
Flying Pigs QRP Club

Bacon Bits Quarterly



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



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On The Cover: Matt, K8KLP FP#-69, and his father, /rick (aka Spandex Man), WB6JBM FP#-2, attempt to light the opening fire of the 2008 Flying Pigs Field Day festivities.

To The Right: Nigel, W8IFF FP#-385, and Andy, N9AWM FP#-1994, setup Nigel's shelter; Brian, KB9BVN FP#-57 eyeballs a "horse"; Don't ask.



The View from the Slop

By Rob, W0JRM FP#-330

Wow, what a summer. The Presidential race is heating up (am I the only one who doesn't give a rip this year?), the Cubs look like they might just break their soon-to-be 100-year-old drought, the 2008 Summer Olympics are in progress (as I write this), and yet another Field Day has come and gone.

From all reports, it sounds like the Flying Pigs had a ball out at Caesar Creek. From the photos, it looks like it as well. (Matt – what's with the nipples?) There's plenty of incriminating pictures in this issue of *BBQ*. If anyone pictured is in the process of adopting a child, I apologize for potentially ruining your application.

The Field Day 2008 reports aren't just limited to what went down at Caesar Creek. (Has FEMA left the campgrounds yet?) We have reports from pigs that unfortunately, or fortunately, weren't able to make the trek to the annual gathering in Ohio.

Also, as winter approaches, it's time to get those late-season antennas built and erected. We've got some articles to get your wheels turning. For those with plenty of real estate, we've got an article on broad-band loops by Herman, KC8VJD FP#-1034. For us VHF'ers, Terry, WA0ITP FP#-723 has contributed a very interesting article on a homebrew 2m copper-pipe antenna called the "Hentenna." For those who are thinking of doin' a little snow camping, Ev, N5MZX FP#-1192 has a review of the Blue Star P1 Portable Antenna.

If you've got all the whar in the air you could ever need (in addition to the chunks stuck in your shack carpeting), try building a homebrew rig. Tom, N2UHC FP#-1149, has yet another excellent article on putting CB radios to a good use.

And, to toot my own horn, I've actually written an article (sorta) for the BBQ. It's not really an article *per se*, more a plea for some folks to join a local FP Chapter I'm trying to form.

As usual, my utmost thanks and gratitude to everyone who contributed to this issue of *BBQ*. It wouldn't be what it is without all you great guys 'n' gals who contribute!



Matt, K8KLP FP#-69, shows creative usage of duct tape at the 2008 FPQRP Field Day outing at Caesar Creek State Park, Ohio.

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

Constructing a 280ft Broadband Loop

Herman, KC8VJD FP#-1034

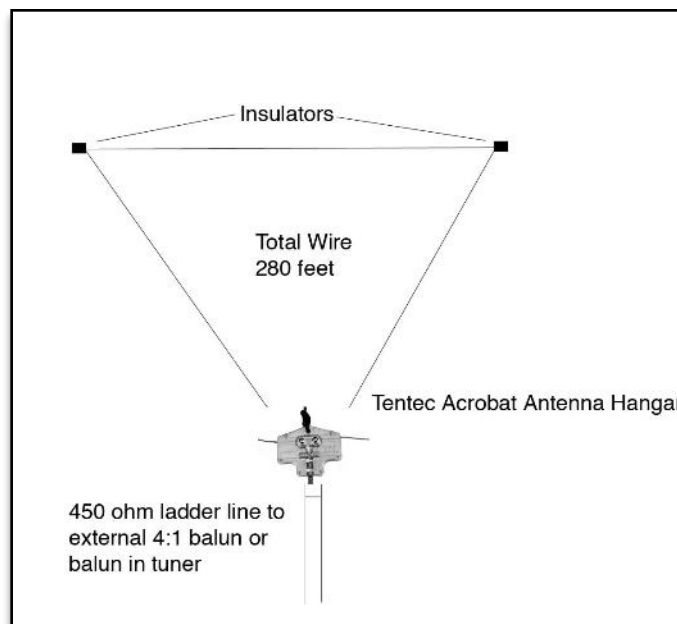
I have been running loop antennas for quite some time now and have been very impressed with their performance over dipoles. If you want some punch from your QRP signal, this is definitely worth looking at. I have even been told not to bother getting an amplifier as my 100W signal (according to a station in VA) was stronger than a station running a folded dipole with an Ameritron AL-811H amplifier. Normally, on 75M, stations in NC give me 5/9 + 15-20 reports.

First, they are much quieter than a dipole as the all of the transmit/receive activity happens inside the loop. Second, the loop gives you more of an omni-directional signal with significant gain above the resonant frequency. As we know, to calculate the wire for a loop, we use the formula $1005/\text{frequency}$.

Below is a diagram of the loop I normally run for field day. With 280' of wire (R & L Electronics), its resonant frequency is about 3.589 mhz. Keep in mind that your 450 ohm ladder line also contributes a bit to this so you shouldn't have much problem working 80-10 with a tuner.

Second, in theory, a circular loop, at its resonant frequency, will give about 1.2dB gain over a dipole. As we are using a delta(80M), count on 1-1.1 dB. But, go up to 40M and you should notice about 2dB or so and then 3-4 on 20M. On the 80M band, each side of the loop should have one lobe. As you move on up the band, the lobes increase on each side.

I used a TenTec Acrobat Antenna Hangar to keep things neat. You can feed it with ladder line or coax. I strongly advise ladder line as it makes the antenna more broad banded. It's best to keep this feed point close to the operating point and up at least 30'. I have used a 30' telescopic pole in the past to hang the apex on and you can use two more of them placed at convenient place so make the delta or a couple of convenient trees works nicely too.



You can run the ladder line into the balun in most manual tuners or you can use an external 4:1 balun (such as a W9INN). If you choose the external balun, keep the coax feedline from the tuner to the balun as short as possible. Avoid allowing the ladder line to touch any metal objects or being within 6" of them.

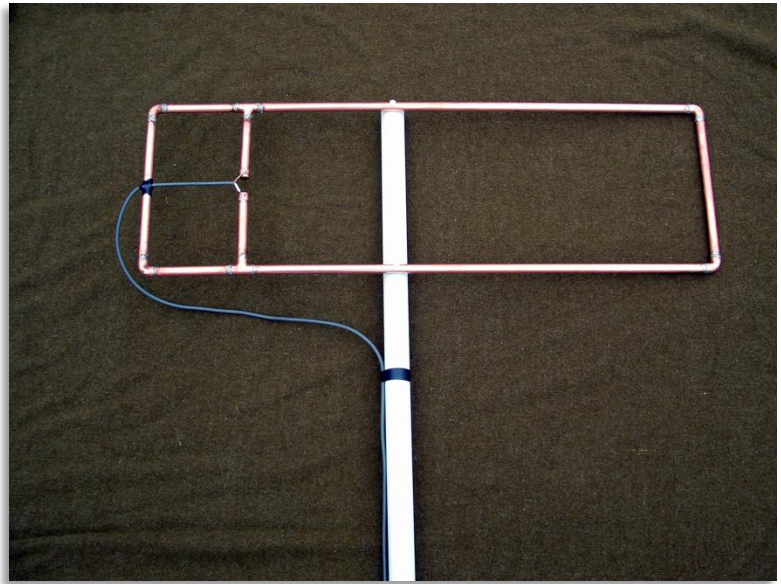
At home, I run a 600' delta normally up 50-60' (horizontal) and have worked everything from locals on 160M to VK/ZL on 30M to Peter One Island on 17M. When 15-10 is open, I can work them as well.

If you have the real estate to hang one, a loop is definitely worth the effort.

Building a Copper Pipe Hentenna for 2 Meters

By Terry, WA0ITP FP#-723

While browsing through my new copy of *Simple and Fun Antennas for Hams* one day last spring, I discovered an interesting looking design with an interesting name - the Hentenna. The versions described were made of wire and cut for 6 meters, although it was suggested that the design could be used on other bands as well. I was looking for a 2 meter antenna to use for a second rig, and I thought I could adapt this design to 2 meters easily.



A 2m "Hentenna" Constructed by Terry, WA0ITP

Some Hentenna Background

The Hentenna is a loop style antenna developed by Mr. Tadashi Okubo JH1FCZ, Mr. Someya, JE1DEU and others in Japan in the 70's. It was first described in the US in a Feb 1982 QST article by Koji Sugihara, JJ1UMS. Shirow Kinashita, JF6DEA/KE1EO wrote about it in the *ARRL Antenna Compendium Vol. 5*. The gain is approx. equal to a 3 element tribander. JH1FCZ reported 5.1 dBd in 1972, yet it is small compared to a beam.¹

It looked like the type of antenna I wanted to try on 2 meters, small and with some gain. However it also looked like it was a little complex to build for what I had in mind.

Design Goals

I wanted it to be very easy to build, broad banded, and inexpensive. All good ham radio attributes. It looked like a good candidate for a "plumbers delight" copper pipe project. A major consideration was to build it so it required no tuning of the feed point. So I scaled the dimensions for 2 meters and began to "spearmint."

Several prototypes were constructed of ½" copper water pipe and fittings purchased at the local hardware store, empirically arriving at the final dimensions below.

