



KARS KEY CLICKS



JOURNAL OF THE KANKAKEE AREA RADIO SOCIETY

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December 2017

KP4 Communication Relief Effort by NV9L

The next KARS meeting will be December 5th 7PM in the St. Mary's Hospital Board Meeting Room. Use the main entrance on the south side and take the elevator to the lower level.

There will be a brief business meeting followed with a presentation by Ham Nation Co-host Valerie Hotzfeld NV9L about her experience with the Red Cross / ARRL volunteer communications relief effort in Puerto Rico. See you there!

BOARD MEETING

The next KARS board meetings will be held on Tuesday, December 19th and Tuesday January 16th at El Mexicano Restaurant. Eat at 6PM. Meet at 7PM. All members are welcome.

DUES ARE DUE NOW

It's that time of year. KARS dues have not been raised in over 30 years and they won't be raised this year either!

Adult Member	\$30
Family Rate	\$40
Senior (65)	\$15
Full time student	\$15
Disabled	\$15
Active Military - waived	

New Members who joined in the second half of 2017 are covered for 2018.

NCS FOR DECEMBER

The net meets every Monday at 2000 hours local time on the 146.34/94 OR 145.130 backup repeater. All stations with or without traffic are invited to check in.

Dec 4th	N9RJM
Dec 11th	KD9CGC
Dec 18th	N9OE
Dec 25th	N9FD
Don't forget the net!	



20th Anniversary of KARS Web Page

KARS KALENDAR

Dec 1-3	.....ARRL 160 Meter Contest
Dec 5	.....KARS General Meeting
Dec 9-10	.....ARRL 10 Meter Contest
Dec 30-31	.....Stew Perry Top Band Contest
Dec 19	.....KARS Board Meeting
Dec 25	.....MERRY CHRISTMAS!
Dec 31	.....KARS NEW YEARS DINNER (Pg 3)
NO KARS GENERAL MEETING IN JANUARY	
Jan 6-7	.....ARRL RTTY Roundup
Jan 13-14	.....NA QSO Party CW
Jan 16	.....KARS Board Meeting
Jan 20-21	.....NA QSO Party SSB
Jan 21	.....KARS BANQUET (Pg 3)
Jan 21	.....WCRA Wheaton Hamfest
Jan 26-28	.....CQWW CW160 Contest

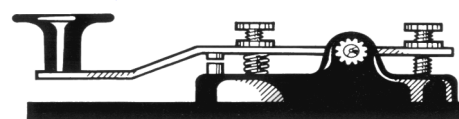
As always there will be no January newsletter or regular meeting.
Merry Christmas

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
[www.w9az.ddns](#) KARS DX Cluster



W9AZ

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



20 YEARS OF W9AZ.COM

Seems like it was just yesterday. December 1st 1997 the KARS web site initiative went live. Written and maintained by the still current web master Clay Melhorn N9IO with the blessing of the KARS board. The first year we were hosted on geocities, ever since we have been fortunate to be hosted by the best service provider of (any) in existence at QTH.COM. The passion of QTH owner, DXer and contester Scott Neader KA9FOX is very apparent in the service he provides to the many thousands of ham radio web sites worldwide on qth.com and qsl.net. Thank you Scott.

We were not the first ham club on the web but certainly among the early adopters of the time. One concern was whether Internet could somehow hurt or lessen ham radio's relevance. However, it has only proven to be one of the best forms of advertisement we could have adopted in terms of promoting ham radio and KARSFEST. It's also a great way to archive KARS history and distribute this very newsletter.

Not as many people had Internet like today and of the hams that were on the web at that time, the majority were on cumbersome dial-up including your web master. Uploads were slooow! The original web page resolution of 640x480 was lame compared to today's Internet experience. My goal has always been to make the downloads go as quickly as possible by keeping page sizes down. Now mobile phone browsing is more common and I have recently been learning how to implement it.

Another related notable. I authored the original [ARRL Central Division](#) web site from 2002 until 2010. Now Division Director Kermit Carlson W9XA has asked me to once again resume the web master function in September 2017.

I am proud to have been able to make my contribution. Ham radio is my passion.

73' Best DX, *Clay N9IO*

KARS MEMBER VAL NV9L HONORED AS MEMBER OF ARRL "FORCE OF 50 DEPLOYMENT" IN POST HURRICANE PUERTO RICO

ARRL Central Division Director Kermit Carlson W9XA
Presents Special Award to NV9L at KARS November Program



ARRL Central Division Director Kermit Carlson presents Val NV9L with a Special Public Service Award from the ARRL for her service in hurricane ravaged Puerto Rico



Visibly moved, Val clutches her award. While Kermit's visit and program was scheduled, the award was a complete surprise to all but Kermit W9XA, Don K9NR and Jerry WB9Z



The brief award ceremony was followed by an appropriate standing ovation by all in attendance!



