FPQR membership is open to all licensed QRP operators who reside within 12,000 nautical miles of Cincinnati, Ohio.

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``You never seen a ham operator before?``

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Ramblings

Welcome to February! Hope your winter is going well, and remember spring is not too far off.

Be sure to check out the contests going on this month, a lot of good QRP events are on hand for February.

72, oo,
Dan, N8IE Ø

FP NET

1/2

HIGH Y`ALL
Oh what a nite, folk from all ovah checking in tonite..was easy at first then some qrm sat down and it was xanax time, sure make things geaux easier.... u swine had some nice signals some got better and some went down after check in....oh..... Heard W5VAF BEFORE NET TIME... AN HONORARY CHECK IN TO U SIR... he was chomping the fat with another piggie before net time.... see ah listen sometimes.... anybody got some extra degrees to send up this way... it cold out side u heah...got steam coming out the outhouse up heah....
Oh got a keyer on the way for the ten tec corsair... so we can geaux from mw to 100w and maybe keep the net freq open...terrible thing to have to use brute force like that...
Oh Diz... wasn`t specting me to slow down was u???? hee hee u bees a good swine, u heah..

WED NITE NET.... WED JAN 02, O2.... 7.047.5 MHZ  9PM EASTERN  0100Z
W5VAF... HEARD 589 BEFORE NET TIME AND BAND CHANGE
W8DIZ... NICE SIGNAL DIZ
N1ODL... SOMETIMES AH COPY CALLS FUNNY SRY...:-)
KC8NYW... HOWDY AND C U NEXT WED.... TXN FOR QNI
W1QF..... THE MIGHTY 3 WATTS... S9 59 UP HEAH
VV9N... 58 AND NICE TO HAVE U CHECK IN AGAIN...
AF4PS.... OH MAC, ALWAYS A PLEASURE TO HAVE U CHECK IN .... TXN
N8IE... FROM OHIO, THOUGHT U WENT TO SLEEP FOR A WHILE....
NV4T... 5 W AND QSB GOT TO U, NICE AND LOUD AT CHECK IN...
K8PZ... R.I. MAN i HEARD UR CALL 7 DIFFERENT WAYS WITH THE QRM...SRI
AJ4AY... RELIABLE JAY... WE NEED MEAUX LIKE U...
N4VM... THAT`S A KEYER TWISTER... TO SEND... GLAD TO HAVE U CHECK IN ONITUDE
KC0BOM... WELL U BOOMED IN AND MOST HAPPY TO HAVE U... 72
KE1LA... JOEL, U REALLY GOTTA GET A SIGNAL,
MAYBE MAC WILL LOAN U AN ANT.

tHAT `S THE NET
KE1LA JOEL NCS IN MAINEN

1/3

Sorry piggies for not getting this out sooner...old age and not home long enough...bad excuse is better than none I guess...LOL

AF4PS  569
K8PZ  579
N8IE  589
WV9N  599
KB9BVN  449
NV4T  579
KC8NYW  559
W8IQB  599
N1ODL  599
AJ4AY  589
KC0BOM  599

Good net...sorry for the last minute freq change, but it looks like everyone found me anyway. Thanks you fine swine!!!

OO`s....Mikey

1/6

First of all thanks for a great turout, but also sri for a great qrm turnout too. I started by loosing Rick, the Mikey, then heard a 339kws under a 599 qrm wall, Also k1epj....Really sri guy`s there was an avalanche of noise over you here but the great southern piggies were getting gud copy... I had my normal static cling tonight:-)

WB6JBM Rick 579 at check-in then I just lost you to the noise.Txn for check in and really hope I`n`t get fired!!!:-) WB8ICN, Mikey 559 at check in and same thing...You and Rick got wiped out by a 1 lander..Man oh man two big bosses lost...My face is really red:-)TXN Mikey for checking in!! K1EPJ...Never came back , but I got really brainlocked abt that time and took too long!!! TXN for the check in!!

Totally lost a KWS...really sri
W9FFC Dan 449/529,qsb. Thanks Dan for the help. I should have had you relay but I`m too late now. My rookie-ness shined tonite!!:-)Agn tnx qni Dan..

NV4T Bill, 529/559 qsb. You southern piggies are in here good tonite!! Great copy and mni tnx for checking in Bill..
AF4PS Mac,559, and great sig . You musta had the afterburners on!!You drilled right thru the qrm. Tnx Mac and great to see you..

AJ4AY Jay559/579 qsb. Wow you really came up Jay. Very nice signal. The loudest I`ve caught you so far!! Mni tnx qni..

Agn guy`s sri for the lost stuff....maybe I`ll eventually get it..I dont know how the truffles take it!!!:-)

72/00 Rob, kc8nyw..
1/13

Mni tnx for this evenings check-ins. The noise as usual was loooouuud.
ww9n, Randy. 599 Great sig Randy and agn tnx for braving the monster AM stuff!! Rob.
n8mx, Andy. 569/579. Another nice signal despite condx, which are up and dwn, up there.Great to meet you and welcome to the noisy net:-)00, Rob

Hope I didn't miss anyone and to all, a great weekend. 72/00 Rob, kc8nyw..

