

Bacon Bits

Flying Pigs QRP Club International, W8PIG

1900 Pittsfield St, Kettering, Ohio 45420

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

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

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NETS:

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

(All days/times listed are UTC)

CLUB FREQS.

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

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



Mike KD5KXF during his truffle run.

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Ramblings

Hello folks, ONE MORE MONTH TO FDIIM! WIIGII!

Word on the street is that our very own Diz, W8DIZ is working on a new QRP radio design. I have obtained this exclusive photo from his top-secret laboratory in Loveland, Oh. Could this be the "Maxi-Pig" that I keep hearing about? Stayed tuned as details emerge.



Maxi-Pig #1 during initial test phase?

72, oo,
Dan, N8IE Ω

FPI SPRING

By Arnold CW Timm
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A sizeable squad of Flying Pigs,
flew north along the lake;
a camping couple heard their sigs,
thought it was a quake!

Delbert lost his rudder trim,
Paulet's outboard tank;
Peter's wing was smashed to him,
Herb had luck to thank!

Flying Pigs appear as flies,
or pink mosquito herds;
If seen with (our) naked eyes,
a flock of humming birds!

Camping couple sprayed the flight,
on panic picnic grounds;
it really wasn't a pretty sight,
those awful " irking " sounds!

Hidden on a sapling twig,
a limp tel-graphic mash;
keyed the Flying Piglet rig,
and saved their sorry _____ !

KA0TPZ
wdx0awt@juno.com

FP NET

3/4

Piggies,
Just a short report tonight. Checkins:

KC8NYW	ROB
W1QF	TERRY
AF4PS	MAC
N8RQJ	HAROLD
KC4URI	STEVE
NV4T	BILL
AD4IH	JOE
KG9LZ	TOM

Aron, N1ODL, if you were there and I missed you I am very sorry. I tried to get a relay later but no joy. Hope to cu nxt week. Also note how well 4-land is represented; Must be the wx. Until next weekend 72 es oo's
Randy, WV9N

3/10

Thanks for the check-ins guy's..Great signals, and you both held over s-9 afterwards at qrrp too!! I nibbed while watching tv with SWMBO:-)
WV9N, Randy. 599+20
W1QF, Terry. 599+10, 599 at 1w.

72, 00 and agn great to see you!! rob, ab8mr..

3/11

Well this was the largest pen of pigs I've had since serving as interim NCS. The band conditions were not the best but not terrible either. I was experimenting a little by running with the filters more open than usual. That helps with the checkins and worked pretty well through most of the net but when Joe came in a little weak then I started playing with the filters and got him tuned in about the time he finished his report :-). Here are the checkins for this evening:

AB8MR - Rob, I don't know if I'll ever get used to ur new call
AF4PS - Mac in FL wid gud 559
NV4T - Bill at 569
W1QF - Terry nr Detroit. We had a qso last nite after Sat net. We both got down to 100 mw and were still 559. that's abt 2500 mi/watt.
W9FCC- Dan a gud 589 and making covet a Harley:-)
N10DL - Aron, back from vacation and 579/qsb
W8DIZ - Pappa Diz back from 5-oh and promising pix
KE1LA - Dr. Joel was 589 and trying to help me relax
WA5PB-Bill checked in but must have needed to qrt. Just stop me at your first chance and tell me you are short time and I'll let you report then.
KC4URI- Steve had a nice 589 sig
K4FB - Paul at 559. I think that's my only qso wid him outside of truffle or fox hunts
AD4IH - Joe right at the end was 339. If I could have got my act together faster I would have had better copy. The K2 needs a filter memory. I have trouble running thru all the filters and setting the audio filter. I end up pushing the button one too many times and then have to go thru the process again :-).

