

Zero Beat



Kingsport Amateur Radio Club February 2026 Edition

President Notes

Your officers spent time talking about our repeater site, where we are and where we want to be by the end of the year.

Basically, the club has three working repeaters and they all work well.

As a club we are obligated to maintain in good working order, the repeater owned by Kent Harris. It is not working and Joshua Carmack and Chris Early are troubleshooting the problem it is having. Based on what they find, it will be repaired or we will need to purchase another repeater.

Chris has three repeaters with issues and is waiting for some better weather before he can continue with his repairs.

After all the repairs are complete and it is determined that we have a reliable system, we can discuss adding DMR, APRS etc. To our system.

We all can appreciate the time, work and personal expense it cost those that maintain our repeater system.

Our meeting Thursday evening was a huge success, led by Dave Thomas representing the ARRL. I am sure that most of us had no idea about the depth the ARRL has in supporting Amateur Radio. He spoke for just over an hour and answered our questions. Some of the subjects covered were resources available online about radios, antennas, repeaters etc. We as hams have access to Tech Support for questions and advice. Questions about grants for clubs were discussed. Support for students and teachers, new and experienced hams, serious reviews on new equipment, three magazines and so much more are available at arrl.org. Lets not forget that they truly represent us with the FCC.

See you next month!

Larry Dale KD4FTN

President

Club News

The KARC foxhunt for February will take place on the 21st 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 Justin Compton 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.

David Herron (K4UVU) has resigned from being the Sunday Night Net Controller due to family obligations. We thank David for his time and personable contribution to the club as Controller.

As we do not have enough volunteers to occupy each Sunday night, the Sunday Night Net is suspended until further notice.

We want to thank all of those that have contributed their time to support the net as Controllers.

Amateur Radio News

Radio Clubs Encouraged to Plan Now for April Ham Radio Open House. ARRL is inviting radio clubs to participate in the second annual Ham Radio Open House in April. [Continue Reading](#)

ARRL Mourns the Loss of Sharon Taratula, Awards Manager ARRL is saddened to share the news that Sharon Taratula, who served the League with dedication and distinction for 32 years, passed away on February 4, 2026. [Continue Reading](#)

NCVEC Question Pool Committee Removes Three Questions from Use. The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee (QPC) has removed two questions from the General Class question pool and one question from the Extra Class pool from use. [Continue Reading](#)

ARRL Joins America250 as a Supporting Partner for the Nation's 250th Anniversary. ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio announced today that it is a Supporting Partner of America250, joining the nationwide celebration of the 250th anniversary of our country in 2026. [Continue Reading](#)

Former FCC official John B. Johnston, W3BE, Silent Key. Former FCC official John B. Johnston, W3BE, of Derwood, Maryland, passed away on January 7, 2026. [Continue Reading](#)

North Carolina Students Scheduled to Make Contact with the International Space Station. 580 students at Conn Magnet Elementary School in Raleigh, North Carolina, will participate in a conversation with an astronaut on board the International Space Station (ISS). [Continue Reading](#)

ARRL to announce winner of Icom® Dream Station at HamCation®. ARRL will announce the winner of the ARRL Sweepstakes Icom® Dream Station at Orlando HamCation®. [Continue Reading](#)

ARRL Director Tharp, KB7HDX, Receives Search-and-Rescue Award. Mark Tharp, KB7HDX, Director of the ARRL Northwestern Division, has received the Hall of Honor Award for 35 years of service to the Yakima Search and Rescue group. [Continue Reading](#)

Student Coding Competition is Underway with \$25,000 Award. ARRL is asking members to help encourage licensed youth in their communities to participate in the ARRL Student Coding Competition, an initiative focused on developing practical resources for the Amateur Radio Service. [Continue Reading](#)

Winter Storm Closes ARRL Headquarters on Monday, January 26. ARRL Headquarters and the Maxim Memorial Station, W1AW, will be closed on Monday, January 26, 2026, due to heavy snowfall across the Northeast. [Continue Reading](#)

Now Shipping: the 2026 edition of The ARRL Repeater Directory® powered by RepeaterBook. ARRL is excited to announce that the 2026 edition of The ARRL Repeater Directory® is once again powered by RepeaterBook, amateur radio's worldwide repeater database. [Continue Reading](#)

ARRL Honorary Vice President John Cadwallader Kanode, N4MM, Silent Key. John Cadwallader Kanode, N4MM, of Boyce, Virginia, passed away on January 13, 2026. First licensed in 1952, Kanode served on the ARRL Board of Directors for 21 years first as Roanoke Division Vice Director, then Director, and Vice President. [Continue Reading](#)

New 60-Meter Frequencies Available as of February 13. The new 60-meter frequencies approved by the FCC in December will become available to amateurs as of February 13, 2026, along with new power restrictions on those frequencies. [Continue Reading](#)

SpottedHam.com Adds DX Cluster Integration and Customizable Club Widgets. SpottedHam.com expands with live DX feeds and embeddable activity widgets. [Continue Reading](#)

Obsolete Part 97 Rules Deleted. Four rules have been deleted by the FCC. [Continue Reading](#)

SolarCdx.com. Solar weather insights for Hams. [SolarCdx.com](#)

OpenHamClock. A real-time Amateur Radio dashboard for the modern operator. [OpenHamClock.com](#)

Petition for Rulemaking: Encryption and Ham Radio. Permit limited use of cryptographic protection for certain Amateur emergency and resiliency communications. [Continue Reading](#)

Emergency Ham Network. A transformative approach to Amateur Radio's future by creating a symbiotic relationship between licensed operators, students, and modern IoT technology. [EmergencyHam.net](#)

Hamfests/Conventions - Let's Go !

03/13/2026- 03/14/2026. MTARS Hamfest- Tullahoma, Location: Tullahoma, TN. Sponsor: Middle Tennessee Amateur Radio Society (MTARS). Website: <http://www.qsl.net/mtars>

03/21/2026- 2026 Sevier County TN Sevierville, TN Sponsor: Retevis & Sevier County Amateur Radio Society Website: <http://seviercountyars.com>

04/18/2026- Greeneville Hamfest. Location: Greeneville, Sponsor: Andrew Johnson ARC. Website: <http://greenevillehamfest.com>

06/13/2026- Knoxville Hamfest, Location: Knoxville, Sponsor: Radio Amateur Club of Knoxville. Website: <http://www.w4bbb.org>

09/19/2026- W4DXCC by SEDCO, Location: Pigeon Forge, Sponsor: SEDCO Website: <http://www.w4dxcc.org>

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: Larry Dale (KD4FTN)

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 Eastman's Toy F. Reid Employee Center; Room 219; 400 S. Wilcox Dr; Kingsport, TN 37660 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 (Analog or Yaesu System Fusion C4FM Input / Analog Only Output) Echolink: W4TRC-R

70 Centimeters: 443.325 MHz (+) PL Tone 123.0 Hz (Automatic Mode Select (AMS) for Yaesu System Fusion C4FM and Analog FM)

70 Centimeters: 443.175 (+) (Yaesu System Fusion C4FM Only)

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 Zero Beat, a monthly newsletter.