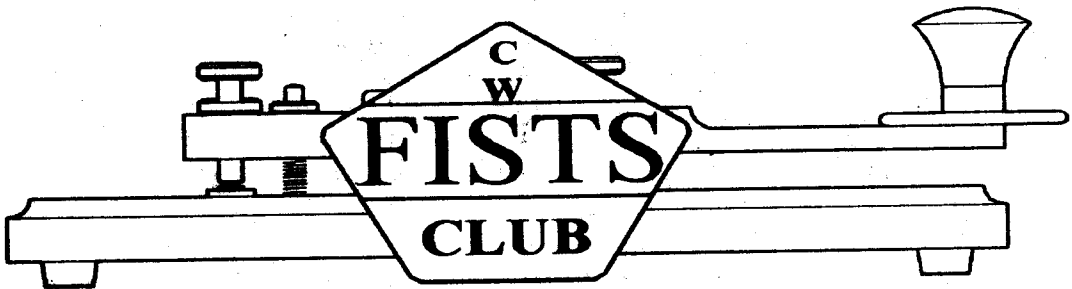


The Keynote

Newsletter of FISTS CW Club, the active chapter of the
International Morse Preservation Society

"Accuracy Transcends Speed"



- Further the use of CW
- Encourage newcomers to use CW
- Engender friendships among members

"When You've Worked A FISTS, You've Worked A Friend"

HOW DO I...

...ORDER CLUB SUPPLIES? Irene WO8E 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr. Clinton Twp, MI 48038 has gold logo stickers, 200 for \$5; Blue enamel/gold metal clasp-back logo pins \$3.50; Cloth logo patches 3" octagon shaped \$1.50 Rubber stamps with the FISTS logo for use with an ink pad (not included) for \$5. "I Support KNOW Code" buttons for .75 FISTS Logo mugs are currently out of stock. These prices DO include first class postage.

...GET AN UP-TO-DATE MEMBERLIST? The list is printed in the KeyNote twice a year and is also on the Web page. A printed updated list may be obtained by sending \$1 (to defray costs- it's 10 pages long) to Ed N7CFA 2628 Lilac Street, Longview WA 98632. Corrections to Ed at n7cfa@kalama.com

...GET ON THE FISTS ON-LINE Email LIST? Send your Email address with your name/call/ FISTS number to blafont@tir.com

...GET/SEND FISTS QSL CARDS Via BURO? Stan K4UK, with the assistance of the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club handles FISTS QSL bureau. Sort your outgoing FISTS cards by call area, and mail to K4UK, 1020 Long Island Dr, Moneta VA 24121. To receive cards you may have waiting at the bureau, send K4UK a few SASEs. QSLs will NOT be sent to you unless you have sent in an SASE or made arrangements with Stan. His Email is stanreas@rev.net

...RENEW MY KEYNOTE SUBSCRIPTION? Send a check/M.O. made out to FISTS for \$15/year to Nancy WZ8C POBox 47 Hadley MI 48440. *What's the Family Plan?* All CW folks at the same QTH can belong to FISTS for one subscription fee of \$15. You will each have your own FISTS number, but only one Keynote will be mailed per address. Student rate = \$10 if not in a Family Plan.

...SPONSOR A DX FISTS? DX FISTS have a separate block of numbers; their Keynote is mailed from Geo G3ZQS. Send their info to Geo 119 Cemetery Rd, Darwen Lancs, BB3 2LZ; he'll send them a DX application .

...HAVE AN APPLICATION OR NEWSLETTER SAMPLE SENT TO FRIENDS? Send their address Joe K5HLR 29 Melrose Dr, Marrero LA, 70072. Pse enclose \$1 if sample Keynote is requested. An application is also available, in text format, for downloading on our Web page <http://www.FISTS.org>

...APPLY FOR THE CENTURY or WAS AWARD? Send a list of contacts (call, FISTS #, date, band) and power used to Joe N3LBC, 222 E Bertsch St, Lansford PA 18232. Don't submit QSLs. There is no charge to FISTS members for the regular Century Award. If you are applying for the Golden/Diamond Century or the Platinum, send your request directly to HQ in England (119 Cemetery Rd, Darwen Lancs England BB3 2LZ) including sufficient return postage.

...VOLUNTEER FOR or GET A CODE BUDDY? send your requirements and info to John W9EM, 34020 N. Hickory Ave, Grayslake IL60030. Email to w9em@aol.com

...SHARE COMPUTER SOFTWARE? Joe WZ8U 5428 Bolander Grand Blanc MI 48439

...GET MY PHOTO ON THE PHOTOPAGES? Send a snapshot of yourself to Ken W8ROG 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr. Clinton Twp, MI 48038

...GET A COPY OF FISTS PRESENTATION Contact Joe KK5NA at KK5NA@quadj.com or 3618 Montridge Ct, Arlington, TX 76016. Let him know the date and approx number of attendees.

...FIND THE WEB PAGE? <http://www.FISTS.org>

...SUGGEST IDEAS FOR THE WEB PAGE? Contact Bill KK4KF at bjmyers@arc.net

...ORDER FISTS CLUB QSL CARDS? send SASE to WX9X at 354 West St, Valparaiso IN 46383

...ORDER A FISTS CLUB ID BADGE? Our club badge is dark blue, with FISTS logo in gold and your name, FISTS number, callsign and "Int'l Morse Preservation Society" in white. They are \$6.95 post-paid from The Signman of Baton Rouge 879 Castle Kirk Dr, Baton Rouge LA 70808; email nv5a@aol.com

A non-engraved, laminated club badge is available from Bruce Eichmann W2BE, 204 E. Lake Blvd, Medford NJ 08055. Cost is \$4.75, NJ residents \$5.00 because of tax.

The Keynote is published approximately monthly by Nancy Kott WZ8C, P. O. Box 47, Hadley MI 48440-0047 Email: nancy@tir.com WZ8C reserves the right to edit submissions for space, clarity and topic suitability. Comments not attributed to another are written by WZ8C. Articles from The Keynote may be reprinted if credit is given to the original author.

North **KEYNOTE** American

Slow Traffic Net: Tuesday & Thursday 9pm EST on 3.682
Slow Ragchewing Group: W8BI 8pm EST Wed on 3.720
Century Award Net: Sunday 1900Z (1500est/edt) on 14.058MHz
Saturday QSO Groups: 14.058 at 2000Z and 7.058 at 2300Z
Sunday Slow Speed Chat 21.158MHZ at 1700Z

Please keep watch on the Novice Bands and frequencies ending in .x58

Accuracy Transcends Speed

Courtesy At All Times

Hello FISTS! Dayton 1998 is history and it is one for the record books as far as FISTS is concerned. The time just flew by, even Sunday when things traditionally slow down to a trickle. As Irene WO8E and I were packing up the booth, we just couldn't believe it was over already and we were heading home.

Here are the statistics: We had 192 FISTS sign the attendance sheet at the booth and 46 signed the attendance sheet at the FISTS Eyeball Party on Friday night. I suspect the actual numbers are higher than this because many FISTS stopped briefly by the booth and didn't get the chance to sign in.

I heard it said more than once that people would have liked to stop by and say hello but the crowd in front of our booth was just too big.

We gave away 30 pounds of peppermint candy and root beer barrels from the bowl at the booth and signed up 59 new FISTS members! And we passed out approximately 1000 sample Keynotes. Jack WB2FXK took home a big supply of our brochures, so I'm sure we'll have plenty of new ones coming from him in the future.

WO8E and I had a lot of help with the booth this year. It allowed me to actually wander out and buy a mag mount antenna so I can put my two meter rig back in my vehicle. The only other item I bought was a South African military key from Gary N8GA (for an undisclosed price). Funny thing is, Gary is a local MI ham but we couldn't get together to decide on the price until we were in Dayton. Many people found bargains, our booth made a handy drop off place for their treasures while they continued shopping. The weather was perfect for the flea market. There were lots of sunburned smiling faces.

Geo G3ZQS attended the Hamvention and had a

pileup of his own at Charlie KA8OQF's Special Event Station as well as at the booth. Everyone wanted to meet FISTS #1. Geo had a very good time and is looking forward to next year, as am I. I think it's safe to say a good time was had by all. Thanks to all who helped. I hope you enjoyed spreading the word of FISTS. Many thanks to DARA Hamvention folks for allowing FISTS to have a booth again this year.

I hope you had fun during the Spring Sprint. From what I can tell so far, from a participation standpoint this was the best one ever - and the worst one, propagation-wise! It sounded like wall-to-wall "CQ FISTS" and I was very impressed by the "QRL?"'s heard and the enthusiasm.

If you haven't sent in your log and comments yet, please do so. It's the only real way we have of seeing how many people participated. And your comments help shape future FISTS contests and operating events. Send your logs to our Sprint Manager, Tom Waits 4346 Rose Garden Circle, Zachary LA 70791. He will tabulate the results and get them to me for publication in a future Keynote. The results will also be on the Web page. If you sent your log to me, I will forward it to Tom.

Field Day is June 27 -28. With all the FISTS affiliated clubs we have now, I've got great hopes for lots of stories of your Field Day adventures! Please take a moment to put them to paper or Email and send them to me for sharing in the Keynote. Also send along any photos you may have of your group in action. It would be a nice addition to have group shots of our members. Keep those cards and letters coming - I can't do it without you!

Welcome to the New FISTS

I've heard it said that CW is dead (hmmm...the beginning of a poem?) but you sure can't prove it from the quantity of mail I get every day. Just look at the way we're growing. We must be doing something right! Thanks to all who have been talking up FISTS and recommending FISTS to the friends you meet on the air.

I inadvertently left out #4710, Patrick N1OCJ from the roster of New FISTS in Issue 4. Sorry Patrick!

Callsign	Name	Number	Sponsor	State	Callsign	Name	Number	Sponsor	State
W5YR	George	4930	K6DF/K5IUO	TX	N9ZWY	Tod	4973	K5HLR	WI
KB9HVV	Donald	4931	WJ0C	IN	KD5DXS	Willie Frank	4974		MS
KF4AKZ	Len	4932	W4DON	VA	K2ATB	Akin	4975	K3QA/N1PT	NY
N0SA	Larry	4933	webpage	MO	N3BSK	Ken	4976	WD4AXJ	MD
KG9KD	Duane	4934	WB2FXK	IL	W1EPZ	Ken	4977	WS0L	FL
WA1DMV	Bill	4935	VE5HQ	NH	WA5ZJK	Glenn	4978	KB7RNV	TX
N9ZZ	Robert	4936	AC5JH	AR	W6BAD	Donald	4979		CA
WD5GLO	Louis	4937	K5IGB	OK	AC6KG	Steve	4980	KQ6NS	CA
N1YJD/0	Steve	4938	K3CJO	MO	WA5RIW	Warren	4981	N3ZOC	TX
N5YAK	Don	4939	WB2FXK	TX	VE9RB	Bob	4982		NB
KB8YZZ	Carl	4940	KA4CLM/W6DDBWV		W9YWE	Jack	4983	KG8WF	IN
N7KGX	Dean	4941	KB7SVA	WA	KF8OP	Opie	4984	K4HXM	OH
N7NTF	Steven	4942	KC8GTX	OR	N8VZU	Daniel	4985	W7VWV	OH
WB6IHP	Andy	4943	K6DF	CA	WB6GIN	Paul	4986	webpage	NY
KD5DDU	Jim	4944	W6DDB	TX	KQ6UL	John	4987	K5HLR	CA
N8CGE	Stan	4945	NE0C	OH	AA8SN	Hope	4988	webpage	MI
W5KIT	David	4946	W9LUY	NM	KI0MN	Mike	4989	KB4JR	KS
K2KSY/HL9BK	Frank	4947	webpage	AP	N9BPE	Carl	4990		IL
KB2KBY	David	4948	WB2FXK	NY	KC9GL	Harold	4991	webpage	IL
KC2CNV	Ed	4949	webpage	NJ	KB0TZO	Ron	4992	AC6QO	CO
KC5NWS	HF Loafers	4950	#4733	TX	KJ8L	Stephen	4993	WB3CPG	OH
KE6AMY	Jim	4951	W6DDB	CA	KC8FXR	Paul	4994	W8XP	MI
KD7HV	Ham	4952	WF6W	WA	AF4IX	Carl	4995	webpage	GA
N8SFY	Craig	4953		MI	KE6SVR	Harolyn	4996	KH6RF	CA
K8BBQ	Larry	4954	W9NLA	OH	W4AMA	Steve	4997		FL
K0XQ	Sean	4955	webpage	MN	W8PN	Hal	4998	K7PGL /K4UK	OH
K5PR	Chuck	4956	W5ZR	LA	KC2BFD	Steven	4999	N2WF	NJ
N2EFT	Robert	4957	webpage	IL	KF6KJK	Vista Center For the Blind	5000	KS6Z	CA
KA7IWX	Brian	4958	WA7MMG	ID	KB9NDF	Rick	5001	KF6GUH	IN
KU4QR	Bill	4959		FL	W1BFN	MIKE	5002	Hamvention	NC
NU3A	Ken	4960	AA3D	DE	AC6UV	GODY	5003	Hamvention	
KF6NEB	Andy	4961	W6DDB	CA	K8DV	DAVE	5004	KA4G	OH
W5OXR	Joe	4962	KC0M	MO	W8DN	MIKE	5005	Hamvention	OH
W9NZF	Fred	4963	W9ISO	WI	K2YIY	CARY	5006	K3MP	PA
KD5BBC	J Michael	4964	K5HLR	TX	W3IYG	Francis	5007	Hamvention	PA
K7ZZM	Norm	4965	N1VWD	UT	N9SF	BOB	5008	Hamvention	IN
KB0YYG	Jack	4966	webpage	CO	KC5PIP BOB	5009	KC8BDM/W8FAX		OH
VE7DXF	Don	4967	KB8NTE	BC	KU7Y	RON	5010	Hamvention	NV
VE7SIS	Donna	4968	KB8NTE	BC	K4OAH	Garey	5011	Hamvention	GA
KE0A	Rod	4969	KD6WNM	ND	N8WTH	DAVID	5012	WZ8C	MI
KE4ZII	Phil	4970	KF4ONA	VA	KE9IT/5	DC	5013	Hamvention	TX
KO6Z	Herb	4971	webpage	CA	WD1V	JOHN	5014	Hamvention	NH
K1DW	Dallas	4972	AC5JH	LA	N3KHK	JOHN	5015	Hamvention	MD
					W9OVZ	BILL	5016	G3ZQS	WI
					K8TL	TOM	5017	KB0OZV	OH
					KA3AVB	BOB	5018	K9VKY	PA
					AK7O	JACK	5019	WB0CFF	UT
					W0FF	JIM	5020	G3ZQS	MO
					WB5RYB	BILL	5021	Hamvention	GA
					W2GQ	LOR	5022	K2YIY	PA
					W8ATH	BOB	5023	Hamvention	OH
					K9NI	TIM	5024	WO8E	IN
					KB9OLO	GERRY	5025		IL

