

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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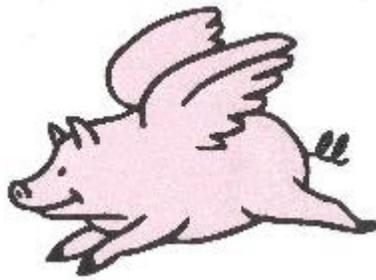
NETS:

DAY	TIME	FREQ
Sat	1400Z	14062
Sun	1300Z	7044
Sun	1400Z	14062
Thurs	0200Z	7044

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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Ramblings

Hello again everyone and welcome to another great issue.

The MP20 construction is in full swing, and reports in seem to indicate that it's going to be a huge success. Thanks to *Diz*, *W8DIZ* for making it happen. At the end of the project, I will have a special MP20 issue, stay tuned!

Also, I wish to give a big THANK YOU to *Arnold*, *KA0TPZ* for all the articles, comics, and other items he sends me each month for the BB.

72, oo

Dan, N8IE Ω

QRP Happenings in April

4/2 ARS Spartan Sprints: Two-hour contests sponsored by the Adventure Radio Society held the first Monday of every month. Start at 9:00 PM EST, 8:00 CST, 7:00 MST and 6:00 PST. Finish at 11:00 PM EST, 10:00 CST, 9:00 MST and 8:00 PST. In terms of UTC, start at 0200 and finish at 0400.

Full info at:

http://www.natworld.com/ars/pages/spartan_sprints/ss_rules.html

4/14 QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party: April 14 1200Z through April 15 2400Z, 2001. Work a maximum of 24 hours of the 36-hour period. CW only.

Full info at:

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

4/15 FISTS Coast 2 Coast: See article on page 11.

4/21 Michigan QSO Party: For amateurs outside the state of Michigan to make contact with as many Michigan stations as possible. Non-Michigan stations may work only Michigan stations, while Michigan stations may contact anyone.

Full info at:

<http://www.qsl.net/mrrc/mqp.html>

4/21 Ontario QSO Party: For Ontario stations to contact as many amateur radio stations as possible on as many bands as possible worldwide. For stations outside Ontario to make as many contacts with Ontario amateur radio stations as possible.

Full info at:

<http://www.odxa.on.ca/oqprules.html>

4/28 Florida QSO Party: For amateurs outside of the state of Florida to make contact with as many Florida stations as possible. Florida stations work everyone (twice) (just kidding).

Full info at:

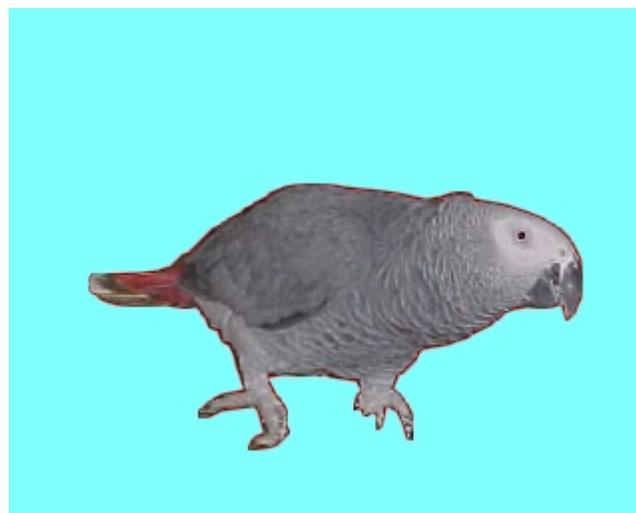
<http://www.qsl.net/fqp/rules.htm>

4/28 Nebraska QSO Party: Stations outside of Nebraska work as many Nebraska stations in as many NE counties as possible. Stations in Nebraska work anyone.

Full info at:

<http://www.qsl.net/hdxa/neqso/neqso.htm>

This one is for Lady Bird



Always squawking bout sumthin.
Round the house she could be heard
Always had to have the last word.

Peaux dead bird

Upon my shoulder she would fly

Upon my shoulder she would die

Landed with a squawk

Died with a squawk

Peaux dead bird

I wonder if, in heaven, she will squawk again

I wonder if, in a heavenly choir, she might sing

I wonder if, I will dream of her again

I wonder if, upon her arrival, the angels did sing..

Peaux dead bird

I wonder about the tears

What fill my ears

Lying on my back

Crying ovah you...

Peaux dead bird

May u have bayou water to swim in

May dem 'gators be ur friend

And when I get to heaven

I'll hear u squawk again...

Peaux dead bird

KEILA, Joel

in Maine

missing his bird Ω

Member Spotlight!

