

KARS KEY KLICKS

Volume 101 Issue 4

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April 2026

MLA (Magnetic Loop Antennas) Construction of 'A NEW DESIGN' - Part 1

The next KARS **General Meeting** will be held on Tuesday, April 14, at 7PM at the Bradley Bourbonnais Sportsmen's Club.

Following last month's weather-related cancellation, we'll resume with our program...

The April program, presented by Ken W9IE, is titled "MLA (Magnetic Loop Antennas) Construction of 'A NEW DESIGN' - Part 1."

In Ken's words, "after reading a QEX article by Tak Asami (W6SI) on the ARRL website, I decided to build a variation of this design. This presentation will provide detailed information on why and how MLAs work, along with documentation regarding the construction process and the challenges encountered. My prototype will also be available for observation.

If you have ever considered building a Magnetic Loop Antenna, I hope this session provides helpful insights.

Part 2 of this series will be presented at a later date and will focus on the antenna's operation."

A brief business meeting will follow the presentation.

Hope to see you there!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

April 1	WU9D
April 4	KC9OQQ
April 17	N9MBR
April 18	K9ABZ
April 25	W9IE
April 26	K9CS
April 29	KE9BVX

Let us know if your birthday is missed or listed in error.



KARS BOARD MEETING

April Board Meeting
 Tuesday, April 28th
 at El Mexicano's Restaurant
 6PM to eat...7PM meeting
 Everyone is welcome!

KARS KALENDAR

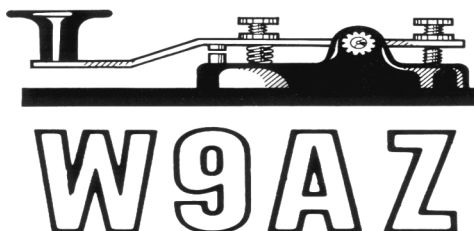
April 11.....**KARS Fox Hunt**
 April 14.....[KARS General Meeting](#)
 April 28.....[KARS Board Meeting](#)
 May 12.....[KARS General Meeting](#)
 May 16-18.....[HAMVENTION](#)
 May 26.....[KARS Board Meeting](#)

The Kankakee Area Radio Society
 operates repeaters on:
 146.940 (-) PL 107.2Hz at 430'
 444.800 (+) PL 100.0Hz at 300'
 145.130 (-) PL 107.2Hz at 400'

Echo Link:
 W9AZ-R Node 517002 on 146.940

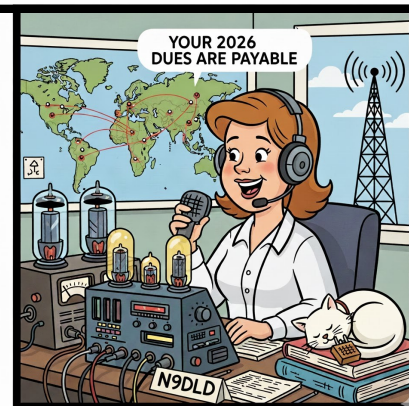
Additionally, KARS sponsors
 Two Wide Area APRS digipeaters:
 W9AZ-1 144.390 at 300'
 W9AZ-2 144.390 at 440'

KARS DX Cluster w9az.ddns.net



KARS 2026 DUES SCHEDULE

Regular Membership	\$30
Family Membership	\$40
Senior Membership	\$15
Senior Family Membership	\$20
Full Time Student Membership	\$15
Disabled Membership	\$15
Active Military	Waived



KARS KONTEST KALENDAR

April 4-5.....[EARTTY Contest](#)
 April 4-5.....[Mississippi QSO Party](#)
 April 4-5.....[Louisiana QSO Party](#)
 April 11.....[New Mexico QSO Party](#)
 April 11-12.....[Missouri QSO Party](#)
 April 11-12.....[Georgia QSO Party](#)
 April 11-12.....[North Dakota QSO Party](#)
 April 19.....[ARRL Rookie Roundup SSB](#)
 April 18.....[Michigan QSO Party](#)
 April 18-19.....[Ontario QSO Party](#)
 April 19.....[Quebec QSO Party](#)
 April 25-26.....[SP DX RTTY Contest](#)
 April 25-26.....[Nebraska QSO Party](#)
 April 25-26.....[Florida QSO Party](#)
 May 2-3.....[Indiana QSO Party](#)
 May 2-3.....[7 Land QSO Party](#)
 May 2-3.....[Delaware QSO Party](#)
 May 2-3.....[New England QSO Party](#)
 May 16.....[Arkansas QSO Party](#)
 May 30-31.....[CQWW WPX CW Contest](#)
 June 6-7.....[Kentucky QSO Party](#)
 June 6-7.....[ARRL Inter Digital Contest](#)
 June 13-15.....[ARRL June VHF Contest](#)

