

Bacon Bits

Flying Pigs QRP Club International, W8PIG

1900 Pittsfield St, Kettering, Ohio 45420

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

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

CONTACTS:

Diz, W8DIZ w8diz@cinci.rr.com
 Rick, WB6JBM ripowell@mpna.com
 Dan, N8IE shephed@aol.com

NETS:

DAY	TIME	FREQ
Sat	1400Z	14062
Sun	1300Z	7065
Sun	1400Z	14062
Thurs	0200Z	7065

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.

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Due to his heavy workload, Diz, W8DIZ will have to skip this month's continuing article on the Multi-Pig project. Diz will have the next article ready for the February issue.

Ramblings

Hello everyone and welcome to 2001! I hope each of you had a very merry, happy, and safe holiday.

Notice anything new about the newsletter this month? From your suggestions I have made a few changes to the layout, I hope you all enjoy it. Remember if you have any suggestions, please send them to me.

72, 00

Dan, N8IE Ω

Website Spotlight

This month we are going back to a time when radios glowed, and working a rig was more than pushing a button. How many of you know what an HW-101 is, or what one looks like? Ever hear the term "glow bug", well after this trip into the past, you will. ☺

So sit back and get ready, our next stop is the Good Old Days!

First off, lets see a few radios!

August, KG7BZ shows us his collection of boatanchors at:

<http://www.pinetop.com/~kg7bz/radio.html>

David, N7RK has a wonderful collection for viewing at:

<http://www.getnet.com/~davidh/boatanchor.html>

Most of Grant, NQ5T's pages are devoted to the care, feeding, restoration and operation of Boatanchors.

<http://home1.gte.net/nq5t/>

Dave, WB7AWK runs boatanchors.com. It's a must see at:

<http://www.boatanchors.com/>

Rich, KB8TAD keep a very good webpage at:

<http://oak.cats.ohiou.edu/~postr/bapix/>

Now, let's see them up close!

The Museum of Radio and Technology in Huntington, West Virginia not only offers vintage radios to drool over, they have meets, auctions, contests, presentations, banquets.

<http://oak.cats.ohiou.edu/~postr/MRT/>

Bellingham Antique Radio Museum is located in downtown Bellingham, Washington:

<http://www.antique-radio.org/>

Ok, so now you want one of these for yourself, let's go shopping.

The Boatanchor Classifieds:

<http://www.dealamerica.com/atqradio.htm>

Antique Radio Classifieds:

<http://www.antiqueradio.com/>

Ok, you got yourself a brand new old rig, now you gotta get parts, here are a few places to look:

Antique Electronic Supply. Tubes, sockets, transformers, and much more:

<http://www.tubesandmore.com/>

Check out Electro Junk, they buy, sell, and swap electronic "stuff":

<http://www.electrojunk.com/>

Where can I get tubes and other parts, try here:

<http://www.3rdtech.com/nick/boat/parts.htm>

Bry, AF4K has a great list for parts and supplies at:

<http://www.3rdtech.com/nick/boat/parts.htm>

Well I hope you all enjoyed this trip to the past, to find more WebPages try this search at Dogpile:

<http://search.dogpile.com/teaxis/search?q=Antique+Radios&ge=no&fs=web>

We'll see you next month.

72, 00

Dan, N8IE Ω

RADIO "Higashino Kazeame"

Arnold CW Timm

In his book "The Pacific War ", (c) 1981 -- Atlantic Communications Inc. BBC producer John Costello relates various WWII radio riddles. None more amazing than " East Wind Rain " execute, the Japanese fleet command used to secretly signal their convoy of the Pearl Harbor attack. PBS TV reruns this historical account weekends of December 7. The dispute over the " East Wind Rain " message is at the center of a controversy that still rages on. From secret war documents released in the early 1980's, it was obvious a fault finding issue was being raised while the war was still going on. High ranking Naval officers in Washington DC and Pearl Harbor, tried to pin blame in 1944 relating to this apparent message, military intelligence had censored. We may never know who was involved. [From April/May 1994 Radio Archives Newsletter – typeset by Jay WB0L]

A Maryland listening post, at 0430 EST on the morning of DEC 4 1941, had heard this message sent in Morse code and immediately teletyped it to OP 20G Washington, the war execute order. It was at first confused as a weather report. It was not sent according to the Japanese "Purple" directive, and so subsequent mix up occurred throughout US Magic channel intercepts. The mystery increases when Army/Navy rivalry in Washington DC, wanted confirmation as to authenticity. Copies of the message were destroyed by orders of Army intelligence staff, further stifling congressional investigations in 1946.

