Kalamazoo Amateur W8VY Radio Club

November 2022 Newsletter

K.A.R.C. Monthly Meeting

Meeting Topic: Telemetry in Falconry with Kai Cronin (KE8GGE)

Thursday November 17th at 7pm

Kalamazoo Red Cross Chapter House
5640 Venture Ct.
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

The meeting will also be live on Zoom, if you're unable to join us in person and would still like to listen in and participate please join us via Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88633801958?pwd=MjJlQjB5M1lNaWlNTm42bUg1SHFYZz09

News and Announcements

Membership Renewals

October is our membership renewal month for the K.A.R.C. Membership rates are staying the same this year at $25 for regular and family memberships and $15 for our retired or disabled members. New Hams get their first year with the club for Free!

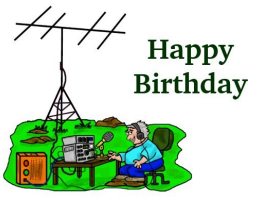
Membership form can be found here: https://w8vy.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/MembershipApplication.pdf

and can be sent to:
K.A.R.C
PO BOX 773
PORTAGE MI 49081-0773

Member News

Birthdays

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



Chuck — WD8AXA
Kat — KD4ZLT
Tom — KC8QFF
Kevin — KC8AFW
Ken — N8KDC

New Members

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

Wayne — N8UC

Bob — KC8NLP

Hamfests

Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo

Allen County War Memorial Coliseum
4000 Parnel Ave.
Fort Wayne, IN 46801

November 19 & 20th
Sat 9AM to 4PM
Sun 9AM to 2PM
http://www.acarts.com/hfmain.htm

Classifieds

Have an item you would like to sell or trade? Drop us a line at 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

Kit Corner

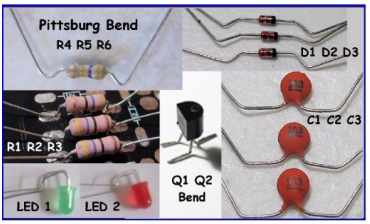
By Alex Stuart KE8ICM

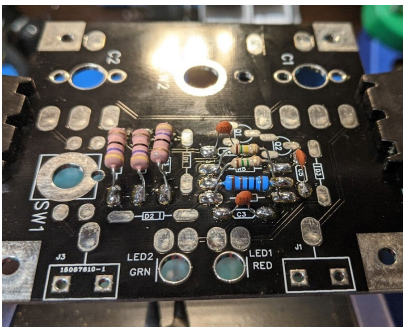
For this installment of Kit Corner I'd like to share a build I've been using for quite some time both at the home QTH as well as on some of my POTA activations. The 4S-Tuner Kit designed by N0MS and offered through 4sqrp.com

The 4S-Tuner is a classic T-Match tuner for random wire and EFHW antennas with a two LED SWR indicator. It will tune 80 Meters thru 10 Meters at 10 Watts of power. Making this an great addition to any QRP kit builders shack or portable kit.

Like many of the designs and kits by David Cripe (N0MS) this is 'Pittsburg Construction' kit that uses a surface mount board design that is populated with through-hole components.

With this design the components are prepped prior to installation by bending the legs up in a 'W' shape. Solder is added to the pads first then you can install components by using your soldering iron to remelt the pads and a pair of pliers or tweezers to hold the component in place. This construction method goes pretty quickly once you get the hang of it. With these kits I find pre-soldering all the pads as a first step speeds up the assembly a bit and is easier to do without other components in the way.

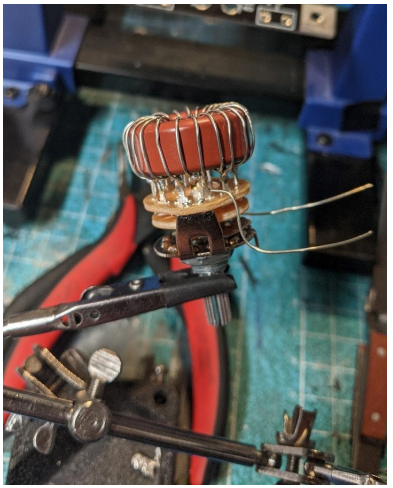




The case for the project is made from PCB's and is held together by soldering the corners and seams. This helps create a shielded case that is quite solid once completed.

