
Flying Pigs QRP Club

Bacon Bits Quarterly



Flying Pigs QRP Club International, W8PIG
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FPQRP [membership](#) is open to all licensed QRP operators who reside within 12,000 nautical miles of Cincinnati, Ohio.

The View from the Slop **By Rob, W0JRM FP#-330**

Greetings, salutations, and whatnot all you fine swine. Welcome to the September 2007 issue of Bacon Bits Quarterly. I'd like to thank everyone who contributed to our June 2007 issue, which by all comments was a great success!

I'll start by issuing a congratulations to our own Anthony Luscre, K8ZT FP#-254 on his new role as "What's New" editor for CQ Magazine. Make us proud! Or better yet... don't.

This issue, we'll recap the Field Day efforts from around the pigs. We have a story about a man who was Ed Hare for a day, as told by the man who wore the crown and carried the scepter. We now have our own IRC channel, and we're going to tell you how to use it. We also have the final installment of "Hamming in the Hills and Hollows".

I'd like to use my editorial space this quarter to encourage everyone to participate in the weekly nets. As of this writing, they've again returned to a hiatus after being active for a few weeks. Is it the time of the net that dissuades us from checking in? Is it the day of the week? Is it just too hard for us to hear each other? We're a radio club, folks. Let's get on the air with those rigs and talk to each other!

We've all got our commitments, sure. Work keeps me from checking in every other week. I'm sure everyone else has things they consider more important than getting on the radio. It's not too hard to set aside a few minutes each week to pop in and say hello though, is it? Even if you just send a brief "DE W0JRM, TNX FER CHECKIN ME IN. GOTTA RUN - 72 73 ES OO", it's better than nothing at all!

I'm not trying to step on toes or tork anyone off. Lord knows I'm good at unintentionally doing that. I'm just trying to encourage you, the 1764 members of our club, to get on the air and check into the net. Is the day, or the time of day bad? Don't like the speed? Don't like the band? Bring it up with the list. Let's work this thing out and get the net going again!

Just to show how serious I am about this, I'm going to put my key where my fist is. When we get something worked out, I will volunteer to be NCS on the nights I have off. I will tell everyone that tries to drag me out of the house "I can't, I have to be on the radio tonight." I will hang a sign on my shack door that says "do not enter, I'm checking into the pig net." I will make the time every other week to check in and say hello to my fellow piggies. So what say you? Let's give the nets another go!

===== (Flying Pigs QRP Club International) =====

Announcing: The FPQRP Club Single Tube TX Contest By Dan, N8IE FP#-6

The objective of this contest is to promote homebrewing, and a reacquaintance with the foundation of the radio art.

The contest will run from September 1st, 2007 and will end Mar. 1st, 2008. At the end of the contest all entries will be judged and prizes awarded in the following categories:

- Neatest
- Ugliest
- Most Creative



A 6T9 Transmitter Homebrewed by Dan, N8IE FP#-6

Certificates will be given to all entries.

Any TX can be entered as long as it meets the following conditions:

- Must be homebrewed. (A kit is allowed as long as you build it)
- Must use a tube for the oscillator or amplifier or both.
- You must make at least 5 QSO's with the TX.

You may use any design you wish. The ARRL handbooks from the 50's thru the early 70's have many such projects. Also, many resources are available on the web to help. One such group is the Glowbugs, they are a great place to start.

You can check them out on the web at <http://www.mines.uidaho.edu/~glowbugs/>

To enter the contest, simply start your project and then create a webpage with your pictures, schematics, and document your progress so everyone can follow along. Pass along your webpage URL to n8ie@woh.rr.com and a link will get added to the Flying Pigs webpage.

At the end of the contest the judges (as yet to be determined) will vote on their favorites and the winners will be announced thru the various reflectors.

As an example, check out the webpage I did for my 6T9 TX:
<http://n8ie.com/6t9.aspx>

If you can not create a webpage or do not have the resources to create one, just ask for help. We have enough geeks on the reflectors to assist you or give you a little space. This is a rough draft and subject to change at my whim. :-)

===== (Flying Pigs QRP Club International) =====

“Ed” Goes to Dayton **By Joel, KE1LA FP#-190**

How shall I start...well after bribing Ed w1rfi to let me ke1la represent him at fdim for the banquet nite... much to my amazement Ed freely concented.... The king of the double , double cross was going to trust me to do the right thing... by him... ah a weak spot right off the bat....