As you can see we had a great group of pigs tonite. The net ran just about one hour. Lots of you piggies out there need to shed their shyness and join in on some of the net fun. There are nets on Wed., Sat., and Sun. so there is plenty of opportunity to find a place to checkin. We are very informal and try to help each other out as best we can. Can't wait til FDIM to put some faces on some of these calls. 72/oo-randy,wv9n

3/14

High Y'all

great net tonite... all the big names were thair... :-)) even had some ssb and cw qrm... however they heard the mighty pigs and moved on.. kinda short and sweet tonite wed nite net wed mar13, 02 9PM Eastern 7.045.5 Mhz cw

Check ins

WIDIZ... BUSY WITH FDIM PROJECTS, THANKS DIZ

NV4T... NICE SIGNAL TONITE

W1QF... 59 AGAIN.... WHAT A QRP SIGNAL

K8WEK- U DIDN'T COME BACK!!! SRY WE LOST U;; JOEL

AD4IH --- UR SIGNAL WAS THAIR i JUST COULDN'T GET MY MIND IN GEAR... THANKS FOR CHECKING IN... HONORARY CHECK IN AF4PS... MAC WE KNEAUX HE TRIED TO MAKE IT...

KE1LA... U GOTTA GET AN ANTENNA JOEL, THE RUBBIE DUCKIE WON'T CUT IT ON HF....

GEEZZZZZZZZZZZZ

KE1LA JOEL

IN MAINE

NCS WED NITE NET

3/17

Greetings Fellow Piggies-

We had a nice net tonight. There was a little qrm and qrn on my end and although the signals were not blasting in they were pretty easy to copy. Our checkins for the net were:

AJ4AY Jay at 569 reporting on his vertical for his truck.

Sounds like he's going to catch that rare dx on his lunch break! AB8MR Rob at 589. He's getting used to little paddles. I wud have to nail them to the table to keep from slamming them all over the place.

NV4T Bill at 569 reporting on his most recent purchase of a boat anchor Hammarlund receiver. I used to look at them in OLD handbooks and drool when I was MUCH younger AF4PS Mac at 559. The DX Master reports that the dx is good but the job cuts back on the dx chasing time. On the other hand he does have a great Boss.

WA5PB Bill at 449 from Texas. Glad I managed to get to him this week and sri I missed him last week

W1QF Terry at 599. He was a later checking in than usual but reports that he has that problem with work also. I'm glad not many of us have that problem:-)

N1ODL Aron at 579. He almost dozed thru the net but made it just in time. Sometimes it appears that I might be sending in my sleep but I assure that is not the case.

So we had a great net tonight and you missed it. It happens every week so you still have another chance.

72/oo from your interim NCS, Randy,WV9N

3/21

High Y'all

wow what a net... had Mike, Mac?, Terry and myself... Terry checked in at one watt... I talked him down to 5 mw rst 549 and s8 on the k2... Terry said to be sure and say he wasn't sure about the accuracy of his attenuators... so actual pwr may vary however, the indication was 5 mw..... congradulations mr 599... short net tonite, great conditions....glad mike and mac and terry could make it....

WED NITE NET MARCH 20 02 7.047.5 Mhz 9PM
EASTERN CHECKINS

WB8ICN... GOING FOR HIS EXTRA THIS WEEKEND...GUD LUCK...

AF4PS.... THE MYSTERIOUS POSSIBLY MAC, THANKS W1QF... FIRST CHECKED IN AT 1W STRONG...FINALLY AT 5 MW...

KE1LA IMAGINED MAC "TRIED TO CHECK IN TONITE"

KE1LA JOEL

NCS MAINE

3/25

Well, the band conditions were not the best at my qth. The noise was loud and the signals were there one moment and gone the next. I heard the following stations at least one time. My apologies if I missed anyone. There were times when I thought I could here something then it was gone in the noise. Might have been my imagination.

QNT's

AF4PS MAC

AB8MR ROB

NV4T BILL

KC4URI STEVE

W1QF TERRY

Again if I missed anyone my apologies.

72/oo-Randy,WV9N

3/28

high y'all

Great net tonite, great conditions... who was that guy trying to chat over me?... think I scared him?!

WED NITE NET WED MARCH 27, 02 7.047.5 CW 9PM
EASTERN CHECKINS

W1QF...Q5 TERRY, WITH HIS DIT DIT AND DAH DAH...

W8DIZ...BUSY ON PROJECTS

WV9N... THANKS FOR RELAY

AF4PS.... N0UR... MAC AND ? STILL EATING BREAKFEAST

WR5O... FROM THE WEST SIDE OF TEXAS

N1ODL... ARON, IS THAT U?