1/14

hiGH y`all
It`s me ke1la Joel.... ah done a bad thing and ah is sry...
evidently Randy WV9N HAD STARTED THE FP net on 7.042 khz tonite... and when I didn`t copy any net control at four after nine I started the fp net on 7.047.5...
Randy said he had 3 checkins....
AF4PS.... NV4T.... KC8NYW ... AND HIS SELD WV9N

uNKNOWINGLY AH WAS up on 7.047.5 checking em in....wow two nets at the same time.... what an orginization.... :-)

Sunday Nite Net Jan 13, 02 ke1la ncs
CHECKINS
MOST HONORABLE CHECKIN WB8ICN, IN SPIRIT, BUT THAIR NUN THE LESS...
N8IE...
W8IQB...
NIODL...
W9ECJ...
KA3WEL.... 1st QNI.... A YAESU AT 5W TO DIPOLE UP 50FT... 599... RON IN PA... TNX..
AF4PS...
WV9N... NCS TO NCS...
AJ4AY...
KE1LA .... ME...
EVERYBODY WAS 58 TO 59 TONITE .... i WAS AT 50W...
IT SEEMS TO CHASE THE QRM AWAY... IF THIS BOTHERS ANYONE LET ME KNEAUX AND AH CAN DROP DOWN TO 5 WATTS... HOWEVER THE QRM IS GONNA INCREASE.....

KE1LA JOEL
IN MAINE
NCS FP NET

1/17

High y'all
hey u guys done good tonite...heard u'all well... oh I hear the shrink might be going to fdim... make ur free concillatation app. early... ssb was tough during first part of net then quietened down...evidently that ant works... and the batt on my keyer went kaput... so things got interesting at the end...old batteries... old man...equal trouble...

WED NITE NET JAN 17, 02 7.047.5 MHZ 9PM EASTERN
KE1LA NCS CW CHECK INS
W1QF... AT 1W AND 55P A GOOD S7
NV4T... THANKS AND NICE SIG
W8DIZ.... GUD LUCK WITH DENTIST
WV9N... AN'T QRP GREAT!
KD5XXF... MIKE IN TEX AT 5W... 589... WELCOME
WIFCC... HIGH... MY PWR WAS 50W UNTIL THE END OF THE NET WHEN I WAS AT 5 WATTS AND MY BATTERY GOING DEAD....

SO WENT THIS WED NITE NET... tune in next week for more exciting drama....

ke1la joel
in maine
ncs

1/22

Well folks, I stepped in for Mikey tonight. Seems he's having some kind of problem with bathrooms in California of something like that. Don't worry Mikey your XYL still thinks you have the body of a God, Budda! :-) Also happy birthday to you!!

Check in's for the great Sunday Night Net:
AF4PS, 569 here HERO.
WB8ICN, 579 Mikey and welcome back from the left coast.
W8DIZ. 559 Mr. WAS himself. Congrats!
KC8NYW, 589 Rob, I need WV (hint hint)!
KE1LA, 599 Joel you guys don't get paid enough for this NCI stuff.
NV4T, 559 thanks Bill and good signal tonight.
KC4URI, 559 through all the rain.
W8PIG, NCI.

Thanks all and see you next time.
72, oo
Dan, N8IE

1/24

High Y'all
Great net tonite.... signals a bit light but ok... with some 59 exceptions.... I had a great time... didn't need neaux xanax... and the qrm pretty much stayed at bay...

Wed Nite Net Wed, jan.23, 02 7.047.5 mhz 9pm EASTERN TIME
CHECK INS....
NV4T... NICE SIGNAL
WV9N... DAT BE RANDY, NICE SIGNAL
W1QF... TERRY IN MI.... THANKS
KN4LJH.... LOST U OR BOTCHED UP UR CALL ... SRY
JOEL
NC90... SKIP NEAR CHICAGO... 559 UP HEAR... THANKS
KE1LA ... NCS JOEL... IN STRONG MAINE (REAL PAIN)

SO IT BE TONITE KE1LA JOEL IN MAINE
First off thank you guys for fighting the ever present carriers and static. I'm always between a guy on 7137, and the commercial stuff on 7140. Too close for comfort:-)Which make copy a nightmare at times, and weak signal wrk a real job. So I'm agn very sri if I missed anyone! I had to turn the filters off so I could hear a wider path, but also got all the good stuff too!

WB0WAO, 599 Great sig Dennis, and nice to see you. Thanks for the check in and, I miss spelled your name once oops, sri Sir!!

AJ4AY, Jay 589, WOW, the band has shifted south a bit but very nice sig Jay, and great to see you. Man oh man yesterday was a loooong day so I was even less sharp than suall...imagine that!!Also thank you for the q, after the net. My ears were playing tricks on me. I thought i heard my call:-) NV4T, Bill 559/529. Had a lil fade on you Bill but good copy on the Beam. You were right on the carrier I'm plagued with here so I had to tune you very low to pick you out. You gotta love 40m!! Hope my hearing holds out a couple more years!! Mni tnx Sir for the check in and great to see you!!