This month's deer... oops, Piggie in the headlights is

Dave Winfield, WR50 FP#-109

Hi, my name is Dave, WR50.

I live in El Paso, Texas, which on a map is as far left in Texas as you can get! I work as a medical transcriptionist for a group of neurosurgeons and orthopedic surgeons, which boils down to listening to voices in my head all day, and typing what they say. If you think docs write bad, you should hear some of them dictate! It is great listening experience for QRP, and QRP is great experience for listening.

I have been married to Denise (She Who Must Be Obeyed) for almost 8 and a half years, and I am also owned by three cats, LucyFur, The Fat Chick and Booger the Braindead (AKA Dope). Denise has been very supportive of me playing radio, since it keeps me off the streets and out of bars. The cats like to help. Of course, she thinks we're the few, the proud and the insane.

I was first licensed as a Novice with the call KB5MHS in 1990. I come from a ham family, my dad, WA5KKY, got his ticket in the early 1960's. He tried for years to get me interested, but sports, girls and teenage rebellion pretty much took up my free time. I did a tour of duty in the Army as a radio operator/troubleshooter for three years. After a few years as a civilian, I discovered that radio was still in my blood, and got my license. I upgraded to Tech in 1991, and spent the next year or so playing with VHF.

I married Denise in October 1992 and for the next few years, radio had to take a back seat to work and homesteading. Along about 1997 or so, I picked up a used IC-707, borrowed a Hustler 10-80 meter vertical from my dad, and started playing in the SSB contests on 10 meters and doing a little DX chasing. I had decided that I was going to upgrade to General so I could get more involved in SSB and RTTY contesting, and started "relearning" the code in 1999. As it turns out, two months later, restructuring was announced, and I passed the theory for General in February 2000 and upgraded on April 15. I passed my Extra in June 2000. I received the vanity call WR50 in December 2000.

As I was "relearning" CW, a funny thing happened. I actually started to enjoy it. Living in Left Texas, I was always under the impression that 100 watts was QRP. Tain't so. To be honest, I still run 100 watts SSB in contests, but as I become more proficient, I'm going to work down to the 10 watts PEP standard. I did pretty well in the 2001 RTTY Roundup, so my next RTTY contest will be QRP. All of my CW contesting is at 5 watts. I'm a part-time contester right now, but I'm working into putting in major efforts, adding an hour or two at a time. Dan N8IE's heroic sweep during the 2000 Sweepstakes has given me a goal to shoot for. I wonder if anybody from Left Texas has ever gotten a clean sweep...

My major interests in radio are currently contesting, Fox and Truffle hunting, and I've gotten the building bug. The urge to

chase DX is starting to manifest itself again, so I'm continuing to work on improving my code speed and the quality of my sending. Making the net on Wednesday and Sunday nights a regular operating event is on my list of things to do QRP. Unfortunately, I don't get to spend the time playing that I would like to, but that's the way it is.

On the construction side, I bought a TenTec 1340 40-meter transceiver at our hamfest last October. I haven't gotten it assembled yet, since I've been working on other "projects", but it seems like a good project to work on during thunderstorm season. Plans are also in the works for a QRP wattmeter, based on the 1994 Handbook version, and a keying interface for my logging software. I am a builder for the MP20, which I will be documenting as I go along.

My current station consists of an IC-756PRO, the IC-707 as a back up, a GAP Titan DX vertical up 8', and a temporarily disconnected attic dipole up about 12 feet (I needed the coax to replace the one for my vertical that got "killed" somehow). I will be adding the MultiPIG, the 1340 to take traveling and the wattmeter as they are built, as well as whatever else I can't live without. When the weather warms up and the spring winds die down, I'll be experimenting with portable directional antennas. My ultimate goal is to have a complete portable homebuilt QRP station independent of commercial power that can be transported and set up easily.

I have gotten to "know" some really interesting people in the last year, and one of these years, I'm going to make it to FIDM. This is a really great group, and I'm proud to be a member. They've gotten me to boldly go where I had never gone before, like 40 meters QRP CW and being a Truffle. Thanks, folks, it's been a wild and enjoyable ride!

GL/GUD DX/72/73 es oo,

Dave, WR50

El Paso, Left Texas DM61ts
FP#-109

QRP - it's a swine thing. Ω

What is an LED?

By Dan, N8IE

What is an LED?

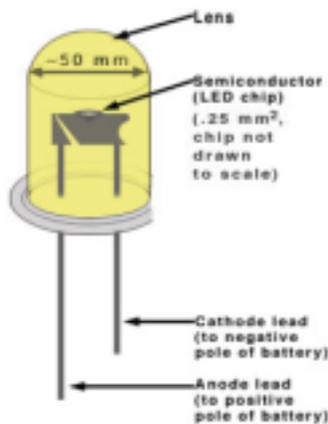
LED's (Light Emitting Diode) are a special variation of normal diodes that emit light when connected in a circuit.

