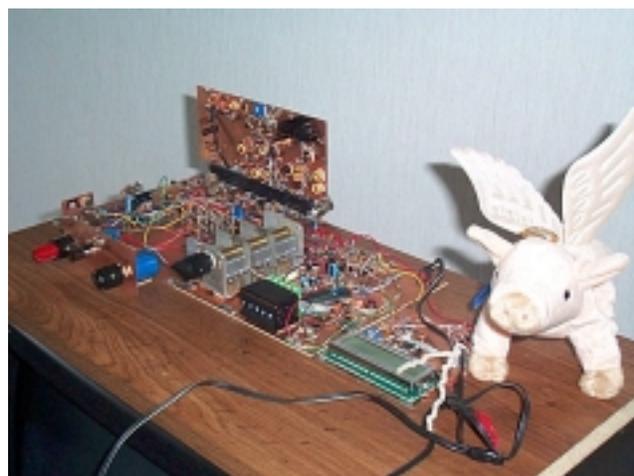


Bacon Bits FDIM 2001

Flying Pigs QRP Club International, W8PIG

1900 Pittsfield St, Kettering, Ohio 45420

E-mail: w8pig@yahoo.com Web Page: <http://www.fpgrp.com>



**WHO LET THE PIGS OUT!
OINK, OINK**

**AF4PS – 51, Little Lost Piggie
-or-
My trip to FDIM 2001**



It all started with the invitation from Mikey, WB8ICN to come to Dayton and stay in his room – for free. The catch: Brian, KB9BVN and Paul, K4FB would be in there too. OH BOY! ROAD TRIP!

So, because I forgot to call Paul to bum a ride, I knew if I got up early, I could just wait for him at his truck the morning he left. I was late, and he was pulling out as I jumped out of my XYL's car and ran with my backpack and gear trying to chase him down. I leapt, but only caught his hamstick with my bad arm (the CW one). He dragged me all the way to Orlando, and I'm sure the only clue I was there, was a slightly attenuated signal and static generated from the road friction. He kept complaining to himself about the "noise". Man, was I glad when he stopped near Orlando. I could hardly move! I pried my hand loose from his antenna, and just slumped down to the ground. However, his truck rolled back and I was stuck underneath! I just hung on to the spare tire the rest of the way. The burns from the muffler are healing nicely (Thanks Jim, KJ0C for the salve! Does that goop really cure mange?) I think I MAY have passed out at some point, because when I awakened, we were in the Ramada Inn Parking lot.

I rolled out from under the truck, and realized that I didn't know what day it was, and it was raining. I looked up and saw all kinds of wire sticking out from the windows of the place, and prayed (again) that there was a room. I tripped over a wire strung out from room 149, and fell right into the dumpster. I must have hit my head. When I woke up – again – I rationalized that the dumpster COULDN'T smell any worse than room 149! The rain felt kinda good. I wandered through the hotel Thursday night, but mostly snuck into rooms scrounging for food – Paul didn't stop much on the way up. I tried to take a shower, but most of the rooms had ice and beer in the tubs. I bumped into Diz W8DIZ and Peter DL2FI, drinking some dark Beck's outside the Lecture Room, but I got tired of opening beer for those two, and Peter needed a shave, so I moved on. Speaking of bumped, who in the world parked that big green pick-up with Michigan tags there? I knocked rest of

the bark off my kneecap on the bumper, and fell right into Hank K8DD and his drinking buddy Switzer. Nice to see you Hank! (I don't think he recognized me.) The highlight for me on Thursday, was Rev. George Dobbs showing slides of our trip to Wales, how many saw me hold up that Celtic Pig Relic in slide number three? He is a super traveling companion, and he let me ride up front, Paul, but half the time I was in cardiac arrest 'cause that man drives on the wrong side of the road! George is a good guy – for a preacher.

Friday morning I meandered my way over to Hara, and noticed that the silly security guard may have seen me climbing over the fence. This may have delayed the gate opening somewhat, I'm not sure. I ran.

