

Homebrewer's Corner

New kit from 4Square QRP Club does it all. Built in an Altoids box, this neat instrument for your shack includes:

- A frequency Counter
- A Crystal Oscillator
- Wideband Noise Generator
- Audio Oscillator
- 50 ohm Dummy Load
- RF Probe
- Time Domain Reflectometer

You can get it all for a check for \$50. To check it all out: <http://www.4sgrp.com/kits/kits.htm> . The kit is called the HF Test Kit. While you are there look at the other nice kits offered by the group.

Can You Believe This???

Your editor, Jim Rogers, W4ATK, CW Challenged Operator First Class, actually just received a surprise in the mail. 2006 Alabama QSO Party, First Place, QRP CW for Alabama!!! My U.S. Navy code instructor would be so-o-o-o proud!

Contesting is a hoot, particularly on CW. Within a short time you will find you can copy calls pretty well, even if the guy is running at a blistering speed. The reports are pretty easy to follow because they adhere to a particular format depending on the contest. Usually it is some variation of "5NN AL" or some such.

I use a couple of "software assistants". Because I have some problems with my hands at my advanced age, sometimes they don't exactly do what I want them to do, I use a CW keyboard program, CWType to help with the sending. On the receiving side, I employ CWGet for those really fast operators. CWGet will do a great job if the Signal/Noise ratio is good.

As a fall back, I keep a paper and pencil handy and it make take hearing the call several times to get everything right, but then I am ready to call the guy.

Just because CW is no longer required for your license is no reason not to enjoy the fun of making contacts using this great medium. If your budget is limited a working CW station can be found for very few bucks, as low as \$30 for a brand new CW transceiver, as a matter of fact.

then the lord of Q R P said

by hamjoel

Thair ah was standing in my driveway, leaning against my truck , looking up towards my antenna and the darkening clear blue sky, eyes filled with tears and nose drippin from a head cold and going down my shirt and throat and just feeling miserable as I wanted to reverse the direction of my lovely antenna without all the work it was gonna require, and man Im ailing, Im a sick puppy right now.

How I dreaded dropping the antenna ends and threading wire back and forth between trees especially them trees,, man they got meaux hangups than I ever had all added together.

Thats whan ah herd him the lord of q r p and ham radio itself.. He was laughing at me! Not just a chuckle an almighty laugh. What sounded like thunder in the skies, and in my ears. "Oh god, what ah done now?", I asked myself and in disbelief I herd the qrp lord laugh again.

"Oh joel, are u so blind u can not see what is plain before ur eyes and the world to see!", now them be encouraging words to heah lookin up at a wooden pole with wire coming from it. "

no lord qrp”, ah said, “What is it that I can not see, that I can plainly see?”.

“Obviously a Louisiana born youngun”, he muttered and continued, “The ant delima solution dummie. Look its right thair in front of you!” Seeing nothing that I didnt see before I asked the lord of qrp if he could help me a bit.

With a roar of laughter he said to one of the angels arround him, “Dingbat u geaux sheaux that poe cajun lad what he does not have the antenna insight to sea”! An with a flutter dingbat came and cut the wire dangling from my reflector wire and and put an aligator clip on it and clipped the wire to the end of the director, letten it hang down then ding bat flew to the other side of the antenna and clipped the wire hanging from the reflector on that side, attached an aligator clip to it and clipped the wire to the director on that side. Than ding flew hissself back next to the lord of qrp and smiled.

The antenna was now reversed, pointing sw instead ne and only by moving two small pieces of sire sumthin ah could easily do just by dropping the end of the antenna and doing it myself whenever ah wanted. No big deal, no big chore.

Ah revelation, revealed. What joy thair was in the sky as the last of the sun rays flickered off the tree tops. And in awe I whispered. Ah sees that lord qrp, right before my eyes all the time it was and ah didnt see it It was then ah saw the darkness settle around me, and stars' flicker and the air turn cooler as I walked to the house and marveled at the wonders hidden in QRP.

KE1LA JOEL...

Makin Cents From Non Cents

IN MAINE

FREEZIN...:)

Editor's Note: Joel KE1LA is apparently, a transplanted Louisiana native now living up there in the cold northeast. His humor is something to behold as Joel pokes fun at himself, as well you remember from his prior short story published here earlier this year, describing his adventures in fusing (or rather failing to fuse properly) the mobile rig. There is always hidden in Joel's humor, something of a treasure for us, a truth to which we should direct our attention, a hint or a kink to make our amateur radio experience more rewarding. I, unfortunately only know Joel by his frequent postings on QRP_L. I truly believe Joel is someone I would like to list among my closest of friends. Joel, Good Show!!! - Jim, W4ATK

Kenwood, Can It Really Be True?

It seems from all the talk on E-Ham.net that there is sufficient cause for concern where Kenwood is concerned. I am referring to the article posted by Michael S. Higgins, K6AER on June 12, 2007, entitled “Death of a Radio Company”.

In this article Mike makes his case from the “evidence” he has gathered that Kenwood is neglecting its amateur radio market and concentrating on their commercial radios. The case is made that Kenwood has no new high-performance radio in the offing (the TS2000 being of 1999 vintage and things have come a long way since then), the obvious place to announce such a radio would have been at Dayton this year.

Mike goes on to report that the Kenwood factory rep left the Visalia DX Convention after manning the booth for only a few hours. The seemingly obvious reason being the same lack of interest as experienced at Dayton, where Mike described the Kenwood booth as being “a shortcut to the MFJ booth”.

It is always sad to see a major manufacturer of amateur radio products abandon the field. Sometimes it is due to a change at the top as when Mr. Drake, a well known amateur radio enthusiast, died and his non-ham son took over the business and sent it into another direction, albeit probably a more profitable one.

The guys at Flex-Radio and Elecraft are to be congratulated, both having introduced affordable major contributions to our hobby. The Elecraft K3 is now offered in a kit and ready to go. The new kit is a “plug and play” version. Plug in the appropriate cards for your mode of operation and you have your very own customized radio. The Flex-Radio 5000 with its three different configurations is quite affordable at the entry level 5000A and gets to be a bit pricey-er as you move to the 5000C. Your editor has a Flex-Radio 1000 and it is some kind of radio!!! The best I ever owned, and as a number of you know, I am also an Elecraft fan. If I were looking for a new radio, I would sure consider one of those options. - Editor

SCARC To Host TEN-TEC July 12, 7PM

Scott Robbins sales manager of TEN TEC (and CW International winner) will be here to produce the latest product Video instruction manual for Ten Tec Thursday and Friday July 12 and 13th. He has agreed to make a presentation on the newly released Omni 7 for our SCARC meeting Thursday evening, July 12th. All members of BARC are invited also. For info contact Ed W4ZSB at edbout@bellsouth.net.

BARC Meeting Schedule for July

July 5, 2007 6:30 PM Board of Directors Meeting

July 5, 2007 7:30 PM BARC Business Meeting

July 19, 2007 6:30 PM Ragchew

July 19, 2007 7:30 PM Program Meeting

From the BARC President

At the July 5 Board Meeting we will discuss plans and projects fo the new 'club year'. A summary will be given at the normal club meeting in addition to a review of our Field Day effort.

I look forward to the coming year and ask that everyone lend their support. If everyone pitches in a little we can be successful and BARC will have a great year. Lets all do our part.

73s John, K3FP