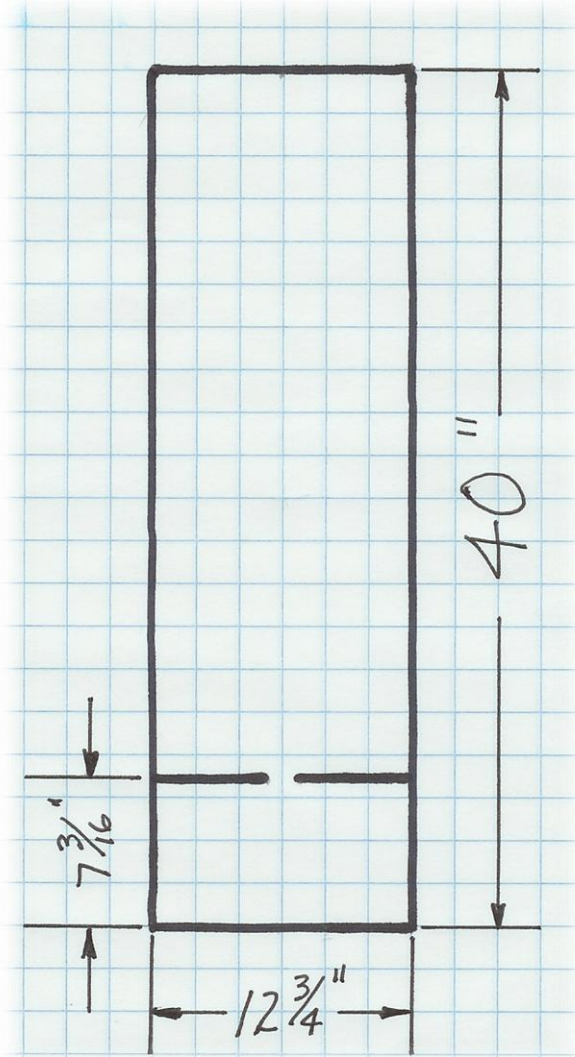
Building It

I recommend building the ½" copper pipe 2 meter Hentenna to these dimensions:

Overall length = 40 inches

Overall width = 12 ¾"

Feed point = 7 3/16" to center line of T connector



You'll need one 10' piece of $\frac{1}{2}$ " copper pipe, four right angle elbows, two tee's, and two end caps from the hardware store, total cost about \$12. With the dimensions below you can just jam it all together, apply the heat and solder and it will work just fine. Or you can be a little fussier and adjust the dimensions perfectly before soldering. I used a tubing type cutter; it's much easier and more precise than a hacksaw. Use a propane torch and apply the heat to the fittings so the solder wicks into the joint, sometimes referred to as "sweat soldering".

Cut the pipe as follows:

- 2 pieces $31 \frac{13}{16}$ " for the long side pieces above the Tee's
- 2 pieces $6 \frac{1}{16}$ " for the short side pieces below the Tee's
- 2 pieces $11 \frac{1}{2}$ " for the two end pieces
- 2 pieces 5" for the feed points.

Use tin/lead rosin core solder, and shine up the ends of the pipe and the insides of the fittings before soldering. I just laid it out on the garage floor to keep it flat and applied the heat. *Be sure to wear safety goggles* since concrete may "pop off" little pieces when overheated.

The caps go on the end of the feed tubes and the distance between them will be around $\frac{3}{4}$ ". Solder

the coax braid to one cap and the inner conductor to the other; just tack them on, ugly style. *There's no tuning involved; the position of the tees takes care of it for you!*

To "B" or not to "B" (Balun that is)

A balun probably should be used to preserve the radiation pattern. But while experimenting with the prototypes, I discovered that any metallic objects inside, on or near the loop had major effects on the match. So I just stuck the coax on without a balun and it seems to work just fine, in a practical sense, at my QTH.

Installing It

Here are several things to consider when installing this antenna.

1. Use a non-conductor for the mast. I used $1 \frac{1}{4}$ " schedule 40 PVC pipe.
2. For the vertically polarized version, tape or cable tie the coax to the middle of the end piece nearest the feed point, NOT the mast. Let it hang over the end some then attach it to the mast below the antenna. Side mounting the antenna may be a better option.

3. Use non-conducting hardware to attach it to the mast. Steel or brass hardware has a really detrimental effect on the match. I've used nylon bolts, tape, cable ties, and wood dowels.
4. For a vertically polarized signal for repeater use, the 40" dimension must be horizontal to the Earth.
5. For a horizontally polarized signal for SSB, the 40" dimension must be vertical to the Earth.
6. The signal is perpendicular to the axis of the feedline.

The SWR will be close to 1.0 at 146, and about 1.3 at both 144 and 148. The 2:1 bandwidth is amazing, about 10 MHz.

Performance

On the air performance has been gratifying. WAØMWW and I conducted a performance test between our QTHs, 12 miles apart. We used 146.52 simplex, adjusting my power levels and his antenna orientations to get a noisy signal from me. The Hentenna proved superior to a 5/8-wave ground plane at the same height, 15' up. This was a "switch the coax" comparison so as to minimize propagation differences between tests. We evaluated both vertical and horizontal polarization and the Hentenna signal was better in all cases, sometimes by as much as two S units. The antenna does act like a beam, but is bidirectional.



The Hentenna mounted for a horizontally-polarized signal

I can easily bring up 2 repeaters, both about 20 miles distant off the sides of the antenna, using only 5 watts. So the pattern isn't too sharp for general use. WAØMWW and I have also used a repeater that is 45 miles away with 50 watts. A little noisy, but very Q5 copy.

NØXOA from inside a high rise apartment can easily use repeaters up to 20 miles distant. KC0SLB uses the local repeater from his college dorm room. G4NSP, KG9AQ, NC6P, W5ADT, KA8MPT and others have built the antenna to these dimensions and have written to describe their successes.

The antenna works well, is easy to build and install, and is inexpensive. As mentioned above these are all good amateur radio characteristics. If you build it, let me know how it works for you. I hope you have very good luck and get a lot of use from this nice little antenna.



The Hentenna mounted for a vertically polarized signal.

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

A Review of the Blue Star Portable Antenna

By Ev, N5MZX FP#-1192

This year at the Capital City Hamfest I had the pleasure of meeting Bob and Linda of Blue Star Antennas. We were looking at the QRP radios on display and discussing which types of portable antennas to use with them. My favorite was a 20 meter dipole with light weight coax and over the past year I have had a lot of fun with my Yaesu 817 and this dipole. On the negative side I have been limited to one band of operation. This led me to try various portable antennas, needless to say some were gimmicks and some just were flimsy.

A little later Bob came back to the table with a Blue Star P1 Portable antenna. This antenna immediately commanded my attention. Unassembled the antenna was less than 12 inches long, weighs 1 ½ pounds. The antenna is easy to put together, taking only about 5 minutes to assemble. This antenna mounts to just about anything with a provided “C” clamp, and covers 7-150 MHz. Bob offered me a prototype antenna to use and write a review on. I agreed to use it and said I’d send it back to him after the review for *BBQ*. Enough disclaimers, on to the review.

As I did not have a set of instructions, I dove right into it. The antenna was assembled in the blink of an eye. The antenna was mounted on a 24 inch metal stake driven 18 inches into the ground. I connected the coax and hooked it up to the radio. I went to 20 meters and soon I heard all sorts of signals. I tuned to a low SSB signal and adjusted the slider on the coil until the signal peaked.

This coil is something we need to describe. It is of ingenious design. So many other portable antennas use alligator clips or flimsy banana plugs that can become loose or can wear out. The Blue Star coil is well made and will last for a long time. The antenna and coil are rated to 150 watts, although no self respecting QRP operator would use more than 5 watts. I digress! The coil looks like an old fashioned wire wound resistor with an adjustable metal tap. The coil has a spring loaded wiper that makes positive contact with the coil. It can be readily adjusted one turn at a time with precision.

Operating my 817 from a 7 amp hour battery charged with a Coleman 5 watt solar panel, I worked Wisconsin, Tennessee, Mississippi, Oregon, Texas, and California. After the first contact I noticed that my SWR was over 3:1. I continued to play with the coil with no improvement. My wife asked me what was happening, after I’d consumed two Coors Lights. I responded by saying that the antenna was not working as I had hoped it would.

Her next question was, “What did the instructions say?” With the help of my youngest son I found the instructions on Blue Stars web page. There is something to be said about reading the instructions first. The instructions covered whip length, coil settings, and something about counterpoise. A funny thing happened and the SWR fell to under 2:1. I shouted for joy and my wife mumbled something about men and instructions.

I look forward to putting this antenna on other bands and see what I can work. I will be ordering a P1 of my very own and be sending Bob back the prototype. I do not mind spending my money for this antenna. I have had the luxury of trying it out before I bought it. The Blue Star Antenna P1 should be part of every QRP/QRO shack. It is well built, small, and produces excellent results. The antenna also works well as a SWL antenna. Visit Blue Star Antennas at www.bluestarantennas.com.

Arnold Ziffel, Fun, and Novices

Cliff Cheng, AC6C, FP#1679

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I guess I was always a flying pig but didn't know it until I joined the Flying Pigs QRP Club, becoming member #1679. Being a city boy I had not seen a live pig until I was in my late-20s. Up until then, the only pig I knew was Arnold Ziffel, the pig on the TV show Green Acres (1965-1971). My favorite TV animal was not Mr. Ed (the horse), Flipper (the dolphin), Lassie (the dog), Gentle Ben (the grizzly bear), it was Arnold (the pig).

In my late-20s I spent time one summer on my friends' farm. My friends had several farm animals. They spent most of their time taking care of their cows. The horses were their favorite which was treated with special-ness. They also had chickens and pigs. They did not name their chickens. They were interested in their eggs; not making them pets.

My friends' pigs were just like Arnold. Arnold was Arnold. He was himself. With pigs there is no pretense. They are who they are. The pigs would run over and see me wherever I walked by. They were the only animals my friends' farm which looked back at me. I got the sense they recognized and liked me. The pigs seemed to just have fun wherever they are. I found their fun contagious.

I knew I was having fun when I was a novice when someone told me my enthusiasm for ham radio was contagious. As 14 year old in Los Angeles, I could not believe the government would actually give me license to transmit on the airwaves so I waited to get a novice rig. In early-1975 my novice license arrived, WN6JPA. I was thrilled!

I looked in the classified ads and found an ad for a Heathkit HW16 HF CW transceiver. It fit my paperboy's budget. It was

an xtal controlled, 15-40-

80M 90W CW transceiver (sold new from 1967-1976). My father drove me over to Carl's house; can't remember Carl's last name. He lived in a nice Spanish styled 4-plex apartment house on the first floor rear on Doheny Drive; on the LA-Beverly Hills cityline. He said he had been a novice 10 years ago but never upgraded. The rig was in his closet since.

