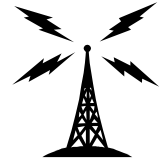


# ZERO BEAT



Official Newsletter

Kingsport Amateur Radio Club/Bays Mountain Radio Club

~ **October 2008** ~

## Meeting

The October meeting was called to order by Activities Director David Gulley, KI4AAU. David stepped in to preside over the meeting due to the absence of the president. David asked everyone to remember Mike Greer, KC4MG, Phil Alley, KE4FFO and Don Mullins, AE4IA, whom are all recovering from health problems.

David discussed the need for a nominating committee to determine which members will be the new officers for the club beginning January 2009. He also suggested that if any member would like to volunteer for any position, to let the club know.

The Annual Christmas Party and White Elephant giveaway will be the December club meeting. No details were finalized during the meeting.

The program for our November meeting will be presented by David Wilson (N4DW). He is a member of the Bristol Club and would like to start attending the Kingsport meetings. The program will be the "Logbook of the World".

David briefly discussed the Christmas parade which is on the Saturday before Thanksgiving, November 22. Hams will be needed to work the parade. Please listen to the Sunday night net for details.

Allen Lark reminded the members about the Scout Jamboree at Camp Sky-Wa-Mo near Bluff City on Oct. 18. Help is needed to set up radios to train 25-30 Girl Scouts. This training and performance will earn them a badge.

Allen also reminded the club that on Saturday, November 1, 2008, the West Sullivan County ARES will elect officers. The meeting will be held upstairs at the Kingsport Life Saving Crew Building at 9:00 AM.

Meeting was adjourned.

Remember to  
**Vote November 4th**



## Stolen Equipment

Recently, several equipment items were stolen from the ham radio shack (Room 225) in Wilson-Wallis Hall at ETSU. These include:

- Kenwood TS-680S Transceiver along with the 12-volt power supply
- Kenwood TM-261A 2-Meter Transceiver
- Alinco Dr-570T Dual Band 144 and 440 MHz Transceiver.
- All manuals for the above equipment

Please keep on the lookout for these items. If you see anything, contact Bob May, K4SE at [mayr@etsu.edu](mailto:mayr@etsu.edu) or [k4se@arrl.net](mailto:k4se@arrl.net).

### 432 MHz Standing of Local Interest (Fourth Call Area)

#### DXCC

States    Entities    Grids

Callsign	State	Worked	Worked	Worked	DX (km)
AA4H	TN	21	1	57	1,737

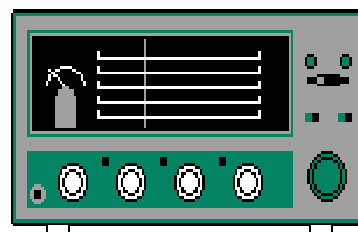
Congratulations to Carl Smith, Jr. (AA4H) of Blountville, TN for his achievements in this Amateur Radio contest sponsored by the ARRL. The above information was obtained from QST – November 2008, page 92.

*Information submitted to Zero Beat by Paul L. Marcum, AC4QZ*

# Snacks

November – Dave Stevens

December – Christmas Party



## Important Dates



- ✓ **November 13** - KARC/BMRC Club at the Toy F. Reid Employee Center at 7:00 PM Program-Logbook of the World to be presented by David Wilson (N4DW)
- ✓ **November 15** - Breakfast Get-together at **Golden Corral**, Eastman Road, 8:30 AM
- ✓ **Every Sunday** - 2 Meter Net on 146.970 at 8:30 PM (Backup Repeater is Gate City 146.820)

### Sunday Night Net

Paul Marcum, AC4QZ, [Net Manager] needs a Net Control Station for the first Sunday evening of each month for BMRC-KARC Sunday evening Two-Meter Informational Net. If interested, please contact Paul at 423-230-0532 or [marcumpl@yahoo.com](mailto:marcumpl@yahoo.com)

### Upcoming Hamfests

November 1 & 2  
Stone Mountain Hamfest  
Lawrenceville Fairgrounds  
Lawrenceville, GA  
For more information, visit

