateur Radio Members

While operating on ham bands, be courteous and use common sense. You should set a good example for others to follow. Refrain from using foul language, being disrespectful or discussing subjects that might offend others.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Kingsport Amateur Radio Club

President

Billy Taylor KI4TNS