

Zero Beat



Kingsport Amateur Radio Club August 2025 Edition

President's Notes

August is upon us. Welcome back to school for the youngsters, and perhaps a brief break for our young parents. For those who were unable to attend the annual picnic at Picnic Shelter 9, it was a huge success. There was a large turnout and a strong sense of camaraderie. Many more people attended than originally expected, which was a wonderful surprise! We also welcomed a few new members, which is definitely a positive for the club.

Although I hated to make the announcement, I did inform everyone at the picnic that I will be unable to run for president in 2026. I had initially planned to serve as president for a minimum of two years. Unfortunately, my business in South Carolina has been struggling, and as much as I don't want to leave, I will need to relocate there to manage it. I expect this will last for one to two years and will not be permanent, as I love this area. I hope to remain here through the October meeting and plan to continue in my role through the end of the year. Many initiatives are currently being planned. If anyone is interested in running for president or any other leadership position in the club, please notify an officer.

There is a lot happening in the club. At the next meeting, Larry Dale will give a presentation on how to organize special event stations. I believe the meal will be meatloaf. I am relying on memory here and recall that we follow a four-meal rotation voted on by the club.

I am gathering information about the Troy F. Reid Center as a potential meeting place, and I am sure we will have discussions about it. As you are all aware, the meal price has increased to \$17, which has raised some concerns. Any change of venue will be put to a vote, and other options can be proposed, including staying on-site.

Another update is that Chris Early is moving forward with plans to get the 900 MHz and 6-meter repeaters on the air. We are all looking forward to it, and I have a meeting with Chris on Monday to finalize the plans.

On another matter, we have been contacted by the owner of the repeater site, who is interested in selling the property within the next year. He wishes to offer it to the club first, and we are currently in discussions with him regarding this possibility.

For Christmas this year, I am considering switching the meal rotation to a turkey and dressing theme. The leadership team has been discussing activities, and we are thinking about hosting a trivia game. In this event, tables will be assigned numbers, and participants will rotate between tables before finally rotating to individual play. There will be a few prizes for the winners. The questions will be ham-related. This plan is still in progress and not finalized, but we believe it could be a fun way to change things up from past events like Secret Santa.

Winter Field Day is quickly approaching, and we are looking for someone to serve as the lead. I would like to do it again, but I will be in South Carolina, and organizing it remotely is too challenging. Following the club picnic, I was tasked with investigating porta john rentals for the Mt. Carmel Winter Field Day station. Unfortunately, the cost of porta johns exceeded the rental fee for the pavilion at Warriors. Unless we set up a makeshift camping porta potty on-site, this expense may be prohibitive. Last year, I brought my camper and used it as a bathroom, but that won't be possible this year since I will be in South Carolina. We will discuss this further at the next meeting, but perhaps Warriors would be a better location. If anyone has other suggestions, please inform an officer.

Sincerely,

Neil Weber, KM4NWH

President

Club News

**** AUGUST FOXHUNT IS CANCELED ****

The KARC foxhunt for ~~August~~ will take place on the ~~16th~~ 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](http://W4TRC.org). 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.

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.

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

Amateur Radio News

ARRL Files Comments to Protect 70-Centimeter Amateur Band. The application, from AST & Science, LLC (AST), requests "unprecedented authorization to 430-440 MHz for a constellation totaling 248 satellites to communicate with five ground stations using up to five channels with up to 256 kHz bandwidth."

[Continue Reading](#)

Amateur Radio Helps Locate Missing Mother and Son. They used amateur radio frequency to report their emergency traffic. The call was immediately answered by a retired El Dorado County communications supervisor, who is also an amateur radio operator, monitoring from his home. He contacted 911. [Continue Reading](#)

Ham Radio Responds During Tsunami Threat. Amateur Radio Operators, including volunteers serving in the ARRL® Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) were active in monitoring the potential impacts of tsunami waves following an earthquake off the Russian coast on July 29, 2025. [Continue Reading](#)

Introducing Radio Alpha, the ARRL Museum and Research Library. There's a new resource from ARRL documenting the history of ham radio. Radio Alpha is the ARRL® Museum and Research Library. [Continue Reading](#)

ARRL Field Day 2025 Saw Growth in Participants and Entries. The numbers are in and showing growth. 2025 ARRL Field Day showed an increase in both participants and entries, compared to 2024. [Continue Reading](#)

