

# 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
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

Good Advise, or is it Good Advice?

It seems that a lot of you had questions about last month's article, "Was that a play on words Dan?", "Is your spell checker broken Dan?" and a few other comments. Well my official response is "it's a play on words" and I'm sticking to that! Thanks to you who caught my typo, I mean play on words. That lets me know someone is reading the Bacon Bits! ☺

72, oo

Dan, N8IE Ω

## Info for our FISTS members!

By Stan, K4UK

This year using funds from anonymous donors, the FISTS QSL Bureau will sponsor a Plaque for the Virginia QSO Party. The Plaque will be for "High Score - Single Operator - CW" in the Party. The plaque will read:  
"Sponsored by W4FCR - FISTS QSL BUREAU"

The Virginia QSO Party will be held the weekend of March 17-19. We are hopeful this will provide incentive for participation by FISTS members in the Virginia QSO Party and, we think it would be great if the Award is won by a FISTS member!

We are honored to have these anonymous persons provide the funds to permit the Bureau to sponsor this Plaque, and, we think it most appropriate to sponsor the one for the High CW Score. See you in the Virginia QSO Party!

The exchange for the QSO Party for Virginia Stations is Serial Number and County and for others it is Serial Number and State or Province or DXCC Country.  
All QSL Bureau FISTS members operating in the Party will be glad to provide you their FISTS number and CC number during the Party - just ask!

73, Stan Ω

## RADIO FREE QRP

By Arnold CW Timm

[From summer 1995 Common Ham Newsletter] Years ago our forefathers formed a communications device by searching for scrap metal, discarded parts, and cheap tubes. They developed their own homemade hamateur outfits without much money. Basic gear that could "hear" clear across town and once in awhile, bounce unimaginable distance.

Today we are far better off buying our way into professional broadcasting, and some would say they need such especially suited rigs for their inflated airs. Low power ignored.

Except for a few specialized modes, modern radio ops can still find that impudence. That certain feeling found by assembling a qrp kit. They are less apt to assemble apparatus, but do have an interest in simple circuits. Such ability can be channeled into a low power purpose, without asking them to part with a high tech item.

Of course, this would mean Morse code, at least 10 words per minute (depending upon HF conditions) head copy and a familiarity of basic radio theory. Securing component parts and assembling a receiver or transmitter of bare bones brass is today beyond most manic manipulators minus a parts kit. Even recognizing composing part values is a bit "beneath" powers-that-be. And READING instruction manuals has become a biodegradable skill as well. Five years later, finds Flying Pigs fighting for telegraphy strongholds, cementing an equally efficient communications concept to wits end.

Combining all our social ills into one disadvantaged youth, we begin to understand his "no experience necessary" Nintendo no-fault numbness. Annoying as this can be, we neglect such agile individuals, employment or continuing education (as our apprentice) and negotiate neither sorry fate. Imagine what a hand key could do to this problem, and how a resurgence in manual Morse, might encourage overall communications.

Our apathy or selfishness on such a grand scale tends to rub off on those under us. Soon the accumulation is in place, many tire of life in the shadow of such sanctimony. Our radio hobby lacks a class act in low-income shortfalls. Low power could alter this if enough of us (USA) care about those around the sidelines. Input equals output here also.

Granted, it will take more time and money donated to the Common Ham cause. Selection of a neighborhood "loner" will be a difficult task as it is. Attempting to interest him in an outdated mode, not necessary for voice-ops will again take some convincing.

The cost of courting future radio free QRPers should be less, if you share your station. Gather up printed circuit boards, components, and a clear-cut outline of assembly procedures. This friendly forethought might escalate into an "outreach" group of concerned citizens. Plying backup telegraphy to mainframe computer conscience?

Freedom from former field-day fusbudgets can create yet another human aspect of "amateur" radio helping-hand ELMERKIT equation. Big brother buys into the mass media millstones. A kilowatt of egotism and extra class ignorance generally, offers an all too narrow neophyte filter. For the good of the country, the hobby, and our gun toting kids, we need to widen our vistas and enable our youth. Tomorrow is already too late to organize the appropriate associations. Low power telegraphy may just be the answer?

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

## LOW POWER PROMISE

By Arnold CW Timm

A low power op lives a very serene life, because he is not bothered by the trivia of the high tech world, which seems to affect so many others. He has released his concern for the acquisition of material things. He believes in himself so as to advance with sufficient stimulation. Flying Pigs pound brass as they fly over antenna farms on city lots?

