

June 2013 Edition - Vol 1 Issue 12

A publication of the Four State QRP Group and OzarkCon QRP Conference
www.4sqrp.com



Ozark QRP BANNER



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Four State QRP Group

is now meeting at
the Country Cupboard restaurant
in downtown Seneca, Mo.



The Country Cupboard has a nice menu and they have a separate meeting room we can use.

The Country Cupboard restaurant is located in the first block north of the blinker light in downtown Seneca. From Barney's, head north on Cherokee Street (that's the main street of town). Go across the railroad tracks and keep going past the blinker light stop. The restaurant is located at 1038 Cherokee street, on the west side of the street.

Caution: If you are headed north, do not make a left "J turn" into a parking spot. "J turns" are illegal in the downtown area. Keep going north past the restaurant till you reach the residential area north of downtown where a "U turn" is permitted. Make a U turn there (it's a wide street) and come back to the parking in front of the restaurant.

Our group is an informal organization with no officers, no rules, no dues or any other things to get in the way of having fun with QRP.

We get-together monthly for lunch and the sharing of ideas and information, parts swapping and just plain fun on our normal third Saturday of a month.

All ham radio amateurs (or prospective hams) are invited to participate.



YAHOO!
Groups
Join Now!

[Click to
join the
Cyclone
Yahoo
Group](#)

The Four State QRP Group is pleased to announce the availability of the

Cyclone 40 Transceiver

This innovative and simple transceiver by NMØS is an enhanced version of Dave's QRP ARCI's 72 Part Challenge Design Contest entry in 2010. This is a complete kit, including the enclosure. The price is a buck a part plus shipping, \$104 total, for domestic sales. Purchasing info and more details are on the kit's home page here <http://www.4sqrp.com/cyclone.php> Here are some of the design features:

- . All through hole parts and easy assembly. NO SMD parts
 - . Less than 100 components
 - . Superhet receiver with very good sensitivity and selectivity
 - . "Perfect" QSK very high speed and absolutely seamless operation.
 - . VFO tunes the entire 125 KHz CW segment of the 40M band at a comfortable tuning rate.
 - . Transmitter output is nominally 4W. Those built so far are running ~ 4.6W
 - . Frequency readout is included so you know where you are at all times.
 - . A very attractive PCB enclosure is included. It's easy to assemble and looks great.
 - . All parts are included, jacks, knobs, enclosure, transformers, everything.
- This is a complete kit, including a black enclosure with white silkscreened labels.

We hope you enjoy this high performance transceiver.



Build It, Ideas !!!

by: Daniel – DM3DA

to see better details of a key please go to his website:

<http://www.qth.at/dm3da/collection/>













Four State QRP Group

Where QRP and homebrew is alive and well!

4 STATE QRP NETS....join the fun!

Comfortable CW Nets [every Wednesday] -

7:00 & 8:00 PM Central time on 3564 KHz.

Net control is Terry, WAØITP in Ottumwa, Iowa.

At ~ 7:30 & 8:30 PM Central time on 7122 KHz (Memorial Day to Veterans Day).

At ~ 7:30 PM Central time on 7122 KHz (Veterans Day to Memorial Day).
and

~ 8:30 PM Central time on 1810 KHz (Veterans Day to Memorial Day).

After the 80 meter net, check out 40 meters on 7122 KHz. The start time is approximate depending when the 80 meter net finishes, and KCØPMH, Wayne Dillon is NCS for the 40M nets.

If we have to QSY a little, lets move up a half KHz at a time until we find a clear spot.

Both of these CW nets are at "comfortable" CW speeds. Slow and rusty fists welcome!

Wednesday Warble -

We have an informal roundtable session each Wednesday evening throughout the year at 9:00 PM Central time on the 80 meter band (on or near 3580.5 KHz) using PSK-31 mode.

All hams within range of our signals are invited to join the fun. Dick Hammond, N0TGR is the NCS for the psk net.

Four State QRP Group

Where QRP and homebrew is alive and well!!

? QRP/mm ?

Editor's note: Sometimes our QRP passion leads to another hobby to enhance our portable station activities. I am currently working on being /mm. As you look through the Puddle Duck info, notice they make their own masts for sailing. The homebrew sail mast will surely hold up a radiating wire!

A very special thanks to **David "Shorty" Routh**, the designer and keeper of the Puddle Duck nation, for letting the Banner bring the world of inexpensive boating to the 4 State QRP Group.

