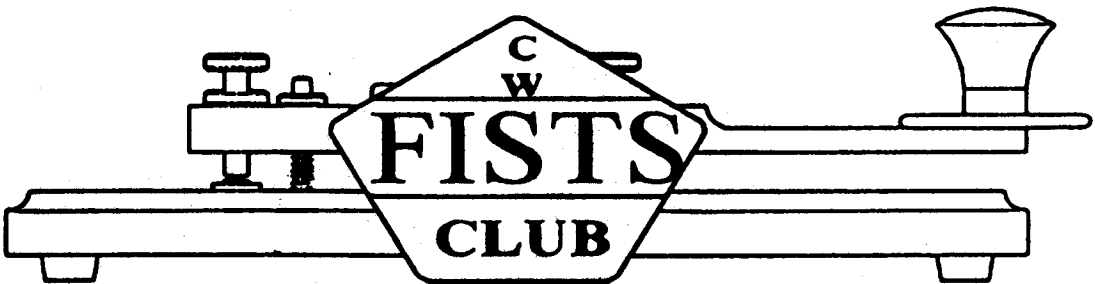


The Keynote

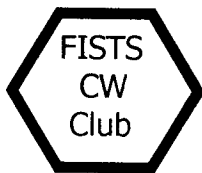
Newsletter of FISTS CW Club, the active chapter of the
International Morse Preservation Society

"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”



The Key Note

The North American Memo Version by Nancy Kott WZ8C
USA and DX member news and activities

International

Morse Preservation Society Issue 3,2002

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

Slow RagChewing Group: Wednesday at 9PM EST on 3.720

Volunteer Net Controls needed to run the Century Net on Sunday afternoon on 14.058 MHz

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

Sunday Slow Speed Chat: 21.158 MHz at 1700Z

30 Meter calling frequency: 10.118

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

Courtesy At All Times!

If you move please send your address change to WZ8C. It costs FISTS 60 cents for each undelivered

Keynote due to address changes. This really adds up!

Page 2

Hi FISTS. My email program crashed in the middle of March. I lost everything email related, my in-box, copies of sent emails, deleted emails, all my files and folders and address book.

Typically, when I get an email that I can't jot off a quick response to, I file it under "to do", "for the Key Note" etc. and deal with it when I have time. I lost all the material I had saved up for this and future newsletters, as well as things that people had asked me to do or check into. If you have written me and you haven't heard from me, it's not because I'm ignoring you -- I lost your email!

Please re-send your requests. If there is anything you had sent to me to put in the Key Note, I'm going to need that re-sent also. I know it's an inconvenience, but I don't have any way of getting back the lost files. Sorry!

That is the main reason that this issue is a couple weeks behind.

FISTS CW Club

I've had to try and recreate what I had saved in the folders "for the Key Note." It's been one of those months!

This year is FISTS 15th Anniversary and I want to do something in September (our anniversary month) to commemorate it. Do you have any suggestions for an Anniversary weekend activity or Special Event? We need to plan it soon to have for maximum publicity. We have the FISTS Anniversary Awards, as you know, but I'm thinking of a short term on-air activity. Let me know if you come up with anything, suggestions are welcome!

Dennis, K6DF, our WOFAM, says that the applications for both the Anniversary Awards are starting to come in, faster than we anticipated. That's great!

I don't want to preach...BUT...when you're FISTS chasing, please don't ignore non-FISTS who want to chat with you. It gives a bad impression of FISTS. People think we're snobs or a group created to number chase, like 10-10er's. Our goals are to be courteous and promote activity on the air, and you will probably end up as a sponsor for a new member by giving them a favorable impression of FISTS.

The Spring Sprint is coming up in May, details and a check/entry sheet are included in this issue. Send your FISTS logs directly to the Sprint Manager, Dan N8IE. It doesn't matter how many or few contacts you've made, send in your log and comments.

The Dayton Hamvention is coming up in May. I haven't gotten official confirmation yet, but have been told we will have a booth space. If you are able to help out at the booth for a couple hours, please let me know. Thanks, 73 88 Nancy WZ8C

Issue 3 2002

HOW DO I...?

...**JOIN?** Membership is open to all interested in Morse code, irrespective of their speed and ability. Subscriptions = **\$15.00/year**. Under 17 = **FREE** Students = \$10. Family members may join FISTS at no extra charge - only one newsletter is mailed per household. **FISTS, P. O. Box 47, Hadley, MI 48440** **NOTE: CHECKS can take 6-8 weeks to clear from the day received.** Nancy processes them, updating the database, then takes them to the bookkeeper. The bookkeeper enters them into the "official books", then takes them to the bank. Depending on schedules that month, it can take 6-8 weeks. **Questions?** Write to nancy@tir.com

... **GET AN UP-TO-DATE MEMBERLIST?** Send a SASE with \$2.00 to Ed Hayes, N7CFA 2628 Lilac Street, Longview WA 98632. Lists are available on the FISTS Web page.

...**Join the FISTS Email List?** For periodic Email updates send your Email address, callsign and FISTS number to Kathi, at FISTS-Elist@attbi.com. Due to spam problems, the list is not given out to the membership.

... **ORDER CLUB SUPPLIES?** Irene Kott, W0BE, 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr, Clinton Twp, MI 48038 has gold logo stickers 200 for \$3.50; "I Support KNOW Code" buttons for .50; Blue enamel / gold metal clasp-back logo pins \$2.50; Cloth patches are **SOLD OUT**; FISTS coffee mugs \$7.50; **FISTS Club T-Shirts M and L only, \$9.00.** Rubber stamps with FISTS logo for use with an ink pad (not included) for \$5.00. Please make checks out to FISTS, these prices **DO** include Priority postage. **DO NOT INCLUDE EXTRA TO COVER POSTAGE.**

...**GET/SEND FISTS QSL CARDS Via BURO?** Send SASEs and FISTS member cards only (DX and NA) to Stan Reas, K4UK, at 1020 Long Island Dr, Moneta VA, 24121.

...**RENEW?** Send **\$15/year** (\$10/year for under 18) to **FISTS, PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440-0047.** Your **renewal date is on your mailing label — please look at it!** We send out ONE renewal postcard when your renewal time is near. If you've sent in your renewal but get a reminder postcard within a couple weeks, please don't be concerned, the card probably crossed with your renewal.

...**SEND APP OR SAMPLE NEWSLETTER TO A FRIEND?** For a brochure email Joe Pardue, w5os@arrl.net with their name, call sign, and postal address. For a sample Keynote, please send \$1 to defray postage. SASEs are appreciated. Joe's postal address is Joe Pardue, 29 Melrose Dr, Marrero LA 70072-5055. Applications are on the FISTS Webpage.

...**SEND FISTS INFO TO A DX FISTS?** DX FISTS have a separate block of numbers; their Keynote is mailed from the UK. Send their info to Geo Longden, G3ZQS, at 119 Cemetery Rd, Darwin Lancs, BB32LZ England, he'll send them a DX application.

...**PAY FOR THE SUBSCRIPTION OF A DX FISTS MEMBER?** Subs for European FISTS, paid from the USA, is \$10/year. Non-European FISTS are \$15/year in US CASH. No International Money Orders, postal money orders or personal checks, cash only. Send it to Geo Longden, 119 Cemetery Rd, Darwin Lancs BB3 2LZ U.K. CASH ONLY. Don't forget to include the name and address of the DX ham you want to sponsor. They will receive the DX version of the Keynote, which is written and mailed by Geo.

...**APPLY FOR AN OPERATING AWARD?** For ALL awards, send the name of the award, a log of the required info (check the individual award requirements) and your mailing info to Dennis Franklin, K6DF, 4658 Capitan Dr, Fremont, CA 94536-5448. **Do not submit QSLs.** There is no charge to FISTS members in good standing, but stamps are appreciated. **Dennis handles ALL awards, do not send logs to England.**

... **VOLUNTEER FOR or GET A CODEBUDDY?** Write to Terry Lohrey, 115 Meadowview Dr, Taylorsville KY 40071 or email <tllohrey@kih.net>. We need ELMERS, please volunteer to be a Code Buddy!! Code Buddy applications are available on line from a link on our web page.

...**GET MY PHOTO ON THE PHOTOPAGES?** Send a snapshot of yourself, with your face about the size of a quarter, to Ken Kott, W8ROG, 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr, Clinton Twp, MI 48038.

...**GET A COPY OF FISTS PRESENTATION** to give at a local club meeting? It's easy and fun! We send you everything you need for a snazzy 15-20 minute presentation. Contact Joe Spencer, KK5NA, 3618 Montridge Ct, Arlington TX 76016. email: kk5na@quadj.com

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

...**SUGGEST IDEAS FOR THE WEB PAGE?** Contact Bill KK4KF at KK4KF@LizardCop.com

...**ORDER FISTS CLUB QSL CARDS?** For pricing info send SASE to WX9X at 1608 E. Lincolnway, Suite H - Valparaiso, IN 46383. A scan of the QSL card is on our FISTS Web page.

...**ORDER A FISTS CLUB ID BADGE?** Our club badge is blue, with FISTS logo in gold and your name, FISTS number, callsign, and Int'l Morse Preservation Society in white. \$8.20 postpaid from The Signman of Baton Rouge, 879 Castle Kirk Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808.

...**IMPROVE MY CODE SPEED and MEET LOTS OF NEWFRIENDS?** Join FISTS! Get involved in the nets and activities! Volunteer to be a Code Buddy! Write an article for the Keynote about your interests! The Keynote, official publication of FISTS CW Club, is published approximately 10 times a year by Nancy Kott WZ8C, PO Box 47 Hadley MI 48440. WZ8C reserves the right to edit submissions for clarity, suitability and space limitations. Comments not attributed to another are written by WZ8C. **Articles from the Keynote may be reprinted if credit is given to the original author.**

