



KARS KEY KLICKS

JOURNAL OF THE KANKAKEE AREA RADIO SOCIETY



Volume 84 Issue 4

Editors: K9QT, K9NR
Photos: K9NR, N9IOQ
Contributors: N9IO, K9BYT

April 2009

APRIL MEETING FEATURES RED CROSS DISASTER COMMUNICATIONS PROCEDURES

The next KARS meeting will be Tuesday, April 7th at 7PM at the usual St. Mary's Hospital meeting room.

April's meeting will include a guest speaker from the Kankakee County Chapter of the American Red Cross. The Red Cross is the official relief organization designated by congress to provide aid to victims of disasters, both large-scale and small. Local volunteer opportunities exist for those who wish to become involved at a deeper level.

Our meeting will serve to orient us to the programs and procedures that the Red Cross will use in a large-scale response in our area. Some examples are: Message handling between shelters and the EOC, DX welfare traffic from areas affected by natural disaster where infrastructure has been damaged, etc.

The Red Cross is charged with providing a safe and secure area for victims to receive services, such as food, shelter and financial aid. To that end, they must ensure that all volunteers working in a shelter facility are educated on the Red Cross Mission and are screened for any criminal history. Should a disaster require a long-term response, proper training will insure that we are able to serve the people of our own community without the need to rely on outside help.

WWV VOICE SILENT KEY

The man behind the recorded voice of Time and Frequency Station WWV has passed away. Announcer Don Elliot Heald, of Atlanta, Georgia; who gave WWV its human touch; passed away on Thursday, February 19th.



Jerry WB9Z describes his experiences on the Desecheo Island Dxexpedition to an fascinated crowd at the KARS March meeting

KARS KALENDAR

March 28th-29th.....CQWW WPX SSB
April 7th.....KARS General Meeting
April 21st.....KARS Board Meeting
May 2-3rd.....Indiana QSO Party
May 5th.....KARS General Meeting
May 15-17.....Dayton Hamvention
May 19th.....KARS Board Meeting
May 30-31st.....CQWW WPX CW

The Kankakee Area Radio Society operates repeaters on:

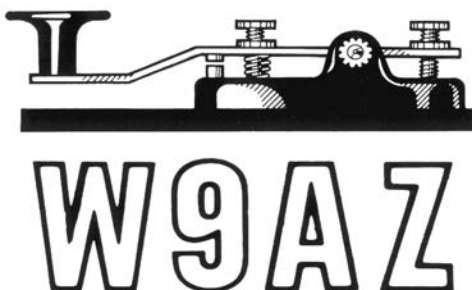
146.34/.94 107.2 PL Access
449.8/444.8 114.8 PL Access

Also, co-sponsors:

145.130 107.2 PL Access

Additionally, KARS sponsors:

144.39 Wide Area APRS digi-peater(s)
Kankakee and University Park
145.53 KARS DX Cluster



EXPEDITION TO DESECHEO TO BE MAY PROGRAM

Jerry WB9Z will present a program on the Desecheo Island Dxpedition at the May KARS meeting.

The expedition was one of the all time most successful with 115,787 QSO's in the log! Desecheo has been in the top ten most needed DXCC entities for years. Jerry was with the first group of operators and made the first SSB contacts from the Island.

This was no vacation trip. Everything from rigs, antennas, generators, fuel, food and water had to be hauled in by helicopters. This will be a great program. Be there!

NCS FOR APRIL

The net meets every Monday at 2100 hours local time. All stations with or without traffic are invited to check in.

April 6th	KC9FAV
April 13th	N9LYE
April 20th	WD9AYI
April 27th	K9SAT

Don't forget the net!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

April 5th	K9CWF
April 11th	WB9WEC
April 17th	N9MBR
April 25th	W9YNI
April 25th	K9OZY
April 26th	K9CS
April 28th	N9NAH

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

Do you have your Dayton plans in order?

KARS HOMEPAGE—WWW.W9AZ.COM—KARS HOMEPAGE

BALLOON LAUNCHED FROM KOERNER AIRPORT CARRYING APRS



Sitting in "the shack" Saturday morning March 21st I noticed a mobile from out of the area on my UIView32 APRS map driving into the greater Kankakee area eventually arriving at Koerner Air Field on Rt. 115.

Moving the mouse over the mobile icon on the screen revealed this mobile to be a Balloon Tracking Vehicle. Having tracked an earlier balloon launching a couple of weeks prior I figured there was likely going to be another launch today. After a time, more call signs beacons from Koerner airport, one being the call of the Adler Planetarium in Chicago, WB9SKY-11. This was the activated balloon's APRS transmitter.

Before leaving town for the afternoon my XYL Cindy N9IOQ and I decided to see if we could make it over to Koerner's in time to witness the launch. We arrived just in time to witness the final helium gas being added to the 10 to 12 foot diameter balloon which was being held down just inside one of the hangar doors.

