



# KARS KEY KLICKS



JOURNAL OF THE KANKAKEE AREA RADIO SOCIETY

Volume 82 Issue 9

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

September 2007

## "SAFETY FIRST" TOPIC OF SEPTEMBER MEETING

The KARS September meeting will be on Tuesday Sept 4th, 7:00 PM at St. Mary's Hospital.

The program will "Safety" for amateur radio operators. There will be a video presentation along with discussion and advice from experienced members on issues of antenna and tower work, grounding and safety around high voltage.

This should be a must attend for all who wish to pursue a long and healthy ham radio career!

### PREPARE FOR OCTOBER AUCTION NOW!

The KARS October auction is one of our most popular regular programs. It's success depends on everyone bringing lots of great stuff to sell.

Now is the time to win favor with the XYL by going through all the radio and electronic goodies you have stashed in the garage, the basement and under the bathroom sink and bringing them to the annual KARS October Auction!

Master KARS Auctioneer Will K9FO will bang his gavel and sell lots of very FB junkie! Start preparing now!

### IT'S CONTEST TIME!

As summer fades into autumn, propagation improves and we move into what is regarded as "contest season." Many of the big events are in the fall. Now is the time to fix that balky rotator or find out why your 40 meter antenna has shifted in frequency.

Work out those nagging bugs and have a fun and successful contest season!

### NCS FOR SEPTEMBER

Sept. 3 KC9FAV  
Sept 10 WD9AYI  
Sept 17 K9BYT  
Sept 24 KE9MG

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



Bob N9TJC appears to be catching a nap at the August KARS meeting/pool party. More pictures next month.

### KARS KALENDAR

- Sept 4.....KARS General Meeting
- Sept 8-10.....ARRL VHF QSO Party
- Sept 14-15.....W9DXCC Convention
- Sept 15-16.....Peoria Hamfest
- Sept 18.....KARS Board Meeting
- Sept 29-30.....Radio Expo Hamfest
- Sept 29-30.....CQWW DX RTTY Contest
- Oct 2.....KARS General Meeting
- Oct 16.....KARS Board Meeting
- Oct 20.....County-wide Emergency Drill
- Oct 21-22.....Illinois QSO Party
- Oct 27-28.....CQWW DX SSB Contest

*The Kankakee Area Radio Society operates repeaters on:*

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

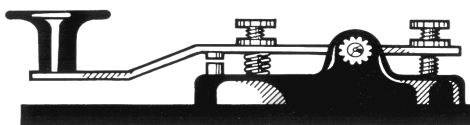
*Also, co-sponsors:*

145.130      107.2 PL Access

*Additionally, KARS sponsors:*

144.39      Wide Area APRS digi-peater

145.53      KARS DX Cluster



# W9AZ

### EMERGENCY DRILL

A county-wide emergency drill will be held on October 20th. It's never too early to clear your calendar for that date. Operators will be needed at various locations. We did a great job at the drill last year. Let's see how many volunteers we can get to show up this year. Remember we can all use the experience in the event of a true emergency.

John K9BYT will have an article in the next newsletter and will further enlighten us on the details of the drill at the October meeting.



John K9BYT the sly FOX

### FOXHUNT NEWS

On August 28th, John K9BYT proved to be a most resourceful fox for the pursuing hunters. He found a spot on a remote newly paved road in a future subdivision located just off 6000 N. Rd. Not only was the location not on any map, but there was also a concrete building to provide perfect cover from the main road. Don K9NR was the winning hunter. Also finding the fox were Clay N9IO and the trio of Billie K9QT, Paul W9IEY and Terry. A trip to Chicago Dough followed the hunt. More pictures next month!

## It's only eight months till Hamvention!

# KARS HOMEPAGE— WWW.W9AZ.COM —KARS HOMEPAGE

## SO I WAS WRONG.....

By KC9FAV

It would appear that I was wrong - that's right I said it "**I am wrong**..." Usually when I am wrong I say it and move along carefully. In this case I really must admit that I am proud to be wrong.

### What am I talking about?

Well **CW** of course! **-Morse Code-** A while back I remember having the feeling that Morse Code was doomed for good when it was removed from the exam list. I was so afraid that if we weren't required to learn code, no one would ever learn it and it would never be used again. As it turns out a whole lot of Hams actually **WANT** to learn it. Can you believe that?

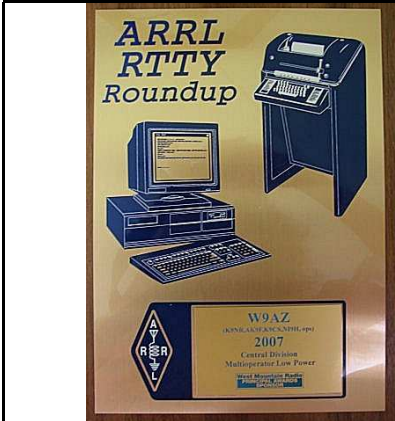
What brought on such a sudden change? I would guess that it comes from the view point that "You can't **MAKE** me do it, if you are going to force me to do it, I am going to fight you all the way and **NOT** learn it." That somewhat rebellious spirit that is always swimming against the stream seems to rear it's head.

