



# KARS KEY KLICKS



JOURNAL OF THE KANKAKEE AREA RADIO SOCIETY

Volume 95 Issue 7

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July 2020

## KARS MEETINGS DURING WUHAN VIRUS LOCKDOWN

KARS Meetings continue to be cancelled still because of...well...you know what. August meeting likely to be the same.

We are all anxious to get together again and enjoy a KARS meeting. Hopefully that will be soon but until then, stay safe and healthy.

### BOARD MEETING

Much as we'd like to, the KARS board meeting will NOT be held at El Mexicano. The board has had some success holding their meetings on Zoom and will probably continue to until there is a vaccine for the very unwelcome Chinese Wuhan virus.

### FOXHUNTS!!!

The next foxhunt will be Saturday, July 11th at 1PM. Hunters will start at the usual place...the east parking lot at the Meadowview Shopping Center. The fox will be JR K9KSG. Following will be the Saturday July 25th hunt...same time, same rules.

All hunters must wear masks at the start and finish.

### GOOD NEWS FOR MEMBERS

Due to the effects of the virus, the board has voted unanimously to automatically extend the dues you paid in 2020 to also cover the year of 2021.

### NCS FOR JULY

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

July 6	N9LYE
July 13	K9KSG
July 20	N9OE
July 27	N9DWE

Don't forget the net!



Proud Dad Troy W9KVR with daughter Ellie racking up the Q's. See page 2 for write-up

### KARS KALENDAR

July 7	.....KARS General Meeting
July 11	..... <a href="#">Transmitter Hunt</a>
July 21	.....KARS Board Meeting
July 25	..... <a href="#">Transmitter Hunt</a>
August 4	.....KARS General Meeting
Aug 8	..... <a href="#">Transmitter Hunt</a>
August 18	.....KARS Board Meeting

### KARS KONTEST KALENDAR

July 1	..... <a href="#">RAC Canada Day Contest</a>
July 1	..... <a href="#">VHF/UHF FT8 Activity Contest</a>
July 4-5	..... <a href="#">DL DX RTTY Contest</a>
July 8	..... <a href="#">VHF/UHF FT8 Activity Contest</a>
July 11-12	..... <a href="#">IARU HF World Radiosport</a>
July 18-19	..... <a href="#">NAQP RTTY Contest</a>
July 18-19	..... <a href="#">CQWW VHF Contest</a>
Aug 1-2	..... <a href="#">NAQP CW Contest</a>
Aug 8-9	..... <a href="#">WAE CW DX Contest</a>
Aug 8-9	..... <a href="#">Maryland-DC QSO Party</a>
Aug 15-16	..... <a href="#">SARTG WW RTTY</a>
Aug 15-16	..... <a href="#">NAQP SSB Contest</a>
Aug 22-24	..... <a href="#">Hawaii QSO Party</a>
Aug 22-23	..... <a href="#">Ohio QSO Party</a>
Aug 29-30	..... <a href="#">Kansas QSO Party</a>

### SILENT KEYS

It is with regret that we record the passing of the following members...



Bob Mehrer K9CWF

Bob was a WW2 Veteran and an over 60 year member of KARS. He was a machinist and member of the WKAN engineering staff. Bob was 98.



Jerry Whalen WB9WOC

Jerry worked for General Telephone and was a volunteer fireman. Jerry was 79

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

July 2	N9FD
July 10	WC9B
July 13	K9UNO
July 14	K9KSG
July 16	KC9VWP
July 18	KE9MG
July 24	KX9J
July 25	N9REG
July 25	KB9VR
July 25	KD9AUK

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  
KARS DX Cluster www.ddns.net



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

## June 13th Transmitter Hunt



K9NR in the foxes lair



A beautiful summer day for a hunt!



The winners: K9KSG and KD9CFV

## May 30th Transmitter Hunt



Hunters gather at the starting point



Who was that masked man?



