



KEY NOTE



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

Listings: Ed N7CFA 2628 Lilac St Longview WA 98632 Corrections & Callsign changes appreciated. SASE & extra loose stamp for updated list
 Club Supplies: Irene WO8E 25206 Hayes Roseville MI 48066 Lapel pins \$3.50 Stickers 200/\$5.00 Cloth patch \$1.50 prices include postage
 NA QSL Manager: John N8FU 4441 Andreas Ave Cincinnati OH 45211 PSE keep a couple SASEs on file to get your cards
 NA Century Award Manager: Lee N9NVV 4530 N 15th St Terre Haute IN 47805
 Subscriptions: \$15 US to Nancy WZ8C POB 47 Hadley MI. FAMILY PLAN: All CW folks at the same address can join FISTS for one sub fee with full privileges, but only one newsletter will be mailed per family.
 Nets: Sunday 2000Z 14.068 MHz KE3NV Net Control Sunday 2400Z 7.058 NCS open Wed 8pm EST 3.720 W8BI Net Control.
 Traffic Net Tues/Thurs 9pm 3.682 K8OUA

NORTH AMERICAN MEMO

Hi FISTS! I'm not sure why, but this is a record month for signing up new FISTS members - What a way to start out Spring! Many thanks to all who are sponsored new members and especially to those who renew their subs. Thanks for all you kind words and suggestions regarding the Keynote.

There isn't any news from Across The Pond this month. Geo got busy and had to combine the last two issues, so he's skipping a month. Things should be back to normal for April.

Speaking of April, I received a couple submissions appropriate for April 1st. I hope you can pick out which ones are "tongue-in-cheek", hi.

The FISTS patches won't be here until April 10. Rest assured they will be shipped out as soon as they arrive. They should look pretty snazzy. They don't look exactly like the logo, since the embroidery is bright blue and red. To do them with gold thread would have cost about 50% more and I didn't think it would show up very well anyway. It wasn't a typo last month, they ARE octagon shaped. Going to a custom shape would have cost big bucks. I wanted to keep the price down as much as possible. We have a thousand of them on order, so send **WO8E \$1.50** if you would like one.

We now have a photo scanner! I put a couple sample photos inside the newsletter this month. It needs some fine-tuning (that will probably happen when I read the manual, hi) but I think it will give the potential for making the Keynote bigger and better.

WELCOME TO THE NEW FISTS

2171: Sam N5AF in Cleveland Texas (NY2V)
 2170: Joe K8FC in Marion New York (K8NA)
 2169: Tom KA1RVV in Danbury CT (N9ZNF)
 2168: Allen N5AFV in Houston Texas (K1ETN)
 2167: Ken VE6KJL in Alberta Canada (G3ZQS)
 2166: Norm WB2DKA in Owenton Kentucky (K4HXM)
 2165: Rich N3SLR in Baltimore Maryland (AA0XI)
 2164: Bill K3AS in Wilmington Delaware (?)
 2163: Bill W9ALM in Kokomo Indiana (K4HXM)

