
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.

In This Issue:

The View From the Slop
Rob, W0JRM FP#-330

FPQRP Honors Martin F. Jue, K5MFJ of MFJ
Ev, N5MZX FP#-1192

FPQRP Makes a Showing at the Ft. Wayne
Hamfest
Hank, N8XX

Ham Radio Podcasts (as seen on Eham)
Brian, KB9BVN FP#-57

Dear Santa....
Rob, W0JRM FP#-330

How To Install A Basic Antenna System (The
Flying Pig Way)
Rob, W0JRM FP#-330

Introduction to Kit Building – Ev, N5MZX

Doc Joel Opines on the Strange Lights over his Shack
Joel, KE1LA FP#-190

Announcing the FPQRP German Chapter Easter Safari
Peter, DL2FI FP#-62

Antenna Importance
Joel, KE1LA FP#-190

FPQRP Sunday Net Rolls

Bits 'n' Pieces



The View from the Slop

By Rob, W0JRM FP#-330

Ah, Christmas time. That magical time of year when families get together, strangers exchange friendly greetings, and it always snows.

Okay, so maybe that stuff *doesn't* happen as often as we, or maybe just I, would like. There are things we can count on this time of year, however. The propagation on the low bands increases. The days are shorter, resulting in more time to play on the radio (less daylight equals less honey-dos, in my experience.) Plus, as we all know, a blinding ice storm with forty-below windchills is *optimal* weather for installing antennas.

It's great to see that the nets have taken off again! I've tried checking in as often as possible, but sometimes my on-its-last-legs G5RV just don't cut the mustard. A few pigs have expressed an interest in starting up an 80m net, myself included. I'll go out on a limb, just like in the last BBQ – if there is one, I'll gladly volunteer to be NCS when needed. There's been some talk about it on the reflector and it seems that, given the required late-night nature of an 80m net, a Friday or Saturday night would be best with a time around 9:00 or 10:00 Central time (0300 or 0400 UTC, if I'm correct in my conversion.)

Winter is also a great time to get caught up on those kits, projects, and experiments that got forgotten over the summer. I've got a half-built Softrock and a pile of parts destined to be a 2n2/30 that have been setting on my workbench since April. If you're one of those determined people that gets everything done on time and doesn't *have* a pile of half-built kits (what are you doing being a flying pig?), Ev Catlin, N5MZX, FP #-1192 has some tips on what kits are out there and what to build.

What if you're trapped indoors and the bands are dead? Check out some ham radio podcasts. Brian Murrey, KB9BVN, FP #-57, has an article (which appeared at Eham.net a few weeks back) on the various ham radio podcasts that are available.

This is also the time little kids write letters to Santa. We might not little kids, but we act like 'em most of the time. Close enough, I figure! We've got some letters to Santa with Christmas ham (not that kind, Brian) wishes.

We've also got a report on the FPQRP Christmas Par-tay that never was. Boy-oh-boy, what we all missed! Phlem Hawker, N0CALL FP#-12345 was kind enough to act as a “fly on the wall” and report back to all of us what happened. From what he said, it sounds like half the folks there don't even remember the party...

Finally, I'd like to announce that a new piglet has arrived! James Robert Matherly, Jr., son of moi, was born 1:17PM on Sunday, November 18th, 2007. He shall henceforth be referred to as FP #-330.5. Here's hoping I can raise him to the “high standards” all us pigs have for eachother!

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

FPQRP Honors Martin F. Jue, K5FLU of MFJ

By Ev, N5MZX FP#-1192

It was my honor to represent the Flying Pigs QRP Club International at the 35th Anniversary of MFJ Enterprises in Starkville, Mississippi. MFJ makes over 2000 products for the amateur radio enthusiasts. Approximately 90% of the products are manufactured in 4 plants in Starkville. Martin F Jue, K5FLU, is the founder and president of MFJ.

His first product was the FL 1 Audio filter for ham receivers. He now manufactures products under the Vectronics, Hi-Gain, Mirage, Ameritron, and MFJ brands. MFJ has supported the QRP community for 35 years. His line of QRP products include HF SSB Travel Radios, Single band 5 watt CW transceivers, QRP Tuners, Miniature Iambic paddles, and accessories.

The Anniversary Celebration started on the 7th of September and ended on the 8th with A Day In The Park sponsored by MFJ and the ARRL. There were plant tours through all of MFJ's plants and the operation of W5MFJ special events station with radios that were provided by Icom. Door prizes were awarded at the Day In The park on Saturday.

It was a great pleasure for me to give Martin his own membership, signed by Diz, W8DIZ FP#-1, to the Flying Pigs. Martin is now Flying Pig #1742. I welcomed Martin Jue to the Flying Pigs and thanked him for his support of the QRP community. I wished Martin and his partners many more years of success.



Martin F. Jue, K5FLU FP#-1742, president of MFJ, is Presented an Honorary FPQRP Membership by Ev Catlin, N5MZX FP#-1192. (Nice hat!)