Maintaining an ever-positive attitude among the negativity around him, he is able to learn and grow wings. A qrp'er, therefore, should not become tormented with avoiding high power stations. A little conflicting operation will make qrp'ing more interesting; form filters within most never find? Be careful not to short-to-ground however. Hi

Concentration in CW circles means being able to focus the mind on one single station. Becoming oblivious to foreign broadcast, status, and deliberate interference can be accomplished if receiver volume is reduced as well. The Flying Pig tunes into his subconscious mind, becoming one with the signal. Once he has achieved this point, he can continue waving in spite of the thunderous throng nearby.

All this is easily within his grasp, by placing low power at the output of his mental might. He can become a child again, reliving his youth knowing now what he did not then. Through a child's senses, nothing is impossible. He can listen to the world that has become justified to fit his current means. Even think about telegraphy before sleeping?

Moderation in all things transforms qrp into a more sensitive, more fully receptive art form and human skill. It's through this medium that radio hobbies touch our tranquillity. Turn our sparse sparkle into an effervescence only June bugs understand.

An indication of such future excellence is put astride our diligence. Like a shining star, low power parades before our ensemble ablaze its inner glory. Those who partake of its frankincense' find fresh attachment by personal regard. Just ask a Flying Pig!

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

Flying Pig International  
# \_\_\_\_\_ Insert Info:

By Arnold CW Timm Ka0tpz/qrp

Station	Date	Time	Freq	Qrp Info	Pse/Tnx

## Website Spotlight

By Dan, N8IE

With spring approaching and our attentions turning towards fixing wires, and finally getting around to starting that long put-off tower project, we need to consider one of our most feared springtime events. No, I'm not talking about garage cleaning, or one of the many projects the XYL's want us to do, I'm talking about LIGHTNING!

Lightning is the visible discharge of atmospheric electricity that occurs when a region of the atmosphere acquires an electrical charge, (or potential difference) sufficient to overcome the resistance of the air. Lightning can occur anytime of the year when atmospheric become unstable. Besides normal spring and summertime seasons, lightning can occur during snowstorms and dust storms, and sometimes in the dust and gases emitted from erupting volcanoes.

Lightning occurs because charge-separation processes that produce an electric dipole structure in a cloud generate regions of net charge. The charges within a thundercloud are distributed between a large net-positive charge in the upper region of the cloud and a large net-negative charge in the lower region, and a small net-positive charge in the lowest part of the cloud. Charges reside on water drops, ice particles, or both. If the surrounding air has a net charge, an air discharge from the cloud may occur.

Cloud-to-ground lightning is initiated by the neutralization of the small net-positive charge in the lowest region of the cloud. A cloud-to-ground flash comprises at least two strokes: a leader stroke and a return stroke. A leader stroke carrying a negative charge passes from cloud to ground. The leader stroke is not very bright and is often stepped and has many branches extending out from the main channel. As it nears the ground, it induces an opposite charge, concentrated at the point to be struck, and a return stroke carrying a positive charge from ground to cloud is generated through the channel. The two strokes generally meet about 50 m above the ground. At this point, the cloud is short-circuited to the ground and a highly luminous return stroke of high current passes through the channel to the cloud.

A normal lightning strike involves a potential difference between cloud and ground of **several hundred million volts**, with peak currents on the order of **20,000 amps**. Temperatures in the channel are on the order of **50,000° F**. The entire process is very fast; the leader stroke reaches the juncture point or the ground in about **20 milliseconds**, and the return stroke reaches the cloud in about **70 microseconds**.

Now, I'm not going to try to write the perfect article on how to make you, your home, your family, and your radios safe from lightning, for starters I'm no expert, and secondly there's only so much time I can spend writing. I can point you in the right direction, and hopefully get you all a little more educated on lightning protection and safety.

## A&A HK-40 REFURB

By Howard Lash, AA9KU via: Arnold, KA0TPZ



A good place to start is the National Lightning Safety Institute, an independent non-profit consulting, education and research organization.

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

WeatherEye has a very informative site for the family at:

<http://weathereye.kgan.com/cadet/lightning/safety.html>

The Lightning Protection Institute is a nationwide not-for-profit organization whose members are dedicated to ensuring that people and structures are protected from the harmful effects of lightning.

<http://www.lightning.org/>

Polyphaser is a company that caters to the communications industry.

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

Hager has an impressive line of lightning protection products.

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

The Crane Company offers products, and a helpful guide to antenna protection.

[http://www.ccrane.com/lightning\\_protection.asp](http://www.ccrane.com/lightning_protection.asp)

Al Maromaty, K9WK has great information on his webpage.

