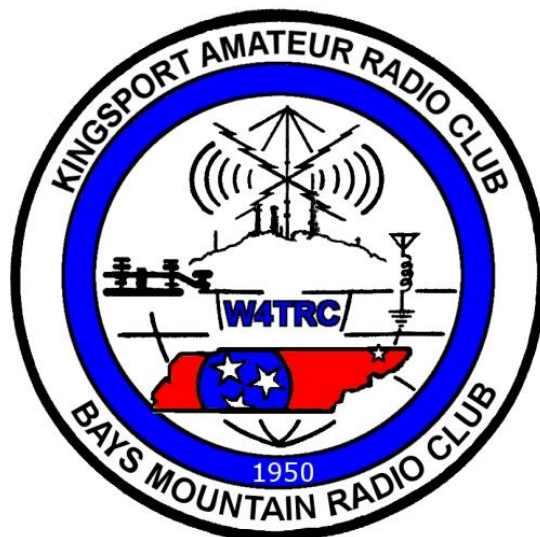


ZERO BEAT



May 2018

On April 12, 2018 the club voted to adopt the new constitution. This document not only reflects better, the needs of the club but is more appropriate for the times in which we live.

Due to lack of use and interest, the Digipeater on 145.050, alias BaysND, is no longer supported. It will be removed on the next work day when Ken (W4IJK) plans to streamline our current repeater network. Ken plans to remove unused equipment, place all our equipment in one cabinet and make a couple of minor repairs. If you are interested in learning about our equipment and helping Ken on this project, please let him know.

Craig Thibodeau (KM4YMC) presented a fine program on Bitx Technology. It was interesting to see what can be built for under \$100.00. Dave (WB4DES) and Rick (WB4RLJ) have working HF radios operating SSB and CW. The cases were for both radios were

made on a 3D Printer. For more information about this technology, go to <http://wecanhams.com>

Interested in “Near Space Balloon Flights” and ham radio? Come hear William Wakely (KM4JQF) speak to us about this very subject at our May club meeting. Remember to bring a friend!!!

Have you ever seen a Buddipole in person? I have only seen them in a magazine or online. However, Mike Boggan (K4CMT) has a brand new Buddipole and invited me over to help him put it up. Installation was fast and easy. The antenna is well built with high quality parts throughout. Everyone can see one at the May meeting as Mike brings his in to show everyone.

Field Day 2018 is right around the corner, June 23 and 24. We are planning to make it even better this year. It will be held in the same place as last year, Warrior Path State Park. Unknown to some, you can drive your vehicle to the picnic pavilion from the backside to unload and load your equipment and then park in the parking area when through. We were so very successful last year with great leadership from Ron (KI4TN) and you, committed volunteers wanting the event to be fun and not burdensome on anyone. We had plenty of help getting the site on the air, very good numbers for contacts, delicious food and lots of good times with each other. We even had folks come back Sunday to help take the site down that had not even touched a radio during the event! Make plans to join us as we participate in Field Day 2018!

Instead of meeting for breakfast at Bob Evans, we have decided to meet at Café 93 in Kingsport Tn. This will occur on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 1000. Several of us have been to this restaurant, like it and believe you will too. Come join us!!!

The Christmas Dinner this year will be held at the Rush Street Restaurant in Kingsport. We had a large turnout last year with several families attending and expect more this year. Don't miss this special event!!!

John (KJ4ZFK) sent me a well written article to share. I enjoyed reading it, as I am sure you will!!!

Quest for Goat

It was on the one four six seven hundred machine, during the Spring of 2013, that I first heard of the Summits on the Air (SOTA) program. A discussion was being lead by Craig Wallen (AC4M), who was informing all those who were listening about a new program for ham radio operators to communicate from mountain tops. This program, which had originated in England, was now beginning to have activity all over the world, to include the United States. Craig was sharing how much fun he had had while hiking to a mountain top and making QSO contacts via his portable handie-talkie. Matter of fact, he was recruiting for someone to participate with him. I fell for his pitch.

