



KARS KEY KLICKS

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July 2007

KARS MEETING TO FINALIZE HAMFEST PLANS

The Next KARS General Meeting will be July 3rd, 7PM at the St. Mary's Hospital Public Meeting Room. Park and enter on the south side. Finalizing plans for KARSFEST as well as Field Day wrap-up will be just two of the topics for the July meeting.

KARSFEST 2007

Final plans for KARSFEST 2007 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, try to arrive by 5:45AM. If you absolutely cannot make till later, we can still use your help.

See you at the July meeting and at KARSFEST 2007!



N9IO Clay makes a point during his foxhunting presentation at the June KARS meeting

KARS KALENDAR

July 3.....KARS General Meeting
July 8.....Fox River Hamfest
July 14-15.....IARU HF World Championship
July 15.....KARSFEST
July 17.....KARS Board Meeting
July 21-22.....CQWW VHF Contest
August 4-5.....NA QSO PARTY CW
August 7.....KARS General Meeting
August 12.....Hamfesters Hamfest
August 18-19.....NA QSO PARTY SSB
August 19.....Lafayette Hamfest
August 21.....KARS Board Meeting
August 26.....Danville Hamfest

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

I GOT TO SEE THE SHUTTLE! I GOT TO SEE THE ISS!

"If I hadn't been listening to the KARS repeater I would have never known! Just wanted to say that, as everybody else was saying it on the repeater but I couldn't!"
Krister, N9ECM.....

Local hams, as well as Krister, who lives in Chicago, were treated to a double header after the board meeting on June 19th. The shuttle and International Space Station were a spectacular sight, flying in close formation, proceeding through the night sky from the northeast to the southwest until they flashed out as the earth's shadow obscured their view.

FIELD DAY

The main descriptive feature of Field Day 2007 was rain! Lots of it!

We had to set up all the antennas and the dining fly in the wet stuff. Propagation was...well, lets just say it could have been better. Regardless, a great time was had by all and our score was pretty good!

A full write-up to follow in next months newsletter

Many thanks to:

Kevin, N9REG for hosting Field Day again at his beautiful QTH

Bob, (it's a wonderful thing!) N9MBR for again chairing the FD committee

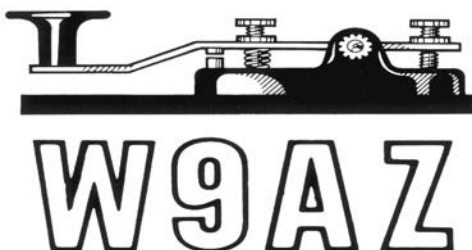
Will, K9FO for his superb culinary skills at the Weber kettle

NCS FOR JULY

July 2nd KC9FAV
July 9th K9BAC
July 16th KE9MG
July 23rd K9QT
July 30th WD9AYI

Don't forget the net!

Mondays at 2100 hrs. local time



EXAM SESSION

An exam session will be held in July. The date will be set at the July general meeting. Time and location will also be determined then.

If you or someone you know desires to take a test, contact any of the KARS or Iroquois VE's.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA !!! HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY !!!

KARS HOMEPAGE— WWW.W9AZ.COM —KARS HOMEPAGE

CW OPERATORS OF THE PAST: Are we at fault? Part 1

By KC9FAV

I started to write this article toward the end of December '06 but because of the discussions to discontinue Morse Code as a requirement for upgrading, I made the decision to wait until I could find a way to approach this subject judiciously. You see, this comes from a degree of personal experience as well as reading the threads from the CW Clubs and Yahoo Groups that I belong to. These include the FISTS Club and North American QRP Club and Yahoo Groups called brasspounders, Solid-CpyCW, SKCC and QRS-CW.

One of the biggest topics that I read, centers around copy speed. It usually starts out with how they send out CQ at a speed that they are able to copy, which for a new operator may only be around 5 - 7 WPM, then the operator on the other side starts out at that speed and then out of habit, speeds up to where "they" are comfortable. Or worse yet, answers the "CQ" at a speed the is too fast and difficult to copy. They are relentless and will not slow down for anything. They wonder why they even tried to answer them anyway and the conversation ends quite abruptly the new operator feels drained and frustrated, swearing never to use code again.

