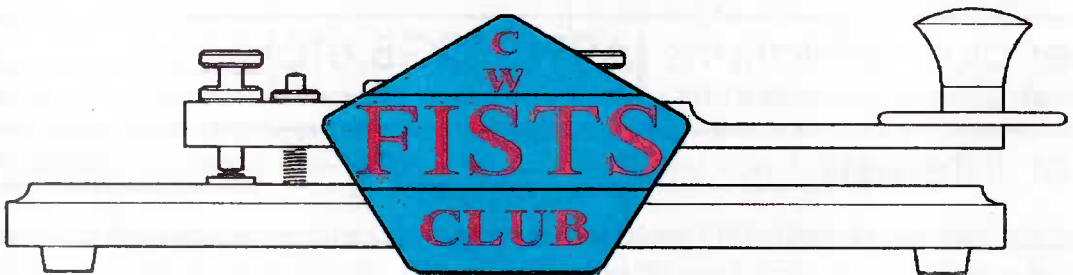


# The Keynote

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”

# FISTS C.W. Club

## Application Form

Call sign \_\_\_\_\_ Name used on the Air \_\_\_\_\_

First and Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Rig(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Antennas \_\_\_\_\_

Other club affiliations (ARRL, RSGB, etc) \_\_\_\_\_

Other interests \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ unlisted?

Do you need our newsletter on cassette tape for blind members?

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about FISTS? (Pse give call sign of FISTS member sponsoring you, if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ • Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please make checks out to FISTS CW club and return to: **Nancy Kott WZ8C, POB 47, Hadley MI 48440-0047  
USA**

# 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 (3PM est/edt) on 14.058MHZ

Saturday QSO Groups: 14.058 at 2000Z and 7.058 at 2300Z

Sunday Slow Speed Chat 21.158MHZ at 1700Z

30 meter calling frequency = 10.118

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

Accuracy Transcends Speed

Courtesy At All Times

## *North American Memo*

Hi FISTS! Right off the bat, I would like to apologize for all the confusion created by a mistake in the Prosign/Abbreviation article by Duane, KG9KD, in Issue 3. The comma is incorrectly given as "IMI". This is incorrect! The comma is "MIM"; "IMI" is a question mark. Don, K9UQN, Ken K2UPI, Jim KL0KW and Stu, K7WF were the first to point it out to me. Stu asked, "who did the proof-reading on this one?"...well, obviously, no one! I assumed the info was correct and just cut and pasted it in. We all know what happens when we ASSUME something...I promise to be more alert next time. I hope no one was seriously inconvenienced by this.

Chances are you're reading this because you picked it up at the FISTS Booth at the Dayton Hamvention. Thank you to the Dayton Hamvention Powers-That-Be for allowing us to have a Courtesy Booth again this year. It's our main opportunity to spread the word about FISTS, and we really appreciate it.

While you're at the Hamvention, after you've put in an hour at the FISTS booth to help hand out literature, renewed your subs or signed up a friend, HI, take some time and check these out: Tom Perera, W1TP, will once again set up his Telegraph Key Museum at the flea market space 2555. He will be displaying many hundreds of keys from before the Civil War to the present. Tom will be buying, trading, photographing, and appraising keys that people may want to bring with them. His tables have turned out to be an unofficial meeting place for CW enthusiasts at Dayton and he is looking forward to greeting fellow FISTS members throughout the show. He will also have plenty of copies of his latest Telegraph Collector's Guide for sale.

Charlie, KA8OQF, chairman of the Hamvention Special Event Station tells me that the station is a "go" with sponsorship from Alinco. They will be operating 25 khz above the Novice/General 40/20 CW/phone band edges plus V/UHF simplex freqs. After you contact them, send a 9x12 SASE to W8BI/8 PO Box 44 Dayton OH 45401 and you'll receive BOTH a QSL card and a certificate! Special Guest Operator certificates will be awarded to everyone who sits down and puts a contact in the log. FISTS are highly encouraged to come out and operate. Stop by and check out the infamous vertical antenna we used for the FISTS of MI Field Day, it's a beauty!

I hope you had a good time participating in our FISTS Spring Sprint. Send in your logs to Alan Tanner, 3787 Trebein Rd, Fairborn OH 45324. Only paper logs will be accepted. Be sure to show your license classification, power output and score calculations.

Don't forget the FISTS get-together, Friday evening, May 14, Downtown Dayton, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel (ex-Stouffers) top floor lounge. Thanks to Pete K8OUA for making the arrangements - CU There! WZ8C

## Callsign Changes

Alan, #4540, was W6HEA; is now K6HHH  
Alan, VE8XU is now VY0XU  
Bill, #5031, was WB9UJV; is now K8UV  
Bill, #4557, was WA7FXH; is now K7NHP  
Bill, #4101, is now AF4OD  
Bob, #6142 was WA3DPL; is now WA7S  
Brian, #4042, was KB0YXP; is now KI0MB  
Denny, #5940, was KB8YIK; is now K8DLH  
Ed, KB3DBS, is now AA3SJ  
Glen, KK7NB, is now AB7ZY  
Joe, #4077 was KY8X; is now N8OZ  
Joe, #4962, was W5OXR; is now W5JO  
Joe, #5747, was WJ0EBO; is now W8UH  
Mark, # 5815, was KF4ZVH; is now AF4NW  
Norm, #3885, was AB7YS; is now N7PY  
Skip, #5113, was KF4OFD; is now K4ERC  
Stuart, # 5156 was WB8RRY; is now K4STU  
Wes, #3895 was KE0H; is now N0WU  
The Silver State Bugs, #5900, were KD7DYH; are now W7FST

## Congratulations!

Ken WB2ART is now Advanced!  
Bill, #4101, AF4OD, upgraded to Extra!  
Skip, #5113, K4ERC upgraded to General last November (sorry for the delay in printing this, Skip)  
Henry, KC5MGR, upgraded to Extra!  
Joe, K5HLR, upgraded to Extra!  
Glen, AB7ZY upgraded to Extra!  
Mark, #5815, AF4NQ, upgraded to Extra!  
Dave, KC2AFK, #3922, upgraded to Extra!  
Joe, #5747, W8UH, upgraded to Extra!  
Brain, #4042, KI0MB, upgraded to Advanced!  
Ed, AA3SJ, upgraded to Extra!

To Dennis K6DF for being awarded an A1-OP certificate!

Ed, N7CFA, and his wife Emma, are proud great grandparents for the 8th time! Little Livia is 11 pounds, 11 ounces, and 18 1/2 inches long. Great head of black hair and a "cute little round face" Congrats!

## Corrections

Crystal, # 5718, was incorrectly listed as KC7AKC, she is really KD7AKC.

Under callsign changes in Issue, 3, I have Nick, N0NY/K3NY as # 3594. That is incorrect, he is 3549.

In Issue 3, page 21, a comma was incorrectly described as "IMI"; it is "MIM"

FISTS # 5973, John, KE3FA was incorrectly listed in Issue 3 as "Bill".

Helmut AA8BQ, would like to be known as "Al" on the air

## FISTS Web Page Hit Statistics

Mar 1-6: 575  
Mar 7-13: 671  
Mar 14-20: 633  
Mar 21-27: 604  
Mar 28-31: 360  
Apr 1-3: 251  
Apr 4-10: 523  
Apr 11-17: 330

## FISTS QSL Card Statistics

January - 5921  
February - 5086  
March - 5606  
April - 2324 (To date)  
Total - 18937

**Are there any Navy RM's out there that from 1971 - 1975??? Contact K3MP Mark Petruno**

## Emtech is Still In Business

I've gotten quite a few inquiries about Emtech and whether they are still in business.. Dick, K8UGL, tracked them down. Their address is Scott Gregson Company - EMTECH, 1127 Poindexter Ave W, Bremerton, WA 98312. Email / Webpage are emtech@steadynet.com; http://emtech.steadynet.com

I don't know if they are still offering the FISTS rig, but if you're interested, drop them a line.

Nancy,

As more of the US FISTS members earn awards from England, they will find (as I have) that there are no off-the-shelf frames that fit those 8 1/4 by 11 5/8 in. certificates that G0FRL produces. These awards deserve to be framed and hung on the shack wall! A 9 X 12 in. frame will do in a pinch, but even those are getting hard to find. I see 8 x 12 in. frames being sold, but they will not work with all the awards.

Can we get a shipment of correct sized (forgot the designation) frames sent over from England and FISTS members can purchase them? Or does Nancy want to take up woodworking? Just a nice black certificate frame is all that is needed. 73, Paul WA9PWP

*Well, Paul, I used to do a lot of woodcarving before I got active in FISTS, but I can't remember the last time I had time to pick up a whittling knife! I certainly don't think I'd have the time to make frames, hi. And it would be quite cost prohibitive to have them shipped over from Europe. Does anyone have a suggestion for Paul's frame dilemma? Seems like a 9x12 with matting around the certificate would work. They're readily available here in Michigan and through office supply catalogs.*  
Nancy,

I've been listing to frequencies with 58 on 20, 40, 80 haven't heard any FISTS, I don't think. How do you know if they are there? Do they send a certain CQ or is there a CQ I can send to identify my self as FISTS looking for FISTS? 73 George KC8HFV # 5996

*Good question, George, I get asked this a lot. FISTS will sometimes send CQ FISTS or sign with /FISTS after their callsign to identify themselves as FISTS. More often than not, though, you won't know a ham is a FISTS member unless the topic comes up during a QSO. To discourage "hit and run" type QSOs that are often done by FISTS who are just chasing awards and collecting FISTS numbers, many FISTS won't volunteer their number in the beginning of a QSO. Ask them if they're a FISTS member! You'll be surprised at how many of us there are on the bands. The frequencies where you'll have the best luck finding other FISTS are listed on the masthead of the Keynote. But, don't be afraid to call CQ FISTS anywhere! We need to spread out now that there are so many of us.*

I have been a ham over 35 years but have never worked a ham in Delaware. I have worked all other states so I only needed Delaware for WAS. I have come close but never had a QSO with Delaware.