Hamvention is just around the corner- May 15, 16, 17

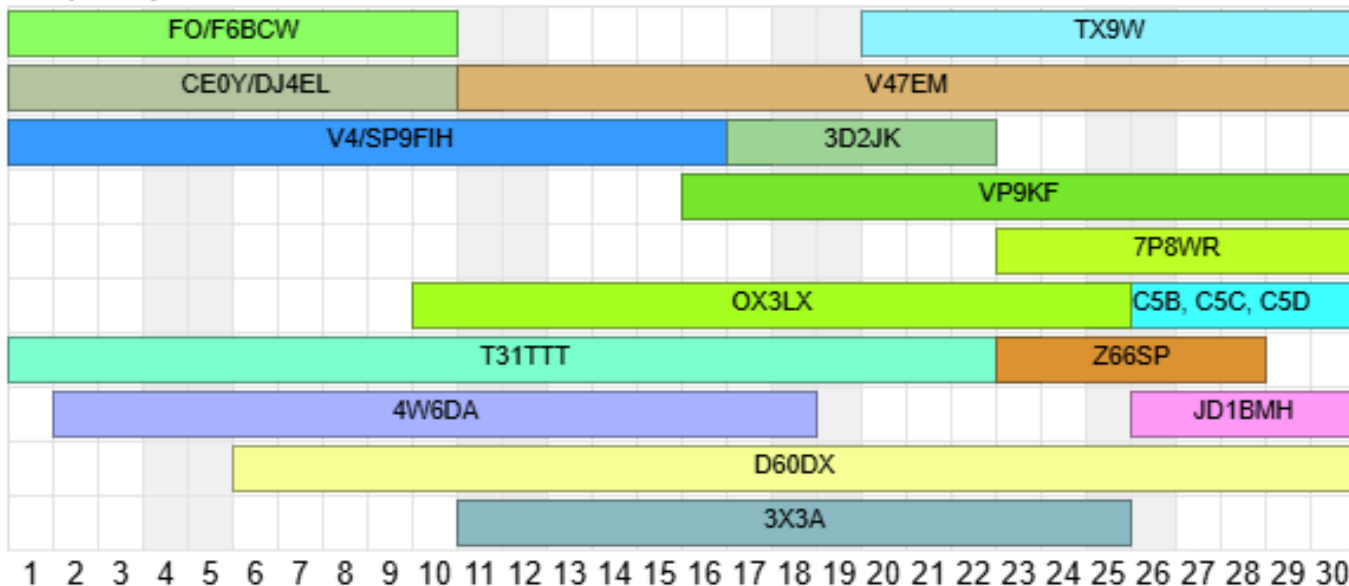
KARS HOMEPAGE — WWW.W9AZ.COM — KARS HOMEPAGE

[Click for current Calendar](#)



FEATURED DXPEDITIONS TIMELINE

Last update: April 7, 2026



Edited by MM0NDX

APRIL

© IK8LOV Max Laconca

NCS FOR APRIL

The net meets every Monday at 2000 hours local time on the 146.34/.94 OR 145.130 backup repeater. All stations with or without traffic are invited to check in.

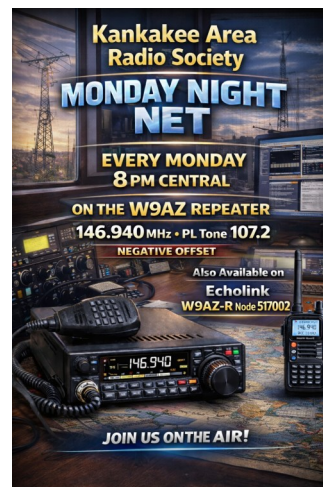
- April 6th KD9NPQ
- April 13th K9DHS ?
- April 20th N9OE
- April 27th K9XI

Anyone who has Cat5, Cat5e, or Cat6 cables that they would like tested:

Brian, W9NIM, will have a Fluke cable tester and tools available at the April general meeting. He can test and, if needed, repair your jumpers.

Feel free to bring your cables along. If you need cables made and have the cable but not the tools or experience, Brian will be happy to make some for you. Bring fittings if you have them, though he will have some available.

The tester also measures cable length automatically, which can help you save time sorting through a stash to find a specific length.



ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) will have a meeting at Manteno Church of God on Saturday, April 25th, at 1:00PM.

Thank You to Our Weather Spotters!!!

