



Amateur Radio Group Callsign – WQ5RP

Visit the group website <http://www.4sgrp.com/index.php>.

# OZARK QRP BANNER

Newsletter – February 2018

Pre-Ozarkcon Edition



The Knight of QRP is coming to Ozarkcon April 6 & 7, 2018

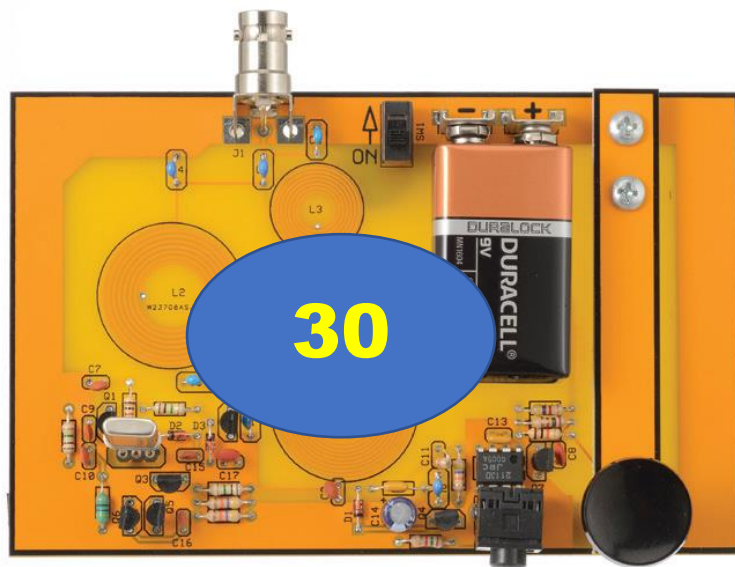
## Ozarkcon 2018 – some updates for the Conference

**The Stone Castle Hotel is currently on Winter break. This is normal for resort areas. March 1, 2018 they are back for registrations.**

**The Friday night Builder's Session, aka Build-A-Thon** has a new time frame to help accommodate the easy start of the 50 builders that sign up to build the new kit which is being offered this year. We now have one builder's session beginning at **7:30 PM on Friday night**. The previous two sessions allowed a distraction to the people already building their kits. Last year this seemed to work very well by using two rooms and accommodating the 50 builders.

**During the guest speaker presentations**, two short breaks during the day are inserted so the get up and stretch does interfere with your neighbor. If you have ever been in the middle of the seating, you know the distractions.

**Soooo what is the kit for 2018!**



The CRICKET 30 (for 30 meters) is the chosen kit for the Builder's Session.

Fashioned after the famous Cricket 80a, this little transceiver gives you a second band to operate. Designer David Cripe – NM0S has another magical Cricket for your Ham Radio fun.



This year Ozarkcon is also teaming with an organization that has been kind enough to include 4SQRP kits in their very wide read QST magazine. Getting the QRP word out to Ham Radio operators that do not know that 5 watts, works is important!



**OzarkCon  
2018**

**An ARRL  
approved  
Specialty  
Operating  
Convention**

Don't think I have seen a Specialty Operating Convention before but, we are one!





## Using the 4 State QRP Group's Enclosure Kits One ham's perspective. By: W0EB

### Part 3: The HF Signals uBITX 80-10 meter 10 watt transceiver.

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> part in the series and is dedicated to putting the latest of the BITX series transceivers conceived and designed by Ashhar Farhan, VU2ESE of Hyderabad India. Farhan has called this one the uBITX which is pronounced as "Micro BITX", the lower case u being the easiest way to depict the Greek letter Mu which indicates the prefix "Micro" in electronic notation.

On December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017, I came across the HF Signals ([www.hfsignals.com](http://www.hfsignals.com)) website quite by accident after reading a blurb on one of the email reflectors I subscribe to (I don't remember which one) and took a look at it. There was a complete description of the uBITX and a link to buy one on special for \$109 (USD). You could either get free shipping (takes forever) by India Post or spend \$10 more and have it shipped by DHL Express with a specified delivery time of 1 week or less. Needless to say I opted for the DHL shipping! I ordered mine on the Friday, the 9<sup>th</sup>, it shipped on Thursday the 14<sup>th</sup> and it arrived the following Monday, the 18<sup>th</sup> of December.

The size of the main PC board is 6.5 inches wide by 5 inches deep but the display overhangs the front of the main board and the PA heat sinks overhang the rear of the board by enough that it was actually about a quarter inch too large to fit in the 4SQRP "Large" Purple enclosure. I decided, however that "where there's a will, there's a way" and dug in my junk box for some suitable heat sinks that wouldn't protrude off the rear of the board.