The Puddle Duck Racer website is:
<http://www.pdracer.com/>



PDRacer.com

Puddle Duck Racer
Cheap, creative, and having fun on the water.

What is a Puddle Duck Racer

The PDRacer is a developmental one design racing sailboat that is basically a plywood box with a curved bottom, and is the easiest boat in the world to build. The rules are aimed at keeping the lower 10" of all hulls the same, but the rest is up to the builder. A simple hull can be made from 3 sheets of plywood, titebond II glue, and latex house paint. If you work hard for 2 weekends, you can go sailing on the 3rd weekend. If you are really in a hurry, it is possible to go from [lumber to the lake in 5 days](#). Here are our [free plywood sailboat plans](#)



What our club is about

Our club is not about the boat, it is about the people, and what we do is described right at the top of this page in our motto. We use the same shaped hulls and go play with them together in fun ways and also for serious

racing. We have a handicap rating so we can race with other recognized racing classes. Membership is free, any puddle ducker can organize events (there are no restricted territories). We have an open member list so any ducker can directly contact another. Here is why the hull we use, is perfect for puddle ducking: [Design Considerations Of The Puddle Duck Racer](#). For more information about what a great community activity the PDRacer Class is, see [this newspaper article](#). In addition to conventional racing, we have a big list of fun [sailboat games and races](#).

Interesting Niche Racing

Most of the other sailboat classes fit in one of the two basic categories. 1: One Design where the class keep the boats as identical as possible so that the competition is between the skill of the crew. 2: Developmental class where the competitors engineer different sailboats so that their boat design is a significant part of their ability to compete. This category also tends to become a competition of who has the financial resources to gain the best engineering solutions.

Our class fits in an area between those 2 general types, we are a "developmental one design". Our hulls are a fixed one design shape, the sail rigs and fins are open for development. The result is our racing competition is blend of both the sailing skill of the skipper AND boat engineering & building skill. Because our boat is so small, that imposes a natural limit on the cost so our class will always be within the grasp of an amateur garage level competitor.

You don't need permission from headquarters, just build your duck, contact other duckers to get out there & do our motto !! If nobody else is organizing events in your area, then stand up and take the initiative to organize a local fleet and make the magic happen !!

[Site Map - All Pages On This Website](#)

[Contacting Other Duckers](#)

[Subscribe PDRacer Newsletter](#)

Many Other Uses

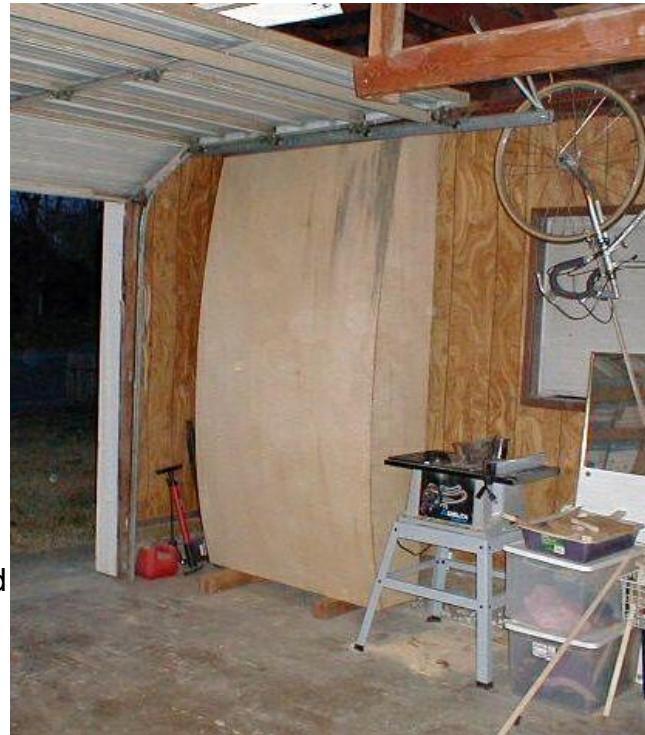
Our boat is not just for racing, she is great for all sorts of other purposes - and in most states a boat this small does not need to be titled or registered. The hull shape carries 630 lbs. One member took 2 adults and 3 kids for an afternoon sail. Another went on a 3 day cruise with his wife and slept aboard at anchor every night. If you think about it, many people go backpacking for long periods, a PDRacer can hold much more gear and water than a backpack. She also works good as a row boat, and motor boat. [free plans diy boat oars](#)

I often take my kids out rowing in mine, instead of a sail rig I put a big beach umbrella in the mast sleeve so they can sit in the shade. If you like fishing, you can row her into the shallow areas that power boats can't get to, and launch in

areas that don't have a boat ramp. She is very stable, enough that you can stand up and cast.

