



# KARS KEY KLICKS



JOURNAL OF THE KANKAKEE AREA RADIO SOCIETY

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Editors: K9NR, K9QT,  
Photos: K9CS, W9IE  
Contributors: K9CS, W9IE

December 2012

## ANTENNAS & FEEDLINES IN DECEMBER

The next KARS meeting will be Tuesday, December 4th, 7PM at the community meeting room at St. Mary's Hospital. After a brief business meeting, the annual club elections will be held.

After the mundane but necessary tasks are completed, there will be an interesting program on antennas and feedlines. Have you ever wondered why an antenna radiates? Have you ever wondered why everything is based on 50 ohms and not 100 ohms and what does RG and BNC stand for? Come to the December KARS meeting and find out these mysteries and more. See you there!



The program on DXing at the November KARS meeting

### KARS HOLIDAY BANQUET

The annual KARS winter banquet will be held on Sunday, January 20th at [The Homestead Restaurant](#) across RT. 45 from the Shapiro Developmental Center entrance. The actual street address is:

1230 S East Avenue  
Kankakee, IL

Cocktails at 6PM Dine at 7PM

The waitresses will keep separate checks as needed. You may order drinks from your table via the waitress or purchase them from the main bar as desired. It is the individual members responsibility to add a Gratuity to their bill...suggested amount is 20%.

Please contact [Francis KE9MG](#) with your menu choice and number attending in a timely fashion.

This is in lieu of our regular meeting...there will be no January general meeting.

### K9CS APPOINTED ARRL QSL CARD CHECKER

KARS member Carl K9CS has been appointed Illinois Section ARRL QSL Card Checker. QSL's for ARRL awards may be submitted to Carl for verification. This eliminates the need to ship the cards to ARRL HQ for checking. A feather in Carl's cap (and a lot of work too so be sure to say thanks when using his services!). Congrats Carl!

### NCS FOR DEC/JAN

December 3 N9LYE  
December 10 K9NR  
December 17 N9OE  
December 24 N9RJM  
December 31 N9FD  
January 7 N9LYE  
January 14 N9LYE  
January 21 N9OE  
January 28 N9FD

Don't forget the net!

Mondays at 2100 hrs. local time

### KARS KALENDAR

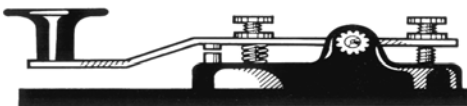
Nov 30-Dec 2.....[ARRL 160 Contest](#)  
Dec 4.....[KARS Meeting](#)  
Dec 8-9.....[ARRL 10 Meter Contest](#)  
Dec 18.....[KARS Board Meeting](#)  
Dec 25..... Merry Christmas!  
Dec 29-30.....[Stew Perry 160 Contest](#)  
Dec 31.....[KARS New Years gathering](#)  
Jan 5-6.....[ARRL RTTY Roundup](#)  
Jan 12-13.....[NA QSO Party CW](#)  
Jan 15.....[KARS Board Meeting](#)  
Jan 19-20.....[NA QSO Party SSB](#)  
Jan 20.....[KARS Banquet](#)  
Jan 20.....[WRCA Wheaton Hamfest](#)  
Jan 25-27.....[CQWW 160 Contest](#)

The Kankakee Area Radio Society operates repeaters on:

146.34/.94      107.2 PL Access  
449.8/444.8    114.8 PL Access  
145.130        107.2 PL Access

Additionally, KARS sponsors:

144.39    2 Wide Area APRS digi-peaters  
145.53    KARS DX Cluster



# W9AZ

MENU	
Prime Rib 12-14oz	\$20.95
Rib Eye 12oz	\$19.95
Rib Eye 16oz	\$25.95
Broasted Chicken (All white)	\$11.95 \$13.95
Broiled Whitefish	\$15.95
Pan Fried Whitefish	\$15.95
Lasagna	\$14.95

There will be cheese, cracker & veggie trays with ranch dip and olive & pepper relish.

See you there!



# MERRY CHRISTMAS!



## DX TRIP OF A LIFETIME

By Carl K9CS

Having been a DXer for more than 30 years I was always somewhat in awe of those folks who traveled to exotic places just to put a "rare" country on the air. When, in June 2012 I received an email with a subject line reading "Swains Island. Want to go?" Swains is an uninhabited, privately owned island of about 480 acres in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Although part of American Samoa, Swains is far enough away that it counts as a separate country or "entity" for ham radio's DX Century Club. My first reaction was "Of course I'll go!" Then reality set in: 3-1/2 weeks away from home, 2 weeks on a remote island in a hot & humid climate, the nearest hospital several days away, not to mention the considerable cash outlay. But still...

After several hours I casually mentioned the email to my wife, explaining what few details I knew at that point. Her reaction was "Why don't you go? It's the chance of a lifetime." OK, you've convinced me; when do I leave?

The worst part of the trip was the travel involved. It took three flights (13-14 hours total) and a 22 hour boat trip each way. Although, our boat, the MV Lady Naomi, was of decent size at 150 feet length and the seas were fairly calm, the trip was not very pleasant. The boat did plenty of rocking & rolling and it was nearly impossible to walk on the deck without holding on to something -- anything! The ship was not very clean and seemed to have many times more cockroaches on board than people.