2162: Dick WD8ISB in Macedonia Ohio (AA0XI)
 2161: Fred AB0AE in Ottawa Kansas (?)
 2160: Jim WA8DXB in Orwell Ohio (K8OUA)
 2159: Mike KC5DRH in Beaumont Texas (KA8OQF)
 2158: John K4BAI in Columbus Georgia (AA8HV)
 2157: Bob N9ZLA inn Colgate Wisconsin (AF9H)
 2156: Mike VE2MJE in Quebec Canada (WD8OCV)
 2155: Gary KB8WOL in Hancock Michigan (K8OUA)
 2154: Biff KE4USV in Tampa Florida (AA0NR)
 2153: Paul WA9PWP, Madison Wisconsin (N6HCS)
 2152: Rachel KJ5ZN in Santa Fe, N Mexico (KN6TC)
 2151: Randy N2ZHF in Auburn New York (KN6TC)
 2150: Claude KO6RU in Pollock Pines CA (KM6VN)
 2149: Bill KA3OHV in Allentown PA (WZ8C)
 2148: JB AA6IH in Redlands California (KF6CR)
 2147: Scotty KA6LYD, Parachute CO (W9YB/AD4OS)
 2146: Ray W5XE in El Paso Texas (N6HCS)
 2145: Al KC4OHA in Mt Pleasant S. Carolina (KA11IQ)
 2144: Gordon KL7GN in Anchorage Alaska (N8FU)
 2143: Gerald KE4LIA in Louisville Kentucky (AA0NR)
 2142: Becky KF4EOI, Chamblee Georgia (KE4QZB)
 2141: Bob KA0TYB, E Grand Forks MN (WD8OCV)
 2140: Dennis KQ6AG in Culver City CA (N6HCS)
 2139: Jamie W5YSM/VK2AIX, Baton Rouge, LA WZ8C
 2138: Pat K5ETX in Arlington Texas (N6HCS)
 2137: Henry K4QIL in Little River, S.C. (KM4BR)
 2136: Jack NA7X in Coeur D'Alene Idaho (K17EG)
 2135: Joe VE3FMQ in Toronto Canada (N6HCS)
 2134: Len KG8SF in Pickerington OH (AI9L)
 2133: Bob K2LGJ in Buffalo NY (W7UDZ)
 2132: Wayne N2ROR in E. Chatham, N. York (KA8OQF)
 2131: Don AB7KP in Newport, Oregon (W7UDZ)
 2130: George KF4OH in Ocala, Florida (KE4HZM)
 2129: Johnny KE4ZQD in Chamblee Georgia (KE4QZB)
 2128: Ben KE4UAR in DeKalb, Mississippi (NY2V)
 2127: Jon WD9FEP in Bloomington, Illinois (N6HCS)
 2126: Rich WB2RAR in Columbus, N Jersey (N6HCS)
 2125: Steve N9OKI in Clarksville, Indiana (NY2V)
 2124: Ralph K4SFO in Liberty, N Carolina (WA0FGV)
 2123: Jeff N2YVF in Palmyra, New Jersey (N3FSC)
 2122: Jim KF6CR in San Bernadino California (KJ7NR)
 Welcome back to 1209 Bill KA8JIY in Ann Arbor MI

FISTS ON LINE

Brian **N8IAG** is keeping a list of FISTS who have Email capability. Let him know if you want to be included, or there is a change (or mistake) in your Email address.

VE1ZAC	Jeff	jsmith@fox.nstn.ca
WB2EZG	Vince	103520.355@compuserve.com
N2ROR	Wayne	wayneg@taconic.net
N2SG	Helen	hlandry@spectra.net
N3ITF	Alan	kerbugh@aol.com
KA3OHV	Bill	71664.2310@compuserve.com
N3QEN	Richard	edwardsw@cris.com
N3SLR	Rich	bachmann@ari.net
W3ZIF	Roy	w3zif@aol.com
KE4USA	Eric	eafisher@ecn.purdue.edu
AC4WH	Bill	willieb@nr.infi.net
KS4XN	John	afn01079@afn.org
KE4ZQD	Johnny	jwolfe@atlanta.com
N5AFV	Allen	afmattis@i-link.net
K5DQ	Peggy	102661.715@compuserve.com
K5DRH	Mike	medward@tenet.edu
AC5FY	Jim	jbbrow29@linknet.net
KC5GXC	Pete	kc5gxc@ab6z.ampr.org
KC5GXL	Dan	kc5gxl@pnx.com
KK5SQ	Joe	jpardue@communique.net
W5XE	Ray	af852@rgfn.epcc.edu
W5YSM	Jamie	jami1@ix.netcom.com
AC6GR	Jay	ac6gr@tribeca.ios.com
WE6V	Jim	jimcwxr@svpal.org
KJ7NR		stv@cnw.com
KB7RNV	Frank	breidtfc@aol.com
W7UDZ	Del	103707.134@compuserve.com
WZ8C	Nancy	nancy@tir.com
WO8E	Irene	rene@tir.com
K8FC	Joe	joe_wilkowski@mc.xerox.com
N8IAG	Brian	blafont@tir.com
N8NLK	Dave	dherr29@alliance.net
KG8QT	Marty	kg8qt@ix.netcom.com
KB8SBX	Mike	kb8sbx@aol.com
W9ALM	Bill	bill@netusa1.net
AB0AE	Fred	fred@ott.net
WA0UCG	Gerry	wa0ucg@aol.com

20 Meter Sunday QSO Party

Report - Check-Ins:

Jan 21: VE5RD, WP2T... Scott's power went out after 10 minutes

Jan 28: WP2T, N7CFA, N2PLE, N1NGM, KS4XN, VA3KEW, KBOJTS

Feb 4: W6DDB, W6JEP, AA0NR, VE5RD, N7CFA

Feb 11: WP2T, VE5RD, W4JTU, AA0NR, WB2FXK, N2HCU, N5URL/QRP, VY2RB, N4VEF, W6DDB, AC4ZH (W4JTU was a big help on this QSO party helping Scott out. Thank you Bert!)

