

Colorado QRP Club
The Low Down

Promoting QRP Since 1994

Club News...

Executive Officer Election 2007

CQC Executive elections were held at the May 12, 2007 regular meeting. Marshall Emm – N1FN – Nominations Chairman vacated existing CQC officer positions and announced nominations for 2007.

The following nominations were placed on the ballot.

Pete Inskeep – NO2D – President
Scott Garcia – KC0HSV – Vice President
Roger Wendell – WB0NJR – Treasurer
Vince Kumagai – KI0RB – Secretary

Each candidate accepted their nomination for office.

A call for acceptance of nominations was made by Jim Pope KG0PP
Call for vote was made and the vote passed unanimously to accept

CQ CQ CQ Net controllers

The Colorado QRP Club is in need of Net Controllers for the Monday night 2M nets. It's easy and it's fun. We provide you with the script and you can take it from there to develop your own "Net-tique". If you live on the Denver Front Range from Ft. Collins to Colorado Springs please consider a try at the mike. Contact Jim Pope - KG0PP at Ejim@aol.com



2007 CQC Executives
From left to Right

Pete Inskeep NO2D President, Roger Windell WB0NJR Treasurer,
Scott Garcia KC0HSV Vice President, and Vince Kumagai KI0RB Secretary

Annual President's Report to the Colorado QRP Club May 12, 2007

[Ed note: Pete made this presentation during a full house for our regular meeting at Milestone Technologies.]

My annual report will touch on activities and accomplishments during this past year. I will also point to some activities and objectives which I hope we can consider in the coming year.

First, I want to take a minute to remind everyone of the untimely passing this past December of Rich High, W0HEP. Rich held CQC #1, and was the Club's first President. I did not have the pleasure of knowing him well, but I know that many of you did. He has been, and will continue to be, missed by all of us. His influence over, and direction of the Club, will be felt for a long time to come. I'd like to thank

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For more information, visit our website at www.cqc.org

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Picture credits to
Vince Kumagai - KI0RB

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Our next Regular meeting will take place
Saturday, August 11, 2007 at
10:00 am
Meeting Location: Offices of
Milestone Technologies
10691 East Bethany Drive,
Suite 800
Aurora, Colorado



Colorado QRP Club
Post Office Box 17174
Golden CO 80402-6019

The Low Down

Officers

President:	Jim Inskeep NO2D	720-851-1316	pinskeep@yahoo.com
Vice President:	Scott Garcia KC0HSV	303-680-4799	slgarcia@qadas.com
Secretary:	Vince Kumagai KI0RB	303-341-5320	KI0RB@ARRL.NET
Treasurer:	Roger Wendell WBØJNR	206-202-2212	CQC@ROGERWENDELL.COM

Committees

Awards Chm:	Marshall Emm N1FN	303-752-3382	n1fn@mtechnologies.com
Program Chm:	Steve Finch AIØW	303-816-2457	AIØW@laccess.net
Banquet Chm:			
QSO Party Chm:	Jim Pope KGØPP	303-366-7864	EJim@aol.com
Contest Coord:	Vince Kumagai KI0RB	303-341-5320	
Elmer Coord:	VACANT		
Field Day Chm:	Paul Beckett KF7MD	303-670-5837	pbecket@qwest.com
(Rampart Site)	Al Dawkins KØFRP	303-361-0065	KØFRP@ARRL.NET
(Aloha Site)	John Hewitt KA3RDZ		KA3RDZ@ARRL.NET
	Dick Schnieder ABØCD		
Hospitality Chm:	VACANT		
WØCQC Trustee:	Marshall Emm N1FN	303-752-3382	n1fn@mtechnologies.com
Webmaster:	Roger Wendell WBØJNR	303-285-3481	rogerwendell@rogerwendell.com

The Low Down

Editor:	VinceKumagai KI0RB	303-341-5320	ki0rb@arrl.net
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QRP Information Net: The Colorado QRP Club also meets on the air every Monday evening at 2000 local time on the 147.225 repeater serving the eastern slope of the Rockies from Cheyenne, WY, to Pueblo, CO, with linked repeaters in Boulder (145.46) and Colorado Springs (145.16). Backup frequency: 145.145. The Club's Denver metro simplex liaison frequency is 146.445. Meeting Dates: 2004 Meetings: Jan. 10, Mar. 13, May 8, July 10, Sept. 11, Nov. 13 at a location to be determined. Annual Picnic: Sat. Sept 18, 2004. Annual Banquet: To Be Announced. Changes will be announced on the Monday evening Net and posted on the WWW,CQC.ORG website, if time permits.

