



KARS KEY KLICKS



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April 2006

VISIT NEW EOC AT APRIL MEETING

CHANGE OF LOCATION FOR NEXT KARS MEETING

KARS is invited to hold its April meeting at the new EOC at 7 PM on April 3rd. This will give us a chance to become familiar with the emergency center located there. I think this will create an exciting opportunity to see what the capabilities of the new EOC are and what our tax dollars have provided for the community in the event of a disaster.

Directions to meeting:

The address is 3000 Justice Way. The entrance is across from the K3 County Fairgrounds. From I-57 Exit 308, go South approx 1 mile and turn left, following the signs to the Jail Complex.

When that road ends at a "T" turn left again. Follow that road to the end and watch for the flag poles. Parking is available at the far side of the building. The building entrance is right across from the flag poles. The EOC is just inside the building to the right.

I would also like to pass along Sgt Long's appreciation for a successful activation during the recent severe weather incidents.

73...John McGarey, K9BYT



ARISS Mentor Charley Sufana, AJ9N holds an award issued to him by NASA in appreciation of his service to the ARISS program.

KARS KALENDAR

- March 28.....ARISS Contact
- March 29.....Emergency Drill
- March 25-26.....WPX SSB Contest
- April 3.....KARS Meeting
- April 17.....KARS Board Meeting
- May 19-21...

DAYTON

HAMVENTION!!!

The Kankakee Area Radio Society operates repeaters on:

146.34/.94 107.2 PL Access

449.8/444.8 114.8 PL Access

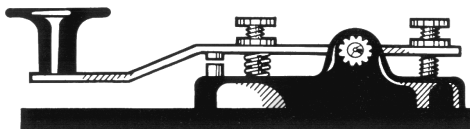
Also, co-sponsors:

145.130 107.2 PL Access

Additionally, KARS sponsors:

144.39 Wide Area APRS digi-peater

145.53 KARS DX Cluster



W9AZ

ARISS CONTACT SET FOR MARCH 28!

As we go to press, the event is scheduled for 12:01PM CST, Tuesday, March 28th at BBCHS High School.

Maury Schumaker W4HYB, past KARS president and a BBCHS graduate is driving from his home in Virginia to speak at the event. Maury was the Vice-Director of the Space Shuttle Challenger accident investigation committee.

Comcast Cable will provide a live feed on channel 4. WKAN, WVLI and the Journal will be reporting the story.

Contact Jim, k9big@hotmail.com if you wish to reserve a seat in the BBCHS auditorium to witness history in the making. Jim has set aside a section of seats for KARS members (visiting dignitaries). Try to arrive an hour early.

Everyone is invited to participate in the "setup and run through" Saturday, March 25th at 9AM. Enter at the East side of the school building.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR EMERGENCY DRILL

On Wednesday, March 29th, a drill will be held with local emergency personnel. Volunteers are needed from 9 A.M to noon. If you are available to assist with communications, contact John K9BYT on the repeater or email: k9byt@mccgarey.com.

NCS FOR APRIL

- Apr. 3 KC9FAV
- Apr. 10 KE9MG
- Apr. 17 K9NR
- Apr. 24 K9BYT

Don't forget the net!

Mondays at 2100 hrs. local time

Listen to the space station contact live at: www.bbchs.k12.il.us/ISS/index.htm

The new amateur radio emergency communications center at St. Mary's Hospital



LEFT
The three VHF/UHF ham antennas mounted high at St. Mary's Hospital



Right
The operating position just off the emergency room



LEFT
John, K9BYT demonstrates the ham communications equipment to hospital personnel



Right
Greg, WR9L and John, K9BYT at the controls

The severe weather seminar at Kankakee Community College



LEFT
National Weather Service representative in action



Right
John, K9BYT drives home a point to the attentive crowd



LEFT
SRO crowd at the Severe Weather seminar at the KCC auditorium



Right
Sgt. Craig of the Kankakee County Sheriffs Dept.

KARS HOMEPAGE— WWW.W9AZ.COM —KARS HOMEPAGE

STRAIGHT KEY CENTURY CLUB

In my last article, I wrote about the ARRL Straight Key Night (SKN). So in trying to stick with the theme of CW, I would like to share with you the development of a club that came into fruition because of this event.