There is one toroid in the kit to wind, which is wound and soldered through the contact lugs of a rotary switch. Winding the toroid together with the switch helps hold the wire in place, making it one of the easier toroids to wind that I've done in a kit and making it an excellent introduction to toroid winding

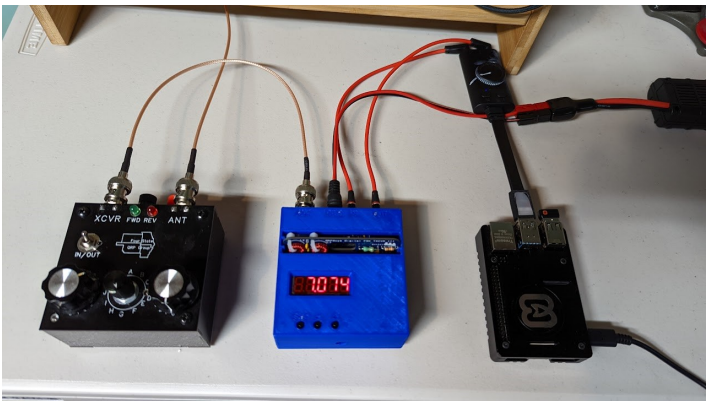
for beginners.



Connections for the transceiver is BNC and for the antenna you have your choice of binding posts for wire antennas or a BNC connection.

Operation is fairly simple, start with the indicator switch in the 'OUT' position and select an induction value on the center knob, adjusting the right and left capacitance knobs for the most band noise. You then use your transmitters Tune mode and switch the indicator LED's to the 'IN' position and adjust the right and left capacitor knobs again until the Red LED is completely extinguished and the Green LED is fully bright. At that point the SWR should be around 1:1. You can then turn off the tune mode of your transmitter and move the Indicator switch back to the Out position and operate your radio as desired or try again with a new inductance value if you did not get a 1:1 with that value.

This Tuner has served me well both at home and on multiple POTA activations where I tend to use End Fed antennas of various makes. Below is a picture of the unit in operation (on the far left) running FT8 with the QRPGuys AFP-FSK Digital Transceiver III that I covered in an early edition of Kit Corner and a Raspberry Pi. I would encourage anyone in need of a QRP tuner to check it out.



Kalamazoo Hamfest Wrap up

By Alex Stuart KE8ICM

Another year has past and another successful Hamfest is in the bag. I want to thank all the volunteers and committee members who made the event possible. Without your selflessness and willingness to step up, the event simply wouldn't have been possible.

We had a number of setbacks this year in the run up to the event. We got a late start to planning, we are a short staffed on the planning committee and many of the regular volunteers for the event were unable to join us due to various health concerns or conflicting events. Those of us on the planning committee are largely new to our roles and were learning the ropes as we went.

Despite these setbacks we pulled together and worked hard to make sure the event went forward and ran as smoothly as possible. We tried a few new things this year including inviting the Michigan Antique Radio Club which normally hosts the Vintage Electronics Expo to expand our selection of vendors. This worked quite well and we sold out of table space the week before the event. I had great feedback from attendees at the great selection of equipment available from the MARC vendors. We learned quite a lot from partnering with MARC and look forward to working with them again next year.

The planning committee is working with the Expo Center to secure dates for next year and is discussing a number of exciting changes for next year. For now I can tell you all we are moving the event to a Saturday and extending the hours to make it an all day event.

While the planning committee has lots of great ideas we can't execute them without more help! We have a phenomenal opportunity to grow the event and the community here in the area but only if we have more help. At the moment we're looking for an advertising lead as well as a presentation coordinator. If you have interest in being part of the great team that's working to make the event as successful as possible I would encourage you to reach out to Mac (ke8rrg@gmail.com) or myself (ke8icm@gmail.com) and we can help find a spot for you. We're looking forward to next years event, hope to see you there!

Analog Repeaters				
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

Digital Repeaters				
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 *

Local Nets & Useful Frequencies				
Net	Day	Time	Freq	Mode
ARPSC RACES	Wed	7:30 pm	147.000	FM
D-Star	Wed	8:15 pm	444.500	D-Star
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 Statewide DMR	Mon	8:30 pm	443.400 Michigan TG*	DMR
220 Mhz	Sun	9:00 pm	224.300	FM
Nat'l Simplex: 52.525, 146.52, 223.5, 446., 1294.5 APRS: 144.39 Local Skywarn: 147.00				

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