At testimony given by (retired) navy warrant officer Ralph Briggs, claims he was the one who manned Cheltenham MD Radio 12/4/41. He had indeed issued teletype to DC. He made out (2) two carbon copies and a log sheet entry addressed to Admiral(s) Safford, Kramer, Noyes, Turner, and Colonel Sadtler of intelligence. Briggs was ordered NOT to testify in support of Adm Safford in 1946. Speculation surrounds much

of what transpired therein. [Perhaps this larger group of Radio ops can relate farther?]

In May 1960, Briggs searched volumes of signals in Navy Archives. He found a log sheet dated DEC 2 1941 -- 0550 thru 1300 intercepts were missing; these contained the "Winds " message. If indeed it was received and if " East Wind Rain " signal "went missing ", it shows just how much most senior Naval officers in Washington may of been prepared to cover-up what could of been construed as vital intelligence in omission. Chapter 38 digs further into confidential files (declassified) which indicates high ranking Government/Military heads knew in late November 1941 of Japanese movements by " Magic ". Keeping secret our crypto-systems at all costs, may have made victory at Midway possible. When reading the mail really meant something!

Following declassified accounts of the War in the Pacific, Mr. Costello paints a picture of all combat theaters. An overall composite of heretofore hidden hindsight, which brings our fathers' war weariness into sharper focus. With black and white archive photos, this 829 page book blends military genius with madness; a black and blue blip in the fog of Radio yesterdays. [I got this book from a neighbor who participated in the grizzly combat on Guadalcanal. He died before I could write-up his story. My father saw action in the Aleutian Islands.]

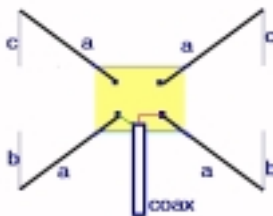
KA0TPZ / wdx0awt@juno.com Ω

Alternative to a Tower and Beam: X-Beam on a Pole

By Mickey, WB8ICN

After being a ham for 29 years, I finally had the chance to erect a tower and install a beam on it at the QTH. My set-up is only a 40-foot tower and a Cushcraft A3S tri-bander for 20, 15 and 10 meters. Though modest in a sense in today's ham set-ups, this has afforded me some great opportunities as a QRP'er. When I could not hear a DX station on my G5RV, I could hear them with my set-up. But for those who can't or are not allowed a tower and beam, maybe the use of an X-Beam on a pole will provide an acceptable substitution.

This set up can be mounted on one's house, or just on a pole mounted next to the house. I found this antenna idea many years in an old ARRL Handbook in the library while stationed in southern Italy. I remember seeing an article in QST, CQ or 73 magazine (back in the mid 90's) about a ten meter X-beam that used this same design.



Referring to the attached diagram, the center hub (denoted as the yellow square) is a piece of plywood (treated for outdoor

weather), about three-foot square. Each arm (denoted as "a") is aluminum tubing about 0.5 inches in diameter. Each tail (denoted as "b" and "c") is solid hook up wire, about 12 gauge or a tad smaller. It was suggested that the "c" and "b" elements be tied to one another by using fishing line to keep them level with the "a" elements. The "a" and "b" elements make up the driver portion of the beam and the "a" and "c" elements make up the director portion of beam. These elements lie in the horizontal plane with the supporting pole centered in the middle of the hub to hold the X-Beam up in the air. The coax (it was shown as 50 Ohm coax in the article) connects to the driver elements (green is the braid of the coax and red is the center conductor of the coax). The element lengths are as follows:

