



# KARS KEY CLICKS



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March 2010

## March Meeting at St. Mary's Hospital

The March KARS meeting will be held at the community meeting room at St. Mary's Hospital at 7PM on Tuesday March 2nd. Enter via the main entrance on the south side.

Information was not available at press time on the program. Monitor the Monday night net for current news.

### EXAM RESULTS

by Carl K9CS

The Iroquois County Amateur Radio Club held a testing session in Watseka on February 11. Thirteen year old Chris Jaworski, KC9RCD, of Watseka upgraded to General. Steve Gorham of Morris passed exam elements 2&3 and earned a General class license, KC9RKX. New Technician class licensees are Wesley Woo, KC9RKU, of Bradley, Lance Marczak, KC9RKW, of Kankakee and Van Wegner, KC9RKV, of Kankakee. Volunteer Examiners participating were Sam-W9QKF, Steve-K9TA, Troy-W9KVR, and Carl-K9CS

### WB9Z ON THE MOVE

Jerry will be operating from the big contest station on Curacao in the ARRL DX SSB Contest and the CQWW 160 SSB Contest. He will be using the call PJ2T in the contests and PJ2/WB9Z at other times. Be sure to work him on as many bands as possible!

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

February 20 N9LYE  
March 2 W9IEY

We missed N9LYE last month...sorry John!

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



K9NR presented a primer on Writelog to a standing room only crowd at the February KARS meeting

### KARS KALENDAR

March 2.....KARS General Meeting  
March 6-7.....ARRL DX SSB Contest  
March 16.....KARS Board Meeting  
March 20.....Vernal Equinox  
March 20-22.....BARTG HF RTTY Contest  
March 27-28.....CQWW WPX SSB Contest  
April 6.....KARS General Meeting  
April 18.....ARRL Rookie Roundup  
April 20.....KARS Board Meeting

*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 2 Wide Area APRS digi-peaters

145.53 KARS DX Cluster

### NEW LIFE FOR RACES

Amateur Radio operators throughout the state of Illinois and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) will provide an additional layer of emergency communications during disasters. The agreement creates the State Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES) program. Under the agreement, IEMA Director Andrew Velasquez appointed ARRL Illinois Section Emergency Coordinator Brad Pioveson, W9FX, of Benton as the volunteer State RACES Officer. Pioveson will serve as the single point of contact between IEMA and the Illinois Amateur Radio community. Sound thinking by the IEMA!

### SEVERE WEATHER SEMINAR

The severe weather seminar presented by the National Weather Service at Kankakee Community College on Monday, February 22 was well represented by KARS. About twenty KARS members attended the event... probably the single largest group in attendance. The NWS had updated the program and imagery of cloud formations and tornadoes were excellent.

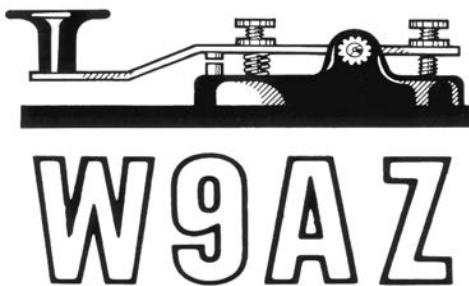
The representative spoke in glowing terms of the agencies relationship with the amateur radio service.

### NCS FOR MARCH

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

|          |        |
|----------|--------|
| March 1  | KC9FAV |
| March 8  | N9LYE  |
| March 15 | N9FD   |
| March 22 | KE9MG  |
| March 29 | K9NR   |

Don't forget the net!



## Have you started your Dayton plans?

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

## DIVERSITY RECEPTION 101 IN 2010

by Ken W9YNI

We keep hearing the term DIVERSITY RECEPTION, Is it for Ham Radio yet? Several of the Manufactures are using the term in their advertisements but does it really work and how good for each, and what do we need to make it GO.?

First, there are basically 3 ways to implement it.