Welcome to the New FISTS

#	Callsign	Name	State	Sponsor
8705	W7WAA	Vern	WA	K7ZPE
8706	KB0KYU	Paula	IA	
8707	KC8MLY	Cal	OH	
8708	K6GTP	George	CA	
8709	WB2RJC	Bob	NJ	
8710	KD0RC	Len	CO	
8711	KQ6CV	George	CA	
8712	N2ZU	Mike	NJ	
8713	WB9QAW	Robert	IN	
8714	AG4OG	Henry	TN	AF4FW
8715	KC4RAK	Gary	GA	W6VIF
8716	AA2WN	Harry	NJ	
8717	KB1FRI	Bruce	MA	
8718	K3AHD	Ed	PA	KI0KM
8719	swl	Robert	FL	
8720	N5ZGM	Keith	NM	
8721	K1SW	Dick	CT	
8722	W8CLO	Don	VA	
8723	WB0FMS	Robert	MN	WZ8C
8724	W2JI	Charles	NJ	WZ8C
8725	KA0GXX	Bernie	MN	
8726	K0GIE	Michael	WI	WZ8C
8727	AE6CQ	Michael	CA	WZ8C
8728	W5UTK	Phil	TX	ON AIR
8729	W2EO	Ed	NJ	
8730	WA2VZQ	Kenneth	NY	On Air
8731	KB0VRN	Al	MO	
8732	AA4DN	Darrell	NC	ON AIR
8733	WA9SOV	Milt	IL	KA9UZH
8734	WL7US	Bob	AK	KA9UZH
8735	K0JET	John	IA	WZ8C
8736	KA3POY	Tim	MD	K3WWP
8737	KD7LGS	Tom	WA	KD7ZPE/NG7Z
8738	KC8MOD	Robert	OH	WZ8C
8739	KC7MCE	David	AZ	WZ8C
8740	KC0MFY	DICK	IA	WB0B
8741	W5DXP	CECIL	TX	
8742	N8VCQ	Richard	MI	
8743	AA9XH	Allan	WI	On Air
8744	N4AAD	Lee	NC	
8745	W5SQA	Bob	TX	WZ8C
8746	KZ5J	Patrick	TX	K4UK
8747	W3ZNK	Stanley	MD	
8748	KD5QJV	Trent	TX	
8749	N3AMG	Fred	MD	
8750	N1HIY	Tom	MA	WZ8C
8751	KA7FEF	Mary	OR	WZ8C
8752	W2RST	Bill	NY	
8753	N2APQ	Robert	NY	K4PTU
8754	KD7PEV	Kevin	WA	K7ZPE
8755	W7BIA	Arnie	CA	KJ7LB
8756	NF6Y	John	CA	WZ8C
8757	K B 9 U F /	Norm	ON	WP2T
	VE3NRB			
8758	AA1UC	Byron	MA	
8759	WB8SNH	Richard	OH	
8760	NB9U	Chuck	IL	NB2T
8761	N6YU	George	CA	
8762	N6WIN	Tim	CA	N6EED
8763	W3FQE	Lee	MD	
8764	W0DO	Richard	MN	20 Meters
8765	WA7YJF	Lloyd	WA	WZ8C
8766	KD7KQD	David	WA	K7ZPE
8767	WB0TRA	Lee	MN	
8768	W1XH	Al	MA	
8769	K0FUZ	John	KS	
8770	KC4TVN	George	VA	
8771	W4OHA	Bobby	GA	WZ8C
8772	WA5MPW	Evelyn	TX	KC5DRH
8773	AD6LW	Roy	CA	KF6SHU
8774	N3WSH	Lloyd	MD	
8775	NW1R	Carlo	MA	WZ8C
8776	WC1G	Tom	MA	NW1R
8777	KD5OGG	David	TX	
8778	K9FPM	R o n	WI	20 Meters
8779	WH6WI	Doug	HI	KH6HE
8780	W8EAL	Lawrence	MI	On air
8781	WB6OLL	Les	CA	
8782	W8EBV	Robert	MI	WZ8C
8783	K3NNI	John	OH	
8784	KD6SAU	Douglas	CA	WZ8C
8785	W7AJK	Duran	WY	
8786	K5GXX	Ray	TX	
8787	W9DCQ	Doug	WI	WB2FXK
8788	W8ERJ	MaryJane	OH	W8WFB
8789	AB0SM	Robert	MO	WZ8C
8790	AB0QI	Larry	ND	
8791	KC7MAW	Mike	WA	
8792	KF6UYS	Roger	CA	
8793	W4AMW	Cap	KY	
8794	K9TOY	Jim	IL	
8795	KT7F	Tim	NV	
8796	N1KJF	Ken	RI	
8797	N1FZD	Russ	ME	

#	Call sign	Name	State	Sponsor
8798	W7VPV	Dick	OR	
8799	N6VF	Phil	CA	
8801	WB9WZN	Bill	IN	WA1GAG
8802	WA6PXU	Jim	CA	
8803	KB1GCB	John	RI	WA2OVT
8804	K9YU	Sveta	IL	
8805	KC0HQU	John	MO	
8806	N4RE	Rick	NC	
8807	W2CDO	Peter	MD	
8808	W1VLK	George	MA	
8809	K2BZZ	Dit	IL	
8810	KC7CYR	Stu	WA	K7ACP
8811	KB7KBM	Aaron	ID	K7ZPE
8812	W8PWP	Tony	GA	
8813	AB2OB	Lou	NY	
8814	WA8ABE	William	OH	
8815	W5DW	Wib	TX	KR5C
8816	N2HSY	Erich	NY	
8817	WD4FVZ	Jefferson	AE	WZ8C
8818	AK7D	Fred	OR	K7ZPE
8819	KA2FDA	Gene	NY	
8820	KK4DW	Dave	FL	
8821	N7BKK	Nina	WA	N7APP
8822	NN6F	John	CA	K7ZPE
8823	KF4BZT	Tim	FL	
8824	N7OC	Stan	WA	K7ZPE
8825	WA9TLC	Terry	IN	WB5KHC
8826	KG6KGH	Phil	CA	
8827	VE3AXD	Howard	ONT	
8828	WA1TTL	Matt	VT	
8829	W9ARE	Clifford	WI	WZ8C
8830	W5WN	Jim	TX	K5ABF
8831	KD7OLH	Terry	UT	
8832	VA3SPN	Charlie	ONT	
8833	W5TFG	Ed	TX	WB2FXK
8834	N3LQQ	Ron	MD	WZ8C
8835	WD8JAV	Richard	OH	WZ8C
8836	N3ZPO	Frank	PA	
8837	NO CALL	Glen	MT	
8838	KG4OSQ	Dave	FL	
8839	KS4HE	Steve	KY	
8840	N1KNU	John	MA	K1GDH
8841	WA2YMX	Mark	FL	N4GM
8842	K8XAF	Dick	OH	
8843	K5WAF	Bill	TX	
8844	K0RJL	Dave	CO	
8845	W0PIY	Harry	MN	
8846	N3DD	Dom.	PA	

Call Changes

6165 WA7PAT, Pat, is now KG7HT
 7038 KG4ENR, Jeff, is now WU4O
 7879 KB7OEX, Tim,, is now NZ7C
 7955 KC8GWC, Bob, is now W8CAG
 8034 K4KJV Bob is now K4LW
 8188 KG4GPG Joe is now W4TKS
 8492 W3PMS, Bill, is now AA3YR
 8585 ABØQU, Michael, is now NØZD
 8596 KG4PMF, Fred is now K4ZZT
 8615 KG6CGT, Keith, is now WR6R
 8657 KC8SEV, Dennis, is now AB8NI

Silent Key

FISTS Number 2379, Jack Kelleher,
 W4ZC is a Silent Key

Silent Key

Carl Emerson (79) became a Silent Key on
 January 19th, 2002. His FISTS nr is 3409.

DXPedition

I will be operating QRP from Abaco Island in
 the Bahamas as C6A/WA3WSJ from 5/3 to 5/
 11. Look for me on the normal qrp frequencies
 WARC Bands too running cw and psk31. I might
 try to put a lighthouse on the air too. Hope to
 work many QRPers and FISTS from Abaco Is-
 land. 72, Ed, WA3WSJ

Check out the FISTS SloChat Group
 21.158 MHz at 1700Z Sunday or anytime, just
 call CQ FISTS

I just wanted to mention the fists slo-chat (FSC)
 frequency is alive and well! In the past year or
 so, there have been quite a number of ops find-
 ing their way to the frequency, and some have
 expressed their appreciation in finding a spot for
 slow CW. It also helps that 15 meters has been
 fairly good for the most part. The mention in
 The Key Note, and the link on the FISTS web
 page has directed a fair number of new FIST
 members and slower CW ops to the FSC, so I
 appreciate that! . 73, Bill VA5CW Fists #3664

There is an Egroup that passes code related discussion around. Everything from operating tips and CW etiquette to making skeds. It is a good spot to get some insight into how other ops do things, and maybe pick up a few ideas or answers to those "How come?" questions. A sample reply to the group is as follows: *I've been a ham only a little over a year and have been on CW for about 4 months now. Talk about feeling new! This is a great bunch here, and I've learned a lot. Don't be afraid to get out there and go for it. I eventually did, and wish I had gotten out there earlier. Hope to see you out there! Michael NØZD (Fists #8585)*

For example, I never knew why DX ops sent the term "DR", but thanks to the Code Talk egroup, I now know. One has to join to get the messages, but it is a good group of over 40 members at the moment, and we ARE learning stuff to help become a bit better at working CW QSO's.

It isn't all CW information related - the usual friendly messages about what project one is working on, or why someone will not be around this weekend (the dog ate my co-ax) tend to keep us all up to date, but for the most part, we try to share CW related information, including web sites of interest located in our bookmarks and resource section in the code talk home page at <http://www.qsl.net/va5cw/>

The URL for the Code Talk group itself is <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/codetalk> 73 Bill, VA5CW.

Don't QRM, Please

In the last Keynote, I noticed it was mentioned on the 20 meter frequency to QSY down for contacts. Please remember the County Hunter CW frequency is 14.056.5. The County Hunters has been avoiding QSYing up to prevent interference with the FISTS operators. A mention to QSY up would be appreciated. Thanks, 73 Raleigh (W8QOI) FISTS #7973

One of the problems with writing a column is the following. Should I assume that all club members have read all my previous columns and therefore I must come up with something new for each and every column - or - should I assume that since the club continues to grow, there are always new members who could benefit from material that I presented before and it is OK to repeat info from earlier columns? This month I'll take the second course and repeat some material I haven't written about in 3 years now - QRP and the Internet.

There is a wealth of information available on the Internet about virtually any subject anyone could think of. All you need to find it is a good search engine. Personally I find Google to be the current best of the bunch of the many that are available. Just go to www.google.com and type in the info you want to search for. As an example, I just typed in "k3wwp" (without the quotes) and Google found 1,450 web pages that contain my call letters in just .04 seconds. Google also has a nice search toolbar that integrates nicely with Internet Explorer.

On my own personal web site I have a ton of info relating to CW and QRP information which I will describe briefly(?) after explaining the purpose of my web site. It's there to encourage those of you who for one reason or another can't put up big antennas and/or run high power to still be active in ham radio. My site shows what can be accomplished with just 5 watts or less of output power into minimal wire antennas. You CAN be successful in ham radio with those limitations. I try to demonstrate that by showing my results with QRP, CW, and a random wire or dipoles in my attic or on my porch roof.

I believe that I am succeeding in my attempts because I have gotten many comments from hams over the 5 plus years that I've had my web site saying they've decided to try ham radio again from their apartments or other space limited situations.

You can access my site from either of the following URL's: www.alltel.net/~johnshan/ (that's a tilde before the johnshan in case it doesn't reproduce correctly) or www.qsl.net/k3wvp/.

My site is divided into sections, then pages within those sections. For example if I mention 'CW-FISTS Club' in the following paragraphs, that means go to the CW section, then to the FISTS Club page in that section.

