



## Issue 3

### The votes are in, and the winner is...



Over the last two months you all have submitted names and then voted for a name for our monthly newsletter.

The results are now in! Drum roll please...

**"The Bug Light"** which was submitted by Daniel AC9MZ.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to send in your ideas and vote on your favorite. Our new name fits the theme of the newsletter very well and I am proud to have it. Thanks Daniel!

In addition to the new name, you'll also see a "new look" to the newsletter as we continue to make improvements thanks to your feedback and suggestions. Please continue to send it in, we greatly appreciate it.

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## Letter from the Editor

Hello fellow QRP'ers! I hope everyone is doing well. The last month has gone by really fast for me as life has been busy. I celebrated a birthday two weeks ago with family and friends and had a great time. I also had several opportunities to hang out with my QRP friends over the last few weeks. Thank you to everyone who came out to our club events this past month. I hope to have the opportunity to meet more of you moving forward.

W9ILF Ivin invited me over during the INQP Indiana QSO Party for burgers and a little ham radio fun. I did not pile up a bunch of Q's but I definitely had a lot of fun hanging out. The highlight of the QSO party for me was working a station in Alaska on CW using 5 watts and a simple end-fed wire antenna. I will be sending him a QSL card for sure and hoping to get one back for my worked all states via QRP CW effort.

Our membership is growing and I am excited to see all of the interest in QRP amateur radio from operators new and old. Some of you have even expressed interest in learning morse code and operating CW. That is just awesome! If there is anything I can do to help you, don't hesitate to ask. I was lucky to have a great elmer when I was learning CW (by the way I still am learning) and I would love to pass that on to someone else. Whatever you do, just don't give up!

I hope you enjoy reading Issue #3. I really enjoy putting this monthly newsletter together for you all and I would love to hear some feedback or suggestions you might have to make it even better. You can leave me a message anytime at [nr9radio@gmail.com](mailto:nr9radio@gmail.com)

Until next time, happy reading!

72 de NR9R Mike

## Fireflies QRP Club Events

### QRPizza Monthly Gathering

Our club does not have regular formal meetings. Instead we choose to meet on the first Wednesday night of each month at a local restaurant to swap stories about recent QRP adventures, show off our latest creations, and plan future events. Early on, these gatherings often happened at local pizzerias and the name phrase “QRPizza” was created.



Our next QRPizza Monthly Gathering will be Wednesday June 5, 2019 at 5:55pm.  
The location is Monical's Pizza on 9271 US Hwy 36 (Rockville Rd) in Avon, Indiana 46123

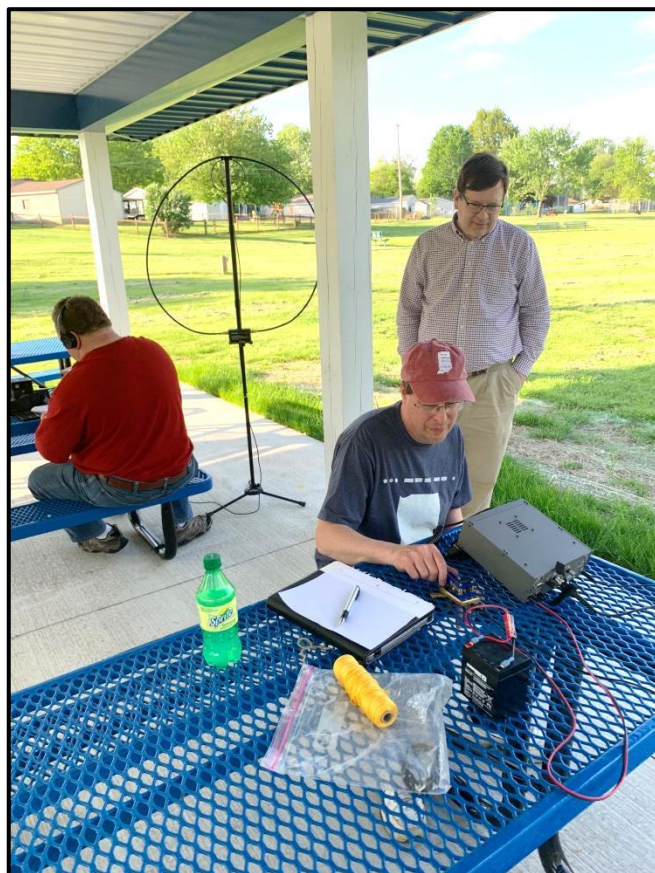
### QRP “In the Park”

Why wait until Field Day to have fun operating outdoors? We do it every month here! ...except for winter. We invite everyone to come out and experience amateur radio outdoors at parks located around the state.

