



KARS KEY KLICKS



JOURNAL OF THE KANKAKEE AREA RADIO SOCIETY

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Editors: K9QT, K9NR, N9IO
Photos: K9NR, N9OE, KE9MG
Contributors: KE9MG, K9XI

March 2018

LOTW at the March Meeting!

The next [KARS General Meeting](#) will be held on Tuesday, March 6th, at 7 P.M. in the first floor meeting room of St. Mary's Hospital. Following a brief business meeting, there will be a presentation on Logbook Of The World...LOTW. Now more important than ever with the 2018 International Grid Chase event, LOTW has become the indispensable way to confirm your contacts and qualify for awards.



Ken W9IE demonstrating FT-8 operation at the February meeting

2018 DUES ARE DUE

If you were unable to pay your dues at the annual Banquet, be sure to get them to Crystal W9IOU at the earliest opportunity. Either in person at the meeting or mail to:

Crystal Pena W9IOU
1362 Trotters Turn
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
Dues remain unchanged:
Regular: \$30
Family: \$40
Full-time Student, Senior
or Disabled: 1/2 rate

Active military dues are waived

SEVERE WEATHER SPOTTER TRAINING

Weather Spotter Training will be offered on March 19th, 7PM-9PM in the auditorium at Kankakee Community College. Sponsored by the National Weather Service, you MUST be pre-registered... by phone - 815-802-7107 or klaird@k3county.net

There is no charge.

Be sure to attend! You can't do your best at weather spotting if you are not current in your training!

All KARS members are strongly encouraged to attend. KARS has been a key component of Kankakee County emergency communications since the days of Civil Defense after World War 2. See you there!

KARS KALENDAR

- March 3-4.....[ARRL International DX SSB](#)
- March 4.....[Sterling / Rock Falls Hamfest](#)
- March 6.....[KARS General Meeting](#)
- March 11.....[Wisconsin QSO Party](#)
- March 17-19.....[BARTG RTTY Contest](#)
- March 19.....**Weather Spotter Training**
- March 20.....[KARS Board Meeting](#)
- March 24-25.....[CQ World Wide WPX SSB](#)
- April 3.....[KARS General Meeting](#)
- April 14.....[New Mexico QSO Party](#)
- April 14-15.....[Georgia QSO Party](#)
- April 15.....[ARRL Rookie Roundup SSB](#)
- April 17.....[KARS Board Meeting](#)
- April 28.....[N Cen IN Hamfest - Peru, IN](#)

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](#) w9az.ddns.net

KARS Places 3RD IL QSO PARTY Club Competition 232,588 Points

Some particularly notable winning KARS logs were recognized.

K9NR CERTIFICATE -
#2 IL FIXED HIGH POWER—133276 pts

K9CS CERTIFICATE -
#3 IL FIXED LOW POWER—75325 pts

WR9L CERTIFICATE -
#2 2-COUNTY PORTABLE—52500 pts

K9NR scored the most counties worked by anyone in the high power class...94 out of 102 possible.

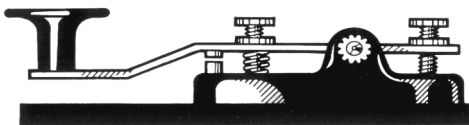
Congrats to everyone that contributed.

Don't forget...this October!
Your club needs you!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- March 2 W9IEY
- March 2 N9DLD
- March 4 N9DWE
- March 11 KC9ZKA
- March 14 KC9OAK
- March 23 N9HJR
- March 24 K9BYT

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



W9AZ

NCS FOR MARCH

- March 5 KD9CGC
- March 12 K9KSG
- March 19 N9OE
- March 26 N9LYE

Don't forget the net!
Mondays at 2000 hrs. local time

It's time to plan your Dayton agenda!



“On HF I use a Yaesu FTDX1000mp Mark V. My antenna for HF is an explorer 14 tribander with 40 meter add on kit at about 40 ft. Also, a 20 meter dipole at about 35 ft.”

“For UHF/VHF I use a Yaesu FT-7900 dual band radio. Ant is a Cushcraft 10 element beam at about 48 ft. for 2 meters and for 440, I use a Diamond 510X vertical at 40 ft.

Be sure to send a picture of your shack to: donk9nr@gmail.com
Include a little write-up of your gear and your favorite activities.

We want to hear from everyone!
Do it today!

KARS SHACK OF THE MONTH—KE9MG

ENGINEERING REPORT on interference in the 160 meter band by WMFN

Over the years, KARS has had several Broadcast Engineers on the membership roster. A recent problem with severe third harmonic interference to 160 Meters from a broadcast station on 640kHz was turned over to Art K9XI to investigate. Below is his report.

