



# SIGNAL



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## RADIO SCOUTING

de **TIM KB1ZVR**

Have you ever looked around a club meeting and wondered how we can get more young people interested in radio? Well your chance is coming up in October.

The World Organization of Scouting Movement runs the largest Scouting event in the world each autumn called Jamboree on the Air (JOTA). Locally we have multiple Girl Scouts of the United States of America (GSUSA) and Boy Scouts of America (BSA) units in the area.

New this year the BSA's Ham Radio Club, K2BSA, has created a new contest, that's not a contest. The Scout Camps on the Air program encourages Scouts and Scouters to participate in JOTA as well as establish Stations at the Council Summer Camps.



*Troop 28 Dunstable lashing a makeshift antenna mast at the Tyngsboro Library for a previous JOTA event.*

The Jamboree on the Air this year runs from October 20th to 22nd. If you are a registered Scout/Scouter I would encourage you to open up your shack or connect with your local scouting unit to set up a field station. You can also register your station on the JOTA website <https://www.jotajoti.info/> The purpose of the event isn't getting QSOs, but to connect young people to each other and to radio communications. With young

people from 173 countries participating each year it's a tremendous opportunity

to introduce young blood to our hobby.

## *Member Profile: Joe, K1YOW*

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*Joe Dzekevich, K1YOW*

### **HOW DID YOU GET INTERESTED IN HAM RADIO?**

Back around 1960, a life long friend (my age), bought the Heathkit CB walkie talkie. It was a single channel Tx and a super regenerative Rx kit. After I saw that, I bought one, built it, then in 1962, got my Novice ticket. In 1963 I got the Technician ticket and stayed at that level for a while. My first job after college was at Bell Labs in New Jersey in 1969 and they had a radio club. Morse code was always a problem for me, but at Bell Labs

during lunches, I would go to the radio club and listen to code tapes. Then in 1970 I upgraded to General and in 1971 to Advanced. I remember at one radio club meeting, one person asked me later did I know who I was sitting next to, and I said no. It was Smith, who created the Smith Chart. There was some high level talent in the Bell Labs radio club, for sure. I finally upgraded to Extra when the code speed was lowered to 5 WPM. My best code speed was never more than 10 WPM. My current station is a Kenwood TS-590SG, Icom IC9700, Icom R8600 using SDR Console SDR software. Antennas are 130 foot OCF dipole on HF and a short boom log periodic that covers 50 MHz to 1.3 GHz. That life long friend is K1VGA and our calls are original call signs.

### **WHAT PARTS OF THE HOBBY MOST INTEREST YOU?**

Propagation science. Back in my senior year in high school in 1965, I purchased the newly published book entitled "Ionospheric Radio Propagation" by Kenneth Davies of the Central Radio Propagation Laboratory, and read it cover to cover. Back in those days, we had to listen to WWV at 18 minutes past the hour to get the A and K indices and to see if any other events like PCAs (Polar Cap Absorption) were going on. That background and a love of VHF like 6 meters, has kept my interest up in propagation, space weather,

and thus lead to my QST and CQ articles on Sporadic E and my membership in the HamSCI group. I grew up during the space race times. I remember watching Sputnik going over with my Dad. So, I have always had an interest in science and tech things.

### HOW DID YOU FIRST FIND OUT ABOUT NVARC?

I was giving a talk at the New England ARRL Boxboro convention on Sporadic E and Skip happened to be in the audience. After the talk, Skip got me connected with Phil at The Haystack Observatory, and the rest is history.

### WHAT ARE YOUR IMPRESSIONS OF THE CLUB?

The club has folks with a wide collection of interests in all aspects of the amateur radio hobby. I have always enjoyed the meetings, however, I have had many schedule conflicts, so my meeting attendance has been sparse lately.

### WHAT ELSE CAN YOU TELL THE CLUB ABOUT YOURSELF AND/OR HAM RADIO?

My other “hobby” competes for my time. I am into folk and Americana music. Back in the mid 60’s, I was a member of The Club 47 in Cambridge; was part of a folk music group; also attended concerts and events like The Newport Folk Festival. I am a Tom Rush, James Taylor, type with Martin and Guild acoustic guitars. Currently I do two nursing home concerts per month doing 15 song sets and attend two open mics per month as

well. My other hobby is astronomy where I have an old Celestron C6 Newtonian telescope. A few years back I had it collimated and I bought an attachment to affix my iPhone onto the eyepieces. Given our New England weather, the astronomy viewing has been a tad slow.



