

September 2014 Edition - Vol 3 Issue 3

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

www.4sgrp.com

Group callsign WQ5RP

Ozark QRP **BANNER**



Brutus Bash 2013, Photo by NQ5R

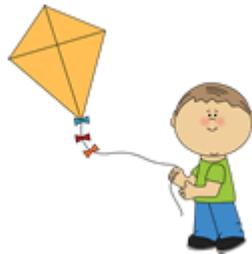
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September 13th & 14th, 2014

Brutus Bash!

**Including:
Flight of the SkyHooks!**



The Brutus Bash is perhaps the second-biggest 4SQRP group outing of each calendar year. This landmark sits just southwest of Pittsburg, in the little town of West Mineral, Kansas, as a tribute to the mining heritage of SEKS. Every year, on the second weekend of September, QRPers converge from all over the 4-state area for 2 days of fun and comradery.

RV parking is available on site at a cost of \$15/day. Tents are also welcome, at a cost of \$10/day. Reservations can be made by calling the on-site Visitor's center at 620-827-6177.

Note: Many 4SQRP'ers will be arriving on Friday afternoon, so if you have the time, please join in the fun! Most of us will be self-contained for radios, food, water, etc. However, Pittsburg is only about a 30-min drive from the site and there are hotels, food, and shopping there!

Ozarkcon 2015 Notes

Here's a little preview from the desk of Paul, N0NBD:

Hello all,

Ozarkcon is only 7 ½ months away. I am starting the early work to get ready. Evidently I wasn't fired after last year's Ozarkcon so I guess I am still the Ozarkcon coordinator!

Ozarkcon 2015 will be held on April 10th and 11th 2015 at the Stonecastle Hotel in Branson, Missouri. It's a great venue and the club has several meeting rooms for different activities. Please mark your calendars, computers, and phones and get your plans made to attend!

There will be the usual LARGE vendor room, and drawings for prizes all day!

We are currently looking for presenters so if you have a subject to present let me know. I have already penciled in a couple of guys that said they would present. I can be reached by E-Mail at psmith61@cox.net

A short while down the line information will start showing up on www.4sqrp.com so keep it bookmarked and check back often!

Come see us in April – it will be a blast!

Tnx es CUL

De Paul Smith NONBD

Editor's Note: I will second the statement that Ozarkcon is not to be missed – I've attended the last 2, and hopefully won't ever miss one ever again.



My Antenna Journey –

From early compromise inspired by a tight budget, to thriving under antenna restrictions 30 years later

By Woody Hester – WD9F

I became interested in Amateur Radio in 1958 while on a Boy Scout field trip. I was twelve years old and we went to the Home of a local Ham. The walls of his shack were lined with shelves full of green and gray radios that glowed in the darkened room. He and another Ham, at a second operating position, were each engaged in separate QSOs. One was using CW and the other phone. A third Ham described the action to us. It was simply amazing and I fell in love. The following Christmas, my Dad gave me a Zenith Transoceanic Radio. I spent countless hours logging shortwave stations but with no technically knowledgeable adult in my life to help me, I didn't get serious about Hamming until after serving in the Army and finishing college. I finally got my Novice ticket in 1978 at the age of thirty two. I had taken a basic electronics course in the Army but I still considered myself a hobbyist with very little formal technical knowledge. After getting my ticket, my most important investment besides my rig was a 1978 edition of the ARRL Antenna Handbook. In spite of a very limited budget, with that wonderful book I was able to get on the air in style. My first antenna was a home brew dipole made out of zip cord fed with RG58. It was resonant in the Novice portion of 10 meters and I taped it to my bedroom ceiling. My brand new Ten Tec Century 21, a direct conversion CW only rig capable of 35W output, loaded into it just fine. Because it was the peak of the sunspot cycle (cycle 22), I was able to work DX in addition to domestic stations but I was very anxious to try the other bands.

