



KARS KEY KLICKS



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August 2007

POOL PARTY AT WR9L'S QTH FOR AUGUST!

Grab your swim trunks, bathing suit, and towel and join us for a fun time.

KARS August 7th meeting will be held poolside at the QTH of Greg WR9L. The fun starts at 5:30 PM. The agenda includes a picnic as well as swimming. Bring meat for the grill, a dish to pass, table service and beverage. A folding chair and perhaps small folding table would come in handy as well unless you plan to spend the evening floating in the azure waters of the swimming pool.

KARS members worked so hard to make this year's KARSFEST a huge success. We've all earned a well deserved break. Members and their immediate families are invited to attend.

KARS BOARD MEETING

The next KARS board meeting will be held in the banquet room of El Campesino Mexican restaurant on August 21st. All KARS members and spouses are welcome to attend.

Eat at 6:00. Meet at 7:00

NCS FOR AUGUST

August 6th KC9FAV
August 13th KE9MG
August 20th WD9AYI
August 27th WD9FYF

Don't forget the net!
Mondays at 2100 hrs. local time

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

August 9th K9TP
August 29th N9ECM

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

Missed Birthday!
July 10th WC9B



A standing room only crowd packed the D-Star session at the well received 2007 KARSFEST

KARS KALENDAR

August 4-5.....NA QSO PARTY CW
August 5.....Bolingbrook Hamfest
August 7.....KARS General Meeting
August 12.....Hamfesters Hamfest
August 18-19.....NA QSO PARTY SSB
August 19.....Lafayette Hamfest
August 21.....KARS Board Meeting
August 26.....Danville Hamfest
Sept 4.....KARS General Meeting
Sept 8-10.....ARRL VHF QSO Party
Sept 18.....KARS Board Meeting
Sept 29-30.....CQWW DX RTTY Contest
Sept 29-30...FISTS Coast to Coast Contest

The Kankakee Area Radio Society operates repeaters on:

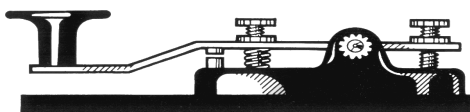
146.34/.94 107.2 PL Access
449.8/444.8 114.8 PL Access

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

Have a Safe and Enjoyable Summer

STRONG SHOWING FOR KARSFEST 2007

After a couple of years of taking a beating from circumstances beyond our control (extreme weather, violation of our contract by fairgrounds personnel, etc) our 2007 Hamfest was a solid success with a strong increase in attendance.

We received many compliments from exhibitors and attendees alike. The weather was perfect and the D-Star presentation was standing room only.

The credit belongs to all the hard working KARS members who made it happen. Special thanks goes out to Carl K9CS and Chris W9LIZ who took on most of the responsibility. Also, to John K9BYT for a lot of behind the scenes work.

KARSFEST PICTURES WILL APPEAR IN SEPTEMBER KARS KEYCLICKS

RESULTS FROM KARSFEST TEST SESSION

Upgrade to General:

Mark Hafter Wilmette
Anthony Rudis Lockport
Richard Wise Chicago Heights

New Technicians:

Alex McWilliams Dwight
George Hoff Joliet
Ted Opie Pekin
Matthew O'Brian Joliet

FIELD DAY PICTURES

Thanks to several dedicated photographers, we have lots of Field Day pictures on page three to share with those of you who are reading this newsletter online at W9AZ.com.

KARS HOMEPAGE— WWW.W9AZ.COM —KARS HOMEPAGE

CW OPERATORS OF THE PAST, ARE WE AT FAULT?

Part 2

I realize that there are modes of operation that are more comfortable to operate than others. Phone has a pretty high degree of interest simply because, well...people like to talk. But why is it that if you were to bring up the subject of Morse Code, the people who are interested in Ham radio now fear it? I would have to say that the reason is, it takes a little bit of effort to learn it. Yes, it really does take work to learn. But consider this...

If you spend the time necessary to learn the code, you would see that it is well worth the effort.

I said it before, if you were to take a close look at what Morse Code consists of, you would see that is not all that hard to understand.

All it consists of is a long tone and a short tone. How much harder can it be?

When you set out to learn this amazing language you are really just learning combinations of the two tone lengths.

After the licensed operator goes through the process of learning Morse Code and passing the 5 WPM CW test and the General exam, maybe even the Extra Class Exam, he then proudly goes on the air fully intending a polite QSO at a comfortable speed, however the realization he gets comes from the "Seasoned Ham" of the code being sent at a rate faster than he is able to copy.

The feelings set in of after all of their hard work to pass the tests they get "slapped" into the reality that these people are just not going to slow down.

It defeats the purpose if we try to "Impress" the new operator of how we can send faster than they can copy. I would rather have a smart conversation with a new guy at 5 - 7 WPM than to make them feel inferior by sending faster than he can copy.

I think that is why we loose good CW operators. In a way we are kicking them out ourselves... We are to blame. Instead of trying to help them learn to copy better and copy faster we are make it difficult for them to copy at all.

No wonder they get frustrated and hang up their CW key. This is why I think it is our own fault. We are the ones causing more and more new Hams and Older Hams to be "For" removing CW license testing. I think that this is why more operators use "Phone" than "CW." Somewhere along the line these guys and gals must have been interested in CW and learned the code only to be overwhelmed by an inconsiderate operator. It is my understanding that you should answer a CW call at the speed which it is sent. So if I send a CQ at 10 WPM it is fair to say that I should expect to receive a call at that speed as well. But this doesn't happen all the time.

In the true spirit of Ham Radio, I would like to give Howard (AK9F) a huge pat on the back. I was calling CQ one evening and I got this call at a rather fast speed that I simply could not copy. It was Howard calling me. (Howard is very good

a CW by the way) I sent back a "QRS" (please slow down) and he did.