Callsign	Name	Number	Sponsor	State	Callsign	Name	Number	Sponsor	State
WA9TPQ	BILL	5026	hamvention	IL	W9RUZ	WALDO	5079		IL
N8UVD	WARD	5027	HAMVENTION	MI	KC5SPZ	HAP	5080	K5DMC	TX
N3XRV	CHRIS	5028	HAMVENTION	MD	AA8YN	DICK	5081	Hamvention	OH
W9IM	LES	5029	HAMVENTION	IL	KE6ONV	Jay	5082	K7PU	CA
N3BYY	SCOTT	5030	HAMVENTION	MD	AA1CR	OWEN	5083	N1WLC	MA
WB8UJV	WILLIAM	5031	K8OUA	OH	KC4RIB	AL	5084		GA
N7DZ	BILL	5032	HAMVENTION	AZ	KG2MH	BRIAN	5085	AA9KH	NY
N8VYS	JOE	5033	HAMVENTION	MI	KC4EJT	MIKE	5086	W0GV	TN
N8JK	JOHN	5034	K8BBQ	OH	K2VX	DAVID	5087		NJ
K8FE	KARL	5035	HAMVENTION	MI	KE3ZZ	Layton	5088	N3PM	DE
W3FUO	HUGH	5036	N3KHK	MD	KC8CLR	MIKE	5089	KX8LL	MI
NI8Z	GARY	5037	KC8BOJ	OH	KF6NWN	CHUCK	5090	W6DDB	CA
K2UVV	WARREN	5038	W4HZD	NY	NQ6S	LOUIS	5091		CA
KF8UN	BYRON	5039	WB8OWM	OH	W0PFR	TERENCE	5092	K7ZYV	IA
W2SH	CHARLES	5040	W4BX	NJ	W4CAC	CARL	5093	W4GEO/KF4BOU	VA
K8FF	WAYNE	5041	W0UFO	OH	W5KOD	MILL	5094	KO6TQ	TX
K0PC	PAT	5042	W0BX	MN	KB8YZA	BOB	5095		MI
KM4CH	JOHN	5043	KM4FD	KY	KF4KSM	MAC	5096	AC6YD	FL
VE3RZ	TONY	5044	WO8E	ONT	KB0LF	FRED	5097	K4ORD	NE
WA6SAW	Leon	5045	Hamvention	NV	KB9KEG	Randall	5098	N9JIY	WI
AC5PK	CHARLIE	5046	KD5BBC	TX	KG9AQ	RICK	5099	WF6W	IN
N9GM	TONY	5047	N6MLW	IL	WC4CW	Low Key Contesters Club	5100	KS4DU	SC
W8ILC	RON	5048	KC8BDM	OH	KF0QS	BERNIE	5101	Webpage	CO
K8DSS	ED	5049	HAMVENTION	FL	WB4EDV	CHARLIE	5102	KA1KAX	FL
W0HEDDON		5050	WZ8C	IL	KG9JR	RAY	5104	WEBPAGE	IN
N8TUT	DOUG	5051	AA8YY	OH					
N8UDL	DENNIS	5052	HAMVENTION	OH					
WI8K	DIANE	5053	WO8E	MI					
K3TKS	DANNY	5054	HAMVENTION	MD					
P43E	EMILY	5055	HAMVENTION	FL					
P43T	TONY	5056	HAMVENTION	FL					
W7DUD	Kent	5057		UT					
W8III	Dave	5058	W4GTM	MI					
WQ3RP	MARYLAND	5059	MILLIWATT						
K3TKS	MD								
KN6CA	Don	5060	AA9KH	CA					
KI8BA	CHUCK	5061	WEBPAGE	MI					
N7NL	RAYMOND	5062	KS7J	OR					
K7HU	JIM	5063	WA4NBY	WA					
KF4QBE	JOE FRANK	5064	N4ZMP	FL					
VE7RGX	WAYNE	5065	WA6SBB	BC					
N3VJI	RALPH	5066	WEBPAGE	PA					
AE4CU	JOHN	5067	KG9MT	VA					
KK7BL	JERRY	5068	K7ZR	WA					
AL0F	TIM	5069	K7FD	AZ					
K5VJ	LEONARD	5070		TX					
K8UPR	MIKE	5071		OH					
AC5NL	JEFF	5072	N4GD	MS					
KC6HAI	JANA	5073	KI0KM	OK					
W6KHZ	NORM	5074	WEBPAGE	CA					
KM5QG	CAROLYN	5075	AC5JU	LA					
KB1CRI	MARK	5076	KB0ZLS	VT					
WA2SRO	RALPH	5077	WB4ZOF	NY					
N1SSH	ROBERT	5078	N1YZP	NH					

Call Changes

#4637 Eric, was KB0BSB - is now KI0MF
 J#3612 Jeff, was AB7WJ - is now W7NU
 #4292 Rick was KE6ZTQ - is now WA6ES
 #3978 Wads was WB5CDX - is now W5CDX
 #4240 Jim was KC8BDM - is now KI8FY
 #4729 Larry was KC8INH - is now KI8FQ
 #3206 Mitch was N4JBW - is now WW4ML
 #2110 Bill was N5EIF - is now K5LN
 #3283 Ed was KS5V - is now AE5ED
 #3110 Ken was KB2VQW - is now KG2NT
 #3801 Mark was WB2EAG - is now W2EAG
 #4457 Roger was KQ8C - is now K8AIR
 #4001 Gerald was N1CSD - is now AF4JE
 #2450 Clay was WA4TNN - is now W4TNN
 #3982 Gary was K6WN - is now W6GA
 #2398 Dave was AD6FA - is now N6FE.

PHOTOPAGE WINNER

Our June Photopages winner is #4174 Rafael CO6BR of Cuba.. He wins a supply of FISTS stickers and patch just for sending in his photo. You might be the lucky winner next month - all you have to do is send in your photo to W8ROG. Congrats, Rafael!

Net Information

Wads, **W5CDX** would like to invite everyone to check into the Louisiana Slow Net (LSN) Monday thru Friday at 8:30 P.M. Central on 3713.

Pat, **K8LEN** would like to remind FISTS that all are welcome to join the Indiana Code Net (ICN). It meets seven days a week on 3705 at 1815 local time. Traffic training, basic to advanced, and plenty of code practice is offered. Chief net operator is Steve **KB9IWS**.

Joe **N3PM** invites you to join the 3905 Century Club W.A.S. Net, which meets every Mon-Wed-Fri evenings at 0200Z on 7.053. In Issue 5, I had the time incorrectly as 2022Z. Sorry for the inconvenience if you tried to find the Net at the wrong time.

Harry **K15UK** says the MS Slow net (Mon-Fri on 3688) is getting knocked off the air by FISTS. Harry didn't mention the time, but says it's a short net and they welcome QNI - but pse give them a little room and listen before you call CQ!!

Sunday Century Net

Stan **AC6TO** is still under the weather from having shoulder surgery - hope you feel better soon, Stan!
May 17: NCS **KC5VJU**; **KQ6NS** David; **K0HFK** Bill; **K7FD** John; **N2SLB** Bob; **N0NY** Nick; **N1NM** Al; **VE4GEC** Glen; and **WA2VQV** Russ.
Net Control Station comments: The band was again pretty ruff on my end but we had fun anyway. Thanks for all the checkins and for putting up wid the band. Thanks to Geo for the QSO and Best Wishes hpe he had a ball at Dayton and enjoyed the stay.

May 24: NCS **KC5VJU**; **AA0IQ** Claude; **W8FAX** AL; **N4VEF** Dick; **AA9KH** Jay; **KS4DU** Jim; **VE4GEC** Glen; **AC6TO** Stan; **VA3JJ** John; **N6WU** Kerry; **W9LUY** Hack; **KS6Z** Dan; **KB5VTB** Lanny; **W2SWZ** Bernie.

Net Control comments: Band was a lil better than last week but had trouble at my QTH wid a couple but again we had a good time. Thanks to all for their QNI and hope Stan is doing better real soon. At his and my young tender ages we don't heal as fast as some HI HI. Best Wishes to all and hope you keep checking in the net weekly.

Slow Code Chat Group

Bill VE5HQ's Report from May 24: Fine job Becky **KF6GUH**! Two chats - Rich, **KK7LB** es Steve, **KA7PMD**. I started listening to 21158 abt 1530z es

heard **KB9KGI** (Frank), calling CQ. Went bk, but both our sigs were quite weak...339. Some **QSB** also hurting us. No exchange made as fer as nrs goes, but that is not a requirement on the chat, just an option. 1655z...**N0LXM** (Gary), in Ks came bk to me. Still weak sigs, but did get a short qso in. 1720z...Dean, **KF8NS**, in Mi. came bk. Was just in middle of bk to him when had a power outage - **COULDN'T BELIEVE IT**, of all times! Power came bk at 1800z...tried chat agn, es got Dwight, **W9YQ** in WI. Did the hello thing es got a nr exchange before losing him. Have to get optional DC bk up for this rig es keep battery handy. Who knows how we would have done if power hung in.

Got two FISTS es two nonFISTS, but I am open to all comers - will send FIST app to others. Want to be chat for anyone es hope they will get idea of what FISTS is abt by listening to us.

How did anyone else do? Hope things are going to open soon. Did hear other activity around 1700z, so think people are starting to listen in. **GUD SIGN!!** Nice to know as many as possible are working chat so there is always someone out there somewhere to tx es rx, es tnx to all who are pushing our name out there - Good job! Think if this turns into a "slo code" meeting place with a few main stations to move traffic around, that would pretty well meet the objective here. Gud luck all es thanks for hanging in. Will be fun when band opens! **Bill VE5HQ**

TRAFFIC

We have many FISTS who send out Welcome to FISTS messages to the new FISTS who join each month, as well as other FISTS traffic messages. It's really keeping the traffic handlers busy! I talked to many who stopped by the FISTS booth and commented on how many FISTS messages they are handling nowadays. A big thank you to all who take the considerable time to do this, it gives a very good impression of the club as well as giving people a little lift when they receive their traffic message. I'd like to share this letter I received the other day: "To all Members of FISTS and Arley **WB5NKC**, I answered the phone a couple of days ago and received something for the first time since I have had my Ham ticket for 24 years; a message from another Ham via the NTS. It was a message from Arley saying Welcome to FISTS and the fun of CW. Thanks for taking the time to send it, just made my day. **73K9NI** Jonesy"

Code Buddy Program Update
by Code Buddy Coordinator John W8EM

Hello FISTS! I just want to thank everyone for their enthusiastic support for the Code Buddy Program. I really appreciate the nice comments many of you have sent. I wish I could share them with everyone involved in the program. All of our Code Buddies should be aware that your efforts are appreciated by many of the FISTS members that I have talked with this past month. I pass on their thanks to you. You are the ones that really deserve praise for all of your fine work and dedication.

When I received the Code Buddy list from Ed last month, the number of participants in the program was seventy-two. An impressive number. Today, that number has grown to one hundred and twenty eight. That's over a seventy-five percent increase in just a month and that doesn't include past participants that have contacted me to reaffirm their interest in continuing in the program. I think the FISTS Code Buddy Program is alive and well thanks to your efforts.

Forty-two member assignments were made last month (this includes both students and teachers). It appears that we continue to have quite an interest and I'm pleased that everyone is finding value and enjoyment in participating. If you have a Code Buddy story, I would love to hear it and possibly share it with others.

Currently, we have many more teachers than we have students. So, let me address each group separately.

Teachers:

I really appreciate your patience. It's nice to have more teachers than students. It allows me to have a good pool of candidates to choose from when a student application comes in.

I have you all in the data base and will set you up with a student as quickly as I can. I receive applications almost every day, so it shouldn't be too long before you are assigned. I have not been assigning students based only on the date of an application. I'm trying to match location, interests, equipment and availability, etc. as best I can.

It might take a little longer to be assigned for some, but I think it improves our success ratio substantially. When you get a Code Buddy, and you will soon, I think you stand a better chance of being more in tune with each other.

I still have a few areas of the country where we could use a few more teachers. Please send me your
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application if you are thinking about getting involved. You will have fun and probably make at least one new long term friend. We could use your help if you can make the time.

Students:

Now is the perfect time to send in your application. Beat the rush. In the fall things will really get busy. Right now, I can almost guarantee that I will be able to set you up immediately with a Code Buddy. Don't wait, send in your application. I promise you it will get immediate attention. Start now, even if it's just a few contacts throughout the summer. Establish a relationship with your Code Buddy and get started. If you start now, you could find yourself zinging out the code by the end of the summer.

Special Request: HELP!

I've had an application from a Tech Plus for a couple of weeks that I haven't been able to process. Bill lives in Bloomfield, New Jersey (near Newark) and wants to upgrade, but he only has 2M and 440. I don't have anyone listed that can help at this time. I'm looking for someone local that might be able to work with these special circumstances. Can you help? Drop me a line if you can or if you have any suggestions.

Please send your information to me at:

John Cmiel - W9EM
34020 N. Hickory Ave.
Grayslake, IL 60030-1014
or w9em@aol.com

Thanks again for your interest and support. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or if you would like additional information about the FISTS Code Buddy Program.

Condolances

To Don KC4OSC on the passing of his mother-in-law.

To Charlie KA8OQF on the passing of his father.

To Jim KE4NAY on the passing of his brother.

To the family of FISTS member Roger Blaisdell AA1DG, Silent Key. (no information available)

News and Views from FISTS Members

From Tom **WA1GAG**: It is with pleasure I renew my membership in FISTS. I have never enjoyed an organization as this one.