Next, I did a very careful layout of the display window on the back of the enclosure's front panel (I still messed it up by about a half millimeter). One real advantage I have is a Harbor Freight benchtop milling machine so the next step was to very, very carefully mill out the display window. After that, I also very carefully laid out and drilled the mounting holes for the display. I had bought a few really nice Lexan bezels for the 16 character by 2 line displays on eBay from a company called Seetron Displays. They aren't overly cheap but you can get a three pack for \$12 with free shipping and if you use small standoffs on the backside of the panel mounted with countersunk, flat head screws flush to the panel, you can stick this bezel over them which makes the display view really "pop".

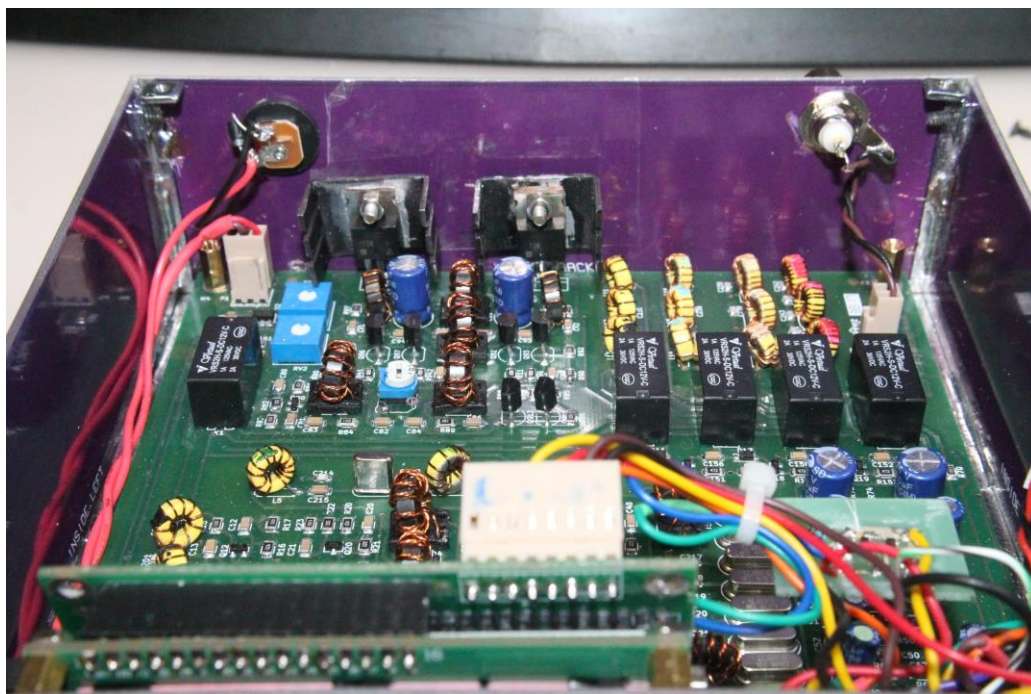
I found an error in their documentation which showed the CW keying line connected to the "Ring" on the key jack rather than the "Tip" where it should be and corrected this.

I mounted the controls & jacks on the front panel and the power & antenna jacks on the rear panel.

Once I had the display mounted, I plugged the controller board into the display and also to the main board to establish the proper positioning of the main board mounting holes. After marking the location of the 4 corner holes, I drilled them slightly oversized (5/32") to allow a little "adjustment" in case it was necessary (as usual, it was).

I then checked everything to make sure there was no interference between any components on the board with the sides of the case or front panel when it was all mounted in the box (remember, leave the front panel unsoldered and at least 2.5 inches of the sides unsoldered near the front so the panel can be easily removed for repair/modifications after final assembly. This will save you endless grief in the long run.





Once everything fit, I fastened everything in place, put a fancy bezel I purchased from eBay on it and labeled all the controls, jacks & switches. Took a lot longer to do it than write about it.

WOEB

### **Second Sunday Sprint -**

**Occurs on the second Sunday of each month, 7 to 9 PM Central  
Any mode, any band (except WARC & 60 mtrs) -**

- **Suggested frequencies are near the Four State hangouts of 7122 and 3564, as well as the usual QRP watering holes.**
- **See <http://www.4sgrp.com/4sgrpOnTheAir.php>**



**WATCH THE 4SGRP EMAIL REFLECTOR FOR  
UPCOMING 40 AND 80 METER NETS ON  
WEDNESDAY NIGHTS.**

OZARK QRP BANNER is a publication of the Four State QRP Group and Ozarkcon

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

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