

FISTS  
CW  
Club

# The Key Note

News for and about North American, European and New Zealand FISTS members and activities

International  
Morse Preservation  
Society - Issue 3-4

slow Traffic  
Net: Tuesday  
and Thursday  
9PM EST on  
3.682

Slow  
RagChewing  
Group:  
Wednesday at  
9PM EST on  
3.720

Volunteer Net  
Controls  
needed to run  
the Century  
Net on Sunday  
afternoon  
14:00-18:00

Saturday QSO Groups:  
2000Z on 14.058 MHz  
and 7.058 MHz at  
2300Z.

Sunday Slow Speed Chat:  
21.158 MHz at 1700Z  
30 Meter calling fre-  
quency: 10.118

Please keep watch on the  
Novice subbands and fre-  
quencies ending in .x58  
-- but PLEASE spread  
out. There have been over  
7000 FISTS numbers is-  
sued now, if we all try and  
chat on these frequencies  
all anyone will get is a lot  
of QRM. Please be  
courteous of nets and  
QSOs in progress.

Courtesy At All Times!  
Issue 3 & 4 combo 2000

Hello FISTS! As you may know, I had a com-  
puter crash a couple months ago. Thankfully, no  
FISTS membership files were lost, but it made  
a mess of my email and my KeyNote writing  
essentials. I have a new computer now, and had  
to install everything, including a new email pro-  
gram and a new version of the program I use to  
write the KeyNote, PageMaker, so I am learn-  
ing this program all over again! Maybe I'll learn  
some new tricks and be able to make the  
KeyNote more visually appealing. Please bear  
with me during this pro-

cess.

This is a combination

Inside this issue:  
■ The Novice RoundUp Results issue of Issue 3 and 4  
■ FISTS Spring Sprint Rules  
■ Restructuring: A Petition for  
■ Reconsideration is filed, your com-  
ments to the FCC are needed

not only because of the  
computer crash mess-  
ing up my schedule, but  
because my real job

got very hectic. (yes, I work for a living, I am  
not a lady of leisure just lounging around, eating  
bon-bons and assigning FISTS numbers, hi) I  
work for the Census Bureau and am respon-  
sible for coordinating the counting of the home-  
less and the people in group homes living  
situations in Mid-Michigan. We had a big month,  
counting the people at the shelters, soup kitch-  
ens and mobile food van facilities. I was putting  
in 12 and 16 hour days. That makes for terrific  
paychecks, but it's not so terrific for getting any-  
thing else done.

I fell behind on the KeyNote and my World  
Radio column, as well as my housework. The  
house looks like a tornado hit it. The next thing  
on my list to-do after getting this to the printers  
is to wash the kitchen floor. My Bouvier,  
Peaches, has been tracking in Spring mud and I

can't tell what color the  
floor used to be!

There are a lot of  
FISTS activities com-  
ing up in the near fu-  
ture. I hope you will be  
able to participate in.  
We have the Spring  
Sprint in May as well  
as the Dayton  
Hamvention, and don't  
forget Field Day in  
June!

If you can help out at  
the FISTS booth, we  
will happily put you to  
work. We are hoping  
to have a FISTS get  
together on Friday  
evening, but the place  
hasn't been confirmed  
yet. Stop by the booth  
for details. Unfortu-  
nately, Father FISTS,  
Geo G3ZQS will not  
be hopping across the  
Pond to join us this  
year. He says the flight  
is a bit more tiring than  
he wants to endure, not  
to mention the exhaus-  
tion of standing in lines  
for Customs and all  
that goes along with it.  
We'll miss him!

## Your Subscription Is Due!

Your renewal date is on your mailing label, however, it seems to be inconvenient for many to check the label, and it's very inconvenient for me to send out renewal notices, so this is a compromise. This list isn't intended to embarrass anyone. If you see your callsign on this list, it means that your subs are either overdue, due now or will be due in the next month. To renew, send \$15 (payable to FISTS, pse) to PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440. If you sent in your renewal within the last month and your call is on here, please don't panic, it probably means it crossed in the mail with the delivery of this Issue. There is about a three week lag between the time I take the KeyNote to the printer and the time you receive it.

AA0MZ	A14CW	K6GVG	KA5TUF	KB9ORF	KD5FLO	KG3Q	KV6E	N3SLR	N8UHL
AA0SX	A14ED	K6PBQ	KA7JSJ	KB9QKW	KD6CC	KG4AYU	KX0T	N3SVK	N8WPX
AA1KF	CO6BR	K6TBW	KA7PLE	KB9RID	KD6HTV	KG4DRR	N0ABA	N3UWZ	N8WR
AA1NZ	HP1AC	K6VV	KA7PMD	KB9ROB	KD6NOF	KG5X	N0CI	N3VJV	N9CU
AA1RX	K0DG	K6WHP	KA7V	KB9SDU	KD6NPA	KG8UY	N0DLJ	N3WTW	N9EP
AA3SJ	K0LEE	K6YN	KA8CBZ	KB9SSV	KD7JG	KG8ZQ	N0EA	N3ZPQ	N9IGE
AA5JJ	K0PV	K7EF	KA8FVZ	KC0DUO	KE0Z	KG9ML	N0IHM	N4BNO	N9LEC
AA6FO	K0VAN	K7EU	KA9EDR	KC0EHH	KE1LG	KG9OR	N0JWI	N4CLR	N9PM
AA7FK	K0WQ	K7GLN	KA9GXZ	KC0W	KE3FA	KI0G	N0KBB	N4EO	N9RIV
AA8MI	K1ARO	K7IE	KA9RPN	KC2AEF	KE4CAW	KI0MF	N0LVP	N4LP	N9TA
AA8YO	K1KAR	K7JIZ	KA9WAC	KC2AUH	KE4JSL	KI5HI	N0OB	N4ONT	N9TKS
AA9CI	K1QT	K7OF	KB0UDM	KC2BQM	KE4LIA	KI5SP	N0RC	N4PF	N9TU
AA9HD	K1RED	K7PRZ	KB1ALE	KC2CKL	KE4LJS	KI6DS	N0RKS	N4PNN	N9VB
AA9QE	K1YZB	K7QO	KB1CFB	KC4IYD	KE4NGS	KI7JL	N0RZ	N4XY	N9VV
AA9SY	K2GWR	K7UF	KB1CQY	KC4OCS	KE4ODE	KI7Q	N0SOT	N5CV	N9YAI
AB2BK	K2HD	K7UQH	KB2IOO	KC4UBC	KE4RB	KI7UU	N0SS	N5LF	NA4MA
AB5ZS	K2LML	K7WF	KB2LML	KC4VIA	KE4REM	KI8FQ	N0TP	N5SC	NA7R
AB6WS	K2MYQ	K7ZPE	KB2SGM	KC5DUI	KE4THG	KJ5TF	N0XTN	N5TW	NA9A
AB7ZL	K2PQ	K8BBM	KB2SQT	KC5JEV	KE6GTR	KK4TI	N0ZP	N5VC	NB1Q
AB8BT	K2SAQ	K8BY	KB2WQZ	KC5JTS	KE6P	KK5ZA	N1EVO	N5VU	NB4DN
AB8CR	K2VL	K8EHE	KB2WXI	KC5RGQ	KE6QR	KK7OM	N1NGM	N5WL	NB4J
AC4DT	K2YJL	K8IFU	KB2ZYU	KC5TXX	KE6ZSN	KK7RP	N1NX	N6KZN	NI6P
AC4UD	K3ALS	K8JV	KB3CQU	KC5VLP	KE6ZWZ	KL7QOW	N1OCJ	N6LM	NJ4K
AC5EH	K3CJQ	K8KFJ	KB3DRW	KC5WES	KF2MU	KL7VIC	N1PWM	N6MM	NK4E
AC5EZ	K3HX	K8KUG	KB5OGN	KC6PNX	KF2P	KM4BR	N1QY	N6NOU	NK6D
AC5PP	K3KDC	K8NL	KB6OAJ	KC7FIM	KF2TP	KM5AV	N1TAT	N6PJP	NK8V
AC6FI	K3LR	K8PP	KB7OMU	KC7HCR	KF4EIB	KM5DT	N1TP	N6RNP	NO8V
AC6LP	K3RAT	K8SZN	KB7SVA	KC7JJ	KF4HAY	KM7T	N1WNT	N6RQL	NR4G
AC7AJ	K3ROJ	K8UGL	KB8GDU	KC7YUI	KF4JRO	KN2X	N1YIV	N6SFW	NS3O
AD4UI	K3VUT	K8VB	KB8LGE	KC8BOJ	KF4NMK	KN3ZOG	N1YLA	N6VOH	NU4N
AD5X	K4CMH	K9GBD	KB8NKP	KC8EFP	KF4VWZ	KN4SX	N2ADP	N6ZBZ	NU7E
AD6CC	K4COB	K9GC	KB8OOM	KC8FDP	KF6AHW	KO4TT	N2BWM	N7BQ	NX8L
AD6EF	K4EQH	K9JDC	KB8OOR	KC8FGQ	KF6AUO	KO6QR	N2EI	N7FF	NY2V
AD6ES	K4HL	K9KRN	KB8RUD	KC8FTN	KF6CR	KQ0I	N2EY	N7GSU	NZ0T
AD6EZ	K4NIC	K9UQN	KB8TMR	KC8GCR	KF6FCN	KQ4E	N2LMC	N7KBJ/0	VA3HU
AD6FL	K4OVW	K9VKY	KB8TO	KC8GLV	KF6GAB	KQ6DV	N2OSY	N7NU	VA3JEG
AD6HR	K4SGQ	K9XE	KB8TVZ	KC8GNU	KF6GUH	KQ6JH	N2PD	N7PQS	VA3LKH
AE0S	K4TJD	K9ZT	KB8VFJ	KC8GPR	KF6ML	KR5L	N2REM	N7QS	VA3RJ
AE4GH	K4WPM	KA0VJX	KB8WGX	KC8GTA	KF6MYS	KS4C	N2RXX	N7RVD	VE1BBW
AE4JD	K4WZ	KA0VZZ	KB8WSG	KC8JMV	KF6ZZ	KS4TD	N2VO	N7VS	VE1DS
AE4NA	K5DKH	KA1ZQR	KB8WVW	KC8KSD	KF7TY	KT4EL	N2YKH	N7YY	VE1MAM
AE4NW	K5IGB	KA2FDA	KB8ZYY	KD4LBJ	KF8KS	KT4GZ	N2YVF	N8CPA	VE1QJ
AE4PD	K5LG	KA2GHO	KB9IXT	KD4UMU	KF8NS	KT4OW	N3AAT	N8ER	VE1TT
AE8T	K5MOG	KA2OWZ	KB9KGI	KD4VA	KF9VA	KT4ST	N3AQQ	N8EVJ	VE2VAB
AF4BD	K5WN	KA3MWN	KB9KTC	KD4VBR	KG2MV	KU4AV	N3BTM	N8GA	VE2XJ
AF4BI	K6BM	KA3ZXX	KB9KWA	KD5EJA	KG2NT	KU4GE	N3FGO	N8GMC	VE3BKJ
AF4JD	K6DF	KA5HZV	KB9MMI	KD5FJE	KG2OK	KU4WF	N3NNH	N8KV	VE3DAO
								N8UD	VE3DCS