KE1LA COUNT TO 5 AGAIN....

KE1LA JOEL IN MAINE NCS

QRP Happenings in April

4/6 - Missouri QSO Party:

CW/SSB--sponsored by the Boeing Employees Amateur Radio Society of St Louis (BEARS) from 1800Z Apr 6 to 0500Z Apr 7, and 1800Z Apr 7 to 2400Z Apr 7

More info at:

<http://www.qsl.net/w0ma>

4/13 - QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party:

CW--sponsored by the QRP ARCI, from 1200Z Apr 13 through 2400Z Apr 14.

More info at:

<http://personal.palouse.net/rfoltz/arci/spring.htm>

4/20 - Michigan QSO Party:

CW/SSB--sponsored by the Mad River Radio Club, from 1600Z Apr 20 through 0400Z Apr 21, no time limit.

More info at:

<http://www.mrrc.net/>

4/20 - TARA PSK31 Rumble:

Sponsored by Troy ARA, 0000Z--2400Z, April 20.

More info at:

<http://www.qsl.net/wm2u/rumble.html>

4/20 - GACW DX Contest "Mr. Samuel Morse Party":

CW - sponsored by the Grupo Argentino de Radiotelegrafia (GACW) from 1200Z Apr 20 through 1200Z Apr 21.

More info at:

<http://www.geocities.com/gacwar>

4/27 - Florida QSO Party:

Sponsored by the Florida Contest Group from 1600Z April 27-0159Z April 28 and 1200Z-2159Z April 28, no time limit, work FL stations.

More info at:

<http://www.qsl.net/fqp>

4/27 - Nebraska QSO Party:

CW/SSB--sponsored by the Heartland DX Association 1700Z Apr 27 through 1700Z Apr 28.

More info at:

<http://www.qsl.net/hdxa> Ω

IC Repair 101

By Dan, N8IE

How many times has this happened to you, your working on that new project in the latest QST when POP, you release all the smoke out of that hard to find IC that took you 3 weeks to get mail order? Well fear no more, here's how you can replace the smoke in the IC and get your project back up and running.

First a little background. When IC's are manufactured there is a certain amount of semi-conducting smoke added to facilitate the proper operation of the IC's design parameters. Look on any IC and you'll notice a notch or dimple located on the edge of the chip, this is not only used to identify the position of the number 1 pin, it's also where the smoke is inserted during the manufacturing process. Armed with this knowledge and with the help of a common Ink Refill kit sold for color Ink Jet printers, you can replace the smoke and restore the IC back to proper operating condition.

Here is a list of what you'll need ahead of time. You'll need a small workbench vise, the hypodermic needle from an Ink Jet refill kit, a 2oz. tube of Big Johnson Fill-A-Crack Gel®, a small drill bit, and a can of liquid semi-conducting smoke (available from Radio Shack, PN# OICU812).

Let's work with a very common IC, the 555-timer.

First remove the chip from the circuit and clamp into a small workbench vise. Next locate the dimple or notch and using a small drill bit, drill into the IC. Note that you'll only want to drill to a depth of 1/64 of an inch.

Fill the hypodermic with the liquid smoke and set this aside for now. You'll need to look in the data sheet for the proper amount of smoke to replace in the chip. This is very important because not using the exact amount recommended by the manufacturer may cause the chip not to operate as designed. An example of this would be adding too much smoke in the 555 would cause it to operate as a 556 dual timer IC. For my test IC, I found it requires 2gms of smoke to operate properly. Carefully inject the required amount of smoke into the IC while being careful not to breath any of the smoke as the Surgeon General has determined that smoking IC's can cause cancer and lead to low birth weight in babies.

When you have the proper amount of smoke in the IC grab your Big Johnson® and smear the gel around the orifice (of the IC). Allow a minute for the gel to start curing and carefully remove the hypodermic from the hole while keeping pressure applied to the gel while it hardens. If your finger becomes stuck in the gel, simply use an Exacto knife to remove the top few layers of skin from your finger thus freeing the IC. Let the IC sit over night to allow the gel to completely setup, then re-install into your circuit and test. If you find that the IC is still not working properly, repeat the above process until you get it working. This method can also work with diodes and transistors, but resistors and capacitors require a different type of smoke as they are not semi-conducting devices. Radio Shack sells this type of smoke as well.