LED's are generally used as visual indicators in circuits, or for low level lighting (such as high intensity pocket flashlights).

LED's operate with relatively low voltages, in the range of 1 to 4 volts, and typical current draw is in the 10mA to 40mA range. Applying voltages or current over the LED's rated values can cause them to melt.

LED's are offered in five colors: red, green, yellow, blue and white, although variations of these basic colors are available.

What's inside them?



LED's are made up of several components they include:

Lens or Reflector:

A clear often colored epoxy case that covers the LED. This case does not determine the color of the light emitted by the LED.

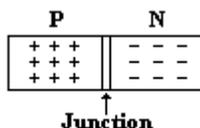
Leads:

Two wires extend through the LED that connect it to the circuit. On new LED's the shorter wire is the negative connection (also, the case has a flat spot next to this wire to indicate that it's the negative side) to the circuit.

With transparent LED's you can also tell the negative lead by noting that it is connected to the "L" shaped inside the LED.

Chip:

The most important part of an LED is the semi-conductor chip located in the center of the bulb. This chip is similar to normal diodes in that it has two regions separated by a junction. These regions are called the p , and n regions.



The p region is dominated by positive electric charges, and the n region is dominated by negative electric charges. The junction acts as a barrier to the flow of electrons between the p and the n regions. Only when sufficient voltage is applied to the semi-conductor chip, can the current flow and the electrons cross the junction into the p region.

In the absence of a large enough electric potential difference (voltage) across the LED leads, the junction presents an electric potential barrier to the flow of electrons.

What Causes the LED to Emit Light and what determines the Color of the Light?

When enough voltage is applied across the leads of the LED, electrons can move easily in only one direction across the junction between the p and n regions. When a voltage is applied and the current starts to flow, electrons in the n region have sufficient energy to move across the junction into the p region. Once in the p region the electrons are immediately attracted to the positive charges due to the mutual Coulomb forces of attraction between opposite electric charges. When an electron moves sufficiently close to a positive charge in the p region, the two charges "re-combine". Each time an electron recombines with a positive charge, electric potential energy is converted into electromagnetic energy. For each recombination of a negative and a positive charge, a quantum of electromagnetic energy is emitted in the form of a photon of light with a frequency characteristic of the semi-conductor material (usually a combination of the chemical elements gallium, arsenic and phosphorus). Only photons in a very narrow frequency range can be emitted by any material.

The color of light emitted by an LED depends on the size of the band gap, and the material used in the doped semiconductors. For instance, LED's that emit red light have a smaller band gap than LED's that emit yellow light.

Lamp sizes, and packaging.

Typically standard descriptive designations such as T1-3/4, T-1 and T-3/4. These refer specifically to the diameter of the lamp in 1/8-inch increments. (Example: T1-3/4 is 1 3/4 x .125" or .219" in diameter.)

Descriptive terms such as diffused, non-diffused, water clear and pale tint are typically used. Diffused lenses have an opaque appearance and are typically found on wider viewing angled LED's. Non-diffused have a clear, unobstructed appearance to them and are typically tinted the color of the emitted light. Water clear is a term used to describe a non-diffused lens with no color tint. In the OFF state the LED appears clear like glass, yet in the ON state it emits its source color.

Well there you go, now you know what an LED is. ☺

72, oo

Dan, N8IE Ω

HELIOGRAPH DOT COM

By J W Dates, W2QLI

[From Radio Archives June 1990] Great Days of the Heliograph by Lewis Coe 115 East 113th Ave Crown Point IN 46307

Anyone interested in the history of communications will enjoy this book. Traces the history of mirror signaling instruments from invention in 1885 to use in American Indian Wars, Spanish American War and Boer War in South Africa. Practical operation is explained and there are reprints of one Canadian and two US military manuals on the heliograph. Fully illustrated with photos, maps and drawings. 70 pages, spiral bound, 8 1/2 x 11", includes bibliography. \$6.ppd (1990)

Methods of communicating have been around a long time. From early man to modern man, the need to communicate has been necessary to his existence. Tracing some of the ways that were used, such as voice, smoke signals, sign language, telegraph, telephone, radio and TV. Many other means were also developed. [Flying Pigs " oink " Hi]

One method that intrigued me was the Heliograph used in the Civil War. It used no power other than the sun. During the conflict it was implemented to signal messages by flashing a reflection of the sun to a similar receiver, by flashing the beam on and off. In the last world war, a simple pocket mirror flashed to our aircraft by downed soldiers and saved many of them. Today, the Heliograph may only be found in museums. And in survival parcels.