Well that meant I had to get the truck , my pickup truck in shape to make the trip to Dayton... get camp ground rental... and carry cash for possible hotel stay along the way if sumthin went wrong...

Well, first off the brakes had to be repaired, and the guy let me take some front leaking breaks wth me...u kneaux phil the brake fluid resivor every day before driving... and then get that fixed when we got back....

And the 300 dollar gps to guide us to Dayton, miss all the big cities, no hassle..... Well... despite my best input we went through new york and over the Washington bridge at that... not counting the two hour wait for them to clear a wreck on top of the bridge...burned quarter of a tank of gas idling...at 3+ dollars a gallon.

That little misshap cost us a 200 dollar motel room in new york... but we had fdim tickets and Dayton was waiting....

On the last part of the trip there, around Dayton, we ran into a rain shower.... U keaux one of them where cats and dogs come outta the sky, hail falls and visibility drops to ten feet... which slowed me down on an interstate in a work area only to have 18 wheelers zip by at 60mph like it was noon time on a clear day...

Then god intervined... we found the camp, it was raining, I couldn't see much, and was totally lost in the camp ground... so I woke up a w6... Saw his licence plate and figured a ham is a ham... midnite and I wake this guy and his family up to ask where I am at and how do I get to my campsite.... Among other

things he suggested I go right and try not to land in the lake... and the rain kept falling

Then god interviened again and we found the canmp site and set up the truck camper in the rain.... It's ok the xyl stayed in the truck cab till I got it all set up...and it rained all nite and into the daylight...then it stopped and gave us the chance to try the gps again and go to fdim..... oh joy...

Did u ever notice some machines just want to take u to one address in a town no matter how u program them... this one liked elm street in Dayton.... We could recognize the place by the church just before elm street...

Then god would intervien and the next stop would be the hotel at fdim...an hour or more shot going and coming... but it got us thair... and back...to the camp...

So the routine was set... un-set-up the truck camper and reset it up when we came back from fdim at night.... And that noiseless crank to raise the top of the camper would top 1k DB each time I cranked the camper back up at midnite at the campground...

Finally the big night arrived where I was to be Ed and joel was to take a hike, and like usual we got thair a bit late as we first visited elm street again.... Amazing machine....

We (xyl and I) took showers at the camp ground and got prettied up, now joel wouldn't have done that but joel was now Ed, complete with ID.... And headed to the banquet at fdim with Mrs Ed....

Whan we arrived folks was looking for us (Ed) and escorted us into the banquet room to the piggies table... hot dang thought I would sit at the piggy table.... Evidently even Ed has limited pull here...so I stood thair as three or four piggies held me secure as another three started putting tin foil on me for a royal robe, and a yellow hard hat for a crown and a metal rod with a bicycle reflector for a septor or whatever....



King Edward Makes His Rounds

By this time I was very embarrassed , then I remembered , I am not Joel ... I am Ed w1rfi for tonite....suddenly my joel id flipped over outta sight and the ed id was prominently displayed on the hard hat (crown) and I was at peace with the world... I was ed being given all due proper respect...

And ed's loyal subjects began to bow and recite things and people in the room were fully attentive to our activity at this point...folks were jumping up and coming over to take pictures, some one had a movie camera going and ed was all smiles and started walking between the tables with his loyal band of piggies following, and bowing.... And ed even announced to each table to please bow as royalty was passing... and to those who asked who... ed politely bowed his head to them so they could read his name tag clearly...



*"Ed" Peeks over the shoulder of /rick, WB6JBM FP#-2
and Matt, son of /rick, K8KLP FP#-69*

And the room came alive and women giggled and men tried to hide big smiles and ed smiled broadly and waved his septor and wished all kinds of dx on everyone...

Then the piggies sent ed to another table as things started for the banquet... however for dinner call sir ding and sir dong, both loyal servants of king piggy ed... escorted ed the king to the food line and one held his royal plate as the other filled it with goodies...of course ed took the time to flirt with the fair maidens present, and there were quite a few.... And bestowed queenships

and land grants from many states... ah yes ed was a generous king...

Mrs ed got the same royal treatment for dinner and people smiled and some shook their head and ed just smiled and showed his id card...now why the mc would not let king ed address the gathering to thank them for a nice gift, I'll never know... but Ed , the king , did get the mc to acknowledge his appreciation...

I'll tell you man, it just amazed me how much attention and respect king Ed got... lots of folks seemed to kneaux his name...

The rest of the banquet was fairly tame and ed got out of his kingly garb after thanking everyone for coming, and shaking hands.... Then the kingly garb was put away and I was joel again... no respect, I tell you, none...

