



# KARS KEY KLICKS



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Photos: K9QT

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## KARS TO CONTACT SPACE STATION

### MARCH MEETING FEATURES PREP FOR SPACE CONTACT

The KARS Space Communications Committee headed by Jim, K9BIG are preparing for the upcoming ISS contact at Bradley-Bourbonnais High School. Charlie Sufana AJ9N, an ARISS mentor, has graciously accepted an invitation to be the guest speaker for the KARS March program. The contact has been tentatively scheduled for some time during the week of March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

Charlie has helped many schools prepare for their contacts as well as being the control op for the Adler Planetarium - ISS contact. KARS members on the space-com committee are Jim, K9BIG, Greg WR9L, and Will K9FO. Jim, K9BIG, a science teacher at BBCHS applied to the ARISS program over 3 years ago. Jim has invited KARS members to BBCHS during the contact. We are looking forward to an exciting event and hope that it will stir up some interest in Ham Radio for the students at BBCHS.

Jim has been working feverishly preparing for this event. He has also been responsible for sparking interest in our hobby among the youth in the community.

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March 2nd W9IEY  
March 15th W1ZZL  
March 18th KB9PXB

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



N9IO, at right, presents K9CS, with a certificate honoring Carl's 50 years in ham radio

#### KARS KALENDAR

Feb 18-19.....ARRL CW DX Contest  
Feb 21.....**KARS Board Meeting**  
Feb 23.....**Weather Spotter Training**  
Feb 25-26.....CQWW 160 SSB  
Feb 25-26.....NA QSO Party RTTY  
Mar 4-5.....ARRL SSB DX Contest  
Mar 7.....**KARS Meeting**  
Mar 21.....**KARS Board Meeting**  
Mar 25-26...CQWW WPX SSB Contest  
**Mar 27.....WEEK OF MARCH 27th  
ARISS CONTACT**

*The Kankakee Area Radio Society operates repeaters on:*

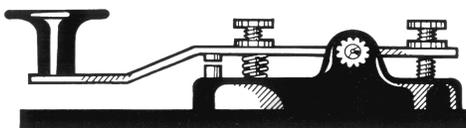
146.34/.94 107.2 PL Access  
449.8/444.8 114.8 PL Access

*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

### SEVERE WEATHER SPOTTER TRAINING PLANNED FEBRUARY 23RD.

Kankakee County Emergency Services and Disaster Agency and the National Weather Service will present spotter training at Kankakee Community College on February 23rd. It will be held at 7:00 P.M. in the college auditorium. This year the event will be hosted by Kankakee County Amateur Radio Emergency Service. KARS member John, K9BYT is in charge of organizing the event. Be sure to come out to hone your weather spotting skills for the approaching storm season.

John has written an excellent article on page 2 documenting the history of weather spotting.

See you at KCC on Feb. 23rd.

### NEWSLETTER TO BE ON KARS WEBSITE

**PLEASE** email your newsletter editors and let us know if you would be willing to read the newsletter on line. Clay, N9IO has offered to post it on the W9AZ web site.

We will send you an email each month letting you know when it has been posted. It will be in a PDF format so you can easily print it out if you so desire. This will save the editors much time in printing, folding, labeling, driving to town, etc.

Thanks,

K9qt@daca.net or k9nr@daca.net

### KARS DXPEDITIONS

As this newsletter goes to bed, Carl, K9CS is winging down to Montserrat to operate the ARRL CW DX Contest. His call will be VP2MSC. The contest call will be VP2MVX. QSL via N3ZNI.

Former KARS member Steve, W9DX will operate the ARRL SSB DX Contest from Malta. His call will be 9H3DX. The contest call will also be 9H3DX. QSL via W5PF.

*Happy First Day Of Spring—March 20th!*

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

## HISTORY OF WEATHER OBSERVATION IN THE U.S.

Weather was important to many of our nations Founding Fathers. Many of the Colonial leaders who formed our country also were avid weather observers. Thomas Jefferson bought his first thermometer while writing the Declaration of Independence, and purchased his first barometer a few days following the signing of the document. Incidentally, he noted that the high temperature in Philadelphia, PA on July 4, 1776 was 76 degrees. Jefferson made regular observations at Monticello from 1772-78, and participated in taking the first known simultaneous weather observations in America. George Washington also took regular observations; the last weather entry in his diary was made the day before he died.

When the telegraph became operational in 1845, visionaries saw the possibility of "forecasting" storms simply by telegraphing ahead what was coming.

In 1848, Joseph Henry, Secretary of the new Smithsonian Institution, persuaded the telegraph companies to allot free time for the transmission of weather reports to the Smithsonian. He distributed a circular to recruit volunteer observers.

