



# KARS KEY CLICKS



JOURNAL OF THE KANKAKEE AREA RADIO SOCIETY

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December 2015

## HANDS-ON DXING IN DECEMBER

### MEETING ROOM CHANGE!!!

The next KARS meeting will be December 1st 7PM at St. Mary's Hospital **HR Conference Room**. Easiest entry is through the **WEST ENTRANCE**, below the ER access. Enter the basement doors and follow the overhead signs to the HR Room. Following a brief business meeting and the elections, there will be a program on the world of DXing.

This will be a practical hands-on presentation of successful DX operation including, but not limited to; finding DX, DX bulletins, software, hardware, techniques, sending/receiving QSL's, using LOTW, etc.

Whether you're new to the game or have been around awhile, we hope you will find this a useful primer on DXing!

### NEW YEARS EVE DINNER

Unofficially, a group of KARS members have been getting together around 5 PM on New Years Eve at El Mexicano Restaurant for dinner. 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 K9NR an email at: "[donk9nr@gmail.com](mailto:donk9nr@gmail.com)" so we can give the restaurant an idea of how many to expect.



### KARS KALENDAR

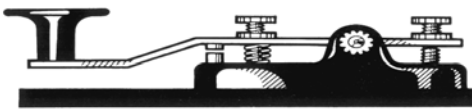
- Dec 1.....[KARS General Meeting](#)
- Dec 4-6.....[ARRL 160 Meter Contest](#)
- Dec 12-13.....[ARRL 10 Meter Contest](#)
- Dec 15.....[KARS Board Meeting](#)
- Dec 25.....**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**
- Dec 26-27.....[Stew Perry Top Band Contest](#)
- Dec 31.....[KARS NEW YEARS DINNER](#)  
**NO KARS GENERAL MEETING IN JANUARY**
- Jan 2-3.....[ARRL RTTY Roundup](#)
- Jan 9-10.....[NA QSO Party CW](#)
- Jan 16-17.....[NA QSO Party SSB](#)
- Jan 17.....[WRCA Wheaton Hamfest](#)
- Jan 19.....[KARS Board Meeting](#)
- Jan 23.....[KARS BANQUET](#)
- Jan 29-31.....[CQWW CW160 Contest](#)

*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
- 145.53    KARS DX Cluster



# W9AZ

## MERRY CHRISTMAS!

### KARS HOLIDAY BANQUET

KARS 2015-2016 Holiday Banquet is scheduled for 6:00 PM, Saturday January 23rd, at the [Brickstone Brewery](#) on William Latham Drive in Bourbonnais. Cocktails at 6 PM, Dine at 7 PM.

### REMEMBER!

**There will be no January general meeting**

**BANQUET MENU ON PAGE 2.**

**There will be no January Newsletter so that the editors may enjoy the Holidays also!**

### 2016 DUES ARE DUE

It's that time of year. KARS dues have not been raised in over 30 years and they won't be raised this year either!

Adult Member \$30  
Family Rate \$40  
Senior (65), Full time student, and Disabled.....1/2 rate.

**New** Members who joined in the second half of 2015 are covered for 2016.

### NCS FOR DECEMBER

The net meets every Monday at 2100 hours local time on the 146.34/.94 OR 145.130 backup repeater. All stations with or without traffic are invited to check in.

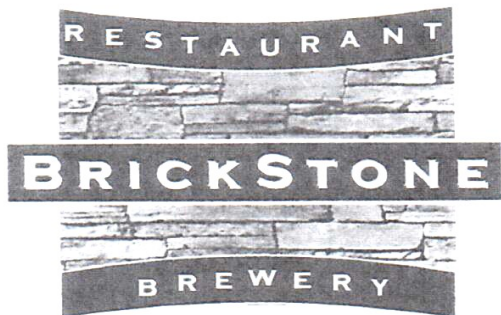
- Dec 7th            N9RJM
  - Dec 14th         W9EJM
  - Dec 21st         N9OE
  - Dec 28th         N9FD
- Don't forget the net!



KARS HOLIDAY BANQUET  
Saturday January 23, 2016  
6:00 Cocktails  
7:00 Dining

All drinks will be a cash bar, Club will provide two appetizer trays.  
We must know if you plan to attend by January 12, 2016 to let the restaurant know.  
If you plan on ordering the prime rib dinner they need an accurate count to prepare.

