



KARS KEY KLICKS



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February 2010

WRITELOG PRIMER AT FEBRUARY MEETING

The February KARS meeting will be held at the community meeting room at St. Mary's Hospital at 7PM on Tuesday February 2nd. Enter via the main entrance on the south side.

After a brief business meeting K9NR will present a program on the installation, configuration and operation of Writelog. Writelog is probably the most widely used contest logging software and the program of choice for KARS operating events.

See how to make optimum use of this fine logging software. If you are well versed in the use of Writelog, please feel free to join in with your insights. See you there!

BANQUET BIG SUCCESS

The annual KARS Banquet was again held at the Brickstone Brewery. Fifty-four people attended and enjoyed the appetizers and entrees. There were many fine door prizes and great fun for all.

EXAMS SCHEDULED

A VE exam session is planned at Glenn Raymond School in Watseka on Thursday, February 11 at 5:30pm, prior to the ICARC Meeting. The address is: 101 West Mulberry Street in Watseka. Enter via the main entrance.

Exams for all classes of license will be given. Walk-ins will be accepted. Volunteer examiners are encouraged to attend to keep their certifications current.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

February 4th K9QT
February 14th K9BAC
February 15th NI9H

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



Incoming President Bill N9OE awards retiring President John WD9AYI a plaque commemorating 10 years of service as KARS President

KARS KALENDAR

Feb 2.....KARS General Meeting
Feb 11.....Exam Session
Feb 13-14.....CQWW WPX RTTY Contest
Feb 16.....KARS Board Meeting
Feb 20-21.....ARRL DX CW Contest
Feb 22.....Severe Weather Seminar
Feb 27-28.....NA QSO Party RTTY
Feb 26-28.....CQWW 160 SSB Contest
March 2.....KARS General Meeting
March 6-7.....ARRL DX SSB Contest
March 16.....KARS Board Meeting
March 20-22.....BARTG HF RTTY Contest
March 27-28.....CQWW WPX SSB Contest

The Kankakee Area Radio Society operates repeaters on:

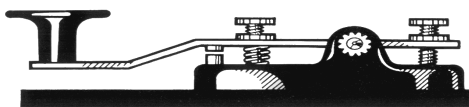
146.34/.94 **107.2 PL Access**
449.8/444.8 **114.8 PL Access**

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

WD9AYI STEPS DOWN

After 10 years at the helm as president of KARS, John Arrington WD9AYI handed over the reins to incoming president Bill Dau N9OE at the annual KARS Banquet. In return, Bill awarded John a plaque for service to the club.

John presided over ten years of unprecedented growth and progress in KARS membership and club infrastructure. KARS is widely regarded as the model for an active full service organization.

John refused to accept credit saying that KARS success is the work of many fine members.

Congrats and thanks John!

SEVERE WEATHER SEMINAR

There is a severe weather seminar scheduled for Monday, February 22, 7PM at the Kankakee Community College auditorium.

Be sure to attend to keep your skills as a trained weather spotter current. Special emphasis is placed on tornadoes, identifying cloud formations, classifying hail and wind speed.

In spite of the present wintery weather, the spring storm season is coming fast. Be prepared!

2010 Dues are Due!

NCS FOR FEBRUARY

February 1	KC9FAV
February 8	N9LYE
February 15	WD9AYI
February 22	N9LYE

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

Don't forget the net!

See you at the Weather Seminar!

KARS HOMEPAGE—WWW.W9AZ.COM—KARS HOMEPAGE

PRESIDENTIAL REFLECTIONS

by Bill N9OE

So, who is this new President of KARS...Bill Dau, N9OE?

"As a child I took an interest in everything. I remember being told that I ask too many questions. I was curious about everything. I always wanted to know how things worked. When I was about age eight or nine, I remember asking my sisters' boyfriend (who always drove cool cars over to the house all the time) "how does an engine work?" I asked this question of several people and could never get a straight answer. It was later, after receiving a science book from someone and having disassembled an old lawnmower engine that I realized how a 4 stroke combustion engine worked. I think this same book may have also given me the "spark" to want to know more about electricity later in life.