Feb 18: No QSO Party ARRL DX Contest in progress. Happily, the Sunday afternoon QSO Party seems to be recovering from the transition from **KC4UUGs** guiding fist to Scotts!

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More Little Known Q Signals

Our household had a good chuckle with "A Glossary of Little Known Q Signals" in issue 2/96. I would like to suggest several more that would be extremely handy, and frequently used at this QTH:

QSI: QRM from a small person: Hanging on neck, climbing up chair, wrestling with fist on key, etc. (Smallfry Interference)

QTB: Must QRT immediately to put small person to bed. (Too Bed)

QBP: Severe odour in shack indicates need to QRT and deal with a diaper! (Big Poop!)

These Q signals should fit in with the universality of Q signals, for CW ops in all countries!

Ciao & 73 Jeff **VE1ZAC** Nr. 2048

Thanks Jeff-I bet you're lucky to get on the air at all with all that QSI in the shack! Anyone have any more?

From Joe N3LBC

I have very few original friends, compared to when I became a Ham about four years ago. I am seeking insight as to possible reasons for this development.

The loss began when I told a group of these friends about my lucky "double-bagger" first Special Event Station and DX contacts back in April 1992. The SES was N6MM, the Euro-Disney commemoration, and the DX QSO was with a CO5 amateur. All I said was that I spoke with Mickey Mouse and a fellow who phonetically spelled his name as "Juliette-Echo-Sierra-Uniform-Sierra", and that I did this all on the same day! Why was my enthusiastic announcement met with fleeting glances and sad expressions?

The next group of friends disappeared when I told them that I was chasing ET's and UFO's - you know, suffixes necessary for the "Worked All UFO's Diploma" offered by XE1UFO. I just don't understand why those friends turned tail and hurried away. Why are they behaving so strangely?

The latest group disappearance came after my disclosure that I regularly converse with people from MARS. My last group of old friends actually ran from me when I further reported that I AM from MARS!

And, to top off this whole sorry affair, why do people become so belligerent when I tell them I communicate with FISTS?

Fortunately, I have made a number of Ham friends over these four years. My new friends are just great, but I really do miss my old buddies. Could you tell me what has happened to them? Sincerely, Joe **N3LBC**

PS: All the events are true..

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Christopher #1758 on his Tech+. He's anxiously awaiting his callsign! KF7NR on getting his Extra!

CENTURY AWARDS:

N1DNM-#68, N4VEF-#69, KA1ZVX-#70, K7WF-#71, VY2RB-#74, W6DDB-#75, KS4UV-#76, AE2L-#78

What happened to Exclamation Points?

This question was raised a few KeyNotes ago and Mac **WOAP** offers this explanation:

When I first learned the International code, the symbol -- . . . -- (dah dah didit dah dah) was used for the exclamation point. It was also sent several times for "warning, high power" when a station would be switching to "high power" (QRO).

About 1935 or so some (idiots) decided to change the period and comma characters for reasons never clear to me (or others). The result was: The period (didit didit didit) was changed to - (didah didah didah) and the comma was changed from .-.- (didah didah didah) to -- . . . -- (dah dah didit dah dah).

This left us without a symbol for the exclamation point and as far as I know we never gained a new one.

For many operators like myself this idiotic change of the comma and the period has left me with a hesitancy whenever I hear - as I still reach for a "comma", hi. 73 Mac **WOAP**

Matt renewed his subs for two years, pointing out that when he's up for renewal again, he'll be 80! Thanks, Mac.

TYPICAL QSO BETWEEN TWO YLs

AB5TY de **K5DQ** K

R R **K5DQ** de **AB5TY**: GM Peggy. Heard there was an oil spill in Galveston. How bad is it?

K5DQ: GM Lea. Haven't heard a thing abt it. Last newspaper I read was at Xmas. Can't remember how to turn on TV. Hw's ur wx?

AB5TY: **KB0ZE** sed it was 15 deg in MO but haven't ckd here. What else is new?

K5DQ: Having company today. Need to get a brush hog and dump truck to clean up the house.

AB5TY: Turning a firehose on the house works nicely and it's quick. Had a nice card es pix from **KE3NV** Scott.

KD5Q: What does Scott look like?

AB5TY: Don't remember but he has a pretty shiny Mack truck. Wat you gg to fix ur company for dinner?

K5DQ: May do peanut butter sandwiches. Won't take long but out of bread.

AB5TY: Snds gud to me. Crackers are nice, and quick.

