

Skills and Thrills of Operating *QRP*

FRRL Program

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QRP is...

- Making contacts with less than 5 watts of transmitter output power

and MUCH more

QRP rigs can be...

- Home brew or commercial
- 100 watts turned down to 5 watts
- Portable or mobile or home stations
- Old vintage or modern
- Usually CW but can be SSB or PSK or ?

Operating QRP can be...

- Easy with a big antenna
- More challenging with a smaller antenna
- The next mountain to climb
- Very rewarding

- The intent of the FCC rules
 - Using just enough power to communicate

IT WILL BE FUN !

Benefits of QRP...

- Less interference on the bands
- No EME hazards
- Lower cost radios
- Sharpens your operating skills
- Encourages more efficient antennas
- Propagation knowledge is useful

Partial List of QRP rigs

- Icom IC703
- Yaesu FT817
- Elecraft K1, K2, K3, KX1, KX3
- Index Labs QRP+
- Pixie 2
- TenTec PM1, PM2, PM3, Argonaut V, 509
- RockMite
- MFJ Cub
- Small Wonder Labs
- NorCal-40
- Wilderness Sierra
- Oak Hill Research
- SGC-2020
- Soft Rock V6
- Heathkit HW-7, HW-9
- Tuna-Tin-II
- Hendricks DC40

QRP Operating Techniques

- Know traditional QRP calling frequencies
- Listen, listen, listen
 - Interpret band conditions
 - Know your radio
 - Tune the band slowly, have patience
 - Be the first to hear the DX station calling CQ, before the DX cluster
- Tail ending – sending your call just as prior QSO is ending
- Give honest signal reports – they appreciate it
- Perhaps wait until later in QSO to say using QRP
- Fun to keep track of your watts per mile
- When calling DX, timing & frequency selection is everything
- Gray-line propagation can enhance your chance of success
- Search and pounce in contests is productive – they are listening hard
- If there is a mode based contest, operate the other less crowded mode

CW QRP Calling Frequencies

- 1810
- 3560
- 3579
- 3710
- 7030
- 7035
- 7110
- 10106
- 14060
- 18096
- 21060
- 21110
- 24906
- 28060
- 28110
- 50080-50100
- 144060

SSB QRP Calling Frequencies

- 1910
- 3985
- 7285
- 14285
- 18130
- 21385
- 24950
- 28885
- 28385
- 50125
- 144285