

# JARC PRINTED CIRCUIT

March 1997

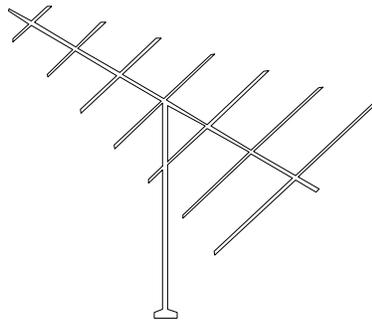
Newsletter of the Joplin Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Volume 7 No. 3 7.3

## Hamfest coming up fast! Help needed, says KAØTUD...

**T**he Joplin Hamfest is coming up quickly, April 18th to be precise. Andy, KAØTUD, notes that he is getting a lot of calls and e-mails and things are progressing well. The thing is, though, that he needs a lot more help. He is actively seeking volunteers and reminds you that volunteers will gain *free admission* to the fest. Please contact Andy as soon as possible so he can get a schedule set up. He says we especially need workers to be there to help unload the vendors, as well as being there to load them up when the hamfest is over. "Seems like we always have plenty of helpers for the unloading, but not enough for getting them loaded," said Gabbert.

For those who don't have all the details, here is the scoop. The hamfest will be at the John Q. Hammons Convention and Trade Center, adjacent to the Holiday Inn just off of I-44 at the Range-line exit. **Note:** This is not "Alternate 71"- for those coming from out of town. This is the same place that it has been for



*This is our hamfest, so we need to be willing to work for it and make it a success!*

several years, so hopefully you wouldn't have a problem finding it. If you need it, let folks know that talk-in will still be on 147.210 MHz. Cost is \$5.00 for admission

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***Helpers at the hamfest will get free admission and find plenty of ways to be of service to your club. See Andy!***

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and tables are \$7.50 for private vendors. Andy can be reached at 673-8371 or at: **agabbert@clandjop.com**

## Newsletter obtains "Excellent" rating in national contest

Your editor recently learned that the JARC Repeater, now known as the Printed Circuit, was awarded an "excellent" rating by Amateur Radio News Service, an organization serving Amateur Radio by providing assistance to newsletter editors in the amateur community.

Last year, only 3 or 4 newsletters in the country obtained this rating, so for a small club—I think this is something we can be very proud of.

We are hopefully fulfilling our part of the mission statement, and the newsletter is going international in more ways than one. In addition to being accessible on the web, copies have gone by mail around the globe. Radio officers of the United States Navy in Diego Garcia, Indian Ocean Territory and in Antarctica are among those receiving complimentary copies. Those folks holed up in the Antarctic are always needing something new to read!

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# The World of VHF-UHF by John Tudenham, WØJRP

**P**ropagation is poor this time of year and probably February is the worst time of year for widespread VHF propagation. With spring coming, we look forward to warmer weather and tropo VHF openings, and to-

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***Tropospheric and sporadic "E" openings are on the way, says John.***

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ward the end of April—sporadic-E. Activity continues to grow on two meter sideband. NØMST has nightly QSO's with the Kansas City gang on 144.22 MHz. Larry continues to improve his station, and has

## Various snippets; Dayton

**A** note that might need to be saved for future reference here: There is now a contact point for lost and stolen ham gear. If someone steals your radio, you can e-mail the details to Mark Saunders, KJ7BS. Mark offers a free service to amateurs whose gear has been stolen, or lost. You might want to check out his lost or stolen ham gear listing on his internet home page at <http://www.dancris.com/~tracker/tracker.html>

**HEADED TO DAYTON?**

plans for a 70 ft. high antenna fed with hardline. Jack, WØBZT is back on sideband with a new 10 watt transverter and gets out quite well; has not had any problems getting into the Oklahoma net on Monday nights. The SWOT net is still on at the same times as we have mentioned in previous VHF columns—check with me if you have misplaced those times.

I finally had the pleasure of meeting Ed, WD5GVP, last Sunday at the Neosho swap fest.

Ray Brown, KBØSTN, has a new six meter Ten Tec transverter he is putting together and he should be on six meters soon. It has two meter input and will cover the whole

band.

Several hams have asked me about the VHF VUCC awards. The updates are published in **QST** each month. VUCC awards are given for working and confirming 100 grid locators. Endorsements are given for each additional 25 grids. Joplin is in grid square EM-27, which translates to a location between 37 degrees and 38 degrees N and 94 to 96 degrees W. I have a computer program which will figure airline distance and beam headings to any place in the world, if anyone is interested. The EM (Echo Mike) field extends from 30 to 40 degrees N and 80 to 100 degrees W. There are 100 grids in each field, with the lowest number (EM00) starting in the southwest corner of the field. This area is northwest of San Antonio, Texas. EM 99 is in West Virginia. Anyone that might be interested in a grid map of the United States, just ask. I can supply you with one.

