

Kings Point

Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

Bringing together all levels of ham operators, both newcomers and veterans, to share in the enjoyment of shortwave radio and emergency communications

Volume 3 Issue 10

Sun City Center, Florida

October, 2008

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The Kings Point Amateur Radio Club meets the first Monday of the month from October through May at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Club-house Craft Room.

Home of the W4KPR Repeater
147.090 - PL 146.2



Dick Bishop W4NWD

From The President

Greetings KPARC members;

The big buzz around the club room has to do with repeaters. The two-meter project is pretty much on schedule. We are in the testing and experimenting phase of the launch. The equipment will be moved to its permanent cabinet in a couple of weeks, but we will continue to make minor programming changes to take advantage of the Cat 300DXL controller features. Although the major focus is the new 147.090 machine, work on the 440 machine is progressing, but it uncovers new problems with each success. The 440 is a very tired repeater.

In light of our repeater programs, I think that I should give some insight into, "Why another repeater?" You know the saying, "it's the journey, not the destination" that makes for a satisfying experience? Well, that also applies here. The KPARC repeater project was proposed as a learning experience for our members. The intention is to teach more hams about how repeaters work. A number of members have taken advantage of the developing project, but the learning/teaching opportunity will not end any time soon. We will continue to describe the operations and programming features to interested members.

A second purpose of another repeater is to encourage more radio use. More experienced hams make for a better emergency prepared and connected community. By offering features like Echolink, Autopatch, Speed Dial, Public Service Messages, and a way to check audio and key pad performance, we can enhance the usefulness of our members HTs and mobile radios.

I am proposing a series of one day workshops on the many modes of operation we now have in our club room. These workshops will help our members gain experience and understand the various modes of radio operation and the features in their HTs and HF rigs. Rather than have large group classes, we have found that small groups focused on a single subject work best. This way each of our members can choose only the modes they want to study.

As we move forward in our KPARC club we encourage input, suggestions and help from all our members. Let's be aware of our own errors and overlook those of others.

73's,
Dick



October Meeting Program

With the return of many of our Snow Birds KPARC gets into full swing with our Club activities. This includes interesting programs at our regular meetings.



The October meeting, our Vice President/Program Chairman has invited Fred Nassar, KD8AQ, who is the Director of the Amateur Operations for Hillsborough County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). His subject: Ham Radio as it relates to communications in an emergency.

All members, guests and those interested in amateur radio emergency communications are urged to attend.

KPARC MEETING

October 6, 2008

At 2:00 p.m.

Main Clubhouse

Craft Room

Sun City Center & Kings Point

Annual Fall Picnic

12:00 Noon October 18, 2008

At the Horseshoe Pits Behind The Community Hall

North Pebble Beach Blvd

Cost: \$3.00 per person

MENU

FRIED CHICKEN SUPPLIED BY THE CLUBS

Please Bring Covered Dish

Plate, Utensils and Drink

CONTACT:

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MONEY DUE BY OCTOBER 13,2008

Ham Radio News Items

RADIO THEFT: RADIO TOWER STOLEN IN PA

Scrap metal thieves have gotten more brazen this time trucking away a complete 120 foot high radio tower near Windbar, Pennsylvania.

According to news reports, police believe the thieves threw cables over the tower guy wires and yanked it down with a truck. They say that they also found cut bolts and torch marks on nearby grass.

Authorities believe the thieves then cut into smaller pieces in order to get it out of the wooded area, but they can't figure out how they did it without anybody noticing.

The tower hasn't been used for years, but the family who owns it was in talks with a company to use it to bring wireless Internet service to the Windber area. The thieves also got away with a 300 pound transformer full of copper.

TEXAS POLICE RADIO INTERFERES WITH WATER SPRINKLERS

A new emergency radio system serving a couple of Texas towns is causing a rather watery problem for its neighbors. John Williams, VK5BUI, tries to dry it all out. All was going well with the testing of a new police communication system in the Texas cities of Cedar Hill, DeSoto and Duncanville, until it was found to be producing an unwanted side-effect in the city of Plano some 30 miles away. The police transmissions have been setting off an expensive network of radio-controlled sprinklers used for parks and road median strips. Worse still, the issue took on a life of its own through radio talk-back programs and other media outlets trying to point blame for the technical hitch. Then came news that the new emergency system also interfered with radio equipment that monitored the levels of three water towers. Attempts to find a mutually agreed solution appear to have failed so it is off to the Federal Communications Commission for a determination.