Now let's finally get to the contents of my site after that intro. On 'Home-Main' you'll find a brief intro that includes a guestbook, monthly poll, brief list of CW contests for the coming weekend, and site news. Also the first of many features that shows QRP works - info on my streak that consists of making at least one QRP QSO every day since August 5, 1994. Included are the first QSO's from each of the previous 10 days of the streak.

We've got to move more rapidly now, as space is limited in these columns. Looking for something specific on my site? Go to 'Home-Index - Search'. See my station and antennas on 'Home-Station Pictures'.

My Awards section shows my progress in the various major awards. This section, I think, really is encouraging to many hams since it shows you can get the major awards with a minimal QRP setup.

If you're a contester, the Contesting section contains a calendar listing all (hopefully) contests that include CW. If you're new to contesting, check 'Contesting-Tips' or read my Contest Reports to learn the tricks and skills I've used to win many contests over the years. Yes, you can be a winner with a minimal setup.

If DX is your bag (is that phrase still in vogue?), then 'DX-Find a QSL Route' will help you get that sought after QSL. This page provides direct access to most, if not all of the QSL route info available on the Internet. I'm proud that this feature was written up on the ARRL web site back in September 2001. Are you new to DX? Then

'DX-Working DX - Tips' is for you. Also there are tips for getting that rare DX QSL. This busy section also contains links to DX Spots, Buro info, and more.

My Logs section lists all my QRP QSO's from 1964 to the present. Might be interesting to see if you've ever worked me if you're not sure. If you have, and want a QSL for any reason, I QSL 100 percent here, with or without an SASE.

Propagation is another section I'm proud of and that is very popular with visitors. It contains current conditions, predictions, and my personal observations from the previous day.

Are you looking for a QRP rig? 'QRP-QRP Rigs' contains a listing of virtually all known QRP rigs with a capsule summary of each, links to their web sites, and reviews of some of the rigs contributed by you, my visitors. Unsure of the QRP frequencies? That info is in this section also. Then there is more info on my streak that I mentioned earlier.

In 'Visitors List - K Calls' you can read many of the comments I referred to in the intro to this column. There are also pages to cover A, N, W, DX calls and Non-Hams as well. There are comments from folks in all 50 states, all continents, and over 109 countries.

Before we conclude, I should also mention my Links section. If you didn't find what you were looking for on my web site, the info is probably available on one of the sites contained in my categorized links.

Whew, that was quite a hurried tour of my web site. I hope you'll take the time some day to visit if you haven't already done so. Even if the things I listed in this column don't strike your fancy, there is much more there that I didn't have the space to describe. Oh, and I almost forgot - all back issues of my column are available in 'CW-FISTS Columns'. Send me your questions, column ideas, etc. to K3WVP, 478 E. High St., Kittanning, PA 16201-1304 or johnshan@alltel.net. Till next month, 73. -30-

FISTS AWARDS

By Dennis K6DF

So far two logs have been received for the 15th Anniversary Award #1 (150). **The first one received was from Mike, K8XF, and the second one received was from Jim, K9JXW.** Congratulations to you both . . . award certificates will not be available for this Award #1 until around May or June. Please be patient and I will get the certificates to you as soon as possible.

A word about award logs: As many of you know, I try my very best to get the FISTS awards out to you in a very short timeframe. When possible, awards are sent out the same day they are received, but the turnaround time is determined by how well organized your log is.

When submitting a log for a FISTS award, please *DO NOT* send me copies of your log pages for the last 2 years and expect me to look through your log for FISTS contacts even if you highlight them. I simply do not have the time to do that, and from now on I will return the log to you as REJECTED.

Copy all FISTS related log information and make sure it includes; Call, FISTS number, points (if needed), Frequency, Date, QTH, CC number (if needed). If you are submitting a hand written log DO NOT worry about sorting your log.

Please, if you are printing your log from a computer: Sort your log by FISTS number for Century awards. Sort your log by CC number for Platinum awards.

Logs sorted by Call, Date, or Band take longer to dupe check and will hold up the issuing of your award in a timely manner.

Above all, check your award log for duplicate numbers.

Once a paper log has been checked I do not keep it as they take up too much space. Therefore, when you apply for another award be sure to send the entire log for that award.

You may apply for an award via e-mail by attaching your award log in one of the following formats: Excel, Word, or a plain text file. Please DO NOT send any formatted files. By this I mean do not highlight text or use color text, borders, etc. Do not use html codes.

The Awards e-mail Address is: FISTSAWARDS@attbi.com

Feel free to send questions about awards to this address as well.

When applying for the "Century" awards, (Basic Century, Silver, Gold and Diamond) please include a point column in your log as these awards run on a point system. 1 point for contacts in your own country, 2 points for DX contacts, and 3 points for working a club with a FISTS number.

The Platinum awards, (Platinum, Platinum 250, and Platinum 500) DO NOT run on the point system. Platinum awards go by the number of Century Club (CC) numbers collected via on the air QSO's with FISTS member stations. A CC number may only be used once for Platinum awards.

Example: You earn your Platinum award (100 different CC numbers), you then may add to that award total, 150 more "different" CC numbers to obtain your Platinum 250 award. Same applies for the Platinum 500 award, simply add 250 more "different" CC numbers to your 250 award.

AWARDS ISSUED in FEB 2002

BASIC CENTURY (CC)

G0CEK	KN9X
G0VPI	M0BLG
G3CRC	M0PCB
G3LPU	M5AJ0
G3VMP	VA3EWP
G3YSK	W6YHM
G4HWK	W9UQB
G4ZVR	WD9EMF
K6TN	ZL1ATW

Special Event in June

SILVER CENTURY

GSWL2 K7RRR KC0M KH6HE
W1GUE W9FFU WU3H

GOLD CENTURY

K7ZPE KC0M M5ABN W1GUE
W9FFU WB0PYE

DIAMOND CENTURY

G0ORA VE2ENB

2 X ORP AWARD

K4UK

PLATINUM AWARD

9A4MF G4AQZ K2VT K7RRR
K7ZPE KC0M KF6QKI M0ANL
PY2DBU W0LHU W1GUE W9FFU
WB0ZES

PLATINUM 250 AWARD

AA1KS K9JXW KC0M
W1GUE W9FFU

PLATINUM 500 AWARD

G4LHI K8HBI K9JXW
PP6CW

WORKED ALL STATES AWARD

KC0M KO6TQ W4BX
W9FFU WA3GNW

RAG CHEWERS AWARD

KC7HCR
KC0JKD

Special Event in May

Mark your calendar --The Poughkeepsie Amateur Radio Club will operate special event station W2CVT from the Samuel F. B. Morse home in Poughkeepsie, NY from 1400Z - 2000Z on May 4, 2002. Two stations will operate on 7.125, 14.250, 21.125, and 28.110. Send a QSL and a 9x12 SASE (\$0.57) for an unfolded certificate to: Don Stein, W2PTF, 3 Little Road, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590. They will try to accommodate mode requests, so if you hear them on SSB, ask them to QSY for a CW contact.

Metro Amateur Radio Club (MAC) joins forces with the Pisa, Italy Amateur Radio Club for joint Special Event Stations. Event highlights Sister Cities - Niles, Illinois and Pisa, Italy-and offers ham radio "Pisan Tower Award." On June 1 & 2, 2002, Metro Amateur Radio Club (MAC) and the Pisa Amateur Radio Club will participate in a joint venture of International significance. Niles, Illinois and Pisa, Italy are Sister Cities and in an effort to bring the communities a little closer, each club will set-up and operate amateur (ham) radio stations from their respective leaning towers.

For decades amateur radio operators have enhanced International goodwill utilizing wireless communication. This event continues the tradition by drawing attention to two communities thousands of miles apart with something very special in common. The Pisa club will locate at the legendary Leaning Tower of Pisa, while the MAC group operates from America's Leaning Tower in Niles, Illinois.

Using both voice and Morse code, ham operators around the world will try to contact both towers in order to win a special "Pisan Tower Award." MAC secretary, and event organizer, Mike Dinelli: "We anticipate making contact with over 2,000 radio amateurs worldwide during this event."

While this is not FISTS sponsored, there will be a number of FISTS members manning the key, including Mike Dinelli, N9BOR, Philip Lazar, K9PL, Steve Wolfcale, N9WAT, John Meyer, K9QVB, Herb Scarpelli, WK9O and Norm Geuder,NG9U.

Metro Amateur Radio Club (MAC) provides amateur radio training classes with Morse code at the Leaning Tower Family YMCA in Niles. They also offer a Slow Speed Code Training Net three times a month on 40-meters. Interested parties can contact MAC at (847) 933-1043 or on the Web at <http://www.qsl.net/mac>
Metro ARC 9423 Kolmar Ave. Skokie, IL
60076-1321 Phone 847-933-1043
Fax 773-353-1514
e-mail: mac@qsl.net.

The recent article about contesting was outstanding. I agree with all that John Shannon said about keeping the QSOs short and sweet, and to the point.

I would like to add that the format of the exchange is also important for quick contesting. If the rules say that the exchange is to be - RST, FISTS number and name, then each station should send the information in that order. When ops change the order it makes for confusion in the log, whether computerized or paper. Listen to the exchanges in the ARRL DX or CQWPX contests. They almost always send it in the order specified in the rules. Contests are a lot of fun and paying attention to just a few details can really improve our scores. Steve Altig - N7IF

It helps me to have the information I need to send, in the right order, written out in front of me I've found it's worth the couple minutes it takes to tune around and listen for the correct exchange. The time you spend doing that will more than pay off in the time you'll save by not having to give fills as often. - Nancy, WZ8C

Radio Shack HTX-10 Help Needed

I recently purchased a Radio Shack HTX-10 (the newest 10 meter transceiver, not to be confused with the HTX-100 made in the 1980's) and was told "there is a modification you can get off the internet to add CW to it". It comes factory with USB/LSBAM/FM, BUT NO CW ! It has a great SCAN feature I like, and for the price, I can install it in the family van, and leave it for those "short trips" instead of taking apart the Station each time.

I have looked on QRZ.com and other "radio mod sites", but have yet to find any modification to add CW. FISTS Ops would come nearer knowing then the "average Ham", so wonder if I could get a request in the next KEYNOTE ?

I can be contacted via e-mail address kb0qz@arrl.net or via my address as listed on qrz.com. Tnx es 73, Marty KB0QZ FISTS# 1780 *Here's your request, Marty -- if anyone can help a FISTS member will know! - Nancy WZ8C*

CQ CQ CQ de Morse Code. Now that I have your attention, I would like to visit with you for just a minute. I got my start in England when Sir Francis Ronalds built a telegraph in his garden. Samuel F. B. Morse formulates the elements of a relay system. A line was constructed between Baltimore and Washington and the message, 'What hath God wrought!' was sent on May 24, 1844.

