

JANUARY, 2014

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# FEEDBACK

## JOHNSON COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS CLUB, Inc.

The Johnson County Radio Amateurs Club normally meets on the 2nd and 4th Fridays, 7:30 PM at the Overland Park Christian Church (North Entrance) at 7600 West 75th St. (75th and Conser streets) West of the Fire Station.

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER



I hope everyone has had a happy and safe holiday season.

As normal, the first meeting of the year will be a planning meeting. Please bring your ideas for Club activities and programs to the January 10 meeting. This is a good way to share your experiences and learn more about the ever expanding hobby of Amateur Radio.

For the 2014 ARRL Field Day we are planning to return to Shawnee Mission Park. The location has been very good in providing exposure for Amateur Radio. The Parks department has been very supportive.

The 2013 Christmas party proved to be a bit of a challenge - a totally dark building and two guys hovering over a transformer. What other clues did we need? So the party became a fox hunt of sorts to find a location. Our thanks go to Herb (NZ0F) and Dianna (KD0OBP) for finding a location for the party.

Bill KA2FNK, President

The club mailing address is: JCRAC, P.O. Box 93, Shawnee Mission, KS 66201.

The *FEEDBACK* is published monthly for the JCRAC membership. Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the club or the officers. Items for the *FEEDBACK* should be in the Editor's possession by the 21st of each month for publication the following month.

### BIRTHDAYS

When you get a chance, say "Happy Birthday" to the club member(s) listed below. If your birthday is not listed there, it was not listed in [www.qrz.com/](http://www.qrz.com/). But, you can email us the month and day (we don't publish the year!). We will add it to the list.

#### January

- 19 Larry Staples, W0AIB
- 21 Jim Lasseter, N0QMB
- 28 Roger McClenny, W0MNR
- 30 George McCarville, W0CNK

### FEATURED INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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### TIDBITS

--- On Monday, December 23, 2013, 9:00 a.m., a number of members gathered at Perkins Restaurant at 87<sup>th</sup> and I35 for an impromptu breakfast. The fellowship was quite nice and included Mr. Larry Staples, W0AIB. While it is referred to as a breakfast club – it is a friendly gathering of breakfast “Hams”.

--- A new club web site is coming soon, perhaps early in January. Periodically, check to see if it has its new look! Link – this page, lower left.

Enjoy the *FEEDBACK* earlier and in full color by receiving an online version. If you are currently receiving the newsletter by postal mail, consider switching to an online version. To do so, please send an email to Ted, N0TEK at [n0tek@ymail.com](mailto:n0tek@ymail.com).

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## THIS MONTH'S MEETING SCHEDULE

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### Friday, January 10, 2014 7:30 pm

The program for this evening will be planning for this years club programs and activities. Bring your ideas and areas of interest to add to the discussion.

### Friday, January 24, 2014

Program: Associated Radio - Dan will show us what is new.

An **Annex Meeting** occurs after each club meeting. Typically this starts about 9pm at The Pizza Shoppe, 8915 Santa Fe Dr., Overland Park, KS 66212.

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## JCRAC CLUB DUES

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Remember, you have an option now on JCRAC dues; pay \$40 for TWO YEARS, as compared to the regular rate of \$24 per year. Your grandchild under the age of 18 qualifies as a member of the family for membership purposes.

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## WHEATSHOCKER NETS

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The weekly Wheatshocker Nets are called on:

Wednesday evenings, 8 pm on 443.725 (+) PL 151.4  
Thursday evenings, 8 pm on 145.29 (-) PL 151.4

On Thursday, there is usually a "round-table get-together" on or about 9:00 P.M. using 28.475 MHz USB – after the Wheatshocker Net.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) net is also called on 145.29 at 7:00 pm local, weekly on Tuesday.

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## FOR SALE - WANTED

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### Name Badges

Name badges with your name, call letters, and QTH; top quality, engraved in a wide range of colors.

Contact Jim McCoy (Mac), WØLQV at 913-648-4406 or [mw0lqv@arrl.net](mailto:mw0lqv@arrl.net).

### WØERH Patches

For sale, 4" diameter multi-colored embroidered patches, with the WØERH call sign, for sale at \$3.00 ea. This will give the club a small profit on each patch.