I sent E mails requesting a sked to the four latest FISTS members in DE who have E mail. I had only one reply. NU3A fists #4960. We set up a sked on 7, 10, and 14 MHz at about 6 P.M. CA time. We made contact right away on 7 MHz and tried 10 MHz. 10 MHz was better.

Thanks to Ken NU3A I have worked all states and I can get back to looking for a good long FISTS QSO. Ken is an exceptional FISTS member. 73, Rich K6JGD (old call WB6JGD) FISTS # 5726

Way back when, I was a brand new Tech plus listing to the HF bands and finally got up the nerve to send a CQ. Well, what do you know, I got an answer. I got so scared when I heard my callsign come back that all my CW suddenly went out of my head. I didn't know AR from SK and when do you send it. Oh well. I fumbled out a reply and even an RST report. They told me I was doing fine, just first QSO nerves. Anyway, we talked. He overlooked my frequent "....." on my key. Got his QSL card about a week later, (have it framed on my shack wall). His name is John Kleive he was then in Rock Island IL and his FISTS is 3804. How lucky can you get a FISTS for a first contact! Proof positive if you've worked a FISTS you've worked a friend. 73 George KC8HFV # 5996

### **FISTS Photopage Winner**

The lucky winner of our computer generated FISTS Photopage drawing is....<insert drumroll>...#2373...KE4NGS....David Broach...! Dave is the winner of a goodie bag of FISTS supplies just for sending in his photo for the FISTS Photopages. Each month we have a drawing, so YOU could be our next luck winner. If you haven't already sent in your picture, please do so. We need 36 photos to complete a page. Any snapshot where your face is about the size of a quarter will do just fine. Photos are not returnable. Send your photo to Ken W8ROG, address on the How Do I...page.

#	Callsign	Name	State	Sponsor	#	Callsign	Name	State	Sponsor
					6176	N9RIV	BILL	IL	Webpage
					6177	WB0UWL	BILL	NE	K7ZPE
6130	AB8CR	STEVE	WV	N2XTA	6178	WB2LOS	MIKE	NY	WA2LOS
6131	KC8LXO	PAT	MI	KB8ZYY	6179	WD7Y	ED	NV	AD6EF
6132	K2SAQ	THOMAS	NJ	WN2DX	6180	VE3PNZ	FRANCO	ONT	VE1VEI
6133	AG5I	FRANZ	TX		6181	KC7FIM	ERIC	WY	Webpage
6134	AC5JV	GEORGE	OK	K6DF	6182	W0SZ	STEVE	IA	Webpage
6135	KC5WUP	ROBERT	TX	K7ZPE	6183	W5ZF	STAN	NM	JJ6KGZ
6136	AB8BT	ANDY	MI	W6DDB/KG2MH	6184	KB0DYY	JIM	NE	N1YK
6137	W8BP	JOHN	MI	NK8V	6185	KB8VCZ	VITO	NC	K5HLR
6138	N0JWI	MARK	IA	AA0XJ	6186	KM7T	RANDY	AZ	KS7J
6139	KF4NMK	DAVID	VA	W4ZYT/W8RJL	6187	WA6BYD	BOB	CA	
6140	KL0KW	JIM	FL	N4ZMP	6188	KK4TI	LANCE	OH	AB7UW
6141	N0LVP	RANDALL	CO	K5HLR	6189	K1PQS	GEORGE	ME	Webpage
6142	WA7S	BOB	WA	W8WEN	6190	N8VBY	Robert	MI	N8VEP
6143	KV6E	JOHN	CA	Webpage	6191	KG5X	Joe	TX	W1LIC
6144	KS4C	RAY	GA	WA4KQL	6192	K8IFU	ROD	MI	KX8LL
6145	KB0LTB	STEVE	MN	Webpage	6193	KA7JSJ	CHARLES	AZ	KF6AUO/K5HLR
6146	K2VL	VIC	AL		6194	KQ4E	JIM	TN	webpage
6147	K7UQH	K.H.	WA	WA7MMG	6195	KB9TMI	ANDY	IL	Webpage
6148	WA3QHJ	PATRICK	DE	WA8KOQ	6196	VA3RJ	DAVE	ONT	K3WWP
6149	N8UHL	NORM	MI	KA2SJK	6197	KG4AYU	JEWEL	FL	AE4AI
6150	KC8FDP	Lisa	MI		6198	W4MQC	ALAN	MA	K1QT
6151	W3DZI	ALAN	PA	N1QLF	6199	KB9RID	RYAN	IL	W9LUY
6152	KB2ION	LEONARD	NY		6200	KB1DXG	New Eng CW Club	ME	
6153	N6SFW	CHUCK	CA	KE6ZWW	6201	WA7EWG	RICK	UT	Webpage
6154	N1RAM	LETIA	CT	N1NM	6202	W1TTU	EDGAR	NH	W3ERU
6155	K9JDC	GEORGE	WI	WB2FXK	6203	K3DEN	DENNIS	PA	W3NGO
6156	VE7CFU	ART	BC	KS7J	6204	KF4HAY	NEAL	KY	
6157	KB9SRI	JIM	IL	AI9L/AF9H	6205	K7GLN	GLEN	ID	KK7RP
6158	KE6QR	GARY	CA	WA2VQV	6206	AA9HD	CHRIS	IL	W6DDB/N1YUK
6159	KD5EGU	CAROL	LA	W1XU	6207	K0LEE	LEE	CO	N6RNP
6160	KA8CBZ	BILL	MI	K7ZPE/WX3L	6208	K3LR	TIM	PA	K8OUA
6161	N1EVO	CARL	ME	N1YUK	6209	N3WTW	LEW	PA	KG3Q
6162	VE7SNK	JOHN	BC	KC7QOP	6210	KB2SQT	DON	NJ	Webpage
6163	K2QJ	BOB	NJ	K3WWP	6211	WB1EEG	BUCKY	ME	N1YUK
6164	WB2CSS	JAY	NY	AG4T	6212	WA6BFT	GRADY	CA	KC5VJU
6165	KG7HT	PAT	OR	Webpage	6213	VE1MAM	MARK	NB	VE1QJ
6166	KM7R	BREN	OR	Webpage	6214	N2EI	SKIP	NJ	Webpage
6167	K9LJR	LOUIS	IL	KS7J	6215	KU4BT	JOHN	FL	KB1BBI
6168	W7NJU	LARRY	ID	WZ8C	6216	W4RS	DAN	VA	V3GED
6169	WB1DOG	JIM	RI	Webpage	6217	N2VO	DAVID	NY	
6170	W8GAR	DAVID	MI		6218	KA7V	BARRY	OR	K2US
6171	WF9V	BOB	IL	K9GRA	6219	N5XUJ	PHYLLIS	NC	AF4NC
6172	N3FGO	KEN	MD	Webpage	6220	KF4LRV	NICHOLE	NC	AF4NC
6173	KI0G	BOB	CO	K5FO	6221	VE7FS	WALT	BC	WS0L
6174	KC2BMJ	KEN	NJ	KG2NT	6222	8P6AZ	PAT	BARBA	
6175	W8GWQ	PETER	MI	W8YDJ	6223	W7AAV	STEVEN	OR	KS7J

#	Callsign	Name	State	Sponsor
6224	W4HEW	HAROLD	SC	Webpage
6225	K1EYB	GEORGE	ME	KB0VCC
6226	WA7SPY	GLENN	CA	Webpage
6227	N7VS	STEVE	OR	Webpage
6228	W1KMG	BOB	ME	N1YUK
6229	K7GXZ	H.M.	WA	Webpage
6230	KC2AEF	MIKE	NY	W9EM
6231	N0ZP	ZACK	MO	KD7BAB
6232	KD5EWB	DAVID	MS	K5DMC
6233	KQ6DV	TOM	CA	W3CV
6234	N3AAT	DAVID	PA	N6FE
6235	W0VMN	PING	IA	W5ZF
6236	KC8JNK	COLLEEN	MI	
6237	KC8JNL	PAT	MI	
6238	K1YZB	DAN	MA	W9ISC
6239	KC8GNU	DAVID	OH	W8DEP
6240	KN3ZOG	ROD	GA	Webpage
6241	W0AGG	BILL	SD	WS0L
6242	N7GSU	ROBIN	OR	K7ZPE
6243	WB5RFM	BILL	TX	KK5NA/KK5QA
6244	N9EP	ED	IL	AB7UW
6245	WN4C	BOB	FL	WD0GX1
6246	KC6PNX	PHILLIP	CA	W6IEU
6247	N6ZBZ	FORREST	CA	WB2FXK
6248	W6DY	JOE	CA	K06QZ
6249	VA3LKH	JOHN	ONT	
6250	K7IE	CLAIR	OR	
		KEN		

### Sunday Century Net Reports

**3/14:** Boy the Band was terrible here today, sure had a time with copy here but had a good net. **Check ins:** KC5VJU/NCS; WA1GAG; W5ZR; K6DF; AC6TO; N4VEF; HP1AC/QRP; W8BL; WG6M; AA9KH; KC2AFK; WA2VQV.

**3/28:** K6DF/NCS; WA1GAG; W8BL; AC6TO; N4VEF; V21CW; WN6HYX; N1DNM; AA9KH; KC5VJU; KC2AFK.

**4/4:** The Century net was a complete flop. The few who checked in were reporting hi QRN and the band was in bad shape also. I think many of the ops were taking care of family business and the time change may have thrown a few. Thanks to all who tried. Remember, the net starts at 1500 ESDT/EST. **Check ins** were W8FAX/NCS; KC5VJU, N4VEF, K00AL, and W1XU.

**4/25:** K6DF/NCS; WA4LDQ; WA1GAG; K8EY; AA9KH; N4VEF; AC6TO; WA2VQV; W1XU; W3NGO; AA1NZ/M; K00AL.

### QRP with K3WWP

This month, I'm going to talk about QRPP. No, that's not a typo. It's a term used by CQ magazine, among others, to designate the QRP category in their contests. Why they don't simply use QRP, I don't know, but that's another story. The term QRPP is also widely used among the QRP community to designate QRP at the milliwatt levels, i.e. less than 1 watt.