For my first adventure I met Craig at the parking lot of the Buffalo Mountain Johnson City Park. We both were outfitted with our portable VHF radios, but also had packs stuffed with dry socks, knives, compass, trail map, candy bar, sunscreen, first aid kit, notebook and pen, and two soft drinks. I did not have anything particularly special to communicate with, not even a spare battery or extra antenna. For that first encounter with a SOTA expedition we travelled two miles, or a bit more, and secretly secured one of our drinks in a mountain stream about halfway to the summit of White Rock Ridge. A couple of hours later we retrieved those drinks, cold from the stream, and enjoyed some refreshment after a hard hike. However, between the hikes up and back, we enjoyed a warm Spring day atop the mountain overlooking Johnson City and made a number of contacts via our portable VHF radios. I think I got over twenty QSOs via my Yaesu VX-8 handie-talkie that 15th day of April, which accounted for my first eight points as an activator. Not bad for my first SOTA adventure!

A couple of weeks later I found myself on the height of Cherokee Mountain, about two or three miles west of my previous encounter. But this time I had encouraged my good friend Tom Price (K14CVU) to go along with Craig and me to experience this SOTA business first hand. And an experience it was too, having to endure a very tough and steep climb to the mountain's pinnacle via a gas pipeline right-of-way. Tom showed his physical toughness by making the trip without a pack, having used a plastic file box instead, which contained two full size (and weight) radios! It has also been rumored that Tom additionally had a QST magazine in that box. What a great day for the three of us, with twelve QSOs I had scored eight more points and now had 16 points total.

My next encounter, not even a week later, was High Knob. I had become so enthusiastic about the program and addictive to SOTA that I had passionately talked another friend, Earl Oaks (N4ZFA), into coming along. So it was with Craig, Tom, Earl, and me putting up antennas atop High Knob in Norton, Virginia. This summit was a bit easier since we were able to drive up to within 150 yards of the actual top. By this time I had purchased a new antenna for my VX-8 handie-talkie -- a light-weight, portable, roll-up SlimJim. Using it as it hung from a tree branch, and fifteen QSOs later, my point total had climbed to 26 total. I was hooked!

Next it was just Craig and me again trying to tackle Delaney Mountain. Oh, but how this one was so different from the previous! Not far from US Route 421, which goes across Holston Mountain, this one proved to be unique – there was no trail! It was a steep and brutal bushwhack trek all the way to the top. Oh how this one just about did me in, but here I discovered the need for a

good pair of boots and a pair of gloves for holding onto thick brush. Tough and trying, I nevertheless discovered that I was now totally addicted to this SOTA program. Seven QSOs from this summit earned eight points which now would give me a total of 34.

Makes you want to grab a friend and go on a summit, doesn't it???

On May 3rd, Tom Price, David Gulley, John Williams, Craig Wallen, Carl Hacker, Bob Warden, Larry Dale, Neil Weber, Erick McCord, and Rick Johnson went to Bays Mountain to expand their skills on QRP. We had a great time and look forward to the next QRP Event!!! Pictures are courtesy of Erik McCord (WX4ET).





This is our Echo Link Station located at Dave's (WB4DES) home. When you see Dave, be sure to thank him for maintaining this station at no cost to the club!!! Thank You Dave!!!



Monthly Meeting Minutes

12 APR 2018

Time 19:00 Hrs

Meeting Opened- Larry (KD4FTN)

Prayer by- Walt (K4YCP)

TREASURY REPORT - Dave (WB4DES) was voted upon and accepted

SECARTARY REPORT – Minutes from last month’s meeting accepted.

NET REPORT – No report

ARES REPORT –No report

Repeater report – Ken (W4IJK) Up and running – 440 linked system – up and running

WEBSITE REPORT – No report

OLD BUSINESS – (Digipeater) - sunset equipment- 21 Apr 2018

NEW BUSINESS – constitution updated and accepted.

