

July 2012 Edition - Vol 1 Issue 1

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www.4sgrp.com

Ozark QRP BANNER



Welcome, to the first edition of the "Banner". Field Day 2012 is history and this issue captures some of the fun of little radios and big radios, then being able to go portable and to the field. Attending FD is fun even if a club doesn't have a QRP station or even a CW station.....**A new band?** Gary - K5QNM posted a note on the 4SQRP reflector, The ARRL sent me a letter on Spectrum Defense and included was remarks on the 472-479 khz band coming up in 2013. The New Band specifies 1.0 watt Effective Isotropic Radiated power.....watch the ARRL, etc, for more news on the band. (wonder how many slinkys it takes to make a 600 meter vertical?.....ed).....**A little different** way of giving author's credit in the "Banner" is to Not include email addresses. They don't need inbox spam from the web bots, so if you need to contact an author, please check QRZ.com for their email.....**Deadlines** for article submission to the "Banner" needs to be the end of each month since we are trying for the first week of a month for publication. Don't worry, if I know an article is in the making then space can be saved. This publication is for the 4SQRP Group / OzarkCon, and QRP'ers wherever you live.....thanks for your support.....de K5EST.

~ FIELD DAY 2012 ~

from **John - WB6HVH/7**

Three shots of my first successful field day. Of course, FD was in competition with fishing, and fishing won for the most part! Panguitch Lake, UT. Elevation at camp sight approx 8500 ft.





Rig: Heathkit HW-9. Digital Dial from Hendricks QRP Kits (KD1JV design), Elecraft T1 auto tuner, Antenna is vertical wire in pine tree with two radials on ground.....de WB6HVH/7

From **RC - KC5WA**

Although not a 4sqrp affiliated club I thought you would like to meet our 12 year old fireball Gracie Gill KF5MTI as she launches a support line for a inverted "V" and operated our G.O.T.A. station. I'm pushing for QRP operations for 2013 You can see our field day set at www.w5ea.org in W.Monroe, LA in Kiroli Park.



From **Sam Binkley - AL7V**

I'm a long way from the four state area but I lived in OK for several years and attended ArkieCon in Ft. Smith and the first OzarkCon in Joplin as well as a few after that and I still have a high regard for the group and what you all do. I am a member of the Juneau Amateur Radio Club in Juneau, Alaska and our club put on a 1A FD effort this year. We had great weather with highs in the 80s and sunny

skies. It was the best FD weather the club has had for years. We were fortunate to acquire a surplus portable tower which is mounted on a very heavy duty trailer and will extend to a height of 105 feet. On the trailer there is a 10KW generator and a 10 KW inverter. The trailer has outrigger stabilizers to keep it upright in lower wind conditions. We put a tri-band yagi on top of that tower and hang a V beam off it as well. The legs of the V are about 500 feet long. There are few CW operators in the club but some of us are trying to change that, but we operated mostly SSB and had as many of our new operators as we could get to operate with another experienced ham so they could have fun and learn. I don't know if KL7JRC worked any four states or not but I remember working OK, KS, IA and MO myself (I did get in some CW time early Sunday morning). I heard AR too but didn't get him. I don't know what our total count was but we had a good turnout for it, even some folks from the community. They may have come just for the burgers and hot dogs but at least they got to see our operation. We were set up at the fire training station here. Two of our club members are involved in the fire training so we have a great site to operate FD and contests. In addition to our radio operating we did a bit of show and tell and some hands on kit building.



I had my K2, ATS3 and several other QRP related stuff and we built a couple of simple kits (LED illumination to replace the incandescent bulb in HAM type rotor controls). We had a couple of youngsters 9 and 12 year old daughters of one of our members help with the soldering. They actually looked like they were having fun. I didn't get pictures of that as I was helping with the build. The club also has a ham station installed at the NWS forecast office.

At that site we have a tri-band yagi on a 30 foot tower and a 4BTV vertical and an Icom station with an IC-735 transceiver, an IC-2KL amp and a high power auto tuner.

By the way, our weather is back to normal - rain, highs in the 50s, lows in the 40s. I get out in the field with my QRP rigs fairly often. It is tough getting a tiny signal out of these high latitudes but I always have fun trying, even in winter.



