



# KARS KEY KLICKS



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October 2007

## ANNUAL AUCTION AT OCTOBER MEETING!

The next KARS general meeting will be at 7PM on Tuesday, October 2nd at the public meeting room at St. Mary's Hospital. After the usual business meeting, master auctioneer Will K9FO assumes command of the gavel as he auctions off all the many fine treasures brought in by KARS members.

**BY THE WAY!** Make sure you have carefully combed through your garage, attic, basement and shack for anything you would like to sell at the auction.

As usual, ten percent goes to the club treasury. Anything that might be remotely of interest to a ham is welcome. Generally, no one shows up with \$1,000 or more in their pockets so you probably won't want to sell your new HF rig here. Also, we draw the line at baby clothes and old Fords.

Don't miss this always popular meeting!

### EMERGENCY DRILL

Please save the date! October 20, 2007 is the date for the next county-wide emergency drill. Typically, these exercises begin around 8:00 AM and are over by Noon. This years exercise will take place at Kankakee Community College. Details of the exercise are being withheld for purposes of training.

We need as many volunteers as we can get to operate at positions in the hospitals, at the triage site, the EOC and at the scene. For those of you who can't participate, we would appreciate a short check-in to the net for purposes of a head-count. This will allow us to demonstrate the number of operators who would undoubtedly provide support during an actual event.

Thank you!  
John - K9BYT



**Greg WR9L, John WD9AYI and Don K9NR admire a new backup board for the club repeater**

### KARS KALENDAR

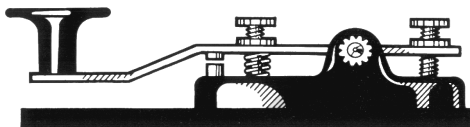
- Oct 2.....KARS General Meeting and AUCTION
- Oct 16.....KARS Board Meeting
- Oct 20... Emergency County-wide Drill
- Oct 21-22.....Illinois QSO Party
- Oct 27-28.....CQWW SSB DX contest
- Nov 6.....KARS General Meeting
- Nov 20.....KARS Board Meeting

*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**



# W9AZ

### WEATHER ALERTS TO BE MORE FOCUSED

Submitted by **Howard AK9F**

The National Weather Service is re-vamping the way it has issued severe weather warnings for decades with a new system designed to mark a geographic bull's eye where a storm could hit.

According to a recent Weather Bureau release, the system, which went into effect October 1, switches from alerts based on county lines to notices aimed at specific communities.

Using radars and computer modeling programs, the system is meant to predict the moment a storm would hit a community or even a certain cross-roads.

Known as storm-based warnings, the new alerts could reduce a warning area from thousands of square miles to a few hundred square miles, according to weather experts.

Officials say the system also will make it easier to send weather warnings through cell phones and other communications systems, such as ham radio Skywarn units right in the targeted warning area.

Weather Bureau officials say the system is already being used in some weather service warnings which name a county being placed under alert and then specify a certain area that's particularly at risk.

AP

### KARS BOARD MEETING

The KARS October board meeting will be held in the banquet room of El Campesino Mexican restaurant on October 16. All KARS members and spouses are welcome to attend.

Eat at 6:00. Meet at 7:00

## Don't forget the Auction!!!

**KARS HOMEPAGE— WWW.W9AZ.COM —KARS HOMEPAGE**

**THE SQUEEZE KEY**

What is squeeze keying and why should I use it? Well that is a good question and one that has multiple answers.

First of all squeeze keying is mostly used with iambic paddles in the iambic mode. This sounds redundant but really it isn't.

Let me explain...**iambic paddles** are a set of two paddles in a vertical orientation usually side by side with only a few millimeters between each paddle and is keyed by pressing each paddle with your thumb or first finger together depending whether you are right handed or left handed.

In the **iambic mode**, if you press both keys at the same time you get the alternating sounds of the dot and dash: "Dit - Dah - Dit - Dah - Dit - Dah"...until you release the paddles. There are also iambic "A" and iambic "B" modes. One of the modes allows you to end a character without the extra Dot or Dash and the other mode will allow the extra tone to follow if you happen to hold down one of the paddles too long.