Yes we visited elm street on the way back to the campground... and the nightly thunder of me cranking up the camper rolled throughout the campground... after filling the brake fluid reservoir in the morning and folding down the camper, we ate and then tried a new route Mike wb8icn suggested....and yes we almost visited elm street again...

But I recognized something and reprogrammed the gps again...

A few hours down the road we stopped and got a bite to eat and came back to the camper to find a tire slit and about to blow and one side of the camper disconnected from the camper tiedowns...which led to a visit to a holiday inn where the desk guy helped me change the ballooning tire... with the 7 year old spare that had rust marks on it and was low on air.... We had an electric air pump so I put air in all the tires and we spent the night at the motel, kiss 150 by...but we were not on the george Washington bridge!!!

And the next day we by passed ny altogether and made such great time I just drove home....

Now the next day I went to get the tire fixed, they had no more like it, and it was a sneaux tire so they all had to be sneaux tires....and upon checking my brakes My mechanic decided to do it right for me.... So I left it with him... break work ... and the tires... well they all showed sighns of splitting... so add 5 new tires to the cost of the trip... yes even the spare was changed...at my request....

And I'll tell u the truth his time, I thought fdim 2000 was the best it could ever get... but fdim 2007 topped anything I had experienced.... It was different... someone else's reputation was going downhill., not mine....and my xyl was happy and we got to see the guinea pigs and the rabbit again....

Dang folks, I had meaux fun than I ever bargained for and I would like to thank all them what be responsible for all this, may god bless you...

Oh this was a ten day adventure 1200 miles away from home for a guy with agoraphobia problems, in the past... yes Martha, mais God interviened for sure.

God bless u all, and Ed... u really got the respect u deserved....

===== (Flying Pigs QRP Club International) =====

Field Day from Around the Pigs Compiled by Rob, W0JRM FP#-330

One of the downsides of a club our size is that it's nearly impossible for us all to gather together for Field Day. It'd be great if we could all gather at Caesar Creek for one big call-out-the-guard BBQ cook-off and drinking contest masqueraded as an emergency preparedness drill, but we can't.

So in lieu of all that (and the associated incriminating photographic



*The FPQRP MD/DC crew from Field Day.
l-r: Dave (WA3OFF), Jeff (K3OQ), The Bud Lite Girl, Joel (W3RFC, FP#-1339), Marc (K3NCO, FP#-1119) and Gene (W3ZZ, FP#-1703).*

evidence), we bring to you a compilation of Field Day 2007 reports sent to the pig list and to the BBQ.

Starting things off is a report on the MD/DC effort by the MD/DC chapter of the Flying Pigs by Jeff, K3OQ FP#-696:

Field Day means different things to different groups of hams. For some, it is an exercise in getting equipment together and setting it up like an emergency drill and operating. For others, it is a chance to get away from the cities and head to the country and put the gear together and play on the radio. For our little group in the Washington, DC Metro area...it's all about camaraderie and the food.

We got together in Joel's (W3RFC, FP#-1339) back yard with our rigs, batteries, wire and other assorted radio equipment. We had a special guest operator, Weber (GR1LL, FP#-GR696), who kept us happy with plenty of good food. Also attending this year was a visitor from California, Tom Beck...who just received his call on July 13th...who said Friday the 13th wasn't lucky. He is now KI6KWY. We would like to think that Field Day had something to do with it. He has had an introduction to the Flying Pigs, so I am sure he will have his number in a short while.



Dave (WA3OFF, FP#-1444) with the Devine Swine at the FP MD/DC outing

Also helping out this year was Marc (K3NCO, FP#-1119), who ran the CW station along with Dave (WA3OFF, FP#-1444). We experimented with a number of stations. They included the Elecraft KX-1, the ATS-3A, and a TenTec Argosy. Over on the Phone and VHF station we used an Icom-703 and an older Yaesu FT-726.

Assistance in setting up and cooking was provided by Joel (W3RFC, FP#-1339) and Gene (W3ZZ, FP#-1703).

We put out a much bigger effort on the radio than usual this year. Normally we are more concerning with what is coming off the Grill and out of the cooler. This year the propagation Gods were with us by closing the bands at meal time and suddenly re-opening them when dinner was over with.



GR1LL is cooking up a few Qs.