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

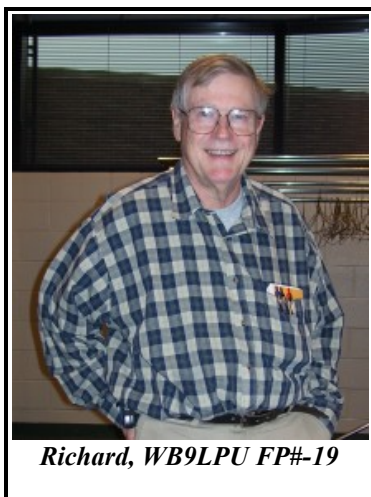
FPQRP at the Fort Wayne Hamfest

By Hank, N8XX

The Fort Wayne Hamfest was smaller than previous ones which I've attended. Everything was on the main floor, and it wasn't completely sold out. However the crowd, even Saturday afternoon, seemed to be quite large in comparison to other hamfests which I've attended this year. There were several vendors and manufacturer's reps, so if you couldn't find what you thought you needed you probably were looking for something quite unique.

I wasn't looking for anything except friends and former colleagues, plus some flying piggies. There was "supposed to be" a gathering of the herd of piggies at 11 a.m. near the entrance to the lower level, but the fact that the lower level was closed off seemed to confuse the piggies and they never congregated. Four of them showed up at N8ET's QRP forum. There were a few interesting projects shown - one which attracted lots of interest was a fully automatic mechanical key - which sent both dots and dashes.

Here are the pix I took at the Fort Wayne Hamfest during the QRP forum. I'm not sure that I got all the Flying piggies, but I got all that arrived before the thing started. As far as I could determine, there was no "gathering" at 11 a.m. nor thereabouts.



Richard, WB9LPU FP#-19



Roy, KV8KV FP#-849



Ivan, W9ILF FP#-1256



Jack, WB8SCT, FP#-1564

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

Podcasts for Radio Amateurs

By Brian, KB9BVN FP#-57

(Ed. Note – This article recently appeared on Eham.net. However, since ol' P.B. submitted it here first, I'm gonna publish it anyway. Besides, we need to recognize what few accomplishments we pigs have!)

In the world of podcasting there seems to be something for everyone. Amateur Radio podcasts have become plentiful in the last year or so, and since I commute several hours a day for my job, I seek out interesting podcasts to make the time pass a little faster. You do NOT need an iPod to listen to podcasts. Virtually every podcast out there can be had in MP3 format without the hassles of iTunes.



I am a reformed iTunes user. I do not like iTunes on my Windows PC, and I don't have a Macintosh to try it on. I handed my iPod shuffle to my wife and she is now enjoying it. I have replaced my iPod with a Zen Stone MP3 player. It's \$40 and has 1GB of storage, and it has a nice function that allows me to skip through folders of content with the flick of a button. With that said, let's look at some of the more popular Amateur Radio podcasts.

First on my list of favorite Amateur Radio podcasts is "Long Delayed Echoes". Jeff Davis KE9V, has done a very excellent job with this podcast. His series on the history of the amateur service during the war years was extremely interesting. His audio quality is superior to most podcasts, and his voice is on par with any professional broadcaster out there. LDE, as it is known to his listeners, does not have a regular release schedule. Jeff works full time and cranks out LDE's as his time permits. They are worth the wait. You can visit the website at <http://ke9v.net/how-to-listen/> to find out how you can subscribe to LDE. It's available on iTunes and RSS feed. Typical runtime is 20 mins or less.

I'd say the second on my list would be TWIAR. This Week In Amateur Radio (International version). You can find this podcast by browsing to <http://www.twiar.org/twiaripodcast.xml> and following the directions there. TWIAR comes out weekly and seems to always have an interesting collection of DX News, Amateur Radio Updates, and reports of various ham activities from around the globe. Typical runtime is about 30 minutes per episode.



Most of you are familiar with Soldersmoke, and it is also on my list of "must-hear" Amateur Radio podcasts. This podcast was the product of Bill Meara M0HBR and Mike Caughran KL7R (SK). When Mike passed away in January of this year, many of us wondered if Bill would carry on and keep producing episodes of Soldersmoke. Much to the benefit of the amateur radio community, Bill has taken on the task and he's been doing a great job with it. My only critical comment about Soldersmoke is regarding the audio quality. It's noisy, not clear all the time, and I you will hear a lot of bass pops when Bill is speaking. It's not unlistenable, just a little annoying, but I never miss an episode. Bill is in the process of moving from the UK to Rome, so there has not been a new issue since July 1st. I look forward to the return of Soldersmoke once he gets settled in. You can download Soldersmoke by visiting <http://www.soldersmoke.com/> and saving to your PC. Typical runtime is about 40 minutes.



Next on the hit parade is Amateur Radio Newsline. This podcast is published weekly and normally runs about 30 minutes in length. It covers amateur radio news and happenings from mainly the USA, with some DX reporting thrown in for good measure. You

can download this one by visiting the website. Just aim your browser to <http://n5pre.podomatic.com/> and download the file. This one is also available via RSS feed as well.



The Audio News Service of the ARRL is another great source of amateur radio podcast files. The ARRL offers weekly Audio News, and the weekly ARRL Letter via MP3 download. You do not have to be an ARRL member to access these files, just aim your browser at the ARRL website listed here. <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> - I have not figured out a way to auto subscribe to the audio files so I just manually download them to my MP3 player every week. These files are weekly, and they run about 15 mins usually.

That just about covers the main amateur radio podcasts and audio files I listen to on a regular basis. They sure make the drive time seem shorter, and I am hooked on them for sure. One other thing I use my Zen Stone MP3 player for, is CW practice. I use MorseGen or G4FON to create MP3 files of imaginary QSO's, NTS Nets, text files, you name it. My car has a audio input jack on the stereo system, so all I have to do is plug the MP3 player in the audio input and the sound comes out of my car speakers. If you don't have an audio input you can use one of the small FM transmitters in the car. I do not recommend listening to your podcasts with earphones while driving.

