

Kalamazoo
Amateur

W8VY

Radio
Club

March 2023 Newsletter

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K.A.R.C. Monthly Meeting

Topic: Our presentation this month will be month Telemetry in Falconry by Kai Cronin (KE8GGE), here's hoping the weather will finally cooperate!

Thursday March 16th at 7:00 PM

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

Unfortunately there will be no Zoom coverage for this meeting as Alex will be unable to attend and run the zoom.

News and Announcements

Club Kit Build

We will be offering a Kit building opportunity on March 25th from 1-3pm. The kit will be a [CW Code Trainer and Practice Oscillator Kit](#) from QRPGuys. Price will be \$35, we'll be including a 3dprinted case and battery along with the kit. It will be limited availability so if your interested in learning or refreshing your CW skills with us, sign up soon by filling out the google form here: <https://forms.gle/yMTfERKZLAdC8qfp6>

Community Outreach Opportunity

The Kalamazoo Rock Club has been generous enough to give us a table at their upcoming Kalamazoo Rock Show at the expo center May 5-7th courtesy of Bruce Atherton (KE8MRN). The purpose of the booth is to expose attendees and the public to amateur radio and it's suitability to emergency communications plans for rock collectors in the Field. The event is a 3 day event so there's lots of opportunity to help staff the table. If you are interested in signing up and helping out you can do so via this google form here: <https://forms.gle/64pNdewEcy8zFf1M6>

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!

Joseph — KE8NFM



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>

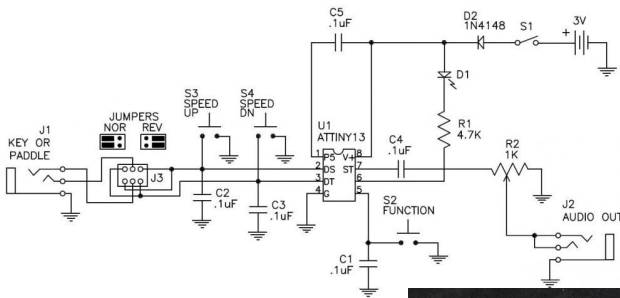
Kit Corner

QRPGuys KD1JV Code Trainer

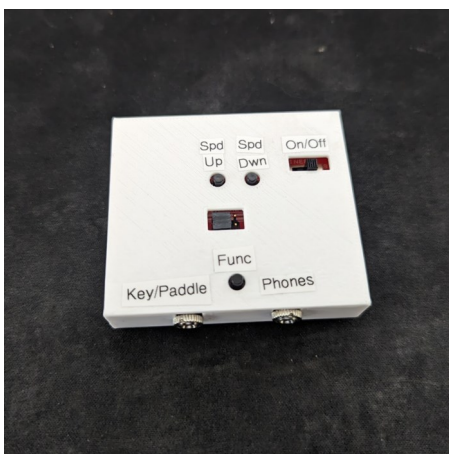
By Alex Stuart (KE8ICM)

The [QRPGuys KD1JV Code Trainer](#) is a Morse Code trainer and practice oscillator all in one. You can practice receiving code at 5-30 words per minute, all you need is a pair of earbuds or headphones. Or plug in a key and practice sending as well. The shirt pocket sized device will accept and automatically detect straight key, bug or paddles. For paddles it uses Iambic B mode but does have jumpers to allow for normal or reversed paddle side preference.

The design features an Atmel ATTiny13 microcontroller and runs on a CR2032 coin battery. The total part count is relatively low with just under 25 parts and is listed from QRPGuys at a 2 out of 5 for difficulty. The kit went together quickly, it took me under an hour to complete the kit.



QRPGuys website also links to a 3dprinted case design, which of course we had to try out! I downloaded the design and sliced it for my 3d printer and hit print. An hour later we had a case hot off the machine and ready for use. I used a standard label maker to create a number of small labels for the top of the case so I would remember what buttons and switches did what.



I plugged in my favorite headphones and tested mine with both paddles and a straight key, ensuring that my paddles and connectors were wired according to the instructions. Automatic detection of the paddles vs straight key worked as expected and after adjusting the volume potentiometer it was ready to practice on. The receive practice mode was tested and worked great as well, spitting out 5 character groups consisting of Letters, Numbers, and some select punctuation.

It was a fast and fun build and gave me a very useful practice device that I've been using for the last few months to work on my CW skills.

If you interested in this little kit the club is running a kit build for this kit on March 25th from 1-3pm. We'll be providing the Kit, a battery, and a 3d printed case for \$35. It will be limited availability so if your interested in learning or refreshing your CW skills with us, sign up and reserve your spot soon by filling out the google form here:

<https://forms.gle/yMTfERKZLAdC8qfp6>

Upcoming Events

March

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

16th 7-8pm March Club Meeting

25th 8:30 am License Testing

25th 1-3 pm Club Kit Build—CW Code Trainer and Practice Oscillator Kit

April

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

15th Michigan QSO Party and/or Antenna Raising Party

20th 7-8pm April Club Meeting

May

8th 6:30-7:30pm Board Meeting

18th 7-8pm May Club Meeting

June

12th 6:30-7:30pm Board Meeting

15th 7-8pm June Club Meeting

24-25th Field Day

Antenna and Tower Maintenance

February 18, 2023

Thanks to all who came out and lent a helping hand during last months Club Antenna, Tower, and Shack maintenance last month.

The team worked hard clearing the fence and gate around the tower of all the vines and undergrowth that had been encroaching on the area. The old antenna was taken down and inspected and after discussion the group decided to retire the antenna and purchase a new one. The new antenna will be an [OCF Dipole from Palomar Engineers](#). We'll schedule another maintenance day in the coming weeks and coordinate raising the new antenna.

Photos courtesy of George K3CP and Mac KE8RRG.





Extensive Brush Removal

John WB8ZVV trimming
back the encroaching
plant life.





George K3CP helping
pull down and inspect
the antenna



Since 1932



Mike KE8NLE inspecting the wires for rust and degradation, this antenna has seen better days.



Bruce KE8MRN with the offending part.



Bruce KE8MRN, Tom KC8QFF and Mike KE8NLE removing the feedline from the antenna.



Mac KE8RRG preparing the antenna for storage

<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	Offset	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>