I bought the rig with my hard earned paper route money and took it home. At school, John Burroughs Jr. High School, we had a large, well developed ham radio program out of electric



Cliff's 1975 Novice station as WN6JPA; Pictured are his DX60B and Drake 2B.

shop. Our elmer, Ted Ryan, WB6JXY (sk) was everyone's favorite to be Santa Claus at Christmas time. He did not need a pillow under his Santa suit. He used to hug his students and told them "Grandpa loves you sweetheart."

Ted was totally dedicated to getting people licensed. In his day job, he taught 6 novice classes and year plus two General classes; and of course electric shop. After hours he taught year around novice and general classes for the San Fernando Valley Amateur Radio Club, W6SD, www.W6SD.com plus tutoring people at home. He kept this pace for 35 years (see: www.TedRyan.bappy.com).

When he was not teaching he was fixing radios to give to less fortunate novices. I helped him by making dipoles for novices. So I made one for myself and my new (to me) HW16. I had fun with the HW16 and my low strung dipole. As a new ham, any contact was a thrill!

Carl called me every night. He wanted to know if he could help me. I actually was well looked after between Ted's help and help from my classmates. Carl kept calling. The calls turned into him asking me in detail about each of my QSOs. He even kept better track of my QSLs I was expecting that I did. One night after about a month, Carl announced he wanted his rig back; that *he wanted in on the fun I was having!* He wanted to be a ham again. He said *my enthusiasm had convinced him he needed to get back into ham radio! Fun is contagious. Arnold's spirit of fun was contagious.*

Carl even gave me a tidy profit of \$20. I had to deliver 1,000 newspapers to earn \$20; 2 cents per paper. I supplemented what was a fortune of \$20 with more of my earnings and got a better novice station, a Drake 2B receiver with the Q-multiplier, and Heathkit DX-60B transmitter (see picture). Many think the 2B was the best novice receiver ever built. It was with good cause that they thought this for I immediately noticed there were stations I could not hear before that I now could. I was not getting any more signal reports of chirp on my signal with the DX-60B.

These days when I see a Drake 2B at a swapmeet, I am tempted to buy one. While my space and funds are better spent on equipment I have more use for, I continue to celebrate the fun of my novice days. After years of going to ham club meetings and hamfests, and hearing the topic of conversation getting around to "gee I had fun when I was a novice," I decided to do something about it. I started a website called the Novice Historical Society, www.Novice.bappy.com in which hams could post their novice stories and novice pictures. As of this 4th of July weekend, 2008, about 130 hams have written novice stories for us from all over the U.S. From the Society's website, a Novice History Series started in Spring 2008 for the QCWA Journal. The series will take about five years to run. Please visit the Society's website, and share your novice stories and photos. Join in on the novice fun! Oink, Oink!

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

Why I Love CBs

Tom, N2UHC FP #-1149

It's true, I admit it. I love CB's. Mind you, I didn't say that I love CB, as in the radio service itself. I'm well aware of the disdain a lot of hams have for CB'ers, justified or not, but I won't go into that here. Rather, I love the radios themselves. It's not that I'm driving around talking to "Gearjammer" or looking for smokey reports, but rather I like to use old CB's in my ham radio homebrew projects.

I've found that parts from CB's are great for making a homebrew project look great, and old CB's of varying condition tend to be plentiful and cheap at hamfests. I tend to look for cheap non-working CB's if available (I've even gotten them for free), but I've even cannibalized old, working CB's for parts. For some reason I do tend to have a slight twinge of guilt when I tear apart a working CB even though I have no interest in operating CB. Aside from the truckers, CB is dead in my area anyway. But the good thing is that if the CB works, we know that all the components are good.

Since CB's are radios, they can be a goldmine of parts that we can use to complete our homebrew projects. Granted, if we have a well-stocked junk box or if we're putting together a kit, chances are that we don't really need to use any of the components that make up a CB. However, for scratch-built projects they can provide us with a good resource for parts.

When I get old CB's, there are a few components I usually look forward to salvaging from them. First of all, CB's usually have about two or three potentiometers which always come in handy for homebrew projects. There are few radio projects which won't use them. Almost every CB has a volume taper pot for the volume, and another pot for the squelch which I've found is usually also audio taper.

Some of the older CB's may have an additional pot or two, which can help us stock our junk box. If you find one that has several knobs across the front panel, you're in luck. The thing about pots from old CB's is that if they have been sitting around for a long time they may get dirty which results in scratchy audio. All that is needed is to have some contact cleaner sprayed into them. And don't forget to keep the plastic knobs from these pots, since they will make a homebrew radio look nice especially if all the knobs match. Also keep any plastic pushbutton knobs.

In a similar vein, just about every CB has those slider switches which I've found really come in handy. They will be Single-Pole Double Throw (SPDT) to Triple Pole Triple Throw (TPTT), so they will work for just about any application you can think of. Most of them will be simple slider switches, but in some old CB's I've found neat toggle switches.

Older CBs also have those neat S/power meters in them. I've got several little meters that I've salvaged, probably more than I'll ever use. Schematics for S-Meter or power meter circuits are available on the internet, and it's a neat way to jazz up a homebrew transceiver. Newer CBs tend to have LED bargraph meters, of which the LED's could be used for that or some other purpose. But be sure to save the meters, since they can be hard to find on the electronics market.



A before and after shot of a BitX20 built by Tom, N2UHC FP#-1149.

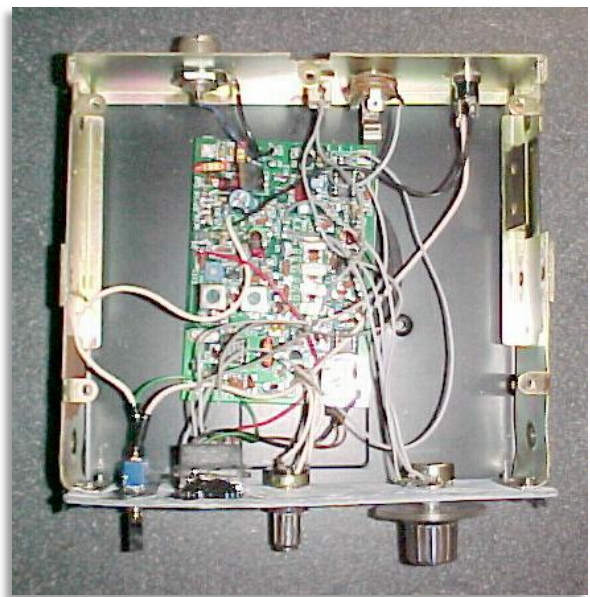
The final transistors from old CB's can also be used as final transistors in our homebrew projects. This is assuming that the transistors are still good and haven't been abused by someone transmitting into a mismatched antenna. The transistors used in different CB's vary from brand to brand, and searching on the internet will probably be required to find data sheets for them.

I have found data sheets for very old transistors that I had no clue as to what they were, so hopefully information exists for the final transistors used in old CB's. Remember, CB's transmit 4 Watts AM, so this would work out fine for our QRP projects.

I almost forgot to mention the microphones (maybe since I usually operate CW), but these also come in handy for wiring up to a homebrew SSB radio (such as the BitX20) or even wiring up to your commercial ham rig. CB mikes come in a variety of types, so you may find dynamic or crystal mikes, not to mention the possibility of finding amplified mikes. I once was given a nice brushed-aluminum Turner 254HC desk mike which didn't have an element in it. I did manage to find one in an old CB hand mike which was similar to the original and worked nicely. Now the microphone is a nice addition to my HF ham rig.

Don't forget all the other components in CB's, such as resistors, capacitors, audio transformers, IF cans, LED's, speakers, etc. You never know when you'll need that one little component that you can't seem to find, yet it may exist on an old CB PC board. And speaking of LED's, don't forget about the LED channel display in CB's made since the late 1970's. Three of these two-number displays joined side-by-side would make a nice frequency readout.

Not only have I used CB parts for homebrew projects, but in a couple of instances I have used the entire CB. My 10 meter beacon consists of an old Midland CB that was converted to the 10 meter band. This was done simply by replacing a crystal and tuning it up. I added a keyer to key the unmodulated AM signal to make CW. I also have



A Small Wonder 20 built into a CB case

another old AM CB which was similarly converted, however this one operates in the 10 meter AM band on 29 MHz.

Once we have salvaged everything we can from a CB, the case itself is usually just about the right size for our QRP projects, and the good thing is they will likely already have an SO-239 jack installed in the rear. I have built many projects into CB cases.

What makes a homebrew radio really appealing is a nice, professional-looking front panel. With commercially-produced or homebrew enclosures this generally is not hard to achieve, but with CB cases it may take a little finesse. The best CB's to use are the older ones with a plastic, recessed front panel which have painted foil inlays. I've found that the old Royce CB's typically use this type and are great for homebrewing.



The "Multiwonder," A tri-band rig built into an old CB case. For more detail on this rig, see the March 2008 BBQ and visit http://geocities.com/n2uhc_3/multiwonder.html

The way I make a nice-looking front panel is to remove the old foil inserts and cut my own inserts from thin PC board to install in their place. This way I can cover up holes that I don't want and put switches and pots where I want them. Once all necessary holes are cut or drilled into the inserts, I'll paint them usually with white spray paint and then label any controls with small rub-on lettering. On occasion, I may print out a logo from my computer, cut it out, and then glue it to the painted panel using white Elmer's glue.



A CB case with newly-installed PCB front panels.

Once the logo and the rub-on lettering are in place, I overspray the insert with clear spray paint. Once it's dry, I'll either epoxy it into place in the old front panel or attach it with screws. The result is an attractive front panel without extra holes or painted lettering. But this method only works with the recessed, inlaid panels. I haven't yet figured out a good way to make a good front panel out of the molded & silkscreened front panels usually found on newer CB's.

If you're serious about homebrewing, you'll want to keep your junk box full. If you're serious about keeping your junk box full, you'd be smart to grab up all the old CB's you can find. I've used CB parts in my projects so much that Joe Porter, W0MQY, dubbed me the "king of recycling CB's." I guess I just hate to see a radio get thrown away when it has so much potential, even if it is a CB.