During the severe weather and tornado event that impacted Kankakee County on March 10th, we extend our sincere thanks to all of the weather spotters and net participants who stepped up to serve.

The SKYWARN net was active for over two hours, with 29 check-ins and 9 reports relayed to the National Weather Service. Your timely reports, vigilance, and willingness to get on the air made a real difference in keeping critical information flowing when it mattered most.

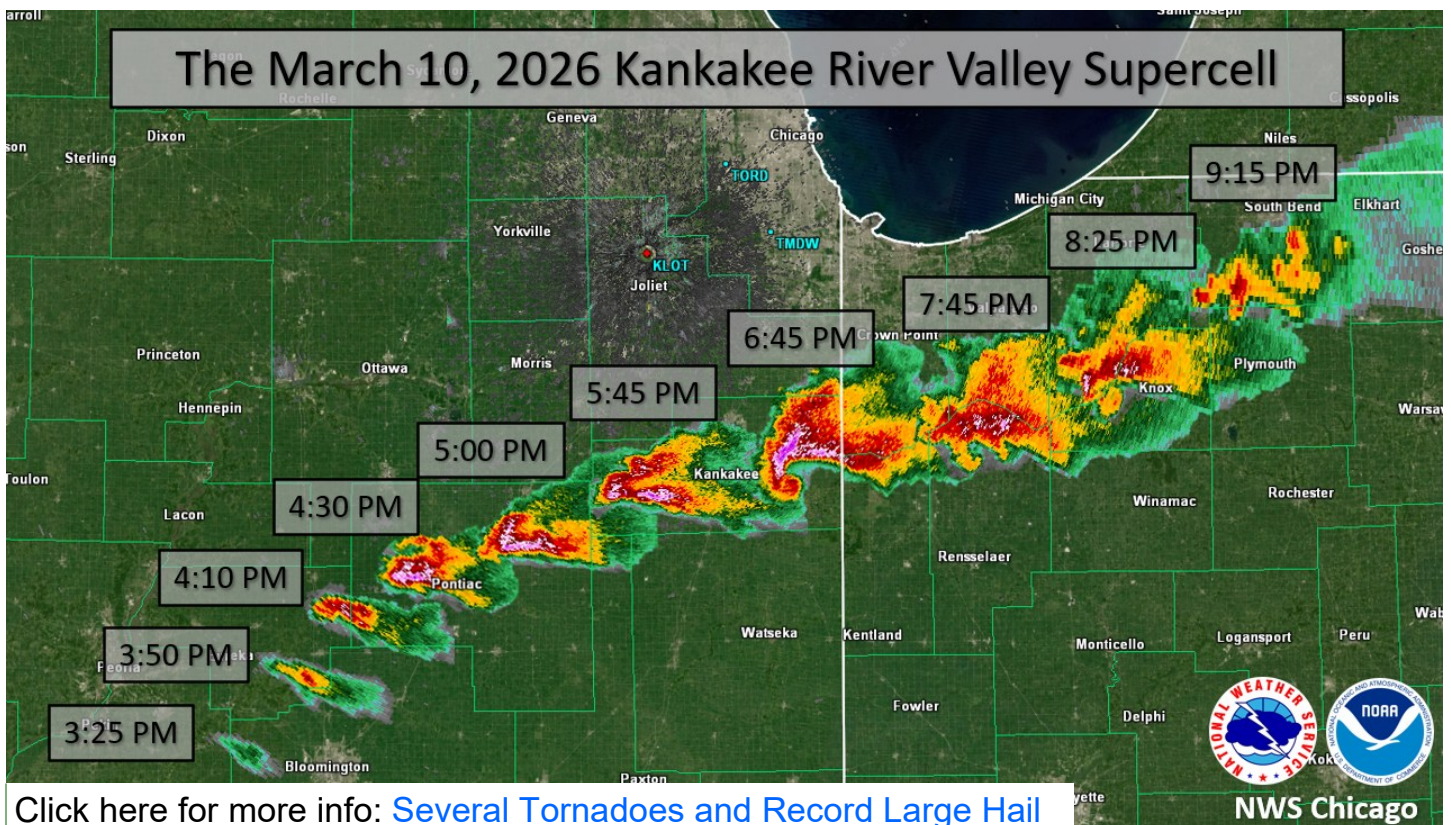
Thank you to Tom, KC9ZKA for bringing EchoLink back up after a close lightening strike.

We also want to recognize those who were out in their vehicles actively following the storm and providing real-time observations - Joe, KD9FVM, and Randall, KD9SKR - your efforts were invaluable.