Informal Monthly QRP Gatherings: Members meet informally at a local restaurant -- details on the web-site. Annual Dues: \$12.00. Join via the internet at WWW.CQC.ORG. Or, send dues and requests for membership applications to: CQC, POB 17174, Golden CO 80402-6019.

Internet: WWW.CQC.ORG. Information, membership, renewals, officers, activities, CQC Swap List and CQC-List subscriptions.

Correspondence: Editor, The Low Down POB 17174. Golden CO 80402-6019.

CQC Logo mugs

Don't leave your shack without it!! Vince, our club Secretary, arm-wrestled a half dozen vendors until we got a good deal on a few dozen of these beautiful, cobalt-blue coffee mugs. Get yours while supplies last!!

Photo courtesy Marshall Emm N1FN



Photo courtesy Marshall Emm N1FN

\$10.00 (Pick one up at our meeting or other gathering)
\$4.00 (Shipping and handling if we mail one to you...)
Order from our web site using our PayPal secure service.

Photo courtesy Marshall Emm N1FN

CQC RFL-10 QRP Dummy Load Kit

The kit consists of 2 5W metal oxide resistors an SO239 socket and includes adaptors for connecting to either SO239 or BNC antenna sockets. Rates to 10W continuous power for at least 60 seconds, with a flat SWR across the HF spectrum.



\$7.00 - Members
(Includes Shipping and Handling!)
\$9.00 - Non Members
(Includes Shipping and Handling!)

New CQC Logo Tee Shirts

These beautiful tees are 100% cotton with the club logo and motto. Your call sign and name call can be added for \$2 Available in sizes XXL, XL, L and M

Photo courtesy Marshall Emm N1FN



Photo courtesy Marshall Emm N1FN

\$12.00 plain or \$14.00 with Call and/or Name
\$4.00 Shipping and handling
Order from our web site or pick one up at the next meeting and please specify size.

Photo courtesy Marshall Emm N1FN

Tentative Meeting
Schedule for 2007:

Augs 11 - Chat 'N Chew
Sept 9 - Picnic@QTH KG0PP
Oct 14 - Chat 'N Chew
Nov 11 - Regular
Dec 9 - Chat 'N Chew

Regular Meeting Location:
Offices of Milestone Technologies
10691 East Bethany Drive,
Suite 800
Aurora, Colorado

the many Club members who attended his memorial service. I know that meant a lot to his family.

Let me turn now to accomplishments and activities over the past year. I don't want to put the list in any order of significance. So I'll just list things as they have come to mind.

In 2006, the CQC continued a tradition of excellence in its Field Day operations. I have not seen the official results yet, but I understand that we more than likely were at the top of the list in the QRP two station battery operated category. Remember, Field Day is not a contest! RIGHT! Tell that to the gang that participated in Field Day. Field Day is always a group effort, so it is tough to single out any individuals. However, Al Dawkins, KØFRP, is a prime mover in our competitive site Field Day operation. Vince Kumagai, KIØRB, was instrumental in getting the tower trailer refurbished, with new tires. Thanks to both of you, and to the operators, and to all who helped in that effort.

Part of the glue that holds the CQC together between meetings is our Monday night nets. They can be interesting, sometimes even a bit exciting, but always an opportunity to talk radio and Club news between meetings and Chat & Chew sessions. Nets can't exist without net control stations, so I would like to recognize and thank Vince, KIØRB, Marshall Emm, N1FN, and Jim Pope, KGØPP, for their tireless efforts as net control stations.

