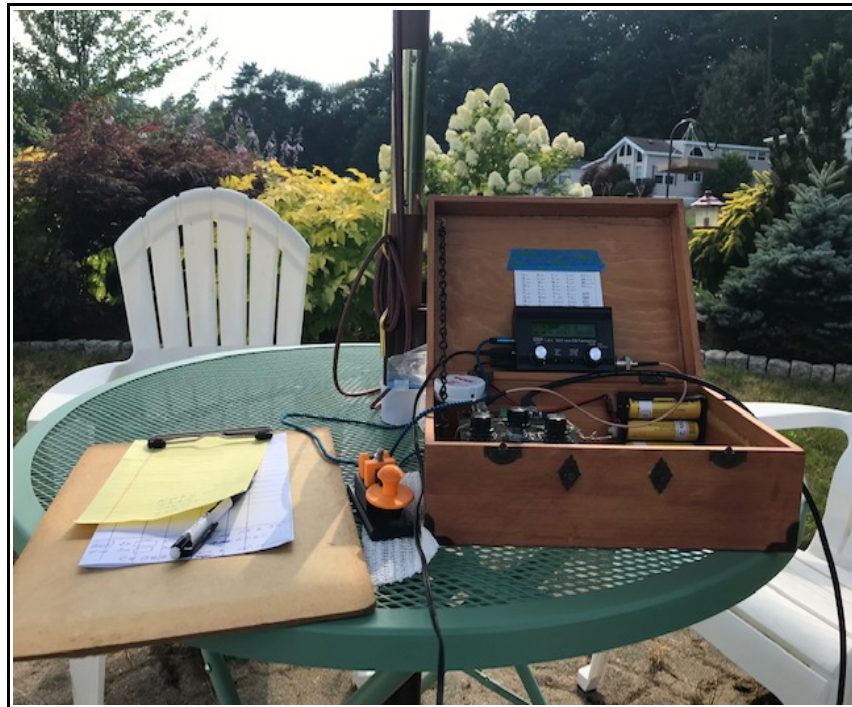


At our ZAARC April meeting I showed my latest go kit and spoke about having 2 other ready to use go kits so I put this little article together for additional information.

Here's one with a QRPLabs QCX-Mini 5w single band with VFO . It's packaged in a Hobby Lobby \$5 box with 3 LiPo 18650 batteries and a 4States Tuner. Shown in Maine in our backyard running the "Skeeter Hunt" Aug. '25.



And again above at Fort McClary Kittery Point, ME is a closeup of the package with the QCX-Mini on the inside box cover, a pill bottle with spare BNC connectors, the 4States QRP tuner, the battery pack with a white power switch and hanging off the side is a HB 1:1 choke and finally a CWMorse 3D printed key.

[QCX-mini 5W CW transceiver kit](#)
[Four States QRP Group](#)
[Morse Code Keys Made In The USA – cwmorse.us](#)

Below is one of my first packages of components for quick operation. Shown at Kennebunk Plains, ME, a POTA site US-8479 about a 1700 acre WMA and it indeed looks like the Plains.



The top item is an LDG auto tuner followed by the Yaesu FT-818D (160-70cm) all mode XCVR. Next is the power control center with 5v USB, 12v accessory port and a battery meter. At the very bottom (for ballast) is a 7ah LiPo battery. All of this is mounted in a \$12 mostly water resistant ammo box from Walmart. The lid has room to store adapters and small supplies. Output of 1-5w is to both BNC and PL-259 cables. It has never tipped over in the wind.

This unit is a workhorse but uses up the battery quicker than I would like. I used this unit to earn the 1,000 mile per watt award using the 9:1 EFRW that I built for our 2016 FD held at the Emerald Pointe Clubhouse.

[LDG Electronics Amateur Radio Products](#)
[Welcome to Yaesu](#)

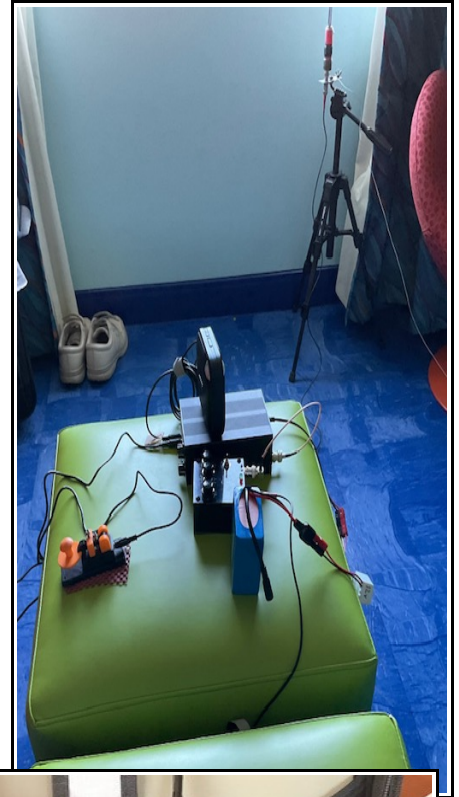
The antenna mounted on the roof in the photo below is the same as was shown at the meeting. It is being supported by the \$2 Harbor Freight 3" Magnet. Both of the last photos are from outings at Kennebunk Plains, ME..... a POTA place as noted earlier.