We held a VE test session during the FD activities Saturday. Three took exams and all three passed. One man had traveled from Petersburg, AK, about 100 miles south of Juneau, to join our fun. He took the Technician and General class exams and passed. We put him in the operating position and he worked one contact then had to leave to keep his XYL happy. 100 miles doesn't sound like a big deal and it isn't in 4SQR country but here there are no roads so he and his wife rode the Alaska state ferry to get here.

From Dan - KB9JLO

This is me, KB9JLO, as K9HGX CENOIS ARC Decatur, IL. We're operating from Rock Springs Center in Decatur, IL. I was using an Icom IC-745 turned down to 10 watts SSB (not strictly QRP). My antenna is a home made 40-10 windom up 30' on a metal push up pole lashed to a tree in a VEE arrangement. We were running on batteries.



From **TJ - WØEA**

KQORP Field Day 2012 - The new IA QRP Club and Radio's Favorite Portable Ops Experience

I sat in my cubicle cursing the coastal QRP groups, why them?! Where's MY QRP club? Just then, Dave Cripe, NMOS, walked in. I said, "Dave we need a QRP club." He replied, "OK let's do it."

So here we are, announcing the rebirth of the Iowa QRP club! Many of you probably remember the original IA QRP club based out of Des Moines. It has been dormant for several years but we've got a number of hams here in Cedar Rapids interested in getting things going again.

Even though we knew it would be a difficult task, we decided we'd try to put together an operation for Field Day. It was already early June and we had not even had a meeting yet. I have been looking for other QRP operators in the Cedar Rapids area for a few years now and only knew of a handful of guys who didn't seem to be the "club" type. Boy was I in for a surprise! We called our first meeting 2 weeks before Field Day, limiting our exposure to the Cedar Valley Amateur Radio Club and the Collins Amateur Radio Club mailing lists. That first meeting, 14 people showed up! You mean there are others out there!?

We got down to business and started discussing a possible Field Day operation and the future of the club. Let's just say there's lots of good stuff going to come from this group! If you want to be part of the new club or would like more info, please join our Yahoo Group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/KQORP/>.

So on to Field Day! We decided to start setting up at 1 PM, to take advantage of the full 27 hours of operating time. Our initial plans had us operating at the same location as the CVARC club near Mount Mercy/Regis High School in town but due to a new contact at Mount Mercy, they were unable to accommodate us. Luckily, the NOMA Radio Farm guys were willing to lend us some land for our QRP operation. NOMA ran a 2A + VHF + GOTA station this year, at 100w of course, so I was a bit worried about what interference we'd deal with, but we'll get to that later.

At 1 PM, after I had helped the NOMA guys set up their big towers, and big antennas, Craig (NZOR), Steve (KDOORB), and I started setting up our little operation.



We started out with a 50 foot doublet fed with 450 Ohm ladder line in an inverted vee up about 30 feet. It didn't take long for it to become painfully obvious that this was a terrible antenna. In the first 2 hours on the air, we worked 4 stations! It wasn't long before the NOMA CW op, Joe (KCOVKN) came by to see how things were going. He was surprised at our lack of success as he was working them all! We rounded up a few of the other NOMA guys and hastily erected a mast kit and put up an 80m dipole provided by NZOR. It wasn't high, but WOAH what a difference! Now we were talking!

As I mentioned, we intended to have a 2A operation but we never did get that other radio on the air. Always next year! And the interference from NOMA? The KX3 provided a number of tools to reduce and in most cases eliminate the interference from the "big guns" a hundred yards away. Quite a success if you ask me! Craig and I operated off and on most of Saturday and I headed to bed at about midnight.

Around 4:00 AM I was awoken by flashes of light and rolling thunder. There I was, surrounded by three 70 foot towers, tons of metal in the air, and lightning coming. So I quickly tossed our station in the back of my truck and headed in to the house to wait out the storm. It was 9:30 before we got back on the air. Not every Field Day can be had without a bit of rain! I decided to run the 2nd day on the internal battery pack in the KX3 for fun, and I also set the power at 3 watts to take advantage of the reduced current draw. Band conditions were just as good Sunday as they were on Saturday and we worked 76 stations at 3w. We even got in my 5 "alternate energy" QSOs using my SLA that was charging on solar power Sunday morning.



When all was said and done, KQORP completed 170 QSOs, all at QRP and mostly on CW.

We had lots of guys stop by and see what it was all about, and even the QRO NOMA guys were impressed by our shoestring operation. I think we may have some converts!

