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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTACTS</th>
<th>NETS</th>
<th>CLUB FREQS.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diz, W8DIZ</td>
<td><a href="mailto:w8diz@cinci.rr.com">w8diz@cinci.rr.com</a></td>
<td>DAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rick, WB6JBM</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ripowell@mpna.com">ripowell@mpna.com</a></td>
<td>Sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dan, N8IE</td>
<td><a href="mailto:n8ie@woh.rr.com">n8ie@woh.rr.com</a></td>
<td>Mon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>0100Z</td>
<td>7.047</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>(All days/times listed are UTC)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

In this issue:

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Ramblings

Hey folks, it's that time of year! FDIM is hear, hope to meet you all in Dayton this year, for those of you who can’t make it, fear not. We are planning a BIG CD-Issue of the Bacon Bits chock-full of pictures, sounds, and much more. Keep watching the e-mails from the club for more info.

72, oo,
Dan, N8IE Ø

FP NET

4/1
Thanks to all for checking into this evening's net. Conditions were much improved over last week but still quite a bit of noise at my qth. It's probably about time to check all the outside connections and clean everything up. Please accept my apologies for my fist. I know I am dropping elements and other problems. I have been trying an experiment for a few weeks now. I have been listening to code at 35 wpm and practicing on the key at 30 wpm.

After about 10 minutes of practice I can get in a pretty good rhythm but I have found that at times is makes slower sending more difficult. My brain wanders of in the middle of a word. On the other hand it could just be my increasing age.

Tonite's checkins:  
NV4T  Bill at 559. I think the second receive antenna helped here as it is lined up E-W  
AB8MR  Rob at 589 and glad to get his room back and not have to checkin /m  
W8HICN  Mikey with a great 569 with 500 mw. Got to throw an anchor around that guy, he is off on another road trip. Have a safe one.

W1QF  Terry at 579. His fist is really getting good with his homebrew key. Not as much luck with his amp project. Diz, I think you might be getting a call.

That's all for now. Next week we can get a report on how everyone did in the ARCI test.

72/oo-Randy,wv9n

4/10
High Y'all  
great nite to net.... averybody sounding good in maine...glad u'all checked in.. sneaux is still melting up heah... some ice still remains on some lakes...

Wed Nite Net  april 10, o2  7.047.5 Mhz  9 PM Eastern dst...  
CHECK INS  
AB8MR... ROB..  
NV4T...  
W1QF... TERRY ... S9T  
WV9N.... RANDY ... S9T  
K8ZFJ... RI  NO LESS THANKS FOR CHECKING IN  
W8DIZ...DE OLE MAN HIS SELF... THANKS  
KE1LA ... COMEON JOEL,  GOT U SELF AN ANT SON....  
KE1LA JOEL  
IN MAINE  
NCS WED NITE NET  

4/14
Hello Pigs,  
We had a brief net tonite with plenty of qrn. Three very fine pigs checked in this evening.  
Rob (AB8MR), Aron (N1ODL), and PHIL (WB8ABE). Phil reported that he has finally found his shack. I don't know how long it's been missing but very happy to hear Phil in the net. If I missed anyone trying to check in try again next week. Had lots of noise at my end and alot of tstorms spread around. Until next week 72 and oo's.

Randy,WV9N

4/17
WOW  
I u wasn't here u missed it...great ...  
Wed Nite Net   APRIL 17, 02   7.047.5 CW  9PM EASTERN  
CHECK INS  
NV4T...  
W1QF...ONE WATT MI.  
WV9N.....KE1LA ... NCSKE1LA JOEL IN MAINE IN THE RAIN ES SNEAUX  

4/28
Thanks to all who checked in this evening. We had four fine pigs:
Bill (NV4T)
Rob (AB8MR)
Dan (N8IE)
Phil (WB8ABE)
Conditions were much improved over last week. Phil had the strongest signal tonite. I have trouble copying Dayton (and Indy, for that matter) for some reason. I suspect it might be the tree supporting my dipole. It gets worse in summer because of increased qrn and the leaves on the tree. At least that is what I think at the moment. I am going to look for some other options this summer for 40 meters and down this summer. Might have to try a mini sized Dizloop :-)
72/oo-Randy, WV9N

QRP Happenings in May

5/4 Indiana QSO Party: CW/SSB, sponsored by the Hoosier DX and Contest Club from 1300Z May 4 to 0500Z May 5, SO operate a maximum of 12 hours.
More info at:
http://www.hdxcc.org/inqso

More info at:
w7o@arrl.net

More info at:
k4xu@arrl.net

5/11 FISTS Spring Sprint--CW, sponsored by the FISTS International CW Club.
More info at:
http://www.fists.org

5/25 CQ WW WPX Contest--CW, sponsored by CQ Magazine.
More info at:
March 02 issue of QST.

MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint, sponsored by the MI QRP Club.
More info at:
http://www.qsl.net/miqrpclub/Ω

QRPp ATTENUATOR
By Terry, W1QF/8

Each stage of the attenuator is a bridged-Tee, with input and output impedance of 50 ohms. And 3dB attenuation is half power, 6 dB is ¼ power, 12 dB is 1/16th power. The S unit (at least according to Collins Radio) is equal to 6dB, so if you reduce the output power by 6dB, the received signal should be reduced by one S value.

Bill Cunningham K4KSR pointed out to me that the 6dB steps don't seem to hold up very well at very low S numbers, and I have to agree. Dropping 2 S numbers may get you a "sri no cpy" if the receiving op isn't a QRPp freak. Here are Bill's Laws:

1. When dealing with another party not known to be playing the power-down game, S5 is roughly the threshold for inserting a 1 S-unit drop in power, which will also induce a drop in the readability index and some anxiety of perceived failure at the receiving end. With a willing participant, you can continue reduction to the point of true failure.

2. From S4 down, the readability and strength scales are no longer independent and the 6 dB per S-unit rule of thumb may reduce to 3 dB per S-unit.

Thanks Bill. At 1W, then-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Power</th>
<th>S Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3dB</td>
<td>0.5W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6dB</td>
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<tr>
<td>9dB</td>
<td>125mW</td>
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<tr>
<td>12dB</td>
<td>62mW</td>
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<td>31mW</td>
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<td>19dB</td>
<td>15mW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21dB</td>
<td>7mW</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I used 1/16 double sided copper clad stock (it can be cut with tin shears). Drill or punch the switch panel and end plates, then solder the switch panel to one of the sides and one of the end plates. That gives easy access for building. The shields can be 1/32 or 1/16. Then (after check out) add the other long side, and then tack down to the base at 4 corners

The resistors can be pre-soldered to the switches. They don't need to be really accurate, 10% is good enough, and you can make them by series or parallel combinations. I used ½ watt R/S. Notice that the 6dB section consists entirely of 51 ohm resistors. Isn't that neat!

The copper box is really important. At 7mW, any common inductive or capacitive transfer will bypass the attenuator, so the shielding had better be good. To keep the input and output well apart, there is no Tx/Rx switch, so you may want to switch the attenuation out when receiving.

It all started because I needed a simple, straightforward attenuator for QRPp. The Elecraft (there's a plug) K1 and K2 are both reliable when set to 1W, but they are inaccurate as you get down towards 0.1W. So, this attenuator is intended to be driven between ½ and 1W. The maximum input power should be 1 watt unless you want to toast the resistors.
**Special Events for May**


**Richmond, KY:** Eastern Amateur Radio Society, KE4YVD. 1700Z to 2300Z **May 4.** At Old Ft Boonesborough honoring the discovery of Kentucky by Daniel Boone. 14.245 14.235 7.245 7.235. QSL. Eastern Amateur Radio Society, 156 Norton Dr, Richmond, KY 40475.

**Fairmont, WV:** The Mountaineer ARC, W8SP. 0000Z to 2400Z **May 11 to 12.** Commemorating the first official observance of Mother's Day at the International Mother's Day Shrine in Grafton, WV. General 80, 40, 20, 15 m phone+ CW bands and Novice 10 m phone. Certificate. Charles T. McClain, K8UQY, Rt 4, Box 161, Grafton, WV 26354.

**Baton Rouge, LA:** USS Kidd ARC/Baton Rouge ARC, W5KID. 1400Z to 2200Z **May 27.** Honoring Memorial Day. SSB: 10, 15, 17, 20 m General band. QSL. W5KID, 305 River Rd, Baton Rouge, LA 70803. Ω

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**Member Spotlight!**

If you would like to be spotlighted, please send a picture and a short bio to: N8ie@who.rr.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 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! Ω