Some of the “In the Park” events we are planning for 2019 include Satellites, Fireworks, Donuts and more. Do you have an idea for an “In the Park” event, please let us know. We are open to anything.

Our next QRP “In the Park” event will be Saturday June 8<sup>th</sup> from 7:55am-9:55am at Hummel Park in Plainfield. This will be our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual “Donuts in the Park” event.

Come out and join us for coffee, donuts and QRP in the park. If you have any questions or need help locating the park, email NR9R Mike at [nr9radio@gmail.com](mailto:nr9radio@gmail.com)





## Fireflies QRP Club Events

### Fireflies QRP Weekly VHF QRP Net and Roundtable

Our club meets weekly on the KO9F repeater located in Danville on Sunday Nights at 7:55pm. Last week was our first net and we had 6 check-ins including NR9R Mike who was net control.

Our net is made up of two segments, the first is an information and announcement segment and the second is a roundtable. It's a great chance to catch up with other club members and get the latest news in QRP. Club membership is not required to check-in.

The frequency for the KO9F repeater is 147.165 with a +600 kHz offset, there is no PL tone. Thank you to the Dillman Amateur Radio Experimenters for their support and allowing us to use the repeater.

KB9BVN Brian was our very first station to check into our very first net on May 5, 2019. Because of this, Brian was presented with the "Early Bird" award at our recent "Frisbees in the Park" event. Congratulations to Brian!

Brian was able to check in from two counties away so the KO9F repeater has a really good footprint. We hope to have more if you checking-in in the weeks to come.

If you are interested in taking a turn as net control, please reach out to us and we will work you into the rotation.



# Firefly Numbers

## The Wait is Over...

We have assigned Firefly numbers, also known as FF numbers to each member. We will be putting these numbers to use in the near future as we are developing a points and reward system for “collecting fireflies” by working other stations on the air, QRP of course! More to come on this soon...

FF #	CALLSIGN	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	LOCATION
1	W9ILF	Flint	Ivin	Indiana
2	NR9R	Andrus	Mike	Indiana
3	N2CBD	Day	Gary	Indiana
4	KB9BVN	Murrey	Brian	Indiana
5	W9BRI	McQueen	Steve	Indiana
6	KD9GZJ	McGruder	Jermaine	Indiana
7	WB9CIF	Musick	Mark	Indiana
8	NW9F	Davis	Tim	Indiana
9	AC9HP	Michael	Wayne	Indiana
10	N9GSU	Garret	Rick	Indiana
11	W9BU	Burns	Bob	Indiana
12	KB9ZUV	Lee	Gary	Indiana
13	KB7ZGB	Rai	Robert	Indiana
14	KD9HWL	Knierman	Michael	Indiana
15	N9IZ	Brown	Jeff	Indiana
16	KB9BZD	Bollinger	Seth	Indiana
17	N9SF	Thompson	Bob	Indiana
18	KE9V	Davis	Jeff	Indiana
19	WB9DPN	Burdan	Rick	Indiana
20	K9RBH	Hockett	Rick	Indiana
21	AC9MZ	Kinney	Daniel	Indiana/Maine
22	K0EAP	Philipp	Eric	Minnesota
23	KC9TYA	Thienes	Mark	Indiana
24	KD9LUP	Breity	Jason	Indiana
25	KG5FP	Pitts	Sam	Texas
26	K6GTE	Bridak	Michael	California

27	W6FGH	Hampton	Robert	California
28	KE2YK	Utz	Gary	New York
29	AC9DN	Crosier	Roy	Missouri
30	WG0AT	Galchutt	Steve	Colorado
31	M0UAT	Marsh	Ian	England
32	KB4QNR	Rolph	Charles	Kentucky
33	AD0WB	Bywater	Mike	Colorado
34	AA5TN	Dailey	Gordon	Illinois
35	K7III	Milhoan	Jason	Washington
36				

If you are not on the list and you would like to have a Firefly number assigned to your callsign, please email us at [firefliesqrp@gmail.com](mailto:firefliesqrp@gmail.com) and you will be assigned the next sequential number on the list. While our club is based in Central Indiana, you do not need to reside in Indiana to join our club. The only requirement is your desire to embrace the "QRP'er way" and do more with less.





