



# KARS KEY CLICKS



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June 2019

## Transmitter Tube Program at June Meeting

The [next KARS meeting](#) will be June 4th, 7PM at the public meeting room in St. Mary's Hospital. Use the South Main Entrance.

Field Day plans will be discussed at the general meeting.

Following the meeting, Art K9XI will present a program on the development of power grid tubes including external anode tubes. Be sure not to miss this interesting subject.

### TRANSMITTER HUNT

Weather permitting, [the next foxhunt](#) will be Saturday, June 1st at **12:00PM**. Usual rules and starting location apply. K9ABN has graciously agreed to be the fox and torment us...

Be sure to read the story of the last hunt on page 3.

### NCS FOR JUNE

The net meets every Monday at 8 PM local time on the 146.34/.94 repeater. All stations with or without traffic are invited to check in.

June 3	KD9CGC
June 10	K9KSG
June 17	N9OE
June 24	N9DWE

*Don't forget the net!*

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

June 5	KD9CGC
June 5	KD9CGB
June 8	K9ABN
June 10	N9OQC
June 17	K9BKR
June 20	KC9LBZ
June 26	KF9DM
June 26	W9IOU
June 30	K9BAK

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



**Don't miss the biggest operating event in Amateur Radio**  
**ARRL Field Day!**  
**June 22nd - June 23rd**

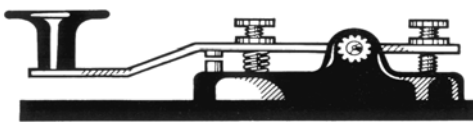
### KARS KALENDAR

June 1-2	..... <a href="#">Kentucky QSO Party</a>
June 2	..... <a href="#">Starved Rock RC Hamfest</a>
June 4	..... <a href="#">KARS General Meeting</a>
June 8	..... <a href="#">Transmitter Hunt</a>
June 8-10	..... <a href="#">ARRL June VHF QSO Party</a>
June 15-16	..... <a href="#">West Virginia QSO Party</a>
June 16	..... <a href="#">6 Meter Club Hamfest</a>
June 18	..... <a href="#">KARS Board Meeting</a>
June 22-23	..... <a href="#">FD MAP</a> ..... <a href="#">FIELD DAY</a>
June 30	..... <a href="#">Transmitter Hunt</a>
July 2	..... <a href="#">KARS General Meeting</a>
July 14	..... <a href="#">Transmitter Hunt</a>
July 13-14	..... <a href="#">IARU HF World Championship</a>
July 21	..... <a href="#">KARSFEST</a>
July 16	..... <a href="#">KARS Board Meeting</a>
July 20-21	..... <a href="#">CQ Worldwide VHF</a>
July 20-21	..... <a href="#">NAQP RTTY</a>
July 28	..... <a href="#">Transmitter Hunt</a>

## KARSFEST!

### JULY 21st

Peotone, IL - Will Co Fairgrounds



# W9AZ

## JOIN THE FUN AT ARRL FIELD DAY!

### KARS FIELD DAY

*Attention all KARS members:*

Field Day setup will start at 10AM Saturday June 22nd. KARS operations will commence at 1PM local and run around the clock till 1PM Sunday. We will be operating portable with emergency power. All members are invited to participate.

Camp all night if you like or come and go as you please.

After decades of service, Will K9FO is unable to perform the duties as chief chef. Consequently, we are looking for someone to man the grill. If we have a volunteer, the club will provide the meat entrée. Lacking a chef, everyone will have to provide and cook their own food. The club will provide a grill and charcoal as usual. Remember to bring chairs, (a small folding table is a good idea) table service, mosquito spray and beverage as well as a side dish or dessert to share with your fellow hams. See you at Field Day.

Come to the meeting for directions or check out the ARRL Field Day operations map on the League web page.

A big thank you to Kevin N9REG and his family for again hosting [KARS Field Day at their lovely location](#). Please don't drive on the grass.

Don't miss out on the largest operating event in Amateur Radio!

*The Kankakee Area Radio Society operates repeaters on:*

146.34/.94	107.2 PL Access
449.8/444.8	100.0 PL Access
145.130	107.2 PL Access

*Additionally, KARS sponsors:*

144.39 2 Wide Area APRS digi-peaters  
KARS DX Cluster [w9az.ddns.net](#)

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

## KARSFEST REPORT JUNE 2019

It was a productive trip to Dayton this year, mainly because I learned something new. I handed out over 50 flyers to various vendors at the commercial exhibits. One of the first vendors I talked to suggested that, though it would not be possible to attend KARSFEST, at least not this year, why couldn't they send along a door prize as a consolation? That tripped my trigger, and after that I suggested that to every vendor with whom I talked. I even got a door prize for a vendor from the Czech Republic! The final result? A bag full of door prizes for KARS-Fest! They're all in a bag sitting next to me as I write this. While I have not had the chance to go through them all in the intervening week (when this is written), I will be doing so shortly, and will have a list of donors in the re-vamped flyer coming out in a week or so, as you read this. Clay, stand by! Now, did we get any takers on our invitation to be a vendor at KARS-Fest? Well, so far I've not gotten any flyers back, but we have at least a few already signed up. Let's see what happens in the intervening weeks until our next report.