It goes without saying; THIS is how Field Day is supposed to be done!

From **Tom - WØMFQ**

The St. Louis QRP Society conducted Field Day this year at Fox Hill Park in St. Charles, MO. The weather was beautiful with a nice breeze and no rainstorms for a change. We operated 4A battery/solar and accumulated 516 CW and 25 digital contacts. Bands operated were 15, 20, 40 and 80 and contacts were made in all 50 states except Nebraska (don't know how we missed that state), three Canadian provinces, St. Croix U. S. Virgin Islands and two stations in Russia. A great time was had by the nine SLQS members participating.



from **Terry - WAØITP**

Here's a couple FD pictures. Sri we didnt take more, somehow the thought of takin pictures escaped us this year. I'll make up for it at Big Brutus this fall.



EASY 40 Meter vertical.....de Rich - KDØZZ

Our club, Community Service Radio Club WØCSR, wanted a full size 40M vertical for Field day. After a trip to my shed and some radial wire from K2HT, I put together a portable 40M vertical for field day.



One picture is the base support for the vertical. The other is the vertical parts, the green wire is the radials and coax feed point. The small cables go to a Lexan square that guy the vertical at the 20ft point where the 1" EMT nest in to the 3/4" EMT. The guy wires are also broken up with insulators so they do not interfere with the vertical. The two 1" EMT's have a birch stiffening element at their joint.

The antenna is 2 sections of 1" EMT and the top 13 feet is a short section of 3/4" EMT and a 11M fiberglass whip. It has a quick adjustment for CW or SSB section of the band. All parts has been feline approved!

---Rich , kd0zz---

Amazing Homebrew

This is the 4SQRP kits station built by:
Woody - WD9F



What a nice example of building and also a big credit to all that design, kit parts and ship the kits for the 4SQRP Group which funds OzarkCon! Here is the keyer that Woody uses:

AAØZZ EZKeyer

Full featured PIC-based iambic Morse code keyer

features 3 memories and very easy use. PC board that is only 1.5" x 1.75", this is an EZ-to-build small footprint project is Altoids® tin compatible. Its only \$17 in the U.S. See the website:

<http://www.wa0itp.com/aaOzzkeyer.html>



Featured Guest Author

Philip Cala-Lazar - K9PL,
Editor of the famous, K9YA Telegraph E-Zine

BIG WILSON, WD4LUV

A Recollection by Philip Cala-Lazar, K9PL

For a few years in the early 1980s I lived in south Florida, near Ft. Lauderdale and Motorola's big Broward County manufacturing facility. As a born and bred Midwesterner the experience was a bit of a cultural and environmental shock. However, my new environs offered a covey of pleasures that eased the transition: some great neighbors, subtropical sunsets, exotic flora and fauna, tasty seafood and the daily stress-breaker of watching Big Wilson, host of *Night Owl Movies* on WCIX-TV, channel 6, Miami. Mr. Wilson, at 6 feet 6 inches in height and weighing over 300 pounds truly mirrored his moniker.

In those pre-Internet days I did not know that before his WCIX job Malcolm John Wilson was a popular disc jockey in New York and other east coast cities.

One night Big Wilson in his mellifluous voice and between his cocktail lounge piano segues, mentioned he was an amateur radio operator, WD4LUV (SK). Already a big fan, but not one to send a fan letter, I figured what better correspondence between fellow hams (I was then AA9N) than a QSL card? Off went the card, noting I used a Sony Trinitron® television receiver and rabbit ears antenna, to Big Wilson in care of WCIX. A couple of weeks passed with no on air mention of my card and I didn't figure to get one in the mail, so I let it go. I was satisfied knowing I had sent him my card.

Finally, on a Sunday afternoon shortly thereafter, I received a phone call from the sister of a Chicago-area ham pal. She was then living in Davie, Florida a couple of towns south of me and she had something interesting to tell me: Saturday night, during one of his

program breaks Big Wilson held my QSL card up to the camera and explained its significance to the non-hams in the audience.

Thanks to amateur radio's sense of community I was able connect with a local celebrity, if ever so briefly, crossband and cross-mode, as only we hams can.

dailymotion.com/video/x7ts3t_big-wilson-at-wcix-miami-1978_shortfilms

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vy2uw62nCqY>

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- Deadline for publications copy is the end of each month -

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