Whenever someone wants to know more about the Club, or about QRP in general, we like to say, "Just go to our website, www.cqc.org. You will find it there." We have an informative and comprehensive web site of which the Club can be proud. We owe that excellence to our webmaster and treasurer, Roger Wendell, WBØJNR. Roger manages to keep the site up to date, and to add material in a very timely fashion. Roger, thanks for a great website.

Another activity which puts the CQC squarely in the middle of the QRP map, is the Annual Fox Hunt Program. Marshall, N1FN, who is also our Club Call trustee and meeting host, is the prime mover behind the Foxhunts. Marshall should take credit for expanding the hunt to 80 meters this past Winter. Eighty Meters was a popular addition. Marshall, thanks for keeping the Foxes in line and the Hounds at bay.

Marshall is also well known for providing a meeting home for the CQC Club. Marshall even purchased more chairs so that we can be more comfortable during meetings. Marshall's daughter, Nancy, has also contributed to our comfort by providing us with drinks, and, more

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recently, she has volunteered to pick up donuts for each Club meeting. Marshall is also Trustee of the Club Call Sign. Thanks to Marshall for being the guardian of our Club station call, WØCQC. Thanks to both Nancy and Marshall for making our meeting experiences more enjoyable.

We all look forward to reading each new issue of "The Low Down" as it comes out. I wonder if we have any real appreciation of how much work goes into publishing each issue? Vince, KIØRB, who is also our Club secretary, is our ?Low Down? editor. Vince has to drag stories out of reluctant authors, find material of interest, and otherwise come up with stuff to put in ?The Low Down.? Roger puts ?The Low Down? up on the CQC web site for all dues paying members to read. Thanks, guys, for a great newsletter.

The CQC home page indicates that we recently issued member number 829, to Louis, KCØCMO. I congratulate not only Louis, but all new members who have joined the club in the past year. We have added 51 new members since I joined a few years ago. Our growth has occurred at a time when many other clubs are losing members, and losing interest. As well, let me congratulate everyone who has either passed their first ham license exam, or upgraded, in the past year.

Here are some other notable activities from this past year. We have sponsored a club table at a number of hamfests. Some of our members participated in Hamcom at Estes Park. We have sponsored on-the-air contests, such as The Great Colorado Gold Rush and The Great Colorado Snowshoe Run. We became an affiliated Club with the ARRL. We sponsored two plaques in the 2006 ARRL Sweepstakes. These included the Rocky Mountain Division Single Operator QRP CW and Phone plaques. A new computer video projector was recently purchased, which enhances our presentation capabilities. Our web site now includes video snippets. We have had a variety of interesting speakers and presentations during the past year. I thank all who have participated in any of the above activities.

In recognition of the elections to be held shortly, I would especially like to thank our Club Officers who have served for this past year. Steve Finch, AIØW, as Vice President, Vince, KIØRB, as Secretary, and Roger, WBØJNR, as Treasurer. If these roles were all fun and glory, we would have a long list of nominees each year for every office. That is hardly ever the case. These are difficult, time consuming jobs. Steve, as Vice President, also held the job of CQC Program Chairman. I've already mentioned the other hats that Vince and Roger wear. Thanks to all of you for your willingness to serve.

With apologies for the many people and activities that I have left out, let me take just a moment to look forward to the coming year.

We are on track for solid Field Day performances in June for both the Competitive and Aloha sites. Participation in Field Day is one of my most enjoyable ham radio activities. It is the kind of activity in which every Club member, and friends and family, can participate in some way.

We have thus far two contests to sponsor this coming year. These are the Great Colorado Gold Rush in July, and the Great Colorado Snowshoe Run, most likely in December. We will take a look at sponsoring additional contests, as well, and do so if it makes sense.

Under the watchful eye of Marshall, N1FN, we will continue to sponsor the Fox Hunts. The Fox Hunt logo appears near the bottom of the CQC web home page. If the sunspot cycle cooperates, the Fox Hunts will become even more exciting than they were last year.

Dropping the Morse code requirement has not diminished interest in CW. Just the opposite seems to be happening.

