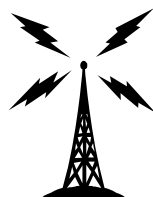


ZERO



BEAT

Official Newsletter

Kingsport Amateur Radio Club/Bays Mountain Radio Club

September 2009

Club Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Jeff Pierce, WD4NMQ, at 7:00 PM. The prayer was led by Phil Alley, KE4FFO.

The Treasurer Report was given by Dave Stevens, WB2SIN. One CD was not renewed so the club would have money available for repeater and antenna upgrades. Jeff Pierce was added to the signature card banking.

Phil Alley made a motion to accept the minutes as printed in the Zero Beat. Lynn Anderson, KA4LRU, seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Earl Oaks, N4ZFA, informed the club that the website is still up and running. Feel free to send suggestions to Earl.

The Repeater Report was given by Jeff Pierce. Jeff and Eddie Palmer, K4JP, went to the repeater recently to come up with ideas on how to improve the repeater performance. They hope to raise the antenna 50 feet. They have two options.

- Determine who owns an adjacent building and obtain authorization to utilize their building for our antenna.
- Use our own smaller tower at our current location.

There was a discussion about the Repeater Trustee's job duties. Jeff explained the Repeater Trustee can only turn the repeater on or off if something is going on that is a violation of club or FCC rules. He informed the club that the trustee is the one FCC will contact if there is a violation. All other situation is controlled by the Repeater committee. The current committee members are Jeff Pierce, Mike Greer, KC4MG, and Ed Williams, KC4ED. The committee members as control operators can turn the repeater off or on when necessary. The club is in total control of the repeater. Trustee for KARC (W4TRC) is Jeff Pierce and Trustee for BMRC (W4ZJA) is Rick Light, KG4WZG. There was also some discussion about what is allowed concerning third-party traffic.

Station Manager Don Mullins, AE4IA, stated the club shack looks good the way it has been arranged. There was some discussion about putting up an antenna and setting up an HF radio at the shack for members to use.

The club has discussed several times about buying coax in bulk. There does not seem to be much interest in this at this time. Phil Alley made the motion to not purchase coax. Earl Oaks seconded the motion. The motion passed.

David Gulley, KI4AAU, informed the club about ideas he has of some things that can be done during club meetings next year. He would like to do presentations on other means of communications such as packet, RTTY, slow scan, digital, etc. He would like to use some of these on Field Day 2010.

Mike Jackson, KI4OJO, and Phil Alley will look into what is involved in archiving some of our older records and documents so they will be preserved.

Dave Stevens asked for help with a scout troop. He would like to teach them things like soldering and using a radio to help them earn their Radio merit badge. If you would like to help, contact Dave Stevens.

We have a new member, Slater Teague. Jeff made a motion to extend his first year free membership through next year since he was joining so late in the year. Jennifer Taylor, KI4TNT, seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned.

Important Dates

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

October 8
KARC/BMRC Club Meeting at the Toy F. Reid Employee Center
7:00 PM, Room 219

October 10
Breakfast Get-Together at Golden Corral, Eastman Road

October 17
Gray Hamfest, Appalachian Fairgrounds, Gray, TN

November 16
Test Session, Kingsport Computers, Ft Henry Drive
6:30 PM

SNACKS

October – Lynn Anderson
November – Phyllis Maness
December – Christmas Party



AMATEUR RADIO

October 17

Gray Hamfest Association
Appalachian Fairgrounds
101 Lakeside Street
Gray, TN

For more information, visit <http://www.grayhamfesttn.org>

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

Amateur Radio Test Session

There will be an Amateur Radio Test Session held at Kingsport Computers on Ft. Henry Drive on Monday, November 16th @ 6:30pm. (There will not be a test session in October because of the Hamfest test session.) All classes of testing are available from Technician to Extra. Remember to bring a copy of

your current license and a photo ID with you. The testing fee is \$15 - preferably in cash or as a personal check made out to ARRL/VEC. Try to bring exact change if you are paying with cash.



28 Jeff Pierce, WD4NMQ

GET READY FOR CYCLE 24 DX!!

FOR SALE

Hy-gain TH3 MK4

Upgraded, reconditioned TH3 MK3 with all new stainless steel hardware.

Yaesu G-400RC Rotator

Won at a hamfest many years ago, never installed.

Has been run to keep the grease from setting up.

100 feet 8-conductor cable

Tower – ROHN HDBX

Approximately 40 feet including top section. Most hardware.

Will require some adapting of the base. Anchor bolts available.

If more information, contact Jim Roller, N4IR at 423-239-6456 or at n4ir@charter.net.

Industry News

No More Texas BugCatchers

GLA Systems announced in early September that it would be ceasing production of the legendary Texas BugCatcher mobile HF antenna as of October 31, 2009. The only reason given on the GLA website was that after 30 years, "it is time to hang it up." The company says all orders placed before October 31 will be filled, and orders received November 1 or later will be limited to items in stock.

-Posted September 30, 2009, CQ News

Goodbye to Astatic

The Astatic brand name for microphones is going away. *Newsline* reports that CAD Professional Microphones and Astatic Commercial Audio Products are being brought together under a single new brand name, CAD Audio. Astatic was a major player in the ham radio and CB microphone markets in the 1950s, 60s and 70s. Its best-known and most distinctive mic was the lollipop-shaped D-104.

