



KARS KEY KLICKS



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Jan-Feb 2008

SEVERE WEATHER/EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AT FEBRUARY MEETING

The next KARS general meeting will be at 7PM on February 5th in the public meeting room at St. Mary's Hospital. The topic will be severe weather.

Severe weather season is approaching soon. We've already had our first tornado warning of the year, with nearby areas seeing lots storm activity including severe damage. Amateur Radio plays a key role in the Kankakee area when it comes to severe weather spotting and reporting.

Over the years, we have established a relationship with emergency management officials in the area. September 11, Katrina, the California wild fires, and other events have helped spotlight the contribution that amateur radio can make during a large-scale incident.

During the recent flooding, our communications ability was included in the emergency planning should the flooding be bad enough to divide the county along the river. Thankfully, that plan was not needed. February's meeting will highlight emergency communications operations, including storm spotting, emergency nets and highlights of Amateur involvement during 2007.

73 Hope to see you there, John, K9BYT

KARS BOARD MEETING

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

All KARS members and spouses are welcome to attend.

Eat at 6:00. Meet at 7:00

TEST SESSION FEB 7TH

In conjunction with the class which K9BYT is teaching at the EOC, there will be a test session on the last day. The time: 7PM. The location: Emergency Operations Center, Kankakee County Sheriffs Dept. 300 Justice Way, Kankakee.



The Montserrat crew give a brief accounting of their DX operations

KARS KALENDAR

Jan 26-27.....CQWW 160 CW contest
Jan 27.....Wheaton Hamfest
Feb 5.....KARS General Meeting
Feb 7.....Test session
Feb 9.....FISTS Winter Sprint
Feb 9-10.....CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest
Feb 16-17.....ARRL Inter. CW DX Contest
Feb 19.....KARS Board Meeting
Feb 20.....Weather Spotter Class
Feb 23-24.....CQ 160 SSB contest
Feb 23-24.....N A QSO party RTTY
Mar 4.....KARS General Meeting
Mar 18.....KARS Board Meeting

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**

WEATHER SPOTTER CLASS

A severe weather spotter training class will be conducted by the National Weather Service in the auditorium at KCC on February 20th at 7:00 PM. There is no charge for this event which is open to the public.

Kankakee County ARES is the official Sponsor and a good representation is always appreciated.

73...John K9BYT

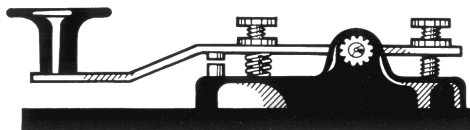
WATSEKA FLOOD

W9QKF Sam, KC9HHT Mike, K9CS Carl, KC9GWD Benny, W9TRF Tim, W9KVR Troy and W9LIZ Chris have been busy helping the Red Cross in Watseka during the recent flood. Carl will be receiving a DVD with flood pictures which he will show at a future KARS meeting.

KARS OFFICERS 2008

Election of officers to serve in 2008 was held at the December KARS general meeting.

President	WD9AYI John
Vice President	K9NR Don
Secretary	WR9L Greg
Treasurer	KE9MG Francis
Trustee	K9FO Will
Newsletter Editor	K9QT Billie
Emergency Coordinator	K9BYT John
Webmaster & Foxhunt	N9IO Clay
Hamfest Chairman	K9CS Carl
Hamfest Co-Chairman & YL Director	W9LIZ Chris
Field Day	N9MBR Bob
Net Control	
Coordinator	KC9FAV Brian
Director	W9YNI Ken
Director	AK9F Howard
Director	WD9FYF Harry
Director	NI9H Pete
Director	W9IEY Paul



W9AZ

KARS HOMEPAGE— WWW.W9AZ.COM —KARS HOMEPAGE

**YE OLDE TYME ANTENNA PARTIES
REMINISCING WITH W9YNI**

Antenna Party's are full of fun and sometimes more work than we want to recognize.

I remember a Tri band beam on top of a hook and ladder truck at Del Kerner's airport one field day. I was a Novice and when the big guy's (Those with General Licenses) wanted the beam turned towards California. It was my job to climb up the hook and ladder truck and physically turn the beam towards what I thought was California. At the top of that ladder if you moved too fast you could see the rusty truck rocking back and forth down on the ground. I can't remember how many trips I made up that ladder truck but when you're 15 years old who was counting.