<http://www.k9wk.com/litenin.html>

Well there you go, I hope this information will help guide you to getting yourself, your family, and your shack protected from lightning this spring.

Have a safe and happy spring!

72, 00

Dan, N8IE Ω

Howard has been a prominent radio hobbyist, building sensitive/selective crystal detectors and one JFET short-wave regenerative circuits. His work has been showcased in Popular Electronics magazine and Radio Archives newsletter. He has since become licensed and does some Chicago-based amateur radio repair. His solid state knowledge is accurate and appealing, under hindering health restrictions.

I sent my HK-40 to him for revitalization. My health setbacks allowed just so much tinkering. Howard's RF skills are far more advanced than mine, and he needed a frugal winter project in which he could assemble a useful qrp rig.

[The A&A HK-40 kit was available in 1980s; note magazines from era.]

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

### Part 1:

Well, after over a year, I finally found an opportunity to start work on the A&A HK-40 40 meter QRP CW rig. I already gave up on the Heathkit HW-7, as I found out that trying to get it to work halfway decent was a little like trying to modify a Model T Ford into a Ferrari! While it might be possible, it just doesn't seem worth the effort. So I decided to concentrate my effort on the HK-40, where I have a far better chance of success. So with the onset of bad weather (and how!), an opportunity presented itself to start working on the rig.

I decided to begin work on the receiver board first. I didn't like the cheap bypass capacitors that A&A supplied. The leads are far too easily broken off, and if you didn't look very carefully, you might not even notice that the capacitor was broken. Some of them, in fact, were already broken. So I trashed all of the bypass capacitors supplied by A&A and dug into my junk box for replacements. Next, I replaced a couple of overheated resistors (evidently the tuning voltage got shorted to ground somewhere along the line).

Then, noticing that some of the components were not mounted as closely to the circuit board as they could have been, I unsoldered them, moved them closer to the board, and then resoldered them. Keeping the components close to the board is important for two reasons. One, it makes the parts more mechanically rigid. Two, it makes the circuit more electrically stable. Not only is there less capacitance changes with reduced component vibration, but also shorter leads mean less stray inductance. After shortening up the component leads, I finished up by resoldering all of the connections and double-checking for any solder bridges.

Doing all of that seems to have fixed whatever had been ailing the receiver board. I powered it up, and it seems to be working fine now. I found the slug on the oscillator coil was hopelessly jammed against the bottom of the coil form. Nothing I tried would free it up. Finally I gave up hope and carefully broke the slug into tiny fragments in order to get it out of the coil. Fortunately, I had an old TV chassis that had a slug of the same size in one of the coils. I tried it in the HK-40, and I was

relieved to see that it worked fine. It doesn't seem to have introduced any drift problems, either.

I noticed that the S-meter was damaged, but fortunately, I had salvaged another one from a CB radio. This meter is even nicer, as it is marked in S-units, and also has an RF Power Level scale. This begs for me to add the circuitry for displaying the HK-40's transmitted RF power level. As the new S-meter is more sensitive than the original meter, I replaced the fixed-value meter resistor with a submini trimmer potentiometer from my junk box. That way, I can adjust the meter sensitivity without having to remove the receiver board to replace the meter resistor.

I filled the large hole in the front panel with a grommet, which allowed me to mount a control in the hole. The original hole in the front panel was actually too large for most controls to fit in it. The knob on the control hides the grommet, which makes the hole completely unnoticeable. I will use the control as a RF Power Level control. That way, I can easily play with the output power from the front panel. This will also facilitate adjusting a transmatch without putting the final transistor in jeopardy in the process. Then I can experiment with all sorts of makeshift antennas. Of course, the first thing I'm going to try after this thing is all done is to try loading up the bed frame as an antenna! ;-)

To balance the appearance of the front panel, I also drilled another hole for a fourth control, in addition to the tuning knob. I will make the fourth control function as a RF gain control. The spec sheet shows that the rig's dynamic range is not as good as fancy QRO rigs, although this is to be expected with a simple rig like the HK-40. So adding an RF gain control seemed like a good idea, especially since the rig is intended to be used on 40 meters, in the midst of all those powerhouse short-wave broadcast stations.

I printed up some adhesive labels on the computer, and used them to change the names of some of the front panel controls. I found a type font that closely matched the original lettering, and after printing up the labels, I grayed them very slightly with a pencil lead so the white paper would not stand out so conspicuously. After sticking the labels in place, it is VERY hard at first glance to notice that they are not a part of the original front panel lettering.

