

# *Bacon Bits Field Day 2001!*

Flying Pigs QRP Club International, W8PIG

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## Piggies to the park!

*TEMPUS FUGIT*

**Date:** June 23 – 24, 2001

**Location:** Caesar Creek State Park, OH

**The cast:**

**Diz**, W8DIZ #-1 **Rick**, WB6JBM #-2 **Matt**, AA8YH #-4 **Dan**, N8IE #-6 **Dave**, KB8RRG #-7

**Daryl**, KD8HT #-54 **Brian**, KB9BVN #-57 **Phil**, WB8ABE #-61 **Matt**, K8KLP #-69

**Mike**, KB8UUW #-75 **Jay**, AJ4AY #-115 **Rob**, KC8NYW #-186 **Randy**, WV9N #-187

**Dennis**, NE4O #-258 and **Mac**, AF4PS as the Beaver!

**FPqrp Field Day 2k1**  
( <http://www.fpqrp.com/fd01> )

It seems as though, no matter how well you plan something, it all changes!!!

The Flying Pigs QRP Club 2k1 Field Day started innocently enough, we had 5 people signed up to be there, and operate, We were going to run 1A Battery, plus VHF, burn some burgers, drink some soda's, and generally have a nice relaxed little field day operation, at Caesar Creek State Park, OH.

Then something changed. First, someone from Michigan was coming down, then, someone from Arkansas was coming up. Then, someone from Alabama was coming up. Some came in from Columbus and even from Indy! Then all of a sudden, we have 14 operators, 5 stations (4A Battery plus VHF), about 1000ah of 12V deep cycle batteries, over 3A of Solar Panels, an Air Conditioned CW tent, the Warren County RACES Comm Van, 3 adjoining campsites, 5 computers, 23 radios, a 3 Element Tri-band beam, crank-up towers, and a cast iron Flying Pig!

Based on last year, when we ended up in the Horseman's camp, we decided to go get the campsites on Thursday, right after the thunderstorm went through. WB6JBM, KB8RRG, and KB8UUW arrived Thursday after work, and got the desired sites, and setup some tents so they looked occupied.



We then went home, to wait, and wait, and count the minutes till 1800z Friday!

KB8UUW, WB6JBM, W8DIZ all took part of Friday off, and descended upon the campsites around noon. After a bit of standing around, pointing at stuff, finally 1800z came, and the flurry of activity began! First, anchor and empty the Comm Van. Get the batteries out, get the solar panels connected, get the APRS station on, put up the towers, build the 750 foot loop, build the VHF shelter, put up the dipoles, 6M beam, 2M beam, 2M vertical....





Phew, time for food. As more and more visitors arrive, it became quickly evident that 3 campsites were just not going to be enough!



But we managed, next year, though, we may have to get a group camp!

Friday night, we ate, played with radios, and ate some more. Nobody slept much, as the anticipation of Saturday was just too much.





Finally, Saturday, as the countdown to 1<sup>st</sup> QSO began, we were all scurrying around. Murphy of course, paid a visit, a couple of power cables were open, but it only took a couple of minutes of melting solder and all was better.



What can be said about Saturday, except WOW..





We invited the Park Rangers to come visit (supported agency, we have done a number of SAR operations with them)



For bonus points, we ran solar power, with a small solar field, and home brew power center.



We had unofficial visitors also!

WARREN COUNTY CIVIL DEFENSE  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
ATTENDANCE & OPERATIONS ROSTER

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

I. ACTIVITY: (check appropriate items)

M. Meeting C. Net Control E. Emergency  
T. Training N. Net Check-In S. Special Event  
D. Drill/Exercise W. Weather Net Check-In O. Other:

LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_ TIME: \_\_\_\_\_ A.M. - P.M.

ASSIGNMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

#	NAME - LAST, FIRST, INIT.	CALL SIGN	TIME-IN	TIME-OUT
1.	Leslie Jason D		1508	
2.	LEMO L. BURBLASE			1530
3.	J. BRYAN BURBLASE			1530
4.	Matthew Robbins	AA94H	1240	
5.	Brad Schwegman		1240	1552
6.	Katie Schwegman		1240	1552
7.	Don Tubew		1240	1552
8.	Shari Sweeney		1600	1640
9.	Tim Sweeney		1600	1640
10.	Sharon EM		2000	2005
11.	Tracy McDonald		2000	2005
12.	Margo Benz		2000	2005
13.	Rob	KC8NYW	1530	1930
14.	Sharon Elm		2000	2030
15.	TRACI McDowell		2000	2030
16.	MARGO BASS		2000	2030
17.	Cam Green		2005	2025
18.	Tony Owens	AA861	2000	2030
19.	Mary Owens	K88BA X	2000	2030
20.	RICK MARKWELL		2020	2045

IV-42

9/92



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ASSIGNMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

#	NAME - LAST, FIRST, INIT.	CALL SIGN	TIME-IN	TIME-OUT
1.	RICHIE MARKWELL		2020	2045
2.	ing White #123	N8TW	1000	
3.	PAT MAHE		1049	
4.	DeBoreham #78	K8YS	1030	
5.				
6.				
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19.				
20.				