Most of the time I will use my full 5 watts output when I am on the air. However, now and then I do enjoy QRPP. In the early part of 1996, I did quite a bit of it, working 31 states and some 25 countries with 500 milliwatts or less. My best QRPP contact was probably working Aruba with just 70 milliwatts. After that, I got away from QRPP again until early this year. With the improved conditions brought on by increasing sunspots, I decided to crank down the screen voltage on my 6Y6 final amp and do some operating with 500 milliwatts again. I met with success as I worked about a dozen states so far, including WY, AZ, MD, MT, and WA to bring my overall total to 36 worked. I've also worked some more DX including RW2F, KG4BV, V31RC, and LY2GF.

When you run with milliwatt power, what are some tips for success? Well, as I have said before, tips for successful QRP work are just tips for success at any power level. Probably the lower in power you go, the more important it becomes to zero beat exactly as the first place a station listens after a CQ is exactly on his own frequency. If you are there, you are more likely to be found than if you are a half kHz or more higher or lower in frequency.

I get many of my milliwatt QSO's from calling CQ myself. That kind of ensures that I am strong enough to be copied if someone takes the time to answer my CQ. Again, I DO NOT use /QRP after my call. That is just my personal preference, and not a guideline.

If you are going to answer someone's CQ, it is a good idea to pick out a good strong one. That way, it is likely that propagation between you and the calling station is good enough to support your milliwatt power level. I recently received a propagation prediction program, and I may talk more about it in a later column. The literature with it pointed out an interesting fact that is sometimes overlooked. The best conditions for

communications between two points occur when the Maximum Usable Frequency (MUF) between those two points is just above the operating frequency.

Even more importantly, when operating at those optimum conditions, power level is not really all that important, and the low power operator can have as great a success as someone operating with much higher power. That's a rather important paragraph, so let me go over it again with an illustration. Suppose I am interested in working a station in Oregon, and I am in Pennsylvania. Either from a propagation program or some other source of propagation info, I find that the MUF between PA and OR is 22.5 MHz at 2000Z for the current solar flux level of 190. Now don't check those figures - I just pulled them out of the air for this example. They may or may not be accurate. However this means that I have a good chance to work the OR station at 2000Z on 15 meters since the 15M band is just below the MUF between PA and OR at that time. So consider the propagation conditions when you are working with milliwatts. It can help.

One of the cinch ways to succeed with QRPP is to get into contests. This is something I haven't done all that much yet. Most of my QRPP contacts have come from regular QSOs. Why contests, you may ask? Well, many contest stations have the absolute best receiving equipment and antennas in the world and they can copy very weak stations perfectly that a regular operator with average equipment and antennas may not even hear. I've talked about how transmitting antennas can boost your QRP ERP tremendously. That works in reverse, as well. The contest operator with a stacked array delivering 13 db of gain will copy your 500 milliwatt signal as if you are transmitting with 10 watts. And if you are using an antenna with a gain of 13 db with your 500 milliwatts, that same station will copy you (if your arrays are pointed at each other) as if you were running, let's see, 200 WATTS!!!!

Those of you who follow my activities and this column regularly know that I am a QRP minimalist, i.e. I use only unity gain antennas and keep my ERP close to my actual power output. I say this so that you realize that you don't have to have big antennas to succeed with QRPP, although if you do, it certainly will help you. Finally, something I think is very important. I believe, along with many others, that to be counted as a QRPP contact, the QSO must be initi-

ated with QRPP. That is, if you contact someone with 5 watts, then later in the contact you reduce your power to 500 mW, that contact counts as a 5 watt QSO, NOT a 500 mW QSO. Whatever power you start with is what counts for that contact. So if you get to the point where working with 5 watts gets to be too easy for you, I hope you'll give QRPP a try. If you do, be sure to let me know of your accomplishments and I'll share them here in my column.

Remember, you can get in touch with me at John Shannon, 478 E. High St., Kittanning, PA 16201-1304 -or- johnshan@alltel.net - or - www.alltel.net/~johnshan. Till next month, 73. -30-

### Book Review

#### **DXing on the Edge - The Thrill of 160 Meters by Jeff Briggs, K1ZM**

*Reviewed by Paul AAISU*

DXing on the Edge - The Thrill of 160 Meters is a specialized book put out by the ARRL. It is specialized in that it deals with one narrow spectrum of the bands that we, as hams, get to use. The league was not sure how such a book would sell, given that there are not a lot of hams on the top band. It has been out for a short time and when I met the author at a local hamfest, he told me that 2000 copies had been sold, much to the delight of the league. Included in the book cover, is a CD of Memorable Moments on 160 Meters. The text is well laid out and does a wonderful job of detailing 160-meter DXing chronology from 1930 to the present. The book starts and ends by talking about propagation. The first chapter tells us what we now know about propagation on the top band, and the final chapter (of text) tells us of the DXing challenges, yet to be met and questions yet to be answered.

One of the true pioneers of the 160 meter band was Stewart S. Perry, W1BB. Mr. Briggs wastes no time in telling the reader of Stew's great accomplishments. At 8 years old, Stew made a receiver in a Quaker Oats cereal box. A few months later, he made a spark transmitter using a Ford spark coil. When the war ended, and station licenses again became available, Stew at the age of 15 travelled to Boston in 1919 to be the first in line to take the test. He wanted 1AA. There were, however, 27 future amateurs in line in front of him and he received the call 1BB, a callsign



that he would hold until his death in 1990.

The biography goes on in great detail of his accomplishments. For instance, Stew (Mr. 160) had a third QTH a few miles from his house. On Point Shirley, a peninsula of land jutting out into the sea, Mr. Perry had erected a V beam suspended from the top of a water tower that, was itself, on a cliff overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. The apex of the V beam was a remarkable 265 feet over the ocean. The Point Shirley site was a 160 DXers dream come true. The rest of the chapter is filled with important facts and figures about the man that kept 160 meters in the amateur band plan.

The next six chapters deal with the major achievements in 160 meter DXing, as well as some advances on the other bands. For a while, after WWII, only 10 meters was available to radio amateurs. In 1946, part of 80 meters was restored. A few months later, 40 meters CW only, is allowed. It would be 3 years before 160 meters was restored. Eventually, 40 meters phone is granted, much to the delight of the 40 meter operators. But, most of this part of the book, details new long distance QSOs on the top band. Many other 160 operators are mentioned for their long distance accomplishments.

The one reoccurring problem facing the operators throughout the history of events was not the static, it was the Loran Navigation System. This was a U.S. Government system to track the location of submarines. The system apparently wreaked havoc with the weak signals and, for years at a time, the band was either off limits or had limited use with limited power. In 1980, loran-A, ceased to be a problem for the 160 DXers, and operators in the USA Midwest were soon heard working Japan stations.

Chapter 9 gives us notable achievements on the 160 meter band. For instance, Stewart Perry would not apply for his DXCC (worked 100 countries), even though he had it, because the ARRL did not have a DXCC for 160 meters. He instead waited until the League came up with such an award. When the award was announced, in true gentleman's band fashion, the six other holders of 100 countries confirmed, from 1969 to 1976 decided to file for their awards in the same order that they received 100 QSLs. This assured that W1BB would be 160 Meter DXCC #1.

The chapter shows us the top operators in the world, with their place in history for working 100 countries. Chapter 10 gives us anecdotes from 160-meter DXers. This chapter is filled with stories that excited that particular operator at the time. Many surprise QSOs are mentioned, some with Stew Perry himself.

Chapter 11 deals with transmitting antennas and chapter 12 deals with receiving antennas. These are not dipoles strung between the trees, rather they are very specific antennas for getting a signal out the most efficient way possible. Some of the explanations are very technical, but less so than in an antenna book. Consideration is given for those with small lots and small budgets, such as "A Poor Man's Beverage" that includes 4 slinkies.

The book ends things up with proper pileup techniques on 160 and other courtesy items that will help you be heard above the others in the fray. Some apply to all the bands, such as send your full call. Partial calls only slow things down. This is followed by Jeff wondering, what are the DXing challenges to be met? Then, as I said at the beginning, why does the band do what it does? Like, no signals heard from a Singapore sked for several days then, on the fifth day, a solid 559 signal on the southeast path. Do the first six hours after a solar flare improve 160-meter DXing dramatically? Many say yes. Other questions remained to be answered; others remain to be asked. The last chapter is a compilation of photographs of stations and operators that have put out a fine signal on the band. It is truly a nice way to preserve the images of these top band radio amateurs.

The compact disc included with the book is a nice compliment to the text. Included are recordings of QSOs with W1BB on SSB, an interview with 160 DXCC #2 Ralph Green, and some rare CW DX. It is narrated by K1ZM.

All in all, I found the book to be informative and interesting. It was well written and it gives us a chance to read about the history of one part of amateur radio. As a rule, we do not always get to hear what the pioneers did for the hobby before the transistor was invented. However, parts of the book are written for the DXer only. Many references to other countries are done so by mentioning the operators call sign only. It would be more educational if the country was men-

tioned with the call sign. You almost need the RSGB Prefix Guide while reading it so you know what country is being talked about. By coincidence, I purchased one when I ordered the book. But, I did not rush to refer to it while I was reading, because the flow of the book would have been interrupted. Besides, I knew what some of them were, and I got the idea of what was involved in getting the QSO to work. There are many parts of the book that I understood quite well. I've been a ham for two years now and this has helped me to understand ham radio even more. I may never memorize all the prefixes, but I'll bet I'll learn most of them, eventually. DXing on the Edge The Thrill of 160 Meters is \$29.95 and is published by the American Radio Relay League.