I replaced the monaural headphone and key jacks with stereo jacks. That way, two stereo 1/4 to 1/8" adapters will allow me to plug in my stereo headphones and CW straight key from my main HF rig with no further changes necessary. While I was at it, I insulated the headphone jack from ground. That way, I can run a 150-ohm resistor from the jack to ground, which will cut the volume of the audio a bit when headphones are used. More importantly, it will disguise a lot of the hiss that is produced by the audio output IC chip, which is otherwise much more audible when using headphones.

On the back panel of the rig, I added a DC power jack in addition to the glorified Fahnestock clip arrangement that the original design used. Also added to the back panel were a keyer control and separate jack for plugging in keyer paddles.

That makes things simpler than trying to switch the front panel jack between a straight key and paddles, and I don't have to unplug either one to use the other.

As for a keyer, I bought a circuit board for a cheap and simple keyer that was featured in several ARRL Handbooks in the early 1990s. It uses ordinary generic logic chips, so as to keep the cost way down. Now all I have to do is mail order the chips and sockets and then solder them onto the board.

Next on the agenda is to start doing the final wiring to the receiver board. I decided to convert the fine tuning control into an RIT control, as it's not too hard to tune in CW stations accurately with the main tuning control, and an RIT control would certainly come in handy. So I have drawn up a design for an RIT circuit, and I will build it up and work the bugs out of it after the rest of the receiver is wired up and working properly.

Lastly, I will work on the transmit circuit. I really haven't taken too close of a look at it yet, so I am not sure just what I will find. One thing I did see is that there is no protective Zener diode across the emitter and collector of the output transistor. This would serve the purpose of helping to protect the transistor in the event of an antenna mismatch. I already have the required 36-volt, 1-watt Zener on hand, so it certainly won't hurt to add it.

Well, that just about brings you up to date on everything I have done so far with the HK-40. I did agonize for a while about whether to go with 40 meters, or make the few changes necessary to put the rig on 30 meters instead. Finally, I decided to stick with 40 meters, as there is more activity there, and with me transmitting into my bed frame antenna, there is more likely to be somebody out there who just might hear me! ;-)  
AA9KU [howarddl@juno.com](mailto:howarddl@juno.com)

## Part 2:FURTHER REFURB

There hasn't been a whole lot of time to work on radio projects. For example, late last week we had to clear all of the ice out of all of the gutters. But I have been working slowly, day by day, on the 40-meter QRP CW kit. I designed and built the TX power level meter drive circuitry, and I'm starting to do some of the wiring to the receiver board. I may need to modify the power level meter circuitry a bit after I evaluate how well it actually works. Tonight, I rewound the toroid coils, as they originally were a bit too loosely wound. I also did some quickie checks of some of the discrete transistors and diodes on the Transmitter board. Most of them seemed to check out ok, but I did find the Zener diode that regulates the voltage to the TX mixer to be a bit leaky. So I'm going to replace it. Fortunately, I'm pretty sure Radio Shack stocks it.

I also redid all the soldered connections. Finally, I slightly modified the circuit coupling the TX buffer amplifier to the driver transistor, to allow me to insert a drive control to adjust the TX output level. That will be a front panel control, so I still have to wire it in. In the next day or so, I'd like to get an order together for the parts for the keyer. While I'm waiting for the

order to come in, I'll start in on building and troubleshooting the RIT circuitry. So that's where things stand at the moment.

AA9KU [howarddl@juno.com](mailto:howarddl@juno.com)

### Part 3: REFURB CONTINUES

Last night I had a breakthrough with the A&A HK-40 QRP rig. I finished all of the wiring as of last week. The day before yesterday, I finally had a chance to construct an RIT circuit that I had previously designed. It seems to be working, but I'm not sure if any stray RF when transmitting might give it hiccups. Time will tell.

Anyway, after finishing the RIT circuit, I proceeded to test and align the receiver circuit. I had to change the value of one fixed resistor in the voltage-tuning circuit, as the resistor that was supplied with the kit caused the tuning range to be restricted to 35 kHz. Changing the resistor increased the tuning range to the 50 kHz range that the kit was designed for.

After completing the alignment of the receiver, I proceeded to start in on the transmitter. I already had to replace the zener diode voltage regulator that supplied voltage to the transmit mixer. So it was no surprise to find out that the transmit mixer IC itself was also bad. Fortunately, I was able to swipe a replacement from a radio receiver kit I had that used the same chip, and was able to proceed with troubleshooting.

