

Bacon Bits

Flying Pigs QRP Club International, W8PIG

1900 Pittsfield St, Kettering, Ohio 45420

E-mail: w8pig@yahoo.com Web Page: <http://www.fpgrp.com>

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

CONTACTS:

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NETS:

DAY	TIME	FREQ	NCI
Sun	0100Z	7.137	KC8NYW
Mon	0100Z	7.047	WB8ICN
Thurs	0100Z	7.047	KE1LA

(All days/times listed are UTC)

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 FPgrp frequencies are UP 4 kHz
 from the standard grp frequencies
 except for 20 meters.

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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 Ω

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 it 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:

WB8ICN GUD TO HEAR MIKEY AGAIN
AB8MR/M POOR ROB FORCED OUT OF HIS SHACK BY HOUSEGUEST

N1ODL SRI ABT POOR CPY ON YOU ARON
N8IE DAN IS OUR NEWEST DXCC ICON AND BACON BITS HERO

KE1LA JOEL REPORTS GREAT WX IN MAINE, ITS ABT TIME

AF4PS HAD A REPORT U WERE THERE MAC BUT I MSSED U, SRI

Any others that I may have missed please accept my apologies. At time I thought I heard other stations in there. It may have been qrm or someone trying to check in. Please be persistent and keep trying. When I am calling for checkins I have the filters wide open so not to miss anyone just off frequency. When I hear a weak station calling it can take me a moment to tighten everything up to pull you out of the noise. Keep trying and give me a chance to pull you out. I'll do all I can to get a copy on you.

72/oo-Randy,WV9N

4/7

Fellow Pigs,

The net this evening was short but sweet. The band was very noisy with static levels starting to creep into that summer range. I was experimenting with a second receive antenna mostly perpendicular to my main dipole. It is a short inverted vee and not as high. The signals were just about as copyable on either antler but the noise was less on the vee. Might have to play

around a little more to see if it will be worthwhile. Checkins for this evening were:

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

WB8ICN 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 ... SEA AH REMEMBERED

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 CHECKINS

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 Ω

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>

5/11 Nevada QSO Party--CW/SSB/RTTY, sponsored by the Frontier Amateur Radio Society.

More info at:

nw7o@arrl.net

5/11 Oregon QSO Party--CW/SSB, sponsored by the Central Oregon DX Club.

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/miqrclub/> Ω

QRPP ATTENUATOR

By Terry, W1QF/8

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.

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.

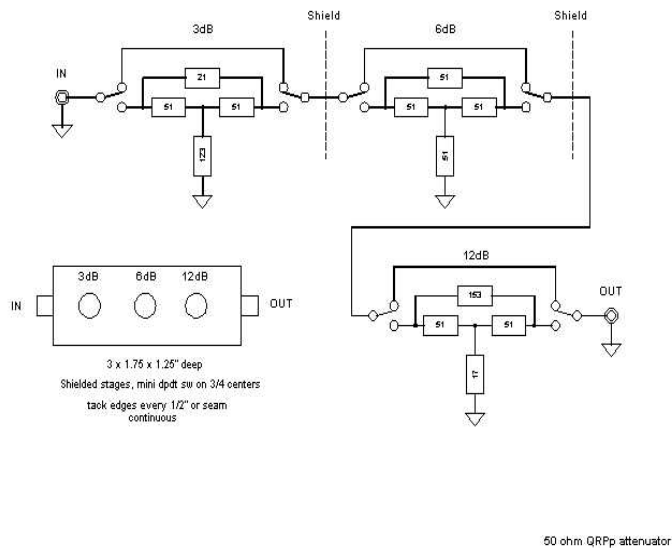
Thanks Bill. At 1W, then-

3dB	0.5W	½ S unit
6dB	0.25W	1 S unit
9dB	125mW	
12dB	62mw	2 S units
15dB	31mW	
19dB	15mW	4 S units
21dB	7mW	

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.



Terry W1QF FP #79 Oink! Oink! Ω

Special Events for May

Peekskill, NY: Peekskill/Cortlandt Amateur Radio Association, W2Q. 1300Z to 2100Z **May 4.** PCARA Second Anniversary QRP Special Event Station. 28.350 21.350 14.280 7.240. Certificate. PCARA, W2NYW, PO Box 32, Crompond, NY 10517.

Poughkeepsie, NY: Poughkeepsie Amateur Radio Club, W2CVT. 1400Z to 2000Z **May 4.** Special event station from the Samuel F. B. Morse home in Poughkeepsie, New York. 28.110 21.125 14.250 7.125. Certificate. Don Stein, W2PTF, 3 Little Rd, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590.

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 **May 11** to 2400Z **May 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

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