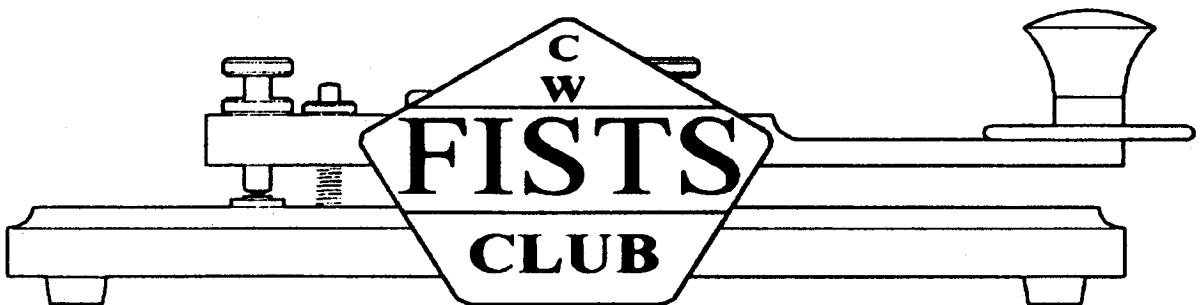


The Keynote

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

"Accuracy Transcends Speed"



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

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

HOW DO I...?

***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 SUPPLIES?** Irene Kott, W08E 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr, Clinton Twp, MI 48038; gold logo stickers 200 for \$3.50; "I Support KNOW Code" buttons for .50; Blue enamel /gold metal clasp-back logo pins \$2.50; Rubber stamp of FISTS logo to use with an ink pad (not included) \$5.00; embroidered patche with key logo \$1; The Art & Skill of Telegraphy book \$13.23; Pse make checks out to FISTS, these prices **DO** include postage. **Mugs and shirts are sold out.**

***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** or \$10/year for students (under 16 and family members are free) 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?** Contact Nick Yokanovich, K3NY 108 Brent Road Arnold, MD 21012 K3NY@cablespeed.com We need ELMERS, please volunteer to be a Code Buddy!! Code Buddy applications are available on line from a link on our web page, or send your info to Nick.

***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.

***RECEIVE THE KEYNOTE ON TAPE?** The KN is available on tape, free, to legally blind members. Contact Ken Kott, W8ROG, 44609 N Bunker Hill Dr. Clinton Twp MI 48038 or at ikott@compuserve.com

***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> **Web page suggestions?** Contact Bill 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.**

ISSUE 8 2002
NORTH AMERICAN MEMO
 FISTS CW CLUB

EDITOR: NANCY KOTT, WZ8C, PO Box 47, HADLEY MI 48440 EMAIL: NANCY@TIR.COM

Net Information

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

Keep watch on the Novice subbands and frequencies ending in .x58 but PLEASE spread out. There have been over 9000 FISTS numbers issued. If we all try and chat on just these frequencies, all anyone will get is a lot of QRM. Please be courteous of nets and QSOs in progress and ask if the frequency is busy before calling CQ.

Courtesy At All Times!

Please note that FISTS subs rate hasn't gone up in 12 years. Help us keep costs down by sending in your renewals early and letting Nancy, WZ8C know your address changes. It costs FISTS 70 cents for each undelivered or forwarded Keynote due to address changes. This really adds up!

Reminders

• Even if you didn't make a lot of contacts, send your Sprint log to Sprint Manager
 • Dan Shepherd, N8IE, 1900 Pittsfield Street, Kettering, Oh 45420

• The 15th Anniversary Award ends at the end of the year. There's still plenty of time to reach the goal, don't give up!

Hello FISTS. I can't believe it's almost October. Time for the Fall Sprint -- and my birthday. Someone emailed and asked if I was born in 1919 because my profile on QRZ says October 27, 0019. I deleted the year I was born from my profile on QRZ, so it defaults to 0019. I only hope that the OM who asked that question hadn't had an eyeball with me in Dayton and figured that to be about right. If I *were* 83, I would be proud to admit it, but for now I'm just going to say I don't qualify for Senior discounts!