This past October, a ‘new’ AM station, transplanted to Peotone from Zeeland, Michigan, went on the air, and almost immediately thereafter, I heard about interference purported to be from this station, appearing at the third harmonic of the station frequency, 640 kHz, on 1920 kHz. Along with the ‘3X’ frequency, the modulation at the harmonic appeared to be almost 25 kHz wide. That’s enough to wipe out a goodly portion of 160 meters. This situation was occurring on both day and night patterns. The transmitter site, just south of the I-57 Peotone exit, beams northeast, right into Chicago. The center of the daytime main lobe is 37° from true North; the center of the night lobe is 25° from true North. I took only three readings radial on each radial. Readings were taken at 640kHz and 1920kHz. Time prevented me from taking the fifth order harmonic readings at 3200 kHz, but I strongly suggest that local hams who the ability, do that for themselves. I’d be interested in knowing if any signals from 640 kHz are present there. Also, I would like to hear if anyone has observed intermittent changes in the third harmonic signal. I noticed that, every once in a while, the third harmonic would just ‘shut off’ momentarily, only to return. That leads me to suspect a loose connection somewhere in the transmitter. I don’t know without having a look at it, but the place to start is the harmonic filter. Let’s see if the owner will cooperate with the hams on this. He has a history of thumbing his nose at complainants.

Here are the readings, with distances directions, and dB down from carrier (legal highest limit is -80dBc). I took two sets of readings, one on the day pattern and one on the night. The results are below.

37° T. day	1.1 km	640 kHz reading: 960 mV;	1920 kHz reading: 1.80 mV;	Difference in dB: -54.54
37° T. day	3.0 km	640 kHz reading: 370 mV;	1920 kHz reading: 0.54 mV;	Difference in dB: -56.72
37° T. day	5.0 km	640 kHz reading: 260 mV;	1920 kHz reading: 0.30 mV;	Difference in dB: -58.76
25° T. night	1.0 km	640 kHz reading: 620 mV;	1920 kHz reading: 1.45 mV;	Difference in dB: -52.62
25° T. night	3.8 km	640 kHz reading: 135 mV;	1920 kHz reading: 0.45 mV;	Difference in dB: -49.54 (!)
25° T. night	1.0 km	640 kHz reading: 138 mV;	1920 kHz reading: 0.27 mV;	Difference in dB: -54.17

It was pointed out by another Ham/Broadcast Engineer that the data to be presented to the FCC will carry a lot more weight IF it can be proved that users of the spectrum interfered with are being harmed by the harmonic radiation. This is why, a few weeks ago on the KARS net, I asked for volunteers to let me take measurements of the WMFN 640 and 1920 kHz radiation at their QTH. So far I’ve only had one taker, Don K9NR/Billie K9QT. This data will be taken after I’ve submitted this article. If YOU are having interference issues with WMFN, PLEASE send to me an email at k9xi@reagan.com, giving your address, and I’ll stop by around pattern change time in the afternoon (1715 local time in February) and take both day and night readings within minutes of each other. Once I have at least five of these, I can submit the data through channels to the FCC for action. de Art K9XI

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



**KARS HOLIDAY
BANQUET**
Great friends +
Great food =
Great time!



KARS BOARD MEETING

The [Board meeting](#) will be held in the banquet room of El Mexicano's restaurant on March 20th.

Eat at 6. Meeting starts at 7pm.

All KARS members and their guests are welcome to attend.

P. S. The food is good too!

**PROGRESS IN INCORPORATING
WAZ AWARD PROGRAM INTO LoTW**

Beta testing for bringing CQ Magazine's Worked All Zones (WAZ) award program into ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW) system continues to move forward, officials from CQ and ARRL assured this week.

Some problems in the implementation were discovered by testers and have since been corrected; the documentation has also been improved by feedback from the testers. In parallel, the LoTW server has been executing a background task that creates and populates a WAZ account for each LoTW user.

Beta testing will continue until this background task completes. When all WAZ accounts have been populated, LoTW-WAZ will be made available to everyone.

"The goal is for Amateur Radio operators to be able to directly submit LoTW confirmations for WAZ credit," ARRL and CQ said in a joint statement. "Standard LoTW credit fees and separate CQ award fees will apply."

Logbook of The World is ARRL's electronic confirmation system for Amateur Radio contacts. It provides a confirmation when both stations in a contact submit their logs to the system and a match between the logs is confirmed. LoTW has supported the CQ WPX Award program since 2012.



WD9CSA VISITS KANKAKEE

Former KARS member Randy WD9CSA stopped by to visit Ken W9IE while on his first visit back to the Kankakee area in 30 years. Hi Randy! Hope all is well with you and yours.

DON'T FORGET!

Send in your shack picture and profile today!