WOW, did I find some neat junk! I couldn't find space 110-111, but pig shirts were all over! Wonder why the DARA Van was not inside the arena this year? While scrounging through that big pile of free wire, connectors and junk, I saw Paul, but he moves quickly. He found a DSW30 complete with enclosure, so I went over there. Just as he was leaving, a "twinkle" on the very same table caught my attention and I found an out-of-the-box but unbuilt Elecraft K1 with tuner and battery options for \$30.00! I only had \$29.19, and the guy wouldn't budge! I threw in a bag of pork rinds I took from a room (IOU Rick and Matt), and he bit. YES! I think I saw Dan, N8IE and Daryl, KD8HT come up to the table Paul and I just left. Sorry I missed you guys, but the crowd just kinda took me away! The free food on Vendor night was a blessing. More pork rinds were easy to find, because Brian had that Flying Pig thing on my antenna pole. (Which I need back, by the way!) I kept bumping into this kid who was trying clean up the joint, but cussing about some sort of "flyer" all over the place. Boy, was it raining.

Thinking back, one of the NEAT things was swiping some NCR credentials and sneaking into the main lounge. They asked me to leave because my pig shirt was looking a little ratty at this point. I attempted to bribe them with pork rinds – didn't work this time. Some people.

I didn't see Dan, N8IE much Friday nite, but saw him on Saturday. The banquet was a hoot. I bribed a waiter with some pork rinds, and was walking around filling water glasses and snitching food. I found some old apples in the dumpster from before, so I cut them up to help with the potato salad – it needed SOMETHING! I helped Diz prop the door open with a rock, but I sure wish he would buy his own smokes! I was so proud of Diz winning 3rd place in the homebrew category for the MP-20, I elbowed Mikey when Diz stood up and Dan tossed him that walking pig. I couldn't get over Mikey's reaction. Brian's honorable mention for the pork rind filled Tupperware rig was my favorite, for sure. (You owe me for those pork rinds, bud.) I took off the waiter get up, and made my way back to rooms before it was over, I couldn't resist turning those QSL cards on the door upside down – I don't think anyone saw me do that (GRIN), but Brian almost caught me swiping those connectors from his bag when he came back to change shirts (Poopie, what DID you spill on your shirt?). Had I known he would need them for the TT2 I would have left him a note. Sorry man, let's call it even for the pork rinds.

I saved enough money to catch a plane back to Tampa, which reminds me. Diz, I owe you for that bag of toroids I "found" on your table. I'm good for it. Honest! Those stupid things set off the airport metal detector and it took me three whole days to explain all the wires and stuff on me. They were NOT nice, but the shower felt good, and the guy in the next cell knew a guy whose cousin's sister-in-law could sneak in some pork rinds. I sat there in my cell, reflecting on the week, content and thinking about who was covering for me on Sunday back home. Wonder if Ian will come next year? I looked up and out the tiny window at the rain, and saw a rainbow.

See ya next year for sure!

-MAC-
AF4PS

-51

(... who really wishes he was there!) Ω

Letters home from Dayton

Wed, 16 May 2001

Hello from FDIM from Mike, Brian and Paul...

First night has been wild! Had the door cracked and had all sorts of visitors hearing the FP CW Net...and no Joel, "I was not in jail already" (I'll get even with Brian after he falls asleep tonight!).

We were visited by the President of QRP-ARCI, one guy from Ireland, a bunch of folks from everywhere. Brian was telling everyone about his design of the MP20...wait till Diz hears about that. Everyone that saw the MP20 thought it was great and very interested.

Joel, that "G" call that checked into the net was a real check-in. He heard the CW out in the hallway and came bouncing in with a big smile on his face. But he left before you got to him. How many check-ins did you have tonight?

We just came in from the parking lot after talking with Hank and Buck who are MI-QRP members and also big workers down here for FDIM. LOL and some freebees out of the back end of his truck. What a great night! Paul is on 20 meters right now banging away with some DX he found. We put up a G5RV on a 33 foot fiberglass pole and that seems to meet our needs for now. But Brian has shown a big interest in PSK-31, so maybe we need to add more equipment and some PSK stuff for Brian.