It's going to be a crap shoot whether or not you'll get this issue in time for the Fall Sprint. I hope you have it marked on your calendar already. This issue is going to print the middle of September, and it is one color and a non-glossy cover to keep the printing time down, but printing time as well as mail delivery time is always a guessing game. There is a copy of the Sprint rules in this issue, as well as an entry form. Please mark your calendars for the Winter Sprint, the 2nd Saturday in February 2003.

Part of the list of new FISTS in Issue 5/6 was misaligned, so I am reprinting the affected numbers in this issue along with the other new members who have joined to date. Thanks to all who are promoting FISTS at your local clubs and hamfests. If you need brochures or sample issues to hand out, let me know.. Details of how to get a copy of the FISTS presentation are on the How Do I page. Hope to see you in the Sprint.

73 88 33 Nancy WZ8C

Welcome to the New FISTS

#	Call	Name	State	Sponsor	#	Call	Name	State	Sponsor
					9286	K3CKT	Jim	MD	KE4COH
9240	KC2JHP	Tim	NY	AA0YY	9287	N2ARQ	Ron	NJ	
9241	N4PLK	Craig	VA		9288	AB8KS	Lloyd	WV	
9242	W9AJR	Dave	IN		9289	KK6DP	Don	CA	
9243	N8BFD	Milton	MI	WZ8C	9290	WY7W	Tom	AZ	
9244	W4ULL	Tom	GA		9291	K4FUM	Jere	GA	
9245	W2CD	Frank	NY	N2WDV	9292	KB1AF	Wendy	FL	
9246	KB3HSD	Steve	MD		9293	KC8SFJ	Kevin	MI	
9247	W8KNZ	Brooks	OH	On the air	9294	KG6ZR	Len	VA	
9248	KC0LND	Tony	MN	WB0CFE	9295	VE7GDM	Doug	BC	Magazine
9249	N2OEE	Bob	SC	K3DC	9296	N4FI	Dan	VA	WA9PWP
9250	N5FFF	Red Stick	LA	N5YFC	9297	W9UZ	Mark	IL	
9251	W3TW	Tom	NY	WZ8C	9298	W4BQP	JIM	NC	
9252	VE7CCY	Scott	BC		9299	WB0WAO	Dennis	MI	
9253	K6MGO	Bill	CA	WZ8C	9300	W8DXI	MI DX	MI	W8DO
9254	W7SST	Mike	OR		9301	K2RP	Ron	CA	
9255	KF4FD	Terry	FL		9302	no call yet	Melvin	PA	
9256	W4AYK	Gene	GA		9303	KK9B	John	IN	N4ZN
9257	K2VY	Dan	NJ	N2WFN	9304	KG6JSI	Pete	CA	WB6FRZ
9258	K9FK	John	IN		9305	W0AYO	Dick	IA	
9259	AD6WL	Jim	CA	KE6OIO	9306	K0IIN	Jason	CO	
9260	KB1IHG	Andy	MA	WB9WZN	9307	WB0HAB	George	MO	
9261	N9XVL	Larry	IN	KB9SSB	9308	K4WLM	Herb	NC	
9262	NJ2BB	ShipNJ	NJ	AA2WN	9309	WB5DED	Bill	NM	WB9WZN
9263	K4CMC	Bruce	FL		9310	WN5LFB	Gil	AR	
9264	W7RVR	Dennis	NV	KE3CR	9311	WB6EUH	Robert	WA	WZ8C
9265	W1IDE	Jack	MA		9312	NN6DG	Dima	CA	
9266	N6HGK	Jerry	AZ		9313	KB1IBV	Doug	ME	
9267	N0QOC	Errol	KS	N4ZN	9314	KB0HAZ	John	KS	N3PXF
9268	W3SOC	Burl	PA	WB9WZN	9315	K9PLX	Chuck	IL	
9269	W2CUA	George	FL		9316	KO1W	Scott	RI	
9270	W9KNI	Bob	CA		9317	K4RIW	John	KY	
9271	KM5I	Frank	TX	WB2FXK	9318	K1DVA	Roland	NM	
9272	K3LN	Ellen	PA	WB2FXK	9319	KC8NSJ	Mike	WV	
9273	N2CX	Joe	NJ		9320	WB6GGO	Darr	CA	
9274	KG4LTB	Aubrianna	VA	N8IK	9321	WB0MBI	Jerry	IA	
9275	W3GR	Hist. Elect. Mu.	MD	K3NY	9322	W2KFQ	Harry	NM	W5ZF
9276	W5DBF	Clem	TX		9323	WB0E	Kenny	CO	
9277	NJ8V	Dewey	OH	K4YKI	9324	KC0IOX	Eric	SD	
9278	N7IGK	Don	WA		9325	VA3FFF	Canada	ONT	VA3UU
9279	KB6AED	Charles	CA	WZ8C	9326	KC0KTQ	Jeff	KS	K3DC
9280	KD5QAM	Doug	MS	KG4FXG	9327	WD0DYD	Jack	MO	
9281	W4CCU	David	FL	N4ZMP	9328	KO4SD	Bud	VA	
9282	N3PXF	Ernie	KS		9329	W2IKF	Paul	FL	
9283	N0MRR	Russ	MN		9330	KC8SGB	Doug	MI	
9284	WA9MZZ	David	MN	W5OS	9331	W4WE	Richard	FL	
9285	AA0BP	John	MO	N9WAT	9332	KG6AQT	Brian	CA	
					9333	AG4VG	Melanie	TN	

