



KARS KEY KLICKS

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OCTOBER 2008

ANNUAL AUCTION AT OCTOBER MEETING!

The next KARS general meeting will be at 7PM on Tuesday, October 7th at the public meeting room at St. Mary's Hospital. A brief business meeting will be held followed by the annual KARS auction. Join in the fun as we auction 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!

TECHNICIAN CLASS COURSE

A Technician Class license course will be held starting Thursday, October 2nd.

Rundown:

Every Thursday night

Starts: Oct 2, 2008

Ends: Nov 13, 2008

Time: 6 pm - 9 pm

Location: Kankakee County Sheriff's Complex

Expenses: Printed Materials: \$10
(bring a friend, you can share)

- License Exam: \$14
- Classes are free

The Kankakee County Sheriff's Complex is located just south of Interstate 57 at the 308 exit.

Each of the instructors is a registered Volunteer Examiner and upon completion of the course you will be given the opportunity to obtain your FCC Amateur Radio Service license.

While there is no cost for the training the printed materials will cost \$10 and a fee of \$14 will be required to take the FCC licensing exam.

For questions or to register by phone, call 815-915-4333



A gathering of eagles??? Turkeys???
KARS members socializing at the September meeting

KARS KALENDAR

October 2.....Technician Class
October 7.....KARS General Meeting
October 19-20.....Illinois QSO Party
October 21.....KARS Board Meeting
October 25-26.....CQWW DX SSB
November 1-3.....ARRL CW Sweepstakes
November 4.....KARS General Meeting
November 8-9.....WAE DX RTTY Contest
November 15-17.....ARRL SSB Sweepstakes
November 18.....KARS Board Meeting
November 29-30.....CQWW DX CW 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

COMBINED COUNTY DRILL & KARS FOXHUNT Volunteers Needed!

Kankakee County ESDA is planning an emergency drill Saturday, October 4th at 8AM. Concurrent with this exercise KARS will hold a transmitter hunt. The idea behind the foxhunt is that a terrorist group might try to jam public service radio frequencies thus hindering rescue and law enforcement agencies.

The hunt will be on 146.34 MHz and the hunters will use other frequencies to coordinate the hunt. There will be no "winner" to the hunt. The hunters will cooperate to find the "jammer" in as short a time as possible.

Note that EC John K9BYT needs your help. Aside from hunting, we need people to man stations at the hospitals, the Emergency Center, etc. Contact John to volunteer or check into the net on Saturday.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

October 4	KC9NIA
October 7	K9KOC
October 13	WR9L
October 14	N9YNZ
October 15	K9IOC
October 24	KB9ZQU
October 26	K9NR
October 26	WB9CDE

If we miss your birthday, please contact us.

NCS FOR OCTOBER

October 6	KC9FAV
October 13	KE9MG
October 20	N9LYE
October 27	WD9AYI

Don't forget the net! Mondays at 2100

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

To submit material for the newsletter:

Preferred file type: MS Word...Simple text files are also acceptable

Please send files, photos, etc as attachments...it is difficult to get email text to cooperate with MS Pub

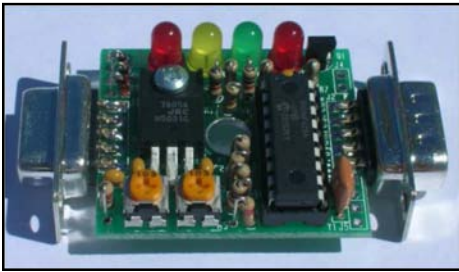
Please double space after periods.

Please do your part to help make our newsletter great by sending in something, however brief!

Send submissions to: k9nr@daca.net & k9qt@daca.net



Don't forget the Auction!!!



APRS TRACKER

Tiny Trak3 Plus is the transmit only aprs device we talked about last month. This tracker device is very small as shown by the photo above. The only connections are made via two DB-9 connectors. One for common yet simple connections to a 2 meter FM radio, the second port's pin-out is both RS-232 used for quick programming from your computer's com port and also doubles to connect your GPS receiver and again supports both RS-232 (OR) TTL output GPS units. Manufacturer Byonics has excellent documentation support during the connection / building process. The built and tested version is \$47 and \$38 for those who wish to build it themselves. The simple pin-out connections are shown in the Fig 1 schematic. Byonics also makes a pre-built version in surface mount components. Further information available from Byonics at <http://www.byonics.com/tinytrak>



THE GPS CONNECTION

I recently purchased a **Trimble GPS** receiver board on eBay for just under \$30 shipped, complete with antenna and a header connector (wire connection to the board). I added a lithium back-up battery and project board from Radio Shack with a MAX-232 logic conversion chip and +5 volt regulator since the GPS board runs on +5 volts. TinyTrak3 Plus will work with either TTL or RS-232. The reason I added the MAX-232 was that the MAX-232 enables me to feed RS-232 level data to my Kenwood TM-D700A transceiver and also my laptop com port for use with mapping software. See figures 2, 3 and 4. Next month we'll talk a little more about APRS.