Mac, we miss you buddy!

OK..let me go see what Brian is up ... ha ha ha, Paul is making fun of my antenna cause a Hungry station only gave him a RST 253..go figure <grin>.

Nite gang..more updates tomorrow. Got some pics but decided to wait till tomorrow to post them.

72's and OO's from FDIM and the Three Musketeers...K4FB/KB9BVN/WB8ICN Ω

Sat, 19 May 2001

Wow!

Ok, we officially ROCK!!!

First, pictures, <http://www.fqrp.com/fdim2001>

150- 197 are from mine camera 647 - 694 are from Paul's camera, and cover a longer time frame we have lots of new piggies, last number issued is 289, plus I got a couple of email submissions, so we are getting close to needing pigpen4!!!

Wow

We ROCK!!!

Ok, ok,, lemme catch my breath here a sec,,, ok, I scored another hit!!! 9 Intel ether express pro 10/100's nics, for \$25!!!! and another solar panel!!!

Matt - fp#-69 made his first 'thing'!!! he got a computer headset, and modified it to put a ptt switch in it, and put new connectors on it, and now it works with his HT!!!! his FIRST ham 'thing' he ever builded himself!!! Next project??? Maybe a multipig? well, he'll get there. CONGRATS MATT. I'M PROUD OF YOU SON!!!!

Ok it was a relatively dry day, except when I fired up the slobbering iron... thanks for the prayers guys!

Ok looking through the pictures a bit,,,,,

151, it was unfortunate that the 'people' at that booth wouldn't let me take their pictures,,,, WOW....

152, 153, 154,,, ford, it's their new battery operated car., really neat, 50 mile range, on sale now in somewhere like Sweden or something like that. Should be available stateside next year, it's selling over there for something like \$20k. Neat stuff, just nowhere really to mount an antenna, without getting really creative,,,, it's all some sorta ABS plastic or something... the batteries are under the seats, they didn't let me play with them, those b*****s.....

156. Not for people with weak stomachs..... at least Dan had his pants on!!!

160. Two serial terminals free to good home, one, free to dysfunctional family! I'll let you know tomorrow which ones are still there in the morning... oh, i sold the TRS80 - model 4..... that, and a bag of pork rinds (BBQ flavor), even made a profit!! Sale price, \$1.00

161. THE TT2. Wow!!!!!! What can I say!!!! I actually got to touch it!!!

162, who are these people????

163 164, Dan actually making a contact with THE TT2

165. Mike (bvn) writing something on the window,,,, not sure what, but we made faces at him anyway!

166 167, don't ask, you may not want to know! (no animals were hurt)

169, a neat little keychain, that we gave to w1rfi as a token of our appreciation for blessing us with the honor of being able to not only touch, but operate THE TT2.

170, if you squeeze it,,, QRPOop!!!

172 - 183. We are STILL hunting for Mac!!! (AYBABTU?)

Even the cleaning guy is looking (175)

184, and they thought we were going to use them to eat the shrimp... silly, you don't eat shrimp with a screwdriver, you eat TOMATOS with a screwdriver!!!!

185. Texas towers was passing out some sorta flashing led thingy, on a sticky, well, you can't really see it in the picture, but one of our newest piggies modified it to make part of his badge blink!!!

186 187. Looks like the builders of the MP20's showed their appreciation for Pappa Diz leading the mp20 effort.... oh, the mp20 and the pigs in general,, woow, I'll let someone with better grasp of the English language explain.. wow.... let's just say, we got recognized!!! (Including honorable mention for Brain's attempt to bribe the judges for the rig building contest thing Friday night, or was it Thursday,, hey, i don't know.... I'm having more fun than i have had in years!!!

188 - 196, awards and stuff!!! biggie,,, Peter, DL2FI,,, got inducted into the QRP HALL OF FAME!!!!, dude, this guy is a riot!!!! We should all have at some time in our lives the opportunity to drink beer with Peter!!!!, (196 - hank, foxtrot romeo echo delta, hank. ROCKS!!!!)

