

Bacon Bits

Flying Pigs QRP Club International, W8PIG
1900 Pittsfield St, Kettering, Ohio 45420

E-mail: w8pig@yahoo.com Web Page: <http://www.fpqr.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	7.044	WB8ICN
Thurs	0100Z	7.044	KE1LA
Fri	0500Z	3.705	N7MFB

(Fri Net for West Coast Piggies)

(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.

N2ZHS – Al McChesney shows us how to build!



Audio Amp from new ARRL Experimental Methods in RF Design book

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Ramblings

It's finally March. With all the bad weather in February I didn't think it would ever get here. This month we are in for a special treat. I think this will be a favorite issue for many of us. Thanks to everyone that contributed to the issue this month, keep those articles and pictures coming!

DE KB9BVN – Brian Murrey

OHIO BICENTENNIAL – K8ZT

March 1, 2003 marks the bicentennial for Ohio. The Northeast Ohio Bicentennial Amateur Radio Club (NEOBARC) was formed to celebrate this anniversary. Amateur radio operators living in the state of Ohio are eligible for free membership in this organization. For information on becoming a member of NEOBARC contact CFARC member and NEOBARC Trustee Anthony Luscre, K8ZT (e-mail k8zt@arrl.net). NEOBARC has a special club callsign KO8HIO. NEOBARC club members are encouraged to use this special callsign by scheduling dates and times with the club trustee. Use of the call sign in contests is also encouraged, contact Anthony in advance to schedule call sign use. There are also a series of awards available for hams both inside and outside of Ohio. The first award is for working at least 100 contacts with Ohio stations during 2003.

The second award is for working Ohio Counties. There are five levels of each award based on the number of stations or counties worked. For full details, examples of the award certificates and application information visit the NEOBARC web site <http://www.qsl.net/k8zt/ko8hio.html>. Please note-much of the KO8HIO operation will be at QRP levels and all awards can be specially endorsed for QRPers.

QRP in Canada – VE3VG

QRP is alive and well and living in Canada. Every ham I speak with is in the middle of construction, in the middle of testing, or in the middle of a QRP QSO. Every club website has a QRP page with hints and tips on projects, operating, award chasing and the fun of QRP. The RAC and Kitchener Waterloo ARC sites are particularly useful and have a wealth of QRP information. Personal budget seems to be the deciding factor in the choice of rigs for QRP, running the gamut of junkbox projects (mine) to Pixie's, NORCAL 40's and 20's to the high end like Elecraft K2's. I've also found that Canadian QRP'ers get as much enjoyment from building as they do from operating.

CW is the preferred mode, and again straight keys, bugs and paddles proliferate. Many clubs now have a QRP station along with QRO for field day, obviously one of the best ways of honing operating skills is to participate in that event QRP! My best QRP memory is from 1977. Grabbed my HW7, a lantern battery 70 ft of wire, key, pepsi etc... and headed for the park. Slung the wire up into a tree, and parked myself at a picnic table. Worked 8 states, and 7 provinces in a couple of hours with the microphonics of the HW7 just singing... It was

great, just me and the squirrels. Most fun I ever had with my clothes on...

73 / 72 / OO

Dennis VE3VG

The KC8AON Tactical Delta Loop

I Thought I would share another of my favorite antennas with you good folks. This one makes a very good antenna for field day, fixed station or any where you need a multiband antenna that works and you don't have a lot of room! I came up with this idea when I first got into QRP operation and wanted something that would be a little directional. My property is a long narrow lot - 108' x 260' with power lines running down the front and parallel to the long side, so my 40 meter double extended Zepp is on the back of my lot away from the power lines and broadside to the north and south, which is the directions it favors most.

What I needed was an antenna that gave me some east/west radiation, and I did not have enough room to put up much more than a 20 meter dipole facing that direction.

I wanted something that would give me multiband operation since I was using a Heathkit HW-8 which had 80 meters on it and I didn't want to exclude that band. Then one day, I was thinking about the famous G5RV type of antenna and the fact that it would give me the bands I needed, but I just didn't have enough room to put one up. Then I thought, " why couldn't I fold it up some way to make it fit in a smaller space?" First I thought about a square configuration, but then decided that I didn't want to fool with more than a couple of support lines - AND THEN IT HIT ME!

