



KARS KEY KLICKS



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April 2011

APRIL FEATURES EMERGENCY WX PREPARDNESS

The next KARS meeting will be Tuesday, April 5th, 7PM at the Red Cross in Bourbonnais.

The program, to be presented by John K9BYT, will be on Emergency Preparedness. A very timely subject as we enter the spring storm season. Be sure to attend and enhance the info you received at the NWS severe weather seminar recently. If you missed the seminar, then you really need to attend!



John K9BYT's presentation at the KARS March meeting

KRISTER N9ECM UPDATE

KARS member Krister Hatch N9ECM is nearly through US Air Force Officer Training School. Krister honorably served in the Air Force as an enlisted man. Upon completion of his tour of duty he went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering. Now Krister will serve our country as an Air Force officer Electrical Engineer. Thanks Krister!

REPEATER VOTING SYSTEM

Don K9NR and Eddie K9EEW had a major work session at the .34/.94 repeater site in Bourbonnais. They were able to fix the Quantar lockup problem and bring the SpectraTac voting system online.

Operation of the repeater voting receivers has been good and will improve after the next work session when all the levels in the system are balanced and calibrated.

Remember that the signal voted is based on the signal quality not the signal strength. If you have a bad habit of over-deviating (swallowing your mic) you may not enjoy the most ideal results of the new system. Watch for further improvements

KARS KALENDAR

- April 5.....KARS General Meeting
- April 17.....ARRL Rookie Roundup
- April 19.....KARS Board Meeting
- May 3.....KARS General Meeting
- May 7.....Indiana QSO Party
- May 20-22.....Dayton Hamvention!!!
- May 17.....KARS Board Meeting
- May 27-29.....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 2 Wide Area APRS digi-peaters
- 145.53 KARS DX Cluster

CLUB INVENTORY

KARS is working up a current list of club property. If you know of any club equipment, write down it's Model/Part number and Serial number (where applicable) and if necessary, a brief description. Please bring the info to the April general or board meeting. If you cannot make the meetings, please get it to someone who can

ZO-FEST 2011

ZO-Fest is back! Tentative plans are for August 18th at Bellas Landscape in Bloomington. KI9A will man the BBQ.

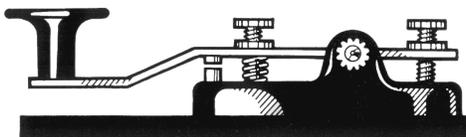
Plans are in the early stage and the program(s) are yet to be determined. If you are a contester/DXer and/or are an SMC member or would like to join, be sure to mark the date on your calendar. Times are planned to be 9AM till ?.

See you at ZO-Fest!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- April 4 KC9OQQ
- April 5 K9CWF
- April 11 WB9WEC
- April 17 N9MBR
- April 25 W9YNI
- April 25 K9OZY
- April 26 K9CS
- April 28 N9NAH

If we miss your birthday or get it wrong, please let us know!



W9AZ

NCS FOR APRIL

- April 4 KC9FAV
- April 11 N9LYE
- April 18 N9FD
- April 24 N9OE

The net meets every Monday at 2100 hours local time. All stations with or without traffic are invited to check in.

ONLY 45 DAYS TILL HAMVENTION!

KARS HOMEPAGE—WWW.W9AZ.COM—KARS HOMEPAGE

METEOROLOGY by Brandon K9BAC

Because of my long term interest in meteorology, I have often considered pursuing a career at the National Weather Service. On Tuesday March 22nd, I had the opportunity to visit the National Weather Service Forecasting Office in Chicago. I drove to the office and asked if I could talk to a meteorologist to get information on how to enter the field. I was introduced to Ed Fenelon.

Ed graciously took the time to sit down with me and my fiancé Amy. He explained to us what they do at the NWS Chicago. Ed explained they only have 2-3 meteorologists on duty 24 hours a day. It is a small office but they do much. The NWS Forecasting Office in Chicago runs 4 stations including: Short Term Forecast, Long Term Forecast (7day), Flooding and Air Traffic Control (aviation). Ed said to qualify for employment with the NWS, applicants must obtain a degree in Meteorology. Nearby schools that offer the required courses include: University of DuPage, Purdue in West Lafayette, IN. and many other schools in Illinois, Wisconsin and Michigan.