**WA3WSJ/C6A DXpedition to Abaco Island**  
*by: Edward R. Breneiser*

Did you ever wish that you just take off to a paradise? Well on February 16, 1999, John Bednar, K3TEJ and myself did just that. We loaded up two Kenwood 570s, switching power supplies, antenna tuner, wire antennas, H.F.amplifier, keyers, keys, filters, and laptop computers for the trip. We flew out of Philadelphia Airport at about 8:00am and arrived at Orlando Airport about lunchtime. From there we took a smaller plane straight into Abaco Airport and arrived, after a delay, about 3:30pm. This trip would be an eight day adventure and we planned to operate the ARRL DX CW Contest from February 19th to February 21st. The rest of the time would be spent just Dxing etc. Tuesday evening, the first night, we were on the air.

The house we rented is located about twenty yards from a beautiful pure white sand beach with sky blue water. Yes I wish I were there as I write this article. The house is owned by a fellow ham and is octagon in shape and brown in color. Anyone who has requested a qsl card will see a picture of the place on the card. We had a good antenna farm that consisted of a two element forty-meter beam at fifty feet; a five element tribander at forty feet; inverted vees for 80m and 160m and a vertical at about ten feet. On Wednesday, the second day, we put up a dipole antenna that we affectionately call, "the forty-meter beam." This dipole has each leg at 130 feet for a total length of 260 feet and is fed with ladder line into a tuner. We call this, "the forty-meter beam" because when we where in Puerto Rico in 1992 operators kept asking us what

type of beam we had on forty-meters! This was the antenna system we used for the DXpedition/Contest.

We had the same routine just about every day outside of the contest. We were usually out of bed by 7:30am and on the air by 7:45am except sometimes John would work Japan earlier in the morning on 40M. After a short time on the air, I would cook some breakfast in the kitchen. After breakfast we just worked the pileups until lunch. At lunch we usually discussed what needed to be finished for the contest or what we wanted to do the rest of the day. One afternoon was spent touring the island on mopeds and other days we would stop by at a local bakery for Florence's famous cinnamon rolls etc. Most of the afternoons were spent just working the huge pileups. During the contest we worked one after the other for thirty-eight hours. Band conditions weren't great, but the pileups just stayed there!

I did manage to work some FISTS Members during the trip. If any FISTS members want a qsl card, just send me a card via the FISTS Buro or direct with SASE. I have already received a couple of cards from the FISTS Buro and very shortly will be sending out qsl cards to them. One hint on trying to work me through the pileup. I always turn my RIT to the minus side somewhere around minus 300 to 500 Hz and listen for a bit. Most operators call on the plus side. I also call on FISTS frequencies .058 etc. and my favorite band is 15M. So look for me on 21.058 MHz in November from Montserrat Island - VP2M.

The Abaco Island trip was exciting and fun and every ham should do it at least once in their life. We operated on Abaco Island for eight days. The contest provided about 4,000 contacts and the five days outside the contest we managed another 4,000 contacts for a total of 8,000 contacts. I like to say, "eight days-8,000 qs." One word of caution must be said - DXpeditioning is addictive! We started these trips in 1992 on Puerto Rico; 1996 on Abaco Island; 1997 on Antigua Island and back to Abaco Island this year. If anyone is interested, we are planning a trip to Montserrat Island VP2M over Thanksgiving week to work the CQWW DX CW Contest/ DXpedition so listen for us from VP2M. WHAT A HOBBY!!!

## Future FISTS Expeditions

Bruce, KK7OM, has applied for his Tonga license and is planning on going to Tonga in July.

Bill, W8WC, will be going to the South Pacific next Spring



### FISTS News and Views

I'm glad to see interest in straight keys. For Sarah W4EEX, I am the owner of 75+ straight keys. Some dating from the early 1900's to those new Spanish crafted "sculpturettes". I got into straight keys because I could never get the hang of a bug or electronic keyer and paddles. It seems that my fist is made perfectly for the use of a hand key (another word for straight key). My favorite is the Brown Brothers straight key. Second place is a ball bearing wonder made in Japan that Radio Shack originally sold. This can be found at most Ham radio stores today.

As for Wayne VE7RGX, if it works for you, then that's a good key.

As for my older keys, I found the J37 to be too spongy and land line keys too rigid.

On my QSL cards, I always make a note of what key I used for the QSO. -Mario N6XR, FISTS # 4207

FISTS has been a real good way to meet people. Again, the Postal Service decided to send me to their tech training center in the middle of nowhere, Norman, Oklahoma, so I decided to pack my Icom 706, paddles, keyer and home-brew 20 meter dipole. This time I had the wrong side of the building, nowhere to go with the dipole outside my room window, so I hung it in my room. Now imagine a 14 X 10 ft room with a 33' wire dipole in it. Not quite the antenna farm I

always envisioned, HI HI. I emailed my friends from home before I left to look for me on 14.058, nightly, 8PM EST. That first night was something. I sent CQ PA but heard someone really splattering me bad, around 7Mcs. I dropped my VFO down and heard this call with a /5 also. So I turned my pwr down and called AA0YY/5. He came right back to me. Since he signed /5, I asked him his QTH, he sent Norman, OK. I sent, funny, I'm in Norman also. Where QTH in Norman? He comes back USPO, I send back, I'm USPO also. I sent him, where USPO, he sends, parking lot northwest corner, look for blue pickup truck with 38' butternut vertical behind it. I sent, wow, I'm on the 6th floor. Immediately, I went QRT and went to meet AA0YY/5. What a coincidence, his name is Mark, FISTS # 2948. I met him by his truck and gave him an eyeball QSO card and we just shot the bull for a little and he let me use his mobile rig to make a call and I spoke with N3JAF, another FISTS member but this time from home in Coopersburg, Pa. Norm was great to hear that night. Every night that week I made a QSO to the boys at home via, what else, CW. Tried to go SSB, but QRM was so bad couldn't have decent QSO. Just goes to prove, CW is still the best mode of communications and will always be. Thanks, Mark for the use of your rig and truck. Hope to CUL on FISTS from the home QTH. Thanks also to Mark, KZ3DX and Gary, W2AZZ for being there nightly for me, and Dennis K6DF, you always seem to show up. 73 de Mark K3MP

## HOW DO I...

**...ORDER CLUB SUPPLIES?** Irene W08E 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr. Clinton Twp, MI 48038 has gold logo stickers, 200 for \$5; Blue enamel/gold metal clasp-back logo pins \$2.50; 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. Mugs are \$7.50. Tshirts: M, L, XL = \$9; XXL, XXXL=\$10. These prices DO include priority postage. PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO FISTS CW CLUB.

**...GET A MEMBERLIST?** The list is printed in the KeyNote once a year and is also on the Web page. A printed updated list may be obtained by sending \$2 to cover printing and mailing - it's 15 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 Brian W8BL at blafont@tir.com If you change Email addresses, pse let Brian know.

**...GET/SEND FISTS OSL 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 W Z8C PO Box 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 A FISTS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD?** Send a list of contacts: call, FISTS #, date, band, power used, and YOUR return address to Joe N3LBC, 222 E Bertsch St, Lansford PA 18232. Don't submit QSLs. There is no charge to FISTS members for the US issued Awards. If you are applying for the Golden/Diamond Century or the Platinum, send your request directly to England; Bob Lowe PO Box 190, BOLTON B11 4UL, including \$5 US cash to cover the cost of the award plus postage.

**...VOLUNTEER FOR or GET A CODE BUDDY?** send your requirements and info to John W9EM, 34020 N. Hickory Ave, Grayslake IL 60030. 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 OSL CARDS?** 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 monthly except for two issues combined periodically into one and occasional extra or expanded issues 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.**

## Beginner's Guide to the FISTS QSL Bureau

**Basically the QSL Bureau works like this:** You 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 which the members have sent to us. When we get 6 to 7 cards we mail them. **The mailing address for the FISTS QSL Bureau is: FISTS QSL Bureau, c/o Stan Reas - K4UK, 1020 Long Island Drive, Moneta, VA 24121.**

To get the 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 (Self-Addressed-Stamped-Envelope) should have at least a 33 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. When you send in additional cards you can then send in additional SASE's.

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". 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 oz costs 33 cents=7 cards, 2 oz cost 55 cents=15 cards; 3 oz cost 77 cents = 23 cards; 4 oz cost 99 cents = 31 cards**

You can send QSL's for contacts with foreign FISTS members to us and we will forward them to Bob Lowe, G0FRL in England or Ralph Sutton, ZL2AOH in New Zealand who handle the distribution of QSL cards for overseas DX. We handle cards for Canadian FISTS and other DX FISTS in North and South America.

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. 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 area number. It makes the initial sort go much faster. But, you don't have to further sort them alphabetically.

The Following is a 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:

<u>For Canada and Mexico:</u>			<u>For Other Countries:</u>		
<u>Weight</u>	<u>Postage</u>	<u>Cards</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Postage</u>	<u>Cards</u>
.5 ounce	46 cents	3	.5 ounce	60 cents	3
1 ounce	52 cents	7	1 ounce	\$1.00	7
1.5 ounce	64 cents	11	1.5 ounce	\$1.40	11
2 ounce	72 cents	15	2 ounce	\$1.80	15
3 ounce	95 cents	23	3 ounce	\$2.60	23

Various members of the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club of Rocky Mount, VA assist me in the work of the QSL Bureau. They do the final sorting and mailing of envelopes.

## The Meaning of CW Is CW an Archaic Relic of the Past?

by Ed Sieb, VA3ES

On March 31, 1995, the U.S. Coast Guard formally ceased CW operations, after 94 years of service. Several months previous, both the U.S. Navy and Marines also ceased all CW operations.

Since 1995 many other Government and commercial communications services have abandoned the use of CW. Today, there are very few, if any commercial operations using CW as a mode of communications. In a world of satellite communications, wide-band fiber optic, Internet and very-high-capacity digital networks, this is as it should be. Let's face it, CW has no place in today's "Information Super-highways". In today's Amateur Radio, CW competes with high-speed, 56 and 128-KB packet backbones, as well as AmTOR, Pactor, Clover and other modes of digital transmission. We can transmit vast volumes of information keyboard to keyboard, computer to computer, faster than one can send a paragraph of text at 60WPM CW.