OK guy's, agn I hope I didn't miss anyone. i had a caller below me 1.5, and one calling cq above me abt.5 so my brain kinda overloaded..But a fun overload!!

72, and 00 to all!!

De kc8nyw, Rob, #186..

Settled in on 7046 Khz as others were rather full. Had ten checkins and good copy on all.

W8IQB Lowell 599, guess it was your transmitter that was dying out near the end...weird, sounded like your keyer just decided to stop it's thing...smile

W9FCC Terry 599, If that new Hog brings us a bad winter, you might be the piggie that gets roasted at FDIM...LOL

AF4PS Mac 569, yea Mac, it is great to be home! From your WAS/DXCC standings, word has it you are in top running for Piggie of the Year!

KC8NYW Rob 599, you always have a super signal up here Rob!!!

N8IE Pantless Wonder 599, nice job Dan...and I bet you gave Mac a big head with your comments...hahaha

NV4T Bill 569, good copy here tonite Bill...the ether gods are getting nicer all the time...thanks for the checkin

AJ4AY Jay 579, can you lend me some of your states from your WAS/DXCC...you got plenty to spare...LOL

WV9N Randy 599+, FYBO will probably bring the worst winter storm we have ever had Randy!

W8DIZ Pappa Smurf 599 on the hogwire, Diz the FDIM pig roast sounds great! Bet you will make the Cheese gang from WI upset when they have a bunch of leftovers this year...grin

Thanks to all for a great net. Initial checkins sounded like a pile up, but got rather organized after that...thanks!!

OO's...Mikey

High y'all
What a nite! was as if someone was plotting 'gainst us... hey even relayed a message from Diz tonite... heck ah might start taking this seriously... (fat chance)

It was N1ODL I heard at the end... got him... he be checked in the net... my copyness wasn't at its best tonite...Thank all of you for the rst reports and pray... doc is starting to like all this hum bug even meaux...

Wed Nite jan 30 02 7.047.5 mhz cw 9PM eastern time
W1QF... TERRY, WITH UR USUAL GREAT SIGNAL.. AF4PS.... MAC FOUND HIS ANT GUYS/GALS... TKS MAC NV4T... WONDER IF i CAN MESS UP THE CALL SIGN ANY BETTER?

W8DIZ... WONDEROUS DIZ...HIS MESSAGE ... EAT PORK FRI NITE...

N4VM... THANKS FOR CHECKING IN.... WV9N... SRY RANDY AH SLAUGHTERED UR CALL SIGN ALSO...

K4FB... GOTTCHA AND THANKS FOR CHECKING IN N1ODL... STAY WITH US... WE IS SLOW BUT SHEAUX , SOMETIMES

KE1LA... JOEL U PICKED ONE NOISY SPOT TONITE....

KE1LA JOEL
IN MAINE
NCS WED NITE NET
FP Ω

Got WAS/DX?

Well as I write this, three of us do! Big congrats go to: Dennis, W5VAF. WAS-SSB on Jan-13 0215Z, and WAS-CW on Jan-21 1600Z

Diz, W8DIZ. WAS-CW on Jan-20 0102Z.

Mac, AF4PS DXCC-Mixed Mode on Jan-28 0618Z.

Way to go guys!

Don’t forget this runs through the whole year, there’s still plenty of time for YOU!

72, oo

Dan, N8IE Ω
### QRP Happenings in February

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<th>Details</th>
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<td>2/3</td>
<td>New Hampshire QSO Party: CW/Phone</td>
<td>Sponsoring ARRL of New Hampshire, 0000Z Feb 2 to 2400Z Feb 3. <a href="http://www.nhradio.org/nh-qso">More information</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>2/3</td>
<td>Minnesota QSO Party - CW/Phone</td>
<td>Co-sponsored by several groups, 1400-2359Z Feb 2. <a href="http://www.radist.net/mnqsorules.htm">More information</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/3</td>
<td>North American Sprint: Phone</td>
<td>Sponsored by the National Contest Journal, 0000Z-0400Z Feb 3. (CW is Feb 10.) <a href="http://www.ncjweb.com/">More information</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>2/3</td>
<td>FYBO (Freeze Your B---- Off) Winter QRP Field Day</td>
<td>CW, sponsored by the AZ ScQRPions 1400Z Feb 2-0200Z Feb 3. <a href="http://www.extremezone.com/~nk7m">More information</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>2/10</td>
<td>QRP ARCI Winter Fireside SSB Sprint</td>
<td>Sponsored by the QRP ARCI, 2000-2400Z Feb 10. See Dec QST, p 98, for QRP ARCI information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/24</td>
<td>CQC Winter QSO Party</td>
<td>CW/Phone, sponsored by the Colorado QRP Club, 2200Z Feb 24 to 0359Z Feb 25. <a href="http://www.mtechnologies.com/cqc/">More information</a></td>
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### Special Events for February

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<td>Round Rock, TX:</td>
<td>Cen-Tex Contest Group, WA5DTK. 0001Z <a href="#">Feb 23</a> to 2359Z <a href="#">Mar 6</a>. Commemorating the siege days at the Alamo. 28.465 21.265 14.265 7.265. QSL. Barry Brewer, WA5DTK, 603 Broken Bow Dr, Round Rock, TX 78681-7401. For more information, e-mail <a href="mailto:jbrewer@constant.com">jbrewer@constant.com</a>.</td>
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OPERATING ON EMERGENCY POWER

By Scott Laughlin

I've struggled to simplify my station, to make it as self-reliant as possible. And in so doing it has become solar powered, totally divorced from the commercial power grid. Why? Because amateur radio is more than a hobby. An amateur radio station should be available as a public service, functioning after all other forms of communications have failed.