72, oo Dan, N8IE Ω

Special Events for April

There are a lot of special events this month including several BSA events. Check out the ARRL page for a complete listing, here is a small example of what's going on this month!

Port St Lucie, FL:

Port St Lucie Amateur Radio Association, K4PSL. 1500Z **Apr 1** to 2100Z **Apr 30**. Commemorating the discovery of Florida by Ponce de Leon in 1513. 28.310 21.350 14.250 14.030.

Casper, WY:

Casper Amateur Radio Club, N7NPC. 0000Z **Apr 12** to 0000Z **Apr 13**. Boy Scout-O-Rama, Casper Wyoming Council. 28.380 14.239 7.225 3.900.

New York City, NY:

Monster Island Amateur Radio Society, K2G. 0000Z **Apr 13** to 2400Z **Apr 14**. Commemorating the 40th anniversary of the debuts of Gorath and King Kong vs Godzilla. 28.440 21.240 14.340 7.240.

Piscataway, NJ: Piscataway Amateur Radio Club, K2VOA. 0000Z to 2400Z **Apr 20**. Voice of America relay station WBØU. 28.345 21.345 14.245 7.245.

Kill Devil Hills/Kitty Hawk, NC: Tri-County ARC, NC4AR. 0900Z **Apr 27** to 1200Z **Apr 30**. Anniversary of the first powered aircraft flight at Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina. 14.260 7.260. Ω

PUMPING QRP

By Arnold CW Timm

CHAGRIN By Arnold CW Timm



Flying Pigs (and other outfits) find low power exceptionally useful and rewarding. While modulation is more appealing, there is that justified mental dexterity, old timers swear by. That weak signal songfest sure to attract military brass pounders. Railroad rib-ticklers take-to CW, whether it was American or International. Spark gaps spouting model A Ford fascinations, praise our continued waving from a far. Stronger than dirt, the waveform x-rays itself into our bodily functions. Sine "signs" show upon our faces. RF burns are predominately exposed as a red badge of courage. Certainly a sedentary pastime, our radio hobbies settle no score or label less obvious. We can buy a 13.8-volt direct current workout generator, where the hapless Ham, is subjected to sweaty heart pounding electricity. Couch potatoes running in place to produce early morning QSO? Fourteen volts of everlasting face saving, and off-grid nose thumbing! Where else can you find such determination? Peanut galleries the world over, find blissfulness in a second language of any type. Talking with your fingers and that quarter section of brain retention leaves one firmly attached to said communication. One if by land and two if by sea, signaled Revolutionary forces in Boston. The tea party really got going as British men-of-war were emptied into the harbor. Finding a giant slice of lemon became the battle cry of John Paul Jones and his tea-tippers. They snapped their fingers to seafaring ditties yet to be considered. And when Vail and Morse puzzled over coded cadence, some years later, perhaps this "independence" tea cup tinkling, influenced their bird call code?

We all know most wars and conflicts remain skirmishes unless we introduce technology. Without weapons or wigwag signaling, mountain molehills of human dissatisfaction somehow grow stagnant. But once we add low power drumbeats or saber rattling, battle plans and earth-shaking combat erupts. We are using turn of the century (1900) jealousy and racism. No matter how socialized or capitalist we claim we are, our technology tackles the onslaught head on. While a little continuous waves would sooth the savage breast. Look what petting zoos provide!

Member Spotlight!

This month were spotlighting:
KG6CYN--Trevor--FPQRP #388

Trevor Jacobs - KG6CYN hails from Burbank, CA.

Hi Guys,
Figured it was about time I signed up! After all, I'll need a club number to put on one of those beer mugs, Hi! Had a couple of pictures that a friend of mine took a few weeks ago. The HB project next to the DSW-40 is a homebrew DDS signal generator.



