

Zero Beat



Kingsport Amateur Radio Club May 2025 Edition

Club News

Summer field day will be the last weekend in June (27, 28 for those counting). It will take place at the Mt Carmel City Park pavilion and go for two days. We do need volunteers to come out Friday evening to start setting up. In addition, there is a sign up sheet on the W4TRC.ORG website. Only 6 folks have signed up to date. By RSVP we get a good idea for food preparation and activities so please sign up. Also, Helping by bringing a side or other item to help feed the masses helps us immensely to keep costs down.

We are currently working with the Kingsport Chamber of commerce to get a station setup for funfest. This will occur on July 21st 10- 3 and 22nd 1 - 5 near the douglas high school. This is a family day established to "Promote interest with interactive exhibits that promote educational opportunities, active lifestyles and parent support!" We plan to have an HF and VHF setup for exhibit, Meshtastic, and also plan to have foxhunting equipment setup where families can sign up to go on a fox hunt with club equipment. The event is a Monday and Tuesday so if you are available please let us know.

The KARC foxhunt for May will take place on the 17th of the month. It begins at 3 p.m. And check-ins starting at 2:45 p.m. On the 146.970 repeater. Participants can start from any location in the area, keeping in mind that the foxes will be hidden within the city limits, so having a map on your phone is advisable. All fox frequencies are listed on the W4TRC.org website. If you are interested in joining the first trip, please contact Josh Carmack or Neil Weber to arrange a ride. Their phone numbers and email addresses are also available on the website.

We are well on the way to setting up the special event stations at Netherland and Rocky Mount for later in the fall. More info forthcoming. We also have plans for a few more events such as fire prevention week.

Next Meeting: 6/12 at the Press Room off Roller Street. Dinner will begin at 6 and will consist of Apple Glazed Pork Tenderloin, Salad, and other fixings. Menu will be finalized soon. The presentation will be by a guest speaker who heads up APRS Balloon Launches that can go around the world transmitting location along the route. We are looking forward to the presentation and will give more information at the mailing prior to the next club meeting.

HHART & KARC meets at Randall's every 3rd Wednesday of the month from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM.

NETS: David Herron K4UVU just volunteered and was voted in as the clubs new Net administrator. He currently needs 1-2 new controllers due to commitments causing problems for 2 of the old controllers. We are also considering additional nets on other bands. Let us know what you have interest in.

We are also continuing with emergency simplex practice on the first Sunday of the month. Last Sunday we had 10 checkins for the simplex portion of the net with 5 of those stations being received at a location on South Holston Lake. Having a setup that will do the long haul between Kingsport and South Holston with simplex is a station you can be proud of. Congratulations to KR4ABN, W4WFX, KE4SCJ, W4LMY, W4CKS. Next month we have plans to move the simplex practice to 440 mHz. Frequency will be given at the Sunday evening net.

Holston River Valley HF Net 7.295 MHz

Beginnings: In mid 2025 the Holston River Valley HF Net was started as a platform to bring people and clubs the East TN, SW VA area together each Wednesday night at 8:00 PM local time.

Growth: This net is open to anyone that holds a General class or higher license.

Technology: We will be utilizing Netlogger for this net. We will take check-ins from Netlogger and will request RF check-ins. [Download Here](#)

For questions, please email k4uvu71@gmail.com

HISTORY OF KARC W4TRC/R REPEATERS

By George DeVault W3KPT & David Rotenberry K4DR

In the 1950's and '60's Kingsport area amateur radio activity in the 144-148 mHz 2 meter band was mostly low power AM generated by Heathkit "lunchbox" transceivers. Heath's 6 meter AM "lunchbox" was also popular. CW and single-sideband activity on the lower portion of the band was often accomplished using HF radios equipped with frequency converters. Antenna polarization was generally horizontal especially on the lower portion of the band, and horizontal polarization remains the standard today for AM, CW, and SSB operation in the lower portions of the 2 meter band.