197. Wow. Yes, those are ALL piggies!!!! (no building codes were violated during the taking of this picture!) Paul's pictures.... wow! of note,,,

665 - 669. These are works of art!!! Rich, made these, fully functional BUGS!!!! pictures just don't do them justice!!!!

Well, y'all have fun....

One more day, some piggies are leaving in the morning ☺
Mac, wherever you are, we are thinking of you!!!!!

72 & oo's
/rick Ω

Thurs, 17 May 2001

Wow.

So, I go up with load #2...

stop by the Ramada, to drop off the 20 bags of pork rinds that Diz wanted,,,,, and come to find the area deserted..... called Diz,, oh, they went to get food at the macaroni grill. A fairly nice Italian restaurant.... me and Matt (fp# -69) head over there,, and find 11 others at dinner!



So, after eating some ourselves!!! we all head back to the Ramada,, and stumble upon,,,,, wow... I guess they called it, "meet the lecturer" or something like that... well, it quickly turned into a free for all, after diz and mike got out their mp20's and put them out on a table. we quickly had a crowd.



Crowd control was an issue, but nobody got shot!
pictures are up on the web! Numbers 99 - 116.

<http://www.fpqr.com/fdim2001>

72 & oo's
/rick

Thurs, 17 May 2001

Several of those at FDIM keep asking about Mac. They have heard he is missing!!



We may need to put him on a milk carton.

Paul
K4FB/8 Ω

Fri, 18 May 2001

How to make a bunch of Piggies complain?

Simple...

...beat them to one super deal on an unbuilt DSW-30, with SW enclosure, at FDIM.

You never heard such bitching and complaining!!

oo
Paul
K4FB/8 Ω

Fri, 18 May 2001

Today's word is RAIN, and lots of it!
It rained so hard at one point that Rick started lashing tents together in an effort to make an Ark.



We did manage to find a few good bargains and meet up with radio "friends" for the first time. The coolest part of the day was people stopping us and asking about the "Pigs", the shirts are a big hit!

Tomorrow is the banquet, and more walking, and walking, and walking. ☺

72, oo
Dan, N8IE

Fri, 18 May 2001

Wow.
Rain wow.
And LOTS of new piggies!!!
Wow!
I scored another solar panel. almost the same capacity as BOTH of my existing panels TOGETHER! (thanks Dan!!!)
I even took tom (k8cz FP# -41) to El Guapo for dinner! Great Cheap Tijuana Street Food!!!!
Wow!
Can't wait to get Diz's and Paul's camera downloaded and available..
Wow!
Got mine uploaded.... <http://www.fqrp.com/fdim2001> pictures 117 through 149.
Oh, you know those hair dryer thingies, in hotel rooms?!? they work GREAT drying out wool socks! just run the air through them, and shazam! dry socks! you just have to watch one thing, if you heat them up too much, the smell starts to get a little `thick`. I sure hope it don't rain tomorrow....
72 & oo's
/rick

Sun, 20 May 2001

Dear Little Lost Piggie,

Hahahahahaha...I am still BUZZED from FDIM and the Dayton Hamvention...

Mac...gosh I wish you could have been there. We took a group Piggie Picture on Saturday night after the banquet....I think we had about 40 Piggies (old and newly ordained) in the one photo.



I spent some time with Dean Manley and he is just an awful nice guy.

Peter Zenker, another flying pig, was elected to the QRP Hall of Fame.



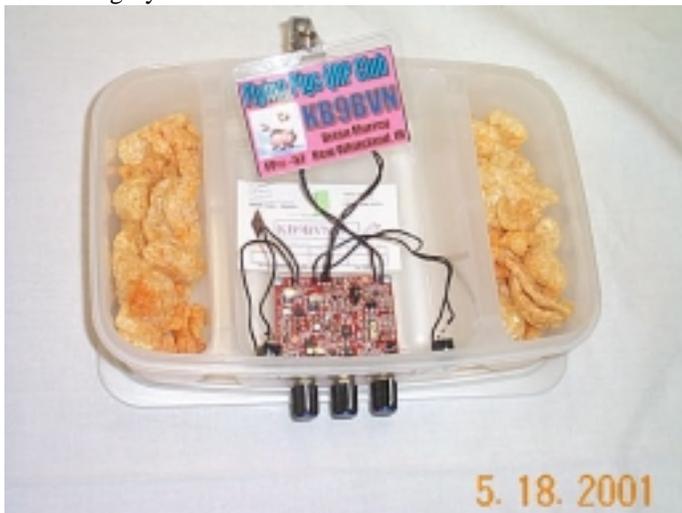
Rich Meiss, another pig, won the FDIM homebrew contest with his BEUTIFULLY hand crafted, totally magnetic bug.