/rick, #-2 of the Flying Pig QRP Team, Interviewed by Al Michaels

By /rick, WB6JBM FP#-2

Recently, NBC Sports Commentator Al Michaels interviewed our very own /rick, who wore the #-2 on the Flying Pig QRP team this past Field Day. We present to you, loyal readers of the BBQ, an unauthorized transcription likely to land one of us in jail (as if it wasn't bound to happen at some point anyway.)



/rick, WB6JBM FP#-2, obviously caught off-guard by our not-so secret Field Day photographer...

When I decided to sleep in the MSR Microzoid Friday night, I realized I had probably made ANOTHER major bad choice. I really should have setup the 2 man tent Friday. My feet would have thanked me!

Saturday, oh my, Saturday was bad. I started out still wearing the tennis shoes, and it really wasn't too bad. I had changed from the cotton crew socks I had on Friday into some SmartWool heavy wicking socks, which worked ok. With the depth of the grass and the overall wet conditions, I could have just as well been wearing dish towels. The tennis shoes were what I was wearing when the F12 came through.

Al Michaels: Thank you for taking time to speak with us this evening, /rick.

/rick: Yeah, ok.

AM: In the wake of The Piggies AMAZING win this weekend, in spite of the dreadful conditions, I just have to know, did you end up with ANYTHING that wasn't wet?

/r: Well, actually al, there were a few things. I had a battery charger, a bag of chips, and 2 terry cloth rags that I had never taken out of the car. Somehow, they managed to stay dry.

AM: Wow. I didn't think that could happen! So, how long DID it take for your feet to dry, and do you think your feet will be ready for next week's event?

/r: Actually, it wasn't that bad. When I showed up Friday night, I was wearing my Red Wing steel-toe boots. The only moisture issues I was having were self generated. You know, sweat and enclosed space, basically the perfect recipe for Pulled Pork.

Shortly before nightfall I switched to my tennis shoes. As you know now, that was probably a bad decision, as my feet were perty wet after that.

After dinner, I changed into a fresh pair of SmartWool's and my camp shoes, but I really did that just to get some air on my feet. With the grass still being high and wet, I didn't actually think I would be able to dry my feet any time soon. In fact that was my low point, as far as my feet were concerned.

I felt really bad for Mikey (WB8ICN #-68). He's sitting there cooking dinner for himself and Marybeth, and I'm sitting there with my pruny-ass feet, wringing out my socks. That had to be uncomfortable for him, but I really shouldn't even be talking about it, 'cause we like to keep stuff like that in the locker room.

Anyway, Saturday night I took down the MSR [Microzoid] and put up the two-man. So when I finally went to bed, AFTER, I may add, working at least 3 piggies, I had the room to stretch out and dry off. When I woke up Saturday morning, my feet had lost that puny look and were actually not in bad condition.

Sunday I put on another pair of SmartWool's and my hiking boots. They don't breathe real well, but I figured I only had to wear them for about 9 hours, so it wasn't going to be that big of a problem. My feet are still a little sore, but I think that's mostly just because of how much time I spent on them. I don't think they are going to be a big limiting factor next week, but I really won't know till tomorrow.

AM: You mentioned the F12. Tell me what it was like for you.

/r: At first, I didn't think it was really that bad. The rain actually felt good! It was cool, and there was enough that I actually felt like I could take a shower in it. In fact, I went and started looking through my backpack, for my camp soap. I thought, why not? I'm already on my second shirt, a Patagonia high-tech item, my spandex, and was still in my tennis shoes, so I figured I could get in a good shower. Get some of the salt and grime off from the horrible heat Friday, which as you know, hit almost 90F. Then I could either air dry (*ed. Note – eewwww...*), or change into some fresh Patagonias after the weather cleared.

Anyway, I couldn't find my soap. I haven't looked yet to see if it was actually in there, as most of my basement is inaccessible because it has 'stuff' laying all around drying out.

But everything was going ok, till I saw that Phil (WB8ABE #-61) was having quite a time with his screen room. At this point the rain itself had slacked of a bit, but the wind was picking up. So I go over to help Phil, and Matt (K8KLP #-69) comes over to help also, because we were NOT having much success.

I think one other person came over for a minute, but in the confusion I'm really not sure. We were doing ok, but it was just not looking good. It was raining real hard now. I'm not sure if there was a lot of lightning or not. I was starting to get concerned, when all of a sudden we weren't keeping up with the battle. The whole structure was starting to collapse, the rain was getting heavier, and the wind was soo strong that I was thinking we were going to go become a big, wet, piggie kite!

Matt made the call to abort that battle. A good thing too, 'cause it was at that point that the whole structure DID collapse! At Matt's direction we extracted Phil, made sure that what was still left of the cover was protecting the coffee pot, and we all carted Phil to under Mikey's awning.

I lost track of Phil at that point, but it was ok since he wasn't going to be crushed by the collapsing canopy. That was when I saw Dan's (N8IE #-6) and Darryl's (K8FP #-54) screen room upside down and in the trees. I do remember seeing someone over there, and I really thought it had been turned over on purpose, so that it wouldn't blow away. I was really not thinking well at that time.

I noticed Ivan (W9ILF #-1256) had escaped the BlueTarpFromHell that I had set up, so I really just thought all the excitement was over. Man was I wrong.

This was when I noticed the folks all huddled around Marybeth, addressing the fact that something was missing from her head! Someone later DID find her scrunchy, and brought it back to her. I went over and looked around the end of Mikey's trailer, and saw the destruction over by Nigel's (W8IFF #-385) area. Matt seemed to have the recover efforts well organized, but I figured they could still use some help.

I went over and pulled some of a broken tree out away from the bench. That was when I saw the broken structural members of his BlueTarpFromHell. At this point, my adrenaline rush was wearing off and I was starting to bonk. I mean, come on, what more could I do? It had been a good 3 hours since I had last had anything to eat!

The cleanup stuff all went well. Moving the tents that were under the broken tree, moving the tree parts that had fallen on Nigel's operating location, putting Phil's canopy back up and all that. The overriding thing I felt was HUNGER. Oh, I did stop by and look in on Brian (KB9BVN #-57), and press my nipple up against his car window. I think he got a kick out of that. At least I hope so.



Anyway, it could have been a LOT worse. All the radios still worked, nobody was bleeding, and we still had all the food! So, I guess it really wasn't THAT big of a deal.

Brian, aka P.B., KB9BVN FP#-57, victim of a /rick nipple flash (what is it with you Powells and your nipples?) and Phil, WB8ABE FP#-61, victim of a capsized canopy.

AM: Speaking of food, what happened with the fish?

/r: Oh, that was great. Cynda (K8CMG #-1924) had gone fishing Friday afternoon and caught a serious BIG fish. I have no idea what kind of fish except that when I saw it, it was dead. Anyway, all I know is that when I got home and was emptying out my cooler, I found half of it wrapped up in tinfoil, floating sideways in the cooler.

Well, I hate to admit this, but the last time I dealt with a fish other than an Angle Fish I was like 12 years old. We already have Stuffed Pork Chops from Dave's Meat (you just can't beat Dave's Meat!) for dinner tonight, and it looks like we will be having Filet Mignon's tomorrow night, so I have NO idea what to do with the half-ah-fish I ended up with.

I thought about freezing it and bringing it to field day in a couple of years to give it back to her. Unfortunately, its soooo big it won't fit in my freezer! So for now it's out in the garage, in a holding tank.

AM: Wow that could be tragic. I heard a rumor about moons, what was that.

/r: Oh, that was amazing! Dan and Mikey brought their telescopes. They didn't set them up until Saturday night due to cloud cover. When they got them set up, it was AMAZING! Dan had his pointing at Jupiter. I looked through it, and could see 5 of Jupiter's moons! It was magic!

I just wish the conditions had been a little better. The clouds just didn't want to go away. I didn't get to see the moon, or that girl getting into her shower over at the Ramada.

AM: Hrm, TMI /rick.

/r: Sorry.

AM: So how were the bands?

/r: I was very disappointed, the guys from Saliva never showed up, Butt Trumpet didn't play, but I did hear Dan singing "Do You Know the Way to San Jose" and DJ's buddy did play his guitar for a while.

AM: No, /rick, I mean the BANDS. HF, VHF, Propagation...

/r: Oh, sorry. I get confused some times. 6 was dead, local only. Phil's antenna was great, but there just wasn't any solidity in the F-layers. There didn't seem to be any good Sporadic E or even anything interesting happening at gray line.

HF on the other hand, WOW. I only got to operate for about 3 hours, after dark Saturday night. We ran S&P (Search and Pounce) mostly, and except for a few, if we could hear them, we could work them. We ran the bands on 80, 40, and 20, with my FT817, into Dan's dipole. Dude, I want one of those, a Dan Dipole. They ROCK.

Other than that, I really have no idea. I was too busy making electricity, telling sea stories, and eating. Oh, and wringing out my socks.

AM: Anything else you would like to say?

/r: Yes Al, a lot. But right now, I'm starting to smell the Pork Chops, and I'm not really able to think when I smell charred pork! So, really, I just want to thank my sponsors. Dave's Meat, Patagonia, and SmartWool, all the great folks who helped me get here, and of course, the rest of the team, particularly, those who came from out of town to be here for me to play with. I love them, they are my piggies!

AM: Thank you for speaking with us tonight, /rick. Now back to the studio, where John Kruk has a report on the new Seattle Mariner, Itchie-Roo.

Caesar Creek Field Day Expedition Survives an F 12 Tornado

Here's a quick run-down of how pigs and non-pigs did in this year's Field Day, compiled from reports posted to the club e-mail reflector and solicited (or begged for) by yours truly.