The breakdown that was submitted to the League is as follows using Flying Pigs QRP Club - MD/DC Chapter:

236 CW QSOs, 54 Phone QSOs, and 1 Digital QSO.

Claimed bonus points for the following:

Publicity by blogging it and posting to various QRP lists.

Copied W1AW Field Day message using PSK31.

Natural Power QSO..Thanks Marc for the Solar Panels.

100% Emergency Power for two stations.

Youth Participation. A couple of youngsters stopped by and we let them make a couple of phone QSOs.

Submission of information via the Web.

We are looking forward to next Field Day.

Brian, KB9BVN FP#-57 and Ivan, W9LIF FP#-1296 reported in as well:

Ivin W9LIF and I were holed up at Johnson County Park near Franklin Indiana, which is 20 minutes away from my home. We left my house loaded for Field Day at about 1PM. We got a late start because it was raining..and we were waiting for it to stop for a few minutes so we could drive to the park and get situated.



Brian, KB9BVN FP#-57 makes some Q's at Johnson County Park

I think the first official station in the logbook was N4TP from WCF at 19:11Z...so a little after 3PM local.

The sun came out and all was well. I was working 20m with my PAC-12 and the KX1 and managed to work both coasts and top to bottom of the US with about 4 watts...very nice, things were getting good. Ivin had his IC703, PAC-12 and G5RV, and we started working 80m with that at about 7PM. The QIN net came up at 8PM and we had to wait an HOUR to get our RADIOGRAM sent to the IN section manager.

By that time, the rain started again, and man it poured. So we stayed on 80m and had a great run going until we finally quit for the night somewhere near 1AM. I drove home and slept in my bed, Irvin slept in his tent at the campsite, enjoying the pitter patter of a thunderstorm. We were officially visited by Don West W9DEW and Andy Murrey N9AWM.

Murphy was ever present. We had intended to run PSK...I brought my laptop, Ivin had his rigblaster...I forgot the computer power supply and my laptop battery won't hold a charge. We had hot dogs, but we forgot the grill. We were going to take pictures, but forgot the camera. We had coffee, I forgot my cup...but that's OK...we were about out of fuel for the stove anyway.

Video tape of me trying to throw a rock with a rope tied to it would be priceless, and very embarrassing...Ivin tried to show me the "between the legs" rope throwing trick and almost broke his ankle when he hit himself in the ankle with a rock, what had a rope tied around it. Somehow we managed to get that G5RV almost 20 feet off the ground...it worked 80m very well for us.

It was raining still. Andy N9AWM saved out life at about 11:30PM on Saturday night, he brought us a grill and my laptop power supply....so we ate hot dogs in the pouring rain...and watched it lightning...while we worked 80m for all we were worth.

At 6:30AM I went back to camp and we worked a few more stations on 80m and 40m with the PAC-12 and the G5RV, dining on a fine selection of grilled smoked turkey sausage, and hot coffee...we called Diz, W8DIZ FP #-1 on the phone and tried to work him on 20m..but nothing doing.



Ivan, W9ILF FP#-1296 hoists the second-favorite drink of the Pigs

Diz checked WX radar for us and advised us that it would be raining for about 40 more days and 40 more nights...so we took the non-raining opportunity and packed up and pulled out at about 10:30 this morning. All in all we scored 790 points. Weeeee and had even more fun. We hope to be with the Flying Pigs next year.

It sounds like Brian and Ivan had a pig-worthy Field Day! Here's a report from Hank, N8XX who also appeared to have a few visits from Murphy...

I didn't check all the logs @ W8LRC, but KA5S and I operated 20 and 80 Meter Corn Whiskey, and never heard W8PIG, even though I looked very hard around the 80 meter QRP frequency in the wee hours of the morning.

If ya'll would check the W8PIG log for W8LRC, I'd sure appreciate it. We had a couple minor glitches - my itty bitty, intermittent duty 1200 watt generator decided it had enough about 5:30 a.m. and stopped. Fortunately, KA5S brought a 100 AH deep cycle battery and a pure sine wave inverter, so he hooked it up and powered the computer until I woke up and figured out what was wrong (actually I never figured out what was wrong, the thing just started up about 7 a.m.)

The 2nd was that, with the inverter (which also acts as a UPS when power is supplied to it instead of it supplying power, there was a critical mass of dangling wires, and the computer and rig started interfering with each other. The computer would start sending erratic

code, and/or the keyboard wouldn't work, or.... Taking the inverter out of the circuit fixed the problem.....

It sounds like ya'll did fine! I still remember operating with /rick and ya'll back in 2005, I do believe.

