



# KARS KEY KLICKS



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## ELECTIONS & EMERGENCY "GO KIT" TO BE FEATURED AT DECEMBER MEETING

KARS December meeting will be on December 5th, 7:00 PM at St. Mary's Hospital. We will be meeting in our usual room. Following the meeting and annual elections, John, K9BYT will present a program on an emergency "Go Kit."

With winter upon us, this is an excellent time for everyone to insure that their vehicles and homes are equipped for emergency survival.

### KARS BANQUET

#### Francis needs your reservation now

KARS annual banquet will be held January 20th at the Moose Lodge on Rt. 50 in Bradley.

We meet in the banquet room.  
Socializing at 6. Dinner at 7.

A short meeting and door prizes will follow the dinner. All KARS club members and their spouse/significant other are invited to attend. Prices are as follows:

- PRIME RIB--\$20
- BUTT STEAK--\$18
- FISH--\$15.25
- CHICKEN--\$14.25

Contact Francis, KE9MG, at home or during the KARS Monday night nets to make reservations.

### BAND EXPANSION DATE

The multitude of changes in the FCC's "Omnibus" rulemaking, including the expansion of the HF phone bands, become effective December 15th. See the November KARS KEY KLICKS for details.

### NO KARS MEETING IN JANUARY

The banquet on January 20th will replace the KARS January meeting. Regular meetings will resume in February. Newsletter will resume publication after the banquet.



Howard AK9F demonstrating 21st century RTTY at the KARS November general meeting (more on page 2).

### KARS KALENDAR

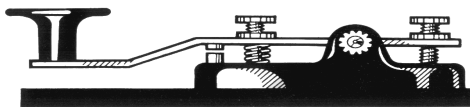
- Dec 1-2.....ARRL 160 CW Contest
- Dec 5.....KARS General Meeting
- Dec 9-10.....ARRL 10 Meter Contest
- Dec 19.....KARS Board Meeting
- Dec 25.....*Christmas*
- Dec 30-31.....Stew Perry Contest
- Jan 1.....*New Year's Day*
- Jan 6-7.....ARRL RTTY Roundup
- Jan 13-14.....NA QSO Party - CW
- Jan 20.....*KARS Banquet*
- Jan 20-21.....NA QSO Party - SSB
- Jan 20-22.....ARRL VHF Sweepstakes
- Jan 27-28.....CQWW 160 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*



# W9AZ

### FIELD DAY RESULTS

By Howard, AK9F

Preliminary results for the 2006 ARRL Field Day have just been posted on the Members Only page of the ARRL Web site. W9AZ and its team of operators have the distinction of locking down second place among the 4-A category stations in the Central Division. Though we made 90 more contacts, our group was nosed out by the W9EAU station of the Eau Claire (Wisconsin) Amateur Radio Club. This year was one of the best Field Days ever by KARS, with stations on nearly every band, a very successful GOTA station, and even several contacts via satellite. Out of the entire field of 128 4-A entries, W9AZ placed 19<sup>th</sup>. Of all 2,184 entries from ALL categories, W9AZ placed 226<sup>th</sup>. ARRL Field Day is not a true contest, but rather a test our ability to set up temporary stations under emergency conditions, powered by generators. But the competition is keen to make the most contacts, and with a total of 1,356 valid contacts, it is obvious that in a real emergency, the KARS team would be prepared and capable to perform with the best.

Chairmen for KARS 2006 Field Day were Bob, N9MBR and Jamie, KC9DEP. (See results on page 3)

### NCS FOR DECEMBER

Net control stations-Monday night net

- Dec 4      KC9FAV
- Dec 11     N9JMS
- Dec 18     KE9MG
- Dec 25     KC9FAV

### NCS FOR JANUARY

- Jan. 1      KC9FAV
- Jan. 8      K9BYT
- Jan 15      KE9MG
- Jan. 22     K9NR
- Jan 29      WD9AYI

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

## MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM KARS

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

## SOUND DEFINED RADIO (SDR) FLEX RADIO ARTICLE NO 1

KEN BUSER – W9YNI

For those of you who have not heard, I was talking with Will K9FO, about this new radio named "Flex Radio", I went to Dayton and visited their Display, and even though it did not work since so many hams had been playing with the PC's and changed configurations, I was overwhelmed with the possibilities. I came home and started hitting the Internet to learn what I could. In a short while I had an order in for my Flex Radio and have had more fun than when I put together my first 6V6 RF oscillator and made my first contact with some guy in Fond Du Lac, WI when I was a Novice.