Which boat to build?

If you just discovered boat building, very soon you will become aware that there are TONS and TONS of different boats you could build. For some reason, many sailors think they should only have one sailboat - please realize it is perfectly OK to have several sailboats. Consider building a puddle duck to get some experience, and also be able to have fun sailing with others. The lessons you will learn, will give you better understanding of how to build boats, and make your next project go a lot faster. The duck is big enough to carry a 2nd passenger, but still small and easy to store. If you loose interest or don't have time, then stand her upright in the corner of your garage or out back till you get the itch to go sail her again.



Don't know how to sail?

For most of the people that build these, it is their first boat too and they don't know how to sail either !! Sailing is easy, just point the boat in the direction you want to go, then pull in the sail till it stops flapping. The best way to learn is to have your own boat, and take it out on a very light wind day, on a very small lake, and give it a try. Take a set of oars, and if you can't figure out how to sail back, then drop your sail and row back. If you know a sailor, then invite them along and they will help you out, the PDRacer can easily carry 2 adults.

Afraid it will leak?

All boats leak, especially wooden ones. Just because it might leak, doesn't mean you will sink - that is what the flotation chambers are for. Besides, when you are sailing on a very windy say, splashing along, you will get more spray water than from any leak. Just take along a bottomless Clorox bottle, and when the water gets to about an inch deep inside the cockpit, just do a couple of

scoops to flip the water out. If you are worried about capsizing, see our info about emergency flotation and recovering from knock downs.

Afraid it won't be perfect the way you build it?

A big part of puddle ducking is to continually tinker with your boat to improve it. So just figure which configuration attracts you the most and start building it. Later if you change your mind, you can reconfigure her, or just build another hull and move your parts over. They have almost no resale value, so no matter what you do, she will be worth the same.

Club Membership

Anyone can become a puddle ducker, all you have to do is build (or get) a puddle duck racer and register her. **Registration is FREE**, and Shorty has tried to keep all other aspects of puddle ducking free, offering free plans and full instructions here on the website, and requiring that entrance to the world championship be free to any registered puddle ducker and their crew. There are no protected territories and any puddle ducker is welcome to organize events and invite others to go sailing.

We have an open member list, and if their email address is listed, that means you can contact them direct for duck related activities.

Hatch Events

Want to increase the number of puddle ducks in your local area? One of the things we do is organize "hatch events". This is where people organize a day (or weekend) to get together and build ducks. Sometimes these are very elaborate events on a big scale with 15 or more ducks being built and sometimes they are as simple as having a friend (or two) come over and just try to build what you can, no prior preparation needed. If you are interested in doing a hatch, consider inviting the other local duckers to come help -- because we really like any excuse to build another boat or help someone else build theirs. :)

Specs:

Handicap Rating: PDRacer, All Rigs PDR D-PN: [140.0]

LOA: Average boat built to 8' long, length depends on side height (see class rules)

LWL: 7'6"

Beam: Minimum of 4'

Hull Height: Suggested size is 16" or 18", minimum of 10" required

Sail Area: 50 to 80 sq ft commonly used

Weight: Usually around 120 lbs, varies per ducker

Capacity: Hull shape carries 630 lbs (that is when both transoms touch water)

Theoretical Hull Speed: 4.2 mph (3.7 kts) (Hullspeed in kts = $\text{SqRt}(\text{LWL}) \times 1.34$)

Actual Sailing Speed: Average speed around 3 mph

Maximum Sailing Speed: [9.0 mph](#)

Orlock Placement: 18" to 30" from stern

Optimum size oars: 6' to 8' long
Minimum functional oars: 54" long
Rowing Speed: 2.5 mph at an easy to pull effort

Other sailboat clubs have required plans that you must pay for (whether you build a boat or not), charge annual membership fees, local chapter fees, race event fees etc.

