

# Bacon Bits

Flying Pigs QRP Club International, W8PIG

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

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## Ramblings

WOW, this is the first year anniversary issue of the Bacon Bits. Has it really been that long? I want to thanks each and everyone who have sent in articles, stories, pics, etc. You are the ones who have made the Bacon Bits a great newsletter! Keep up the great work folks!

Also, we have changed the look of the Flying pigs homepage, <http://www.fpqrp.com> We will keep updated information and late breaking news there. Please visit it often!

72, oo  
Dan, N8IE Ω

## SMALL LOOPS

By CF Rockey

( 7/12/99) If you want to operate at about 7.1 MHz with a one-turn loop, you want it to tune from about 7.1 to 14.4mHz or from 7.1 to about 3.5 MHz -- this makes a difference! [ 51 inch on a side you say? ] For example: if you want to tune from about 14.4 to about 7.1 MHz, you will want a loop with an inductance at about 4.9 microhenrys, or a square turn of about 3.1 feet on a side. (Or about 39 inches/side) if tuned with a 100pF max-capacitor. Or, if you want one which will tune from about 7.3 to about 3.5 MHz, you'll need one with an inductance of about 6.9 microhenrys, or a square of about 4.25 feet (51 inches) on a side; when tuned with a 300pF max-capacitor. [Compare with MFJ 1782 in price/etc. ] ( As the old-time carnival "barker" used to say, "Yer pays yer money and yer takes yer chances!" ) And remember, because of the extensive field, which couples it to so many nearby objects, any calculations one makes concerning a small "transmitting" loop, are bound to be approximate only. [Observe your approximations! Hi]

You see, one does not design a loop for a given frequency, but rather a "band" of them. Like 3.5 to 7.0/7.0 to 14 mHz or 10.1 to 21mHz for instance. We get into trouble when one tries for a broader tuning - bandwidth than this. But one usually "sets-up" a loop to cover at least two adjacent bands with the same loop, if possible. That's just "good practice", let's say. [Wonder how it interacts with large 80m Zepps nearby?] I don't advise putting a transmitting loop outside the house, because you want the tuning capacitor (connected to the center of one side of the loop) -- to be handy to your hand, for tuning the loop to exact resonance at your operating frequency. If it is not tuned precisely, thereto the loop - RF current will be markedly diminished and the radiated power correspondingly also. You need as much loop RF current as you can get with your operating power! (This is one of those "secrets of success" with a small loop!) [Making indoor hams handy/dandy?]

With a straight -wire-antenna, you can "get by " and still "get out" quite well. A small loop is a "finicky" thing. You got to follow the "rules" or get nowhere! This is the price you pay for the very neat physical compactness of the small loop. I hereby clarify these strict perimeters, so you can have the same good luck with a small loop, that I have had. If we want good results,

we all must follow the rules of physics! Playing with my ROCKLOOP has supplied me with some of the most interesting fun I've had in 65 years of the crazy ham game! With all it's frantic foolishness; it's on these [loops?] and these alone, that I recommend this activity to all you [so-called] Qrp'ers. It is simple, stimulating, and cheap! What more could we ask for? Real radiopersons use telegraphy! Write if you have questions/suggestions

72/73

W9SCH Box 171 Albany WI 53502

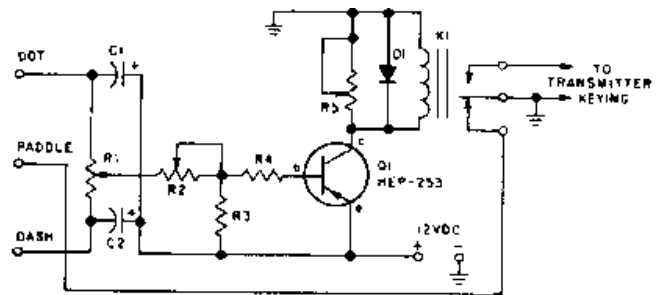
[De Vol. 16 No 4 Common Ham]

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## One transistor Keyer

By Arnold CW Timm

Ocean State Electronics Box 1458 Westerly RI 02891 [www.oselectronics.com](http://www.oselectronics.com) may have the parts for this simple circuit. For those of us who can barely budget the electric bill, such a diversion might relieve our guilt. When the paddle terminal connects to the dit point, C1 begins to charge. As C1 voltage makes Q1 conduct, current from its collector breaks K1 relay; thus causing transmitter to key. Grounding K1 via paddle, discharges C1, and Q1 stops conducting, dropping out the relay. Restoring K1 paddle point to ground repeats the cycle unless the paddle is released. Dahs behave alike.



Pot R1 sets the dit-dah ratio, pot R2 the speed. Pot R5 has a slight effect on the dit-space ratio, plus acts on the relay prior as Q1 quits.

