



# KARS KEY KLICKS



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August 2008

## POOL PARTY AT WR9L's QTH

The Next KARS General Meeting will be August 5th, 5PM at Greg WR9L's QTH. Greg's address is:

495 N Center  
Bradley, Illinois  
or

The intersection of Center & North Street across from BBCHS.

Bring your favorite grilling food. Carnivores, herbivores and omnivores all are welcome. Also, bring a dish to pass, your favorite beverage, table service for yourself and a chair.

If you would like to swim, bring appropriate attire and a towel.

Basically, neither Greg nor the club is going to feed or clothe you. It's strictly Dutch treat! A hot grill or two will be available.

There will be a very minimal meeting...mostly just good conversation and fun. See you there!

### DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE

BY MARK WB9QZB

The ARRL/TAPR DCC (Digital Communication Conference) is scheduled for September 26-28 in Elk Grove Village. It is the premiere annual national conference covering digital voice & data technologies & modes.

More information about the DCC is available at:

<http://www.tapr.org/dcc.html>

### NEW CALLSIGN

Bob Nemitz (newly home from Iraq) changed his call from KC9NWU to K9SAT!

### NCS FOR AUGUST

August 4th KC9FAV  
August 11th K9BYT  
August 18th N9LYE  
August 25th WD9FYF

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



John WD9AYI (seated) listens while Clay N9IO (standing) makes a point during their APRS program at the June meeting

### KARS KALENDAR

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 16-17.....SARTG DX RTTY Contest  
August 19.....KARS Board Meeting  
August 24.....Danville Hamfest  
September 2.....KARS General Meeting  
September 16.....KARS Board Meeting  
September 13-14.....Radio Expo Hamfest  
September 19-20.....W9DXCC Convention  
September 20-21.....Peoria Hamfest  
September 26-28.....ARRL/TAPR Conference  
September 27-28.....CQWW RTTY 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**

### KARS FIELD DAY RESULTS

BY HOWARD AK9F

Good weather, good food, good propagation and a good crew insured a successful Field Day for KARS.

### SUMMARY

#### Bonus Points:

100% Emergency Power	300
Media Publicity	100
W1AW Field Day Message	100
Site visit by official	100
Youth participation	40
GOTA bonus	200
Web submission	50
Educational activity	100
<b>Total Bonus Points</b>	<b>990</b>

#### Score Summary:

	CW	SSB	Digi	Total
QSO's	518	636	22	<b>1176</b>
Points	1036	636	44	<b>3432</b>

#### Band/Mode Breakdown:

Band	CW	SSB	Digi	Total
80	58	197	0	255
40	281	99	16	396
20	18	65	6	89
15	137	25	0	162
10	0	0	52	52
6	20	69	0	89
2	4	18	0	22
Other	0	2	0	2
GOTA	0	109	0	109

#### GOTA Bonus:

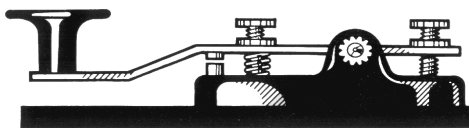
Name	QSO's	Points
Bob K9SAT	47	80
Bob Shorkey	62	120

Great work everyone!  
Thanks again to Kevin N9REG for his hospitality. A great site!

### KARS BOARD MEETING

The next KARS board meeting will be held in the banquet room of El Campesino Mexican restaurant on August 19th. All KARS members and spouses are welcome to attend.

Eat at 6:00. Meet at 7:00



# W9AZ

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

## WHY AMATEUR RADIO?

By John, WD9AYI

Several months back I was asked why I involved myself in Amateur Radio. After much thought I think I have it figured out.

Ever since I can remember I have been curious as to how things worked. I have always enjoyed disassembling whatever I could get my hands on just to see what makes it tick.

Growing up, money was tight and gaining permission to dismember a perfectly good whatever was highly unlikely. Consequently, whenever something stopped working, its' last stop before the trash was me. I looked forward to finding anything that had failed just so I could look inside.

As time progressed, I began to see why some of these devices had failed and I started to find ways to bring them back to life. With time on my side I soon was able to repair the vast majority of whatever was put in front of me. I loved it. Taking something that was completely useless, understanding what it was supposed to do and restoring that function was the ultimate thrill. What could be better? Searching for parts was never ending. Record players and old radios were part of the mix and more and more of my time was spent at a radio supply shop.

