



KEY NOTE



Sec: E. (Geo) Longden. G3ZGS. 119 Cemetery Rd., DARWEN, Lancs. BB3 2LZ England. 0254 703948

QSL Manager: GOFRL. Bob Lowe
 PO Box 190. BOLTON. BL1 4UL.
 Computer Chpt: G3UPA. Mike Foden
 19 Fairfield Rise, MERIDEN. CV7 7NP
 U.S. Rep: WZBC. Ms. Nancy Kott.
 5450 Diehl Rd., METAMORA, MI48455
 PRO: GOHGA. Mrs. A. Sitton.
 29 Hudson Rd., STEVENAGE. SG2 0ER

SUBS
 Cheques etc. to FISTS C.W. CLUB.
 N. America to WZBC, others to HQ.
 UK: £5, EEC: £6, Europe: £7
 N. America: \$15.00, others: £10.
LISTS
 Call v Name/Number: Stamp plus SAE.
CLUB BADGES: £1.50

NETS
 Sunday: 0930 & 1430 on 7029. G01HK
 Sunday: US 2000Z on 14058. KC4UUG
 Saturday: US QRQ Net 1000 EST on 7040-045
 Saturday: US 1100 EST on 14.058 NP2GP
 DX 7/1 4/21/28.058 on the hour for 15mins
 Pse keep watch all Novice allocations
 UK Net Controls use GX0IPXP

Listings

Up-dated listings may be obtained from N8IAG. Pse send SASE .

NA FISTS QSL BURO

N. A. QSL Manager : N8FU - John Hugentober , 4441
 Andreas Ave , Cincinnati, OH 45211. Pse SASE

SUBS

Your renewal date is printed on your mailing label.

KILL THE MORSE EXAM

Some people take a lot of convincing. Despite the overwhelming defeat of the 'no exam for HF' brigade in the recent survey, we still find a few moaning and groaning on packet. This vociferous minority are akin to small number of 'fans' whose idea of a good day out is to disrupt football matches. They are the people who opted to play the game but having found themselves on the pitch endeavour to move the goal posts because the rules do not meet with their approval. Ernie brought me a few samples of the responses which appeared on packet. Some wax poetical whilst others go to great lengths to state the obvious. One which caught my eye though originated at G3YRT: "In this 'enlightened' age, is it not time to follow the example set by the original Greenpeace organisation and suggest we ban all class B wailing.

2M ACTIVITY

G4SPK whose letter went adrift was chuffed when I took him on trust and sent his QSL cards on spec. However, one of his chief interests is CW on 2 metres which (not surprsingly) he finds quite a challenge. This prodded me into reminding you all that it is an ideal venue for attracting new blood to the mode. It is not possible of course to set up a UK wide net and I doubt it would be practical in any case but periods of regular activity from a few more of the members would work wonders. Please try and organise a free hour (say once per week) and just sit on 144.050 and call CQ. Sooner

or later you are gonna get a response. QSY to a convenient frequency and have a good natter. Your presence there will not have gone unnoticed and if the speed is moderate, there will be many stations listening who may well be tempted into joining in. If such sessions are conducted on a regular basis, you will find that you have started a net which will continue to attract others. We already have members who have instituted regular activity sessions not only on 2m but also on 4 and 10m which have proved highly productive. Honestly, if I had a little more time I would be there myself but I am sure you know the way I am fixed here. Previously I have spent time on 2m and although you tend to find 'regulars' it is still nice to have a natter and it does encourage others to join in.

ZS CHAPTER

As I mentioned some time ago, an enquiry was received from ZS which basically asked how I went about setting up the club. ZS5RK has managed to get something moving in this respect and sends me samples of a modified app-form that he has produced together with a short newsletter using items culled from Keynote. There are a number of applications on the way via separate cover which I will report on when they arrive. The postal charges to South Africa are heavy so centralising with a main station would mean that all postal costs would be local. What I would like to do basically is to accept one full subscription from ZS5RK for which he will receive the newsletter. This he will photo copy for distribution to the ZS members. I would also bill him at the end of the year for items such as certificates and badges which have been forwarded to his individual members. We have yet to work out the final bits but it may even be possible to E-Mail the contents of the news letter as I do with the US contingent for processing and printing over there. In any case, the end result will be the inclusion of a (hopefully increasing) number of ZS calls on the listing.

FOR SALE

One of our members prefers not to be mentioned in the news letter but he has for sale an interesting item namely; A LEFT HANDED VIBROPLEX. Circa 1960.

Was made specially for a R/O of the Cunard line. He did consider a swap for a straight key but adjustments would have to be made since a price tag of 120.00 is not unreasonable.

THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

G4XHE. Richard has been tutoring a bunch of members with cw at the Crawley ARS in company with Dave, **G0BXV**, and as he puts it, "Trying to convert a few wayward souls". An ancient KW Vespa has otherwise been occupying his time though he admits to replacing the pump with a keyer. **G3HEL.** Here is just one member who has felt the effects of my domestic burden but this time with a difference. I picked up a floating fragment of paper requesting a badge and rubber stamp and so puddled was I that a batch of QSL cards were printed and despatched. Forget it mate! It's my error and rubber stamp on way. **G4UHM.** Steve asked for a listing on disc and to add weight to the previous letter, he got a full FISTMBRS listing instead of the pukkah call v name v number. Pse ditch it and I'll put the real listing in the post. **G3TFK.** I'm gonna have to go see a shrink!! For **G3TFK** read **G3FTK**. Grr. **G3HZL/EI4HM.** Don's plans to visit Dayton have been scratched since he found they wanted 300.00 for a booth. Says he has no sense of rythm but I've heard him counting down in perfect sync when it was someone elses turn to pay for a round!! At Creda Blythe Bridge, both he and **G4HKG** are running out of customers following great success with their joint cw tutoring. He plans a further trip to EI in June when he anticipates a base loaded for 160 and multi-band vert. Says the West of Ireland is a great place for hols (the Guinness ain't bad either Don) but don't forget your waterproofs and wellies. Visiting members welcome on 145625. **G0UPS** Paul reckons he is still struggling with the code but he was doing fine t'other day when I worked him. Says it has been a long hard slog but well worth the effort. As we noted previously Paul, it comes easier for some than others. If you are naturally talented, intelligent and good looking (like me) it's a breeze. Hi. CCW is Coherent CW for which a computer is generally required since it demands sync between AF Filter and keyer but you can get by with a bandpass as little as 10Hz. **G0IGP.** Will this be the year he goes over to paddles he asks - mebbe not! **G0TBB.** "With regard to subs reminder slip - GUILTY YOUR MORSESHIP". I've been saving up for a haircut for the past three years Bob and like yourself, I'm glad it was not with Barings!! **G4LGA.** With typical organisational ineptitude I found his disc with no documentation. At a guess I sent the listing plus dBase app after which the floating letter turned up under an avalanche of paper. I was right - makes a change!! **G4SPK.** I got a boquet from Robert since a request for QSL cards had found it's way into the great Post Office shredder. They were despatched on trust for which he was glad. His call is inherited from his late Father who passed away in 85. He got his "A" ticket in 93 hence the seeming anomoly. If your keyer

is changing speed twixt HF and VHF then it would seem to be RF sensitive. Better check the screening or get busy with ferrite beads. **G0UGZ.** Mni tnks Len. I guess the appearance of thugs down Union St in Plymouth coincides with the absence of the matelots who previously proliferated. The thugs would never have dared to put in an appearance with a sailor on every corner. Hi. **G0TIP.** First transatlantic FISTS for George turned out to be N1DNM and N4VEF. There's about another 300 plus for you to collect yet mate. **G3RGE.** Ken has done a QSY to a retirement flat in Dorset but outside antennas are strictly verboten. He is QRX for decent wx when he can go /M. **VK2SPS.** Stephen tells me that there is a running battle going on twixt the VK hams and the SMA who have just upped their fee by a whopping 92%. From a previous \$35 he now pays \$70. Wow!

