

# KB3CVS

## Tom Hendricks

*Editor's Note: Tom recently sent some of us some photos of his new love, a QRP rig. I've known Tom for many years, since our days with FidoNet, which was a mail reflector system before the internet was available to the average family. I appreciate Tom taking the time for this interview. The photos are all Tom's and I appreciate his submission!. 73 de Doug*

*Why do you want to work QRP? Do you also operate full power?*

I've always been fascinated how little power can go so far. CW is the most efficient means of sending a signal via radio wave. I personally don't do QRP power nor full power yet, because I have yet to pass the 5 WPM code test. I did pass the General Written, and intend to take the 5 WPM until I pass. I'm attempting it tomorrow once again. *(Editors Note: He passed!)*

*What made you want to buy this rig?*

I'm working with a Scout Venture Crew (Boys and Girls age 14-21). They were really active a few years ago and had lots of members, however the group has had some problems, and now needs to rebuild. We're planning some events (JOTA on the evening of the 19th) and being at the Boy Scout Grand Re-Opening of their Scout Store in Baltimore on Nov 16th, where we intend to showcase Amateur Radio a little. The goal is always to have fun first, and secondly in this case, to recruit new Venture Crew Scouts.

This particular rig was recommended by WA3SKQ as a great performing rig, which was complicated enough (shows all the basic parts of a transceiver), yet simple enough to build. We worked with Dave Benson (Small Wonder Labs) who helped us with a small discount, and the pictures you saw was my rig,

which we're using as a model for the scouts. This is a 40M version; we have a couple also building 20M kits.

QRP being low power (under 5 watts) means that it can be run from batteries, and is quite portable. With an antenna tuner, a good battery and a long wire, you can take these rigs



## Announcements

### Awards Banquet

The annual BARC Awards Banquet will be Saturday, December 7th. The exact time will be given to you when you make your reservation. This event is totally planned by the present, and has been for several years. A past president says that this event is one of the hard tasks of the job of president; not because it's hard to arrange a hall, DJ and caterer, but because we don't know how many to order for, so this year, we will only order a dinner for you **IF YOU MAKE A RESERVATION.** We have to pay the hall and pay the caterer for the number of people expected, and that's how much food the caterer plans. **Please, help the club conserve our resources by taking the time to call Robin at 410-247-0578 or email [aa3sb@arrl.net](mailto:aa3sb@arrl.net) to let her know how many are coming.**



### Modulator Help Wanted

We need someone that can pick up the Modulator from the printers, put the tape seals on it, label it, and take it to the post office.

The printer is in Towson, at Washington and Joppa. Parking is a dime, within 100 feet, and has always been available. The box weighs about 18 pounds. The taping and labeling takes about four hours, much faster if two people work on it. It must be taken to any 212xx zip code, be it Pikesville or Nottingham. But it must be a 212 zip code. The form is easy to fill out, and the editor will help you with it.

The key point is, we need to usually get this work all done in about two days, to meet our mailing goals. Our goal is to have this to the printer by the 10th of the month, and in the post office by the 20th. The printer takes two days or so.

If you can help out, please call Doug at 410-256-0257. You don't have to do it every month, any help is appreciated.

### Articles Needed.

We didn't meet our 20 page goal because there were not enough submissions this month.

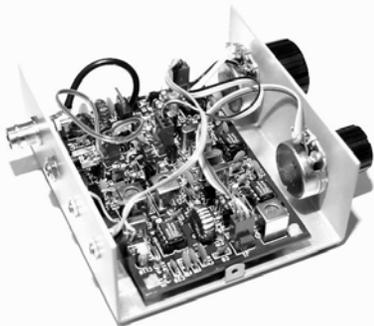
There are a group of very friendly Hams on 147.285 (The Orioles Net) who befriended TJ, and managed to drag me back into the hobby. They are a great groups of folks, and TJ has really enjoyed speaking with them on the air. TJ got "turned onto" Amateur on one of my trips to Ham Radio Outlet in Delaware. Bob up there sat him on a Icom 756 Pro II and told him to have fun - and he did. 4 days later (June 16th) - TJ got his technician license. He and I both have Yasue HT's and I often talk to him after school when I'm driving home from work. We've also been helping with Scouting events, like running "chase cars" during bike hikes and hikes for the Troop. Next one - Appalachian Trail next weekend. I can keep in touch with him, from the vehicle using 2M usually wherever he is. Not out of touch like we were when we first used Family Radio Service radios.

*If he's in scouts, have you thought about working JOTA with them?*

Yes, we're trying to arrange a Baltimore-Area Wide invitation to all of the Scout Troops so they know they can stop in with us for JOTA. We have an antenna issue presently, but we will make something work. TJ is also planning on starting a "Scout Net" one night weekly for scout discussions amongst scouting-related hams. The Scout Repeater is 145.270 (KE3BSA callsign) was to be moved, and then a problem came up - now it looks like it will stay at the same address within the previous building, but has to be moved. It should be back up shortly. If you know any Scout-Wannabe's, or more precisely Venture Crew wannabe's (they can also remain scouts, and Girls 14-21 can join too), send 'em our way. The Venture Crew Advisor is Rich Ashburn, WA3SKQ (mailto:wa3skq@juno.com).

73

## Tom KB3CVS



*Tom's caption on the photos:  
This rig was tested and tuned on October 4, 2002 by WA3SKQ. He was able to make two QSO's with K1NAJ, Norway, ME and W4QN, Jupiter, FL. It's putting out about 2.5 watts of power.*

*This is the rig we're using to teach a group of Venture Crew Scouts about Amateur Radio. We hope to have one or more of the Scout Rigs operating for the Jamboree on the Air event, October 19th and 20th.*

*Dave Benson of Small Wonder Labs has been absolutely great in helping us work with the Scouts. Thank you Dave!*

backpacking or camping on Scout trips, and set up and send within a few minutes. We're working with Scout Troop 828 in January/February and teaching them the radio merit badge, using ARRL materials. Some of these scouts might very well become Amateur Radio Operators when all is said and done.

*What kind of power connections does it use? What kind of key do you have?*

Standard Coaxial Type power connector - in fact the same many other QRP rigs use. 2.1/5.5mm male plug, center positive is what's used for power. Straight keys from MFJ were ordered for the group. I believe they were like \$7.95 each. We're mounting on small boards for stability.



*What kind of antenna? How high up is it?*

The rig was tested on a Cushcraft R-7000 by WA3SKQ, vertically mounted about 10 foot off the ground. I have a Alpha Delta DX-DD multi-band dipole I purchased to use for "field day" types of demonstrations, and I intend to use a painter's pole extension mounted in a bucket filled with Cement and a PVC pipe to hold the pole vertical. Staking down both ends. (This is a 40 foot long dipole in an inverted vee). If/when more portable than that, a long wire and antenna tuner will be used. We purchased MFJ QRP tuners for the job. When I test at home (if/when I get my 5 WPM passed) I may use my Gap Titan DX multi-band vertical as well.

*What other modes do you operate?*

Me - I'm just on 2M rag-chew these days. I long for more, but that will depend on how fast I can pass the code test.

*How's your son, TJ coming along with his learning? Are you doing ham radio together?*

TJ is a Technician. He and I took the 5 WPM code test last week at White Marsh. He's working hard on passing the code yet.

We are doing Ham Radio together. He is just shy of the "legal" Venture Crew Age, but involved with the group. He is starting his SW+40 Kit today.