



# KARS KEY KLICKS



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Editors: K9QT, K9NR, Photos WD9FYF, AK9F, K9QT,  
Contributors: KC9FAV, W9VQC

JULY 2006

## JULY MEETING ON WEDNESDAY MOBILE INSTALLS & KARSFEST

The fourth of July falls on our usual meeting night therefore we will hold our July KARS meeting on Wednesday July 5th, 7PM at St. Mary's Hospital. As usual, enter from the main south entrance. VERY IMPORTANT plans for KARS Hamfest will be discussed. Your help is needed. There will also be a program on HF & VHF/UHF Mobile installations presented by K9NR.

### EXAM SESSION

An exam session was held on June 14th. Joe Price WA9CGZ of Peotone upgraded from his Technician to his Extra Class license. Congratulations Joe!

### .34/.94 EMERGENCY POWER

Olivet is in the process of obtaining a large emergency power plant for it's tower site. The new genset obviates the need for the large UPS donated by Ken W9YNI. Consequently, we have lined up a buyer for it. More news to follow as this development unfolds.

### NCS FOR JULY

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

- July 03 - Brian KC9FAV
- July 10 - John K9BYT
- July 17 - Francis KE9MG
- July 24 - Jim K9BIG
- July 31 - Duane KB9ZQU

**ATTENTION!** If you do not have internet access, contact the editors ASAP and let them know you need to continue receiving the newsletter via U.S. mail. Please do it today!



Carl K9CS presents a program at the June meeting about his DXpedition to Montserrat including spectacular photos of the volcano and the devastation it caused

### KARS KALENDAR

- July 5 (WEDNESDAY)...KARS General Meeting
- July 8-9.....IARU World Championship
- July 16.....KARSFEST
- July 18.....KARS Board Meeting

*The Kankakee Area Radio Society operates repeaters on:*

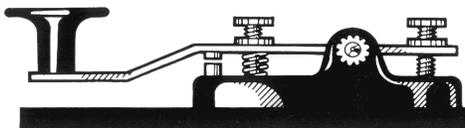
*146.34/.94      107.2 PL Access*  
*449.8/444.8      114.8 PL Access*

*Also, co-sponsors:*

*145.130      107.2 PL Access*

*Additionally, KARS sponsors:*

*144.39      Wide Area APRS digi-peater*  
*145.53      KARS DX Cluster*



# W9AZ

### KARSFEST 2006

A hamfest planning committee meeting was held Tuesday, June 27th at El Campesino's. Attendees included: John WD9AYI, Don K9NR, Billie K9QT, Carl K9CS, Clay N9IO and Francis KE9MG.

Table setup on Saturday night will commence at 5:30PM. Lend a hand and enjoy free pizza.

On KARSFEST day (July 16) we need help at 5:30AM. If you can't make it till later, we can still use your help. All KARS members need to help out on this most important day!

### FIELD DAY REPORT

#### A wonderful thing indeed!

KARS 2006 Field Day was a resounding success, despite the prospect of less than stellar band conditions.

The weather was superb. The event was well attended by KARS members as well as guests and visiting dignitaries.

Everyone had a great time and a good score was racked up including a satellite contact. As usual, Will K9FO cooked up some superb steaks Saturday evening.

Thanks to:

Jerry, WB9Z who drove up from Crescent City, climbed Kevin's 100 ft. tower and hung support ropes for the main wire antennas.

Ken W9YNI who supplied and setup the 2.4 GHz antennas for the computer network.

Bob N9MBR and Jamie KC9DEP the FD Chair and Co-Chair for their considerable work. Successful, enjoyable FD's don't just happen!

Special thanks to Kevin N9REG for hosting KARS Field Day at his beautiful country QTH.

See page three for FD picture gallery

## SEE YOU AT KARSFEST 2006

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

## CW HELPS FOR THE BEGINNER

By Brian KC9FAV

On my way to work a of weeks ago, I had an interesting radio conversation. The fellow on the other end, also mobile, told me that he was going to upgrade to General and would be taking the written test and the CW test at the next KARS test session.

"What's the best way to learn Morse code?" he asked me, since he heard that I was the CW "expert" in our club. (I think that he may be misinformed... but anyway.) Instead of just telling him a bunch of tips that he should be doing, I asked him what he was doing to learn CW. I found that he was not using a computer program to assist him through the learning process and he was learning the code at a slower speed. All is fine with that way but the results will not be long term. So I thought about what I did to learn the code and what helped me. Since I use CW for most, if not all, of my HF QSO's, I think I might be able to help him out.

Here's a small list that I gave him. I hope they will also assist the newcomers trying to upgrade and maybe help the Tech class operators to become a little more interested in CW.