Most of my new Ham friends from my Novice Class were putting up full size mono band dipoles or buying expensive multi-band antennas. Because I had a very small backyard with only one tree, and because of a very tight budget, I decided on a Gotham V80 vertical for my next antenna (see accompanying advertisement). It was nothing more than light weight aluminum tubing put together with pieces of dowel and hose clamps and a "special loading coil" (I love that part) at the base. It was designed to be used on 10 - 80 meters and while the information provided with the antenna said that ground radials would improve performance, it also said they weren't required. Because my yard was so small, instead of ground radials, I placed the antenna next to a 50 foot section of chain link fence and soldered the ground shield of the coax to that. I made a nice wooden mount for the vertical out of 2 X 4s and placed the loading coil inside of an old plastic Johnson & Johnson First Aid Kit box attached to the mount to protect it from the weather. I used an alligator clip on the coax center conductor, ran 75 feet of RG58 to and through the knee wall of the house then up through the bedroom floor to the rig. Then I went through the tedious process of finding the taps on the coil for the novice portions of 10, 15, 40 and 80 meters from the rig. I think I went in and out of the house about 100 times before finding each tap but it was good practice for me because, in the future, changing bands always meant a trip to and from the antenna. I marked each tap with different color finger nail polish from the YL's makeup kit (don't tell her!). How did it

work? not great on all bands but o.k. on the lower bands and a lot better on the higher bands. I learned that verticals are noisy (of course dummy they are omni directional and they hear EVERYTHING!) It worked best on 10 & 15 meters and, in the late 70s (Cycle 22 Peak), 10 & 15 meters were hot! It worked pretty good on 40 but was marginal on 80. In only two years, I worked all states (all casual QSOs) and I also worked a lot of DX. Japanese stations were so easy for me to work on 10 & 15 that I began to consider them QRM as I searched for the remaining states I needed for WAS as a Novice.

I eventually upgraded to General and added a home brew inverted vee in the big Sycamore tree in the backyard. By that time I had purchased a used HW-101 from a local Ham and I thought the inverted vee would play very well with it. The antenna was 51 feet long on each leg (total 102 feet), fed with 400 ohm ladder line outside the house then to a 4:1 balun at entry and RG58 inside the house. The center connector was at 30 feet, the end of one leg of the antenna was up 20 feet (tied off to the chimney of the house) and the other end was up about 12 feet (tied off to the top of a pine tree by the alley fence). I used a manual MFJ tuner inside the shack. The antenna itself was under \$15 for wire and used feed line. The 4:1 balun and the tuner were also purchased used and under \$50 total. I found the inverted vee to be very quiet relative to the vertical I had been using and while the higher take off angle made it less effective for DX on 15 and 10 meters, I thoroughly enjoyed domestic CW rag chewing, got involved in FISTS, fell in love with QRP, and found CW traffic handling. I was able to work all HF bands down to and including 80 meters. Life was good. Then came the ice storm! My inverted vee and the Gotham vertical were reduced to waste in just a few hours. With at least two months of winter ahead of me, and no outside antenna at all, I was pushed to desperation. I crawled into my attic space and stapled a 35 foot doublet (because that's how long the roof ridge was) to the underside of the roof ridge. I fed it at the center with 300 ohm ribbon line, dropped that down the chimney well to the basement and then brought it back up through the floor to the MFJ tuner. I held my breath as I fired it up with low power and was delighted when it tuned up well on 20 meters and I was surprised that it even tuned on 40! But, could I work anyone with it? Over the course of the next several days, I found that I could work almost anyone I could hear with 15W (self imposed limit for safety) and surprisingly I even got decent reports at 5 watts! Here was an antenna that was cheap, worked well and it would never come down in a storm (unless of course the house did too!). I loved using the attic antenna with the HW-8 I had built. I'd find a strong signal calling CQ and I could almost always get a QSO. Their amazement at my 3W and indoor antenna provided me with endless entertainment during that long winter. In the spring, I replaced the outside inverted vee exactly as before but had to trash the Gotham Vertical which was a twisted mess. I did save the "special loading coil" though. It would live in my junk box for fifteen years before its second life.