I decided to assemble a simple Heliograph. The only reference I could find was an example in a dictionary. It was a drawing of the original model. I found that it was sighted by a mirror and a pin in front. The mirror could be tilted to direct the beam toward [receptor] and away to form the flashing code. [Hanks could of used it in movie Cast Away! Hi]

My version uses two (2) mirrors with the silvering removed to about one in diameter, in the center of each mirror. Cement the mirrors together, back to back. I tried a different sighting means than what was shown. To sight a distant target with this arrangement, all one needs to do is face the front of the unit aimed at the sun. Observe a shadow of it on your body. By sighting the target with your eye through the clear hole, you'll see the shadow on your body. With your eye on the target, move the mirrors, bringing the spot on your body into the hole. You will then be aligned with the target.

With a cardboard " flapper ", one can open and close the reflective surface in accordance with International Morse Code. If the other party doesn't understand CW, simple one to ten count signaling could be developed. I constructed two models (in 1990) and may have photos of each remaining. This interesting experiment could be duplicated by others at field day sights or Scout troop meets. (SASE) * RD#2 Caton Road Corning NY 14830.

KA0TPZ

wdx0awt@juno.com Ω**GRUNDIG 100PE QRP**

By Arnold CW Timm

Way back in 1985 I bought a Sony 2001. I was hunting for a cheap way to take gear outdoors. Of course, band conditions were superb and simple circuit transmitters were still the vogue. I worked a myriad of stations with this receiver and the 3-watt TX. The novice qrp freq. of 7.110 gave up some pretty out land extras. The 2001 had a BFO (beat freq. oscillator), so wiring in one was put off until it died and I had no funds to repair it.

Here in 2001 we find the qrp access point jammed with foreign broadcast. Daytime ops proves less telegraphy and more modulation, leaving one to wonder if portable HF is such a good idea. City parks and bus trips to outback location, warns individual of possible equipment 'snatch' by teenage gangs. A quick get away set of instructions might suggest Vectronic's or Ramsey kit outfits and a 20-foot fishing pole. And sure grip tennis shoes! Hi

When AES dropped the price on the Grundig 100PE analog receiver, I took notice. While it doesn't have a BFO, I found that by bringing another broadcast receiver up against the back, the 455 kHz could be heterodyne. I am waiting for my wife to buy same for my 55th birthday and then I can contend with inter city hooligans and work AA9KU on 7.111. Hi

By the way, my 3-watt transmitter is housed in the popular Altoids candy tin and it can be loaded at the antenna, thus avoiding coax cable dB loss. The output transistor fried when I crossed 12 vdc wires when it was being housed. I will need to attain another PA for any thunder storm opposition this summer. Ten Tec offers a \$13 BFO in kit form that doesn't have to be installed inside the cabinet. That is another option I suppose.

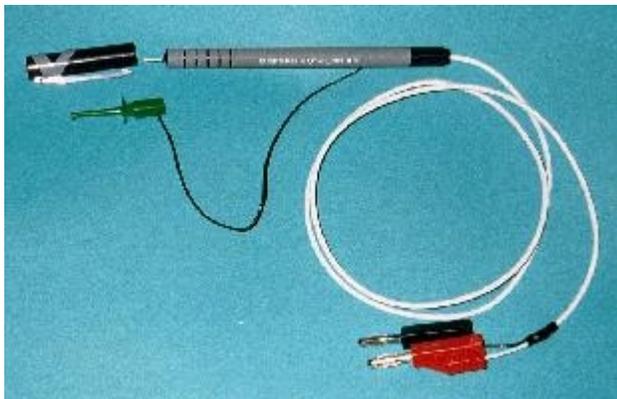
72 KA0TPZ Ω



N5FC's Ballpoint RF Probe

By Monty, N5FC

This is one of those afternoon projects that can really be both rewarding to build and useful to have. This probe is used in conjunction with a high-impedance-input Voltmeter or Digital Voltmeter (DVM). Cost? About \$5, if you can scrounge the ballpoint pen, heat shrink, shielded cable, and copper tape.



