



# KARS KEY KLICKS



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## JTAlert operating aid to WSJT-X to be featured at the August Meeting

The next KARS [General Meeting](#) will be Tuesday, August 9th, 7PM at the Bradley Bourbonnais Sportmen's Club.

After a brief business meeting, Don K9NR will give a presentation on JTAlert. [JTAlert](#) is a very popular 3rd party program that interacts in real time with WSJT-X to alert you when new countries, states, grids, zones and other awards that you need are on and then interact with your logging software to log the contact!

See you at the meeting!

### FOXHUNT NEWS

Transmitter hunts continue to be popular! What better way to spend a beautiful summer day! During August, we'll have a hunt on the following Saturdays:

August 6th...1PM to 2:30PM. And  
August 20th...1PM to 2:30PM

Weather permitting, of course!

We will continue on the roughly every 2 to 3 week schedule as long as it does not conflict with a major operating event or holiday. We will usually have a post hunt pizza restaurant get together!

See you at the  
[next KARS Transmitter Hunt!](#)

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

August 1	W9ARH
August 2	KA9MDJ
August 4	K9RDK
August 9	K9TP
August 12	K9JMS
August 22	KC9MZQ
August 29	KB9OP
August 29	N9ECM



WR9L & NN9T with the KARS Field  
Day mascot at the N9OE FD QTH

### KARS KALENDAR

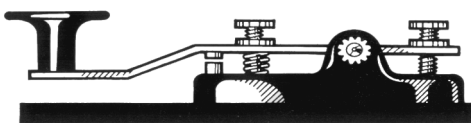
Aug 6.....	<a href="#">Transmitter Hunt</a>
Aug 7.....	<a href="#">Hamfesters Hamfest</a>
Aug 9.....	<a href="#">KARS General Meeting</a>
Aug 11-13.....	<a href="#">Perseid Meteor Shower</a>
Aug 20.....	<a href="#">Transmitter Hunt</a>
Aug 23.....	<a href="#">KARS Board Meeting</a>
Aug 27.....	<a href="#">SMC Fest</a>
Sept 3.....	<a href="#">Transmitter Hunt</a>
Sept 13.....	<a href="#">KARS General Meeting</a>
Sept 24.....	<a href="#">Transmitter Hunt</a>
Sept 16-17.....	<a href="#">W9DXCC Convention</a>
Sept 27.....	<a href="#">KARS Board Meeting</a>

*The Kankakee Area Radio Society operates repeaters on:*

146.34/.94	107.2 PL Access
449.8/444.8	100.0 PL Access
145.130	107.2 PL Access

*Additionally, KARS sponsors:*

144.39 2 Wide Area APRS digi-peaters



# W9AZ

### AUGUST BOARD MEETING

The August KARS [Board Meeting](#) will be Tuesday August 23th at El Mexicano's Restaurant. 6PM to eat...7PM to meet.

**Don't forget to register for  
SMC Fest and W9DXCC!**

### KARS KONTEST KALENDAR

Aug 6.....	<a href="#">NAQP CW Contest</a>
Aug 13-14.....	<a href="#">WAE CW DX Contest</a>
Aug 13-14.....	<a href="#">Maryland-DC QSO Party</a>
Aug 20-21.....	<a href="#">SARTG WW RTTY</a>
Aug 20-21.....	<a href="#">NAQP SSB Contest</a>
Aug 21.....	<a href="#">ARRL Rookie Roundup RTTY</a>
Aug 27-29.....	<a href="#">Hawaii QSO Party</a>
Aug 27-28.....	<a href="#">Ohio QSO Party</a>
Aug 27-28.....	<a href="#">Kansas QSO Party</a>
Sept 3.....	<a href="#">Russian RTTY WW Contest</a>
Sept 3-4.....	<a href="#">Colorado QSO Party</a>
Sept 4-5.....	<a href="#">Tennessee QSO Party</a>
Sept 10-11.....	<a href="#">Alabama QSO Party</a>
Sept 10-11.....	<a href="#">WAE DX Contest SSB</a>
Sept 10-12.....	<a href="#">ARRL Sept VHF Contest</a>
Sept 17-18.....	<a href="#">Texas QSO Party</a>
Sept 17-18.....	<a href="#">Iowa QSO Party</a>
Sept 17-18.....	<a href="#">New Jersey QSO Party</a>
Sept 17-18.....	<a href="#">New Hampshire QSO Party</a>

### NCS FOR AUGUST

The net meets every Monday at 2000 hours local time on the 146.34/.94 or 145.130 backup repeater. All stations with or without traffic are invited to check in.

August 8	KD9NPQ
August 15	N9DWE
August 22	N9OE
August 29	K9NR

Don't forget the net!