VE3DFV	W4MQC	WA0MJD	WK90
VE3MIQ	W4NJK	WA1CFX	WN3C
VE3TQE	W4OXX	WA1MHH	WO9G
VE3VGI	W4RS	WA2CW	WR2B
VE4GEC	W4ZC	WA2DAC	WR4A
VE5JT	W5AIX	WA2FJK	WS8S
VE6KIB	W5FPL	WA2JLW	WW1L
VE7ALL	W5HNS	WA2PJI	WW2G
VE7API	W5KRF	WA2TWS	WZ7W
VE7CFU	W5KRP	WA2VQV	
VE7FS	W5WWW	WA3NRC	
VE7GAF	W6DY	WA3PTY	
VE7JEF	W6FU	WA3QHJ	
VE7KFK	W6HPK	WA4CMI	
VE7MMH	W6HQA	WA4GWX	
VE7PEB	W6JEB	WA4RD	
VE9PJS	W6KRL	WA5UFH	
VY0XU	W6QR	WA5WHN	
W0AAU	W6SGT	WA5YBC	
W0AGG	W6UJX	WA6BFT	
W0AL	W6WVK	WA6BYD	
W0BQH	W7BMI	WA6ES	
W0CC	W7DAZ	WA6ETF	
W0CHJ	W7DE	WA6TNW	
W0JP	W7EVC	WA6WZA	
W0MYZ	W7KCJ	WA6YPE	
W0NF	W7NES	WA6ZLP	
W0QIK	W7NJU	WA7EWG	
W0RE	W7OJT	WA7S	
W0SL	W7VPK	WA7SPY	
W0SZ	W7VVW	WA8PPW	
W0YPM	W7YCK	WA8PPY	
W0ZQJ	W7ZZZ	WA9VNS	
W1ARS	W8BP	WA9ZQV	
W1BIG	W8CR	WB0AGU	
W1CKV	W8CRO	WB0AUQ	
W1CZ	W8FAX	WB0UWL	
W1GAX	W8GND	WB1DOG	
W1KMG	W8JOH	WB1EEG	
W1SCW	W8JSN	WB2LOS	
W1TTU	W8KEB	WB2RAR	
W1ZOO	W8MON	WB3FOJ	
W2DHT	W8MVN	WB3JJK	
W2DNJ	W8OHC	WB3LJT	
W2IFB	W8PBX	WB4FSF	
W2KJ	W8RTN	WB4RVL	
W2WX	W8VEL	WB5RFM	
W2XJ	W8WC	WB6CMZ	
W2YYS	W9BM	WB7O	
W3BBO	W9CCL	WB7QQQ	
W3GW	W9DND	WB8APR	
W3HK	W9DYG	WB8DPZ	
W3KQ	W9FRC	WB8W	
W3SYR	W9MDI	WD6BYH	
W3ZIF	W9NN	WD8CAT	
W4EAT	W9OO	WD8EHW	
W4FOA	W9OP	WF6W	
W4HEW	W9SJS	WI2G	
W4KHC	W9WIS	WI8Q	
W4LAN	WA0BAG	WJ0C	

## Callsign Changes

John, # 2501, was KG9HE, is now K9HE  
 Warren, 6979, AF4QE is now AF4FW  
 Bill, 7094, was N8IVR, is now AB8FA  
 Ron, 6809, was AC6AC, is now AC7AC  
 FISTS of Ohio, 7200, was KC8NOC, is now  
 W8FFF

Mike, 5737, was WB6SCV, is now K7DER  
 Rich, 5152, was NA3RB, is now NI3R  
 Dan, 6992, was KD6AXT, is now AD6JY  
 Steve, 4676, was N7ELV, is now NU7T  
 Nick, 3299 was KF2PH, is now KF2P  
 Rick, 3405, was AB2GB, is now K2GB  
 Larry, 1469, was N2ELW, is now W2LJ  
 Dan, 6785, was KC8JHX, is now N8HX  
 Dave, 3594, was KQ6NS, is now N6QS  
 Carl, 6541, was AB7YW, is once again  
 W3BM, which  
 was his old call for 20 years.

Jamie, 7009, is now K2KID Congrats on get-  
 ting your  
 callsign, Jamie!

## We Aim to Please!

Many thanks for the extremely quick turnaround  
 service on my FISTS regalia order. The T-shirt  
 looks great. 73, Philip, K9PL FISTS # 6753

Glad you like your T-shirt Philip! We have  
 a few Medium and Large left, so if you don't  
 have yours, hurry! Many thanks to Supply  
 Manager, Irene WO8E. I get many letters from  
 FISTS who appreciate her "service with a smile".

## Code Buddy Testimonial

Ed Weisenbach and I are still at it. He is a god-  
 send. He has the patience of a nun and the ears  
 of an angel. But, progress IS being made. I want  
 to thank you and your organization for the fine  
 work you are doing. I only hope that your group  
 can reap some of your members efforts when I  
 become the teacher. I am still running the J38  
 but have switched to a brand new J37. I will  
 keep you posted. I have yet to talk on my trans-  
 ceiver. 73 Dick KF4DSL and proudly # 7305

## Congratulations

Congrats to Ed, K6SDW, on passing his 20WPM and earning his Extra!

Congrats to Bill, WA6YWA, for passing the 20 WPM and earning Extra class!

Congrats to Gary, KG4DRR, for passing the 20 WPM and earning his Extra!

Congrats to George, KC8HFV, on passing his 20 WPM and earning Extra class!

Congrats to Hector, NP4FW, on passing the 20 WPM and earning Extra class!. Hector is 100% deaf in his left ear, but he's not letting that hold him back.

Congrats to George, N4ZZZ, for passing his Advanced exam!

Congrats to Bill, WA4CX, for passing the 20 WPM and earning Extra!

Congrats to Mike, W5VCZ on passing the 20 WPM and earning Extra!

Congrats to Mike, W4FJJ, on passing the 20 WPM and earning Extra!

Congrats to Rich, NI3R, on passing the 20 WPM and earning Extra!

Congrats to Stewart, WB6FBB, on passing the 20 WPM and earning Extra!

Congrats to Aaron, KC0DXB, for passing the 13 WPM and earning General!

Congrats to Gary, KB9TUI, on passing the 13 WPM and earning General!

Congrats to Fritz, AD6JS, on passing his 20 QWPM and earning Extra!

Congrats to Roger, N4OXZ, on passing the 20 QPM and earning his Extra!

Congrats to David, David KN4OK, on passing the 20 WPM and earning Extra!

### Small Key

I am interested on buying a miniature or very small Morse key . I would rather buy it from a FISTS member than an outsider. Do you know anybody in the group that sells those by any chance? 73, Hector, #2531 *Try Morse Express, Hector. It's owned by FISTS member Marshall N1FM . The URL is <<http://www.morsex.com/keys.htm>>*  
page 40 FISTS CW Club

## Rockford Illinois FISTS

If you live in the Rockford IL area and are interested in getting together with other FISTS members, we have good news! The Rockford Amateur Radio Assn has formed an auxillary group of FISTS members. They've been assigned FISTS number 7250 and are using the club call of W9AXD.

