



# KARS KEY KLICKS



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July 2008

## KARS MEETING TO FINALIZE HAMFEST PLANS

The Next KARS General Meeting will be July 1st, 7PM at the EOC located at the Kankakee County Sheriff's complex off exit 308 adjacent to the Greater Kankakee Airport.

APRS and its applications will be the program topic. Finalizing plans for KARSFEST as well as Field Day wrap-up will be just two of the topics for the July meeting.

### KARSFEST 2008

Final plans for KARSFEST 2008 will be worked out at the July meeting. This is the biggest KARS event of the year and the largest fund raising function.

The proceeds from the hamfest pay the lions share of the clubs yearly expenses. We simply could not afford the repeaters and many activities without this most important event.

Consequently, it is imperative that all KARS members help out in putting on this "Best in the Midwest" show!

Please bear in mind that without a successful hamfest, it would be necessary to raise membership dues substantially!

We need help Saturday evening setting up the tables. On Sunday, try to arrive by 5:45AM. If you absolutely cannot show up until later, we still need your help.

See you at the July meeting and at KARSFEST 2008!

### NCS FOR JULY

July 7th KC9FAV  
July 14th KE9MG  
July 21ST N9LYE  
July 28TH WD9FYF

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



Ken WYNI holds the audience spell-bound while demonstrating his Flex Radio at the June meeting.

### KARS KALENDAR

July 1.....KARS General Meeting  
July 13.....Fox River Hamfest  
July 12-13...IARU HF World Championship  
July 15.....KARS Board Meeting  
July 20.....KARSFEST  
July 19-20.....CQWW VHF Contest  
August 2-3 .....NA QSO PARTY CW  
August 3.....Bolingbrook Hamfest  
August 5.....KARS General Meeting  
August 10.....Hamfesters Hamfest  
August 16-17.....NA QSO PARTY SSB  
August 19.....KARS Board Meeting  
August 24.....Danville Hamfest

*The Kankakee Area Radio Society operates repeaters on:*

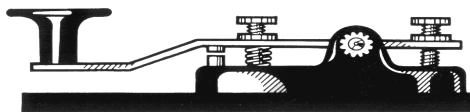
*146.34/.94      107.2 PL Access  
449.8/444.8      114.8 PL Access*

*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

### UPDATE ARES ID CARD

New ARES ID cards are required by the county. It is imperative that amateurs register at the sheriff's department and obtain a new photo ID. This can be done at the July meeting, or else by calling the Kankakee Sheriff's dept. (815-8027104) between the hours of 8:30 and 4:00 PM to set up an appointment.

### FIELD DAY 2008

Field Day preparations are well under way. The event will once again be hosted by Kevin, N9REG, at his spacious rural location on Rt. 115, west of Kankakee. Talk in on the 34/94 repeater.

Club members who participate in the event will be treated to a steak dinner. Make your reservations with Will, K9FO.

Bring your own tableware, beverages, **chairs**, as well as a side dish or dessert to share. If you have an extra grill, it would be helpful and speed up cooking time. Extra tables and mosquito spray might also come in handy.



Talk about luxury! KARS members are seated in plush chairs at the EOC for June meeting. Wouldn't they make for nice seating in the hamshack?

### KARS BOARD MEETING

The next KARS board meeting will be held in the banquet room of El Campesino Mexican restaurant on July 15th. All KARS members and spouses are welcome to attend.

Eat at 6:00. Meet at 7:00

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA !!! HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY !!!**

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

## SOME NOTES FROM A LOW POWER CONTESTER

By John N9LYE

Contesting is not just for the "Big Gun" stations using extremely large antennas, expensive rigs and high power amplifiers. Even a simple station can make contacts and, sometimes, do fairly well, if not win, in the Low Power or QRP category. Some very simple things are all that's needed.

In a contest, every contact counts, regardless of their power level. Fortitude, determination and timing are key factors.

With all the advancements in receiver technology and DSP units, weak signals are far easier to pull out of the noise. The trick is, to work the loudest stations first! Those are usually the Big Gun stations and they have all the newest equipment. You're just as important to them as they are to you.

You can always go back and work the weaker stations later. Search and Pounce methods may get more contacts in the log faster, but don't forget to try calling CQ on a quiet part of the band, if you can find one. There are far more stations scanning up and down the band at times than there are calling CQ. So why not get some of them to call you instead!

When it comes to antennas, even a simple dipole will work. A dipole mounted 2 to 6 feet above ground and used on 160, 80 and 40 Meters, will radiate straight up and the signal will be reflected back, covering most of North America. Just be careful that animals and other people don't come in contact with it.

In contests like the ARRL 10 Meter Contest, the antennas are small when compared to the lower bands. A compromise antenna like the Solarcon A-99 also works well on 10 and 15 meters and is easy to put up. Its performance is evident by my third consecutive Low Power, Mixed Mode 10 Meter Contest win from Illinois.

Even using a 160 meter Inverted-L on 10 meters will work just as well as a large yagi pointed in the same direction. Such was the case in the last 10 Meter Contest. Stations in Texas and Louisiana were being heard on the Inverted-L better than on the yagi or vertical from Northern Illinois.

