



KARS KEY KLICKS



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March 2009

Logbook of the World slated for the March Meeting

The next KARS meeting will be Tuesday, March 3rd at 7PM at the usual St. Mary's Hospital meeting room.

The March program will feature: **"Logbook of the World"**

We have scheduled a primer on how to setup, upload and manage an LOTW account. New hams in particular will find LOTW a very useful utility to obtain confirmations for their Worked All States, DXCC and other awards. We will also discuss logging programs.

Be sure to attend!

WB9Z OPERATES FROM DESECHEO ISLAND

KARS own Jerry WB9Z was recruited to be a member of the Desecheo DXpedition. Jerry brought considerable experience to the operation on one of the rarest DXCC entities in the world.

The expedition callsign was K5D. Operations commenced on February 13th and ended on February 26th. During that time the expedition crew put 115,728 contacts in the log on all bands 160-6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY!

While not far from mainland America (it is near Puerto Rico), Desecheo is in the top ten most wanted entities because access to it is usually prohibited by the US Fish & Wildlife Service both because it is a protected wildlife habitat and was once used as a gunnery range. Consequently, all members of the DXpedition were required to attend classes on un-exploded ordnance!

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A small view of the large turnout for the annual KARS Banquet
More pictures on page 3

KARS KALENDAR

February 27th-March 1st..CQWW 160 SSB
February 28th-March 1st.....NAQP RTTY
March 3rd.....KARS General Meeting
March 7th-8th..ARRL International DX SSB
March 17th.....KARS Board Meeting
March 22nd-24th.....BARTG HF RTTY
March 28th-29th.....CQWW WPX SSB
April 7th.....KARS General Meeting
April 21st.....KARS Board Meeting

The Kankakee Area Radio Society operates repeaters on:

146.34/.94 **107.2 PL Access**
449.8/444.8 **114.8 PL Access**

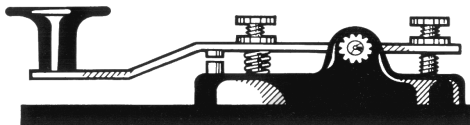
Also, co-sponsors:

145.130 **107.2 PL Access**

Additionally, KARS sponsors:

144.39 **Wide Area APRS digi-peaters**
Kankakee and University Park

145.53 **KARS DX Cluster**



W9AZ

POSTAL INCREASE

The cost of sending a QSL card is going up...again! The USPS released the new postal rates today. The new rates will go into effect on May 11, 2009. Here is the link to the announcement:

<http://www.usps.com/prices/pricechanges.htm>

Below are some of the prices that will be of most interest to hams.

First Class Letter	44 cents
Postcard	28 cents
US to Canada	75 cents
US to Mexico	79 cents
US to International	98 cents
IRC	\$2.10

This announcement really makes the KARS program on Logbook of the World this month very timely!

BANQUET A BIG SUCCESS!

The was a tremendous turnout at the Brickstone Brewery for the annual KARS Banquet. See page three for pics.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March 2 W9IEY

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

NCS FOR MARCH

March 2nd	KC9FAV
March 9th	WD9AYI
March 16th	K9NR
March 23rd	KE9MG
March 30th	N9LYE

The net meets every Monday at 2100 hours local time. All stations with or without traffic are invited to check in.

Don't forget the net!

Do you have your Dayton plans in order?

KARS HOMEPAGE—WWW.W9AZ.COM—KARS HOMEPAGE

TOP 10 REASONS FOR RUNNING QRP

By Will K9FO

- 10 Save a lot on the electric bill
- 9 Keeps the old rig cool
- 8 Your tuner coil does not melt
- 7 No heavy amplifiers to lift
- 6 Makes the other guy strain to hear you
- 5 Not a lot of QSL's to send out
- 4 Send CQ without being interrupted by calls
- 3 Take a little rig on vacation to amuse the XYL
- 2 No RF burns or safety issues
And the number one reason to run QRP...
- 1 This is Illinois, you can cheat and run a kilowatt!!!

KARS RTTY ROUNDUP SCORES

KARS participation in the ARRL RTTY Roundup was at an all time high this year. Eleven members turned in scores for the Society of Midwest Contesters cumulative total.