I feel that the nice part about iambic Keying is that you can make your characters without having to press the paddles individually for every combination of the dot - dash used in Morse Code. This creates what some refer to as "Slap Keying" where you sort of slap the key around your desk top for every letter, number or pro-sign you do (*Besides, the key doesn't take too kindly to it and this hurts the key's feelings and it won't want to work for you anymore*).

**Squeeze Keying** is a rather simple process. Let's take a few letters that have combinations of alternating dot-dash tones. If we take the letter "C" for instance we have " \_ . \_ . " -or- dah dit dah dit. You could alternate pressing each side of the paddle for each tone of the letter which gives you 4 strokes or you could hold down the "Dash" side of your paddles and interrupt the Dah side with a press of the opposite paddle to insert the "Dit" in the correct places. You end up pressing the key three times for a four stroke letter! Lets take some other letters and check the keystrokes you need...

Regular Keying	Squeeze Keying
B - 4	B - 2
D - 3	D - 2
F - 4	F - 3
G - 3	G - 2
H - 4	H - 1
P - 4	P - 3
Q - 4	Q - 2
X - 4	X - 3



I am not going to publish the whole list of what you can do with your key because by now you should catch on to what I am saying. You can see where in most cases you can almost cut the workload in half by using Squeeze Keying. Considering that the most tones a letter can have is four and then cutting that down by one or two strokes simplifies it a good bit!

All numbers require five tones and by using Squeeze Keying, the numbers now need only two strokes. This saves time when you send a signal report or numbers needed for contesting purposes. I also realize that the whole concept might not really save a whole lot of time and work, but the reality of it is that over the length of a conversation, it can save you from having to work hard making each letter tone for tone.

Using Squeeze Keying is definitely a personal preference. I never really tried to learn how to squeeze key but rather learned it by accident. I noticed that as I was working to get my speed up squeeze keying just sort of happened.

As I mentioned in some of my earlier articles, I belong to some Yahoo groups and I have been reading about the debate as to the benefits of using squeeze keying or not using it. Some try to count each stroke as any movement you make with your fingers, be it a press or release it is still a movement and should be counted as a stroke. I guess that is fair enough but I am not trying to bring up a debate on whether it is proper to use it or not, this is just an idea that I wanted to throw out there for consideration.

I would ask that you would at least entertain the thought of trying Squeeze Keying as a means to better yourself as a CW operator. You never know...you might like the idea and it may change the way you think and feel about CW.

Brian - KC9FAV



**Clay N9IO and Greg WR9L at the September board meeting**

**SAGA OF THE SIPPY CUP**

At the August Board meeting Greg WR9L managed to spill his margarita, and endured merciless teasing by everyone in attendance. Determined not to let him off that easily, the club presented him with his very own personalized sippy cup to prevent further accidents.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

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

K9KOC	10/07
WR9L	10/13
N9YNZ	10/14
K9IOC	10/15
KB9NYW	10/16
KE9YO	10/19
KB9ZQU	10/24
K9NR	10/26
WB9CDE	10/26
N5HSR	10/27

**NCS FOR OCTOBER**

Oct 1	KC9FAV
Oct 8	K9BYT
Oct 15	WD9AYI
Oct 22	KE9MG
Oct 29	K9NR

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

**Did you send in a couple of paragraphs for the newsletter? If not, why not? Our club journal is as good as we all make it!**

**KARS PICNIC PHOTOS ON PAGE 3**

For those of you receiving this newsletter online be sure to see page 3 for pictures from KARS picnic/pool party.



Will K9FO takes an indoor break to sneak some snacks from the buffet table.



The KARS gang relaxes beneath the ample overhead shade at the August pool party/picnic meeting held at Greg WR9L's house



Bob N9TJC, Will K9FO and Bil-lie K9QT pose for a picture while the steaks cook.



Francis KE9MG checks his steak on the grill, while Will K9FO hurries to get a seat and taste his sumptuous steak.



It was starting to get dark before the KARS group settled down enough to hold a very "brief" business meeting.



Don K9NR and Sue, Howard's XYL appear to be enjoying the food. While John K9BYT's son is swimming in the back-ground.



Greg at the pool in his backyard. The décor of the place is so tropical that one has the impression of being at an island resort



Miss Kitty, Greg's cat, served as club mascot for the event. Looks like Kitty is an old hand at begging for scraps from the grill.



Howard AK9F gathering "evidence" with his camera for later "use." Extortion is such an ugly word!