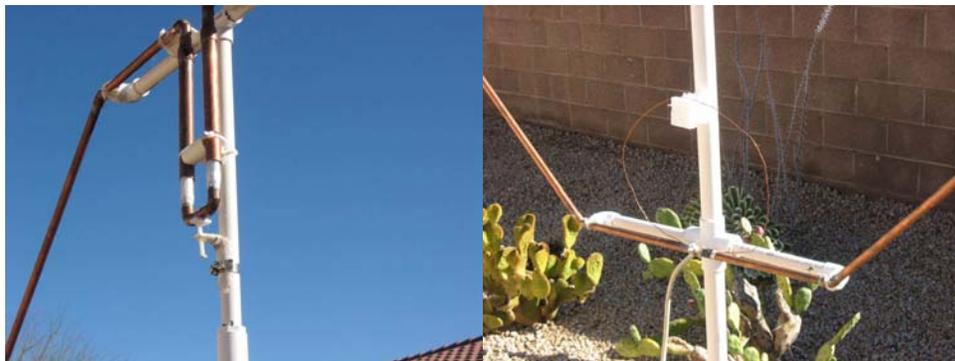
Ed gave me information on a website where I could search for job openings in the field (www.usajobs.gov). He answered all of my questions and then he took us on a tour of the operations floor. Ed showed us the personnel working at the various stations and what they were working on. The meteorologist working on the short term forecast was very busy gathering information about potential severe weather for our area that night. Someone else was working on the 7-day forecast while yet another meteorologist was assessing the post rain flooding situation. Finally, someone else was working the Air Traffic Control position. Ed explained that this station provides weather information to the control towers at O'Hare and Midway Airports in Chicago.

During times of severe weather, the NWS amateur station WX9LOT routinely checks into the KARS severe weather net for updates from the south. BTW, the "LOT" in their call sign is the airport designation for Lewis Airport in Romeoville, where the weather station facility is located (Kankakee is IKK and Joliet is JOT). We toured the WX9LOT ham station and the NOAA weather radio station. The WX9LOT station looked like one radio with a computer and a pad of paper. I didn't get a close up look at the radio but the overall setup was impressive.

I understand that the ham station is manned by one of three volunteers who hurry in when severe weather is in the forecast. There are 2-3 stations that are open if needed in severe weather. My overall experience of my visit to the National Weather Service Forecasting Service in Chicago was outstanding! It helped me make the decision to pursue a career in meteorology.



WB9RUE's magnetic wave antenna in the Arizona desert



Close-up of the tuning section described in the text



The feed point

WB9RUE's ARIZONA MAGNETIC WAVE ANTENNA

Why in the world would anyone want to build one of these contraptions ??? Well Dale Monty enjoys Ham Radio and mostly experimenting. But he also enjoys his winter home in Arizona... The problem with Arizona is the ANTENNA RESTRICTIONS.

First attempt was to put a 20 Meter Inverted Vee in the attic. The antenna worked on 20 but was so close to his house power lines it kept blowing the GFI outlets and also caused TVI associated problems.

It seemed the only solution was to get the antenna outside a little ways from the house. Outside the lot was small, no trees, no grass, just rocks. A vertical that looked like a Flag Pole was considered but with the rocks even a few radials were out of the question.

So next he build the Magnetic Wave Antenna. The advantages were no ground radials needed, low to the ground, high directionality, IE: could be pointed back to Illinois. But it has it's problems also, without getting into all the complicated design considerations outlined in the many research articles, the main problem is trying to tune the antenna. You have to get close before you know where the SWR is.

The feed worked best with a simple 18 inch loop of wire at the bottom. The tuning is done with the slide tubes at the top going in and out of the copper stubs. This becomes a variable capacitor but must be able to withstand the VERY, VERY high voltage. Mechanically this can be done several ways but must be stable since a small variation moves you up or down the band in large jumps.

The neighbors could see it over the fence and formed many opinions of what it was ranging from a clothes line, to a misting devise to try to cool the deck, to who knows what else... Nobody new that it was a Ham Radio Antenna.

BTW, it worked but Dale is not done experimenting with it just yet. It's still a work in progress!

Good Job Dale! de Ken W9YNI

KARS HOMEPAGE— WWW.W9AZ.COM —KARS HOMEPAGE



A nearly standing room only crowd at the NWS severe weather seminar in the KCC auditorium

Dan WA9WAQ looking back towards the camera. The seminar was heavily attended by hams/KARS members

The ABC's of tornado spotting by the NWS meteorologist

Send your radio related photos/articles and have them printed here!

KARS has been an ARRL affiliated club for many decades...you should be an ARRL member!