There will be no separate club officers, and are governed through the RARA. For further information call Jeff Anderson N9ZUT at (815) 229-3009 or e-mail: [afa3kn@gateway.net](mailto:afa3kn@gateway.net)

## Clarksville Tennessee FISTS

FISTS in the Clarksville TN area are welcome to join the Queen City CW Association, FISTS #7350 and club call KG4GPV. For more information contact Lewis, KF4WK.

### SILENT KEYS

I'm sorry to have to inform you of four FISTS members who became Silent Keys.

Bob O'Neil, W1FHP, became a silent key June 1999.

It is with deep regret that I report the passing of my dear friend Ralph Kline - W7DIB, until about a year ago he was an avid QRP'er. Ralph was a retired Senior Agent for the U.S. Treasury Department. I am sure he will be sadly missed by anyone that ever met or had contact with him. Bud - KV7G

Phil Lawrence W1RFB, FFISTS member since 1997, #4135, became a Silent Key in January.

Ping Newman, W0VMN, #6235 became a Silent Key in January, 2000.

## Product Information

### Mac Morse Tutor Program

Morse Mania, a Morse tutor for the Macintosh, is now available. The software package helps you learn morse code at speeds ranging from 5 to 30 words per minute. In addition to drills to help learn the various characters, Morse Mania also allows complete text files to be sent, so that "real life" messages can be used for practice.

It also supports the Farnsworth mode, which increases the speed of the dots and dashes, and lengthens the pause between letters sent, allowing the student to learn Morse code at higher speeds more easily. This version adds the ability to send the commonly used abbreviations AR, AS, BT, SK, and ERROR.

Morse Mania is shareware. A fully functional copy of Morse Mania may be downloaded from the Morse Mania web site. The URL is <http://www.blackcatsystems.com/software/morsemania.html>

### Vari-Speed Bug Controller

Tim W3ZVT sent me his version of the Hills Vari-Speed for bugs with round shafts. It's a lovely nicely machined brass gadget. Unfortunately, Tim didn't include any pricing info. If you're interested, please contact him at 68 Vernon St, Uniontown PA 15401.

### Bunnell SideSwiper Reissue?

Charlie KA8OQF is thinking of starting up a mass mailing to deluge JHBunnell&Co (yes, they still exist) to try and get them to reissue sideswipers. Recently, someone on the CW Email reflector contacted them, and they said something like they still own the patents and anyone who tried violating them would get sued. If you're interested in trying to get the sideswiper offered again, contact Charlie on email at <ka8oqf@juno.com> or via his callbook address.

### Logging Programs

Was just reading the Keynote and came across someone looking for a computer logging program I have been using this one for about a year this ham makes all kinds that are on this web

#### Logging Program Review

Someone in the Keynote asked about logging programs. Well, I just went thru the same dilemma. Realizing that tracking FISTS contacts for the diamond award was more than sheets of paper would handle, I investigated logging software. I have had a nice little Compaq laptop in the shack for a year. I decided I wanted a general-purpose Windows-based logger, not a "contester's" program. I had to be able to define and track my own awards, not just DXCC, etc. That narrowed the choices way down.

I finally decided on Prolog2K by Datamatrix of Rio Rancho, NM. Ed W5VP is the "guru" of Prolog2K, and very helpful on the phone and Email. It works great! It has all the bells and whistles such as rig and rotor control, DX cluster monitoring, and tracks just about every award down to county hunting and VUCC. But you can also define up to 16 awards of your own, and there are 4 "tags" you can set on each QSO as well. It will index on any of those awards, tags or other log fields, and do sorting by date, callsign or numeric value in the award box. It prints anything and does QSL tracking and labels. It accesses all the major callbook CDROMs and sticks the data in the QSO for you if you want. And Ed offers a "deal" on the "Flying Horse" Callbook CD if you need a new one. You can also set up multiple logbooks! And the price was reasonable.

For more info contact ED W5VP at [rt66.com](mailto:rt66.com) or see their web site [www.qth.com/prolog](http://www.qth.com/prolog). Don't call me, I ain't a computer whiz! Usual disclaimers, I don't work for Datamatrix, etc, just a satisfied user.  
Paul, WA9PWP

## **Restructuring**

I have taken a lot of heat in the last few months from people who think that FISTS should have taken a public stand on the FCC Restructuring and lobbied as a group to retain the testing standards. Some have even said they were going to boycott FISTS because of our lack of political activity.

FISTS was not created to be a Political Activist Group. Our goals are simple; to encourage newcomers, to promote the use of Morse, and engender friendships between members. No where in ANY of the FISTS literature does it say that we intend to get involved with political activity as a group. In Geo's form letter that we usually send out to prospective members, it spells out our three goals and specifically says that membership in other organizations, like the ARRL or RSGB, is NOT required and that everyone who has a love of Morse is welcome to join FISTS.

This does not mean that if you belong to FISTS, you cannot be politically active. Quite the contrary! I do my best to keep you informed of the FCC activities concerning Morse, via the Keynote and mass Emailings. During the comment period to the FCC, we printed detailed instructions on how to respond, addresses of the ARRL Directors, as well as the document that the FCC made available to the public. It is up to YOU as a ham to do your part and follow your conscience in regard to getting involved. With a group the size of FISTS, there is no way to get a consensus that will make everyone happy. It would be hard to find one that would make a majority of members happy. My mail ranges from people who LIKE the reduction of standards to those who are ready to quit the hobby altogether because of it.

I have personally made appearances in public speaking up for the code, on talk radio shows and debating W5YI in a forum in Dayton. But, what I do does not represent FISTS. I do those things as Nancy, WZ8C, not FISTS spokesperson. Still, I realize that what I do

publically reflects on FISTS, so I try to keep from editorializing too much in the Keynote, or being too vocal about my feelings, even though sometimes it nearly kills me.

There is nothing I would like better than to get directly involved in the changes that are happening in our beloved hobby, but FISTS is not the forum in which to do it. FISTS is simply what it is intended to be, an elmering, encouraging group of CW enthusiasts. I think we do much to preserve CW by doing just that. Enthusiasm is contagious. There will be a lot of new licensees on the air in the next few months. We have a big job ahead of us -- showing them that CW is fun and rewarding. You can do this a variety of ways. Do a presentation at your local club, set up a Field Day CW tent, or invite the newbies over to see your shack and show them what you can do and show off your wallpaper and QSL card collection.

The SSB portions of the band are going to be a big mess, I predict, and it's important that we don't lose our frequencies. Using them is the best protection from that. Don't stick on the .058's, the Novice Subbands are perfectly fine for ragchewing. So are the WARC's.

I usually don't "editorialize" in The Keynote, but I think it's important that you realize it's up to YOU to write those letters and emails to the FCC and the ARRL Directors, and even the manufacturers (Kenwood in particular). Then you can get on the air and work toward that Century or Diamond award with a clear conscience!

There is a Petition for Reconsideration filed with the FCC which is written by three FISTS members. Please read it and let your opinions be known to the FCC and the ARRL. de WZ8C

PS: I was appalled at the new Tech questions. One was "why should you wear a hard hat when standing beneath someone who is working on a tower?" One of the multiple choices was "so the RF from the tower doesn't get into your brain"... And they say they aren't dumbing down the written exams?? Hmmm....

Issue 3 & 4 Combo 2000

## **Amateur Restructuring: Petition for Partial Reconsideration Filed by Three FISTS Members**

by Alan Wormser, N5LF FISTS #3027

Three hams have requested that the FCC reconsider some of the recent restructuring regulations. Alan Wormser N5LF of Texas, Fred Adsit NY2V of New York, and Mike Dinelli N9BOR of Illinois, have filed a Petition for Partial Reconsideration with the FCC addressing problems they see in the FCC's recent restructuring of the amateur service.

In their revised petition of February 22, the trio raise five issues: They want the FCC to maintain or increase the proportion of technical questions on all exams, end the practice of applicants re-taking failed exam elements at the same exam session, retain the 20 wpm Morse speed for the Amateur Extra class, retain the designation for Technician Plus licensees in the FCC database, and retain the rule that only extends Morse credit to those who are currently licensed or within the 2 year grace period for renewal.

This revised petition is similar to the one they filed in January, but was refiled to address the issue of lifetime code credit extended to anyone who ever held a Novice license. The new rule appeared in the February 10 issue of the Federal Register but was not addressed in the FCC's December 30, 1999, Report and Order.

The Report and Order and published rules give the four-member Question Pool Committee (QPC) of the National Council of VECs complete control over the content of the written examinations. QPC chairman Ray Adams, and QPC member Fred Maia have stated their intent to significantly reduce the technical content of both the Technician and General class written exams, and emphasize operating practices and rules instead. Wormser, Adsit, and Dinelli ar-

gue that the new rule in contrary to FCC's Report and Order, which characterizes the amateur service as fundamentally technical."

The ARRL has also filed a Petition for Reconsideration with the FCC addressing the Technician Plus designation, and are in agreement with Wormser, Adsit, and Dinelli on that issue. More information on the Petition for Partial Reconsideration is on the N5LF web page at <http://www.qsl.net/n5lf>. The FCC has indicated that they expect to review the Petition this summer, which is several months after the April 15 when the restructuring takes effect.