### MONTANA HAM ASSISTS IN RESCUE OF FELLOW AMATEUR 600 MILES AWAY

On Sunday, September 21, Bob Williams, N7ODM, of Bozeman, Montana, was just tuning around on 40 meters, giving his rig a test just before a scheduled QSO with his brother Rich, K7URU, in Spokane, when he heard a faint SW signal around 1 PM (MDT) Glenn Russell

<http://hamfest@totr-radio.org>

## KARC/BMRC CLUB OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES FOR 2008

### President

Mike Greer, KC4MG

### BMRC Vice President

Rick Light, KG4WZG

### KARC Vice President

Justin Holmes, AI4IS

### BMRC Secretary Treasurer

Phil Alley, KE4FFO

### KARC Secretary

Tiana Holmes, KI40IW

### KARC Treasurer

David Stevens, WB2SIN

### Club License Trustee

Ronnie Byrd, AI4BT

### Chaplain

Tom Jayne, KF4RLG

### Field Day Captain

David Stevens, WB2SIN

### Activities Manager

David Gulley, KI4AAU

### Zero Beat Editor

Phyllis Maness, KG4DTX

### Station Manager

Don Mullins, AE4IA

### Net Manager

Paul Marcum, AC4QZ

### W4TRC Webmaster

Jennifer Taylor, KI4TNT

<http://w4trc.tripod.com/>

Ruby Jr, W7AU, of Corvallis, Oregon had broken his leg and was using a portable radio and Morse code to send out a call for help. Williams said he was able to understand the injured man's code even when his signal became very weak.

"He called me. He must have heard me testing out the radio. When I finished, I signed off with my call, and then I heard, 'N7ODM, this is W7AU/7,' so I answered," Williams told the ARRL. "I told him to go ahead, I had solid copy. He told me that he was a hiker that had fallen and broken his leg. He identified himself as Russ, provided information as to his GPS coordinates, the shelter, food and water on hand, as well as his detailed physical condition. He told me exactly who I needed to contact for assistance."

According to Williams, Ruby had slipped on a wet rock and broken his leg while out hiking in the Buck Creek Pass area of the high Cascades in Western Washington, 600 miles away from Williams. "Russ really had his act together," Williams said. "Before he even called for help, he set up his tent. It was raining when he fell, so he climbed into his tent and got into some warm clothes and had a snack of sunflower seeds and dried apricots. After that, he strung up a wire antenna, fired up his Elecraft K1 and called me." Williams said that Ruby told him he had a "couple of weeks worth of battery power" for the radio.

Ruby asked Williams to notify the Snohomish County Search and Rescue in Washington State. "I didn't have their number, so I called my local 911 dispatcher. All they had was the info for King County in Washington, so I called them and they gave me the number for Snohomish. When I got a hold of Snohomish County Search and Rescue, they asked me to obtain additional info from Russ, such as the color of his tent and if he was in a clear or wooded area, and remain in contact with him as long as possible," Williams said.

"Russ and I were able to maintain contact until about 8 PM on Sunday, during which time I was able to pass additional traffic between Russ and Search and Rescue, but then his signal got so weak where I couldn't copy it anymore. Before he faded, we had agreed to try and make contact in the morning. I tried, starting around 6:30, but he never heard me. I finally heard him calling me around 9 on 7.051 MHz. We kept in contact until he was evacuated from the site by Search and Rescue at about 10:35 AM," Williams told the ARRL.

On Sunday, rescue crews reached Ruby, who had set up camp on Buck Creek Pass, at about 6000 feet just west of the Chelan County line. He was taken to safety Monday on horseback. Williams said that bad weather Sunday prevented a helicopter rescue: "It was snowing all night; Russ told me that when he woke up Monday morning, his tent was all covered in snow."

"I just happened to be at the same frequency," Williams said. "It's just a stroke of luck that turned out great. It was quite an experience. I'm just glad that he was a ham radio operator and that I was able to talk to him. It made the difference for him. What I did was not anything special. I'd like to think that any ham in Montana would've done the same thing."