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Eton Mini 300PE AM/FM/SW Radio

by Vince Kumagai KI0RB

AM/FM and 7 shortwave bands in a small package with some surprising results.

I found this radio at the REI store here in Denver. The \$30 price tag was hard to pass by. What you get for \$30 makes it a real bargain. The radio is marketed under the Eton brand name but it is built by Grundig and can also be found as the Grundig Mini 300. The radio receives FM, AM and 7 bands of shortwave (49,41,31,25,22,19 and 16 meters). Additional features include a clock and alarm and a sleep feature. It comes in several different colors and earphones, a carry pouch, wrist strap and a set of AAA batteries are included.

Performance is very good. The tuning is digital but via a tuning knob. I use mine while I run and it is easy to bump the tuning off frequency but otherwise is quite accurate. The big surprise is the reception quality on shortwave. It easily brings in stations on the upper bands during the day using nothing but the telescoping antenna. At night the Chinese and Taiwanese stations come in strong with little fade. One night I was able to comfortably listen to Arnie Corro via Radio Havana Cuba on 31 meters. Doing a Google search on the Grundig Mini 300 I turned up a number of reviews all praising the unit's remarkable capabilities.



Bill Leahy K0ZL - Owner of B&B Technical Services in Arvada, Co

May 2007 CQC Presentation

Bill Leahy K0ZL owner of B&B Technical Services in Arvada, Colorado gave a presentation on ham gear troubleshooting. Titled "A Systematic Approach" Bill's presentation was an excellent example of troubleshooting a rig using the block diagram to pin point likely problems. Bill punctuated his talk with some real life experiences he has encountered to make the presentation one of the best and humorous ever. The presentation was video taped. If you are interested in seeing the video you can contact Vince Kumagai KI0RB at ki0rb@arrl.net for further information.

President's Report

Many Club members and friends have been upgrading. As they upgrade and the HF bands become available to them, they realize the potential that operating QRP CW provides. They are going out and learning Morse Code without being required to do so. Using any mode, the popularity of operating QRP seems to be on the increase.

I would like to see the club become involved in a construction project. Many clubs have them. It does not have to be fancy, or expensive. A good project can generate enthusiasm, and helps us learn more about ham radio. Finding the right kind of project for us is key.

Members attend meetings more, I think, for the presentations, than for the business part of a meeting. We need everyone's help in finding or creating interesting presentations for our meetings. Coming up with good presentations is one of the most difficult tasks we have. There are at most, six opportunities for presentations during a Club year. We should make the best of those opportunities.

We had a standing room only crowd at our last meeting, and the luncheon that followed. It seemed to be the largest crowd at any CQC Club meeting that I have attended. More active participation in meetings helps to build momentum. Momentum serves to increase the breadth of ideas, interest, and activities in the Club. Ham Radio is not only fun on the air. It is also fun to meet and talk and share with other hams, face to face. Our Club provides these face to face opportunities, as well as promoting on-the-air activities. I think we should continue to stress this valuable aspect of our Club.

In summary, it has been a lot of fun to be your Club president this past year. I am not sure I was always up to the task, but I always enjoyed it. It also added greatly to my own appreciation of the hobby of ham radio. But, the president only sits up front and tries to keep order. It is all the other officers, committee chairs, and Club members, who help to make the Colorado QRP Club what it is. I thank all of you for being so helpful, and for providing strong guidance to me during this past year.

Pete, no2d.

Linux and Ham Radio, a commentary by Pete Inskeep, NO2D

During last Monday Night's W0CQC net, Roger Wendell, WB0JNR, mentioned that he had obtained a number of copies of the Ubuntu 6.0.6 Linux system, aka "Dapper Dan." Roger indicated that he was not sure just what connection Ubuntu had to Ham Radio, but he was giving copies out on a first come, first served basis. Roger, thanks. That is an excellent way to spread the word about Linux and Ubuntu.

Interestingly, Linux and ham radio have a lot in common. Not only are there a number of ham radio related programs available for Linux, but Linux itself is a lot like ham radio in some ways. Like to tinker and see how things work? One can do that quite easily with Linux, just as one can disassemble, fix, and (hopefully), reassemble radio gear. We all want to have several different radios on the desk in our shack. One can also have several operating systems available to run on our desktop, or laptop, computers. Windows for work, and Linux for play. Dual booting software makes this easy to do.