It is a black box with only an ON/OFF switch on the front and a few ¼ inch Audio jacks on the rear and a BNC connector.

It receives 160 Meters thru 6 Meters and transmits on all Ham bands in-between. On all modes. Runs from 1 watt to 100 watts. Less on 6 meters, Just key in what you want your output to be.

In the next few articles I will attempt to give anyone who wants to read them my layman's observations of how it works, and what I have learned...what the costs are and problems if any. How to connect PSK 31 or MMTTY software and who knows what else.

There are others moving toward equipment that is SDR, but the advantage of the FLEX Radio approach is that the software is Open Source. Anyone can make changes or improvements as long as they are made available to all. One thing for sure, In the future we will see more equipment designed around this approach than not.

Here is a general explanation of how it works:

The Black Box receives RF and Converts it to digital audio. A high Tech Audio Card ( Mine is an outboard Card since I wanted to use it with a Lap Top) takes the audio and sends it to the PC. From there The SDR1000 Software works more magic than I will ever be able to explain. A demo is worth a Mega Words. When you transmit, the Audio goes in and out of the Sound card to the Black Box and you're on the Air.

Everything is done with your PC or Laptop... The visual representation on the screen and the options you can select are easy to get used to and also to control.... Think about taking your mouse and moving the visual pass band right or left to eliminate an interfering signal or simply changing it from 2.4 KHz to 2.1 or any thing you want to set it to.

Think about the ability to receive CW with a 1000 hz digital filter and then changing it all the way down to 25 hz and still being able to hear a 600 hz tone (or what ever you want to set it to) with absolutely no ringing...All the interference is just gone. All this with a -130 dbm noise floor.

I will talk about some of the areas in more detail later and try not to hop around so much. But I do need to make one more point. I saw on the Web Site a new Software download was available. Many new features were available, one of which was the visible spectrum available on your PC Screen went from 48 KHz to 192 KHz... So I just had to have it...10 minutes later I had downloaded the system, set it into a new folder in my PC, imported my database with parameters I had configured; and just like that I had a new radio.

I still have an Icon on the desktop for the Old Radio and the one for the New Radio; with a click of the mouse I can run either one.

I don't know if Ham Radio is more fun or the Computer adaptation to it...probably both...more to come later but don't forget the words SDR (Sound Defined Radio) its' a sign of the times.

AND A FUTURE PROGRAM AT THE KARS MEETING.  
Ken, W9YNI



**Pete N19H sends a RTTY message across the room to Howard AK9F as Ken W9YNI and Will K9FO kibitz**

## COMPUTERS BREATH NEW LIFE INTO RTTY

Computer technology has taken one of amateur radio's more exotic modes and made it main stream. RTTY or radioteletype once required noisy, oily, fire-breathing machines with home brewed terminal units. Not any more! Howard AK9F and Pete N19H demonstrated to a large KARS Krowd at the November meeting how easy it is to operate this fascinating mode. With little more than about a \$35 investment and some free software, you too can put your station on RTTY!

## SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY IS DECEMBER 2ND

Submitted by Howard, AK9F

The 8th annual SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) special event will take place Saturday, December 2, 2006. SKYWARN Recognition Day is an event co-sponsored by the National Weather Service and the American Radio Relay League, and it is the National Weather Service's way of saying "thank you" to Amateur Radio operators for their commitment to helping keep their communities safe.

During the 24-hour special event, amateur radio operators will visit their local National Weather Service (NWS) office, set up Amateur Radio stations, and work as a team to contact other hams across the world.

"Ham radio operators volunteering as storm spotters are an extremely valuable asset to National Weather Service operations since they are cross-trained in both communications and severe storm recognition", says Scott Mentzer (N\*\*\*QE), organizer of the event and Meteorologist-In-Charge at the NWS office in Goodland, Kansas.