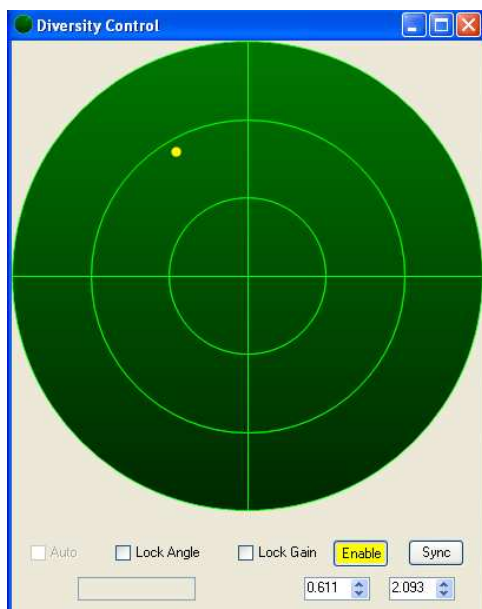
1. Stereo or Dual Diversity Reception – **GOOD**
2. Stereo/Dual Diversity + Antenna or Space Diversity Reception – **BETTER**
3. Stereo/Dual Diversity + Antenna/Space Diversity + Polarization Diversity Reception – **BEST**

**No 1 ABOVE:** requires two receivers that are frequency and phased locked on the same signal outputting the demodulated signal to two discrete audio channels. Optimally both receivers need to be virtually identical in hardware and configuration (demodulation mode, filter characteristics, preamp, AGC settings, etc) in order to create a sense of "stereo spatial depth" for the listener. Humans are very good at localizing sounds and quickly estimating their direction and distance because we have two ears that allow for multi-path reception of audio frequencies. The end result is by being able to listen with STEREO HEAD-PHONES, our brains can use this information to extract intelligibility from weak and noisy signals. This method is available with the K3 and the FLEX-5000, However the FLEX goes beyond this to

**METHOD 3 ABOVE.** Antenna/Space Diversity + Polarization Diversity Reception employs software and math beyond my knowledge or ability to explain. And since there are no KNOBS additional screens and controls can be added in software.

Hence the Screen below. By putting the system in SYNC and then ENABLING the control gain is increased by moving the YELLOW dot in and out from center and then by moving it around the circle the received signal is either increased or reduced in audio and intelligibility. This is Diversity Reception at its best. It can best be implemented with 2 antennas separated by a quarter wave length or a second antenna simply used as a Noise Antenna.

The Flex just keeps getting "Better and Better".



## NEW RADIO CLUB IN NEW LENOX

by Art K9XI

With the headline "Jump on the Communication Wave", the New Lenox Patriot Newspaper edition of this past February 11 announced the formation of the Illinois Relay League in New Lenox, starting with Technician license classes on February 16. The IRL is forming itself from the ground up as a 'new to Amateur Radio' club, with emphasis on emergency communications. Bill Byerlie, KC9QXG is one of two licensed local Amateurs involved in the formation of the IRL.

Classes will be held on Tuesday evenings for five weeks. Cost per student is \$45 and will include the cost of the book. No regular meetings are yet scheduled

## IROQUOIS YOUTH ACTION

by Troy W9KVR

While the School Club roundup is over, this was a great writeup—ed

"We've had 6 student operators running the W9GRS station during the School Club Round-up. Jake, KC9OQN, has been a primary operator guiding a couple of our hopefully soon to be licensed operators. Chris, KC9RCD, is also back in action. Here is a our 2 day total...66 QSO's - that includes 26 states, 4 provinces, 18 DX (including a new one...Grenada!), and most importantly 18 School Stations!! A total of 16,000+ points. We've already exceeded our school total from last time with a strong opportunity to add some more. Schools are a big multiplier. Our Goals this time around are 100+ QSO's, finish in the top 3 again, and work towards a School W.A.S. So far the 18 schools stations include 15 different states and a Belgian school station. On the SCR List-Serve, I kind of threw down the glove and challenged everybody to see how many different states could be worked that have school stations. I believe we're the only Illinois school thus far participating in the Feb. edition. Along with HI, ND, and VT (which we have worked 2 of the 3) we might be a valuable QSO! Anyway, more than likely, we will not be operating Wed. due to school closings. Of course two of the students attempting Tech Thursday are neighbors of mine and they might persuade me to head to school. Hi Hi! I'm planning on operating Thursday morning (13:00-14:30UTC) on 20/40m PSK with my Morning DX Crew. We will then operate again after school and perhaps some during the ICARC meeting. If you want to make QSO with us, please don't be shy! We'd love an excuse to print some more QSL cards. We can operate all bands and modes."

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

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



Ralph K9ZO at the operating position of the WB9Z super station during the CQWW 160 CW Contest

Carl K9CS in the operating chair

Will K9FO...assumes the position while waiting his turn at the key

**Your next article or photo could fit right here!**

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