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

Letters to Santa from the Members of FPQRP By Rob, W0JRM FP#-330

Remember when we were kids, writing letters to Santa in the hopes we'd get whatever it was we'd asked for? Assuming, of course, we were good at hiding the fact that we were all little hellions that were likely born from the seed of the devil himself.

I recently asked the members of FPQRP what they'd like to get for Christmas. Surprisingly, I got quite a few responses. (No crudely-drawn Crayola drawings of Reindeer though, durnit.)

From little Danny Shepard:

Dear Santa,

I want an MFJ-259B Antenna Analyzer for Christmas.

I've been pretty good this year and have worked very hard.
Besides I have a film of you that I'm sure you would not want posted on
You-Tube.

Merry Christmas,
Dan, N8IE

From Chris in Washington:

Radio wise? Well, a mini tuna tin II would be nice.
Maybe a flea powered receiver to go with it as well,
both set for 40M? Outside of that, it would be nice if
I could receive a scholarship to cover the next five
years of school, but that is probably a bit off topic.

Any rate, there's my two mites worth.

Chris, KF6SNJ

Here's a letter from little Sammy down in Texas:

ah we r wishing hr eh?

that's ez
a K3 with 2nd rx
and in the other hand we have
a huge pile of that other stuff

Sam, KA5AOI

Careful, Sammy! With that kind of language, Santa may leave you a lump of coal... or that "other stuff." Here's a letter from Georgie in New York:

mmmmm ... lets see
I would LOVE a GHD GT501A straight key from Santa!!!!

George, N2NJZ

Here's a letter from little Woody... er, Woody:

Well, since you're the only one that's likely to ask, I want it all!
I've got an old Ten Tec Omni D and a Kenwood TS-50s. I'd like to replace
the Omni D with an Omni VII. Not sure what to replace the Kenwood with.
Why the-.. -.. does Kenwood think we all need a portable rig
that you can't even put the face on? I guess an FT-857d with the Collins
filter of course. A tower would be great, and for a stocking stuffer how
bout a Tarheal screwdriver?

Not being greedy though, I'd settle for an old used K2 from someone
that upgraded to the K3.-.. -.., I'd be happy with a K1.

73's, & Merry Christmas!!!

Woody, KF4TQJ

You need to watch your -.. .- -- -. language, or you're going to end up with a bag of Kingsford,
Woody!

Here's one from Tommy in Virginia:

Since I'm a neophyte with all this stuff I'm thinking some kind of antenna analyzer would be nice so I could figure out what the heck I'm doing.

Tom KF4YYD

Ev knows how to keep his requests short and sweet:

I want an Hi-Gain 18AVQII

Ev, N5MZX

Santa likes it when we keep the requests simple. I know. That's got to be the only reason he hasn't delivered my Henry export amp yet. Er, wait... uh... my K3 with DSP add-ons and such. Yeah...

Merry Christmas, folks!

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

How To Install a Basic Antenna System the Flying Pig Way By Rob, W0JRM FP#-330

A few months ago, I installed a basic antenna system next to my garage. It is nothing fancy by any stretch. It consists of a fifteen foot long mast which is two inches in diameter bolted to my garage, with a rotor and ten foot mast atop it. Mounted to the mast is a Cushcraft 4-element HF beam, a 10 element 2m beam for SSB, and a 2m Ringo for local FM operation.

I put this all up in anticipation of the coming winter's operation. I'm on nights now, which gives me plenty of time to play radio while the family sleeps. (*Note – I wrote that before James Jr. arrived. I've since been reminded that free time is non-existent until the little rugrat decides to not wake himself up at 3am while grunting' out a poop.*) While the higher bands aren't *that* great in the winter, a beam is still a good thing to have in case they open.

I encountered a number of problems while installing this setup. For the benefit of all Flying Pigs, I decided to write a simple step-by-step installation guide. This is to help all of you do it the way I did, the Flying Pig way.

Step One: Begin by starting to mount everything to the mast, in preparation for leaning it against the structure to be bolted to. Mount your 2m Ringo, your 10 element beam, and then your HF beam. Discover HF beam is too long to do this. Rethink things.

Step One A: Mount everything *but* the HF beam on the pipe. Try to lean it up. Feel odd twang in groin area. Rethink things.

Step One B: Lean 2" pipe against garage, and attempt to bolt it to side of garage near roof. Discover bolts are too short..

Step Two: Screw board to side of garage. Can't find cordless drill, but can find screwdriver bit. Tape screwdriver bit into the proper-sized socket. Use this to screw wood to side of garage. Loose screwdriver bit and throw wrench across yard.

Step three: Locate wrench and get new screwdriver bit. Finish screwing wood to garage, and pipe to wood.

Step four: Mount rotor to pipe, and make sure it works. Discover it doesn't.

Step four A: Wire rotor to make sure it works before installing it atop pipe. Discover it doesn't. Soak the gears in WD-40, discover it now works. Pick up rotor, hear rattling inside, and discover a loose bearing. Disassemble rotor again. Pick rotor up and shake it to listen for loose bearings: none heard.

