

Kalamazoo  
Amateur

**W8VY**

Radio  
Club

## June 2022 Newsletter

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### K.A.R.C. Monthly Meeting

Meeting Topic: Field Day site walk through

Thursday June 16 at 7pm

Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds

2900 Lake St

Kalamazoo, MI 49048

We'll be at the West Lake Campground portion of the Fairgrounds. Enter off of Lamont Ave, take the first open gate on the left into the camping area. See page 2 for a site map.

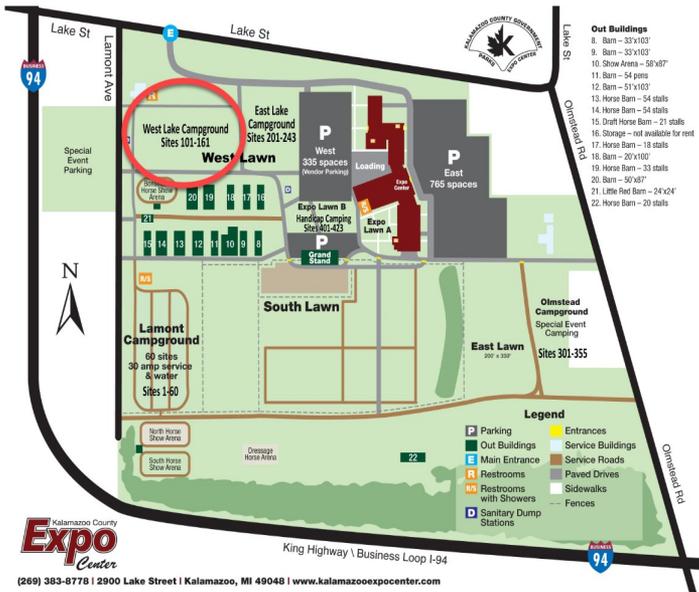
# Upcoming Club Activities

## FIELD DAY 2022

Come join us on June 25th & 26th at the Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds, We'll be at the West Lake Campground sites within the fairgrounds. Enter off of Lamont Ave, take the first open gate on the left into the camping area, follow signage.

Phone and Digital stations are planned with both HF and VHF operations available to cover all license classes. For new hams it's a great opportunity to get hands on experience; learn how to setup a station, experience HF St contesting, and get on the air with mentorship.

Station and Antenna Setup will begin at 9am, contest operations kick off at 2pm (18:00 UTC) and will run through 2pm Sunday. Talk-in will be hosted on the KM8CC DMR repeater located across from the fairgrounds : 443.400 MHz, +5 input, CC1, TS1, TG9.



## News and Announcements

### New Programs and Activities in the works

As the club continues getting back on its feet following the pandemic and with the return of our regular meetings at the Red Cross, the BOD would like to start bringing back more activities and programs to our club calendar as well. We're looking to offer opportunities for club members to get together at the club shack outside of our regular meetings to share and learn new skills, demonstrate and operate a new band or mode, or perhaps learn or brush up on your CW skills.

### Upcoming Survey

Toward the above effort we'll be running a survey over the summer to gather feedback and ideas for what things you as club members would like to see in these new programs. The survey will be available in person at upcoming club meetings and will also be available in an electronic format and shared via email. The more feedback we get the better we can tailor programs to your

interests. We look forward to hearing your feedback, thoughts, and ideas.

### W8JVP and KE8BSV are going on a POTA tour!

Club member and Member at Large, Ken Irish (W8JVP) and son Dennis (KE8BSV) will be taking a tour of National Parks, Monuments and Memorials, west of the Mississippi activating POTA references along the way. Their tour starts May 17, 2022 and will go for 26 days into mid June.

They'll be living and working in a 29 ft motorhome and their equipment will consist of an ICOM 7100 and a 36ft vertical telescoping mast mounted on the back of the motorhome and a backup OCFD 40 meter dipole. For local comms they'll be using a Comet UHV mobile antenna (20/40 6 Meter and 2 M capable).

Ken and Dennis will be on the lookout for local hams on 40 and 20 meters, so let's help them get their contact quotas for activations! Keep your eyes on the POTA spotting page at <https://pota.app/#/> for their call signs and help them activate!

# Member News

## New Members

Welcome to our new members this month. We look forward to meeting and getting to know you!

Paul - KE8MOI

## Birthdays



The following club members celebrate a birthday in June. If you see them or hear them on the radio be sure to say happy birthday this month!