CHANGE OF CALL

Alex, **UU4JFJ** reports that his call is now **UU4JN**. Alex stopped on 158 points towards his double century and almost went QRT because in October 94, his YL made an honest man of him. Last year he also graduated from the University as Master of Science in electronics but he still lives in Odessa. Asks that I advise Angie - **G0HGA**, Brian - **NLSWL**, Art - **G0JRN** and Richard - **G0RGV** that he has had no letters from them in 3 years. A "safe" address is now c/o **LZ3DB**, PO Box 42, 4700 SMOLYAN, Bulgaria. He Iso advises me that Sam, **UB5FJA** has changed his call to **UT9FJ**. Jerry, **UB5FDM** has QSY'd to Russia and will be seeking a new call asap. Pse advise me when you get it Jerry.

TITBITS FROM ZS

"The low power fellows also get a little carried away, not so much with poor language or procedures but sometimes with unintentionally preventing newcomers from joining in by the CW speed being a little on the fast side and gaps between overs a little too short. All these points add up, not only do they give people the wrong impression but also discourage the "timid" from joining the net. We need more band occupancy and to achieve this, we need more responsible people on the air".

REFLECTIONS - G0VJK

Mike noted my comments on activity and points out that there is regular cw activity on 15m every afternoon from Stateside and S. America which is relatively peaceful apart from the occasional intrusion by EU heavies. He has been operating daily (typically from about 1600z) whilst recuperating from his annual attack of malarial memories and judging by the enthusiastic response in contacting a "G" I would imagine he has been up beyond .58. The US (and other) novices operate from 21.100 and I would certainly encourage members who care not for the hassle of the speed merchants to spend some time up here. Many of these however seem to be run-

ning sans filtering - WB6*** de G0VJK RST 599 PLUS
G0VJK de WB6*** RST 449

Mike points out that he is wearing cans with filtering so all Q5 thru splatter and TX is 50w to tribander. The response is often like "CANS?? DONT HAVE FILTER = PWR 1KW TO 5 ELE MONOBANDER. Granted they aint all like that but Mikes' experience is not uncommon. Mention of filters reminds him that he happened across an article by Tony, **G4FAI** in PW (Jan 84) for an adjustable AF filter. His local Maplin store relieved him of 20.00 for all components including a smart box (the most expensive item) and an evenings soldering produced a really excellent active and passive AF filter which I wouldn't be without. Anyone with a half decen junk box could probably build it for less. How about a revision Tony???

SILENT KEY

Sorry to report the passing of **GM0CNY** and also of Bill, **G8PJ** who usually signed **FIG8PJ**. Alex, **UU0JN** also advises me that **G4VNJ** collapsed and died on 26 Feb and **GWOONU** phoned to report the death of Tom Blamey, **GW0FJU** who was only 41 yrs of age. A sorry news letter indeed.

73 es GL de **G3ZQS** - Geo

NORTH AMERICAN MEMO



by **WZ8C** - Ms. Nancy Kott
P.O. Box 47
Hadley, Michigan 48440-0047
WZ8C @ KF8JS #NEMI.MI.USA.NA
Phone : 1-810-797-5388

Hello **FISTS!** Once again we are having problems getting communications from across The Ocean. I'm calling it The Ocean instead of The Pond, because at times like this it sure seems as big as an Ocean!

The April Keynote arrived E-Mail the day after I took the April North American issue to the printer, so I am including it with what is really the May Issue.

Geo is having some problems over in England, Ivy has taken a turn for the worse and he is overwhelmed with taking care of her situation. For those who don't know, Geo is 'Father **FISTS**' and writes the main section of the newsletter. His wife Ivy suffered a stroke about a year ago. She was making a good recovery until this setback. Sorry, but I don't have any details, about her current status. Secondly, Geo's right hand **FISTS OM** is on tour with a paraplegic bowling team (!) and unable to help get the May issue out at this time. Thirdly, there is a problem staying connected to the E-mail service that Geo uses to transfer the Keynote to the US! So with these three strikes against us, I decided not to hold up the Keynote any longer, it is already the end of the month.

I am sorry for the confusion, and I hope it will all be ironed out by June.

Brian **N8IAG** is working hard to update the membership list and we should have it available for June mailing. As you will see, we have about 50 new **FISTS** to add! Thanks to all who are spreading the word and including **FISTS** promotion materials in your QSL mailings. I have seen several very clever samples, you guys with the fancy printers on your computers are doing some fantastic things! **N7CFA** is dazzling me with his creativity, hi! If you need applications or info sheets to send out, just drop me a note and I'll send you some.

I would like to take a minute and thank Ralph **WA8KSS** for his generous contribution of 100 "I support **KNOW Code**, I'll help you to **KNOW CODE** too" pins to give to the new **FISTS** members. If you didn't pick your pin up when signing up in Dayton, I'll be mailing it to you when I send your membership certificate. Ralph's pins were a popular item at Dayton, I saw many, many folks sporting them proudly!

Old **FISTS** Lists Wanted

John **N8FU** is compiling a book with all **FISTS** numbers that have been issued. He is having trouble filling in some of the holes in the numbers. Even though your **FISTS** number is yours forever (once a **FISTS** always a **FISTS!**), if you aren't current with your dues, you don't receive the Keynote and are removed from the Active List. Unfortunately, I didn't have the foresight to save my early **FISTS** Lists, did you? If you have a list that you think may help John fill in some of the missing members, please send him a copy. And send him a SASE to put in your file at our QSO buro while you're at it, you never know when you will have cards waiting! His address is 4441 Andreas Ave, Cincinnati OH 45211.

SUNDAY QSO REPORT

Here, from Don **KC4UUG** is the April report:

Condx for the whole month were uniformly bad, with weak signals and QSB. FISTS would fade in and out, sometimes it was hard to tell who was at the party!