Diz won 3rd prize in the same contest for the MP....ALL MP's submitted were given honorable mentions.



My SMK-1 mounted in the three section plastic bowl (filled with pork rinds) was voted "Best attempt at bribing a judge with Food" and earned an honorable mention in the "Kit" category.



It was funny, on Wednesday night we're all wearing our shirts and getting a lot of funny looks. On Thursday after the forums, people were wanting to know what our point was, and we all just talked about our sacred three mottos....No rules, No dues, Just have fun! <grin>

On Friday night at the vendor/club show Rick (WB6JBM) had them LINED UP 5 at a time begging for Flying Pig ID badges and certificates.



On a personal note to Rick Powell...WELL DONE OM and thank YOU very much for all your hard work in keeping us up and running and all the hard work you did out at the Dayton Flea Market!! It was GREAT meeting Rick and his son Matt...finer folks would be very hard to find.

Did I mention that Craig Behrens, editor of the QQ, ate dinner with us on Thursday night? He and a few of the NoGa QRP clubs joined us at the Macaroni Grill where we feasted on squid, pasta, pizza, and a little vino.



On Friday it rained in buckets, but Paul and I were in the arena grabbing freebies and attending forums. Ed Hare of the ARRL testing lab was there at the QRP forum and did a wonderful talk about all kinds of stuff...and then he produced the magical and most revered W1FB original Tuna Tin 2. Well Mac, not being a wall flower, I approached Ed with the intent of actually asking him if we could borrow the "holy grail" of QRP rigs and make some contacts with it....BEFORE I COULD OPEN MY MOUTH....Ed Said, "Brian, would the Flying Pigs like to borrow the TT2 tonight?" The room went totally quiet (or I passed out...not sure which). It was like a DREAM Mac. I mean a DREAM.



Then once I had the thing in my hands back at the hotel, it was like a NIGHTMARE Mac. I was suddenly aware, that in my hands, I held the most famous and most loved around-the-world QRP transmitter ever made...I was freaking out. Thankfully we had Paul Womble (K4FB), Diz (W8DIZ) and Mike Hall (WB8ICN) helping me to not break it or lose it.

That night, through weary eyes, we got a G5RV hoisted and used the W8DIZ Multipig as a receiver and began making contacts.



The first was Gary in Florida (N4DL) giving us a 339. Then we worked some of the attendees using dummy loads (Look out for the 202 FDIM Flying Pigs Worked All Rooms" contest next year!) The next thing you know we're working NM5M in Texas, W0CH in Missouri, WA9PWP (ragchew!!) in Indiana, and the last station we worked on Saturday before I had to return it to Ed, was none other than N8IE at the key and W6TOY on the receiving end. (Dan WAS wearing pants)



Next year, we'll need more piggies. We'll need Jay, and Dave, and you, and Bob, and Dick and Joel and all of you guys and gals to join us at FDIM 2002. There is a rumor that in 2002, the FP's will be hosting a hog roast on vendor night, at the hotel. We have some more details to work out.

One other thing, we have LADY FLYING PIGS GALORE now!! Even the YL's wanted to be flying pigs!! We also added a few more DXCC piggies, like Pat from Diego Garcia, several more from Germany and the UK, and just people from all over. It was great to see the look on Roy Lewellen's face when he saw the Multipig entries in the homebrew contest...we have very excited to see all the ugly stuff.

Andy Meng (N8MX) was also holding center stage again this year, everyone wanted to meet the 16 year old wunderkind who built the Multipig.