A close up of NV9L's Special Public Service Award



Flanked by her significant other, Jerry WB9Z, Val gazes at her award



A standing room only crowd for the ARRL Division Director's presentation

KARS NOVEMBER MEETING HONORED BY ARRL DIVISION DIRECTOR KERMIT CARLSON W9XA VISIT AND PRESENTATION

The November KARS meeting was a packed house to hear ARRL Director Kermit W9XA's excellent talk on current issues in Amateur Radio. In a surprise action, Kermit presented Val NV9L with an ARRL Special Public Service Award for her service in post Hurricane Puerto Rico. Many thanks to Kermit for his informative program.

The women of KARS have a record of being "in the trenches" during emergencies. Billie K9QT spent several days as the Net Control Station in the Will County Emergency Services incident command vehicle after the devastating Plainfield Tornado of 1990.



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

KARS HOLIDAY BANQUET

Sunday January 21st 2018

Time: 4:30PM - 7:30PM

Place:

The Family House Restaurant
312 Kennedy Drive in Bradley

Cost per Person:

\$20.25 for everything...includes buffet

**Roast Beef, Roast Chicken, Mostaccioli,
Vegetable, Potato, Ice Cream, Coffee, Soft Drink**

taxes & gratuity included

\$13.60 for children 12 and under.

We must reserve VERY soon.

Reservations and check, payable to KARS, must be in by December 19th!

It's important that you make your reservation ASAP!

Make your checks payable to: KARS

Send your check & reservation info to:

**Don Kerouac K9NR
6311 E Flora Street
Kankakee, Illinois 60901**

donk9nr@gmail.com



ARRL MEMBERSHIP

Most everyone knows that without the ARRL there would be no amateur radio. KARS is an affiliated club and everyone should be an ARRL member! Do your part and [join/renew your membership today!](#)



NEW YEARS EVE DINNER

Unofficially, a group of KARS members have been getting together around 5 PM on New Years Eve at El Mexicano's Restaurant for dinner. We then go our own way to party or more often; go home, relax and welcome the New Year in our own way.

As stated earlier, this is an unofficial activity...**not to be confused with the annual KARS banquet.** While there are no reservations required, we need to have an idea of how many plan to show.

This is a relaxing get together. No program. No plans. Just order from the regular menu, visit, enjoy the food and have fun. If you and your significant other plan to attend, send K9NR an email at: donk9nr@gmail.com so we can give the restaurant an idea of how many to expect.

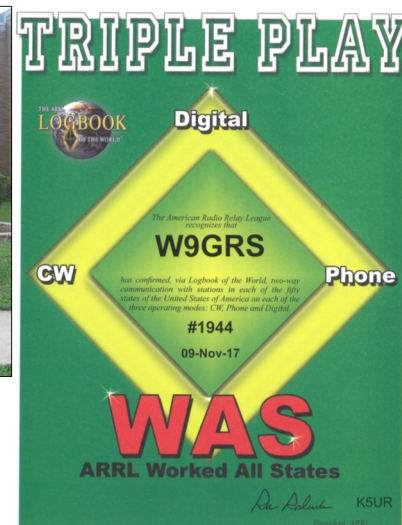
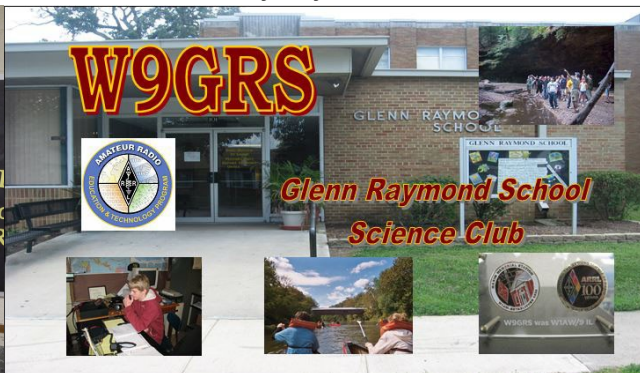
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

December 1	WD9AYI
December 6	AC9CZ
December 7	N9LCX
December 13	KD9FVM
December 19	KC9EOT
December 20	KF9IK
December 20	WA9WAQ
December 22	N9OE
December 28	K9JLK
January 7	N9IOQ
January 13	KD9CGD
January 17	WD9FYF
January 20	K9XM
January 22	N9TDS
January 25	W9LIZ
January 27	W9KK

