



KARS KEY CLICKS



JOURNAL OF THE KANKAKEE AREA RADIO SOCIETY

Volume 85 Issue 7

Editors: K9NR, K9QT
Photos: N9RJM, N9FD, K9NR
Contributors: WD9AYI, N9OE

July 2010

JULY MEETING : Echolink, Hamfest, Emergencies

The next KARS meeting will be Tuesday, July 6th, 7PM at St. Mary's Hospital. After a short business meeting, there will be a program featuring Echolink. Come and find out how to access this fascinating aspect of computer assisted amateur radio communications. There will also be a short presentation by K9BYT containing essential reporting criteria for emergency situations.

KARSFEST 2010!

Final plans for KARSFEST 2010 will be worked out at the July meeting. This is the biggest KARS event of the year and the largest fund raising function.

The proceeds from the hamfest pay the lions share of the clubs yearly expenses. We simply could not afford the repeaters and many activities without this most important event.

Consequently, it is imperative that all KARS members help out in putting on this "Best in the Midwest" show!

Please bear in mind that without a successful hamfest, it would be necessary to raise membership dues substantially!

We need help Saturday evening setting up the tables. On Sunday, we need LOTS of help. Try to arrive by 5:45AM. If you absolutely cannot show up until later, we still need your help. See you at the July meeting and at KARSFEST 2010!

NCS FOR JULY

July 5 KC9FAV
July 12 N9LYE
July 19 WD9FYF
July 26 N9FD

The net meets every Monday at 2100 hours local time. *Don't forget the net!*



Field Day!
The new KARS EMCOMM trailer at Field Day 2010

KARS KALENDAR

July 6.....KARS General Meeting
July 10-11...IARU HF World Championship
July 11.....Fox River Hamfest
July 17-18.....CQWW VHF Contest
July 17-18.....NA QSO PARTY RTTY
July 18.....**KARSFEST!**
July 20.....KARS Board Meeting
August 3.....KARS General Meeting
August 7-8.....NA QSO PARTY CW
August 8.....Hamfesters Hamfest
August 15-16.....SARTG RTTY Contest
August 17.....KARS Board Meeting
August 21-22.....NA QSO PARTY SSB

The Kankakee Area Radio Society operates repeaters on:

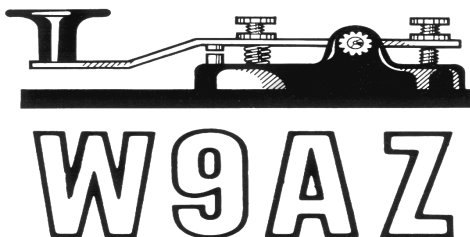
146.34/.94 107.2 PL Access
449.8/444.8 114.8 PL Access

Also, co-sponsors:

145.130 107.2 PL Access

Additionally, KARS sponsors:

144.39 2 Wide Area APRS digi-peaters
145.53 KARS DX Cluster



FIELD DAY 2010 WRAPUP

Yes it was kinda hot but the air conditioners all worked well in the campers and trailers. A pretty good storm blew in Sunday morning but Bob N9MBR still made breakfast pancakes and sausages over the charcoal and yes it was as good as usual. Will K9FO cooked the steaks Saturday night to perfection and everyone ate their fill.

Perhaps the most anticipated happening at Field Day this year was the new KARS EMCOMM trailer. It was an unqualified success. The 80/20 meter HF station and the VHF/UHF station operated from there and there was plenty of room for more!

The 40 meter station operated out of Rollie's FB fifth wheel RV. Bob N9MBR and others operated 10 meters and other bands from his RV. The GOTA station was in Bill's camper using Craig's call N9FD!

Once again, we operated from Kevin N9REG's beautiful country setting...Thanks Kev! We made solar power bonus points and tried for a satellite contact.

Filed Day was heavily attended and much fun was had.

One of the nicest surprises to follow was the front page article in the Daily Journal on the KARS participation in ARRL Field Day! Congrats to everyone! Check out all the pics on page 3.

SKYWARN

Thanks to all who participated in the Skywarn nets during the recent tornados. If you haven't yet attended a severe weather seminar, be sure to make the next one. It's a good idea to know the difference between a wall cloud and a scud cloud!

*******KARSFEST JULY 18*******

KARS HOMEPAGE—WWW.W9AZ.COM—KARS HOMEPAGE

KARS ECHOLINK W9AZ-R

by Bill N9OE

The first stage of the KARS Echolink evolution is complete. Originally the system was put together by Jamie Fornea, KC9DEP (now living in Wisconsin) and sponsored by KARS. The system was originally hosted by Jim, K9BIG for a number of years. It has been running here (at N9OE's) since June of 2009.