As the 1960's progressed, 2 meter FM activity picked up in our area generally using surplus gear easily converted to 2 meters from its original use on the commercial VHF "high band" in the 150-170 mHz region. These transceivers often began their service in police cars, delivery trucks, emergency vehicles, and the like. Almost all amateur 2 meter FM activity was simplex — largely on 146.52 and 146.94 mHz. Vertical antenna polarization was the standard for commercial FM VHF activity, which primarily consisted of base stations communicating with mobile transceivers in service vehicles, and that practice carried over on 2 meters. Soon commercial interests began using repeaters to enhance range, placing their antennas on mountains, tall buildings, or towers.

Around 1970 George Shaver, K4HxD, put on the air what is generally considered to be the first 2 meter amateur repeater in the region. It was located on Chilhowee mountain near Walland in the Knoxville area with an output frequency of 146.94 mHz and an input frequency of 146.34 mHz and could be worked from Kingsport with the right combination of height, power, and antenna gain. That repeater is still in operation on the same frequency.

[Continue Reading](#)

Amateur Radio News

THE CENTENNIAL GLEISSBERG CYCLE: If you've been enjoying the auroras of Solar Cycle 25, we've got good news. The next few solar cycles could be even more intense—the result of a little-known phenomenon called the «Centennial Gleissberg Cycle.»

You've probably heard of the 11-year sunspot cycle. The Gleissberg Cycle is a slower modulation, which suppresses sunspot numbers every 80 to 100 years. For the past ~15 years, the sun has been near a low point in this cycle, but this is about to change. [Continue Reading](#)

The Amateur Radio Software Award (ARSA) committee is thrilled to announce that Ham2K Portable Logger, a groundbreaking project led by Sebastian Delmont (KI2D), has been selected as the winner of the 2025 annual Amateur Radio Software Award. This award celebrates software projects that enhance amateur radio and promote innovation, freedom, and openness in amateur radio software development. [Continue Reading](#)

From Amateur Radio Daily – Amateur Radio Newsletter Round-up May 2025

The following are updates from recently published newsletters focused on ham radio. [Continue Reading](#)

630-Meter Band Worked All States Awards Issued

Eric Tichansky, NO3M, of Saegertown, Pennsylvania, has been issued the first Worked All States award from ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® for the 630-meter band. He picked up the award at ARRL Headquarters in Newington, Connecticut, on April 21, 2025. That was the culmination of years of study, work, and experimentation. [Continue Reading](#)

IARU Considers Consolidation

The IARU has released guidance on potential restructuring to help the organization meet modern challenges. The proposed changes would combine the 3 separate regional organizations into a single global entity.

The proposal outlines a number of areas where the currently independent, regional organizations struggle. Problem areas include declining membership, duplication of resources, lack of coordination, and other various inefficiencies. The changes are designed to establish a number of benefits:

- Global representation
- Streamlined decision making
- Better allocation of resources
- Improved communication
- Long-term sustainability
- Centralized finances
- Greater influence

Member societies will vote on the restructuring with the potential for a transition as early as next year. The full [consultation on restructuring](#) (PDF) is available on the IARU website.

Source: [IARU](#)

Important Information

President: Neil Weber (KM4NWH)

Vice President: Justin Compton (K04DCD)

Treasurer: Rick Curtis (W4BXL)

Secretary: Christina Compton (KQ4CDM)

Repeater Trustee: Joshua Carmack (N4JHC)

The club meetings will be held on the second Thursday of each month at The Press Room in Food City (300 Clinchfield, Kingsport, TN 37660). Dinner will be served at 6:00 PM, and the meeting will commence at 7:00 PM. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Club Repeaters, located on Bays Mountain

2 Meter: 146.970 MHz (-) PL Tone 123.0 Hz

70 Centimeters: 443.325 MHz (+) PL Tone 123.0 Hz

Sunday Night Informational Net on 146.970 MHz at 8:30 PM Eastern Time.

For more information about the KARC and amateur radio, please visit our website at www.w4trc.org or email us at contact@w4trc.org

Erik McCord, WX4ET, is the editor of ZeroBeat, a monthly newsletter.