Step four B: Mount rotor atop pipe. Go into shack to wire it up and make sure it works (again). Hear whirring of turning rotor, but see no indication of such on the direction indicator. Take rotor back off pipe.

Step four C: Disassemble rotor. Discover you didn't properly line up little direction indicator doodad on top of rotor guts. Put it back together *right* this time. Pick up rotor, and hear rattle.

Step four D: Take rotor apart to put bearings back in place. Drop five on floor and dig through crap to find them.

Step four E: Put rotor back together, line up direction indicator, make sure all bearings are in place. Shake it to make sure. Turn rotor and watch dial to make sure. Put rotor back on pipe.

Step Five: Bolt rotor to pipe. Drop nut off while on roof of garage. Climb down for a replacement. Get one that is too small. Get another that fits.

Step Six: Attempt to hoist masting with 2m Ringo and 2m beam onto garage roof. Beam gets caught. Remove beam and hoist ringo and pipe on top of garage. Bolt beam back to mast while on garage roof

Step Seven: Haul HF Beam atop roof in three chunks. Assemble on roof. Discover beam is too large to handle up there. Take back apart and put on mast in pieces.

Step Eight: Get it all done, step back (almost falling off roof), and admire handywork.

Step Nine: Get inside and attempt to use beam. Wonder why rotating it doesn't null signals.

Step Ten: Two months later, discover that you forgot to un-telescope elements after taking antenna out of storage. Climb on roof and fix. Also discover that you put beam on pipe backwards. Spin beam around on pipe.

Step Eleven: Discover your SWR is now uncomfortably high. Say "screw it" and go back to using your G5RV for a few months until the ice melts off the roof and you fell like dinkin' around with it again. The high bands stink now anyway.

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

Highlights From the 2007 FPQRP Christmas Party that Never Was By Phlegm Hawker, N0CALL FP#-12345

Howdy, ya'll! This is Phlegm Hawker, Flyin' Piggie number -12345 reportin on this year's Christmas party. Whoo, what a hoot it was! It kicked off about 7:00 PM the Friday before Christmas at Ryan's in Kettering.

Dan and Diz were the first to arrive, and somehow managed to sneak a keg into the party room. I'm sure their intent was to provide refreshments for everyone, but somehow the darn thing musta sprung a leak. It was empty before anyone else showed up.

Brian was the first to show up after Dan and Diz. They promptly asked him if he'd finally been given back his "daddy bits" and allowed to come to a club function. He said, "Nope. The wife is out shopping and I'm supposed to be waiting in the car. I gotta eat quick and get back before she finds out."

/rick showed up soon after. He was proudly wearing his "spandex man" outfit, which unfortunately didn't insulate him from the cold all that well. He then ripped one and warmed himself right up.

Rob was the fourth to arrive. Unfortunately, he locked himself in the car and wasn't able to come inside. Last time I saw him, Dan was feeding him spaghetti through a cracked window.

Doc Joel showed up soon afterwards. He made sure to lecture us all on the evils of alcohol and regale us with tales of Flight Simulator glory. He then decided to lecture the whole restaurant on the evils of gluttony. Man, I almost peed myself when he climbed on top of the hot soup island so everyone could see him.

We all kept waiting for Mac to show up. He said he was there, but none of us saw him. Brian thought he saw him over at the meat bar loading up on spare ribs, but it turned out to be a 300lb Jamaican man loadin' up on jerk pork. I guess if we'd ever actually seen Mac, we'd know he wasn't a 300lb Jamaican man. Then again, maybe he is?

Dennis, WB0WAO, showed up. It was hard for him to eat without gettin' stuff stuck on the hood of his sweatshirt. He refused to take that or his sunglasses off. I asked him why, and all he did was start rambling about the ATF and an illegal potato cannon he'd made.

Larry managed to make it. He promptly organized a cocktail weenie eating contest and kept score. If I remember correctly, Brian and Diz tied for first after each eating 472 cocktail weenies before they both simultaneously barfed Cookie's BBQ Sauce out their noses.

Jo showed up. After she took one look at Dan, who by this point had shed his pants, Joel, who was knee-deep in potato chowder, Diz, who'd passed out in a pile of cole slaw, and our honorary Mac with jerk pork stuck on the front of his Bob Marley tee-shirt, she turned right around and left.

Then the cops showed up. It was a real mess. "Who's responsible for all this?" They asked. In unison we all replied "PAUL!" and he was promptly hauled off. What a party it was! I hope to see you all next year! OINK-OINK YA'LL!

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

An Introduction to Kit Building

By Ev, N5MZX FP#-1192

As long as there have been radio experimenters there has been the homebrewing of amateur radios. In the early days everything was designed and built from scratch. Typically the first radios were built on wooden chassis with point-to-point wiring. This type of construction was very dangerous at best, and exposed the operator to potentially lethal voltages. My first transmitter was built from a 1950's issue of QST magazine. It was a 40-watt crystal controlled transmitter. I used my father's Hallicrafters receiver with my transmitter. With my Dad's, WA2BHS, help I also built a power supply and antenna tuner. I had a lot of fun with this set up and made many amazing QSO's with it.

With the advent of AM broadcast radio the average person soon found himself building Crystal Radio Sets. This involvement led many to an interest in amateur radio. The kit eliminated the designing part and allowed the builder to put together a high quality radio at a reasonable cost. For many of us Eico, World Radio Labs, Knight Kit, E.F. Johnson, and Heath Kit stir up memories of hours spent in the basement with radios that glowed in the dark.