Where we Amateurs used to be innovators at the forefront of the state of the art in communications, now we barely keep up. Other services covet our valuable frequencies, from HF to microwave. As well, the Amateur Radio Service faces pressures from governments to justify its continued existence.

In the spring of 1995, the government of New Zealand made a decision to actively seek the suppression of the pertinent ITU regulation that requires Morse code proficiency for Amateurs licensed to operate below 30 MHz. The ZL government was repeatedly "briefed" at great length by "ORACLE" an organization actively seeking to abolish CW requirements for Hams in New Zealand.

And yet, through all this, ARRL and the International Amateur Radio Union continue to back the retention of CW as a requirement for licensing! Can you imagine? In this day and age!

Well, those good 'ol hide-bound Amateur organizations are right!

Yes, CW is archaic. Yes, it is slow and cumbersome compared to modern digital modes. So what? All these facts are irrelevant. The facts of CW's speed and traffic handling capacity are irrelevant to the whole argument. Those who would continuously harp on these meaningless statistics, simply miss the whole point of CW. The continuing relevance of CW today and on through to the next century has NOTHING to do with its actual utility in sending traffic!

CW (or Morse Code, if you wish) is absolutely essential to the Amateur Radio service and is an essential part what gives Ham radio its meaning. To learn the Morse Code, is to open one's heart (and mind) to the essence (yes I keep using this word) of Ham Radio and to grasp its soul. I believe that CW is fundamentally necessary for Amateur Radio and that it is also its heart and soul.

Ham Radio would be just a cold, calculating hobby without it. The Ham Radio language, its jargon, wouldn't exist without it. Oh sure we might have some other kind of radio slang, but I bet

it would be borrowed from truckers and other users of "personal radio". We wouldn't have Q signals or 73. And we definitely wouldn't have a history. Simply put, CW is the source of and forms the basis for the culture of Ham Radio.

To be a "Radio Amateur" is to be a "lover" of radio, one who studies it and appreciates it as an art. Other "amateurs" of art, of music, become lay experts in their fields. They study the subject historically, philosophically, even sociologically and develop a true appreciation of the subject in its entirety. To reject a single important historical aspect of an art or a culture, because it is "archaic" is to lack even the most basic comprehension of the subject one purports to love! To learn CW is to make a connection with Ham Radio's past and its history. Learning CW means that one has learned the basic reference points of the hobby. An analogy: to acquire my University degree, I had to take a few courses that I considered at the time quite irrelevant. I took some Humanities courses that studied the role of Women in Blues Music! I studied railroad hoboos of the '30's in my sociology classes! I studied Nietzsche, Hegel and Kant in my "Poli-Sci" courses. At the time, I wondered what the usefulness of all this was and what it had to do with Communications and Media, my major. Today, I appreciate that those "irrelevant" subjects made me a more literate, more well rounded person. Well, not to put too fine a point on it, in my opinion, a Ham with out CW is simply, "illiterate"!

Today, in those countries, which have "no-code" licenses, (mainly Canada and the U.S.) among the more "veteran", long-time hams, there has developed a mildly cynical attitude, bordering on contempt for the newer "no-code" VHF operators. They're derisively referred to as "2-meter CBers". This view stems from the perception that these new Hams lack the fundamental understanding of the roots of the hobby and that without code, they're "stuck on 2-meters", unwilling or unable to expand their radio horizons. (In fact, those no-coders who came from the CB ranks, without CW upgrading, often continue to operate on 11 meters. Those who've upgraded and have HF privileges, tend to abandon 11 Meters completely.) For their part, some no-coders complain that they feel like second-class citizens within the Amateur community, neither fully accepted, nor able to fully participate in Amateur Radio. They claim that the increasingly irrelevant need for "proficiency" in CW places an arbitrary and artificial obstacle in their paths. They suggest that being "stuck on 2 meters" is boring and is causing some to lose all interest in the hobby.

Traditionally in Canada, once licensed, Hams always had the opportunity get involved any aspect of the hobby without limitations. Veteran Hams are convinced that "no-coders" are short-changing themselves, by failing to upgrade. This saddens many veterans as they see this as a drastic change in the sociology of their beloved hobby; a change for the worse.

Here's my suggestion for an appropriate CW requirement for the late '90's and beyond. I'm not suggesting that one must know 15 WPM or even 10 WPM to get a Ham ticket. What I'd like to see is that every prospective Ham, whatever band they will operate, above 30 MHz or below, be required to comprehend all the letters, numbers and punctuation. The CW receiving exam might be something simple such as 100% copy of all characters sent at a slow speed, say possibly 5 WPM or so.

The speed itself is not critical, so long as there is 100% copy of all letters, numbers and punctuation, sent during a "reasonable" period of time. The successful candidate would then acquire a "scheduled" license allowing HF phone operation in certain segments of the bands, or possible restriction to certain bands only. Full band privileges would be acquired by upgrading the qualifications through either a more strenuous CW exam or a tougher technical exam, whatever the candidate's choice.

To those who wish to become Hams, but adamantly reject CW and stubbornly refuse to learn the code, I say too bad! These persons have failed to appreciate the meaning of Ham Radio and its' culture and neither do they understand it. Ham Radio is not just some fancy, high tech means of communication. It's a community, a service and a tradition with deep roots and a long history. Ham Radio is the whole reason for modern communications technology. Hams invented wireless communications; without us, there might not be any Internet today! Let's not destroy the very spark at the soul of the hobby. Am I being to "orthodox" in my views? Or am I being an extremist? What do you think?

I encourage your comments and feedback on this subject. You can reach me at P.O. Box 8377, Ottawa Terminal, Ottawa, Ontario, K1G 3H8. Or at: esieb@gmsiworld.com Ed Sieb, VA3ES

□ Informed insiders have indicated that "ORACLE" is a lobby group composed of CB radio retailers and CB groups in New Zealand. NZART, the New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters, (the New Zealand national organization) came out strongly opposed to no-code dismissing ORACLE as a "small loud-mouthed organization of no significance". ORACLE openly declared their intent to bypass the national amateur radio organizations and lobby government directly to eliminate CW.

□ RAC accepted the dropping of Morse as a treaty requirement but did not back the removal of Morse as a "technical and operational qualification" for amateur radio examinations.

## **DX PORTION OF THE KEYNOTE**

QSL Manager: G0FRL. Bob Lowe  
PO Box 190. BOLTON. BL1 4UL.  
U.S. Rep: WZ8C. Ms. Nancy Kott.  
5450 Diehl Rd., METAMORA, MI48455  
PRO: G4YLB. J.A. Welsh  
3 Minster Cresc, DARWEN, BB3 3PY  
CONTEST MANAGER: GM4BAE  
Northbrae, Brookfield Cresc, STRANRAER, DG9  
0HY E-Mail: fist1@compuserve.com  
International Morse Preservation Society  
Sec: E. (Geo) Longden, G3ZQS. 119 Cemetery Rd.,  
DARWEN, BB3 2LZ, England. 01254-703948

## **NETS**

Sunday QRS 0900 (loc) 3.575 2E0AJS  
US 0100Z on 14058  
Tues: GC0IPX/P 1930 ON 3.558 (+/-)

ISSUE 4 1999

Wed: US Net 0100z on 14058  
Thurs: QRS 1900 (loc) on 3575. 2E0AJS  
DX 14/21/28.058 on the hour for 15mins  
Pse keep watch all Novice allocations  
UK Net Controls use GX0IPX/P

FISTS (EU) WEB SITE <http://www.olivenet.demon.co.uk/fists-hq/>

## **GREETINGS**

Hello people and welcome to spring. Mind you at the time of writing, it feels more like mid-winter. I'll swear I saw a crow wearing a scarf and a sparrow with snorkel and flippers. 80m though continues to behave as if it was 40m (got a bagful of UK and EU members all the same) and 40m itself seemed to fall silent during the day. Mind you I did hear a great deal of transatlantic happenings on 15m with many FISTS and CC numbers being exchanged. At this time I am still struggling with that band because a sniff of RF at such frequencies causes our modern digital TV set to run into a kaleidoscope of colours and patterns. Odd because prior to installing Sky Digital there was not a flicker on the screen under those conditions but having up-graded to a frequency far removed from the old analogue system, the whole thing has gone pear shaped and I find myself stuck in listening mode when Ivy is viewing.

So, in the year 2000 we are converting to decimal time. Just imagine, all our clocks and watches will be useless and all those calendars printed in anticipation will be worthless. There will be 100 seconds to the minute, 100 minutes to the hour, 10 hours to the day and 10 days to the week. There will be 10 weeks to the month with 10 months to the year and in order to avoid that awful post weekend feeling, mondays will be replaced by Euroday.

There was a distinct smell of something burning. I had got round to the last page of the March Keynote and with only a couple of hundred copies to go, was reluctant to halt the printing. The smell was so overpowering however that I dis-engaged the rollers so as not to damage the plate and investigated further. There, below the compressor motor, rose a column of evil smelling smoke like like the 'VE' before some red Indian smoke signal. The motor was a 3-phase type and had been adapted for single phase by the addition of a couple of capacitors screened from contact by a wedge shaped cover. A channel was folded into the upper section of this screen to provide access to the power cable and over time, the cleaner fluid which is liberally applied at each clean up session had been running down this and had found its way into the cover. When I removed the offending appendage, there was almost three quarters of an inch of cleaning fluid in the well and I can tell you it was pretty warm. Hi.The

FISTS CW CLUB

Page 15

capacitors were dried with paper towel and a quarter inch hold drilled in the lowest area of the cover so that any further incursion of cleaner fluid would leak out. Why I ask did not the designers of this otherwise very practical printing press think of this? Although this was an extreme case and it would have taken years to manifest itself as a problem, it put me in mind of the number of ad-hoc modifications to even the most modern rigs that seem to find their way into the magazines. A string of high profile qualifications is no guarantee that a designer is not going to drop a clanger somewhere along the line. Hi.