### **Cell Phone CW?**

Read in the recent Keynote about a UPS item sending a warning in CW. Dunno if this is common or not with cellphones (don't own one). But last night at work during "rush hour" when our tenants are mostly heading for home...I heard a guys cellphone send a well keyed about 18WPM SOS. Laughed myself silly.

Take care thanks for the good work 73  
Greg WB9MII Fists 3347

### **Supermarket DX (with Mic PTT!)**

I was parked at the local market waiting for the XYL (N7SG). I tuned down on ten meter cw on my mobile rig and heard ZF2LH. But I only had a mic and no key.

So I pressed the PTT on the MIC...K-7-F-D...and lo and behold, he came right back!! I had no monitor, so couldn't hear my sending, but I can only imagine Lee must have thought I was one of the new low code extra class op's...hihi.  
73 John K7FD, Fists 2420 QSO w/ ZF2LH 3/20/2000 0057UTC 28.058MHz 2xCW

## Another Code Buddy Testimonial

I promised that I would write and tell you how the code buddy program is working out. In a few words its great! Steve is great and very patient as I learn to send code. We have made several contacts that last for an hour or so. I thought I would never see the day when I would have a QSO and actually understood what was sent in code.

I have made about 8 other contacts. Everyone is real polite on the novice band. It is so much fun and about 85% of my contacts are FISTS Members. WOW! I must be addicted to the HF bands - once there I can't stop, not even for the 2 meter nets. I guess I will have to figure out the CW nets next.

Thanks to your program I was able to get on the air with CW. I hope this program will encourage others to learn and send Morse code. I can't begin to describe the satisfaction of having a few good QSOs in the evening operating CW, I hope others will give this a try and see how much fun this experience can be, especially for the new ham. 73 Bill Carter, KG4FXG

## Diamond Holders

The Millenium Award is earned by working ten Diamond Award holders and copying their Diamond Certificate number on the air. Here is a list of Diamond Award holders. If you have a Diamond and are not on the list, please contact Bob Lowe, the DX Awards Manager. He assigns the numbers and maintains the list.

AC6TO	VA3JJ	KA4IFF	N4ZMP
W8BL	N8UD	AF9H	AI9H
WB2FXK	SV1DLS	N3RSD	W8III
G4LHI	WA1GAG	W4BX	VE5RD
N4GM	K4UK	WD8OCV	W6DDB
N4VEF	PP6CW	ZL1BSG	

[-----12 inches-----] —

aluminium-

plexiglass  
side  
supports

14  
inches

aluminum-

50 ohm  
coax

It looks like the FISTS logo, but it's an antenna home brewed by N4CR. He gets out like gangbusters on 20 meters. It's really a tank circuit up on a pole or tower. Give it a try and let Bernie (and FISTS) know what you think of it.

## Looking for Crystals

Verle W0SZF, writes, "While I have never tried QRP, I would like to give it a whirl to see whether or not I like it. So, I am building a QRP rig from my jjunk box. I want the rig to work on 40, 30 and 20 meters. I have everything rounded up except the 30 meter crystal. Therefore I am either going to have to locate a 30 meter crystal or build a 30 meter VFO. For stability, I would prefer a 30 meter srystal. I wonder if any of our readers would be able to help me locate a sourcer for 30 meter srystals. I received a good "reader response" several mmonths ago when I put our a feeler for wedge cords for a bug." If anyone can help Verle, please contact him at (308) 345-3010 or 211 East 4TH Street, McCook, NE 69001

## Get Well Soon!

Jeff, N8WR, is recovering from multiple fractures of his leg, which he sustained on Valentines Day.

Gerald, N4GD had a heart attack and has had double bypass surgery.

## QSL Bureau News

Did you know that our QSL Bureau has it's own Web page? You can view it by going to <<http://www.qsl.net/w4fcr/fist.html>>.

On this site you will find photos of the Bureau's "Gold" mailbox as well as photos of the Bureau Gang. There are also instructions on how to use the QSL Bureau and a list of people who don't want cards sent thru the Bureau. Although the list changes almost weekly, it's good to check to see if a person accepts cards from the Bureau - you might be surprised to see that there are many who don't! I'm going to print the list here this month, but don't have space to do it every month, so please save this for reference. Or, you can check the Web page, of course.

The QSL influx has become "staggering" - Stan K4UK as been making mailings to the DX Bureau of 170+/- cards every four days for the past couple weeks. They've sent 2,572 cards to the DX Bureau since the first of the year. And they have handled 17,592 cards since the first of the year - WOW!

Many thanks to Stan and the volunteers from the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club of Virginia. They're saving FISTS a big bundle of postage! We appreciate all your work and time, folks.

If your call is listed on here by mistake, please let Stan know, NOT ME (Nancy WZ8C)

Quoting from the Web Page:

FISTS members who have advised us that do NOT use the QSL Bureau and will only QSL direct:

K1MBX KA1ZQR W2NTS WA2NZO WB2GIN W3VL K4ND KD4ZD N4QEX W4BW  
W4DON WB5DMM WB6JOB KB7DZH W8LX W8MON W8VOM KA9GXZ W9DYG  
WA9VNS WD9EKK

Please NOTE:

The following members have advised us that they do not QSL at all: N4BV W8GND WA8KOQ

Also

NOTE:

The following members have advised us to "trash-can" all cards that we receive for them: W4DON  
AA8YO

And,

also

NOTE:

The following members have not responded to the Millenium Clearout or any of our requests for SASE's. (As of March 31, 2000) Cards for them keep accumulating in the sort boxes.

If you QSO them please confirm that they will send SASE's to the Bureau, and if not, don't bother to send your card to us, cause it isn't going anywhere!

AA1KC AA1LL AA1QW K1NAJ KA1EFO KA1KAX KA1LQO KB1BBI KB1CFC  
KB1CRI KB1P KF1S KU1Q N1AKG N1BBR N1MKE N1RAY N1SG N1TNX N1TX N1WCZ  
W1DWA W1GN W1SOJ W1VXW WA1AYY

AB2BC AB2BP AB2FG K2MYQ K2YWE KA2MJV KB2JWD KB2OIC KB2SZB  
KB2UKF KC2BEK N2BW N2MUT N2REM N2SX N2XWA N2YXC W2FX W2HW W2OSY  
W2RRJ WA2PJF WB2KUT WB2TDJ WB2UJS WB2WCO WW2G

K3DC K3KYR K3TE K3XZ KA3IJO KA3MWN KA3THS KA3ZXX KB3AVS N3BNA  
N3ENB N3IJR N3NSL N3SFA N3VJV N3XRV N3YQE N3YZT NG3W W3AN W3GW  
WA3NRC WY3I

AC4AS AE4GX AE4IX AE4RX AI4ED K4DAJ K4FDK K4SEE K4SGQ K4SV KB4MFO  
KC4VZK KD4FLO KD4OZB KE4GYU KE4ZII KF4FBV KF4HEE KF4NLF KF4OH KF4RRM  
KF4UEX K4TI KM4LM KR4VQ KS4C KS4IE KT4GN KU4AW KU4GE KU4SF N4BNO  
N4EO N4GYX N4HS 4IHH N4QFL NK4E W4BMW W4DDD W4HU W4KHC W4TNV  
W4TVQ W4UUU W4WDL W4ZC W4ZR W4ZYD WA4GNP WA4LJJ WB4FCO WB4M  
WR4T WW4GR

AA5HM AA5OZ AB5PC AB5PE AB5XQ AC5AM AC5KI K5ABF K5APB K5DQ  
K5GAT K5KV K5KW K5LG K5LN K5PSH K5VO KA5IXR KB5EOU KC5GAI KC5JFO  
KC5OBI KD5DXS KJ5BN KK5ED KK5RG KK5ZN KM5KR KT5X N5AYP N5JCG N5JD  
N5LU N5NF N5YAK NU5X W5JUC W5KOD W5KRP W5RYV WA5JKS

AC6RY AC6UJ AC6UV AC6YD AD6FV AD6HR KA6LYD KE6WAR KE6WFX  
KF6RIP KI6DS N6AD N6EV N6JO N6JUG N6NT N6ZBZ W6ABC W6FJD W6GRF  
W6LAX W6MWL W6NKE W6RVY W6TON WA6IQM WB6SCV WW6Q

AB7RJ AB7TU AB7YZ K7DEE K7IE K7QO KB7AQD KC7SUI KU7Y N7TX NS7E  
W7DUD W7KJ W7SJS W7VH W7VPK WB7PEI

AA8PQ AA8VE AA8YL AA8YN AC8W AK8N K8CV K8KXK K8MEG K8MIA  
K8NA K8NQC K8OUA K8SZN K8WPI K8ZAA KA8TQR KB8FYG KB8KRD KB8SBX  
KB8TVZ KB8YRB KB8ZZQ KC8BOJ KC8DJH KC8FGQ KC8GFF KC8KRB KF8UY  
KG8ZK KN8AZN KV8B N8FF N8SFY N8TDE N8UOO N8ZUM NO8V W8BDR W8CCN  
W8CR W8IO W8NLQ W8TP W8UQ W8VQ W8YM W8ZNH WA8ZED WB8DWD WB8E  
WD8DAU WE8T

AA9BJ AC9V K9AI K9DIY K9IQ K9IQP K9UT KB9CGF KB9KFZ KB9KGI  
KB9LFR KB9RPG KD9XP KF9EP KF9IQ N9MU N9NTC N9RJ N9WSK N9ZNF N9ZZ  
ND9X W9SIO W9VU WB9CIS WB9K WB9PEA

AA0OS AA0WZ AB0HQ K0EVC KA0VJX KB0GGQ KB0JRJ KB0JTS KB0TFV  
KB0TWH KB0TWL KB0WVO KC0DUO KD0OK KG0PP KI0F KI0MN KN0I KQ0A  
N0AAA N0LAG N0TR NF0Z NO0R W0EUT W0SGC W0TLS W0XC WA0BAG

VE1DS VE2GOO VA3LK VA3RON VA3RP VE3BMC VE3CKX VE3JIF VE3MJD  
VE3YAG VE5JT VE6AML VE6QX VE7SIS

AL7JK CO6BR LU9HU P43JK TG9ANS VP2MH VP2VI XE1ABE XE1UXL  
End of quote from Web page.....

