



KARS KEY KLICKS



JOURNAL OF THE KANKAKEE AREA RADIO SOCIETY

Volume 90 Issue 5

Editors: K9NR, K9QT
Photos: K9NR
Contributors: K9CS

May 2015

“Why do antennas radiate” ...at the May meeting

The next [KARS meeting](#) will be May 5th, 7PM at St. Mary’s Hospital. The best access is the main South entrance across from St. Rose Church.

After a brief business meeting, there will be a video program on antennas. Not just a lot of math and theory, this is a great presentation of how and why antennas radiate with practical, physical demonstrations. If you have always wondered why antennas are designed the way they are, then this program is for you!



Ed W9EJM & Rollie N9RJM conducting the severe weather seminar at the KARS April meeting

KARS MEMBERS TO OPERATE INQP

Once again KARS will be represented in the [Indiana QSO Party](#) as K9NR, K9CS and WR9L head down to Perry County, Indiana for the contest on May 2nd from 11AM to 11PM CDST. They will be operating from Howard AK9F’s farm near the Ohio River. Look for them on 10, 15, 20, 40 & 80 meters CW/SSB (mostly 20, 40 & 80. They will be using KARS call sign “W9AZ.” Be sure to give them a call and carry on the tradition Howard AK9F started.

FCC PROPOSES NEW VLF AMATEUR BANDS

source: ARRL

Amateur Radio is poised to gain access to two new bands! The FCC has allocated a new LF band, 135.7 to 137.8 kHz, to the Amateur Service on a secondary basis. Allocation of the 2.1 kHz segment, known as 2200 meters, was in accordance with the Final Acts of the 2007 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-07). The Commission also has proposed a new secondary 630 meter MF allocation at 472 to 479 kHz to Amateur Radio.

Also, the 1.9 to 2.0MHz part of the 160 band has been raised from secondary to primary amateur use. Good news for the Amateur Radio Service!

KARS KALENDAR

- May 1.....BBCHS Balloon Launch
- May 2-3.....[Indiana QSO Party](#)
- May 3.....[Sandwich Hamfest](#)
- May 5.....[KARS General Meeting](#)
- May 9.....[KARS FOXHUNT](#)
- May 15-17.....[Dayton Hamvention!](#)
- May 19.....[KARS Board Meeting](#)
- May 30-31.....[CQWW WPX CW Contest](#)
- June 2.....[KARS General Meeting](#)
- June 7.....[Starved Rock RC Hamfest](#)
- June 13-15.....[ARRL June VHF Contest](#)
- June 16.....[KARS Board Meeting](#)
- June 21.....[6 Meter Club Hamfest](#)
- June 27-28.....[FIELD DAY](#)

TRANSMITTER HUNT SEASON OPENER

The first KARS [transmitter \(Fox\) hunt](#) of 2015 is scheduled for Saturday, May 9th. The hunt begins at 11AM. All hunters must start from the usual place in the eastern parking lot of the Meadowview Shopping Center.

Anyone may participate, hunters do not need to be a KARS club member. After the hunt, we will retire to a local eatery to discuss how we could have won but felt sorry for others, etc.

These hunts are a lot of fun. Where else can you mix an outing on a beautiful spring day with amateur radio? Field Day?

The Kankakee Area Radio Society operates repeaters on:

- 146.34/.94 107.2 PL Access
- 449.8/444.8 100.0 PL Access
- 145.130 107.2 PL Access

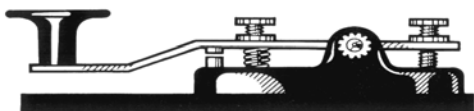
Additionally, KARS sponsors:

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- May 5 KC9JQX
- May 6 KC9HHT
- May 8 K9FO
- May 9 W9LEO
- May 13 KC9KBR
- May 17 KC9MZL
- May 19 K1VLW

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



W9AZ

NCS FOR MAY

[The net](#) meets every Monday at 2000 hours local time. All stations with or without traffic are invited to check in.

- May 4 N9LYE
- May 11 N9RJM
- May 18 W9EJM
- May 25 N9FD

Don’t forget the net!

SEE YOU AT THE DAYTON HAMVENTION!

WWW.W9AZ.COM—WWW.W9AZ.COM—WWW.W9AZ.COM

NEW NET TIME

Be advised! By popular request, the Monday night net has been moved from 9PM local to 8PM local

BEST DX BULLETINS

If you enjoy DXing (and who doesn't), you may wonder where other hams get the most up to date info on DX operations and expeditions. There are a number of excellent sources of information on the subject.

Both QST and CQ Magazines feature DX columns with operation info. However, if you want the most up to date information check out:

<http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/en/>
<http://hamnet.org/mailman/listinfo/opdx>
<http://www.425dxn.org/>
<http://www.dxsummit.fi/#/>
<http://www.dxcoffee.com/eng/>

These sites are all free and some will send you regular bulletins.