FISTS members are about the most courteous of all hams. I am waiting for my Gold, it came awful quickly for me. I've been an A-1 Op since 1959 and will cooperate with any other A-1 Op in seconding a prospective nominee. I am also BBL member. My main reason for renewing is the great KeyNote monthly publication. Keep up the good work Nancy, You're a gem! *Awww....shucks, Tom - Thanks!*

From Dan **KB9W**: Please find enclosed my check for renewal in FISTS. This past year has been a lot of fun as a FISTS member meeting so many fine ops on the air.

John **WB8APR** sent me a photo, which unfortunately won't scan well enough to share in the Keynote, of his 150 foot tower with a full size 40 meter beam - and he's standing at the top of the tower waving! How did you get that tower up, John? I've been working on getting my 60 footer up for a year now, hi.

I can't tell you how much I enjoyed the Issue 2 of this year. You have done an excellent job of organizing the wide ranging materials and it is appreciated. (*Thank you!*) I had an enormous laugh over the article "The Missing Dits" on pg 25. I have often wondered what language I was receiving when I looked at how it came out when written... "Yei tsere wai" rang a bell with me. You know, how many times do we convert a poorly sent word to what it really was intended to be without even thinking what it must look like when written down. Keep up the good work. Regards es 73 Bill, **KZ5CO** # 3850

I made my 1st FISTS contact since joining during hamcom - Steve **W6HPK**. Steve seemed tickled that I am a FISTS member also. Looking at the Issue 5 Keynote, I like the Walt character in the truck. I drive a truck for Radio Shack and work mobile HF and CW. Have made lots of friends & hope to make more thru FISTS. I love Morse code, would rather work it than voice, my logbook reflects that. I have made new qsl cards to reflect fist logo & number. 73 #5046 Charlie **AC5PK**

From Bill **VE3MIQ**: Thanks Nancy for including "Intruder" info in the Issue 5 of the KeyNote. A few weeks after I reported the Russian station, they were gone--so it looks like the system is working. Thanks. *I'm glad to hear that, Bill. I was hesitant to print that information since it was so lengthy, but thought the information would be of interest.*

From Harry **KB0NVA**, #4278: Just to drop a line and say a wonderful job on the Keynote. Can't wait until it arrives. And to also say thanks to FISTS and the few members I've worked so far. They made the difference. Aced my theory and code and am now a General. *Congrats, Harry, That's terrific!*

From Dick **WD0HBW**, #3380: RENEW MY SUB! This is the best \$15.00 I have ever spent in Amateur Radio. Just got active in QRP. With the FISTS Club and QRP, this is the most fun in radio since I got my ticket 20 years ago. *Thanks Dick, your letter made my day!*

From Matt **KE6CTI**, #3371: Thanks for a year of good articles and some very entertaining reading. I am rather new into Amateur Radio and still attempting to make use of the HF bands effectively and I am trying to get a tower put up in my yard. Once that is up I hope that I can get into the Sprints and other activities. I have made two confirmed contacts with FISTS members so far and I hope to get more very soon. *FB Matt, with the bands opening up more and more I'm sure you'll get lots more FISTS contacts. Good luck with the tower...I'm still trying to get mine up too.*

From Rick **KB9SAA**: I am very new to this hobby, even though I am 54 years old. I have a lot of fond memories of the ham, George Schuller, **N9MIV**, who sparked my interest 44 years ago. Although my family was very poor, Mr. Schuller allowed me to hang around his shack and "help" him with radio-related chores. I couldn't afford my own station, but the memories of glowing vacuum tubes and watching George tap out code never left me.

Last January, I finally resolved to get my ham radio license and called George to tell him that the spark he kindled finally flamed up. Sadly, I discovered that he had died just 3 months earlier. *This serves as a reminder to all of us to tell our older Elmers and ham friends how much we appreciate their friendship and help, before it's too late.*

Starting four months ago, with no Morse code experience, I wasn't sure this old dog could learn code well enough to pass my Novice test. But surprisingly, it wasn't too bad. In fact, the more I copied and practiced the more I enjoyed the challenge. For me, CW became highly addictive. My only regret is not having become a ham years ago.

Although I managed to pass the Extra exam last night I can't yet call myself a ham because I've never transmitted a QSO of any type - not a single character of code!

I do listen a lot thought, and a couple weeks ago, on my little 5 watt MFJ 40 meter transceiver **K1ERB** came booming in with a 589 CQ. He tried several times and I thought surely someone would answer. No one did. I wanted to but was too nervous to try. Afterwards, I looked him up in the callbook and wrote him a letter, to which he graciously replied.

It seems my little piece of wire strung through the trees snagged Wayne's 3-watt signal sent 800 miles away from his old Heathkit HW-7. Wow! Ham radio old-timers might yawn here, but I nearly fell off my chair!

Wayne included an application for FISTS and encouraged me to join. Sounds like a nice group of people. I am pleased to discover there are a lot of folks out there who enjoy CW. Hopefully, with encouragement from Wayne and others I can get on the air soon and continue improving my CW skills. 73

Uke, **W9DU**, #4596 suggests FISTS could stand for "Friendly International Survivors Telegraphic Society" or "Fraternal International Society of Telegraphic Survivors" *Pretty good, Uke! FISTS is a tough one to make into an acronym. Speaking of which, I've received this from a few different sources; Jim, AA9LS and John NU3E*

The Morse Code = Here Come Dots

John **KG9HV** #1750 is running mobile CW on 10/15/20 meters around the FISTS calling frequencies (ending in 58) so listen for him! He sez **LNG LV CW**.

From Al **W8FAX**: I just rcvd a cert from the ARRL saying I am a member of the A-1 Operators Club. I recall you had a blurb about this in the Keynote. I know it had to be FISTS that selected me for this. Thanks to those that did. I would also like to see a list published of other FIST members who belong to this. *Congrats, Al! I would bet FISTS members*

are responsible for your nomination, too. I don't have a list, altho Stan AC6TO and a couple others have sent me the information they have. It would be a major task to go through the list of all the A-1 Ops and sort out the FISTS, not to mention keeping it up to date. If anyone is up for that task, let me know! I'll print it if I get it.

From Steve **N8CPA**: I heard a ham on 2 meters recently suggest that CW ops use a new Q-signal since the Callbook is no longer being printed in book form. He suggested that we use QCD to indicate that we are good in the "callbook" CD-ROM or QRZ. Sounds good to me! 73 Steve N 8 Code's Primary Advocate *I hate to think of the callbook going the way of the dinosaur, but the print in the darn thing was getting so small it was almost useless anyway....hmm...am I showing my age? May be bifocal time, hi.*

From Tom **W1GO**: I don't know what it's like at your latitude, but here at 27.3N the 40-meter band is no longer fun. Each evening it is full of SSB babble from Spanish-speaking phone stations. This was not the case about three months ago. I have no idea what's happened. I used to enjoy firing up on 40 at night, but now it's just a drag. I have to use 20, and as you know the propagation is very iffy these days. If I were not a law-abiding ham, I would seriously consider getting myself a place in the country, setting up a monster Sterba Curtain and running about 10 KW on 40 CW. What a delight that would be!

From Duane **KT4XE**: Just got my June Keynote. Great job. Really liked Bill's piece on prosigns, TNX. Also a comment on **N4GD** (Gerald) es **W8OHM** (Hal) since Gerald's getting so much press lately, hi. They were my first contacts and they must have had a lot of patience. With my shaky fist I cud give a CQ on 7.108 and one would answer me. Now that my speed has finally picked up I don't frequent that area much es I haven't heard much from them, but am still vry grateful for their friendship. *Thanks for taking the time to write and thank them publicly, Duane!*

From Charles **KB0NTD** #3186: Thanks for the reminders to QRL and listen. I hope I have not been QRM to anyone. *I'm glad you're one of the QRL'ers Charles! The way propagation is these days I think most of the CW QRM is unavoidable and unintentional.*

From John **KX8LL #3146**: A little over a year ago my oldest son showed an interest in ham radio so we went about getting our tickets. Now, a year later I am an extra class VE with a lot to learn. Wow, what a ride this last year has been. I'd like to thank Chuck **KB2E #1964**, my first on the air contact, my FISTS sponsor, and after a year of Sunday morning skeds, my good friend. Thanks Chuck, you really personify the FISTS motto. Thanks also to all the great CW ops I've had QSO's with. What a fabulous mode of communication. Now, on with next year!

Bonnie **WB4FSF #2975** writes that she has been an inactive member because of her two-year old, but very much supports FISTS and the preservation of CW. FB Bonnie, hope you don't have to wait until kindergarten time to get on the air!

Congrats to Jess, **AI9L** and Patti **AF9H**. They both received the A-1 Operators Award. Jess says "it is the best award I have ever received and can think of no award that would make me as happy as this one. Then we got our FISTS Award. After that I got my FISTS Gold Award. Patti still has a few to go for her Gold but she hasn't been spending as much time on the FISTS frequencies as I ave. Now we have sent for our last WAS for our WAS 5 Bands from the ARRL. *Way to go, Jess and Patti! I hope you can fit all that wallpaper in your shack, hi.*

From Anne **WI2G #3143**: It's my pleasure to renew my FISTS membership. Regretfully, I haven't had much time to participate as I'd like (red: three teenagers) but I enjoy the Keynote immensely and hope for more rag chewing time in the future. What I like best about FISTS, is the way it preaches the gospel of courtesy on the bands. With so many hams coming into the hobby without anyone even remotely qualifying as an Elmer, you do more good than you know by carrying on a tradition even older than CW, a tradition in danger of being swallowed up by 75 meter type cacophony. Amateur radio continues to be a refuge from the Internet and suchlike precisely because of that courtesy, which I believe to be most prevalent among CW ops. Thanks for your efforts to keep the fire burning.

Congrats to ANOTHER FISTS A1-Op, Jiggs **WA0FGV #1286**. He was very surprised and pleased to receive his A1-Op from the ARRL. Many thanks to the two A-1 ops for nominating him, whoever you are!

Don **WD8OCV #1508** is also an ARRL A1-Op member. He says thanks to Stan and whoever else nominated him. He also would like to thank Stan **K4UK** and the Franklin gang for the super job with the buro, seems like he gets cards every other week, he's never gotten so many QSL's before.

Claude **AA0IQ #1211** sends along this poem by Annette Wynne he found in his granddaughter's Childcraft book. Substituting the word "wave" for "wire", it could be appropriate for our fellowship:

The wires spread out far and wide,
And cross the town and countryside,
They cross through deserts and through snows,
And pass the spots where no one goes.
But though no feet go out that way
A million words go every day,
Along the wires everywhere
A million words flash thought the air.
If we're happy, if we're well,
The wires far away can tell,
The little words can cross all space
And talk to friends in any place.

This is from Luigi **NQ6S**:

My hair is white and I'm almost blind,
The days of my youth are far behind.
My neck is stiff and I can't turn my head,
Can't hear one half of what's being said.
My legs are wobbly, can hardly walk,
But glory be, I can surely talk,
This is my message as I want it to be,
I'm still a'kicking, and I won't QRT!
The rig is ancient, tubes rusting in the sockets
And nary a dime left in my pockets.
So you think my shack's a total wreck?
To tell you the truth, it does look like heck!
My dipole is rusty and sagging on the vine,
Neighbors' TVI is at least 20 over 9!
But it's a wonderful world of our,
Shade and sunshine and beautiful flowers,
So you can take it from me,
I'm glad I'm living, and I won't QRT!
When I reach the end of my row,
I hope to the lovely home I'll go.
And then when I leave this house of clay,
If you'll listen closely I'm quite apt to say,
Well folks, don't worry 'bout me,
I've just passed on, and I won't QRT!

MORE ABOUT QSL CARDS

by Paul KC8GFF

In a recent issue of *Keynote* it was asked: "What do you think," regarding information provided on QSL cards? Here's my humble opinion.

Adequate functional information, of course, must be provided. In addition, we all especially enjoy receiving cards that show creativity or uniqueness. A card that includes all the important confirming information and is also entertaining or educational—or even inspirational—is especially welcomed and appreciated. I'll illustrate by providing a few examples:

One of my favorite cards comes from Otto, **KF2MU** (FIST 2328). His card does both entertain and educate as well as provide all the pertinent functional information. "We squawk at the world," squawk six oceanside Long Island sea gulls appearing on the front of the card. Turn the card over and you find a brief history about the Corchaug Indian tribe that once inhabited Otto's QTH. Otto's homebrew QSL was expertly printed on his 100 year old C and P press.

Sam **NV8L**, has his cartoon caricature on the front of his card and explains he's a bit older than the picture "but still handsome and modest." The card also tells about Sam walking from Los Angeles to Washington D.C. in 1986 with the Great Peace March for Global Nuclear Disarmament. All of the necessary confirming QSO information is also neatly provided.

A cartoon owl hoots "WHO" on the front of Dennis' **W7WHO** card from Clarkamas, Oregon. Dennis is FISTS 3996.

I didn't know a "Skipjack" is one of the last sail powered working boats in use until I received a card from Lew, **KA3AKC**, of Edgewater, MD. Lew's QSL has a blue-tinted photo of the Skipjack and explains the boat is still being used by watermen for oystering on Maryland's Chesapeake Bay.

QSL cards can be inspirational too. Esther (FISTS 3039) **KBSTMR** confirms her QSO with a generic Good Year Amateur Radio Club card and neatly hand prints her call sign. She adds a motivational note explaining she'll get personalized QSL cards when she passes the advanced test she has been studying hard for. Thanks Ester, you motivated me to go out and buy an upgrade book.

QSL cards can promote tourism. I've never been to the state of Washington, but when I received a beautiful multi-color card depicting the State's Yakima County I was ready to go. Thanks Chuck **WB7OEM**.

Do you work for Washington's Division of Travel and Tourism?

Mug shots on a QSL can get quick attention. Take the photo card of Tom Baugh **KG9NB** for example. Tom, at six' three" and 274 pounds, is a former center for the Kansas City Chiefs. He was number 4a in the 1986 NFL draft. If I could put a caption on his QSL card it would read "Real Men Do CW."

When you start to get low on your present supply of QSL cards think about something new before running off to the printer for a redo. Think entertaining, educational or inspirational. Betcha an idea that's creative or unique improves your QSL return rate too.

What Amateur Radio means to me

Second place winner of World Radio Essay Contest

by Joe Meehan **AA1KF** (reprinted from *WorldRadio*)

Don't let anyone tell you that Ham Radio is "Just A Hobby." It's a lot more than "A Hobby" - it's a lifestyle. I can see the dyed-in-the-wool Hams out there nodding their heads in agreement - Thank you ladies and gentlemen!