IV-42

9/92



We ran the Winaprs246, and it just about drew a crowd! The weather displays seemed to get the most attention.

And, Finally, the Press Release sent to the Western Star Newspaper.

**Flying Pigs QRP Club, Int. W8PIG**

c/o Dan Shepherd, N8IE 1900 Pittsfield St. Kettering, Oh 45420  
 http://www.fpqr.com W8PIG@YAHOO.COM (937)254-8775

**LOCAL RADIO ENTHUSIASTS SHARE THEIR PASSION FOR TECHNOLOGY AND PUBLIC SERVICE DURING FIELD DAY**

(Haveysburg, Ohio, June 24 and 25) -- On-air demonstrations, satellite communications and emergency preparedness activities are on tap for members of the **Flying Pigs QRP Club** and **Warren County R.A.C.E.S /ARES** as they work 'round the clock this weekend to set up field radio communication stations, get on the air, and contact thousands of other operators in the US and Canada as part of participation in the American Radio Relay League's Field Day.

Field Day is sponsored by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), the national association for Amateur Radio. During Field Day, operators set up in local parks, at shopping malls, or even in their own backyards, and get on the air using generators or battery power. Field Day was designed to test operators' abilities to set up and operate portable stations under emergency conditions such as the loss of electricity. "We want the community to know that in the event of an emergency, we will be ready to assist in any way we can," says Dan Shepherd "While people often think that cell phones or other communications technologies have replaced ham radio, we can still provide an important communications service that others can't."

Field Day is a serious test of skill, but it is also a contest for fun and the largest "on-air" operating event each year. During the weekend, radio operators try to contact as many other Field Day stations as possible. More than 30,000 Amateur Radio operators across the country and Canada participated in last year's event.

The **Warren County R.A.C.E.S /ARES** and the **Flying Pigs QRP Club** will hold Field Day at Caesars Creek State Park and will be operating from 2pm 6/23 to 2pm 6/24. "We hope that anyone who is interested in seeing what Amateur Radio is all about will come out for Field Day."

Today there are more than 670,000 Amateur Radio operators in the United States and more than 2.5 million worldwide. To find out more about Amateur Radio or how you can get started, contact (your club contact) at (telephone number and e-mail address). Information is also available from the American Radio Relay League, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111 or by calling 1-800-32-NEW HAM. The URL for the ARRL's home page on the World Wide Web is [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org).



Of course, Sunday morning was a little weak...



Our public location was in the campground at Caesar Creek State Park and of course, we were all off-grid!

A good time was had by all!  
 More information and pictures at <http://www.fpqr.com/fd01>

72 & oo's  
 /rick,  
 wb6jbm



--- Summary for the W8PIG Field Day Operation ---

Operating Class: 4\_A

Check if set-up prior to 1800 UTC \_\_\_

Number of participants \_14\_

Summary for CW mode of operation

BAND QSO-Pts X MULT = TOTAL

160	4	5	20
80	50	5	250
40	136	5	680
20	114	5	570
15	68	5	340
10	1	5	5

373 X 2 pts X 5 = 3730

Summary for PHONE mode of operation

BAND QSO-Pts X MULT = TOTAL

80	1	5	5
40	64	5	320
20	112	5	560
15	13	5	65
10	3	5	15
6	18	5	90

211 X 1 pts X 5 = 1055

Total Score (Less Bonuses): 4785

BONUS POINTS (Check all that apply and make appropriate attachments):

- Emergency Power \_X
- Public Location \_X\_
- Message Origination \_\_\_
- Natural Power \_X\_
- Satellite QSO \_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Media Publicity \_X
- Information Booth \_X\_
- Messages Handled \_\_\_
- W1AW Message \_\_\_
- Non-Traditional Mode \_X\_