*K1YOW's radio station.*

### FUN FACT ABOUT YOU.

In 1962 two things changed my life forever: I got my Novice license and I bought my first acoustic guitar.

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE EXPRESSION OR QUOTE?

Life is 95% maintenance until you get into your 70’s, then it goes to 99%.



# A QRP ADVENTURE IN A BOX.

de ADAM RYPINSKI KC1RVK



*A recent QRP LOTA (Lawns on the Air) activation.*

Sitting in a corner of the desk in my shack sits a little orange box that measures 10 by 8 by 3 inches. Its contents comprise the greatest ham radio adventure on this side of the Mississippi, at least as far as I am concerned. Inside are the ingredients needed to pursue a challenging, low power, sometimes frustrating, but always fun adventure.

When many hams hear QRP, they may have a very specific understanding of what that means. Most will say that it's low power mode, 5 watts, maybe up to 20 watts, but low power, nonetheless. And

yes, that is the correct textbook answer. But how you arrive at that low power mode can take different forms and this is where it gets interesting! Sure, you can crank down the power on your modern, feature-rich, transceiver and call it a day, easy-peasy, you officially operated QRP.

For others, me included, QRP is a call to challenge yourself to build a rig at the least possible cost, most portable size and most basic capabilities and try to make contacts. The idea of spending as little money as possible to put together a rig that can reach thousands of miles on 5 watts or less is exciting!

Let's break down the contents of that orange box. There are many options, so take this as one hams' experience and input into your own approach. Note that some assembly is required and is part of the fun.

- (tr)uSDX Transceiver:<sup>1</sup> This little 5 watt, 5 band HF radio was designed by DL2MAN and PE1NNZ and is manufactured by a handful of authorized suppliers. It is the epitome of basic and fits into the adventure side of the hobby perfectly. The fan following is growing steadily, and it is easy to see why. It works well, is solidly built, gets great support and is just, well, neat! The online community forum is active, there are many YouTube videos on how to use the radio and much more. Many have designed and shared add-ons such as cables that enable digital

<sup>1</sup><http://dl2man.de>

modes and CW.



*(tr)uSDX Transceiver.*

Of course, the best part is the price. A kit can be had for under \$100 and the prebuilt version (which comes in a variety of colors, mine is orange) for under \$150. An important warning for those interested in the (tr)uSDX. There are a handful of authorized suppliers which can be found at <https://dl2man.de/where-to-buy-trusdx/>. Unfortunately, there are also several unauthorized copies from China of questionable quality on the market. For the best results, make sure you buy from one of the official authorized suppliers.