APRIL 2 check-ins: **NP2GP, N1KLP, N4VEF, WO8E NP2DJ, NA8G, N1MHC.**

APRIL 9 check-ins: **NP2GP, N1DNM, KE3NV, N8UJZ, N1FPG, W2WSS, VY2RB, N2NTO, KP4DJ, KD4FLO, K1PT, AA0IQ, FMA5CW, AA8RV.**

APRIL 16 check-ins: **NP2GP, DL6UDX, KJ5BN, KF8RG, WB2FXK, N3BTM, N7CFA, SP8HMK, DL6UDX, KE3NV, NP2DJ, KC7DQV.**

APRIL 23 check-ins: **NP2GP, N4VEF, NP2DJ, VY2RB, NA8G, N2PLE, KC7DQV.**

APRIL 30 check-ins: **N8FU, NP2GP, K9VKY, K7WF**(power went off at **KC4UUG**, **NP2GP** takes control) **N8UJZ, KC7DQV, VY2RB, KD4FLO, KD6UDX, KS4BX, WA0FGV** (**KC4UUG** takes control again) **ND9X, G4OOS, KE3NV.**

Code Buddy Program

Your help is greatly needed! We have gotten some requests for Code Buddy sked partners, and we need volunteers. You don't need high speed ability, most people are asking for help still have to make their first on the air QSO. You do need to have a patient attitude and a spare half hour or so a week! It's a good feeling to help someone gain confidence on the air, and you will be making a friend that will never forget you (I bet you still remember your first dozen QSO's! I know I do)

We also have requests from a couple 20 WPM+ FISTS who want someone to chat with who can challenge them to go faster, so if this is your speed, go for it! Thanks to Mike **N8UJZ** for volunteering, we hope to hear from more of you!

I think the best way to handle this is to give phone numbers/addresses of potential sked partners to each other and you can work out your own schedule that suits your time schedule and equipment. So send your requests to Pete **K8OUA** 5115 N Park Ave, Warren OH 44491-9322. Pete has offered to get the ball rolling on this, which gives me more time to catch up on the mountain of paperwork I've been buried under.

This Code Buddy concept started in England and I am proud that the US contingent cares enough about our newcomers to the Most Wonderful Mode to help them get a good start! Let's make this work!

W5YI Proposal

A big FB!! to all who took the time to write the FCC opposing the W5YI proposal to eliminate all one way transmissions below 30 MHz. George **N2CG** and Craig **AA3JV** wrote very eloquent letters that got right to the point! Well done! Let's hope the FCC listens to us.

6 Meter Calling Frequency

George **N2CG** would like to take advantage of the increase in 6 meter band openings caused by the Spring and Summer sporadic-E Season. He suggests encouraging the use of CW on this band by making a FISTS calling/listening frequency. Since 50.125 is the SSB calling/listening frequency, he suggests we use 50.095 MHz. For the next five months or so, he will keep his rig tuned to 50.095 whenever he is in the shack, and will call CQ on this frequency every 10 minutes or so.

Spring Sprint Success!

The logs still have to be sent in and tallied, but from the frenzy (well, almost!) of FISTS activity I heard on May 13 convinced me that our first Spring Sprint was a rousing success. I was so excited I was thinking it would be fun to have a Sprint each season! What do you think? Did you have fun? Did you find a lot of FISTS? Is four hours a good time limit? I contacted 14 FISTS and 4 non-FISTS. Maggie **NP2GP** was going great guns on 20, I even saw her spotted on my local packet cluster, hi. Propagation wasn't very good, but I was hearing both coasts Stu **K7WF** came in from WA, **N2PLE** Cliff from NJ and even Wolf **DL6UDX** for a bit of DX thrown in for good measure! I didn't hear any VE FISTS, but that doesn't mean they weren't out there. We will have a complete report from Pete **K8OUA** next month. PLEASE send in your log, even if you only made a couple contacts! Send them to **K8OUA** 5115 N Park Ave Warren Ohio 44481-9322.

And don't pass up this opportunity to get points toward your Century Award! You don't need QSL cards for the Award, but you can save postage and take advantage of our efficiently run QSL Buro by sending your cards to John **N8FU** 4441 Andreas Ave Cincinnati OH 45211. When you submit your cards, don't forget to enclose a SASE so you can get the cards waiting at the buro for you!

Better Way to Learn CW?

Jim **N8AYO** and Marge **N8JIM** write:

Why is it the code tape people don't sell instructional tapes that work? Is it because if we teach a class, we copy it and give it to everyone, or they know we will keep buying them till we pass or go broke?

I say NO!! I don't know of a tape that teaches the code RIGHT. They all start with E I S H T M O, the dits and dahs. All this does is to teach you, right from the start, to count characters and not listen for the sound, so students get hooked on counting! If we start with some of the more distinctive sounds like L Z Q F X P K C V, this would eliminate the bad habit of counting.

We need to look at ways we can improve our teaching methods, not degrade the tests to fit our poor system of teaching." *Hmmmm, should we work on a FISTS code training tape?? Any thoughts??-WZ8C*

by WZ8C - Ms. Nancy Kott
P.O. Box 47

Hadley, Michigan 48440-0047
WZ8C @ KF8JS.#NEMI.MI.USA.NA
Phone : 1-810-797-5388

Hello North American FISTS! Due to circumstances beyond my control, I have been unable to obtain the April Keynote from across the pond. I didn't want to hold the Memo up any longer, since I wanted you to get it by the end of the month.

I apologize and when I get my hands on the Keynote, I'll get it to you ASAP. Thanks to Dan WB8BHP for his much appreciated help in folding and stuffing the last couple Keynotes. Dan presented me with one of personalized license plates he had bought last year for his van; it read "FISTS"! I couldn't believe someone was riding around with a license plate on the front and back of their vehicle that said FISTS and he didn't even tell me!!

CORRECTIONS

Please note these corrections on the membership list dated Feb 95:

KB8AFX should read **KB8AXF** and the name should be **Wil** instead of **Bill**. **KV7DQV** should read **KC7DQV**.

Last Coast Guard Message

Many thanks to Maggie NP2GP for mailing a copy of the last NMN USCG xmission, ending their CW service after 94 years. She says there wasn't a dry eye in the house, many ships and hams transmitted "dit dit" "sk" etc, after the op finished and sent his final sk. Maggie was amazed at the depth of connection she felt with the CG op. She could tell what he was feeling and how deep the sense of common history was and how severe the sense of loss. I played the tape in my truck on the way home from the post office. I was glad I didn't run into anyone I knew; it would be hard to explain crying over a tape of dots and dashes! That Op had his heart in his key and it was the most moving transmission I've ever heard. It is a very sad day in Morse history.

It seems to me that lately many of us members in the club are losing the concept of what our club is really all about. Just recently I've made some contacts with a few of the FISTS members outside of our nets and many say that they don't bother to "check in" our nets because of the slow speeds of our nets. Well, I believe that we can resolve that quite easily by just getting together, a few of us, and maybe starting a faster speed net on let's say, 40 meters in the evenings. I think that I would enjoy that very much and maybe that would make some of the other members a bit happier, but still, we're missing the whole idea of what being a FISTS is all about.

What do we mean by "Morse Preservation"? I believe that we mean that we are trying to keep CW from dying out in the amateur bands. That we mean to keep it alive for many generations to enjoy, just as we have. And just how do we accomplish this? I believe that we can do this by setting aside a little time each week and slowing down for our new ham friends just getting started. I believe that we can do this by spending a little of our time on the Novice segments of the bands and by trying to get the newcomers to our hobby interested in the mode that we love and enjoy so much - CW!