In 2005, after twenty nine years of living in the same place, my YL and I sold our home. I took down the inverted Vee, left the attic doublet in place (feed line removed) and we moved to a new home in a sub-division away from the city. I moved my radio shack, including equipment and junk box myself, carefully installing it in my new basement shack but alas, no

antenna. Worse, the covenants included a restriction against antennas. Specifically described as prohibited were towers, television antennas and so on. T.V. satellite dishes were the only thing expressly permitted but only those not exceeding ten inches in diameter. While the covenants didn't specifically prohibit wire Amateur Radio Antennas, their intent was clear. I wanted to respect that intent as well as my new neighbors so I resolved there would be no traditional outdoor antennas. I felt that my past experience with compromise antennas would allow me to find solutions. I did some research in my 1978 ARRL Antenna Handbook, called on experience, picked the brains of some of my Ham friends and then got to work. My first venture was to place a doublet in the attic. Because the new house was a little bigger than our first one, I managed to get a 66 foot doublet into the attic in a splayed "Z" configuration (all angles greater than 90 degrees). I fed it at the center with 300 ohm twin lead and extended that all the way to the rig in my new basement shack. I was careful to route the antenna wire as well as the 300 ohm feedline away from anything metal. At first, it wouldn't load properly on all bands but I increased the feed line length and that immediately fixed the problem. For safety, and because at higher power it caused problems with my garage door opener and burglar alarm, I limited the power to this antenna at 15 watts or less, just as before. Most of the time, I used it at 5 watts or less with my various QRP rigs. This attic antenna continues to work well today and I am able to participate in QRP Sprints, QRP Fox Hunts and casual operations. Still I wanted to do something outside that would get me back on 80 meters and allow for reliable DX work on higher bands. After more research, I decided to put up a flagpole vertical in the back yard. I wanted it to be a real flagpole with rope and a flag and I wanted it to be a multi-band vertical. I bought a Force 12 Flagpole Vertical that the manufacturer had designed for 20 meters and up. I bought an extra four foot section and I retrieved from my junk box, that "special loading coil" that had been part of the Gotham V80 Vertical almost 30 years before. I installed the flagpole vertical per excellent instructions provided, adding the extra four foot section, mounted a weather proof plastic Ammo Box from a sporting goods store at the base and installed the loading coil inside the box. I laid down twenty four ground radials of 25 feet each (just

because the wire came in 50 foot pieces). I attached the radials to a four foot ground rod driven into the ground and attached the shield of the coax to the ground rod. With an alligator clip soldered to the center conductor, I first bypassed the loading coil feeding the now 18 foot 10 inch vertical directly at its base. The flagpole was about 50 feet away from the back of the house so I laid RG213 full bury Coax on top of the ground up to, and through, the knee wall of the house and into the basement. From there I continued across the basement to the rig with RG8X using enough to allow for a choke balun of ten twelve inch coils bound together with zip ties. I used more zip ties to hang it all neatly from the rafters. I attached the antenna to my Autek antenna analyzer and was delighted to find it resonant in the lower portion of the the 30 meter amateur band. What luck. Then, with the antenna attached to my MFJ manual tuner and the analyzer attached to the transmitter connector, I was quickly able to find a good match for the CW and for the SSB portions for 20 meters and up. Then I went outside, moved the tap down the coil and, after many times in and out of the house, found the same for 40 and then 80 meters. Over the next several days I was delighted at the antennas performance on 40 meters and up but I found it to be marginal on 80. It was sensitive to tune on 80, I was getting RF in the shack at full power (100W) and my signal reports were down considerably from my old 102 foot inverted Vee. Still, I had a second working antenna on 40 and up (including 6 meters) and I was able to work DX consistently. I could also check into 80 meter traffic nets and even pass traffic if I tuned carefully and kept my power level at 75W or less. I installed the rope and Old Glory (see photo) and took satisfaction in the fact that I was on the air with two working antennas.... But for 80 meters, I knew something better had to be found, especially for close in stations (like regional traffic nets). Like so many things in my life, that part of my journey came clear to me in the night.