*This story was excerpted from the ARRL on line weekly bulletin.*

ARLB016 Next Round of PAVE PAWS  
Mitigation Contacts Begin

On Wednesday, October 22, the FCC notified the ARRL that they would immediately begin making direct contact with owners or trustees of approximately 40 repeaters. The US

Air Force identified these repeaters earlier this year as contributors to the harmful interference affecting the Beale Air Force Base PAVE PAWS radar installation near Sacramento, California.

"ARRL understands that contact with individual amateurs will be made from the DFCC's San Francisco office," said ARRL Regulatory Information Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. "The owners of these newly identified repeaters will be provided the operating parameters determined by the Air Force engineering unit's testing to be necessary to mitigate the interference. The owners will be requested to meet signal strength limits as soon as possible. The ARRL Lab and staff are available to answer specific questions for the owners of these newly identified repeaters and to provide technical information to assist them in implementing the mitigation."

Henderson said that as the Amateur Radio Service is a secondary user on the 70 cm band, "It is important for amateurs to remember that it is 100 percent our responsibility to eliminate harmful interference to the primary user. While we realize that this is and will continue to be an ongoing process, this third round of mitigation should mean that each of the known repeaters in the affected area have been tested at least once. How the FCC will address approximately 50 repeaters previously identified as interference contributors – but which have not apparently completed the required modifications -- still remains. Nor is it clear when a process by which new coordination can be issued in the area might commence."

Henderson reminded amateurs that "It is important to remember that this isn't a one-time solution. The amateur community needs to remain aware of this problem and responsibly utilize the band in the future to avoid any large-scale problems such as those we have experienced in this situation."



### City of Manassas Takes Over BPL System

The Broadband over Power Lines (BPL) system in Manassas, Virginia – once the poster child for the supposed potential of the troubled system for internet access -- has been taken over by the city after the private company running the system failed in a bid to sell it and pulled out, according to the ARRL Letter. The Manassas system has been the subject of repeated complaints to the FCC about interference to ham radio and other radio services on the high frequency (HF) bands. It was also visited by then-FCC Chairman Michael Powell just before the Commission announced its controversial BPL rules. The citywide system had the potential to provide broadband service to some 12,000 residences and 2,500 businesses. At the time of the city takeover, it had just 675 customers. Manassas had to lay out over \$100,000 to purchase the system, in addition to some \$650,000 to maintain service to existing customers and because of the remote metering system it included, although the city is looking into other approaches for remote metering.

*CQ Newsroom*



**GET READY FOR THE ARRL NOVEMBER SWEEPSTAKES**

This year marks the 75th running of the premier domestic contest, the ARRL CW Sweepstakes <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2008/novss.html>. According to ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, the event started back in 1929 as a competition for handling formal traffic messages and is one of the oldest traditions in Amateur Radio. "The contest exchange contains more elements than usual, an homage to the traffic-handling days of yore," he said. "If you have never participated in Sweepstakes, you are really missing out on some serious fun! A complete primer by ARRL Contributing Editor H. Ward Silver, NOAX, on how to participate in Sweepstakes can be found in the Radiosport supplement in the October 2008 issue of QST."

Kutzko said that since 2008 is the 75th running of Sweepstakes, ARRL is anticipating record levels of participation and many prizes will be available for those who participate: "We'll have a special magnet that will be sent free to all stations that submit a log with 75 of the 80 ARRL and RAC Sections worked. As in previous years, those who submit logs with at least 100 contacts will be able to purchase Participation Pins."

The major challenge in Sweepstakes is to work all 80 ARRL/RAC Sections; this is known as a "Clean Sweep." "This year, we will be awarding a Clean Sweep whisk broom to all stations that make a Clean Sweep," Kutzko said. "Brooms were last available in 1983, the 50th running of Sweepstakes. In addition to the free brooms, Clean Sweep coffee mugs will also be available for purchase. This year's mug will be fine etched glass and will truly be a collector's item."

ARRL/RAC Sections for all six entry categories; plaques will be available to the overall winners in each entry category, as well as the winners in each Division. "ICOM has provided plaques and certificates for Sweepstakes winners since 2005, and we are grateful for their support over the years," Kutzko said.