- Bob — N8HAA
- Dave — W8DO
- Lynn — WB8RWV
- Ed — KD8WAV

## VE Testing Report

By John Tucker WB8ZVV

At amateur radio license testing on 28 May, there were three successful candidates.

Daniel De Bry passed both the Tech and General exams. Riley Thomas (son of Dustin, N8RMA) and Ryan Benn passed the Tech exam. Look for these new hams (and given them a call if you hear them) on a local repeater in a couple of weeks.

For those who were not quite ready to take a test, the next examination session in Kalamazoo will be on 16 July. For more information or to register, send an email to [wb8zvv@gmail.com](mailto:wb8zvv@gmail.com).

## Awards and Honors



Club member Barry Bowman (KE8JCD) has used the improving HF conditions, especially 17m, to his advantage to hunt down the last contacts needed to earn his DXCC in May. Congratulations to Barry, a well earned award!



## Upcoming Hamfests

St. Joseph County Michigan Amateur Radio Club HamFest

St. Joseph County Fairgrounds  
316 E. Charlotte  
Centerville, Mi  
Jun 11, 2022 8am to Noon

<http://www.arrrl.org/hamfests/st-joseph-county-michigan-amateur-radio-club-ham-fest>

Midland Amateur Radio Club Hamfest

Salvation Army Buliding  
330 Waldo Ave.  
Midland, MI 48640  
June 18, 2022 8am to Noon

<https://www.w8kea.org/WP/>

## Classifieds

Have an item you would like to sell or trade? Drop us a line at [secretary@w8vy.org](mailto:secretary@w8vy.org) and give us the following information: Item, Condition, Asking Price, and Contact information and we'll add it to our newsletter here!

## Feedback and Submissions

We'd love to hear your feedback. If you have any comments, suggestions, or if you have any upcoming news, events, stories or technical knowledge to share with the community, please drop us a line at [secretary@w8vy.org](mailto:secretary@w8vy.org)

## Kit Corner

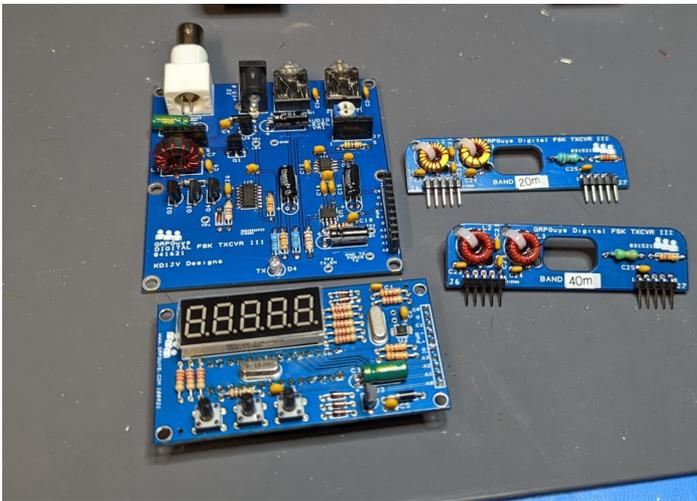
### QRPGuys AFP-FSK Digital Transceiver III Kit Review

By Alex Stuart (KE8ICM)

Last fall I purchased an AFP-FSK Digital Transceiver III kit and got around to putting it together this spring. From their site “The new QRPGuys AFP-FSK Digital Transceiver III kit for 160m-10m is a low cost, multi-band, multi-

I would classify this as a more advanced kit build as the project is a combination through hole and surface mount components. It’s recommended to have .015 diameter solder and a small tip for your iron capable of doing SMD work In order to complete the project. A hot air station isn’t needed, but would be nice.

The kit was well packed and the



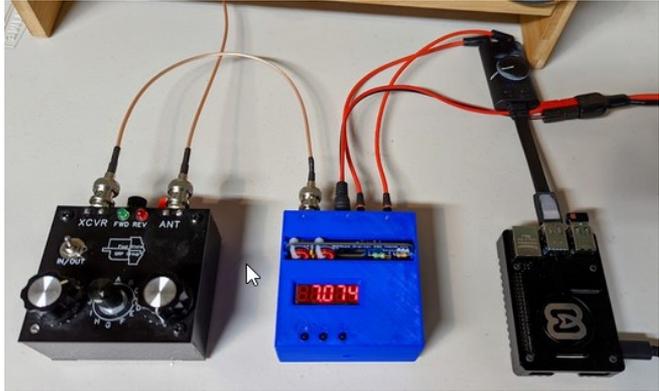
digital mode, 5 watt transceiver kit, with VFO and plug-in module kits supplied for 40/30/20m.” At time of writing the price is \$80 with extra band module pcb’s for \$10. <https://qrpguys.com/qrpguys-digital-fsk-transceiver-iii>

downloadable instructions were clear and concise. It took me around 4 hours, spanned over the course of a few nights, to complete the initial build. Power up and Receive testing went well. Everything was great until I got to testing the TX and Calibration steps where I ran into a

few minor issues.