1. Try to learn the code letter by letter, at a rate of 20 WPM Farnsworth and speed at 5 WPM.
2. Invest in a good Morse code learning program. (I used Code Master 5.)
3. Set the spacing for 5 WPM and practice QSO's. A good web site is: [www.aa9pw.com](http://www.aa9pw.com) You can go to the Morse code section and set the spacing and speed.
4. Do not learn the code by writing down dots and dashes, this will build up a "look up table in your mind's eye. Also avoid Code Quick this may be good to just achieve 5 WPM but is pretty much useless after that (I have one letter that I learned by their online demo and I cannot for the life of me get that stupid thing out of my head), it

really is a handicap when trying to copy anything over ten WPM. It also builds a lookup table of words for letters.

5. Practice early in the morning right after you wake up and just before you go to bed. There is a much better learning curve this way.
6. Practice Practice Practice!!!

I know these seem pretty general but they are important in order to learn what the code consists of.

In my last article, I stated that if a person would sit down and take a good look at Morse code, they would see how really simple it is. Long and Short sounds used to identify letters and punctuations and specific pro-signs. (Did you realize that SOS is a pro-sign as well?) It is a very simple language. The 5 WPM cap is very easy to achieve if you just spend some time trying to learn and understand CW. This method works very well and has some advantages.

The FISTS club logo states that Accuracy Transcends Speed. I must admit to being a product of this claim. I started out using only 5 WPM on the air always striving for accuracy, I have had the pleasure and surprise of watching the knob on my rig's keyer slowly rise up to more than 20 WPM, inside of about 8 – 10 months. Also, because I learned the code at 20 WPM send speed, there was no plateau effect around 10 WPM. I had eliminated it by learning code at the faster speed of 20 WPM instead of just focusing on just being able to copy 5 WPM.

I do understand that it is hard to get this "new" language of Morse code into our thinking, but once you try it out I think you would find that it is really not difficult. For starters, let's learn what your name sounds like in CW. I carry a Palm Pilot with a Morse program in it, so the next time you see me, ask me about what your name would sound like and I will be happy to show you and let you hear what it sounds like. So until next month, I should have some more interesting ideas about Morse code to discuss.

73,  
Brian – KC9FAV

## KARS HISTORY BYTES

April 8, 1942 - By Bill W9VQC  
Club affiliation with the ARRL was discussed at the April 22, 1942 meeting.

Local hams were active in Civilian Defense and Red Cross work during World War 2.

The local newspaper announced the Radio Club plans to form a WERS (War Emergency Radio Service) using mobiles and walkie-talkies.

Discussion was held for the Hiram Maxim Award at the June 10, 1942 meeting. No one qualified.

Radio operators were in great demand with top pay of \$3200 a year for 40 WPM operators.

Dues during the war were 10 cents per meeting.

Local hams were used to help in blackout tests when other communications proved inadequate.

Very little done during 1944 due to the war...only five members present.

After the war, all hams were anxious to get back on the air. Much surplus equipment was put to use in the post war years.

## HAPPY JULY BIRTHDAY

July 6 KC9ELW  
July 8 AF9H  
July 10 WC9B  
July 11 KC9DEP  
July 17 KK9R  
July 18 KE9MG  
July 20 NV9X  
July 23 N9OKX  
July 25 N9REG  
July 25 KB9VR

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

## KARS BOARD MEETING

The next KARS board meeting will be held on July 18th in the banquet room of El Campesino Mexican restaurant. As always, all KARS members and spouses are welcome to attend. Of course, only board members may vote on issues and conduct official organization business.

Eat at 6:00. Meet at 7:00.

**Field Day 2006 is but a memory. Here are some pictures to keep the memory alive**



Fiddler on the roof Howard AK9F performs rooftop acrobatics while he erects the 40 meter antenna



Brandon K9BAC poses with visiting dignitary Gordon Campbell of St. Mary's Hospital. Gordon and St. Mary's have recently been involved in significant equipment upgrades to the ham radio emergency communications center in the hospital ER. Brandon also knows Gordon as "Dad."



Pete NI9H and Howard AK9F raise the 40 meter dipole



Vegetarian Kevin N9REG decides if he should try a steak grilled to perfection by BBQ grill specialist Will K9FO



Kankakee County Incident Command Vehicle



Carl K9CS demonstrates the proper antenna handling technique for assuring a satellite contact



Jim K9BIG and Jamie KC9DEP make lots of contacts on the GOTA station



Jim N9FO lounges in front of his motor home which housed the 40 meter station



Don K9NR gets punished by Howard AK9F for messing up a call



Brian KC9FAV wrapping up the coax for another year



Master chef Bob N9MBR prepares his super secret pancake batter for Sunday breakfast



Putting away the tower for another year takes a lot of ham power