Having established myself in my new home, in an antenna restricted sub-division, with two working yet invisible antennas for 40 meters and up, I still needed to find a better solution for 80 meters. It had to be a solution that would meet my commitment to no traditional outside antennas (or so I thought). During this same time period, I had been doing a lot of portable QRP operating. I had made some very light weight center fed zepp antennas for this application and I was also using EFHWAs (end fed half wave antennas). All were supported with fiberglass push up masts and Crappie poles. Sometimes I temporarily set them up in my backyard for testing. I even worked some QRP contests from my back deck with the temporary set ups. On Field Day 2009 I operated with the temporary set up from my deck and left it up all night with the center mast lowered (while this op. was sleeping!). Here is what came to me with a jolt during that night. Wow! the 24 gauge black coated wire is nearly invisible, the push up mast at the center which is bungied to the deck rail is very low profile when raised and

invisible when lowered and the Crappie poles (end supports) bungied to the fence are nearly invisible from the street. Why couldn't this be semi permanent? I just had room for an 88 foot doublet this way (a la Cebik design) so why not?

By now, my close neighbors know I am a Ham. Instead of being secretive about it, I have taken them to my shack, shown them my gear, described the National Traffic Service to them and even shown them the Radiograms. I have demonstrated that my station can continue operating during blackout periods from batteries and also my 8 KW, natural gas fueled backup generator. They know I am a low power CW operator and no one has complained about toasters not working or about TVI from my low power signals. So.. in addition to my permanent attic doublet and my flagpole vertical, I now had an 88 foot doublet twenty feet high and fed at the center with 300 ohm twin lead to the house, through a 4:1 balun to RG8X to the rig. It operated on all bands with my tuner and I got great close in signal reports on 80. I also had gain on 20 meters (double extended Zepp) and the new antenna was only fully deployed when I was operating. There have been no complaints from anyone. I know that if I hadn't been forced to be frugal in the early years, I would have never figured out how to thrive in this no antenna neighborhood. In the past year, I have even added a semi-permanent inverted L using two push up masts and nearly invisible wire. Am I the biggest gun on the bands? Not by a long shot. Can I bust a pile up? Sometimes, with finesse and patience. Have I had fun with the hobby in 35 years? You bet. My hundreds of QSL cards, over 200 countries worked, WAS on several rigs & bands, hundreds of pieces of traffic passed and many, many ham friends around the world later, I couldn't be more pleased. By the way, the RG-213 laying on the ground? When spring came and the grass grew up it vanished. My wife said to me; "thank you for burying that ugly wire sweetie" and I said "your welcome Honey". Life is good!

Bugg'in CW

By Unc Phil – W0XI

Having had my fill of evening TV, noticing that it had cooled off after a short rain and that my wine glass was empty, I half-filled the glass, grabbed the lawn chair in the garage and sat down out on the driveway to watch the passersby and listen to the August night's noises.

Dit dit dit dit dit.....or dahh dahh dahh dahh; these sounds were coming from various insects. Each sent a series of dits or dohs or dahs but none of them sent a dit dah or a dah dit or a dah di di dah. Hm? Seemed as if the insects like sending a stream of E letters or T letters but not much else. I did notice that their words-per-minute rate varied from about 3 to 15. *Didn't hear a single high speed bug! Hi!* What they did send was crisp. No key clicks with this group! And their pitch (frequency) varied by sender so you could hear a chorus of them going at once. I'm guessing the average pitch was about a kilohertz.

Another nice thing I noticed was a lack of cell-phone-talking and SUV driving passersby. We have a lot of them during the day and early evening on our busy street, Harvard Road! Not last night! Nice and quiet. We had just a few dog walkers, one accompanying a big Labrador.