**STAY SAFE - ENJOY A CONTEST! WORK SOME DX!**

# KARS HOMEPAGE— **WWW.W9AZ.COM** —KARS HOMEPAGE

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## The Best of Both Worlds: Caving and Radio

By Troy J. Simpsom, W9KVR

I had the unique opportunity to combine two of the things I enjoy doing most when [Illinois Caverns State Natural Area](#) (POTA K-4131) opened back up after being closed for better than 12 years. (trying to make our favorite KARS KEYS editor, K9NR jealous, hi hi). I have always wanted to operate from cave site using my very appropriate callsign W9KVR, thinking it would be a unique situation. In fact that was one of the main reasons why I chose to purchase a BuddiPole nearly two years ago. The site is home to perhaps the most unique place people can visit on state land, with Illinois' third longest cave being on the property, topping out at over 5 miles of total subterranean passages. I have been there several times before and looked forward to returning, but this time I would be a volunteer helping visitors access the cave and even join a few groups as they explore Illinois' subterranean wonder. The state has had difficulty keeping the park open due to lack of staff and they called on the caving community to help staff on weekends, so people can visit the park. I jumped at the chance and would get my chance on the weekend of July 23-24. Knowing that I would be on the property, I also planned on bring radio gear and perhaps be able to squeak in a few QSO's from the park as part of a Parks on the Air operation.

Being a volunteer has its perks, as I would be allowed access to the cave after park hours and also be able to stay overnight on the site. This would be crucial in my POTA operations and give me an opportunity not afforded to previous radio activations. The park opens at 8:30am, last visitors are allowed into the cave at 2:00pm, all have to be out of the cave at 3:00pm, and off park grounds by 4:00pm. In addition, the park is only open on Saturday and Sundays, and that is IF there are volunteers to staff that weekend. In terms of radio operations, this really limits time on air from the park and some of the previous 5 activations were actually from the gate entrance. I arrived that Saturday morning, along with two other caving club buddies to begin our weekend shift and we put together a game plan of who was doing what and when. After a rush of visitors during the first couple hours, we had some down time and I set up my station about 150 yards from the cave entrance near the park office. My station consisted of BuddiPole set up as a horizontal dipole, Kenwood TS-480, HP laptop, and fortunate enough to access commercial power via an extension cord. As I was having lunch, I tuned up on 20 meters and began "CQing" Parks on the Air from K-4131. I managed to pull in 9 QSO's in a half hour, including HA9RE, who was very excited to make a contact from Monroe County. After a bit of time doing caving responsibilities, I was able to fire up the radio and put a handful of QSO's in the log both on 20 and 40m, thus making it a successful activation. I ended up heading back in with my caving partners and spent another 4 hours reacquainting myself with Illinois Caverns and getting photos and videos I can use in my classroom. After getting a fill of caving and having our traditional dinner at a Mexican restaurant in Waterloo, I fired up the radio for a first ever "Late Shift" operation from Illinois Caverns, something that has never been done, because the general public cannot stay on the property. A personal goal of mine was to surpass the previous activations total of 45 QSO's and I knew that was a definite possibility with the rare "Late Shift" ahead of me. I called "CQ POTA W9KVR from Illinois Caverns K-4131" and the fun began! I enjoyed being on the other end of a pile-up and started to rack up the contacts. The highlight for me was hearing the very familiar call of "WB9Z" and being able to chat with Jerry for a short bit and find out that my radio set-up was doing a pretty good job. Around 10:00pm the QSO's became fewer and figured it was time to pull the plug and get some rest. The next morning, brought warm temperatures and high humidity, definitely will be spending more time in the cave than on the surface. I fired up the radio over breakfast before the park opened and logged a few more phone contacts, then decided to switch over and try some FT8. I wasn't sure how it would play out with the laptop, but it appeared to work well as I was able to put the first ever digital contacts from Illinois Caverns into the log. By the time it was all said and done, 111 stations had K-4131 in their logs, including 16 of which were Park to Park contacts. When I got home I uploaded the log to the POTA website and discovered each day I operated, actually were considered separate operations, so not only is W9KVR on the top of the K-4131 QSO list, but also the top on activations of the park. I will be putting together a QSL card commemorating this historic activation and look forward to sending those out. Interestingly, I also have the unique scenario where I have activated two parks now that are listed sequentially. (Illinois Caverns K-4131 and Iroquois County State Wildlife Area K-4132).

I have plans to travel and activate other parks in the near future and of course perhaps another double-duty at Illinois Caverns.

(Pictures on Page 3)



KARS HOMEPAGE— **WWW.W9AZ.COM** —KARS HOMEPAGE

## W9KVR POTA Operation at Illinois Caverns



Above...The entrance to Illinois Caverns State Park  
Below...W9KVR's camp and operation site  
Bottom...Buddipole Antenna in front of IC Park Field House



W9KVR near the entrance of the approximately 6 mile long Illinois Caverns. The stairway type entrance is from when IC was a tourist cave many years ago.

Deep into the cave is the water-