My station had only been in operation for a year when I read an editorial in QST by David Sumner, K1ZZ-- "Whither Short wave Broadcasting?". Sumner explains how the world has come to rely on the Internet, so much so that in July 2001 the BBC curtailed all its broadcasting aimed at North America. Now one must intercept BBC transmissions aimed at Australia. Or one can receive it on cable, satellite, and the [PRI] Internet.

I took heed of Sumner’s warning that HF is a valuable communications tool and I was still considering his words on the morning of 11 September 2001- the day of the [aerial attack]. My car was loaded for a trip to Williams AZ where the following day I was scheduled to assist with the operation of a special events station celebrating "Route 66 on the Air," marking 75 years of the Mother Road. After hearing of the disasters in the northeast, I scrubbed my Williams’ plans and tuned my 20m rig to the frequency designated for the Salvation Army International Emergency Net. The frequency was as busy as a quilting Bee and I had to wait for the Big Guns to fall silent, before I could check into the Chicago NCB with my 9 watts. I could almost hear his gasp, his skepticism of what I might hope to accomplish in a situation such as was occurring that morning. I let him have his suspicions, but stood my ground and listened.

Emergency and priority traffic was handled on the net frequency. Those hams bearing Health & Welfare messages, however, were directed to a Salvation Army web site where they were to enter their message and they would reach their destinations via the Internet. It was not long before it was reported the web site had come to a halt from over activity. One South American station complained that six of his messages were lost somewhere in the system. And his words brought back to mind Sumner’s editorial and his kind words for HF: "...Unlike any other means of reaching a distant audience, there is no ‘gatekeeper’. " The friendly administration that allows your program to be aired on a local FM station today may be gone tomorrow." The loss of these messages was not the result of a gatekeeper, but rather too much reliance on something everyone wishes would run itself. [Be careful of Trojan Horses?]

Drawing on my experience with Army MARS, I kept my opinions to myself, monitored the activity and kept notes. If I were called upon I certainly wanted to be prepared. The likelihood a Qrp station would be called to pass traffic is really quite remote. But no one had a clue as to what would happen next. More airplanes might arrive. Truck bombs might ready be in place. Given the miles of unguarded transmission lines, a power failure might occur. If a massive power grid outage occurred my solar powered station would not be effected. I would still be operating after the last generator ran out of fuel.

The two days wore on and the need for the net ceased to exist. My solar powered station had not saved the world. Perhaps it never will. But our future seems to change with each passing day. There could be another need for Ham Coms in the future. If there is, I hope I'm ready to do my part, however small it may be.

N7NET-qrp

scottnbarb@pocketmail.com Ω

Special FP SSB Net

Well piggies it is one for the history books. The official fp ssb net was tonight and we had a lot of checkins. However the frequency was a different story. Next we will meet on 20 meters and I will advise as to the frequency and time. We had 12 checkins this evening.

WB6JBM RICK 58
WV9N RANDY 57
N8IE DAN 57
W8PIG DAN 57
NV4M BREN 58
K4TJB TOM 57
W8DIZ DIZ 58
NV4T BILL 57
WB0WAO DENNIS 55
WB8ICS MIKE 59
W9WIS MIKE 57
W5VAF DENNIS 59 PLUS 40

Although the qrm was horrible we made it official. Thanks to all that checked in and to all that we may have missed. Hope next week on 20 will be better. 72’s to all and happy dxing.

DENNIS W5VAF Ω
This month were spotlighting:

AK7D--Fred Merkel--FPQRP #180

First licensed in 1962 as WN6BEV, in Los Angeles CA and running a Knightkit T-60 with a stack of surplus FT-243 xtals and a Drake 2B receiver (still have everything, tho I sold the original 2B and got another later on. A long story.). I went the whole route: Novice-Tech-General-Advanced-Extra, with calls WB6BEV, W7UKP, N6PZ, AE0B, and now AK7D. (N6PZ and AE0B have since been reissued.) I had a 90w Heathkit CW-SSB rig for a while, but sold that one (model escapes me); and also built kit, and still have, a Matric CW xtal rig, 15w on 160-80-40. The old xtal all seem to work OK, even though most of them were either ground with kitchen cleanser to raise frequency or marked with lead pencil to lower it. I'd picked up lots of cheap surplus xtal at J.J. Glass in LA, but most were duplicates for just a few frequencies.

During my early days as a General I was also on a lot from club station W6EDL (since reissued) at White Memorial Hospital, a teaching hospital of Loma Linda University Medical School. I lived a block away and had my own key to the shack and since the other members were interns and the like and had little time to use the club station, I was able to use it about any time I wanted to, day or night. They had a Johnson rig (KW) and 75A4; and a tribander on top of the 8-story hospital building in E LA.

