

# ZERO BEAT

Official Newsletter  
Kingsport Amateur Radio Club  
Bays Mountain Radio Club

April 2010

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## Important Dates

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

May 13  
KARC/BMRC Club Meeting  
Toy F. Reid Employee Center  
Room 115  
7:00 PM

May 15  
Breakfast Get-Together  
Golden Corral, Eastman Road  
8:30 AM

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

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## Meeting Dates – Members Providing Snacks

May 13	Betty & Mike Jackson
June 10	Lynn & Bonnie Anderson
July 8	Open
August 12	<b>Annual Picnic</b>
September 9	Phil Alley
October 14	Randy Smith
November 11	Walt Baldree
December 9	<b>Christmas Party</b>

## 2010 KARC/BMRC Club Officers

KARC President Billy Taylor, KI4TNS  
423-245-3336

KARC Vice-President Phil Alley, KE4FFO  
423-239-3113

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 Seretary-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

Activites 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 JohnTaylor, KJ4KYM  
423-245-3336

Net Manager Ed Williams, AC4ED  
423-360-7613

# May Birthdays

**3**

Paul Marcum (AC4QZ)

**14**

Walt Baldree (K4YCP)  
Billy Taylor (KI4TNS)

**19**

Justin Holmes (AI4IS)

**20**

Phyllis Maness (KG4DTX)

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## Club Dues

Dues are \$10.00 for a single member or \$15.00 for a family. Dues can be paid at the club meeting or you can send a check made out to KARC with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Treasurer Robin Oaks. Her address is 220 Blue Haven Drive, Kingsport, TN 37663.

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## ARES

An ARES meeting 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 extend their condolences to member Cora Whaley, KI4JID, for the recent loss of her father. Our thoughts and prayers are with her and her family.

## Upcoming Hamfests

*May 8*

Tail-Gate Party  
Clarksville Amateur Transmitting Society  
Clarksville, TN

For more information, contact  
<http://www.kf4l.org>

*May 8*

Johnson County Amateur Radio Club  
National Guard Amory  
Mountain City, TN

*June 12*

Tennessee State Convention  
Knoxville Hamfest & Electronics Exposition  
Kerbela Temple  
Knoxville, TN

For more information, contact  
<http://www.w4bbb.org>

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## Amateur Test Sessions

The Kingsport Amateur Radio Club is available to set up test sessions at any time. If you find that you need a test session, contact Ed Williams, AC4ED, or Earl Oaks, N4ZFA.

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## Interested in placing information in the newsletter?

Contact Phyllis Maness, KG4DTX

at

[kg4dtw@gmail.com](mailto:kg4dtw@gmail.com)

## Club Meeting

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

Treasurer Robin Oaks, KJ4NAW, informed the club that not much had changed. She has not yet activated the club debit card. A copy of the Treasurer Report was given to the president and secretary.

The Repeater Report was given by Jeff Pierce. He told the club that he thinks that we do not need to purchase a new antenna. He has an opportunity to purchase a 50 foot tower at a good price. He will need to go on the mountain to determine the best place for a tower. Phil Alley made a motion to defer the purchase of a new antenna to purchase the tower and hardline instead. Paul Marcum, AC4QZ, seconded the motion. The motion carried. Jeff also needs a stacking pole for temporary use and will need to calibrate the antenna.

The website is still doing okay with nothing changed according to Webmaster Earl Oaks, N4ZFA.

Phyllis Maness, KG4DTX, stated that the Zero Beat is coming along fine. She encouraged everyone to continue to send information and ideas of interest to be included in the newsletter. Also, don't forget to complete the survey located on the website.

Billy Taylor, Chairperson of the Station Committee, said that there had not been much activity at the club shack. The past Monday, they had worked on an antenna for another member.

Activities Manager David Gulley, KI4AAU, is looking for ideas for the club. If anyone has

an idea, let David know. One suggestion was doing a rotation. Members could bring Ready Kits and go over what you would need to do to operate in an emergency.

Due to the recent opening of the KARC Vice-President position, the club held a special election. President Billy Taylor opened the floor to nominations. Jeff Pierce nominated Phil Alley for the position. Jennifer Taylor, KI4TNT, seconded the motion. Jeff also made a motion to close the nominations if no others were interested in nominating someone. Robin Oaks seconded the motion. The motion carried.

There were a couple of questions about the status of upcoming Field Day. One question was the location of the event, another was the idea of extra power. Billy Taylor informed the club that it may be held at the same location at Memorial Park on Fort Henry Drive. Field Day Captain John Taylor, KJ4KYM, has been scouting alternative locations. This was tabled until next month's meeting so it can be discussed with John.

