

Zero Beat



Kingsport Amateur Radio Club May 2026 Edition

President Notes

We had one member unable to attend the club meeting who enjoyed the use of Microsoft Team. If you are in need of the credentials for access to attend the meeting virtually, just ask any officer or Matt Babler.

As you know, we have been having power issues with our repeater site. Our 2m repeater is up but only on solar backup power. Plans are to have power on the site repaired as soon as possible based on man power and parts.

Our next club event will be the W1AW/4 Special Event Station. You will find more information on our website. Many of us are looking forward to representing W1AW in this way!!! Come join us in the fun!!!

Speaking of Fun, join your friends for lunch at noon at John B's Family Kitchen 2608 N John B Dennis Hwy this Wednesday May 20. See You There!!!

Best Regards,

Larry Dale KD4FTN

President

Club News

The KARC foxhunt will take place on May 16th. 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.

We are still working on power issues at our repeater site. Our 2m repeater is online on solar backup power only. [Visit our status page for up to date info →](#)

Saturday, June 13 at 12:00 PM

W1AW/4 Special Event Station

Location: Warriors' Path State Park, Kingsport, TN

KARC will operate as W1AW/Portable from Warriors' Path as part of the ARRL America250 Worked All States event. Sign up for an operating slot!

[More Info](#)

Amateur Radio News

2025 Bill Orr, W6SAI, Technical Writing Winners Awarded. The ARRL Foundation's 2025 Bill Orr, W6SAI, Technical Writing Award has been awarded to Dr. Ethan Miller, K8GU, and Dr. Nathaniel A. Frissell, W2NAF. [Continue Reading](#)

New Book Release: Satellite Operating for Amateur Radio. Ever wanted to operate amateur radio satellites but felt intimidated by tracking the "birds" or unsure about the equipment needed? ARRL's new book, Satellite Operating for Amateur Radio, is now shipping. [Continue Reading](#)

FCC Approves Limited Emergency Use of 70 cm Band by AST Space Mobile Satellites Outside the US. On April 21, 2026, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) granted AST Space Mobile limited authorization when not over the United States to use five 50-kHz channels in the 430-440 MHz secondary amateur band for emergency Telemetry, Tracking, and Control. [Continue Reading](#)

Free ARRL Events App Now Live for 2026 Dayton Hamvention®. Make the most of your time at Dayton Hamvention® with the free ARRL Events app. [Continue Reading](#)

Salty Walt Goes "Next Level" with New Portable Antenna Sketchbook. Now Walt is back with a second collection of antenna projects, Salty Walt's Next Level Portable Antenna Sketchbook, expanding on the easygoing, field-tested style that made his first book a favorite among radio amateurs. [Continue Reading](#)

The Ham Radio World Heads to Ohio. Hamvention® 2026 is just over a week away, and the world's largest in-person amateur radio gathering promises another three-day weekend of total immersion in all things ham radio. [Continue Reading](#)

Learn More About SDR. The Boston Software Defined Radio User Group, SDR-Boston, is hosting the New England Workshop for Software Defined Radio 2026 (NEWSDR), June 4 - 5, at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) in Worcester, Massachusetts. [Continue Reading](#)

STEM On and Off the Air. The Garden School Amateur Radio Club in Jackson Heights, New York, K2GSG, was started in September 2016 as a way to implement the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) standard at the school. [Continue Reading](#)

Hamvention 2026 Thursday – Setup Day and Much More. Hamvention® 2026 in Xenia, Ohio, officially begins on Friday morning, May 15. But several hundred hams arrived early to take part in pre-Hamvention activities. [Continue Reading](#)

Hamvention 2026 Friday – Let the Fun Begin! Hamvention® 2026 in Xenia, Ohio, is officially under way, with large crowds filling the five exhibit halls, four forum rooms, and the giant flea market. Here's a summary of Friday, May 15. [Continue Reading](#)

2026 Hamvention Wrap-Up – Weather or Not... Highlights from ARRL's participation at 2026 Dayton Hamvention in Xenia, Ohio. [Continue Reading](#)

Yaesu announces new DR-3X repeater (video). This new hardware offers 85 watts of VHF or 65 watts of UHF continuous duty, while incorporating advanced audio signal processing and an innovative interference evasion system for enhanced operational performance. [Watch Video](#)

Icom announces ID-5200 and ID-5200D radios. Touchscreen control. Dual receive. Wi-Fi. Bluetooth®. Advanced digital connectivity... and this is only the beginning. [Continue Reading](#)

Elecraft introduces the new AX4 portable antenna. Elecraft has just introduced two new products that will likely attract the attention of many POTA activators and portable operators: The AX4 portable vertical antenna and its companion BL3 balun. [Continue Reading](#)

APRS messaging 36 miles with two HTs. What I really wanted to see was a true RF to RF message setup. [Continue Reading](#)

Vacuum tube technology did not simply stop evolving when the transistor appeared. In fact, some of the most sophisticated and technically impressive tube designs emerged after the transistor had already been invented. [Continue Reading](#)

DIY antennas for LoRa and Meshtastic. A complete guide to 433, 868, and 915 MHz. [Continue Reading](#)

Guide to prepping for ARRL Field Day: LiFePO4 batteries, solar panels & generators. Examining ways to successfully operate your transmitting equipment from sources completely independent of the commercial power mains. [Continue Reading](#)

Hamfests/Conventions – Let's Go !

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

08/29/2026 – Northeast Tennessee Radio Community Hamfest, Location: Erwin, TN. Website: <http://www.netrc423.org>

09/12/2026 – East Tennessee Hamfest, Location: Dandridge, TN, Sponsor: Lakeway Amateur Radio Club, Website: <http://lakewayarc.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)

Wednesday Night Informational Net on 146.970 MHz at 8:00 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.