A section of every application form asks for details of any other affiliation. There is no other reason for this than one of interest but it seems that many members had not completed it fully because I am advised that the actual number of RSARS members (checked against the current FISTS list) is no less than 90. The same will probably apply to other ex-service affiliations such as RNARS or RAFARS so reports like this should be taken with a measure of salt. Hi.

A recent letter caused me to check 20m SSB and having scanned the spectrum, I found that there was more QSO activity on CW than there was on the entire SSB spectrum. There were plodders up near 14060, RNARS/RSARS activity a few KHz lower down, a whole gaggle of Eastern Europeans between 14030 and 14050 and the usual speed merchants below this. And yet they insist that Morse has gone the way of the dinosaur. Judging by this, we can expect some wandering cousin of the Neanderthal man being discovered alive and carrying credit cards in some unexplored region of Milton Keynes.

Quickly.... before the natural history of the planet needs to be re-written, let me carry on with the news but watch yourselves on April 1 - there's a lot of jokers around.

### **THE AGM**

Being temporarily without a Chairman, I opened the meeting at 2015 (delayed whilst waiting for a member to catch up) whereupon Mick, G4PSE, was enrolled on the committee. The matter of election of officers meant a return en-mass and G4PSE was nominated as Chairman. From that point on, he was left with the chores that came with the office and conducted the rest of the meeting. At some point during the evening - I am not quite sure of the time - we had a visitor in the shape of G0WPO who, being semi-local was most welcome and we hastened to enlist him as an enrichment to the committee. The accounts were presented by G0FRL and, aside from a few observations from yours truly, were accepted.

I sought (and gained) approval for the current structure of subs meaning that the UK and DX subs remain as £5.00 and £10.00 respectively whilst (due to a levelling out of postal charges to the disadvantage of EEC countries) all European subs were balanced out at £7.00. This gives us a better chance of breaking even here since postal costs were on average, running higher than total income in this category due to sharp increases in postal rates when so many European members were receiving QSL cards with their Keynotes.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

G0FRL advised the meeting that an alternative award for the UK was sought by the members and suggested that a SILVER AWARD for 250 points could be further investigated.

American members had also sought a further award to the PLATINUM and it was proposed that this award be investigated by the USA chapter as extra production and postage costs to facilitate this would have to be further discussed.

G0FRL added that members are advised to complete and sort QSL cards correctly as this is causing delays.

G4PSE suggested that a copy of the FISTS constitution be placed in the April issue of Keynote.

G0JWB made enquiries regarding the possibility of continued use of Morse keys belonging to the late G2AKK for FISTS CLUB use at demonstrations etc. G3ZQS was to communicate by letter to the wife of G2AKK regarding this enquiry and report back to the committee.

The time was 2045 and at this point G4PSE closed the meeting.

### **OBSERVATIONS**

An explanation may be in order here. Bill (G2AKK) had a number of keys which were loaned to us and complemented those from G0JWB and G0FRL, all of which formed a 'hands on' display at local rallies and hamfests. Pauline (widow of G2AKK) had decided firmly against their sale and expressed the wish that they be cleaned up and housed in a glass display cabinet instead. It was in order to respect her regard of these items that I sought her agreement to continue to employ them in their previous role. Indeed I have spoken to her on this matter and she is in agreement.

### **THE FINANCIAL BITS**



I am pleased to report that following our recent negative performances, 1998 has shown an overall surplus which has effectively wiped out all previous losses.

## SUMMARY REPORT

01/01/98 through 31/12/98 (in £ Sterling)

### INCOME

Badges	90.50
Donations	385.50
Labels	73.50
New Members	1045.00
QSL Cards	483.00
Subs	3321.50
Total	<u>5399.00</u>

### EXPENSES

Affiliation (RSGB)	20.00
Compuserve	204.00
Domestic	240.00
Licence (G0IPX)	15.00
Postage	2392.15
Print Sundries	974.62
Printing	111.21
Stationery	718.48
Sundries	415.11
Total	<u>5090.57</u>

Total Income less Expenses	308.43
Balance Forward from 1997	1179.96
Curent Balance	<u>1488.39</u>

I must point out the difference between income/expense and the column for donations. Clearly, without your generosity, the final balance would have been much different. It has however justified my conviction that the present level of subscriptions are adequate. The item 'Compuserve' covers both Bob and myself whilst 'Domestic' is an agreed £20.00 per month towards the cost of phone and electricity. 'Print Sundries' refers to such things as plates and chemicals for the offset press together with toner for the laser printers (Bob actually demands more of his than I do of mine).

### MISSING KIT

Dear Geo.,

Thanks for the March copy of Key Note, which was waiting for me when I arrived back from a few days holiday today.

First off, I have to report the loss of two of my Morse

keys, a portable transceiver and various other items, such as an MFJ Antenna Analyser, QRP rig and other accessories. These went, over a week ago, after being given to the Concierge of a major London hotel for safe keeping! Needless to say, the bill has been sent to the hotel Management and I'm now waiting upon their Insurance Company to pay up. The hotel also managed to 'lose' a very valuable portable PC belonging to my employer, who is also claiming from them for replacement.

So, I'm now looking to replace my Kent straight key and my Bencher BY1 paddles. de Dave Ackrill (G0DJA)

Oh my goodness. Looks like our Dave has been having all his rightful share of misfortunes visited upon him in one magnificent lump. Hope the insurance coughs up mate and by the way, Vlad's daughter... she is 15 years. How stupid of me to forget this important item.

### BOLTON RALLY

Bob (G0FRL) and hopefully, Bill, G0JWB will be at Horwich to welcome any visiting members. on 11 April. The rally at Bury on 30 May is so far in question. We are keen that there should be a FISTS presence of course and will take whatever steps we can to make it.

### QSL CARDS AND THE BUREAU

Sorry folks but we still have some members who pay no regard to our repeated requests that cards be sorted. At the time of writing this, Bob had over 300 unsorted cards which had to be put on one side to await free time. As an example of what we really need, here is a group : 2E0AGB, 2U0ARE, 2W0ALZ, 3B3CF, AA0EM, AA9SY, AB4TT, AB5TY, AC4XS, CT1ETT, DL1CC, EA3WC, F5LAW, F6FEQ etc. None of our officers either here or in the US, ZL etc., receive payment for their services so please make some effort to help.

### WARC BANDS

We have no agreed starting point for searching on the WARC bands but as a guide, on 30m, anything above 10.12 usually yields plenty of free space. I must confess that I have had precious little success in finding members on this band though I usually haunt the frequencies around 10.1258. Remembering that much

of the DX and speed operators are to be found on the LF end of the WARC bands as it is on the others, it will always be prudent to migrate HF of this stuff paying regard to any apparent group activity.

### ODD HEADLINES

Quite a few were tickled by those published last month so here are a few more courtesy of SM7COS:

Stolen painting found by tree.

Two Soviet ships collide, one dies.

Two sisters reunited after 18 years in checkout counter.

Killer sentenced to die for second time in 10 years.

Never withhold herpes infection from loved one

Drunken drivers paid \$1,000 in '84.

War dims hope for peace.

If strike isn't settled quickly, it may last a while.

Cold wave linked to temperatures.

Enfields couple slain; police suspect homicide.

Red tape holds up new bridge.

Deer kill 17,000.

Typhoon rips through Cemetery; hundreds dead.

Man struck by lightning faces battery charge.

New study of obesity looks for larger test group

Astronaut takes blame for gas in space craft.

Kids make nutritious snacks.

Chef throws his heart into helping feed needy.

Arson suspect is held in Massachusetts fire.

I guess it's the way we read 'em but the mind boggles.

Hi.

### CHANGE OF CALL

Having spluttered a bib full about changes of call over there on the other side of the pond, I now find that PA3ASC has changed his call to PA7XG. 2E0APD is hence recognised as M0CFM having changed his status from Novice to Licensed amateur. Congrats! For those of you running computerised lists, there is no problem as all updates associate the original number with the new callsign. A conversion list however would be exhaustive to say the least as some members have been known to revoke their new call in favour of the old one and then revert to the new one again. Grrrr.

### ODDS N' ENDS

G4KPN. I worked Nr 2242 the t'other evening for the first time and learned that Bruce had made his Century on an indoor W3DZZ.

### OOPS!

I normally acknowledge donations by despatching a membership list unless I am aware that the station concerned is QRV on e-mail in which case they will have perhaps downloaded it. However, the last batch I sent out was something of a kokup because each page was printed individually instead of back-to-back and although I checked on the scales that the envelopes were under 100gm, Tom, G3JTS advised me that the Post Office had raked him for 31p saying that there was 11p due. I sent half a dozen out like this so to those who have been improperly stung, my apologies.

### 30M (AGAIN)

There is a lot of traffic flying around the reflector concerning this band and there really should be no problem. Jim, N5KY opts for 10.118, Nancy is non-committal but favours 10.108. I have no personal preference to be honest though I do tend to go HF of 10.12 as there is currently less QRM there. However, with the club call, there is a temptation for me to find where all the activity is taking place and slide up a couple of KHz because I am not in the business working FISTS to the exclusion of all others who may well be potential members. G4LQO has been hunting around the 10.1258 mark with no joy and he is not alone in urging more 30m activity. Remember though that whatever frequency is chosen, it is a starting point, we can't all get on there so, at least for the immediate future, I would suggest starting at 10.1258 and check the spots mentioned above. I should not have to remind you however that there is no such thing as an 'exclusive' frequency. We have members who have been unceremoniously hounded off the 'exclusive' RSARS frequency of 3.565 which must be a bitter pill to swallow with those FISTS who are also members of RSARS. We are also urged (whilst respecting the QRP spot of 3.560) to spread ourselves through the novice segment. I normally check HF from 3.568 which gives the QRP brigade plenty of elbow room. The 'hit' rate is not as high as it would be in the 3.550 - 3.585 but members are there to be found and (more importantly) so are novices who, with a little encouragement, are future CW enthusiasts. In the current climate, the last thing we need is CW ops arguing amongst themselves about spot frequencies. SPREAD OUT!

