

FYBO 2010

William Eric McFadden, WD8RIF

February 12, 2010

"Freeze Your B___ Off" (FYBO) is a wintertime QRP field day sponsored by the Arizona ScQRPions. The event runs for twelve hours, and the rules include a score multiplier inversely proportional to temperature "at the key"—with a maximum multiplier of 6 for temperatures below 20°F—and multipliers for field operation, alternative power, SPCs, and operating at a power level of less than 1-watt. FYBO generally occurs on the last Saturday in February. This year, FYBO occurred on February 6.

Over the years, I have operated FYBO in the plastic-wrapped Kiwanis Shelter at the Athens Fairgrounds (1997, 1998, 1999 with AA8EB, W8MHV, N8XWO) and in an outbuilding (2000, with AA8EB). More recently, I have operated FYBO in a tent on our side yard (2004, 2005, 2008 with AA8EB, W8MHV, N8XWO). I've operated into resonant dipoles, non-resonant doublets, multiband vertical and end-fed wires.

For 2010, I operated FYBO solo in the tent in our side yard. Because of the forecast for heavy snow, Miles and I erected the tent Thursday before the event so we wouldn't need to erect the tent during heavy snow or erect the tent on top of deep snow.

Saturday morning...



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Arizona ScQRPions "Freeze Your B___ Off" 2010

Photo 1 – the tent, buried under snow

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Photo 2 – the tent, buried under snow

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After cleaning the snow off the tent before it could collapse, Miles and I erected my new-to-me 33' fiberglass mast to support the center of a lightweight 88' twinlead-fed doublet. The mast was mounted using a modified roof-top tripod.



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Photo 3 – the 88' doublet supported by the 33' fiberglass mast

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My station inside the tent consisted of my Elecraft K2, LDG Z-11 auto-tuner and external balun, CMOS Super Keyer II, K8RA P2jr iambic paddle, and Nye-Viking Speed-X straight key, the straight key being easier to operate than iambic paddles while wearing gloves.



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Photo 4 – the station inside the tent

Power to the station was provided by a 12v 5Ah gel-cell that was previously charged with solar power, an 18-watt photovoltaic panel, and a charge controller.



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Photo 5 – the tent, solar panel, and antenna

In the past few years, my fingers have become extremely sensitive to cold so for this event I wore light knit gloves over chemical hand-warmers. I also wore long johns, wool socks, and insulated boots in addition to long johns, wool scarf, jacket, and hat. This attire, plus occasional trips inside, kept me comfortably warm for the event.

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Due to family obligations, I only participated over an 8-hour window, taking down the antenna and station just prior to nightfall. Over that time, I made 24 QSOs on 20m, 40m, and 80m.

Arizona ScQRPIons
Freeze Your B Off!
February 6, 2010 1400Z-2400Z

William Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
12600 Adeline Circle
Athens OH 45701

WD8RIF exchange: (RST) OH Eric (pwr out) (temp F) – class Single Op Field
Location: 12600 Adeline Circle, Athens, Ohio

Time (UTC)	Freq	Callsign	RST (s)	RST (r)	SPC	Name	PWR	Temp (s)	Temp (r)	Notes
1 1355	3550	K8RAT	SSn	SSn	000	MIKE	5W	42	61	mine in house
2 1455	3034	W4BDA	SSn	SSn	000	GARY	5W	39	17	
3 1503	2034	W4ESG	SSn	SSn	000	GP	5W	39	18	
4 1511	2040	W4BDA	SSn	SSn	000	AL	5W	39	40	
5 1515	1460	W4BDA	SSn	SSn	000	DM	5W	39	20	
6 1610	2034	W4BDA	SSn	SSn	000	RIK	4W	40	45	20m in house of 401
7 1905	1460	W4BDA	SSn	SSn	000	DM	5W	40	41	
8 2010	2034	W4BDA	SSn	SSn	000	DM	5W	42	45	
9 1858	2034	W4BDA	SSn	SSn	000	DM	5W	41	69	
10 1843	2040	W4BDA	SSn	SSn	000	DM	5W	42	22	
11 1858	2034	W4BDA	SSn	SSn	000	DM	5W	42	57	
12 2000	1460	W4BDA	SSn	SSn	000	DM	5W	39	30	Pedestrian noise
13 2012	2034	W4BDA	SSn	SSn	000	DM	5W	40	92	
14 2018	2034	W4BDA	SSn	SSn	000	DM	5W	40	31	
15 2020	2034	W4BDA	SSn	SSn	000	DM	5W	40	31	
16 2020	2034	W4BDA	SSn	SSn	000	DM	5W	40	31	
17 2027	2034	W4BDA	SSn	SSn	000	DM	5W	40	31	
18 2031	2034	W4BDA	SSn	SSn	000	DM	5W	40	31	
19 2039	2034	W4BDA	SSn	SSn	000	DM	5W	40	31	
20 2130	2034	W4BDA	SSn	SSn	000	DM	5W	40	31	