I can remember when I was ready to go on the air on HF, even though I had my General class license at the time, I headed straight for the ten and fifteen meter Novice segments. There I was greeted by many old timers who encouraged me and helped me out through the beginning. I've been a ham now for about five years and of those five I've spent about three on the HF bands and ONLY working CW. I've become a CW fanatic, I love it and to tell you the truth, I wouldn't change it for anything in the world. Also, I believe that I enjoy CW as much as I do today because of those people I encountered at the beginning, people who were willing to slow down and take the time to give me the encouragement that I so much needed. The new ham is surely not going to be attracted to CW if what he hears on all the bands is to fast for him to copy.

What good is it to get one hundred new members into our club, if we as club members don't do our part in promoting the use of Morse by allowing the newcomers to start enjoying the code as we have enjoyed it. Let's give them encouragement and an incentive to get on the air and have fun at it.

In our hobby we have more than enough time to enjoy fast code anytime and anywhere on the bands we wish to do so. Please, for the sake of CW, FISTS and our new friends who are entering the hobby, take the time and get hams interested in CW by getting on the Novice segments and slowing down every once in a while. I'm sure they'll be glad you did someday. Let's promote Morse Code, the most beautiful mode in the Amateur Service.

Declaration of Purpose

FISTS have spoken! The REVISED Declaration of Purpose passed by 95 percent. I was surprised by the intensity of opinions brought out by this vote! Virtually everyone was **against** abolishing both the Multiple Choice and the Fill in the Blanks and having one minute solid copy as the sole means of passing the Morse exam. But almost everyone thought it would be a good idea for the exams to return to the way they were before the Multiple Choice began, with the option of Fill in the Blanks or one minute solid copy. So, Vince and the committee rewrote the Declaration to accommodate this.

Vince has mailed out about 150 Declarations to ARRL Officials, CW oriented clubs like QCWA and QRP associations in hopes they will read it and join us. We don't think this is going to change the world, but it will let people know that hams care about the way the standards are deteriorating.

I have already received correspondence from ARRL officials, congratulating us on taking a stand and so far have been 100 percent in agreement!

Again, the purpose of the Declaration is not to make the exams more difficult, but to return them to the way they were 3 or 4 years ago, NOT to the way they were in the 'good old days' when you had to solid copy AND pass a sending test. Those were the days!!

Radiogram from W1AW

"A petition for rule making before the FCC would eliminate all one way transmissions such as code practice and information bulletins on the amateur bands below 30 MHz, including those from W1AW. The petition was filed by Fredrick O. Maia W5YI, and has been assigned FCC RM number 8626. Comments on the petition maybe sent in the form of a letter with the RM number prominent at the top, to the secretary FCC, Washington DC, 20554. Six copies are preferred but on copy is acceptable. A copy of the letter also should be sent to Mr. Maias lawyer, Raymond A. Kowalski, 1001 G Street NW, Washington DC 20001. Deadline for comments is May 4, 1995."

W5YI is states that CW practice transmissions have outlived there usefulness and cause unnecessary interference and should be illegal! Can you imagine that! I think we have all benefited from the W1AW code transmission or worked for the code proficiency certificates at one time or another! Is W5YI just trying to sell more code practice tapes?

Please take a moment to jot off a letter of support AGAINST this FCC petition to the FCC! Your letter, joined with the rest can make a difference! Lets flood their mailbox (and don't forget to mention you are a member of FISTS Morse Club)

The Saturday QSO Party is moving to 2000z the 2nd Saturday in May

APRIL 1995

SUNDAY QSO PARTY

Don KC4UUG reports that propagation is terrible and late in the month, FISTS just could not hear each other. He says the list system is working well and most of the regulars are accustomed to it and are setting a good example for new members, so things are running much more smoothly.

Check-Ins for the month of March:

Mar 5, 1995: Another record breaker, condx good.
NP2GP, KC7DQV, KC4OCS, N4VEF, N8UJZ, KR4VQ, N1NGM, KP4KJ, AA8HV, N2PLE, KA8OQF, KA1ZVX, KA4IFF, VY2RB, K9VKY, W2FB, KD4EWC, KD4FLO, KS4BX/7, W2WSS, AA8MI, KE4HZM, AB6ZH.

Mar 12, 1995: Poor condx, noise, weak sigs, QSB.
NP2GP, N8FU, N8UJZ, KC7DQV, N4VEF, NA8G, W3XX, KE3NV, AB5TY, WB2FXK, N1MHC, VY2RB, KJ5BN, K9VKY, VP2VI, AA0IQ

Mar 19: Noise, weak sigs, QSB, QRM fm digital str.
NP2GP, N8FU, KE3NV, N4VEF, N8UJZ, KR4VQ, W2WSS, G0LZA, KA1ZVX, WA0FGV and via land-line AA2LK !

Mar 26: Geomagnetic storm in progress, condx horrible.
NP2GP, KE3NV, W7JAW, N4VEF, N4DPU, KC7DQV, N3QVO.

NEW CENTURY AWARD DX COUNTRIES

Back in the olden days of the formation of FISTS, it was easy to tell what would be a DX country for the purpose of Century Award Points: a DX country was anyone not on my North American mailing list. As the club grew and we added on the Virgin Islands, I maintained (much to the disagreement of Maggie, hi!) that the Islands should not count as DX, because for the purpose of FISTS, they were considered North America. After all, I paid regular postage to mail the Keynote to them, the Post Office considered them to be North America. Well, FISTS is growing and we are adding more countries to our NA mailing list, Mexico, Puerto Rico, etc. So, I figured, to be fair to all, I better reevaluate my stand on what constitutes DX for the Century Award, and came up with the decision that what's good enough for the rest of the ham world is good enough for FISTS. So, whatever counts as a DX country for DXCC counts as 2 points for the Century Award. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF CANADA. Canada is still considered North America. (I don't think anyone will argue with that will they??)

Sorry for any inconvenience and I hope this makes the majority of FISTS happy. I will be happy to read comments pro and con, if they are written politely and in a nonthreatening manner!

POSTAGE DUE, NOT!

John **WB9CIS** tells me that his Keynote arrived with a "postage due 45 cents" stamped on it! And **KP4DJ** in Puerto Rico's Keynote was returned to me for Insufficient Postage. That alerted me to a problem with the March mailing. For one thing, I am sending the Keynote bulk mail. That means there is NO forwarding, returning for any reason of the mail. I should have not gotten **KP4DJ**'s Keynote back. I told the woman at the post office about it, and she said that it looked like there was a new person at the main branch who didn't realize it was a bulk mailing, and treated it as regular mail. We re-sent **KP4DJ**'s Keynote and anyone who had to pay postage due can go to their local post office and get a refund.

Take a minute and look at the stamp on the envelope of this month's Keynote. It has a ten cent price on it, with the words "Additional Presort Postage Paid" Presort means that I PRE-SORTED the envelopes by zipcode and put them in order into trays. The post office person weighs a tray and charges me additional postage (in addition to the ten cents already applied). This is the Additional Presort Postage. This amount gets recorded on a special bulk receipt, but no additional stamps are required to be put on the envelope. That's one reason bulk presort saves us money, because I save the post office work by presorting! And they don't have to cancel the stamp because of the special forms we fill out for the additional postage.