Parts List:

- C1 - 3uF electrolytic cap
- C2 - 10uF " "
- D1 - Switching diode 1N914
- K1 - 12 vdc relay
- Q1 - PNP transistor
- R1 - 10K Linear pot
- R2 - 50K pot
- R3 - 1200 ohm resistor
- R4 - 560 ohm resistor
- R5 - 5K ohm pot

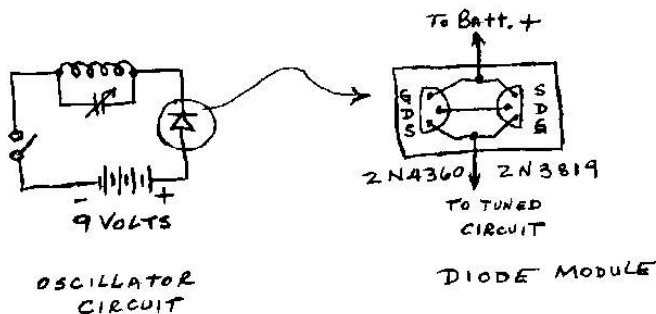
KA0TPZ [wdx0awt@juno.com](mailto:wdx0awt@juno.com) Ω

## SIMPLE BFO & Q MULTIPLIER

By George Hermann

When experimenting with short wave crystal detectors, one encounters a number of limitations. One is the fact that it is impossible to monitor single side band and CW stations. Another is due to the fact that selectivity is often poor. The following device has been developed in an attempt to solve these problems.

It was decided that an oscillator could be made that would provide a beat note to permit the reception of SSB signals. The same oscillator, with a much looser degree of coupling, could reduce the losses in the tank circuit of the passive receiver; thereby increases selectivity. Since crystal detectors are inherently simple devices, it was decided to develop a circuit with a similar simplicity. By studying the circuit below, you will note that this objective has largely been accomplished.



The oscillator consists of a module, a tuning circuit, and a 9-volt battery in series. What could be more simple? This oscillator should be mounted on a separate board so that the tuning coil can be moved in relation to the coil of the receiver. This will vary the coupling, and consequently the amplitude of the signal induced upon the coil. Under no circumstances should the coil of the oscillator be connected directly to an antenna, as an interfering signal will then be radiated. The module, as shown in the circuit, consists of two junction FETs connected back to back. One has to be a P channel device (somewhat difficult to find); the other an N channel. The prototype used a type 2N4360 together with a type 2N3819. Other types should work provided one is a N channel and the other a P channel.

Since tuning this device is quite sharp, when receiving single side band, the tuning capacitor should either be provided with a vernier drive, or a small "bandspread" should be connected in parallel with it. A wooden shaft extension on the tuning capacitor will help reduce tuning variations, due to "hand capacity." Naturally, the tuning range of the coil and capacitor should cover the frequencies of the stations that you are interested in receiving.

72 N9BNH

KA0TPZ [wdx0awt@juno.com](mailto:wdx0awt@juno.com) Ω

## TESLA: ACCORDING TO ROCK

By CF Rockey



Nikola Tesla indeed was a full-blown genius. He made dozens of important technical contributions, as Mr. Beaty reports. (Common Ham -Summer 2k) He invented a number of significant things -- but he did not "invent radio", per se! (But more on Mr. Tesla later...) Probably the proper great-grandfather of radio was that pioneer British physicist, Michael Faraday; who discovered electromagnetic induction. That phenomenon whereby whenever a magnetic field is changed in any way, it is surrounded by a changing - proportional electric field. Discovered back in 1824, this was, in its way, the "kickoff" for radio's (and indeed, the entire electrical industry's) ensuing development.

One of Faraday's contemporaries, Dr James Clerk Maxwell, a Scottish mathematician, studied Faraday's work thoroughly and translated this into mathematical form. In doing this he wrote those four, well known "Maxwell's Equations", which directly connected those formerly distinct sciences of electromagnetism and light, and basically explain all of electricity. Only a few people were able to understand Maxwell's tough, calculus-based equations and even fewer of these, originally accepted their conclusions. ("Pure Theory and maybe even that's pure bunk," many said) An experimental test of this theory was obviously required. Nevertheless, Maxwell must be recognized as the "Grandfather of Radio" for, before his work, radio's electromagnetic waves, as we know them, could not even have been rationally imagined.

However, in 1877, a young mathematical physicist set-up that famous spark coil, along with the first "Hertzian Dipole", in a laboratory in Bonn Germany. Using these, he set up the first man-made, -- radio's electromagnetic waves, of greater length than light or "heat" waves. Hertz's experimental work not only generated these waves, but also reflected, refracted, and polarized them; as had been done with light! Because of his work, these "long light-waves" could then be studied and practically worked - with. However, being basically a mathematician, Heinrich Hertz had no concept of their later application whatever. But because Heinrich Hertz remains the first human-being to actually generate, transmit, and receive these "long light-waves" in his Bonn laboratory, he is truly: "The Father of Radio!"