VHF/UHF antennas are even smaller and easy to build. Six and two Meter yagis can be built using wood booms, 1/2 inch electrical conduit for the elements and some good quality coax. The Tiny 2 + 1 is a good example. There are many websites with basic plans on how to built them. Mine were computer modeled by Howard, AK9F, assembled in one afternoon from scrap

parts and performed very well using only 10 watts.

Learning CW gives you a better advantage of being heard during noisy and crowded band conditions. And it can be fun too! There is nothing like the excitement you get from working that rare DX station on CW that you couldn't work on phone.

Logging programs like CT 10 have a built in CW Keyer in the program. Using a simple interface from either the parallel or serial port on the computer to the Key jack on the radio and setting the Function keys allows you to send your callsign and exchange. a TNC or a program that uses your sound card to decode the CW can be of benefit, especially if the sending station sends at speed higher than you can normally copy.

And the most important thing that I learned was from Jan, K5MA. ALWAYS SUBMIT YOUR LOGS! Regardless if you made 2 contacts, 200 or 2,000, send them in. Who knows. You may actually win in some category!



Some of the Foxhunters pose for a picture at the Fox's Den in Chebanse

## HAMVENTION WRAPUP

KARS was well represented at the Dayton Hamvention again this year. Check out the Dayton pictures on page 3 (If you are receiving the newsletter by US mail, you can view the pictures on W9AZ.com).

## D-STAR AT KARSFEST

Mark WB9QZB has again offered to give a presentation at KARSFEST.

The presentation was a hit at last year's fest and drew quite a crowd in the atrium of the main building.

Come and talk to Mark to learn about digital repeaters already in use around Illinois and find out what equipment is needed to access them.

## HYBRID HUNT

By Clay N9IO

On a 90° day in Illinois the N9IO Prius "Fox Mobile" has proven to be the vehicle of choice for the hunt. Sitting for an extended period of time with the A/C on has overheated many a foxmobile.

What an absolute joy this was, I have sat and sweated many times over the years waiting for my foxhunting friends to find my location. Barely used any fuel at all, I mean almost nothing. This is great! I highly recommend the Prius for foxhunting, Em-Comm vehicle, weather spotter, etc.

This hunt found the fox at an abandoned gas station in the cleared lot right off I-57 at the Chebanse Illinois Exit.

Crystal, W9IOU says the fox's signal was all over the place, lots of reflections.

Toward the end of the hunt two Chebanse locals stopped by after seeing the bunch gathering, N9LAH, Phil and Mike, nephew to KARS own N9OE.

### Foxhunt Results

- #1 - K9NR Don - 11.7 miles
- #2 - WR9L Greg - 12.1 miles
- #3 - W9IOU Crystal/ K9UNO Rodney - 12.4 miles (Rider: Mark)
- #4 - K9QT Billie - 13.0 miles (Rider: N5HSR Charles)

Fox - N9IO Clay / N9IOQ Cindy

Thank you to everyone who comes to our hunts!!!

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- July 6 KC9ELW
- July 8 AF9H
- July 10 WC9B
- July 11 KC9DEP
- July 15 N9YNW
- July 17 KK9R
- July 18 KE9MG
- July 20 NV9X
- July 23 N9OKX
- July 25 KB9VR, N9REG

The editors wish a Belated Happy Birthday to N9OQC who we missed on June 10

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

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# KARS HIGHLIGHTS AND HIJINKS FROM THE 2008 DAYTON HAMVENTION



Ladies Man Howard AK9F flanked by Judie (W9YNI's XYL) and Sue (Howard's boss err XYL) at the Omni-max Theater



Some of the KARS gang about to enter the flight simulator at the Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton



Jerry WB9Z and George W8UVZ at the Topband Dinner in Dayton



Jess AI9L checking cards at the ARRL "Expo"



Howard AK9F with the reps from Begali Keys—CW equipment remains number one in popularity!



Ken W9YNI, Bobby (soon to be licensed) and Bill N9OE at one of the many halls of the Hara Arena complex



Greg WR9L and Don K9NR are speechless as they point out a \$480 Dipole Kit



Danny WA9WAQ sampling breakfast at the luxury hotel



Steve W9DX downs coffee as he tries to shake off the previous nights partying

# STILL MORE HIGHLIGHTS AND HYJINKS FROM THE 2008 DAYTON HAMVENTION



**Bill N9OE seems to think he can fit that big radial under the hood of his truck**



**Cal N9LCX talks about the big one that got away**



**Kevin N9REG “veg’s” out at the Hamvention after suffering sensory overload**



**W3YNI meets Ken W9YNI at Dayton!**



**Ken W9YNI tells Jerry WB9Z “MY radio is better than yours” in front of the SDR booth**



**Cal N9LCX, Josh K9TXR and Jamie KC9DEP wait in the motel parking lot while Howard AK9F instructs the desk clerk how to “Get His Mind Right”**



**Carl K9CS and Chris W9LIZ....a little tired but looking forward to next year**



**Don K9NR, Greg WR9L and Ken W9YNI point out some good stuff at the DX Engineering booth**



**Patty AF9H has time for a smile as she helps out at the ARRL card checking booth**