Sam, KA5OAI FP#-1373 also reported to the list. Here's how he did:

Due to some medical considerations this year I ran 1E from the house. Had a fun time even with the bands as they were. Here's the summary:

Ran K2 #2481
Power 4.5w

Antennas were both at 20'

A 12' tall bugcatcher on 40m
and a 17m hamstick on 15m

Operated 10.9 hrs
77 QSO's
69 q's on 40m
8 q's on 15m
40 sections worked
30 states worked

77x2x40x7=43120



Marc (K3NCO, FP#-1119) is hard at work trying to snag another contact at the FP MD/DC outing.

And finally, the reports from the "official" FP-QRP Field Day location. We start off with Matt, AA9YH FP#-4:

I stopped by Caesar Creek between 5 and 7pm Saturday. Only Phil W. was there---several people were gone to a wedding. He and I had a nice discussion about all manner of things, from portable butane ranges to extending antenna masts to planning for retirement. I had a blast.

The weather was so nice today. It's been trying to rain, but mostly unsuccessfully (knocks on wood...). It was just perfect.

Phil, WB8ABE FP #-61 also attended the Caesar Creek event. Here's his report, nearly worthy of an honorary induction into FP-Z:

I had a good field day at Caesar Creek SP here in Ohio. After a few hints from N8IE (FP#-6) I started dragging them in. I do not have the last count, but I bet I worked 8 X my previous best. My 2 meter J pole finished a week before FD performed better than hoped for.

The 6 meter quad went together with ease and could hear real well. I could not figure out why no one would come back to me until Dan pointed out that I was running 0.1 watt.

Later I was starting to close down the 6 & 2 meter station and Dan asked me why, and I said "listen to the thunder". Dan told me to turn around and watch the fireworks show, which we did for 20 minutes or so.

Good weekend. Dan got his son married off and did not miss much operating time. I enjoyed instruction from /rick and Dan.

/rick and I worked on improvements to the mast erection system. I have a bunch of work to do but it is the kind I enjoy.

I even got some hints on improving my home setup.

I think I will go back next year.

/rick, WB6JBM FP#-2 had his own special outlook on the "Official" FP Field Day. It's worthy of the closing comments.

Damn marines. Always erecting somethin!!!

I had my own share of misfortunes that day. I'd planned to operate 1E off of some AA batteries, but discovered they'd all been appropriated to the digital camera. My antenna fell apart at 12:30, and the needed repairs kept me off the air until 3:00. I still managed to make a reasonable amount of contacts for the limited time I spent on the air.

Like everyone else, I hope to attend the Caesar Creek outing in 2008. See you all there, I hope!

===== (Flying Pigs QRP Club International) =====

FPQRP at the Jackson Hamfest **By Ev, N5MZX FP#-1192**

The Flying Pigs presence was felt at the 2007 Capital City Hamfest in Jackson, Mississippi. This Hamfest is sponsored and put on by the Jackson Amateur Radio Club. The JARC has done a wonderful job and should be commended. Information about this years hamfest can be found at www.msham.org.

The Flying Pigs QRP Club had 3 tables full of information about the FLYING PIGS, QRP-ARCI, and FISTS. We also had information from Vibroplex, MFJ, Vectronics, Elecraft, Small Wonder Labs, Doug Hendricks, Ten Tec, and other QRP groups. We answered any and all questions on the Flying Pigs and QRP in general.

Our visitors came from Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. There were about 45 people attending the forum. I want to thank each and everyone for joining us. I welcomed everyone to the forum and introduced Jim Gimmanco who presented a general program on QRP and QRP operating. Then a question and answer session was held. We Then had a door prize drawing. There was a total of 11 prizes given away. Jim Giammanco donated numerous kits and Vibroplex donated a CODE-Might Key. With each information kit given to our attendees MFJ donated a coffee mug. One lucky winner was given a bag of Altoid tins.

I received lots of feedback. We are committed to 3 one our forums next year. I am going to give one on Basic Kit Building and am working on a kit to give out to each person. I am calling for two more presenters to offer programs. We have interest in a no host dinner and we will plan one. Please keep your calendar free for the Capital City Hamfest in 2008.

For any information contact me at n5mzxqrp@aol.com or by my Mailing address.

===== (Flying Pigs QRP Club International) =====

**Announcing the FPQRP IRC Channel
Compiled from posts to FPQRP-L by
Brian, KB9BVN FP#-57 and Sam, KA5OAI FP#-1373**

Thanks a million to the hard work of Sam Morgan KA5OAI, we now have a IRC (Internet Relay Chat) channel for the Flying Pigs. You need the Chatzilla plug in if you use Firefox, or some other IRC client if you don't.