Attendees of the 2008 FP Field Day and Wet Tee-shirt (wet everything?) contest:

<u>FP#</u>	<u>Callsign</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>QTH</u>
-2	WB6JBM	/rick Powell	Middletown, Ohio
-4	AA9YH	Matt Robins	Cincinnati, Ohio
-6	N8IE	Dan Shepard	Kettering, Ohio
-54	K8FP	Darryl Taylor	Huber Heights, Ohio
-57	KB9BVN	Brian Murrey	New Whiteland, Indiana
-61	WB8ABE	Phil Wilcox	Columbus, Ohio
-68	WB8ICN	Mikey Hall	Jackson, Michigan
		Mikey's better 1/2	
-69	K8KLP	Matt Powell	Kettering, Ohio
-385	W8IFF	Nigel Gunn	Xenia, Ohio
-1034	KC8VJD	Herman Tibbs	Springboro, Ohio
-1256	W9ILF	Ivin Flint	Eminence, Indiana
-1441	N8HSO	Dave Hendricks	Franklin, Ohio
-1688	N8YOH	Gordon Sage	Kettering, Ohio
-1994	N9AWM	Andy Murrey	Bargessville, Indiana
-1924	K8CMG	Cynda Gunn	Xenia, Ohio

W8PIG operated from the Group Horsemen's Camp at Caesar Creek State Park, 5a battery

TOTAL CONTACTS: 253 (220 CW, 33 PHONE)

TOTAL SECTIONS: 58

TOTAL STATES: 39

TOTAL PROVINCES: 3

CONTACTS BY BAND/MODE:

Band	Mode	#
80	CW	61
40	CW	52
20	CW	99
15	CW	10
80	PH	17
20	PH	6
15	PH	5
10	PH	2
6	PH	3

POINTS:

Emergency power (100XTrans) : 500

Alternate Power (100): 100

Phone points (1xqxPm): 165

cw points (2xqxPm): 2530

for a total of : 3295

Here are some eye-witness reports from those on-scene at Caesar Creek State Park. First, the story from Dan, N8IE FP#-6

Wow, I'm too tired and trying to dry out my feet. Here is FD 08 Reader's Digest style:

Rain, 60+ MPH straight line winds, tents blown down, branches all over the place, radios soaked, cell phones soaked, food stores soaked, feet soaked, good friends having good times.

From Ivan, W9ILF FP#-1256

I made it home now too... What a time! After bathing with the pigs I drove up to northern Indiana to check out my brother's first field day. I think I was on the road more than I was in a field. Next year where ever I am I'm staying put.



Nigel, W8IFF FP#-385(left) talks to Dan, N8IE FP#-6(right) and a friend of Dan's Harmonic

From Mikey, WB8ICN FP#-68

We got home about 45 minutes ago...551 miles round trip. Needless to say, we are both tired!

I keep hearing Daryl and Dan (from across the field) screaming " BREAK 19...ANY OF YOU'S FIELD DAY GUYS GOT A COPY???" Sure made it hard to hear those weak CW signals on 40...LOL

Marybeth made me take a shower after I dumped the black and grey water...but needed it as I could hardly stand myself when I finally crawled into the truck to leave.

Gordy is a hoot!!!! I like his "little' portable ham shack. I missed seeing the fireplace as he has already put all four slides back in...but got a peak at the wet bar, master bath off the master bedroom and a control panel that had more buttons than my K2!

Nigel left shortly after Gordy and we followed after that. Stopped at the Rangers station and told them about the two or three limbs hanging up about 25 feet from what was once Daryl and Dan's tent area...that is until that nasty bag of wind came through and rearranged the entire FD site. It is a wonder that the outhouse is still standing.

Will unpack tomorrow and backup the logs and send them out to /rick.

OK, need to go play old fart and sit in my grandpa chair...might sleep there tonight as anything horizontal and soft sounds rather nice right now.

Thanks to all for a fantastic FD...

From Brian, KB8BVN FP#-57

Phil I must say your brats and kraut for lunch on Saturday were exquisite. That was some good food. Kraut is one of those foods I get to eat all I want, which made it even better.



Getting ready at the 2008 FP Field Day Chow Tent

It was really great to see everyone again, although I wasn't much help with anything, I'd like to think that I was at least decorative. Congrats to Perry and his new job, and new grand baby. I finally got to meet Marybeth. The woman is a saint, and not a bit like Mikey had described her.

I'm very glad that Gordy didn't get his camper rolled in that big wind that blew up....would have made it very hard to use the fireplace. Dan and Daryl had a pretty good run going on 20m when

the storm hit....I'll let the pictures speak for themselves. Also did anyone hear if Cinda and her mom got out of that mess without any bruises or bumps? THAT was freaky! I thought Nigel's tent was going to take off for the other side of the lake, but it stood fast. Always good to see Nigel.

Oh yeah...thanks for the 70 pound box of STUFF you put in my back seat....sorting some of it now. OK...looking forward to FD 2009...and maybe FDIM too....who knows....gas might be \$12 a half pint by then.

From Perry, FP#-582

New Grandson #1, named David Roy, Born Friday night just before 7 pm. 7lb 14 oz, I think. Mom had a rough go at it, but is doing well. My wife was awake from Thursday when the Daughter went into the Hospital.

To say by Friday night at midnight when she got home, tired was not the word. She slept 'till Noon on Saturday, I was up at around 8 or 8:30 Saturday and kept pacing - go to Dayton, stay home. Go to Dayton -- as you all know I stayed home and played with the new Grandson... I will bring him next year...ha ha..

Of course, there was FP Field Day activity outside the official club outing.

From Terry, WA0ITP FP#-723

Our local club, WAØDX operated 2A and managed 1137 contacts. A little short of the last two years totals, but way more than I expected due to the poor band condx lately. Our final score was 3480. Not super good, but ok. We had 9 participants including a member who returned for California just for this.

We also had several visitors who saw the news release in the local newspaper. If they were hams, we put them to work. In addition we were fortunate to receive TV coverage on KTVO TV during the 10 PM news. (Ed. Note – the video is available at <http://www.ktvotv3.com/news/video.aspx?id=152728>)

So, on balance, we're very happy with our effort this year. Sri we didn't work many QRP stations. W0CH isn't in the log this year, but I was at the key and snagged W8PIG last night.



A reporterette from the local TV station films Neal Runkle, N0EAL at the OARC Field Day outing, held at the QTH of Terry, WA0ITP FP#-723

It was my pleasure to be at the key when WAØDX worked W8PIG at 0322z. Dunno who was on that end but thanx for staying with me until I got the call thru the QRM.

I heard you all were over at Mikey's and having a great time.

We were 2A and managed 1137 contacts, a little short of the last two years totals, but way more than I expected due to the poor band condx lately. It was fun, and that's what it's all about for us. Looking forward to next year already.

From Rod, W5GZT FP#-1844:

Ron, NE0X and I continued our annual FD exercise for the umpteenth year. We operated from my QTH about 3.5 NE of Kearney, Mo using 2 KX-1s totally battery powered and did some work with various antenna configurations. We tried one of the LA1IC slopers for 40/20/10 and found it to be quite a surprise in performance. It worked very well for a 39' sloper.

In spite of some rather disappointing band conditions and doing some experimental work, we did work quite a few stations. Not enough to win anything, but as usual, we had a heck of a good time. One of the highlights for us is always the chance to sit down and eat a bunch of boiled peanuts while we attack the air waves.

I hope everyone had as much fun as we did.

Doesn't look like it... here's what Ev, N5MZX FP#-1192 had to say:

My Field Day was a disaster. I started setting up on one of the highest points in the area a whopping 287 feet ASL. The location was great but it was soon to go downhill fast. The equipment was comprised of an Icom 718, 20 meter dipole, a Blue Star P-1 portable vertical, and a Coleman 5- watt solar panel charging a 7 amp hour gell-cell battery. The shelter consisted of a \$17.00 tent. What a mistake.

Chris Cunningham NI5BQ was going to join me and operate the station. Pre Field Day, with 5 watts, I worked Wisconsin and a plethora of other states. I was ready to go and I was waiting on Chris to come with the other battery when one of Mississippi's famous thunderstorms hit. The ensuing deluge and winds collapsed the tent and starting raining on the equipment. The equipment was hastily put into the truck and I was soaked to the gills. As Chris arrived I was asking myself just why a 59 year old man was doing this. I pulled up stakes apologized to Chris and went home. I was successful within limits, made a lot of mistakes, and will plan a better operation for next year.

I am looking forward to operating the Mississippi QSO Party from the safety and air conditioning of a Mississippi State Park.

We've all had days like that Ev, don't feel bad. I should tell you about the last Field Day I attended a few years ago. I won't go into detail, but will say it involved an exploding weather balloon.

Here's how things went for Paul, K4FB FP#-124. (It's his fault we all had rain to deal with.)

I went out last night to work the CW station for a few hours to our local club Field Day at K4LKL. Life has prevented me from being on HF in over 4 years. How time flies.

I sat down and worked a few folks on 20m to get the brain and fingers working together. Got into the groove and found a run frequency and started CQ-ing. A few stations call, a few QRP, including KH6 and AL7! The magic was back. Then W8PIG called in with a solid signal!! Wiigii!

A little later we moved down to 40m and again W8PIG calls in!! The signal was not nearly as strong as 20m but good.

I hope you guys had fun. One day Mac and I WILL make it up for Field Day.

From Hank, N8XX:

In Western Michigan we were drenched with rain, and almost blow into the Grand River with estimated 60+ MPH winds. Then about 0700Z another storm came through, this time with minor winds but steady rain for about 3 or 4 hours.

One of the more memorable days in the Field, that's for sure.

From Paul, N0NBD FP#-665:

Field day 2008 dawned with thunderstorms rolling across South East Kansas. I was going to Chanute and take some QRP rigs and a doublet to show off what the low power

can do. Well The CAARC get together got rained out. So I sat up under the camper awning in the side yard with a Norcal Doublet, then switched to an 88 ft doublet supported by a black widow fishing pole at 20 feet.

The rigs were my newly built PFR-3 and an OHR 400, ran by a sick old retired camper battery. Between rains I managed 13 contacts on 40 meters, 4 contacts on 20 meters and 4 contacts later that evening on 80 meters. Man, my ears are still bad from the QRN. Not much of a showing, but I enjoyed the contacts I made and will send in my pathetic excuse of an entry. I can always shoot for better next year. The new PFR-3 worked GREAT and I really like it.

From Dave, NK0E:

I was planning to spend the Field Day weekend on the top of Mt. Herman with N0TU, Rooster, and Peanut.

