



KARS KEY KLICKS



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February 2021

Online “ZOOM” meeting to be held for the February General Meeting

Due to the relentless nature of the Communist Chinese Wuhan Virus, the KARS Board has decided to try an on-line General Membership Meeting using the “Zoom” service. We have been using Zoom for Board meetings this past year with success.

On Tuesday February 2nd at 7PM, we will try a test of the system. All members will receive an email with a link to connect to the “meeting.” Make sure the club officials know your latest email address!

You will need a computer with an Internet connection, a sound card, a speaker and a microphone. Most any laptop or desktop these days qualifies. Log in ahead of time in case you need to make any adjustments. This will not be an official meeting, only a test. Feel free to check in and visit with others as long as you wish.

If all goes well, we will hold the KARS February General Meeting the following Tuesday on the 9th at 7PM. There will be no program, just a business meeting and visiting and enjoying each others company.

Be sure to log in and give it a try!

ZOOM Links are on Page 3.

NCS FOR FEBRUARY

The net meets every Monday at 2000 hours local time on the 146.34/94. All stations with or without traffic are invited to check in.

February 1 KD9NPQ
February 8 K9KSG
February 15 N9LYE
February 22 N9DWE

Don't forget the net!

Mondays at 2000 hrs. local time



WSJT-X 2.4.0 Update

The latest, soon to be released version (2.4.0) of WSJT-X will introduce a new digital protocol called Q65. It is designed for “minimal two-way QSOs over especially difficult propagation paths. On paths with Doppler spread more than a few hertz, the weak-signal performance of Q65 is the best among all WSJT-X modes.

Q65 is particularly effective on tropospheric and ionospheric scatter, EME, VHF and higher bands.

This new update will not affect FT-8 or any other digital modes.

KARS KALENDAR

Feb 2..TEST [KARS General Meeting](#)
Feb 9 ZOOM [Meetings Info on PAGE 3](#)
Feb 16..... [KARS Board Meeting](#)
March 2..... [KARS General Meeting](#)
March 16..... [KARS Board Meeting](#)

The Kankakee Area Radio Society operates repeaters on:

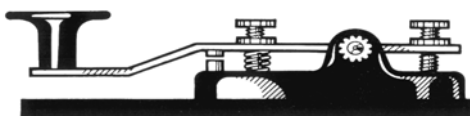
146.34/94 107.2 PL Access
449.8/444.8 100.0 PL Access
145.130 107.2 PL Access

Additionally, KARS sponsors:

144.39 Two Wide Area APRS digi-peaters
KARS DX Cluster w9az.ddns.net

KARS KONTEST KALENDAR

Jan 29-31.....[CQWW 160 CW Contest](#)
Feb 6-7.....[Vermont QSO Party](#)
Feb 6.....[Minnesota QSO Party](#)
Feb 6-7.....[British Columbia QSO Party](#)
Feb 8-12....[ARRL School Club Roundup](#)
Feb 13-14.....[CQWW WPX RTTY](#)
Feb 20-21.....[ARRL DX CW](#)
Feb 26-28.....[CQWW 160 Contest SSB](#)
Feb 27-28.....[South Carolina QSO Party](#)
Feb 27-28.....[NAQP RTTY](#)
Feb 28.....[North Carolina QSO Party](#)



W9AZ

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

February 3 K9XI
February 4 K9QT
February 8 KK9R (ex KM9Z)
February 11 N9ETT
February 13 KC9UNR
February 14 K9BAC
February 15 NI9H
February 20 N9LYE

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

“ZOOM” February 2nd & 9th! (See Page 3)

REPEATER CONTROLLER UPDATE

KARS member Andrew N9BMB has provided major service to the KARS Repeater Technical Committee by assembling and testing one of the repeater controllers...no small accomplishment. We are grateful for his skills and efforts and as an added plus, Andrew received school credit for his service to the club and his community. Kudos Andrew!

For school, I am required to perform five hours of mandated community service for either my school or an outside entity. Also, I am in an extracurricular activity that requires another ten hours of community service. To complete some of these hours, I assembled an ARCOM RC210 Advanced Repeater Controller PC board kit for the KARS Amateur Radio Club. My dad said that the last one he built took six to eight hours.