Many others immediately became interested in these waves, among them: Sir Oliver Lodge, Reginald Fessenden, Augusto Righi, Lee De Forest, Michael Pupin, Ferdinand Braun, Professors Slaby and Arco and ( in Russia) Vladimir Popov. --

Yes, and Nikola Tesla too. ( And there were dozens of others also who were vitally - active in wireless experimenting then but who, as unsung heroes, never "made it into the history books".) A few years later, there was a smart young man in Italy, --- the son of a prosperous business entrepreneur and a talented Irish actress, --- who got sick of being " a spoiled rich boy"! So he voluntarily took-up the study of Physical Science. His name: Guglielmo Marconi! Naturally he read - of and became fascinated with those "long waves" of Hertz. Although feeling that his son was probably "nuts", his father nevertheless bought him a spark coil, some batteries, and other electrical gear. Then, with this, young Guglielmo duplicated many of Hertz's experiments. As he did so, he wondered: "Instead of stringing wires all over the place, why not instead use these waves for telegraphy?"

"Many more practical "Hertzian -type" experiments followed, -- and young Guglielmo also even taught himself the telegraph code! When he had developed his apparatus into its ability to transmit a Hertzian-wave signal consistently; through the air for over a mile or two, he offered his ideas to the Italian government. But that august body was not interested. (The officials were sluggish from eating too much spaghetti and vino for lunch, possibly?) So Marconi pulled-up stakes and went to Britain. The British instantly became interested in his work; because of the possibility of its use by their famous navy and large merchant fleet. Although the British didn't object to telegraph wires as such, Marconi's idea of ship to shore and ship to ship telegraphy practically "hit them in the face!" So young Marconi really "made it big" there and, largely with Britain assistance, instituted wireless telegraphy into that system of worldwide concern which was served, and saved so many human lives since.

But, -- whoa now -- didn't Marconi "invent Radio", --- or at least wireless telegraphy? No, he did NOT! He had little to do with radiotelephony, --- which is "radio" in the average citizen's mind! He read, studied diligently, and used the good ideas of others. (A valuable contribution, in itself) and gave radio it's first big start. Who is the "Father of Radio" then? As has been stated, -- once before --- this honor should truly attach to HEINRICH HERTZ! For it is he who discovered the most basic process involved in radio, and also those original techniques which, if these had not been uncovered by him, would not have permitted anyone to even think of Radio. In this sense he "fathered radio", --- truly introduced it, as it were, and his memory should be honored accordingly. [In my opinion -- perhaps? Editor]

But Guglielmo Marconi did, of himself, conceive and develop something immensely worthwhile. He developed the great technical and commercial communication-system, without which the art of radio could never have expanded into its present day form; achievement enough for anyone! One of these ( of the greatest of interest to me ) was his development of a neat little radio - controlled boat ( patented on Nov 8 1893) -- probably the first successful remote - controlled vehicle of any kind ever built. This was a small, self-powered, electric-motor-driven boat. About four or five feet long. This was completely distant - controllable by means of a shore-based, spark coil radio transmitter; effective up to a distance of (probably) one-

mile, at least. (If you read Mr. Tesla's patent description, you will probably be astounded, as I am, by the sensitivity and flexibility of the boat's controlling mechanism.

Accomplished entirely electro-mechanically -- by the use of many relays, etc., but entirely without the use of what we would call "electronics" today.) {This was an extremely sophisticated arrangement, devised some dozen or more years before De Forest's vacuum tube technique was even imagined!} A little boat of this kind was actually built many years later, just as Mr Tesla described, and it worked very well indeed, we're told. He also devised, and patented, a spark radio transmitter containing (according to his patent description): "An 0.01 mfd capacitor, charged from an alternating current generator of 50,000 volts pressure and discharged by means of a mechanical-operated break, five thousand times per second, in the transformer primary circuit, --- the latter consisting of a single turn of stout, stranded cable --- the diameter of this loop being very nearly 200 centimeters in diameter, and the current in it vibrating, according to adjustment, "from one hundred thirty-thousand to 250,000 times per second." The high tension secondary coil, in the form of a flat spiral, was composed of 50 turns of heavily-insulated, no.8 cable, wound in a single layer --

When the primary and secondary coils, were carefully synchronized, and excited, an electromotive force of 2- 4 million volts was obtainable at the terminals of the secondary terminal, etc., etc." This transformer, as described, was connected to a vertical antenna wire, held upright by a suitable balloon, --- "at a height suitable to the transmission to be accomplished thereby" ... (And so, on and on -- very interesting, but very "Tesla-ish"! ) However, we must again note that this arrangement is but a somewhat specialized form of spark transmitter, using the same principles as did most other radio transmitters of that era. I do not think (from what I read) that he can be given any special credit for inventing this then-common transmitting method. He just adapted a common one to his own purpose which, in many cases, was not radio-communication at all, but rather represented an attempt to TRANSMIT ELECTRICAL POWER via intense radio waves. (This was the long dream of his which was, we now understand, doomed to fail and which eventually resulted in his tragic financial and personal collapse.) [90 miles an hour down a dead-end street?] [Abbreviated] I don't think there is enough evidence here to enable us to even credit him for "inventing radio"; although he did bring-forth a number of concepts of remaining utility therein.