What about a triangle? I took the G5RV that I had already made, and folded it into a triangle with 3 equal sides - 34 feet on each side. I took the 2 end insulators and simply tied them together - I did NOT connect the ends of the wire together - just tied the insulators to each other. Actually, you could just use one insulator here! This is what I later did, since I had to untie them and install 2 extra insulators to support the 2 top corners of the triangle. I put these exactly 34 feet from the center insulator on each side and then retied the ends together, leaving the ends of the wires separated by the one end insulator that was left.

Then I hung the KC8AON Tactical Delta Loop, as I call it, between 2 - 60' plus pine trees that are spaced about 45' apart. I now had a triangular antenna that is flat at the top, 34' across with the 2 sides hanging diagonally coming down to a point where the 450 ohm ladderline connects.

I also tied a support line to this bottom point and tied it to a tent stake driven in the ground to keep the loop from swinging around in the wind. With this antenna and the use of a tuner I have been able to work all bands 10 thru 80 meters, And I must say that it is directional broadside to the loop. The nice thing about it is that it only takes up the same amount of horizontal space as a 20 meter half wave dipole! My feedpoint was about 25' off the ground, but I have used one with the feedpoint as low as 6' off the ground with good results! 72/73 de: Rick McKee, KC8AON

Sheet Boudreaux – KE1LA

High Y'all, done ah aver told u bout my friend Sheet Boudreaux... He was quite a guy... dey say when he been born and his daddy asked what to name him.... he said... "sheets man, ah don't kneaux." and dats how his son got named Sheet Boudreaux...

What bee worse Sheet done growed up and make a pirogue what bare his name.... sheet's pirogue...which wasn't bad.... but then some wise guy decided to call one of them creaks after him.... U kneaux, sheets creak... U aver ban thair... seems most folks have at one time or the other.... It's just on the other side of Breaux Bridge La.... in Lafayette parish.... beautiful little creak... It branches out near the top and though u seem by u-self... thair could be lots of other folk up sheets creak with u.... and u would never kneaux...

In the evening a stiff little breeze comes up what can get u up sheets creak in a hurry but, man, don't u lose ur paddle neaux... up sheets creak in the late afternoon without a paddle is a bad place to be....and meaux than one folk done found that out....Kinda funny u kneaux... an easy place to got u-self into but it can be a bugger to got u-self out of...

One day, while paddling my pirogue up sheets creak.... ah done got myself lost...so ah got on my k2 and called Alphonse... (7.044 cw) and expained my situation to him.... he said not to worry and then he gone got Ti-Fu and they went got in Alphonse's airplane....Soon enough ah could hear alphonse's plane overhead so ah called him on my 2 meter hand held... Hey Alphonse u see me yet? See U, he said... all I can see is tree tops....u in a jungle down thair.... I smiled and said yea, sorta, I'm up sheets creak... And can't find the wind.... can u tell me what way is south...? Yea Joel, it just to my left.... can't u feel the wind? NO I can't Alphonse... the trees must be blocking it... Well don't worry Joel, we gots a yellow smoke marker,. ah gonna have Ti-fu hold the smoke marker outside the window and whan u saw the smoke u can tell what way the wind be blowing.... Great idea Alphonse... ah owes u one....

What ah can't see and don't kneauxs is what Ti-fu done pulled the pin on that smoke marker and drop the marker in the plane and held the locking pin out the window... in the meantime the airplane, filled up with smoke...what billowed outta the windows of the plane as Alphonse done stuck his head outside the window on his side to see whare he be going... Folks what saw the whole thing say it was quite a sight... A one man air show, as Alphonse looped and rolled and done some down right scary things with that airplane trying to see and fly the thing....while yellow smoke come billowing out the airplane... All what I kneaux is soon I see this smoke over the trees and which way it be moving and then I was able to got myself back from up sheets creak... Later on, when ah done gots back home ah went on ovah to Alphonse's house to see him and Ti-fu... yellow as smoke die... both of em, from head to toe....

Dat's when Alphonse tell me how Ti-fu done climbed his self out through the passenger side window and onto the wing support while they be rolling and looping.... he said folk done thought he be wing wallking... but Ti-Fu be so scared he done

left finger marks in the sheet metal on the plane....and was still hanging on the wing strut whan they landed...

