

KARS KEY KLICKS



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August 2018

Picnic & Mobile Installations in August

The next KARS meeting will be August 7th, 5:30 PM at the [Hickory Hill Shelter in the Kankakee River State Park](#) (the most southeastern shelter...same as last year).

This will be a picnic meeting.

Everyone is responsible for their own food, drink, table service, etc. After a brief business meeting, there will be a self-guided tour of mobile installations.

We will attempt to cluster the mobiles together. Be mindful of where to park if you don't have a mobile to display. See you there!

KARSFEST EXAM RESULTS

by Carl K9CS

At the KARSFEST 2018 license exam session 12 people took exams for new licenses or for upgrade to a higher license class. A total of 20 exams were given.

New Technician Class licensees are: Steven Galecki, Stephen Beaulieu, and Carol Westbrook. Peter Cooper, passed both the Tech and General exams to earn a General Class license. Upgrading from Tech to General were William Justic, N9KPE. Brian McFadyen, N9HJR, and Philip Smith, KC9OAJ.

Participating Volunteer Examiners were Craig, N9FD, Clay, N9IO, Bill, N9OE, and Carl, K9CS.

KARSFEST photos
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NCS FOR AUGUST

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.

August 6 KD9CGC
August 13 K9KSG
August 20 N9OE
August 27 N9LYE
Don't forget the net!



Keeping dealers busy at KARSFEST

KARS KALENDAR

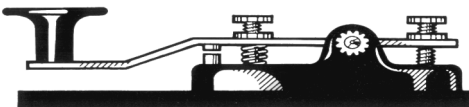
Aug 4.....[NA QSO Party CW](#)
Aug 5.....[Two Rivers Bicycle Tour](#)
Aug 5.....[Hamfesters Hamfest](#)
Aug 7.....[KARS General Meeting](#)
Aug 8.....[Transmitter Hunt](#)
Aug 11-12.....[WAE DX CW Contest](#)
Aug 11-13.....[Perseid Meteor Shower](#)
Aug 18.....[NA QSO Party SSB](#)
Aug 18-19.....[SARTG WW RTTY Contest](#)
Aug 21.....[KARS Board Meeting](#)
Aug 25.....[SMC Fest](#)
Sept 4.....[KARS General Meeting](#)
Sept 8-10.....[ARRL Sept. VHF Contest](#)
Sept 14-15.....[W9DXCC Convention](#)
Sept 15.....[Peoria Superfest](#)
Sept 18.....[KARS Board Meeting](#)
Sept 22.....[CFMC Radio Expo Hamfest](#)
Sept 29-30.....[CQWW DX RTTY Contest](#)

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
[W9AZ DX Cluster](#) [w9az.ddns.net](#)



W9AZ

KARSFEST 2018 CONTINUED GROWTH

With the cooperation of the weather bureau and the exceptional work of our Hamfest Committee, the 2018 KARSFEST was a solid success. The interviewed exhibitors reported satisfaction with business. The flea market was larger. Increased ticket sales and careful control of expenses resulted in an approximately 40% increase in net proceeds.

A big thank you and a job well done goes out to new Chairman Art K9XI! Art really took the ball and ran with it. Kudos also to Co-Chairman Craig N9FD who worked extensively with Art to smooth the transition. A job well done to all KARS members who worked hard to insure success!

FOXHUNT NEWS

Transmitter hunts continue to be very popular! What better way to spend a beautiful summer day! During August, we'll continue to have Wednesday afternoon/evening hunts with the [next hunt being Wednesday August 8th 6-7PM...dinner to follow](#). We are trying to accommodate everyone...at least until the days grow too short. See you at the next KARS hunt!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

August 1 W9ARH
August 2 KA9MDJ
August 4 K9RDK
August 9 K9TP
August 12 K9JMS
August 22 KC9MZQ
August 29 N9ECM

Let us know if we miss your birthday or get it wrong.

Don't forget the Two Rivers Bike Tour on Sunday August 5th!

KARS HOMEPAGE—WWW.W9AZ.COM—KARS HOMEPAGE



KARS SHACK OF THE MONTH—N9OE

Send in your shack photo today!

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES SET FOR WSJT-X VERSION 2.0

Joe Taylor, K1JT, has announced that major changes are coming to the FT8 and MSK144 digital protocols when WSJT-X version 2.0 arrives in a few months. Taylor said version 2.0 should be ready by January.

Many new features will be added and "all of these features work seamlessly and automatically," Taylor said. "No 'contest mode' checkboxes are needed. In most situations, decoding sensitivity will be slightly better than at present for FT8; for MSK144 it will sometimes be about 0.5 dB worse. Occupied bandwidths will be the same as they are now, and false-decode rates will be significantly lower." It will be essential for users to upgrade to version 2.0 in order to use the new features and communicate with others who have made the upgrade." Taylor promised "plenty of advance notice" about the transition period and a must-upgrade-by date.

KARSFEST COLLAGE



N9OE's SHACK

Current station includes:

FlexRadio 6600M for HF & 6M
Icom IC-9100 for HF/50/144/432
Kenwood TS2000 HF/50/144/432
Icom IC-375A for 220mHz
Ameritron ALS-600 HF Amp
LP-100A Digital Vector Wattmeter
Antennas:
Hy-Gain TH3-MK3 Tri-Bander
 4 element 6 meter Yagi
Cushcraft 13B2 2 meter Yagi
Diamond X510 2m/70cm Omni

I have been a licensed ham since 1992. This hobby is a lot of fun and encompasses something interesting to satisfy just about anyone's curiosity. I enjoy practically everything about the Ham Radio hobby including chasing DX, contesting and home brew projects in electronics, antennas, computers and interfacing them all.

One thing to remember is that the ham shack design is never final, it is always evolving with different equipment, changes in operator style and layout. This is the other part of the hobby I really enjoy, building the station and solving the issues that occur along the way. 73, Bill N9OE

KE9MG DXCC MILESTONE

Francis KE9MG has joined the elite ranks of DXers who have worked and confirmed at least 300 [DXCC](#) countries!

Francis has been DXing for over three decades. He was uncertain how many he had till Ken W9IE set him up with LOTW and sorted his cards and Carl K9CS checked and verified them to the ARRL DXCC desk.

His 300th confirmed country was with PJ0DX on St. Maarten Island in the Carribean. Congratulations Francis. Good work all around!

Next stop...DXCC Honor Roll!

BOARD MEETING

The KARS board meeting will be Tuesday, [August 21st at El Mexicano's](#).

Eat at 6PM. Meet at 7PM. All members are welcome.

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



June 30 Foxhunt



July 28 Foxhunt



ARRL Field Day 2018



The most popular area of [Field Day](#)...the dining area!



Erecting the 6 meter Yagi



Part of the antenna crew at the EMCOMM trailer

Many thanks to Kevin N9REG for his hospitality by hosting KARS Field Day at his beautiful rural QTH!