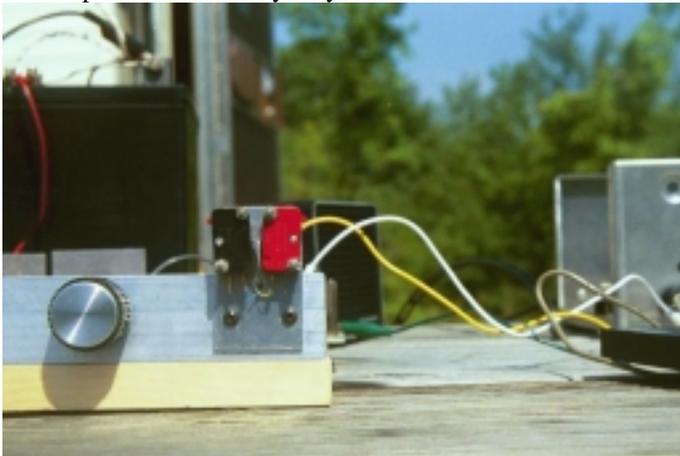
**Other Piggies who were there!**

**From Phil, WB8ABE:**

Here's proof Dennis, you really did get to pig heaven.



New super HIGH tech keyer by the DIZ. FD 2001



See Rick really did have an air conditioner.



Brian holding court. That's a Pepsi he has.



72, oo  
Phil, WB8ABE Ω

**From Brian, KB9BVN:**

I can still heat CQ FD DE W8PIG! Even in my sleep. WOULD SOMEONE PLEASE ANSWER ME?

It was awesome meeting some new piggies, new for me anyway. Randy, Matt, Dave, Jay from Mobile, Dennis from Arkansas, Dan with his pants on, Daryl, etc etc the list goes on.



In the 8 or 9 FD's I've attended and tried to be a part of, this one, WAS THE BEST. We had so much fun it should have been illegal.

The highlight of my FD, Matt Powell is working 6m SSB. There's this FLA station calling CQ in CW. K4FAU calling CQ on 6m in the SSB band....well Matt isn't a full blown Cwer yet so Dad, Rick, pops in and takes the microphone, and by mouth, he sez: didahdah dahdahdidit didahdahdit didit dahdahdit dahdidah

The guy sends AGN?

Rick then, by mouth, sez it again...and they trade info and into the log book it goes. Why didn't he use a key? We didn't have one hooked up to the 6m rig at the time. He leapt into action and scored us another Q for the logbook. Rick, you are truly unique...and that was just WRONG. Hahahhahahahah. It was hilarious...Rick sitting there doing CW with this guy in FLA by actually saying the sits and dahs. Cracked me up all morning.

You that didn't make it, the bratwurst, the strip steaks, the pizza, the 2am Gut Bombs....were all delicious. You missed a GREAT time. Diz and crew had about a 600 foot loop strung over half the park, it was perfectly resonant at 7066 kHz we later determined.

Everyone just jumped in and made this outing one I will not forget.

73 and God Bless to all of you.

I am so sunburned on my neck....ouchie wahwah! Ω

### **Other Piggies who were not there!**

#### **From Paul, K4FB:**

I can name that tune in three words:

Murphy  
Rain  
FUN!!

N4DL and I made close to 650 q's, 80m - 6m, ssb and cw...QRP of course!

Murphy paid a visit early Saturday morning when a thunderstorm blew the TH3 tribander we had up around 30' around enough to cause the push up mast to collapse. Bent the elements up...after some repair work, plus only now having it up about 10', it just didn't work.

Lots of rain...but we need it. Had to shut down several times for lightning!

More later...several emails from over the weekend to wade through.

Didn't hear W8PIG...but did work W8PI.

73  
Paul K4FB Ω

#### **From Mikey, WB8ICN:**

Decided that the area around the pond needed mowing before I set up my tent, table and rig, etc. Well, was doing good till the left back tire of the John Deere decided to jump in the pond and try to cut the underwater grass.

What a mess! Black, slimy, nasty smelling goooooo all over me and the tractor. To make matters worse the bugs (the biting kind) decided to get in on the fun and started to have their mid-day meal ... that is to say they ate me alive!!!

Finally got me and the Deere out of the pond and back to the house...what a stupid idea of cutting the grass so the FD pics would look good for all to see. I think from now on the second acre of my property will be ala-natural for ever and ever!!!!

New plans for FD2001...I'm taking a shower (the Deere just got hers) and I'm going to operate 1D from the confines of my shack. As for next year...Jay, if you come up again, I will share a hotel with ya and be civilized about this whole "fun" thing <LOL>.