It is up to the postal employees who actually do the routing of the mail to notice that it is a Bulk PreSort mailing and needs no additional postage. If this person messes up, it can wreak havoc with the mailing. Please let me know if you have any problems getting your Keynote, including postage due. Don't PAY THE POSTAGE DUE, EDUCATE YOUR POSTMAN ABOUT BULK MAIL! The YL at my local Post Office is a real gem and will work with us to fix it.

N1QLF-an Inspiration

by George KB2QLK

Can we talk? Her name is Marge McCarthy, she is N1QLF, and holds a General Ticket in this great hobby of ham radio. Her husband is Bobby, KB1AXH, who holds an Extra Class License:

Marge spent over 35 years operating CB radio, AM and SSB and you had better believe she knows how to communicate correctly be it with a trucker or with someone on SSB in Australia.

When she met her husband, she became interested in ham radio, unlike many women who would prefer their husbands watching the afternoon football games rather than taking dits and dahs or finding them tangled in wire and dropping solder on their tables.

But, her background in CB made her a prime candidate for a ham ticket.

We had talked many times together on SSB on 11 meters. I was just getting into ham radio, after being

off the air for almost 40 years. I had my Novice ticket and before I knew it she had her No-Code and was on 2 meters, egging me on to get the Tech Plus so we could talk with each other on two.

I did get my Tech Plus and kept my same callsign, KB2QLK, bought an HT and we began QSO's on the CT repeaters near and around her home QTH of Westbrook.

Marge was not that happy with the idea of having to lean CW. But, she loved SSB and wanted to be able to operate SSB on 10 Meters, and the only way she would be able to do that was get the Tech Plus and the 5 WPM. I kept telling her that once she learned the code she might find out she liked it. She poo poo'd that idea. She knew I loved CW, but she would put up with it just so she could get the Tech Plus.

She banged away at CW for weeks, and it was not an easy thing for her. But, she eventually passed the 5 WPM and began operating on 80 CW. Very little time was being spent on 10 meter SSB.

A transformation occurred. SSB on 10 was now at least second in her priorities. First, was to operate CW, and do it correctly and increase her speed in the process.

I remember the first time I worked N1QLF on 80 CW. Her speed was slow but deliberate and her fist, as today, was perfect.

Today, she will hang in there between 15 and 20 WPM, she even takes it in her head, some hams never learn that.

She has hams standing in line to work this XYL, and I would have to say, she is one of the most active YL's on 80 in the New England area.

I hear some young bushy tailed No Codes spilling out their hate for CW. It's obsolete, not to mention that they don't want to take the time to learn it.. Some who are in their 40's and yes even 50's say they are too old to learn the code. Marge won't have any problem with me telling you, she turned 60 in June, 1994 and had her General ticket hanging on the wall by October of 1994. Pretty good for someone who six months before didn't know a dit from a dah, but would put up with it to get on 10 meter SSB, which by the way, she very seldom uses. She is more into CW, that's why she is a FISTS member! She found out about it before I did and I'm proud to say she sponsored me.

To me, N1QLF has to be an inspiration to those who think they can never learn the code because they are too old.

FISTS SUPPLIES

I keep getting questions about FISTS supplies, here is a list of what we have available. All items are priced including first class postage or UPS delivery.

The gold logo stickers are about the size of a quarter and are \$5/200

We have the gold metal/blue enamel version of the logo for \$3.50.

Joe AA8HV has some stunning cobalt blue mugs

with the logo in gold on the front AND back of the mug, so you and the people across from you can admire it. These are available directly from Joe at 9614 Arden Ave, Livonia MI 48150.

The club QSL card is available from "goods to go" 103 Orchard Hill Lane, Brewster NY 10509. Send a SASE for info on prices.

If there are any other club supplies you would like to see offered, drop me a note.

Dayton HamVention

Dayton is shaping up to be quite a FISTS event this year, I am Soooo Excited! There will be a record number of FISTS attending, and many are offering to help pass out info at the booth, so I may actually get a chance to see the flea market this year, hi!!

Unfortunately Father FISTS, Geo G3ZQS, will not be able to attend. Ivy, his wife, suffered a stroke while Geo was in Dayton last year, and isn't well enough for him to leave for an extended period of time. Geo sends his regrets and hopes to join us next year. You will be missed Geo! (Molly, Molly!)

You will be proud to know that a FISTS member, Charlie **KA8OQF** is in charge of the Dayton Special Event station. He sent me a nicely written out schedule of operation, which I can't put my hand on at the moment....BUT he did say that FISTS would be most welcome, and he was hoping for a big FISTS turnout to keep the CW bands hopping with S.E. contacts. So be sure to stop by and have some fun.

Fred **AA8FQ** is the owner of Solder-It and he will have a booth at the HamVention. He is looking forward to meeting lots of FISTS members, so be sure to stop by his booth and say hi. If you introduce yourself as a FISTS member he will give you a sample of his new product!

Mitch **WA4OSR**, the new owner of Vibroplex is also looking forward to meeting fellow FISTS. Stop by his booth and introduce yourself and check out the gold and brass plated bugs he is introducing at the HamVention!

And don't forget to come by and say hello to those of us at the FISTS booth, C-15. You can't miss it, we are on the ramp leading from the main food area to the main area where Kenwood and those guys are. If you can spend an hour or two passing out info, the break would be much appreciated. It's not difficult, and the time goes by very fast.

I will be staying at the Radisson Downtown with WO8E, so you can leave messages for me there if you need to reach me outside of Hamvention hours.

FRIDAY PARTY!!

Join us Friday night at the top floor of Stouffers Hotel! We'll start gathering about 7:30 and we can have the room as late as we want, so stop by after your Banquet! It is listed in the program as an Unofficial Activity, let's have a big turn-out! We have lots to discuss, future FISTS contests, nets and activities!

Welcome New FISTS

1586:KB0JTS Bill in Akeley MN, sponsored by N7CFA, was an Army brass pounder and is back to Morse after 39 years

1587:KD4OGV Chas in Ft. Meyers FL, sponsored by WB2FXK, teaches stained glass and middle school ham radio courses.

1588:KC4DY Gordon in Elliston VA, sponsored by K8OUA, is interested in Civil War history, geneology and photography.

1589: N2YY Jerry in Ridge NY, sponsored by WB2FXK, likes sailing, cycling and square/round dancing.

1590:AA0IO Chas in St. Louis MO, sponsored by KA4IFF, enjoys his grandchildren and fishing.

1591:N1RAY Chuck in Waterford CT, sponsored by KB1QLK, uses a TenTec Scout to a gnd mntd trap vertical and 80 meter dipole

1592:KG0KR Beth in Plattsmouth NE, sponsored by WD8OCV likes ragchewing more than anything, but also does needlework and gardening.

1593:KM4BR Ron in Harrodsbury KY, sponsored by WB2FXK, uses a Yaesu FT 990 to a TA-33 Waric Gap Vertical Titian and 80-40 meter dipole.

1594: K5WTA Jake in Orange Park FL, sponsored by WZ8C is into computers and has a 40 meter double bazooka.