I assembled small circuit kits 5-6 years ago, but this was on a much larger scale. In fact, I spent about double what my dad did on the board. In total, I worked on it for about 16-20 hours. Regarding the work done to complete the project, I had to install parts, solder them in place, check my work, and test the board according to the instructions. These parts include diodes, capacitors, LEDs, integrated circuits, resistors, and other parts. Because of this project, I have learned the importance of patience. I had to spend a very long time in the same spot doing very similar tasks repeatedly. This gave me a chance to focus solely on what I needed to do and allowed me to ignore all distractions.

73, Andrew N9BMB

Andrew's dad, of course is Bill N9OE, long time member of the Repeater Technical Committee. Bill reports that considerable work has been done on the controllers and we should soon benefit from their implementation! Thanks Bill!



above... One of the completed controller boards for the KARS new repeaters.



Left and below... Andrew N9BMB intently working on his assignment for KARS.

Final KARS Transmitter Hunt of 2020 - December 19

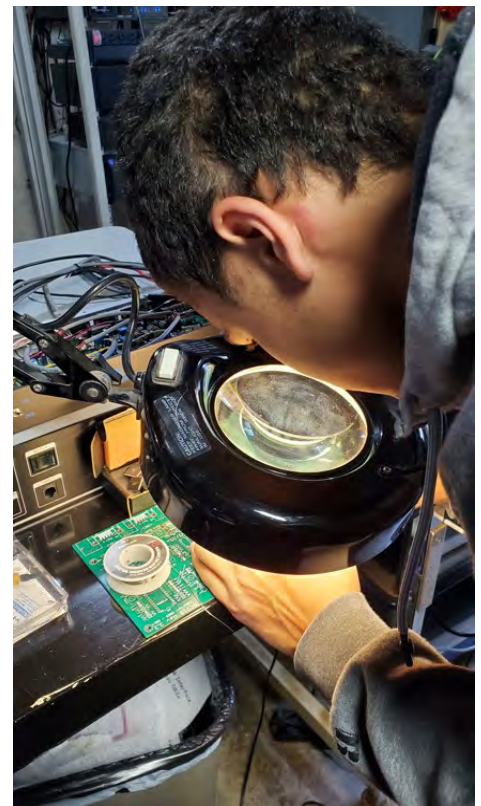
A very popular activity for many in an otherwise dismal year



Some of the hunters at the start on a chilly but pretty sunny day



Fox Jim WD9GXU at his lair and the winners JR K9KSG and Bob NN9T



zoom

February 2021 KARS Meetings

Feb 2nd "Test meeting"

We will be having a February General meeting via Zoom! This will be a week later than normal; February 9th 2021. This is to allow us to have time to get the word out, and also to allow us to have an equipment test meeting on February 2nd, 2021.

Below is a link to the February 2nd "TEST" ZOOM session.

I highly encourage anyone who isn't familiar with Zoom to take a few minutes to check in and make sure everything is working so that our actual meeting goes smoothly.

I look forward to seeing many of you then.

Craig N9FD

Craig Cahan is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: KARS Equipment Test

Time: Feb 2, 2021 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76242483620?pwd=UWtpYnFnSnBSMG9zYWlpcUtXdjcvdz09>

Meeting ID: 762 4248 3620

Passcode: 671077

Feb 9th "Official Meeting"

We will be having a February General meeting via Zoom! This will be a week later than normal; February 9th 2021.

Below is the invitation to the meeting on February 9th.

We scheduled the meeting for February 9th to allow us to have time to get the word out, and also to allow us to have an equipment test meeting on February 2nd, 2021.

A separate email will be going out with the link to the February 2nd test meeting. I highly encourage anyone who isn't familiar with Zoom to take a few minutes to check in then and make sure everything is working so that our actual meeting goes smoothly.

I look forward to seeing many of you then.

Craig N9FD

Craig Cahan is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: KARS February General Meeting

Time: Feb 9, 2021 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85883264831?pwd=OVdXandaNW5TdXNsVVAYM1o3MEFEZz09>

Meeting ID: 858 8326 4831

Passcode: 438164

For Sale:

Alpha 9500 legal limit fully automatic amplifier. Like new condition.
\$ 3000.

Ken W9IE. 815.592.3366