Boy what a start. Just a baby, but I was full of hope. I linked the two coasts of the United States in 1861. By 1861 - 1865 I was a young boy but starting to flex my muscles in the U.S. Civil War. The term "radio" did not show up until 1906. Mr. Mahlon Loomis transmits wireless messages between two mountains 18 miles using 2 kites. Boy, now we are having some big fun. DX is. In 1898 the U.S. Navy establishes coastal stations and begins to outfit the fleet with wireless communications.

The English Channel, not a problem in 1899 for Marconi. And then 12th December 1901 the letter 's' crossed the Atlantic. I was a strong young man in 1912. A lot of people depended on me. But the Titanic still sank.

Amateur radio got into the picture in 1916 with the station 2pm sending the first transcontinental relay message from New York to California. I was honored in 1919 when President Woodrow Wilson makes the first presidential radio broadcast to American Troops in Europe. In 1924, Amateurs received new bands: 80, 40, 20, and 5 meters. But by 1926 the old spark transmission was prohibited for use by Amateurs.

I have been in countless wars and combats all over the world. If you could have seen me or been there, you would look at me a little differently. Given countless hours of enjoyment. You name it, I have been there or done it. All washed up I don't think so. What happens to me well that depends on you. But if you want a very personal friend give me a try. Mr. Morse Code. Fists #4454 AB7VS Charles Thornock

Motions saved with bug

CHARACTER	MOTIONS		MOTION SAVED		NUMBER	KEY	BUG	SAVINGS
	KEY	BUG	WITH	BUG				
B	4	2		2	1	5	5	0
D	3	2		1	2	5	4	1
F	4	3		1	3	5	3	2
H	4	1		3	4	5	2	3
I	2	1		1	5	5	1	4
L	4	3		1	6	5	2	3
S	3	1		2	7	5	3	2
U	3	2		1	8	5	4	1
V	4	2		2	9	5	5	0
X	4	3		1	0	5	5	0
Z	4	3		1	TOTAL	50	34	16
TOTAL	39	23		16				

The above figures show that to form the letters listed on the regular key 39 motions are necessary, whereas the same letters can be made on the bug with 23 motions. This is a saving of 41 percent for almost half of the alphabet, or of about 20 percent for the entire alphabet.

Of course with most folks using a keyer, the paddle motions are less for some other letters.

CHARACTER	MOTIONS WITH:			MOTIONS SAVED		MOTIONS SAVED	
	KEY	BUG	KEYER	WITH	BUG	WITH	KEYER
G	3	3	2		0		1
J	4	4	2		0		2
M	2	2	1		0		1
O	3	3	1		0		2
P	4	4	3		0		1
Q	4	4	3		0		1
W	3	3	2		0		1
Y	4	4	3		0		1
TOTAL	27	27	17		0		10

No wonder it's easier to send with a keyer. Of course using a keyboard would require only one motion per character and letter. The ultimate I guess. Stan, K4UK

G8PG vertical

Here is an antenna you may want to try if you are short on space or cannot put up an outside antenna. Here is how Greg, WB9MII made his. Thanks for sharing the info, Greg!

I obtained a "closet pole" from a hardware store and varnished it. It was 8 ft long so I could stand it up vertically, and the floor and ceiling would hold it in place. This is really supposed to be made with a bamboo pole but checking local garden shops none is available around here as yet.

Starting from the bottom and leaving a 2 inch "pigtail" to attach the feeder to, I wound roughly 90 ft of number 26 enamelled wire helically bottom to top. Held in place every couple of inches by a few turns of electrical tape. Turns were roughly 1/4" apart but this isn't critical, just get as much wire on the pole as you can.

Back to the bottom, scraped the enamel off the pigtail and soldered 1 end of 13 ft or so of number 24 speaker wire to it for a feeder. Hooked the other end of the feeder to the random wire input of my ATU.

For "grounding" I use an MFJ artificial ground with 2 radials..1 sixteen ft and 1 30 ft for 20 and 40. Note: the antenna loads like a champ 80 and up, and next 160 contest I'm going to try it..i'm sure it'll load up there too. Rig is an FT817 at 5 watts 73 Greg WB9MII Fists 3347

10 Meters

I spent 30 minutes by the rig after work this afternoon listening to the ham bands while riding my exercise bike. I was listening on the 10 Meter (28 MHz) band for CW DX and heard lots of voice/phone traffic on the CW sub-band. Most of it was in upper side-band, one occurrence in lower side-band (LSB) and all in Spanish on the following frequencies (MHz): 28.0142; 28.0345; 28.0400 (this one LSB); and 28.0540 (with echo reverberation, a end beep tone and a cascade of tones!). All of this between 2315 and 2345 hours UTC. I spun the dial further up into the beacon sub-band of 10 meters and at 28.2530 MHz heard a

brief USB conversation in English, dialect uncertain. One side of this conversation (not deserving to be called a "QSO"!) lamented that they were not on 2 meters, yet! In none of these conversations did I hear a call sign.

I have read in the Keynote where Geo has commented on the fishing ships occasionally talking on the 80 meter CW sub-band. He has also mentioned voice traffic on the 20 meter CW sub-band, and I have occasionally heard this too, especially around 14.0400 MHz.

I am writing because in my brief 9 year experience as a licensed amateur radio operator, I have never heard as much abuse of the CW sub-bands by voice modes as I am hearing lately, especially on 10 meters. I am not certain that the FCC can do much about it since most of the emissions appear to come from outside our borders. Perhaps it was a mistake to have lax enforcement over the years of violations by so-called "free banders" in the gap between the unlicensed 11 meter Citizens Band and the licensed 10 meter amateur radio band. It appears that "free band" craze is growing and moving up into our limited CW operating spectrum.

On a positive note, of sorts, maybe the upcoming decline in propagation with the course of the sunspot cycle will cause such folks to lose interest in talking on our 10 meter CW spectrum. Now there's something to look forward to and only 12 years to wait! Steve - N9TRK FISTS NR 1915; CC 872

Sprint Logging Program

Steve, N9OH (soon to be a FISTS member) is writing up a Fists Sprint module for the WriteLog contesting software. It will be available for download at this site <http://www.writelog.com/ThirdPartyDownloads.htm>

It is still in the beta stage but Steve tells me it will be ready for the Spring Sprint. We need some beta testers to be sure it is working properly. This will be of great interest to the contesters. 73 Radio K4IA Craig "Buck"

Readers Write:

I can understand the frustration of Cal, AA8VM. I have called many nights on 80M low end and in N/T portion and gotten no replies. But, every chance I get I will be on the air banging out CQ FISTS looking for a call. One of the reasons I will keep calling is an incredible surprise reply to my CQ FISTS one evening. I got a reply from EA8/DF2PD, Fred on Tenerife Island. He apologized for not being a FISTS member but wanted to respond to my strong signal. We had a very nice chat. It was special for me, even though Fred is not a club member. He was my first outside North America DX contact on CW on 80M. That might be nothing to some members, but I was flying high for a couple days just on that one contact. I work the bands when I can and hope to contact more members on the "FUN MODE". VY 73 de Karl, KB1DSB, FISTS # 6938, kb1dsb@arrl.net

In Issue 2/2002, pg. 13, Phil Karras, KE3FL, comments on "The Correct Use of Metric." Due to the confusion being resolved about use of "m" and "M" in connection with Hertz (Hz), the somewhat convoluted, "So, if Mike is correct, then we can use MCW (Amplitude-modulated CW) in any ham band..." seems to present the definitive answer. Not so!

MCW (now A2A by current emission designators) is no longer authorized below 50.1 MHz. It is authorized about 144.1 MHz on 2 meters, and anywhere on the higher frequency bands. Source: FCC Rules, Part 97.305 (FCC Rule Book, ARRL, 12th ed.)

As an aside to this, CW transmitted through a SSB transmitter with suppressed carrier is not MCW when the tone waveshape is a sine wave. However, care must be taken to ensure that the tone modulator emits a clean sine wave. Unfortunately, most CPO circuits in use today are based on a 555 timer IC or similar, which emit a horrible triangular waveshape or worse. They may sound acceptable for their intended purpose of code instruction or practice; however, when audio coupled into a mike circuit of an SSB transmitter, the result will be spurious emissions, trash images of a broadband nature, extending on both sides of the fundamen-

tal frequency. The result then is clearly a **prohibited emission**. Where a clean sine wave is used to apply CW modulation to an SSB transmitter with suppressed carrier, ordinary clean CW (A1A) results; lacking an emitted carrier it is not MCW and may be used on any frequency on any ham band. When attempting this, it is strongly urged that you request critical signal reports from amateurs copying you with strong signals. Key clicks may also result, regardless of tone purity.

Because CW generated in this manner requires a receiver with BFO (or a product detector) to demodulate it, it is of limited utility, useful perhaps to add CW capability to an SSB-only transceiver. Sure enjoy FISTS and "The Key Note." 73 Bob Wheaton, W5XW #4038

Been having fun, I worked D2BB in the Republic of Angola with 100 watts and random wire 20 ft up, then worked 5V7A in Togo West Africa with 4 watts from HW9 with sam antenna. Even have QSL's to prove it. I would like to you do that with SSB from West cost USA. CW works and is fun! Bob, KJ6CA

Most of my adult life I "owned" a horse. He was a wonderful friend. My time with him allowed me to relax and regain perspective. Today, with the continuing stresses we all face, it's nice to be able to relax and "ride the old horse" of CW. Where else can you put aside the day's problems, get a bit of mental (and physical) exercise, and perhaps meet a new friend. What a wonderful mode CW is! Galen WA6SSB, #2394

An error in the Key Note listed 8479 as WA1OFR. He is WA1OIR. On Aug 20, 2001, I listened in on one of his QSO's, and heard he was from Westfield MA. When he finished I gave him a call and told him I have an old shipmate living in Westfield. I gave him Jack's phone number and he said he would phone him the next day and call me back on the same freq, which he did. We chatted for an hour and made a schedule for Wed & Fri evenings at 7pm PST on 14050. This has been a great pleasure and I look forward to each chat with Bill. Jack and I were radio operators in the Navy in WWII on an Amphibious landing ship in the S.Pacific. 73 Dean W7VVW

FISTS SPRINT

The following are the Official Rules for the FISTS SPRINT.

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

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

DATE AND TIME: The Winter SPRINT will run from 1700 UTC to 2100 UTC on Second Saturday in February.

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

The Summer SPRINT will run from 1700 UTC to 2100 UTC on Second Saturday in July.

The Fall SPRINT will run from 1700 UTC to 2100 UTC on Second Saturday in October.

Please note times are in UTC; daylight savings time is NOT a factor.

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

ENTRY CLASSES: There are three entry classes:

QRO is over 5 watts output power.

QRP which is limited to 5 watts output power or less.

Club (regardless of power). Entry class MUST be shown on logs to be considered for entry in a particular class, or will be assumed QRO.

An entry must be ONE class only, no combination of classes is allowed

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

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

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

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

SCORING:

Each QSO with a FISTS member: 5 points.

Each QSO with a non-FISTS member: 2 points.