York Radio on Maple Street in Kankakee was my main source as it was accessible by bicycle from my house in Marycrest. One day I noticed an RCA WV-77E VTVM kit and I knew that I had to have it. I saved every penny I could scrape up, doing chores, mowing lawns or whatever. Finally, I had saved enough and made my purchase.

The instructions were published on a single large sheet of paper. I read and reread the instructions and then carefully spread out the parts. Hour after tenuous hour I labored. I had never enjoyed anything quite so much or worked so hard at it. Every spare moment was spent at my work bench that was made out of one half of my clothes closet in my room. After a couple of weeks I finally emerged and was ready to show off my work. But, when I switched it on, it did not work...At all!! I

was crushed. I had no where to turn. No one that I knew had any clue what I was working on. Ultimately, I had to send it in to RCA. I had hoped, prayed that they could easily fix my beloved VTVM and send it back. Unfortunately, it was not to be. After what seemed an eternity, I received a letter stating that repairs were possible but that it would cost more than the price of the kit. What a blow! How could I have messed up that badly? They would not say and I would never know. I had no choice. My first kit would HAVE to work no matter what. I saved my money once again and finally, after several weeks received my repaired kit.

Months later I stumbled on to Heathkit. Cautiously, I started with a simple kit and found success. Slowly, I progressed, building dozens of kits, until finally, after several years, I assembled a dual trace oscilloscope. A visit to the factory with my oldest son was a dream come true. Then, the worst happened. Heathkit went out of business. While they were selling out they called me and said that they had found a couple of Heathkit robot kits and asked if I wanted to buy one. I thought about it for about 15 minutes, scraped up the money and called them back. I was too late and a Heathkit robot and any other kit was gone forever.

Over the course of years after Heathkit, I learned of Amateur Radio. I had had a Citizen Band license but never had a workable radio to use. A Gonset rock bound radio was given to me but I could never get it even to receive, let alone having any clue if it transmitted.

I studied and studied. Finally, I went to Chicago and took my test. I passed the written but failed the code test. Two more trips finally got me through the required five words per minute I was officially a Licensed Radio Amateur!!! Once again, I was able to assemble things, whether they be component parts or pieces of assembled equipment and make them work. I could test their operation, tweak, adjust, test and prove operation. So many different things to work on, so many modes, I was once again enjoy-

ing myself like never before.

So why did I get involved in Amateur Radio? I like to make things work. I enjoy the camaraderie of fellow members and I thoroughly enjoy being able to help others either with my limited knowledge or via emergency communications.

Why did you involve yourself in Amateur Radio??

## KARSFEST PRIZE WINNER

The winners of the top three prizes at KARSFEST 2008 are:

1st Prize - \$300: Patti Colvin AF9H

2nd Prize - \$100: E.M. Onderisin

3rd Prize - \$100: Don Zeman KD9MF

Congratulations to all!

By the way, the first prize winner is indeed Patti XYL of Jess A19L. Guess they will be back next year!

## KARSFEST EXAM RESULTS

Congratulations to the following newly licensed and upgraded radio amateurs:

**Upgrades from Technician to General:**

Michael Neuliep, KB9YEJ, of Monee

Jonathan Thompson, KC9GVF, Beecher

**New licensees:**

KC9OAL Craig Cahan, Manteno - General

KC9OAK Joseph Mills, Monee - Technician

KC9OAJ Philip Smith, Beecher - Technician

## SAFETY FIRST!

It's that time of year when many hams take a look at upgrading or repairing their antennas. Use utmost caution whenever climbing and always be aware of the proximity of nearby power lines. Be safe & be alive!

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

August 9th K9TP

August 12th K9JMS

August 22nd KC9MZQ

August 29th N9ECM

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

## ICARC FIELD DAY

For a look inside the Iroquois County Amateur Radio Club Field Day operation, check out their home page:

[www.icarc.com](http://www.icarc.com)

Then surf to the appropriate site. Nice job down there!

### Some highlights of the KARS participation in ARRL Field Day 2008



**Skyhooks for 6 & 2 meters & 70 centimeters**



**Howard AK9F standing guard at the forty meter station**



**Carl K9CS at his second Field Day operation. He also operated the Iroquois County Field Day event**



**John N9YLE manning the VHF/UHF station**



**Jamie KC9DEP piling on the Q's on 75 meter phone**



**Bobby burning up the bands at the GOTA station**



**Bob N9MBR, master of the breakfast grill, cooking up pancakes and sausages**



**Don K9NR eyeing Will K9FO's steak...keep an eye on it Will!**



**Pete NI9H and Ken W9YNI enjoying their steaks at the Saturday night cookout**