

# ZERO BEAT

Official Newsletter  
Kingsport Amateur Radio Club/Bays Mountain Radio Club

November 2009

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## Club Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Jeff Pierce, WD4NMQ, at 7:00 PM. Phil Alley, KE4FFO, led the group in prayer. Earl Oaks, N4ZFA, made a motion to accept the minutes as printed in the Zero Beat. Jennifer Taylor, KI4TNT, seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Jeff Pierce gave the Repeater Report. He has a line on a tower and is continuing to pursue it. He informed the club that we would need at least a 40 feet tower mast or left at the present location, at least a 50 feet tower. He also told the club that the South East Repeater Association (SERA), which is the coordinating contact for clubs, has recognized our club. He will get with them to lay the ground rules for the club's antenna change in height.

Treasurer Dave Stevens, WB2SIN, gave the Treasurer Report. All accounts are in good standing. A copy was given to the President and the KARC Secretary.

Earl Oaks informed the club that he is keeping the website updated. The website is [w4trc.org](http://w4trc.org). If anyone would like to offer suggestions, please let him know.

According to Phyllis Maness, KG4DTX, the newsletter is going good. She encouraged the members to send her information to put in the newsletter. She also asked the current officers and nominees if she could place their telephone numbers in the newsletter so new hams could reach them if there were any questions about the club. All officers and nominees present gave their permission.

Station Manager Don Mullins, AE4IA, told the club that the shack has been cleaned up. He needs members' help putting up the mast and antenna. After a brief discussion, several members planned to get together on November 14<sup>th</sup> to test the antenna. Don will call about getting a cherry picker so the antenna can be put up safely.

There was some discussion on whether a lock was still needed on the equipment cabinet at the shack. It has been determined that no one else utilizes our shack so the lock would not be needed. Earl Oaks made a motion to remove the lock from the cabinet. Walt Baldree, K4YCP, seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Walt Baldree reminded the club that it is the responsibility of the radio club to bring interest in amateur radio to younger and new members. We all should encourage new members to utilize the equipment.

David Gulley, KI4AAU, told the club that the annual Christmas Parade was scheduled for November 21. Interested members should meet at the Kingsport Grocery Company at 12:30PM for a lunch courtesy of the Kingsport Chamber of Commerce. The parade starts at 3:15 PM. He reminded the volunteers to be sure to dress appropriately and bring their safety vests. Since the club has 5 safety vests for member's use, contact David if you do not have one to use.

Several members have been getting together at the shack on Monday nights to make antennas. All operators are invited to participate. They usually meet around 6:00 PM.

Dave Stevens has been working with 10 boys from Scout Troop 54. He has taught them the origin of radio, circuitries and amateur radio. Jeff Pierce stepped in to teach soldering. Dave hopes to set up a club station in a couple of weeks on 2 meters so the scouts can talk to the operators in the area.

Paul Marcum, AC4QZ, is working on the new Amateur Radio Directory. He told the club that it should be completed by February.

KARC Officer Nominees for the upcoming year:

President – Billy Taylor, KI4TNS  
Vice President – Mike Jackson, KI4OJO  
Secretary – Phyllis Maness, KG4DTX  
Treasurer – Dave Stevens, WB2SIN and Robin Oaks, KJ4NAW  
Club License Trustee – Jeff Pierce, WD4NMQ

Elections will be at the December Christmas Party. We will be meeting at the Life Station 2 Crew Building located on Fort Henry Drive. The party will follow a brief business meeting. Bring finger food and a wrapped radio related white elephant gift for the exchange.

Phil Alley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jennifer Taylor seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.



### Important Dates

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

December 10  
KARC/BMRC Club Christmas Party  
Life Station 2 Crew Building  
Fort Henry Drive  
7:00 PM

December 12  
Breakfast Get-Together at Golden Corral, Eastman Road  
8:30 AM

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

### **2009 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**

**Website**  
**w4trc.org**

## Member Showcase

AC4QZ  
Paul Marcum

Paul has been licensed since June 1990. His original call sign was KC4SAF. His mentors were Shorty Walton (KC4MXX) and Dan Wolfe (N4ROA) both of whom are SK now. His radio equipment includes a Ten-Tec Jupiter (Model 538) HF. He also has a Yaesu FT 2900/R VHF-2 meters, MFJ 969 Antenna Tuner and an Astron RS 50M power supply. His antennas include a Ringo Ranger II 7db gain – VHF 2 meters, 80 meter dipole > broadside SW to NE and a 40 meter inverted V antenna. He monitors RR frequencies and Morse code regularly.



## December Birthdays

8 David Gulley, K14AAU  
29 Mike Jackson, K14OJO  
29 Michael McConnell, K14ECN

### Test Session

There will be an Amateur Radio Test Session in December at Kingsport Computers located on Fort Henry Drive. The date is not set yet but will be posted on the w4trc.org website. All classes of testing are available. Remember to take a copy of your current license and a photo ID. The fee is \$15, which can be paid in cash (try to have exact change) or as a personal check made out to ARRL/VEC.

