

March 2014 Edition - Vol 2 Issue 9

A publication of the Four State QRP Group and OzarkCon QRP Conference

[www.4sgrp.com](http://www.4sgrp.com)

Group callsign WQ5RP

Ozark QRP **BANNER**



**FOUR STATE  
QRP GROUP**

**PRESENTS**



**APRIL  
4-5**

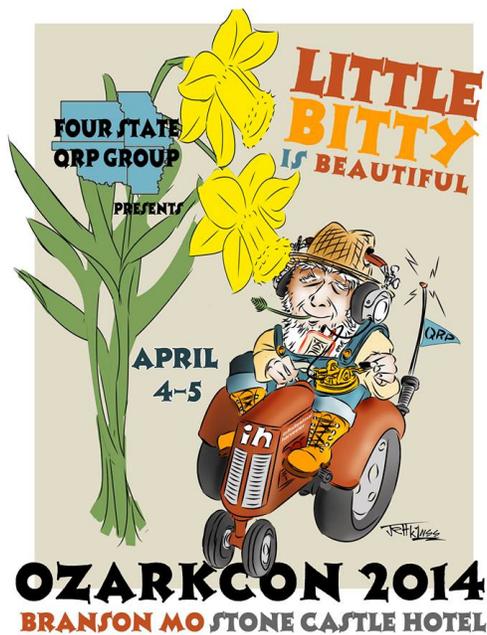
*JK1NSS*

**OZARKCON 2014**  
**BRANSON MO STONE CASTLE HOTEL**

Thank you **Jeff K1NSS**, and [www.dashtoons.com](http://www.dashtoons.com)

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**Coming to you from the Castle of QRP**



OzarkCon 2014 currently has registered attendees from the following 16 states -  
AL, AR, Hampshire UK., IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, LA, MI, MN, MO, NE, OK, TN, TX.

## QRP Conference Schedule

### Friday

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM Knights Room

Dummy Load QSO Party - KØN on 7040 KHz Special time for this year.

Be sure to bring a portable rig, dummy load and QSL cards.

4:00 - 6:00 PM Hotel Lobby

Registration desk open - Patsy Lawson, KC5CDE & Sarah Smith, N0TKO

4:00 PM until ??? Knights Room Vendor & Swap Setup - Vendor Fair follows

6:00 PM Stonehenge Room Banquet dinner, and after dinner speaker

After dinner till whenever... Knights Room Socializing and fun.

The QRP vendor fair and swap meet in the Knights Room will be open.

After dinner till whenever... Lancelot Room in Building "A" Special Ladies Room - Crafts,  
needle work, scrapbooking, etc.

7:00 - ? PM Excalibur Room in Building "A"

Dar Piatt W9HZC and Darrel Swenson KØAWB Hands-on kit building workshop

Excalibur Room in Building "A" Session 1

(workshop registration required - only 20 seats per Session)

7:30 - ? PM Excalibur Room in Building "A"

Dar Piatt W9HZC and Darrel Swenson KØAWB Hands-on kit building workshop

Excalibur Room in Building "A" Session 2

(workshop registration required - only 20 seats per Session)

7:30 PM till ??? Knights Room

Dummy Load QSO Party - KØN on 7040 KHz Be sure to bring a portable rig, dummy load and  
QSL cards.

7:30 PM till ??? Knights Room Wacky Key Contest Show off your crazy homebrew keys.

9:30 PM till ??? Knights Room Music for the QRPer Great musical fun tradition for all.

### Saturday

6:00 AM - 9:00 AM Stonehenge Room Private complementary breakfast for QRPers

7:00 AM - 9:00 AM Hotel Lobby Registration desk open - Patsy Lawson, KC5CDE &  
Sarah Smith, N0TKO

7:00 AM - all day KØN on 7040 KHz WØIIT Bart Lawson Station Master

7:00 AM - all day Lancelot Room in Building "A" Special Ladies Room - Crafts, needle work, scrapbooking, etc.

7:00 AM - all day Knights Room - Flea market vendor fair QRP flea market, vendor fair open all day  
Presentations Stonehenge Room

9:00 AM Opening Remarks Opening remarks by Terry Fletcher, WAØITP and Ron Potter, AG1P  
Welcome Address TBA

9:30 - 10:15 AM The RBN and more- a year hamming in Iraq de N4EO, ex-YI9EO  
Jerry Brown N4EO

10:15 - 11:00 AM Being QRP DX from Caribbean Islands Craig Behrens NM4T

11:00 - 11:45  
Making of the EZkeyer Craig Johnson AAØZZ

11:45 - 1:30 PM Lunch and QRP swapmeet time (Free lunch on 4SQRP)

1:30 - 2:15 PM Understanding Mixers Phil Anderson, WØXI

2:15 - 3:00 PM Poor Ham's Scalar Network Analyzer Jerry Haigwood W5JH, Jim Giammanco N5IB, Nick Kennedy WA5BDU

3:15 - 4:00 PM Portable Operating Max McCoy KCØMAX

4:00 PM Plaque presentations Terry Fletcher, WAØITP and Ron Potter, AG1P

4:15 PM OzarkCon Grand Prize drawing - Lots of Prizes!