MULTIPLIERS: Each U.S. state or Canadian province counts as one multiplier.

Count each only once, no matter how many times worked.

DX countries count as a multiplier each time worked.

If a DX country is worked several times on different bands, each QSO counts as a multiplier.

LOG SUBMISSIONS: *Sending the logs is what counts, and they will be spot checked for accuracy and correct scoring procedures.*

All log entries must be received 30 days after the Sprint to be considered valid. Logs not sent to the proper address will not be considered for entry.

All logs MUST contain the following information to be considered for entry;

Your name and call sign. Club name if entry is for a club. Your FISTS number if a member. Entry class.

Your claimed score. List of claimed multipliers.

The entry form is the best way to record this information.

ELECTRONIC LOGS; *We will accept E-logs in standard Cabrillo format, or ascii text files. If your not sure about your format, please contact me before the contest entry deadline.*

E-logs are sent to W8PIG@yahoo.com ONLY.

PAPER LOGS:

Send log and forms to:

***Dan Shepherd, N8IE
1900 Pittsfield St.
Kettering, Oh 45420***

FISTS CLUB "DOWN UNDER" Local News - April 2002

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SUGGESTED H/F CALLING FREQUENCIES

(160M) - 1.808MHz, (80M) - 3.558MHz, (40M) - 7.028MHz, (30M) - 10.118MHz, (20M) - 14.058MHz,

(17M) - 18.085MHz, (15M) - 21.058MHz, (12M) - 24.918MHz, (10M) - 28.058MHz.

U.S. Novice - Sub Bands: (15M) - 21.158MHz, (10M) - 28.158MHz.

NEW MEMBER

We offer a warm welcome to our latest "Down Under" member: -

ZL2BLQ - Stan # 9068, joins us from Greytown, in the Wairarapa and is our first member from this area. He is a nominated examiner for the Amateur Written and Morse Tests, and reports having passed two candidates who recently obtained their General Licences. He comments "Blimey, that 5 words a minute almost sends you to sleep!"

(No doubt when you become more acquainted with the FISTS CW Club, you will mention it to your candidates Stan. Keep up the good work! - Ed).

VK/ZL MEMBERS NEWS

VK4BCM - Bevan # 9053, advises that he will be attending the reunion of ex New Zealand Post Office employees in Paraparaumu at the "Southwoods Vintage Car Museum". This takes place on the weekend of 18 / 19 May 2002. This reunion ends around midday on Sunday 19th May. It is planned that a separate "FISTS GET TOGETHER" will be held afterwards in Waikanae, at 1300 Hours. If there are any ex N.Z.P.O. employees that are FISTS Members together with their wives - Bring them along please. Prior notice of numbers should be forwarded to Ralph, ZL2AOH.

More details of this "FISTS GET TOGETHER", later in this newsletter.

ZL2BU - Richard # 9020, has advised that he is presently in the Falkland Islands (VP8), and is staying with family there. He is receiving the newsletter by e-mail. (Any chance of any activity Richard? I'm sure your VP8 call would be really rare to FISTS members - Ed).

VK2PS - Steve # 9022, recently sent in a very neat hand written entry for the Oceania Contest 2001. As this is written, none other than Ralph, ZL2AOH is transcribing his entry onto computer, as this year, for the first time, all entries are to be kept on computer. Ralph remarked "this is the neatest log I have had the pleasure of seeing, it must have taken hours to write up with over 500 entries! Sorry Steve, you will have to wait for the results!"

ZL1CDX - Turner # 9048, writes he has been quiet on the radio recently what with the holidays and a major painting and decorating project under way. He notes some great African DX (9U5D and 5V6BR) on 21.270 MHz SSB and laments it is a great pity they don't use the key!

ZL3CED - Charlie # 9039, requests assistance in the form of a CW Buddy, who has the time up his sleeve once or twice a week on 80 Metres CW from the end of April. I have only two CW contacts under my belt so far and would like to gain a little more experience. My sending and receiving speed is around 10 to 12 words a minute. Anyone interested, should have e-mail access so that I can check my progress. Charlie can be reached at: - Charlie.Dawson@airnz.co.nz

ZL2BLQ - Stan # 9068, writes that he has been on 10 metres these past two years, about 25% CW, having just renewed his 10-10 membership and chasing all the awards that are there. The band is fast fading out so it is time to catch up on jobs around the house before getting too involved with the other bands. My quad is still standing, but has been repaired 4 times over the past 20 years it has been there, so not too bad!

Had a contact with Richard, AA1KS, who sent me an old FISTS newsletter, kindly offering to sponsor me. Saw the details of the VK/ZL Chapter and so decided to join. My CW speed remains at between 15 and 18 words a minute and I will be looking for FISTS members as I return to the other bands, when some of these chores are completed!

ZL2BIL - Bill # 9003, suggests something new to keep one busy as Autumn and Winter approach.

"Has anybody else taken up The Ultimate Art of Grid Hunting?" You can find this site on AC6V's [just enter AC6V in your search engine] enormous site under Grids. There is also the Field Hunter's site as well. This adds another dimension to DX-ing. Both sites display a table of contacts etc.[honour system], and there are awards to be gained. You'll also need a fairly comprehensive World Atlas and, if you can find one, a book of grids. Otherwise go to Maps on the AC6V site and download Amateur Radio Maps, which is a FREE program, but has the advantage of a built-in Grid locator...just enter the Latitude/Longitude from your atlas and bingo, instant grid location! - Good occupation, for a rainy afternoon, catching up on the squares.

ZL1BRS - Syd # 9013, writes, at last I'm back on the air, however family matters keep interrupting my efforts? (Not that much, judging by the number of QSL cards accompanying your note. - Ed)

OVERSEAS MEMBERS NEWS

G4KGG - Peter # 7165, writes that he was very pleased to receive the January / February "Down Under Newsletter", by e-mail. He remarks "This is a brilliant idea and thanks to all concerned!" (I hope this will become a permanent new free service Peter, and would add that if there are any U.K. / European members who do not wish to receive the Down

Under Newsletter, please contact your Webmaster - Ed). He further adds that a new station has been established at Beaumanor Hall, near Shepshed, Leicestershire, mainly for students attending courses on the subject of World War II. Call Signs either G3BMR or GX3BMR. It is not open that regularly, only when the children attend the course, but the kids love the period receivers, they can also have a supervised TX on the Kenwood TS570.

UA6JD - Vlad # 1385, is very keen to work as many overseas members as possible this year, as he would like to obtain the FISTS 15th Anniversary Awards. If anyone with e-mail would like to set up a schedule to contact him he can be reached at ua6jd@mailru.com

GSWL2 - Pete # 4822, sent a nice e-mail to say how he enjoyed reading "Down Under". He mentions that he operated from Bahrain Island as MP4BIM in 1970 - 71 whilst serving with the Royal Air Force as a Telegraphist. Nowadays he is content to remain a listener, from Bourmemouth in Southern England. He has a very interesting homepage on line together with a DX information - see Web Sites of interest. (Not often we hear from a FISTS SWL member, so if you suddenly receive a report from Pete, I'm sure your card would be appreciated - Ed)

G3CWW - Tony # 0595, in response to all the talk about Rhombic antennas replies with the following - "I could talk at length on the subject of rhombics, having been much involved during Service days - we used them in triple diversity for reception, so we had quite a big farm! The land in between was cultivated for potato growing, by Land Army girls. The work of maintenance, mast erection etc was done by off-watch operators, this being regarded as a suitable alternative to orthodox PT!"

K4KSR - Bill # 8440, sent the following - "Worked Dave, VK3DBD, for a second time this afternoon, in the thick of the early evening FISTS QRM between the US and Europe. He was a solid S7, when he turned his beam he was able to hear my ½ watt "solid copy RST 519" which is absolutely amazing in that QRM. Normally, I think of ZL/VK contacts as being reserved for very late at night, when the noise level is down low, and rare that is!"

M0AVV - Chuck # 2896, reports that he is now the proud owner of an "ALINCO DX77E" H/F rig, thanks to his good wife Mandy, who purchased it as a birthday present.

G3KMG - David # 0124, writes - "Am at present experimenting with a vertical 3 element 'Half Yagi' on 15 Metres. Use mainly chicken wire as a ground plane (as with the 40 Metre vertical). Compared with the vertical on it's own, it has a 'null' of 16dB and a gain of 3dB according to my FS meter. Not too exciting, but I find it much quieter on receive than my other 3 antennas. European signals are well down, less general noise and this afternoon a VE4 has severe echo not audible on the vertical array. Getting good reports from W/V E - on it's favoured direction. The next will be a quad driven array on 15 Metres. I use an indoor dipole and a simple vertical on the chimney for reference!"

Dave adds "We must do our best to keep MORSE alive in our lifetime. It's going to be a struggle. You have no doubt heard of the RSGB Morse "assessment" for the new licence? What a farce! Better stop, could go on all night! (Interesting Dave - Would appreciate more news on the quad driven array as I too have a big lawn. Agree regarding the Morse assessment! - Ed)

PIRATE ACTIVITY - FOOLED ONCE AGAIN!

From a New Zealand Amateur - "On the 15th March 2002, at 0428 U.T.C. a strong station was heard tuning up on 21.020MHz. A few seconds later he announced his call sign as VP6DX. Thinking this must be the Ducie Island DX operation, I dropped everything and quickly called him".

"To my surprise, he replied straight away and we exchanged reports. Nothing else - as one would expect from a rare expedition. After this, once more, he sent - de VP6DX. Receiving no answer he then disappeared!"

"Thinking that's odd - where is the pile up?"

I decided to check the appropriate web site. Information at the time stated that the call sign was yet to be announced. Two days later, I rechecked to find the call sign VP6DI had been issued".

- At this point, I wrote a very sad note in my log - book against the entry, saying "PIRATE".

What makes things worse, is the fact that this Pirate happened to be a damned good CW operator. His speed was about 35 w.p.m"

WEB SITES OF INTEREST

Special Event Station GB90MGY - The R.M.S. "TITANIC" Memorial Station site: -

<http://www.gdrs.net/titanic>

The R.M.S. "TITANIC" and Jack Phillips story complete with historic pictures, messages and ships call signs: -

<http://www.gdrs.net/titanic/titanic%20radio%20page.htm>

The Site of Glen Dunstan, VK1XX, presents a wealth of additional information on the Titanic disaster:-

<http://www.hf.ro>

Special Event Station GB50 - Have a look at: - <http://www.gb50.com/>

The Homepage of Pete - FISTS # GSWL2: - <http://www.pgr1.co.uk>

"The first 50 years of Radio" - on one massive site. Thousands of documents, sound clips, photographs and details of early equipment. Lots of Titanic material, including many dramatic and poignant Marconi Radiotelegrams about survivors. Go to: - <http://www.marconicalling.com>

TRADING POST

ZL1MRX - Jeff # 9001, has 19 "MORSUM MAGNIFICAT" MORSE magazines numbers 58 to 76 for sale, at \$2 each or \$30 the lot. Enquiries to QTHR or monkfish@hyper.net.nz

CHATHAM ISLAND ZL7

The Kermadec DX Association is going to undertake a "DXPEDITION" to Chatham Island (ZL7), later this year. We realise that ZL7 is not the most wanted country in the world, but because of the proposed timing of this DXPEDITION we anticipate making a significant amount of contacts with both Dxers and contesters alike.

