

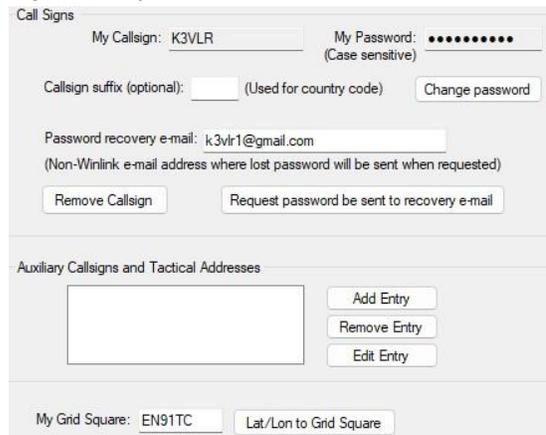
Winlink Setup for K3ACS-4 Digipeater

February 18, 2026

This document was created by Greg Singer, K3VLR. If you have any questions, please contact me at k3vlr@arrl.net. To use the Digipeater function you must have the paid version of VARA FM. VARA FM can be purchased at: <https://rosmodem.wordpress.com/>

Winlink Settings:

- Open “Winlink Express”
- Click “Settings”
- Select “Winlink Express Setup”
- Make sure the following fields are filled out
 - My Callsign
 - My Password
 - Password Recover E-mail
 - My Grid Square



The screenshot shows the Winlink Express Setup form. It is divided into several sections:

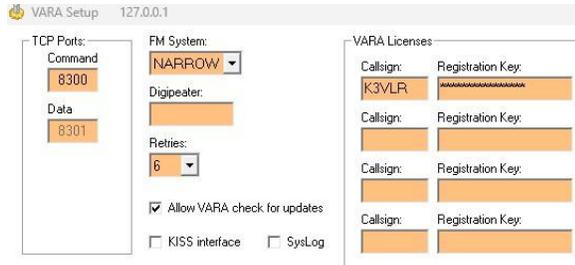
- Call Signs:** Contains fields for "My Callsign" (K3VLR), "My Password" (masked with dots), "Callsign suffix (optional)" (with a note "(Used for country code)"), and "Password recovery e-mail" (k3vlr1@gmail.com). There are buttons for "Change password", "Remove Callsign", and "Request password be sent to recovery e-mail".
- Auxiliary Callsigns and Tactical Addresses:** Features a large empty text area and three buttons: "Add Entry", "Remove Entry", and "Edit Entry".
- My Grid Square:** Includes a field for "My Grid Square" (EN91TC) and a "Lat/Lon to Grid Square" button.

- Click “Update” to save

VARA FM Settings:

- Open “VARA FM”
- Click “Settings”
- Click “VARA Setup”
- Set “Command” to “8300”

- Set “FM System” to “Narrow”
- Set “Retries” to “6”
- Leave Digipeater blank. **Do not** enter your callsign.
- Click “Close”



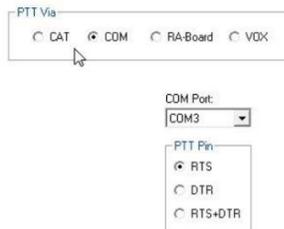
VARA FM PTT: (Digirig Lite Only)

- Click “Settings”
- Click “PTT”
- Select “RA-Board”
- Click “Close”



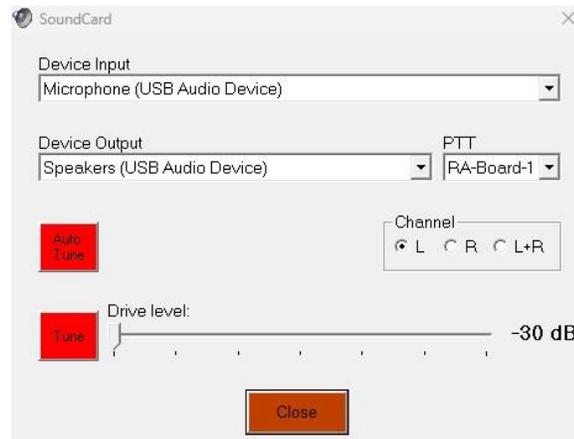
VARA FM PTT: (Digirig Mobile Only)

- Click “Settings”
- Click “PTT”
- Select “COM”
- Select “Com Port”
- Click “Close”



VARA FM Sound Card (For the Digirig device):

- Click “Settings”
- Click “Sound Card”
- Under “Device Input” select “Microphone (USB Audio Device)”
- Under “Device Output” select "Speakers (USB Audio Device)”
- Under “PTT” select “RA-Board-1”
- Under “Channel” select “L”



- Click “Close”

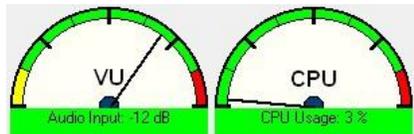
Digirig audio settings for Windows 11:

- Press Windows+R to open the Run window
- Type “control”
- Click “OK” or press enter
- In the top right-hand corner click on “Category”.
- Select “Large Icons”
- Scroll down and click “Sound”
- Click the “Playback” tab
- Select “Speakers USB Audio Device”
- Click “Properties”
- Click the “Levels” tab
- Under Speakers move the slider to the left until it shows “20”
- Click the “Enhancements” tab
- Click “Disable all enhancements”
- Click the “Advanced” tab
- Uncheck “Allow applications to take exclusive control of this device”
- Click “OK”
- Click the “Recording” tab
- Select “Microphone USB Audio Device”