One summer our family came to Mississippi on vacation, And I had a chance to visit my Uncle "D", W5AMF, and when he found out that I was a new Ham he offered to let me use his Globe Scout 40A. It was a multi band transmitter that was sold built for \$99.95 and as a kit for \$89.95. He could not get the radio out of the cabinet fast enough to show us his handiwork. My uncle's assembly of the radio was meticulous. I used his radio for the rest of my Novice term. My Novice ticket expired as my interests were changing from amateur radio to girls.

In the early 1970's I would again get my Novice, Tech, and after three tries at the 13 wpm code I would earn my General. My interests turned to kit building. Over the years I have built 2- HW8's, 1- HW9, HW-101, Heath Kit VTVM, and an Elecraft K2 with all the bells and whistles.

Unfortunately 5 weeks after Hurricane Katrina came through our house burned down and with it all of our possessions. We have a new house now and are rebuilding our lives. This includes building kits to replace the ones I lost. So I am approaching this as if I was building a kit for the first time.

A good kit contains all the necessary parts and instructions to build it. Most anyone can build a kit. All that is required is to be able to read and understand the manual, acquire some soldering skills, and be able to use some basic test equipment. You will need a well-lit workbench with adequate AC outlets. Invest in a good pair of safety glasses to protect your eyes from wire clippings, solder splashes and work in a well-ventilated area. Be very careful when handling hot soldering irons as the can cause severe burns.

Now if you have never soldered before or it's been a long time since you have, you might want to take a soldering course. My choice was the Vecronics VEC 1500K Comprehensive Soldering Course from our friends at MFJ Enterprises in Starkville, Ms. The course presumes that you don't know one end of a soldering iron from the other. It takes you through the basics to building a kit.

To get the most out of your course read and understand each chapter before going on to the next one. Then take the quiz after each chapter and if you miss a question go back and study the material again. The kit will give you experience in installing, resistors, capacitors, diodes, transistors, LED's, and integrated circuits. The finished product will be an LED display with lights that chase each other.

For your first kit pick one with low parts density and a good assembly manual. Buy a kit that you will use and enjoy. A piece of test equipment or a station accessory is often a good choice. For my first I picked the TAYLOE SWR Indicator from Doug Hendricks. See Doug's web site at www.qrpkits.com. This kit contains about 11 components and makes a dandy QRP SWR indicator. The TAYLOE SWR INDICATOR sells for about \$12.00.

My next endeavor was the Elecraft 20 Watt Dummy Load. It was an absolute pleasure to build. The kit has about 14 parts and has very good instructions. Every QRP operator needs a good dummy load. I mounted it in a WARHEADS EXTREME SOUR candy tin. The 20-watt dummy load can be purchased from www.elecraft.com for \$25.00 plus shipping.

The Freq-Mite from Dave Benson's SMALL WONDER LABS was my next kit. Notice how I am slowly increasing the difficulty of the kits I am building. This kit has a much higher parts count than the previous kits. I encountered no problems with the Freq- Mite's construction and it worked on power up. I configured it to work as a stand-alone counter and mounted it and a 9v battery in an ALTOIDS tin. This counter will be used to align and troubleshoot other projects. The FREQ-MITE sells for \$20.00.

The SMALL WONDER LABS SW-30 was selected as my next project. This is one beautifully engineered kit. The instruction manual comes on a CD and is included with the kit. The parts inventory is quite extensive. However the enclosure and controls are sold separately. The instructions are not exactly step-to-step but very easy to follow. Don't get in a hurry, take your time, and check each step. I mounted it in the enclosure made for it and it looks great. I have had much success with this radio and received good signal reports. This is a must build transceiver.

I can also recommend the MFJ Cub series of kits. The Cub is a good performer and has been very popular with QRP operators. It is well-designed, fun to build, and easy to operate. THE Cub was designated as a club project for QRP-ARCI last year and you will find many of them on the air. The kits SMT components are pre-mounted leaving you only to install the through the hole parts. You can view the instructions at www.mfjenterprises.com. The Cub sells as a kit for \$89.95. The instructions are well written and easy to follow.

Ok, so you don't like CW! Well Doug Hendricks has a kit for you. The MMR-40 CW/SSB transceiver should be your choice. It is a high quality kit with excellent instructions. You can find information on this kit at www.qrpkits.com. It sells for \$105.00 shipped.

I will also replace my Elecraft K2 as my money permits. The Elecraft K2 is the Cadillac of kits. This is a great all around radio. It is a bit pricey but worth every dollar.

No matter what your preference, there is a kit out there to suite you. QRP clubs are another source for kits. Check out NORCAL, AzScorpions, AmQRP and others. Check out the links at www.qrparci.org.

I challenge you to be more than an appliance operator build and operate a kit.

"Vi Minore Plus Gaudium"

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

Doc Joel Opines on the Strange Lights Over his Shack

By Joel, KE1LA FP#-190

Doc Joel forwarded an email to me which he had also sent to the editor of his local newspaper. It seems Doc is looking for some answers to a problem he can't quite solve. In the interests of his remaining shreds of sanity, I've posted it here in the BBQ in case someone out there can help him.

Mr. Editor:

Has anyone ever figured out what that ufo in the Strong, Maine area was? U know, the one a few weeks back... we all know it wasn't f-14's or other military aircraft, at least none that belongs to the USA.