## SKYWARN Recognition Day Set for December 5

The 11th Annual SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) Special Event will take place Saturday, December 5, 2009. SRD is co-sponsored by the ARRL and the National Weather Service (NWS) as a way to recognize the commitment made by Amateur Radio operators in helping to keep their communities safe. According to SRD Coordinator David Floyd, N5DBZ, Amateur Radio operators can visit their local participating NWS office, working as a team to contact other hams across the world throughout the 24 hour event. For more information, contact the ARRL website.

-ARRL Website

## AA2EJ Wins Nobel Prize

The next time you pick up your digital camera, or snap a photo on your cell phone, take a moment to thank George Smith, AA2EJ. Back in 1969, he and fellow Bell Labs researcher Willard Boyle invented the charge-coupled device, or CCD, which was the first successful digital imaging device. Their invention led to development of digital photography and a host of other digital imaging technologies, and has now netted them a one-half share of the 2009 Nobel Prize in Physics. The rest of the prize went to Charles Kao of Hong Kong for figuring out how to transmit light over great distances through ultrapure digital fibers. Today's fiber-optic networks are at the heart of the internet and let you send those digital photos to friends across the globe in seconds.

-CQ Newsroom, Posted November 20, 2009

## New Tech Questions to be Released in January

A new set of exam questions for the Technician Class license will be used starting this coming July, and the new question pool is being released to the public in January, 2010. The questions were to be first released to the nation's 14 Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs) in December. According to the Question Pool Committee of the National Conference of VECs, which develops the questions, the new Technician pool will consist of approximately 400 questions, from which 35 will be selected for each license exam. For the first time since the NCVEC took over test question preparation, the new Technician exam will include graphics and diagrams. The new pool will be used for four years, from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2014.

-CQ Newsroom, Posted November 20, 2009

## Ham Light Communication Record Set

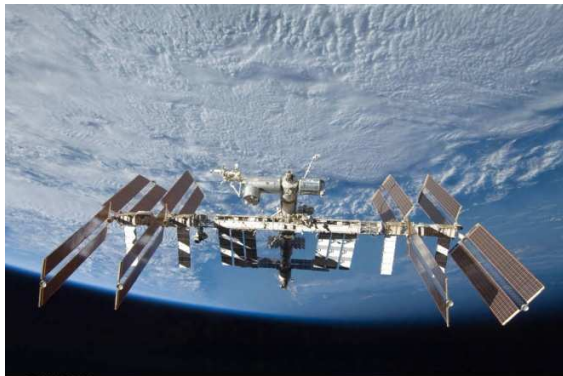
Three Australian amateurs have set a new record for a non-line-of-sight optical communications path. The one-way transmission, using red LEDs (light emitting diodes), covered 288 kilometers (173 miles) across Australia's Bass Strait, according to "Newsline." Joe Gelston, VK7JG and Paul Godden, VK7KPG, transmitted a 3-watt signal from Mt. Horror, while Rex Moncour, VK7MO, was listening on Mt. Liptrap. The light signals were bounced off of high altitude cirrus clouds and were decoded using a new program developed by VK3HZ called "Weak Signal Communicator."

-CQ Newsroom, Posted November 20, 2009

## ARISS Celebrates Milestone in Space Station-School Contacts

When International Space Station Commander Frank DeWinne, ON1DWN, talked with students at the Copernic Science Center in Warsaw, Poland, on October 27, it marked the 500th school contact made by astronauts in the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program. According to the AMSAT News Service, contacts have been made with schools around the world since ARISS began in 2000. Making contacts with the space station should be getting easier, with the planned installation in November of several new ham antennas on the ISS Columbus module. The antennas, for 2 meters, 70 centimeters, 1296 MHz and 2.4 GHz were part of a shipment of supplies and equipment carried to the ISS by the shuttle Atlantis in mid-November. They were scheduled to be installed during a spacewalk.

-CQ Newsroom, Posted November 20, 2009



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*International Space Station*

## Old Logs Sought for Sociological Study

Researchers in Wisconsin and Ohio are seeking to mine information from old ham radio logs to help trace the development of social networks and document changes in attitudes about work and leisure time. According to "Newslines," researchers at the University of Wisconsin and at Miami University of Ohio are looking for ham station logs from 1913 to 1927. The researchers will be comparing early licensing records with detailed information contained in station logs. If you have a log from this era and are willing to share it, contact Steve Johnston, WD8DAS at [Johnston@wpr.org](mailto:Johnston@wpr.org).

-CQ Newsroom, Posted November 20, 2009

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*Interested in placing information  
in the newsletter?*

*Contact Phyllis Maness, KG4DTX  
[kg4dtx@gmail.com](mailto:kg4dtx@gmail.com)*

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