As in electricity generally. Radio was invented by "down to earth" men, like Fessenden, De Forest, and Marconi -- rather than by a "wild, almost-devilish showman like, semi-unearthly geniuses like Nikola Tesla seemed to be. He remains one of the first-rank scientific thinkers of all time! I sincerely admire him, but we must place him properly upon a reasonable human scale of values; (if we are to truly appreciate him for what he was, and for what he [eventually] accomplished.)

Who really "invented radio" then? Certainly not Hertz, Lodge, Braun, Slaby, Arco, Popov, De Forest, Armstrong, Tesla, or even Marconi! Each of these men, each a leader in his field, made a significant contribution, as did many of lesser rank --

who have followed them since. NOBODY -- absolutely NO single individual, could of possibly conceived ALL of radio "On his own"! The same is true with each and all of today's complex modern inventions; the automobile, modern aircraft, nuclear energy, etc. These are all the product of many minds and many handy-hands; all working together toward a common, worthwhile end. This is "the proper way of the world", and we should all be grateful for it; regardless.

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[De Vol. 18 No 1 Common Ham]

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## FP NET

**8/2/01**

High y'all

Well ah be thair tonite... great net... qrn was s9 solid signals were s5 to s7 max... i'm on my 2nd xanax... I had extreme effort to copy tonite and missed a lot a missed one or maybe two checkins sri I always check for late checkins after working 2 stations and at the end of the list... so don't geaux away... conditions may change... ok?  
wed nite Aug. 1st 01, 9pm eastern on 7.047.5 cw, ke1la ncs

### CHECKINS

WAYNE... unable to copy but u were heard checking in.... thanks...  
WB8ICN well high Mike... thanks ... ur my mentor u kneaux...  
KB5ELV hope I have the call right thanks for qni tonite...  
KC8NYW... THANKS for the help  
AF4PS hey Mac, we heard u and about every third word...  
N8IE ur the man thanks  
KC4URI... was that u are was ah hearing things????  
W1QF ... ONE OF THE BETTER SIGNALS TONITE  
KE1LA NCS always misunderstood... and qrn shocked tonite...

Thanks to all who checked in tonite, tough conitions for tough operators...

ke1la joel  
ncs wed nite net

**8/6/01**

Sorry this is late but just got back home from a sweaty roadtrip...I'm ready for WINTER!!!!!!  
W8DIZ Diz 589, ever wonder how the Pappa Piggie always seems to be the first to QNI on Sunday evenings??? :-)  
N8IE Dan, the pantless wonder 579...have to be nice to Dan this week..but come next week...hahaha  
KB9BVN Brian 599, Brian used to be, at best, a 579 till about two monthes ago..I think he is using a linear!!!!  
KC8NYW Rob 579...Hey Rob, should I send you my phone number to call and wake me up on Saturday evenings so I won't miss the Saturday evening fun net?  
N8VAR Ron 569...mighty fist OM! Good to hear you back on again!!!!  
KQOI Mark 569...Mark, good to have you back..where have you been hiding???

AJ4AY Jay 579...Jay ol buddy, your as consistant as the sunrises..thaks for being there every week no matter the band conditions

AF4PS Mac 339...Mac is looking for donations for an antenna and a linear in case the new swamp doesn't work out  
KC4URI Steve 579...Steve, your like Jay..always there no matter what

W8PIG 226 Spandex Kid...this dude's waistline is too tight..you can tell by the sound of his fist...LOL

I hope to make it back to the home QTH tomorrow night (Wed 8/8/01) for Joel's net...but in case I don't, everyone else make it so ol Mr. Joel doesn't get lonesome!!!! You folks are the greatest!!

Dah-Dit-Dah.... 72's/73's es oo's, Mikey...WB8ICN

**8/9/01**

High U Fine Swine ,... :-)

Great net tonite... I could hear everybody! was a good nite to have a net...

### CHECK INS

WB8ICN now my nite is complete.... thanks for qni...  
W1QF/8 Nice signal  
AF4PS... LET US KNEAUX WHEN U STOP USING THE DUMMY LOAD, MAC  
N8IE Dan's the Man or so I heah... :-)  
N1ODL nice signal  
W8DIZ High nice to hear u  
WB9LIF Is ur name be Steve?