K5DQ: Gud idea. Had a great QSO with a Frenchman this mng. Ooh la la.

AB5TY: Is that more interesting than an Eyetalean? Wat happened?

K5DQ: Lets do e mail.

AB5TY: Let the gossip begin. 33. **K5DQ** de **AB5TY** AR SK ..

K5DQ: FB on e mail. CU on the net. 33. **AB5TY** de **K5DQ** AR SK ..

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QRP Gets Through!

CW has its advocates and its opponents, and as a FISTS member I'm proud to count myself among the former. Sometimes there is an opportunity to put faith into practice, and prove dramatically how useful CW can be.

The Colorado QRP Club's Winter QSO Party on February 25th was such an opportunity. I enjoy participating in contests. I believe they are an excellent way to hone one's operating skills and you win whether you run up a big score or not. My 58 QSO's on 40 meters were nothing more than a good average total for that contest; certainly nothing to brag about in QRP circles. So why mention it here?

Consider this-- I was using a simple dipole antenna, and pumping out the legal limit (for QRP contests) of FIVE WATTS. The transceiver was built from a kit costing less than \$100. Among my 58 contacts were stations in 26 DIFFERENT STATES. In other words, with a bare minimum of equipment, I went more than half-way towards Worked all States, two-way QRP, in 6 hours.

Seems to me that's a pretty good endorsement of CW as an efficient and effective mode!

73/72 Marshall AA0XI/VK5FN

From Margie N1QLF

I have been so busy with my CW, that I hardly have time for anything else!! I have been helping a lot of my No-Code pals to learn CODE! I have enjoyed CW so much, that I want others to know what a totally unique mode it is.. and I hope they will learn to enjoy it as much as I have, and continue to. I work CW at least 10 to 12 hours a night!! Since I am a "late night Lunatic", my CW QSO's are mostly between the hours of midnight and 5 am. I also have many skeds with my Elmer, Jim W4KFR. He got his ticket when I was a year old, he's 78 now and a constant inspiration to me.

My Granddaughter Ashley continues to practice her CW. She is about a year and a half now, and when she comes here, she heads right for the spot where I keep her "key" and tells me to get it down for her so she can practice. We spend about an hour together on the "key", she can send her name, and she even says it, as she sends it!

I just know she will be a wonderful Fist when she grows up, if not before.

I enjoy the pictures of the FISTS, it's nice to put a face with the key. I work Jim **N8NLE** quite often of 3.700, he's the watchdog of that freq. He's always there, we share a lot of "hi hi's".

Thanks again for the wonderful work you do and for the great Newsletter. I look forward to it each month - it's a "Gotta Have"!! Always a friend, Margie No One Quits Loving' Forever

How To Get Membership Lists

From the List Manager Ed N7CFA:

For a member list please send a SASE (#10 envelope with one unit of postage attached) and one additional 32c stamp to cover printing.

Lists will not be sent email at present. Microsoft Word 6.0 files on disk are available. These are tables, not a database. There are two files on the one disk. One contains the listing, regularly updated, shown by call areas, etc. The other contains the listing by FISTS number. A formatted 3 1/2" disk should be sent with the request. Adequate postage for it's return must be included.

The lists will be up to 6 pages soon. I can still send it in an envelope with regular postage by printing both sides of the page (three sheets).

I don't think sending the file by email would benefit many people. It is my understanding that attachments to from AOL to AOL email works OK, but when it has to go via the Internet, it must be pure text form which would strip any word processor formatting characters and paragraph, etc. AOL to AOL does not use the Internet (unless addressed incorrectly!).

Alaska Propagation

by Tim AB5OU

I was at the University of Alaska Anchorage, as the Associate Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Studies (the longer the title, the less important the job!) Am now the Dean of the Graduate School at New Mexico State University - at least the title is shorter!

In reference to Alaska, I lived up there from 1991 to 1993. The propagation is really unusual. Summer time you can have light and twilight for 20 hours a day in Anchorage. Further north there is even longer days in the summer. Of course, in the winters there is about 4 hours of light/twilight, the rest is night time. That's at Anchorage. Further north it's even worse. I have a friend at Selawik (on the arctic circle) where the sun sets in the fall and comes back up in the spring! Because of the northern lights, propagation can be unpredictable. Many times there would be an almost warble sound to signals coming in. This has been a couple of years ago (actually closer to 3), but 20m, for instance would stay open to after midnight on many nights. If you look at a globe, you'll see that almost the entire world is due north over the pole (except for the rest of the USA). Many Alaskan hams keep their beams pointed north, much to the consternation of hams in the "lower 48" looking for an Alaskan contact. Unfortunately, I've also experienced several weeks where propagation is terrible, you're lucky to get a contact.