Another field day I was driving a guy wire steel stake into the ground and Dave Holmes was holding the steel stake, well after a few back and forth maneuvers, I came down with the long handle sledge on top of Dave's thumb. I don't know if he ever forgave me for that but he shouldn't have moved his thumb under the hammer.

Most of the time it was just necessary to toss a base ball with a fish line on it over a 70 foot tree and then pull up a stronger line and then the wire for the antenna. Then when it was caught at the top of the tree, Perry WB9BVW, would just send his son Harry up the tree and out of the branch to free it up. That kid was afraid of nothing. We didn't have potato cannons back then.

Then there were real antenna party's like the one I was on at K9FO's cabin on the river. It was 20 degrees out and we had to haul a 160 meter 1/2 wave out over the river to a tree on the island... Not really a bad job if it had not been that there was water on top of the ICE and it kept cracking as we walked over it. Will kept saying don't worry just keep moving.

Another time I was walking up a 40 foot push up mast with a beam on the top. When I got to the house where the bottom of the mast was anchored I thought all was OK, until I looked back

and the antennas was still laying on the ground. It started to quiver, then the whole thing shot up and threw the antenna over the house and into the front yard.

Well those days are over now I have an 80 foot tilt over and crank up tower. I recently added a 12 volt DC winch so I don't even have to crank it over. The tower was built by Randy Martin WD9CSA back around 1980 and I purchased it from him around 1982. It was a job to move but was well worth it.... Now as you can see in the picture all I need for an Antenna Party is a nice day and my Granddaughter, Sara Buser, to hand me tools. Isn't Ham Radio Fun ???

73.....Ken W9YNI



**ANTENNA PARTY
W9YNI STYLE**



Sara helps her grandfather with the antenna work. Ken claims he couldn't have done it without her.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Feb 4th K9QT
Feb 15th NI9H

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

KARS ANNUAL BANQUET

A good time was had by all at the annual banquet held at the Moose. The banquet took the place of the general meeting. It has been suggested that the banquet should not be a substitute for a regular meeting. There has also been discussion about moving the banquet to a different month. Please give the board your input concerning these matters.

Lots of banquet pictures on page 3.

NET CONTROL STATIONS

NCS FOR JANUARY

Jan 21st KE9MG
Jan 28th WD9FYF

NCS FOR FEBRUARY

Feb 4th KC9FAV
Feb 11th N9LYE
Feb 18th WR9L
Feb 25th WD9FYF

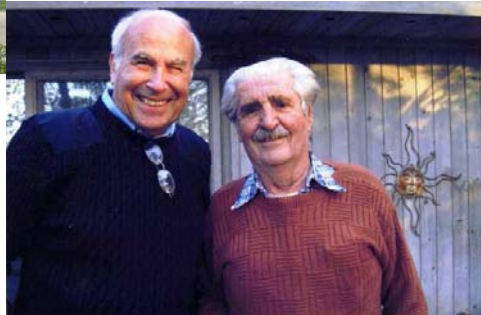
Don't forget the net!

Mondays at 2100 hrs. local time

OLD TIMERS REUNITE

Thought some of the 'ol timers around Kankakee might get a kick out of seeing what two of the club's former presidents look like today. Patty, my XYL, and I drove out to Deltaville, Virginia about a month ago to visit with Durwood Canham, K7JWI (formerly W9LCH). Durwood and his XYL Mary were visiting Mary's daughter Kate at Kate's vacation retreat along the west bank of Chesapeake Bay. We had a great visit and many happy memories were shared. I brought along current KARS newsletters and other pics from the ARISS pass. Talked about many of the still current members of the club including Don, K9NR, Jim N9FO, and Willie K9FO. Also talked formers including W9CVW and daughter WN9KNF, W9NKR, W9VQC and W9IBU. Hope you all have a very Merry and Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

73, Maury, W4HYB (formerly W9QAY)



Former KARS presidents W4HYB Maury and K7JWI Durwood



A surprise visitor showed up at the December meeting. Elmira Smith, daughter of SK W9CVW Ed Smith, overheard that KARS was meeting at the hospital. KARS Field Day was held on "Smith Hill" from the 1950's through the 1990's.



KARS president WD9AYI gets the attention of the crowd when he announces the commencement of the prize drawing



***KARS
BANQUET
PICTURES***