-Posted September 30, 2009, CQ News

Alpha Radio Products Sold

Amplifier manufacturer Alpha Radio Products has been sold to a newly-formed company, RF Concepts, LLC, which is promising to speed up production and reduce prices. RF Concepts Chairman Michael Seedman, AA6DY, made the announcement on the Alpha website. Former owner Molly Hardman, W0MOM, remains on board as Vice President of Sales. Additional key people are Steve Farkas, WA2NFR, President, and Gordon Hardman, W0RUN, as Vice President of Engineering. The main customer contact people, Brad Focken, K0HM, and Glenn Pladsen, AE0Q, are continuing in their current positions. Alpha equipment will continue to be manufactured in Boulder, Colorado.

-Posted September 30, 2009, CQ News

MFJ Buys Cushcraft Amateur Antenna Line

MFJ Enterprises has purchased the Cushcraft amateur radio antenna product line from Laird Technologies, Cushcraft's parent company. In a news release, Mississippi-based MFJ said the antennas will continue to be manufactured in New Hampshire.

-Posted August 27, 2009, CQ News

Final Edition of Passport to World Band Radio

The current edition of Passport to World Band Radio will apparently be the final one. Publisher Larry Magne says he will maintain the WorldScan database on the Passport website. He gave no reason for the decision to cease publication,

-Posted August 27, 2009, CQ News

Radio Shack Dropping "Radio"

RadioShack announced in early August that it is "contemporizing" its brand by dropping "Radio" from its name and calling itself simply, "THE SHACK." In practice, and after a lot of negative feedback, it appears that the full name will still be used, with "THE SHACK" being used for advertising and promotion.

-Posted August 27, 2009, CQ News

ARRL Briefs National Safety Council on Radio vs. Cellphones

The National Safety Council (NSC) is "on a mission" to educate Americans about the relative crash risks associated with different types of driving distractions. Among the greatest risks, says the council, are talking and texting on cellphones while driving, and it is seeking a nationwide ban on them. The ARRL is trying to educate the council on the differences between cellphones and two-way radios.

In a letter to NSC President Janet Froetscher, ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, explains that the major difference is that amateur radios and other two-way radios are simplex communication systems, in which only one person talks at a time and each person tends to do more listening than talking and the microphone is put down in between transmissions. According to the *ARRL Letter*, Harrison said "Two-way

radio operation has been going on for decades without highway safety being an issue. The fact that cell phones have come along does not change that."

-Posted August 27, 2009, CQ News

ARRL Speaks Out on "Commercialization of Amateur Radio"

The ARRL Board of Directors has released a position paper on "The Rules, The Risks and The Issues" regarding the use of amateur radio in support of organizations involved in disaster relief. The paper examines relevant FCC rules and rulings and discusses the ways in which some organizations are attempting to use amateur radio inappropriately, as well as ongoing questions regarding the use of amateur radio "on behalf of an employer." The nine-page report is summarized in the following paragraph:

"An enterprise, whether for-profit or non-profit, which intends to use Amateur Radio communications on a regular basis for its own basic organizational purposes, but could reasonably use other radio services available to them, should be steered toward those services. *A good rule of thumb when evaluating a particular request for communications support is, 'Who benefits?'* If public safety is the principal beneficiary, then §97.1 (of the FCC rules) is being fulfilled. If the entity itself and not the general public is the principal beneficiary, then they should be encouraged to use radio services other than Amateur Radio."

The complete report is online at http://www.arrl.org/news/files/ARRL_AppropriateUseGuidelines.pdf

-Posted September 30, 2009, CQ News

Vanity Fees to Rise by \$1.10

The fee for a vanity callsign will go up on September 10 from \$12.30 to \$13.40 for a ten-year license term. The FCC reviews all fees, including the vanity license fee, each year. The new fee applies to both new callsign applications and renewals of existing vanity calls.

-Posted August 27, 2009, CQ News

Interested in placing information in the newsletter?

Contact Phyllis Maness at kg4dtx@gmail.com

4th Annual Gray Hamfest

The Gray Hamfest is Saturday, October 17 at the Appalachian Fairgrounds in Gray, TN. The gates will open at 8:00 AM. There will be a variety of exhibitors, tailgating, hourly prizes, a Wheelchair Race, forums and an ARRL VE test session.

Inside Vendors

Vendors include *The Ham Station, The SignMan of Baton Rouge, The Original Wireman, Cedar city Sales, Debco Electronics, Radio & Electronics, Eagle 1*

Communications, AC & DC Electronics Custom Audio/Video Services, Blue Star Antennas, Eagle One Vertical Antenna and T.A.W. Enterprises.

Forums

Forums include Mike Otis (K0TIS), District Emergency Coordinator (DEC) for Northeast Tennessee who will discuss current Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) issues and plans at 9:00 AM. Emily Bishop (WE4MB) will present a special Youth Forum at 11:00 AM.

Ham Radio License

An ARRL Volunteer Examiner (VE) coordinated test session will be offered at **11:00 AM**, during the GrayHamfest, at the Gray United Methodist Church, just east of the Appalachian Fairgrounds.

Pre-registration is not a requirement, walk-ins are welcome. Arrive on time to complete the pre-test paperwork. Your test will be graded before you leave.

Bring:

- ◆ **Identification:** One legal photo ID (driver's license, passport, school ID, etc.) or two forms of other ID (Social Security card, birth certificate, utility bill, bank statement, postmarked envelope, etc.)
- ◆ **Upgrading:** Provide an original of your current FCC License (or CSCE) for review and a copy (to be submitted with your test material results).
- ◆ \$15 Exam Fee (Exact cash, please.)
- ◆ A soft-lead (#2) pencil with eraser.
- ◆ A calculator (if needed).