Originally, the KARS Echolink system could only be found as KD9DEP-R. I have recently reworked the Echolink server with a fresh install of the operating system and the latest version of Echolink software. This was an opportunity to change the system over to W9AZ-R. Currently it is still setup as a remote link from my house in Custer Park. The KARS Echolink system is now W9AZ! Look for it in the list of repeaters in the EchoLink software.

Stage two will be completing the required interfacing from the Echolink server to connect directly with our repeater controller. This will use the COS feature and eliminate the need for VOX as it is needed in the remote setup we are using now. After the interfacing is complete the system will be installed at the tower site with the repeater. This should reduce the delays that are experienced now and may also make it easier to "break in" when you would like to use the system while it is in use.

To find out more about Echolink and download the free software visit:

<http://www.echolink.org/tour.htm>.

KARS BOARD MEETING

KARS monthly board meeting will be held in the banquet room of El Campesino Mexican restaurant on July 20th. All KARS members and spouses are welcome to attend.

Eat at 6:00. Meet at 7:00.

KARS EMCOMM TRAILER COMPLETED BY FIELD DAY

KARS owes a debt of gratitude to all those who put in such grueling work to complete the renovation of KARS emergency trailer before Field Day.

Spearheading the work on the trailer was take-charge guy Rollie N9RJM. Rollie actually did most of the work himself with help from Don KC9QPM, Bill N9OE, Francis KE9MG and Ken W9YNI. We hear that Ken is a master of finish carpentry.

The inside of the trailer had to be almost completely gutted, rebuilt and fitted with custom built operating positions and bunk beds. Of course those hungry hams retained the refrigerator and microwave for late night snack attacks.

The outside of the trailer still needs lettering with the KARS logo and wording to identify its intended purpose as an emergency communications unit. Anyone with artistic talents in that respect, your ideas are welcome.



Check out the interior of the newly renovated EMCOMM unit. More pictures on page 3

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

July 2	N9FD	July 6	KC9ELW
July 8	AF9H	July 10	K9SAT
July 10	WC9B	July 11	KC9DEP
July 17	KK9R	July 18	KE9MG
July 20	NV9X	July 23	N9OKX
July 24	KX9J	July 25	N9REG
July 25	KB9VR		

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

WEATHER SPOTTING ON A STORMY JUNE NIGHT

By John, WD9AY1

It is Sunday June 6, 2010, 6:00 AM. The sun is shining, birds are singing and the sky is a rich blue. It is the day after the night before. Last night, with little warning, a typical storm turned into a ferocious life threatening potential killer and ravaged the area. Multiple tornados were reported. A local radio station along with the NWS transmitter was knocked off the air. During all of the mayhem the KARS ARES group went to work. When the weather turns sour KARS members (and non members) are suddenly hard at work. Faceless voices on the repeater with only call signs for names. Some braving the weather in their vehicles to provide up to the second weather observations. Others, minding their equipment at their homes, struggling to maintain electrical power to their radio equipment and hoping that the next lightning strike is just far enough away to not affect their station. At the same time a constant flow of information was being fed to the NWS. When the Sheriffs Police could not be contacted an alternate phone number was magically provided to the NWS. Tornado sightings, damage reports, flooding and a check of the status of the NWS transmitter were just a portion of the information provided

It is a beautiful day today, as it usually is right after a storm. Most people are thinking about Sunday Mass and the inevitable yard work needed after Mother Nature throws a tantrum. KARS / ARES members and many other local Hams are checking their equipment. Making sure their antennas, radios and power sources are in good working condition...just in case. Thanks KARS! Even though few people know it, it is great to know you are here!!!

KARSFEST JULY 18TH

WILL COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS

KARS HOMEPAGE— WWW.W9AZ.COM —KARS HOMEPAGE

KARS FIELD DAY 2010



Rollie N9RJM finally gets a day of rest after the completion of the EMCOMM trailer. Good Work Rollie!!



Francis KE9MG poses after a day of working on the EMCOMM trailer. Note: Francis is near his favorites...the kitchen and bunk beds.



K9NR, CW operator, sits among the multiple operating positions in the EMCOMM trailer.



Lots of room for operators and kibitzers inside the EMCOMM trailer at field day. (Bill N9OE, Don K9NR, Ken W9YNI & Greg WR9L)



Howard AK9F operates CW while Ken W9YNI observes. Rollie N9RJM in the background provided his 5th wheel camper



Will K9FO operates CW while John N9LYE mans the VHF/UHF stations in the new KARS EMCOMM trailer.



Judging by the smile on his face Will K9FO is having a great time working 20 meter CW



John N9LYE, Pete NI9H, Greg WR9L and John K9BYT relax after a satisfying steak dinner at field day.



Ken W9YNI, Will K9FO and Pete NI9H watch as Greg WR9L attempts a satellite contact. "Come on Greg, It's an antenna not a light saber."