"Certain Sections are always rare for Sweepstakes, especially on CW," Kutzko pointed out. "VY0/VY1/VE8 (Northern Territories), VE1-VE9-VY2 (Maritimes), VE2 (Quebec), VE4 (Manitoba), VE5 (Saskatchewan), V01-V02 (Newfoundland-Labrador), Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming always seem to be highly sought after. If you live in one of these places (or want to travel there), this is a golden opportunity for you to be the 'rare DX.' Stations in these Sections get to hear 'Thanks for the Sweep!' more than once during the weekend. Even if your CW is rusty or your station is modest, your effort to put a rare Section on the air during CW Sweepstakes will be appreciated by every single station that works you."

Whether you want to go for a Top 10 finish, or simply get on the air to hand out a few QSOs or work on your Worked All States Award (WAS) <http://www.arrl.org/awards/was/>, Kutzko said the November CW Sweepstakes is guaranteed fun and excitement. Be sure to check out the complete rules and entry forms. Come be a part of one of Amateur Radio's finest traditions <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2008/novss.html>.

*The ARRL Letter*



Thanks to ICOM America <http://www.icomamerica.com/>, the Principal Award Sponsor of the November Sweepstakes, certificates will be awarded for first place in each of the 80

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Interested in placing information in the newsletter?  
 Contact Phyllis Maness, KG4DTX  
[kg4dtx@gmail.com](mailto:kg4dtx@gmail.com)

Regional Club Meetings			
Club/Association	Date	Time	Place
Bristol Amateur Radio Club	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday	7:00 PM	Bristol Memorial Medical Center Azalea Meeting Room, Exit 74 on I-81, TN
Carter County Amateur Radio Association	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday	7:30 PM	Elizabethton Municipal Airport Terminal Building, 415 Highway 91, Elizabethton, TN
Johnson City Amateur Radio Association	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	7:00 PM	North Side Hospital Courtyard Main Classroom, 401 Princeton Road, Johnson City, TN
Kingsport/Bays Mountain Amateur Radio Clubs	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday	7:00 PM	Toy F. Reid Employee Center, Wilcox & Industry Drives, Kingsport, TN
Lakeway Amateur Radio Club	Last Thursday	7:00 PM	Morristown-Hamblin Library, W Main Street, downstairs Community Room, Morristown, TN

Mountain Empire Amateur Radio Society	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday	7:00 PM	Washington County 911 Dispatch Office, 234 Valley Drive, Abingdon, VA
Scott County Amateur Radio Society	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday	7:00 PM	EOC Building behind Public Library, Gate City, VA
Smoky Mountain Amateur Radio Club	4 <sup>th</sup> Monday	7:00 PM	United Steel Workers of America Hall, 339 Hall Road, Alcoa, TN

Regional Club Nets			
Club/Association	Frequency	Day	Time
Bristol Amateur Radio Club	146.070	Tuesday *	9:00 PM
Carter County Amateur Radio Association	145.290	Tuesday *	8:30 PM
Johnson City Amateur Radio Association	146.790	Tuesday *	9:00 PM
Kingsport/Bays Mountain Amateur Radio Clubs	146.970	Sunday	8:30 PM
Lakeway Amateur Radio Club	147.030	Tuesday	8:30 PM
Mountain Empire Amateur Radio Society	443.000	Wednesday	8:00 PM
Smoky Mountain Amateur Radio Club	146.655	Thursday	7:00 PM

\*Except meeting nights.

### Changing E-mail Addresses?

We are continuing to compile an updated email list of the club members in order to email the newsletter or to send information about special events or changes. Please let us know if your email is changing or has changed. You can send your name, callsign, email address and phone number to Phil Alley, KE4FFO, at [ke4ffo@gmail.com](mailto:ke4ffo@gmail.com) or to Phyllis Maness, KG4DTX, [kg4dtx@gmail.com](mailto:kg4dtx@gmail.com). We appreciate your help in keeping our email list updated.

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