I changed the value of the resistor that set the CW sidetone pitch to suit my preference. As the sidetone oscillator was a square-wave generator, I put a capacitor across the output to make the tone more like that from a sine-wave oscillator. That sounded more pleasant to my ears as well. Then I proceeded with aligning the transmitter as per instructions. As I proceeded with the transmit alignment, everything fell into place smoothly. Even the built-in transmit power level meter that I designed, seemed to be working fine right from the start. I just need to calibrate it. I put power to the output transistor and connected a dummy load. When I keyed up, I got a healthy indication on an old wattmeter I was using for test purposes. It's reading a good 7 1/2 watts out, but I don't trust the accuracy of the old meter. I'm going to do a proper and accurate measurement of output power later today.

There are a few more minor things I also want to do with the radio, including adding a power level adjustment control. And after that, I'm finally going to try out the rig on the air! ☺ All I have to do then, if all goes well, is to build the keyer and install it. I ordered the parts for the keyer last week, but I don't need it to test out the rest of the rig.

I have some good news and bad news to report on the HK-40. The good news is that the rig is now putting out over 6.3 watts with a power supply voltage of 11.35 volts dc. And another item of good news is that the rig puts out a good, clean, clear signal -- IF you use a good quality power supply with it. A cheap, poorly designed power supply will cause the transmitted signal to sound rough. I monitored the HK-40's transmitted signal with my main station rig when using two different power supplies. I found that there was a night-and-day difference

between the two power supplies, even though both were rated as being able to supply the required current on transmit.

I then decided to try the rig on the air, and the first station worked was KE4CJ in extreme western Kentucky, a distance of about 300 miles from me. I checked afterward, and I found that I had been running nearly 6 watts at the time. My signal report was RST 579 with a bit of QSB. [Flying Pigs can really "root" for this sequence and following it Hi]

Now for the bad news, during the QSO with KE4CJ, it became obvious that, with the heat of the output transistor being radiated inside of the cabinet, the radio was inclined to drift rather badly. But when the radio was just used for receiving, it was reasonably stable. So, I need to find out which component in the tuning circuit is especially temperature-unstable, and then I will probably have to replace it. Murphy's Law seems to indicate that it would be the rather expensive complete-receiver-on-a-IC chip, which also has the varactor tuning diode incorporated into it. Oh, well. If I must replace it, I must replace it. But I'm going to check out all other possibilities first.

AA9KU [howarddl@juno.com](mailto:howarddl@juno.com)

### Part 4: Common Ham -- 2/5/01

I just wanted to pass along the good news. I have the A&A QRP rig all together now, and so far, everything seems to be working properly. I only have to change the CW keyer speed control potentiometer to a 2 meg unit when my mail order arrives. Otherwise, unless some problem shows up, it's all done! ☺

It took me a while to get up the nerve to try it again on the air. I wasn't used to the keyer, I was afraid the rig would drift too much, I'm still a bit rusty with my CW, etc. ☺

Well, I finally answered a CQ from KC1DI in Maine on 7.040 MHz. Dave was running 4 watts, using a Ten-Tec Scout, and I was putting out 5 watts at the time. He said I was RST 439 and I heard him at 459. Then another station came up nearby in frequency and blew us out of the water. Oh, well. But the rig seems to be sufficiently stable now, and I was able to work two-way QRP 5 watts at a distance of 850 miles! :-)

AA9KU [howarddl@juno.com](mailto:howarddl@juno.com)

### Epilog: A STIFF DRIFT

I took a look at the HK-40's circuit diagram this evening, and I noticed that there was only one discrete 82 pF silver-mica capacitor in the local oscillator circuit. All of the rest of the local oscillator was incorporated into the IC chip. Then I got an idea. I have some old temperature-compensating capacitors lying around in my junk box. I guess they must be from the 1960s, and aren't being made any more to my knowledge. I decided to try to use a temperature-compensating ceramic capacitor in place of the silver-mica unit, to see if that could bring the drift under control.

During the QSO with KE4CJ, the rig was drifting downward in frequency at a rate that I estimate at about 500 Hz in 15 minutes. So he had to really chase me across the band! My first attempt with the temperature-compensating capacitor was to use an 82 pF N750 (Negative temperature coefficient of 750 PPM -- I think that's what that signifies) ceramic capacitor. That was WAY overcompensating. The rig drifted UP in frequency as fast as it had previously drifted DOWN!

