



KARS KEY CLICKS



JOURNAL OF THE KANKAKEE AREA RADIO SOCIETY

Volume 87 Issue 6

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June 2012

JUNE PROGRAM: WRITELOG & FIELD DAY

The June meeting will be June 5th, 7PM at St. Mary's Hospital. We are back in our regular meeting room. Enter on the south side of the building

After a brief business meeting, we will have the opportunity to learn and practice using Writelog software. The club has purchased the software and it will be loaded on your laptop.

ONLINE QST

Don't forget June is the start date for accessing your [QST online](#) as well as in print. Also check out the archived issues dating back to 1915. Another benefit for ARRL members.

FIELD DAY 2012

It's almost time for the biggest operating event in amateur radio...[Field Day!](#) Kevin N9REG has once again graciously invited us to operate from his beautiful rural QTH. Thanks Kevin!

Setup begins Saturday morning June 23rd at 10AM. All KARS members who participate actively in Field Day setup/operations are entitled to a very FB steak cooked up superbly by expert BBQ chef Will K9FO. Complete info at the June KARS meeting.

BOARD MEETING

We are [meeting on June 19th](#) at El Cam-pesino. 6PM eat. 7PM meet. All members and their families are welcome.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

June 10	N9OQC
June 26	KF9DM
June 26	W9IOU
June 30	K9BAK

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



SRO at the May KARS Meeting featuring Jerry WB9Z's HK0NA DXpedition presentation. See page 3
Thanks Jerry!

KARS KALENDAR

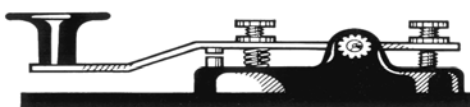
June 3.....[Starved Rock Hamfest](#)
June 5.....[KARS General Meeting](#)
June 9-11.....[ARRL VHF QSO Party](#)
June 16.....[KARS FOX HUNT !!!](#)
June 17.....[Six Meter Club Hamfest](#)
June 19.....[KARS Board Meeting](#)
June 23-24.....[Field Day](#)
July 3.....[KARS General Meeting](#)
July 14-15.....[IARU HF World Championship](#)
July 15.....[Fox River Hamfest](#)
July 17.....[KARS Board Meeting](#)
July 21-22.....[NAQP RTTY](#)
July 21-22.....[CQ Worldwide VHF](#)
July 22.....[KARSFEST](#)

The Kankakee Area Radio Society operates repeaters on:

146.34/.94	107.2 PL Access
449.8/444.8	114.8 PL Access
145.130	107.2 PL Access

Additionally, KARS sponsors:

144.39	2 Wide Area APRS digi-peaters
145.53	KARS DX Cluster



W9AZ

FIELD DAY—JUNE 23-24!!!

HB1390—IL PRB-1

A RESOUNDING SUCCESS!

Thanks to the combined efforts of Illinois State Representative Chuck Kreszwick WV9C and Charlie Richey K9DUE, the ARRL and all those hams who took time to write their local political representatives, [the law](#) was passed by the State Senate almost unanimously.

The signature of the governor, the final step to make it law, is now pretty much a formality. The much needed and long fought for legislation limits home rule powers affecting amateur radio antennas. [The new law](#) requires reasonable accommodation of amateur radio antennas and in the event of a legal entanglement, places the burden of proof on the municipality.

A big thanks and congratulations goes out to the bill sponsors, the ARRL and all amateurs who helped press the issue home!

EXAM SESSION

The April 28th exam session produced two new Generals and a new Extra. Very FB!

Volunteer Examiners included Carl K9CS (team liaison), Steve K9TA, Billie K9QT and Don K9NR.

Rollie N9RJM volunteered his FB QTH and lots of refreshments.

NCS FOR JUNE

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

June 4	N9LYE
June 11	KC9UNQ
June 18	N9OE
June 25	N9FD

Don't forget the net!

KARS HOMEPAGE—WWW.W9AZ.COM—KARS HOMEPAGE

THIS EWE FOLLOWS MY LEAD

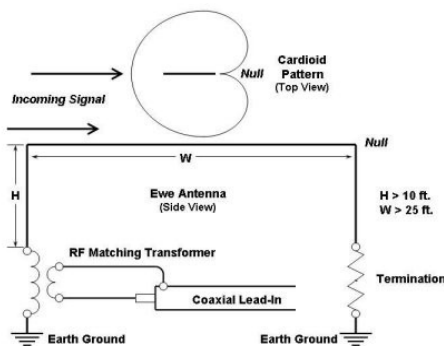
by John N9LYE

Many times over the years I have heard stories, about getting on 160 meters, that it requires not only a good transmit antenna, but also a good receive antenna. Sometimes a story doesn't always present all the facts. Time to test that theory. Since many of the older rigs out there required an external coax relay to switch between the transmit and receive antenna (or antennas), newer rigs have an RCA jack on the back for a receive only antenna, making life so much easier!