With 5 watts max, and with a 135 foot dipole fed with ladder line, I worked over 140 countries. The peak of the antenna was at 40'. Almost always ran cw.

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I wanted to stay in Alaska but the prospects of a better job and being closer to kids and grandkids brought us back to New Mexico. I'm also having a ball running qrp, mostly cw but some ssb nets as well. My antenna right now is a GAP Titan vertical mounted at 17'. I really like the antenna and it works well for me, even qrp. My main rig is a Kenwood TS140s but I also have an Index Labs QRP Plus (5watts, cw and ssb, 9 bands), a Norcal 40A (about 2watts on 40m cw), and several other qrp rigs bought, built, or building.

QRP-L

There is a wonderful group of qrpers (several hundred strong) that hang out on what's called QRP-L on the Internet. I think you subscribe by sending the following message to LISTSERV@LEHIGH.EDU:

SUBSCRIBE QRP-L Your Name Callsign

for instance:

SUBSCRIBE QRP-L Joe Blow XX#XX

For those without a callsign yet, just type in NONE for callsign. Be careful about subscribing since the volume of traffic is fairly high. There's also a digest form of participation but I don't know how to get that. So far we don't have many of the typical flame wars you see on other lists. Just a nice group of qrpers (lots of cw operators) sharing stuff and having fun. There has been, for two years, a "FOX HUNT" where everyone tries to find and work the designated FOX on 40m cw. It extends over several months of weekly or twice-weekly hunts. There is also a 30m propagation study during the summer months. It's not a contest, just a way of encouraging folks to use the 30m band to work fellow qrpers. We even let QROers talk to us! The focus of QRP-L, however, is clearly qrp. If you want to pursue this more you need to check with Chuck Adams, K5FO, who started QRP-L. His e-mail address is ADAMS@CHUCK.DALLAS.SGI.COM

Tim AB5OU Las Cruces, NM FISTS # 1954

Win a Gold Plated Key??

I don't think so!! Rich WB4VFN suggests we have a contest making FISTS an acronym that stands for something, and the winner getting a gold plated key.... Would you settle for an "atta boy" and a mention in the KeyNote?? HI!! Rich has these suggestions:

Fun	Fanatics
Is	In
Sending	Sending
Telegraphy	Telegraphy
Slowly	

Anyone else have any others?? Rich has been a ham for 28 years, all CW. He got an Icom 736 and was on voice more, but when he heard all the foul language and groups/nets on SSB he came right back to CW. He's scared we are going to lost 80 meters if it isn't cleaned up.