### THE CONSTITUTION

As requested by the committee, this is here reproduced

in modified format:

1. The organisation shall be known as "The International Morse Preservation Society" with the FISTS CW club as the active chapter, dealing with all business pertaining to the Society.
2. The objects of the Society shall be to further the use of the Morse code in Amateur Radio communications.
3. Membership shall be open to all licensed Radio Amateurs and also to short wave listeners sympathetic to the objects of the Society detailed in (2) above.
4. The annual subscription shall be determined by the committee and shall be payable on the first day of the month of joining and thereafter, each anniversary of that date or upon advice by the secretary. Any member more than two months in arrears shall forfeit all voting rights and shall not receive any publications issued by the Society.
5. The affairs of the FISTS CW Club shall be administered by the Committee which will consist of:
  - (a) A Chairman whose duties shall be the conduct of meetings in an orderly manner and who shall give rulings on matters inside and outside the terms of the constitution, liaise with the Secretary on the preparation of the agenda for the Committee and General meetings and shall carry out the agreed policy of the Committee and members of the club.
  - (b) A Secretary who shall take minutes of the Committee and General meetings of the Club which will be read at the appropriate meeting and signed by the Chairman. He will deal with all Club correspondence, liaise with the Chairman in the preparation of meeting agendas and with the Treasurer on matters of Club finance. He will retain in safe keeping the club minutes and any appropriate files pertaining to Club business.
  - (c) A Treasurer who shall retain the financial statement of the club and shall present an audited balance sheet to the Committee and, in the event of the auditors being absent, shall read the auditors report.
  - (d) Three elected members of the Club whose duties shall be to assist the officials in arriving at decisions for the successful operation of the Club.
6. The Committee shall have the power to co-opt members whose duties shall be specified at the time of such co-option.
7. The quorum for Committee meetings shall be four members but any urgent business which needs to

be discussed at an unquorate meeting shall be decided upon and recommended to the next Committee meeting for ratification. Alternatively, the decision shall be taken as to whether or not to call a special meeting of the Committee to deal with the business in hand.

8. In the event of an Extraordinary General meeting being called, to deal with important business, the quorum shall be thirty three percent of committee members.

9. In the event of the dissolution of the Club being discussed, any action can only take place by sixty six percent of voting members signifying their assent in writing. If such a resolution be carried, the assets of the club shall be transferred to a charity or charities nominated by the committee and divided in accordance with their wishes.

### THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

**G4VLW.** Hi Roger. Whatever action you choose to take with regard to your membership of the RSGB is of course, entirely your own decision but I do hope that with the number similar letters as yours, they will regard it as food for thought. Absolutely nobody is immune from these awful flu bugs mate though I feel sure that the anti-flu jab resulted in much milder symptoms in my own case. Hi. **G3LPS.** Eric was kind enough to send a badge to a friend in Russia and a photograph turned up showing the member with the badge in evidence. It transpires that there are no less than three licensed amateurs in the family with both brother and son being afflicted with the bug. One of Eric's most prized possessions is an old 1155 which belonged to Bill (the late G2AKK) and don't even think about parting him from it. This month, he matches me with 71 candles. **GW0SGG.** Got a copy of a letter from Swansea ARS to Peter Kirby (RSGB) thanking him for the address on March 3. "*We were very pleased to receive from you - a fellow Morse enthusiast) assurances that CW with it's fine tradition will be preserved by the Society!*" **G3HBN.** The issue of 'exclusive' operating raises its ugly head again. Jimmy is understandably miffed by the activities of certain individuals (one thorn in his side is a certain VK2) and was very concerned when he learned that some FISTS members were treading the same path. I am sure that an overwhelming majority of members will share his concern since such aloof attitudes contribute absolutely nothing to the cause of CW. In tune with his thoughts regarding number chasing, it needs to be stressed that there is absolutely no

time limit imposed on claims for club awards which should make the practice of report, number, QRZ? not only unnecessary but totally undesirable. **G3CWW**. Tony is 'staggered' at the volume of Century awards now being achieved which looks like (and in fact is) around one per day. He needs one more for the Platinum and has set course for the Gold. **G0WAY**. Bob is one of a few who were seemingly missed from the Century list last month. He holds CC 0296 and I will try to get this list complete next time. Few more letters people but insufficient space. Will try to include 'em next month.

### WINTER SK WEEK

Dear Geo

Here are the results of the February SKW. I feel that I have now given everybody plenty of time to send in their logs:

(1) G0MRH. (2) G4LHI. (3) G3LFE. (4) G3JRY. (5) G0VQW. (6) G4JNA. (7) G0VYR. (8) G0RWQ. (9) GW0UWM. (10) G0XAH. (11) G4ZME.

There are one or two new call signs appearing on the list on which we welcome this event. From the logs, there appears to be plenty of FISTS activity on the bands during the SKW so please - where are all the logs? OK someone will be first and someone has to be last so what. It is a bit of competitive fun. The fact that you are a member of FISTS shows that you support this mode so... use it or lose it could be the longer term possibility. Enough of the 'Soap Box'. This week saw a disaster at this QTH and a pleasure. Firstly, a new 4 ele 5-Band Yagi arrived from the Mosely Agents in Norfolk quickly followed by a disaster - the tower collapsed after giving about 20 years sterling service. Luckily the beam was not installed at the time. I shall be absent from 80m for a few weeks until a new tower is in situ.

Re SKW, many thanks to all those stations for the many and enjoyable QSOs I was privileged to enjoy. Keep up the good work and look forward to another enjoyable event in the Sept SKW. May I also be so bold as to suggest Sunday 5th Sept as day one and Sat 11th as day seven. Remember we need nominations for Best Fist Worked who need not necessarily be a member of FISTS.

Sincerely hope all is well with you down there and my regards to Ivy.

73 de Gerry, GM4BAE.

### 1ST RN XMSN

From Nik OE8NIK via the RNARS reflector:

Without questioning the genius and businessman G. Marconi, the first man transmitting/receiving onboard a Royal Navy ship was the British Captain Henry Jackson RN, using his own equipment.

Captain Henry Jackson of HMS Defiance (Royal Naval Torpedo School Ship) in Devonport, started his onboard experiments with wireless telegraphy and on 20

August 1896 he logged his first positive results over 25 to 50 yards. On 31 August 1896 there was a meeting in the British War Office with Marconi, during which the possibilities of radiotelegraphy were discussed in the presence of Captain Jackson.

On 19 May 1897 Captain Jackson succeeded in radiotelegraphy tests from HMS Defiance in Devonport over 1.75 nautical miles.

Marconi's first time use of his equipment on board a naval ship was from the Italian armoured ship San Martino in July 1897 in La Spezia, Italy.

Nevertheless it was Marconi, who enabled with his advanced equipment the successful introduction of radio into the Royal Navy in 1899.

*First tests with radiotelegraphy onboard the Austrian coastal defence ship Budapest and torpedocruiser Lussin were carried out successfully over 7 nautical miles on 21/22 December 1898 in the Adriatic Sea, using Marconi equipment, but without assistance by Marconi.*

Source: Pocock, R. F./ Garratt G.R.M., The Origins of Maritime Radio - The story of introduction of Wireless Telegraphy in the Royal Navy between 1896 and 1900.

My thanks to Nik for this info. Incidentally, I am privy to the information that on the amateur bands, the somewhat unusual and utterly fictitious call sign of RN1UT originated somewhere in the Indian Ocean and was implicitly derived from 'Royal Navy 1st Unauthorised Transmission. Hi.

### NEW MEMBERS

6006	G0TAM Alan	6007	M0BGG Doug
6008	G6OKN Reg	6009	G4OPI Tony
6010	G3MHH Gordon	6011	M0CGD Ray
6012	IZ0AYM Marmelo	6013	G0WHO Robert
6014	G3JUN John	6015	G4DPV Stan
6016	GW0MMY Bill	6017	M0AGA Kevin
6018	G0FVV Dave	6019	G0TWW Peter
6020	BV4QW Lin	6021	G0WGL Pete
6022	DJ1PQ Rob	6023	M0CFD Nick
6024	G3XFV Ian	6025	G3JUW Chris
6026	M0CGO Ricky	6027	MW1BGER Richard
6028	G0VPF Peter	6029	GW0WQP Dave

## SILENT KEY

Gordon (G0HGG) FISTS 0930, has suffered emphysema for some 14 years which found him in a hospital bed for a prolonged period. Needing 24-hour care, he spent a few weeks in a nursing home before his heart gave out on 28 Jan.

I understand that his Son is adopting Gordon's call and is intent upon maintaining its connection with FISTS. I will of course be delighted to hear from him. So sorry for the delay in this report since I have only recently been advised of the situation.

## FINALE

Afraid the constitution and AGM report robbed us of some space this month people but a number of our earlier members do not have a copy of the former so I am obliged to accede to the committees wishes.

Just a reminder that with our membership now running in the order of 4K5 active, those of you with access to the web may update from there at any time. The list is maintained on a regular basis. Hard copy threatens to spill over into 15 pages at any moment. Hi.

Welcome back to Iain, 0012, ZL2BJC. We cannot modify his number of course but his record resides within the ZL chapter and who knows, if this small band makes enough noise on the local bands, we may be able to welcome more ZL/VK members soon.

I know not from whence the signal originated but it was clearly local judging by the strength and the accent used but SSB on 3.710? All I managed to fish out was "Well done. That was well spaced and very readable code" before he was sat on by a 599+ ON? station so clearly, someone was doing a bit of tutoring but wuch a shame they could not work X-band with 2m.

73 es stay sober de Geo.

## FISTS CLUB DOWN UNDER

Local News – April 1999

12c Herbert Gardens, 186 The Terrace, Wellington 6001, New Zealand

### Proposed FISTS Net

The following was received from W8BL-Brian-1221 who among his other proficiencies is the compiler of the FISTS E-mail Register:

Hello Fists! After considerable thought I have decided to post this message to the Fists Email list. If you have no interest in what follows, please use your delete key to kill this message and please no flames.