Then I found out I'd have to work on Saturday because of an impending work deadline. So I decided maybe I'd hike up Mt. Herman on Sunday morning to make a few Field Day contacts.

Then I found out that relatives were coming to town to visit and would be here all weekend. So my Field Day plans went completely kaput, and I made no Field Day contacts at all this year.

From Vic, N0KRE FP#-1986

We had a balloon up 250 feet, W7PCK op for KC7MAP club made one contact with W7CW on 40 mtrs. Qrp millawatts. This was a 3A set up but mostly a dog and pony show over 70 people onsite and visitors, State Senator, County Commisioner, City Mayor, Asst.Fire Chief, etc, plus lots of visitors got on the air and got their first amateur radio contact certificate. Lots of QRP info, antenna construction, and how to solder PL-259's. Just one Amateur Radio Show and Tell, but lots of fun.

Balloon created problems when on 40 mtr CW, voice station kept getting this weak signal on CW after putting out a CQ, finally it was strong enough to copy after about 10 minutes trying to get back to this CW station that was calling KC7MAP, and was only cleared up when it was found that it was our own CW station...

Major Problem was when the guy that brought the balloon out, walked out to the station and only visable, was the balloon up in the air 250 ft with a short rope hanging on to it, THE BALLOON GOT AWAY!,,then he found out the antenna wire was holding it, as before it had banner red,white and blue flags at100 ft..A good laugh for all. Antenna wire was a .015 stranded stainless steel fishing leader.

W7PCK is an avid QRP operator/builder, and runs our annual QRP demo at the club meetings. This has spurred the bug in several that are now building and operating.

So all in all, Field Day was its usual surprise. Some had a blast, some got blasted, and some just couldn't wait for it to end. The purpose was met, however. Get outside, get on the radio, and have some fun!

CQ Iowa, Missouri, and Illinois

By Rob, W0JRM FP#-330

So here I am, compiling accounts of yet another Flying Pigs fiasco in Ohio. I must admit – I'm jealous. Not of Matt's manly duct tape (okay, that's enough references to that photo for now), but of the big group campouts. The outdoor festivities. Dave's meat.

A while back there was a big drive to establish local Flying Pig chapters. The purpose was to facilitate the gathering of pigs in local areas for operating events, coffee gatherings, keggers (just kidding), etc. Unfortunately, nothing ever arose in my neck o' the woods.

So here's my challenge to all you pigs in Southeast Iowa, West Central Illinois, and Northeastern Missouri. Let's all get together and form our own local chapter of the Flying Pigs. Let's get together for all the Field Day and FYBO fun that we've been missing out on!

A quick search of the FP database shows *118 FP members* in the states of Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri. Granted, not all of those are in the regions of the states I mentioned. I don't know enough about Missouri or Illinois geography to tell who is close and who isn't, but a quick browse through the results of the Iowa listings showed five FP members within a 90 minute drive of my QTH. That's enough to make a good contest effort!

There are several group campsites at Lake Rat bun that could be utilized. There are also many campgrounds with reservable shelter houses we could use. Being QRPers, we wouldn't need to worry about the problems which plague "big-gun" Field Day setups. We don't need to worry about trees or other overhead obstacles. As long as there's room to put up a wire and room for a rig, we can get on the air!

Failing that, what's stopping us five guys and/or gals from just gathering at the Sirloin Stockade over in Ottumwa? Before or after (or even both) we could stop by Rat Shack at the Quincy Place Mall and torment the clerks with questions like, "Do you stock chassis mount SO-239 connectors," or "Do you have any .01uF ceramic disk capacitors," or even "Do you know what the heck I'm talking about?"

What say you? I think we could make one heck of a dent in a contest score; failing that, the buffet over at Sirloin Stockade. If anyone is interested, contact me via the list or privately at jimrob@gmail.com.

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

Member Spotlights

Each issue, Bacon Bits Quarterly will draw five random member numbers. Those members with online profiles saying a bit about themselves will be spotlighted here for the purpose of getting to know each other. Information is generally gleaned from QRZ or members' personal web pages.

Flying Pig #-1944 – Terry, KQ5TF

I was first licensed as a Technician (N4CEO) in Virginia Beach, Va. 1979. While stationed in Great Lakes, Illinois from 1981 - 1984 I upgraded to General and then Advanced and changed my call to KD9FL. While living in Hawaii from 1984 - 1990 I changed my call to AH6FH. I kept AH6FH while I lived in Antioch, Illinois from 1990 to 1995. I then moved to Kingston, TN and decided I should have a 4-call and gave up my Hawaiian call for KT4ES in 1995. I absolutely hated that call sign so I immediately applied for my original call, N4CEO under the vanity call program. I moved to the Little Rock, Arkansas area in 1999. I decided to change to a 5-call in 2004 and applied for KQ5TF (TF = my initials) which I have today. I moved to the Houston area in 2007.



Flying Pig #-985 – Paul, K9PEP



In the picture my grandson Zachery was "giving me a ride"! As the call book stated, my name is Paul Plasters. I have been a "HAM" since 1961, with an initial call of WN9FFL, being upgraded 6 months later to WA9FFL. I worked as an electrician / electronic technician. (I am now retired) The company I worked for builds generators for aircraft and the controllers for these generators, and other aircraft and spacecraft devices. I have also worked as a mechanic, and have been known to race motorcycles when I was younger. I do hold a valid

Pilots license although the cost of flying has prevented me from doing that for some time now.

I also like to tinker with electronic circuits, play at RTTY, do a little APRS, occasional DX, and some times try to improve my CW ability.

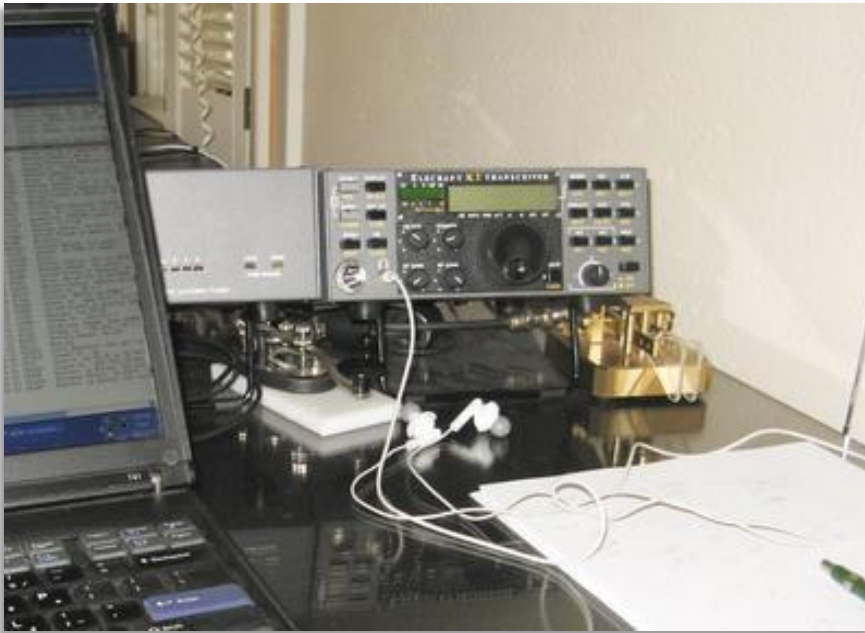
Flying Pig #-1813 – Tom, N8TJC

I have been involved in emergency operations for over 30 years, 28 in law enforcement and over 5 in emergency management at the county level. I finally got involved with amateur radio after I saw what a vital service they provided after Katrina in 2005.

If you are wondering where Vinton County is in Ohio, it is approx. 80 miles se of Columbus or if you know where Athens, OH is we are 25 miles west of Athens. Athens is the home of Ohio University. The area is very hilly and it is the smallest county population wise in the State. We have just 13,105 residents, 2 (yes I said 2) stop lights in the entire county and in 2006 we finally got our first fast food franchise, a Subway. Our main industry is logging for pulp wood and timber.

I use an Icom 746 Pro for HF bands and VHF and 6M SSB, a Kenwood TS-790A for UHF/VHF and a 817ND for QRP. I am using dipoles strung up 20'-30'. I sit up on an open hilltop unlike some of my fellow hams who live in the hollows. I appreciate QSL cards and I will send you one.

Flying Pig #-1244 – Chris, K6DBG



If you're looking here because we just had a QSO - it was likely QRP, so thank you - you did most of the work! (And don't be confused - I often use the handle 'KENT' for contests.)

I've been licensed since 2004, upgraded to General in December 2005, and finally to Extra in March 2007. You can read more about what finally got me to get my license at my home page, listed above.

On VHF, I do a lot with APRS; on HF, I operate 95% QRP and 99% CW - I only use a mic for

ARRL SS to help the Northern California Contest Club win the gavel. I operate both from my home QTH in Palo Alto as well as at our cabin south of Yosemite National Park (grid DM07ej), where I am slowly learning about wire antennas. I enjoy taking my Elecraft KX1 into the surrounding Sierra Nevada Mountains to operate via solar power and very simple antennas.

I enjoy receiving QSL cards, so I'm happy to send them. If we just had a QSO, chances are that your card will be on the way within a day or so. I'm "good" in the ARRL and 3905CCN buros, learning about LotW, but still prefer paper direct via snail mail.

Numbers? We got numbers: ARSqrp #2085, FISTS #12284 (CC #1974), FP #1244, NAQCC #1348, QRP ARCI # 12485, SKCC #2044, SOC #660; K2 s/n 3641, K1 s/n 753, KX1 s/n 1048.

Flying Pig #-196 – John, N1QO

I believe I was 9 or 10 when the CB craze hit the US. I actually had an FCC CB license (don't remember how or why I got it though). My neighbor and I used to talk on his CB rig for hours and hours. My dad bought me a 3-channel CB walkie talkie - I thought it was the coolest darn thing in the world! I didn't know about ham radio back then, but after the "craze" died down, I always wanted to play more radio.