4:30 PM to ??? Dinner on your own

6:00 - ??? Evening activities and music for QRPers  
Homebrew contest and equipment show and tell, demonstrations, socializing, more music and fun!

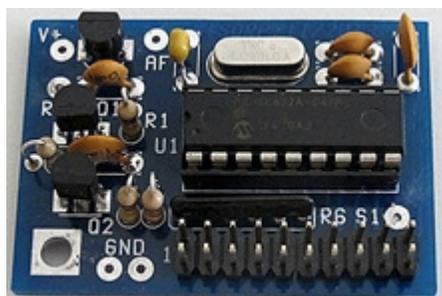
### **Sunday**

6:00 AM - 9:00 AM Stonehenge Room Private complementary breakfast for QRPers

Times are somewhat flexible - Check back often for additional information

<http://www.ozarkcon.com/index.php>





# FREQ-Mite

**The original Dave Benson K1SWL FREQ-Mite.**

## Features and Specifications

**PCB Size:** Very small, only 1.75"L x 1.25"W

**Frequency Range:** Up to 32.7 MHz

**Resolution:** 1 KHz

**Accuracy:**  $\pm$  1KHz

**Minimum Input Voltage (Sensitivity):** .1 to .6 Volts P-P, Frequency dependent

**Maximum Input Voltage:** 10 Volts P-P

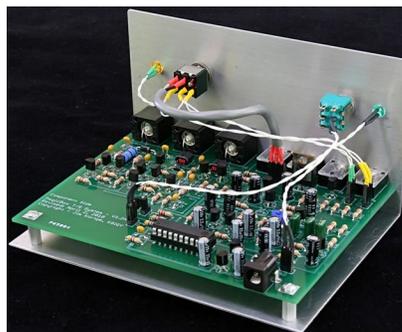
**High Input Impedance:** Will not load your VFO or affect its frequency

**Programmable IF Offset:** Can be used for both superhets and direct conversion rigs.

**Output:** 800Hz at 13 or 26 WPM, user selectable

## Ordering Information:

The price of this kit is \$22 for US orders and \$30 for DX orders, shipping costs are included. <http://www.4sgrp.com/freq-mite.php>



# K8IQY MagicBox

**Solid State, Electronic, Transmit/Receive Switch**

### **Specifications and Design Features**

- **Creates transceiver operation using a separate receiver and transmitter.**
- **Completely automatic operation.**
- **Greater than 80dB isolation between the transmitter and receiver during transmit.**
- **All solid state MOSFET switching.**
- **Negligible receive or transmit signal loss through the switch.**
- **Sequenced switching ... the receiver is off first and on last compared to the transmitter.**
- **The receiver audio is also switched to provide complete audio muting during transmit.**
- **Smooth 700Hz Sine Wave Sidetone**
- **Fully automatic Full QSK up to 50 wpm. Semi QSK can be jumper selected.**
- **Tested at 10W and probably will safely go higher.**
- **Covers all HF ham bands, 160-10 meters.**

- **Ordering Information: The cost of this kit is \$50 US and \$60 DX**

<http://www.4sqr.com/MagicBox.php>



## **NS-40 Class E Transmitter**

### **Specifications:**

**Power Output: Strong 5 watts at 13.8 volts**

**Power Supply: 9-13.8 volts depending on output power desired.**

**Harmonic Rejection: better than 50 dB**

**Crystal Controlled Oscillator: 40M crystal supplied.**

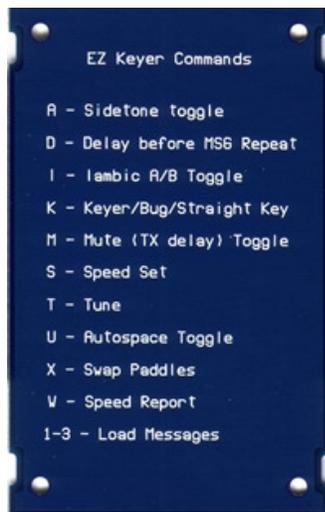
Price for US \$32.00 & DX Orders \$44.00, Includes Shipping