FREQ (MHz)	"A"	"B"	"C"
14.1	13' 10"	7' 6.5"	6' 6.5"
21.1	9' 3"	5' 0.5"	4' 4.5"
28.2	6' 11"	3' 9.5"	3' 3.5"

The length calculations for these elements are as follows if you want to set it up for a higher or lower frequency on your favorite band:

"a" = 195/freq each "a" element is 0.2 wavelengths long

"b" = 106.5/freq

Total driver length = 603/freq (4.65% shorter than driver length)

"c" = 92.5/freq

Total director length = 575/freq

If your finally mounting height/location is not easy (and safe) to get to, adjust for best SWR (better yet, resonance with a impedance of 50 Ohm's) with the X-Beam at least 10 feet high, remembering that the resonant freq. will rise as you increase the height of the X-Beam after finally pruning/tuning.

The article also showed a coax balun used which is located at the antenna feedpoint. Ten meters required 6 turns of coax with an ID of about 6 inches. For 15 and 20 meters, 12 turns with an ID of 6 inches.

I've never built one of these, but the article I read back in the 90's claimed its used on 10 meters should exceed any dipole you erect at the same height, it can also be turned with a simple TV type rotator. Let me add a caveat to that, this X-Beam may or may not exceed the performance of Mac's (AF4PS) "Infamous Attic Dipole". However, if you build yours and challenge Mac to a dual, you have the legal right for a full (to included an undimpled and chadless) recount of S-units and forward gain <g>.

Good luck with this project should the possibilities of you erecting a tower and full size beam not exist in your immediate future. Let me know how it works for you!

72's/00's...Mikey, WB8ICN, FP#-68 Ω

Texas QSO Party: Armadillo Style

By OJ, K1OJ

The Texas QSO Party has gotten to be quite the operating event in recent years. It seems to be greeted by more operators and more enthusiasm each year. This year the Northwest Amateur Radio Society, NARS, from Houston, Texas sponsored the event. Promotion of the event was handled by George Edwards, K5VUU. The large amount of activity is testimony to the great job George has done with this event.



Armadillos: Typically here in Texas the rovers, or mobile operators, are called Armadillos. This year there seemed to be a lot out making the mad dash from county to county. The teams of operators each had a different style and approach to the contest. Some of the ops took the leisurely approach and operated during short commutes while running errands or going to and from work. At least one Armadillo team that stayed on the road for the entire contest set their schedule according to their favorite restaurants and specialty food stops. "Lets see, what time do those fresh pies pop from the ovens at Ma Kettle's bakery up at Stump Hole, Texas?" Some of the Armadillo teams were dead serious about making an all out effort at winning the contest. There were a number of husband and wife teams out this year. How does that go? "The family that Hams together stays together?" Or something like that. Kudos to the YLs for joining in on the fun! Even though at least one YL I know was tempted by jewelry for her willingness to put up with all that noise.



Dit Dit Contesters: This year the Armadillo team sponsored by the Dit Dit Contest Club decided to make an all out effort at setting a record number of contacts and record score in the Armadillo category. The club members included Bill Denton, W5SB; Margaret Quarles, K5MSQ; and OJ Quarles, K1OJ. The team operated under the club call, K5OJ. This was the first serious contest for the club after its recent startup.



The Mobile Setup: Very few people thought we would be able to operate a Multi 2 Mobile and have any success or fun at all. The platform for the equipment was a 1994 Plymouth Voyager 'Mom-Mobile' Van. The center rear seat was removed to make room for an operating table and for Bill to stretch his legs. Bill found an old patio table in the garage and after a trip to the local lumber store and with a couple of well-placed nails, he had an operating position meeting his needs. This was definitely going to be a 'no frills' operation. We used long tie wraps to strap the table down and to hold the rig and accessories in place. Bill used his old reliable Yaesu FT-890 with rig control, CW keying, and logging handled by a laptop computer running LOG-EQF. A Heil headset and Bencher paddles finished off the line up of the 'Back Seater'. The 'Front Seater' station was pretty much the standard set up that I operate from the mobile daily. The rig is an Alnico DX-70 with Bencher paddles. For the contest I added a microphone, headphones, and a computer for logging also running LOG-EQF. The antennas were both model DK3 screwdriver antennas designed by W6AAQ, Don Johnson. One has been rebuilt and beefed up to handle more power after and unfortunate melt down in last year's QSO party. The "Back Seater's" antenna was mounted on the left rear corner of the van