What makes this probe unique is that it's built inside the shell of a regular ol' ballpoint pen. Besides being conveniently compact, the unit sports a needle-probe suitable for use in probing surface-mount circuits, and good overall shielding. The pen cap protects the needle probe when not in use. When measuring sinusoidal signals, it should provide RMS-corrected readings, using a 10 or 11-Meg input impedance VTVM or DVM. With a 1-Meg DVM, it reads 25% of the sinusoidal RMS voltage. Reasonable accuracy (+/- 10%) can be expected over the HF/VHF range (2-150 MHz), although this hasn't been verified. When used to measure non-sinusoidal signals, the accuracy will be unknown, but it still affords good relative measurements, and most of the time, that's all that's required. It makes an excellent, compact and portable accessory for troubleshooting or homebrewing QRP equipment with peak voltages less than 50 Volts (i.e., most solid-state equipment)

To see how to construct the Ballpoint RF Probe, visit Monty's website at <http://www.io.com/~n5fc/rfprobe2.htm>. Also while your browsing, look at his main webpage, (<http://www.io.com/~n5fc/index.html>) Monty has several other wonderful projects, and articles relating to Homebrew, and QRP.

If you build one of the Ballpoint RF Probes, drop Monty an email at n5fc@io.com

72
Monty, N5FC Ω

QRP Ideals

By Arnold CW Timm
(c) 2001 All Rights Reserved

First of all we need a rig,
with moderate 'ceiver gain;
then become a Flying Pig,
to have a number to exchange?

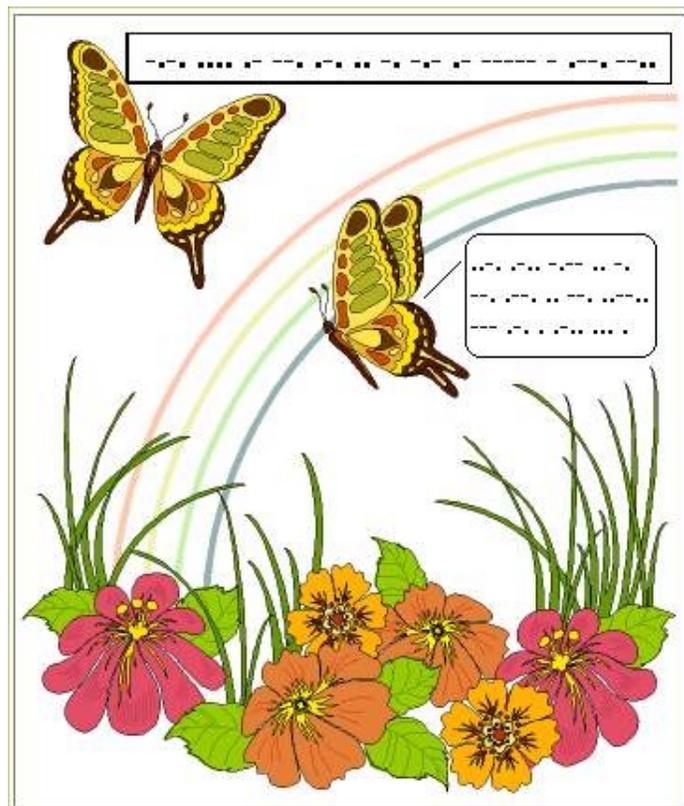
Next antenna wire high,
like balanced line and tuner;
practice on a Viking Nye,
str8 key -- nothing sooner!

Get a grip on gorilla ops,
to assemble in a pinch;
components, circuits - gosh,
how to copy every inch!

Gather what you can in parts,
cannibalize the broken;
like ants from cassette carts,
or where telegraph is spoken?

Then if ever dot comic dies,
leaving us to grease the wheels;
have a quick responsive guise,
with Flying Pig ideals!

KA0TPZ
wdx0awt@juno.com Ω



Flying Pig -57 Field report for January 2001

By Brian, KB9BVN

On January the 26th I left my employer in Cincinnati and headed off towards one of my favorite events. This was the 2001 Pathfinder District Boy Scout Camporee near Connorsville Indiana. I love winter camping and this would be my 10th Winter Camporee in a row. We've had all kinds of weather from below zero, up to the 50's. This time we had rain...and snow...and sleet...and wind, and I mean WIND. I arrived at the campsite well in advance of my troop so I could pick out a suitable spot for my antenna. This time I am using a Gusher cut for 40m that I borrowed from Aron, N1ODL when I visited he and his lovely wife Kim, back in January. They live in New Hampshire, in the cold, in the snow, and they gave me a very warm welcome. Anyway, this is what our camp looked like the next morning.



I found a nice spot under a big dead oak tree...but then I started thinking about how heavy that tree was and began to wonder if I'd even feel it when it landed on my gourd whilst I lay there in my peaceful winter slumber...so we moved the "shack". I ended up over by a nice healthy live tree and after a half an hour I finally got the antenna up in the boughs and both ends tied off to a couple of trees with big thorns. I figured the thorns would keep the boys away.