Dang dat sounds exciting, I tells Alphonse, sure wish ah had been up thair with u iinstead of lost up sheet creak....funny u kneaux that done nevah happened before...ah was only about a mile off course....got to due some good fishing u kneaux...sheaux glad u was monitoring 7.044....

No problem, said Alphonse,... course we owe all the excitement to Ti-Fu... U kneaux ur right ah said... and whare was Ti-Fu, I asked... oh said Alphonse, he's got his head in the john, quite airsick u kneaux....

And so it was... u kneaux...sometimes the rescuer gots themselves into worse shape than the rescued... Y'alla be good now,

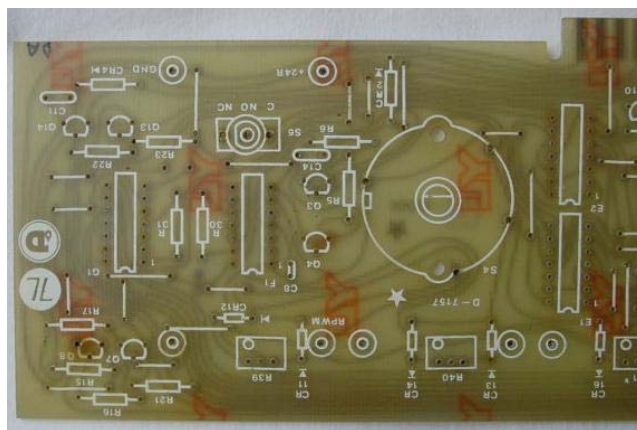
KE1LA , JOEL ... FREEZEN IN MAINE.

Manhattan Building by N2ZHS

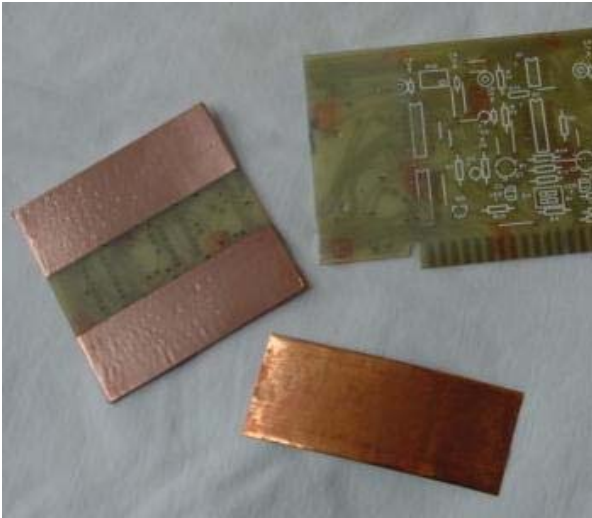
I am currently working on the MP+ project designed and kitted by W8DIZ. Info can be found on his Kits and Parts web page. I needed a break and the new ARRL book EXPERIMENTAL METHODS in RF DESIGN recently arrived in my mail box. It is written by Wes Hayward, W7ZOI, Rick Campbell, KK7B, and Bob Larkin, W7PUA and it is a "must have" book for every homebrewer's library. I got my copy from Bill, N8ET at KANGA US but you can also get it directly from the ARRL. The first project in the book (pg 1.7) is a 7 MHz DC receiver. Not that I need another 40m rcvr but I wanted an easy way to try a twist on the Manhattan style of building. Below I have documented my steps. You can email me at j38al@aol.com with any comments or questions you may have. Thanks for looking.

EMRFD 7 MHz DC Receiver

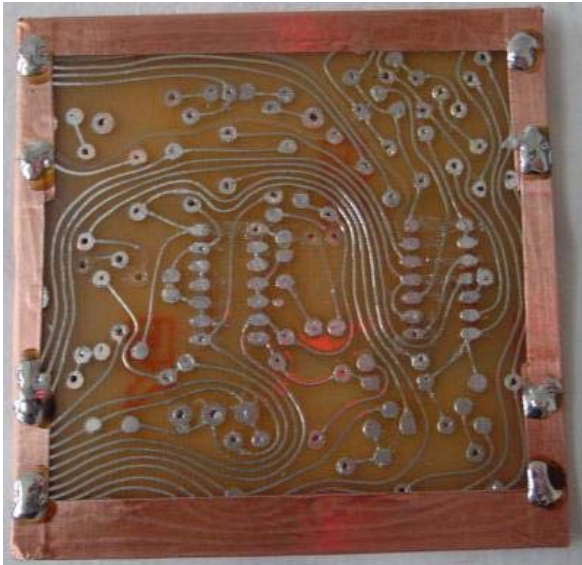
The first step was to find a baseboard for the receiver to be built on. That is where I have a problem with Manhattan building. Large pieces of PC material can be quite expensive. And then you have to cut some of it up into small pieces for the pads. Here is where my twist comes in. I took a used board (single sided) that had all the parts removed from it, sanded the top smooth and filed the solder side so there were no sharp spots.