Aim your client at: irc.freenode.net

Then: `/join #fpqrp`

Then: `/nick YOURCALLSIGNHERE`

That's all it takes. The channel is open 24 by 7 and would be a good place to meet and chase DX, or just line up QSO's.

This set of instructions is for anyone using Chatzilla. Chatzilla is a plug-in IRC client for Firefox.

1. Install Chatzilla
2. Launch Chatzilla by clicking on on it under TOOLS
3. Enter the command `/server irc.freenode.net` (You'll then see "Welcome to Freenode" Screens.)
4. Enter the command `/nick (your call)`

Ok..now you need to register your nick name.

1. Get a piece of paper and write down a seven character password.
2. Enter the command /msg nickserv register (your password)

This registers YOUR callsign to YOU. IF you try to register your callsign, and it says someone else has already registered it AFTER you attempt to register it, let me know.

1. Enter the command /join #fpqrp

And like magic you're there!

Now, you can automate your login...in Chatzilla, click the folder at the bottom that says freenode. Click on preferences, click on lists and you will see where you can add your commands so they execute everytime you login to freednode.

My script looks like this:

```
nick KB9BVN
msg nickserv identify <password>
join #fpqrp
```

So now when I login to irc.freenode.net it logs me to the pig room automatically. Let me know if you are confused. Sam helped me figure this out.

I would like to propose a weekly Sunday night chat from 8PM EDT to whenever...it could coincide with the FP Net on 40m at 9PM EDT and maybe we can gather there after the net as well to just setup QSO's.

If you are going to be a user there, please come to the channel and get your callsign registered.

There is now a How2 on the flying pigs web site for setting up ChatZilla check it out: <http://www.gentzow.com/fpqrp/fpqrpchat.asp>

Our #fpqrp channels features include the QRZ bot. The current command list for QRZ bot are as follows:

- # !help - Gives a list of QRZ's functions, tailored for each channel
- # !google - Returns first match found from Google.com
- # !stock -e - Gives stock information
- # !dow - Gives Dow Jones Industrial Average information
- # !nasdaq - Gives NASDAQ market information
- # !s&p - Gives Standadard & Poor's 500 information
- # !stats - Gives a webpage that contains statistics on channel activity
- # !logs - Gives a webpage with the daily logs of all chats in the channel
- # !urls - Gives a webpage with all the website addresses posted to the channel

!weather - Shows current weather conditions
!forecast - Shows a forecast of weather conditions
!seen - Tells you when a person was last seen
!tld <.ru .se .us and so on> - Returns the country of the TLD
!utc - Returns the current UTC time
!call - Returns callbook information
!call2 - This is an alternate callbook for !call (wm7d.net database)
!aprs - Returns latest info from aprsworld.net (or findu.com)
!morse - Converts text into morse code
!unmorse - Converts morse code back into english characters
!rigpix - Returns a radio picture URL from rigpix.com
!dx <# of listings> - Privately returns up to 25 DX spots from DX Summit
!qsignal - Gives you the meaning for the Q-signal
!q - Same as !qsignal
!phonetics - Returns up to 26 standard NATO/ARRL phonetics
!search - Search the ham glossary for terms to use with !info
!info - Gives definitions for terms in the ham glossary
!calcfreq - Returns the corresponding radio frequency
!calcwave - Returns the corresponding radio wavelength
!hamvention - Countdown to the next Dayton Hamvention

Brad has kindly placed that command list on <http://w8irc.com/grz/>
He has said there will be more commands added, so you might want to bookmark that page for future reference.

All of the above is compliments of Brad McConahay, N8QQ <http://n8qq.com/radio/>. His nick is bam, drop by #fpqrp and tell him how much we appreciate his efforts.

===== (Flying Pigs QRP Club International) =====

Hammin' in the Hills and Hollows **By Dennis, WB0WAO FP#-347**

Howdy Y'All! I hope that you enjoy my regular column about off-grid hamming and I hope that you will also enjoy this little tour of my shack (actually it is a cabinet in the cabin). It started life as a 40mm grenade ammo crate that I picked up years ago somewhere (yes Rob, it was empty when I got it!). Since space is at a major premium, that and a small shelf above the cabinet it the total extent of my radio area.

As you can see there are three main sections – keys, rigs and power.