Lately the f-whatevers have been flying over the area making all kinds of noise and are visible... so what was flying that evening of the ufo... is anyone even interested?

What if it was some new Iranian aircraft? Could it be that some of the air bases here in maine aren't really closed down but doing secret government work... does the government even have a clue or is the government's technology too primitive for whoever is flying the ufo.

I can remember back to the 1950's when the ufos hovered right over the white house for a week or so.... No explanation then or now that I can recall... maybe a citizen sponsored ufo search might be the right thing to do... keep the government out of it so no one gets their pictures taken away or whatever...

If this ufo can not be named or defined, how do we know if it's friend or foe... how does one protect one's self from an invisible foe? Where is this aircraft now? What was its mission? Will it be coming back? If so, when and for what purpose?

Mr. Editor , can u offer any help?

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

Announcing the FPQRP German Chapter Easter Safari

By Peter, DL2FI FP#-62

Goal: Do more then soldering! Talk to as many Flying Pigs members you can to give the Ham bands new life.

Schedule Plan: The Safari season starts exactly 8 days after the owner of a legal transmitting license bought a chocolate bunny in a local super market. The bunny purchase is only valid if it has been verified and signed by a local butcher. The chocolate bunny has to be given as a return service to the butcher (a form a conciliation to the pig killer). The certification must be sent to Flying Pig QRP Club, German Chapter Pink Baron (FPQRPCGCPB).

The first one who sends the verification will be named "Safari Master". He will get the Safari Master Diploma. He will hold the title "Safari Master" for the rest of his life during this and any following Flying Pig Safari. Any QSO with him counts as a Joker. The actual starting day will be published on www.fpgrp.de.

The Safari Season normally will end Easter Sunday 8:08 UTC. If someone buys a chocolate Santa Claus before Easter Sunday 8:08 and gets a verification by a local supplier of Red Caps or a local reindeer breeder, the Easter Safari immediate stops and the Christmas Safari starts.

Valid QSO's contain exchange of:

- Real RST
- Mode - Name - QTH - Rig, Power-Output, Antenna
- Temperature outdoor
- Temperature indoor
- FP- Number. Non Members give PWW- xxx FPQRPCI (xxx is their dream member number they want to get if they become a member. The meaning of PWW is secret.)
- Status
 - +00 - No Chocolate Bunny found yet
 - +10 - Found Chocolate bunny but didn't buy it
 - +20 - Found Chocolate bunny, bought it but didn't eat it
 - +30 - Found Chocolate bunny bought and eaten
 - +40 - eat too much chocolate bunnies, I feel sick
 - -50 - I never eat Chocolate Bunnies
 - -51 - I seldom eat Chocolate Bunnies
 - +86 - Safari-Master

If the Easter Safari changes to Xmas Safari due to its rules, exchange the Chocolate bunny for a Chocolate Santa Claus.

Logs have to be sent to FPQRPCGCPB (DL1JGS@FPQRP.DE) The winner will be found by using a highly scientific and complicated method. Worked member count and status will influence the score, the algorithm of the method is absolutely secret. The results will be published at www.fpgrp.de

The winner gets:

- A print-it-yourself Diploma
- The top 5 will get a Chocolate Santa Class as a starter for the Xmas Safari

A member list of Flying Pig QRP Club International can be found at www.fpgrp.net

A member list of Flying Pig QRP Club International German Chapter Pink Baron can be found at: www.fpgrp.de

We wish you all success during Easter Safari. Attention: Due to the rules a QSO only counts for the German Beacon Hunters Diploma if it takes longer than 15 Minutes. High speed operators work on their own risk.

In the name of FPQRPCGCPB

Peter, DL2FI FP- FPQRPCGCPB #00
Jergen, DL1JGS FP-FPQRPCGCPB #01

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

Antenna Importance

Joel, KE1LA FP#-190

Yea it's me KE1LA ... Joel ova in strong maine.... The displaced cajun lad... ex WA5CVM. Ah ban hesitating to write then I went and found three pennies on the rug... and ah figured now ah could write with some cents.... J so be prepared for the truth to hit u as u laugh at what u think is non-cents....

Ah thought of writing on how important the antenna is to your success at ham radio then ah figured u already knew that.. I didn't learn that till I had a neighbor what had a 4 element 30ft quad up some 60 sumthin foots.... I had me a 3 element quad up at my roof line about 25 foots... and I was using an argo 509... 2.5 watts out or closer to two watts.... Whatever... and I done real good with that antenna....

But I had them days when I could not get a contact at all and I would bring my radio and battery over to my neighbor who would hook up his quad and call into Europe for a RST report and get back a 59 although not his usual 59 as he used 1 kw...and was now using 2 watts/.... Antenna.... Antenna...antenna...

And what about apartment complexes... well I never did much good with an inside antenna... and I admire those that can do that with good signals Beyond my abilities...

Now a mobile antenna is different. Ah done some good dx with mobile antennas.. Used to take my pick-em-up truck and go to city park or to the beach at cypermort point and play radio from the bed of my pick em up truck or ride around to different parishes doing the county hunter thing... before going to work...I did a night shift ... eleven pm to 7am ...

Funny thing is ah did cw back then.... Got up into the 30 wpm speeds then and now way back to 15 to 20 wpm...if u you look up my call sign u will see the feds gave me an extra class licence for a week or so once... then I had to mail it back as they found they were supposed to give me the advanced instead...I wondered how long it would take them... to figure that one out.... Sure was a nice looking licence...but the advanced gets me where I can work various folk...