Fast forward to mid-1999 (skipping the rest of my non-radio childhood, 8 years in the U.S. Air Force, 7 years working for a 3-letter Govt agency then moving on to work for an internet company) and my wife seeing a Radio Shack shortwave on sale and suggesting we buy it... hey, listen, they're using morse code on here.... wonder what they're sending....

In Nov, 1999 I tested and was licensed as a Tech+, call sign KB1ENS. From there I made General but failed the 13wpm CW test. I retested for the 13wpm test in Feb, 2000 and passed. I made Extra after the restructuring at the N1QS (all QRP) Field Day site in June, 2001. I applied for the call sign N1QO in July, 2001 and received it in Aug, 2001. Changing call signs was a surprisingly difficult decision but I'm glad I did it.

I work 99.9% CW and mostly run QRP using rigs I've built from a kit or from scratch. I have an IC-746 that I use quite a bit as well (great rcvr and filters).

Hope this was interesting! Catch ya' on the air.

Flying Pig #-620 – Reggie, K6XR



I am on the right side in the picture and my elmer w9jsy, Mr. Mcduffie is on the left side giving instructions to his novice class in 1954. I got my novice ticket as kn9akl on June 1, 1955 in Gary, Indiana. I served in the U.S. Navy as Radioman 2/c. I am retired after working for 36 years in process control. I enjoy qrp operating and playing with antennas. My station consists of Yaesu radio's ft-817ND, ft-857D, ft-450 to a 168 ft EDZ at 40 ft center fed with 600 ladder-line. (My daughter is wb6dcm)

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

Fresh Pork

The members of FPQRP would like to welcome the following new members to the pigpen:

-1986 Victor, N7KRE	Camano Island, Washington
-1987 Richard, K4UOL	Louisville, Kentucky
-1988 Steve, KE1LG	Pembroke, Maine
-1989 Martha, K5VQM	Carrollton, Texas
-1990 Bryant, KD8EXX	Wickliffe, Ohio
-1991 Chris, KG6ZIJ	Greenwood, Indiana
-1992 Dick, N2UGB	Amsterdam, New York
-1993 Koji, JQ1BVQ	?????
-1994 Andy, N9AWM	Bargessville, Indiana
-1995 Andrea, IK3MZS	Verona, Italy
-1996 Jim, N7MYW	Vancouver, Washington
-1997 Jim, KG4YLZ	Culpeper, Virginia
-1998 Steven, W6EOD	Baker, Florida
-1999 Ampelio, IK3JBP	Verona, Italy
-2000 Richard, F5VJD	Paimpont, France
-2001 Rick, AA4W	Crescent City, Florida
-2002 Massimo, IW3ILM	Verona, Italy
-2003 Paul, AA9GG	Lisle, Illinois
-2004 William, WB9CAC	Tempe, Arizona
-2005 Ed, KF4KRV	Luverne, Alabama
-2006 Paul, KC9JJU	Grafton, Wisconsin
-2007 Thomas, N9DD	South Bend, Indiana
-2008 Robert, WA7YUL	Waldoboro, Maine
-2009 Sean, VE5SMC	Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
-2010 Sean, KX9X	West Hartford, Connecticut
-2011 James, WT2W	Auburn, New York
-2012 David, K8HW	Westland, Michigan

-2013 Matthew, AE6UP	San Francisco, California
-2014 Bob, KJ4IC	Winston Salem, North Carolina
-2015 Marcelo, EA1HFI	Austurias, Spain
-2016 David, KG9RB	Lafayette, Indiana
-2017 Darrell, K9AIH	Eau Claire, Wisconsin
-2018 Jack, K5FSE	Cumming, Georgia
-2019 Stephen, KB9AVS	Goshen, Indiana
-2020 David, KB9LBO	Milwaukee, Wisconsin
-2021 Dana, KE4TMT	Apex, North Carolina
-2022 Chuck, K6CKT	Livermore, California
-2023 John, KE5JRM	Stillwater, Oklahoma
-2024 Alan, KD7INY	Scottsdale, Arizona
-2025 Gene, K1USR	Central Point, Oregon
-2026 Harry, W9HGO	Chicago, Illinois
-2027 Bill, KF8GE	San Antonio, Texas
-2028 Mike, N0ZSN	Salida, Colorado
-2029 Roland, WB0AXN	Des Moines, Iowa
-2030 Al, VE3RRD	Barrie, Ontario
-2031 Andrew, KD8JFO	Farmington Hills, Michigan
-2032 John, N4TVS	Louisville, Kentucky
-2033 Will, KE6SAE	Elko, Nevada
-2034 David, G6DMF	Hertfordshire, UK
-2035 Gary, WB7CAG	Glendale, Arizona
-2036 Lee, KI2K	Jordan, New York
-2037 Steve, G0KYA	Wyndham, Norfolk, UK
-2038 Joe, KA1PPV	Stamford, Connecticut
-2039 Sean, VA7ICW	Chilliwack, British Columbia

Run for the Bacon Roundup

The third Sunday of each month, the Flying Pigs QRP club hosts the Run for the Bacon Sprint. Results are posted for each month's contest at <http://www.fpqrp.com/autolog.php>, and are recapped here quarterly.

This issue, we only have the results of the August 2008 sprint. I didn't have the foresight to grab the results of the June or July sprints before they were replaced by August's. D'oh.

N4BP, Bob Patten, 5W fpqso=33 fpxqso=0 nonfpqso=9 spc=28 total=3024
K3, A4S, 40/80 Armadillo trap dipole. Condx a little better than last month, but very noisy. Spanish LSB made a mess out of 40M. Was pleased to work **TF3KX** on 20 with an outstanding 5W signal.

K4BAI, John T Laney III, 5W fpqso=32 fpxqso=0 nonfpqso=8 spc=27 total=2808
FT1000MP, 5W, TH6DXX, zepp, dipole, inverted vee. 20M was good at the start, including **WA6L** and **TF3KX**. Not much activity there, though. 40M was pretty good for the whole time. Skip was a bit long and didn't hear really close stations, but did work FL, VA, and KY. Also **W7OM**, **NG7Z**, and **K7TQ**. Only DX was **VE3XDB** who wasn't really in the contest, but had a good 2W signal. Worked **W5TM** and **W5TA** on 80M and they were the only two heard on that band. Last month, I made what turned out to be an incorrect statement about counting multipliers. Afterward, **W8DIZ** advised **N4BP** that multipliers are counted PER BAND and not per contest. The rules were supposed to be clarified, but I can't find a site for the rules that works right now. The site for score submittal referenced on WA7BNM's page hasn't been working either, but I found this one thanks to N4BP. Thanks for all the QSOs. See you next month! 73/72, John, K4BAI.

W5TM, Ed Gilliland, 5w fpqso=28 fpxqso=0 nonfpqso=9 spc=30 total=2790
K3@5w, Force12 C3, 80 dipole @80' fed with open wire, Johnson KW Matchbox

W0NTA, Dick Housden, 5W fpqso=23 fpxqso=0 nonfpqso=6 spc=20 total=1500
Fair conditions tonight in Colorado. Used K3 at 5 watts to Force 12 Sigma 40XKR vertical. Another good contest. 72, Dick, W0NTA

W5TA, Dick, 5watts fpqso=18 fpxqso=0 nonfpqso=7 spc=20 total=1220
Conditions tolerable for August in Texas, considering thundershowers to the near northwest. 20m was open for the first half hour of the run. Some QRP signals were well above the S7 noise level on 40m. Even made 3Q's on 80m thru the static crashes. Should improve when fall's here. See y'all next month. Vy 72 & OO, Dick, W5TA

K7TQ, Randy Foltz, 5w fpqso=17 fpxqso=0 nonfpqso=3 spc=15 total=810
Conditions on 20 m were ok. Got 6 Qs from QTH in ID. Most of them were east of Mississippi River. Worked **N4BP**, **K4BAI**, and **W5ACM** on 40 and 20. Best signal of the evening was from **W5TM** in OK on 40.

W9ILF, Ivin, 5W fpqso=15 fpxqso=0 nonfpqso=3 spc=16 total=768
Had a ball while it lasted! IC-703 and vertical 40M - **W0PQ**, **W0NTA**, **K7AYV**, **W3PB**, **W6GMT**, **K5GQ**, **VE3KQN**, **W7OM**, **KA2KGP**, **K4BAI**, **KL7V**, **WA5RML**, **N4BP**, **W5TM**, **N5WLA**, **AF4LQ**, **K3PG**, and **N3CRS**. Would have liked to have worked **KB9BVN** but getting QRMed by him was just as good. 20 and 80 seems broken. I hung it up after the first hour. QRN is pretty high. Thanks! CU all next month! OO Friends.

KB9BVN, Brian Murrey - Mr. Attic Dipole, K2 at 5W fpqso=14 fpxqso=0 nonfpqso=4 spc=15 total=690
Okie dokie Flying Piggies...let's do it!! - 40m gave me **W0PQ**, **K4BPY**, **K7ZYV**, **W3PD**, **N0JRN**, **W6GMT**, **W0NTA**, **WA5RML**, **K4BAI**, **W5TA**, **W7OM**, **N0NBD**, **N3KRS**, **WA2AAW**, **AF4LQ**, **KE0G**, **W9JOP**...at 10PM local I had to bail out...my ears were smoking man!! I love this sprint because I get to work many friends that I have known for years on the air, but have never met. Best 72 and OO's to all! I think I QRM'd **W9ILF** and **K4BAI**....sorry about that guys...I thought BAI was asking me for a fill.

W0PQ, Dave Moses, 5 W fpqso=16 fpxqso=0 nonfpqso=4 spc=13 total=676
Conditions on 40M in Nebraska were fair. I apologize to a couple stations answering my call that I could not copy. I am using a K1 at 5 Watts to a G5RV. The last half hour was pretty thin on calls. Kudos to all.

