



KARS KEY KLICKS

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December 2008

CONTESTING ROUNDTABLE IN DECEMBER

The next KARS general meeting will be at 7PM on Tuesday, December 2nd. in the public meeting room at St. Mary's Hospital. Enter via the south main entrance.

A brief business meeting will be held followed by a great program on amateur radio contesting. This will be a continuation of last months presentation on contesting.

This month we will demonstrate logging programs and other software useful to the contester. There will also be a roundtable discussion of hints and kinks in practical radio contesting.

Get in on the fun of radio contesting. It's a fantastic way to work on your WAS, WAC and your DXCC.

The program for the January meeting will feature a DVD from CQ Magazine on the world of DXing. See you there!

NCS FOR DECEMBER

December 1	KC9FAV
December 8	N9LYE
December 15	K9BYT
December 22	WD9AYI
December 29	KE9MG

The net meets every Monday at 2100 hours local time. All stations with or without traffic are invited to check in. Don't forget the net!

NCS FOR JANUARY

January 5	KC9FAV
January 12	K9BYT
January 19	N9LYE
January 26	WD9AYI

The net meets every Monday at 2100 hours local time. All stations with or without traffic are invited to check in. Don't forget the net!



Don K9NR introduces the CQ Magazine Contesting Video at the November KARS meeting while Bill N9OE and John N9LYE look on.

KARS KALENDAR

December 2.....KARS General Meeting
 December 5-7.....ARRL 160 Contest
 December 11.....Exam Session
 December 13-14.....ARRL 10 Contest
 December 16.....KARS Board Meeting
 December 27-28.....Stew Perry Topband
 January 3-4.....ARRL RTTY Roundup
 January 6.....KARS General Meeting
 January 10-11.....NA QSO Party CW
 January 17-18.....NA QSO Party SSB
 January 17-19.....ARRL VHF Sweepstakes
 January 20.....KARS Board Meeting
 January 23-25.....CQWW 160 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

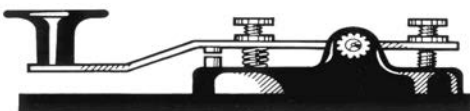
Also, co-sponsors:

145.130 107.2 PL Access

Additionally, KARS sponsors:

144.39 Wide Area APRS digi-peater

145.53 KARS DX Cluster



W9AZ

EXAM SESSION RESULTS

On November 13, a testing session was held at the Kankakee County EOC. Nine candidates took tests including several from the recent Technician License class sponsored by KARS. Seven of the nine candidates passed, with one upgrade and six new licenses.

Upgrading from General to Extra was Duane Erwin, KB9ZQU, of Bradley. Qualifying for Technician licenses were Tiffany Neukomm of Bourbonnais, Daniel Tobbe of Manteno, Gery Johnston of Iroquois, Jakob Anderson, Scott Anderson and Christopher Meredith, all from Watseka. Congratulations to all!

One of the new Technicians, Jakob Anderson, is just eleven years old.

Another testing session is planned for December 11 at Glen Raymond School in Watseka. There are several students and at least one teacher are hard at work studying for the Technician test. For more information about the testing session, contact Carl, K9CS, at 815-473-4263 or kn2qzr@hotmail.com.

ELECTIONS IN DECEMBER

The election of officers for 2009 will be held at the December meeting. If you would like to serve on the board or be an officer or if you know of someone who would like to then attend the December meeting. Nominations from the floor will be accepted right up to the last minute.

There will be an exam session at the Watseka Red Cross on December 11th. Contact Carl K9CS for further info.



MERRY CHRISTMAS!



KARS HOMEPAGE—WWW.W9AZ.COM—KARS HOMEPAGE

BILL WILLIAMS W9VQC SK

It is with deepest regret that we report the passing of Bill Williams W9VQC. Bill, 83, was a long time member and past president of KARS. He served in the US Navy in World War II. He was deputy director of Kankakee County Civil Defense and was a member of the engineering staff at WKAN Radio for a time.

Bill's two sons, Howard and Kenneth were both licensed amateur radio operators.

PAUL CHRISTIANSEN W9VLM SK

It is with deepest regret the we report the passing of Paul Christiansen W9VLM. Paul, 58, was a KARS member and product of a KARS Novice class in 1967. Aside from amateur radio, Paul was an avid bird watcher, model railroader and rail fan.

Paul's mother is Velda Christiansen, also a KARS member. Our condolences to Velda on her loss.

A GREAT TRAGEDY

From Jamie, KC9DEP

For those of you that have been watching the news and reading the papers, wondering why you recognize the face and possibly the name, it pangs me to have to complete this puzzle...

I believe most of you remember Josh Jahn, K9TXR. Josh has been my road tripping pal of many years on my treks to Dayton. His entire family -- wife Mandy, son Ryan (3yrs), and daughter Kaitlyn (11mo) -- were killed by a drunk driver on Rt. 47 at Gardner Rd. just a few weeks ago. Josh is an amazing husband, father, and friend. His entire world has been turned upside down by this tragic event. Please keep Josh and all of his family and friends in your thoughts and prayers... I anticipate a pretty rough time ahead for everyone, considering the magnitude of the situation and the number of family members and friends that were so close to the entire family. Your thoughts and prayers are much appreciated...

Editors note...

Though not officially a KARS member, Josh had become a regular part of the KARS group in Dayton. His loss is truly mind-numbing and he has our deepest sympathies.

NEW YEARS EVE DINNER

If you and your spouse aren't the types that go out on New Years Eve and drink yourselves blind but you would still like to do a little something to usher in the New Year, we have a suggestion.