A **special thank you** to Brian, KD9NPQ, for serving as net control and keeping operations running smoothly.

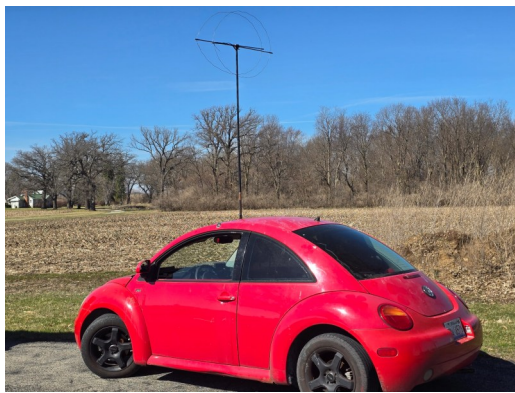
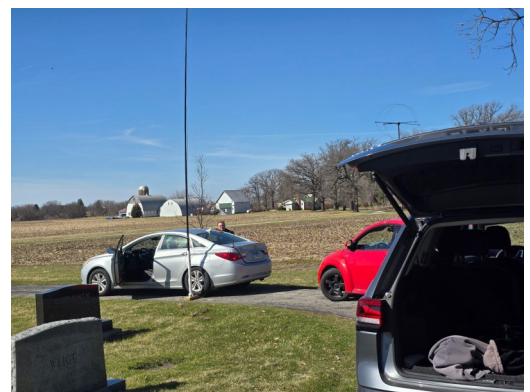
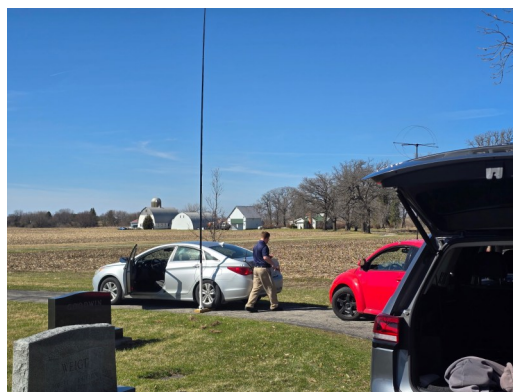
Whether you were spotting, relaying reports, operating mobile while tracking the storm, or standing by to assist, your contributions reflect the very best of our amateur radio community.

We appreciate your dedication to public service and your continued commitment to helping keep our communities safe.



KARS FOX HUNT PHOTOS

The fox, Craig (N9FD) and his set-up



AA9CC (winner), KE9CQV, N9DWE



N9IO, N9DWE, KE9CQV, and AA9CC (winner)



N9FD, N9DWE, KE9CQV, AA9CC

March 21st– Tony, AA9CC (winner)

The next KARS Fox Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, April 11th, starting at 1:00 PM. Participants will meet at the Meadowview Shopping Center parking lot near the cinema.

On The Air & Around The Club

Please join us in welcoming our newest member, Ron, KD9WKK, to the KARS community!

Your Input Counts!

What program topics would you like to see at upcoming meetings?

Or is there information you'd like included in the newsletter?

Let us know- we want to make it relevant and fun for YOU!

We want to hear from YOU!

Share what you've been working on, any recent contacts or projects, and what's going on in your ham radio world. This could include:

- Recent station setups or mobile installations
- A picture of your ham shack
- Interesting contacts or DX experiences
- Ham radio events you're participating in

Don't be shy, let us know what you're up to!

ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) NET

The regular ARES® statewide net is held on the first and third Sundays of each month at 4:30 PM local time on 3.905 MHz LSB. If needed, the alternate frequency will be 7.227 MHz LSB.

EMCOMM Net

Join us every Thursday night at 7:00 PM (that's 1900 hours for you EMMCOMM folks!) on the 444.800 KARS repeater.

This net is designed to promote and practice solid emergency communications skills among amateur radio operators, as well as to verify proper repeater system operation. Everyone is invited to check in!

Have You Joined the KARS Email Reflector?

The **Kars_w9az Email Reflector** is a convenient way for members and friends of KARS to stay connected. It automatically distributes messages sent to a single address to everyone subscribed, making it easy to share announcements, ask questions, and keep up with club activities.

By using the reflector, all subscribers receive the same information at the same time, keeping communication simple, efficient, and centralized.

If you'd like to join, click the following link to subscribe to the **[Kars_w9az Email Reflector](#)**.



Follow us on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/KARSW9AZ>

KARS Upcoming Events:

April/May: Annual Banquet (more info coming soon)
 May: Hamvention
 June: ARRL Field Day