



KARS KEY KLICKS



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April 2008

APRIL PROGRAM TARGETS NEWLY LICENSED HAMS

The next KARS general meeting will be at 7PM on April 1st (no fooling!) in the public meeting room at St. Mary's Hospital.

The meeting topic will be on Skywarn. It's getting to be that time of year and this program will be of particular interest to newly licensed hams as it will cover Skywarn weather spotting, correct repeater/simplex operating procedures, net operation and many other items of interest relating to severe weather and emergency communications.

KARS BOARD MEETING

The KARS April board meeting will be held in the banquet room of El Campesino Mexican restaurant on April 15th.

All KARS members and spouses are welcome to attend.

Eat at 6:00. Meet at 7:00

INDIANA QSO PARTY 2008

The 2008 INQP will be help the weekend of May 3-4. Continuing their winning streak as first place multi-op, Howard AK9F and Don K9NR will be operating from Howard's Perry County location in southern Indiana. Greg WR9L may join them, family commitments allowing. Details may be found at: www.hdxcc.org/inqp A great little contest, give it a try!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

April 5 K9CWF
April 17 N9MBR
April 25 W9YNI
April 26 K9CS
April 28 N9NAH

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



Howard AK9F demonstrates his homebrew CW keyer at the March KARS meeting while Dan WA9WAQ and Bob K9CWF look on

KARS KALENDAR

April 1.....KARS General Meeting
April 15.....KARS Board Meeting
May 3-4.....Indiana QSO Party
May 6.....KARS General Meeting
May 16-18.....Dayton Hamvention!
May 20.....KARS Board Meeting
May 24-25...CQWW WPX CW Contest

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

HAM RADIO AT SCHOOL IN WATSEKA

Newly upgraded to General, Troy W9KVR is an 8th grade science teacher at Glenn Raymond School in Watseka. Troy has been busy trying to setup a school ham station. The school's science club now has a call-sign...KC9NEW!

Not a bad call. However, Troy is applying for the callsign W9GRS (Glenn Raymond School). He is also applying for two grants to buy equipment.

Troy joins Jim K9BIG of Bradley-Bourbonnais Community High School as an increasingly important asset to "Youth in Ham Radio."

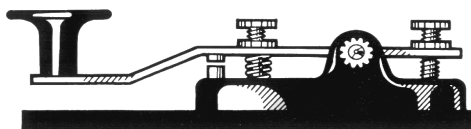
He "blames" his father-in-law Mike KC9HHT (one of the Marcier hams) for getting him into the hobby. Troy is active in Skywarn and ARES and helped out in the recent Watseka floods.

BTW, Troy's call, W9KVR is a reflection of his other passion...caving. He is a past president of the Near Normal Grotto caving club in Normal, Illinois. Also, Troy is a member of the Cave Research Foundation and a Life Member of the National Speleological Society.

DAYTON HAMVENTION 2008

As of March 27th it's only 48 days till the 2008 Dayton Hamvention!

Check it out at: www.hamvention.org



W9AZ

NET CONTROL STATION

April 7 KC9FAV
April 14 K9BYT
April 21 K9NR
April 28 N9LYE

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

Call for articles! This is your newsletter and it is as good as WE ALL make it! Everyone has something to contribute even if it is just a couple of paragraphs. Pictures work too! The preferred format is Microsoft Word or plain text (not rtf). Double space after periods. Occasionally, we have to edit for content or space. However, we'll take what we can get and say thank you! Just email to: k9nr@daca.net or k9qt@daca.net 73

KARS HOMEPAGE— WWW.W9AZ.COM —KARS HOMEPAGE

HEY, THAT'S MY CALL!

What if you woke up tomorrow to find that someone else had been using your callsign? Then when you informed the FCC (or its British equivalent), you found that you had both been issued the same callsign! The sharp eye of KARS member Andy, KB9YLW, questioned a discrepancy in KARS March newsletter, when he cross-referenced the callsign M0FZZ on QRZ database. The newsletter had referred to former KARS member Sheri KF9IK as M0FZZ. However QRZ listed M0FZZ as belonging to a ham named Mick. Andy contacted the editors and asked if Sheri's call had been printed incorrectly in the newsletter.