*If your callsign is on this list, and you want the cards that are waiting for you at the Bureau, please send some SASEs to the Bureau (see the How Do I page for the address). If you don't want to use the Bureau, that is fine - it's certainly optional. But, please let the Bureau (NOT ME, WZ8C) know so they can dispose of your cards they have on file, waiting for you.*

## CC Holders

While I'm on a roll with printing lists of callsigns, here is a list provided by Geo G3ZQS of those holding Century Certificates. If your call is wrong or you are missing from the list, please notify Geo, NOT Dennis K6DF (the North American Awards Manager) or me. Century Certificate numbers are issued in England, so Geo is the one who can fix the lists. This list was current as of February, if you got your Century Certificate (CC) number after that, you will, of course, not be on this list.

8P6AZ, AA0KJ, AA0RI, AA0VF, AA0WZ, AA1HV, AA1KF, AA1NZ, AA1SU, AA2NL, AA2SM, AA2YK, AA3LM, AA3RC, AA3RL, AA5EA, AA8PJ, AA8YO, AA9BO, AA9KH, AA9KH, AA9LS, AB2AU, AB2CE, AB5EQ, AB5YY, AB5ZD, AB7ZL, AC4DT, AC4NW, AC4W, AC4ZH, AC5BG, AC5JH, AC5NL, AC5P, AC6QO, AC6TO, AD4OS, AD6AG, AD8L, ADUI, AE2L, AE4AI, AE4AZ, AE4JG, AE4NW, AE4P, AE4QS, AE4VT, AF4BA, AF4BD, AF4NW, AF5Z, AF9H, AH7R, AI9L, DE0DXM, DF9YK, DJ0GD, DJ3RE, DL1CC, DL2JAW, DL3BZZ, EA1APA, EI2IH, EI5FY, F5JUD, F5NTP, G0ANV, G0BXV, G0EML, G0ENV, G0EVV, G0FIP, G0FOD, G0FRL, G0FVS, G0GGU, G0HGA, G0HIS, G0IJE, G0ILN, G0IYZ, G0JWB, G0LJB, G0MGD, G0MRH, G0MWU, G0NKO, G0NVY, G0ONS, G0RGP, G0RWQ, G0SCP, G0SWU, G0SZE, G0TAW, G0TBD, G0TCF, G0TGU, G0TUE, G0UEE, G0UHW, G0UJD, G0UKX, G0UQF, G0VCY, G0VQA, G0VQW, G0VYR, G0VZX, G0WAS, G0WAY, G0WCB, G0WEE, G0WPO, G0WWH, G3ASG, G3AVL, G3CWW, G3GXQ, G3HNX, G3HZL, G3JRY, G3KEF, G3KFG, G3KQN, G3LFE, G3LPS, G3MWP, G3OKA, G3PNF, G3RJX, G3RZ, G3SIO, G3VQO, G3WP, G3YLL, G3ZFP, G4BNU, G4DXG, G4EIB, G4IXL, G4JNA, G4KPN, G4LHI, G4LQO, G4NBI, G4OOS, G4RBE, G4RHP, G4SSH, G4UCJ, G4USW, G4VLW, G4WBN, G4XPE, G4ZIB, G6QA, G8NT, GI0PCU, GI4SRQ, GM0DJI, GM3KHH, GM4BAE, GSWL2, GW0SGG, GW0UJH, GW0UWM, GW3VLU, GW3ZCF, GW4PXQ, GW4XQH, GX0000, HP1AC, IK2WYW, IN3NJB, JA2AJA, K0MPC, K0MT, K0OAL, K1GDH, K1QT, K1UNQ, K1ZDI, K2IUC, K2RES, K2SB, K2SWZ, K2VS, K2VT, K2YJL, K34HOS, K3AS, K3CJG, K3DEN, K3LT, K3NXP, K3NY, K3WWP, K4BX, K4CMH, K4HL, K4MF, K4ORD, K4PJO, K4PTU, K4STU, K4TW, K4UK, K4UOZ, K4VRT, K4WK, K4WZ, K4YKI, K5DMC, K5EYE, K6DF, K6HHH, K6PZE, K7FD, K7FFF, K7GT, K7IB, K7PGL,

K7RON, K7RRR, K7VZ, K7WF, K7ZPE, K7ZR, K7ZYV, K8CW, K8EY, K8FN, K8HBI, K8JD, K8JV, K8LEN, K8LJG, K8OE, K8UCL, K8UGL, K9JWI, KA1DDB, KA1OX, KA1RVM, KA1STU, KA1SVX, KA2GHO, KA2KDJ, KA3CBC, KA3P, KA3UXU, KA4IFF, KA4LCM, KA7MGM, KA8QQF, KA8TQR, KA8YRV, KA8ZDL, KA9CRF, KB0PCI, KB1ALE, KB2PLW, KB2SUE, KB2SWI, KB2UZY, KB4JR, KB4OPV, KB6RZ, KB6TAL, KB7PIM, KB7ZO, KB8KIK, KB8KRD, KB8OOM, KB8PGW, KB9NGF, KB9W, KC2AFK, KC2AIO, KC4UBC, KC4UUG, KC4VIA, KC5GXC, KC5NRB, KC5VJU, KC6DKE, KC7QGE, KC7RZA, KC7YWD, KC8BSC, KC8FXR, KC8GOJ, KD1XA, KD6RDO, KD6VMY, KD6WNM, KE1AF, KE3CR, KE3NV, KE4GBE, KE4HZM, KE4LIA, KE6OIO, KF2G, KF2TP, KF4HZH, KF4KSM, KF6DCU, KF6GUH, KG2BI, KG2LO, KG2OK, KG8DA, KG8WF, KG9HE, KG9ML, KI0HQ, KI0LL, KI4IH, KI5UK, KI8DU, KI8FL, KJ7LB, KJ7OX, KK5IB, KK7BL, KK7NB, KK8B, KL0KW, KN2GSJ, KN4NO, KO6QZ, KO6TQ, KP4DJ, KQ6ES, KQ6NS, KQ6YV, KR3C, KR4YS, KS4DU, KS4TD, KS4UV, KS7J, KT4QD, LA1IE, LY3BY, LZ1JZ, M0AGO, M0ANL, M0ASN, M0AVW, M0AWN, M0AXJ, M0BEV, M0BHS, M0BLV, M0BOS, M0BTG, M0CET, N0BZM, N0GI, N0NJK, N0OB, N0UR, N0ZNC, N1DNM, N1NM, N1PT, N1PVP, N1TP, N1VWD, N1WL, N1WLC, N1YLA, N1YUK, N1YXU, N2FX, N2SLB, N2SV, N2WCY, N2WF, N2WJ, N2ZHF, N2ZHF, N3AO, N3CEU, N3LBC, N3NY, N3PM, N3RSD, N3XT, N3ZGZ, N3ZOC, N4GD, N4GM, N4KN, N4OT, N4UY, N4VEF, N4ZMP, N4ZZZ, N5DCF, N5KY, N5LF, N5OE, N5SAN, N5UC, N5VC, N5VC, N6FE, N6IV, N6RNP, N6WU, N6XR, N6ZKT, N7CFA, N7ELV, N7IF, N7XNH, N7XV, N8FF, N8FL, N8JIW, N8NLE, N8UD, N8UGV, N8UJZ, N8WPX, N8WYO, N9BOR, N9LGP, N9TA, NB2T, NC5S, NC9T, NE4Z, NOIBT, NP3K, NP4FW, NS2G, NS2G, NS2H, NS3E, NT8X, NW3N, OH8US, ON6ZJ, OZ1EUO, OZ7KDJ, OZ9WZ, PA3AFF, PY2DBU, SM4ASI, SP3DG, SP6JOE, SV1DLS, UA4AQO, UU0JN, V21CW, VA3JEG, VA3JJ, VA3JPM, VA3KEW, VA3SYQ, VA3UU, VE1BBW, VE1MT, VE1VEI, VE1ZAC, VE2ENB, VE3BBW, VE3DCS, VE3DFV, VE3FMC, VE3KLM, VE3MIQ, VE3MPQ, VE3SO, VE4GEC, VE5HQ, VE5RD, VE6ARG, VE6KJL, VE6ZAA, VE7BPN, VE7CRO, VE7RGX, VE7YMM, VY2RB, W0AAU, W0CGR, W0GV, W0LHU, W0UFO, W0VHV, W1BFN, W1EPZ, W1FHP, W1XU, W2BJ, W2BWQ, W2GR, W2HDW, W2JSF, W2NGB, W2NTS, W2YQV, W3DCN, W3DP, W3EMB, W3ERU, W3JIM, W3NGO, W3RMD, W4BX, W4DON, W4EEX, W4GEO, W4GTM, W4IUI, W4JCH, W4KFB, W4LVP, W4MA, W4NPL, W4OGZ, W4PBL, W4RMM, W4ZCR, W5HQL, W5NQL, W5RPJ, W5USU, W5WWW, W5ZF, W5ZR, W5ZZM, W6DDB, W6DDB, W6GG, W6JEP, W6JUS, W6STU, W6WOW, W7BWI, W7DAZ, W7EAI,