Unofficially, a small group of KARS members have been meeting at El Campesino around 6PM on New Years Eve for dinner and friendly conversation. We then go our own way to party or more often; go home, relax and welcome the New Year in our own way.

As stated earlier, this is an unofficial activity...not to be confused with the annual KARS banquet. There are no reservations. Just show up, eat, visit and relax.

KARS WINTER BANQUET

The annual KARS winter banquet will be held on Saturday, February 7th at 6PM. Note, this year there is a change in venue.

The banquet this year will be in the semi-private room at the Brickstone Restaurant and Brewery on Latham Drive in Bourbonnais. The Brickstone has an elegant atmosphere and excellent food.

MENU

Prime Rib	\$17.99
Chicken Amore	\$14.99
1/2 Slab BBQ Ribs	\$14.99
Atlantic Salmon	\$14.99
Pasta Bella	\$14.99

All the above include a garden salad
The club will spring for appetizer trays.

It is necessary that you reserve ASAP to insure your meal. In no event should you reserve later than two weeks prior to the event. Send your check to Francis KE9MG at 326 S. Douglas Avenue, Bradley, IL 60915 or give it to him in person at one of the meetings.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

December 1	WD9AYI
December 4	N9QQP
December 7	N9LCX
December 20	KF9IK/M0SLA
December 20	WA9WAQ
December 22	N9OE
December 24	AK9F
December 28	K9JLK

If we miss your birthday or get it wrong, please let us know!

PEARLS OF PROSE

From Paul, AA9GG

Ah winter comes
Though most say it's falling
And with vengeance
Winter will grip the land
To antennas, to antennas
Rush hams by the score
To change or repair
As winter fills the air
And the choicest D X
To the wisest and talented
Will be within reach
Of those who are ready
Fill your D X cup
Yes, watch it overflow
For winter is here
And the bands are hot
QRO or QRP
Winter doesn't care
It's only necessary
To have RF in the air

KARS SS RESULTS

KARS members turned in some fine scores in the 2008 ARRL Sweepstakes:

CW			
Call	Q's	Sect.	Score
K9CS	696	80	111,360
N9LYE	?	?	75,517
K9NR	991	80	158,560
N9IO	395	74	54,460
AK9F	355	76	53,960
K9FO	290	71	41,180
N9LAH	60	35	4,200
AI9L	241	?	37,590
SSB			
Call	Q's	Sect.	Score
K9CS	143	?	16,874
N9LYE	490	77	75,460
K9NR	735	80	117,600
WB9Z	1,742	80	278,720
N9IO	504	80	80,640
AK9F	217	66	28,644
N9OE	295	77	45,430
WR9L	470	79	74,260
N9LYE	490	77	75,460
N9LAH	190	?	25,460

That's a total of 1,355,375 points towards the SMC collective score!

Two scores stand out...WB9Z's monster score of 278,720 and N9OE's score of 45,430. This was N9OE's first contest entry!

Nice work everyone!

KARS HOMEPAGE—WWW.W9AZ.COM—KARS HOMEPAGE

W4HYB FETED BY BBCHS ACADEMIC FOUNDATION

Past KARS president and 1953 graduate of Bradley-Bourbonnais Community High School Maury Schumaker was awarded a plaque honoring him as BBCHS 2008 Alumnus of the year at the Bon Vivant Country Club on November 12th.

Maury's long carrier in the aerospace industry was of particular interest as he described some of the fascinating facts about the Space Shuttle.

Among those present to honor him was Durwood Canham K7JWI who flew in from Arizona. Durwood was the BBCHS high school teacher who got Maury (and others) started in ham radio.

See the photos below of the evenings festivities.

Morse Code Returning to MARS Toolbox

After more than a dozen years, Morse code will soon be returning to Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) nets. In the mid-1990s, the Department of Defense (DoD) did away with CW operation across the board -- including MARS nets -- as automatic systems such as the Internet, SATCOM, cell phones and e-mail became available and the payroll cost of manual operators escalated. Army MARS launched a limited test of CW nets in four Midwestern states in late 2007. During a DoD interoperability test this past March, a Transportation Security Administration (TSA) station used it to communicate with Fort Huachuca. In announcing the return of CW to MARS nets, Navy-Marine Corps MARS Chief Bo Lindfors cited an emergency where CW was sorely missed: "I remember the [1998] Northeast Ice Storm shortly after I became [Navy-Marine Corps MARS] Chief and the unnecessarily lengthy effort by all of southern New England to receive one voice EEI [Essential Elements of Information Report] from a northern New England member whose antenna was covered in ice and lying on the ground. It took more than an hour when CW could have handled it in a few minutes. As more and more of our members enter MARS with no Morse code experience, I am afraid that we will soon lose that skill set if we don't do something. "Army MARS Chief Carter said the imminent return of CW will not replace modes such as WinLink, Pactor 3 and MT63. "Our CW nets will focus on maintenance of skills and will necessarily be limited by the shortage of available frequencies and trained members," he said. "But if members want to add CW to their skills, the nets will be available for training."

Editors note: This, of course, doesn't surprise many hams who have long known the value of CW. It is still just about the most popular activity in amateur radio!



Maury W4HYB is presented with a plaque honoring him as BBCHS Alumnus of the Year by Executive Director Debi Barrone



Maury W4HYB describes some fascinating and humorous anecdotes of the US space program



Durwood K7JWI and Maury W4HYB pose with the plaque honoring Maury



Ken W9YNI, Durwood K7JWI, Don K9NR and Billie K9QT at the Bon Vivant Country Club



Paul W9IEY and Jim K9BIG exchange stories at the reception



Judie and Ken W9YNI share memories with Maury W4HYB