I went on to build many tree houses and club houses (one with 120vac inside). I took odd jobs to raise money to buy used (and always broken) go carts, mini bikes, 3-wheelers, etc, (which I had to fix myself). I learned a lot from these machines and had a lot of fun racing around the countryside and the small town near our home.

When I was about ten or twelve I met Don Houde, K9EWU. He was the uncle of my best friend Mike. Their family shared a cottage on the Iroquois river south of Kankakee. Don had an HF CW station and a 2m all mode rig setup for local communications there at the cottage. I am not sure what model HF rig it was but I remember it was big and cool looking. He explained the range and configuration of the two rigs. I remember I was impressed by the range they were both were capable of given the apparent simplicity of the antennas. I remember asking Don how I could power up some 12v mobile gear in the house knowing that I needed more power than I had tried before with those little wall-warts. He quickly drew up a schematic of a filtered DC power supply and parts list and told me where to get the parts.

Subsequently, I built the power supply and it worked great except for one thing...the terrible noise in my speakers. The hum was annoying at times. I remember experimenting with large capacitors trying to reduce the hum. It wasn't until I was able to build a regulator circuit with series pass transistors that the hum noise finally was gone.

When I was seventeen I was invited to go stay with my great aunt and uncle in Melbourne Beach, FL where I was exposed to Ham radio again. Uncle Brownie (nickname) was always interested in becoming a ham but didn't think he could pass the written exam. He was excellent with the Morse Code and had a lot of fun with it. He took me to a ham radio class at the local ham club where they were holding classes for the new codeless Technician license. Brownie joked that we should take the test together and get the Tech+ license. He had a lot of confidence in me and was sure I could pass the test. We learned that they would be testing before I left for home, so I was given the appropriate books to study. We went to the local Radio Shack and purchased material for the Novice and the Technician exams (there were two tests to pass back then). I studied for about a week. I would study for about 3 hours at a time or until my head hurt and then walk down to the beach to refresh. I remember when it came time to take the test, Brownie passed the code test and I passed both written elements. It took over three months to get my license in the mail!

Regrettably, I didn't know about KARS when I returned home and didn't have enough money to buy any equipment so I didn't get on the air right away.

Stay tuned to KARS KEY CLICKS for news on my first rig and my early days of ham radio.



(back row) Troy W9KVR, Paul KC9OVF
(front row) Matt Thomas, Justin Moyer,
Jake Anderson KC9OQN

STUDENTS EARN "WAS" AWARD in WATSEKA

Troy W9KVR and his students are at it again! The student operators have earned the Worked All States award from the Glenn Raymond School station W9GRS. Look for W9GRS & W9KVR in many events and contests. Next scheduled: School Club Roundup on February 8-12.

KARS SCORES BIG IN ILQP

KARS placed second in the 2009 Illinois QSO PARTY outpacing many much larger clubs.

Ten KARS members contributed to the club aggregate score. Don K9NR and Carl K9CS placed in the top five overall. Other members contributing good scores included: WR9L, N9LYE, N9LAH, K9FO, N9IO, AK9F, W9KVR & N9FD.

Fine work by all! Join in the fun and work a contest!



Justin Kaiser (seated left) at work at WGFA Radio

JUSTIN KAISER KC9GNH SK

We deeply regret reporting the passing of Justin Kaiser KC9GNH of Sheldon, IL. Justin died of complications from a surgical procedure. He held a Technician class license and was active in Iroquois County emergency communications. Justin was very well liked in professional circles as well as the amateur community.

Justin was employed by WGFA Radio in Watseka. He is survived by his wife Diana.



N9LYE's latest contest award from CQ

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

More great photos of KARS members doing what they do best...have fun!

At the informal New Years Eve gathering at El Campesino's Mexican Restaurant...



News Year Eve at El Campesino's and the living is fine for this group of KARS members



Carl K9CS speaks with forked tongue!
Carl knows how to have a good time!



More of the gang hungrily waiting for their food. "Muy Bueno!"

At the annual KARS Banquet at the Brickstone Brewery...



The KARS crowd at The Brickstone looking left...



The KARS crowd at the Brickstone looking right...



Down the middle!



Ken W9YNI & XYL Judy & Howard AK9F & XYL Sue



Jerry WB9Z & Brenda
Actually it's Brenda & Jerry WB9Z



KARS folks sure know how to have a good time!