W7GB, W7LPF, W7VWV, W7ZZZ, W8BL, W8DO, W8EQ, W8FAX, W8FDV, W8III, W8LFJ, W8WEN, W8YBO, W9BOK, W9BYH, W9FRC, W9ISU, W9LUY, W9MYZ, W9NT, W9YQ, W9YYG, WA0FGV, WA1GAG, WA2BQI, WA2OVT, WA2VQV, WA3OTC, WA3PTY, WA3WKN, WA3WSJ, WA4CX, WA4KQL, WA4LDQ, WA5KOI, WA5UFH, WA6RCH, WA6RND, WA7YYY, WA8BIJ, WA9PWP, WB0B, WB0YPO, WB2EXI, WB2FXK, WB2HEK, WB2UEC, WB2YAF, WB8FSV, WB8OZX, WD0GXI, WD0HBW, WD4MSM, WD6CKT, WD8OCV, WE6V, WF6W, WG6M, WK3P, WL7CDC, WL7CKX, WN2DX, WN4BOT, WN6HYX, WO8E, WP2T, WP4LNY, WS0L, WW5XX, WX7M, XE2AUB, YO4NF, ZL1BIQ, ZL1BSG, ZL1MRX, ZL2AOH,

### Novice Round-Up Results

by Dennis Franklin K6DF

The 2000 FISTS Novice RoundUp was not quite as good as the 1999 NR. This year we got plenty of publicity in the major magazines too. Judging from the logs received, it appeared that those that participated in NR 2000 had a good time.

There were 14 logs submitted. I really expected to see more logs than that with all the publicity we got for this event. Once again this year, the logs were done very well, and most everyone did the math correctly for their score. The one thing that was lacking in several logs was the "Operator License Class" for the station submitting the log. Thank you, to everyone who submitted a log.

There was some confusion with the Non-Novice/Tech scoring this year. If you were a General class and above, you only got points for working Novice and Tech stations. I carefully checked and scored each of the logs the same way. Some of the scores below may be higher or lower than that which you submitted. I checked through each and every log, and scored them according to the same standard.

Here's the final tally for the 2000 FISTS Novice RoundUp:

**Top Scoring Novice Station:  
KB2QCW, Tom Carter**

**Top Scoring Technician Station:  
KC8LJN, Chris Durbin**

**Top Scoring Non-Novice/Tech Station:  
N5SAN, Frank Hulbert**

Congratulations to the three "Top Score" Stations. Each will receive a FREE One Year Membership in FISTS and a TOP SCORE NR certificate!

We may have to make some changes in the rules, name, etc., . . . in order to adapt to the new license structure. Keep reading your FISTS Keynote Newsletter for the latest information on next year's contest.. My thanks to everyone for participating in the 2000 NR. 73 Dennis K6DF Novice RoundUp Manager

### FISTS Novice RoundUp Results

#### *Novice / Tech Category*

Call	Name	Score
KB2QCW - N	Tom Carter	1702
KC8LJN - T	Chris Durbin	1178
KF4ZEO - T	Jill Dybka	704
WD4PTJ - N	Keith Black	608
KB1DSB- T	Karl Zuege	320
KC2FWC - T	Jamie Wright	308
KD5IOO - N	Eric Lamb	180

#### *Non Novice / Tech Category*

Call	Name	Score
N5SAN	Frank Hulbert	80
WP4LNY	Julio Medina Cortes	60
HP1AC	Camilo Castillo	32
N3ZOC	Frank Long	32
K0LWV	Larry Mergen	24
KE3CR	Giles Berry	18
KB6FPW	Mitchell Lee	2

## SPRING SPRINT

The following are the Official Rules for the FISTS Spring Sprint.

**OBJECTIVE:** To exchange specified information with as many U.S. or Canadian FISTS CW Club stations as possible, using Morse Code only, and within the time frame stipulated.

**PARTICIPANTS:** Any properly licensed amateur radio operator, FISTS member or non-member, is invited to take part in the contest. At least one of the two stations in each QSO must be a U.S. or Canadian station.

**DATE AND TIME:**

The Spring SPRINT will run from 1700 UTC to 2100 UTC on Second Saturday in May.

**BANDS:** Operation is limited to the following amateur bands: 3.5, 7, 14, 21, and 28 MHz amateur bands. Work stations only once per band.

**ENTRY CLASSES:** There are three entry classes.— QRP is limited to 5 watts output power or less; QRO is over 5 watts output power, and Novice/Tech are limited to this class of license holder. Entry class MUST be shown on logs to be considered for entry. An entry must be ONE class only. No combination of classes is allowed.

**EXCHANGE:** The following information must be exchanged by both stations to count as a valid contest QSO —

For FISTS members: first name; RST, U.S. state/Canadian province/DXCC country; FISTS number.

For non-FISTS members: first name; RST, U.S. state/Canadian province/DXCC country; Power output.

**DX COUNTRY STATUS:** U.S. states and Canadian provinces are those states and provinces that are contiguous and found within the north American continent. DX are those entities listed in the current ARRL DXCC publication, other than the above.

**SCORING: QSO POINTS:** Each QSO with a FISTS member counts 5 points. Each QSO with a non FISTS member counts as two points.

**MULTIPLIERS:** Each U.S. state or Canadian province counts as one multiplier — count each only once, no matter how many times worked. DX countries count as a multiplier each time worked. If a DX station is worked several times on different bands, each QSO counts as a multiplier.

Sending the logs is what counts, and they will be spot checked for accuracy and correct scoring procedures. Do NOT send logs to the FISTS PO Box. Logs not sent to the proper address will NOT be considered for entry.

Please send only paper logs. I have no way to cross reference disc logs. Disc logs will not be considered for the contest, and will not be returned.

Entry Forms: There are downloadable forms for you to use for all the FISTS Sprints on the FISTS Web page <<http://www.fists.org>>, or a normal log sheet will do just fine.

Do NOT send logs to the FISTS PO Box. Send entry form and log within 30 days after the Sprint to:

**Alan Tanner W8FAX**  
**3787 Trebein Rd, Fairborn, OH**

## Novice RoundUp SOAP BOX

This was my first contest of any kind since getting my license. It was a real blast. The best part was making 15 new friends using only the "pure mode"! — KB1DSB

Thanks to FISTS for resuscitation of the Round Up and I hope participation will increase more every time. — WP4LNY

Not much activity and not a great score; but . . . . . — N5SAN

Didn't seem to be many Novices and Tech Plusses around. I think I spent a bit more time on it than last year about 3.5 hours. — KE3CR

15 meters was the best action, CW activity seems well on all bands, lots of rag chewers' and nets. — K0LWV

I made a concerted effort to work some NR contacts, but there was no one there. After 3 or 4 hours of 5 WPM CQ NRing on 40, it's a good thing I've got a memory keyer, or I'd have a sore arm! — KB6FPW

I want to thank everyone for the contacts, & had fun, but we had thunderstorms this weekend & couldn't be on the air as much as I wanted. — KF4ZEO

*Thanks to all who participated this year and thanks to Dennis K6DF for doing the log checking and paperwork! Any suggestions on what we should do next year? Since the Novice class is being phased out, seems pointless to have a "Novice" Round-Up, but I like the idea of having a contest type atmosphere for people new to CW contesting to get their feet wet... Maybe a Five-WPM-Extra Round-Up? - Nancy WZ8C*

## Code Buddy Testimonials

A few weeks back I requested to be included in your buddy list program as a student. A few days later you assigned me a buddy teacher in the person of Maggie, WP2T. You have also

asked me to update you regarding our ongoing sched QSO's.

I want to tell you that I am very happy with Maggie. She has been doing a great job with me. I feel I am improving. I was around 8 to 10 WPM before starting this program with her, and now I feel comfortable with 13 to 15 WPM, and I want to improve more. All the sched QSO's went on without big problems. 15 Meters seems to be our most reliable band for mid morning QSO's between our two QTH. Thank you again for your help. 73, Paolo - W5TNT

## Dayton Hamvention

The W1TP Telegraph Museum will be at the Dayton 2000 Hamfest. Tom will be bringing nearly 500 early telegraph keys and looking to buy, trade, or photograph keys for his collection.

Bring your old / unusual keys for information, history, appraisals, and, of course, free pretzels!! FISTS members are especially welcome !

The museum will be at spaces 2555 - 2552 in the flea market area or visit <http://w1tp.com>. 73, Tom Perera - W1TP

And don't forget to stop by the FISTS booth. We can always use help, so try to fit an hour or two into your schedule to give someone a break.