SCANNER

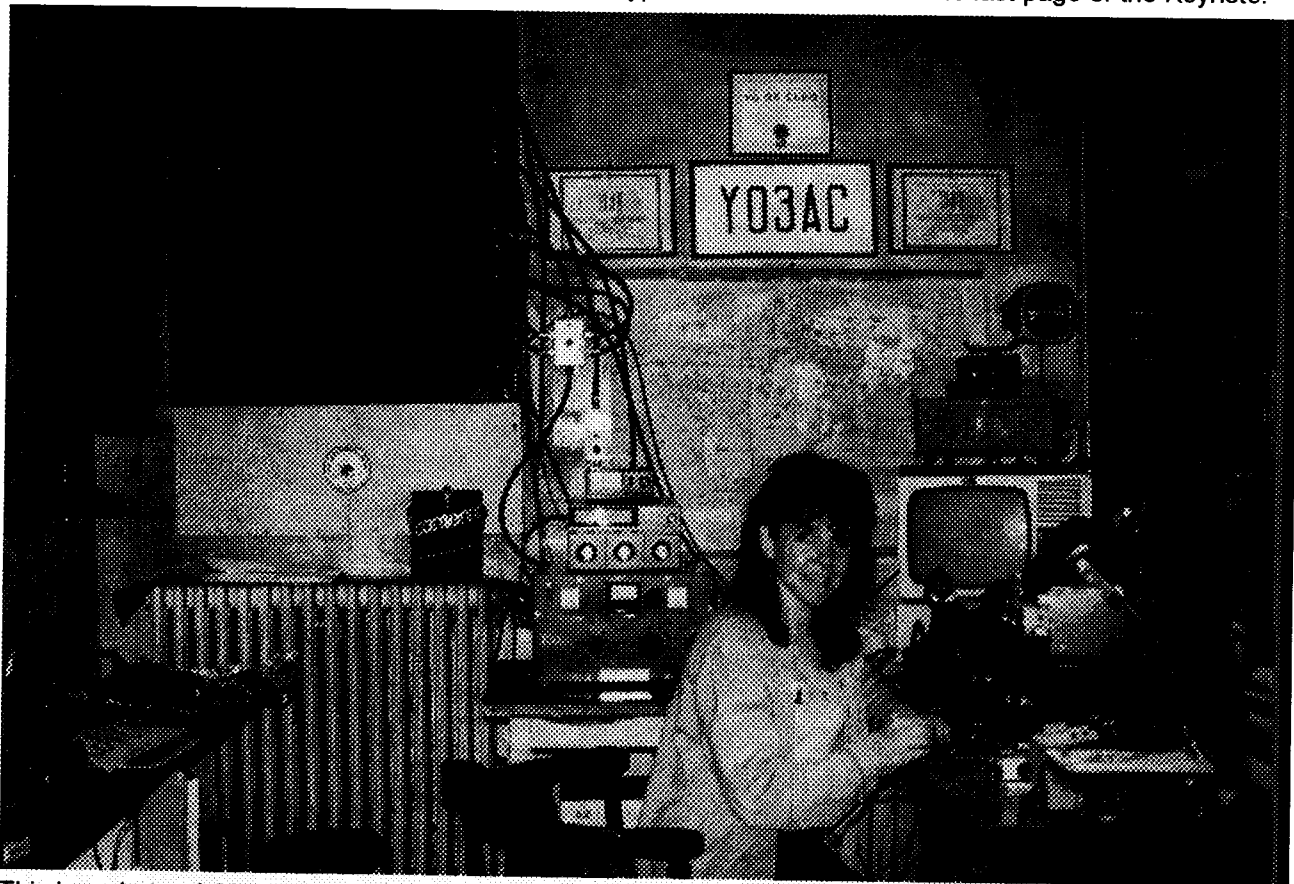
I hope this will add a new dimension to the Keynote and make it more enjoyable and informative.

This is a photo of Margie N1QLF's granddaughter Ashley and her key. I need to work on the contrast and the quality of the scans, but this gives you an idea of how the photos will be.

SO! Send in your pics! It also can do line drawings, so schematics and sketches.

The Code Ode from K4FW/8 was also scanned, it was so beautifully printed I thought it would

be nice to share it in its original format rather than type it in. Code Ode is on the last page of the Keynote.



This is a photo of Gloria G3VUN taken in Romania where she went to train teachers and parents of special needs children. This is the shack of YO3AC who is the number 2 cw op for YO.

2 Meter HandHeld FOR SALE

Yaesu 2 Meter hand held Model FT-208R with desk charger and rubber duck antenna for sale. In PERFECT WORKING CONDITION - NEEDS NEW BATTERY. HT is cracked slightly in back but repaired with silicone OK. Asking \$60.00 Shipped UPS. Contact Carl KR4VQ

8024 Tatum Waterway Dr #5B, Miami Beach FL 33141 or phone (305) 865-7626

Name That Net

Charlie **KA8OQF** Net Control of the Wednesday 8pm 3.720 net with the callsign **W8BI** is thinking of a net name change. It is to be voted on only by those on the air - if you want to vote, check in!

- A) FISTS Slow Speed Group (FSSG)
- B) FISTS Slow QSO Group (FSQG)
- C) FISTS Slow Group (FSG)
- D) Slow Speed FISTS Group (SSFG)

Charlie says: **A Good CW QSO Is It's Own Reward.** Charlie is in charge of the Special Event Station at the Dayton HamVention and from the preliminary plans I've heard it's going to be a doozy! I hope to have full details to print next month.

DAYTON

Does anyone have an extra hotel room, or want to share a room/expenses? Geo **G3ZQS** needs a place to stay while in Dayton. Let me know if you can help. Geo will be staying with Brian **K9VKY** before Dayton (Pittsburgh), if you are interested in meeting Geo or putting him up for a few days while he is here in the States, let me know that also and I'll put you in touch with Brian. Don't forget our Eyeball QSO Friday night at Stouffers downtown. The QRPers changed their dinner from the traditional Saturday to Friday, so I know there is a conflict of interest for many, but I hope you can make it!!

Novice Roundup

The first ever FISTS Novice Roundup is now history. The event ran for a total of 9 days and was FISTS first attempt at running a major contest. Unfortunately, it seems as though the event went off unnoticed by many on the Novice bands and the number of logs sent in at this time has not been very large.