He resent his answer at the speed that I was working at. Well, during the course of the conversation, he was very slowly turning up his speed. The conversation that started at somewhere around 13 WPM ended up around 20 - 22 WPM.

I had no clue that this was happening to me. Howard was very sly but helped me to increase my speed by simply taking the time to work with me along the way and carefully monitoring my progress to get me there. Now I am sure that he wasn't actually taking notes or making a big deal about it, but was just there slowly pushing the envelope to get me to that speed. I enjoyed our conversation that evening and it wasn't until we talked much later, that I found out about his "Trick" but I wondered why I was suddenly able to copy faster code than before. Now I finally know. That helped me a lot. Thanks Howard!!!

In closing, I feel that Morse Code is a mode of communication and has earned the respect of that honor. It should be used as such, not a tool to impress or abuse. A conversation set at a comfortable speed where both operators can communicate and respect each other is far better than making it a speed competition.

No one wins that battle.

Brian - KC9FAV

SIMULATED EMERGENCY DRILL ...RESULTS GOOD!

The net held in concert with the Kankakee County Simulated Emergency Drill on July 11th was a resounding success! Often, it is difficult to get a good showing on a weekday as most people are working, going to school, etc. However, net control operator Howard AK9F was kept busy with check-ins from five counties!

Or, in Howard's words to KARS Emergency Coordinator John K9BYT:

"Attached is the final tally for the July 11 drill. I thought 21 was an outstanding turnout considering it was a weekday morning. Unfortunately, since we lost three hams to nuclear radiation from the Braidwood Nuclear plants, the next drill may have a few less participants!"

John....your participation from the EOC was great. It was very meaningful to have those reports to keep everybody focused on what we were there for." 73, Howard AK9F

Kankakee Area Radio Society - Kankakee County A.R.E.S.

July 11, 2007 - Simulated Emergency Drill

Number	Call	Name	City	County	Time in	Time out	QTH & Comments
1	K9BYT	John	Kankakee	Kankakee	8:35	9:23	E.O.C.
2	AK9F	Howard	Kankakee	Kankakee	8:36	9:23	Net Control, SW K3
3	K9NR	Don	Kankakee	Kankakee	8:37	9:05	K3 River @ Flora St.
4	K9QT	Billie	Kankakee	Kankakee	8:39	9:05	K3 River @ Flora St.
5	KC9HHT	Mike	Watseka	Iroquois	8:39	9:05	Nr. Iroquois Hospital
6	N19H/M	Pete	Momence	Kankakee	8:40	9:06	Mobile to Lowell, IN
7	KC9HLX/M	Joel	Peotone	Will	8:40	9:07	Mobile n Peotone
8	W9IEY	Paul	Peotone	Will	8:40	9:08	6 Mile E. of Peotone
9	W9YNI	Ken	Aroma Park	Kankakee	8:41	9:08	Mobile to Kankakee
10	W9QKF	Sam	Watseka	Iroquois	8:43	9:10	In Watseka
11	N9FO	Jim	Manhattan	Will	8:44	9:11	East of Manhattan
12	WR9L	Greg	Bradley	Kankakee	8:45	9:12	Nr. BBC High School
13	K9IXI	Mark	Bradley	Kankakee	8:47	9:12	Quail Hollow
14	N9TJC	Bob	Homewood	Cook	8:49	9:12	CN Railroad
15	K9CS	Carl	Woodland	Iroquois	8:52	9:13	S of Watseka
16	KC9KZZ	Keith	Kankakee	Kankakee	8:57	9:14	Nr. City Hall
17	K9BAK	Brad	Kankakee	Kankakee	8:58	9:15	Nr. Court & Kennedy
18	WB9CDE	Boyd	Kankakee	Kankakee	9:17	9:18	Riverside Hospital
19	A19L	Jess	Braceville	Grundy	9:18	9:20	Inside NUKE Zone!*
20	N9GI/M	Mike	Wilmington	Will	9:20	9:22	Mobile, NUKE
21	N9LYE	John	Wilmington	Will	9:21	9:22	Inside NUKE Zone!

Total Partipants: 21 (*3 Lost to Nuclear Radiation!)

Cities: 11

Counties: 5

Total Time On Air: :50 Min.



N9REG checks the men at work sign before work begins on his tower anchor



KC9GWF and KB9ZQU decide the hole is deep enough for the new anchor



KARS members gather around the new anchor just in time for Field Day



It's wet and rainy, but the tower must go up



Everything that goes up must come down



N9FO and K9CS scope out the alignment of the field day tower



K9BIG and KC9DEP man the GOTA station while AK9F observes



Where are the steaks? Paul W9IEY, Terry and Dan WA9WAQ



KARS FD Chairman Bob N9MBR's RV housed the third HF station



The County Incident command vehicle housed the 20,80, VHF and UHF stations



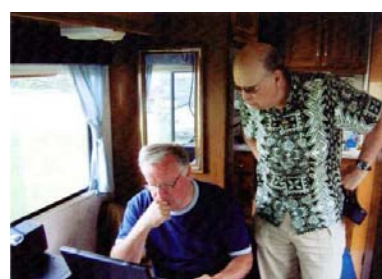
K9FO,WR9L, N9LYE search for the elusive satellite. It was here somewhere!



Jim N9FO's nice RV housed the 40 meter operating position



KARS Emergency Communications guru John K9BYT inspecting operations inside the Incident Command Vehicle



Howard AK9F admonishes Don K9NR for allowing the rate meter to drop below 100



KARS members eat their fill at the FD food station where master chef Will K9FO worked his culinary magic