NOTE: Bring something to tie on the end of the hoisting rope, makes it much easier to toss over tree branch.

I didn't set my tent up right away because it had started sleeting. So I climbed back in my 1990 Toyota Camry and set my station up for operation.

Here is a picture of my station, from the inside of my tent. I have a NC40A, a ZM-2 antenna tuner, a HUGE BIG GIANT set of Ten Tec paddles, and some headphones. The Diet Pepsi can was for me to use later. Winter campers know what I mean by "later". Power was 12v-lead acid battery.



It took me about 10 mins to get everything setup in the front seat of the car. Did I mention I was getting buried in sleet and freezing rain? After tuning around, I settled on 7043Khz and sent out a CQ or two. Nothing. AGN AGN..NADA. Huh, I was getting a little frustrated when I heard NX3X from Altoona PA calling CQ. I answered him...he answered me!! We had a nice 10-minute QSO and I got a 579 and gave him a 599. Larry was a nice op and overlooked the hard time I was having trying to work those huge paddles from the front seat of my small car. Most excellent!

The next QSO came about 20 minutes later, it was now snowing and sleeting, and I was wondering if my Gusher being iced up was holding my 1.2 watts of power back. I call CQ, BLAMMO, W3RDF from South Carolina answers my call with a 559 report. Don was also running QRP but before I could get any more info, the QSB killed the QSO.

It had now stopped precipitating and I decided it was now or never on getting my tent pitched. So I bailed out of the car and began setting up the tent, installing the sleeping bags, and all that stuff. This took about an hour and it was now getting dark and still no sign of my troop yet.

Finally the boys arrived, and now it was raining again. Temps had jumped up to about 38 and everything was getting wet. Here is a picture of my tent/shack. Note the RG174 coming in on the right. The Gusher is a really neat antenna. Very handy little dipole. Joe Everhart N2CX makes and sells them at a very reasonable price.



After we got the whole place setup, it started snowing again, and the wind started howling, and I mean it was HOWLING. We were encamped on the edge of a good sized pine forest, the scent was incredible, but anyone that has camped in the pines can verify that when wind comes through in a big gust, it sounds like a freight train. At about 10PM the temp had dropped down to about 27 and the wind was getting worse. So we decided to make some cobbler, eat it and go to bed. Oh yeah, Peach AND apple. Mmmmmmm!



After stuffing my gut with hot cobbler, I retired to the shack in hopes of working a few more stations. I bet I laid there in my sleeping bag for an hour calling CQ and got nothing. NADA. So I crawled out and started doing some investigation. CRUD, I had a loose wire in my ZM-2 tuner. After fumbling with the flashlight and electrical tape I finally got the LED to dim and gave it another try.

Here I am, the next day, lounging around with our Scoutmaster, Duane. Nice shades...eh? The theme of the campout was "Luau in Siberia", I am wearing a lei. I am on the left. We just ate...again.



So anyway, there I was...calling CQ, the wind is blowing, the temps are dropping (at midnight it was 15 F), and all of a sudden I hear....

KB9BVN/QRP DE W9JOP/4QRP K

I about had a cow. It was BOB in Virginia on his TT2 at a whopping 250 mw. We sent 579's and blabbed on and on for at least 45 minutes. He was pretty sure I was off my rocker when I told him about the WX and my portable shack. It was the highlight of my whole night.

That was my last QSO, I tried calling with W8PIG for a while but I broke my ZM-2 again and could not get a match. My cold battery was having a hard time as well. So at about midnight, I used my Diet Pepsi can, checked the temp (15F IN my tent), went QRT and hit the hay.

Take your rigs to the great outdoors! It's a ball. WB6JBM is the club expert at camping ops!

72 es "OO" to all my Flying Pig Buddies Ω

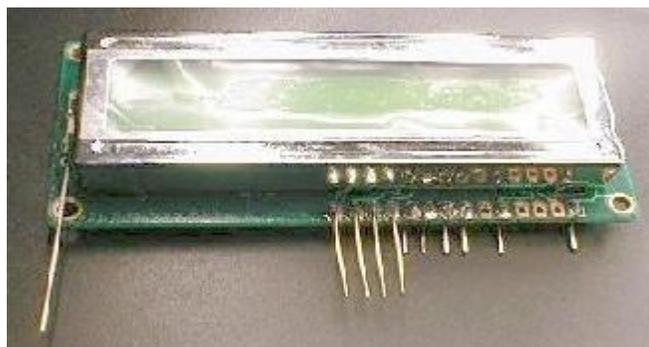
HOLY COW!! IT WORKS!!