Then I tried a 56pF NP0 (no temperature compensation) capacitor in parallel with a 20 pF N470 capacitor, for a total of 76 pF, close enough to 82 in my opinion. The result was MUCH better. A slight UPWARD drift in frequency of not more than 75 Hz in 30 minutes. If I'm patient enough to keep playing around with capacitor combinations, I may get this problem licked yet!

Very 72  
AA9KU [howarddl@juno.com](mailto:howarddl@juno.com) Ω

**As Seen on our Reflector®**

By Ian, VK2TIP FP #-91

On 2/17/01 at 2:03 PM Ted P. McNeilsmith <XXX@XXX> wrote:

Nike now lets you personalize your shoes by submitting a word or phrase which they will stitch onto your shoes, under the swoosh. So Jonah filled out the form and sent them \$50 to stitch "SWEATSHOP" on to his shoes.

Here's the response he got.

\*\*\*\*\*

From: "Personalize, NIKE ID" [nikeID\\_personalize@nike.com](mailto:nikeID_personalize@nike.com)  
To: "Jonah" XXX@XXX  
Subject: RE: Your NIKE ID order 016468000

Your NIKE ID order was canceled for one or more of the following reasons:

- 1) Your Personal ID contains another party's trademark or other intellectual property
- 2) Your Personal ID contains the name of an athlete or team we do not have the legal right to use
- 3) Your Personal ID was left blank. DID you not want any personalization?
- 4) Your Personal ID contains profanity or inappropriate slang, and besides, your mother would slap us.

If you wish to reorder your NIKE ID product with a new personalization please visit us again at [www.nike.com](http://www.nike.com)

Thank you, NIKE ID

\*\*\*\*\*

From: "Jonah " XXX@XXX  
To: "Personalize, NIKE ID" [nikeID\\_personalize@nike.com](mailto:nikeID_personalize@nike.com)  
Subject: RE: Your NIKE ID order 016468000

Greetings,

My order was canceled but my personal NIKE ID does not violate any of the criteria outlined in your message. The Personal ID on my custom ZOOM XC USA running shoes was the word "sweatshop."

Sweatshop is not:

- 1) another's party's trademark,
- 2) the name of an athlete,
- 3) blank, or
- 4) profanity.

I choose the ID because I wanted to remember the toil and labor of the children that made my shoes. Could you please ship them to me immediately.

Thanks and Happy New Year, Jonah

\*\*\*\*\*

From: "Personalize, NIKE ID" [nikeID\\_personalize@nike.com](mailto:nikeID_personalize@nike.com)  
To: "Jonah " XXX@XXX  
Subject: RE: Your NIKE ID order 016468000

Dear NIKE ID Customer,

Your NIKE ID order was canceled because the ID you have chosen contains, as stated in the previous e-mail correspondence, "inappropriate slang". If you wish to reorder your NIKE ID product with a new personalization please visit us again at [nike.com](http://nike.com)

Thank you, NIKE ID

\*\*\*\*\*

From: "Jonah " XXX@XXX  
To: "Personalize, NIKE ID" [nikeID\\_personalize@nike.com](mailto:nikeID_personalize@nike.com)  
Subject: RE: Your NIKE ID order 016468000

Dear NIKE ID,

Thank you for your quick response to my inquiry about my custom ZOOM XC USA running shoes. Although I commend you for your prompt customer service, I disagree with the claim that my personal ID was inappropriate slang. After consulting Webster's Dictionary, I discovered that "sweatshop" is in fact part of Standard English, and not slang.

The word means: "a shop or factory in which workers are employed for long hours at low wages and under unhealthy conditions" and its origin dates from 1892. So my personal ID does meet the criteria detailed in your first email.

Your web site advertises that the NIKE ID program is "about freedom to choose and freedom to express who you are." I

**Member Spotlight!**

This month were spotlighting:  
Chuck, AA8VS, FPqrp #-113

share Nike's love of freedom and personal expression. The site also says that "If you want it done right...build it yourself." I was thrilled to be able to build my own shoes, and my personal ID was offered as a small token of appreciation for the sweatshop workers poised to help me realize my vision. I hope that you will value my freedom of expression and reconsider your decision to reject my order.

Thank you, Jonah

\*\*\*\*\*

From: "Personalize, NIKE ID" nikeID\_personalize@nike.com  
To: "Jonah" XXX@XXX  
Subject: RE: Your NIKE ID order 016468000

Dear NIKE ID Customer,

Regarding the rules for personalization it also states on the NIKE ID web site that "Nike reserves the right to cancel any personal ID up to 24 hours after it has been submitted". In addition, it further explains: "While we honor most personal IDs, we cannot honor every one.