Many QRP affectionados like to build our own rigs, antennas, accessories, etc. It is fairly easy to do that with QRP rigs and gear, as opposed to trying to build that ultimate 1,500 watt QSK amplifier. A lot cheaper, too.

Linux provides us with many opportunities to do many "hands on" things, using software, rather than a soldering iron. Most Linux distributions come with a plethora of software designed to make writing programs "easy." Writing ham radio software is much like designing and building a rig. Dream about what you want to do. Sketch out a design. Choose and use the appropriate software to build it. Want something simple, like a quick command line program to print out dipole, loop or quad wire lengths? A program to do that is relatively easy. It does not require many more steps than one would employ using a calculator or spreadsheet. Wish you had a logging program the met your personal needs? The complexity of doing that is more along the lines of building a 9 tube superhet receiver. It will take time, but the result will be a logging program that meets your needs, not the needs of someone with different radio interests.

In my mind, one of the very best programs for Linux is called OpenOffice. It is a productivity suite much like Microsoft Word. One big advantage is that it is "free." "Free" is a word that usually catches a ham's attention. Moreover, it is available for Windows, the Mac, and Linux, and no doubt for other Operating Systems as well. That diversity means that one can write, create presentations, make spreadsheets, or databases, in any one of the three OS's, and easily use the same files on the other systems with no modifications at all. Incidentally, files can be saved in OpenOffice formats, as well as Microsoft Word formats, and others. It is one of the best programs I have ever used. I cannot understand why individuals and businesses continue to shell out big bucks for the latest version of Microsoft Office when this office suite is available for the downloading, free of charge.

If you don't want to write your own logging program, just open the OpenOffice database program and create your own logging program. Or, your own address book, or a database to keep track of all your old tubes, or your radio books, etc., etc., etc. Too many state QSO parties to keep track of? Easy enough to make a database that is tailored to each one of them. Create your own titles, devise your specific field parameters, I have not yet figured out how to convert the logs to that crazy format that the ARRL and CQ require, but I am sure it can be done.

I've just touched on the surface of what is available in Linux that applies to ham radio. I have not mentioned any of the large, and growing, number of programs relating to ham radio that others have written, and continue to write. Linux is really worth looking into. Ubuntu, available from Roger, or via disc or download, from www.ubuntu.com, is one of the best that I have used. It works well for beginners and experets, alike. Try it! You'll like it.

A Cheap and Handy Antenna Mast

My ongoing search for an inexpensive, but sturdy, antenna mast eventually led me to the chain link fence aisle at Lowes. Home Depot would no doubt offer the same sort of result. Wandering among the pipes and posts, I found the top rail section for chain link fence. Each top rail section is about 1 1/4 inch in diameter by 10 feet long. One end of each rail section has a reduced diameter for about three inches, such that each rail will easily fit into the next. The overlap is about 3 inches, and the fit is quite snug. The cost per rail was less than \$9.00.

Two of these poles easily fit together to form a mast about 20 feet high. I lashed the twenty foot mast to one of my fence posts. It held up well with no need for guy ropes or wires. My plan, however, was more ambitious. I wanted a dipole that would be at least 30 feet high. That would require three sections.

Since the rails are galvanized steel, I needed to somehow insulate them from the antenna wire that I planned to put up at the top. That problem was solved with a five foot section of PCV pipe. Choose the right diameter and it will slip nicely over the top rail section. I provided for a one foot overlap, using duct tape to ensure that the PCV pipe would not slip further down the top rail.



The antenna I chose was cut as a 40 meter dipole, centered in the cw portion of the band. The antenna wires were connected directly to the PCV pipe through holes drilled in the top. Ladderline was used as the feed line so that the antenna could act as a doublet, and thus, with a good tuner, work on all bands from 80 to 10. The ladderline was taped to the PCV pipe and its ends were soldered to the two legs of the doublet, or dipole, if you will. The tape provided strength.

