



KARS KEY CLICKS



JOURNAL OF THE KANKAKEE AREA RADIO SOCIETY

Volume 87 Issue 10

Editors: K9NR, K9QT
Photos: K9NR, K9QT, W9IE
Contributors: W9IE

October 2012

Club Auction at October Meeting!

The next KARS general meeting will be at 7PM on Tuesday, October 2nd at the public meeting room at St. Mary's Hospital. After the usual business meeting, the auctioneering tag team of Dan WA9WAQ and Will K9FO share command of the gavel as they auction off all the many fine treasures brought in by KARS members.

Make sure you have carefully combed through your garage, attic, basement, shed 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.

Usually, no one brings large amounts of cash to the auction. So you probably won't want to carry in your most expensive gear!

This meeting is always a LOT of fun, so be there!

OCTOBER BOARD MEETING

KARS September board meeting will be held at 6 PM, October 16th at El Cam-pesino. All KARS members and spouses are invited to attend.

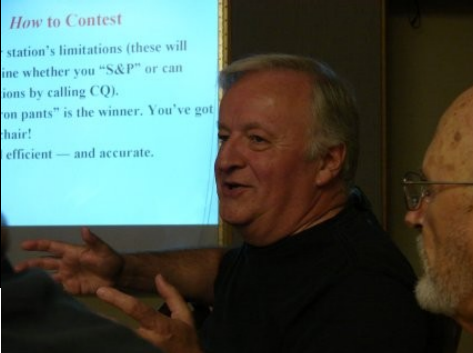
W9DXCC

The annual W9DXCC DX Convention and Banquet was well attended by KARS members. Look for pictures on page two.

NCS FOR OCTOBER

October 1	N9LYE
October 8	AC9CZ
October 15	N9OE
October 22	N9LYE
October 29	N9FD

The net meets every Monday at 2100 hours local time. *Don't forget the net!*



Don K9NR describes the fun of contesting while Will K9FO looks on at the September KARS meeting

KARS KALENDAR

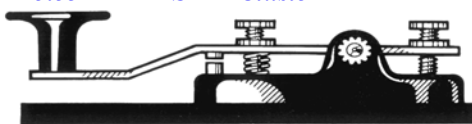
October 2KARS General Meeting
October 16.....KARS Board Meeting
October 20-21.....Stew Perry Topband
October 21-22.....Illinois QSO Party
October 27-28.....CQWW DX Contest SSB
November 1.....KARS General Meeting
November 3-5.....ARRL CW Sweepstakes
November 10-11....WAE DX RTTY Contest
November 15.....KARS Board Meeting
November 17-19..ARRL SSB Sweepstakes
November 24-25....CQWW DX CW Contest
November 29.....Happy Thanksgiving
Nov 30-Dec 2.....ARRL 160 Contest

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

ILLINOIS QSO PARTY

Don't forget to mark your calendar for the Illinois QSO Party on Sunday October 21st from 12 Noon till 8PM local time.

All KARS members are strongly urged to get on and make a few or a lot of contacts for the club aggregate score. Be sure that when you submit your log that you indicate the "Kankakee Area Radio Society" as your affiliated club.

Last year KARS won the first place title for club entry...lets do it again this year! Other clubs are gunning for us and the first place plaque. Help us hang on to that trophy again this year.

DXPEDITIONERS

What a trip! The Swain's Island Expedition was a real challenge for all of the operators...over 100,000 contacts under extreme temperatures (108), humidity and nasty insects...not to mention sleeping and operating in tents. Air conditioning...What's that? Most KARS members managed to contact the operation and put "a new one in the log." WB9Z and K9CS will have interesting stories to tell of their experiences...a little bitten up and banged up but home safe! Nice work guys!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

October 4	K9NIA
October 7	K9KOC
October 13	WR9L
October 14	N9YNZ
October 15	K9IOC
October 16	KB9NYW
October 24	KB9ZQU
October 26	WB9CDE
October 26	K9NR
October 27	N5HSR

Let us know if we miss your birthday or get it wrong.

See you at the KARS Auction!!!

www.w9az.com

SO2R 2X5 ANTENNA SWITCH

by KEN W9IE

I am not yet ready for SO2R Contest operation, and probably will not be any time in the future. However, in getting ready for delivery of my new FLEX 6700 Transceiver, I will be able to enjoy the ability of using two completely separate SCU's (Spectral Capture Units). These have the ability of receiving in one BIG GULP, 30kHz to 77mHz each.

These SCU's need a method of independently connecting an antenna to each for any part of the spectrum I want to receive. This requires a broad antenna selection option. So to stay "FLEXABLE" (sic), I need the ability to switch any of 5 antennas to either of the SCU Antenna Ports. These can also be referred to as Radio "A" or Radio "B". SO2R 2X6 Switches are available on the market but are expensive. Kits or at least circuit boards are also available which make life a lot easier. I built 2 Switches that I had to scrap because the isolation was inadequate. Then after talking with Bill N9OE and learning he was purchasing the circuit boards available from KK1L, I decided to try his schematic and my third try worked. I was also then able to test my switch against the KK1L boards with the same results, which made me very happy.

I used a combination of circuit board layout and point to point wiring as you can see in the attached pictures. I used DPDT center off switches for each antenna port. When an antenna is not used, i.e. Center Off, it is grounded. When power is turned off, all antennas are grounded automatically for lightning protection. Interlocking prevents antenna connections to more than one radio at a time. The "Switch Up" position selects Radio "A" which lights the red LED and the "Switch Down" position selects Radio "B" which lights the green LED. The "Center Off" position = LEDS off and the corresponding antenna port are grounded. I still need to label the panel.

If you have need of such an antenna switch, buy the circuit board from KK1L for about \$43.00. The rest of the parts can be purchased new or picked up at a hamfest. Of course you can purchase the professional unit available from Array Solutions for around \$ 500.00 but that's a lot to swallow! The photos show the project front and rear views and an internal view of the parts layout.

Thanks on the Project go to the following:

Bill N9OE, 15 Relays out of his junk box. and use of his competed KK1L Switch Clay N9IO, the Relay rack mount chassis box

Dale WB9RUE, Double Sided Circuit Board and Etch Solution

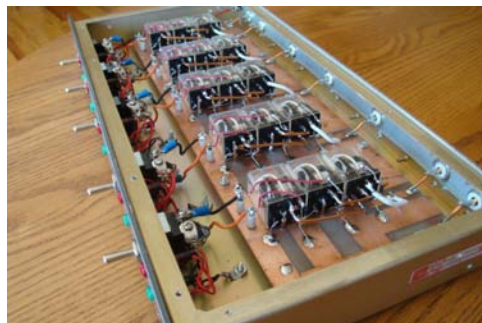
Ron Rossi, KK1L Circuit Design



W9IE Antenna Switch—Front View



W9IE Antenna Switch—Rear View



Interior Component View



Mike K9AJ makes a point during the DXing for Beginners forum at the W9DXCC Convention.
Great stuff!



A small section of the many hundreds who attended the programs on Saturday at the W9DXCC



A view of some of the KARS members at the W9DXCC Banquet on Saturday night