I have always offered everything for FREE and done my best to provide you with all the tools you need to connect with other duckers to get out and do our motto:

- free plans
 - free building instructions
 - free hull registration
 - free lifetime membership
 - I have organized many PD events anyone can enter for free
 - I purchase advertising to help our class grow
 - I continually promote the class to help it grow
 - I continually add new content to the website to help duckers
 - I continually maintain & update the central membership list so you can directly contact any other ducker on the planet
 - Provide personalized profile page for every ducker listing their articles, that way when other duckers browse the member list, they see what you are doing and contact you to get involved
-



SMOKE CURLS..... by Jeff Davis, KE9V

Taking Care of Business

Twitter now provides two-step authentication for your account and if you have a phone capable of receiving SMS messages, there is no reason why you shouldn't be using it. Direct message spam from Twitter continues to grow and it's almost always due to a compromised account.

The “fix” for it is usually to just change your password — but the bigger problem is that you probably don’t know you’re spamming your stream until someone gets mad enough about it flame you for it.

Or in my case, I’ll simply drop you like a hot potato and never tell you why.

Turning on two-step verification couldn’t be easier. You give Twitter your cell phone number and then elect that option. From then on, whenever you are required to log-in, you’ll need your password and a special numeric code that Twitter will send to you via text message seconds after you try to log-in.

Your account should then be sufficiently locked down without much inconvenience to you at all.

Check out this [**one-minute video that shows**](#) how to enable this authentication.

And while you’re messing around with your account settings, be sure to review that list of applications that you’ve permitted to access your account. If you’ve been using Twitter for a long time that list may be surprisingly long. Revoke access to those apps and services you no longer use — and think carefully about the ones you let remain.

These all have access to your account. Do you know them? Trust them?

One other note, if you have a Google account, you can turn on two-step authentication for all those services too. [**Here’s how**](#) and it’s much easier using their [**Authenticator**](#) app on your smart phone.

Life’s too short for those unable or unwilling to manage their online accounts

Will It Go Round in Circles

I’ve found the [**recent updates**](#) to Google Plus very compelling and am actively using my account again.

Of course, there are a lot more radio amateurs using Twitter, and ten times that number, whatever it is, with Facebook accounts. Google Plus is solidly in third place in the world of social media, but I happen to think it’s become the best place to be — as these things go.

There are many advantages to Google Plus, not the least which is the ability to share long text, photos, and various forms of multi-media. Our family has been using **Google Hangouts** since it first became available for weekly group video gab sessions and watching the grand baby grow.

The ability to compartmentalize interests into ‘circles’ goes a long way towards reducing the unwanted noise that exists (in abundance) with any social media network.

One of my circles is for “ham radio” and it’s with this group that I share my adventures in radio. You have to be in this circle in order to follow along. If you visit my account, all you will see are **public postings** that I’ve made. The other ninety-five percent of the content I’m sharing can only be viewed by those in my circle.

If you already have a **Google Plus** account then I hope you will circle me.

And if you do, and I either know you or can deduce that you are a radio amateur, I’ll add you to my ham radio circle and let the party begin! If your profile doesn’t reveal your ham radio call sign, or if you don’t have one, drop me a note and ask me to add you to my circle.

This is important to me since **Google Plus** has already replaced my regular use of **Twitter** and eventually, I expect it to replace this blog too.



CONFUSED PROTESTORS PICKET DAYTON HAMFEST, THEN LEAVE

<http://www.noiseblankers.com/hijinks/2013/5/17/confused-protestors-picket-dayton-hamfest-then-leave.html>

By WBØRUR, on the scene

DAYTON, Ohio; May 17 – In what's being called confusing and totally unexpected, about a dozen protestors showed up this morning at the Dayton Hamfest.



Confused protestors at Hamvention.

People Advancing The Humane Treatment of Animals (PATHA) protested in front of Dayton's Hara Arena, advocating against alleged unsafe hog farming, growing and butchering practices.

"We will make these mad men stop!" exclaimed group leader Paula Smith-Taylor of Westchester, Vermont. "The unstoppable slaughter of hogs for food and profit must end!"

A group of ham radio operators headed to the "[Peanut Whistle Transmitters](#)" exhibit took a moment to visit with Smith-Taylor.

"She seemed genuinely surprised at what 'ham radio' actually meant," says octogenarian Vince Bascoe of Cheyenne, Wyoming.

"After I explained it to her, she told the group to get back into her VW microbus for their next assignment.

"We're headed to Arkansas!" Smith-Taylor exclaimed as the van left the ham fest parking lot.

"We hear there's fighting hogs there! We must stop the insanity!"