Ke1la joel ncs 7.047.5 wed aug 7 , 9pm Eastern

**8/12/01**

WOW...the band was noiseeee. I was having a rough time with most as storms approached and static levels were high. Thanks guys for braving the heavy qrn, and I'm really sorry if I missed anyone....I just could not filter the qrn down much. Was also a little tired from my WV trip. Did fantastic mobile qrp at 7040. Had a qso with a guy in GA from Columbus all the way to Jackson OH. Prbably could have gone all the way to Point Pleasant, WV but ran outa stuff to talk about!! :-)OHR explorer, MFJ 945 tuner, Antron hellically loaded 1/4 wave whip.

W1QF/8. Terry, rst589/599 very nice sig, cut right thru the static FB. Even hit 10 over fer a sec:-) great to meet you sir. Nice qrz bio!! TU for checking in Terry.

AF4PS. Mac,WOW! You were coming in nice 529/539...just wiped Buddie out!! Very nice to see you agn Mac, and TU for the check-in.

KB5ELV. Buddie. You started out really weak but came right back in a bit of qsb. Thanks for repeating your call a zillion times for me!! started229 and went to 549or so qsb/qrn. Great to meet you and thanks for the check-in sir

Again I apologize if I missed any of you piggies, and thanks for a great net guys. 72-Oink Oink. Rob, kc8nyw #186

**8/13/01**

Well, those who were on tonight are probably still laughing at me...rightfully so...my new TS-570 works, but my old vibroplex keyer is history!!! Just did a quick jumper configuration to wire in my Bull Dog paddle and everything is fine now. But then that was just the beginning..but instead of humiliating myself and going to bed with a headache, let me just post the net results and go to bed embarrassed.

W9LIF 569  
 W8DIZ 579 to 589  
 KC8NYW 599  
 NV4T 339, Bill the QRN and QSB were eating you up...sorry  
 AF4PS 569, rumor has it Mac had a visit from the Wire Angels and he sounds better now  
 AJ4AY 569  
 WV9GN 589  
 WB8UOJ/8 469, Bob...your signal was good at check in and then the static took over  
 N8IE xxx, Dan...heard you check in and couldn't hear you after several calls...sorry..No, I didn't ignore you..being Mac's HERO, I have the upmost respect for you and your Spandex  
 KB5ELV 579 with heavy DSP intervention, thanks for the help after the net on 20 meters...the vibroplex "dah" contacts were bouncing serverly and it was driving me crazy as I didn't know what was happening.

I hope I never have a evening like this again...if I do, I will need to pay the Dox up in Maine a long, long visit!!!!  
 Thanks to all who beared through the pain of my terribly run net...sorry to all....

72's/OO..Mikey

**8/16/01**

Wow ten or so checkins and some I missed... sry about that... someone was messing with us till I went up to ten watts... don't kneaux why the deliberate qrp to the fp net... shame on them...

CHECK INS WED AUG 15, 01, 9PM EST ON 7.047.5 CW  
 WB8ICN  
 N8IE  
 WB9LIF  
 KC4URI  
 NV4T  
 W4STX  
 KB9BVN  
 W1QF  
 HONORABLE MENTION, JO  
 WHO DID I MISS?  
 KE1LA JOEL NCS

**8/20/01**

OK, so I'm deaf...first off, my apologies to Dan, Bill and Daryl...never heard you..or maybe I did and thought it was another QSO. Seemed like I was up and down the band trying to catch everyone. Still learning the in's and out's of this 570...fun though

KC4URI 579

WB9LIF 559...wow, I got the two Steve's mixed up and they both hate me now!!!!  
 KC8NYW 599, and booming into southern Michigan  
 KB9BVN where did you go Brian?????  
 KQOI 439, your fist helped me pull you out of the QRN..nice job  
 KC0BOM 599, Mark-Rob, hehehe, good signal tonite  
 W1QF 599 ...30 over..thought you were a totally different QSO when you came back for your transmission...LOL  
 AF4PS 339, Mac...how can I hear you and not hear Dan???  
 KI8DU 579...this was the OHIO FISTS station checking out a HW-8..good signal and fist  
 KB4ELV 569..Buddy, you gotta teach Dan how to get his signal up so I can hear it

Fun net till I learned afterwards in the IM FP QRP Chat Room that I missed three checkins all together...there is now a contract on my head. Dr. Joel may have to take over Sunday nights if I don't improve my receiving ability :-)

Thanks everyone. Hedging out for three different states this week so don't know if I will be around or not. Hope to make the Wednesday nite net with Dr. Joel and gang!!!