Meeting closed – Larry (KD4FTN)

PROGRAM – Craig Thibodeau (KM4YEC) Kit Radios

Want to be a Sunday Night Net Controller? Please call Russ Richard at 508.287.6739.

I received the following Press Release from George Odom (K4ETN). This is absolutely great news for the Johnson City Association and for the community. To be sure, it took a lot of work to attain this grant.

Congratulations to the Johnson City Amateur Radio Association!!!

Contact: George D. Odom,
President
Johnson City Amateur
Radio Association, Inc
Phone 423-948-3028
K4etn@comcast.net

241 Sugar Hollow Rd.
Jonesborough, TN 37659

Johnson City Amateur
Radio Association, Inc

Press Release

Johnson City Amateur Radio Association Receives Grant Funding

Johnson City, TN April 27, 2018:

The Johnson City Amateur Radio Association, Inc. has been awarded grant funding for retrofitting and upgrading their communications trailer for emergency responses. Amateur radio is a vital part of emergency preparedness throughout the United States.

The grant will outfit the unit with the latest in communications radios, computers and work stations. The grant also provides for the replacement of the 146.79 JCARA repeater with a new Yaesu DR-2X System Fusion repeater, duplexer and antenna system. HF through UHF communications ability will be supported in the new configuration.

On site local communications will be handled through a permanently installed System Fusion UHF repeater system, along with a Yaesu FTM-400XDR dual band base station on board the unit and supported by ten Yaesu FT-70D dual band digital/analog handheld units.

The importance of fixed equipment reduces setup time during activation's and minimizes the need for unpacking equipment on arrival.

The communications trailer will continue to be used for events such as Field Day, public service events and community relations appearances.

The grant was made possible through the efforts of the Washington County Emergency Management Office, TN Department of Health Emergency Preparedness Office and The Northeast Tennessee Healthcare Preparedness Coalition.

Completion of the project is expected by the end of summer 2018.

THE ZERO BEAT NEWSLETTER

Published monthly by the Kingsport Amateur Radio Club and Bay's Mountain Radio Club. For more information on the Zero Beat, please contact: Dave Stevens at WB4DES@gmail.com

Kingsport/Bays Mountain Radio Clubs' Officers 2018

Larry Dale: KD4FTN, KARC/BMRC President,
George DeVault Jr.: W3KPT, Vice President
Rick Johnson: WB4RLJ, KARC Secretary
Dave Stevens: WB4DES, KARC Treasurer / BMRC Treasure Ken
Klotz W4IJK Club Repeater License Trustee

Rick Light: KG4WZG, BMRC Vice President Dave Stevens: WB4DES,
W4TRC Webmaster Web Site: www.w4trc.org

W4TRC 146.970 MHz REPEATER INFORMATION:

Location is on Bays Mountain, Kingsport, TN
2 Meter repeater: 146.970 MHz, (-) PL Tone, 123.0 Hz.
440 Repeater: 443.325 Mhz. (+), PL Tone, 123.0 Hz.
33Cm. Repeater: 927.025 Mhz. (-) PL Tone 123.0 Hz.
50-watt Packet Station Frequency, 145.050 MHz, and the Alias is
BaysND.

Sunday Night Informational Net on 146.970 at 8:30 P.M. EST

For More Information on the KARC/BMRC and Amateur Radio, Visit
our Club Website at www.w4trc.org

For More Amateur Radio News, Visit the American Radio Relay
League Website at www.arrl.org

A.R.E.S.

Walt Baldree, K4YCP, West Sullivan County ARES® Coordinator

Net Schedules (as off 1/03/2018)

Kingsport Amateur Radio Club/Bays Mountain Radio Club weekly two-meter net, Sunday night at 8:30 p.m., on the W4TRC repeater at 146.970 Mhz. The net includes ARES® check-ins and an opportunity to sell, buy and/or swap equipment.