OO's from a muddy and messing smelling Mikey.....the dog won't ever get close to me right now!!!! Ω

#### **From Dave, WR50:**

Well...I \*did\* have a lot fun, anyway.

It didn't go exactly as planned, but I still ended up with 105 Q's (108 with 3 D-class stations, including W1AW). I couldn't swear they were sending #B, but it was #D, which means I lost CT and NV on a technicality. I'd have to go back and check, but I worked about 47 or 48 sections in 35+ states.

I ran across W7SP once, on 20, but they couldn't hear my eardrum bustin' 4.5 W. Andrew, if I'da known, I would have kept trying...

I heard W8PIG being worked on 20 a couple of times, but never did hear the 'PIG at all. I didn't work that many FL stations, either, which was really weird. Never heard K4FB, sorry Paul. I actually had my antenna hooked up, too ;-).

No SD, ND, WY, MT, WTX (just \*who\* did you guys work in WTX?), NM, HI, AK, DE, and ME heard at all. Grabbed some VE's. The rest of the ones that I didn't work, I did hear doing S&P. What I don't understand is how I could miss NM. I \*never\* missed NM before, \*ever\*.

Next year? The July '01 QST has a 5-band portable beam. After experiencing almost wide open bands, with some 599+ signals \*less\* than 50 Hz apart, I just gotta build one. The few extra dB couldn't hurt, either :-D. I am seriously considering running at least 1B-Battery next year, to get away from these @\$\*^%! power lines. Gonna have to find a good spot without the legless wildlife, though.

72/73 es oo, Dave, WR50

## Reports from other QRP Clubs!

### NVQS Field Day summary via Brian, N1BQ:



Eric (N1SRC), Kristin(AA1SK), Dave (W1DEC), Bill (KB1GXE), Brian (N1BQ), Frank (KT1VT), Jay (KK1J), Dick (KG2LN), Fran (KM1Z) not pictured John (KB1ENS)

Just a few quick words about the Northern Vermont QRP Society's first ever Field Day ...

We set up in large alpine field in an annex of Underhill State Park, in Underhill Center, VT. We were located at 1700 feet ASL essentially on the Western slope of Mount Mansfield.

We operated class 2A battery/QRP using 2 FT-817's and a TS450 turned down to 5 watts, plus an assortment of HT's for 2m/70c cm FM (nice thing about being at 1700 feet and everyone else down at 400 feet!).

We had a mil surplus crank up tower with an A3S tribander at 38 feet and used it to anchor one end each of a 40 meter full wave delta loop and an 80 meter full wave loop (Superloop 80) out in opposite directions to trees for the other end anchors. We put up 20 feet of Rat Shack mast with a home made (KT1VT) rotating guy plate and it had the 6 and 2 meter beams with armstrong rotation (a rope with a stake and a volunteer).

Each station had a large lead-acid storage battery and a 75 watt Siemens solar panel.

We ran the TR Logging program and had 3 DOS laptops running the TR Network configuration. (the efforts KM1Z and I put into setting up the network paid off 100 fold when one compute died permanently after a few hours but we didn't lose any QSO information because it was shared around the network.)

We had ten people ... Fran (KM1Z), John (KB1ENS), Jay, (KK1J), Dick (KG2LN), Bill (KB1GXE), Kristin (AA1SK), Eric (N1SRC), Frank (KT1VT), Dave (W1DEC), and myself, Brian (N1BQ). Everyone operated and made QSOs.

We had five people at Friday setup and nine at Saturday morning setup, and seven at Sunday takedown, we had five people there all night, and at least seven at any given time. This is a loose group and only Jay, Fran, and myself have really done much together before. Our setup and takedown went off as if we all had been working together for years ... this is a great bunch of people.

Ma Nature did her best to keep it from happening. Friday afternoon and evening we were hit with 20-30 mph winds gusting over 40. We got the tower up, but decided to crank back down to two sections and the beam and put the other three back in on Saturday. The lightweight bow was so wimpy the arrows would take 90 degree turns in flight when the wind blew! The large three room tent blew over twice and we skipped that until Saturday.

Saturday, the weather held off for setup, but an hour or three after FD start the skies opened up and it rained in torrents. We were literally in the clouds much of the time and everything was damp and/or wet ...