[QRPGuys – QRPGuys – Unique ham radio kits for the budget minded](#)
Another offering by QRP-Builders is a 4020/10 of the same style [QX1 Antenna & BNC Antenna Mount/Adapter – Welcome to Qrpbuilder.com](#)



Now here on the right, is a BEFORE photo while at Disney in December '25, it's plain to see the advantages of packing it up ready to use vs thrown into a box, sort and connect. Things break, get lost or forgotten at home sometimes, not if you get it together.

So we make it into a 5.5 lb grab and go briefcase instead of a time wasting chaotic setup again and again.



Building and reworking stuff is a lot of fun for me. QRP gives me the opportunity to make, screw up and reuse, not much goes to waste and for the most part costs are minimal compared to commercial items and usually gives about the same results.

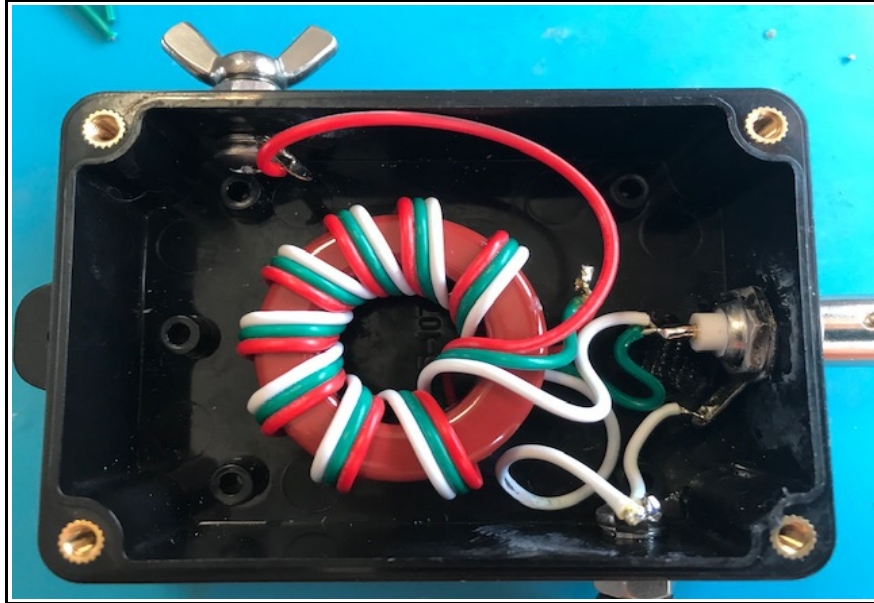


The above photo shows my current go to antenna that fits into the front pocket of the briefcase. The antenna can be mounted in at least 4 ways. Mag mount, tripod, fixed to a table as shown and on a threaded rod stuck in the ground. The 40/20/10 version has the same options.



The photo at the right is busy. The XCVR is a QRP-Labs QMX (160-6m all mode unit) [QMX+ 160-6m multi-mode transceiver](#), more features are in this box than meets the eye. Also in the photo is the 4States tuner, CWMorse key GPS unit between the blue Bienno battery and the tuner the antenna cable is already hooked up and ready to go to work

Winding a toroid for some folks is one of the most dreaded parts of building a kit, yet it's the only part that you can totally screw up and still just be out your time. Unless you drop it and break it, it can always be reused. Even the wire can usually be unwound, straightened and reused. So why not try it, nothing to lose? Conquer those things that you find difficult and get the pleasure of gaining a skill that others are reluctant to try.



The above is a 9:1 UnUn for EFRW. Certainly not a hard build. Details at [Endfed6_80.pdf](#) The box is weatherproof for the most part.

I hope that this has given you some incentive to try QRP, Building, POTA and perhaps even CW. If you desire more information on any part please don't hesitate to contact me.

John
KK4ITX
April 2026