Till then, 73' from Clay Melhorn N9IO

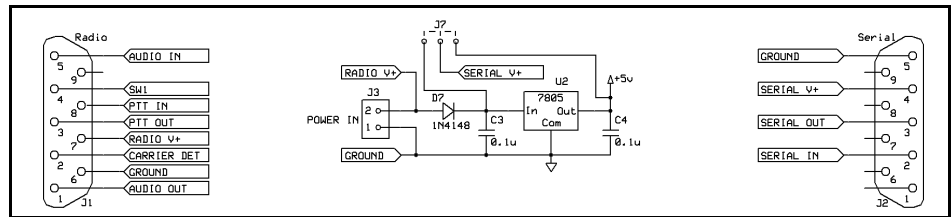


Fig 1: TinyTrak3 Plus Cable Connections

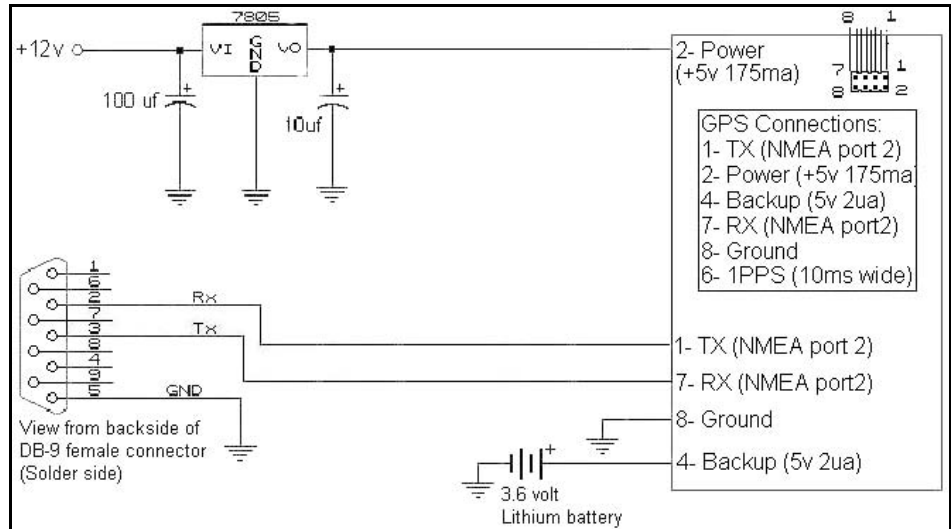


Fig 2: Trimble GPS receiver board outputs NMEA GPS code at TTL logic levels

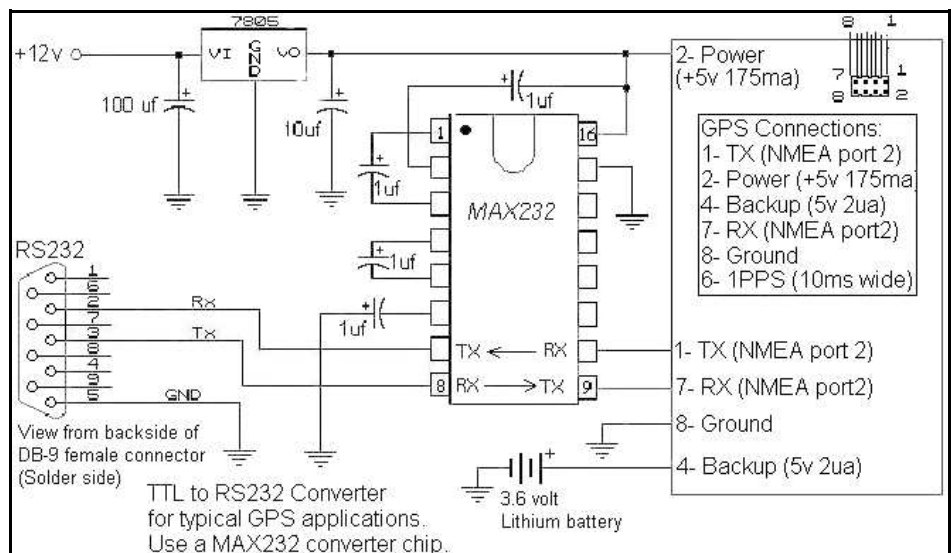


Fig 3: Adding a MAX-232 chip converts the TTL levels to RS-232

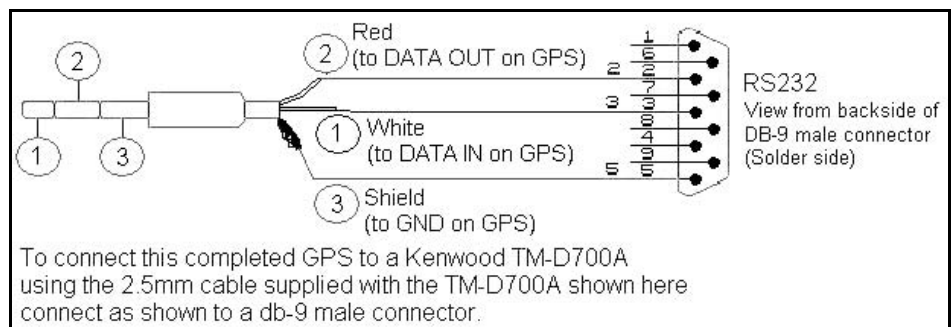


Fig 4: Once converted to RS-232 connection to a laptop or Kenwood TM-D700A xcvr

FOXHUNT RECAP—AUG 30th W9IEY takes KARS fox hunters to the river's edge in Momence

By Clay Melhorn, N9IO

It was a beautiful day for a fox hunt in Kankakee County. Paul, W9IEY and XYL, Terry found an excellent "RF Nightmare" of a hiding spot on the river at Island Park in Momence sending five hunt teams to the eastern edge of the county.

Densely populated with a relatively hidden entrance, this spot was well thought out by our sly foxes. Paul and Terry have been riding along with Billie, K9QT on hunts for a few years now and have apparently been thinking about this for some time. Paul says they have a couple more "great spots" in mind and have volunteered their services again for some more hunts.

This skirmish was a challenge for even the seasoned hunter. All of our teams found themselves north of the Island park. It was too late of course by the time we got in the clear enough to get an accurate last reading leading to the end. How soon the correction was made determined how everyone placed. (continued in next column)



The winning team! Crystal W9IOU and Rodney K9UNO at the starting point