This year, for some reason, the SKN seemed special. There were a lot of participants in it and a lot of excitement was generated. This excitement has been the driving force behind a club titled "The Straight Key Century Club" (SKCC). Founded on January 09, 2006, this club has given a new life to Morse Code and the people who use it.

In the opening paragraph of the group's description, some interesting questions are asked like:

"Have you ever wished that Straight Key Night would go on and on and on?"

"Have you ever wished for other incentives to dig out your old straight key or old bug and knock the dust off?"

"Ever wished they had a Straight Key Night more than once a year?"

Well, wait no longer... The SKCC has a Straight Key Night on the first day of every month and has events where people can polish up their straight key skills. As for myself I need all the help I can get on the straight key.

They also have an exciting award program. Some of their award programs are the "Centurian Award" for 100 straight key contacts with other SKCC members, A "Worked All States" award, and a "Worked All Counties" award. All of these awards seem to fall in line with the ARRL award programs.

This organization has grown by leaps and bounds with membership approaching 1700 members. I joined on Jan. 19th and was assigned # 627.

If you are interested in a piece of history and feel the need to pull out your Ol' trusty straight key, this just might be the club for you. So check out this group, and read through the messages to get the feel for what this club is about. You don't have to be a straight key or a bug user... You could join to support this Yahoo Group and the love of CW.

This club can be found in the Yahoo Groups under SKCC or Straight Key Century Club. A simple search in Yahoo will bring you the same results. Google will also give positive results as well. This club is centered around the use of straight keys, bugs, and side swipers.

Even though I have iambic paddles next to my radio, I am finding that using my J-38 is just as fun and relaxing as sending code with paddles. The Straight Key Century Club has given me an incentive to become more proficient at sending code on either paddles or straight key.

Brian - KC9FAV

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

April 5	K9CWF
April 17	N9MBR
April 25	KA9FRQ, W9YNI
April 26	K9CS
April 28	N9NAH

Let the newsletter editors know if we miss your birthday or get it wrong.

EMERGENCY NET OPERATING PROCEDURES

With the approaching spring storm season, it's a good time to go over efficient emergency net operation.

It should probably be stated up front that we are amateur radio operators...effective, skilled, trained communicators. WE ARE NOT POLICE! Never even remotely represent yourself as such. It's a crime! Literally! Nuff said!

During emergency net operation, keep your transmissions short and to the point. NEVER use ten codes...no one in ham radio knows what they mean. Leave them to the CBer's. Teapots have handles, you have a name!

Speak in clear English...yes means yes...no means no...etc. Use *standard* phonetics judiciously. Avoid cutesy phonetics calls. Use Q codes sparingly. Don't preface all your transmissions with phrases such as: "Be Advised." It serves no purpose and slows net operation.

Run high power. Noisy signals make for inaccurate reporting. Do not over-deviate your signal...distorted audio is hard to copy.

To check into a net, send your callsign one time. It is not necessary to say: "no traffic." If you have traffic, send: "yourcall" with traffic."

Remember...keep transmissions short and to the point!

RTTY RAMBLINGS

On the weekend of February 25th, three KARS contesters joined forces to contest in an RTTY (radio teletype) contest. Howard, AK9F, who recently put together a RTTY station, invited Don, K9NR, and Brian, KC9FAV, over to learn about the fun and excitement of RTTY contesting. Don and Brian had never experienced an RTTY contest, but with Howard's guidance, got the swing of it immediately, since both were familiar with the WriteLog contest program. Brian was especially excited after being called for his first RTTY contest QSO (see picture below).

The AK9F, K9NR and KC9FAV team competed, (rather casually) in the North American QSO Party, which is a fairly short, 12-hour event. They tallied 333 contacts and a multiplier count of 114 for a total of 39,294 points.

RTTY is similar to CW contesting, minus the need to concentrate on copying...the computer does it for you. Otherwise, the software and the procedures are very similar to a CW operation.

Howard, AK9F, and Pete, NI9H are planning a demonstration of RTTY operation and other digital modes for the May KARS meeting.



An excited Brian, KC9FAV makes his first RTTY contact while Don, K9NR looks on at the AK9F shack.

KARS BOARD MEETING

The KARS April board meeting will be held in the banquet room of El Campesino Mexican restaurant. All KARS members and spouses are welcome to attend.

Eat at 6:00. Meet at 7:00.

Sandy, XYL of Pete, NI9H, may even bake us one of her scrumptious cakes again!