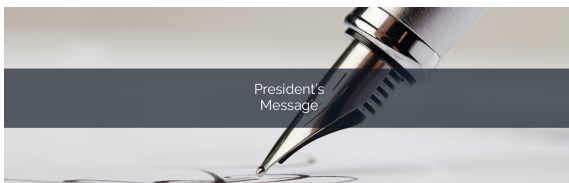


# Zero Beat



Kingsport Amateur Radio Club

April 2025 Edition



Greetings from KM4NWH, where I currently hold the position of president of the club. We are making significant strides in revitalizing the club and introducing meaningful activities. As part of this renewal, we are working to reinstate the Zero Beat club newsletter. We understand that not all members can attend every meeting, but by reading the secretary's notes and the Zero Beat, they should be informed about what is happening within the club. Additionally, we hope to include amateur-related articles from time to time that you will find interesting.

I would like to express my gratitude to Erik McCord, WX4ET, for volunteering to lead the Zero Beat effort and for organizing it on a monthly basis. If any of you have content you would like to contribute to the Zero Beat, please feel free to send it directly to Erik. His email address is available on QRZ.com. He will need the club's support in this endeavor! Additionally, congratulations to Erik's wife, Becky, the newest member of the club, for passing her technician's exam this month.

I would like to take a moment to personally thank James Young for his presentation at the last meeting. His talk, titled What I Wish I Knew as a New Ham, was well-received and thoughtfully prepared. I received a great deal of positive feedback from our new operators regarding how useful they found the program.

We are excited about several programs taking place this year. Here are just a few of the upcoming presentations: SOTA and POTA, where we are working to reinvigorate these programs. An engaging presentation on balloon launches occurring in the Tri-Cities, featuring tracking capabilities from around the globe. Digital introductions featuring demonstrations of digital communication tools. We are currently working to establish several special events.

Field Day will take place on the last weekend of June at Mt. Carmel Park. Funfest table will be set up for demonstration in July. Rocky Mount Fall Festival Special Event Station – October, Santa Train Opportunities in December, National Fire Prevention Week: TBD, Netherlands Inn Special Event Station TBD

Sincerely,

Neil Weber KM4NWH

# CLUB NEWS

The Greenville Hamfest will take place on the weekend of April 19th in Greenville, TN. For those interested in attending, please visit the following website: [greenvillehamfest.com](http://greenvillehamfest.com). If anyone is interested in attending and operating a table to represent the KARC club, please contact Neil Weber. The organizers are willing to provide a free table, and I have handouts with club information that can be shared. Please note that there is a \$10 entrance fee.

The KARC is becoming increasingly interactive with emergency communication practices. During the first Sunday net of each month, we hold a simplex communication exercise following the net. For the past few months, we have enjoyed discovering who can reach whom on the 146.460 frequency. Next month, we will likely continue this practice, featuring a station operating on South Holston Lake, which should present a challenge for most participants. Additionally, we are considering further practice sessions on the 70 cm and 6 m bands, which may utilize either FM or SSB modes. This is valuable practice to understand the distances we can communicate in an emergency.

We are also looking to establish an emergency communication practice by collaborating with the HHART club. They are working to set up an NVIS (Near Vertical Incidence Skywave) communication net. For those unfamiliar with NVIS, it involves a dipole antenna that is stretched in a straight line approximately 8 feet above the ground. Often, a reflector wire is placed beneath it to further concentrate the signal and direct it straight upward. This configuration directs the signal vertically into the sky, where it can hopefully encounter enough backscatter from clouds and other obstacles to reflect a weak signal back to Earth.

The KARC foxhunt for April will take place on the 19th 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.

The KARC held its April meeting on the 10th in the press room behind Food City on Center Street. The presentation by James Young, titled What I Wish I Had Known as a New Ham, was well received and provided valuable advice to many of the newer hams in the area. The next meeting is scheduled for May 8th, featuring a presentation on SOTA operations by Ron Burns. We hope to rekindle interest in the club's SOTA and POTA operations. Come and learn more about this exciting hobby.

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



### Kingsport Amateur Radio Club Officers

President: Neil Weber (KM4NWH)

Vice President: Justin Compton (KO4DCD)

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](http://www.w4trc.org) or email us at [contact@w4trc.org](mailto:contact@w4trc.org)

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