#	Call	Name	State	Sponsor	#	Call	Name	State	Sponsor
9334	KA0YLP	Chuck	SD		9382	K5EBS	ED	TX	
9335	KC9AID	Terry	IN		9383	K4SP	STEVE	VA	N4ZN
9336	KG6TH	Al	CA		9384	WA2SI	BERT	NY	K3LT
9337	KF4VOP	Jamie	NC		9385	K6BU	LINK	CA	
9338	WB0RHJ	Jay	SD		9386	AB2LA	JOE	NJ	KG2GL
9339	K9FO	Will	IL	Hamvention	9387	KP4HLR	HECTOR	PR	NP4FW
9340	KG6GTI	Larry	CA		9388	KG4UDQ	TOM	SC	
9341	AD6XI	Josh	CA	WB6FRZ	9389	AE6DW	LARRY	CA	
9342	KB6NU	Dan	MI		9390	KD7MTI	ROBERT	OR	W5OS
9343	K7EHL	Ed	UT	K7JHM	9391	WA7KJC	GALE	AZ	
9344	VE3OU	Ernie	ONT		9392	WA3YGQ	ROBERT	PA	WZ8C
9345	KE4I	Dennis	GA		9393	KD1ZD	BOB	CT	
9346	AD5KE	Doyle	TX		9394	N5SIG	RANDY	TX	
9347	N9QS	Chris	WI		9395	KC2JVC	VINCENT	NY	WB2FXK
9348	N8UW	Chuck	OH		9396	KQ7K	TERRY	WA	KD7OWN
9349	NR4V	Jere	GA		9397	K7GA	GEOF	WA	K7FFF
9350	W6RO	QUEEN MARY	CA	W6LOH	9398	K0KGY	RON	CO	K4PTU,AC5PS
9351	WR9N	Doug	IL	NB9U	9399	KF6C	BRIAN	CA	
9352	WA5PQL	Phil	TX		9400	VA7TRS	River	BC	VE7NI
9353	WF4O	Foster	VA		9401	W8UFO	SCOTT	IL	K7WAR
9354	N3DPL	Peter	MD	WB2FXK	9402	W4BFN	ED	FL	NO8C
9355	KC9CBV	Bob	IL		9403	KB9STR	KEITH	IN	KB9STQ
9356	NO8C	Mike	OH	K8VQ	9404	WA3IVX	GREGORY	PA	KJ4LB
9357	K2SHN	John	NY	K8JP	9405	KF4FRG	GORDON	SC	
9358	W7SOM	John	WA		9406	KG6KLF	MARTIN	CA	
9359	VE7CV	Pete	BC		9407	KG6HAF	WARD	CA	
9360	WA6VEM	Nat	CA	W6UJX	9408	HP1IBF	HANK	PANAMA	HP1AC
9361	W5AJX	Don	TX		9409	KB7UMO	JOE	OR	WB9WZN
9362	KD5MYU	Paul	LA		9410	WB4GDB	BILL	VA	Magazine
9363	W2KP	Ed	NJ		9411	KC8QVO	Steve	OH	
9364	WB5NZZ	Chuck	AR						Hope I got 'em aligned properly this time!
9365	N3JV	Jim	FL						Calsign Changes
9366	W0CGV	John	CO	W7RVR					2384 Robert, KB8TVZ, is now AB8PD
9367	W4TDB	Vollie	TN	KG4RBH/AG4VG					7332 Bill, KC5ADF to WA5PB
9368	NG0C	AL	TX	WB2FXK					8253 Nomar AA1NV is now NP4H
9369	WA6ICK	BOB	CA						8454 Larry, KG4IQF, is now K4IR
9370	KC8UKW	David	MO	N8TW					8641 Stephen KC0KOC is now K0KOC
9371	W6ZIP	John	CA						8687 Joe KM8L is now WV3O
9372	W4WDA	MIKE	VA	WG8W					8717 Bruce KB1FRI is now N1BFO
9373	K4GU	MIKE	AL						8802 Joe WA6PXU, is now WA6PX
9374	W6EU	JIM	CA						9211 Mark KD7PHM is now AA7CG
9375	W6THD	ART	CA						
9376	N2CBZ	Janne	SC	W8FDV					
9377	KG4IMI	Mike	AL						
9378	AH6NS	Adam	HI	WZ8C					
9379	K4NVJ	JOE	AL	Huntsville Fest					
9380	K4BYR	BILL	GA						
9381	AB4VF	CHAS	FL	ZL3BLG					