and the 'Front Seater's' antenna was mounted on the front right corner. Yes, we did get some strange looks from a lot of folks, hams and non-hams alike. I guess they could not decide if we were plumbers hauling around extra stock or if we were fishermen heading for the coast. The trick to making this all work was a pair of home brewed band pass filters. These filters allowed us to run a full 100 watts from both rigs without any inter-station interference what so ever. Even though the antennas were only about 8 feet apart. The filters were built as a club project by NARS from an article, which appeared in QST a few years ago. These filters have been used several years during Field Day and cost far less the commercial variety. They performed very well and proved to be indispensable.



Off and Running: After meeting for a quick breakfast and photo shoot, the Armadillos were off and running. There was a lot of excitement in the air and it took a few minutes to get into the swing of the contest. It only took about an hour and three counties to decide that one station would stay on 40-meter phone and the other would concentrate on 20 meter CW. There was initially some confusion over the Louisiana QSO party which was also in progress. The rules were different for them and the Texas stations only counted once overall as a valid contact with the Louisiana stations. The ops from LA were gracious and allowed us to contact them after each county line crossing even though it was a 'Dupe' for them. Somewhere along the line we realized we had developed a bit of a following. Each county change announced brought a mini pileup. It would be fast and furious for the first few minutes in the new county. We headed southward from Houston and then followed the coastline southwest. All of the driving and navigation was handled by Margaret, K5MSQ. She did a wonderful job of keeping us on route and on schedule. Only a couple of times did the 'Back Seater' ask for smoother conditions. Since he was in the back seat, I don't think he realized that Margaret was trying to avoid running over the Road Runners that seemed to be darting everywhere. She managed to cover the many miles without mishap and without any moving violations. Well, there was that one flash of blue police lights, but that's another story.

Ostrich Omelets: At one point in the trip we decided it was time to stop for food and fuel. It just so happened that we found ourselves at the Ostrich Farm Restaurant and Gas Station. How

lucky can you be? A look at the menu was an adventure. It had the usual items one would expect, breakfast omelets, burgers, steaks, and various sandwiches. The odd thing is they were all made of ostrich meat! Fortunately there was a small selection of traditional food also on the menu from which I made my selection. Bill found the cuisine most delightful. Especially the pies. He swears it was one of the best he had ever eaten. I didn't even want to know the flavor! Soon we were back on the road with no ill effects from our Ostrich Feather Pies. The Results we lost only about three hours of operating time. The net results were a total of 930 miles traveled, 38 counties activated, and 1132 contacts. We ended up with the overall highest score in the contest and have set the benchmark for multi op mobiles. We had more fun than you could score and are looking forward to next year when we hope to once again try something different. DitDit Ω

The Infamous Attic Dipole

By Mac, AF4PS FP #51

I will be the first (or millionth, remember, I'm from FL!) to affirm that the antenna is the determining factor for success when it comes to one's station set-up. The better your antenna, the more success you will have making contacts. However, I also realize that you can have a lot of fun under less than ideal circumstances. I was drawn to the recent article in QST where the guy loaded up the light bulb and made contacts. Yes, almost anything can radiate! This is important to me, because I live in a deed restricted covenant community that forbids outside antennas, and has a strict "enforcement" committee. Further, Lori, my XYL only tolerates "wires and beeping" because she loves me, and each antenna experiment is a strain on that balance. I'm aware that many hams operate under similar circumstances. I simply want to encourage you! I've been asked to write something about my indoor antenna, and I get asked about it a lot, so I agreed.

Honestly, the thing has a life of its own.