Contact Cal Lewandowski, KC0CL at 913-961-2175 or [clewando@gmail.com](mailto:clewando@gmail.com).

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## AMATEUR LICENSE TESTING

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**When?** Third Saturday of each month, at 9:00 am.

**Where?** Johnson County Public Library Blue Valley Branch, 9000 West 151st St., Overland Park, KS (Just west of Antioch on north side of 151st St.)

**Fee?** \$14 Pre-registration is NOT required. Walk-ins are welcome!

For more information contact Jim Lee, N0KCB 913-745-5121 or e-mail: [JimLee@kc.rr.com](mailto:JimLee@kc.rr.com). Commercial Radio Tests are also available.

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## QUARTER CENTURY WIRELESS ASSOCIATION

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Come enjoy lunch with other hams. The lunch location has been updated on both the National and the Chapter 35 QCWA webpages. The icon on the local page is also a link to RC's webpage.

Local web site: [www.qsl.net/qcwa35/](http://www.qsl.net/qcwa35/).

National web site: [www.qcwa.org/events.php](http://www.qcwa.org/events.php).

Remember, ALL hams are invited to join with the Chapter 35 folks on Thursday, 1100 CDT, RC's, Martin City, MO. Mid-Centent Chapter 35 serves the Metro KC area in both Kansas and Missouri. Ron Wood, K0BRO is President and JCRAC club member George Yantis, K0GY is Chapter 35 Secretary and Treasurer.

Starting in January 2013 QCWA publications will be online only as one means of reducing costs. More information on QCWA and Mid-Centent Chapter events can be found at [www.qcwa.org/](http://www.qcwa.org/).

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## ENSOR PARK AND MUSEUM

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If you can visit the Ensor Park and Museum, just 5 minutes South of central Olathe but haven't, do it now and see a most interesting and original flashback to the mid-1900's. Our motto "SEE IT TO BELIEVE IT" is true.

A site map, with Ensor GPS coordinates, and much more can be seen on the website at [www.w9bsp-w9ua.org/](http://www.w9bsp-w9ua.org/).

Larry Woodworth, WØHXS  
Ensor Park and Museum Manager

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## LAST MONTH'S MEETING MINUTES

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Meeting Date: Friday, December 13, 2013

No meeting due to the annual Christmas Party.

**Attendance:**

**Old Business:**

**New Business:**

**Reports:**

**Announcements:**

**Program:**

Submitted by Ted Knapp, N0TEK, Secretary.

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Meeting Date: Friday, December 27, 2013

No scheduled meeting.

**Attendance:**

**Old Business:**

**New Business:**

**Reports:**

**Announcements:**

**Program:**

Submitted by Ted Knapp, N0TEK, Secretary.

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## PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS LIST

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Larry Staples, W0AIB compiles, and makes available by e-mail, a list of the public service events in the metro Kansas City area. Please let W0AIB know of any ham-type public service events, with confirmed dates, scheduled to be held in the metro area in 2013. Subscribe to Larry's List for "up-to-the-minute" messages! Contact [lstaples@kc.rr.com](mailto:lstaples@kc.rr.com).

In addition to his emails, there is a website that lists the scheduled events such as Hamfests and Public Service Events. See [www.larryslist.info](http://www.larryslist.info).

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## HAMFESTS

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January 25

**St. Louis Suburban Radio Club Winterfest**

Gateway Convention Center -- One Gateway Drive  
Collinsville, IL. 62234

<http://www.slsr.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Winterfest-2014-Flyer-1.pdf>

February 01

**Mine Creek Winterfest**

Lacygne, KS

<http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/mine-creek-winterfest>

April 19

**Ararat Hambash**

5100 Ararat Drive  
Kansas City, MO 64101

<http://www.hambash.com>

May 16-18

**DAYTON Hamvention**

Dayton, OH

<http://www.hamvention.org/>

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## 29 REPEATER

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Many of you are aware that the controller for the 29 repeater will be installed once the weather warms up. Until that time, the machine is operating without it. There are no ID messages of any kind and there is no courtesy tone either. So for the time being, please ID the club repeater when you use it. For instance, when you are ending your transmission you can say your call sign followed by "through the WOERH repeater".