<http://www.4sqr.com/NS40.php>



# AAØZZ EZKeyer II

*An updated and  
superior EZKeyer*



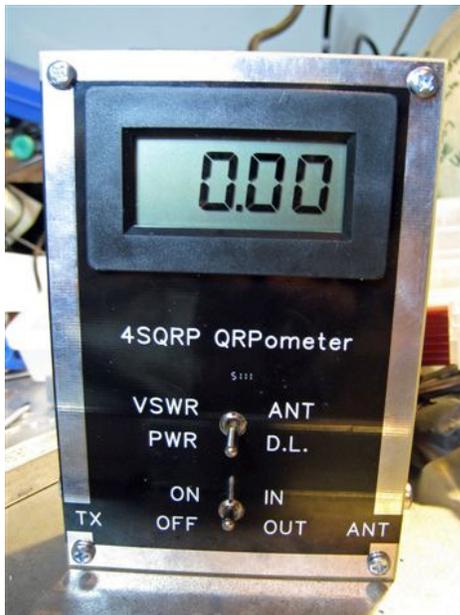
## **Specifications and Design Features**

- Beautiful blue silk screened and easy building PCB enclosure
- Command List is silk screened on bottom of enclosure, *No Printed list needed*
- New PIC Microcontroller.
- New Delay and Repeat (D) command especially for Contesters, Beaconeers and QRPers. [More Info Here](#)
- Three easy-to-use memories Two with 47 character capacity and one with 79, stored in non-volatile memory (EEPROM).
- Three high quality, full size, panel mount (top cover) pushbuttons.

- 5-55 wpm speed range.
- Iambic A or B, straight (Cootie) key, and Bug modes.
- Sequenced Mute Line (Goes low for receiver mute or T/R switch).
- Speed and operating modes stored in non-volatile memory (EEPROM).
- Speed entered by command or easily changed on-the-fly via the paddles.
- Tune Mode.
- Very long (essentially shelf) battery life - no power switch required..
- Operating voltage 3-5 volts, 3 AAA alkaline batteries are ideal.
- Low power - 1ma active and 1uA in sleep mode.
- 600 Hz sidetone (may be turned off).
- Autospace between characters (may be turned off).
- Dash/Dot paddle swap command
  - Keyed line goes low when active

Choose US \$35.00 or DX \$45.00 Orders

<http://www.4sqr.com/ek2.php>



# QRPOMETER

## a QRP Power/SWR Meter

### Specifications and Design Features

**Accuracy:** Power, 2% Typical  
VSWR, 5% Typical

**Power Range:** 100 mW to 8 Watts

**Frequency Range:** 160 Meters thru 10 Meters

**Large Digital Display** The digits are .52" in height.

**Sensitivity:** Direct readout on 3 1/2 digit LCD display. Minimum resolution 10 mW.

**Enclosure:** Silk Screened PC boards create the enclosure, no need to purchase

one.

**No Toroids:** There are no toroids in this kit.

**Ordering Information:** ... The cost of this kit is \$52 US or \$60 DX. Shipping is included in each price.

<http://www.4sgrp.com/QRPometer.php>



# HAM HIJINKS

HAM RADIO NEWS OF THE FUNNY VARIETY

From the Award-Winning  
Noise Blankers News Team

hamhijinks.com

## News Release: Wet Noodle Antennas Introduces New Long Reach Antenna

Courtesy of: BUSINESS USE RELATIONSHIP PRESS SERVICE (BURPS)

*WELLSBURG, Mo. – The Wet Noodle Antenna Company, a division of [Peanut Whistle Transmitters](#), is unveiling a new, ground-breaking antenna product just in time for the upcoming hamfest season.*

The new and innovative long wire antenna, dubbed the “LONG REACH” \*, will come in a variety of lengths and wire gauges sure to please even the most discerning amateur radio operator.

Here's the SPECTACULAR  
“L--O--N--G R--E--A--C--H”  
RANDOM LENGTH OF WIRE ANTENNA

PRICED AT ONLY

**\$149<sup>.95</sup>**

THE “BEST” STRAIGHT WIRE AVAILABLE  
PERFECT FOR STRINGING BETWEEN TREES  
ACCURATE  
EASY TO INSTALL  
PREMIUM SELECTIVITY  
\*OPTIMIZED\* FOR HAM RADIO BY OUR UNIQUE PROCESS

“You are 599, OM!”



\*actual product may vary

ANOTHER FINE PRODUCT FROM  
**WET NOODLE ANTENNAS**

"We felt now was a superb time to introduce this unique product to the marketplace," says company president Macy Blixton, daughter of Wet Noodle founder John Blixton. "And I must say initial feedback from the ham radio community has been overwhelming."