I went QRP in 1972, first with the Ten Tec PM2B (80-40-20) and then with Argonaut. I also built a little QRP rig from a kit by W6HVR running 465 mw. Made a few contacts with it but using the Argonaut was a lot easier and convenient so I set QRP aside for years. QRO also was set aside, for the same reason. I still have the PM2B, W6HVR rig., and the Argonaut. Then in November of 2001 I had the opportunity to buy a K2 that a local ham was selling. After all those years with the Argonaut (2 watts output) I now had 5 watts out. High power! I'd worked some DX with the Argonaut but since getting the Argonaut (2 watts output) I now had 5 watts out. High power! I'd worked some DX with the Argonaut but since getting the current K2 I've really scored. A partial list, all since Nov 2001: (all 5w unless noted)

XQ1ZW RK4FF RV0CD V51AS HC5A1 PZ5RA XE3ARV CT1BWW PY2MT N7ET/DU7 CX4GL (my pwr was 500mw) EA4FL/p HP1AC (Panama--good write-up on him in QRP Quarterly) VK3EWN OQ6HV ON6KD F8BXS J6/G3TBK S55A SC8N P12/KGT HL4HLD HL5XF G3AAY ZK2MO U9DF F6AUS/H9 BD5WW KE7X/BY5 ES1WN T15/N0KE LW9EUJ LW8EOC LU6UO LU7/DW JA6PA (on 15 and 10--he runs a K2 now and hangs out a lot up on 28,060) FO0SEV PY2DX NH7/N6HC 3D2AG/p and numerous JAs and Russian UA0s. I also have a Tuna Tin 2 from NJQRP, which surprised me by working first try after I built it. I delayed running it on air (the convenience factor again) but finally did put it in operation after working numerous others with TT2s. First QSO was with AK7Y in Alpine AZ, who was QRP; followed by W0EOZ in ND; and WAT7QK in St. Marys ID, for first 2xTT2. With the K2 I've worked QRP a little also: VE7ZBK in McLeod BC, north of Prince George, his 2 watts to my 400mw; and N0TU in Monument CO for first 2xQRP. I'd worked him before, with him running 500mw and me at 5w, so when I heard him on again I got frisky and cranked the K2 clear down to 100mw and called him, and we had a nice 15-minute QSO. He was 599 and I was 549. So that's my story. If there's a pileup I don't fight it, just mark down the frequency and come back later on. Sometimes the crowd will have thinned out. Sometimes I can slip in during a lull in the pileup QRM. This used to work pretty good when I was in MO back in 78-79, but doesn't seem to be as effective nowadays.

I have yet to call CQ with the K2, and seldom did with the Argonaut over the years. I do call CQ with the TT2, mainly because it's hard to come back right on the other ham's frequency using xtal. But sometimes I'll zero my xtal on the 2B and then just sit there and wait for someone else to call CQ on that freq. The W6HVR xmr is working and I'll get it on the air eventually.

I call a lot of stations, and if there is no pileup yet I'll call even those whose sigs are pretty weak. An S8 or S9 station can usually hear me, barring other stations calling also. That doesn't mean he will hear me though. My hat's off to the many DX stations who've hung in and finally copied my QRP signal when I really had no business calling them in the first place! Almost forget--antennas. Over the years I've had some of the most decrepit antennas known to hamdom. My best antenna was an inverted L about 135 feet long up into a fir tree and pointed to Puget Sound. 5 miles west. That was when I was living up north of Seattle WA. I say the best, but it could have just been good propagation conditions during that time (80s).

Current antenna was originally a 40 meter folded dipole made from and fed with 450 ohm ladder line, and later remodeled to 80 and 40 meter regular dipoles in parallel by opening ends of the folded dipole and adding additional zip wire to one of the ladder line wires. It's broadside E-W and center is at about 35 feet with ends at about 15 feet on north and 10 feet on south.

My lot is 60x100 and the south end of this antenna folds downhill through the hawthorn tree it's anchored to. I ran out of ladder line on the feed line so the last 5-foot or so is 300 ohm ladder line. Seems to work OK. I never concerned myself with SWR before, but my K2 has automatic antenna tuner in it and it gives me good SWR on all bands, with 1.3 to 1 on 160 and 80 being highest SWR.

I heard Diz, W8DIZ on 14 Jan, in early evening, in QSO with W4NSN. Gave him a call (at 5w) but he didn't hear me. I'll try to check in the FPQRP net sometime.

72 oo, Fred -- AK7D -- FPQRP #180

PS--I have 5 different QSL cards available now (I'm a retired printer and print my own). Plus a mini-QSL (biz card size) that I only send for 2xQRP. --fm Ω
Well, that was exciting and educational. In my first attempt at being the truffle awhile back I failed to post an announcement and things were quiet and relaxed. This time, however, I did announce the frequency and have gained a greater appreciation for the foxii. I wish I had 2 hours to try to work everybody. There were so many signals that it was overwhelming and difficult for me to pick one out at times. I have one more chance in February and hope that I learned at least a little tonight to take to that hunt. Many thanks to all who tried and bless you for your patience.