By Brian, KB9BVN

As many of you know, 20 of us are in the middle of building, and we hope, completing the MultiPig 20 Rig. The MultiPig 20 was designed by none other than W8DIZ or as we affectionately refer to him...Grandpa Piggie.

I have built a few things using the dead bug technique, but I have NEVER used this construction method for anything of this scale. It looked like it was going to be a challenge, so I grabbed a large container of Diet Pepsi, my soldering station, and all my electrical tools of construction and began sniffing the flux and melting the slobber.

The very first circuit we had to build was the Frequency Counter. The bulk of this circuit came to us from AADE (Almost All Digital Electronic) and included a really cool backlit LCD display and a PIC controller. Diz did a great job on the step by step instructions. Here is what the LCD looks like, partially wired.



I love this kind of construction because, you can be a pig. Felix Unger would have a total cow over the layout of this circuit. The PCB was a hunk of copper clad that we just soldered parts to. It was very nice and roomy, and mistakes were easy to hide.

We put this unit together under the watchful eye of Grandpa Piggie and he made sure we all stayed in about the same place and got everything right. Over the course of five different lessons we finally completed the unit and this is what it looked like.



Note the small PIC chip just under the LCD. That's the chip that I demolished by ripping pin 4 clear off the substrate. Bummer just doesn't explain how I felt, but one email to Neil at ADDE made me one happy camper. I told Neil how I destroyed his chip through my own negligence and blundering, Neil said it was no problem and in the interest of customer service he sent me a replacement PIC at NO CHARGE. He did say the next one would be \$20.00 though.

After I tore mine apart and soldered in the replacement PIC, it was time to set it on fire and let the bad smoke out! (That's slang for power it up and see if it explodes) Well I read the directions and read them again and decided to get Diz on the horn. Lucky for me Diz and Mike WB8ICN and Mac AF4PS were all on AIM online (probably making fun of me) and they told me what to do to get the offset working, etc etc. Here is a picture of my finished FC!



It's ugly, it's real ugly...but it WORKS!

72 es "oo" DE KB9BVN/QRP Ω

Website Spotlight

By Dan, N8IE

Did you know that we are constantly being bathed in radio waves from the farthest corners of the universe? These radio waves are often produced by some of the most energetic and mysterious processes known to physics. Pulsars sweep out their radio beacons with remarkable regularity, a black hole at the center of our galaxy, unseen by our best optical telescopes, occasionally emits a radio-burp after a meal of some poor star. Even our Sun and Jupiter produce very strong radio waves which can readily be detected with simple antennas and receivers. There are even stranger and wonderful sources of radio waves out there, let's explore how we can get started "discovering" them ourselves:

Our first stop is SARA (Society of Amateur Radio Astronomers.

<http://www.bambi.net/sara.html>

World Amateur Radio Astronomers League.

http://www.astronomy.net/astroguide/association/World_Amateur_Radio_Astronomers_League/

Radio-Sky Publishing has a very neat program for listening to "space radio waves":

<http://radiosky.com/>

If you're in the market to buy some gear, head over to Radio Astronomy Supplies:

<http://www.nitehawk.com/rasmit/ras.html>

The National Radio Astronomy Observatory:

<http://www.nrao.edu/>

There are also a number of Hams out there who are very into Radio Astronomy:

VK2ZTO:

http://www.zeta.org.au/~ollaneg/pulsar_home.htm

DF9CY:

<http://www.df9cy.de/>

W5DAV:

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

W6/PA0ZN:

<http://www.nitehawk.com/rasmit/>

Head over to Dogpile.com and follow the link below to explore the universe with you radio!

<http://search.dogpile.com/taxis/search?q=Amateur+Radio+Astronomy&geo=no&fs=web>

72, oo

Dan, N8IE Ω

FISTS Coast 2 Coast

For the second year in a row, the FISTS CW club will sponsor its annual Coast 2 Coast event. Several FISTS clubs (including the Flying Pigs) will participate in this event.

You don't have to be a FISTS member to participate! Non-members can use club points (3 points per club) towards FISTS awards when they join FISTS later.

WHEN: April 15th, 0000 UTC to 2400 UTC (24 hour event, April 14-15, Saturday and Sunday).

Clubs will work a maximum of 24 hours. However, Clubs will operate to their own operating schedules and are not expected to be on the air the entire time of the event. This is NOT a contest. We will try to post proposed schedules and QTHs where possible.

BANDS: 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters.

We encourage Clubs to use the Novice segments also. No WARC bands. **Clubs will call --- "CQ C2C"**

EXCHANG: RST, Name, State, and FISTS number (if you are a FISTS member).