I am willing to bet that young Andy will get more ink in the next 30 days than your typical seen-one-seem-them-all bikini clad super model of the week.

Anyway Mac...I'm copying this to the FPQRP list so I don't have to type it again....we missed you and keep your eye on

your mailbox....you'll want to get there before Lori does. There. Now, do you think you'll be able to sleep at night? Wait till you see the pictures of Dan...you'll never sleep again!!

MUAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA

72 ES OO
Brian, KB9BVN
Most frequent two words heard at FDIN 2001? OINK OINK!!
Ω

Sun, 20 May 2001

It is hard to believe that it is all over for another year. But then I guess that it is really not over. I still have my MP-20 to complete and I have bunches of super memories (and pictures) of the gathering. I had met only 2 or 3 Flying Pigs before this FDIM and not a single one of the other pigs looked like what I had imagined from the e-mails.

Now if this year I can finish my MP-20 and capture some pig tails as they fly over my house I will be in real pig heaven by the next FDIM. I hope that more of the pigs that did not get to the gathering make it next year. Start planning NOW!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

And to the Flying Pigs I met this year THANKS for being such a wonderful bunch of Hams. No one could ever call the Flying Pigs dull.

Phil
WB8ABE FP #61 Ω

Sun, 20 May 2001

Well, it is done.
<http://www.fpgrp.com/fdim2001>
198, the serial terminals were all still there this morning.... ☺
199, in fact, they are all still there NOW!
200, stuff for next year!!!!
201, even still got some 'Happy Drinks' (Kids LOVE them!!!)(I sure hope so, cause i think they really SUCK!!!)
202, 203, 204, i wonder what the 'last one out' does, cause there is some REALLY GOOD STUFF being abandoned in the flea market area!

Ya'll, this was the most fun i have had since that time in Ft. Lauderdale during spring break when Bear and Gui and Me helped Braswell dump a whole paycheck at the Inner Room!!!!
Thanks!!!
72 & oo's
/rick Ω

Sun, 20 May 2001

WOW...what month this last five days have been .. ha ha ha. I need another weekend to recover from it all.. a good sign I had a super time!

First, my thanks to all who made it, and to those who were there in spirit and on IM/e-mail. You guys made this one of the best times I've ever had there...and I have had some good times previous to this year. Should the FP gang ever decide not to show at FDIM, I doubt I would ever enjoy it again...my thanks to all for the great time.

Second, Diz, your \$500.00 bottle of wine ended up in my room..so I brought it home and will give it to you at the FP Field Day get together.



Phil, start the count down for it. Also, did you realize where you left Brian's PLL? I will work on it here and then send it to him once its up and running.

Lastly but most importantly...I plan on reserving a room for next year sometime this next week. I know Brian and Paul both are planning on doing the same. I hope other piggies will catch the fever and start the preparations now for the best time of their lives by planning on being there and continue what we started this time. The presence of the FP group is somewhat established now (wow is that an understand)..and next year (as it were) has to be better than the previous.

To Paul and Brian..you two are great!!! Thanks for sharing the excitement and laughs!

Congrats to Brian for the success eyeball contact with IM4GAY. Paul and I are very happy for your outstanding achievement! I just checked on Paul, he is south of Atlanta (and he told me this morning that was the stop over point..so maybe he is going for the distance and make it in tonight). Brian, I love that new set of paddles you have..hope you make it to FD so we all can drool watching you use them!

72's and OO's to all!!!!!!!!!!

Mikey

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

Sun, 20 May 2001

Hi all,

My butt has been dragging all day; I'm still tired from all the fun. Got home about 1 AM this morning and just finished unpacking at 7 PM. I believe the earlier emails from Mike and Brian and Rick conveyed the fun that we had. Some of the highlights I enjoyed were...

Getting a convenient room location but not too close to Brian, Mike and Paul. Meeting the old FP gang again and lot's of new FP's and more FP's.



Surviving Friday's rain! If there is a drought, it WILL rain at Dayton Arena.