Building on the quality engineering which made Wet Noodle a world-renowned name, the "LONG REACH" \* random wire antenna will be offered in a variety of lengths and configurations. "Suitable for every ham radio operator's unique set of environmental circumstances" adds corporate spokesman Rafael Algonquin.

Each "LONG REACH" \* antenna is a true random wire antenna: no two are alike! Customer A may receive a 32 foot piece of 10 gauge solid copper wire; while Customer B may receive 47 feet of 16 gauge copper weave; Customer C may receive 16 feet of 14 gauge aluminum braid. Strategically, the Wet Noodle engineers will NOT include connectors, feed points, insulators, installation or instruction diagrams with the "LONG REACH" \*, a tip of the hat to amateur radio operators ability to "customize each random length and type of wire to best suit their needs." Due to the random lengths and/or gauges of the finely crafted antennas– which ship in a hand-packed container – no operating specifications (i.e., resonant frequencies, etc.) are available.

"When the "LONG REACH" \* is paired with one of our Peanut Whistle Transmitters, such as the [Peanut Whistle Model 250 or Model 500](#), it's a really a display of an unbelievable quality of workmanship, says Blixton.

"We are excited and look forward to serving the amateur radio community for many years to come!"

The "LONG REACH" \* random wire antenna will be formally introduced next month at the Chili Dog Hamfest in Truth or Consequences, New Mexico. Suggested retail: \$149.95.

**\* Legal disclaimer: The term "LONG REACH" is not intended to imply any specific level of performance, wire length, resonance, conductivity, impedance, capacitive inductance nor DX operating ability.**

### hamhijinks.com



## 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.



## Dan - KB6NU's Column

In the March 2014 issue of QST, ARRL CEO Harold Kramer, WJ1B, makes a big deal of the fact that ARRL membership is now up to 162,200 members and is growing at a rate of about 1% per year. After patting the ARRL on the back about this, WJ1B launches into a discussion of the different programs that WJ1B feels have contributed to the membership growth.

Let's take another look at the numbers, though. As the editorial points out, 10,300 ARRL members are international members, meaning that 151,900 U.S. hams are ARRL members. Another article in the March issue, "New Licenses," notes that the total number of licensed radio amateurs at the end of 2013 was 717,201. If you do the math, you'll find that only slightly more than one in five licensed radio amateurs are ARRL members. I personally don't think that's so hot, and it's certainly not worthy of all the self-congratulation going on in this editorial.

The licensing article also points out that "the amateur radio population in the US grew by slightly more than 1 percent last year." That being the case, ARRL membership has grown at about the same rate. If all the programs noted in WJ1B's editorial were so effective, wouldn't you expect membership growth to be at least 2%?

I've said this before, and I'll say it again. I think the ARRL should set a goal to enroll at least 25% of licensed radio amateur as members. I think that this is achievable, and it seems to me that any group calling itself "the national organization for amateur radio" should have at least one in four amateur radio licensees as part of its membership.

What do you think? Is reaching 25% asking too much? If you think I'm right, please reach out to your ARRL division director and tell him so. More members would mean that the ARRL could deliver more services and have more clout in Washington. That sounds like a good thing to me.

=====

When he's not worrying about ARRL membership, Dan, KB6NU enjoys working CW on the HF bands, teaching amateur radio classes, and building kits. For more information about his operating activities and his "No-Nonsense" series of amateur radio license study guides, go to KB6NU.Com or e-mail [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

## ***Second Sunday Spring***



***March 9th ..watch the 4sqrp reflector***



**Don't forget.....**

**Most of the United States begins Daylight Saving Time at 2:00 a.m. on the second Sunday in March, Spring AHEAD 1 hour!!!**

The Four State QRP Comfortable nets meet each Wednesday night beginning at 7:30 PM CDT, 0030z.

Note: on Nov 6 we'll be on CST.

If we have to QSY, I like to move up, Wayne likes to move down, and Dick doesn't have to move much at all.

Add anything to the exchange that you wish, temp rig, ant, etc. Checking into all sessions is encouraged.

7:30 CDT 0030z ... 40M CW Net on 7122, KCØPMH NCS

8:00 CDT 0100z ... 80M CW Net on 3564, WAØITP NCS.

8:30 CDT 0130z ... 40M CW Net on 7122, KCØPMH NCS

9:00 CDT 0200z ... 80M PSK Net on 3580.5, NØTGR

**Thursday mornings ~ 8 to 8:30am  
A gathering of CW ops are having fun on  
7.122 MHz  
....and you are invited!**

**Ozark QRP BANNER** is a monthly publication  
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