Then I cut the board to the size I needed and filed the edge. In this case, the size is 3" x 3". Next, I covered the board, starting with the sides and then the middle, with 1 3/8" wide copper tape overlapping the edges.



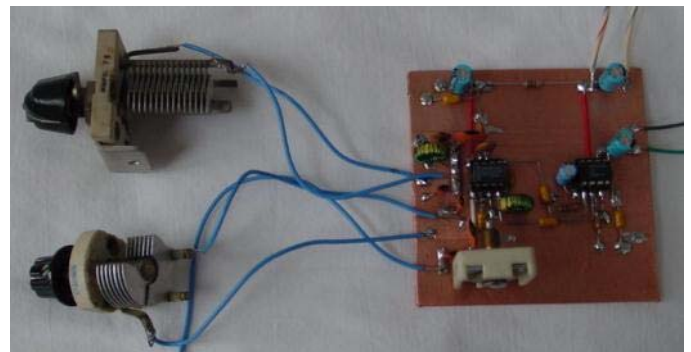
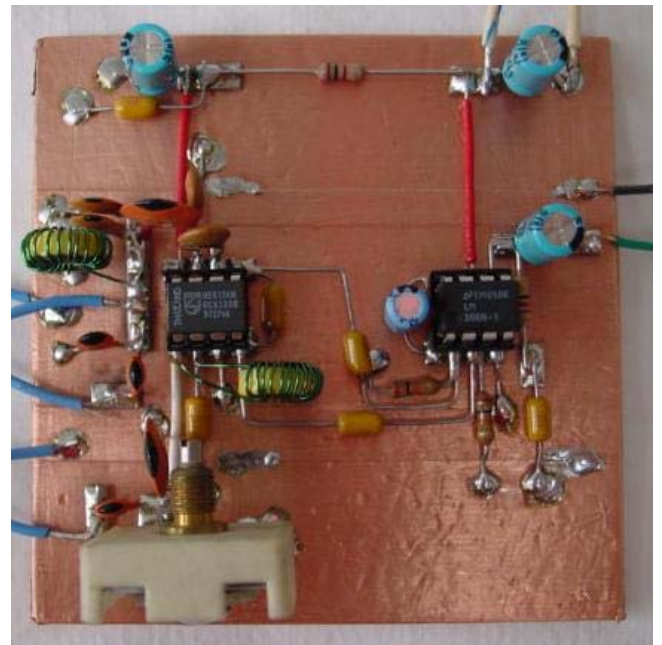
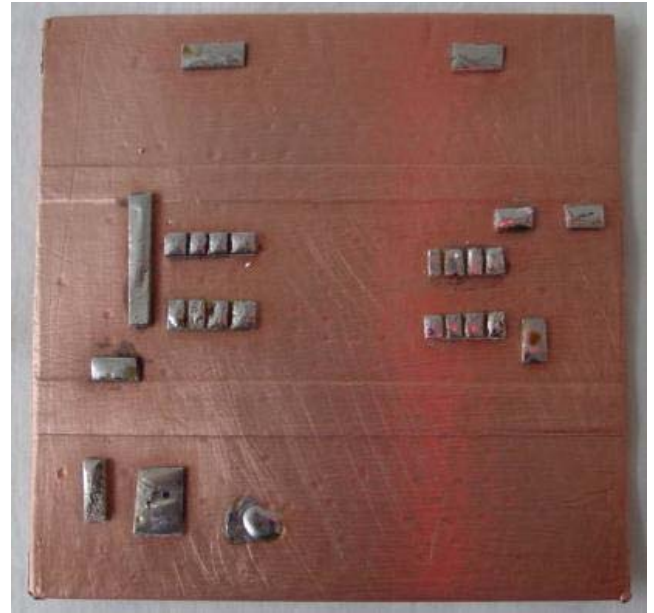
I then shined the copper with a piece of Scotch Bright pad and soldered the seams on the bottom.