## QSL Cards - The Final Courtesy of a QSO

Written by KB9BVN Brian

When I first started getting on HF and running QRP CW I was excited to send and get a QSL card for every single QSO I made. I know, a lot of people think QSLing with paper cards is so old fashioned. Maybe it is, but occasionally I look through my cards and they bring back very fond memories. Memories of friends I have met, some friends I have never met, and great QSO's made that just stick in my mind.

SW40+ 4W  
Invited me

**OHIO**  
BUTLER COUNTY  
GRID: EM79

**WB6JBM**

**RICHARD POWELL**  
4957 Buckhorn Drive  
West Chester, OH 45069  
U.S.A.

CONFIRMING QSO WITH	DATE			UTC	MHz	RST	MODE 2-WAY
	DAY	MONTH	YEAR				
KB9BVN	22	05	00	0050	7.04	339	CW

#227 SOUNDING Great!!! 270mw crystal clear! Great JOB Brain! 73, 12,00's

☐ PSE QSL ☒ TNX QSL A W4MPY QSL FP#2

This is a QSL card from May 22, 2000. Almost 19 years ago. Richard, or /rick as he became known was a fellow QRP CW nut over in Ohio. Richard was Flying Pig # -2, and he worked my homebrew 270mW transmitter based on the now famous Tuna Tin II by Doug DeMaw W1FB. Richard was using a homebrew 40m radio called the Small Wonder Labs SW40+ at 4 watts into a homemade wire antenna. Richard called me Brain, and called Ivin W9ILF "Irwin".

Big deal huh? 2000 was my first year to go to Four Days in May. Mikey WB8ICN from Michigan allowed me to stick my cot in his hotel room and hang out with the QRP ARCI guys. I traveled to the Ramada Inn in Dayton, never having met any of these QRPers that I had been working on the air since the Fall of 1998. During this stay I met Richard, and we became great friends. Hitting hamfest in Ohio, and Bedford Indiana, and having the best time being Flying Pigs. The FP's held a great Field Day at Caesar Creek

State Park in Ohio for many years, and I would go and hang out with them and just enjoy the operating and QRP brotherhood. It was customary for Richard and his son Matthew to dress in spandex and run in with the torch to light the Field Day fire...OMG...it was spectacular.

In October of 2001, my mother passed away suddenly. My ham radio friend /rick drove up from Cincinnati to be with my family. He didn't ask, he just showed up and he was incredibly helpful during this time of grief and sorrow. A good friend indeed. In 2016 /rick was diagnosed with cancer. In July of 2016 he was gone. This was the last of many QSL cards I ever got from him. It's one of my prized possessions. He was running a FT 817 to a handmade dipole he slung up in the trees in the back of his home in Conyers Georgia. This was May 19, 2016.

WB6JBM  
2298 Rolling Acres Dr. SW  
CONYERS, GA ATLANTA METRO 300

**WB6JBM**

Richard Powell  
2298 Rolling Acres Dr. SW  
Conyers, Georgia 30094  
USA

FT817, Dipole @  
K8RA 205T  
p-4 paddles

Rockdale County ~ EM73XP  
slashrick@gmail.com

**FLYING PIGS QRP CLUB INTERNATIONAL**

**FP #2**

www.fpqr.org

Confirming QSO with	Date	UTC	RST	Freq	Mode	QSL	
	Day / Mo / Yr					Pse	Tst
KB9BVN	19/05/16	23.27	579	7030.7	CW	X	

So, those QSL cards can become valuable prized possessions. I use LOTW, and eQSL as well...but you just can't hold those in your hand and feel the mojo from that QSO. QSLing is expensive, so I say to you, make those QSO's meaningful. Get out there and meet some new friends. Learn to ragchew. Don't take ham radio so seriously.





This is /rick, Ivin W9ILF, and a guy I just can't remember....Field Day in Ohio 2000 and something...

73 de KB9BVN

Flying Pig # -57

Proud to be a QRP Firefly!

### Editor's Note from NR9R

Thank you for sharing this awesome story with us Brian, or should I say Brain. The Flying Pigs QRP group is one of the best for sure. When we came up with the idea to start a QRP club here in Indiana is was influenced by what groups like the Flying Pigs did over in Ohio. We wanted to create an environment to enjoy the hobby of amateur radio that encouraged having fun and developing friendships. I hope we are well on our way to doing just that.