Editor's Note: The Ohio Pork Producers are offering a fantastic bacon, lettuce and tomato sandwich for \$7.99 with drink. They are located at Pavilion 1B at Hara Arena. The funds raised go to assist with the FCC's "[one kilohertz at a time](#)" project.

www.hamhijinks.com





ARRL Field Day June 22 – 23, 2013

The Field Day packet is available online at:

<http://www.arrl.org/field-day>



The online registration for the 2013 Central States VHF Society Conference is now available. The 2013 Conference will be held near Chicago at the Elk Grove Village, IL, Holiday Inn from Thursday July 25th until Sunday July 28. This year's Conference location allows for free Hotel transportation to and from the Chicago-O'Hare Airport and has easy access from major interstate routes.

Activities begin with onsite check-in and registration Thursday afternoon with the offering of a trip to the Schaumburg Boomer's baseball game at 5PM. Friday morning's activities feature the Antenna Range (144MHz-24Ghz) measurements, Rover Row, Dish Display and Noise Figure Measurement Contest.

In addition to the world-class technical presentations on topics about activity on the amateur bands VHF/UHF and above; this year's conference will feature a return of the free-admission "VHF-101" introductory session on Saturday Morning !

For a up-to-date schedule of events please check the Central States VHF Society website at;
<http://www.csvhfs.org/2013conference/agenda.html>

The 2013 Conference is honored to welcome active VHF operator and CEO of the American Radio Relay League, Mr. Dave Sumner, K1ZZ as the Saturday Banquet speaker. This will be a presentation you will not want to miss !

The Family Program includes the Schaumburg Boomer's baseball game on Thursday evening, a Friday trip to downtown Chicago's famed Michigan Avenue Shopping District and a Saturday bus trip to the Chicago Museum Campus that includes the Field Museum of Natural History, the Adler Planetarium, the John G Shedd Aquarium and the Chicago Museum of Modern Art.

This year we will be offering a (free) Sunday tour of the Fermilab National Accelerator in Batavia Illinois. There will be a group car-pool from the Hotel at 10AM Sunday and although there is no bus transportation arrangements can be provided for the return trip to O'Hare airport after the tour. This tour will present a glimpse into the hardware behind the scenes in the world of High Energy Physics. Included will be a short stop by the superconducting RF laboratory - where the RF is REALLY cool... A pair of comfortable walking shoes is suggested for the 3 hour tour.

The Central States VHF Society registration page can be found at ;

<http://www.csvhfs.org/2013conference/2013Registration.html>

Reservations for the Elk Grove Village Holiday Inn 1000 Busse Rd, Elk Grove Village Illinois can be made using the special reservation group code " VHF" by calling [\(800\) 972-2494](tel:(800)972-2494) or by using the web link;

<http://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/elk-grove-village/chieg/hoteldetail?groupCode=VHF>

The special group rate for the Conference is \$95 per night.

Should you have any questions, problems or special requests please do not hesitate to contact the 2013 Conference Chairman directly by email at W9XA@arrl.org

Please make early plans to attend. We look forward to seeing you in July for the 2013 Central States VHF Society Conference near Chicago !

For the 2013 CSVHF Committee-
73, Kermit Carlson W9XA



4State QRP 2nd Sunday Sprints

beginning June 9th at 7 to 9 PM (cdst)

any mode and band, except WARC & 60 mtrs, we have an open, no NCS Sprint to keep the keys and mics active and collect the valuable QSO contacts that are needed to achieve the W25 awards.

<http://www.4sqrp.com/ActivityRecognition.php>

Suggested calling idea is.....CQ 4S....and obtain the stations 4SQRP number for W25 awards.

There is more at stake than the W25 awards, the most QSO contacts station by October 1st, 2013, wins the club callsign WQ5RP for the October 4x4 Sprint. With a massive multiplier attached, this may be the most coveted contact in your logbook for the 4x4 Sprint!

Reporting is easy.....send me an email to
Spike55@outlook.com

Put SPRINT in the subject line then in the text body, indicate your number of QSO contacts and what mode.

.....I will compile the total of entries and post them on the club yahoo groups reflector!.....72 & GL.....de K5EST

Share the knowledge and help promote QRP by sending your Articles msWord or compatible, help hints, radio mods, antennas, portable operations, mobile installations, pedestrian mobile, radio reviews, and any non-commercial QRP interest? You do not have to have a complete article, just give me an idea, pictures, etc, and you get published!

Email the “Banner” at
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