I began my HAM career as a Tech+ choosing to operate only CW because I am frugal (cheap!). I built the NorCal 40a for the Novice part of the band, and started looking at antenna options. The first effort was an end fed wire out my garage window with a counterpoise winding around the floor. My first contact was OH, the second was SC. I was hooked. But the wire all over the garage, and running at a low elevation out my window was not a permanent arrangement. I looked at the trees (I am still working on a loop idea.), then I noticed that my attic is long in fact, it's just over 70 feet in length.

Dipole Dimensions for Amateur Bands
(Table 20.5 in the ARRL Handbook 2000)

Dipole Dimensions for Amateur Bands
(Table 20.5 in the ARRL Handbook 2000)

FREQ MHz	Overall Length	Leg Length
28.4	16' 6"	8' 3"
21.1	22' 2"	11' 1"
18.1	25' 10"	12' 11"
14.1	33' 2"	16' 7"
10.1	46' 4"	23' 2"
7.1	65' 10"	32' 11"
3.6	130' 0"	65' 0"



I grabbed a flashlight, climbed up among the rafters, saw a clear shot end to end, and grinned. After climbing back down, I got out the ARRL Handbook and saw the measurements for a doublet cut for 40 meters. I grinned again. (See the accompanying table.) Lori looked in on me and asked what I was doing. After I began my detailed explanation, midway, she just frowned, "turned her pretty head and walked away." I began humming the Joe Walsh song, and ventured on!

So, it began as a simple, coax fed doublet, right out of the ARRL Handbook: two 35' equal legs of 14 gauge bare stranded copper wire, 35' of Radio Shack RG58 coax, three of my son's plastic blocks for insulators, and nylon rope. I cut the connector off one end of the coax, drilled a hole through the ceiling in a "hidden" corner of my garage where my bench is (dangerous ground here, but we all take risks!) and fed the end of the coax up into the attic.



I measured the copper wire to confirm 70 feet, coiled it up and gathered my other components including my soldering iron, solder, extension cord, cutters, flashlight, tape and hauled them up with me. I tied a piece of rope to the rafter on one end of the house, attached the copper wire to a plastic block and tied it off. I stretched the wire out lengthwise, by swinging Tarzan-like from rafter to rafter. Later, I noticed that there are braces I could have walked on. That's when the itching began. I have 8-9 inches of loose, blown fiberglass insulation in my attic, which was then making its way inside my clothing in a MOST uncomfortable fashion. I pictured Lori, lying on the bed, trying to read, shaking her head in disbelief, and decided not to seek sympathy from her.



After cutting the long wire in half, I fed the coax through two convenient holes in the plastic block I was using for the center insulator. Next, I made an RF choke to keep RF from coming back down the outside of the coax by coiling it 8 turns 6" diameter just below the feed point.



I found myself wishing I had a better light source than the mini-flashlight I was holding in my mouth, but managed to solder one leg of my dipole to the coax braid, and the other to the center wire. Then I thought about the battery powered clamp-on "book light" Lori was using down in the bedroom, and dropped my pliers. Now, using the convenient braces to walk

on, occasionally pausing to scratch, I pulled the copper wire through the trusses to the other end of the house. I suspended it about a foot from the apex using rope only at the center insulator and the ends.

I estimate that it is up about 17 feet from the ground. It was done, and I was very proud, but never have found the pliers I dropped into the depths of the fiberglass insulation. If you permit me to make a theological statement, that stuff is the work of the devil.



This antenna has served me very well, as I was able to get WAS QRP with it. However, I'm not one to leave well enough alone! I upgraded my license to General, and built three more rigs! Although I used the ZM-2 tuner from Emtech, I wanted to tweak the antenna for better multi-band performance. I added "fans" for 20 and 10 meters using the MFJ 259b to measure and cut. I do not recommend this, unless you do not happen to have blown fiberglass insulation in your attic. Enough about that. After reading Maxwell's "Reflections", devouring L.B. Cebik's web site (<http://www.cebik.com/radio.html>), and a host of other sources, I decided to transform it into a modified G5RV for multi-band use. This decision was prompted by my purchase of the Elecraft K2, and my upgrade to Extra class.