1595: AC4WI Lou in Fletcher NC, sponsored by KQ4IY, enjoys scuba diving and fishing.

1596: N7OBP Gary in Castle Rock WA, sponsored by Brian #1575, is into Homebrew and kit building.

1597: AB4MT Jon in N Miami Beach, sponsored by WZ8C didn't list any interests or rigs on his application!!

1598:KB2BOY Stan in Alexandria Bay NY, sponsored by Geo G3ZQS, likes the outdoors, beekeeping and touring by motorcycle.

1599:KB1AUM Sheila in Medway MA, sponsored by KC5DUI, likes gardening, fly/deep sea/flats fishing

The 1600 block is used by DX FISTS

1700:W1QMK Dick in Augusta ME, sponsored by WB2FXK, designs, builds, flies radio controlled model aircraft (vintage WW1 aircraft & scale WW2 fighters)

1701:K4OWN Watt in Midlothian VA, sponsored by G3ZQS enjoys watching his son Ed #76 play football for E Carolina University.

1702: KA5Z Richard in Mount Holly NJ, sponsored by WZ8C, likes chorale singing and astronomy.

A big Welcome to all! The last few members have not received their member certificates yet because I ran out of them! We are working on making up some more and will get them out ASAP. Thanks for your patience!

Well, there is a ton more I want to share with you, but with the end of the month looming, I better get this to the printer. Keep in touch, and hope to CU at Dayton! 73/88/33 de Nancy WZ8C

QSO Party Rules

With all the new FISTS coming into the club, I thought it would be a good time to review the rules of the QSO parties. These rules were not made to make things difficult and structured, but to help Don and Maggie keep their sanity and help everyone maximize their chances for contacting other FISTS. Please read them through a couple times and listen to the pace of the party before checking into the Parties. Then JUMP IN! Everyone is welcome and don't worry about being slow, the host *and members of the party will come back to you at the speed you are sending!*

Here are Don **KC4UUG's** description of the procedures:

Your Sunday QSO party is dedicated to engendering friendship within club membership by providing a place where direct station-to-station contacts may be made. It respects the right of the rag chewer to "say it in ten words or more" even when a Q-signal will accomplish the same purpose, and it has an open door policy which encourages you to come and go as you please while the part is in progress. Party attendance has kept pace with rapid growth of the club in North America and as a result, procedures used since the party was founded in early 1992 are no longer adequate. Your party host introduced new procedures on an experimental basis starting on February 26, 1005 and he feels that it is best to work out the details in real time, on the air, and in company with those who attend the parties. The "rag chewy" nature of the party will be preserved through the use of buzz words or phrases rather than with Q-signals.

In bare outline, the new procedures are based upon a "taking turns" system that is controlled by a list of check-ins. The host will go down his check-in list and call each of you, one at a time. When called you may make ONE QSO with anyone you wish. When that QSO ends, you send control back to the host. You have other options-see below. The host will add new check-ins to the bottom of the list. The party starts at the top of the list and when (IF!) the host reaches the bottom he will start over again at the top. Simple! 'round and 'round we go till everyone leaves, the host becomes exhausted, or the band closes.

Due to the open door policy, your host is never sure if you are still attending the party. He will, therefore, settle this issue quickly when establishing contact with you. He will send you call twice, followed by (?) and (BK). For example: "WZ8C WZ8C ? BK" and if WZ8C is at the party, she answers: YES - or yep, ok, here, etc. and the business of the party will proceed. Note: this is not the time to start a 15 minute monolog! If your host does not receive a reply he will call you again, and if there is no reply he will send (NIL), check you out, and go on down the list.

CHECKING IN: The old QSO bombing technique is abandoned in favor of frequent (HURRAH!) check-in requests. The call will be: "FISTS FISTS QNI QNI DE (HOST)". Respond with your complete call. Your check

in will be conformed and if you will have a long wait before your turn comes up you will be informed. Confirmation will end with the prosign (AS) which means **STANDBY!** You are not a late check-in unless you try it after the party has ended.

CHECKING OUT: Leave the party whenever you please: someone will eventually find out you are gone.

WHEN IT IS YOUR TURN: If you answered YES (or something) to the host's "are you there?" call, he may exchange a remark or two with you, ending with the buzz words: **ITS UR TURN, CALL UR QSO,** or something like that. You are now in control and you may immediately call your partner or exercise other options. They include:

(a) If you fail to make contact with your first choice, try someone else. Your host is always available and he may be lonely, HI!

(b) You may pass up your turn.

(c) Announcements, comments, late breaking news, etc. may be made to the party using the host as a QSO partner.

(d) You may request the list, but remember it may take a long time to send. It is recommended that you try to build your own list or at least determine who you wish to contact by listening to what is happening during the party.

(e) Your host asks you NOT to use party busting techniques such as making a series of QSOs or making a QRZ? (who wants me?) call.

AND FINALLY: The "one QSO each turn procedure" has been established in order to go down the list in minimum time. If we can do that, then it will be possible to go around the list several times during a party, and this will help reduce the problems that are inherent in the list system I hope it works. CU at the Party, Don KC4UUG.

Maggie NP2GP adds: **HUMOR IS APPRECIATED!** Feel free to send HI HI anytime! Fists copy "between the lines" very well, we seem to appreciate word games. It is easier for the NCS if you check in early in the party and you will get more turns if you are there early. And please **ZERO BEAT** the NCS carefully. The NCS can't change frequency. We move our receive frequency some with the RIT or using split, but if you are outside our filters, we will not hear you. If you are not on the net freq, you are likely to be in the middle of QRM and the NCS will have the devil of a time copying you even if s/he retunes the receive to your signal. At some point the NCS will send, "las call fists qni?" As the bands stays open later and as the parties get bigger, the NCS needs some way of bringing things to a close. That is the purpose of "Last Call".

Finally, I urge FISTS to check in to the Saturday party (0200Z on 14.058). The Saturday party is still small enough that you will have many turns and longer turns. I will be using the vew format on Saturdays so my party is also a good place to become familiar with the new system. The band seems to be improving, so I hope I will see a bunch of FISTS on Saturday mornings.

Field Day

Tired of the arguing, bickering, apathy of your past Field Day experiences? Want to participate in a relaxing yet fun Field Day? Imagine spending the weekend with like minded folks who you probably have never met before in person, but are guaranteed to feel like old buddies! Consider getting together with FISTS members for Field Day! Many areas now have big concentrations of FISTS, but keep in mind FD only takes one station/one operator to make a legit entry! If you need the calls of FISTS in your area drop me a line and I will be happy to send them to you. We could have FISTS FD stations all over the country! Think how proud you'll feel when you look at the FD results in QST and see it peppered with FISTS of MI, FISTS of OH, FISTS of WA, etc.!

I would like to have a FD planning meeting of the MI FISTS sometime in June, but I realize it's impractical. SO! I will be contacting you by phone so we can coordinate rigs, antennas etc. The football field we will be set up at is large enough, and we have enough FISTS now, that we can run 2 stations if there is the interest. So far I know Joe **W8CYG**, Dave **N6MLW**, Irene **WO8E** will be there, I hope Brian **N8IAG**, Dan **WB8BHP** and Chuck **N8WDH** can break away and join us again. My phone number is 810-797-5388 call me if you can make it! I hope we can borrow Fred **N8ABR**'s trailer again, and we have a screened in tent available also. Last year we used battery power and it was great! Nothing but the sweet music of CW and crickets filling the air at night! I can't wait!!

