

KISHWAUKEE AMATUER RADIO CLUB

Club Call: WA9CJN /Repeater 146.13/73, -o/s, 100pl

NOVEMBER 2007 Newsletter

Club Officers:

President – W9ICU

Vice President – N9RFR

Treasurer – KC9DUX

Secretary – WD9GNX

Next Club Meeting: November 14, 2007, 7PM

Location: Community of Christ Church

1200 W. South Malta Rd., DeKalb, IL

Next VE Testing: November 20, 2007, 7PM

Location: same as above

On the web: kish-club.org or KARC at P.O. Box 371, DeKalb, IL 60115

Monday evening 2 meter net: 9PM on WA9CJN repeater, featuring ARRL audio news

AREAS/RACES net: Thursday evenings 7PM on WA9CJN repeater

Nightly informal rag chew group: 8PM on 160 meters (1,926.0 KHz)

Ham Radio Breakfast: Saturday mornings at 9:00AM, Town Square Restaurant, 351 N. Main Street (Route 23), Sycamore. All are welcome.

Next Club Meeting: Please attend the next club meeting. Club officers for 2008 take office and plans for the Club Holiday party will be finalized.

Its time to pay your 2008 Club dues: Please see Club Treasurer KC9DUX. He will issue a 2008 membership card.

KARC Holiday Party: The Club Holiday Party will be held December 12, 2007 at the Carl's Fargo Inn, Sycamore. Social gathering at 6:30 PM with dinner at 7:00 PM. Member cost is \$5.00 plus \$5.00 for up to one guest. Additional guests \$18.95 each.

Solar Update: ARRL continues to report the lack of sun spot activity. The solar flux has been in the in the 67 range recently, which DXers know is low.

ARRL and MFJ offer project kit: The ARRL and MFJ collaborate to offer a QRP transceiver project kit along with The ARRL Low Power Communication Book. The transceiver is the 40 meter model and can be assembled in a few hours. Sounds like a fun project. More info at ARRL.org.

KARC has new Club Storage facility: KC9DUX reports Nu-jay Storage facility is closing. He made arrangements for a storage unit at Breezy's Storage on Pleasant Street in DeKalb. Several club members volunteered to help move club property to the new facility, which has been completed. The unit is large enough to house club property to include the tower trailer.

KARC Communications: KARC as usual provided communications for the Crop Walk and Sycamore Pumpkin Fest Parade. Thanks to those members who participated.

New Club receiver: KARC is the beneficiary of a donated NC-125 receiver. This receiver was a class receiver of its period and was manufactured in the fiftys. WD9GNX is in the process of restoring and testing the receiver. Early reports indicate it is up and working, although may need a few fine adjustments.

Swap Net: A new feature of the Monday Night Club Net is a Swap Net. Sell, buy and list items wanted. Give it a try.

ARRL Field Day results: 2007 Field Day results are available on line at the ARRL.org. KARC did very well again this year. Check it out.

November Sweepstakes Contest: K9VIS took a trip to Louisville to meet up with an old friend from novice days (K9ZU), who came in from the Washington, D.C. area. They operated the CW portion of Sweepstakes contest from a portable location (/4) in one of the horse trailer parking lots at the Kentucky Livestock and Exposition Center. The antenna was an end fed Hertz 132' wire, TS-50, HA-14 amp (500 watts output), computer log and all the "trimmins". 68 of the 80 ARRL recognized sections were contacted. Quite a few 807s were retired too. A great time was had except for some noise problems with the power generator. The SSB portion of the contest is coming up soon, November 17-18. Get you station ready for some fun.

How's DX by KN9N: DX in a word has been - rough! We had zero sunspots for 29 days in a row, then a tiny one that lasted less than a day, and now, no more sunspots for the near future! If you have a tower and a beam, there are still openings during the day to Europe and Africa on 20 meters and up; however, the signals are not what they would be with even one or two sunspots. The sun does charge up the ionosphere somewhat without sunspots, but it drops off rapidly near sunset. The best opportunities are on the low bands. Good openings on 80 and 40 meters makes up for the lack of propagation on the high bands. A quiet location really helps, so our members who live in the country have a big advantage. A dipole or vertical can be a big performer if set up properly, and building your own adds to the fun!

This is the bottom of the sunspot cycle, so 160 meter enthusiasts have prime conditions right now. I live less than 20 yards from high voltage power lines and many rotting neglected cable television drops making a 24/7 noise level of S9 to S9+20db, yet I can occasionally hear and work Europe, Africa and even 3B7C in the Indian ocean with a small antenna and 600 watts! So, good luck in the pileups and hope to see you there! 73, KN9N

DX Contest: CQWW DX Contest is November 24-25. This is a CW DX contest that is always very active with world wide participation. The exchange is simple (RST and CQ zone) and is a good opportunity to work some new countries.

Hope to see you at the November Club meeting.

73, K9VIS