We will be having a FISTS get-together again Friday night. I don't have reservations confirmed yet, but I'm going to try to get the Windows Lounge at the Crowne Plaza again, as in the past 6 or 7 years. Stop by the FISTS booth for details.

## STEAM ROOM

*ATTENTION FISTS!! You don't have to hover on the .058s to find FISTS. There have been over 7000 FISTS numbers issued to date. When FISTS first began a dozen years ago, we needed calling frequencies to find each other. Nowadays, no matter where you call CQ FISTS, odds are someone will hear you. If you do use the .058's as a calling frequency, please use them as a CALLING frequency and MOVE off the frequency after making contact. This frees up the frequency for more people to use it.*

*I am really tired of getting letters about this topic each month. Let's try to get along, OK? No one owns a frequency and a little courtesy to a net or progress goes a long way. FISTS have a reputation for being courteous operators ("Courtesy At All Times", remember?), so lets live up to our reputation and set an example for others.*  
- Nancy WZ8C

From Lloyd VE1VEI: Hi Nancy, Just a line to say my renewal is on the way. just noticed it is up. I was just on 14.058 and it's a mess there. Everyone calling on top of each other, we will have to make some changes there to make it better. Start using more than one freq for calling or move after making a contact or this will spoil it for a lot of FISTS. Hope to work you again soon.

From Jim K0EVE: Nancy, as both a FIST and a county hunter, I spend alot of time monitoring 14050-14060. Unfortunately the county hunters net and the FISTS frequency are only 1.5 KHz apart. What I have observed over and over again is that many FISTS tune up on the CHN frequency then move up to 58. Also many call cq right on the net without checking to see if the frequency is in use. On many occasions, mobiles are transmitting during these events and they frequently have fairly weak signals. Also this is the emergency mobile frequency. Realizing that frequencies belong to noone, I am writing to suggest that in the Key Note we might want to remind the FISTS of the presence of the net and encourage them to work the mo-  
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biles. They might want to observe the action for awhile to get the idea. Some blunder in (as I did) without knowing and try to have a FISTS QSO with the mobile. Also to use dummie loads when tuning or at least listen carefully before doing so. I didnt know who to write so this comes to you. Thanks!

My name is Arden, AA0IP and my FISTS #5803. I also am a member of MARAC and we have the 20M Mobile Emergency and County Hunters Net on 14.0565. I'm sure you have heard us from time to time when mobiles are out running counties. Usually we try to have a NCS helping mobiles whenever someone has the time and are willing to run the Net. I myself spend quite a bit of my free time as Net control station as do many others. A few other FISTS members also are active the CHN, such as Esther KA4IFF, Howie WA4KER, Jay AA9KH, Tom AA1NZ and of course Stan K4UK, probably some others but really don't know for sure.

As FISTS members are found at or around 14.058 and CHN is at 14.0565, it presents a problem with QRM for the mobiles and the CHN if FISTS members call on or near 14.0565. That is why I am writing this letter to you tonight with the intention of trying to find a way to inform all FISTS members as to what we are about and to prevent any animosity amongst anyone.

Although 20 meters is the major band used for the CHN, some mobiles have the capability to QSY to other bands such as 10, 15 and 40 meters mostly, they try to use 28.0565, 21.0565 and 7.039 if possible. When there is more than one mobile ready to run a county at the same time, we have the second mobile QSY down to or near 14.0545 rather than above CHN frequency to prevent interfering with FISTS.

Was wondering if information of the CHN fre-  
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quency could be printed in TheKeynote so there can be harmony among the CW operators for both FISTS and the CHN members.

Although it is difficult to have continue activity on CHN frequency as mobiles are going from one county to the next there is usually someone monitoring the frequency each day.

As I am not one that does much writing, I hope there is enough information for you to give some thought to the subject and hopefully you will give me your thoughts of the matter. Respectfully and  
73, Arden AA0IP

*Another topic which generates a lot of mail is "sloppy sending"...*

I write this letter with a fair degree of hesitation and a generous amount of ambivalence; as it is not my persuasion to discourage or put anyone "pounding the key" down.

But, ye gads, having just gotten off the air with the most atrocious fists I ever encountered in many decades as a CW man - my cork just exploded off the bottle.

Ever have your call sent to you in a half dozen varieties? Even have an take the form of a series of numerous dots and dashes? Well, it can happen.

Being an old ex-Navy radio op, I can move along quite well. Without hesitation, I take kindly to an op whose speed is well below 12 or 13 WPM; I want to and do exercise patience, encouragement and will give support to the op struggling with the code.

My only stipulation is BE ACCURATE. Form the letters slowly if you need to; but, please, it is your responsibility to work on your accuracy so that a pleasant, two-way contact brings pleasure, fun and satisfaction to us both.

Most of us will lend a hand as long as it is evident that you are striving to become a good CW man - and that you take great care in forming the characters in a readable manner. As in anything we do, practice is a sine qua non.

Again, it is not my purpose to criticize nor discourage; and, I will continue to respond to a CQ so long as I can copy the sender - regardless of speed. Practice, practice, practice.

Gene W2BWQ #4357

PS: I remained polite throughout the QSO. Honest!

### Tips for Members

by Carl Slutter, W3BM

1. **Do not answer a CQ at a speed faster than you can copy.** If you answer a CQ at the same speed it is being sent, the sender has every right to believe that you can copy that speed.
2. **Learn to zero beat a signal before calling.** This is a tough one with the number of transceivers being used on CW, and is especially tough if you have your RIT turned on. My rig is about 15 years old and the RIT has a very limited range, so the closer you can get to zero beat adds to your chances of being heard.
3. **If you are not exactly "zero beat" with a station, a short call will probably go unheard.** The further away from zero beat you are, the longer the call should be to allow the station you are calling a chance to tune around.
4. **Always include the called station's call** unless you know he or she is working "semi-contest" style or does not wish to have their call sent for some reason. Otherwise, the first question to enter your mind should be, it that station calling me? My answer to this dilemma is not to

answer the call unless I am absolutely certain the station is calling me. Without my call being sent, it is almost impossible to be certain that I am the station being called.

**5. Do not send any more information that the called station sends to you.** If for example, the station you are working sends only a report, don't send your name and QTH unless it is asked for. The station being called, controls the information exchange. If you are the called station and you send your name, QTH and FISTS number, you should expect to get the same type of information in return.

**6. Don't always send a 599 report.** All stations are not 599, many operators rely on getting accurate signal information so they can plan their operating schedule and determine how effective their antenna is in sending a signal into different parts of the world. In especially poor taste is the following: "UR RST 599, please repeat your name and QTH." If a signal is strong enough to merit a 599 report, you should have no difficulty copying the name and QTH.

**7. Do not send faster than you are capable of sending.** This is especially true for users of a straight key. One of the most difficult signals to copy is someone trying to send faster with a straight key than they are capable of sending. There are several options for sending high speed CW, but a straight key is not one of them. Conversely, it is difficult to send very slow CW with either a bug or an electronic key. The ideal setup is to have both a "high speed key" and a "low speed key" hooked to your rig so you can use whichever one the QSO calls for.

**8. Above all, LISTEN.** A brief QRL? on a frequency followed almost immediately by a CQ is no guarantee that the frequency is not in use. Given the real possibility that stations in QSO may be up to 2 KHz apart, the station not transmitting can send the message that the frequency

is in use, and never be heard and generally you break up a QSO by sending a CQ right on top of a station you never knew was there.

**9. Temper your Expectations.** This especially is true when trying to work DX. If you are running 100 watts to a dipole and are attempting to work the same station as others with high power and big beams well up in the air, you will "lose" almost every time. Having been a DX station for a time, I know that the loudest stations generally are worked first. You always hope you can work through the really "big" signals so that the "little" guy will get a chance, the reality is that for every "big" signal that you work, two more show up.

Yes, operating skill and Mother Nature (through propagation conditions) will sometimes help, trying to "crack" a pileup with low power and a simple antenna is generally a "sucker's bet". Too often I have seen people who cannot work a DX station, for example VK0MM on Macquarie Island to cite a current case, either start to complain about the poor quality of the operator on the other end, or even worse start to tune up on the DX station's frequency so that no one can copy the DX.

**10. Be very careful about tuning up.** Sometimes it is necessary to put out a signal over the air when adjusting an antenna tuner. Do so for the shortest time possible, with the lowest power that allows you to tune your equipment and on the least occupied portion of the band you can find. There is never an excuse for tuning a power amplifier on the air. That is why the dummy load exists. If you are using an amplifier use a dummy load to tune it. If you don't have a dummy load, make or buy one.

## QRP with John Shannon, K3WWP (Issue 3 Column)

One of the hardest things about QRP is convincing other hams that it does work, even if you have only simple wire antennas and live in a relatively poor location. If you're one of those hams who is in a situation where QRP with simple antennas is the only alternative, read on."

The situation above describes me exactly. I run a maximum of 5 watts output, at times going much lower than that. On 160-30M I use a 110 foot long random wire with many twists and bends. Most of it is in my attic with several feet at the end out in my back yard. On 20M I have a bent dipole in my attic. For 17-12M I use a 15M vertical dipole mounted on the side of my house. Finally on 10M a sloping dipole on my porch roof. My very small town lot is in the middle of town along the Allegheny River in a valley with surrounding hills at elevations of 2 to 6 degrees.