I've always believed that you are what you do - and accepting that proposition, then I am a Ham. If it sounds like I'm proud of it - I am.

In some ways I feel like I got in just in time. There were still Elmers around, like mine, **N1BCF**, and you started out as a novice - learning CW, antennas and theory the most practical way, by doing. It took 8 years to reach Extra and I know it wouldn't have been possible without all the time to answer my questions, advise me on gear, QRS on CW, etc. All the way to the VE's who gave up their "free time" to toil over the 610 paper work for my upgrades.

But somewhere along the way a big transition happened to me. One day I found instead of asking the questions, I was answering them. Suddenly I was the one who was being courteous by slowing down (QRS) on CW. I was the VE giving the exams.

So, somehow I learned that at first you take help, knowledge and advice because you have to. But Hams Helping Hams is a two way street. Now by giving back, I'm enjoying the hobby even more. This is really what it's all about. Get involved - there's lots of room for help. Newcomers to the hobby need us. The public depends on the Amateur Community worldwide in emergencies. I've been involved in many public service events, and it's a great feeling to be a part of the "communications team" whether at a parade or road race or whatever.

Get involved with ARES/RACES/NTS. These days I do Net Control on Saturdays for CW traffic nets here in Maine and I love it. With help from other local Hams, I helped start a 2 meter practice net and a HF ragchew net that have lasted for 2 years now. The latest project has been writing a monthly column called Drink Charlie Whiskey for 2 club newsletters on taking the fear out of CW.

As Vice President of the Central Area Repeater Association, I manage the weekly 2 meter net "CARA On the Air" which has weekly guests and discussions exclusively for Amateur Radio Operators.

"Just a hobby!?" Give me a break! There's life's greatest lesson to be learned - The More You Give, The More You Get!

The Code and Why I Love It

Marty WD4AXJ Professional Mangler of Morse Code

I was pounding away on my old J-37 knee key the other day, in QSO with a ham in Illinois, I think. We were just shooting the breeze, not off on any particular subject, when I realized I was sitting there with this silly grin on my face, happy as a clam.

I pondered the cause of my condition and came to the conclusion that it was brought on simply by the soothing rhythmic sound of well sent CW coming out of the speaker. Now mind you, I'm not a doctor, but if we could bottle the beneficial effect that CW seems to have on frayed nerves, we could put a lot of our medical people to twiddling their thumbs, wondering why their waiting rooms were empty. If anyone can pin down why CW has this effect on us, please drop me a note as this is a mystery that I have never solved. But in the meantime, I'm still going to enjoy it.

Good code to me is like the flowing of water. You can go up to the novice band and hear the slow steady flow of it, like a creek winding through a meadow, or at 15 to 20 WPM a mountain stream, rushing along at a steady pace. Then listening to the high speed ops, it sounds like the staccato burst and splashes of a waterfall. Morse code has always had a unique and fascinating sound to me.

Even as a novice, I never thought as many did that as soon as I got my general, I would run for the phone bands. I wondered if there was something wrong with me, because I actually enjoyed this! Anyone can squeeze a mike button and talk, but in the code I had acquired a new skill that not everyone had and I was proud of it. Even now as a grizzled old veteran of the CW bands, my eyes light up like a kid opening Christ-

mas presents as I sit alone in my darkened shack, lit only by the warm glow of the dials and a small lamp in the wee hours of the night, when I come across a faint tapping wafting over the ether and realize its another kindred spirit afflicted with the same happy disease I succumbed to those many years ago and lo and behold, its a new one to add to the DX log!

I guess what I'm trying to say is the old saw about CW being music to the ears still rings true. I remarked to a fellow ham the other day that I send code while sitting in a rocking chair so to me CW was rock and roll. He replied that to him it was easy listening music, I smiled to myself and thought "You know Old Top, I think you are right."

Congratulations!

- To #4508 Loretta KA0VZZ on her upgrade to General
- To #4637 Eric KI0MF on passing Advanced!
- To #2328, Otto KF2MU on his upgrade to Extra!
- To #4220 MacKF4LMU on passing Advanced!
- To #4278 Harry, KB0NVA on his upgrade to General!
- To #3841 Marty WN2DX on his upgrade to Extra!
- To #4292 Rick WA6ES on his upgrade to Extra!
- To #4240 Jim on his upgrade to Advanced!



We have a wealth of information and experience in our FISTS membership. If you have a question you'd like to get an opinion on, or have a tip or hint you'd like to share send it along and I'll put it in our Ask The FISTS column.

From Jack #4057: About Earle **W6QGD**'s quest for a faster CW source. If you don't own one, get a reel-to-reel tape recorder. Many hamfests have hams trying to get rid of them at real cheap prices. All I've ever owned or seen had at least two speeds. Tune in **W1AW** or another source of good code copy. Set the tone on the receiver at a low pitch, and the speed on the tape recorder at low speed. Link recorder and receiver and set recorder to record. Let's say you want to try to master 40 WPM. If the station is sending at 20 WPM, and you play back the tape at the next higher speed, it will be coming at you at 40 WPM. The pitch of the note will be twice as high as you set it when recording at the lower speed.

From Handley **KA2SJK** #3363: Here is a secret to get rid of the "glass arm" syndrome from use of the straight key. Mount the key on a base that tips it up to at least 60 degrees or so, 9- degrees is even better, the same as using the dash only contact of a bug. This will allow the arm to lie on the desk or table with a natural angle through the wrist and all in a relaxed and normal position. The reduced tension in the muscle along the top of the forearm puts an end to the "glass arm". You are limited to straight key speed, but you can send CW for hours at a time with no pain.

From Jim **AA0PP** #2175: In regard to the debate over the meaning of QTP, the 1968 manual for use by the maritime mobile service of the ITU states under the section MOVEMENT (!), as it pertains to ships and aircraft, "Are you going to enter dock (or port)" or "Are you going to land?". I remember when I was assigned to a Coast Guard Cutter as a radioman back in the 60's, that the head or bathroom as landlubbers would refer to it was sometimes called the "dock". So **WA7SNY** Dick's interpretation isn't really that far off if you use your imagination ...Hi Hi. Nothing is listed for QPP. If anyone would like a complete ITU listing of the Q-signals, please write me and I'll make arrangements. Jim Oss, 440 W 1st St, Junction City KS 66441.

From Ray **KB8ZYY**: Let's put to rest the QTP debate. As a former CW operator on the RC-130 aircraft, spy and reconnaissance type, QTP was always used to indicate: "I am about to land or enter port". It

can be found on the international Q signal list from the 1960's. It was used by Soviet and most Soviet block countries for aircraft and ships about to do one or the other. *Sounds the equivalent of that word "destinated" I hear on two meters, hi!*

If you'd like a sketch of Tom **W1GO**'s indoor loop for 20 meters, send a #10 SASE to Tom Pickering, **W1GO**, 3701 Webber St #211, Sarasota FL 34232

Terminology Theories

In answer to the age old questions, how did the term "ham" get started and how did "73" come to mean Best Regards, **Bill WJ2L/4** sends along these articles: Written by **WA4HLW** - Three turn of the century members of the Harv ard Radio Club, Albert S. Hyman, Bob Almy, and Peggie Murray named their station Hyman-Almy-Murray. When they tired of tapping out such a cumbersome name, they changed it to **HY-AL-MU**.

About a year later, confusion resulting between signals from amateur wireless **HYALMU** and a Mexican ship named **HYALMO** prompted them to condense the name to **HAM**.

In the days before regulation of radio, amateur operators chose their own frequencies and call letters. Because they had strong signals - some better than commercial stations - interference became a problem. Congress got busy imposing legislation to severely limit amateur activity.

In 1911, Albert Hyman went to Washington to speak out against the controversial Wireless Regulation Bill. He became emotional when he told committee members that the bill would force them to close their little **HAM** station, since they wouldn't be able to afford the licensing fees and other regulatory expenses.

The bill passed, however, and amateurs and other private stations were restricted to wave lengths that were considered of little value. But nationwide publicity, characterizing the little **HAM** station as the underdog fighting against government regulations and greedy commercial stations, associated amateurs with the station's name. The word stuck and now amateur radio operators throughout the world are known simply as "hams."

This article is by Louise W3WRE: The traditional expression '73' goes right back to the beginning of the landline telegraph days. It is found in some of the earliest editions of the numerical codes, each with a different definition, but each with the same idea in mind. It indicated that the end, or signature, was coming up. But there are no data to prove that any of these were used. The first authentic use of 83 is in the publication *The National Telegraphic Review and Operators' Guide*, first published in April 1857.

At that time 73 meant "my love to you" Succeeding issues of this publication continued to use this definition of the term. Curiously enough, some of the other numerals used then had the same definition as they have now, but within a short time, the use of 73 began to change.

In the National Telegraph Convention, the numeral was changed from the Valentine type sentiment to a vague sign of fraternalism. Here, 73 was a greeting, a friendly 'word' between ops and it was so used on all wires.

In 1859, the Western Union Company set up the standard 92 Code. A list of numerals from one to 92 was compiled to indicate a series of prepared phrases for use by the operators on the wires. Here, in the 92 Code, 73 changes from a fraternal sign to a very flowery "accept my compliments" which was in keeping with the florid language of that era.

Over the years from 1859 to 1900, the many manuals of telegraphy show variations of this meaning.

Dodge's *The Telegraph Instructor* shows it merely as "compliments". The *Twentieth Century Manual of Railways and Commercial Telegraphy* defines it two ways, one listing as "my compliments to you" but in the glossary of abbreviations it is merely "compliments".

Edison's *Telegraphy self-Taught* shows a return of "accept my compliments" By 1908, however, a later edition of the Dodge Manual gives us today's definition of "best regards" with a backward look at the older meaning in another part of the work where it also lists it as "compliments."

Best Regards has remained ever since as the 'put it down in black and white" meaning of 73 but it has acquired overtones of much warmer meaning. Today amateurs use it more in the manner that James Reid had intended that it be used - a "friendly word between operators." (note: it's meaning is already plural - so PSE use 73, not 73's!)

Jack **K4IBP**, is starting up a local code training program, matching up their older seasoned DXers and contest ops to provide and "buddy and Elmer" concept that will assist interested newbies become skilled DXers and Contesters. This effort is to train the interested in the code and HF operation techniques via personal one-on-one assistance and coaching. This will include helping them to learn the code and get a novice license. The get on the air, working for a CW WAS. Hopefully they will respond quickly to the personal attention and encouragement and become skilled proficient and courteous operators.

We all know how we learned the code, but we are looking for suggestions they can use to teach their "puppies" new tricks for CW training. Is there anyone who is doing a similar program or has any thoughts to share with Jack?

Any Spanish Speaking FISTS Up For a Sked?
Kent **WA4DQU**, #2449 is looking for someone to help him learn Spanish over the air via CW "por supuesto". If you can help him out, pse contact him at PO Box 774, Aragon GA 30104-0774

HELP!! QUESTION

"We made the move to a Senior Citizen complex and needless to say there are no antennas allowed at all, outside or inside. Maybe someone has an idea. I live on the first floor right in the front. 73 from a broken hearted ham, Jim #3252"

BUG FOR SALE

A new bug with a slow speed spring. In the hay day of morse one could order the type of spring. Today a 3rd party vender does it. The usual bug has the dots at 25 wpm this one is slower and the morse sounds better. I have gravitated to a keyer so its for sale. \$50 +shipping. Paul Taylor **WB2GIN**, 1 Penfield ave, Croton, NY 10520

Looking for a T-Shirt

Ken **WB2ART** FISTS #3456 is looking for one of those T-shirts that has "*CW - The Real Thing*" printed on them. I know I've seen them sold at major Hamfests, and I have one that I wear proudly, but outside of a Hamfest I've never seen them available. Does anyone know where Ken can get one? If so, pse get in touch with him by e-mail (kenk@li.net), 10m USB, or on 21.158.

We're getting quite a list of FISTS affiliated clubs. If your club is interested in being affiliated with FISTS, drop me (WZ8C) a note and let me know. There isn't any charge for this, since it doesn't incur any expense besides the membership and other award certificates you may earn down the road.

Low-Key Contesters

Low-Key Contesters was formed in 1995 by Jim (KS4DU) and Kathy (KE4PKD) to foster the sport of radio contesting in western South Carolina (not a lot of headway made yet but we're still trying!). The club itself is very informal and consists of a few local hams and a bunch of other fine operators we've met on the air. The club is affiliated with the ARRL and holds FISTS number 5100 as well as 10-X International number 67268. There are no meetings, newsletters, dues, etc. Just a name and a contest spirit. The name was chosen based on three original club ideals: 1) nobody in the club owns a super-station so the chance of winning a major contest is fairly low, 2) we think contesting should be fun and relaxing as well as competitive, and 3) we enjoy using the minimum power necessary to compete.

The club call is WC4CW (ex: KE4ZWW) which was chosen by the trustee, KS4DU, who just loves CW operating and is seldom seen with a microphone in his hand except when there are only phone contests underway. WC4CW is honored to be affiliated with FISTS. Look for them in the next sprint!

Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Number 5000 was recently assigned to the San Diego Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Dan KS6Z is a volunteer instructor and says this about the club:

"We have a nice station but old equipment that is totally unsuited for the blind students. At present we are in the process of acquiring a new Kenwood TS570D plus extra stuff that would make the station suitable for operation by totally blind people. Larry, WA6UTQ, is the vice president of the Club station (KF6KIK) at the center. He and I are the only hams in the place who are sighted. We are considered volunteer instructors.

"The center is managed by a professional manager who does everything. Her name is Becky and she is a real worker. There are some paid staff members but most of the effort is done by local volunteers. The Center teaches Braille, household chores, ham radio, computer use, etc. The Lions Club has a supporting financial role in this venture.

"Casey KS7J/K7FFF has sent a donation of money for the radio and Jeff, W7NU will supply a CW filter for the radio when we finally get it in house. Kenwood is giving the center a nice price on the radio to help us out.

The existing radio is an old Atlas 210X in excellent condition running into a G5RV. Other equipment is an MFJ/Bencher keyer combination and an MFJ Tuner at present. We also have a cosmetically mint condition Hammarlund 170C for sale. It should be worth about \$200 dollars. The Atlas 210x and the MFJ tuner will also be sold because the Kenwood TS570D will have a built in tuner."