TX did not initially respond to audio from the computer as expected, but the test pin for TX worked correctly when grounded and at the expected power output of 5 watts. After some troubleshooting I chatted with Chuck (WD8AXA) and told me to seek advice from the CalQRP group.io community. After a few posts back and forth with Ron (N6YWU) we got it sorted out. We discovered that my volume input was simply too low and that things worked fine once I found a way to get enough volume out of my computer setup. My initial volume input level was around 330mV Pk-Pk, but my kit required approximately 950mV Pk-Pk of input signal before it would trigger TX..

The other issue I had was with Calibration, but this was simply an error on my part. While in the calibration mode there is no user feedback on the LCD screen of the unit. You should be looking at your O-scope or the Waterfall of the application to do the cali-



bration, not the unit itself.

Once correctly calibrated and the input volumes adjusted, I looked around and found a 3d printable case design on Thingiverse.com. I printed it in blue PLA, put it together along with some m2 hardware and we were ready to rock and roll!

Initial on air testing has been promising. I've used it as part of 2 POTA activations at the end of May, making contacts on both 40 and 20 meters with good signal reports. Contacts were made with a combination of FT8 and FT4 modes.

This was a really fun kit and project. I look forward to using the transceiver this summer for more portable QRP digital operations.



| <i>Analog Repeaters</i> |         |        |      |       |
|-------------------------|---------|--------|------|-------|
| Location/Info           | Freq    | Offset | Mode | Tone  |
| W8VY Portage Main       | 147.000 | +0.6   | FM   | 94.8  |
| W8VY Downtown In        | 147.000 | -0.6   | FM   | 127.3 |
| W8VY Richland In        | 147.000 | +0.6   | FM   | 127.3 |
| W8VY Oshtemo            | 224.300 | -1.6   | FM   | none  |
| W8VY Portage            | 444.650 | +5.0   | FM   | 94.8  |
| K8KZO 2m                | 147.040 | +0.6   | FM   | 94.8  |
| K8KZO 6m                | 51.720  | -0.5   | FM   | 94.8  |
| W8IRA Kzoo Input        | 147.160 | +0.6   | FM   | 107.2 |

| <i>Digital Repeaters</i> |         |         |          |         |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|----------|---------|
| Location/Info            | Freq    | Off-set | Mode     | Tone/CC |
| W8VY Paw Paw             | 145.340 | -0.6    | D-Star   | -       |
| W8VY Paw Paw             | 444.075 | +5.0    | D-Star   | -       |
| NK8X KazoBorgess         | 444.500 | +5.0    | D-Star   | -       |
| W8VY Paw Paw             | 444.075 | +5.0    | D-Star   | -       |
| K8KZO                    | 444.875 | +5.0    | C4FM/YSF | 94.8    |
| KM8CC                    | 443.400 | +5.0    | DMR      | CC1 *   |

| <i>Local Nets &amp; Useful Frequencies</i>   |     |         |                            |      |
|--|-----|---------|----------------------------|------|
| Net  | Day | Time    | Freq                       | Mode |
| ARPSC<br>RACES   | Wed | 7:30 pm | 147.000                    | FM   |
| SMART  | Tue | 7:30 pm | 147.040                    | FM   |
| 6m SSB   | Tue | 8:30 pm | 50.140                     | SSB  |
| 6m AM  | Sun | 8:00 pm | 50.400                     | AM   |
| 10m Net  | Wed | 9:00 pm | 28.485                     | SSB  |
| MI<br>Statewide<br>DMR   | Mon | 8:30 pm | 443.400<br>Michigan<br>TG* | DMR  |
| 220 Mhz  | Sun | 9:00 pm | 224.300                    | FM   |
| Nat'l Simplex: 52.525, 146.52, 223.5, 446., 1294.5<br>APRS: 144.39 Local Skywarn: 147.00 |     |         |                            |      |

\*KM8CC TG info: <https://groups.io/g/km8cc/wiki>