Supply Manager

In yet another effort to keep my head above the water, I recruited Irene **WO8E** to take over the job of filling the orders for club supplies. She is in charge of the requests for stickers, self-inking stamps, pins, and the Art and Skill of Telegraphy book by Bill Pierpont. Prices include postage and are as follows:

Pins: \$3.50 Stickers: 200 for \$5.00
Self-Inking Stamp: \$10.00 Book: \$10.00

Irene's address is 25206 Hayes, Roseville MI 48066
Make checks payable to FISTS CW Club, please!

Irene will also make a copy of the last Coast Guard transmission, as taped by Maggie **NP2GP**, for you if you send her a tape, and envelope with sufficient return postage.

The lovely logo mugs are still available directly from **AA8HF** Joe for \$6.50, including shipping.

Bits and Pieces

Thanks so much for all the renewals and kind words coming in! I love getting new members, but the renewals are special because they let me know that you like what you read! A big thanks to those who renewed for 2 years, even 5 years in advance! Whew! That blew me away when I opened that envelope, hi!

Eric **KC5JEV** will be going to Yobota AB, Japan in June and hopes to be active from there shortly after. He will be stationed there for 3 years, and hopes he can find a place to live that will allow an antenna installation. Good luck Eric, let us know your new address so the Keynote can follow you to Japan. When you get back on the air, let us know where you will be hanging out, so FISTS can find you easier!

George **N1DNM** tells me that Wes **KA1ZVK** passed his Extra exam after getting his Novice just 3 years ago! Congrats Wes! On the downside, George sez that Wes is insisting on being called "*Lord Wes, the Extra - SIR!*", hi...I'm sure it's just a phase George, and he'll get over it! George passed his 20 WPM and is now studying for the theory. He notes that there are a lot of changes since he took the General tests at the FCC back in 1953!

Correction AGAIN: Wil is KB1AXF, #1522!

The HW-8

by AA8HV

I finally hooked up the Heathkit HW-8 QRP transceiver which I had purchased along with an HW-7 last year, but never got around to trying. The HW-8 is unmodified, while the HW-7 has a few modifications. I was interested in how the stock HW-8 would stack up to the newer generation of QRP rigs, so I decided to try it out first.

Here is a little background: Heathkit made the HW-7, HW-8 and HW-9. The HW-7 only has 15, 20 and 40 meters, the HW-8 has four bands, 80, 40, 20 and 15 meters. The HW-9 adds 10 meters. The HW-8 has a direct conversion type receiver with a narrow and wide audio filter. The wide filter is 750 Hz wide, while the narrow filter is 375 Hz wide. The rig has a VFO that covers all of the CW portion of the bands. The audio output is 1000 ohms, which means you have to have earphones with a high ohm rating. I use 600 ohm earphones which I picked up at a hamfest for \$5.00. If you want to use your regular earphones I can give you info on a project you can build for around \$10 that will step down the audio output to 8 ohms.

The Heathkit book states that the power output ranges from 2.5 watts on 15 meters to 3.5 watts on 80 meters. Using my Autek WM-1 wattmeter, I found that the output from my HW-8 to be a half of a watt higher than specified in the book. So how did it work? Great! For a 20 year old rig it certainly holds it own on the bands today and is really a lot of fun to operate.

The direct conversion receiver is not as tight as a superhet. The audio filter is certainly not as tight as, for example, the MFJ-9040 crystal filter, but it does work. In fact, that is what makes operating this rig so much fun. When you turn it on, the band seems to be alive with signals. That is because you can always hear three or four signals at the same time. You can tell them apart, however, because each signal has a different sound in your headphones.

Dayton

The Dayton HamVention 1995 is history and will be remembered as a banner year for FISTS. We had a record number of 40 FISTS checking into the FISTS booth. I suspect there were even more than that lurking about (Ian **N8TFR**!!) but didn't sign in at the booth for fear they would be trapped into working, thereby missing treasures in the flea market! C'mon guys! At least you could have stopped by and said hello.

We had plenty of help at the booth this year. I was able to get away and spend too much money! I bought a Schurr "mobile" straight key, and a Lightning Bolt Cubical Quad (2 element 5 band). I'd like to thank and give a big 88 to Chuck **N8NWD**, Dave **N6MLD**, Brian **K9VKY**, Pete **K8OUA**, Sara **KB8RHS**, Art **W8PBO**, John **WB9CIS**, John **N8FU**, Joe **W8CYG** for helping/ or offering to help! And of course Irene **WO8E**, who put in countless hours and even got the spiel down pat so well that I didn't have to cringe when she explained the FISTS philosophy (*just kidding!*)

We had such a relaxing trip this year, it almost didn't seem like Dayton! **WO8E** and I took our time coming down from the Detroit area, stopped at *Tony Packo's* and got some Hungarian HotDogs 'to go' for dinner, and got to the Arena about 6 pm. Check-in for the booth was a breeze and even though the booth space was on an incline this year, we procured leveling-spacers for the table it was no problem at all.

I am so very grateful to the Dayton HamVention folks for giving FISTS such an opportunity to spread the Morse word! (Need I remind you that we are GIVEN a booth, whereas they are typically rented for \$400) One of the HamVention OM was telling us about the waiting list for booths and it reminded me how lucky we are to be able to have that "freebie" booth for what will be FIVE Years next year!

Interest in FISTS was high as you will see when you read the "Welcome to New FISTS" later in the newsletter.

The party at Stouffers was very nice also. The next day I had a few people stop by and say they couldn't find the place, so next year, (add this to the list of 'things to remember for '96, **WO8E**, HI!) I would like to make a map/directions in the newsletter. It is a complicated place to find, interconnecting parking facilities and walkways, they make you feel like you are in the middle of a maze!

Mark the new dates for the HamVention on your calendar (May 17) and make plans to be there! Don **KC4UUG** tells me that Maggie **NP2GP** is trying to talk him into making the trip next year! If they can make it from the VI and Florida, you can do it from your QTH! It truly is an event you should experience at least once and I promise I won't make you work the booth if you really don't want to!

Of course, George was missed, comments about the NYSE price of Budweiser stock being down over the weekend could be overheard and there were rumors the Pub closed early because of slow business....