The modifications are simple. I purchased 450-ohm window line, a 4:1 balun, and a "Ladder Grabber" center insulator from Emtech. (Thanks again for the coffee Scott!) The coax runs up through the hole to the balun, and the window line from there to the center insulator. When I was performing this modification, Lori finally noticed the hole. However, by this time, I had collected so much "wires and junk" in the garage, the little slot in the ceiling was a non-issue! (Ask Diz, W8DIZ, he has seen my garage.)

Twenty meters is now the "best" band for the antenna, but it loads and works on 10 - 80 just fine, using the ZM-2 tuner. (I got the internal ATU for the K2 for Christmas!) I now have over 180 countries in the log, all QRP, with this antenna, 170 of them in this year. I suppose I can conclude that it works pretty well, better than a lot of indoor antennas, I'm told. Why? Some have speculated it has something to do with the groundwater, and proximity to the Gulf or Mexico. Others have suggested that the particular arrangement of my air conditioning ducts and/or shingles boosts my signal like directing or reflecting elements. Lots of people simply refuse to believe that I run 4 watts. I, truly, have no idea.

I will say, that I continue to try various stealth outdoor antennas. I had a G5RV Jr. up outside hoping to improve my performance in the Fox season, but the last hurricane just TOOK it. That was ok, because I'm sure that the "Code Enforcers" would have addressed it had the hurricane not. While vacationing on Sanibel Island, I threw a dipole up in a couple of trees, joined in on a Sprint and could not BELIEVE the signals! On the other hand, I have conditioned myself to operate under less than ideal circumstances. I've become comfortable with my set-up, and really don't do any better when I use the big tri-band beam at the local clubhouse!

I do believe, that while I cannot claim to be a "good" operator, I am a BETTER one, simply because I get on the air a LOT! I've read and reread Bob Locher's book, "The Complete DXer", I practice listening, and try to improve my timing and placement of calls. My bottom line advice is GET ON THE AIR! Don't let a less than ideal antenna situation keep you from having fun. Call me if you hear me on the air, just don't ask me to climb in your attic!

72 es oo
Mac - AF4PS
Odessa, FL
FP -51 Ω

TELEGRAPHY HELPS STUDENTS?

By Arnold CW Timm

We have all heard the new hand key op who frequents our bands. Somehow they sidestepped and humbly avoided the stern military mainstay we Flying Pigs enjoy. Whether they are beyond a formal education, or lack the funds, society fumbles with their lifelines. Here again, (I suggest) we introduce CW to these wayward "fatherless" kids. Or at least, let them know about the method of dot com Grandfather used. Perhaps a small

amount of dahditdahdit ditdahdah would enhance such hapless hams? Or shall we just ignore them? An enormous compilation of web-based education persists. Hi

Let's brighten the overall appearance of Morse code, to one of GOLD! When it acts as a "gatekeeper", the process (learning scale) of attaining said license, is eroded. And the children suffer roadblocks before experiencing any form of communications. Let us allow them "free rein" on nearby frequencies. Spectrum where the teacher/student interaction, is not lost among high-end scholars. Polish up the brass pounding examples per say.

According to a recent NASA weather observation, the notarized Pacific Ocean region indicates a continued upheaval. Numerous (weather-related) disasters are probable. Such calamity befallen outback areas, demands more trained radio hobbyists. The earthquake potentials caused by jet stream collisions with the globe, range far above normal landline capabilities. Our wireless "backup" may be telegraphy. Pilots planning to become Astronauts, may save the day, pressing a switch in the cockpit.