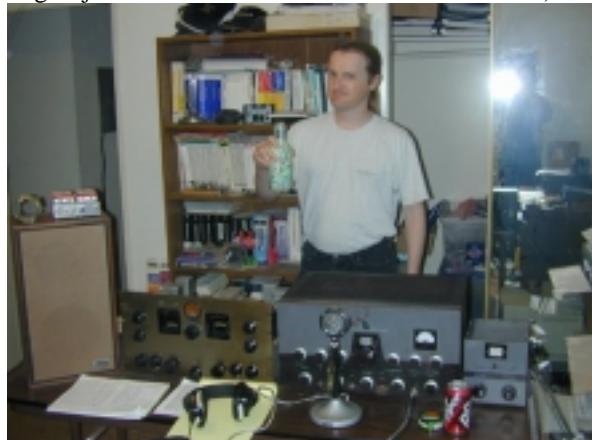
Consumer electronics has stolen much of our free time in video or cable TV. Back before 1952 (when TV began) and various sunspot cycles; our allotted radio spectrum was jammed nightly with one hour QSOs. Persons who could converse on subject matter few even comprehend currently. Qrp cw can allow for lost landmarks. It returns most of the preambles as a diversion. And for those who must monkey around with microphone audio, there are playgrounds galore forthcoming!

KA0TPZ

wdx0awt@juno.com



The boat anchors are both rigs that I resurrected last winter (although I just had to fix the AVC line in the BC-779!).



Take care...
Best 72/73's Trev, KG6CYN

Truffle Logs

3/6

Well conditions were better than I thought considering an A-index in the teens.

Rig here was a Yaesu FT 817 running 5 watts to a ground mounted vertical. Not the best of antennae, but adequate to net me 40 states and 54 DX countries since the first of the year.

Here is what I heard.

W5TB	559 TX	DOC	5W
W5YR	559 TX	GEORGE	5W
WU9N	559 WI	FEROZ	5W
W9HL	559 IL	RANDY	5W
AF4PS	559 FL	MAC	3W
K8CV	559 MI	WALT	5W
W5USJ	559 TX	CHUCK	5W
WA9TZE	559 WI	JIM	5W
K4BYF	559 FL	JACK	5W
K5SR	559 TX	DALE	5W
K0EVZ	559 ND	DOC	5W
K5JHP	559 TX	BILL	5W
K5DW	559 TX	DON	5W
KC9LC	559 VA	RANDY	5W
WE9K	599 WI	GLENN	5W
N1TP	579 FL	TOM	5W
W0RSP	559 SD	ADE	2W GOOD SIG
WA8BXN	589 OH	MIKE	5W

18 OF Y'ALL. Even operating split, at times there were so many I couldn't make out a call. Jolly good show gang. TU es oink-oink. Thanks for the new state Ade. 73,72, OO

Hamilton, Ohio EM79ri Tom, K8CZ
3/8

01:32 W5YR 559 TX GEORGE 5W
01:33 N9NE 559 WI TODD 5W
01:34 N8VAR 559 OH RON 5W
01:35 W5USJ 559 TX CHUCK 5W
01:35 W9HL 559 IL RANDY 5W
01:36 K5SR 559 TX DALE 5W
01:37 K3IU 599 RI KEN 5W
01:37 WV9N 559 OH RANDY 5W
01:38 K4BYF 559 FL JACK 5W
01:38 N1TP 559 FL TOM 5W
01:39 WA9TZE 559 WI JIM 5W
01:40 W5TB 559 TX DOC 5W
01:41 K0EVZ 559 ND DOC 5W
01:41 KR2F 559 NY VINNY 5W
01:42 K8KFJ 599 WV GARY 5W
01:43 WA8BXN 559 OH MIKE 5W
01:44 K8CV 559 MI WALT 5W
01:45 KD5KXF 559 TX MIKE 5W
01:46 G3NYY 559 G WALT 100W
01:47 W2XN 559 FL FRED 5W
01:48 N5VT 559 LA FRANK 5W
01:49 K5JHP 559 TX BILL 5W
01:49 K5DW 559 TX DON 5W
01:50 N5ZE 557 TX LEW 5W

01:51 WR5O 559 TX DAVE 5W
01:51 K5LN 559 TX BILL 5W
01:52 K8DD 559 MI HANK 5W
01:53 AC5JH 559 OK TOM 5W
01:54 VE6KG 559 AB NORM 5W
01:55 KC9LC 559 VA RANDY 5W
01:55 KG4LDY 559 VA JIM 1W
01:56 K9UT 559 IN JERRY 5W
01:57 W8DIZ 599 OH DIZ 5W
01:58 WE9K 559 WI GLENN 5W
02:00 AG0T 559 ND TODD 3W
02:00 AF4PS 559 FL MAC 3W
02:00 K4FB 559 FL PAUL 5W

