

Kalamazoo
Amateur

W8VY

Radio
Club

February 2023 Newsletter

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K.A.R.C. Monthly Meeting

Topic: Our presentation this month will be on Telemetry in Falconry by Kai Cronin (KE8GGE)

Thursday February 16th at 7:00 PM

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=MjJlQjB5M1lnNWlNTm42bUg1SHFYZz09>

News and Announcements

Club Shack Operating Opportunity

We had a great time at our Club Shack open house last month and we're looking forward to another one this month. We had several Tech's come in and make their first HF contacts which was fun. We'd love to see you stop by and help us operate this month. We'll have a control operator available to help you with club equipment and getting on either HF or VHF/UHF. This is a great opportunity to ask question and get hands on with some mentorship. This month's opportunity will be Saturday February 18th from 1 to 4pm. We hope to see you there!

Board Nominations and Elections

Last month the club nominated and elected two new members to the Board from the membership. We'd like to welcome Mac Rincon (KE8RRG) and Dustin Thomas(N8RAB) to the board and thank them for their commitment to the club.

In Board related news our current president, Chuck Agosti (WD8AXA), will be stepping down from the Board this year after more than 10 years of service on the Board. We'd like to thank Chuck for his years of dedicated service and leadership to the club and to the Board.

Thank you, Chuck!

VE Testing Opportunities

By John Tucker (WB8ZVV)

For those thinking of upgrading (or getting their first license), the next opportunity will be on March 25th. To signup or for more information on licensing test sessions, contact John Tucker (wb8zv@gmail.com).

Membership News

Birthdays

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

Andy—KE8TEN
Wayne—N8UC
Fred—AC8ED



Upcoming Hamfests

Crossroads Hamfest & Radio Swap

Wings Stadium Complex
3600 Vanrick Dr.,
Kalamazoo Township, MI 49001

\$7 admission

March 11th, 8am – 12 pm

<http://w8df.com/index.php?content=hamfest>

VE Testing Opportunities

By George Foley (K3CP)

The Kalamazoo Amateur Radio Club (KARC) has expanded efforts to mentor new hams by establishing mentoring pairs (an experienced ham with a less experienced ham). The initial group of Elmers (or Mentors) and newer hams were from requests for mentors in the KARC Survey done in the summer of 2022. Within the survey were questions on what would be needed information for new hams and the responses varied widely, as expected. Likewise it is anticipated that no two mentoring pairs will be the same. The relationship should be driven off of the needs of the new ham which can be very diverse.

So what is an Elmer and where did the term come from. I found the following text on the “Mike & Key Amateur Radio Club” website:

What is an Elmer? An Elmer is an experienced ham who mentors beginners or the less experienced, advancing their knowledge in a personal way, usually with much hands-on radio operation and oversight. Finding a good Elmer can be a huge advantage for rapidly moving ahead with your amateur radio acumen. Finding the right Elmer for you can sometimes be a challenge, but engaging a local ham radio club can often provide fertile hunting grounds. Investigate any local clubs in your area, attend a few meetings, meet the hams and inquire about classes, learning, and Elmering. If there is a good fit, you will usually know it intuitively. The term “Elmer” meaning someone who provides personal guidance and assistance to would-be hams--first appeared in QST in a March 1971 “How’s DX” column by Rod Newkirk, W9BRD (now also VA3ZBB). Newkirk called them “the unsung fathers of Amateur Radio.”

<https://www.mikeandkey.org/elmers.php>

While we have initially focused on assigning mentor pairs, The Mike & Key Amateur Radio Club took a different approach to mentoring by identifying members of the club with expertise in specific areas.



Mentors are not expected to know everything about ham radios but need to be willing to help find the new hams answers and explore possibilities.

Ham Radio Topics/ Expertise	Expanded Topics
Stations, Equipment	Station setup, equipment selection, antennas
Beams and Towers	Beam antennas and towers, safety
Contesting	Contest operations
CW (Morse Code)	Learn CW, operating proficiency
Digital Data Modes	Digital modes, software, APRS - Digital QRP - WSPR, JS8Call, WinLink
Digital Voice Modes	D-STAR, Fusion, IRLP, Echolink, etc.
Emergency Communication	CERT, ARES, organizations and equipment
HF Operation	Equipment, Antennas, and best HF operating practices
New Members	Getting started, equipment selection and operation
QRP (Low Power Transmission)	Low power operation, design and construction
VHF/UHF Operation	6 meters and up; moon bounce, meteor scatter
Fox Hunt(s)	

Modified from <http://www.mikeandkey.org/elmrs.php>

If you are interested in being a mentor to a new ham please contact George Foley vice-president@w8vy.org. There is no license level requirement, just a willingness to help a newer ham.

Likewise, if you would like to be assigned a mentor please contact George Foley at vice-president@w8vy.org and we will work to find an appropriate match for your needs. The benefits for the new ham can be considerable but you can request a mentor regardless of your license class or number of years in the hobby.

The benefits of the mentoring program for KARC include building relationships between experienced hams with newer hams within our club and providing information and support as a new ham is starting out in the hobby.

Upcoming Events

February

13th 6:30-7:30pm Board Meeting

16th 6-7pm Kalamazoo Hamfest Committee Meeting

16th 7-8pm February Club Meeting

18th 1-4pm Club Shack Operating Opportunity

March

13th 6:30-7:30pm Board Meeting

16th 7-8pm March Club Meeting

25th 8:30am License Testing

April

10th 6:30-7:30pm Board Meeting

15th Michigan QSO Party

20th 7-8pm March Club Meeting



<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	145.470	-0.6	FM	94.8

<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 & Useful Frequencies</i>				
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>