N5WLA, fred muehlen, 5w fpqso=11 fpxqso=0 nonfpqso=4 spc=13 total=481

K7ZYV, Carl, 5w fpqso=12 fpxqso=0 nonfpqso=1 spc=12 total=444

KA2KGP, Tom Perry, 5 fpqso=12 fpxqso=0 nonfpqso=2 spc=11 total=418

Snagged a pair-o-piggies on 20M. before it went dead, but 40M. was where the Bacon was frying! Good FP turnout with lots-o-Oinkers despite the typical summertime QRN. CU agn next Bacon Run! OO & 72

AF4LQ, Mike L., 3w fpqso=11 fpxqso=0 nonfpqso=1 spc=11 total=374

Worked 40m only, casual S/P. NC40A at 3w to a 40m EFHW. Always a fun time and looking forward to next month.

WA6L, John, 5W fpqso=10 fpxqso=0 nonfpqso=3 spc=11 total=363

Argonaut V at 5W. I had a great time on 20M until the floor dropped out at 0200Z. I tried 40m for a half-hour with no luck -- its still light out here in California! Thanks to **W5TM** for trying on 40m -- we almost made it. Great fun as always and I look forward to next month . . . Oink Oink de WA6L

WA5RML, Andy Measday, 5 fpqso=10 fpxqso=0 nonfpqso=2 spc=10 total=320

T.T. Argonaut V @ 5wts + 20M vert/40M dipole; Vibroplex bug; Not too bad tonight! 20M - worked **N4BP**, heard **W0NTA** - but that was it on 20M! 40M was the bread and butter band again - **W0PQ**, **W0NTA**, **KB9BVN**, **K4BAI**, **W9ILF**, **W5TA**, **N4BP**, **N9GGE**, **WB8LZG**, **AB9CA**, and **KE0G**. Heard Randy, **K7TQ** and some others, but very weak. At my QTH, **W0PQ** had the most consistently strong signal during the event. Even at the bottom of the sunspot cycle, it is great fun to get together each month! TNX & CUL - Andy

K4PBY, Chuck Jones, 5 wts fpqso=11 fpxqso=0 nonfpqso=0 spc=9 total=297

I spent 1 hour working 40 meters. Rig was a TenTec Argonaut running 5 wts to an end fed half wave wire at 25 feet. There was a lot of activity but the band was very QRN here in Florida and many signals were not Q5. It was still a fun evening at the radio and glad I could make it for this one. 73--Chuck

W6GMT, Brock Thomsen, 05 fpqso=9 fpxqso=0 nonfpqso=0 spc=8 total=216

Nice Run 40 was in good shape here in MN. The Band started short and went long. worked a fellow Pig in FL and one in WA.

WA3ZBJ, Don, 5 watts fpqso=7 fpxqso=0 nonfpqso=2 spc=8 total=184

Did someone not pay the bill for 20 & 80 meters tonight? 40 was noisy, but that's where the party was. Still shaking down new PFR-3. Hears better than my FT817. 2nd PFR-3 QSO with Mike **AF4LQ** in as many days. (Smile) Great fun! Tnx to those who pulled me out of the QRN.

NG7Z, Paul Beringer, 5W fpqso=8 fpxqso=0 nonfpqso=0 spc=7 total=168

Got a late start due to guests. Didn't get on until 0240 and by that time 20M was pretty empty. But I called cq and picked up four Q's. Many thanks to **W5ACM** and **N1VWD** for hanging in there to complete the QSOs. Switched to 40M and picked up four more. We need sunspots. 73 Paul NG7Z

WB8LZG, Gregg Mulder, 5w fpqso=5 fpxqso=0 nonfpqso=1 spc=6 total=96

Only managed abt 45 mins to play radio tonight, but had alot of fun. Where was everyone on 80 ? Seemed open but no takers on my CQ. 73, es OO , Gregg

K5JHP, Bill, 5 w fpqso=5 fpxqso=0 nonfpqso=1 spc=6 total=96

Not too many stations heard here on the gulf coast tonight. and a lot of QRN.....Hope for better as the weather cools....be back next month...

AB9QN, Lincoln Thormahlen, 5w fpqso=6 fpxqso=0 nonfpqso=0 spc=5 total=90

IC-7000 at 5w into a long wire 40' up in the trees. Sorry to all that heard my poor sending tonite. I will fix or replace the bad paddle soon.

KD2MX, Paul , 5W fpqso=7 fpxqso=0 nonfpqso=0 spc=4 total=84

Some good signals from TX tonight on 20M (four out of my seven). Also worked CA, GA and OK. CA was a treat. I thought I would hear more piggies given the strong signals from out west but propagation must've been selective. Only played the first 30 minutes. Checked 40M briefly but the band was still quiet.

KF8GE, Bill, 5W fpqso=5 fpxqso=0 nonfpqso=1 spc=5 total=80

First QRP contest, man this is tough! Heard very little on 40 meters, and everyone was down in the QRN except for

N4BP and **W5TM**. Using a Buternut vertical, need to get something horizontal up for next month.

WA8THK, Perry, 5w fpqso=5 fpdxqso=0 nonfpqso=1 spc=5 total=80

Let me be "First" Run For the Bacon Sunday Aug 17 UPDATE well it did not take long to bump me down..HI HI had fun as always. Picked up an older 756 rig at a swap today, worked real good. lots of QRN tonight here in Michigan. 3 1/2 months till my K3 gets shipped...then I will start on top and stay on top .. (snig) Bed time. 72 oo oo Perry

N9GGE, John, 4W fpqso=5 fpdxqso=0 nonfpqso=0 spc=5 total=75

N1VWD, Bradford McKirryher , 5w fpqso=4 fpdxqso=0 nonfpqso=0 spc=4 total=48

IC-703+ Windom @ 35' KK-1 Straight Key Not the best night only heard signals on 20m and nothing on 40m, but as usual I had a great time. 72 to all and oink-oink!!!

NONBD, Paul, 5 watts fpqso=4 fpdxqso=0 nonfpqso=0 spc=4 total=48

40 was fun but noisy here. Tnx for digging me out. Maybe a new feed line will make things better when it gets here this week. de Paul NONBD Stations worked W0NTA W5TA W0PQ KB9BVN

K3PG, Paul, 5 Watts fpqso=3 fpdxqso=0 nonfpqso=0 spc=3 total=27

Will have to put this event on my calendar. Was suprised at the activity. FP#274 5 Watts to a R7 Vertical. Worked **W0NTA**, **W0PQ** and **W9ILF** de Paul in MD K3PG FP#274

AC6NN, Craig, 5 W fpqso=3 fpdxqso=0 nonfpqso=0 spc=3 total=27

W5ESE, Scott McMullen, 3W fpqso=2 fpdxqso=0 nonfpqso=0 spc=2 total=12

Just got on the air for a little while until thunderstorms forced me off the air. Rig is a Ten-Tec TKIT 1320, and the antenna is a 100m HOHPL.

K6CSL, Bert H. Cook, 5W fpqso=2 fpdxqso=0 nonfpqso=0 spc=2 total=12

I was very surprized. I wasn't hearing very many participants. However the band conditions, especially on 20 were pretty poor. Hope next month is a little better. 73's to all-Bert, K6CSL

TF3KX, Kristinn Andersen, 5 W fpqso=2 fpdxqso=0 nonfpqso=0 spc=2 total=12

My first try, with my QRP K2 and an inv-V dipole. Condx not too bad, worked **K4BAI** and **N4BP** on 20m, heard **N4BP** on 40m but did not make it through. Hopefully next time!

AI3G, Doug Ermer, 3 W fpqso=1 fpdxqso=0 nonfpqso=0 spc=1 total=3

Fun contest but lots of QRN, QRM Elecraft KX-1 at 3 W, Outbacker vertical indoors.

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

Bits 'n' Pieces

As I put together this issue of *Bacon Bits*, I noticed I never quite make it the same way from issue to issue. The formatting is usually a little bit different, the font may vary in some places, and there's usually some sore thumb sticking out I didn't notice. Well, consider the *BBQ* as you would an old recipe you don't always follow. Sometimes you put in a little too much pepper, sometimes not enough salt. In the end though, it's still good.

/rick, WB6JBM FP#-2, asked us to post the following as a lost-and-found item. If you are the item's owner, please email him at ripowell@mpna.com. He is itching to meet you.

FOUND: One pair of red flowered panties on Sunday 9/14/08, when the remnants of Hurricane Ike came through Ohio. Size: not horribly big. Currently on display on the antenna of TheRaceBox in Liberty Township, Ohio.



If you have any information leading to the owner of this misplaced item please contact us immediately. Thank you.

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

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ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS:

If you enjoy the BBQ, and who doesn't, feel free to write something! Remember, we're pigs so we have very low standards. If your spelling, grammar, or composition skills aren't as good as you'd like, don't worry about it. That's what spell chickens are for!

Any and all contributions from all who wish to submit them, pig or not, ham or not, are welcome. Prior publication is not an issue, provided the original publisher allows republication. Please submit articles as a plain-text file attached to or in the body of an email.

Please DO NOT format the submission. If pictures accompany your submission, attach them to the email and include a plain text file with descriptions/captions. If you wish, article text, photos, and photo descriptions can be placed in a compressed archive. Please send all submissions to Rob Matherly, w0jrm, jimrob@gmail.com.

Suggested topics are QRP (duh); homebrewing; antennas; public interest stories such as hamfests, club meetings, group builds, etc.; contesting; beer.

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 MEMBERSHIP:

To join The Flying Pigs QRP Club, visit <http://www.fpqrp.net/join.php>

CLUB EMAIL REFLECTOR:

To subscribe to the club email reflector, send a message to majordomo@mpna.com with the subject "subscribe fpqrp-l". Please note that HTML emails are NOT accepted by the server, and will die silently.

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.fpqrp.net>

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.fpqrp.net/fpqrprun.html>

OUR WEEKLY NETS:

A weekly net is held every Sunday at 9PM Eastern Time on 7.044MHz, unless there is a Run for the Bacon Sprint that evening

An on-occasion net is held on the 80M FPQRP frequency of 3.564MHz. An announcement will be made to the list if one is to be held.

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

FPQRP OFFICIAL FREQUENCIES:

160m - 1.814MHz

80m - 3.564MHz

40m - 7.044MHz

30m - 10.110MHz

20m - 14.062MHz

17m - 18.100MHz

15m – 21.064MHz

2m - 145.720MHz

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