Due to the non - availability of some members of our very successful ZL8RI and ZL9CI teams, we are now looking for additional operators who are experienced in both CW and SSB operation.

As this will be 24 hour per day operation, we are looking for operators, who feel they have the willingness and ability to operate during both day time and night time. If you are interested and would like more information please contact the undersigned DIRECT.

Best 73's and Good Dxing Ken Holdom ZL4HU, Group Organiser / Team Leader / QSL Manager, Kermadec DX Association
P O Box 7 Clyde Central Otago New Zealand

INFORMATION COURTESY OF

THE NEW ZEALAND DX REFLECTOR NEWSGROUP

TO SUBSCRIBE or UNSUBSCRIBE Go to - <http://www.nzart.org.nz/nzart/lists/dx.html>

To submit a DX Alert or Message to the group, send E-mail to - nzdxr@nzart.org.nz

Comments or FAQ to Lee ZL2AL - leejen@paradise.net.nz

This is the NZDXR DX Reflector hosted by NZART THE NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION OF RADIO TRANSMITTERS

AUSTRALIAN AMATEUR RADIO LICENCES

The following information from VK2MQX - Chris # 9057

Australia currently has 5 classes of amateur licence with the possible addition of yet another class, which would be similar to the new UK "Foundation", licence. (WIA NSW Annual Report 2001, p.11)

Here is a summary of HF frequencies available to VK amateurs according to licence class:

Novice Limited: no HF access.

Novice: 3.525 - 3.625MHz, 21.125 - 21.300MHz, 28.100 - 28.600khz.

Limited: 29MHz - 29.7MHz (FM only).

Intermediate: All HF frequencies.

Unrestricted: All HF frequencies.

A full explanation of VK licences can be found on the Australian Communications Authority web-site:

www.aca.gov.au/publications/info/amateur

A description of the UK 'Foundation' licence can be found in the February edition of Amateur Radio magazine (p.18) and also on the RSGB web-site.

(Thanks Chris, now, we know where to look, for Novice Licensee's - Ed)

MEMBERS COMPUTER NEWS

Renewing membership was ZL1MAD-Dusty # 9051, who included a generous donation with his subscription. Many thanks. Dusty reports that he has ordered a computer, so we hope to see his name on the e-mail list shortly. If you have e-mail facilities but have not notified us, please do so. In addition to circulating the newsletter by e-mail to those who chose that means. We also send out occasional items of interest, as they come to hand.

The morning after FISTS Down Under was sent out by e-mail, ZL2AH-Ralph # 1073, received this e-mail from Bresso, Italy. Hi Ralph, I read on "Down Under" of March your profile. Congratulations! I obtained my first licence in 1958, but already during the WWII I was a boy going to radio shops to get exhausted tubes to see how they are made! E-mail, like Internet, is too easy: 50 watt CW with dipole, QSB, QRM - are more interesting, stimulating and competitive. But that is just the opinion of a man born at the valves-time. Many hams use PA, cluster and monster antennas and they are happy merely for 59+. I hope to meet you soon again on the bands. 73 from the other side of the world! I2VRF-Giancarlo (Gian) # 8325.

A couple of new e-mail addresses:

ZL3DL-Lindsay # 9016, reports: I have just opened an Internet account at home at last. (zl3dl@slingshot.co.nz) I managed to pick a computer at the right price so it's all go at home. You may like to place this info in the next membership list update. Not much on the ham front at the moment however did work an e-European member a week or so back on 20. In fact my first FISTS QSO!! Hope to improve my aerial in the next few months to get better TX/RX.

From Queensland, VK4AP-Warwick #9058, has a new address: -

lakew@austarnet.com.au

SHACK VISIT

During a stay in Nelson, ZL2AOH - Ralph, visited ZL2GQ-George # 9059 at his hilltop residence. He has a spectacular outlook covering the city, port and the whole of Tasman Bay. George has an ingenious mast supporting a two-element delta loop. With his hilltop situation, he has to avoid offending the locals with a permanent mast, so he used his skills as a precision engineer to design a hydraulic system, to erect the mast with the local water supply. The mast is rotated manually. George also has a modified Windom antenna.

While there, Ralph joined a regular net that George takes part in most days. It is the "Waipiro Net", that has been going for some years. They start at 16:15 hours local time with a ten minute Morse practice session on 7.015 MHz. This is followed by a SSB chat net at 16:30 hours on 7.104 MHz. Ralph had the pleasure of on-air meetings with some of the regular attendees, that include FISTS members ZL1IG - Jack # 9043, ZL1BMN - Bruce # 9049 and ZL2NV - Alec # 9046.

While in Nelson, Ralph also had the pleasure of a brief eyeball QSO with ZL4PO - Lester # 9044. Lester is busy with planning his participation in the forthcoming Mellish Reef Dxpediton.

NEW FISTS E-MAIL LIST CO-ORDINATOR

Last month's notice had Kathi's call incorrect. My apology Kathi. Here it is again with the correct call and a reminder of the e-mail address: N0FKA-Kathi # 5276 at: - FISTS-Elist@attbi.com

E-MAIL FORWARDING

Last month a few members had problems with e-mail forwarding of Fists Down Under and Key Note. The problem seems to be associated with file size limitations of their Internet provider. To overcome this, we have utilised a facility that breaks up larger files into smaller components. These are re-combined by the e-mail software at the receiving end. (Or that's what the instructions say.) So we hope that the use of this facility will solve any problems. Do please let us know if you are experiencing problems; we want you to receive a 100 service from us.

SOME SOUND ADVICE

We picked this off a FISTS reflector. What do you think?

Tim: Try not to use those DXpediton pileups to form an opinion of what CW should be like. There are old timers in those pileups and so-called "Big Guns" and they have no respect for others. It is "Dog Eat Dog" and there are no manners or ethics when it comes to those "Shark Infected Waters" with them in a "Feeding Frenzy". This is NOT what it is all about. I have heard bad language, name calling, and everything else in those situations. I have been on CW for 55 years plus six years as a Navy CW Radio operator and I stay away from them, because that is not what CW is all about. What makes CW a pleasure is when you have a rag chew for over an hour and get to know the other person, what he does for a living, where he lives, his other interests, etc. I had a one-hour QSO with G3KDE on 12 meters the other day and it is one of the nicest QSOs I can remember. We had so much in common it was great. That is what it is all about. Speed is not the only objective and that comes with time. I copy in my head and just jot down notes to remember to comment on, but that comes with experience. The main thing is to get on and operate CW. I look forward to contacting you. 73's de Stan W5ZF #6183

CQ CQ FISTS CQ CQ FISTS

LOWER NORTH ISLAND MEETING

NZ Post Office veterans are holding a reunion near Paraparaumu over the weekend 18-19 May 2002. At least one FISTS member will be there, VK4BCM-Bevan-9053. We thought that it would be a good opportunity for FISTS club members in and around Wellington to have a social gathering and to meet Bevan and any other FISTS members who may have travelled to the reunion, or otherwise might be in this region at the time. (Hawkes Bay and Taranaki members, how about joining us?)

It is proposed to meet for lunch at the Old Flame Restaurant on the corner of State Highway 1 and Kapiti Road at 13:00 hours on Sunday, 19 May 2002. The price for the all inclusive smorgasbord menu is \$15.95 a head, \$14.50 for senior citizens, (drinks extra of course.) We hope that as many members and their XYLS as possible will come along. It will be an occasion to celebrate three years of successful FISTS Club development Down Under, one that we hope to repeat regularly. We also hope that it will encourage FISTS members in other centres to organise similar gatherings.

So that we can arrange the catering and seating, please let Ralph ZL2AOH know if you are coming and numbers. (Contact details as at the masthead above.) I will give you a cut-off date for replies, in the May newsletter. Also, if you require assistance with transport, please let Ralph know. Incidentally, the Old Flame is a short stroll from the Paraparaumu railway station.

Membership (Changes since March 2002)

ADDITIONS:

2EOAGQ-BRIAN-0990	G3XLW-DAVID-8388	GSWL4-1367	SM5JAB-MICKE-8379
2EOSEA-MERVYN-8386	G3ZOD-GRA-8385	GW3LNR-ART-8377	W5THE-LEE-1026
G0GSJ-DAVE-8376	G4AXH-RICHARD-8381	M0BQD-LESA-8378	G3LWI-JOHN-0887
G4SFN-JIM-8384	MOCWY-GARY-8383	G3LWT-PETER-8387	G8UQV-FRANK-8380
PA0NCV-NICK-8382	ALTERATIONS: VE7KEY-FRANK-5272 now VA7FK		KG6CGT-KEITH-
8615 now WR6R	KC0DJQ-RICHARD-7289 now AB0RS		KC8NYW-ROB-7685 now AB8MR



KEY NOTE



Sec: E. (Geo) Longden, G3ZQS. 119 Cemetery Rd., DARWEN, BB3 2LZ, England. 01254-703948

<http://www.ascl.demon.co.uk/fists-hq/> or <http://www.smartgroups.com/vault/fists/>

E-Mail: fist1@btinternet.com

webmaster: webmaster@ascl.demon.co.uk

OFFICES

QSL Manager: M0AVW
32 Woodford Walk, Harewood Park, TS17 0LT

PRO: G4YLB. J.A. Welsh
3 Minster Cresc, DARWEN, BB3 3PY
CONTEST MANAGER: M0CLO
86 Coldnailhurst Ave, East Perry, CM7 5PY

COMMITTEE

Chairman
Vice Chairman
QSL Manager

P.R.O.
Rally Coordinator
Secretary
Committee

G4XHZ
G4YLB
M0AVW

G4YLB
G4PPG
G3ZQS
G4MZS

NETS

Sunday US: 0100Z on 14058
Friday: GX0IPX/P 1930 ON 3.558 (+/-)
also at 2200, on highest usable band

DX 14/21/28.058 on the hour for 15mins
Pse keep watch on all Novice allocations
UK Net Controls use GX0IPX/P

SUBS: e-mail Keynote £4.00, UK mail £5.00, EEC mail £7.00. Others £10.00. Your renewal date appears on the mailing label and your anticipation would be much appreciated. Up-dated listings may be obtained from HQ. Please include 3 2nd class stamps to cover return and running costs
Lapel Badges, £1.50 incl. **Fabric patches** £2.50 incl.
QSL Cards £7.00 per 100 or £10.00 per 200 (UK and EU pse add £1.00 for p/p. DX members - on advice.
Personalised stickers £1.00 per sheet of 65. Max order 5 sheets.