OO's...Mikey

**8/23/01**

Nothing heard - no NC tonight - so I took the controls...  
 KC8NYW - 579  
 WB8LIF - 579  
 NV4T - 559  
 W4STX - 579  
 AJ4AY - 559  
 W1QF - 589  
 N8IE - 439  
 N8VAR 559  
 AF4PS - 339  
 and me - W8DIZ - 599+40  
 cu all sunday 72 & "oo's" - Dieter (DIZ) Gentzow - W8DIZ

**8/26/01**

Wow! Great turnout on the net, and two new checkins!! The noise finally let up here at abt 9:30 and it was smooth sailing. When I started it was s-9 qrn/AM broadcast noise too. KE4MAI Fernie, 559FB signal and thank you for the 1st checkin. Welcome and vry nice to meet you.hope to see you on the Mikey net tonight .7047.5 khz, or close:-)

NV4T Bill. 549/559 Great sig on your new rig Bill. You were still in that unbeleivable noise i was getting at first, but you came thru great. Sri about my mental block on your call:-) Can't seem to get theV4..4V OOPS.  
 KB5ELV Buddie. 559 You and Mac were battleing it out as I went into advanced brainlock!! Great sig from Dallas Buddie and I owe you a QSL...I'll get it out soon. Thank You !  
 AF4PS MAC. 559FB copy. All I could think of Mac was you having a dummie load tied 60' up in tree in your backyard, witha string:-)Really sri but thats what was in me tired mind!!Great Sig Mac , and always cool to catch you out there. some piggies give you a hard time...you know which ones!! :-)  
 WV9N Randy. What can I say???599+ It's been a while since

i've heard you and was great to see you Randy. I guess our pipeline is still wde open. You must have your dummie load higher than Mac!:-)

W9FCC, Dan 569/589 qrp on his Icom. Great call!! Thanks for the first FP checkin, and welcome. Hope you enjoyed the great web site, and will look for you agn soon.

Well guy's...thanks agn for the really nice turnout. I really hope I didn't miss anyone!! and see you tonight on the Mikey net. 72/00 to all! KC8NYW. Rob..

### 8/27/01

Hi Piggies..wow, I think I had more QRN and SSB problems that ever before..but I did hear Dan and copied every word he said, hmmm..he must have been running 100 watts (LOL). Actually got the second antenna working again for receive and it paid off!!! Sorry to those who I missed this evening..I know there were at least two and probably more..this last week has been crazy for me. Drove almost 500 miles, flew over 2500 miles...worked nearly 60 hours and then I had to go shopping with the wife yesterday..the shopping part did me in. We hosted the annual Wolverine SSB Net picnic this year and it was more work than I had expected. Glad the wifey stuck with me or else I would be a dead piggie by now!!! As for the net tonite...11 checkins that I could copy:

N8IE 579 Dan, thanks for being loud and no shakey fist (hahaha)...good signal and welcome to the "club" hahaha  
W8DIZ 589 have fun next week at Puttin Bay...do you need someone to carry the bags for ya? I need a vacation!!!  
KC8NYW 589 Sorry for missing the Sat net Rob, sounds like you had a great time!!!

KC4URI 559..signal came way up Steve during your transmission.

AF4PS 459 Once I got the filters right Mac, I had you Q5  
NV4T 339 Bill, thanks for being a steady hand tonight..sure helped with all my interference.

KB5ELV 449 Q5 copy Buddy..glad I got you after the second attempt..tnx!!!

AJ4AY 569 Jay, you also came way up during your transmission...bands must still be feeling the flare effects from yesterday.

N1ODL 339 Aron, youi are getting good at catching my attention. Hope the vacation is going well and tnx for the great pics.

K4FB 449 Paul, you and I need to have a talk with these SSB operators..hahahahaha.

WV9N 589 (once I got my rig back on freq) Thanks Randy for the strong ending for the net. I had my receiver freq way off when you came in the first time.

Lord willing, in about six weeks, my life will slow down some and I can start dong a better job on the nets. Seems like when Sunday evening gets here, I'm burnt out just thinking about the upcoming week. See everyone on Wednesday evening with Joel. Dah-Dit-Dah.... 72's/73's es oo's, Mikey...WB8ICN

### 8/30/01

CORRECTED LOG... JOEL KE1LA...

Hey Piggies,,,

Best net Yet... had to take a xanax right in the middle of things...gosh it got interesting over heah... I had the qrp+ hooked up to the keyer and the corsair @100 watts to the straight key... and I was switching back and forth on the receiver and had to flip a switch and oh my, I think I had too much fun...

U heard them guys back off when they got hit WITH the the 3 ele and the 100 watts... gonna get some respect from them yet, I'll tell u man... Then it was approaching W1AW time so we had to qsy the net and everyone followed.... I used the qrp+ from then on.... U guys had to do s9 or better at times to overcome the qrn and junk on the band... and some of u were running 2 watts...40 meters . summer time... 2 watts .... that's when the flying pigs shine I'll tell you...

Sry I lost some of u in the band change and had problems picking up calls with the qrn at times... I do check for checkins up to the last minute of the net... so don't geaux away... i'll always ask for late checkins before I close the net...so stay with us.... we'll give it all we got....