Way back then , when ah was young... the two way radio field was the way to geaux so ah did.... The marine work was mostly am stations with dynamotors for high voltage... great boat anchors... the oil field was mostly fm mobiles and a base station with a 400ft tower and a beautiful kw amp xmtr / receiver stuck in the middle of a swamp some where... or out on an oil platform in the gulf of mexico.... And it all came down to the antenna... the power helped... the antenna made or broke the system....

Now ah done some aircraft radio repair also and they used to amaze me with the simple setup for the antennas.... Course the planes or helicopters flew high... and mostly the helicopters had problems due to vibration problems and high humidity condensation in the copters at the different bases along the coast....

If the radio was working even half way... the antenna or coax was suspect.... Heck one time I was up changing an antenna and using a walkie talkie to talk 50 or so miles...at a few hundred feet on the tower...height is just amazing...

Reminds me of a 150ft pole ... I had to climb after a hurricane to straighten out one of the antennas.. The pole swayed so much in the wind ah got sea sick... had to climb down take an Alka-Seltzer and rest a bit... it was humerous...they had stacked five element beams pointing out into the gulf.... Vertically polarized.. Fm base station...

I guess my wandering here is to suggest that one should improve the antenna setup as best one can... the meaux they lower their xmtr pwr...as it will make the difference between calling cq and having qso's.

This is the reasoning I use with the weird lash ups for antennas I have used , specially up heah in yankee country. Some I have to allow for breakage in the wx however I due get such pleasure seeing sumthin work... especially when them degreed fellas said it couldn't or shouldn't...work...

Ah gonna leave u with this thought... theory is always right, most of the time, except when some unknown theory is in ur favor...

Ke1la.... The po' displaded cajun

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

FPQRP NET CHECKINS

CHECK-INS ON 9-16-07

YES MARTHA THAIR WAS A PIGGIE NET
TONIGHT... KINDA SNUCK IT IN THAIR...

HAD WB8ABE AND N4BOT CHECK IN...
BOTH HAD GOOD SIGNALS AND NEAUX I
COULD NOT REMEMBER ANY NAMES...
HOWEVER I COPIED PHIL AND RON FINE...
HEE HEE

OK SO THE ANT WORKS LET'S TRY NEXT
WEEK ...

SUNDAY 9PM EASTERN 7.044 CW KE1LA
CW PIGGY NET....

OH IT WAS GREAT TO HAVE CHECK INS...
I'M SO EXCITED....

JOEL SUN SEPT 16, 07

CHECK-INS ON 9-23-07

HIGH Y'ALL

IT WAS A GREAT NET 2-nite... most signals were
"soft" however very readeable.....and there was
folks just waiting out thair... great net nite...

CHECK INS:

KI4PAQ. good things started with ur call thanks

N8RNS.....hope i got the call right, i can bee
such a dummy...

K8DD.....REALLY LOUD...GREAT SIGNAL

N0JRN...HIGH JERRY... GOT U...

KA5OAI..... GOT ;U FINE SAM

WA1FXT... YESS AND I GAVE GRACE A KISS
FOR YOU... (she kissed me back)

Such went this sunday's nite's net... sept 23, 07

NO NET 9-30-07

NO NET 10-7-07

CHECK-INS ON 10-14-07

HIGH avery bodies....

Great net tonite... heard from louisiana tonite...
heard Jay... and sure beats sittin heah for 3 hours...
and listenin to static...

tonight i heard folks... just like a real NCS...

LOTS OF others were calling that i did not hear
which brings me to an ovservation ... we need ncs
stations in the different call areas... or piggies to

relay... or multiple net controls...

remember were doing low power with verticals and horizontal antennas.... and the north east an't the easiest to get to in the winter...

food for thought....

W9NX..... KENT... FIRST TO CALL... GREAT SIGNAL

N8WS..... BILL.. THANKS

K5APB.... FROM LOUSIANA , MY HOME STATE...

W5VAF... DENNIS... ALSO FROM LA...I THINK

AJ4AY.. JAY... THANKS JAY, MADE MY NITE...

AND THAT WAS THE NET ON SUNDAY, OCT 14, 07

CHECK-INS ON 10-21-07

MY APOLOGY GUYS

i took some medicine about noon today and it knocked me out about 6pm.... i'm just coming to...

from what i've read the bands were not at their best... and i really need someone to be a backup ncs... cause we need a fp net on sunday...

anyhow that's why i wasn't heard... i was on the sofa ten feet away out like a light...

again srry about that, catch u next sunday.... joel

CHECK-INS ON 10-28-07

NET #1

I heard one weak little pigglet all I got was maybe a K and then maybe an LA.....

called cq fp for a little while, then gave it up for the night

maybe the ECN will have better luck at 0200z

NET #2

YES MARTHA.... THAIR WAS A NET TONITE
SUN OCT 28 07

THE ONLY CHECK IN

WB8ICN... U WERE 339 / QSB BUT U WAS THAIR... THANKS

AND THAT WAS THE CROP... JOEL

NO NET 11-5-07

CHECK-INS 11-11-07

TONITES NET...

CHECK INS

NOJRN 579

HEARD KA8FTS DOWN ABOUT 800 CYCLES
BUT HE NO HERD ME...

