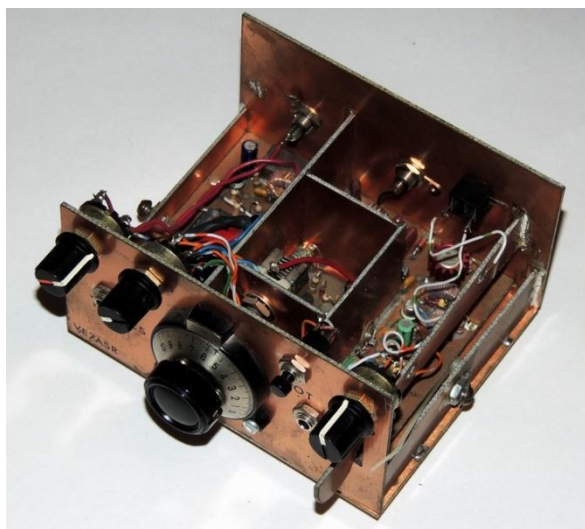


QRP Stuff

I have been a fan of QRP since I was first licensed in the late '80s. My first QRP rig was a Heath-Kit HW-8. It came with 4 watts and no RIT. Stability was not one of its strong points. On one QSO I chased a fellow ham with a drifting Heath-Kit HW-101 up and down the 40 metre novice band.



My next QRP was a W7EL 40 metre kit. This had about 3 watts and was my first transceiver built from a kit. It was very modern for its day with a built in keyer and RIT! My 1st QSO was with my Elmer, Karl, VE7EGU (sk)! I'm not sure who was more excited Karl or me?



The next QRP rig was a multi-mode and multi band Ten-Tec Argonaut 509! This was amazing little rig. My longest QSO was on 15 metres to Namibia with about 3 watts on SSB!



I enjoyed the 509 so much that I updated to a much more modern Argonaut V. This was my first rig that gave me full computer control.



However, my heart was still into building a rig. In late 2017 I found [QRP-Labs](#) and the QCX. This was an amazing, low cost and modern single band CW rig. I built the 20 metre version. It has a list of features too long to highlight but some include a built in keyer, dual VFOs and built in calibration equipment.



Hans, G0UPL, the genius at QRP-Labs, devised a calibration system using a GPS (also sold at QRP-Labs) to set the OSC frequency. (I have added additional information about the GPS in the separate file on the QRP-Labs clock.)

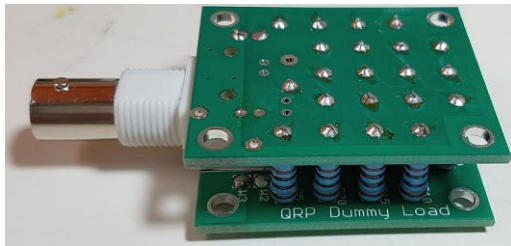
My first 3 QSOs with the rig were:

1. KW7D in New Mexico 2,241 km
2. OJ9X in Finland 6,866 km
3. JD1BMH on Ogasawara 8,139 km

Pretty amazing on 4 watts!

I've added a few more "tools" to my QRP "Stuff" and they include a:

QRP-Labs dummy load.



A Four State QRP Group antenna transmatch:



Finally I needed to add an accurate QRP watt/SWR meter. I found the answer, an **NM0S wattmeter**

https://www.tindie.com/products/NM0S_qrp/qrpometer/



This is an easy to calibrate 100 mW to 15 watt meter. It is easy to assemble and calibrate.

The beauty of QRP "stuff" is you can build it yourself and it is reasonable in price. The satisfaction of working DX with this equipment is hard to explain. Suffice it to say that I really enjoy it!

I still need to improve my CW so I'll work on that between kits!

73, Rick
VE7TK