About three years ago I had designed and built a bunch of ultrasound detectors. (See Short Takes, July 2009, QST). Ultrasound is that range of sound waves that stretch from 20 kHz to several million. The sounds bugs, bats and natures other creatures produce are, of course, limited to audio and 20 to about 200 kHz of the ultrasound range. While taking a walk around the neighborhood late in August, I noticed a strange noise – dak dak dak dak – coming from just the various Ash trees. “Hm,” I thought; “wonder what that it.” It was clear the the sound had to come from a bug of some sort and only bugs that like Ash trees. I asked a biology prof about this and he said, “Yes. Those are Ash Beatles. They boar into the bark of the trunk and eat the innards.” Cool!

The architecture of ultrasound receivers, particularly the inexpensive hobby type, is the same as that for simple QRP receivers. They both use direct conversion. For the readily available 40 kHz ultrasound transducers, one mixes (beats) the incoming signal with a 39 kHz local oscillator to produce a 1 kHz pitch at the output. One can also broadband the transducer (which is capacitive) with an inductor to broaden its response. A variable frequency local oscillator can then be used to tune up to 5 kHz above or below the center frequency of the transducer. This way you can change the pitch of the incoming bug sounds!

When it comes to the bats, these guys are kings; they send a series of “dit” bursts. These are far more detailed than those of their on the ground bug cousins! They use these bursts to echo-locate their prey. A couple of years back, I took two of my receivers over to Stan’s; he’s a retired high school biology teach. It was a nice summer night like last night on my driveway. We sat on his patio with receivers in hand and headphones on. For the first time in his life, he heard the ultrasound dit bursts of the bats in the trees above, resulting in a very big smile on his face. That was priceless!

When it gets a bit busy or too hot in your shack, consider heading to the porch to listen to natures Bug’ in CW.

Dan – KB6NU’s Column

Should QSOs from remote stations be given DXCC credit?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

In July, the DX Advisory Committee Report recommended several rules changes for the DXCC program (http://www.arrl.org/files/file/About%20ARRL/Committee%20Reports/2014/July/Doc_27.pdf). Among them, was a recommendation that rule I.9 be changed such that a QSO is acceptable for DXCC credit only when the remote station and the operator’s home station location are no more than 200 km apart.

As with any rule change, this precipitated a lot of comment in the amateur radio community. A thread on the eHam.Net forum (<http://www.eham.net/ehamforum/smf/index.php/topic,98348.30.html>) got quite a few comments. N7NG had a nice blog post (<http://n7ng.wordpress.com/2014/03/05/remote-control-dxing-and-dxcc/>) on this controversy.

Perhaps the most strident post on this topic was written by WW1X (<http://ww1x.com/opinion/2014/08/14/in-defense-of-remote-dxcc.html>). He called these recommendations “uninformed, misguided, and detrimental to the future of our hobby.” Detrimental to the future of our hobby? Seriously?

Of course, WW1X has a vested interest in this debate. He’s the lead developer for RemoteHamRadio.Com, a company that charges other hams to use the “super stations” that they’ve set up around the world.

Note that the DX Advisory Committee is not saying that amateur radio operators should not use and enjoy these remote stations. All they’re saying is that the QSOs made with them, unless they are located less than 200 km from an amateur’s home station, are not eligible for DXCC credit. I’m sure that if you asked any of the members of the committee they would agree with WW1X that the remote stations serve a very useful purpose for amateurs who are not able to set up their own home stations.

WW1X prattles on about how “DXCC is not a contest. It’s not a competition. There are no winners or losers. It’s a personal achievement award, plain and simple.” This is just silly. Of course it’s a competition. As N7NG rightly points out if it’s not a competition, why publish the DXCC Honor Roll?

What I think is detrimental to the hobby are hams who use RemoteHamRadio.Com to simply add to their DXCC scores. I see no sense in doing so, and furthermore, where’s the personal achievement? Anyone who can afford to pay what they charge—and it’s not a small sum of money—can work the rarest DX with one of those stations.