John Hugentober N8FU CW Award

This information comes from Charlie KA8OQF: "The OH-KY-IN Amateur Radio Society held their annual awardsbanquet on Saturday, March 28th. Many awards were presented at the banquet, including the first annual N8FU CW Award. JUDD SEXTON, N8RVR, constructed an impressive brass and wood trophy in memory of JOHN HUGENTOBER, N8FU. N8FU's key is mounted on the trophy along with a plaque reading: A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.

The N8FU CW Award will be presented annually to the winners in 3 categories of CW operation: Novice/Technician, General/Advanced, and Extra.

Charlie comments that he has John in his log many times, and remember his writings in Keynote. I agree with him that it's very fitting that his enthusiasm for CW be remembered, to inspire others using his favorite mode.

For those new to FISTS, N8FU was one of the original FISTS members and is sorely missed by many of his FISTS friends, particularly this time of year with the Spring Sprint and the Hamvention.

Product Reviews

If you've built something, tried something, read something; how about sharing it with your FISTS friends? We're interested in hearing what others are doing and their opinions. North American FISTS Keynote doesn't accept paid advertising, so when you read a review of a product here, you're reading the opinion of the writer.

Bob N2DNJ #4752 says, "I enjoyed this little rig so much that I am glad to tell people about it."

Wilderness "Sierra" QRP Transceiver

Over my many years in Ham radio I have been a home-brew enthusiast, a confirmed CW lover and one who likes to operate QRP. Several months ago I came across a rig that satisfied all of these requirements, the Sierra transceiver from Wilderness Radio.

This little rig, designed with back-packing in mind, measures just over 6 inches in its longest dimension and weighs about 2 pounds. It uses plug-in modules to cover six bands from 160 to 10 meters and has 2 to 3 watts output. The receiver is a nifty superhet which I'll talk about later.

The Sierra only comes in kit form and while not exactly home-brew it satisfied my desire to build my own gear. This probably isn't a kit for beginners, but I've made many kits and this is a very good one. All of the parts are high quality and the step-by-step instruction manual is clear and thorough. Also, the layout is good with no particularly difficult problems to deal with. When my Sierra was completed and I had that anxious moment of first firing it up I needn't have worried. There I was, smack in the middle of the twenty meter band with everything working perfectly!

I am particularly happy with the receiver. It is stable, definitely hot and with good AGC. But the two controls that really make operating a pleasure are the variable bandwidth and the RIT. Under severe QRM you can squeeze the bandwidth down to about 200hz and then compensate for any little drift during the QSO with the RIT. I've never had a receiver where these two features worked together any better.

I equipped my Sierra with a Wilderness KC2 module and this too is an excellent piece of gear. The features I like most are the digital frequency counter and the built-in variable speed keyer. The KC2 also provides an S meter function and a readout of transmitted power.

I live in a New York City apartment with limited space and this is my fixed station rig. The antenna is a vertical on the roof, surrounded by taller buildings. One would not expect too much from this kind of setup, but I have been more than pleased with the results. In just over three months I have worked sixteen states, British Columbia and Mexico with generally solid QSOs.

Anyone looking for a small but fully functional QRP rig would do well to consider the Sierra.

The following is a review of the Code Quick program. I know many FISTS are curious about it. It goes against the generally accepted principals of not using "crutches" to learn CW, so I'm curious to hear how Sid's wife and Explorer Scouts do at getting her speed up past 10 or 13. Keep us updated, Sid!

CODE QUICK REVIEW

by Sid Vaughan, N0DJD

Code Quick 30 Day Mastery Plan is a newer method of learning the Morse Code. It was developed by Dr. Gerald Wheeler W6TJP, a ham who is also an educator. The plan is unique because it is based on scientific principles of how we learn. I have been using Morse Code for 50 years and have never seen a method that enables one to learn code as quickly as this one.

I say this, not from using Code Quick to learn the code myself although I wish it had been available 50 years ago. But from my experience I do believe anyone having difficulty increasing their code speed can be helped greatly by the Code Quick system. I bought it to donate to a friend, FISTS member Jim AA0XJ, who works with an Explorer Scout troop to help them get ham licenses.

The system is advertised in many ham magazines and is sold either in a set of six cassette tapes or a computer disk. I got the tapes and began to listen to them. My XYL was in the same room reading. After 20 minutes, she had learned 8 letters while not really trying to learn them. She had always thought code was boring and had no interest in it. This began to look like a really good code teaching system.

So I continued to play the tapes while she was in the room reading. She continued learning more letters. At first, I doubt she was trying. Later, she got interested and began to concentrate more on the code than on reading. Now she has asked me to get a set of tapes for her after giving the one I have to the Explorer Scouts.

The Code Quick system is based not upon the old dits and dahs which we all used, but upon equating in our mind a word or group of words that are sound-alikes for each letter. For example, the letter C is equated to "Catch It Catch It", a sound-alike that calls to mind its letter. Thus, we learn the code as a language, rather than as dits and dahs. Language seems to be easier to remember. After all, we learned to speak whatever language we were taught as children. Many adults learn foreign languages. Our minds are able to cope with words better than non-word sounds. The use of sound-alike words was employed successfully to teach drum playing for years. In learning to play a drum, every stroke of the stick or group of strokes has a name that is a sound-alike for the strokes. For example, drummers know that four strokes is a paradiddle. So the sound-alike system was proven long before Code Quick was developed. And my XYL can testify that it is much easier to remember the sound-alike words rather than the dits and dahs of the code.

Furthermore, Wheeler has applied additional aids to learning. Reading specialists in our schools have long known that children remember how to read and spell words better when they use motor skills such as writing and tracing words instead of just looking at them and saying them. Wheeler's method includes tracing the letter being learned while saying the sound-alike. It also provides pictures as memory aids for each sound-alike.

The Code Quick system promises to bring a beginner up to 13 words per minute in 30 days if one follows a routine of at least three 20 minute practice sessions a day. I believe it can do this. And I feel sure the system can bring anyone up to 20 words per minute with additional work, quicker than we old timers increased our speed with only dits & dahs to practice. I feel sure it will prove valuable for my friend to use in helping his scouts get their ham tickets.

In my opinion, Gerald Wheeler with Code Quick has done a great service for FISTS and all who wish to promote CW. I wish I were young and healthy enough to put on CODE QUICK demonstrations at ham fests all around the country to reach those who have given up on CW. Maybe that is a project other FISTS members can do.

One problem for me is that now I'm going to have to buy a 2nd set of tapes for my XYL. And it won't end there. Later, I'll probably have buy a talkie for her. So my advice is if you get this system be care-

ful! Other family members will be wanting to use it as well as your radio gear. 73, Sid N0DJJ (not on Code Quick's payroll)

Here are a couple books you may be interested in:

Kent WA4DQU sends along this review of a book he enjoyed: From a new mystery by Nevada Barr called "Endangered Species" Morse saves the day. The story is about a killing on Cumberland Island National Seashore. The protagonist park ranger Anna Pigeon is sent SOS in Morse code by one of the elderly school teachers. I must admit I did not get it right away myself. A very good book. I believe it is out in paperback now.

If you're interested in crystal sets; how they work, how to build them, have I got a book for you! It was written in 1953 by FISTS member Ken W8ROG (who also happens to be my father). When my parents moved from their house to a condo, we came across this book in the attic and I just couldn't see it gathering dust so I had it reprinted. The introduction says: "Anyone can build and enjoy crystal receivers. A few minutes' work brings gratifying results even to the veriest beginner. But as with all hobbies, the novice stage passes, leaving a more critical ear and cultivated taste. Although this book will serve the beginner well, it is primarily dedicated to the latter group who have reached the inevitable conclusion that superior results cannot be obtained without a more extended knowledge of the art. Here is a practical and theoretical presentation. It is a book the beginner can comfortably "grow into."

To achieve optimum results, a crystal receiver must be carefully designed and individual piece of apparatus....A properly made crystal receiver will provide years of uninterrupted entertainment. The initial investment is low; the maintenance cost, negligible...A knowledge of fundamental principles is of especial importance to the experimenter. It will save hours of fruitless labor; and more important, it will allow you to interpret and explain the results of your experiments Knowledge and skill ensure success.

The Skill and Design of Crystal Sets is available for \$11.95, including postage, from me; Nancy Kott, 5450 Diehl Rd, Metamora MI 48455. I would like to emphasize this is not a FISTS funded or endorsed book, it's a personal endeavor.

9 FISTS MEMBERS BRING BACK TELEGRAPH COMMUNICATIONS TO WISCONSIN RR DEPOTS

by Sid N9DJJ

On April 25th & 26th, nine FISTS members brought back (radio) telegraph communications to Green County Depot Days in Wisconsin.

FISTS operators worked at depots in two of the towns: Monroe and New Glarus, sending and receiving free "telegrams" for visitors to the depots. This was the 2nd annual Depot Days for nine Green County towns, each displaying artifacts and collectibles focusing on their railroad history. Five of these towns still have their depots and get visitors making the rounds to several of the towns.

The FISTS operation was organized by Fritz, KA9GXZ, and Scott, KC9YI both of Monroe, and me, N0DJJ of Cedar Rapids IA. Fritz set up his station at New Glarus, and I put his at Monroe. Each station used a home made relay to run the old fashioned telegraph clicker from CW signals, while operators monitored with head phones. Visitors heard only the telegraph clicking, making it a realistic demonstration of old fashioned railroad communications. They enjoyed watching, listening, and sending free messages, or having one sent, to or from the other town.

A total of 18 messages were sent from Monroe, and 23 from New Glarus.

Fritz and Scott made wire antennas for the two stations. These were L shaped Marconis made from 54 1/2 feet of TV twin lead with the two sides connected to about 15 feet of single wire at the top. The bottom was ground mounted with one side of the twin lead grounded and the other side fed with coax. Two 64 ft. radials were used. The two towns are only about 18 miles apart but separated by high hills. Good signals were obtained on 80 and 20 meters. While 80 was noisy, we used it mostly because 20 became crowded around midday.

The FISTS members in addition to Fritz, Scott, and myself, who enacted the role of telegraph operator at the depots were: WJ0C Jim from Waterloo, IA; N9FA Fay from Monroe WI; N9TRK Steve from Sheboygan WI; W9DU Yuki & xyl K9IUR Marti from Wis. Dells WI and WA9PWP PAUL from Stoughton WI. I had mailed notices to those in southern Wis, Northern Ill. and Northern Iowa on the club mailing list. I tried to add more names from new members in the last few issues of Keynote but had only the nine or zero in their calls to use in deciding

whether they lived in the area. I'm sorry for those in this area who were missed. Favorable responses were received, in addition to the above, from more who had conflicts with the date. So possibly there will be more FISTS operators next year.

For next year, Depot Days 1999 on the last weekend of April, Fritz, Scott, and I hope to add a third depot to the event. We'll mail notices to all who responded favorably to this year's event. Others who want to be notified should send their name & address to Sid, N0DJJ, 1300 13th St. NW, Apt.A-207, Cedar Rapids IA 52405.

Paul WA9PWP sent along his comments, adding a bit more about the set-up:

"Antennas were hung outside the depots in New Glarus and Monroe, WI. A clear freq was picked on 80 mtrs. Sid had built two interface boxes which detect CW tones and convert them to a switch closure which then activates a real telegraph sounder! The ham at each end wears tight earphones and visitors do not hear the CW from the rig, but only the clacking of the telegraph sounder! Sid even had a genuine tobacco can jammed alongside the one I saw in New Glarus, remember the origin of the term "lid" ? The effect was quite dramatic!

Canned or personal "telegrams" were sent between the two depots on 80 mtrs and since the depots are only 25 miles apart, a visitor could send a souvenir telegram to the other station and then go there and pick it up! Special souvenir telegraph pads had been printed up.

Sid had made little buttons for us to wear, advertising FISTS and "Depot Days radio telegrapher". There was even a telegrapher's eyeshade to wear! A local 2 mtr repeater was used for an additional link and for scheduling, had it ID's in CW! The weather was not the best, but we had fun!

I brought along my Russian "KEY-8" and NorCal paddles and a Logikey K-1 memory keyer to use, only to discover my keyer wouldn't do grid block keying of the Kenwood TS530s used at New Glarus! So it was back to the good old brass EF Johnson straight key!

I found it was such a neat event I thought FISTS members should hear about it in Keynote! Perhaps other events like it are waiting to be organized across the country? 73, Paul WA9PWP

QRP With John Shannon K3WWP

I have had several questions asking me how to zero beat signals with a particular QRP kit. Well, my quick answer is "I don't know." WAIT! Don't stop reading. I am going to try to give you enough information so that you can figure it out. Every kit has a slightly different method of accomplishing a good zero beat, so I can't just say do this or do that. That might work with one rig, but not another. I am going to approach this article the same way as I did my power measurement article last month. That is, I'm going to try to keep it neither too simple nor too complicated.

The term zero beat comes from the fact that two signals mixing together will create a beat tone equal to the difference in frequency between them (and for the purists, a sum frequency also, but we are not interested in that). For example if you mix together signals of 7,058,000 Hz and 7,058,800 Hz you will get a third signal equal to 7,058,800-7,058,000 or 800 Hz which is in the audio range and hence can be heard. This is the only way a pure CW signal is made to be heard since it carries no modulation of its own (unless it's MCW, has a bad hum, etc.). Although most all receivers convert the incoming signal to one or more intermediate frequencies before finally converting the signal to one in the audio range, I am going to describe direct conversion from the received signal to audio. The principle is still the same whether it's done at 7058 kHz, 455 kHz, or any other IF.

Back now to the zero in zero beat. When two signals are on exactly the same frequency, the difference is 0, hence zero beat. In a receiver or transceiver, there is an oscillator called a BFO or beat frequency oscillator. The output from this oscillator is mixed with the incoming signal to produce the audio frequency. For example, if we are trying to hear a CW signal on 7,058,000 kHz, our BFO will be tuned to, say 7,058,800. The difference between the two will produce an audio frequency of 800 Hz.

Originally, before transceivers, when separate receivers and transmitters were used exclusively, one method of zero beating a signal was to temporarily turn off the BFO in the receiver, and use the VFO in the transmitter as a BFO. You would tune the VFO until an audio tone was heard, then keep tuning carefully as the tone got lower and finally became zero and inaudible. Presto, your VFO is now set to the exact frequency of the station you are listening to. You turn the receiver BFO back on and call the station. Nowadays, in many cases, it is either not possible or convenient to turn the BFO on and off.