I hope to have more VHF news to report next month. Maybe there will be a big tropo or aurora opening!

73, John.

# QRP for the Radio Amateur

by WØJRP

**W**hat is QRP? It usually means the transmitting station is running no more than 5 watts output CW, or 10 watts PEP single sideband. To quote Larry, NØMST, "*Life is too short for QRP.*" It does mean you have to have a lot of patience as an operator, but the final result is you have a lot of fun.

Having been licensed over 40 years, it reminds me of my early days in ham radio. In those days, many new hams were teenagers and got on the air the inexpensive way, by building a station from military surplus equipment and a few parts they could buy or trade for. Many operated CW for a long time before they could afford an AM modulator. Many of those ran low power, which we now refer to as **QRP**.

With this type of station, it is very important that you have a very efficient antenna system. Even a simple dipole as high as possible will do a good job on the HF bands. I use an ordinary 40 and 20 meter dipole connected to one feedline. It also works well on 15 meters with no antenna tuner and low SWR. My antennas are all cut for the CW band and have a 1.5 or lower SWR.

My big thrill this past weekend was working KH6RS in Hawaii, and KL7Y in Alaska on 20 CW with my MFJ QRP transceiver on 20 CW, running 5 watts output powered by a small lawn mower battery. It draws about .75 amps on transmit. That gives me 32 states for my 20 meter QRP

Worked All States. Most of the 18 states still needed are the close-in states, which are usually "skipped over" on 20 meters. I also worked XE2L in Mexico, and ZF2RE on Grand Cayman Island. Many new hams not interested in CW might note that this is one reason CW is still a valuable form of communication. CW will get through *when nothing else will*, even with a simple antenna only 20 feet in the air.

Want to build your own CW rig? There are many construction articles in recent QST and CQ magazines, of many solid state or tube type rigs. To many of us old time ham operators, this brings back the fun days of amateur radio, which it seems that a lot of newer hams are missing. The power of many 100 watt commercial transceivers can be reduced to 5

watts, but it is more fun running a small rig that has a maximum power of 5 watts!

These kind of rigs can be operated anywhere on a camping trip,

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**John says that the "good old days" have returned... it is called QRP! Here's the scoop...**

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picnic, etc. Even on good openings on six meters, I have reduced my power to 1 watt, and still made contacts on single sideband over a thousand miles away. See you on QRP or VHF!

## Highlights of recent club meetings (Minutes) NØZPD

**O**n 1-14-97, Andy spoke about the Wednesday Night ARES net and Saturday ARES meetings. KBØTKL is to work on a net procedure. John agreed to check into what is involved in changing the trustee call for the repeater. John, N3JM, is the new trustee. John, WØJRP, was appointed program chairman. Report from the Bylaws committee is needed. A tentative policy about when to send cards to people was placed on the cork board. 1-28-97 Motion passed to acquire a gavel! Mark Sullivan

asked that the calendar be given to him before it came out in the newsletter. Name changed to "Printed Circuit". Roundtable discussion followed. 2-11-97: Hamfest work sheet placed on the board. 700 more flyers printed. We need a public relations person, it was noted. Dave, KBØWEY, noted that the classes had three entrants. Breakfast moved to Smitty's on Maiden Lane. There will be an air show on the last Saturday in June; the same day as field day.



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## Meeting Times, Testing, events, other club information

**T**he Joplin Amateur Radio Club, Inc., a Missouri not-for-profit organization, meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at the Joplin Municipal Building in the lower level in the Civil Defense Dining Room at 7:30 PM. The meeting site is accessible to the handicapped, and all members or those interested in getting into the hobby are invited to attend.

The club has a group of members that get together for coffee most every morning at Hardee's on Rangeline in Joplin at around 8AM, and then they meet for breakfast on Saturday morning around 9AM at Smitty's Restau-

rant on Maiden Lane.

Testing for Amateur Radio Licensing is offered by several volunteer examiners who are club members. The tests are given at the St. Paul's Methodist Church, at 2423 West 26th St. in Joplin, with sign up at 6:30 PM and testing at 7:00 PM.

### About the Newsletter

Items for publications are solicited from anyone in the amateur community. Deadline for submission is the 20th of the month preceding the month of issue. Classified ads are free and invited.

Articles do not have to be typed, but should be legible. Guest editorials are also invited. The newsletter is an open forum for the greater Four-State amateur radio community, and your contributions are needed and invited. Send to:

A.R.S. KGØYH at P.O. Box 554, Carl Junction MO 64834. If you have a late-breaking story, you can also call the editor at 629-3244.

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inside...  
VHF/UHF Columns;  
New QRP Column;  
HAMFEST coming soon!

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