Exchanging QSL cards has been a tradition in amateur radio since the 1930's as a way of confirming a QSO with another station. Since then, they have also become a way to put your own personal touch on the QSO and expressing your creativity with photographs and more. I get very excited when I see a card come in the mail. I am happy to exchange QSL cards with anyone I have a QSO with, no SASE required, keeping the tradition alive and well for years to come!

## Learning the Code



### Written by NR9R Mike

I've seen several of you commenting that you are interested in learning Morse Code and operating CW. I want to encourage you to follow through on that desire and not to let it go. Yes, learning code can be challenging and you will need to invest some time into doing it, but the rewards you will get in return definitely make it all worth the effort.

For me, learning the code was something I was not crazy about at first but I had to embrace the idea because I really enjoyed operating outdoors. I would take my equipment to lakes, rivers, and parks around the state, setup a simple station and try to make some contacts. I was having a blast operating outdoors but I was not really making a lot of contacts on due to the fact that I was operating at low power. That is when a friend of mine N7CZ Bob told me that if I really wanted to do well operating QRP I was going to have to operate CW. After thinking about what Bob said for a few days I realized that he was right and I was going to have to tackle learning the code.



My first step was downloading an app on my phone called “Morse Toad”. This was a cheesy but fun looking app that looked much like the 8-bit video games I played when I was younger. There were levels, points, and rewards. Before I knew it I was really getting into the dits and dahs and learning several new letters a day. I was having so much fun that I made it through the entire alphabet in 2 weeks. For me, the code had a very “melodic” sound to it. Each character had a distinctive sound or rhythm which made it easier for me to recognize and the letters that I thought would be the hardest actually became very easy to hear. I play the guitar as well, so listening to code for me almost became like I was listening to music.

During this time I was lucky enough to meet KB9BVN Brian at a local testing session and told him about my interest in operating outdoors. Brian connected me with W9ILF Ivin who also really enjoys operating outdoors and operated almost 100% CW. Ivin quickly became not only my CW elmer but a great friend as well. He really pushed me to keep learning the code and eventually to getting on the air and trying it out. So, with Ivin’s help (and decoding ability) I got on the air and started having fun operating CW. I couldn’t believe it, there I was... sending Morse Code and operating CW! WOOHOO! My first contact was with a station in Tennessee, but it might as well have been Mars because I was smiling ear to ear the entire time. It was so much fun. For me, listening to the code at first reminded me of when I was a kid and I had to decipher the secret code on the back of the cereal box to see what it was Count Chocula was trying to tell me. I would write down each letter as it came across the airwaves and before I knew it I had my message! CW quickly became my favorite mode and now I operate CW 90% of the time. As a QRP operator I have had QSO’s with stations in Hawaii, Alaska and countries around the world using just 5 watts and a simple antenna. The thrill of hearing my callsign being sent back to me in Morse Code is something that I will never get tired of hearing.



Don't give up! I remember my very first “solo QSO” with CW. I was calling CQ for 10 minutes and did not hear anything. I kept sending and before I knew it I heard a station loud and clear sending my callsign back to me. I froze! I was excited and scared at the same time and before I knew it I turned the radio off and left the room. I share this funny experience with you because I want you to know that it is normal to be scared, just don't let it keep you from sticking to it.