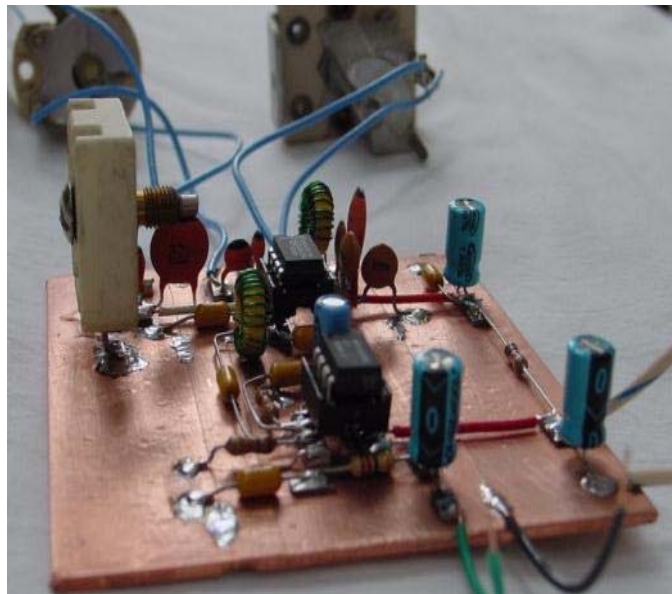


As far as the pads go, I bought a 500 piece assortment from Dan's Small Parts and Kits. Some of the pads are a bit too small but most of them are very usable. A few pieces are large enough to make IC pads from. I chose to make the IC pads for this rcvr from two strips and they worked out just fine. I glued the pads down with super glue from Radio Shack. I happened to have a bottle of the brush-on kind and it worked just fine. Looks good, doesn't it.

Mounting the parts was a breeze as there are so few. Before inserting the IC's in their sockets, I checked for any shorts. Then, in went the LM-386, headphones were attached and power was applied. Yes - there was audio! Power down and in goes the NE-612. Power up again, hook up an antenna and signals are booming in. Without a metal enclosure, hand

capacitance is a problem when tuning. Just moving my hand close to C1 changes the frequency.





I accomplished what I wanted to. The copper tape performed very well. I think a circuit could be built directly on the bottom (or top, side, etc.) of an enclosure that first has a layer of tape applied eliminating the need for a PC board. I guess I'll try that next.

EMRFD Audio Amp

I was thinking a little bit more on the copper tape subject and figured I didn't even need that to build a circuit into a Altoids Tin. Tin, right, I can solder directly to it. So on page 1.12 of EMRFD is the schematic of a small four transistor audio amp. Cheap and easy to try without using a PC board for Manhattan building. I cleaned the bottom of the tin with a Scotch Bright pad and then glued the PC pads right to it. Soldered the parts in next, punched a few holes in the lid and mounted a small speaker. Added a few wires for testing and it works perfect. This is the finished, well almost, amp. I just have to add jacks for input, power, and headphones.



I hope you enjoyed looking at my Manhattan projects. I had some fun with them and will try something else now. Maybe a way to mount SMT parts using the copper tape and used PC boards.....sounds like it will work.

72 de K2ZHS – Al McChesney

WAP Contest Update

Currently we have 36 Flying Pigs that have posted their ongoing results to the website. (<http://www.fpqr.com>)

As of 02/26/2003 01:26 UTC

Rank, QSO #, Callsign

1 58 K3ESE	2 56 K4FB
3 43 KG4FSN	4 40 AF4PS
5 35 W8DIZ	6 31 KB9BVN
7 27 AJ4AY	8 26 AC5JH
9 21 KC8AON	10 20 K9DI
11 18 WN4M	12 17 NN1F
13 16 K8FP	14 15 WB8ABE
15 14 N8IE	16 13 KI8JM
17 12 KC4URI	18 12 W9FCC
19 12 WB0WAO	20 9 KB5ELV
21 8 W0CH	22 8 W0JRM
23 7 VE3VG	24 6 VE3CRM
25 6 VE3FAL	26 6 WU9F
27 5 K8PZ	28 4 KG4LDY
29 4 W7ILW	30 4 WR5O
31 3 AG4NY	32 3 WB6JBM
33 2 K6MMC	34 2 W9HL
35 1 K8ZT	36 1 WV9N

New FP NET!!