I must admit however, we might not have finished 2nd had it not been for our fox hunt schnauzer hound mascot Suzy. As we started to go down the road north of the park Cindy said that Suzy needed to be walked. Not a problem since we now hunt under mileage rules. While walking Suzy, I saw K9NR and K9QT coming back from the road I intended to try next. So we decided "no way we were going down there, we're going back the other way" he, he, he. The only reason Suzy was with us on a fox hunt was that our groomer took longer than anticipated. So hats off to our groomer. (continued in next column)

The winning hunt team taking 1st place with 1/10th of a mile to spare was Crystal, W9IOU and Rodney, K9UNO. The duo are doing very well this year showing the old timers how it's done at every opportunity.

Along with all of the hunters in this group we would like to recognize Tri-Town Radio Club President Jim NV9X for coming down to hunt with us. Jim is a former KARS member and our neighbor more than 20 years ago.

Foxhunt Results:

- #1 - W9IOU, Crystal / K9UNO, Rodney - 13.9 miles
 - #2 - N9IO, Clay / N9IOQ, Cindy - 14.0 miles
 - #3 - K9NR, Don / K9QT, Billie - 14.4 miles
 - #4 - N9OE, Bill - 17.9 miles
 - #5 - NV9X, Jim - 21.5 miles
- Fox - W9IEY, Paul / XYL Terry



The Foxes! Paul W9IEY and XYL Terry at Island Park in Momence



**Panoramic View from the 2008 W9DXCC Convention
Attended by K9CS, W9LIZ, K9NR, AK9F, N9IO, WB9Z, AI9L, AF9H & N9LAH**



**He did it, no he did it!
Howard AK9F, Greg WR9L and Don K9NR poolside during the KARS pool party at WR9L's QTH**



**Hot August Night?
KARS members enjoying warmer weather at the pool party**



**Going to the dogs?
N9IO's poochie thought there was going to be a "real" fox!
Woof!**