Jobs For Hams at ARRL Headquarters. ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® is seeking qualified applicants for several positions at our headquarters in Newington, Connecticut. [Continue Reading](#)

New ARRL® DXCC® Trident Plaque Honors 100 Confirmed Entities on Three Modes. The DXCC Trident is a new award to honor the accomplishments of radio amateurs who have confirmed contacts with at least 100 ARRL DXCC award entities on each of three modes: phone, CW, and digital. [Continue Reading](#)

ARRL Celebrates the Jeffrey B. Goldman, K3DUA, Teachers Institute Week. Ham radio helped build the career of Jeff Goldman, K3DUA. Now, he's paying it forward. [Continue Reading](#)

High Altitude Camp Needs Amateur Radio Tracking Operators. On Wednesday, August 13, 2025, the Kopernik Observatory in Vestal, New York, will be running a High Altitude Balloon Camp for local high school students. [Continue Reading](#)

AST SpaceMobile defends use of Ham Radio spectrum. AST SpaceMobile plans to use the spectrum in a limited capacity. [Continue Reading](#)

Hams worried about AST SpaceMobile's satellite plans. If similar authorizations are granted to other commercial operators, the 430-440 MHz band could gradually become unusable. [Continue Reading](#)

Born again Apple Mac geek thanks to Amateur "Ham" Radio. The most surprising and one of the best things about my rediscovery of radio is how it's converged with computers and the Mac. [Continue Reading](#)

NOAA 15 and 19 to be decommissioned within the next two weeks. NOAA has completed end of life testing activities for NOAA-15 and NOAA-19 and will commence the decommission process shortly. [Continue Reading](#)

2025 one Hertz challenge: Learn Morse Code one second at a time. A message beeps out in Morse, with a corresponding LED flash, all in one second. [Continue Reading](#)

Rapid deployment field expedient random Wire antenna ideas. Rule 1: It has to fit inside the briefcase. [Continue Reading](#)

The Truth About VHF SOTA by Bob K0NR. [Continue Reading](#)

Go to Church on Sept 13th 2025...and Bring an HF Radio! by Frank KF4MH. [Continue Reading](#)

ARPS.Chat – Send and receive APRS messages globally. Enabling operators to never miss a message, even when their radios are turned off. [Continue Reading](#)

Introducing RTQM, QRZ's Real Time QSO Manager. It's a way to call CQ silently, as well as a way to know exactly when stations are standing by. [Continue Reading](#)

Decoding Meshtastic with GNURadio on a Raspberry Pi. A portable display using a Raspberry Pi 5. [Continue Reading](#)

Gray line: The Twilight Zone of radio propagation. Welcome to the weird and wonderful world of gray line propagation—also known as the magical twilight zone of HF radio. [Continue Reading](#)

Hams access crucial hurricane data after US DoD cut it off. Amateur-built decoder taps SSMIS satellite data amid NOAA cutoff. [Continue Reading](#)

Modern satellite tracking for Amateur Radio. Use online or self-host. [Continue Reading](#)

Get a load of this...Ground-mounted verticals are all the rage these days in portable HF operations. [Continue Reading](#)

It's time to put NOAA Weather Radio in cars. The service would be more effective than AM radio. [Continue Reading](#)

Meet the hobbyists behind today's smartest radios. Across generations and continents, FM DXers embrace open-source tools to tune into distant signals. [Continue Reading](#)

Hamfests/Conventions– Let's Go!

08/23/25 – Cedars of Lebanon Hamfest – Lebanon, TN -
<http://smrclub.com>

08/23/25 – NETRC Hamfest – Unicoi, TN -
<https://netnrc.org/netnrc-hamfest-2025/>

08/29/2025-08/30/2025 - Shelby Hamfest, ARRL North Carolina Section Convention– Shelby, NC- <http://shelbyhamfest.com>

09/13/2025 – East Tennessee Hamfest – Dandridge, TN -
<http://www.lakewayarc.org/hamfest/>

To search for all other ham fests go to:
<https://www.arrl.org/hamfests/search>

SKYWARN

If you are interested in being a SKYWARN Storm Spotter, please visit <https://www.weather.gov/mrx/skywarn>

To join our area SKYWARN organization, which is the Northeast Tennessee District 7 SKYWARN, please visit their website
<https://www.skywarn7.org/>

The Importance of NOAA Weather Radios and Why You Should Own One. [Continue Reading](#)

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.