Note the yellow and violet power pole connector

The bottom section currently houses a '50's vintage Vibroplex Champion and a '70's vintage Vibrokeyer.

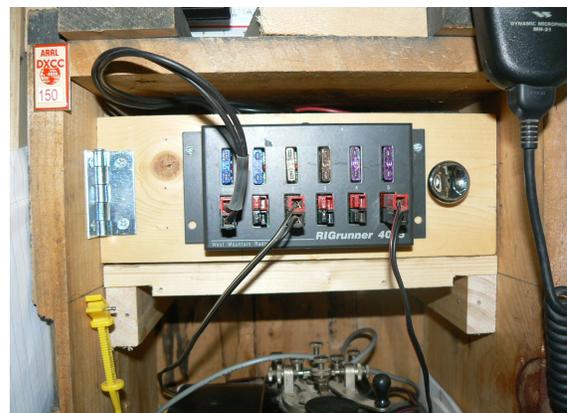
You may note the pair of Yellow/Violet power pole connectors between the Vibrokeyer and the bug. I have the Vibrokeyer hooked up to the K2 and I have a pair of wires running from the tip and ground connections on the Vibrokeyer to the bug. I have PF1 programmed in the K2 to bring up the INP menu so I can quickly and easily switch between the Vibrokeyer and the bug. By unplugging the cable at the power poles, I can then insert another type of "manual" key there without having to reach around back of the K2 and plug/unplug cables.



In the middle section, I have my K2 for use on CW and the Yaesu FT-817-ND for use on SSB and 6m. The J-38 key on top of the '817 is used for CW on 6m if the need arises. I have to use an Elecraft T1 autotuner with the '817 and I normally keep it on the small shelf above the cabinet. The K2 is "optimized" for low current usage (see this issues article for more details on this).



The top section holds a pair of 12v 12ah SLA batteries behind the door – and on the door is a West Mountain Radio 4005 Rig-Runner. Note the fuse pulled attached to the side of the cabinet with a nail – true Ozark engineering!



Well, that is my operating position and my "shack"! I hope that you enjoyed your tour.

(Ed. note – This will be the final installment of "Hammin' in the Hills and Hollows." Dennis unfortunately had to come back to civilization due to family concerns.)

===== (Flying Pigs QRP Club International) =====

FPQRP Net Checkins For the Months of July and August 2007

CHECK-INS SUNDAY JULY 1ST

HIGH Y'ALL THANK YOU, THANK YOU...GREAT
TURNOUT FOR THE NET TONITE... HOPE I DIDN'T
MISS ANYONE ... AND DID EVERYONE GET A
CHANCE TO CHECK IN?

KB9BVN... BRIAN.... NR 1 CHECK IN... GD FOR U
BRIAN...

K1EV.... THANKS... OO

KI4FW....THANK YOU

N2JNZ.... 599... OO

K4DSP, FIRST TIMER.... DOUGH IN NC...
THANKS... OO

K9UT... JERRY

AF4PS... MAC... HAD U LOGGED IN A FEW
TIMES... OO

KE1??? SRY I MISSED U...

WB8ICN... HIGH MIKEY... THANKS FOR THE QNI...
OO

KA8FTS... THANKS ROGER

K8DD... 599 FROM MI....

WA1FXT... HIGH STRANGER... NICE SIGNAL

W0JRM... AS IN ROB.... THANKS ... OO

KA8FTL... DID I MISS U?

AND KKkk?? BCR... ABOUT 8WPM, WHERE DID U
GO... HANG IN THERE WITH US...
WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP?//// JOEL

THAT'S AS I HAVE IT FOR JULY 1, 2007 SUNDAY
NITE 9PM PIGGIE NET... 7.044

CHECK-INS SUNDAY JULY 8

HIGH Y'ALL

YES I PROBABLY heard you... and someone asked
ncs a question.. dang that's scary... u know... i got to
copy u for sure then... pass the xenax please.... my
apologies for losing some of you.... at 13wpm it may
take me a while to get back to you and conditions
can change in a heart beat... and god bless u all for
putting up with ncs me/..... i got confused a few
times tonight... however it all worked out...
Brian...kb9bvn must have had some bad wx or other
difficulties so i took the net about 5 after nine
tonite... even got the other coast tonite...and my
home state, louisiana.. around bossier city and
minden.. who bee the other person what wanted
ncs about once a month... yea brother piggie u gonna
get it too..... hee hee here are the checkins, not
necessarily in order as i got a bit scattered tonite
with the questions and conditions... ah life at its
best...