For separate receivers and transmitters, it is simplest to just turn on the VFO and tune so that the audio tone it produces is the same as the one being produced by the received signal. This will not produce a perfect zero beat, but unless you are totally tone deaf, you can get within a few dozen Hz or so. If you are a musician with perfect pitch, you can do even better.

OK, now down to the real nitty-gritty, transceivers. When you use a transceiver, the VFO and the BFO are generally the same. When you are receiving that signal on 7,058,000 then the oscillator is acting as a BFO tuned to 7,058,800, and when the transceiver is keyed to transmit, the oscillator is offset, or switched 800 Hz lower in frequency so you transmit on 7,058,000 instead of 7,058,800.

So, to zero beat a signal in this case (an 800 Hz offset), you tune in the signal until it produces an audio tone of 800 Hz, and you will then automatically be zero beat when you transmit. Now this 800 Hz is not standard by any means, so you must read the kit manual or contact the manufacturer to find out what they use for this offset frequency, be it 700 Hz, 1000 Hz, etc. That is the figure you use when tuning in a signal on your particular transceiver.

How do we know when we're hearing an 800 Hz tone. Well, if you have perfect pitch, it's simple. For those of use who don't, we can settle on being fairly close, or use a frequency counter or an oscilloscope to measure the audio frequency. What happens if your offset is 800 Hz, and you tune for a tone of 600 Hz? Well, the signal you are receiving is 7,058,000. With that 600 Hz. tone, the BFO/VFO is set to 7,058,600, and when you transmit, the 800 Hz offset will take it down to 7,057,800 and you will wind up being 200 Hz lower than the station you are working.

Some transceivers that use a sidetone for monitoring keying set the frequency of the sidetone to the same as the offset frequency. If you can get used to adjusting the tone from the received signal so it sounds the same as the sidetone, that will ensure a zero beat. Please, if you have any tips for zero beating with your particular rig, let me know, and I'll share them here in the column. Zero beating is especially important for the QRPer. It can often make the difference between being heard and not being noticed at all. I have only used one transceiver, the QRP+, and do not have any manuals from other transceivers, so my knowledge is limited. Don't forget that past editions of my column are available on my web site at <http://www.alltel.net/~johnshan>. My Email is johnshan@alltel.net and my land mail address is 478 E. High St., Kittanning, PA 16201-1304. -30-

Reading this report of Grant's trip to Antigua really makes me think we ought to do a FISTS DXpedition! Thank for sending this along Grant. Thanks also for spending some time on the Novice/Tech portion of 15 meters.

From the Log of V21CW, Grant, FISTS #2573:

I Landed on the island at 1:30PM local time on 9 April. Through customs quickly and was at the QTH at about 3:00PM. My QTH is on the north end of Antigua with a straight shot, over the ocean, to both the USA (NW) and Europe (NE). Spent the next several hours unpacking and putting up 2 antennas (20 and 30 meters)

First in the log was Bob, NT8X, FISTS #4287 on 20 meters at 2338 UTC, 9 April 1998. He was followed by N2MUT, AE4AI, WA6RND and G4UCJ all FISTS members. Everything working OK....It was time for sleep!! I put the rest of the antennas up next morning (10, 12, 15, 17 meters). The rig was a borrowed ICOM 706 MK II at 100 watts and the antennas were all dipoles at about 40 feet up. My logging was done with the N6TR Contest logging program and converted into my computer logging program LOGPlus! on my return home. I used a Bencher paddle and the Kansas City Contest Keyer for sending CW when not using the computer to do so. I surprised some of the regulars on the FISTS frequencies (GX0IPX, Geo at key, AC6TO, AI9L, WB2HEK, N6MNZ) who at first did not know who I was. Some others remembered my note in an earlier Keynote about the vacation trip and were looking for me (K4UK, K3WWP, KF6GUH) Hi....I apologize if I have left some of you out. I worked several Novice/Tech stations on 28108 and 21108 but was not able to get on 40 and 80 meters as planned because of local QRN. Next year I will have to bring my DSP filter with me. I also worked several FISTS mobile stations....some with very strong signals and excellent operators. I was able to work enough FISTS to apply for the Century Award and please let everyone know that their contact with me as V21CW was worth 2 points toward their Century or Gold awards even though I have the same FISTS #2573 for both K2ACW and V21CW. I want to thank everyone for the points toward my Century Award from V21CW and I enjoyed EVERY contact with a FISTS member....a great club.

Last in my log on this trip was Glen, W6STU, FISTS #3631 on 10 meters at 1854 UTC on 19 April 1998. I had a total of 586 QSO's with 122 different FISTS worked. Antennas were taken down on the evening of 19 April, I left the Island at 8:00AM 20 April and was working at my job at 1:00PM the same day. QSL for V21CW is via K2ACW either direct (SASE) or through the FISTS bureau and the first batch of V21CW QSL's are in the mail now.

One last note....I also had time to enjoy some fishing, snorkeling, swimming on my short vacation. Will see you all again next year from Antigua. 73, Grant #2573 K2ACW V21CW

A note on the QSL Bureau

The use of the FISTS Bureau is voluntary! It's for the convenience of the members - if you want to send cards direct, by all means do. It will help you get your cards more efficiently if, during the course of the QSO, you say "pse QSL direct" or "pse QSL via FISTS buro" so the other person knows you do or do not have envelopes at the bureau. If you don't want to take advantage of the bureau, let people know you want to QSL direct or they may send their card via the bureau. If you receive cards at the bureau and you don't have an envelope on file, you will get a note from Stan K4UK, the bureau manager, asking you what you want done with the cards.

Also, to facilitate getting your QSO confirmed pse write the operator's name on the card. This is particularly important when working a club call. If there are a number of people using the same callsign, it's hard to go through all the different logs to confirm the QSO. You're probably getting tired of seeing this, but I'm printing the guide to the bureau again to help you understand how the bureau works. Please save this page since I don't know when I'll have room to print it again.

If you send a lot of QSL's, using our bureau can save you a considerable amount of postage money. This alone can be worth more than the \$15 subs you pay to FISTS. Thanks to The Franklin County ARC for the time and effort they put into running the bureau. It is greatly appreciated!

The bureau address is on the inside front cover of the Keynote. Please DO NOT send cards to me, WZ8C.

Basically the QSL Bureau works like this:

Pack up all your QSL cards you have for contacts with other FISTS members and send them to us. We sort the cards and put them in the SASE's (Self Addressed Stamped Envelopes) which the members have sent to us. When we get 6 to 7 cards we mail them. Various members of the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club of Rocky Mount, VA assist me in the work of the QSL Bureau. Final sorting and mailing of envelopes is done by these members.

To get cards which are sent via the Bureau for you, you need SASE's on file with us. We suggest #10 business size envelope (4-1/8" x 9-1/2") which will work for nearly all QSL card sizes. The smaller personal size envelope (3-5/8" x 6-1/2") will work for most QSL cards, but there are some cards larger than 3-5/8" - especially some of the DX cards. Some of the fellows send 6" x 9" Kraft envelopes which can handle all cards sizes I've ever seen.

Your SASE should have at least a 32 cent stamp in upper right hand corner. Your address goes in the normal address portion of the envelope and put your call in large letters in the upper left hand corner. We suggest a minimum of three SASE's be sent. We will put a number in the lower left hand corner of each of your SASE's to indicate which envelope is being used. We will include a note when we have used your last envelope to send cards to you, and probably also will note on the rear flap - "Last Envelope in Bureau".

When you send in additional cards you can then send in additional SASE's. If we get a real bunch of cards for you, we may well put them all in the one envelope and add postage as required. We appreciate your sending additional postage with your next batch of cards if we do this.

Based on the weight of my QSL card the following postal rates apply per the scales in the Moneta Post Office:

1 ounce = 7 cards = 32 cents to mail; 2 ounces = 15 cards = 55 cents; 3 ounces = 23 cards = 78 cents

You can send QSL's for contacts with foreign FISTS members to us and we will forward them to Bob Lowe in England who handles the distribution of QSL cards for overseas DX. We handle cards for Canadian FISTS and other DX FISTS on this side of the Atlantic.

So, send us your QSL cards and some SASE's and you're set up to use the Bureau. It won't do any good to send cards for contacts with stations who are not FISTS members as they won't have SASE's on file with us. Also, it is a good idea to tell the FISTS station that you will QSL via the Bureau. In that way he will know that you have SASE's at the Bureau.

If you send in a "bunch" of cards it would be appreciated if you sort them by call number. It makes the initial sort go much faster. But, you don't have to further sort them alphabetically.

Special Note for Canadians and other DX using the Bureau:

Since all mail we send out from the Bureau must have U.S. postage stamps, you will have to put U.S. stamps on your SASE's. Since obtaining U.S. stamps may be hard, if not impossible, we suggest that you send SAE's (Self-Addressed-Envelopes) without stamps and some funds to cover the stamps we will obtain for you. Such funds can be "Green Stamps" or checks. If checks, please make them out to me, Stan Reas as my bank will not honor checks made out to FISTS QSL Bureau.

The cost of postage for mail from U.S. to Canada and Mexico is different from that within the states. Likewise the cost to other countries is different. Based on the weight of my QSL card the following rates would apply:

For Canada and Mexico :

Weight	Postage	Cards
.5 oun	46 cents	3
1 oun	52 cents	7
1.5 ounce	64 cents	11
2 ounces	72 cents	15
3 ounces	95 cents	23

For Other Countries:

Weight	Postage	Cards
.5 oz	60 cents	3
1 oz	\$1	7
1.5 oz	\$1.40	11
2 oz	\$1.80	15
2.5 oz	\$2.20	19
3 oz	\$2.60	23

Write YOUR callsign
and previous callsign here

32 cent
stamp

Your Name
Your Street Address
Your City, State, and Zip Code

Sample of the front of the envelopes (SASE) you send to the Bureau

(suggest #10 size 4 1/4 x 9 1/4)

FIST AWARDS

These ruled apply to North American FISTS members only. Because of geographical differences, the DX FISTS have a slightly different set of rules.

Both the Century and Gold awards restrict claims to one contact only irrespective of bands. This means that should a member change his call sign and you have already worked him under his previous call, you may not use this as a new points claim.

Century Award (issued in North America)

This is the basic award and the requirements are 100 points on the following basis :

- 1 point per member on your own country
- 2 points per member in another country as defined by DXCC rules
- 3 points per contact with GOIPX (or any of its variants) or any other FISTS club call.

Applications should contain Call Name Date Band Location Fists Number.

Whilst GX0IPX or any of its variants count as three points, you may also claim for the operator on the same once-only basis as above. i.e. GX0IPX/P may be operated by GW0SGG. If you have not previously claimed this station, you may use this as a further point. However, if you also intend claiming for GX0IPX then you may not claim for GX0IPX/P. As from the 1 Jan 1998, supplementary Century awards will not be issued. Instead, you are encouraged to make a further 400 points (500 in total) for your Gold Award assuming that none of these contacts occur in your Century.

QRP Century Award (issued in North America)

Same rules as the basic Century Award, but your contacts must have been made using 5 watts or less

Two Way QRP Century Award (issued in North America)

Same rules as the basic Century Award, but your contacts must have been made with other FISTS who were transmitting with 5 watts or less while you were also using 5 watts or less.

Gold Award (issued in England)

Requirements are 500 points. As with Century awards contacts can be claimed ONCE ONLY and the points accrued for any Century award(s) previously claimed may be used. Applications direct to HQ with \$2 cash return postage.

Platinum Award (issued in England)

Requirements are to obtain 100 points using holders of the Century Award, strictly on a one point per FISTS number irrespective of location. Periodically, a list of Century award holders will be printed in Keynote or you may submit a SAE for a current update. Applications as with Gold.

On air, you ask the holder for his Century award number. In the case of members who hold more than one Century, you will be given the number of the first award and these numbers must be included in any claims for your Gold. In this way, duplication is avoided.

Worked All States/FISTS (issued in North America)

This award is earned by having two-way Morse contacts with a FISTS member in each of the 50 States. Submit logs with callsign, date, time, name, FISTS number, band and location.

Worked All States/FISTS QRP (issued in North America)

This award is earned by having two-way Morse contacts with FISTS members in each of the 50 States using 5 watts or less.

Elmer Award (Issued in England)

A certificate has been designed which will enable members to recognise and acknowledge the help and encouragement received from other stations whether FISTS members or not. When nominating, you are requested to include \$2 cash (US) to help offset the cost of printing and postage (which includes an A4 envelope and stiffener). The certificate can be mailed directly to the station nominated or to yourself for personal presentation or at a club meeting.