Thanks to the efforts of N7MFB Bill Todd and FP #-419, the west coast and parts nearby will be able to enjoy a Flying Pig QRP Club International Net on the frequency of 3.705 Mhz at 9PM PST (0500Z) every Friday evening.

This is excellent! Thanks Bill!

MAR QRP Contests – Thanks to Ken N2CQ

N2CQ QRP CONTEST CALENDAR

March 2003

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40 METER FOXHUNTS (Ends Mar 20)

Fox Hunt - Thursdays - 9pm EST, 8PM CST, 7PM MST and 6PM PST.

Info: <http://www.cqc.org/fox>

Truffle Hunt - Thursdays - 30 min before Fox Hunt

Info: [http://fpqr.com/pig\\_hunt.html](http://fpqr.com/pig_hunt.html)

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ARRL International DX Contest (SSB) ... QRP Category

Mar 1 - 0000z to Mar 2 - 2400z

Rules: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2003/intldx.html>

Adventure Radio Society - Spartan Sprint (CW) ... QRP Contest!
 Mar 4 - 0200z to 0400z (Monday evening in US/Canada)
 Rules: http://www.natworld.com/ars/pages/spartan_sprints/ss_rules.html

CZEBRIS Contest (CW) ... QRP Contest!
 Mar 7 - 1600z to Mar 10 - 2359z
 Rules: <http://www.sk3bg.se/contest/czebris.htm>

AGCW QRP-Contest (CW) ... QRP Contest!
 Mar 8 - 1400z to 2000z
 Rules: <http://www.agcw.de>

Elecraft QSO Party (CW/SSB) ...QRP Category
 Mar 8 - 1500z to Mar 9 - 1500z
 Rules: <http://www.elecraft.com>

Second Class Operator's Club (SOC) Marathon Sprint (CW) .. QRP Contest!
 Mar 8 - 1800z to 2400z
 Rules: <http://www.qsl.net/soc/>

North American Sprint (RTTY) ... QRP Category
 Mar 9 - 0000z to 0400z
 Rules: <http://www.ncjweb.com/sprintrules.php>

UBA (Belgian) Spring Contest (CW-80m) ... QRP Category
 Mar 9 - 0700z to 1100z
 Rules: <http://www.uba.be/>

Wisconsin QSO Party (CW/SSB)...QRP Category
 Mar 9 - 1800z to Mar 10 - 0100z
 Rules: <http://www.warac.org>

Somerset Homebrew Contest (CW/SSB - 80 Meters) ...QRP Contest!
 Mar 15 - 0000z to 2400z (Any 4 hours)
 Rules: <http://www.sk3bg.se/contest/somerset.htm>

Virginia QSO Party (CW/SSB) ... QRP Category
 Mar 15 - 1800z to Mar 17 - 0200z
 Rules: <http://www.qsl.net/sterling/uf1.htm>

Oklahoma QSO Party (CW/Digital/Phone) ... QRP Category
 Mar 22 - 1100z to Mar 23 1100z
 Rules: <http://www.qsl.net/okdxa/OKQP.htm>

Spring QRP Homebrewer Sprint (CW/PSK31) ... QRP Contest!!!!
 Mar 24 - 0000z to 0400z (Sunday evening in US/Canada)
 Rules: <http://www.njqr.org/data/qrp-homebrewers-sprint.html>

ATLANTICON - Mar 28/29, 2003

CQ World-Wide WPX Contest (SSB) ... QRP Category
 Mar 29 - 0000z to Mar 30 - 2400z
 Rules: <http://home.woh.rr.com/wpx/>

Thanks to WA7BNM, SM3CER, N0AX-(ARRL) and others for assistance in compiling this calendar.

Anyone may use this "QRP Contest Calendar" for your website, newsletter, e-mail list or other media as you choose.

72 de
 Ken Newman - N2CQ
N2CQ@ARRL.NET
<http://www.njqr.org/data/contesting.html>
<http://www.n3epa.org/Pages/Contest/contest.htm>
<http://www.qsl.net/cqrp/contests.html>

About the Flying Pigs QRP Club International

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