We, as Common Hams, may help the situation by setting a standard. Some point where we bring forth minimalism and render telegraphy more acceptable. Communications can contain our personal appeals if overall infrastructures acknowledge our existence. A plan of action, that adjusts for the current HF propagation debacle. Radio hobbies suffer for this hindrance. And certainly, the beginner achieves no distance or local response, under these conditions. The Flying Pigs may swoop into the fray -- like Super Ham? Hi

If we keep an open mind, and level the playing field, some noble Novice/tech may win. No matter if we mentor him/her, the thrust forward can change borderline academic loss. The equipment is projected and available. Heralding our elderly endeavors, won't attract every lost tribe beating the drums -- motivation in this regard, arrives by individual insight. Selecting telegraphy over modulation requires years of self-determination. Anyone can push to talk, and simple circuits are far less of a domineering obstacle.

Now the FCC intends to reduce costs and combine Novice/Tech into one license. We who see no benefits in upgrading, are to assume FM over CW. Spend \$500 on a rig, and join the gang on two meters. This force of fanciful fledglings will then be surrounded by vanity calls and repeater fees. A conversation on VHF, compared with the chat nationwide, is now competing with Internet chat rooms.

72 KA0TPZ
wdx0awt@juno.com Ω

Member Spotlight!

This month were spotlighting:
Dan Shepherd, N8IE, FPqrp #-6



I'm 38, been married to the wonderful Rochelle Shepherd for 16 years, together we have three great children, D.J (16), Samantha (13), and Sarah (7).

I have always been interested in Ham Radio, as a kid I would listen to shortwave broadcasts for hours, in 1992 I finally got "serious" about Ham Radio and decided to get my ticket. I was very excited when my license, N8VZU came in the mail. I went out and got myself a nice 2-meter rig, a packet setup for my Commodore 64, and was ready for the "good life". Then reality set in, 2-meters was boring!

After 6 months or so, I dropped Ham Radio for other hobbies, and forgot about it. Then around 1997 I got the bug again (thanks to the growing number of WebPages on the Internet) and looked at upgrading to Tech+. I went to my local club that offered a code class, and after 3 months I was upgraded.

From there I hooked up with a local Ham (Jim, KC8BYF) on 10 meters and we decided to go for broke and make Extra! I was not really interested in CW at that time, and only wanted to upgrade to get on 20-meters. We spent the next few months on 10-meters working CW, and studying for our General ticket. By the time 1998 rolled around I had my Extra, Jim had his General, and I found a new love, CW!

In between that time I also found QRP-l, and Doc, K0EVZ. Both of these had a very profound affect on my hobby, and my life, I was never right after that. ☺

In 1999 I found the Flying Pigs, and that has opened up the flood gates, thanks to this great group of people I have made more friends than I have ever had, and enjoy Ham Radio like never before.

From here, the future is so bright, I gotta wear shades!

72, oo

Dan, N8IE FPqrp #-6 Ω

LOOP SCOOP

By Arnold CW Timm
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Optimized conditions lurk,
mong decades gone before;
space debris and ions work,
sun shine can't restore?

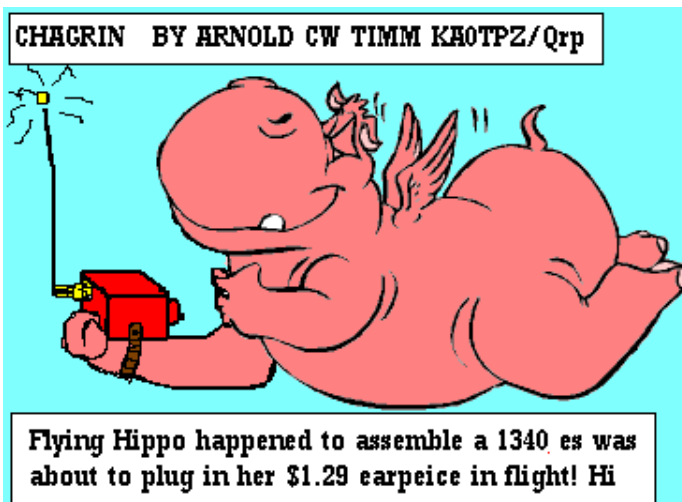
High freqs fancy few,
who dabble in the soup;
low power pontiffs -- too,
snatch sky waves off a loop!

Two hundred seven - two,
feet of copper wire;
an elemental coast review,
iambics never tire!