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

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As in years past, the *FEEDBACK* newsletter for the month of January is brief, with good reason, what with all the holiday activities that consumes everyone's time.

A good publication starts with plenty of material. And much of that comes, or should come, from members like you. Feel free to share tidbits of news. These can be anywhere from one line news items to full articles. Let's make it easy – just email these items to the editor (as listed on the front page).

Share your birthday with us. Just month and day.

I would like to see more articles like the "Featured Member" in this issue. Many of you have quite interesting stories to share with the club. Include a photo, too. Naturally, you can write the story yourself – you know the details. Needs editing? Don't worry as that will be taken care of for you. I think that a greater focus on members and their activity is a direction the *FEEDBACK* should head to. In this manner, we can all get to know you even better.

Do you know some good "HAM" jokes? Or are you a cartoonist with a flair for amateur radio humor?

Are you a camera aficionado? How about photos of your Shack? Share those photos too. However, include a caption along with a date. A brief story makes it even better.

Do you have videos that you have produced and stored on youtube or the like? Share those links too. Obviously, they should be amateur radio related and ones you have produced.

Are you an aspiring publisher? The club is now considering candidates for the *FEEDBACK* editor. Let Ted, the club Secretary, know if you wish to be considered. Send him an example of your work.

Thanks and have a great 2014!

Steven Martin, K0SLM  
Interim Editor

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## Larry Staples, W0AIB

(From the ARRL Midwest Division Newsletter—  
May 2011 p.3)



In the Kansas City Metro area, there are many well-known Radio Amateurs. One of the best-known and respected is Larry Staples, W0AIB, of Prairie Village, Kansas, publisher of Larry's List. With the cooperation of Tom Eagle, K0JPR, who provides servers and Mailman software, Larry's List distributes emails of interest to hams, and is currently growing, with more than 900 subscribers. Larry describes it as a "labor of love to keep the messages flowing" — as many as a dozen messages daily.

To subscribe via the Web, visit <http://list.k0jpr.net/mailman/listinfo/larryslist> or via email, send a message directly to Larry at [lstaples@kc.rr.com](mailto:lstaples@kc.rr.com), and request subscription information. In addition to Larry's email reflector, Steven Martin KD0MEL maintains the Larry's List Web site <http://www.larryslist.info/>, which lists and organizes all dated events published on Larry's List.

First licensed in 1960, Larry has been active over the years in VHF operating and public service communications. Larry's devotion to public service has taken many forms. He played Santa Claus for the KCVHF club for mentally impaired children at the state school in Higginsville, MO; helped provide logistical communications for the American Royal Parade; and for 33 years was the ham coordinator for the March of Dimes Walk-a-Thons (later WalkAmerica, and now March for Babies); and many other public service events.

Larry's involvement in email systems began in 1984, as a fine way to recruit ham volunteers for the public service activities. He later added ham obituaries, and other items of interest, including sale and trade items. All submissions go through Larry, who edits the information and makes sure that the message is one which will be of interest to hams. He tries to avoid controversial or political issues, except issues that relate to Amateur Radio. In addition to the flow of ham-related information, Larry's List has had a positive effect on Amateur Radio operations, and promotes good relationships among Kansas City Metro area Amateur Radio clubs. Larry is pleased that many of the new hams resulting from the efforts of Matt May, KC4WCG and Brian Short, KC0BS, have subscribed to Larry's List.

The Raytown ARC K0GQ Web site recently best described Larry's List: "Larry has monitored the pulse and moderated the issues for all things in ham radio in the Kansas City Metro Area and beyond! A subscription to Larry's List is a MUST for all active hams, inactive hams, and ham wannabes!"

After more than 50 years in Amateur Radio, and almost 30 years of publishing Larry's List, W0AIB is also starting to think about the future. At the age of 80, he's still going strong, but knows that his time is limited. Larry hopes that when he is ready to retire, there will be someone interested and willing to continue the tradition of Larry's List for new generations of hams in the Kansas City Metro area.

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## **EZ-Volt: A Handy LED Digital Voltmeter You Can Build in an Evening**

*Tom Wheeler, NØGSG  
Johnson County Radio Amateurs Club  
November, 2013*

Take a quick look around your shack. How much of your equipment runs on batteries or a DC power supply? If you're like most of us, the answer is "most of it." And also if you're like most of us, you probably have a multimeter that you can pull out for checking these power sources out. So why do you need another meter?

