

Kalamazoo
Amateur

W8VY

Radio
Club

May 2024 Newsletter

K.A.R.C. Monthly Meeting

Topic: Field Day Preparations

Thursday June 20th 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=MjJlQjB5M1NaWlNTm42bUg1SHFYZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88633801958?pwd=MjJlQjB5M1NaWlNTm42bUg1SHFYZz09)

News and Announcements



Come join us on June 22nd & 23rd at the Kalamazoo Red Cross Chapter House for Field Day! 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 set up a station, experience HF 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. Sign ups and station schedules will be at the May and June Club meetings.

Member News

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!

Bruce—KE8MRN



Kalamazoo Hamfest in danger of being canceled

Due to lack of volunteers and the inability for us to fill all the vital positions on the planning committee, We're having to make the difficult decision to cancel this year's Kalamazoo Hamfest and Vintage Electronics Show.

There is still a chance to save it for this year, but we desperately need your help.

We need to fill the following position immediately:

- Vendor Coordinator - This person corresponds with all of our vendors throughout the summer prior to the hamfest answering common questions over email and phone. They collect vendor forms from the Treasurer, assigns tables, and communicate table/ticket information back to the vendor. During the hamfest they collect vendor fees, handout tables and wristbands, and transfers funds to the treasurer at the end of the day. This person needs to be available Friday evening for setup and all day Saturday until the last vendors have left the building.

Without this position filled it's impossible for us to run the event. If we can fill this role before June 20th, we can save this year's Hamfest, otherwise it will be canceled.

The planning group will meet again on June 20th, at 6pm at the Red Cross prior to the KARC meeting. If the Vendor Coordinator position is filled by the June 20th meeting, we'll discuss the continuation and planning of this year's Hamfest. Otherwise we'll discuss options and interest for planning for a possible 2025 hamfest, if positions can be filled.

Solving a Noise Problem, by “Mac” KE8RRG

Recently, my home dual band radio started experiencing a high static noise around S-7 on frequency 147.000 mhz. The radio is installed in the basement of the house.

The Problem:

- A Yaesu FTM-400 radio with a Comet GP-9 antenna experienced a high static noise (around S-7 signal strength) on frequency 147.000 MHz.
- This noise rendered communication on that frequency virtually impossible.

Eliminating External Sources:

- I asked the KARC Board if local 147.000 repeater had a noise problem. The board confirmed the repeater to be functioning normally.
- I then proceeded to check a Consumers transformer in front of my house using an HT. I quickly realized the noise went away once walked outside of the house, thus thinking the noise originated from within the house.

Pinpointing the Culprit:

- Turning off the house's main breaker while keeping the dual band radio on a UPS confirmed the noise was originating from within the house. The noise had completely been eliminated when the power on the entire house was off.
- I then methodically started shutting off individual breakers. I identified the culprit as circuit 21 (kitchen overhead lights).

Isolating the Offending Light:

- The kitchen has 5 canister lights with LED flood lights installed.
- Removing individual LED lights narrowed down the culprit to two LED lights which were causing all the noise in the radio. Replacing the two LED flood lights completely eliminated the interference.

Lessons Learned:

- Electrical noise from household appliances can disrupt Ham radio reception.
- Systematic troubleshooting by isolating power sources can help identify the culprit.

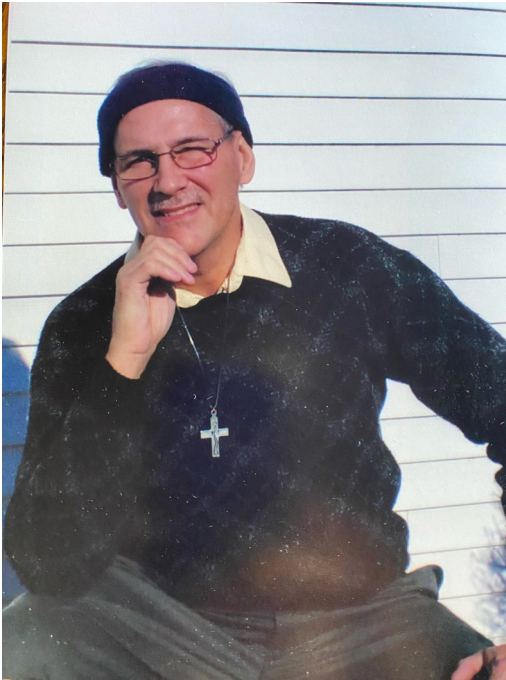
Not all LED lights are created equal – some may generate interference.

These are the two Culprit LED flood lights:



Silent Key

Long time club member WG8V, Patirck Kulikowski, has passed away. Patrick was a regular club member and volunteer prior to his move to Texas. His obituary can be found [here](#).



Thank you to Jim Gorka, N8JG, for letting us know of his passing.

Upcoming Events

June

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

20th 7-8pm June Club Meeting

22nd-23rd Field Day @ Red Cross

July

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

18th 7-8pm July Club Meeting

August

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

22nd 7-8pm August Club Meeting



Analog Repeaters				
Location/Info	Freq	Offset	Mode	Tone
W8VY Portage Main	147.000	+0.6	FM	94.8
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
W8IRA 2m Link	145.47	-0.6	FM	94.8

Digital Repeaters				
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 *

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>