You can pay in advance or at the door that evening. Please send checks payable to KARS to:  
Roland Hertz, 2627 E 1000N Rd., Kankakee, IL 60901



557 William Latham Dr., Bourbonnais

PRIVATE ROOM ENTREES

PRIME RIB  
\$34.00 includes tax and tip

PRIME RIB SLOWLY ROASTED TO SEAL IN ALL OF THE FLAVOR AND MAXIMIZE TENDERNESS.  
SERVED WITH RED-SKIN MASHED POTATOES & VEGETABLES.  
ABOVE INCLUDES A FRESH GARDEN SALAD

BREWMASTER'S FEAST #1  
ITALIAN DINNER  
\$24.00 includes tax and tip

"DINNER INCLUDES: TOMATO VODKA RIGATONI,  
LEMON PEPPERED ROASTED CHICKEN, SLOWLY ROASTED SIRLOIN OF BEEF,  
RED-SKIN MASHED POTATOES & VEGETABLES.

FEAST INCLUDES A FRESH GARDEN SALAD &  
FRENCH VANILLA ICE CREAM



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!**



## Elections

It's time for the annual election of KARS Officers/ Board Members. Worry not! There is very little campaigning or mud slinging involved in the club democratic process. The biggest problem we have is getting people to run in the not so contested elections!

Sooo, why not put your name on the ballot. The board voted to double all the officers salaries! Okay, old joke. Zero times anything is still zero! Seriously, jump in or nominate someone you think would do well.

We have something of a contest for board positions, with nine to chose from (you can pick five of the nine). Others can run right up to the last minute.

Nominations are accepted right up to the election and you can write-in your choice of candidate. Below is the present "ticket." It's very flexible!

### 2015 W9AZ BALLOT FOR OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

**President:** Don K9NR\*

**Write-ins:** \_\_\_\_\_

**V President:** Harry WD9FYF\*  
Rollie N9RJM

**Write-ins:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Secretary** Ed W9EJM

**Write-ins:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Treasurer** Kevin KC9QXV

**Write-ins:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Directors (vote for 5)**

Carl K9CS\*

Billie K9QT

Craig N9FD\*

Bill N9OE\*

Paul W9IEY

Chris W9LIZ

Clay N9IO

Pete N9IH

Francis KE9MG

Your call here \_\_\_\_\_?

\* Present office holders

## YOUTH HAPPENINGS AT W9GRS GLENN RAYMOND SCHOOL IN WATSEKA

by Troy W9KVR

We started the month of October off on a good note by operating during the Illinois QSO Party. Staff and students logged a station record of 392 Q's enroute to 42,000+ points on SSB, making a lot people happy to get IROQ into their logs! We even had Sophie make a few Q's. Amazing how a YL can draw some attention! In appreciation for the support by KARS members over the past 8+ years, we hope you graciously accept those points for KARS in the club competition.

The following week led to the semi-annual School Club Round-Up. We did a few things differently as focus of the event has begun to shift to pure contesting and less on exposing students and staff to the joys of amateur radio and the sciences behind it. W9GRS bucked the trend and decided to go back to the basics. We constructed a simple wire antenna for 40 meters and utilized the tried and true vertical for the other bands. That wasn't enough for us though. We talk about how little power is necessary to make communications work, and talk is cheap, so we decided to go QRP. That's right 5 watts! Students and even myself were surprised that we actually made contacts, even on SSB! I do have to go full disclosure though and admit we did have 1 contact where we "cranked it up" to 100 watts in order to make a coveted QSO with Alaskan Pilot Station School, KL7DG. We also utilized several modes including SSTV, CW, RTTY, and JT65. We did try Hell-Schreiber, but couldn't get any bites. Preliminary results have W9GRS finishing 7th in the competitive Jr. High Division, but we also don't put in a full 24 hours, nor do we run amps. Also, our focus is introduction to radio. We save the contesting for the weekends! Unofficially, we will stake claim to QRP Champion for October 2015 SCR!

We began November with a jump into the realm of CW Contesting. I was able to sneak away to school and operate a couple hours during the CW Sweepstakes. I had a couple of students meet me there and we struggled together with the cumbersome exchange that is Sweepstakes. I'm sure I botched a few serials and checks along the way!

On the radar for W9GRS is the Science Club's 40th Anniversary and we are in the development of a commemorative QSL card for it. We are also looking to complete Triple Play this year. We are couple short on the SSB/Digital Side and hopefully put a big dent in the CW column after this weekend. That is all for now and 73's from the Flatlands of Illinois!

-Troy W9KVR / W9GRS

## HIGH ALTITUDE BALLOON LAUNCH

by Darryl KD9AUK

Well, it's that time of year again. The crops have been harvested and the fields in northern and central Illinois and Indiana are clear. So we can once again start launching our high altitude balloon missions.