Now the list, ready for any corrections

0130 2 JAN 02 TRUFFLE LOG
0131 K4GT 559 GA JIM 5W
0132 KC8NYW 5NN OH ROB 5W
0133 W8DIZ 579 OH DIZ 5W
0134 W5YR 559 TX GEORGE 5W
0135 W0CH 579 MO DAVE 900MW
0137 N8VAR 55N OH RON 5W
0140 KD5KXF 55N TX MIKE 5W
0142 WA8BXN 559 OH MIKE 5W
0144 W9HL 559 IL RANDY 5W
0145 W0IS 5NN MN DICK 5W
0146 K8KFY 5NN FL GARY 5W
0149 W3SMK 5NN NJ STEVE 5W
0150 KG4LDY 55N VA JIM 5W
0151 K4FB 55N FL PAUL 5W
0152 AC5JH 55N OK TOM 5W
0154 K4ADI 55N SC FRANK 5W
0156 K1KID 56N MA CARL 5W
0157 K5JHP 55N TX BILL 5W
0159 AF4PS 55N FL MAC 5W
0200 AJ4AY 55N AL JAY 5W
0200 WV9N

72 ES TXN FOR GRT TURNDOUT DE WV9N-RANDY

1/9

Log by Blammo (if you never watched Ren and Stimpy then nevermind...)
0133 W5YR
0134 W8DIZ
0134 WA8BXN
0136 N1TP
0137 AC5JS
0139 W5USJ
0140 AJ4AY
0142 K4GT
0143 WV9N
0144 K5JHP
0147 K4BYF
0148 WR50
0149 WA8WV
0151 K4TJD
0152 WE9K
0153 AA50
0154 KC8NYW

0155 W0CH
0158 N8IE
0200 K8MIA

the end

1/11

Thanks to all everyone who gave it a shot tonight. It seems that every time I pick a frequency that *seems* fairly clear of SSB, it pops up with 10 or 15 minutes left. I could hear callers, and could make out parts of a call, and nobody would come back to the ?.

Anyway, here's the log of the SSB dodgers from 1/9/02:
0131 7044 W5YR 559 TX GEORGE 5W
0132 7044 N1TP 559 FL TOM 5W
0133 7044 AC5JS 559 OK TOM 5W
0135 7044 K5JHP 559 TX BILL 5W
0136 7044 AA50 559 LA VERN 5W
0137 7044 AJ4AY 559 AL JAY 5W
0139 7044 WA8WV 559 WV DAVE 5W
0142 7044 KOEVZ 579 ND DOC 5W
0143 7044 AF4PS 559 FL MAC 3W
0144 7044 K8CV 559 MI WALT 5W
0147 7044 K4GT 559 GA JIM 5W
0149 7044 W5USJ 559 TX CHUCK 5W
0154 7044 KA0EC 559 MN GENE 5W
0156 7044 WB6BWZ 559 GA MATT 5W
0157 7044 WE9K 559 WI GLENN 5W
0159 7044 N8IE 559 OH DAN 5W
0200 7044 WR5O 559 TX DAVE 5W - The Truffle

Made it 16 this time around, which is a personal best.
It looks like 11 new states for the Flying Pig QRP WAS Challenge. There were a lot of new calls to me this time around, and I hope you keep coming back. I need the practice :-).

Thanks again for the call and I hope you caught Fred (who should have been that loud last Thursday night)!
Preview of coming attractions: Thursday’s Truffle is scheduled to be Daryl K8FP.

72/73 es oo,
Dave Winfield, WR5O

1/16

Here’s the results of the Truffle Hunt for 1/16/02. Thanks to all who gave it a go. My first time as a truffle!! Very interesting !! Working Dan`s new 570 at 5 watts to a G5RV. Thanks to all for bearing with me.

Daryl K8FP
0130 w5yr 559 tx george 5w
0132 w8diz 559 oh diz 5w
0133 k8cv 559 mi walt 5w
0134 k4gt 559 ga jim 5w
0135 n9ne 569 wi toby 5w
0137 w4bqp 579 nc jimbob 5w
0138 k5jhp 559 tx bill 5w
Hounds,

Tonight was a most humbling experience. On my first outing last year, conditions were good but there weren't that many hounds. Tonight, there was a loud roar above me and picking out calls was tough. My hat is off to those of you that can do it for 2 hours. I'm a nervous wreck after 30 minutes.

Thanks to all for your patience. My apologies to Randy, W9HL. I got some kind of mind block on his call and could not get the L out. I finally had to laugh, say thanks and go on. I hope I got the rest right.

I did not get an opportunity to drop to my calling frequency for those of you without RIT. It was not intentional but I honestly did not think about it. I WILL make a concerted effort next month when I am the truffle to not ignore you.