- Click “Properties”
- Click the “Custom” tab
- Uncheck “AGC”
- Click “OK”
- Click the “Advanced” tab
- Uncheck “Allow applications to take exclusive control of this device”
- Uncheck “Enable audio enhancements”
- Click “OK”
- Close the Control Panel

Radio settings for your HT:

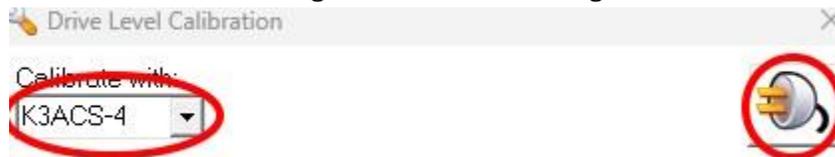
- Enter the simplex frequency of 145.030 MHz
- Set Radio to “Wide”
- Set squelch to “Zero”
- Set power level to “High”
- Adjust volume on radio so “Audio Input” is in the green:



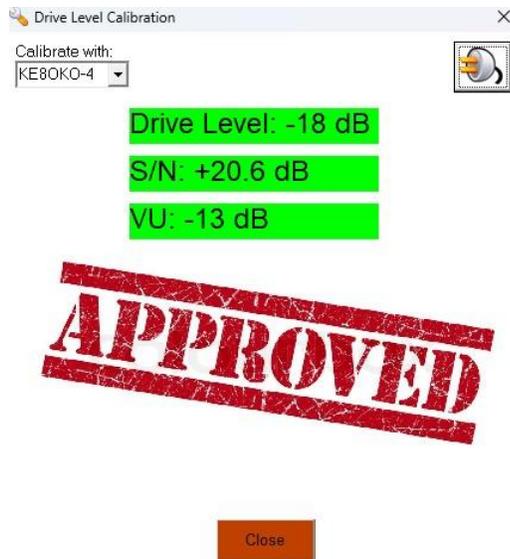
○

Calibrate VARA FM with the K3ACS-4 Digipeater:

- From VARA FM Click “Settings”
- Click “Sound Card”
- Click “Auto Tune”
- Under “Calibrate with” enter the Digipeater callsign “K3ACS-4”
- Click the button to the right to start transmitting



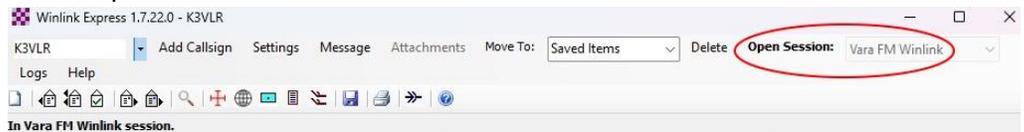
-
- Once it is done you will receive a Calibration Report
- Review the settings from the Calibration Report. You may need to increase or decrease the audio output of the Digirig.
- Once it successfully calibrated you will receive an “APPROVED” screen like the one pictured below:



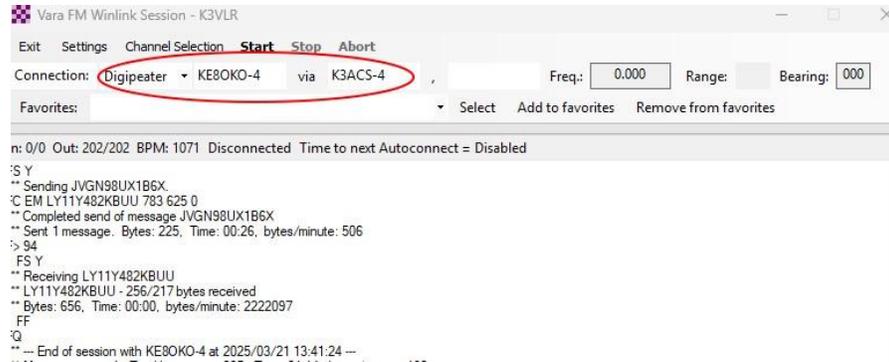
-
- Please note: If it does not say approved it may not work 100% of the time. Be sure to adjust settings until it says “APPROVED”.

Configure Winlink to work with the K3ACS-4 Digipeater: (This requires the paid version of VARA FM)

- On the main Winlink Express window find “Open Session” on the top right.
 - Click the drop down menu next to “Open Session”
 - Select “VARA FM Winlink”
 - Click “Open Session”



- In Vara FM Winlink session.
 - VARA FM will launch
 - In the VARA FM Winlink Session window click “Direct”
 - Select “Digipeater”
 - In the first box enter KE8OKO-4
 - In the second box enter K3ACS-4
 - Click “Start” to begin transmission



-
- By following these steps, you are sending your message to the K3ACS Digipeater. The Digipeater then sends the message to the KE8OKO Gateway in Poland, Ohio. The Gateway is connected to the Internet. The Gateway will deliver your message to any email address. The Digipeater and the Gateway are on the frequency of 145.030 MHz.