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

YOUTH HAPPENINGS AT W9GRS GLENN RAYMOND SCHOOL IN WATSEKA

by Troy W9KVR



Left: Proud Father Troy W9KVR with
Daughter Sophie at the mic

Above: W9GRS QSL Card

Right: W9GRS Triple Play Award

See more pics below

It has been an exciting 30 days for Glenn Raymond School's W9GRS amateur radio station. Over 40 students attended the introduction to amateur radio meeting in conjunction with the October School Club Roundup that took place that week. Students and staff demonstrated a variety of modes including phone, CW, PSK31, SSTV, JT65, and RTTY, making QSO's with several stations in the process. Students also were able to hold a frequency long enough on SSB to generate a small pile-up, which made a certain Mr. Simpson very happy! Throughout the week, 21 different students made multiple QSO's enroute to a 4th place finish in the always competitive Middle School division. It is the 11th time the school has finished in the top 5 in the nation in the biennial competition and their highest finish since October 2013.

Not to be satisfied with that, the school got back on air a couple days later to represent KARS in the Illinois QSO party. Only able to operate for a couple hours, W9GRS still managed to put over 150 Q's into the log and make several stations happy to get the semi-rare SSB multiplier, IROQ, in their logs. It was great to be able to work several KARS stations as well during ILQP, though we couldn't quite get K9NR to hear us, hi hi.

With November, came Sweepstakes time. Troy, W9KVR, school sponsor and trustee, took the reigns for the CW Sweepstakes in hopes to add a few more states to the CW log. Despite the rather challenging exchange for Sweepstakes, W9GRS was able to set new station records for Q's, multi's, and points and more importantly, add the final 3 states to their Triple Play Award, with confirmation of those via LoTW within hours of the conclusion of the contest. **By week's end, W9GRS became the 4th school and the ONLY non-collegiate school to be awarded ARRL's Triple Play Award having been given Award #1944! Preliminary claimed scores have W9GRS in the Top Ten for school stations in the CW Sweepstakes.** That week became a big week for 9-Land schools as fellow school and friends in Indiana, K9SOU, led by Neil WB9VPG, not only took 1st in the October SCR high school division, but also earned their DXCC, to join W9GRS as among the few non-collegiate schools to do so (note: W9GRS earned DXCC #44,725 in 2011).

The 30-day whirlwind wrapped up with the SSB portion of the Sweepstakes and W9GRS getting back on air. Students and staff were able to get on for a short bit on Saturday, with W9KVR sticking around a bit longer to work a very active 80m band. Station records were set in all categories again in the very competitive school category and showing a non-collegiate school can still put up good numbers.

With winter approaching, several students have expressed interest in learning more and seeing about what it takes to get their ticket. Winter also brings DX and several new ones lie in the waiting to add to the W9GRS log. If Fall is an indicator of what Spring will be like, it should be a pretty exciting one in store for W9GRS.



Glenn Raymond School Science Class all-stars learn the finer points of Ham Radio from Instructor Troy Simpson W9KVR



Elections

It's time for the annual election of KARS Officers/ Board Members. Sooo, why not put your name on the ballot. Nominations are accepted right up to the election and you can write-in your choice of candidate.

Any member may run for any office.

Below is the present "ticket." Presently, we have four new candidates: N9IO for Vice President, W9IOU for Treasurer, K9KSG and W9IE for Board of Directors. KC9QXV and K9QT are stepping down from their positions. We thank them for their service.

Voting is limited to licensed members in good standing.

2017 W9AZ BALLOT FOR OFFICERS & DIRECTORS FOR 2018

President: Don K9NR*

Directors (vote for 5)

Carl K9CS *

Ken W9IE

Craig N9FD *

Bill N9OE*

JR K9KSG

V President: Rollie N9RJM *
Clay N9IO

Secretary: Ed W9EJM *

Treasurer: Crystal W9IOU

Your call here? _____

Sample Ballot

* Incumbents

Sample Ballot



FINAL FOX HUNT OF 2017

For the few hardy souls that braved the late autumn weather, the November 12th transmitter hunt was the last of the year. The photo at the left shows the foxes...the Dau Gang...N9OE, N9DLD, N9BMB and the winner K9NR at the Chicago Dough Pizza Emporium, post hunt where they enjoyed the pizza buffet and homemade "foxhunt" brownies. The three hunters willing to hunt in the rain and winds were: K9KSG, K9NR and K9QT.

Hope to see all hunters next spring when we have our first hunt of 2018!

From all the hams at KARS to all the hams of the world...

Have a very
Merry Christmas!
and a Happy New Year!