In typical warning operations, it is the direct communication between mobile spotters and the local NWS office which provides vital ground truth information. Spotter reports of hail size, wind damage and surface-based rotation in real time greatly assists the radar warning operator since that information can be correlated with Doppler radar displays. The result can range anywhere from a more strongly-worded statement to convey a greater sense of urgency, or the issuance of a tornado warning a few minutes earlier than would otherwise have been possible

While National Weather Service offices utilize the real-time reporting of severe weather events to assist in warning operations, hurricanes and tropical storms have shown us that ham radio operators are equally important during the recovery phase of natural disasters.

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**Central Division - 2006 Field Day Top Scores - Class 4A**

#	Call	Score	Class	QSOs	Power	GOTA Call	Section	Participants	Club
1	W9EAU	5,846	4A	1,266	2	KI9H	WI	33	Eau Claire ARC
2	W9AZ	5,272	4A	1,356	2	K9BIG	IL	24	Kankakee Area Radio Society
3	W9AXD	5,196	4A	1,436	2		IL	23	Rockford ARA
4	K9CU	3,584	4A	932	2		IL	20	Twin City ARC
5	W9GO	3,052	4A	616	2		IN	21	Kokomo ARC
6	W9UVI	2,968	4A	669	2		IL	19	Peoria-Area ARC
7	KZ9B	2,692	4A	554	2		WI	20	Chaos Theory
8	N9BAT	2,464	4A	429	2	W9CHI	IL	60	Chicago Suburban RA
9	W9IW	2,296	4A	642	2		IL	20	Palisades ARC
10	W9VCL	2,062	4A	525	2		WI	9	Sheboygan Co ARC
11	W9YPC	1,798	4A	473	2		IL	7	
12	W9IDX	1,580	4A	402	2		WI	4	

**IL QSO PARTY  
A 4-WHEELING ADVENTURE**

Greetings from a very cold 2<sup>nd</sup> level apartment in downtown Milwaukee... It's been a while since I've talked to so many of you. With an actual "real-money" job downtown this summer, I wasn't around very much after Field Day. I hope everyone had a great summer.

Well I arrived home very tired last night from the parking lot at Gurnee Mills, where the K9BIG ILQP effort came to an end (albeit a bit prematurely) at about 7:30PM local time. The day was long, the weather was less than perfect, and the log had plenty of room for more contacts, but overall, our first mobile 2-man contest operation was pretty successful.

K9BIG and I decided that we would op-

mounting system. To coerce a little more efficiency from the motorized antenna, we did strap on a miniature capacity hat and a full-length whip of the sort usually reserved for vehicles plastered with confederate battle flags and more than one spare tire. And, of course, in classic "DEP style," our



**View from the Wingman's Chair  
Illinois QSO Party**

efforts were aided by a logging/mapping/GPS/cluster computer rivaled only by a master contester's most prized desktop contesting computer... :-)

After a bit of setup (and, of course, a nutritious Baker's Square brunch), we departed the Gurnee Mills parking lot at precisely 1700z, and racked up nearly 300 miles by the time we came back to the same mall parking spot 7.5 hours later. We traversed Lake County north to highway 173, which then led us westerly into McHenry, Boone, Winnebago, Stephenson, and JoDaviess counties with a few turns. Our journey led to the glorious Apple River Canyon State Park, where we did an about face and headed back across all 6 counties once again.

Somewhere near the Stephenson-JoDaviess county line, we entered area never before charted by either operator, and the true reliance on the GPS came into play. Apparently, the cartographers who contributed to my mapping software did not find it necessary to denote those roads on

the map that are technically unfit even for all-terrain vehicles...and we found a few of those. I believe some gentlemen in OH and KS had the privilege of making contact with "K9BIG, 4-wheeling mobile in JoDaviess county." Moral of that story—check a real map before you drive 35 minutes out of your way...

Working primarily 40 meters and switching to 80 only for the last hour or so, we did manage to squeeze out 176 contacts from my mobile station, working 39 IL counties and 18 other states/provinces. Thanks to Carl K9CS for some good contacts on 40 meters.

73 de K9BIG and KC9DEP

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

- December 1st WD9AYI
- December 4th N9QQP
- December 7th N9LCX
- December 13th N9LCZ
- December 20th WA9WAQ
- December 20th KF9IK
- December 22nd N9QXZ
- December 24th AK9F
- December 28th K9JLK

If we miss your birthday, please let us know!