Over the last year I have had the opportunity to work several club members who have shown a skill level well above what the club offers through our present net schedules. I am posting this message looking for feedback on the viability of starting a new Fists net, offering the opportunity for those at higher skill levels or those wishing to increase their skills to a higher level, a place to meet in a relaxed atmosphere and learn to develop their skills at a higher level then we presently offer to members at this time.

The proposed Net would operate at a minimum of 30wpm. In order to become proficient, one must get practice, and this Net would be a training ground for those who want to increase their skill levels beyond their present level.

I have no idea how many members may be interested so I have posted this message looking for anyone who would like to participate and I am asking for your feedback. If there are enough who would like to participate, we will poll the interested members and set-up a time and place to operate the Net.

If you have any interest or feedback, please drop me a line through email [blafont@tir.com](mailto:blafont@tir.com) and let me know. Thanks Brian W8BL *(If you wish to respond to Brian and have no e-mail facility, send the message to me and I'll forward it via e-mail. Ed)*

### Member's Reports

ZL2BIL-Bill-9003 writes: Hi Ralph, some notes for the next newsletter, with which, BTW, you are doing a great job. We have had some visitors from France - Non hams! - and then the arrival of number two son from London with wife (also non hams), so activity on the air has been severely curtailed. However, some contacts were made: NO FISTS Members. But others were: Pino IK0LPN; Dado 9A3NY; Park HL2WP; Tom LZ2TW; Bojo YU1KO; Tudor LZ1ZA.

And on QRP: Saki JE1QQU (with the HW7, abt 1.8 watts out); Shima JR1KW (FT 101B screwed down to 5W) and Manfred DL2PG, who fell off his chair when he got that only 5 watts was emanating

from ZL2BIL. Not an easy contact, but we got there in the end.

QRP is the main obsession here, as is CW. Negotiations are in hand to get a 20M CW QRP rig. The HW7 has a terrible receiver and no RIT, so it's a bit hit and miss getting contacts, but possible!

Thanks to aforesaid son a nice screensaver is now in operation from this QTH, showing the world, with the shadow line from some 37,700 miles in space. Neat! Find this at <http://www.fourmilab.ch/earthscr>. It's FREE!

*(I couldn't get that web address to work but got the home page: <http://www.fourmilab.ch/> and found the place to download the screen saver. It is nice, as you say Bill. There are all sorts of other interesting offerings at that site so it's worth a visit. If anyone with a computer and Win 95 or NT and no internet access would like a copy of the screensaver file, please send a diskette and a SASE to me. It's quite legal, being freeware. Ed)*

Hi Ralph, (from N7CFA-Ed-1402)

Thanks for sending the newsletter. I always find it interesting. I see that Keith, ZL1BSG, got his CC #616. That is great. The numbers are increasing on the award which goes to show that there is a lot of FISTS activity on the bands. I had a QSO with Keith on 19 December.

The number made me think of my recent number of 16 for "Worked All States FISTS". Hawaii was the tough one for me to get and I waited several months for that in order to finish my list. There are five FISTS in Hawaii, but only a couple seem to be active. Back in 1982 when I received my WAS from the ARRL, it was all in CW and the number was 38,715. I wonder how high it would be now. That number was, of course, for their total of all WAS, both phone, CW and mixed.

Keep up the good work and I hope to see more (and work more) ZL FISTS in the future. FISTS is FUN.

ZL2CD-Bill-9004 reports working SV1DLS-Costas-4803. Nice one Bill. It's a pleasant surprise when FISTS members pop up outside the FISTS calling frequencies. *(It's nice to have you back on the bands, Bill.)*

In replying to Brian's message above, ZL1AN-Gary-

9006 wrote: I enjoy working above 30 wpm also. I would be delighted to participate in such a net, but the catch is, as a working Physicist, my hours are somewhat irregular and I can never guarantee to be on the radio at any given time.

If you DO set up a net, let me know. I'll join it if and when I can.

QTH here Auckland, run 100W into vertical on house roof. But down in the bush, on the side of a wooded valley, my sigs are not as strong into USA as most other ZLs. I run a CMOS superkeyer and homebrew keyboard software.

*(Perhaps some other members might like to tell us about their equipment set-up and their QTH environment. Ed)*

This next contribution comes from across the ditch:

Hope things Are FB at your QTH Ralph. I thought I'd drop a line to let you know I've been busy working up a pile up on 30mx 10.104mhz. I worked 17 stations in a matter of 1½ hrs from all over the place; 0630-0800UTC, 23 March 1999.

GW3KFA,G3BJD UK; F3JK FRANCE; L A 8 L A , L A 2 C F . N O R W A Y ; D L 8 Y T M , D L 8 W N . G E R M A N Y ; HB9LIS.SWITZERLAND; OM1LA.SLOVAK REP. SM6VJP.SWEEDEN; 9A7W.CROATIA; OK10X.CZECH REP; W0IJN,K6RM,AA6YQ, KI7VR, USA.

These were worked QRP 5 Watts CW on a homebrew rig and 160m loop antenna, twin feed line through an ATU. The best RST I recvd was from LA2CF at Bergen of 539 up to 599. the rest were between 559 and 579. K6RM said I was doing good job on flea power. Condx where excel.

Do you have any Fists QSL cards available? or can I use my own? I have been working ZL stations on 80mx again; ZL10M - Steve I wud like his QSL info. I've also been active on 15mx working JA's QRP. 40mx has been pretty good as well. Could you send a copy of this for Keynote To Bob G0FRL please. I don't have a PC and email is done thru a friend in the next town 25km away from the QTH.

Please give vy 73 to all ZL members also hoping Bill Is now getting better. Greetings to all Fists members worldwide from VK7LF Tom Fists Member #3712 VK's southern most ham station. Visit my home page for a look at my gear the address is <http://mypage.goplay.com/vk7lf> (*All your queries will be answered by mail in a couple of days, Tom. Ed*)

### FISTS Awards

Bob Lowe G0FRL QSL and Awards Manager has announced the following: updated information:

Century Award is for 100 Contacts.

Platinum Award is for 100 Century Award holder contacts.

250 Century Award is for 250 Century Award holder contacts. (NEW)

500 Century Award is for 500 Century Award holder contacts. (NEW)

Silver Award is for 250 points. (NEW)

(Holders of the Gold Award, if they wish, may send for a Silver Award.)

Gold Award is for 500 points

Diamond Award 1000points.

Cost of Awards for VK/ZL members will be one of: \$US5, £3, or 8 IRCs .to be sent with full details of application to: Bob Lowe G0FRL, QSL and Awards Manager, PO Box 190, Bolton BL1 4UL, England.

*(Additional awards application forms are available on request from me. Ed)*

### From the Archives

I have acquired a file of FISTS papers which was from the estate of ZL2KA Phil Blakeley who introduced me to FISTS many years ago. The papers date back to September 1988 when Phil joined with a number of 387. A few months later, exactly ten years ago there were 420 members on the list. Today the number is 4200 and growing steadily each month as you will see from the changes we publish every month.

There were many hints in those old newsletters. This one I particularly like from Key Note – November 1989

? DIT DIT DAH DAH DIT DIT - The Great Jug Handle Force

How many times have you been listening on a quiet channel and suddenly been assaulted by a lone disembodied question mark assailing you out of the blue with no attached question? Yes, I know...very frequently; it happens all the time. It must surely be one of the most meaningless calls in the entire amateur's repertoire, and that's going some. I sometimes hear a station responding to such a call by asking, "What was the question?", which seems to be about as close as you will get to such a meaningless symbol. On one occasion I heard the exchange go further- the first station came back with "It is the generally recognised way of asking who owns the frequency". Rubbish, of course, as if anyone could actually "own" a frequency – they are all ours to share with the QRM. If you want to know who is there, why not ask? It can hardly be too intellectually taxing. I think it is sometimes intended to replace a "QRL?" call..... Beware, therefore, of the disembodied jug handle and shun it like the plague. Should someone fire one at you, it is perfectly in order to ask them what the question was. That seems to shut 'em up most of the time – only the most stubborn will persist after that.

### Editor's Activities

I recently reported that I had tweaked my logging program to show me whether a call entered was for a FISTS member. Using the list in the last Key Note I have developed it further to show me if the call is for a Fists Century Award holder. It was quite a simple process, editing the list in Word 6 to make the entries look like suitable records for the import option for my logging program.

The QSLs are continuing to flow in and out. The envelopes for the North American FISTS bureau each month are exceeding the 10 mm maximum thickness for overseas letters by a factor of three! (Remember that the outward mailings are always on the first day of each month, and sooner for each 10 mm thickness. Inward cards are sent with the monthly newsletter.) During the month I was pleased to receive a QSL for working E30GA, Eritrea from Ohakune, but sadly not a FISTS contact. My home QTH is not very good for working African stations.

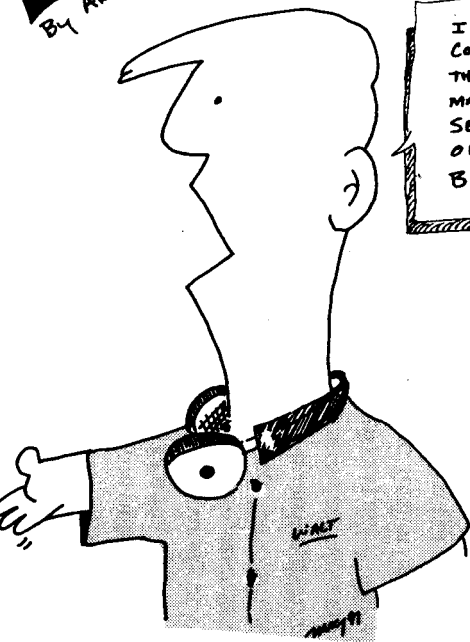
73 de ZL2AOH –Ralph-1073

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By Arnie macy, KTY ST



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BUT I'M NOT BITTER