After reading that, those of you not familiar with my QRP work would think that I'd be lucky to get some QSO's with my neighboring states, and not much more. That's because outside the QRP fraternity the only news heard about QRP work is how so and so worked a station 5000 miles away with just 5 watts of power. Statements like that make it seem that working someone with QRP is a freak occurrence that only happens when conditions are just right or perhaps when the station using QRP has a huge antenna system to greatly boost his ERP." I'm writing this particular column to debunk that impression of QRP. I've just completed something that shows that QRP will work day in and day out, and can be used as a mainstream means of ham radio operation.

Despite my situation described in the second paragraph, I've managed to make at least one QRP QSO each day since August 5, 1994. That streak reached 2000 days on January 25, 2000 and included 25,246 QRP QSO's. Among those QSO's are 4971 DX QSO's with 166

(maybe 167 if YA4A was not a pirate) countries. I've worked all 50 states many times over. I guess you could say 25 times over since my least worked state is Wyoming with 25 QSO's. Using the same reasoning, I've gotten WAC 62 times over with Oceania being the least worked continent with 62 QSO's. I've worked Europe 3,132 times for the highest continental total after North America's 21,353 QSO's.

Some DX was worked on 817 of the 2000 days. On 9 of those days, I worked more than 100 DX stations in various DX contests. My largest QSO total for one day came in the 1999 SS contest with 416 contacts.

Of the 40 CQ zones of the world, I contacted 34 during the streak. Most of the 6 unworked zones are in SE Asia.

I think those statistics reinforce my statement about operating with QRP. The streak is continuing as I write this, and I just made a QSO on the 2,039th consecutive day. In addition to the regular streak, I also have somewhat of a DX streak going. From November 23, 1999 through February 11, 2000, I worked some DX each day. That's 81 straight days of DX. After missing February 12th because of a severe geomagnetic storm that pretty much wiped out the bands, I resumed the streak again on the 13th. Now I've worked some DX on 102 of the past 103 days including a QSO with the current Clipperton Island DXpedition. Perhaps that secondary streak is even more of an endorsement for QRP than my main streak.

I'm not the only one doing this, either. My friend Corb, K8UCL is in a similar situation. Although his location in the flat land of Ohio is vastly superior to my valley location, he also uses simple indoor antennas. With just 2 watts of power output, he recently reached the 150 countries worked plateau.

Also in an Email received a few days ago, Aron N1ODL writes "Thought I would drop you a line to let you know about my experience during the DXCC last weekend. I am always looking for a good travel antenna to use with my  
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wilderness SST-20 when I am on the road or vacation. Have heard lots of good and bad about the ISOTRON antennas, so thought I would bite the bullet and purchase one and give it a try. What the hay, the price was not that bad. When I got the antenna, I thought I made a major mistake. To look at it, you would think it was a glorified dummyload. Decided to give it a good workout in the DXCC last weekend, so stuck it on a PVE pipe and stuck it in the corner of my family room, which is in the second floor of my home. I figured I would get a few local contacts and call it a day. Well, to my surprise, I made contact with the following DX hams. This list does not include the stateside contacts. HA3PT, LA8W, SK3W, EA5DCL, VV7X (have not been able to confirm this one yet) NP3G, PY7IQ, WP3R. Now these will not seem great to the real DX hounds, but these contacts were made on the ISOTRON-20 antenna INSIDE of my house, using my Wilderness SST at 2 watts with a ZM-2 tuner."

Reiterating my point, QRP with simple antennas does work. Oh, there are limitations to be sure. I'll never make it to the DXCC Honor Roll using this setup. I'll never reach 100 countries on 160M, and maybe not on 80M either, but I will definitely get DXCC on 40 through 10M. I already have 100 or more on 30, 20, 15, and 10M and I'm in the 90's on 40 and 17M. 12M is the slow runner in the race now with only about 70 countries. I probably will get those last 6 zones to achieve WAZ, but it will not be easy. In fact, 2 days ago I worked JT1DA for my first zone 23.

Despite these and other shortcomings, I'm having a ball with my simple setup and you can too. If you're having problems with TVI, RFI, etc., keep in mind that with my 5 watts I can watch TV right in my shack while I'm transmitting and not even know that I'm on the air. If you aren't blessed with a good location and don't have the financial resources to move to a better location, just string up what you can for an antenna as I have done here and go after those

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QSO's. I guarantee you will be successful and have a lot of fun.

Send me your experiences with QRP. Till next month, 73. -30-      ““

### **QRP With John Shannon, K3WWP (Issue 4 Column)**

Well, I've finally gone and done it. For years now I've wanted a good transceiver to simplify my operating. With my homebrew setup, changing bands consisted of changing up to 15 controls. Now with the new transceiver, pushing one button will do the trick in most cases.

With the homebrew station, zero beating a station involved tuning in the station on the receiver, turning on a spotting switch which activated the VFO section of my transmitter, tuning the VFO so its pitch on the receiver matched that of the received station, then turning off the spotting switch. As you can imagine, I lost much time in contests doing that which caused me to lose many contacts I might otherwise have made.

Now with my new transceiver, it's a matter of tuning in the station, period. When I have the station tuned in to produce a beat note of 550 Hz, I'm zero beat. Someone may ask why 550 Hz. Well, that's what I prefer and the CW offset is adjustable on my new transceiver.

What is my new transceiver? The SGC SG-2020 I raved about a few columns ago? No. The new K2 or the old QRP Plus? No again. I decided to go all the way and get one with tons of bells and whistles to really simplify operating. I got the Kenwood TS570D(G). That's a QRP transceiver? Well, yes and no. Maximum output is 100 watts, adjustable down to 5 watts. That's the first thing I did when I fired it up. I set the output on all 9 bands to 5 watts. And of course, I didn't even bother unpacking the microphone since I have no intention of using it.

Isn't that overkill for a QRP transceiver? Maybe, but all the bells and whistles make it worthwhile wasting 95 watts and SSB operation.

The little QRP transceivers are nice for their purpose. They're great for portable operation for example. The price is right for them. I paid at least 3 times as much for my Kenwood. But if your prime MO is QRP CW, i.e 100% of your operating is done using CW and QRP I think the route I took is the right one. Especially since much of my operating is done in contesting and Dxing.

As I'm writing this, I'm only a few days from reaching my goal of 2000 straight days of making at least 1 QSO using QRP and simple wire antennas. Actually many more than one per day since my total number of QRP QSO's in that time is well over 25,000. Because I think this, perhaps more than anything shows that QRP does indeed work on the ham bands on a regular basis, I'm going to devote my next column to a report on the streak. Am I going to stop at 2000 days. No. Perhaps I'll now go for 3000. I can imagine now what Cal Ripken went through when he decided to end his consecutive games played streak. Can you imagine the regret if I quit now, and then decide that was the wrong thing to do? I'd have to go another 5 « years to just match what I have now. I guess the thing to do is to just keep it going one day at a time until some circumstance or other dictates that I quit.

***I'm just a few days away from reaching my goal of 2000 straight days of making at least one QRP contact...***

If you haven't checked out my web site recently, I hope you'll do so. If you're interested in getting started in QRP, I have a lot of information there that will be helpful to you. My listing of QRP rigs would be especially helpful. Other hams are starting to send me reviews of the different QRP rigs that they are using. These reviews are of special interest since they involve someone's first hand experience with a certain rig rather than the stock advertising spiels we hear for this or that rig. I only have a couple reviews now, and am actively soliciting more. If you own a QRP rig and want to review it for my web site, please let me know. If you're not sure

of your writing ability, don't worry. I'll help smooth it out for you. Not that I'm all that great a writer myself. HI.

A somewhat new feature on my site is my Monthly Poll. There you can express your opinion on matters related to ham radio or participate in some interesting surveys about ham radio operating styles and equipment. This feature seems to be growing in popularity since I started it a few months ago. Check it out and add your vote. The more votes I get, the more meaningful the results will be.

I want to know what you want to see in this column in the future. You have provided me with some great ideas in the past. Since I write this column to help out other QRPers and not just for my own enjoyment or self-service, I need to know if there is something that will help others that I have not yet covered in one of these columns (all of which are available on my web site, by the way). Or if there is something I've covered, but not made it clear enough, let me know and I'll try to provide additional information.

I've mentioned my web site several times, so I'd better tell you now how to get there if you don't already know. The URL is <http://www.alltel.net/~johnshan/> That will take you to a page where you can choose from a frames or no-frames version. The frames version is the only version I currently actively update so if you want all the latest info, you'll have to use it. If your browser just won't support frames, and virtually every current browser will, then you can still get quite a bit of info from the no-frames version. Just keep in mind the no-frames info is not complete or totally up to date.

OK, enough for this month. This has been kind of a rambling column, but I've gotten said several things I wanted to say. Next month the 2000 day QRP streak report. After that, hopefully something from an idea you'll send to John H. Shannon, 478 E. High St., Kittanning, PA 16201-1304 or to [johnshan@alltel.net](mailto:johnshan@alltel.net). For now 73 and good QRPing de K3WWP -30-  
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