Some may be (or contain) other's trademarks, or the names of certain professional sports teams, athletes or celebrities that Nike does not have the right to use. Others may contain material that we consider inappropriate or simply do not want to place on our products.

Unfortunately, at times this obliges us to decline personal IDs that may otherwise seem unobjectionable. In any event, we will let you know if we decline your personal ID, and we will offer you the chance to submit another." With these rules in mind, we cannot accept your order as submitted. If you wish to reorder your NIKE ID product with a new personalization please visit us again at www.nike.com

Thank you, NIKE ID

\*\*\*\*\*

From: "Jonah" XXX@XXX  
To: "Personalize, NIKE ID" nikeID\_personalize@nike.com  
Subject: RE: Your NIKE ID order 016468000

Dear NIKE ID,

Thank you for the time and energy you have spent on my request. I have decided to order the shoes with a different ID, but I would like to make one small request. Could you please send me a color snapshot of the ten-year-old Vietnamese girl who makes my shoes?

Thanks,

Jonah

\*\*\*\*\* END FORWARDED MESSAGE \*\*\*\*\*  
72,00  
Ian, VK2TIP Ω

My name is Charles R. Mabbott Sr. but I go by Chuck. My call is AA8VS and I was born in St. Louis, MO a few years ago [45]. I spent four years in the USMC from '63 to '67 and spent one year in Viet Nam. I worked around A-4E Skyhawks while with VMA 311 and VMA 225. Moved to Ohio where I met my wife Kathy. We were married in '70, yep that is right our 31st is this year! We moved to Michigan in '78 I took a better job and we have lived in Michigan since '79. Our first grandchild is due March '01.

I got a passing interest in Ham radio while working on a computer in the early '70s. I knew a couple of hams in the engineering group and found some programs I thought might be antenna related. Mike W8PTI (SK) went to the computer with me and I typed and he told me what to type and designed an antenna. He invited me out to his house about 3 months later to see it.

I started studying the code with '78 records, anyone remember those. Money was tight in those days and nothing was left over for radio toys. We had two kids and neither in school so not much \$\$ left over and I lost interest for a while.

My next time I got interested in Ham Radio was because of an ad that was ran at 2:00 am during a commercial break in a Godzilla movie. You just can't beat the old Godzilla with the zipper up the back and . . . . <never mind>

I called the number in Washington State and was sent some information. Based on what they said I could use the 2 Meter radio to make phone calls. I went 'bingo'; I don't need a cell phone in case I am stuck in traffic. So I ordered the book and started studying for my test. Passed Tech exam in Ann Arbor, Mi Dec '91 but did not get license until Feb '92. My first rig was an HTX 202 and used it as an HT and mobile rig both.

When I passed my 5-WPM we had kid in college and the money was tight so QRP was a great alternative. I got on the air with an HW-8 used for \$100. and the MFJ trainer straight key and I was cooking. A ham friend felt sorry for me when I got my General ticket [four tries on the code] and had an HW 101 that was gathering dust. So he loaned it to me so I could get on the air.

Now here is an interesting [I thought] fact, I hear so many people that used to say they could not do the code because of hearing. I am [both doctor and wife agree] half deaf. But decided I was going to do the 20-WPM without any waivers! You know what I found out, sure enough I have a lot of trouble hearing the SSB, but code is no problem.

I have built some Dave Benson QRP rigs; SW30 and the GM20 both are excellent and easy to follow instructions. I have worked them both a lot. Then I went through my packet phase and the reason for that was I hated driving out of the way to a fellow's house during rush hour to deliver my article for the club newsletter. So got into packet just to transfer the files



from home. That was a lot of fun to find out how much activity was there.

I acquired a Kenwood TS 520 and that became my favorite base rig. It is portable [44lbs.] according to the manual and I have taken it on vacation with the family. I also really enjoy using a Vibroplex J36 bug. I spend about the same amount of time practicing with it I do on the air.

The HW 8 has been retired for a little over a year now, but you know first love, first rig I think it is still a keeper.



I am currently using the SGC SG 2020 for my portable QRP rig. Very nice setup, granted it is not a K who, but it comes standard with LSB, USB, CW, 160 to 10 meters including the work bands 20 memories, variable filter band width, pass band tuning, and keyer in a 4.5 lb. Package no add-on options needed.



So that about wraps it up for me, I want to thank Dan for the opportunity to ramble on for a while.