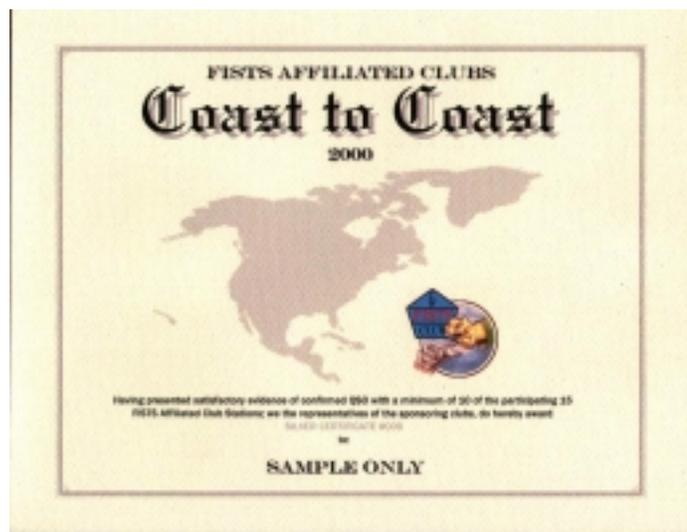
Clubs use their *club* number. All contacts with Clubs will count toward regular FISTS awards (FISTS clubs are worth 3 points each), as applicable

CERTIFICATES: Will be awarded to all participants who work the following number of clubs (NOTE: log submittal is NOT required):

A minimum of 5 Clubs ---- Bronze Certificate

For contact of 10 Clubs ---- Silver Certificate

For contact of 15 Clubs ---- Gold Certificate



Sample of the Silver Certificate!

Application for C2C certificates for Stateside Applicants need to be accompanied by US Funds for \$4.00, which includes postage. All DX applicants please include funds in US in the amount of \$6.00, which also includes postage. You can order the C2C Certificates directly online at: [N7GSU C2C Certs](http://N7GSU.C2C.Certs) or by printing the online form and mailing it to N7GSU.

Mail certificate requests or payment to:

[N7GSU OSLs](http://N7GSU.OSLs)

24142 SW Peavine Rd

McMinnville, OR 97128-8368 USA

For more information on the C2C event, visit the K7FFF website at:

http://www.foreign-interests.com/k7fff/FNW_C2C01.html

For general information on FISTS visit:

www.fists.org

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

Uncle Jim on CB Radios

By Jim, unit 606 in the Buckeye State

Hey everyone! My name is Jim, or as my buds on 11 meters know me as, "Uncle Jim".



In this column I will share news, special events, and happenings in the wonderful world of 11 meters!

Let me start by announcing the big event for April, it's the 10th annual WAMHP, Worked All Mobile Home Parks sponsored by the East Coasters CB Club on Friday, April 13th. This year yours truly will be setup at the Elvis Presley Memorial Trailer Park in Dayton, Oh, and I'm trying something different. I will be running QRP at only 1kW, yes that's right, only 1kW. At the request of a Ham Radio buddy of mine, N0SEX and the local cellular phone company I'm going to give it a try!

In the world of operating, a world record was set last week as Brian, "Eagle Scout" of Indianapolis, IN worked Mac, "Preacher Man" of Odessa, FL at only 1.5kW on channel 50 LSB. That's a whopping 1 miles-per-watt! Way to go guys!

The rumor mill is hard at work in reporting the merger of Kenwood Electronics, and Cobra Electronics to produce a new communications company, Cobrawood.

It's reported that the newly formed company will introduce a new "rig" to showcase the merger, the Cobrawood TS-2001cb. A 40-channel SSB radio with uppers and lowers, and sporting a matching speaker/VFO box that gives it coverage from 26.000mHZ to 29.999mHZ, the entire 11-meter band.

Next month I will start a new column for the Montana Old Foggy Operators club project, the MOFO-40/11.

This project will be a 40-meter to 11-meter converter for the Elecraft K-2 transceiver. Stay tuned here for more info.

The new International Space Station is going to have a complete radio station setup and operational by the end of this year. The radio station will cover all communications from CB to Ham Radio.

Pictured here is the shuttle Discovery carrying the module that will house the CB radio equipment, the module is a 1976 Fleetwood doublewide mobile home.



FOR SALE:

Dieter, "The Brewmeister" is selling his entire mobile setup. Pictured here, the late 80's Mercedes features a full line up of top-notch radio gear, and an impressive 2.5kW linear. Asking price is \$1500.00



Dieter can be reached at 666-555-1212

That's it for this month, hope you all enjoy this and we look forward to seeing you on the bands!

73, 88

Uncle Jim is back quiet! Ω