The Boone Trail ARES®/RACES Net is held each Monday night at 8:30 pm on the 146.820 MHz KF4VTM repeater. A C4FM digital Fusion net is held on Thursday evenings at 8:30 pm on 146.820 except for the 3rd Thursday.

The Carter County Amateur Radio Association (CCARA) repeater is WR4CC on 145.290 MHz, with a tone of 103.5. The club holds a net every Monday evening on their repeater at 8:00 pm.

The Johnson County Net is Monday at 9:00 PM on 145.290 MHz with a 103.5 tone or direct on 146.610 MHz with the same tone (103.5). 6-meter Net every Thursday at 8:30 p.m. The Net is at 53.330 MHz, and the repeater has a tone of 103.5.

Johnson City Amateur Radio Association's Net is held on Tuesdays at 8:00 p.m. on the 146.790 MHz Repeater. Tone is 131.8 with a negative offset. This net is not held on the 3rd Tuesday, the night of the JCARA's monthly meeting.

Bristol Amateur Radio Club's 2 Meter net meets every Tuesday night at 9:00 PM on the 146.070/670 Bristol Repeater.

Mountain Empire Amateur Radio Society's 440-net, Wednesday at 9:00 p.m., on the 443.00 Repeater. Everyone is invited to check in.

Unicoi County Amateur Radio Association's Net, Thursday at 8 pm on 147.270 MHz. Except for the first Thursday of the month which is the Club Meeting.

SKYWARN Net, Thursday at 9:00 p.m., on the 146.700 MHz Repeater.

Area Amateur Radio Clubs/Organizations Meetings

Bristol Amateur Radio Club meets the first Thursday of each month at 7 pm in the Conference Center at the Bristol Memorial Medical Center. Take exit 74 off Interstate 81 in Tennessee. For more information, email w4ud@qsl.net

Carter County Amateur Radio Association meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at 805 Highway 91, Elizabethton, TN (0.5 miles past the 2nd traffic light on Hwy 91 or 3.5 miles from Hwy 19E on the left side of the highway).

For more information go to the Club's web page at <http://www.wr4cc.org>

Johnson City Amateur Radio Association meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at the Washington Co/Johnson City EMS Training Building 296 Wesley Street Johnson City, TN 37601. Contact JCARA, 240 Hartman Road, Jonesborough, TN, 37659.

Kingsport Amateur Radio Club/Bays Mountain Radio Club meets the second Thursday of each month at 7 pm at the Toy Reid Eastman Employee Center, South Wilcox Drive, Kingsport, TN, unless meeting changes are made due to Eastman related activities. For more information email w4ijk1@gmail.com .

The Mountain Empire Amateur Radio Society (MEARS) meets the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m., at Washington County Public Library in Abingdon, VA, with possible exceptions in November and December. For more information, visit their website at http://www.home.earthlink.net/~mears_arrl/

Scott County (VA) Amateur Radio Society meets the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m., at the EOC Building behind and under the Lonesome Pine Regional Library, Gate City, VA. For more information, email Jeff K4LMP at k4lmp@k4lmp.org

Unicoi County Amateur Radio Association will be moving the meetings to Maple Grove Restaurant in Unicoi. This change will take place Feb. 5, 2015. The weekly ARES nets will change to Thursday evenings at 8pm as of Thursday December 11, 2014. For more information contact Ken Johnson at w3gfmkj@gmail.com

Johnson County Amateur Radio/Ares club meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m., at the Johnson County Hospital Conference Room. For more information contact Danny Herman at K4DHT@dannyherman.com

WX4TN Northeast Tennessee District 7 SKYWARN meets every last Saturday of each month at 7:00 p.m., at the Crossroads Christian Church; 1300 Suncrest Dr.; Gray, TN in the Lower Auditorium. www.skywarn7.org For more information contact Erik McCord (WX4ET), District Coordinator at dc7skywarn@gmail.com