



KARS KEY KLICKS



JOURNAL OF THE KANKAKEE AREA RADIO SOCIETY

Volume 81 Issue 10

Editors: K9QT, K9NR, Photos: K9QT
Contributors: KC9FAV, K9BYT, K9FO, AK9F

October 2006

OCTOBER SWAPMEET & AUCTION

NEW AUCTION FORMAT

(K9FO, club auctioneer extraordinaire has unveiled a new format for the annual club auction.)

This year instead of only an auction of more or less low end parts and junk, we will have a White Elephant Sale and Auction combined.

The Sale will start the moment the doors open until meeting time and continue for 15 minutes after the business meeting. This means you can bring your GOOD STUFF AND GET YOUR PRICE FOR IT! We will then have an auction of a few selected items or lots that remain unsold.

We hope this revised format will encourage you to bring lots of GOOD THINGS that are surplus in your shack, and retain the fun of the auction.

73, Will K9FO

We will be in our normal meeting room at St. Mary's for the October Meeting. Park and enter the south main entrance on Merchant Street.

KARS BOARD MEETING

The KARS September board meeting will be held in the banquet room of El Campesino Mexican restaurant on October 17th. All KARS members and spouses are welcome to attend.

Eat at 6:00. Meet at 7:00

NCS FOR OCTOBER

Net control stations-Monday night net

Oct 2	KC9FAV
Oct 9	K9BYT
Oct 16	K9NR
Oct 23	KE9MG
Oct 30	WD9AYI

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



John K9BYT goes over the role of the amateur radio operator during a HAZMAT emergency at the September KARS meeting.

KARS KALENDAR

Oct 3rd.....	KARS General Meeting
Oct 17th.....	KARS Board Meeting
Oct 22-23.....	Illinois QSO Party
Oct 28-29.....	CQWW SSB DX Contest
Nov 4-6.....	ARRL CW Sweepstakes
Nov 18-20.....	ARRL SSB Sweepstakes
Nov 25-26.....	CQWW CW DX Contest

The Kankakee Area Radio Society operates repeaters on:

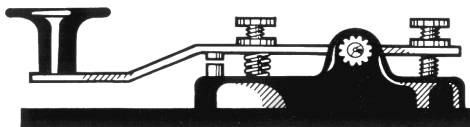
146.34/.94	107.2 PL Access
449.8/444.8	114.8 PL Access

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

EMERGENCY DRILL OCTOBER 21

Your participation is needed at a county wide emergency drill on Saturday October 21st. Think "KATRINA" when you come up with some excuse not to participate. The scenario will be a tornado outbreak. We will be using the radio skills which we are trained to do. The county wants to see just how prepared we are to handle communications in an emergency. What if the repeater suddenly went dead. Do YOU know what to do? John K9BYT will be explaining specifics of our role in the drill at the October meeting.

NOMINATIONS AT NOVEMBER MEETING

It's not too early to start thinking about officers and board members for 2007. The elections are at the December meeting and the nominations at the November meeting. If you would like to throw your hat into the ring, don't miss the November meeting.

CHANGE OF LOCATION FOR NOVEMBER MEETING

Due to the election in November, our normal meeting room will serve as a polling place and will not be available. Howard AK9F has secured a room for that meeting. The room is: Delaplace A & B, in the Human Resources Dept. We will need to park on the WEST side of the building, near the Alpiner Park ball diamond, then walk toward the hospital, and to the "Lower Level West Entrance", which is under the Emergency Room driveway ramp. Detailed directions will be in the November newsletter.

DON'T MISS THE ANNUAL KARS AUCTION!!!

KARS HOMEPAGE— WWW.W9AZ.COM —KARS HOMEPAGE

FEMA TRAINING FOR HAMS

With the five year anniversary of the September 11 tragedy, and with the 1 year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, we are reminded that the actions taken immediately after a major disaster are critical to the final outcome of the recovery operation. The armor of Federal Emergency Management Agency has been tarnished for it's lack of leadership. Some of that criticism is rightly placed, but a critical gap existed in planning at a local and state level which caused the transition from preparation to evacuation to rescue and relief to fail miserably.