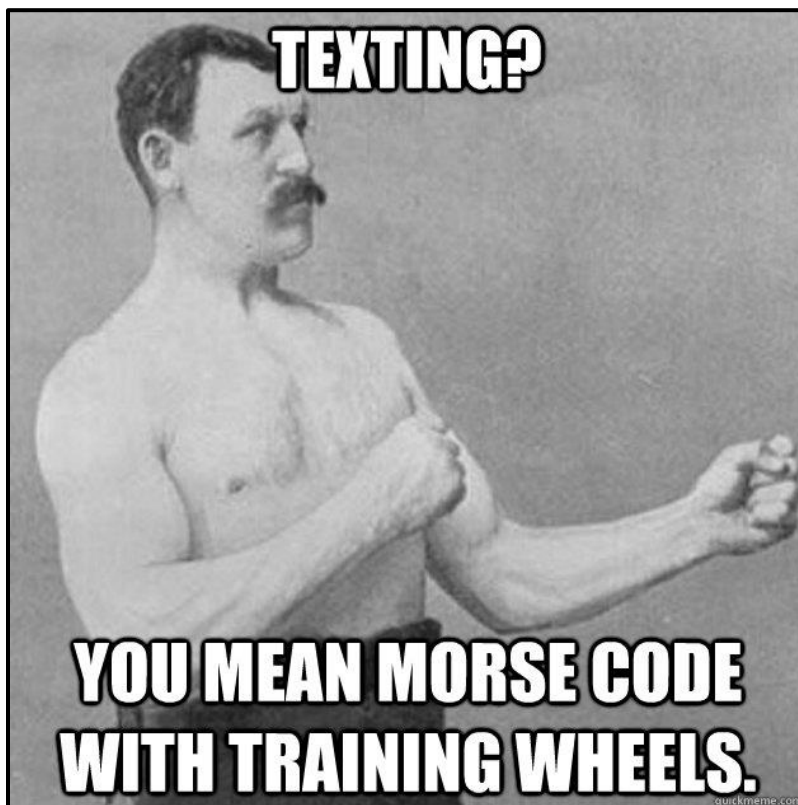


I still get nervous when I get into a QSO with someone, I still make mistakes when sending code, but I still have fun each and every time I do it! There are plenty of CW operators out there who understand, we have all been there before and we are happy to slow down and be patient with you and to get you through the QSO. The more you do it, the better you will get. I promise you.

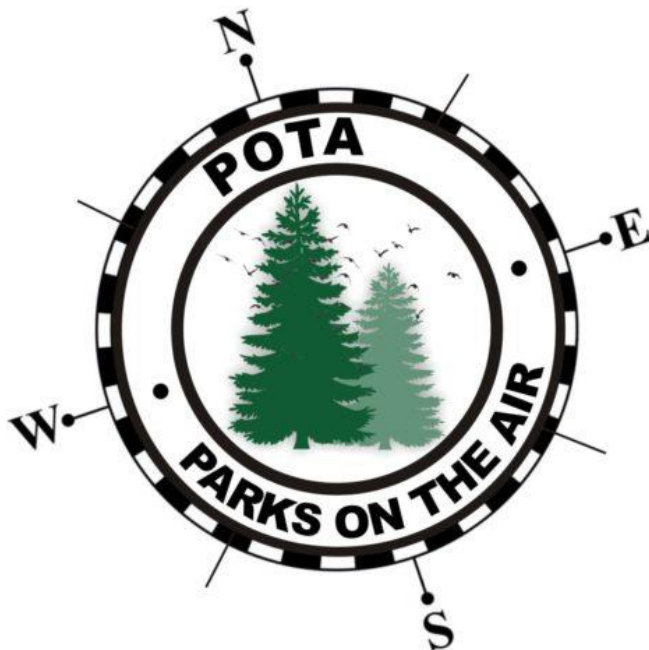
So now that you are pumped up and ready to learn the code for yourself, the next question is how? I wish there was a good answer for that. We all learn differently and you will have to figure out which way is best for you. There are tons of resources out there from audio files/tapes to phone apps and everything in between. You'll find online classes that are free to take like the ones from CW Ops and the Long Island CW Club. The ARRL has countless resources and you always have us as well, your fellow Fireflies that will do whatever we can to encourage you and help you in any way possible to learn the code. Come out and join us at any of our "In the Park" events and get on the air with the help of an elmer. The possibilities are endless really. The only thing you need is the desire to learn and the commitment to sticking with it.

If you are interested in learning Morse Code, let me know and I'll be happy to help you along the way just like Ivin, Brian and Bob helped me.

Best of luck,  
72 de NR9R Mike "dit dit"



## Parks on the Air (POTA)



### Written by W9ILF Ivin

POTA has been around a little while and I have run into operators activating locations from time to time just tuning around the ham bands. It always peaks my interest to hear portable stations. I love to stop and try getting SOTA (Summits On The Air) or POTA stations in my log.

A few years ago I had decided to operate as a SOTA station in Indiana. I would be like Steve WG0AT out west at Mt. Herman running QRP from a mountain. However, Indiana only has 3 summits that qualify with their program and NO mountains. Each was pretty much just a drive-up location. No real hiking. So, I skipped that and just took a backpacking trip to the Morgan Monroe state forest with my radio. It was great, but was not a SOTA operation.

More and more I hear POTA stations and there are a ton of parks in the POTA program. I finally took a serious look and signed up a couple weeks ago. It's pretty simple to get started. I was able to create a log-in. I found my favorite "go to" destination listed as K-4215 (again the Morgan Monroe state forest) and I scheduled myself for a POTA operation for May 6<sup>th</sup>. I took the day off from work. I threw my trusty Elecraft K2 radio, an end fed antenna, and battery pack into my backpack and rode my Honda Super Cub mini motorcycle down to the forest.