An extra voltmeter can be quite handy. Perhaps you've got a "go kit" for public service and emergency communications. Wouldn't it be handy to have a voltmeter dedicated to this kit so that you can always know that it's truly ready? How about the condition of those rechargeable batteries you keep around for emergency power? Or the performance of that solar energy system? Or even the battery in your daily driver? These are just a few places where an extra meter can be quite practical.

The EZ-Volt is an accurate digital meter you can construct in just a couple of hours. It's based on a prefabricated LED digital voltmeter module. But the really cool part about EZ-Volt is that it is powered by the circuit it's measuring. It otherwise requires no battery or power supply of its own. And amazingly, it uses only 10 to 20 mA of current from the circuit being tested. That's a very low current draw - - so low, in fact, that it will hardly affect the operation of whatever you connect it to. This makes it perfect for dozens of applications, including the venerable "go kit."



*Figure 1: The EZ-Volt Meter Measuring a 12 Volt SLA Battery*

The EZ-Volt meter will directly measure any DC source from 4 to 30 volts. (4 volts is the minimum required to operate the meter's electronics). The schematic is quite simple, as shown in Figure 2. The DC power from the device being measured is applied to the *Vcc* and *GND* terminals of the meter module through *D*<sub>1</sub>, which is present to protect against accidental polarity reversal. The meter module reads the DC voltage placed on the *Sense* terminal, which is connected to the DC input through *R*<sub>1</sub>, which provides additional polarity reversal protection.

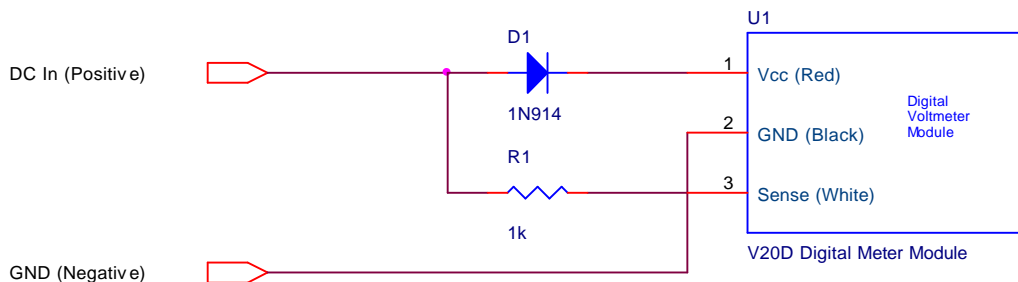


Figure 2: Schematic of EZ-Volt Digital Voltmeter

### Construction

The meter can be constructed in about an hour's time; components should be laid out as shown in Figure 3. There's nothing critical here - - just make sure to insulate your wiring with heat shrink tubing or electrical tape before final assembly. Of course, make sure you install *D*<sub>1</sub> correctly - - it's a polarized part.