- QRP Guys Tri-Band Vertical Antenna:<sup>2</sup> If you are exploring QRP

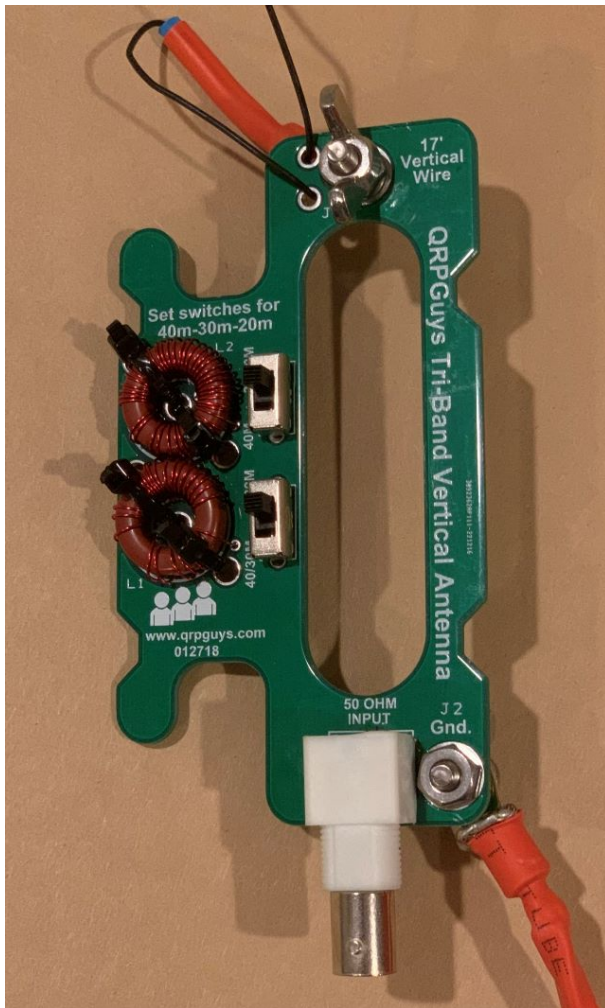
<sup>2</sup><https://qrpguys.com>

or are already into QRP operations then it is very likely you have heard of QRP guys. They offer kit (no pre-built) antennas, tuners, transceivers, and much more. One could easily get lost and lighten their wallet exploring what they have to offer. The tri-band vertical takes about an hour to build and is very compact when the wires are wound up. For \$30 (add another \$20 for wire) this is the perfect companion to the (tr)uSDX! They also offer an EFHW option that includes an on-board manual tuner for \$40.



*QRP tri-band vertical.*





- **Battery Pack:** The (tr)uSDX suggests 12 to 13 V but it can run on anything from 7V to 16V. I use 8 EBL brand AA style rechargeable batteries that each provide 1.2V (9.6 V total) and 2800 mAh and have had great success (I have 2 sets just in case). I have never run out of power during an operation. A battery case with appropriate wiring and connector can be found online or one can be cobbled together with items from your junk box. This is a low cost, small profile option that seems to be the right fit for this QRP use case. Two sets of these EBL batteries, with charger, can be found online for under \$40 and the case for about \$15.
- **Antenna Mast:** Here you have many

options and an opportunity to get creative. I found a fiberglass extendable 20-foot fishing pole online that seems to work well. My antenna is tuned for 20M half-wave (17.5 feet), so this is plenty long enough for my needs. There are many options out there and you may already own something you can use. You will also need to find something to mount the pole into the ground. The fishing pole was about \$30.

- **Storage:** I recommend a dry box. It is a great way to store your setup (minus the pole which won't fit), keep it dry, take it to go and store it neatly in the shack. The box I use is the MTM brand and is available online for about \$16.



All in, an operator, if they are willing to do a little kit building and testing, can

get into a portable QRP setup for around \$300.



Let's not sugar-coat it. Operating such a rig can be challenging. It harkens back to the childhood experience many of us had with that crystal shortwave radio that Santa brought. The audio quality on the (tr)uSDX isn't the best (use headphones or an external speaker if necessary), the signal reports won't be stellar, the sun may be beating down on you, and the big, beautiful screen with the waterfall we are all used to won't be there. In the end, you may only make a fraction of the contacts you would make in your home shack, but those contacts will feel special and well earned. This is a QRP Adventure, it's simple, and the challenge is part of the experience!

If anyone is interested in learning more, please reach out.

Have fun and ham on!!

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## NVARC GENERAL MEETING

**de NVARC, N1NC**

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The next General meeting will be held in person at the Pepperell Community Center, 2 Hollis St, Pepperell, MA 01463 on September 21 2023 at 7:30pm. The doors will open at 7pm for socializing.

The speaker of the night will be John Griswold, KK1X. He promises a talk on his recent POTA adventures.

The badges will be distributed in person at this General Meeting. Come in and pick yours!

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## ANTIQUE WIRELESS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 26-30, 2023

A highlight of each year is the annual gathering in the Rochester, NY area for a multi-day event of fellowship, information exchange, flea marketing and the sharing of communications history and technology. In addition to a series of presentations and the flea market each year an AWA Museum open house provides all to explore changes to the collection displays over the past year.

Mark your calendars for the Antique Wireless Association Conference, September 26-30, 2023, at the RIT Inn and Conference Center in Henrietta, NY over the border from Rochester.