If I missed ur call post a correction, with my memory and hearing anything is possible so feel free to belly laugh and give me the correct call... ok?

Check ins CORRECTED LOG... WED 11:15 PM  
EASTERN  
WED NITE AUG 29, 01 9PM EASTERN 7,047.5 & 7.054.5

KC5ADF... RELAYED BY MAC... GOTCHA BILL....

KC8NYW

KC4URI

K4FB

WX4STX

K8IE

WB9LIF

W1QF..... 2 WATTS

K8CZ

N8VTA

WB8ICN.... MY NET CONTROL IDOL

WB8DIZ

AF4PS... MAC... NICE SIGNAL... BOUT TIME U GOT UR

ANT UP

NV4T

WV9N

VE3TEQ

KB9BVN

N1ODL

WHO? AH MISS? DON'T BE SHY....

KE1LA NCS JOEL Ω

## Northcentral Texas Area Flying Pig BBQ

FP214 Mike Malone, KD5KXF cordially invites all you Northcentral TX area piggies to come on out of your Piggens for some BBQ on October 13, 2001 at 3pm. We will be serving slow smoked Big Bad Wolf with all the trimmings. Bring your beer and of course any food or side dishes etc are more than welcome. We will have a station setup on 14.061 for all you out of state piggies to check in! Be sure to wear your best foil hat and bring your ugliest QRP project. Sows and piglets welcome! RSVP to [mmalone@worldlogon.com](mailto:mmalone@worldlogon.com)

O -O and see you soon!!! Ω

## Special Events for September

**Pierre, SD:** Pierre Amateur Radio Club, WØPIR, 1500 to 2300Z **Sept 15**, for the South Dakota World War II Memorial Dedication, 28.390 14.245 3.870. Certificate. Gary Wallace, PO Box 1261, Pierre, SD 57501-1261.

**Fort Wayne, IN:** Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society, KB9IBW, 1400 to 2300Z **Sept 15**, operating from the traveling Vietnam Wall Memorial at the Highland Park Cemetery, 7.226 14.226 144.390 146.880. Certificate. Emery McClendon Sr, 6116 Graymoor, Fort Wayne, IN 46835.

**Freedom Township, OH:** Portage Amateur Radio Club, KB8UUZ, 1800Z **Sept 21** to 0300Z **Sept 24**, for National POW/MIA Awareness week from Freedom Township, 14.270 15 meters 10 meters 40 meters. Certificate. Tom Parkinson, 9992 State Route 700, Mantua, OH 44255.

## Hamcom 2001, A Pigs Eye View

By, KD5KFX

Hamcom 2001 was on June 8th, 9th, and 10th in Arlington, TX. I helped out in the Elecraft booth and made sure the Flying Pigs were properly represented. Len K4IWL was in charge of this booth and had experienced Pigs firsthand at FDIM. Gotta love this guy, when I arrived on Friday he was in full "mad scientist mode" working on his qrp balun designs. This activity was complete with cordless power tools and frightened looks from our neighboring booths.

Thankfully Len saw the light and has joined the Flying Pigs, forever to be known as FP#315. I just had to ugly up the neat display in our booth by hanging an inverted vee and putting my truly ugly BLT tuner on the display table with my K2. It was a good place to hang out and meet other qrp'ers since every one of them made it by. I was about ready to hang a sign up that said "I don't care when the &^%\$# ing Elecraft Amp is coming out!" by Friday afternoon... amazing how many QRO guys know of the K2 and evidently will build one if they have an amp. I picked up some essential Pig items such as my official "Flying Pigs" mug and keychain.

I also dragged home stacks of antenna books and many tools, including a Weller WTCPT soldering station with tips. I LOVE USED GEAR!

The QRP ARCI was represented with a booth and they had a guest... KK5PY with Tenekeys!!!

I of course picked up some new keys. Oh, did I mention they serve beer at the convention center and have an outdoor beer and sausage vendor? Saturday was the QRP Forum. Joe Spencer KK5NA puts this thing together and he had door prizes in mass! Ahhh free stuff! Joe led the first lecture on the beacon system and it was very educational. I never paid much attention to beacons once I figured out they wouldn't answer me back. I have now learned things are the equivalent to electronic fish finders for your QRP fishin adventures. Next up was Stuart Rohre K5KVH who came up from Austin, TX and talked about his clubs field day antennas and the results of each. Another well put together presentation that was interesting and educational. Last but not least was Dwain Lawhon K0LOA with a spectrogram demonstration on how to setup the K2 filters. Dwain used my K2 and reset my filters to 800, 500, 250, 100 widths and it was amazing how much sharper they are. Thanks Dwain.