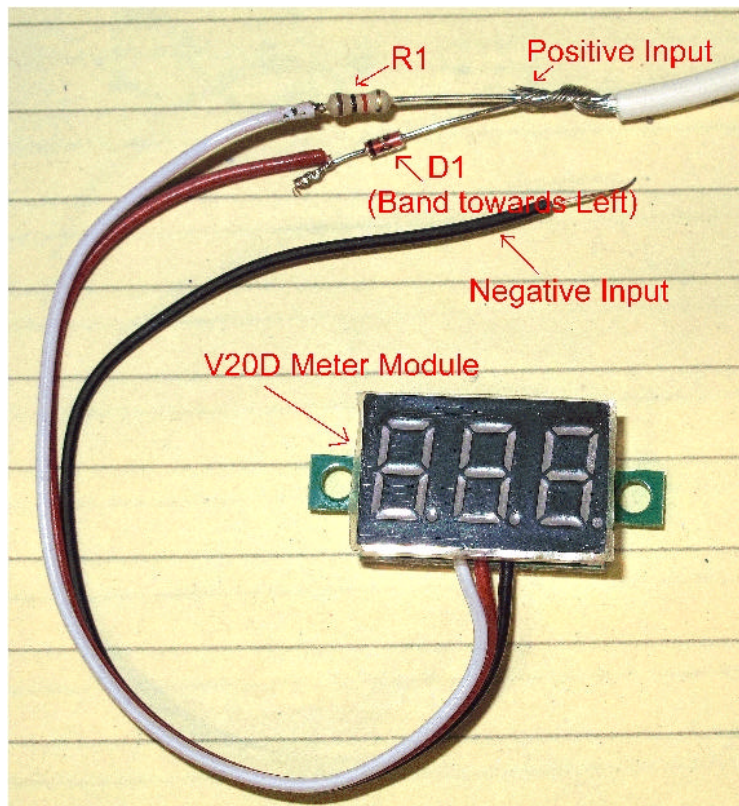
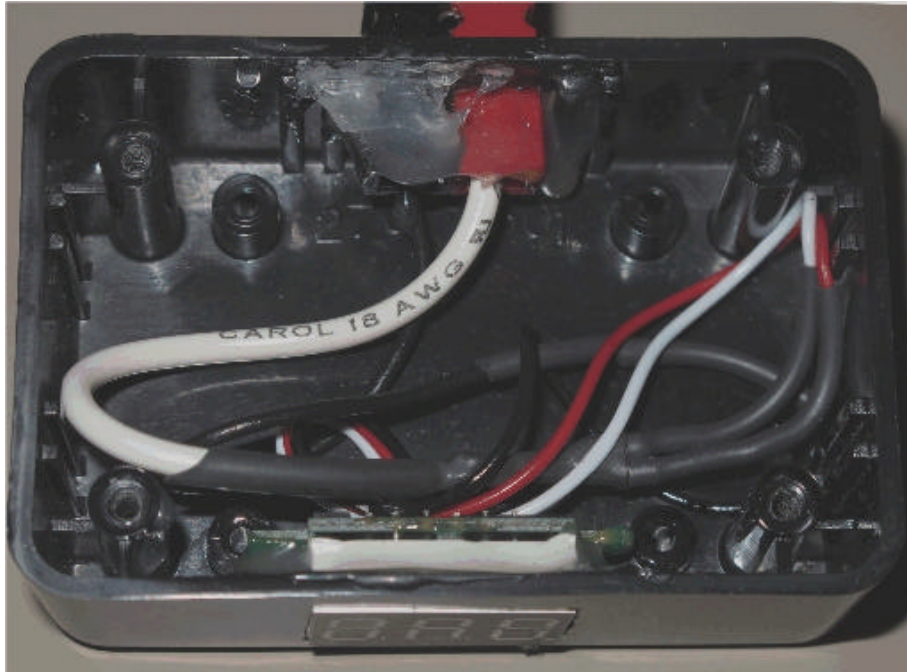


Figure 3: Component Electrical Layout

Figure 4 is the inside view of the EZ-Volt prototype, which was placed in a small Radio Shack plastic project box. As you can see there's hardly anything in there! The diode and resistor are within the black shrink-wrapped "Y" connection that feeds the red and white meter module wires. An Anderson Power Pole connector provides the DC input connection. All the components are simply hot-glued in place.



*Figure 4: Inside the EZ-Volt Meter*

### *Operation*

Using the EZ-Volt meter is easy. Simply connect the meter's leads to any DC source you're interested in checking, between 4 and 30 volts. The display will instantly show the voltage you've connected to. The display updates only about twice a second, so checking rapidly changing voltages is probably out of the question.

Once you've tried the EZ-Volt, you'll probably wonder how you ever got along without it - - and you'll discover many other uses for it as well.



## Parts List

<b>Designator</b>	<b>Description</b>
R1	1 k ohm 1/4 watt fixed resistor
D1	1N914 switching diode
U1	Surmen V20D three-lead DVM module, 0-30V option.  Available from the following vendors:  Associated Radio <a href="http://www.associatedradio.com">http://www.associatedradio.com</a> SKU: DVM.BLUE (Blue), DVM.RED (Red)  Universal Radio <a href="http://www.universal-radio.com/catalog/meters/0794.html">http://www.universal-radio.com/catalog/meters/0794.html</a> SKU: #0794 (Blue), #6165 (Red)

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