However, there is still time. If you made contacts during the FISTS NR, why not jot down your totals and send the log in to Pete **K8OUA**. You may find yourself winning an attractive certificate. There will be a participants certificate for every novice or tech who sent in his/her log. Don't be shy, send in your log and give yourself a good chance of winning some attractive wallpaper. Logs will be accepted until April 15 to Pete Kozup, **K8OUA**, 5115 N. Park Ave., Warren, OH 44481. *There certainly wasn't any lack of activity among FISTS members, I heard **KA4IFF**, **N8FU**, **W08E** and others asking each other "where's the Novices??" - **WZ8C***

FISTS Slow Traffic Net Report

Have you ever received a radiogram, a message sent via the National Traffic System? Many of you have received one from me. I sent out forty or so to FISTS Novices and Techs prior to the FISTS Novice Roundup encouraging them to participate. Others may have received a message welcoming you to FISTS - I used to send these out to new members each month, but for a number of reasons I haven't been doing that as much
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during the past half-year or so. But, I think I'll start again, it's fun and helps me to note the calls and names of new members of the group.

Irene **W08E** recently received one from me wishing her a happy birthday. I'm not real good at sending out cards but usually send my relatives a radiogram message for their birthdays. OK, you ask, what's your point? My point is that messages sent out over the NTS can be sent for any number of reasons, a neat way of saying hello to old friends, wishing them birthday or anniversary greetings. There is a list of new FISTS in the Keynote each month. Why not send them a greeting welcoming them to the organization. Sure beats a kick in the head in my opinion. Most of us have access to callsign addresses, through CD-ROMs, the internet, or the old fashioned Callbook. Look up the address, write out the message, check into a traffic net, and send it.

Of course, the easiest thing to do is to check into the FISTS Slow Net on Tuesday and Thursday nights and send your messages through that net. A number of FISTS do - Jack **WB2FXK** and Ken **VA3KEW** are only two of many who have put traffic into the system via the FSN. While we're a traffic training net, we do more than train. Messages come into the net and are taken from FSN to other nets, and this works out well.

You too can send your greetings to your friends and relatives by using your hobby. You can do it using your favorite mode and on a net designed specifically for your favorite ham group. Just check in any **Tuesday/Thursday night at 2100 Eastern time on 3.782 MHz**. Over the past couple of months the following is a list of those who have checked into the net - **N1PVP** Marino, **WB3KMX** Ron - a special thanks to Ron for taking the net as NCS on several nights when I could not be there, including one night on which he had eleven check ins, **VA3KEW** Ken, **W4JTU** Bert - a regular who goes back with the net for many months, all the way from Miami - tnx fer sticking wid us OM, **AA2HR** Randy, **AB2AC** Carol - if you want to see a picture of Randy and Carol (using her old call **N2PNB**) see Feb QST page 19, **KC5MDD** John, **AA0IQ** Claude, **WB2FXK** Jack, **KE4HZM** Rich, **KB8WOL** Gary, **KA3AKC** Lew, **W8DYF** Joe, **N1NGM** Norm, **N9JIY** Mike - another ham who goes back to the beginnings of the net, **WB9CIS** John. I know I've missed some, my apologies, I'm just not organized well enough to keep careful track of QNIs (I am getting better though, honest). I just want to let each of you know how much I personally appreciate your friendship in sticking with the net, and helping it to continue. I feel that I've made some good friends through FSN, and that makes it all worthwhile. OK, here's wishing each of you the very best of Spring and I hope that the snow around your place is either gone by now or well on its way to going.

Take care es QNI FSN sn, OM (or YL), 73/88 es ARF.
Pete **K8OUA** for FISTS Slow Net.

Exotic Ham Gear- April 1 specials

Order by packet and get free publicity from the FCC
SUPER WIRE

This 120' #14 copper wire is specially treated for fast wave release by means of a secret grease. Squares power output. Outperforms stacked beams.

Price: 25,000 rubles

WORLD CLASS HF TRANSCEIVER

67 knobs and buttons. Some are useful. Monopole if filter allows you to hear a dozen signals on one tuning dial setting. Low dynamic range brings in signals from all over the band without tuning. High phase noise partially blocks power-line noise. Price: 3200 Kwachi

NON-RESONANT ANTENNA TUNER

Perfectly matches all resonant antennas when switched to "off" position. Recommended for use with Super-Wire to keep rare DX from blocking receiver.