Training has long been offered by FEMA to help Emergency Managers prepare for impending disasters. Course ware is available via the Internet to allow users to learn basic terms and functionality of Emergency Management Agencies during an incident. A very basic introduction course is required by most Emergency Management Agencies for all volunteers and is highly recommended by the ARRL for ARES members. Known as NIMS, the National Incident Management System provides a framework on which agencies from the local community to the national level can build their response plans. The major advantage to this approach is that volunteers from any organization can travel to a community in need and know precisely where they would fit into the chain of command at the incident location.

The basic purpose of NIMS to be generic enough to be applicable to the full range of possible hazardous scenarios while improving understanding and cooperation between the different civil and private groups responding to an incident.

Some of the features that make NIMS successful are:

Common terminology to define incident facilities

Use of established common position titles in place of names

"Span Control" meaning each supervisor is directly responsible for no more than seven personnel

Resource identification and typing;
Planning

Accountability

NIMS is one of over fifty courses available through the FEMA Independent Study website.

<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/crslst.asp>

Certificates are mailed by FEMA after completion of each on-line course.

Certificates can count towards Continuing Education requirements and even college credit.

John - K9BYT

CW RETENTION 101

One would expect someone who is into code, like me to be pretty much full time using CW a lot, working contests and FISTS sprints and all sorts of contests.

Well quite the contrary. I haven't put Ham radio on the back burner by any means but there have been some things going on in my life lately that have needed attention and I have not had the opportunity to get on the air like I really would have liked to. It has actually been about a month since I have had a long string of QSO's.

After that period of time I thought that I would have forgotten quite a bit. However, I found that because I did take the time to learn the code correctly that it has a lasting impression and after a bit of time passes even though it takes a few minutes or so for me to "get back into the swing of it", I have been able to retain all of the characters and I am pretty close to the speed that I was before, which was about 18 - 20 WPM.

When I learned CW, I had taken my time to learn each letter and number by learning it's unique sound (Dash Dot sequence). I had also learned each at a 20 WPM send speed with a 5 WPM spacing. There was enough time in the 5 WPM spacing to recognize each letter while getting used to the 20 WPM send speed. All that was required was to recognize the letters "faster". I did not have a plateau at 10 WPM like a lot of hams claim to have. I think the plateau comes from learning the code with those alternate methods. The ones like Code Quick, and learning by picturing each character, then trying to decide which letter goes with the picture.

Even the word phrases do the same thing and I think they are more damaging to the user because it is really hard to get those phrases out of our minds. I know this for a fact because when I was searching for a good method for learning the code, I stumbled upon one of these programs and it gave ONE example, I cannot for the life of me get that one letter example out of my mind!!! I am at a point to where I have put it behind me but I don't think I will ever get rid of it totally.

I would like to just make the statement that "If a person would take the time to learn Morse Code the correct way, (Or anything for that matter) no matter how much time passes between on the air contacts, or time spent away from their skill, they would not have much trouble regaining what was learned." Time spent doing something right makes it more enjoyable in the long run.

Brian - KC9FAV

EXTRA CLASS LICENSE CLASS

The Hamfesters club and the Tritown club are jointly sponsoring an EXTRA CLASS LICENSE class located in Hazel Crest, Ill. at the Tritown Bunker (W9VT).

The class starts on September 27th (Wed) and runs for 8 weeks. Instructors are Brian, W9HLQ and Neil, WA9FTU. Tuition is \$10 plus cost of books. For more information check the Hamfester web site or call Brian at 708 532 5833.

Will - K9FO

HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAY

Oct 7	K9KOC	Oct 13	WR9L
Oct 14	N9YNZ	Oct 15	K9IOC
Oct 16	KB9NYW	Oct 24	KB9ZQU
Oct 26	K9NR	Oct 26	WB9CDE
Oct 27	N5HSR	Oct 27	AI4JA

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



W9AZ logo on new tan KARS shirt



NEW KARS SHIRTS & HATS

Will K9FO sports the new tan KARS hat with his old blue KARS shirt, while Chip K9IOC wearing the new tan KARS shirt seems to be wondering how Will managed to swipe his new hat. If you want to order a new shirt or hat contact Chip or come to the October meeting.