KARS Participants included:

Call	Q's	Mults	Score
WB9Z	1109	107	118,663
N9LAH	816	92	75,072
AI9L	756	73	55,188
K9NR	525	77	40,348
W9YNI	375	83	31,125
N9LYE	348	62	21,576
AK9F	264	62	16,368
KC9FAV	110	38	4,180
M0SLA/W9	62	22	1,364
K9QT	12	9	108
KB9ZQU	5	5	25

Club Total **364,017**

WB9Z OPERATES FROM DESECHEO ISLAND

Continued from page 1

Many KARS members worked the expedition on nearly all bands and modes. Jess AI9L worked them on 20 different band/modes. Don K9NR got them on 14 band/modes. Other locals included: K9QT, AF9H, AK9F, W9YNI, K9FO, N9IO, K9CS, KM9Z, N9LYE and undoubtedly many more in Kankakee and Iroquois Counties.

The DXpedition to Desecheo was no vacation.

Continued below

JESS AI9L BAGS HIS TRIPLE-PLAY WAS AWARD

Jess AI9L has qualified for his ARRL Triple-Play Worked All States. The T-P WAS is the latest award from the ARRL. All contacts must be after January 1st 2009 and all contacts must be confirmed via Logbook Of The World. You must work & confirm, via LOTW, all fifty states on CW, SSB & Digital (RTTY, PSK, etc)...a total of 150. Congrats Jess!

Word has it that K9NR has 149 confirmed, needing only North Dakota on SSB. How are you doing?

ELECTRONIC HUMOR?

By Bill N9IO

A Reward of 500 microfarads is offered for the information leading to the arrest of Hop-A-Long Capacity. This unrectified criminal escaped from a western primary cell where he had been clamped in ions awaiting the gauss chamber. He is charged with the induction of an 18 turn coil named Milli Henry who was found choked and robbed of valuable joules.

He is armed with a carbon rod and is a potential killer. Capacity is also charged with driving DC motorover a Wheatstone Bridge and refusing to let the band pass. If encountered, he may offer series resistance.

The electromotive force spent the night searching for him in a magnetic field, where he had gone to earth. They had no success and believed he had returned home via a short circuit. He was last seen riding a kilocycle with his friend Eddy Current who was playing a harmonic.

Most members were making their first RTTY contacts while K9QT & M0SLA/W9 (a.k.a. KF9IK) were busy visiting as Sheri was home from England for a Christmas Holiday visit. Still they took time to make some contacts for the SMC total. No score is too small for the club total!

WB9WEU SK

Ken Norrick, WB9WEU, a member of KARS for many years, passed away Sunday following a long illness. Ken moved from Limestone Township to Texas a number of years ago, returning recently. He was 79.

His son is Ray Norrick, WB9WEC, and his wife is Fran, WB9WPS. Fran was the newsletter editor and secretary of KARS for many years prior to their leaving Kankakee and Ray is heard often on the repeater and has been active in many KARS activities.

KARS condolences go out to Ken's many friends and family members.

AERIAL HUMOR

By Andy KB9YLW

"Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent."

Remember to pass the word about the fabulous KARSFEST in July!



The heliport pad was also the operating/staging/eating/sleeping area

Each team member contributed considerable resources and effort to make it such a success. Expeditions like Desecheo cost multiple six figures. All this money is provided by the team members, DX organizations and from donations from operators like you!

When you send for your QSL, be sure to donate generously! For the full low down on the operation, check out the web page at:<http://kp5.us>

For more Desecheo pictures, see page 3

Note: Desecheo pictures are courtesy of the "The KP1-5 Project" website.



Jerry WB9Z at the helm of the K5D 20 meter station handing out contacts at a blistering rate

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

More great photos of KARS members doing what they do best...having fun!



KARS Banquet
Howard AK9F receives a cardiac "jump start" courtesy of the ever thoughtful Greg WR9L



KARS Banquet
Carl K9CS (L) and Don K9NR (R) are presented with plaques from Howard AK9F (C) for first place multi-op in the Indiana QSO Party operating from his farm in southern Indiana



KARS Banquet
Will K9FO and Barb enjoying the atmosphere, friends and good food at the Brickstone Brewery Restaurant



Desecheo DXpedition
One of countless helicopter flights ferrying in heavy equipment...over seven tons...not counting operators!



Desecheo DXpedition
Helicopter pilots perspective of the landing pad on Desecheo



Desecheo DXpedition
Yet another helicopter load of supplies arrives



Desecheo DXpedition
Jerry WB9Z (center) and other team members working on the antennas



Desecheo DXpedition
Soon after arrival the winds churned up the ocean resulting in huge waves that took down some of the antennas



Desecheo DXpedition
The surf was so rough that crew change had to be done with helicopters instead of the Zodiak (boat)