We all gather around this new operator and console them and even offer many more QSO's at his speed to help rebuild his confidence and even offer to work with them to build their speed to well above their comfort zone. In fact it has happened to me one occasion where I was sending out CQ at around 10 WPM and I got an answer around 18 WPM. I sent out "pse qrs pse qrs" and I got "ok sri" and then they never moved their speed, in fact they sped up to somewhere around 20 WPM. At that time it might as well have been 50 WPM because I couldn't have copied that either. I remember that I had a feeling like I was a failure because I couldn't copy it.

I realized that this wasn't really my problem though and that getting upset about it was not the answer. After a lot of work and QSO's I was able to get my speed up to a comfort level of around 18 - 20 WPM and on occasion been pushed to close to 25 WPM. This is because I truly love the art of CW and this mode of communication. I have a feeling that being a musician has a lot to do with my determination. Because I have experienced the very same feelings and frustrations it is my opinion that I think we may be to some degree at fault for tearing down this historical mode of operation. Whatever happened to the "Gentleman's

Agreement"? Aren't we supposed to be helping Ham Radio grow? Aren't we supposed to welcome the newer, less experienced operators into our inner circle of Ham Radio?

Are we the ones who are cutting our own numbers.?.....*

* to be continued next month

KARS BOARD MEETING

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

Eat at 6:00. Meet at 7:00

Location of the August board meeting to be announced at July meeting.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

July 6 KC9ELW

July 8 AF9H

July 11 KC9DEP

July 15 N9YNW

July 17 KK9R

July 18 KE9MG

July 20 NV9X

July 23 N9OKX

July 25 KB9VR, N9REG

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

HAMVENTION WRAPUP

The 2007 Dayton Hamvention was a great success and the wonderful weather sure didn't hurt!

A very large KARS contingent had a great time, ate too much food and bought some nice toys.

Check out the Dayton pictures on page 3. (If you are receiving the newsletter by snail mail, you can see the pictures on W9AZ.com)

FOXHUNTING IN CIRCLES

The June 13th foxhunt provided fun, frustration and much laughter for the team of K9QT Billie, W9IEY Paul and Terry. Although they did not find the elusive fox (N9IO Clay), the team had the time of their lives. Ask them about their drive down the dog trail. Signals were non existent at the beginning of the hunt. Later, after taking the attenuator out of line, weak signals were detected, though they were few and far between. The signals seemed to be coming from first one direction, then another. It was impossible to get a bearing. After 25 miles of driving in circles, the team called it quits blaming equipment failure. After testing first the radio sensitivity, then the throughput of the attenuator, it was determined that the failure was in the coax. An internal break in the coax, would make brief contact as the antenna was turned around during the hunt, thereby giving the illusion that the fox was in every conceivable direction.

Moral of the hunt: Always check your coax, especially when it hasn't seen any use in two years. It was a great learning experience and was probably the most entertaining hunt in years.

Now down to serious business. The team of K9NR Don and WD9FYF Harry, won on two counts. They found the fox in the shortest time and had the lowest mileage. Congratulations Don and Harry. They were followed shortly by WR9L Greg and N9QXZ Bill. Bill has provided a map from his onboard computer showing how he was able to triangulate the signal. His hunting setup is high tech indeed.

Here is what Bill wrote to accompany the photo in the next column:

Hi Hunters,

Here is my map of the foxhunt, it's nice to see how some of the vectors meet, and some don't. You can see I made the critical mistake of taking the wrong side of the river(s). The lines on the map were drawn as a close estimate of signal direction verses my direction of travel, drawn as I stopped to take readings.

Bill, N9QXZ



KARS HIGHLIGHTS AND HIJINKS FROM THE 2007 DAYTON HAMVENTION



Pete NI9H charms Sue and Judie at the Air Force Museum while Howard AK9F and Ken W9YNI are away



Howard AK9F and Ken W9YNI flanking Pete (a.k.a. Romeo) What happened to that smile Pete?



Will wants to know... "Where'd all the women go?"



The KARS gang gathers at Don Pablos on Thursday night for a fine meal



Dan WA9WAQ sampling the wares in the vast Dayton flea market



The KARS gang in front of the statue of Icarus in the Air Force Museum



Bill N9QXZ and Kevin N9REG carry a load of goodies to their car



Astronaut Bill McArthur KC5ACR speaking at the Dayton forum on space communications



Krister N9ECM describing to Greg WR9L the Burka Babes in Iraq