Don Mullins, AE4IA, reminded the club that the generator stored at his home has a flat tire. Phil Alley made a motion to purchase two tires for the generator trailer so it can be moved. Jennifer Taylor seconded the motion. The motion carried. After a brief discussion on where the generator should be stored. It was determined that we would not be able to store the generator at the shack and the club would continue the discussion at a later date.

Phil Alley made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 PM. Paul Marcum seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

## HAM RADIO

## **Update - Comment Deadline Set for NPRM on Disaster Drills**

The FCC's Notice of Proposed Rule Making on providing communications on behalf of an employer during a government-sponsored emergency or disaster drill was published yesterday in the *Federal Register*, starting the clock on comments. Comments are due by May 24, with reply comments due by June 7.

We encourage you to read the complete NPRM before filing comments. You may access it by going to the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) website and searching for WT Docket 10-72.

*-CQ Newsroom, April 22, 2010*

## **ARRL Requests Expanded Callsign Pool, Including 2nd Numeral**

The ARRL has asked the FCC to open up currently-closed callsign blocks and to consider issuing ham callsigns containing two digits rather than just one. Responding to an FCC proposal to limit clubs to a single license and callsign (due to a shrinking number of available "Group A" calls -- using the 1x2, 2x1 and 2x2 formats), the League said clubs often have more than one station and that the proposal would not end callsign abuse because it would not limit the number of clubs for which a single amateur could be trustee.

According to the ARRL website, the League's proposed alternative is to have the FCC open up currently unused callsign blocks, including the entire NA-NZ group and several previously-reserved W groups, and to expand the number of Group A calls available by permitting the first character of the suffix to be a numeral rather than a letter, such as W23A. The League also asked the FCC to re-examine in a future proceeding whether the public interest would be served by expanding the special-event callsign pool beyond the currently-available 1x1 format (such as K1A).

*-CQ Newsroom, April 21, 2010*

## **ARRL, Red Cross, Sign New Memorandum of Understanding**

After more than two years without a formal working relationship, the ARRL and American Red Cross have finally agreed on terms of a new Memorandum of Understanding that provides a structure under which the two groups will continue to work together. The previous agreement expired in 2007 and was not renewed due to hams' opposition to a newly-imposed Red Cross requirement that all of its volunteers undergo background checks that included not only checks for criminal records but credit reports and "mode of living" reports as well.

Under the new agreement, hams operating under the auspices of the ARRL's Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) will not have to submit to credit, mode of living or "investigative consumer" reports, according to the League. However, criminal background checks will still be required, which the agreement says that ARRL volunteers "may arrange, at their own initiative and expense, to have ... performed by a state or local law enforcement agency." The full Red Cross background check is performed at no cost to the volunteer, and may still be required if a ham wishes to become a Red Cross volunteer and expand his/her role beyond that of providing communications.

*-CQ Newsroom, April 21, 2010*

## **Vanity Fees May Drop a Dime**

In its annual review of fees it charges to licensees, the FCC has recommended lowering the fee for an amateur vanity call sign from the current \$13.40 for ten years to \$13.30. The so-called "regulatory fees" are payable on application for a vanity call and for renewals. They go to support general FCC operations. The fees are adjusted each year, based on the Commission's overall budget. They have ranged from a low of \$11.70 to a high of \$70. Fee revisions generally take effect at the start of the new federal fiscal year each September.

-CQ Newsroom, April 21, 2010

## **Free Online Electronics Training**

Tyco Electronics has established a series of free online tutorials on electronics called Circuit Protection University, or CPU. According to Newline, the self-paced tutorials start with electrical basics and work up to detailed descriptions of circuit protection strategies for consumer electronics devices. To learn more, visit <http://go.bluevolt.com/CoBrandTemplate/home.aspx?brand=tyco>.

-CQ Newsroom, April 21, 2010

## **ARRL Unveils Redesigned Website**

In a launch worthy of NASA, the ARRL has finally unveiled its redesigned website after going through a series of delays and glitches that rival a space shuttle launch. According to the *ARRL Letter*, the new site is organized around ham radio activities rather than ARRL departments and is supposed to be more user-friendly. The League's information technology staff and an outside vendor have been working on the re-design for more than two years. It's at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org).

-CQ Newsroom, April 21, 2010

## **Two Satellites, To Go...**

Representatives of AMSAT, NASA and Russia's Energia space agency have signed an agreement under which AMSAT promises to deliver two satellites to Energia for the planned ARISSat launch by July 1, according to the AMSAT News Service. One of the satellites will be transported to the International Space Station, where it is scheduled to be hand-launched by the crew. ARISSat is a hastily-designed and built satellite replacing the planned "SuitSat 2," which was supposed to be a ham satellite packed inside a surplus Russian spacesuit that was slated for disposal. The suit had to be jettisoned ahead of schedule, though, and ARISSat was developed as a substitute.

-CQ Newsroom, April 21, 2010