A friend of mine, Mark, W8MP, is a RemoteHamRadio.Com customer, and it’s a boon for him. He loves being able to work DX from his home in a development where no outside antennas are allowed. He’s not trying to pad his DXCC score. He does this for the pure love of talking to other hams in far-away places.

When the final decision is made, I hope the DX Advisory Committee goes back to first principles as set forth in FCC Part 97.1 and makes their decision on whether or not allowing DXCC credit for remote station QSOs contributes to "the advancement of the radio art" or is an "extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill."

When he's not writing this column for club newsletters, Dan, KB6NU enjoys working CW on the HF bands and teaching ham radio classes. 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.



2014 4SQRP 4x4 QRP Sprint
(4 hours/best 4 bands)

Date: Saturday, October 4, 2014

Time: 1700-2100 UTC

(Noon – 4PM CDT)

Exchange:

- Calling stations: CQ 4S de (your-call)
- 4SQRP members send: RST, SPC, Member # (“579 KS Nr 571”)
- Non-4SQRP members send: RST, SPC, power (“599 CA 1kW”)
- You need to exchange all of this information for a valid contact

Sprint Rules/Scoring:

- Your power must not exceed 5 watts (Contact can be QRO)
- Modes: CW or SSB only
- Your four best bands out of these six: 160/80/40/20/15/10 Meters
- Recommended frequencies: Same as for the Second Sunday Sprint – on our about the normal QRP frequencies for each band/mode. Also check 7122kHz and 3564kHz.
- Contest begins 10/4/14 at noon CDT (1700 UTC); ends at 4:00 PM CDT (2100 UTC)
- Each QSO with a non-4SQRP member is worth 4 points
- Each 4SQRP member to 4SQRP member QSO (4x4) is worth 16 points.

- If YOU are NOT a member of 4SQRP at the start of the contest, all of your contacts are worth 4 points, subject to possible multipliers (see below). Five Watt maximum power rule still applies.
- Only 1 contact per station per band. Unlike the SSS, the phone portion of a band is considered part of the same band. E.G. 40M CW and 40M SSB are both part of the same band (40M).
- Phone contacts count the same as CW
- No CW contacts in the Phone portion of the band (and obviously vice versa)
- Only 1 transmitter on the air at a time/callsign, no multi-ops.

Bonus points/multipliers (available to members/non-members alike):

- 80 Bonus points for stations operating portable (operation remote from the shack: permanent antennas, using emergency power – generator, battery, solar, etc). You are eligible for this bonus only if ALL of your QSOs are made in this manner.
- Multipliers for using 4SQRP equipment.
 - Each QSO made with a 4SQRP transmitter OR receiver is worth 50% more than it would otherwise be worth (6 pts instead of 4, 24pts instead of 16)
 - Each WSO made with a 4SQRP XCVR (or transmitter/receiver combo) is worth double what it would otherwise be worth (8pts instead of 4, 32 pts instead of 16)
 - Note that you don't need to have ALL QSOs made with 4SQRP equipment to apply these multipliers. Multipliers are applied on a per QSO basis.
 - 4SQRP Receivers eligible for this bonus (1.5 multiplier) include: NM0S Ozark Patrol and K8IQY SS-40.
 - 4SQRP Transmitters eligible for this bonus (1.5 multiplier) include: NM0S NS-40 and K8IQY SS-40TX
 - 4SQRP Transceivers eligible for this bonus (2.0 multiplier) include: NM0S Cyclone-40
 - 4SQRP rigs introduced after this announcement (if any) and retired rigs (ie. HamCan) also count.

The bonus points have been reduced from last year to level the playing field a bit. Using 4SQRP equipment still provides a significant advantage, but (hopefully) doesn't leave everyone else hopelessly behind. Note, unlike last year, only your equipment is factored into bonus points, not your contact's.

For example, if you (as a member) are using a K2 and you contact a member who is using a Cyclone-40, you get 16 points. The person you contacted gets 32.