**KARS BOARD MEETING**

The KARS board meeting will be held in the banquet room of El Camapesino Mexican restaurant on December 19th.

All KARS members and spouses are welcome to attend. Eat at 6:00. Meet at 7:00

**EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS BADGES**

A reminder to check the date on your badge. You may renew it or secure a new picture ID at the Sheriff's Dept. 2nd. Floor.



**K9BIG  
Logging Away  
Illinois QSO Party**

erate the IL QSO party mobile this year and see just how many contacts we could rake in with one of our vehicles *in motion*—a bit different from our usual drive and sit operations that involve erecting portable antennas.

We set out in the DEP-mobile, flaunting an underused Kenwood TS-480SAT dialed in at a modest 100W, and the High Sierra Sidekick antenna mounted to the bed with the "should-be-patented" N9QXZ hitch-end

There are countless stories where ham radio worked in tandem with more conventional technology to relay emergency traffic. SKYWARN Recognition Day will be held on December 2, 2006, from 0000—2400 UTC. The object is for all radio amateur stations to exchange QSO information with as many National Weather Service Stations as possible on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, and 2 meter bands plus the 70 centimeter band. Contacts via repeaters are permitted.

The exchange should include call sign, signal report, location, and a one or two word description of the weather occurring at your site ("sunny", "partly cloudy", "windy", etc.). NWS stations will work various modes including SSB,

FM, AM, RTTY, CW, and PSK31. While working digital modes, special event stations will append "NWS" to their call sign (e.g., N\*\*\*A/NWS).

**AK9F 2006 INDIANA QSO PARTY OPERATION #1 WORLDWIDE!**

The intrepid operators at AK9F's 2006 Indiana QSO Party (AK9F & K9NR) scored a stunning win in this years contest.

Operating from his farm in Perry County near the Hoosier National Forest in southern Indiana, Howard and Don not only had the highest score in their multi-op category but also had the highest score in the entire contest!

Their dedicated efforts resulted in the following stats:

Phone QSO's	242
(aha! Howard and Don really do know how to operate phone!)	
CW QSO's	261
Multipliers	137
Score	104,718

The result was top score in the multi-op category and a plaque win for: "Top Scoring Indiana Station overall"

Of course, such results don't come easily. It requires hard core dedication and goal-oriented planning to pull off such a victory. Plans are already underway for next years grueling run!

# 2007 KARS MEMBERSHIP FORM

Fellow Radio Amateur,

2006 was a great year for the Kankakee Area Radio Society and many of our members helped to make it so. Field Day, KARS Hamfest, International Space Station Contact at B.B.C.H.S., repeater upgrade, APRS digi-peater, DX Cluster, great programs, social events..... etc., etc. If you have been away from club activities or other things in life have distracted you from amateur radio, now is the time renew your interest in the hobby and renew your KARS membership. You too can be an important and valued part of KARS! Come to the next KARS meeting, share the excitement and join the fun.

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CALL \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
 BIRTHDATE \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL MEMBER? \_\_\_\_\_ VE? \_\_\_\_\_  
 LICENSE CLASS \_\_\_\_\_ EXPIRATION DATE \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK BELOW:

- \_\_\_\_\_ REGULAR MEMBERSHIP.....\$30
- \_\_\_\_\_ FAMILY MEMBERSHIP.....\$40
- \_\_\_\_\_ REPEATER SUPPORTER\*.....\$15

\*REPEATER SUPPORTER IS ONLY AVAILABLE TO THOSE NOT LIVING IN THE KANKAKEE AREA AND WHO DO NOT PARTICIPATE IN KARS FUNCTIONS.

- FULL TIME STUDENTS, SENIOR CITIZENS (OVER 65) AND DISABLED INDIVIDUALS MAY APPLY FOR REGULAR -MEMBERSHIP AT ONE HALF THE NORMAL RATE.
- FAMILY MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES SPOUSE AND DEPENDENT CHILDREN LIVING AT HOME.
- NEW MEMBERS SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL

BRING TO MEETING OR MAIL TO:

FRANCIS GIGUERE, KE9MG  
 326 S. DOUGLAS AVE.  
 BRADLEY, IL. 60915

**MEMBERSHIP IN KARS ALLOWS YOU TO USE KARS REPEATERS AND PARTICIPATE IN ALL KARS FUNCTIONS**