Welcome to New FISTS

We hope to have a new NA listing ready for you in June, but until here is a brief listing of the New Ones:

1703: Larry WA2CVV in New Jersey, sponsored by AA8HV
1704: Rick AA0NR in Missouri, sponsored by WB2FXK
1705: Jim KB8TUO/AA in Michigan sponsored by WZ8C
1706: Jose WP4IIV in Puerto Rico, sponsored by NP2GP, VP2VI and KP4DJ.
1707: Joe WI0Z in Minnesota, sponsored by KE4HZM
1708: Lyn KC4JGT in Virginia, sponsored by WB2FXK
1709: Duane AC4ZH in Kentucky, sponsored by K4TXJ
1710: Steve N8DIX in Ohio, sponsored by KA8OQF
1711: Ken WA9S in Indiana, signed up in Dayton
1712: Joe WZ8U in Michigan, joined in Dayton
1713: Charlie KA8ROC in Michigan, joined in Dayton
1714: Larry W9CC in Indiana, joined in Dayton
1715: Ed NA3WAJ in Pennsylvania, joined in Dayton
1716: Chuck K5FO in Texas, sponsored by W8MVN
1717: Greg N9ROR in Illinois, sponsored by WO8E
1718: Randy KG8HB in Michigan, joined in Dayton
1719: Rich WA3IVV in Pennsylvania, joined in Dayton
1720: Ed KF8SY in Michigan, signed up in Dayton
1721: Russ WA5Y in New Mexico, joined in Dayton
1722: Dan NU1M in Connecticut, sponsored by Dick Burke
1723: Wayne AB6UN in California, sponsored by K9VKY
1724: Phil KB9GNP in Illinois, sponsored by WO8E
1725: Mike N9NTOC in Wisconsin, sponsored by KN4OA
1726: Dan K2YWE in Maryland, signed in Dayton
1727: Sergio KP4FFW in Puerto Rico, sponsored by NP2GP, KP4DJ. Sergio is the Op who sent the last CW Coast Guard message from NMN.
1728: Lee N9NVV in Indiana, signed up in Dayton
1729: Bill AC4WH in North Carolina, sponsored by WZ8C
1730: George K5HT in Texas, sponsored by KE3NV
1731: Vern AB6YP in California, sponsored by KC5ASD
1732: Gary K8KFJ in West Virginia, sponsored by K8OUA
1733: Bob WB7PEI in Washington, sponsored by David Dowden and Ed N7CFA
1734: Joe AA1KF in Maine, sponsored by N1QWI and WD8OCV
1735: Mike N2HCU in New York, sponsored by WZ8C
1736: Mark WA0F in Minnesota
1737: Bill N8OHC in Ohio signed up in Dayton
1738: Joe K7CI in Maryland, sponsored by N3PM
1739: Jack W0UCE in North Carolina, sponsored by WB2EHG
1740: Paddy W9LOH in Illinois, sponsored by WZ8C
1741: Tom KM4DY in Georgia, sponsored by WZ8C
1742: Vic VE7AVC in British Columbia, sponsored by N7CFA
1743: Alvin KF8UE in Ohio, found FISTS in Dayton

1744: Bill KB8NTE in Michigan, sponsored by WZ8C
1745: Herb KC9DJ in Michigan, found us in Dayton
1746: Art KC7IG in Arizona, sponsored by K8OUA

WHEW!! This list is complete as of 5/23/95! The last few came in the mail over the weekend, and haven't received their info packs yet - don't worry they are in the works! And Certificates are delayed also - we ran out of them! They will be mailed separately when I get them made out..lots of paperwork, so please be patient! And I apologize in advance for any typing mistakes in the above listings, I try to check them carefully, but after typing so many callsigns, I tend to get a bit cross-eyed, HI!

The New NOVICE Class Class

written by Jim N8AYQ and printed in World Radio

I have taught Amateur classes for 7 years and have almost given up several times. I have also talked to other instructors who have in fact stopped teaching. Their excuses are all about the same: first and foremost, 13 to 15 weeks of teaching wears them out; second, no one will study; and finally, the low pass rate. If all this sounds familiar and you would like to help Amateur Radio grow, please read on.

About 3 years ago I started teaching the Novice class a little differently. The pass rate is up to 80% plus, and those who do get their Novice license continue on and upgrade. The hardest thing about teaching a Novice class now is leaning all the new Novice frequencies and privileges available.

I have discovered that the frequency of practice is by far the single most important factor in learning something new. I have achieved success for the students by applying this theory to the Novice Class

You must choose your nights carefully. I choose Tuesday and Thursday nights for 6 weeks. In our area this practice has several advantages. First, it leaves weekends open, as well as Wednesday nights that, in our area are traditionally church nights; and second, it enables students to study Monday nights for Tuesday and Wednesday night for Thursday, so, of course, materials for those days were discussed in class on Tuesday and Thursday. This boils down to 4 consecutive days students are exposed to theory and code.

Tricked them, didn't we? It is now a habit to study, not something to forget until next week!

How you teach is also important. I start out with 7 or 8 characters the first night and they learn 5 or 6 right then, and they learn them by sound! Not by counting dits and dahs., which can be done if only one or two letters are taught each night. But keep reading, there's more.

I also start each class with 7 to 8 minutes of code, then 15 to 20 minutes of theory, the code again, then theory and so on. Code at the start and end of class isn't enough, but more important than that is the length of practice they're getting. As a VE, I have watched man people copy at the exams and not have the endurance to last much more than 4 to 4 1/2 minutes

because they used 5 minute practice sessions. They need 7 or 8 minutes in class to build up the endurance for the 5 minute code test.

Beginning on the third class session, we have a sample code test; of course if someone is able to answer the questions or copy the 25 consecutive characters correctly, they will pass. However, more importantly, this type of test removes the fear of tests, and lessens that 'do or die' attitude so many have about the code.

Of course there are no guarantees in teaching and success rates vary. However if CW is to remain a part of Amateur Radio, it has to be taught as a useful, as well as enjoyable aspect instead of just as something to get out of the way.

I also have a few thoughts on theory instruction that seem to work well. First, this is only the beginning of what should be a continual learning process, not just memorizing 300 questions and answers in an attempt to just 'make it.'

In teaching, don't be a preacher. Listen for areas of misunderstanding in the questions you are asked and encourage discussion. Try and explain theory in a way that is easily understood. As students they should understand Ohm's Law, but Thevenin's Theorem is not necessary.

And please don't 'strut your stuff'. As teachers we aren't there to show them how much we know, but rather guide them and help them get excited about learning something new and how to apply it. An example would be this discussion: Two 10 ohm resistors in series add up to 20, but two 10 ohm resistors in parallel divided and appear as 5 ohms. This may be enough, but if we show them that in a series they are a voltage divider and in a parallel they are a current divider, we have given them a need to know, a use and the beginnings of the knowledge they need to apply in homebrewing.

Finally, try to incorporate a lot of show and tell. Old parts are great aids in helping to remember what a part and schematic symbols look like.

Get an old crystal that you can take apart in class, as well as other components. This will help in relating textbooks to the actual part in question and maybe in the process, learning and teaching will be more fun.

You should have one instructor to every 5 or 6 students. That way everyone gets the individual attention he or she needs.

Here is something I am going to try in my next class. Our club has 140 members and after the first class I am going to try and match up each student with a license Amateur, not as an Elmer program, but as a sheperding experience.

Instead of continuing to pat our current teachers on the back, we truly need to recruit more. Let's give it another shot, you ex-instructors. Try this 6-week Novice Class class method and let me know how it goes.

Final

Well, that's it for May! I hope we get the Missing Key-note problem fixed for next month, please hang in there with us! Plan a FISTS Field Day! 7/3/88 de Nancy
PS: Keep those letters coming, I need your input!!!