



# KARS KEY KLICKS



JOURNAL OF THE KANKAKEE AREA RADIO SOCIETY

Volume 82 Issue 2

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February 2007

## FLEX RADIO AT FEBRUARY MEETING

Don't miss the Flex Radio Program at the next KARS meeting...I will be bringing in my equipment so that there will be a real time, running station that all can see.

You will also be able to have HANDS ON So you can really appreciate what it is like to run your Ham Station on a PC.

There are no Knobs, Switches, Buttons, Just a Console on the PC that completely controls your station.

Sound Defined Radio is a new approach and one that is technically very advanced. See you at the Next KARS Meeting.

Ken W9YNI



John K9BYT gives presentation on the "Go Kit" for emergency preparedness at the December KARS meeting

### KARS KALENDAR

Jan 27-28.....CQWW CW 160 Contest  
Jan 28.....Wheaton Hamfest  
Feb 6.....KARS General Meeting  
Feb 10-11.....CQWW RTTY WPX Contest  
Feb 17-18.....ARRL CW DX Contest  
Feb 20.....Board Meeting (EICampesino)  
Feb 24-25.....CQWW SSB 160 Contest  
Feb 24-25.....NA QSO Party RTTY  
Mar 3-4.....ARRL SSB DX Contest  
Mar 6.....KARS General Meeting  
Mar 20.....KARS Board Meeting  
Mar 24-25.....CQWW WPX SSB 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

### FlexRadio Systems

The Leader in Software Defined Radios for Amateur Radio Use

SDR-1000



Latest Technology Flex Radio System

### NCS FOR FEBRUARY

Net control stations-Monday night net

Feb. 5 KC9FAV  
Feb. 12 KE9MG  
Feb. 19 K9NR  
Feb. 26 WD9FYF

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

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Feb 4 K9QT  
Feb 15 NI9H

If we miss your birthday, or get it wrong, please let us know!

## KARS 2-Meter Repeater Now Has Generator Backup

By Howard, AK9F

The new generator to power the W9AZ 2-meter repeater is now installed, on-line and ready for any emergency at the Olivet University tower. The purchase of the generator was enabled by a generous donation of \$2,500 from the Kankakee Area Radio Society. Other donors to the generator fund were the Bourbonnais Police Department, the Kankakee County 911 System, and AK9F's company, Midwest Tower Leasing, Inc. The donors provided \$6,000 toward the total purchase price. The balance will be picked up by WONU and Olivet Nazarene University. Howard, AK9F, a Generac dealer, was able to provide the generator 'at cost' from Generac. It is hoped that the KARS donation will be funded through the sale of the repeater's large UPS system that is not no longer needed.

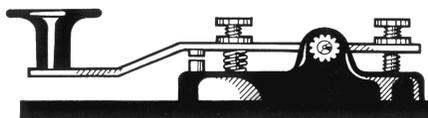
Dybedock AK9F and Don K9NR are pictured next to the new Generac 80,000 watt diesel generator. The bottom black portion of the cabinet is a 200 gallon diesel fuel tank, which should power the site for more than 2 days in the event of a power failure. Users of the tower that will receive emergency generator power include W9AZ, the two FM stations, WONU and WKCC, as well as the Kankakee County 911 System's "Alerts" unit, the Bourbonnais Police Department, the FBI repeater and the DACA Wireless Internet system.

## DAYTON HAMVENTION 2007 TRIP PREPARATIONS

The 2007 Dayton Hamvention is only a little over 100 days away and that means you need to be making your lodging reservations now. This year many KARS members will be staying at the Rt. 48 Exit of I70. It is about three miles from where we stayed last year. The Country Inn & Suites was nice but they raised their rates from \$69/night to \$139/night this year!

## DEFENSE FUND DONATION

At the December board meeting, the KARS Board of Directors voted to donate \$250 to the ARRL defense fund to protect our hobby from BPL interference. Check was written and mailed.



# W9AZ

### BANQUET NEWS

KARS banquet was well attended again this year. Be sure to look for banquet pictures in the March newsletter.

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

## ARRL 160-METER CONTEST—2006

Call: W9AZ

Operator(s): K9CS, AK9F, K9NR, K9FO, WR9L, K5SMX, WB9Z

Station: WB9Z Class: M/S HP QTH: IL Operating Time (hrs): 34

Summary:

Total: QSO's = 1526 Sections = 78 Countries = 16 Total Score = 291,682

Club: Society of Midwest Contesters

Comments:

First, a massive storm blasted through Illinois Thursday evening and Friday morning, dumping loads of ice and snow, toppling trees and disrupting power in a path from St. Louis through the middle of the state. We dodged the center of that bullet, as the worst was about 60 miles west of us.

When we got underway Friday evening, the general feeling was that it was going to be a great DX weekend. What a disappointment! Even though the A & K numbers looked favorable, the low frequency absorption levels seemed high and apparently choked off a lot of the expected EU DX. Friday evening just did not generate any EU DX, and even though the earlier QRN from the storm eventually dissipated leaving the band fairly quiet, the EU gray line came and went without any EU action. In fact, the west coast stations that early in the evening were loud faded down significantly. The comments of other stations in the upper Midwest about weak signals from California and no EU DX seems to confirm that we were the victims of some polar generated high absorption. Our rates were quite high and held up well into the night fed by domestic stations, and though weak, we could still pull in the west coast stations on the Beverages.

This could somewhat work to our advantage in the club competition, as the two coasts had some trouble hearing each other, we could work both. It appears the East coast guys were also running behind on the European DX. When the sun came up Saturday, host Jerry WB9Z noticed something awry out in the field and upon investigating found a portion of one of the NE Beverage's had collapsed from the ice and wind and was on the ground. He had it repaired after a miserable hour or so of wind and cold in the muddy field. Thank you Jerry! Armed with the repaired antenna, we had higher hopes for Saturday night.