A flurry of emails and telephone calls ensued between the UK and the US as well as between Sheri and "OFCOM" (British Office of Communications). She scanned and sent them a copy of her M0FZZ license. After much searching, OFCOM realized that they had not transferred her information over when they had updated their data base. However, since Sheri had received the lifetime ham ticket with the call M0FZZ first, she would be entitled to keep it, and the other ham would be issued a new call.

Although not wanting to be the bearer of bad news, Sheri decided to contact Mick to tell him about the problem and let him know how badly she felt about the mix-up. When she found out that he had already purchased QSL cards, shirt, hat, badge, etc., she decided to contact OFCOM and see if they would make a deal acceptable to both Mick and her. She was willing to give up her call if they would issue her a new one of her choosing. This is not normally done in England. However, at her request, they issued her a license with her initials. Sheri is now M0SLA.

Sheri received a nice letter from OFCOM thanking her for her "understanding and support and for responding in the true spirit of our hobby."

Continued

She also received a gracious letter from Mick telling about his interests and the beautiful view from his QTH overlooking the sea and the white cliffs of Dover. Just goes to show you can make friends in this hobby without even turning on your radio!



Ken W9YNI talks about his auto tuner at the KARS March meeting

W9AZ ON YAHOO GROUPS

By Brian KC9FAV

About March third I was in QSO with John K9BYT and our conversation eventually led to an idea I had about starting up a KARS Yahoo Group. We started talking about maybe an email tree or a system that we could use to notify and remind the people who volunteered for NCS (Net Control Station). As we were bouncing the ideas around I threw out the suggestion of Yahoo Group called "W9AZ." John mentioned that he was a member of Yahoo and that it sounded like a good idea, so he told me that he would check into it when he got home and finished his dinner.

Later that same evening, John called me and said that it was really quite easy to get a group started, so he went ahead and set it up.

Now we have a Yahoo Group called "W9AZ" and it can be found online at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/w9az/>

This Yahoo group has the potential of being able to share photos, post questions to other members and keeping an open line of communications. Also there is a calendar feature where we can post important club event dates and send out reminders about these special events.

There is a section where we can even upload and share files. Every member who joins this group has the option of creating a "Personal or Group" photo album. The difference between the two albums are: The "Personal" album allows only the owner to add photos, whereas in the "Group" album, anyone can add photos. You can also add captions to your photos. You can share ideas and photos of Ham gear and other crazy things we do as a club.

KARS HISTORY BYTES

By Bill W9VQC

At the April, 1959 meeting it was reported that 12 had passed their Novice license examination. The idea of the possible construction of a club house was discussed. Local hams were becoming involved in Civil Defense under the leadership of RACES officer W9LCH.

The May, 1959 meeting was stormy with much spirited discussion regarding Field Day and Novice operation. Whether Novices were in fact full members was hotly discussed. The Treasurer, W9OVI reported that the treasury had in the neighborhood of \$71.92 in the old glass jar.

It was decided at the August, 1959 meeting to pursue the possibility of incorporating the club. Pledges to raise funds for the building of a clubhouse had reached \$1125, about \$375 short of that needed. The name of Kankakee Area Radio Society was not allowed for incorporation as it was similar to the TV servicemans organization...Kankakee Area Radio Service. It was therefore agreed to change to The Kankakee Amateur Radio Society (apparently, it was not a problem after all...editor). Bill Williams W9VQC set up a station at the Rainbow Council Boy Scout Jamboree on October third for the scouts.

At the December, 1959 meeting, a letter from the Illinois Secretary of State dated November 20, 1959 addressed to W9IBU's* business office stated that the name "Kankakee Area Radio Society" appeared to be available for corporation use. Necessary papers were signed by the officers and incorporation was at last becoming a dream come true with the Kankakee Area Radio Society being adopted. Bill Plambeck W9OVI was nominated for president at the December, 1959 meeting.

Much work was done during 1960 to incorporate the Kankakee Area Radio Society, with W9IBU as KARS Corporate Council.

**(W9IBU, later W9IM, was Ed Drolet, past KARS president and Kankakee State's Attorney, now a silent key...editor)*