ALPHA-21

SPECTRUM QTH SYSTEM, EXAMPLE: THE LAST LETTER IN W4JTU, IS THE 21ST LETTER IN THE ALPHABET. ADD 21 TO ALL FREQUENCIES ON THE TOP HORIZONTAL ROW NEXT TO THE WORD "EDGE" TO FIND BERT. NO!! BERT DOSEN'T THINK HE OWNS THESE FREQUENCIES!!, BUT HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THIS WAY OF OPERATING MADE WIDELY KNOWN AND USED, SO THAT WE MAY MORE EASILY LOCATE ONE ANOTHER. RATHER THAN LEAVING HIS RECEIVER RUNNING ON SOME RANDOM FREQUENCY, BERT MONITORS HIS "HOME BASE" FREQUENCY ON THE BAND SET FOR, WHILE PUTTERING AROUND THE SHACK, READING OR FILLING OUT A QSL CARD. SO LISTEN FOR QRL? QRL? (NOTHING HEARD) CQ CQ CQ DE W4JTU KN. TRY 3721KHz AND 7121KHz PLUS OR MINUS QRM FROM 0600-0900AM ET, EVENING, TOP OF HOURS. JUST ALPHA TUNE FOR U

80		40		30		20		17		15		12		10		
CW	PHONE	CW	PHONE	CW	PHONE	CW	PHONE	CW	PHONE	CW	PHONE	CW	PHONE	CW	PHONE	
3,700	3,850	7,100	7,225	10100	14025	14225	18068	18110	21100	21300	24890	24930	28100	28300	EDGE	
A 3,701	3,851	7,101	7,226	A 10101	14026	14226	A 18069	18111	21101	21301	A 24891	24931	28101	28301	A 1	
B 3,702	3,852	7,102	7,227	B 10102	14027	14227	B 18070	18112	21102	21302	B 24892	24932	28102	28302	B 2	
C 3,703	3,853	7,103	7,228	C 10103	14028	14228	C 18071	18113	21103	21303	C 24893	24933	28103	28303	C 3	
D 3,704	3,854	7,104	7,229	D 10104	14029	14229	D 18072	18114	21104	21304	D 24894	24934	28104	28304	D 4	
E 3,705	3,855	7,105	7,230	E 10105	14030	14230	E 18073	18115	21105	21305	E 24895	24935	28105	28305	E 5	
F 3,706	3,856	7,106	7,231	F 10106	14031	14231	F 18074	18116	21106	21306	F 24896	24936	28106	28306	F 6	
G 3,707	3,857	7,107	7,232	G 10107	14032	14232	G 18075	18117	21107	21307	G 24897	24937	28107	28307	G 7	
H 3,708	3,858	7,108	7,233	H 10108	14033	14233	H 18076	18118	21108	21308	H 24898	24938	28108	28308	H 8	
I 3,709	3,859	7,109	7,234	I 10109	14034	14234	I 18077	18119	21109	21309	I 24899	24939	28109	28309	I 9	
J 3,710	3,860	7,110	7,235	J 10110	14035	14235	J 18078	18120	21110	21310	J 24900	24940	28110	28310	J 10	
K 3,711	3,861	7,111	7,236	K 10111	14036	14236	K 18079	18121	21111	21311	K 24901	24941	28111	28311	K 11	
L 3,712	3,862	7,112	7,237	L 10112	14037	14237	L 18080	18122	21112	21312	L 24902	24942	28112	28312	L 12	
M 3,713	3,863	7,113	7,238	M 10113	14038	14238	M 18081	18123	21113	21313	M 24903	24943	28113	28313	M 13	
N 3,714	3,864	7,114	7,239	N 10114	14039	14239	N 18082	18124	21114	21314	N 24904	24944	28114	28314	N 14	
O 3,715	3,865	7,115	7,240	O 10115	14040	14240	O 18083	18125	21115	21315	O 24905	24945	28115	28315	O 15	
P 3,716	3,866	7,116	7,241	P 10116	14041	14241	P 18084	18126	21116	21316	P 24906	24946	28116	28316	P 16	
Q 3,717	3,867	7,117	7,242	Q 10117	14042	14242	Q 18085	18127	21117	21317	Q 24907	24947	28117	28317	Q 17	
R 3,718	3,868	7,118	7,243	R 10118	14043	14243	R 18086	18128	21118	21318	R 24908	24948	28118	28318	R 18	
S 3,719	3,869	7,119	7,244	S 10119	14044	14244	S 18087	18129	21119	21319	S 24909	24949	28119	28319	S 19	
T 3,720	3,870	7,120	7,245	T 10120	14045	14245	T 18088	18130	21120	21320	T 24910	24950	28120	28320	T 20	
U 3,721	3,871	7,121	7,246	U 10121	14046	14246	U 18089	18131	21121	21321	U 24911	24951	28121	28321	U 21	
V 3,722	3,872	7,122	7,247	V 10122	14047	14247	V 18090	18132	21122	21322	V 24912	24952	28122	28322	V 22	
W 3,723	3,873	7,123	7,248	W 10123	14048	14248	W 18091	18133	21123	21323	W 24913	24953	28123	28323	W 23	
X 3,724	3,874	7,124	7,249	X 10124	14049	14249	X 18092	18134	21124	21324	X 24914	24954	28124	28324	X 24	
Y 3,725	3,875	7,125	7,250	Y 10125	14050	14250	Y 18093	18135	21125	21325	Y 24915	24955	28125	28325	Y 25	
Z 3,726	3,876	7,126	7,251	Z 10126	14051	14251	Z 18094	18136	21126	21326	Z 24916	24956	28126	28326	Z 26	
3,750	4,000	7,150	7,300	10150	14150	14350	18110	18168	21200	21450	24930	24990	28500	29700		

FOR A COPY, SEND #10 SASE TO: ALPHA-21, BERT ADAMS, 11370 SW 60TH TERRACE, MIAMI, FL 33173-1059

FISTS CODE BUDDY APPLICATION

Mail to FISTS Code Buddy Coordinator:
John Cmiel, W9EM, 34020 N. Hickory Ave, Grayslake IL 60030
Email: w9em@aol.com

Your Name _____ Callsign _____

Your Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Your Daytime Phone Number _____ Evening _____ Fax _____

Your Email address _____

Your License Class _____ Your FISTS Number _____

Are you comfortable at (approximately):
_____ Under 5 WPM _____ 5 -10 WPM _____ 10-15 WPM
_____ 15-20 WPM _____ 20 - 25 WPM _____ 25-30 WPM
_____ 30-35 WPM _____ Above 35 WPM

Are you (check all that apply):

- _____ Looking for a Code Buddy to help you improve?
_____ Looking to work with a Code Buddy to help them improve?
_____ Looking for a Code Buddy around the same level, for on the air practice?

Bands You Have Available: _____

Days & Times you are available to get on the air: _____

Special Interests (this helps match you with someone with common interests):

COMMENTS: _____

THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING TO JOIN OUR FISTS CODE BUDDY PROGRAM

DX PORTION OF THE KEYNOTE

Up-dated listings and badges may be obtained from HQ. For listings, SAE plus current stamp. Badges, £1.50

Obtainable from HQ. £4.00 per 100 or £7.00 per 200. UK and European members add 50p p/p, others on advice.

Your renewal date is printed on your mailing label.

Up-dated listings may be obtained from HQ. Full or US listing 3 2nd class stamps, EU 2 stamps. No envelope necessary. La-

pel Badges, £1.50 incl. Fabric patches £2.50 incl. QSL Cards £5.00 per 100 or £8.00 per 200 (UK and EU pse add 50p for p/p. DX members - on advice. Personalised stickers £1.00 per sheet (65), max order 5 sheets.

SUBS: UK £5.00, EEC £6.00, Non-EEC EU, £7.00. Others £10.00.

Your renewal date appears on the mailing label and your anticipation would be much appreciated.

GREETINGS

Hi People. Bit of a struggle this month what with new members and the demand for QSL cards appearing to climb, it has left me with less time to get on the air. In between some absolutely atrocious conditions with frying bacon being often up to S9, there have been happy quieter periods when the bands opened quite nicely. We could be in for a really good year propagation-wise.

Doesn't it give you a great feeling. The tits have arrived and the air is filled with bird song again. The blackbirds are declaring their territory from just about every tree worth the name and from others that don't quite qualify. From the desk, my concentration has been frequently diverted with the activity outside the windows and one day I spent some 3 hours operating which was interspersed with observation of some crazy magpie endeavouring to construct a nest at the very top of a whippy leylandii whose upper branches were swaying some four feet either way in the slightest breath of a breeze. She gave up in the end but I gave her 9 out of 10 for obstinacy. Hi.

At the moment of writing this, it is Saturday April 25, the sun is shining despite dire predictions of rain and thunder and apart from the odd splash, there are one or two JA stations on 20m (I usually monitor 140579 with a 2KHz filter) though UA is 579 at 30 degrees off the beam. You can't win 'em all.

As one of our members noted, there are a lot of stations these days calling CQ FISB and I have just heard one of 'em. It's easy enough I know but please do pay some attention to your spacing. Gives a bad impression.

DISLEXIA

Got an interesting letter from Alan, M0MXJ, who tells me that he and Len (M0BOS) are having a right old struggle trying to teach CW to a dyslexic. It is little surprise that the lad is having problems but he is seeking suggestions.

The little I know about the condition is that the characters on a page of type go into roll - I do not recall any mention being made of yawing - so I wonder if writing ticker tape fashion on a paper strip would be of help? Also, do you recall the comics from your childhood where a series of drawings suggested both words and a phrase? I was thinking of short groups which made sense such as: this, at, to, a and etc. Possibly be easier to assimilate than individual characters and we could then read "THE CAR_A_VAN IS PAIN_TED RED". I am sure any suggestions would be welcome.

Seem to remember a programme on television not too long ago where dyslexia was seemingly cured by tinted spectacles. Could I be wrong?

MORSE TEST SVC - 12TH ANNIV WEEKEND

From Roy, G4SSH, the glad news that the RSGB are running a repeat of their very popular weekend when stations involved in the Morse Test service take to the air with county calls. Most of 'em run at a moderate speed so look out for the GB0+county calls i.e. GB0LDN (London). You will find a minimum of 27 stations mainly on 80m and of course there is a certificate for stations working ten or more. Especially, look out for the Chief Morse Examiner who will be running GB0CW and his deputy GB0MTS.

Period 09/10 May. Main activity 80/40m. Log ex-

tracts to: Roy Clayton, G4SHH, 9 Green Island, Irton, Scarborough, YO12 4RN. Cost £2.50 (cheques payable to RSGB) or 5 IRCs.

It's always a pain because this event coincides with my departure for Dayton and it is a last minute scramble to log the GB0 stations before packing my suit case.

SAMSON KEYERS

Just a quick snippet of news..... as of 1st April, I have taken over the UK representation of Herman Samson's keyers. Frank, G5BM, decided that at 82 years of age, now was the time to pass on the business and concentrate on tending his beautiful Gloucestershire acres. I visited Frank last Tuesday and took away all his remaining stock of keyers, spares and documentation. I hope

to be able to equal the level of service offered by Frank, if not his meticulous attention to detail!

I am looking forward to meeting Mr Samson and my other German principals (Gerhard Schurr, Kurt Zuehlke and Englmar Wenk) when I visit HamRadio '98 at Friedrichshafen in June. Chris G3TUX

STEREO FILTER

It strikes me as strange that it has taken all these years for Dud Charmans' idea to be taken up but here we are and in Radcom the subject surfaces again. It would seem that the designer of the Soundfield box was hiding behind the callsign of G3TPJ and is keeping the circuitry details close to his chest pending a patent application.

With normal bandwidths and dependent upon activity, a number of separate signals can be heard. As a service op, it took a little self discipline to acquire the knack of selecting one signal from perhaps half a dozen and concentrating on that alone and, had the pseudo stereo effect been available at that time, things would have been much easier.

With the Soundfield, you perceive signals as if they are emanating from different directions and it is therefore much less demanding to concentrate on the chosen one. If the signal is centred, it takes on a completely different characteristic and becomes "focused". It is closer to you than others, it is the dominant signal. All other signals are still present but they "look" farther away. I would like to have seen the option to switch out the centre peaking filter but even as it is, the difference in quality from the normal 'flat' conditions is outstanding.

G3TPJ regards his technique as KISS (keep it simple stupid) but since this discussion started out by utilising a PC and 16 bit Creative Labs Sound Card plus mouse and software (from K6STI) to perform the necessary digital processing the Soundfield performs provides much the same functions in a single plug in package. I currently use some pretty sophisticated techniques built into the FT1000MP which depend largely on restricted bandwidths (down to 250Hz) and stuffing the resultant audio signal through one of four DSP routes, band pass, hi-pass, etc. to enhance the signal to noise ratio but they are already doing some pretty striking things with DSP these days and I do not think it is going to be too long before all the required technology is going to be contained in a single box to do the same job in a simple plug it in application. With a suitable package, the shortcomings of even the most basic home brew QRP receive set ups could be ignored.

LAST SUNDAY LADDER

Gerry sends me the following totals for the Last Sunday Ladder. As you can see, we are in the situation of one contestant being well out in front and, although there is not that much space betwixt third and fourth spots, that from second to third is looking very much like it is going to be permanent.

I received only two letters (one from a member who does not even appear on the ladder) urging me to retain it so on that showing, I think it better that we draw a line under it at this stage and start with a new ladder in January. It surely has not received the same support that the first ladder did and we can hardly blame it on poor band conditions since the prime band (80m) was always in reasonable form for the two periods.

If anyone has any suggestions for other activities which may possibly attract a greater measure of support then I would be happy to give them consideration.

G0MRH points out that the dates for the ladder are confusing because they are not fixed. I take your point Ron. Members have to be aware that it is the last Sunday in the month which could mean varying dates from 22nd to 31st as opposed to a fixed date (say 1st of the month). Perhaps Gerry would like to consider this. The activity has been much appreciated of course and it would be great to see even more though to be truthful, I am happier when I see such a congregation rag chewing rather than giving the impression that they are in a contest.

Call	Mem	NonMem	Prev	Total
G4LHI	24	4	0181	209
G0MR	14	0	0097	111
PA3AF	02	0	0071	73
G4RBE	10	3	52	65
G4PTE	20	3	18	41
G0VC	4	0	18	22
G0WL	6	0	0	6

I have sent the appropriate certificates to G4LHI, G0MRH and PA3AFF. My congratulations to all.

IMAGE?

GW3COI was kind enough to send the cartoon printed at the end of this newsletter. This is of course very much tongue in cheek because I have worked John on a number of occasions and he knows well enough the meaning of FISTS but there have been occasions when, spotting the fabric patch in particular, non-radio types have asked if it is some sort of boxing club.

G4ZPY

All items hand-crafted with the skill of a trained engineer. Also miniature versions which are much acclaimed throughout the world.

SAE/IRC TO:

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L40 7TG Tel: 01704-884299

CHANGE OF CALL

George Bridgeman, FISTS 3030, was VE3MMQ - and has moved back to Blighty with the callsign of G0TUA. I hope to find George on 80m but imagine that there will be some delay before he is QRV because that is no run-of-the-mill QSY and he will doubtless have his work cut out organising antennas etc. We have a couple of more such changes of address but of course, they are of not concern to the members as they involve only local migrations.

MORSUM MAGNIFICAT

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e-mail: tony@morsum.demon.co.uk
Home page: <http://www.morsum.demon.co.uk>

At the request of G4FAI, I continue to include the above in case any-one is anxious to obtain back numbers etc. However, if no 'angel' is found for the publication, it looks rather like it is doomed to sink into oblivion. This will be a sad day indeed.

ODDS 'N ENDS

STORMY TALES

Hi Geo, I have not been on the bands very much recently as I lost several ants in the storms after Christmas and have been building equipment for 136kHz. I have already been active on 73kHz and 136kHz will be my 19th band! Thanks agn and 73, Roger, G0UPU.