Selling toroids, more toroids and more toroids. Did I say I sold toroids? Winning 3rd place in the homebrew competition for the MP20 club project. (I think Steve Baker's (K8PZ FP#-183) should have won for his version of the MP20,



but then you had to see Rich's (WB9LPU FP#-16) hand-make keys; WOW!) Congrats to Rich for 1st Place!



Laughing at the ARCI banquet 'till my gutt hurt! Everyone now knows who the Flying Pigs are.

Working W0CH David FP#-32 using the original TUNA TIN, 339 both ways. Receiver was the MP #5. A great marriage.



Receiving a \$500 bottle of wine from the MP20 builders (or was it \$5.00?) -- I'll be damned if I didn't forget it in Mike's room.



Lot's more that I can't talk about in mixed company; sure glad that there are work weeks to recuperate from the weekend :-)



Here are some random pixs (not the best quality)
<http://65.27.205.126:81/FDIM2001>

IM READY FOR FDIM2002

72 & "oo's" - Dieter (DIZ) Gentzow - W8DIZ - Loveland, Ohio
Ω

Sun, 20 May 2001

It is hard to believe that it is all over for another year. But then I guess that it is really not over. I still have my MP-20 to complete and I have bunches of super memories (and pictures) of the gathering. I had met only 2 or 3 Flying Pigs before this FDIM and not a single one of the other pigs looked like what I had imagined from the e-mails.



(L-R W8DIZ, WB6JBM, N8IE, KB9BVN)

Now if this year I can finish my MP-20 and capture some pig tails as they fly over my house I will be in real pig heaven by the next FDIM. I hope that more of the pigs that did not get to the gathering make it next year. Start planning NOW!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

And to the Flying Pigs I met this year THANKS for being such a wonderful bunch of Hams. No one could ever call the Flying Pigs dull.

Phil
WB8ABE FP #61 Ω

Mon, 21 May 2001

Wow! What a blast Dayton was..... wish I could have spent more time with qrp stuff and the FDIM program. I'll have to make a few adjustments for next year. No BA's followed me home this year so I did OK financially, actually a bit too good - got a couple of extra bucks. Picked up my FP name tag Sat. nite, looks real good. OK, who do I owe money to? It aint nice to stiff a fellow pig. Hmmmm, this could be a real dangerous question the day after Dayton.....

72/73 es 'OO'
Steve Baker .. K8PZ Ω

Mon, 21 May 2001

Well fellow Piggies another year of Hamvention/FDIM is over. And I must say this has been the best for my, bar none.

Thursday night I got to meet some new old friends, and finally put a face to a name. We all had fun at the hotel showing off some of the Pig warez and the MP20's really took center stage. That night I had received 3 unconfirmed Mac sightings.

Friday brought us to Hara Arena for the big bargain hunt. After almost killing the security twit who held us from entering until 9 minutes after 8:00 we hit the ground running. Daryl, KD8HT and I made our way to the Pig Booth (space #110-#111) and said a quick hello to Papa Smurf and Rick.

Brian was no where to be found, I think he was at the "you know who" booth. ☺ After a couple hours of search and destroy, the rain came, and came, and then it really came. At one point we were at the Pig booth and it too was soaked.



From there we called it a day and went home with our stash of goodies, mostly parts, new soldering iron, and misc. junk. Also, I had 5 more unconfirmed Mac sightings.

I had to work Friday night so I missed Vendors Night and all the free food. ☹ I was SUPPOSED to go in at 5:30, switch over the LAN cables and be done with it. Welllllllll the cable guys were not ready until after 7:30 and I was stuck there until after 10:00. So I just went home and slept.

On Saturday the weather was much better, mostly overcast and a few sprinkles but all in all a nice day. I only spent 4 hours at Hara picking up odds-n-ends "stuff" and chatting with more Piggies. It was so cool to see all the shirts and hats there, and to hear someone yell, "Hey there`s another Pig". We (The Pigs) made a huge showing at Hamvention and I think we picked up a lot of new members.



I made it to the Ramada Inn just in time to get one QSO with the original Tuna Tin radio, I worked Bruce, W6TOY and I must say that was way cool beyond words.