The ladderline feeds through a hole in my basement wall, above an old door, and into the shack, directly to the connections for open wire line on the back of my MFJ Versatuner V, which has two capacitors and a roller inductor. Tuning is simply a matter of finding the right combination of capacitance and coil turns for each band, or section of the band.

The mast is guyed at 15 feet and at 25 feet. The top is supported by the two

antenna wires, which are spread in an inverted vee fashion to a tree and a pole, to keep the wire and rope well above any obstructions, and to make it impossible for little grandchildren's fingers to play with it.

The guys are staked at about a 45 degree angle in various opposing directions. So far the antenna and mast have held up admirably, through some thunderstorms and accompanying high winds. The true test will come this winter when the real winds blow and the antenna and mast get loaded down with ice and snow. I feel fairly confident that this arrangement will stand up to most weather we could encounter.

The bottom line question is how well does it play? Generally, pretty good. My second contact was with John, ZL1BYZ, near Auckland, New Zealand, using my Argonaut V at 5 watts. Overall, the bands have been lousy of late, so it is hard to give the arrangement a solid A+. I have a roof mounted 20 meter dipole, coax fed, and a tree mounted 40 meter dipole, also coax fed, to compare it to. It generally seems to be about 1 or more dB better.

My main goal in setting up this antenna system is to make my more competitive in this coming winter's 40 meter fox hunts. I have joint the Swamp Rats team, and do not want to be the one to disappoint them. In retrospect, I have two concerns. One is that perhaps I should have cut an 80 meter dipole, instead of a 40 meter dipole. The other is that I sure hope that I did not secure the ladderline to the PCV pipe with some sort of metallic tape. The antenna was easy enough to put up, so I guess that I can work those things out if and when I set it down again for more experiments. Two of these masts, appropriately spaced, would make great supports for a full sized dipole. I am already pondering what might happen if I add another section of 10 foot rail to raise this antenna to 44 feet. For sure, I would want to put that monster far enough away from the house and power lines so that it would never fall on either one, but I am working on it!

Pete Inskeep, NO2D.

Quick and Easy Mobile Operation

Many hams find the allure of operating mobile irresistible. At the same time, drilling holes in the roof of one's dream car, new, old or whatever, keeps many a ham from enjoying the pleasure of mobile operation. KE4YSK and I spend a lot of time on the road, on long trips to the four corners of the lower 48 states. Operating mobile helps to pass the time on many long drives. Mobile operation can be both exciting and challenging.

What keeps many hams from operating mobile is figuring how to rig up the radio(s) and antenna(s), without ruining that shiny new vehicle. Having run mobile in a number of different vehicles, I have found quick and simple ways to install rigs and antennas which, while they may not be the ultimate, are effective enough to make lots of contacts.

Lets start with getting power to the rig. If you operate QRP, you will seldom need to worry about over stressing your cigarette lighter plug. Buy a cigarette lighter power plug from RS, and adapt one end to a plug that will fit a wire running to your rig. I use a common RS connector set for all my rigs. Many others use something called power poles, but I really don't know anything about them. If you want a bit more power, or shun the cigarette lighter receptacle idea, then buy some clamps from RS like the ones on your battery charger. Buy some 10 or 12 gauge wire " the kind with one black coated wire and one red coated wire. Hook the clamps to one end and your radio specific plug to the other. Make sure you use fused wires, with appropriately sized fuses. Most rigs intended for mobile use come with a pre-fused wire of some sort. I can almost always find a way to attach the clamps to the battery in the engine compartment and run the wire up through one of the body joints along side the hood, and in to the vehicle through one of the front doors. Be careful not to pinch the wire in the door.

Now you have power to the front of your car. How about an antenna? I have found that mag-mounts are both simple to install, and effective on the air. I use one of those three magnet types that one sees advertised in CQ or QST. The coax comes in through one of the door openings, or through the trunk. Even with pretty expensive cars there is almost always some way to get the antenna coax in through the door. If all else fails, just leave one of the windows open far enough to bring the coax in.