Please include your **CALLSIGN** on all correspondence.

Useful contacts:

M0AVW 01642-869619 <spence5@ntlworld.com>

M0AYI 01207-283192 <m0ayi@netscapeonline.co.uk>

All outgoing QSLs to M0AVW (address on banner). All UK members send stamps and labels (no envelopes necessary) to the appropriate sub-manager as below:
M or 2 calls (Except for Wales) M0AYI. 7 Tynedale Terrace, Annfield Plain, STANLEY, DH9 7TZ.
G0, GM0 etc (Except GW0). G3JRY. 3 Rochford Cresc, BOSTON, PE21 9AE
G3, GM3 etc (except GW3). G0UQF. 2 East St, Darfield, BARNSELY, S73 9AE.
G4, GM4 etc (Except GW4). M5AAQ. 6 Central Ave, SHEPSHED, LE12 9HP.
G2, G5, G6, G8 (Except for Wales) and **ALL special** (GB etc) calls to M0BPT. 38 Wheatley St, WEST BROMWICH, B70 9TJ.

All members in Wales. GW0SGG. 14 Heather Cresc, Sketty, SWANSEA, SA2 8HE

EU/DX Members: IRCs or UK Banknotes to M0AVW or US dollars to HQ. The Club will provide envelopes. Any

GREETINGS

'The March winds do blow and we shall have snow' - so goes the nursery rhyme though it has not rung true for quite a few years (well at least as far as the fluffy white stuff is concerned) but what it did do last year was to hatch some very interesting band openings so, being an optimist; I look for some more of the same for 2002.

Talking of band conditions, the weekend of 15/17 Feb saw the usual contest activity on all bands which encouraged me to take a shufti at the WARC allocations. On 18MHz, there were some nice pickings including Tunisia and one of the islands in the Sandwich group. Can't be bad.

Awards Manager

Bob, G0FRL, continues to be plagued by applications. Would all members please note that apps for awards should be sent direct to HQ or Dennis K6DF. Some of our on-air contacts go back a surprisingly long way. Frequently, with the benefit of a computer and logging program, I discover that the last QSO with a given station may run back as far as 1992 and with the old card index which went back through a host of old written logs, the last QSO with one particular station went back to my very first day on air - some 17 years if I remember. Oddly though, the subject of these elusive, memory tugging encounters are with individuals who have maintained regular operating patterns. Ships passing in the night indeed!

MIS-DIRECTED QSL CARDS

We have a strange situation here. Chuck is happily forwarding traffic to Stan, K4UK, and of course traffic is flowing in the other direction. Cards which are destined for non-members are periodically bundled up and shunted out to the RSGB buro by Chuck but when Stan receives such cards for US destinations, he is unable to dispose of them this way because the ARRL buro seemingly does not accept inter-US cards. Don't know how long it is going to be before the RSGB pulls the plug but currently, non-member US cards are being shunted across the pond and re-directed to the RSGB buro. This is a ludicrous situation and members will doubtless be thoroughly confused by it! Surely we do not need to remind folks that the FISTS buro, with the exception of G-QRP and the various services bureaux is strictly internal? There are a number of instances when members send cards to me here at HQ rather than to Chuck (please don't do it) and a surprising number are bundled up with GX0IPX cards destined for the RSGB buro. Be aware that I tend to hold non-FISTS cards until there is perhaps over 100 so in effect, delays in delivery are exaggerated.

SKW

Dear Geo,

Ref. Key Note February 2002. Page 3. M5AGL article.

In the article you say "LMK and it will be sorted." That is the reason for this message.

To the best of my knowledge the results of the Feb. 2001 SKW have never been published in Key Note.

I sent in an entry and each month eagerly looked through Key Note for the results, without success. I contacted you by letter, and also E-mail. about this matter but I regret you did not reply.

I did not press you on the matter as I fully appreciate you are a very busy person indeed and doing a wonderful job. I often wonder how you manage to cope.

Fists Activity Ladder. Jan.2002. I took part but found it was very poorly supported by our members. I managed to amass 151 points but it was a struggle. I will not be sending in an entry.

Rules. Personally I feel that points for contacts with non-members should NOT be allowed.

Best Wishes for 2002. 73 Dick Stanbridge. G8NT. Nr.0426 Good grief.... I hope I have not made a kokup. It does get a little hectic on occasions and under some circumstances I have been known to discard mail which should be held. Now I am desperately trying to recall the details... anyone help PLEASE!

ANTI-BIOTICS - NO CURE

We are still under sustained attack from viruses. Members should be aware of the potential for destructive damage these things can inflict, not to mention embarrassmen

Emails from addressees whose name begins with an underscore thus: joe.bloggs@serviceprovider.com are most suspect. In addition, there is likely to be an attachment which can appear to be anything (at random) from the infected machine's hard disk, but with a particular attribute, thus: filename.extension.extension. The sort of things I have been getting are: wallybanger.mp3.com

Now an MP3 file is usually music, and a com file is an executable. GOLDEN RULE, Do NOT save the attachment. DO NOT TRY TO OPEN THE ATTACHMENT. As soon as you do you will become infected. When you have become infected, your machine becomes the source of the next round of infection, as the virus promptly propagates itself to all entries in your address book!

A good quality CURRENT virus checker such as VET from Computer Associates or MacAfee will help to reduce this problem. The virus data signature file MUST be regularly updated (weekly is great) if you are going to catch the most recent editions of these things. Something that is 3-6 months old and installed on a 'one off' basis is not a lot of help to be honest. Useful websites: www.vet.com.au or www.macafee.com Andy Digby G0 J LX FISTS 358 Webmaster. email: webmaster@ASEL.demon.co.uk

Another point which should be made is that if you do contract a virus, as soon as you have cured it, warn everyone in your address book. If possible, name the bug and detail what you did to evict it.

EUCW/FISTS QRS PARTY

To encourage newcomers to Morse operating, and as a contribution to the activities of the European CW Association, FISTS CW Club invites all licensed radio amateurs, especially members of EUCW clubs, to take part in the annual EUCW/FISTS QRS Party.

This event provides an opportunity for EUCW club members, and non-members, to meet and exchange greetings with each other at a leisurely pace. At the same time it is an opportunity to make contacts qualifying for the prestigious Worked EUCW award.

Although not a contest in the normal sense of the word, there is a contest element for those who thrive on

challenge, with awards for those who score the most points, and a merit award for the "Most Readable Morse Heard" voted for by other contestants.

In this event, taking part is more important than winning, providing fun for all in a non-stressful introduction to a contest-like event for beginners, and an opportunity for more experienced operators to put something back into the hobby by helping and encouraging those less experienced in CW operating.

Feedback can only be obtained from contestants' reports so, whatever your level of experience, and even if you only have time to make a few contacts, please make an effort to send in a log.

DATES/TIMES:

From 00.01 UTC on the fourth Sunday in April, for one week, to 23.59 UTC on the following Saturday. For 2002, the dates will be Sunday 28th April to Saturday 4th May.

MODE: CW only.

FREQUENCIES: All bands, except WARC bands. Non-QRP stations are requested to avoid calling CQ on the popular QRP frequencies.

KEYS/SPEEDS: Any type of key or keyer may be used, but no keyboard sending or pre-programmed messages from computers or keyers allowed. Maximum speed 14 words per minute (70 cpm). The speed of a QSO should be at the speed of the slower station

CALL: CQ QRS/EUCW. Stations may be worked or logged once each day in each band used

EUCW CLUBS:

Listen out for members of the following clubs, taking part in the EUCW/FISTS QRS Party:

AGCW-DL (Germany); Benelux-QRPC; BTC (Belgium); CFT (Belgium); CT-CWC (Portugal); EA-QRPC (Spain); EHSC (Extremely High Speed Club); FISTS; FOC (First Class Operators); G-QRP; GTC (Greece); HACWG (Hungary); HCC (Spain); HSC (High Speed Club); HTC (Switzerland); INORC (Italy); I-QRPC (Italy); ITC (Italy); MCWG (Macedonia); OE-CWG (Austria); OHTC (Finland); OK-QRPC (Czech Republic); RTC (former GDR); SCAG (Scandinavia); SHSC (Super High Speed Club); SP-CWC (Poland); UCWC (Russia); UFT (France); U-QRQC (Ukraine); VHSC (Very High Speed Club); YL-CW-GP (Germany); 3A-CW-G (Monaco); 9ACWG (Croatia).

CLUB MEMBERSHIP: Entrants who are members of more than one EUCW club should take part in the QRS party as a member of only one of those clubs.

CLASSES:

A - Members of EUCW clubs using more than 10w input or 5w output power

B - Members of EUCW clubs using QRP (10w input or 5w output, or less)

C - Non-members of EUCW clubs using any power

D - Shortwave listeners

EXCHANGES:

Class A & B, RST/QTH/Name/Club/membership number

Class C, RST/QTH/Name/NM (ie, not a member)

Class D, Log information for both stations

SCORING:

Class A/B/C - 1 point per QSO with own country, 3 points per QSO with other European countries.

Class D - 3 points for every complete logged QSO.

Multiplier, all classes: 1 multiplier point for each EUCW-club worked/logged per day and band.

LOGS: To include date, UTC, band, call worked, info sent, info received, and score claimed for each QSO

SUMMARY: To include entrant's full name, call, address, EUCW club, Class entered, multiplier claimed, total points claimed, station details, including type of key/keyer used, power used, comments (if any) on the event, up to three votes for "Most Readable Morse Heard" (only one vote per station), and signature of entrant.

E-mailed logs and summaries are acceptable, provided they follow the same format as detailed above.

ENTRIES: Send log and summary to:

FISTS/EUCW Contest Manager,

Keith Farthing, M0CLO,

86, Coldnailhurst Avenue,
Braintree, Essex, CM7 5PY,
England.

or e-mail to: keithm0clo@hotmail.com

All logs to be received not later than 31st May.

AWARDS:

a) A certificate will be awarded to the three top scorers in each class.

b) A certificate of merit will be awarded to the operator receiving most votes for the "Most Readable Morse Heard", provided the operator nominated has also submitted a log. If the recipient of the most votes has not submitted a log the certificate of merit will be awarded to the qualifying entrant with the next highest number of votes. In the event of a tie multiple certificates will be awarded, endorsed "Shared Award".

No correspondence can be entered into. The Contest Manager's decision shall be final in making all awards.

2M CW

Angie, G0HGA, sends details on the sign-up procedure for the 2m CW activity.

"If possible please sign up using a Yahoo ID and email. If you want to use another email please send an email to <subscribe-twometrecw@yahoo.com>. You will receive a verification email back which you need to return, if it is blank just click on reply, that should join you. Any problems please email me Angie G0HGA at morseladyuk@yahoo.co.uk and I will walk you through sign up".

She reminds me that the 2m CW Activity Night is now well established and everyone is welcome to join in. Call and listen 144050 from about 7.30 until 9.30 or 10pm on Mondays.