But then the good things

- We made 330+ Q's with 70+ sections.
- We held a VE session Saturday before dinner Saturday and John (KB1ENS) passed his Extra, with a torrential rain beating on the tent... way to go John
- Jay (KK1J) - was sitting there running the FT817 into the 40 meter delta loop on 15 meters and heard a ZL station saying he needed one state for WAS and had the other guy heard any VT stations on? Jay jumped on, the guy asked if he was kidding, he said no, and he worked him! He later worked HI and AK on 15 from the A3S tribander.
- My father-in-law, Bill (KB1GXE), newly minted ham made his very first on the air QSOs, on 40m SSB
- Kristin (AA1SK) may have set a new record for patience as she outlasted one guy who must have tried two-thirds of the alphabet in trying to get the "Q" in N1QS ... then he copied us a "3A" not "2A" and went away ... grrrrr
- Jay (KK1J) made a pot of chili for Saturday night that could possibly have been the most lethal concoction ever served up to humans. The first hint I had was when one visitor to the FD site came up to me literally with tears streaming down his face and gasping for air. Rumor has it the EPA will be investigating!
- Dick (KG2LN), an Army trained RTO (Desert Storm vet) doesn't seem to be able to get the hang of a set of paddles, but he brought his own mil style hand key and thigh clamp and he was working up a storm on 20m/15m CW.
- Frank (KT1VT) is a veteran VHF/UHF contester but had rarely gotten to do any HF contesting and he got his chance. This was also the first real HF contesting for Kristin (AA1SK) and her husband Eric (N1SRC).
- Dave (W1DEC) gets the "above and beyond the call of duty award" because he is an elected official in his town he got to traipse around to other FD sites to do the 'elected official' point thingy.
- Brian (N1BQ), me, got the "booby" award for setting up the cook tent over the one low spot on the site ... by early evening the cook tent had been renamed "The Swamp" ... I

tried to explain that a good kitchen has running water, but Kristen said "not through the middle of it!"

- Every club has someone they really count on to crank out the contacts... we have a few, but at the forefront is Fran (KM1Z).. our technical guru and all-around MacGiver/Mr. Fixit ... but when the clock starts counting, set him in front of a set of paddles and his favorite log program TR and watch him go ... all that and he even has snappy comebacks on the TR "instant messenger" network ...

So, our first time, we made mistakes, we learned ... as Kristin said, "the first year is for learning what to do the second year!" ... I am very proud to say that everyone had a good time and a positive experience. At least half the people there have said to make sure I call them about FYBO!



Fran (KM1Z) walking the 40 meter full wave delta loop antenna out away from the AB-577/GRC military surplus crankup tower with Fran's A3S tribander on board



Frank (KT1VT), Bill (KB1GXE), and Brian (N1BQ) putting up Frank's VHF array, 6m beam first.



Jay (KK1J) and Frank getting 2m beam on. Brian and Bill in background



Operating station row, near to far, HF1, HF2, VHF. Each with its own Siemens SP-75 solar panel and deep cycle battery. One continuing comment this weekend was about the blessed absence of the sound of generators. Dick (KG2LN) in background



"The Swamp" - a.k.a. the kitchen - look close and you can see the ditch John (KB1ENS) had to dig to drain the swamp (pun intended!)



The CW tent, HF2, Fran's TS450 cranked down to 5 watts. The papers taped to the wall are 'cheat sheets' for the TR Logging program.  
*"TR - don't do FD without it!"*



Kristin (AA1SK) operating 40 SSB on an FT817 with Jay logging.



Brian (N1BQ) in VHF tent, running FT817, with Heil headset mike and a lightweight hospital type footswitch (easier on the hands!)

More pictures and complete FD-2001 can be seen at:  
<http://www.wulfden.org/NVQS/>

72/73 de Brian, N1BQ

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N1BQ-3 @ 44 31.73N 072 51.55W

WideN-N digi and weather station in Underhill Center, VT

**What would a BB be without Joel's Words of  
Wisdom? ☺**

I tried w8pig  
I looked, I listened  
I heard the world  
but no w8pig

the sky is overcast  
rain gently falling to the ground  
as if, nature itself, was crying  
'cause w8pig could not be found

I will try once meaux  
on 40 meters u kneaux  
but 'fraid I'll nevah sea  
a piggie, called w8pig....

ke1la joel  
maine

**Or Randy!**

It was a valiant attempt  
Dear Dr. and fellow ham  
When you didn't find them  
Bet you just said "Damn!"

Fear not, my friend  
For there's a VFO on your rig  
Just give it a twirl  
And you might find the PIG!

Randy "Lower-Rate Poet Than Dr. Joel :^)" Jouett

--

HAMateur Radio: AB5NI

P.S.

Yes, you do have to be Cajun to write poetry this badly :^). Ω

Come join us for FD  
2002!  
72, 00