



# KARS KEY KCLICKS



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November 2012

## DXing featured at the November Meeting

The next KARS general meeting will be 7 PM on Tuesday, November 6th in the public meeting room at St. Mary's Hospital. After the usual business meeting, there will be a program on DXing.

Working DX is far and away the most popular activity in amateur radio. Whether you are a contester, rag chewer, experimenter, operate satellites, HF or VHF/UHF you are sure to enjoy working DX.

If you are new to the game or an old hand, there are methods and tricks of the trade that can improve your DX score.

Be sure to attend and learn how to succeed at this most popular activity.

### KARS ANNUAL BANQUET

The annual KARS banquet is rapidly approaching. We would like to hear from everyone about our venue.

Difficulties last year have prompted discussions of a move. Ken W9IE is bringing info about the Homestead. Other suggestions included the Elks CC and going back to the Moose.

If you have a good idea for our annual Banquet venue, bring it with you to the meeting. We need a room to accommodate about 50 people with reasonable banquet facilities. Voice your opinion at the next meeting concerning location and date!

We need to reserve very soon!

### NCS FOR NOVEMBER

|        |       |
|--------|-------|
| Nov 5  | N9LYE |
| Nov 12 | N9RJM |
| Nov 19 | N9OE  |
| Nov 26 | N9FD  |

Don't forget the net!  
Mondays at 2100 hrs. local time



Auctioneers Dan WA9WAQ and Will K9FO hard at work at the October meeting auction

### KARS KALENDAR

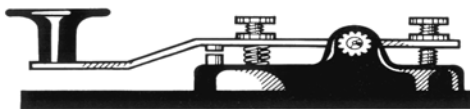
[Nov 3-5.....ARRL CW Sweepstakes](#)  
[Nov 6.....KARS General Meeting](#)  
[Nov 10-11.....WAE DX Contest RTTY](#)  
[Nov 20.....KARS Board Meeting](#)  
[Nov 17-19.....ARRL SSB Sweepstakes](#)  
[Nov 24-25.....CQWW CW DX Contest](#)  
[Nov 28.....Exam Session](#)  
[Nov 30-Dec 2.....ARRL 160 Contest](#)  
[Dec 4.....KARS General Meeting](#)  
[Dec 8-9.....ARRL 10 Meter Contest](#)  
[Dec 18.....KARS Board Meeting](#)  
[Dec 29-30.....Stew Perry 160 Contest](#)  
[Dec 25.....\\*\\*\\*\\*\\* Merry Christmas](#)  
[Dec 31.....Happy New Year!](#)

*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

### CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominations for officers and board members will be entertained at the November meeting. If you're ready to "throw the bums out" or would like to run for an office yourself, then stand up and be counted! Our board members and officers are dedicated and hard working, but still manage to have lots of fun in the process.

### CONTEST SEASON OPENS WITH

### NOVEMBER SWEEPSTAKES

Starting with ARRL CW Sweepstakes and ending with the Stew Perry 160 Distance Challenge, there are seven continuous weekends of major contests followed by two weeks off for Christmas and New Years.

Then there are 4 contests in January and 4 in February!

DX and stateside, CW, RTTY and SSB, there is a contest for every taste. Get your station ready for all the fun today!

### KARS BOARD MEETING

KARS November board meeting will be held in the banquet room of El Campesino Mexican restaurant on November 20th.

All KARS members and spouses are welcome to attend.