Now the BIG question. What do I connect to it? A lack of real estate rules out a 500 foot long beverage. Compact loops are very narrow banded, limiting how fast I can move up and down the band without retuning. A pennant is a nice start, but I wanted something easier to build, install and use. So what is left? That's when I heard Will, K9FO, mention a EWE. I doubt very much that he was referring to the Old English term describing sheep, so it had to be something else.

What I found, was a simple antenna made of a length of wire, a 900 to 1200 Ohm resistor, some 75 ohm coax and a balun. The wire, coax and resistor are common items I had laying around. The balun was a different story, but I will get to that later.

Now comes the disclaimer. This is, by all means, not an optimized design or construction. But, it does work, and is better than what I was using. So lets get started.



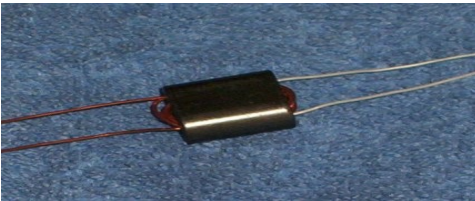
(Figure 1)

A basic EWE needs two non-conducting vertical supports at least ten feet tall and somewhere between 25 and 60 feet apart (Figure 1). Two trees in my side yard filled that requirement. The ones in the back yard didn't work well because of the aluminum gutters on the house, running parallel to the antenna and less than 15 feet away, severely degraded the performance (So much for Plan A).

The grounds on each end of the antenna are nothing more than a 4 foot rod driven into the ground. Even ½ inch electrical conduit driven in will work. Besides, I had some left over conduit from the 6 and 2 Meter yagis that I build.

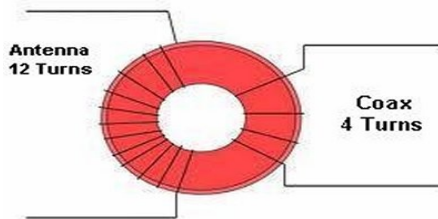
A 1K ohm, 1 watt carbon resistor salvaged from an old TV set solved the termination problem. I stress carbon resistor for good reason. Wire wound and metal film resistors do not react very well to RF!

Now, the part you have been dreading, the balun. It is much easier to make (or scavenge) than you realize. My first attempt was to try an old 75/300 ohm TV antenna matching transformer. Guess what, it worked! Even though the roll-off of the balun increases below 5 Mhz, there was still enough signal present to be heard without a pre-amp. Perhaps there is a way to modify this design. Inside is a binocular core that is wound for use in the VHF/UHF range.



(Figure 2)

Figure 2 shows an example of how I re-wound the core with 1 turn on the coax side and 3 turns on the antenna side.



(Figure 3)

Alternatively, a toroid core (Figure 3) with 4 turns on the coax side and 12 turns on the antenna side can be used. The wire from the deflection coil off the back of an old TV picture tube to wind the coils works fine. It can also be used for the antenna itself. This is one of the few times that size does not matter. This is receive only, not transmit. Also don't worry about using expensive connectors on the balun. Most stations operating this low in frequency and below don't use them. A good solder connection goes a long way. Now comes the time to try it out. To my surprise, I could hear stations I had a hard time copying before. Even off the back side of the antenna!

Mine was pointed West, although, the East coast stations were much easier to copy through the noise than they were on the Inverted-L. But what about North and South? I put up a second one and used a simple coax switch. Actually mine was a single pole double throw switch with the coax centers soldered to it and the shields tied together to change directions. Something that was very helpful when trying to copy the more distant Central and South American stations that were being covered up by the powerful East and West Coast Big Guns. Even helped with the two nearby super stations in my backyard (Hi to AI9L and WB9Z, I surrender!).

As an added bonus, it also works well on 80 Meters. However, it acted more like a broadside array than End-Fire (better off the sides than the ends) while on 80 Meters. Not bad for using scavenged and salvaged parts and a couple hours of my time. I guess the theory is correct...NNNN

APRIL EXAM SESSION A SUCCESS

The most recent KARS exam session resulted in a new Extra Class Licensee and two new Generals.



Volunteer Examiners Steve K9TA and Don K9NR compare notes with Rollie N9RJM (background)



VE team liaison Carl K9CS congratulates Kyle N9OQC on his new Extra Class ticket

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

WORLD CLASS DX-ING!

Expedition to Malpelo Island—HK0NA

KARS own Jerry WB9Z presented an outstanding program at the May meeting on the hugely successful [DXpedition to Malpelo Island](#). Breaking many all time world records, the operation last February put 195,292 HK0NA contacts in tens of thousands of logs worldwide. Below are some of the expedition photos.



A view of the antennas and camp at the "upper camp"



On the road again...Jerry WB9Z at Malpelo Island



WB9Z showing K9NR's matrix of 22 band/mode contacts



Columbian Marines lending a hand with the heavy lifting...true servicemen...they often volunteered their welcomed services



A DX crab caught in the act trying to work 2 Meters



OK...so who is the wise guy who keeps disconnecting the 40 Meter antenna?



This little guy can help you log contacts or get you a good deal on your car insurance!



Ouch!



A pair of boobies!
What are you lookin' at?