Swains Island itself was very hot with daytime temperatures well over 100° F and nighttime lows of 80-85. We used tents for eating, sleeping, bathing, and for radio operations. We were on a schedule of 3 hours on the air and 6 hours off. With daytime temperature in the sleeping tents reaching 125° F at times it was too hot for sleeping even with fans running. Electrical power was supplied by 5 Generac generators which ran 24/7 without a hiccup, using about 825 gallons of gasoline.

Swains is privately owned, having been purchased in the 1800s for 5 shillings per acre plus a bottle of Gin. It is still held by the same family. We contracted with the owners for use of the island and for all necessary infrastructure. They did an unbelievably great job supplying us with tents, generators, hot meals & snacks, plenty of coffee, drinking water, Gatorade, and even beer! At each meal we had a choice of foods including freshly caught fish and even locally caught lobster.

The total cost for the trip was considerable, adding up to several hundred thousand dollars. Each operator (18 of us) made a substantial contribution. In addition we received donations from numerous individuals, businesses, and clubs, including KARS. Without this generous support the expedition to Swains Island would not have been possible. KARS' own N9IO and N9OE fabricated two patch panels for the expedition. These enabled us to keep the antenna feedlines sorted out and made middle-of-the-night band changes easier. Thanks Bill & Clay. I'd like to also thank the club members who supported Chris through phone calls and offers of help while I was away.

All in all it was a great trip, tough at times but mostly very enjoyable and fun. I'll be saving my spare change because, to quote well known DXpeditioner Martii Laine, OH2BH, "Where Do We Go Next?"

The DXpedition website, [www.nh8s.org](http://www.nh8s.org), has further information about Swains Island and our trip and includes many pictures. There is a video in the works documenting the trip which should be available in a few months. If there is sufficient interest I'll be happy to show the video at a club meeting.



**KARS members Carl K9CS and Jerry WB9Z at the Swain's Island DXpedition in the far South Pacific**  
Thanks for all the Q's guys!

## NEW YEARS EVE DINNER

If you and your spouse aren't the types that go out on New Years Eve and drink yourselves blind but you would still like to do a little something to usher in the New Year, we have a suggestion.

Unofficially, a small group of KARS members have been meeting at El Campesino around 6PM on New Years Eve for dinner and friendly conversation. We then go our own way to party or more often; go home, relax and welcome the New Year in our own way.

As stated earlier, this is an unofficial activity...not to be confused with the annual KARS banquet. While there are no reservations required, we need to have an idea of how many plan to show.

This is a relaxing get together. No program. No plans. Just order from the regular menu, visit, enjoy the food and have fun. If you and your significant other plan to attend, send Don K9NR an email at: [don.k9nr@gmail.com](mailto:don.k9nr@gmail.com) to let him know.

# DX till you drop!



# HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!





## W9IE CODE SESSION

by Ken W9IE

After a lot of kids and grandkids, I think I finally have a couple of FUTURE HAMS!

In the Picture above are my Great (GREAT!) Grandsons hard at work in their first Code Practice Session. I was amazed at how fast they started copying code. They don't know it yet, but they think that CODE is required to get their license! Hi Hi.

Our next session is also going to be building a code practice Oscillator.

From left to right

Zane Duran age 7, then Mason Duran age 5. Way to go Zane & Mason...and way to go Ken!



A view of the crowd at the 2012 KARS annual winter banquet.  
Were you there?



Another view of the 2012 KARS annual winter banquet.  
Don't forget to sign up with [Francis KE9MG](#) for this years 2013 event!

## FCC PROPOSES NEW VLF BAND & SEEKS TO ASSIGN PRIMARY STATUS OF THE ENTIRE 160 BAND TO THE AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE

The FCC has proposed a new amateur allocation at 135.7-137.8 kHz...that's right "KILO" Hertz. This is in keeping with international agreements regarding frequency allocation.

The other big FCC proposal is the changing the entire amateur 160 band from 1.8-2.0 MHz to primary status. The upper half of the band has been shared with Radiolocation Services since 1953. There are only 10 federal stations left that are authorized to operate in that frequency range.

Good news for Top Band operators!

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

December 1	WD9AYI
December 7	N9LCX
December 20	M0SLA
December 20	WA9WAQ
December 22	N9OE
December 28	K9JLK
January 4	N9TAJ
January 7	N9IOQ
January 17	WD9FYF
January 20	K9XM
January 25	W9LIZ
January 27	W9KK

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

# 2013 DUES ARE DUE!

## 2013 W9AZ SAMPLE BALLOT FOR OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

**President** Don Kerouac K9NR  
Write-ins

**V President** Harry Seyfert WD9FYF  
Write-ins

**Secretary** Bob Nemitz K9SAT  
Write-ins

**Treasurer** Francis Giguere KE9MG  
Write-ins

**Directors (vote for 4)**

Carl Schroeder K9CS  
Rollie Hertz N9RJM  
Pete Nikolic NI9H  
John Norton N9LYE  
Paul Kwiatkowski W9IEY  
Mike Rohwedder WU9D  
Don Elmore KC9QPM  
Write-ins

Write-in candidates are accepted right up to the election. Retiring president, Bill N9OE is automatically a board member.

[www.w9az.com](http://www.w9az.com)