73 ES oo  
Chuck AA8VS Ω

## Mikeys New Shack!

By Mikey, WB8ICN

Here are a few pics of what the shack looks like now...and a couple of the finished SW40+. Found an old power supply chassis I had in the junk box...lots of vent holes for all that QRP heat hehehe.



SW40+ mounted in case (old power supply chassis)



SW40+ ready to be buttoned up in case



SW40+, speaker, key and WM-2 wattmeter make up complete station. Piggie sits on top of rig to keep QRM out!

**Bacon Bits to GO!**

By Mike, KB8UUW



Piggie seems to like the rig



Overall view of operating position...QRP on left side and QRP rig for 75 meter SSB nets on right side.



SW40+ sits on the shelf my call sign plaque. This is the QRP side of my operating position...K2 on bottom; TT2 with keyer and tuner on second shelf; SW40+ and my NC40A on the third shelf.

Oo's. Mikey, WB8ICN Ω

Mike has found a couple of utilities for Palm OS users that will allow them to convert Adobe PDF documents for use on Palm OS handhelds.

"I prefer "i Silo free" since it only takes 47kb of ram on the Palm Device. Normal isilo takes 600kb but can display HTML docs. It also costs \$12.50 but the free version (iSilo free) works just fine."

"AportisDoc takes 505kb and costs money to be legal. They want \$30.00 after 30 days, but they have a PDF to PDB converter that is free (and will install their viewer as free also)"

"For those that care (or are bored) the DDB file format is explained at [http://palm.dahm.com/pdb\\_file\\_format.txt](http://palm.dahm.com/pdb_file_format.txt)"

Mike passed along these links for more information.

<http://www.aportis.com/tryme/download/AportisDoc/aportisdocmobile.html>

<http://isilo.com/iSiloFre.htm>

72, oo

Mike, KB8UUW Ω

**Ode to the #1 Pig!**

The #1 Pig

He's at all the digin's  
He's always near by  
He's the head of us piggins  
He's most noble, ask Sly.

The first and the least  
The best serves the rest

Salute #1 Piggie  
Salute  
So say we all  
Well, all most..

Author unknown  
KE1LA oo shrink Ω

**Frequency List Helper**

Bob, W9FIF

Just in case anyone's interested, I've enclosed the frequency list I keep out on the desk when operating the digital modes, QRP, of course!! All info garnered from other digests and off the "net", so.....subject to change. And if anyone sees a frequency entry they don't agree with or know to be incorrect, please let me know. These digital modes are a new frontier and we're all feeling our way!

**PSK**

1.81015  
3.58015  
7.07015-7.08015  
10,13715-10.14015  
14.07015  
18.10015  
21.07015-21.08015  
24.920-24.925  
28.12015

**HELL**

3.559  
3.575  
7.030-7.040  
10.135-10.145  
14.063-14.070  
18.101-18.107  
21.063-21.070  
24.923  
28.063-28.070  
28.100-28.110

**RTTY**

1.800-1.820  
3.580-3.650 (JA-3.520-25)  
7.000-7.100 (DX .020-040)  
10.110  
14.080-14.099  
21.080-21.100  
28.080-28.100

**MFSK16**

1.838  
3.580-90  
7.060-80  
10.137-147  
14.073-78  
18.104-109  
21.073-78  
24.925-28  
28.073-78

1.800-1.830 CW, Data other narrow modes  
1.810 QRP CW 1.830-1.840 CW, Data other narrow modes, DX QSOs  
1.840-1.850 CW; SSB, SSTV other wide modes, DX QSOs  
1.850-2.000 CW; phone, SSTV other wideband modes  
3.500-3.510 CW DX, 3.560 QRP CW, 3.590 RTTY DX  
3.580-3.620 Data, 3.710 QRP Novice/Technician CW  
3.790-3.800 DX, 3.985 QRP SSB 7.040 RTTY DX QRP CW  
7.080-7.100 Data, 7.110 QRP Novice/Technician CW  
7.285 QRP SSB, 10.106 QRP CW, 10.130-10.140 Data  
14.060 QRP CW, 14.070-14.095 Data, 14.100 NCDXF/IARU  
14.285 QRP SSB, 18.100-18.105 Data, 21.060 QRP CW  
21.070-21.100 Data, 21.385 QRP SSB, 24.920-24.925 Data  
28.060 QRP CW, 28.070-28.120 Data, 28.385 QRP SSB

73 Bob Daniel W9FIFΩ

**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 [shepherd@aol.com](mailto:shepherd@aol.com)

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