The first mission for this season is going to be really special. It's going to involve a number of "firsts." It is being sponsored by the "Project Michelangelo Foundation" based in Bourbonnais, Illinois:

<http://www.projectmichelangelo.org>

Project Michelangelo is the brainchild of creator and founder JoJo Sayson, a prominent physical therapist and incredible in Bourbonnais. His business is called "JoJo Sayson's Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation." JoJo founded Project Michelangelo to work with disabled and challenged kids. He and his group of volunteers use archery as a way of helping these kids learn that despite their handicaps, they can achieve great things by keeping their eye and energy focused on the "bullseye" in their own life. They truly can achieve their dreams — they only need the vision and will to succeed.

For this upcoming mission, we will be using the largest balloon we have used so far — a 3,000 gram balloon, that should take our payload well above 100,000 feet!

We are tentatively planning to launch the mission from the 50-yard line of the Bradley-Bourbonnais Community High School in Bradley, Illinois. The address for the school is: 700 W North St, Bradley, IL 60915.

Launch time hopefully will be around 10:00 am. A date for the launch has not been set yet. Due to the large size of the balloon, we are going to need to wait until we have near-perfect conditions on the ground — ground wind speeds of 0 to 3 miles hour. So, I will be contacting you again only 2 or 3 days prior to launch. The launch will take place on either a Saturday or Sunday, since most people work during the week, and we are going to need everyone's help on this one!

Continued in the next column

The plan is for the Project Michelangelo kids to come to the high school and see the launch in person, and then go back to JoJo's office to watch the [APRS.FI](#) web site on a large screen TV and follow the flight from beginning to end. After the Chase Team recovers the payload packages, we'll bring them back to JoJo's office to see if we can get some preliminary pictures and flight data for them to enjoy.

I have been working daily on this flight for the past 3 months, designing, building and testing various "launch vehicles" to carry Astronaut Bob into Near Space. I'm now on my third vehicle design and I think it's going to work well.

In addition, I have been testing the Field of View of the GoPro HERO 3+ Silver Edition cameras we will be using, testing special extended capacity batteries (2780 Mah) and memory cards (64GB), to make sure that we don't run out of power or recording capacity during the flight. I have purchased a new SPOT GPS Tracker (Generation 3) that will give us position updates every 2.5 minutes instead of the 10-minute updates we were getting with the older SPOT units.

We will also be testing a second (back-up) APRS transmitter for the first time on this flight. The primary unit, a Byonics All-In-One (AIO) transmits at 10-watts of power. The back-up unit, a Byonics MT-1000, will transmit at 1-watt. My plan is to have the two radios transmit at overlapping intervals — the primary unit will transmit its signal once every 3-minutes. The back-up unit will transmit about 1.5 minutes later, and so forth. So we should be receiving position and altitude updates about every minute and a half throughout the 2-hour flight.

Needless to say, we would love to have your help for this special event. We are going to need all of the capable and willing hands we can get for both the launch and the chase. If you would like to help, please contact me at:

630-877-6500

darrylray@mac.com

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

December 1	WD9AYI
December 7	N9LCX
December 20	KF9IK
December 20	WA9WAQ
December 22	N9OE
December 28	K9JLK
January 7	N9IOQ
January 13	KD9CGD
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

## ARRL MEMBERSHIP

Most everyone knows that without the ARRL there would be no amateur radio. KARS is an affiliated club and everyone should be an ARRL member!

## GOT DX?

Looking for great DX during December? There are some good, rare catches to be made...

### 3D2/R Rotuma Island

Look for them December 20th to January 15th. Callsign: 3D2AG/p, 80-6, CW SSB RTTY and PSK31 QSL direct

### 7Q Malawi

Listen for 7Q7VW through December 3rd, 160-6, CW SSB and RTTY, QSL via DK2WV

### SV/a Mount Athos

Monk Apollo SV2ASP/a, the only licensed ham on the island has been active lately (time permitting, on CW SSB & RTTY. He has been favoring 160 80 40 and 6 meters. QSL info on QRZ.com

### CE0Y Easter Island

Look for CE0Y/RZ3FW & CE0Y/R4WAA November 24–December 2 on 160-10 meters mostly CW with some SSB & RTTY QSL LOTW or OQRS!

### ZL9 New Zealand Subantarctic Islands

Operating with the callsign ZL9A from January 7th to the 11th 40-10meters, CW & SSB Counts as ZL9 for DXCC

## BOARD MEETING

KARS board meetings will be held on Tuesday, December 15th, and Tuesday January 19th at El Mexicano. Eat at 6PM. Meet at 7PM. All members are welcome.

## TRANSMITTER HUNT PICS

In all kinds of weather!



November 1st



November 1st



November 1st



November 21st



November 1st



November 21st

From all the hams at KARS to all the hams of the world...

Have a very  
**Merry Christmas!**  
and a **Happy New Year!**