Those 3 magnet mag-mounts are very strong. They will hold a 40 meter hamstick with no guy wires at speeds of up to 90 MPH, not that I would ever go that fast. The hamsticks are great single band antennas, and cheap relative to some more sophisticated antennas. They are fairly widely available for about \$25 to \$30 each. They screw directly into most mag-mounts with a 3/8 thread, which is common. There are lots of other mobile antennas out there. I'd be a little leery of expecting a mag-mount to hold some of the bulkier ones, but within reason, a mag-mount will do the job.

I've never had any interest in drilling holes in my dashboard to mount a radio. Most dashboards don't have much room, anyway. To mount my rigs I use industrial strength Velcro. It is available from stores like Wal-mart. Go to the back of the store where the sewing material is and ask the sales person for industrial strength Velcro. It comes in long strips about 2 inches wide, and holds like the dickens. I put the hook side on the dashboard top, generally somewhere in the middle. The fuzzy stuff goes on the bottom of the rig, or the rig mobile mount. I've never had a rig bounce loose, even after hours of driving on punishing dirt roads. I put a small Velcro pad next to the rig for

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the mike, and a small piece of Velcro on the back of the mike. Works like a charm.

I should mention one caveat about the Velcro. Once it is stuck to the top of the dash, it is likely to be there for the duration. So, pick a color that compliments your dashboard material.

Attach the antenna and the power cord to your rig. Make sure it is securely seated to the Velcro. Virtually every article I have read on mobile installations says to ground the rig to the vehicle chassis, and, likewise, to ground the antenna coax outside connector to the vehicle chassis. I seldom do either. If I do, I use alligator clips and poke around under the front seat or dashboard until I find something that looks like it is connected to the chassis. I've never noticed any difference in the performance of my rigs either way.

At this point, if everything is properly connected, you should be able to turn the rig on and make some contacts right from your driveway. If not, either you did something wrong or propagation on your band is lousy. You might need to tune your antenna, so use something to make sure that your SWR is within acceptable limits. I have found that most of the time the hamsticks will tune down to 1.5:1 SWR simply by moving the whip portion in or out of the fixed portion. Often, I get a 1.1:1 reading in the frequency range I am interested in. Heed the label warning about not inserting the whip portion so far into the fiberglass portion such that it gets inside the coil on the fixed part.

I've not mentioned CW operation, yet. Generally, to operate CW, just add the key and go at it. Finding a place to put the key where it can be operated comfortably can be a challenge. My driving skills are limited such that I rarely operate CW while driving. KE4YSK really does not like me to operate CW while I am behind the wheel. When I am riding shotgun, I can and do operate CW quite successfully, usually with the key resting on a clipboard with a pad of paper for logging. That just sits on my lap, but obviously not while I am driving.

Logging can be a problem, especially when one is driving. I use a small tape recorder and just speak in the logging info so that it can later be transferred to my log book. Sometimes KE4YSK will log for me if I am driving and operating SSB.

While most of my mobile operating has been done while on long trips, I occasionally go up into the mountains for a ride and run mobile just for the fun of it. A hamstick on top of an SUV works great. A hamstick on top of an SUV at 10,000 feet works even better. Try it. You will like it!

I've tried to make installing a mobile rig, power supply and antenna sound simple. I hope I have succeeded in doing so. Trust me, going mobile does not have to be a big deal. Mag-mount, hamstick, clamps, piece of power cord and connectors are really all that is required. You may even find it more fun than running a kilowatt to stacked six over six monobanders on your 125 foot tower in the back yard.

Pete, no2d.

Stories and pictures for the CQC Low Down are provided by CQC Club Members. Please consider sharing your QRP experience with other members and friends. All stories are welcome and appreciated. They can be submitted to KI0RB@arrl.net



Now that is up turn it around



Dick AB0CD gets arrested for the 5W limit



Hey we heard there was beer and it was 100 degrees

The return of CQC Aloha Site at Cherry Creek State Park



NextGen Hams on the air - ALOHA

Stay Tuned for
full CQC Field Day
coverage in Issue 62 of
the Low Down