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Location: 12600 Adeline Circle, Athens, Ohio

Time (UTC)	Freq	Callsign	RST (s)	RST (r)	SPC	Name	PWR	Temp (s)	Temp (r)	Notes
1 2133	2040	W4BDA	SSn	SSn	000	DM	5W	40	31	
2 2140	2040	W4BDA	SSn	SSn	000	DM	5W	40	31	
3 2145	2040	W4BDA	SSn	SSn	000	DM	5W	40	31	
4 2151	2040	W4BDA	SSn	SSn	000	DM	5W	40	31	
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6										
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Photo 6 – the FYBO 2010 log

As can be seen in the log, temperature in the tent was 42°F for the first QSO but dropped to 35°F by the time I quit just before sunset. The lowest temperature at the other end was 10°F, and was reported by a ham in Quebec. A ham in Michigan reported 16°F and another in Ontario reported 17°F. Several other stations reported temps in the 20s.

I heard very few stations on 20m but later learned that 20m was hopping with FYBO signals. It's possible that the 88' doublet is too directive and was oriented wrong, or it's possible that the times I checked 20m were precisely the times when the band was nearly dead.

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I worked Nick, WA5BDU, in Arkansas, who was running an ATS-3 transceiver (built into an Altoids tin) at 5-watts. He reported a temperature of 40°F.



Photo 7 – WA5BDU, FYBO 2010



Photo 8 – WA5BDU, FYBO 2010

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I worked Scott, N0AR, in an ice-fishing tent in Minnesota, who was running an FT-817 at 5-watts. Scott reported a temperature of 20°F.



Photo 9 – N0AR, FYBO 2010



Photo 10 – N0AR, FYBO 2010

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One interesting QSO was with Paul, W0RW, in Colorado who was “pedestrian-mobile” using a PRC319 military back-pack transceiver running 5-watts into a 10’ whip. Paul was operating at the 13,000’ level of Pike’s Peak, in an area called “Devil’s Playground”.

