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

CONTACTS:
- Diz, W8DIZ  w8diz@cinci.rr.com
- Rick, WB6JBM  ripowell@mpna.com
- Dan, N8IE  n8ie@who.rr.com
- Brian, KB9BVN  kb9bvn@arrl.net

NETS:
- DAY  TIME  FREQ  NCI
  - Sun  0100Z  7.137  KC8NYW
  - Mon  0100Z  7.044  WB8ICN
  - Thurs  0100Z  7.044  KE1LA

Club Freqs:
- 1,814 kHz  3,564 kHz
- 7,044 kHz  10,110 kHz
- 14,062 kHz  18,100 kHz
- 21,064 kHz  24,910 kHz
- 28,064 kHz

ALL FPqrp frequencies are UP 4 kHz from the standard qrp frequencies except for 20 meters.

Flying Piggie of the Month – WAYNE es SEQUOIA

Wayne, like all REAL men, worships the Green Bay Packers

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Well gang, one month closer to FDIM in May. I don’t know about you but I am ready for winter to come to and end. This month we have a light issue, I haven’t been getting the articles we need from YOU the Flying Pigs. You can be famous just by contributing something of radio related interest to the Bacon Bits. Did you have a great QSO this month, or work under different circumstances, or ugly build something for the shack…if so we would love to hear and see about it. The Flying Pigs QRP Club International has a fabulous website at http://www.fpqr.com, don’t over look this great QRP resource!

DE KB9BVN – Brian Murrey

**Ramblings**

Well, by now you're wondering how to get around all this loss, and there are a couple of easy ways to do this. One way is to put multiple dipoles, one for each band of interest on one common coax feed line. But The one that I like to use, and the one that I think is easiest is to just install 450 ohm ladder line between the antenna and the tuner. This stuff is very low loss even when there is a very high swr on it – nuf said. And I'll show you what I mean. Remember the 75 meter dipole with coax feed line and it's 77% efficiency? Well, just by switching to the 450 ohm ladder line, the efficiency jumps to 82%, now the feed line will show a whopping swr of 50 to 1 but you tune out that reactance with the tuner so that your rig will still see a .50 ohm match. OK, now switch to 40 meters, and the same antenna that shows 11% efficiency with coax, jumps to a very respectable 94% just by using the ladder line! And the efficiency stays around 94 to 95% all the way to 10 meters too! ladder line is cheap to buy folks, so it's one way to work multi band and still not spend a fortune doing so! And you get a very neat bonus in doing so - MORE POWER OUT!

DE KB9BVN – Brian Murrey

**Squeezing Every Milliwatt – KC8AON**

I just told you how to get on HF inexpensiveley, now I'm going to tell you a few inexpensive ways to squeeze every bit of power possible out of your system and put in where it belongs - into the wild blue yonder!

And the easiest and cheapest way that I know to do this is to eliminate as much loss as possible from your antenna system and therefore boosting it's efficiency. OK, I know what you're thinking, you're thinking "if I can get my swr down to a 1 to 1, my antenna is doing all it can". Well, are you sure? Don't get me wrong, a low swr "is" what you want your rig looking into but is not the only way to guarantee that as much of your power is getting to your antenna as possible. Remember, a 50 ohm dummy load has a low swr anywhere you stop your dial but it sure doesn't radiate much power into the atmosphere! To show you what I mean, lets say you put up a dipole for 75 meters, you trim it till you get a 1.1 match at 3.972 Mhz and you hang it about 35 feet high.

Well, that dipole is a good antenna and in fact is one that I would recommend if you only want to work one band, but it's not the best you can do. A dipole is only about 77% efficient, and that's only at it's design frequency. If you stray from 3.972 Mhz down to say 3.830 Mhz your efficiency drops to 64% and your swr rises to about a 3:1. With most solid state rigs, the final protection circuit will begin to cut your power back long before you reach such a mismatch, so now you are loosing almost half your power! Ok, now lets say you want to work 40 meters, but you only want to put up one antenna, so you buy an antenna tuner and use it to force feed your 75 meter antenna on 40 meters. With this combo, you will get out, but not to well! When you use a tuner, your rig does see a near perfect match, but that coax fed dipole still has an swr of about a 10 to 1 and your efficiency has dropped to 11%, so starting with 10 watts, you are now radiating somewhere around the equivalent of 1 watt - that's a BIG loss! I used a computer program to figure these statistics, so to save space and time, I won't even try to explain how to figure this out!

Well gang, one month closer to FDIM in May. I don’t know about you but I am ready for winter to come to and end. This month we have a light issue, I haven’t been getting the articles we need from YOU the Flying Pigs. You can be famous just by contributing something of radio related interest to the Bacon Bits. Did you have a great QSO this month, or work under different circumstances, or ugly build something for the shack…if so we would love to hear and see about it. The Flying Pigs QRP Club International has a fabulous website at http://www.fpqr.com, don’t over look this great QRP resource!

DE KB9BVN – Brian Murrey

**A QRP Plea! – Arnold C.W. Timm KA0TPZ**

A QRP PLEA
By Arnold CW Timm
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To be or not be --- heard, by less than rusty wrists; we require a mocking bird, without encumbered fists!

A receiver floor & piston, that are decibels below; a noise reduction system, to hear our rooster crow!

Nothing but the finest, bare bones basic brass; to implore those (kids) behind-us, Morse Code (is) still a blast!

A little watt in waiting, riding on the breeze; proper prop -- no fading, babbble de the keys!

All this alternating effort, accumulating in the air; where modulation's separate, low power (people) share!