Decibels of signal/noise,
south along the lines;
catching code tele-joys,
if one can copy signs!

A loop (of this) proportion (size),
sixty eight on either quad;
work the world CW - wise,
quarter wave above the sod!

KA0TPZ
wdx0awt@juno.com Ω



RADIO KHICAL

By Arnold CW Timm

Plugging in the wrong coil (master oscillator vs. power amp) to transmitter sockets, her first message went unheard. She later learned to feel in the dark cockpit for the correct coils, by counting the number of turns of wire. 500, 5615, and 3130 kHz coils were stored in opposite sides of the transmitter box. She recalled smelling the coil cement. Her electronics experience was NIL, still youth (indeed) prevailed.

About 48 reel turns unwound the trailing long wire antenna for 3130 kHz resonance. She got a 400-volt DC shock hurriedly trying to close a knife-switch shunt, searching for a shorted out fuse. A ball - weight (1 pound ten ounces) kept the antenna taut and recoiled into a recessed fuselage housing after use. [Aircraft numbers were far less than today, and Flying Pigs perform similar wing - walking and barn storming? Hi]

Classified as a third class radio operator, she slowly brought her receive speed up in Morse code to 15 words per minute. Learning Morse from letter to word comprehension, the famous aviator's wife was soon ready for the first of two survey flights around the world. [Anybody guess her name yet?]

The radio equipment aboard the " Sirius " (1931) was a Pan AM model 10C (15 watt CW) transmitter (12 lbs.) with dynamotor. The receiver was a regen or superhet (11-lbs. 4 oz) and the "B" battery (9lbs). An emergency telegraph receiver/transmitter was self-contained, in a crash-proof, watertight box, for forced landings at sea. During tests, the EM radio set (44lbs), was dropped 18 feet to a concrete floor. It was also submerged in water for 24 hours. Both tests said units would operate. Receiver coils: 17-150m and 600-1100m. Pan AM 10C-2 (1933) (12 watts CW) 333, 500, 3115, 5515, 8340 & 12480 kHz transmit coils (12lbs). Receiver freqs: 315-577 kHz and 1725-23440 kHz.

The plane was designed and constructed in 1929, Burbank CA. A low wing, full cantilever monoplane, with air-cooled engine. In the winter/spring 1930 acceptance tests were run. In April of that year, the plane flew from CA to NY in less than 15 hours. Pontoons replaced the wheels in 1931, and a larger engine was installed, for the flight North to Orient. Pan AM survey flight, Europe to Africa and South America. Tropical winds in Africa refused to let them depart when required.

Sirius-2 left Flushing NY July 9 (1937GMT) 1933. They returned Dec 19 (1937GMT). Aside from her overall visits to outback Canada, Alaska, Japan, China, Africa, and South America; this woman aviator performed numerous weather and position plots. Using the ultimate radio rig of the era, she helped her husband fly. She marveled at the simplicity of the telegraph wireless and enjoyed mothering receiver dials during hand key utilization. The knob of the J-37 hand key felt well kneaded.

Once flying from Africa to Brazil, the large Massachusetts flight monitoring station prompted a nosy newspaper reporter to interview her in flight. She abhorred his heroics, then wondered at the remarkable distance surmounted by the wireless wayfarer.

Anne Morrow Lindbergh relates her early aircraft radio operations aboard the Lockheed Sirius in her books, North to the Orient & Listen the Wind! Future air-route surveys sanctioned by Pan AM, further elevated Morrow Lindbergh into the limelight of aviation radio history. [From Common Ham Radio Archives Vol. 13 No 3 Apr/May '96]

KA0TPZ wdx0awt@juno.com Ω

About the Flying Pigs QRP Club

OUR MISSION:

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

CLUB EMAIL POLICY:

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

CLUB WEB PAGE:

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

PROBLEM REPORTING:

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

Diz, W8DIZ at w8diz@cinci.rr.com
 Rick, WB6JBM at ripowell@mpna.com
 Dan, N8IE at shephed@aol.com

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