It was there I met and introduced myself to Pete Coons KC9KKI of the Planetarium who told me the anticipated direction and distance of travel of the balloon. Soon afterward the balloon was moved out into the field. One more body was needed to help keep the balloon's many devices in line and with the launch itself. Needless to say being part of the launch totally made my day.

Photos were taken by Cindy N9IOQ on a cell phone set at low resolution. Sorry they are not better, thankfully Cindy thought to take them before the moment was lost.

by Clay Melhorn N9IO

PROGRAM FOR KARS JUNE MEETING ON USING "UIView32"

Now that KARS has in place an APRS Wide Super Digipeater in the middle of Kankakee County (W9AZ-14), it is time to implement a long standing plan to make heavy use of APRS in our Em-Comm and weather spotting operations.

Finally, after getting some much needed "hands on" experience with UIView32 and my own station on the air, I hope to show you how easy this mode of operation really is and what a great message handling tool it is. I have found that if APRS were not also a tracking tool and it's only attribute were messaging this would still be equally wonderful and useful for our purposes. Without a doubt, APRS is what packet radio "should" have been 20 years ago. Suddenly I am having the same fun with packet that I did years ago.

The plan is a live demonstration of APRS. I hope to see you all there on June 2nd at St Mary's.

by Clay Melhorn N9IO

KARS ACTIVITY IN THE 2009 CQWW WPX SSB CONTEST

Tough conditions and a lack of sunspots didn't stop some of KARS finest contesters from putting in some good efforts...Jerry WB9Z made over 2630 Q's for a score of over 5,300,000 points. Jess AI9L worked 251 Q's for a score of 108,659 points. As we went to press, we did not have John N9LYE's score but understand he did well.

K9NR BAGS TRIPLE PLAY WAS AWARD

Don K9NR has qualified for his ARRL Triple-Play Worked All States. He only needed North Dakota on SSB to wrap up the full 150 confirmed contacts. He worked five ND stations in the CQWW 160 SSB Contest and two of them QSL'ed via LOTW. Amazing, considering there are only about nine people in the whole state!

Don actually uploaded the contest log to the Logbook Of The World site during his presentation and received on the spot credit for his award!

The Triple-Play WAS is the latest award from the ARRL. All contacts must be after January 1st 2009 and all contacts must be confirmed via Logbook Of The World. You must work & confirm, via LOTW, all fifty states on CW, SSB & Digital (RTTY, PSK, etc)... a total of 150.

Congrats Don! Who will be the next KARS member to qualify for this new reward? How are you doing?

DX NEWS

There may not be any sunspots but there is still DX to be had! Look for:

E51XBG from Rarotonga in the South Cook Islands on 20M SSB from 3/30 to 4/16.

FJ/EB1HF from St Barthelemy on 20,15,10M from 4/7 to 4/12.

FR/F4EGZ from Reunion Island on 20,17,15,10M until 4/13.

6W/IK4ALM from Senegal on 40-10M until 4/9.

GT4BRS from the Isle of Man on 160-6M from 3/28 to 4/4.

K7XF/KHO from Saipan in the Mariana Islands on 80-10M 4/3 to 4/7.

TL0A from the Central African Republic on 80,20 & 17M at various times.

Monitor the KARS DX Cluster on 145.53 for the latest DX action.

DAYTON!

Hamvention is only 45 days away as I write this on April 1st! As usual, a large contingent of KARS members are planning to attend. Hope to see you there!

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

More great photos of KARS members doing what they do best...having fun!

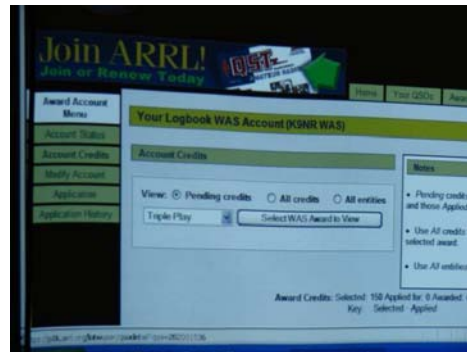
At the March club meeting...



Jerry WB9Z (r) awards Don K9NR (l) an official Desecho hat worn on the Dxpediton for making the most contacts of anyone in attendance



Don K9NR describes how to use Logbook Of The World at the March meeting as Greg WR9L, Bill N9OE and Howard AK9F look on



A close up shot of a Logbook Of The World work screen

At the SMC luncheon in Peoria...



Craig K9CT, organizer of the SMC Peoria luncheon taking a photo of the group. Nice work Craig!



Jerry WB9Z in the middle of his presentation on the Desecho DXpediton



Ralph K9ZO describing his adventures operating from Nicaragua

More from the SMC luncheon in Peoria...



Patti AF9H, Jess AI9L, Jerry WB9Z and Brenda ???9??? enjoying the food and pleasant conversation



Will K9FO enjoying a light moment at the luncheon



Clay N9IO discussing strategy with fellow SMC contesters