Thanks to Ed for letting us use the rig, and to Brian and Mikey for getting it up and running.

The Saturday night banquet at the Ramada Inn was the show stopper, and man everyone there now knows just who the Flying Pigs are! As a matter of fact, you could not swing a dead CB'er around without hitting a Flying Pig. ☺

The food was good for a banquet setting and Rick, WB6JBM really enjoyed the potato salad even though it tasted just like apple salad. Ask Rick, he'll explain.

One of our very own, Peter, DL2FI was elected into the QRP-ARCI Hall-of-Fame. That was a very special moment, and his fellow Piggies showed him a very LOUD "YEAH!" when his name was announced. Diz, W8DIZ took 3rd place in the homebrew category for his MP20, and all MP20's were given an honorable mention.



Brian, KB9BVN also got a special notice for his entry in the Kit category for best effort to bribe a judge with food.

Prizes were plentiful again this year, and even I won something. It was an ARRL book on Topband DX'ing on 40-80-160. I managed to trade it for a new Bull Dog paddle that someone else won, we were both very happy with the trade. Also, I had 8 unconfirmed Mac sightings, and for just a moment I swear I saw him too, of course that could have just been the chicken I had for dinner.

There is so much more to talk about, but that will wait for the special BB issue in a few weeks. :-)

Now on a serious note, Brian, Mikey, and Paul, it was a very big pleasure finally meeting you guys. You, Diz, Rick, Matt, and the rest of the "gang" made this years Hamvention/FDIM the most fun I've ever had as a Ham.

72, oo
Dan, N8IE Ω

Mon, 21 May 2001

To all my fellow pigs,
I enjoyed meeting the FPs on Friday. Wish I could have stayed over for Saturday but duty called on the home front. Hope to do the whole FDIM next year. Got a lot of envious looks on the airplane coming home proudly wearing my FP shirt. Keep up the exuberant irreverence!
72 and oo`s,
Bruce Shaw, KG4DZU Gibsonville, NC Ω

A message from Ed Hare



Hi Gang,

Just wanted to share the msg exchange I had with Ed...

ED WROTE>>>>>

I gotta` say this -- those who haven`t met the members of the Flying Pig QRP Club are missing a real treat! The unbridled and unabashed enthusiasm of these guys is admirable! For the rest of my life, whenever I think of enthusiasm for ham radio, I

will think of these rather outspoken fellows! Thanks, Flying Pigs, for adding a lot to a memorable FDIM experience for me. I think the Tuna Tin 2 was in the best hands for the night of FDIM fun it and you guys had. You`re the greatest!

73,
Ed Hare, W1RFI

<<<MY RESPONSE>>>
Hi Ed,

That was a very nice thing to say; the FPqrp group thanks you.

Also, thanks for the use of the TT2; was kind of a strange feeling using the multiPIG as the receiver with the TT2. I think Doug would have enjoyed it :-)

-Diz W8DIZ

<<<ED`S RESPONSE>>>

It was from the heart. You guys are great. At the banquet, when all the other hams simply raised their hand when they won a prize, a FPer jumped up with joy in his heart and said a loud "Yippee!" Gotta` love it.

Take care, man, and keep it going. Ham radio really needs the enthusiasm!

73,
Ed Hare, W1RFI
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I LOVE THIS HOBBY!!!

72 & "oo`s" - Dieter (DIZ) Gentzow - W8DIZ - Loveland, Ohio

A few left overs and goodbye!



The serial terminals that won't go away!



So long Hamvention, see you next year! 72, oo



Ahhh, next years "stock". And I bet it's not unloaded until then. ☺



"Boy, some people just can't leave". ☺



Left over "Fuel".



"Hey Dad, is that a 2-meter cavity resonator?", "Shut up son, it's time to go home!", "Awwwww Daddddd...."



On behalf of the Bacon Bits Newsletter staff (me) thanks to all the Flying Pigs who came out in force to make this the best Hamvention Ever!

72, 00

Hope to see you in 2002!

Dan Shepherd, n8ie