So now the pressure to learn Morse Code has been taken away. There are no "deadlines" to have to know it by test day and no more stress and frustration. People can learn it on their own time at their own pace and seem to use this as a motivation. I suspect that those who already knew code are now coming out without the fear of being judged or ridiculed for not making the right letter or using the correct prosign. Code is now done in a more relaxed environment and used as a way to communicate.

Even though I was originally against removing the code from our testing requirements, I can now see that this move has made Morse Code more popular than ever! More Hams are trying it and enjoying it. This is how it was meant to be.

I was listening to 40 meters the other night and I was searching for a place to send out a friendly "CQ" but there were so many operators out there I didn't have much choice for my favorite band position. This is really a good thing.

More and more Hams are enjoying **CW** and I am happy about that. What seemed like a bad time for Morse Code, looks as though as it was just a dark cloud with a silver lining. So in closing I was wrong and I am proud of it! I don't mind admitting that. **CW** looks as though it is here to stay!  
Brian - KC9FAV



## W9AZ wins RTTY plaque!

## KARS WINS RTTY CONTEST

Yet another honor for KARS! The enthusiasm of Howard AK9F for the mode of RTTY was the impetus for the group effort held at the hamshack of Don K9NR. Participating in the contest besides Don and Howard were Pete NI9H and Carl K9CS. Howard decided it would be fun to do like old times and enter with the KARS club call W9AZ.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

9/11 W9TRF  
9/15 K9BIG  
9/15 W4HYB  
9/18 VELDA  
9/22 WA9SAR  
9/30 WB9Z

Missed August Birthday:

8/12 K9JMS

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

## KARS BOARD MEETING

The KARS September board meeting will be held in the banquet room of El Campesino Mexican restaurant on September 18th. All KARS members and spouses are welcome to attend.

Eat at 6:00. Meet at 7:00

## KARS HISTORY BYTES

By Bill W9VQC

With the advent of earth satellites by Russia, local hams were again in the news with Bill Williams W9VQC making the front page of the Journal. A few days later, other hams made the news with Durwood Canham W9LCH, Gerald Kray K9DFC, Bill Williams W9VQC and Will Bowser K9IFO reporting that they had heard the Russian satellite on a frequency of 20.005 megacycles.

Later in 1957 the Russians had sent a dog into space and Ed Drolet W9IBU and his beagle "Rufus" were caught by the eye of the Journal camera trying to contact the "Doggone Red Space Hound."

A "Mortgage burning party" held by the Joliet Amateur Radio Society, Inc. was attended by KARS members on December 14, 1958. Prizes were given and everyone present won a prize as there was a bad snow storm in progress and attendance was less than expected!

W9VQC was installed as KARS President at the January 1959 meeting. An activities manager was appointed with Merv Reed K9CZA filling the post. The January mailing list showed that there were 17 members.

A demonstration of modern aircraft radio communications and navigation aids were presented to the KARS membership at the February 1959 meeting by Del Koerner W9NKR.

A TVI committee was formed to work with the FCC in early 1959. The committee had the full support of the FCC and much was accomplished.

It was reported at the February 1959 meeting that six KARS members handled CW traffic for the Illinois Central Railroad during an ice and sleet storm. Those who later received public service awards from the ARRL included: K9CYZ, W9HKA, W9LCH, W9MSB, W9OVI and W9VQC.

## KARSFEST PICTURES ON PAGE 3

For those of you receiving this newsletter online be sure to see page 3 for pictures from KARS hamfest.



KARSFEST 2007

Paul W9IEY tries to convince Pete NI9H that he needs to buy more "stuff" from the KARS table



KARSFEST 2007

Wandering the flea market is a favorite activity at KARSFEST. "I wonder how much he will take for that?"



KARSFEST 2007

Dick W9GIG and Tom KA9QPN man the ARRL booth offering lots of free literature and information



KARSFEST 2007

Wheeling and dealing going on in the shade of one of the live-stock barns at the hamfest



KARSFEST 2007

The expressions on AK9F Howard, Greg WR9L, Francis KE9MG and Pete NI9H let us know that it was a great hamfest.



KARSFEST 2007

Charles N9SHB, accompanied by fellow ham KG9L, accepts \$300 first prize check from Francis KE9MG club treasurer



KARSFEST 2007

Lots of goodies await amateurs visiting the main air conditioned halls.



KARSFEST 2007

Orville N9TAJ visits the KARS table. In the background others wait to put their tickets in the prize drum



KARSFEST 2007

Wow! This is the antenna I've always wanted. And at such a low price, I could have bought two of them!