Saturday afternoon there were DX forums and public service forums for net operators. I elected to hunt more goodies and hang out at the Elecraft booth. Saturday night was dinner with the QRP ARCI gang at "Red Hot and Blue". This is a Memphis style barbecue joint and has piggies on the menu cover. OINK OINK. After an excellent meal we retired to the Marriot hospitality suite for the builders contest. Dave K4ELM setup a PSK31 station with a FT817 and tiny laptop. He was using a MP-1 and a neat homebrewed PSK adapter. His homebrew stuff is awesome. He won 1st prize at the contest and 3rd prize. See the pics of his super tee tuner and red hot accessory. Note the excellent use of hot glue and pvc.

Also check out that insulated tuning shaft coupler, it is a Papermate pen body. Steve Yates AA5TB won 2nd prize with a really neat 20-meter antenna tuner / swr meter that was built into a hockey puck display box. I entered a truly ugly BLT tuner and Ft. Smith P-tick Keyer. I did the Pigs proud and won ugliest project. I don't think the judges knew what it was till I told them and then they still didn't look like they believed it worked. We all received prizes and there were more raffles for yet more door prize goodies. There was a QLF contest with a left foot straight key. Man that was hilarious.

It was decided that we needed a prosign for "oops". Lots of showing off of the flea market finds and great bull sessions. I cannot say enough good things about Joe and Barbara Spencer and the fine effort they put out to make Hamcom a fun event for QRPers. I met lots of interesting folks and came home energized with new ideas and that buzz that only eyeball qso'ing can give. I am looking forward to next year! Hopefully we can get a pig posse up and behave as swine should. All photos are courtesy of Steve Yates, Joe Spencer and Len Carlsen. Thanks guys, and to the folks at Elecraft a profound apology for the quantity and quality of the gut bombs consumed before manning your booth. O-O Ω

**Member Spotlight!**

This month were spotlighting:  
Rob, KC0BOM FP #-330

Hi all;

Well, I figured I might introduce myself. Name is Rob, and my call is kc0bom. I've been licensed for about 4 years or so. Qth is about 5 miles north of the blink-and-you'll-miss-it town of Plano, IA (pop around 100 or so). If you try to find it on a map, just look for a big blue blob in the Southeast corner of the state named Lake Rathbun. I live about a mile south of the Southern fork on the Western Side (for some reason that part of the lake is called South Fork. Still trying to figure out why....). Hobbies other than ham radio are growing pumpkins, video games, and website design.

I only have one qrp contact in my log as of now, which was a 5-watt usb contact on 10m to some guy in Germany of a 3-el beam (Cush. Ten-3) at 10 feet with an Armstrong Rotor (used to be if I wanted to turn the thing I got out a step ladder and a socket wrench, but it's on the roof with a TV rotor now). The guy called me a liar when I told him how much power I was running, but I suppose you'll run into that occasionally! I don't have the radio I made that contact with anymore (realistic htx-100 10m mobile, ran 25 or 5 watts), because I traded it for a Drake TR-3, which is hardly a qrp rig! I can manage to turn down the xmtr gain knob enough to attempt qrp on 20, 15, and 10, but on 40 the lowest it will go is 10 watts. I plan to make a 1 transistor 40m rig here in the next few weeks, so that should take care of that problem though.

Anyhoo, hello all and I hope I don't get flamed like crazy as I tend to be on the other e-mail lists I subscribe to!

73 es oo

Rob, kc0bom Ω

**QRP Happenings in September****9/15: Washington State Salmon Run**

Sponsored by Western Washington DX Club. 1600Z Sep 15 to 0700Z Sep 16 and 1600-2400Z Sep 16.

More info at:

[www.wdxc.org/salmonrun](http://www.wdxc.org/salmonrun)

**9/19: End of Summer PSK-31 Sprint.**

Sponsored by QRP ARCI, PSK-31 only, 2000-2359Z Sep 19, 20 meters only, work stations once.

More info at:

<http://personal.palouse.net/rfoltz/arci/psk31.htm>

**9/29: Alabama QSO Party**

Sponsored by the Central Alabama HF/VHF Contesting Club, 1800-0000Z Sep 29

More info at:

[web.dbtech.net/~dxcc/rules1.htm](http://web.dbtech.net/~dxcc/rules1.htm)

**9/29: Louisiana QSO Party**

Sponsored by the Twin City Hams ARC, 1400Z Sep 29 to 0200Z Sep 30 and from 1400-2000Z Sep 30

More info at:

[www.tchams.org/users/contest/laqp](http://www.tchams.org/users/contest/laqp)

**9/29: Texas QSO Party**

Sponsored by the Northwest Amateur Radio Society, 1400Z Sep 29 to 0200Z Sep 30, and 1400Z-2000Z Sep 30

More info at:

[www.k5vuu.com/tqp/](http://www.k5vuu.com/tqp/)

## 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](mailto:w8diz@cinci.rr.com)

Rick, WB6JBM at [ripowell@mpna.com](mailto:ripowell@mpna.com)

Dan, N8IE at [shephed@aol.com](mailto:shephed@aol.com)

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