Hunt results are 26 truffels with 15 SPC's.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call Sign</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N9NE</td>
<td>WI</td>
<td>Todd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AF4PS</td>
<td>FL</td>
<td>Mac</td>
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<tr>
<td>K0EVZ</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>Doc</td>
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<tr>
<td>K4GT</td>
<td>GA</td>
<td>Jim</td>
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<tr>
<td>W0IS</td>
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<tr>
<td>WA8BXN</td>
<td>OH</td>
<td>Mike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K4BYF</td>
<td>FL</td>
<td>Jack</td>
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<td>VA</td>
<td>Jim</td>
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<tr>
<td>WV9N</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>W5YR</td>
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<td>George</td>
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<td>K8CV</td>
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<td>Walt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AA50</td>
<td>LA</td>
<td>Vern</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above is how I copied the mail. No corrections will be made :)
Thanks - nice solid pile the whole time. Sorry I missed a ton of you! (Especially WR5O, DAVE!!!) Thanks for the faux WY Mike! Send corrections for my log, but Diz doesn't want to hear about it! oo

Truffle Log 01-25-02 AF4PS
01 0130 W8DIZ 559 OH Diz 5w
02 0131 AJ4AY 559 AL Jay 2w
03 0132 KG4T 559 GA Jim 5w
04 0133 N1TP 559 FL Tom 5w
05 0134 W5YR 559 TX George 5w
06 0134 K4BYF 559 FL Jack 5w
07 0135 AA5O 559 LA Vern 5w
08 0136 K4FB 559 FL Paul 5w
09 0137 N9NE 579 WI Todd 5w
10 0138 K8KFJ 559 TX Gary 5w
11 0138 N3BJ 559 WI Todd 5w
12 0141 W5TB 559 TX Doc 5w
13 0142 K8CV 559 MI Walt 5w
14 0143 K5DW 559 TX DON 5W
15 0144 KD5W 559 TX Dan 5w
16 0145 W9HL 559 IL Randy 5w
17 0146 K0EVZ 559 ND Doc 5w
18 0147 KK5NA 559 TX Joe 5w
19 0148 WV9N 559 OH Randy 5w
20 0149 N5ZE 559 TX Lew 5w
21 0150 K4JKL 559 FL Lisp 5w - Paul!
22 0152 N5JH 559 OK Tom 5w
23 0155 KD5XK 559 TX(WX) Mike 5w
24 0154 K8MIA 559 WV Jim 5w
25 0155 KG4LDY 559 VA Jim 5w
26 0156 WE9K 559 WI Glenn 5w
27 0157 WB6BWZ 599 GA Matt 5w
28 0158 WSU5U 559 TX Chuck 5w
29 0200 VE5RC 559 SK Bruce 5w

-- 0000 AF4PS 599 FL Mac 5w

-MAC-
AF4PS, Odessa, FL
FP-51

1/30

Thanks for bearing with me tonight. The local SSB QRM ranged from nil to S7 and copy was difficult much of the time.

First, it has been my pleasure to be the truffle three time this season. I hope that you have had as much fun as I have. Thank you for your patience, your effort, your time, and most of all, for being there. QRP'ers are the best.

I did drop down to my transmit frequency a couple of times tonight but heard no one calling.

The report follows:
0132 K5DW 559 TX DON 5w
0133 K4BYF 559 FL JACK 5w
0134 AF4PS 599 FL MAC 2w
0135 K8MIA 559 WV JIM 5W
0136 K4FB 599 FL PAUL 5W
0137 W5YR 559 TX GEORGE 5W
0139 K8KFJ 559 WV GARY 5W
0140 N3BJ 559 VA ALAN 5W
0141 K4GT 559 GA JIM 5W
0142 AD4IH 559 FL JOE 5W
0144 AC5JH 559 OK TOM 5W
0145 W2XN 559 FL FRED 5W
0147 N5UW 559 OK CLIF 5W
0148 W5USJ 559 TX CHUCK 5W
0149 W8DIZ 559 OH DIZ 5W
0150 WV9N 559 OH RANDY 5W
0151 N9NE 559 WI TODD 5W
0153 N5JW 559 TX DAVE 5W
0154 WB6BWZ 589 GA MATT 5W
0157 W4BQP 559 NC JIM 5W
0159 K0EVZ 559 ND DOC 3W
0200 N8IE 559 OH DAVE 5W

Please send any corrections direct to me. I'll post the final report on Thursday.

72 and OO ya'll!
Jay, AJ4AY
Mobile, AL

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VOICE OF QRP
By Arnold CW Timm

No matter where we live there are countless bounties to be gained by becoming more selfless hams. A longing to recapture simple circuits of the past, when hamming and homemade equipment seemed united – resumes during day dreams. Those day dreams are a recurrent form of Common Ham protest, that can help us to combat deadening effects of 200 watts and computer operations. Personal communications requires such reverberations?

Qrp acts to reorder priorities. A goodly portion of past knowledge can help design future low power/income goals. Hints & Kinks from before may release projects within ourselves we never knew we had. Without a heritage or a future, we all in danger of living only for today. [Plus and minus our ability to purchase handbooks or magazines?]