Price: 900 Kubrik

CONDUCTIVE DIRT

Spread under your antenna for a perfect ground. Prevents grass from growing to allow more operating time. Price, 10 tons, 695 Qetul (not available)

HIGH VOLTAGE POWER SUPPLY

Free power for those hams fortunate to live directly beneath high voltage transmission lines. Simply throw leads over lines. Primary 200,000 volts. Rubber gloves suggested. Price: 1495 Tugrit

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Thanks K4FW!!

FISTS Spring Sprint

Well, gang, it's almost that time again, time for one of the most enjoyable of FISTS activities, the first FISTS Sprint of the year, the FISTS Spring Sprint. If you haven't participated in any of the FISTS Sprints yet (we have two a year, one in the Spring and one in the Fall), you've been missing some of the fun events of the FISTS schedule. The objective is pretty simple, work as many FISTS and non-FISTS as you can in a four hour period on a Saturday afternoon. Finish the exercise by calculating your score, sending it in, and have a chance at winning yourself a really sharp looking certificate that you'll be proud to put on your shack wall. Following are the details of the second annual

FISTS Spring Sprint.

DATE: Saturday May 11, 1996

TIME: 1700 - 2100 UTC

OBJECTIVE: To work as many FISTS and non-FISTS as possible in the time period. CW only. Work stations only once per band.

EXCHANGE: Name, State/Province/DXCC Country, FISTS number (or power output if nonmember of FISTS).

MULTIPLIERS: States/Provinces/DX countries — states and provinces count only once; count DX QSOs as new multiplier each contact (Yes, that means that if you QSO the same DX station on different bands, it counts as a different multiplier each time, similarly, if you work 4 different VKs, each counts as a multiplier). This is a change from earlier Sprints and should both answer some of the questions that were asked, and should encourage DX participation in the Sprint.

SCORE: Count 5 points per FISTS QSO and 2 points per non-FISTS QSO.

FINAL SCORE: QSO points X Multipliers

Send your log within 30 days to: Peter Kozup, K8OUA, 5115 N. Park Ave., Warren, OH 44481.

And, there it is! The number of logs received for the Fall Sprint was an increase over the number for the first Spring Sprint. I hope that this Sprint will see even more logs sent in. I'm well aware that some of you don't have much time for contesting but this one is different. It is more layback, friendlier and a lot of fun. And you're among friends. It's also another great way to contact FISTS and will help you on your way to the Century Award. So, mark your calendars and get the gear ready. I'll certainly be there trying my hardest to finish on top of this one. I'm looking forward to QSOing you during the Sprint. Lets get on and make the bands ring with CW on that afternoon. 73, Pete — K8OUA.

Where's PhotoPage Number 4??

I hope you've noticed there is no photopage included with this KeyNote. Unfortunately we were TWO photos short of a page (no, that's not the same as being "a few bricks short of a full load", hi). You've indicated that you enjoy the photopages — get on the ball and send in your photo so we can do more of it!! We'll include an index periodically also. If you are missing pages send me a stamp and I'll get a replacement out to you. Please support this effort and send your photo to Ken WK8F 25206 Hayes, Roseville MI 48066.

Saturday 2400Z 7.058 QSO PARTY

There is a group gathering on 7.058 Sunday at 2400Z. Wes **W3ERU** (thanks Wes!) has been NCS the past couple weeks. Like the 20 meter QSO party it seems to be taking on a life of its own - I don't have a list of check-ins, but it looks like it's going to be another excellent place to meet FISTS! Check it out!

It must be Spring. WO8E saw a robin & went kite flying today! CU next month - 73/88 Nancy WZ8C

CODE ODE

by Troy Weidenheimer, WØROF

It's more than dots and dashes,

It's a place.

*A sanctuary for those who've learned
To love the mysterious magic of
Thoughts arriving in mile-long strings
On roads of ether or wire.*

Even more, it's peace,

*A shield from the disordered sounds
Of traffic, angry people
And industrial clutter clatter,
Within its warm mantle
We find soothing respite.*

*And the patter of bright ideas it is,
The sharp focusing of others' thoughts
From miles beyond our vision's range,
As in a dream we sit so still,*

*It floats in our ears and stirs our minds
With concern, remembrance, speculation
And mirth.*

And code is music,

*From sounders and speakers it dances
In the shack to each sender's inner clock,
And comes butter-smooth, deliciously swinging,
Or choppy stacatto from a "fist" praising definition,
Or perfectly metered, flowing exquisitely
From the gentle hand of an artist.*

A place,

And peace,

*Intelligence and
Music.*

Code is more than dots and dashes.