Perhaps the most authoritative site is the DailyDX by Bernie McClenney. It is a paid subscription service and well worth it.

<http://www.dailydx.com/trial.html>

There are many others and we will post them in the coming months.

According to the Dayton Hamvention web page, the 2014 attendance was: 24,873 Up slightly from 2013

EXAM SESSION RESULTS

by Carl K9CS

On April 15 the Iroquois County Amateur Radio Club conducted a testing session in Watseka.

Four applicants took a total of 7 exams. Chad Keil from Paxton, IL earned a General class license. New Technician licensees are Jared Maxheimer of Mt Pulaski and Eric Ceci of Beaverville. Eric is the Iroquois County ESDA Coordinator.

The next planned testing session is July 19 at [KARSFEST](#).



Greetings from Visalia!
Jerry WB9Z (right) at the annual International DX Convention in Visalia, CA

W9DXCC—EARLY NOTICE

Again, this year the W9DXCC DX convention (one of the best in the nation) will be held at the Hyatt Regency in Schaumburg.

Excellent programs, QSL card checking, prizes, exhibits and the new and very popular DX Class. Also, don't forget the fun of hobnobbing with your fellow DXers, and the Banquet!

The dates for 2015 are September 11-12. You can register online and get the full lowdown at the W9DXCC homepage:

www.w9dxcc.com

Several KARS members usually attend and don't forget the Friday night outing with the Society of Midwest Contesters gang!

TWO RIVERS CENTURY BIKE RIDE

The Kankakee River Bike Club is again sponsoring the "Two Rivers Century Ride on Sunday August 2nd. Complete info can be found at:

www.tworiverscentury.com

This is a fun event where KARS provides communications between the Start/Finish, Checkpoints and SAG wagons. A really great way to spend a beautiful day helping out cyclists from all over Illinois, Indiana & Wisconsin.

We'll be looking for volunteers. You can be there all day or just when you're available. Hope to see you there!

FIELD DAY

Hard to believe, but [Field Day](#) is rapidly approaching. The June meeting program will feature FD planning. It is, of course, the largest operating event in amateur radio.

KARS activities will again be at Kevin N9REG's QTH (thanks again Kev!) on Rt.115 a few miles west of town (map in next month's newsletter).

Again this year, there will be burgers and Brats on the grill for KARS members who help with the operations and setup or teardown.

Field Day runs continuously from Saturday June 27th till Sunday June 28th. You can come and go as you please or camp out. See you there!

BOARD MEETING

We are meeting on May 19th in the private dining room at [El Mexicano's Restaurant](#) by the Hilton Hotel and Walmart south of town near I-57 Exit 308. 6PM to eat. 7PM to meet. All members spouses and guests are welcome.

ESTATE LIST OF TOM DUNN W9TJD

Rohn 25 tower sections	\$30/sc
Rohn 45 tower sections	\$75/sc
American tower sections	\$25/sc
RS 2028 Pro Scanner	\$50
RS 1.3GHz Scanner	\$75
Yaesu FT-847 HF xcvr	\$600
Yaesu MD100 Mic	\$50
Yaesu SP-5 Speaker	\$75
Yaesu FT20 Auto Tuner	\$75
Yaesu 31B8 Mic	\$25
Yaesu Dynamic Mic	\$30
Icom IC-2100 2 Meter xcvr	\$100
Microcraft RTTY reader	\$15
Low pass filter	\$30
Heathkit 5 pos. coax switch	\$25
MFJ 2 pos. coax switch (2)	\$5/ea.
MFJ Morse code reader	\$25
10 meter J-Pole antenna	\$30
Cushcraft 10-40 Vertical	\$75

Contact:

Mrs. Barbara Dunn 815-932-0257

It's only about 12 days till Dayton!

KARS HOMEPAGE— WWW.W9AZ.COM —KARS HOMEPAGE

April 11th High Altitude Balloon Launch



It takes nearly 2 large cylinders of expensive helium to fill the envelope



Lots of prep work

Away she goes

Trackers at the landing site southeast of Rensselaer, Indiana



Back on the ground

A broken camera mount

One of the payload containers

BBCHS BALLOON LAUNCH

As we go to press, Jim K9BIG, will be directing the launch of a high altitude balloon from the BBCHS campus on May 1st, 10AM. The mission will include amateur APRS for tracking, hi resolution cameras and other scientific experiments designed and built by the students. Analogous to the ISS contact of several years ago. Like other launches, it should ascend to the very edge of space and photograph black skies and the curvature of the earth in high resolution. All hams are invited to attend. Don't miss out on the fun!