72, oo
Paul, K4FB

1/13

This is embarrassing....:-). My public apology and thanks for the corrections. Why I personally like log corrections: Randy's entry error was just not paying attention to detail. For some reason, I keep having trouble with S and H. What's really strange was that my old call had both letters (KB5MHS). Looks like G4FON's software and Pile Up! are going to get a workout this summer. My apologies, Bill. Jim's entry error was faulty logic...A 4 call and an *A must equal GA. No excuse for not asking for a fill.

When I play CW contesting, it's pretty much S & P. I don't call anybody until I have their complete exchange down already. It's a LOT different being live on the "other" end. I have much to work on before the 2002-03 season, and I *really* appreciate everybody being a good sport while pointing it out. Thanks!

*Corrected entry:

1	0131	7043 W5YR	559 TX GEORGE	5W
2	0132	7043 W5USJ	559 TX CHUCK	5W
3	0133	7043 AF4PS	575 FL MAC	3W
4	0134	7043 K4BYF	559 FL JACK	5W
5	0136	7043 WV9N	559 OH RANDY	5W
*6	0137	7043 K5JHP	559 TX BILL	5W
7	0139	7043 K8CV	559 MI WALT	5W
8	0140	7043 K5SF	blown call - Dale did keep trying, though! :-)	
9	0141	7043 K5SR	559 TX DALE	5W
10	0144	7043 N1TP	559 FL TOM	5W
*11	0146	7043 W9HL	559 IL RANDY	5W
*12	0149	7043 KG4LDY	559 VA JIM	5W
13	0151	7043 W2XN	559 FL FRED	5W
14	0154	7043 KE6RS	559 CA RON	5W
15	0156	7043 K5DW	559 TX DON	5W
16	0157	7043 KN5TX	559 TX ROY	5W
17	0200	7043 WR5O	559 TX DAVE	5W

The Truffle
72/73 es oo,
Dave Winfield, WR5O

Thanks to all the hunters and the brave souls who volunteered to be Truffles for another great season. We will start again towards the end of summer, hope to see you then! Ω

HP breathes new life into Boat Anchors!

Hewlett Packard announced today (4/1/02) a new line of computers geared for the Amateur Radio community. With a cache of surplus computer hardware and the recent resurgence of "Boat Anchor" Ham Radio gear, the folks at HP have struck what could be a potential goldmine with their latest offering: The HP Model 0LD Computer.



"What is so exciting about this new PC is that now we can run the new digital modes on our old radios", said Mac Steinhammer, W4QTOO of the Sunny Village Retirement ARC in Odessa, FL.

"Right now we are using one of the 0LD computers with our clubs restored Drake TR-4 transmitter. Early results look good but it's getting hard to find 5-1/4" floppy disks," said Mac.



They plan to use the new setup during Field Day 2002 but may have to put those plans on hold due to no one in the club being able to lift the equipment. Ω

About the Flying Pigs QRP Club

OUR MISSION:

- 1: Have Fun.
- 2: No rules.
- 3: Have a group of Friendly Hams who enjoy Amateur Radio, and sharing their skills with their fellow Hams.

CLUB EMAIL POLICY:

These are not rules, just common sense.

Club email is not moderated, as we are not a stuffy group. You can send off topic messages about most subjects, but please keep it clean and in good taste. We do like good-natured ribbing and joking with each other, but we will not tolerate flaming other members or spamming the group.

We will remove offenders who abuse our open policy.

CLUB WEB PAGE:

The club web page is our forum for sharing projects, and information about us. You are encouraged to submit your ideas and projects to be added to the web page.

PROBLEM REPORTING:

If you are having problems with email, the web page, or a fellow club member, please report this to either:

Diz, W8DIZ at w8diz@cinci.rr.com

Rick, WB6JBM at ripowell@mpna.com

Dan, N8IE at n8ie@who.rr.com

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