Computing your score:

If you feel that you may need an advanced degree in Mathematics to compute your score, you needn't worry. A spreadsheet is available to tally your scores for you. Dupe sheets or other documentation is NOT required. Simply download the spreadsheet from the 4SQRP website, rename it with your call, fill it out, and send it to me. I will do the rest.

Awards:

Scores will be tabulated and distributed via the reflector shortly after the contest is over. The top three winners will get certificates, as follows:

First Place: This lucky winner receives a certificate suitable for framing (framing not included).

Second and Third place: These winners also receive certificates, but via email. If you wish to print it using a good printer and high quality paper, it will be suitable for framing.

72/73.....John – AA0VE
Coordinator: 4x4 and SSS Sprints



From the Editor

Hello everyone! I'm Jeremy, NQ0M, and I have volunteered to take over editorship of the 4SQRP Banner from Walter. I'd like to start off by thanking Walter for the work he's done over the last 2 years with the Banner. I sure have some big shoes to fill, and I hope all of you will have patience during this transition period. I've never done anything quite this big before, so constructive criticism is very welcome!

Considering I'm still pretty new to the 4SQRP group, I figure I'll start off with a little bit about myself. The radio bug bit me pretty early on. I used to read the Hardy Boys

mysteries as a young kid, and a few of the ones I read touched on the hobby. Then as I became a teenager, I discovered the old 70's transistor radio my grandfather had in his garage had this new band called "SW" on it. Tuning across that brought forth all these strange sounds and languages, and I was even more hooked. Reading a couple of books from the school library about Ham Radio cemented it in, but the problem was, I didn't know of anyone involved in the hobby, so I had no way of getting into it myself, until college. While attending Allen Co Community College here in Iola, I met a kid by the name of Les Smith, and we became pretty good friends. Eventually, I was introduced to his father, Paul Smith, N0NBD (yep, that Paul!), and FINALLY, I actually knew a ham! I must have asked him a thousand questions over the next few months (Paul still jokes with me about all the times I slept on his couch back in those days). Eventually, in September of 1993, I was issued my first callsign – N0YAX! Tech Plus in December 93, General in 94, Advanced class in 95, I worked my way up the ranks pretty quickly. In 1997, I moved to Washington State, and pretty much became inactive at that point until I moved back to Kansas in Dec 2008. I kept my license intact all of that time, even tho I was inactive, so when I came back, I got myself back into the hobby, and upgraded to Extra in 2010.

My first involvement with the 4SQRP group was in 2012. One of my weak points in the hobby was my skill in soldering – I was never really any good at it. But I wanted to learn, so I set about looking for a fairly simple kit I could build, but one that was inexpensive enough that if I messed it up, I wouldn't be out much. I settled on the NS-40 kit from the 4SQRP group, and got myself involved at that point. I don't think I've found a more friendly group of hams than those that are part of this group, and I'm proud to be involved.

My current QRP radio is a Yaesu FT-817. My favorite activities in the hobby are contesting and digital modes. I'm also in the process of trying to start back up a little AX.25 packet action here in SE KS. I also have a FT-920 for base use, driving a Hustler 5-BTV – that's my big contesting radio. I'm trying to save up for a trade-up to a KX-3 – been drooling over that radio since I saw it at Ozarkcon 2013.

When not messing around on the radio, I'm probably either working my day job as a contract remote sys-admin for a large hosting company based in Montreal, Quebec, playing World of Warcraft, or spending time with my wonderful XYL Robin, WA6CML (who actually comes from a ham family – her grandfather was Robert Conn, the original WA6CML – Robin took over his call when she got her license a few years ago).

Hope to see you all at Brutus, or at Ozarkcon 2015!

Jeremy Utley, NQ0M
In Beautiful Downtown Iola, KS



Four State QRP Group

is meeting at the Country Cupboard Restaurant in downtown Seneca, Mo. This is one of the locations that 4SQRP folks gather.



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.



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!**

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For news, articles, inquiries for the Banner: ozarkqrpbanner@gmail.com
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