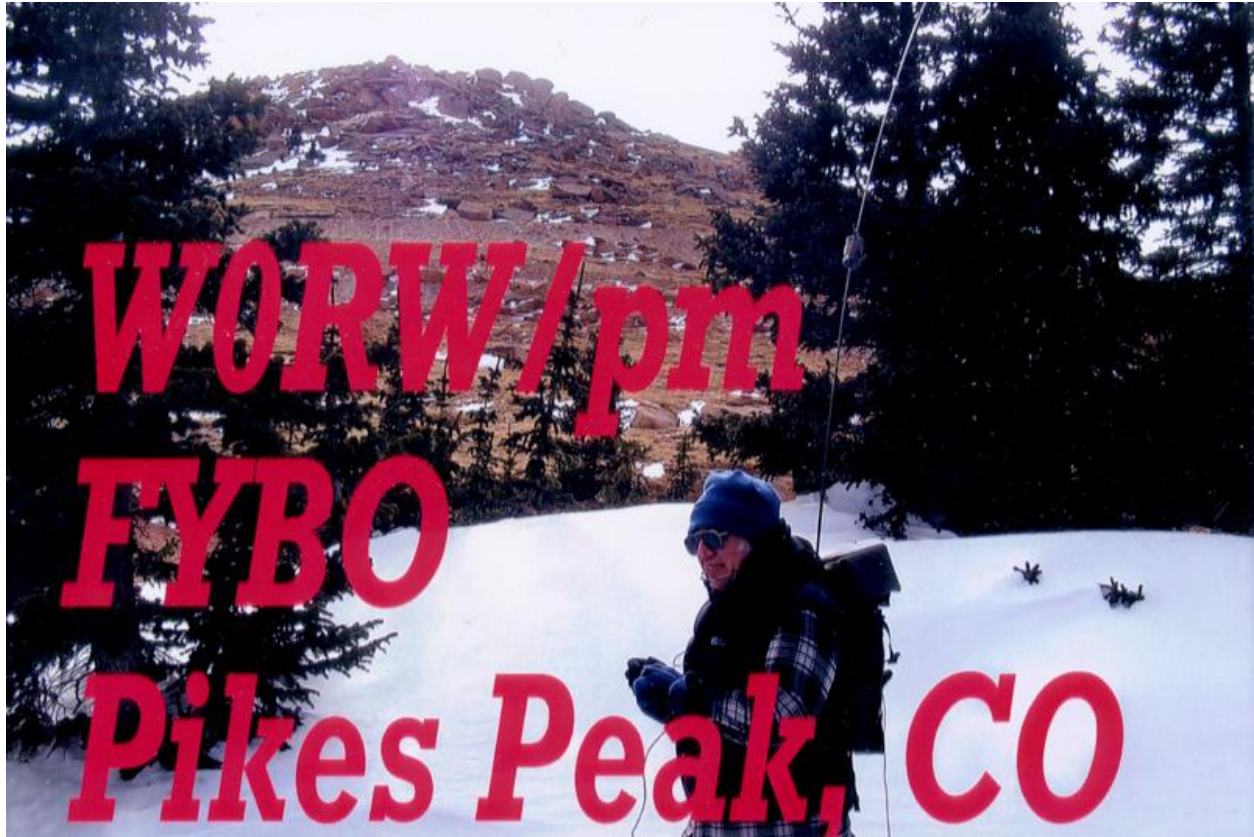


Photo 11 – W0RW/PM

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Arizona ScQRPions: <http://www.azscqrpions.com/>

FYBO Rules: <http://www.azscqrpions.com/fybo2009rules.html>

W1FMR text: <http://www.kkn.net/archives/html/QRPL/2010-02/msg00261.html>
text: <http://www.kkn.net/archives/html/QRPL/2010-02/msg00214.html>
photos: <http://cid-37325652ec78448a.skydrive.live.com/albums.aspx>

K4JSI text: <http://www.kkn.net/archives/html/QRPL/2010-02/msg00231.html>

KK6MC text: <http://www.kkn.net/archives/html/QRPL/2010-02/msg00228.html>

WA5BDU text: <http://www.kkn.net/archives/html/QRPL/2010-02/msg00223.html>
photos: <http://picasaweb.google.com/kennnick/FYBO2010OnPJ#>

VG3SIE/ text: <http://www.kkn.net/archives/html/QRPL/2010-02/msg00215.html>
VG3CKD photos/video: <http://va3sie.blogspot.org/?p=325>

N0AR text: <http://www.kkn.net/archives/html/QRPL/2010-02/msg00207.html>
photos: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/11303376@N05/sets/72157623243064407/>

KB4QQJ text: <http://www.kkn.net/archives/html/QRPL/2010-02/msg00205.html>

NQ7RP text: <http://www.kkn.net/archives/html/QRPL/2010-02/msg00202.html>

K7GO text: <http://www.kkn.net/archives/html/QRPL/2010-02/msg00201.html>

AB9CA/4 text: <http://www.kkn.net/archives/html/QRPL/2010-02/msg00200.html>
photos: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/24087876@N06/sets/72157623254067549/>

AJ4AY text: <http://www.kkn.net/archives/html/QRPL/2010-02/msg00204.html>

KC8QVO blog w/photos: <http://www.kc8qvo.com/2010/02/fybo-2010.html>

WA5RML text: <http://www.kkn.net/archives/html/QRPL/2010-02/msg00290.html>

W0RW/PM text: <http://www.kkn.net/archives/html/QRPL/2010-02/msg00365.html>

(QRPL listserv at kkn.net requires authentication qrpl/qrpl.)