KE1LA JOEL

NCX

FP NET SUNDAY NOV 11 07

CHECK-INS 11-19-07

STARTED 5 MINUTES LATE SRY

CHECK INS

K5GO 339

K7ZYV 449

AND ONE OTHER DIDN'T GET THE CALL....

JOEL KE2LA

SUNDAY NOV 18 07

CHECK-INS 11-26-07

SRY GUYS.... I WAS THAIR... NUTTING
HEARD... JOEL..

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

Bits 'n' Pieces

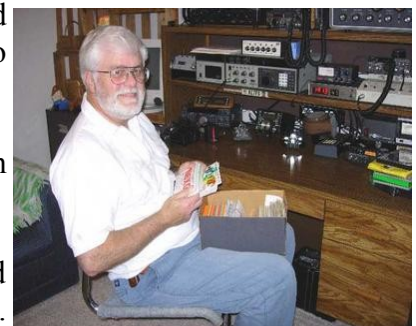
Bacon Bits Quarterly would like to welcome the following new members of FPQRP, starting with #-1800 since I have no idea which members joined since the last BBQ “went to press”:

#-1801 Clyde, KB4CUQ	Duncan, South Carolina, USA
#-1802 Scott, W6SRG	Cowan Heights, California, USA
#-1803 Namon, WQ4C	Huntsville, Alabama, USA
#-1804 Don, KF2PI	Gloversville, New York, USA
#-1805 Thomas, VA6WP	Calgary, Alberta, Canada
#-1806 Steve, N2PEJ	Gloversville, New York, USA
#-1807 Anthony, KC2RJN	Gloversville, New York, USA
#-1808 Steve, WA7YAZ	West Jordan, Utah, USA
#-1809 Ed, K5ERJ	Augusta, Kansas, USA
#-1810 Dick, KA7SPS	Beaverton, Oregon, USA
#-1811 Jim, N8DQU	Oscoda, Michigan, USA (correct?)
#-1812 Michael, KI6MOE	Sacramento, California, USA
#-1813 Tom, N8TJC	McArthur, Ohio, USA
#-1814 David, WE1U	Auburn, Maine, USA
#-1815 Eduardo, EA3GHS	Madrid, Spain
#-1816 Michael, KC8WRQ	Lexington, Kentucky, USA
#-1817 Alan, KC9MHI	Jeffersonville, Indiana, USA

Congratulations to Jim Larsen, AL7FS FP#-34, for being elected ARRL Section Manager in Alaska. Yet another accomplishment to add to his already long list!

Make us proud, Jim. Here's an idea... free pork rinds to everyone in your section who joins the League under your Tenure!

(I'd have given this a higher placement in the newsletter, but I'd already put the rest together and was too lazy to re-format it all. Trust me, we're proud of you.)



*Jim Larsen, AL7FS FP#-34,
Recently Elected ARRL AK Section
Manager*

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

HOW TO CONTACT THE AUTHORS:

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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. 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.fpgrp.com>

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.fpgrp.com/fpqrprun.html>

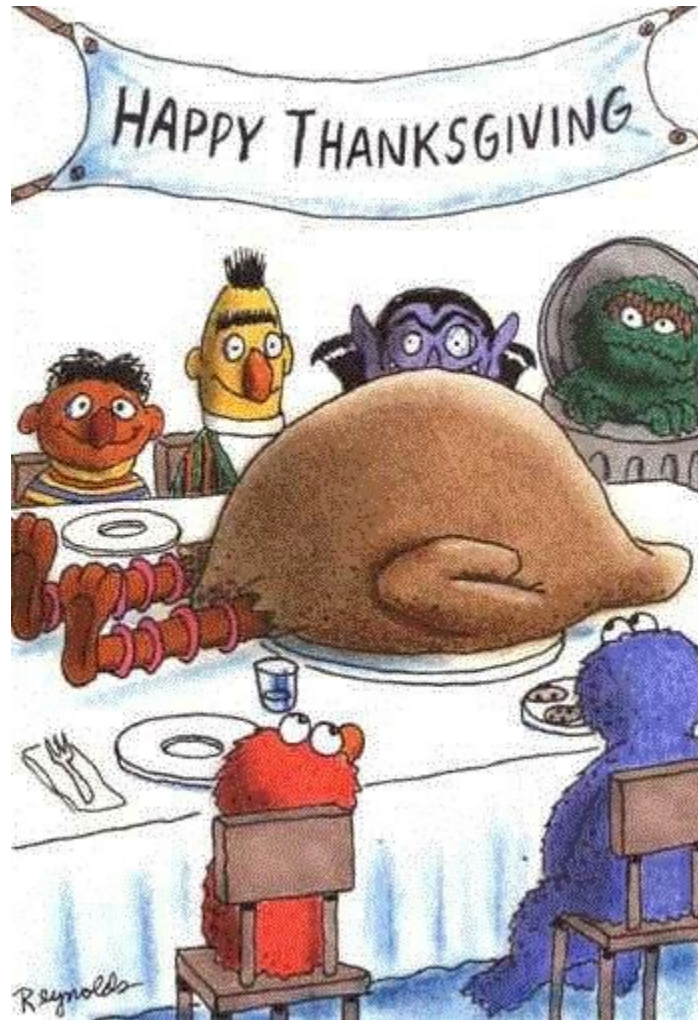
PROBLEM REPORTING:

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

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

In Closing....



<http://www.robmatherly.com>