G3BRR

The following e-mail was received though its origin is unclear: With reference to Mr Leader, it is my sad duty to inform you that

'Jim' has passed away. He died in November 2001. I have certain items of radio equipment which are now available. A STRUMECH VERSATOWER SYSTEM and a directional Yagi both in full working order with motor etc, If any of your members are interested please have them contact me at my E-Mail address or on 01489899036.

Thank You Bob STONEAGE. <Bobstoneage@aol.com>

NZ WEBSITE

Hate to keep harping on about the internet etc. because it must bore the y-fronts of those of you without computers or who have no interest. However, for those of you on the web, here is a communication from Ralph, ZL2AOH:

Mike ZL1AXG has been busy setting up a new web site for ZL6QH. Pay it a visit. I am sure that you will agree that Mike has done a great job.

There is provision for comments on various items, so we will be interested to hear what you think. The QSO log records every QSO with ZL6QH and every QSL received and answered is flagged.

The address is <http://zl6qh.cjb.net>

ZL6QH of course is for the NZ site at Quartz Hill just crawling with rhombics aimed in various directions, long wires and an electric kettle for tea.

PROPOSED PARIS MEETING

As our representative to the EUCW, Tony (G4FAI) has been undertaking a considerable amount of correspondence with Jean Marc (F5SGI) of UFT. Especially in view of the position adopted by Russia in regard to the proposed relaxation of the CW requirement for access to the HF bands, many people have been suggesting that CW oriented groups - particularly the EUCW - should assemble to format a strategy for countering the proposed changes. A date (not yet finalised) but suggested as Saturday, 31 August in Paris has been put forward by Jean Marc with hotel accommodation arranged from 29 August at a hotel in Paris. Projected cost would be some £45 per night. If this is to proceed, there would be a requirement for representation from various interested clubs including the EUCW of something in the order of 10 to 15 attendances.

Topics to be discussed: situation in each country, compilation of a common document, implementation of stronger links between our national associations, mutual help, methods for attracting new hams, etc. Detailed programme to be discussed later. Language: English (or, alternatively, CW !..) Of course, radioamateurs magazines will be invited. We believe that media coverage of such meeting is of crucial importance. It is important to show our community that CW enthusiasts are still present, active and speak with one voice. NCI should not be the only lobbying organization to be audible. The silent majority should also be heard. Of course, any proposal will be considered. The above-mentioned informations are subject to changes if a majority of you wishes so. Before getting farther, I need to know how many of you are interested and would agree to attend this meeting.

Tony has pointed out that he will be unable to attend such a meeting and has asked me to throw this open to all club members in the hope that a representative may be forthcoming.

Tony replied to Jean Marc:

FISTS CW Club feels that at this late stage there is no action that it can take to persuade, the RA, the RSGB, or the IARU to reverse the present situation which is leading inevitably towards the abolition of the amateur Morse test, possibly at WRC2003. FISTS originally made representations to the RSGB and the RA when discussions took place on the future of the Morse test, and protested to the RSGB when it undemocratically ignored the results of a vote by members which supported retention of the test by a large majority. FISTS is fully aware of effect that the abolition of the Morse test will have on amateur radio, and the inevitable decline in the number of amateur CW operators that will follow, and recognises that it is very unlikely that encouragement for future amateurs to take up CW will come from national amateur radio organisations. Specialised CW organisations, such as EUCW member-clubs, will have to take on this responsibility by promoting CW, providing tuition and activities for beginners, and taking every opportunity to publicise and popularise Morse.

Tony is probably correct in his opinion that little can be done at this late stage but it is surely worth the effort. If you are in a position to attend then please let me know and I can then forward details to Tony.

ATTENTION ALL WELSH STNS
GW0SGG would like all members in Wales to send him their E-mail addresses to facilitate FISTS QSL operation
E-mail to :— william.holt@ntlworld.com

GOOD HOME WANTED
GM0NTR has a small box of spares for the key WT 8 AMP Mk III (Plastic type). Free to a good home. Reply: 17b High St, Oban, PA34 4BC.

THE STRAWBERRY BASKET
G4UWJ. *"Many thanks for the Feb. Keynote which plopped through the letter box this morning with its usual regularity. One inaccuracy in the opening paragraph. Last year Santa put all his delivery info on a database as he now has a computer. He doesn't use the chimney any more, he uses Windows".* Oouch - that one really hurt Barrie!!! KK7UL. A photocopy of a Fred Basset cartoon (Associated Newspapers) which I hesitate to re-produce since these people tend to sue for copywrite at any and all opportunities. Fred is barking "-----" to a scotty. The picture reverts to full width showing a smaller dog attached by its teeth to Fred's tail. "It's not a game Scotty - it's an SOS". And I was sublimely confident that all journalists (including cartoonists) researched their subject before publication!!! I2VRF. My thanks to Gian for a L100 coin bearing the bust of Marconi with the obverse side displaying what appears to be a multi-turn loop antenna which most of you will associate with a directional receiving aerial. Was tempted to see how many pints of beer it was worth but after my experiences with a Bank of Ulster fiver when I was treated as a pariah by every trader on the market, decided to save the shoe leather. Hi. HB9CHE. Must sympathise with Erich whose QSO turnover has been noticeably curtailed following his appointment as IARUMS Coordinator for Switzerland. My own on-air time has dwindled to a few hours a month of late Erich! GM0TCF. Found VK3DBD with 50w to a mobile whip t'other day. Says ant is 'stuck in the garden and used as a bird feeder' so hope there's not too many blue tits flying around with blistered tootsies! G4GZP. QSL card from Geoff with an anecdote *"Just after WW2, Billy Wilders wife informed him from Paris that her accommodation did not have a bidet and would he send her one. He cabled reply: Unable obtain bidet. Suggest handstand in shower"* Now that's telling 'em. Look out for GX0RCS and/or the combined Army/Navy cadet corps with MX0CCF during Science week. G8VG. Peter's xyl in dock but unlike myself with about 4 miles to travel, he makes regular visits with a 40 mile round trip. Now that would put me on edge. Home brewed QSL card with piccy but be honest Pete... that photograph must be at least 20 years old?? Slim, almost as good looking as myself and a full thatch! M0CDP. Paul - as befits his clerical status - generously argues with my obs re QRPers and real radio hams. *"real amateurs are those who get on the air and have a good time and are willing to work anyone who responds to theirs CQs"*. Confesses though that his FT817 is a mystery to him and the only work thus far has been the fitting of a 300Hz Inrad filter. 'I drive a car' he says 'but I don't have to know what is under the bonnet'. G3WP. Noting the 'fine adjustment' rim on his Swedish key, Jack wonders if the factory-set coarse adjustment was important. Any-one know??

THE LISTENERS
Following last month's item concerning GSWL2 and the Century award, I really must get something done about these spectacles - the name should be Pete. Sri. Coincidentally, he is now trying to find space on the shack wall for a recently issued Diamond award
Further to awards, I suspect that G4LHI will have invaded the living room walls - space in the shack in all likelihood being completely occupied - for the top place in the January ladder. Now, who is gonna make it for February?

IT'S CONFUSING!
Nancy found three of her new members were in fact ex-members. Get the same here sometimes also. If you know of any ex-members who plan to re-join then please tell them NOT to use an app form. Just send me some beer money with a note and their old number will be re-activated.

MORSE TEST WEEKEND
Again the test service boys will be out in force 11/12 May for the 16th Anniversary. Contact at least 10 of the special GB stations and send contact info with £2.50 (\$5.00 US) or 16 IRCs to: G4HNF, 116 Reading Rd, WOODLEY, RG5 3AD. Cheques etc. payable to RSGB. The award is also available to Listeners.

QRP DX-PEDITION
Between 9 and 17 of December, 2001 the UR-QRP Club expedition to the Crimean mountains was held. It was dedicated to the Pioneers of Radio and the centenary of the first Marconi's radiocontact across the Atlantic ocean. Special call - EN100GM.

Members of the expedition: Igor - RK3ZK, Victor - US1RCH, Peter - US1REO, Dmitriy - UU4JQC.

On plateau Ai-Petri we set up the following antennas: LW, Dipole, Delta. We worked on HF and 2-meter bands. We had over 1000 QRP QSO.

On December 12th (the day of jubilee) members of the expedition worked CW-mode after setting up antenna Dipole and QRP TRX in the open air. It was difficult to work with the Key as it was freezing hard and our fingers became stiff.

During our expedition to Crimea there were heavy snowfalls and very strong winds. Despite these unfavourable conditions our antennas and a shack survived.

We had a wonderful time, working on bands and paying respect to the Pioneers of Radio. We found new friends and enjoyed beautiful nature of the Crimean mountains.

72/73! Peter, US1REO

FINALE
Bit of a tight squeeze again this month people and with Ivy in dock again available time is hard to find but I do get the pleasure of meeting up with many of you on the bands periodically. Even this can be interrupted with 'Grrrow' when it is time for walkies. Hi. Sorry I cannot offer too much support with the ladder - GX0IPX is QRV only if free time is to hand. Don't forget that MX51PX/P is available... last was G4AQZ who had a ball.

73/88 friends and stay sober

Entry Class QRO _____ QRP _____ CLUB _____

SCORING: _____ QSO points X _____ multipliers = _____ final score

CLUB NAME _____

CLUB FISTS Number _____

YOUR NAME _____ CALL _____

YOUR FISTS Number _____

ADDRESS _____

Email Address (optional) _____

----->>>>MULTIPLIER CHECK-OFF LIST<<<<-----

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0.	VE	DX
CT	NY	DE	AL	AR	CA	AZ	MI	IL	CO	NB	NF/LB
MA	NJ	MD	FL	LA		ID	OH	IN	IA	NS	NT
ME		PA	GA	MS		MT	WV	WI	KS	PE	YK
NH			KY	NM		NV			MN	QC	BC
RI			NC	OK		OR			MO	ON	
VT			SC	TX		UT			NE	MB	
			TN			WA			ND	SK	
			VA			WY			SD	AB	

Please enclose paper logs ONLY, photos, comments, ideas, etc., with yo entry and mail promptly to: Dan Shepherd, N8IE
1900 Pittsfield St.
Kettering, OH 45420

Statement: "I have observed all FISTS Sprint competition rules as well as all regulations for Amateur Radio in my country. My report is corre

Date _____ Signature _____ Call _____

COMMENTS:

FISTS CW CLUB, PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440-0047
email: nancy@tir.com web page: <http://www.fists.org>

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit 12
Hadley MI 48440

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Events:

FISTS Spring Sprint May 11 1700Z-2100Z

Log entry deadline is June 11. Logs mailed/emailed after this date will not be counted.

IMPORTANT: Email or mail your log DIRECTLY to the Sprint Manager, Dan N8IE. If you send it elsewhere Dan may not receive it in time!

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL DATE IS ON YOUR MAILING LABEL
in the format of year/month/day **Are YOU due to renew your subs??**