QUERY ANSWERED

My thanks to G0WEE who responded to the request for info from G4JNA regarding the equipment from last months keynote.

WOT NO LEADS?

Ian, G3JPZ reports that he bought a pair of 'cordless headphones' from Pickets lock for a tenner and he now walks around the shack perusing maps etc., whilst the other guy is in full flow without getting garrotted by the leads or having the shack filled with sigs from the speaker. Can't be bad. Hi.

TEACHER

Worked Jean, G0WBT for the first time t'other evening. All of a dozen miles as the flow cries but with QSB. It happens that way I know but was pleased to learn that the lass is teaching CW on 2m and just as I was considering dismantling my 2m antennas.

ZS6ME

G8NT dropped a line to Bob indicating that ZS6ME is QRV on 28MHz on the hour for 15 mins and that he has already worked him.

DX AND ODDITIES

After a weekend of horrendous noise on 20m and with 12dB of attenuation keeping the signal to noise ratio to a reasonable level, I found two ZL stations, ZL2AXO and ZL2TX. Weak and watery though they were, fiddling with the options on the FT1000MP produced readable signals from both. They were followed by V21HZK (KC4HZK) and CT98ETT (CT1ETT) for a couple of odd-ball FISTS call signs. Some days it goes like that. Hi

YMCA CLUB

What a surprise. On the evening I hooked JOOP, ZS6AJN on 20m I also found GI3MUS operating the YM CA club station for their 50th anniversary and the mag loop found JA on 30m. This contact preceded a rare Turkish station TA2BD. You do get nights like that. Hi.

QSL BUREAU, AWARDS, SUBS ETC.

I must remind you that QSL cards and claims for awards should be directed to Bob, G0FRL. I have no objection to cards being sent to me but you must appreciate that Bob will not have these in his hands until he calls here to pick up the Newsletter and envelopes so those targets for whom there are no other QSL cards due may well be delayed until the following month. By the same rule, Subs, requests for lists, badges, personalised QSL cards, and general queries should be sent direct to HQ.

All award claims should be sent to Bob. He will handle the Century awards direct but will send data for other awards here via e-mail (usually the same day) after updating the database which we keep on award holders. My copy of this is usually out of date compare to Bobs' but we usually update when he arrives here to pick up the envelopes.

If any of your letters need to be re-directed either way, there is sure to be some delay.

COMPLAINTS OF BAND OCCUPANCY

It was a little disappointing to read from last months Keynote that there were actually people complaining about FISTS activity. This month on 20m there was a solid wall of members from 140584 down to 140572 so I dropped down to 140537 and called CQ FISTS to be greeted by "No FISTS here = CHN". The County Hunters Net used to operate up beyond 140790 - if I remember correctly - until they found themselves plagued by data modes. Few people would have bothered them up there of course and, from the vehicle of Esther (KA4IFF) I have accessed the net as we crossed from county to county in Florida. The idea that you can reserve a spot frequency though never has held water and since the station concerned hid in anonymity, I ran a couple of QSOs before finding a more suitable frequency. Was I nit picking? Hardly! The frequency was unoccupied and it is surely not feasible that a spot frequency is left free just on the off chance that some wandering mobile station calls in as he passes from one county to the other irrespective of the rarity value. Rather, he should find the nearest free spot and call CHN from there in just the same way that other groups (including FISTS) do. I'm getting off my soapbox.

THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

G0GSQ. Got a clipping here with a photo of Geo with tropical lid and blues. Must've been taken many

yonks ago. Looks a right Jack the lad. Hi. Doesn't get round to the rallies much these days except when daughter Elaine, G0KZH and G0GVS dump him in the car. Sadly, XYL is now registered blind. **G4RWP.** Hi Eddie. Century is easy! Work the members and claim 1pt for UK/EU, 2pts for DX and 3 for club stns. You need 100 pts. Traumatic experience when he was victim of a mugging last in March when his watch was stolen but the car passenger was badly beaten up and his wife stabbed in the hand trying to retain her diamond ring. Takes all sorts to make a world Eddie but I sometimes despair. **GW4GCB.** Peter is planning a versatower now that spring has arrived and hoping to be active on 10m again rather than just listening to the traffic on his Racal R1217 with 10ft of wire. Anyone got a service manual for the R1217? Peter would sure appreciate it. **G4SSH.** Feels it must be a mite discouraging when he hears members apologising for the fact that they do not have a Century number. Come on now people, there's more this club than chasing numbers. **SM7KJH.** Chris spent a week in Puerto de la Cruz, EA8, Tenerife with XYL and his Mum partly to celebrate the latter's coming of age. He was armed with a SST monoband QRP txvr for 20m and the Outback tri split mobile antenna and a small battery. Their own hotel balcony was poor but when the clouds arrived, the sun seekers deserted the rooftop sun terrace where they had been endeavouring to barbecue themselves thus leaving Chris free to mount the ant on the rails with three radials. Did much better with W and EU stations including M0AGO. Good going for a poor efficiency short antenna. Hi. **M0AGO.** (Heck, there's a coincidence) is struggling with the mysteries of his PC and recently learned that a variation of 'nanosecond' is the 'onosecond' and represents that period of time has a 2m rotator which points his antenna permanently to the west so he will be calling in the troops for assistance since a busted winch cable means that tilting the mast is now a 3-man job. **G0DJA.** Dave has a new keyer chip from the States which can be programmed and has some pre-set 'CQ' options which he plans to wire soon. Sounds handy since it requires only a handful of peripheral components. Let you know more when he gets it up and running and sends me the details. **G4BNU.** Paul sends a photo copy of a page from the 1956 ARRL handbook for the Chandler system of learning Morse. Included within are facts concerning the famous Mr Mc.Elroy whose gauntlet, thrown down at the Ashville code tourna-

ment, was an unbelievable 72.2 w.p.m. and asks did the gent write down the code at this speed. To be truthful, it is something which I have wondered about myself but never got round to making enquiries so; anyone know?

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NEW MEMBERS

Oh my goodness gracious. We are up to 4817 from the 3798 of last month but Nancy at that time was running the 4600 series and is already up into the 4770 range. However, we extend a warm welcome to the following:

3799	G0JDK	Alan	4800	G4ZJK	Ron
4801	M0AXJ	Alan	4802	SQ6BBE	Roman
4803	SVIDL	Costas	4804	M0BOS	Len
4805	G3EVC	Dave	4806	M0AVH	David
4807	OZ1HQ	Ryan	4808	DA1BLQ	Dave
4809	G3UTS	Reg	4810	SV5DZS	Anestis
4811	G0IUM	Jim	4812	G0WSC	Rob
4813	GW0WHT	Tom	4814	G3IUC	Bob
4815	GW3WSU	Colin	4816	M0AHM	Tony
4817	M0CBI	Nick			

When not on duty, DA1BLQ may be recognised as MW0BLQ as he is serving with the British forces in Germany. The latest figure taken from 'ALLFISTS' which is a database comprising both EU+DX and NA members is an awesome 3491 active members. We are already threatening to spill over into 12 pages of the listings so I am sure you will understand the impracticality of publishing even an annual list for general circulation. For this reason, the request for an extra 2nd class stamp to help cover the cost of paper and toner is well justified and I am especially grateful for the number of members who kindly include two or more extra photographs of the Queens' head.

AWARDS

For some time now, Bob and I have struggled to find some suitable stock for Platinum awards and above. I have recently acquired a number of pre-printed A4 certificate blanks at 110gsm on velum type paper which we are using for this purpose. I have five dif-

ferent families of this stuff one of which will be used for the Membership certificates when our present (rapidly depleting stock) runs out. This leaves me with a spare set which I will be able to use for odd-ball awards and certificates (the Elmer award for instance) and is a great improvement on the previously published types. Talking of the Elmer, it is some time since I reminded you of this and new members may be unaware of its existence. Basically, it is an acknowledgement from yourself to any station (non-members included) who have offered help and support in your Amateur Radio career be it by Teaching you Morse or helping you with the RAE or even with more practical things like fixing sick rigs or donating surplus equipment for you to start your station. They are posted either directly to the recipient or to yourself for possible presentation at a club meeting Your call sign is included on the certificate as nominee and they are sent in a C4 envelope with stiffener so; what with postage and cost of materials etc., a donation of £1.00 towards club funds would be appreciated.

QRP RALLY

The West Manchester Radio Club QRP Convention will be held at Formby Hall Atherton. on Sunday June 7th 1998.

Fists will have a table where members can find some of their committee members G3ZQS, G0FRL, G0JWB. There will be a display of CW Keys and you can test your skills on each one. Also on display will be the new award certificates whilst fabric patches and lapel badge will be on sale.

Come and spend some time with us or even volunteer to help man the display. All are welcome.

FINALE

It is doubtful if I can produce a Keynote for next month people because I do not return from the US until the 21st which leaves me with precious little time. This is however a normal occurrence so I am sure you will understand.

Now comes the hectic period where plans have to be finalized and various arrangements undertaken. I will however live through it. Hi.

73/88 my friends and stay sober

de Geo

CENTURY HOLDERS

Here is a comma delimited list of Century award holders. I have not yet had time to sort 'em out but some of them are no longer members:

AA0KJ, AA0WZ, A1KF, AA2SM, AA2YK, AA3LM, AA5EA, AA8PJ, AA8YO, AA9KH, AA9KH, AB2AU, AB5EQ, AB5YY, AC4DT, AC4NW, AC4ZH, AC5BG, AC5JH, AC6QO, AC6TO, AD4OS, ADUI, AE2L, AE4AZ, AE4JG, AE4P, AE4QS, AF5Z, AF9H, AI9L, DL3BZZ, EA1APA, EI2IH, EI5FY, F5JUD, G0CLA, G0FIP, G0FOD, G0FRL, G0FVS, G0FYP, G0GGU, G0HGA, G0IJE, G0ILN, G0JWB, G0LJB, G0MGD, G0MRH, G0MWU, G0NKO, G0NVY, G0ONS, G0RGP, G0SWU, G0SZE, G0TBD, G0TCF, G0TGU, G0TUE, G0UEE, G0UKX, G0UQF, G0VCY, G0VQA, G0WAS, G0WEE, G3ASG, G3GXQ, G3JRY, G3KEF, G3KFG, G3LPS, G3MWP, G3OKA, G3VQO, G3WP, G3YLL, G4BNU, G4EIB, G4JRE, G4LHI, G4OOS, G4RBE, G4SSH, G4WBN, G4ZIB, G5LP, G8NT, GI0PCU, GM0DJI, GM3KHH, GM4BAE, GW0FJN, GW0SGG, GW0UHJ, GW3VLU, GW4PXQ, GX0000, HP1AC, IK2WYW, K1ZDI, K2ACW, K2SB, K2SWZ, K2VT, K3AS, K3CJG, K3WWP, K4MF, K4PTU, K4UK, K4WZ, K4YKI, K5DMC, K6DF, K7GT, K7WF, K7ZR, K7ZYV, K8FN, K8LJG, K8UGL, KA10X, KA1STU, KA1SVX, KA2KDJ, KA3UXU, KA4IFF, KA8OQF, KA8TQR, KA8YRV, KA8ZDL, KB2PLW, KB2SWI, KB2UZY,

KB4JR, KB4OPV, KB8KIK, KB8KRD, KB8OOM, KB8ZVD, KB9NGF, KB9W, KC4UUG, KC5GXC, KC5NRB, KC5VJU, KC7YWD, KC8BSC, KD1XA, KD7ABK, KE1AF, KE3NV, KE4GBE, KF2G, KF2TP, KF6DCU, KF6DCU, KG8DA, KG8WF, KG9HE, KI4IH, KJ7OX, KP4DJ, N5OE, KQ6ES, KS4UV, KT4QD, LA1IE, LY3BY, LZ1JZ, M0AG0, M0ASN, M0AVW, N0ZNC, N1DNM, N1NM, N1PVP, N1TP, N1VWD, N1WL, N1YLA, N2FX, N2SLB, N2ZHF, N3CEU, N3NY, N3PM, N3RSD, N3XT, N3YVW, N4OT, N4VEF, N4ZMP, N4ZZZ, N5DCF, N5LF, N5OE, N5VC, N6MZN, N7CFA, N7HOK, N7IF, N7XNH, N8EQA, N8FF, N8FU, N8NLE, N8UJZ, N8WPX, N9LGP, N9TA, NB2T, NP4FW, NS2G, NS2G, NS2H, NW3N, OZ1EUO, OZ7KDJ, PA3AFF, PA3BJD, SM4ASI, SP6JOE, UA4AQO, UU0JN, VA3JEG, VA3JJ, VA3JPM, VA3KEW, VE1BBW, VE1ZAC, VE3FMC, VE3MIQ, VE5RD, VE6KJL, VY2RB, W0GV, W2GR, W2JSF, W2NTS, W3DP, W3ERU, W3JIM, W3NGO, W3RMD, W4BX, W4DON, W4IUI, W4JCH, W4MA, W4OGZ, W4ZCR, W5HQL, W5RPJ, W5WWW, W5ZR, W6DDB, W6DDB, W6GG, W6JEP, W7BWI, W7GB, W8BL, W8FDV, W8LFJ, W9LUY, W9NT, W9YQ, WA0FAX, WA0FGV, WA1GAG, WA2BQI, WA2VQV, WA4KQL, WA4LDQ, WA6RND, WA7YYY, WB2EXI, WB2FXK, WB2HEK, WB2UEC, WB8FSV, WB8OZX, WD6CKT, WD80CV, WD8OCV, WF6W, WK3P, WN4BOT, WO8E, WP2T, WP4LNY, WX7M,



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FISTS C.W. Club

Membership Application Form

_____ / _____
for office use only

Callsign _____ Name used on the Air _____

First and Last Name and Address:

The following info provides a synopsis of members' working conditions:

Rig(s) _____

Antennas _____

Other club affiliations (ARRL, RSGB, etc) _____

Other interests _____

Birthdate _____ Phone _____

Would you like to be contacted about receiving our "talking newsletter" on cassette tape for blind members? _____

Email address (if applicable) _____

Web page (if applicable) _____

Packet address (if applicable) _____

Date _____ How did you hear about FISTS? _____

Signature _____

Please enclose annual subs of \$15 (U.S. funds)

Please make checks out to FISTS CW club and return to:

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YOUR SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL DATE is on your mailing label

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