This report wouldn't be complete without a tip of the hat to a few folks: To the folks at Print Step 1 for putting the rush job on the flyer printing for Dayton, after an early order to them got lost in the email, and a six day job got turned into two! And to Frank, K9XM and his lovely wife for taking the flyers to Dayton on Thursday night when I couldn't be there until Saturday morning, due to logistics. Thanks to you all so much. Other than that, this year, I didn't get much help with spreading the vendor flyers around at Dayton. Would have loved to have it. Next year, maybe? Let's go!!

One more thing: Tickets for next years KARSFEST *will* be printed in January, in order to provide door prizes for next year's KARS-Fest. Flyers will be printed at the end of April and there will be at least three editions: early, for the winter hamfests, one for Dayton, and one post-Dayton.

We're out to make KARSFEST the best summer hamfest ever---Dayton with sunscreen!!!

Art K9XI - KARSFEST Chair

## FT8 INTERCONTINENTAL DX OPERATING PRACTICE ON 50.323 MHZ

During the Northern Hemisphere Summer Es season the use of 50.313 MHz for FT8 contacts has become very congested, and stations are now using 50.323 MHz for Intercontinental DX working. In order to not cause QRM to each other and permit the most efficient use of FT8 for weak signal DX working, it is highly desirable for all stations to operate in the same transmit windows. The UKSMG has prepared these guidelines for the use of 50.323 MHz...

1. European stations to transmit in the "even" periods. That is 00, and 30 seconds past each minute.
2. Asian and North American stations to transmit in the odd periods. That is 15 and 45 seconds past each minute.
3. Do not use 50.323 MHz for working stations within your continent.
4. Familiarize yourself with the excellent FT8 operating guide by ZL2IFB...

[http://www.g4ifb.com/FT8\\_Hinson\\_tips\\_for\\_HF\\_DXers.pdf](http://www.g4ifb.com/FT8_Hinson_tips_for_HF_DXers.pdf)

Relayed from Craig K9CT



## HARA ARENA STRUCK BY TORNADO

The famed huge complex that hosted Hamvention just three years ago was heavily damaged by a tornado on May 27th.

Lots of memories...very sad!

### FOR SALE

Icom IC-746 with Heil BM-10 Headset. Includes the OEM filters plus 1.9khz and 350hz narrow filters, built in auto tuner, 100 watts on 2 meters and 6-160m. \$450 MFJ-434 Voice Keyer currently configured for the IC-746. \$100 All in excellent condition.

I also have a pristine one owner Acom 1000 Amplifier 6-160m \$1900  
Contact N9IO [n9io@hotmail.com](mailto:n9io@hotmail.com)

### KARS BOARD MEETING

The Board Meeting will be held on June 18th in the private dining room at El Mexicano's Restaurant by the Hilton Hotel and Walmart south of town near the I-57 exit. Eat at 6 P.M. Meeting at 7 P.M. All members and spouses are welcome.

**SEE YOU AT  
FIELD DAY!  
June 22-23**



## W9IE'S PROGRAM ON REMOTE AUTO-TUNE CONTROLLER IN MAY



Control head mounted in the shack



External view of the remote tuner housing



Motorized and remotely switched components inside the tuner housing

### W9IE's REMOTE ANTENNA CONTROLLER

Ken W9IE never saw a home brew project he didn't like. His latest confirms that adage. Basically, the project started when he decided to shunt feed his tower on 160 meters. That presented challenges of its own but that's another story. After getting the match right on 160, Ken decided to give it a go on 80. It worked great! While he could switch bands remotely with a relay, the size of the bands required some creative thinking to cover all the respective bandwidth. So he cooked up a scheme, using 2 Arduino controllers, a data stream from his Alpha Wattmeter, other parts and appropriate lines of code and bingo! He has an automatic remote tuner controller that matches his tower on nearly every part of the 80 and 160 Meter bands...hands free! As an unplanned bonus, the system matches his tower to the 30 Meter band as well! Ken gives special thanks to Dale WB9RUE for lending his amazing talent writing the program code for the tuner portion of this project.



KARS members taking on needed nourishment after a heavy duty day at Hamvention

### KARS TRANSMITTER HUNTS...A SUREFIRE CURE FOR DROUGHT!

The May 11th transmitter hunt was one for the books. It was not supposed to rain during the hunt...it did of course. Since Scott K9ABN was using a system whereby his hunting antenna protruded through his sun roof (rain roof?), he and his XYL decided instead to pickup some lunch and eat it at park in Bourbonnais. Upon arriving, they found the fox, Don K9NR! They were the first there with lowest mileage!

This presented a conundrum. Technically, Scott passed all the requirements. He started at the starting line and found the fox with the lowest mileage. There is nothing in the rules against using food to find the fox!

Initially, Scott did not claim victory stating he had dropped out. However, there is nothing in the rules about that either. The next hunting team was John N9DWE and Jim KB9VR. They magnanimously proclaimed "Scott's the winner" "Scotts the winner!" What a great couple of guys!

Scott agreed to be the fox for the next hunt...Uh Oh!

Is this a great hobby or what!

## 2019 DAYTON/XENIA\* HAMVENTION ACTION

\*PO-TAY-TO PO-TOT-TO



Italian Keys and paddles from Begali



Bill N9OE (foreground) at the KARS / SMC table during the Contest Dinner at Hamvention



17 year old Contester Marty NN1C describes operating multi-op at K3LR