KA0TPZ
wdx0awt@juno.com

**SWR – Power and Signal Strength**

By Richard McKee KC8AON

During an SSB net the other night, I was watching for my friend Bob, to check in to see how strong his signal was. Bob has had some antenna problems lately and with the help of another friend Steve, that problem has been eliminated. Steve built Bob a new multi band dipole, and now Bob has went from unreadable to 20 over S9.
Wayne K9DI was born two months premature in December 1968 on an elevator at Freeport Memorial Hospital (Freeport, IL) and spent the next six weeks in an isolette. At eleven (11) months of age a virus attacked and ulcerated the cornea of his left eye. On 17 September 1997 he was involved in a farming accident and an alkaline based dairy pipeline cleaning solution burned his right (good) eye leaving him with only 5% usable vision.

At age six he began to read and hasn't stopped yet. At about the same time he started reading the Nancy Drew/Hardy Boys mysteries and was exposed for the first time to the idea of Amateur Radio. The seed was planted, and was cultivated by all the old movies he watched with Morse code in the plot.

In 1987, he made friends with a man that would play a pivotal role in shaping his future. Wayne met Tom McMahan (ex-KA9AE) KF9HL and shared a room with Tom and his Leader Dog Cocoa at the Illinois Visually Handicapped Institute (I.V.H.I) in Chicago. Wayne and Tom talked about ham radio and dog guides till the wee hours many a night.

Wayne began his quest to get a ham ticket in 1988 and finally succeeded in getting his (no-code) Technician license in 1992 (N9PSR). He was active on 2M off and on until 17 September, 2000 when he upgraded to a General class license and was unleashed on HF. Wayne spent a bit of time playing with SSB, but gradually grew dissatisfied with SSB and started getting serious about QRP and CW operation.

In February 2001 Wayne upgraded again to an Amateur Extra class license. He got a new sequential call (AB9BM) and quickly decided to get a newfangled vanity call; which is how K9DI became associated with his name. Then he met up with the Flying Pigs and, as they say, the rest is history.

Also, on 10 May, 2000 Wayne was paired up with a big male black lab at Leader Dogs for the Blind in Rochester Michigan. While Wayne was at Leader he got on 2M and passed NTS traffic for fellow students until the school's radio blew up.

Wayne is serious about QRP and CW operation. The seed was planted, and was cultivated by all the old movies he watched with Morse code in the plot.
FEB QRP Contests – Thanks to Ken N2CQ

40 METER FOXHUNTS
Fox Hunt - Thursdays - 9pm EST, 8PM CST, 7PM MST and 6PM PST.
Info: http://www.cqc.org/fox
Truffle Hunt - Thursdays - 30 min before Fox Hunt
Info: http://fpqrp.com/pig_hunt.html

New Hampshire QSO Party (All) ... QRP Category
Feb 1 - 0000z to Feb 2 - 2400z
Rules: http://www.nhradio.org/NH-QSO/index.html

Vermont QSO Party (All)
Feb 1 - 0000z to Feb 2 - 2400z
Rules: http://www.ranv.org/vtqso.html

10-10 Int. Winter QSO Party (SSB - Ten Meters) ... QRP Category
Feb 1 - 0001z to Feb 2 - 2400z
Rules: http://www.ten-ten.org/

Minnesota QSO Party (All) ... QRP Category
Feb 1 - 1400z to 2400z
Rules: http://www.w0aa.org/

AGCW Straight Key QSO Party (CW 80M) ... QRP Category
Feb 1 - 1600z to 1900z
Rules: http://www.agcw.de/

Delaware QSO Party (All)
Feb 1 - 1700z to Feb 2 - 0500z
Feb 2 - 1300z to Feb 3 - 0100z
Rules: http://www.fsarc.org

North American Sprint (Phone) ... QRP Category
Feb 2 - 0000z to 0400z

Adventure Radio Society - Spartan Sprint (CW) ... QRP Contest!
Feb 4 - 0200z to 0400z (Monday Evening US/Canada)

FISTS Winter Sprint (CW of course) ...QRP Category
Feb 8 - 1700z to 2100z
Rules: http://www.fists.org/sprints.html

North American Sprint (CW) ... QRP Category
Feb 9 - 0000z to 0400z

QRP ARCI Fireside Sprint (SSB) ...QRP Contest!
Feb 9 - 2000z to 2400z
Rules: http://personal.palouse.net/rfoltz/arcifiresid.htm

ARRL International DX Contest (CW) ... QRP Category
Feb 15 - 0000z to Feb 16 - 2400z

CQ WW 160-Meter DX Contest (SSB) ... QRP Category
Feb 22 - 0000z to Feb 23 - 2359z

UBA DX Contest - Belgium (CW) ... QRP Category
Feb 22 - 1300z to Feb 23 - 1300z
Rules: http://www.uba.be

FBYO Winter QRP Field Day (CW/SSB) ... QRP Contest!
Feb 22 - 1600z to 2400z

High Speed CW Club Contest ... QRP Category
Feb 23 - 0900z to 1100z
Feb 23 - 1500z to 1700z
Rules: http://www.morsecode.dutch.nl/hscindex.html

North Carolina QSO Party (CW/SSB)
Feb 23 - 1700z to Feb 24 - 0300z
Rules: http://www.w4nc.com

Colorado QRP Club Winter QSO Party (CW/SSB) ... QRP Contest!
Feb 23 - 2200 Local to Feb 24 - 0359 Local
Rules: http://www.cqc.org/contests

Thanks to K3WWP, LA9HW, SM3CER, WA7BNM, ARRL and others for assistance in compiling this calendar.
Thanks to www.njqrp.org for keeping this listing on their website. The NJ QRP Club is a marvelous group.

About the Flying Pigs QRP Club International

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.

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! ☯