WB8IBE.... NUMBER ONE CHECK IN

KB6NU.... THE UTTER COAST... YEA...

WA5TCZ... JUST LOVE THEM 5 CALLS...

KA8FTS... THANKS FOR QNI

KB5RBD... THANKS

W4BCR... BRUCE... OO

KB2ION.... I HEARD U YOUNG FELLA

N8IE.... HIGH, ALWAYS HAPPY TO HEAR U ON THE
NET. THANKS OO

W9NX... WOAHH... LOOKED WHO GOT IN HEAH....

K5APB.... NORTH OF HWY 90... HOWEVER,
LOUISIANA STILL

K1WVU... WHARE DID U GEAUX... U WAS 59

K4KO... YES AH HERD U... LOGGED U IN ALSO....

HOPE I DIDN'T MISS ANYONE

FP SUNDAY NITE NET
7PM EST 7.044 MHZ CW
KE1LA NCS
JULY 08 - 07

CHECK-INS SUNDAY JULY 15

--- NET CANCELED DUE TO RFTB SPRINT ---

CHECK-INS SUNDAY JULY 22

HIGH Y'ALL

well it was short and sweet tonight. one was 20/9...
most
everyone was 4 or 5 copy... thanks for qni guys... joel

CHECK IN
SUNDAY, JULY 22, 07
FP NET

K5APB

WA1FXT

KB3ILS

K4KO

N9NX

W9NX

KE1LA

THANK U, AND U TOO... WAS GOOD NET

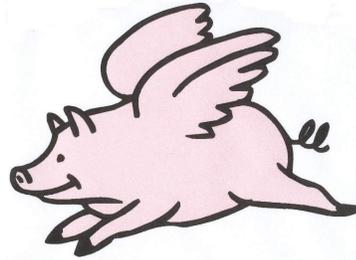
TONIGHT...JOEL

KE1LA JOEL...
NCS FP SUNDAY NITE NET
9PM EASTERN 7.044MHZ

CHECK-INS SUNDAY JULY 29

HIGH Y'ALL

YES MARTHA THAIR WAS A NET
TONITE...HEARD WA1FXT LOUD AND CLEAR
CEPT HE DIDN'T ANSWER ME....
SO TONITE'S PIGGIE NET HAD 0 CHECK INS....
SEE U ALL NEXT WEEK JOEL



===== (*Flying Pigs QRP Club International*)=====

Odds 'n' Ends

Per the request of Bob, AD7BP FP#-1022, I've included the following picture. He says "it just screams flying pigs." Well, I dunno what me riding a miniature brass elephant at the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha has to do with a bunch of guys who show up in sleeveless tee-shirts to shirt 'n' tie QRP banquets, but I'll do it anyway. Maybe its those lovely work boots I wore that day.

Also, if you're interested in VHF DX and live in the Kansas City area there's a new group to check out! [Jacque Dupuy, KBOVSL](#) has formed The Kansas City VHF Grid Bandits. When you join you get a nifty name badge, and a very nice membership certificate suitable for framing. Check 'em out!



===== (Flying Pigs QRP Club International)=====

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OUR MISSION:

- 1: Have Fun.
- 2: No rules.
- 3: Have a group of Friendly Hams who enjoy Amateur Radio, and sharing their skills with their fellow Hams.

CLUB EMAIL POLICY:

These are not rules, just common sense.

Club email is not moderated, as we are not a stuffy group. You can send off topic messages about most subjects, but please keep it clean and in good taste. We do like good-natured ribbing and joking with each other, but we will not tolerate flaming other members or spamming the group.

We will remove offenders who abuse our open policy. The word eBay is allowed.

CLUB WEB PAGE:

The club web page is our forum for sharing projects, and information about us. You are encouraged to submit your ideas and projects to be added to the web page.

<http://www.fpqr.com>

OUR MONTHLY CONTEST – RUN FOR THE BACON SPRINT:

This event is held on the 3rd Sunday Night (EST) of the month. For full details on how to participate, see the website address of: <http://www.fpqr.com/fpqrprun.html>

PROBLEM REPORTING:

If you are having problems with email, the web pages, or a fellow club member, please report this to either:

Diz, W8DIZ at w8diz@cinci.rr.com
Jim, W0EB at W0EB@cox.net
Rick, WB6JBM at ripowell@mpna.com
Dan, N8IE at n8ie@who.rr.com

We welcome all to join the Flying Pigs QRP Club, and we hope you have fun!