We let materialism rule our lives and thereby lose our sense of wonder. Qrp cultivates the inner resources our forefathers felt. How a Flying Pig makes use of his free time tells much. The budget, cash on hand, or family obligations are inescapable. There is endless maintenance both of basic gear and low income. There is such a valid variety, that Qrp is never so much of a problem with which to cope. [Unless we trip over our coax while hanging the dipole? Hi]

Without the bells and whistles, there comes a time to imagine and to contemplate about low power ops. To amble up the hill and speculate about the delta loop, or relax and think of ways to make amateur radio personally entertaining again. The elements that renew a Flying Pig's gusto are herein defined. [Of course, you'll have to read between the lines. Hi]
On the way back from the shack to the bus, pause and ponder. Comparing Qrp CW with voice renders one able to notice that "Anybody can push to talk"! Qrp CW enables a poor ham to communicate on a somewhat equal limit. Depending upon his Morse code consistency, favorable field day imagery prevails. [That looking glass we use to magnify our imaginations? Hi]

With this springtime feeling forming fevered renewal and certain clairvoyance, Qrp does more than whisper. If we listen close to the sound: near to the tempo, we can soon find lost landmarks. When we utter straight-keyed consonance, our intimate bond with Qrp brings us back to our first rig or license. To some, Qrp causes the circle of life to meet in the middle of the road.

KA0TPZ
wdx0awt@juno.com Ω

Flying Pigs Makes Huge Splash at Hoosier Hills 40th Annual Hamfest

By Brian, KB9BVN

In October of 2001, the Hoosier Hills Radio Club enjoyed their 40th annual hamfest, in beautiful Bedford Indiana. If you’ve ever heard of “Bedford Limestone”, this is is where it’s from.

Having impeccable taste, the hamfest committee extended an invitation to the Flying Pigs if they would be willing to put on a QRP Forum. This year was the second year for the Flying Pigs QRP Club International to host this forum and as usual, once the word was out, hams flocked from the four corners of the hamfest to join in on the fun.

Flying Pigs Diz (W8DIZ), Randy (WV9N), Dan (N8IE), Kent (KB9VZS), Brian (KB9BVN), Daryl (K8FP), and one I can’t remember…wearing long sleeve FP sweatshirt…I’m sorry but my memory is gone.

On a fundraising note, once again Diz had a “Pet the Hairy Belly for a Buck” booth open. Once again we had no takers. See below for the sad but ugly details. That’s Randy walking away, he’s trying to find someone that could break a $20. Randy is sick like that.

Ok that’s about it from Bedford for 2001. Come and join us for more QRP fun, always done Flying Pig style. Never a dull moment. Oh yeah, we worked Randy’s K1 all night and had great DX and lots of chili and hotdogs….but no spandex.

72 es OO de KB9BVN/QRP Ω

I think we had about 25 people in the forum, a good time was had by all and a BIG HUGE thanks goes out to QRP-ARCI for once again supplying us with most excellent door prizes. I think we got about 10 new members.
SPACE RACE RADIO
By Arnold CW Timm

A small remaining part of combined irrational theories (and superficial cover up) has manifested itself upon the Flying Pig community. A certain governmental agency or industry has made Swiss cheese out of the "window" to outer space. Its prime directive (military & manufacturing) may have caused a great void where earlier, fragile tropospheric "zones" filtered less formidable rays.

Blame for this bureau has been imagined. The byproduct however, of such wanton destruction will implicate all of mankind. In our rush to reap rewards (monetary gain) - we annihilated the Buffalo, passenger pigeon, and dodo bird; and now the very "sunscreen" we depend upon the world over.

Many say that the solar winds and sunspot cycles create much of this absorption effect. While the sun's corona hole halts some short wave broadcasting about earth, we increase power and bore more underbelly layers. With super satellites whizzing through the "ether" space dust alone, could change propagation. [Least we like to imagine something to this affect? One would rather point fingers rather than provide a solution I suppose?]

Low power Morse code contacts suffer severe setbacks because of these super powers. Within our own leftover (limited) laudatory, commercial equipment occupy exclusive frequency allotments. License class compete for maximum useable frequency and impair the influence of Qrp. A meaningful mode that allows each "amateur" a wholesome outlet. [Perhaps in some simple circuit circles we hope?]

The infinity of the ionosphere is further obstructed by contest 'pileups'. An impression is cast against hydrogen gases by HF activity of such magnitude? The elasticity in gaseous elements are 'fissured' like ice at a hockey game. This concavity is a poor reflection surface then so disfigured? But we now have the space station up disturbing strata formations as well? [Questionable? What is actually causing these current sour notes then?]

Soda pop carbonation (fizz) has been found to leach bone and kidneys. Smoking and drinking are already acknowledged for their human body depredations. Our overall ignorance of important longevity obviously carries over in our faculty for perceiving sustenance symmetry. [We are what we eat, swallow, or manipulate?]

In our low power proportions, we could consider cause and effect forever. In spite of sky wave 'shingles', constant sunspot burn, and human 'hireling', HF Qrp CW continues as an art form they cannot alter or malign in utility.

KA0TPZ
wdx0jwt@juno.com Ω

About the Flying Pigs QRP Club

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 spaming the group. We will remove offenders who abuse our open policy.

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.

PROBLEM REPORTING:
If you are having problems with email, the web page, or a fellow club member, please report this to either:
Diz, W8DIZ at w8diz@cinci.rr.com
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! Ω