Starting Thursday and running through Friday (September 28 and 29) buyers and sellers can come to the flea market for free. We invite you to register for the Conference and enjoy all that it has to offer. You don't need to register for the conference to sell in the flea market.

Registration for the Conference includes the free dessert social on Wednesday and a free dinner at the Friday evening banquet. You will also enjoy free admission to the Antique Wireless Museum on Wednesday evening. Registration includes entrance to all conference events, including the Saturday auction and book fair. As always, for your spouse or significant other Conference registration is free. Look for the registration card enclosed in the Summer AWA Journal.

For registration: <https://www.antiquewireless.org/homepage/conf-registration/>

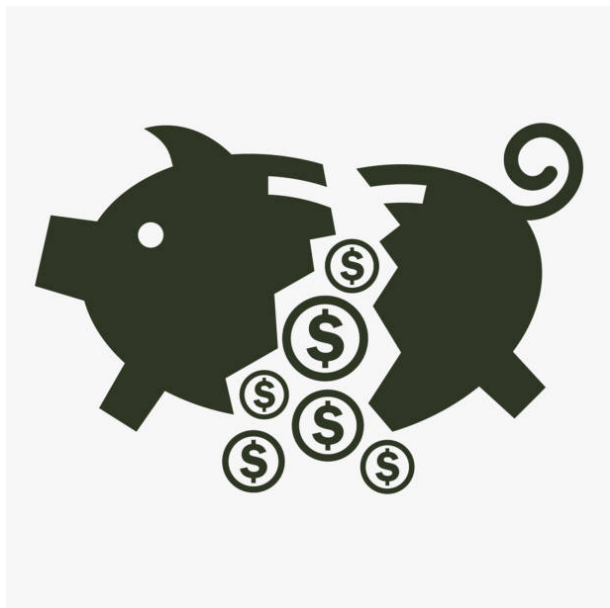


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## THE TREASURER'S REPORT

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The treasurer's report for the month of August is not available at the time of the newsletter publication.



## NVARC'S 2 METER NET

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The NVARC Information Net is held Monday nights at 7:30pm, Eastern time on the 2m Pepperell repeater, N1MNX: 147.345MHz +100.

The repeater has been recently repaired by James, N8VIM - check it out!

## NVARC GENERAL MEETINGS

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NVARC General Meetings are scheduled for the third Thursday of the month at 2430 UTC (7:30pm, Eastern Time), except for July and August, when no General Meetings are held. When held, meetings are at the Pepperell Community center.

## NVARC BOARD MEETING

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The minutes of September Board Meeting have not been submitted.

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## *Strays*

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**So I bought a new transceiver  
and she asked...**



**“Are you going to sell any of  
your old ones?”**

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# Contest Calendar

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## SEPTEMBER

- 17 [BARTG Sprint PSK63 Contes](#)
- 18 [144 MHz Fall Sprint](#)
- 21 [NTC QSO Party](#)
- 26 [222 MHz Fall Sprint](#)
- 30 [Feld Hell Sprint](#)

## OCTOBER

- 30/1 [Worked All Provinces of China DX Contest](#)
  - 30/1 [AWA Amplitude Modulation QSO Party](#)
  - 3 [German Telegraphy Contest](#)
  - 4 [432 MHz Fall Sprint](#)
  - 5 [SARL 80m QSO Party](#)
  - 7/8 [Oceania DX Contest, Phone](#)
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Join NVARC! Annual  
membership dues are \$15;  
\$20 for a family.

NVARC general meetings are scheduled for the third  
Thursday of the month at 7:30pm, Eastern Time.  
NVARC thanks Medtronic, Inc for providing the  
teleconferencing services under their employee  
volunteer support program for non-profit  
organizations.

Contact us on the N1MNX repeater.

442.900(+), 100Hz

147.345(+), 100Hz

53.890(-), 100Hz

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Articles and graphics in most PC-compatible formats  
are OK.

Editor: Vladimir A. Goncharov, W1MTI

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See: <http://www.n1nc.org/MembersRoste>  
for your renewal month.

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