Saturday evening finally resulted in some of the higher altitude DX, and though we ended with a few more contacts (+16) than last year, our DX count was off significantly at 20 less than 2005.

Transmit antenna: 160' Series fed vertical with 120+ radials. Receive antennas: Multiple Beverages and pennants. Thanks to Jerry, WB9Z for his hospitality.

Missed were PR/KP4 and NWT/VE8

DX worked:

HC (Ecuador) HK0 (San Andres) CO (Cuba) XE (Mexico) YV (Venezuela)

C6 (Bahamas) HP (Panama) ZF (Cayman Is) PJ2 (Curacao) P4 (Aruba)

PY (Brazil) G (England) F (France) I (Italy) UT (Ukraine) GI (Northern Ireland)

Congratulations to the high scoring SMC station, and particularly to John, K9DX for an incredible number of Q's. Please, everyone get those entries in no matter how meager, marked Society of Midwest Contesters, as the SMC again should be able do a great job in the club competition!

73, Howard, AK9F



### Jay N9LCR SK

Jay Bainbridge, N9LCR succumbed to complications from ALS in December. Jay enjoyed contesting and foxhunting, and is survived by his sister Carol who lives in New Hampshire.

### FOR SALE

Yaesu FT-1000MP (mint condition)	\$1,400
Hammerlund HQ-170 Receiver	\$100
National NC-109 Receiver	\$50
Hallicrafters S-108 Receiver	\$50
Drake SSR-1 Receiver	\$100
Heathkit HW-16 with	
HG-108 VFO	\$75
Radio Shack Scanner	\$30
Alinco DR-570 2 meter mobile	\$50

If you are interested in the above equipment, email Carol at:

[grncabbage@aol.com](mailto:grncabbage@aol.com)

## STRAIGHT KEY NIGHT 2007

To ring in the new year, the ARRL hosts the Straight Key Night. This isn't so much of a contest but rather a time set aside for enthusiasts of the straight key. The main idea is to have quality conversations with other hams using straight keys. There are no winners for the most QSOs but everyone is a winner since we are out there using straight keys and enjoying the sweet sound that these keys produce.

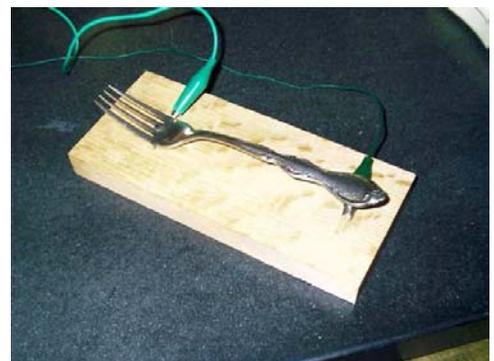
In the soapbox area of the ARRL website, you will find small stories of other QSOs and votes for the most interesting QSO and the best fists and other opinions of how this event went.

I have seen in the past where people have come up with interesting keying options. Last year there was one guy who soldered pennies to his wires and tapped them together to send code. I am not sure what the most interesting key was used this year, but I tried to create a special key for this event.

I took a regular dinner fork and mounted it on a piece of oak. I used alligator clips for the contact positions and hooked them on to the wire and plugged it into the radio. This was actually a very smooth key to use and I enjoyed it quite a bit. One fellow told me that he had never been fed CW with a fork before. I got a chuckle out of that comment and really liked this QSO. Other Hams that I worked couldn't believe that I was using this key. For me I would have to say that I found this Straight Key Night event to be the most memorable. This key is probably not the most innovative key ever built but I am pretty sure it is quite unique.

In a time where CW / Morse Code is most challenged, it is nice to find operators who still favor this mode of operation. CW is my favorite mode and I will certainly use it to communicate.

Brian - KC9FAV



**It's true folks, Brian was not joking. This is the key that he used to send CW during straight key night.**



Howard AK9F and Don K9NR are pictured next to the new Generac 80,000 watt diesel generator.



KARS 34/94 repeater will be on the air to relay emergency and weather messages even during power outages



Heavy iron!  
Close-up of the big Diesel



Krister KB9PEA, now out of the Air Force, attends December board meeting and tells Clay N9IO of his adventures



Former KARS member Sheri, M0FZZ, also known as KF9IK, visiting from England at December meeting.



Two Hundred years of ham radio Story and more pictures in March newsletter



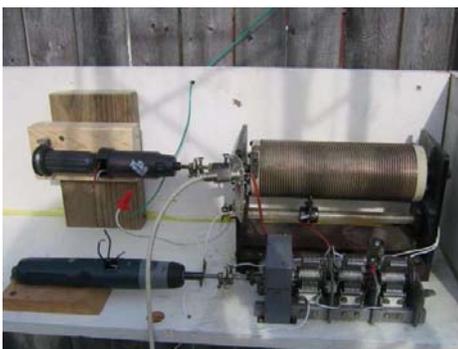
Moving Day  
The KARS Micor repeater begins it's journey to the Iroquois County club



Sam, W9QKF heave's while Carl, K9CS ho's as Don, K9NR looks on



Tying her down for the trip



A glimpse inside the tuner being built by Pete, NI9H



Don K9NR, Howard AK9F, Pete NI9H and Carl K9CS operate ARRL RTTY Roundup at the QTH of K9NR, under the KARS club call. W9AZ



The KARS 160 contest "crew" at Jerry WB9Z's station...L to R WR9L, K9NR, K9FO, K9CS, AK9F, WB9Z & K5NMX