Eat at 6:00. Meet at 7:00

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

|        |          |
|--------|----------|
| KC9FAV | Nov 3rd  |
| KC9QPM | Nov 10th |
| N9IO   | Nov 12th |
| A19L   | Nov 20th |

Let the newsletter editors know if we miss your birthday or get it wrong

## It's Autumn 2012 Contest Season!

**EXAM SESSION - Wednesday - November 28 2012**  
**Glenn Raymond School - 101 W Mulberry - WATSEKA**

### WHAT IS A DBm?

by KEN W9IE

Did you ever wonder what a DBm is and or what it means or what the definition is ?? dBm (sometimes dBmW) is an abbreviation for the power ratio in decibels (dB) of the measured power referenced to one milliwatt (mW). OK, NOW WHAT ?? Well the math behind all this is more than I can handle... But I found a LINK that you can go to to print out a 2 Page Table that gives all the answers: <http://www.minicircuits.com/pages/pdfs/dg03-110.pdf>

In the Table you can see that an S9 Signal is -73 DBm or 50 micro volts. So if the Station you are talking to says your are "20 DB over S9" than your signal is a - 53 DBm or .50 mili volts (Thats Right you subtract not Add to the DB value) (Remember you subtract from a negative values to increase the value) So to have increased your signal from S9 to 20 DB over S9...You increased your signal on his end from 50 micro volts to .50 Mili volts. Doesn't seem like much Does It...

WELL, Assuming you started at 100 WATTS

|                                       |       |             |
|---------------------------------------|-------|-------------|
| The First double in power gives you   | 3 DB  | 200 WATTS   |
| The Second double in power gives you  | 6 DB  | 400 WATTS   |
| The Third double in power gives you   | 9 DB  | 800 WATTS   |
| The Fourth double in power gives you  | 12 DB | 1600 WATTS  |
| The Fifth double in power gives you   | 15 DB | 3200 WATTS  |
| The Sixth double in power gives you   | 18 DB | 6400 WATTS  |
| The Seventh double in power gives you | 21 DB | 12800 WATTS |

WOW !!! THATS A LOT OF POWER OR A REALLY BIG AMP.....  
 (DID YOU REALLY DO THAT ???)

In Summary, The Table Is Great. Print It Out For Reference. It kind of makes you wonder what the other guys S meter accuracy is if you turned on your amp and he said you went from S9 to 20 over!

### K9GY BRONZE STAR!

Long time SMC member Eric Hall K9GY/T6MO has been awarded the coveted Bronze Star for meritorious service in the Afghanistan theater.

Outstanding Eric! Keep your head down and come home safe.

BTW. If you need Afghanistan for your DXCC, Eric is on frequently using the call T6MO. He is particularly good at hearing Nines!

A big thanks to Eric and everyone who serves our country and keeps us safe.



**Eric (L) is awarded the Bronze Star by his commander**

### CONTEST & DX ACTION AT W9GRS (Glenn Raymond School) by Troy W9KVR

The W9GRS Station got on air for the October 2012 edition of the School Club Round Up from October 15-17. We knew that it would be a limited operation as I would be out of town on Thursday and Friday. We managed to get 17 different students on air and worked 102 contacts in that short amount of time. Unofficially we garnered 24 school stations, 6 clubs, 12 DX, and 25 states for a total of just over 25,000 points. We had a lot of fun operating both SSB and PSK and a handful of students are prepping for a VE Testing session at the end of November. Thursday proved to be an exciting day for me personally, as I traveled to Bloomington H.S. South (K9SOU) on my way to Louisville and met up with Neil Rapp, WB9VPG, and his students. I got the privilege of operating as a guest for their school club round-up operations and made a whopping 1 QSO! I stepped aside as junior, Padraig, KC9UUS took over and magnificently worked a growing pile-up. I had a lot of fun helping out and being able to have an "eyeball" with unofficial mentor Neil, who helped me get the ball rolling in terms of setting up a school station. A side note, Neil was the Guinness Book World record holder for being the youngest licensed amateur radio operator at 5 years old! That record will stand as my daughter just turned 6, hi hi!



**W9KVR demonstrates PSK31 to W9GRS students at a Science Club meeting**



**W9KVR operates K9SOU with KC9TMB during the October SCR**



**KC9TMB, WB9VPG, KC9UUS and W9KVR at the K9SOU station**