The U. S. Army Signal Service Corps operated the first nationwide weather service in 1878. The "observing-sergeants" were chosen because "military discipline would probably secure the greatest promptness, regularity and accuracy." Their mission was to "take observations at military stations and to warn of storms on the Great Lakes and on the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts." The weather service's reputation was tarnished in 1881, when William Howgate, the chief financial manager of the agency, was arrested for embezzling a quarter million dollars. Other servicemen in stations around the country were investigated throughout the 1880s and fired in large numbers for reckless neglect. It was discovered that one man had sold his station's instruments to pay off a gambling debt; another had converted his office into a photography studio for nude models. The agency's weather predictions were frequently and dangerously wrong. On March 12, 1888, the New York station's forecast called for "fair weather"; instead, New York got the Blizzard of '88, which dumped 21 inches of snow on the city and killed four hundred people throughout the northeast. The scandal and the unreliability of the organization were too great for it to continue as it was.

In 1890, a civilian national weather service was proposed, it was suggested that

the name be "Weather Reporting Office of the National Government (WRONG) - honest! "You have to have an ego to forecast the weather. But, you must be a good loser, too, because you can lose 80% of the time."

In 1891, the Army Signal Service Corps' weather service was given a new home in the Department of Agriculture. It was named the Weather Bureau. During the years leading up to 1900, the Weather Bureau's servicemen took regular measurement of temperature, wind speed, air pressure, rainfall, and cloud conditions. They transmitted their findings to one another via wireless telegraphy. In 1891, the network of voluntary weather observers across the country had grown to 2,000 stations.

Battling negative public opinion and the sheer newness of their science, the early weathermen lay the groundwork for an organization that today predicts weather effectively and saves the lives of waterborne travelers and land dwellers alike.

The name "National Weather Service" was given in 1970. The National Weather Service is the sole United States official voice for issuing warnings during life-threatening weather situations.

The most recent statistics estimate that there are 12,000 cooperative observers in the United States. Volunteer storm spotters have been the Nation's first line of defense against deadly storms. Spotters provide invaluable assistance and critical information to decision makers when hazardous weather threatens. Countless lives have been saved because of this unique partnership between volunteer storm spotters, emergency management and the National Weather Service. Even with all the technology used by the National Weather Service to prepare severe weather warnings, storm spotters still give us the most complete picture of what's really happening in and around severe storms.

John McGarey, K9BYT

## KARS BOARD MEETING

The KARS February board meeting will be held in the banquet room of El Campesino Mexican restaurant on February 21st. All KARS members and spouses are welcome to attend.

Eat at 6:00. Meet at 7:00

Location of March board meeting to be announced at March meeting.

## DUES ARE DUE !

## STRAIGHT KEY NIGHT

BY Brian, KC9FAV

This year should bring a lot of new opportunities to amateur radio while retaining the traditions and historical modes that we as hams have become used to.

It seems that this mode has gained a new life as we have seen just what it can do during the recent tragedies that we have had to endure over that last year. These events have brought Ham radio into a new light in the public eye. I also hope that more people will take the stand to keep it in our communities as it has proven to be a solid form of communication.

Since I started my journey in HF, I have become fond of the CW mode of operation and concentrate my efforts in this area. I think that I have only used SSB a handful of times while my CW contacts are heavily weighted in the hundreds. I am even contemplating going mobile. I must be hooked on this mode to *want* to do that.

Of the many contests and schedules that the ARRL sets forth for the contesting calendar, I have learned that the league always sets the very first event of the year as Straight Key Night (SKN). This is the time when all of the hams who like CW and Morse Code, pull out their trusty straight keys and polish them, oil them, re-adjust them and use them for this event.

Some even invent new ways of sending out our beloved Morse Code. During the contest this year, there was one guy who took 2 pennies and soldered wires to each one. By taking a penny in each hand, he sent out his signals. How original!!!

Others pulled out their Camel backs and went that route, I usually keep 2 keys on my desk. One is my trusty Bencher BY-1 paddle and the other is a J-38 mounted on a very nice oak base. I believe that everything is fully intact on this except for a broken knob on the grounding bar.

I was looking through the Soapbox section in the ARRL website and found that most of the people that participated in this event really took it to heart. One guy decided to write a poem about it.

To receive a copy of the poem send an E-mail to Brian ble81@yahoo.com or the editors at k9qt@daca.net

## NCS FOR MARCH

March 6	KC9FAV
March 13	KC9GWF
March 21	K9BYT
March 27	K9BIG

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