Winner K9NR with Fox N9FD

### UPDATES FROM W9GRS SCHOOL STATION & YOUTH IN HAM RADIO

Springtime didn't quite end the way we expected at W9GRS with school shutdowns due to COVID-19, but we were able to get some radio operations in before. In February, W9GRS participated once again in the semi-annual ARRL School Club Roundup (SCR). Our school schedule was not very conducive for operations at the school QTH, and because we had students very much interested in operating, we came up with a "Plan B." Due to the fact that we have both students and parents that have their tickets, we decided that we could operate W9GRS from home QTH's and thus put the call on the air. Because we weren't operating from the school site, we entered SCR in the non-school club category, which in our opinion was the ethical thing to do. We didn't realize that it would cause quite a stir with some of the other participants. Now, technically SCR is not a contest, but just like Field Day, scores are kept and stations ranked at the end. It can get a bit competitive to say the least.

In the end, W9GRS was able to put 120 stations into the log, including 23 schools. Since 2008, we have put school stations from 48 states into the W9GRS log now, just needing Hawaii and Utah to complete the elusive School WAS. We're hoping to get N7BYU in the next Sweepstakes to check one of those off. When the final February scores came out, W9GRS ranked #1 in the non-school club category. A few other stations questioned why a school station was operating in the non-school club category. Our explanation made sense and if we had been in a school category, we would have had a decided and unfair advantage over other schools if we operated from home QTH's,

W9GRS then went QRT until Field Day. With the relaxed rules of operations in place, we operated at the GOTA station for the Iroquois County Amateur Radio Club. We made it a family affair as sisters Sophie and Ellie Simpson took turns under the guidance of dad W9KVR making contacts. Ellie was following up on her first contest experience in the ARRL VHF contest a couple weeks ago with Dad. Looking at the W9GRS WAS grid, we had noticed that the school station already has WAS on 20/40 meters, but was lacking on other bands. The focus would be on 10/15 meters and see about filling in some of those spots. With many more "D" category stations on, we might be able to do it. In the end, the girls were able to bring the totals to over 40 on each of those bands and now 5-Band WAS is within striking distance for W9GRS. This in addition to 36 confirmed on 80m. A new goal for the up-coming year!

Both girls are planning on trying to earn their tickets during an August testing session. We are hoping to be able to get back on air at the school this coming Fall, fingers-crossed. ...73 de Troy W9KVR



**American Independence Day—July 4th 1776!**



# KARS HOMEPAGE— [WWW.W9AZ.COM](http://WWW.W9AZ.COM) —KARS HOMEPAGE

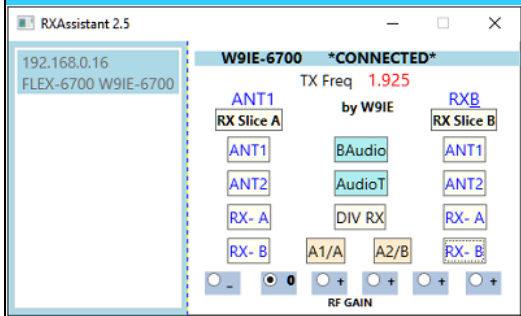


## RXAssistant Version 2.5

5-26-2020

RXAssistant is a program app intended to Add Advanced Receive Antenna Assistance Option Selection to any of the FlexRadio 6XXX Radios running SmartSDR versions 2.6.1 or greater or any 3.x version. Clickable buttons in the on-screen GUI add additional functions such as quick toggle access to the Binaural Audio, Headphone/Speaker and Diversity Receive.

Plus two special buttons **A1/A** and **A2/B** with Hot Key access via Keyboard keys [ ] and [ ] respectively. You could optionally minimize(-) the app off the desktop and still have full access to ALL RX Antennas while maintaining focus on the keyboard.  
(Hot Key Access implemented at the request of Craig K9CT)



## Downloads

[RXAssistant\\_2.5\\_Install\\_Instructions.pdf](#)

[RXAssistantSetup-2.5.zip](#) 2.56MB

Program Author: Ken Buser W9IE  
Ken is a long time member of KARS  
and local Flex Radio Mentor.



Ever popular “Gone YL’ed” has become a favorite of the Ham Nation show. June 3rd YL’ed 3.0 aired featuring Amanda K1DDN and local favorite Val NV9L.

<https://twit.tv/shows/ham-nation/episodes/456>

On this special edition of Ham Nation, Amanda and Valerie feature leading YLs in amateur radio:

Anne Dirkman KC9YL on the history of YLRL  
Leanne Bulger W4LEA on teaching CW  
Andrea Slack K2EZ and the evolution of her amazing mobile Rover station  
Michelle Carey W5MQC with a very active all YL club