In order to activate a park you need to make at least 10 QSO's in the park. I wasn't sure how that might work out for a Monday afternoon. Isn't everyone at work on Mondays? The ride was amazing that day. The sun was shining and it was one of the warmest days we have had this May. When I got to the forest I enjoyed the paved roads that run through. Red buds and dog wood trees were in bloom. Going up, down, and around the hills on a small engine motorcycle is a fantastic experience. I soon enough found the shelter I was looking for but it was closed for remodeling. I continued on and found a single park bench and decided that would be the spot. I got the end fed wire up in a tree and hooked the K2 up.

Here is the radio fun. I started calling CQ on the 40 meter calling station I posted with POTA. Very quickly I racked up 4 QSO's! It works!! People look and are wanting to work you! Then Mike NR9R gave me a call from his back yard in our town of Plainfield using 5 watts and a hamstick. I got him which made 5. Mike

spotted me and 4 more were in the log. By this time my 8 AA battery pack was giving out but I kept calling and I thought a station was tuning up on me. Wait..... No, that is Morse code! A..C..9..H..P. 5wpm. It is my good friend Wayne in Indianapolis who saw the spot and worked me from his ipad at work remote through his computer. That was SUPER because it was Wayne's first CW QSO! My friends and I started texted and we were all so excited to be participating and celebrating OUR success. Finally, I got up to 20 meters, again where I said on POTA I would be, and two more came along. 12 total including Canada and RI. At that point it was time to pack it up and ride home.

Operating and riding in the outdoors made for a very memorable day.







The K2 seems pretty good for portable use. It has very low battery consumption so a small power source can last awhile. I have an internal antenna tuner and my Elecraft has the SSB option among some other options. Best of all it is a radio I already own. There is no perfect radio. Each is a balance of performance, battery consumption, size, options. The list goes on but depending on what you are doing with your radio you might choose something different. I love my single band rigs, but for this trip size wasn't as much of a concern. I still had to consider battery use and having SSB can help get more stations in the log.

A few days later I put my QSO's into my electronic log and sent them off to my "9" call POTA volunteer in ADIF format. My understanding is your designated log coordinator with POTA is by the number in your call sign. Jen KD9FMJ volunteers for 9 calls. She confirmed my log was good and congratulated me on my first activation. Thank you, Jen, for volunteering with POTA! I'm already signed up for my next trip which will be May 18 to McCormick Creek state park. Please look me up and listen for my QRP station. I can't wait to get you in my log.

72,  
Ivin W9ILF

## QRP Sprints and Contest

### 4 State QRP Club Second Sunday Sprint

This QRP sprint occurs monthly on the second Sunday of each month from 8pm-10pm

For more information visit [www.4sgrp.com](http://www.4sgrp.com)

### NAQCC Monthly QRP Sprint

This QRP sprint occurs monthly on the third Wednesday during the months of Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep & Nov and the second Tuesday during the months of Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct & Dec from 8:30pm-10:30pm

For more information visit [www.naqcc.info](http://www.naqcc.info)

### Flying Pigs QRP Run for the Bacon

This QRP sprint occurs monthly on the third Sunday of each month from 9pm-11pm

For more information visit [www.fpqrp.org](http://www.fpqrp.org)

All times given are local EST for Indiana.

If you have a contest or sprint you would like to add to our list, please email the information to us at [firefliesgrp@gmail.com](mailto:firefliesgrp@gmail.com)

# Thank you for reading!

## Email Reflector/Group

We have an email reflector/group setup with groups.io ...simply do a search for "FirefliesQRP" or email us at [firefliesqrp@gmail.com](mailto:firefliesqrp@gmail.com) for a invitation link to join the group.

## Follow us on Twitter

Are you a tweeter? ☺ Follow us on Twitter @firefliesQRP

## Weekly QRP Net

Please join us every Sunday night at 7:55pm as we host the Fireflies QRP and Roundtable net. We hold the net on the KO9F 147.165 +600 kHz repeater, no PL tone needed.

## Share your story

Do you have a QRP related story to share in our newsletter? Please send all stories to [firefliesqrp@gmail.com](mailto:firefliesqrp@gmail.com) and don't forget to include lots of photos.

## Subscribe/Unsubscribe

If you would like to subscribe or unsubscribe to this monthly email newsletter simply email us at [firefliesqrp@gmail.com](mailto:firefliesqrp@gmail.com) and include the word subscribe or unsubscribe in the body of your email.

Until next month, 72...