CORRECTION:

The correct email address for Lloyd, VE1VEI, is watton@ns.sympatico.ca. He'll be happy to make a sked with you if you need VE1 in your logbook.

Silent Keys

Hack W9LUY

Arley "Hack" Hackney, W9LUY Fists #2999 became a Silent Key September 15, 2002. He was in Amateur Radio for 50 years, serving in the US Army Signal Corp. Arley was 75 years old. He worked mainly CW and promoted FISTS. "Hack will be missed." Best Regards John Markley Fists #3677

The Signal That Faded Away

John Safina, KF4JFV, was more than a cheerful friend and an amateur radio operator. He was a living testimony to the amateur radio service and hobby, and the art of CW as well. He was a young man of 43 years and a quadrapalegic, due to a motorcycle accident 12 years ago. John was bedridden and the only movement he had was limited to his right shoulder. He lived at home with his mother, in Louisville, KY. His mother cared for him, and would put his radio within reach when he was ready to get on the air.

We became hams about the same time, back around 1997. I had gotten to know John on CB before he was a ham. We were in the same SSB group and I always liked talking to John. Then John got his no-code tech license and I thought that was great. In no time, John passed the 5 wpm code test and I thought that's great too. But, John wasn't only cheerful and a ragchewer, he was smart. He went on to pass the General, Advanced, and Extra class exams.

John didn't claim the medical exemption for the code, he passed the 13 and 20 wpm CW tests as well. I couldn't believe it. I was learning the code, with a lot of effort and pounds of writing paper, and here's John copying CW in his head well enough to pass the test. John learned to send code by laying his hand on the key and jerking his right shoulder to send the dits and dahs. Boy, did he love that CW, he was on the radio every day making contacts and new friends. He would usually get on 40 meters early in the morning to check in to the Rotten Apples, then go to 2 meters till about noon, then switch to CW. He would do CW every day. I live about 35 miles down river from

John, so sometimes we could copy each other well enough on 15 meters to have a QSO. And I could hear some of John's QSO's where he was copying and sending about 15 wpm and at times it seemed a lot faster than that. It amazed me how he could do all that in his head, most of the time I still have to write my copy down just to keep track of the QSO.

John was a FISTS member, his number was 5821. He couldn't write, so he didn't keep a log or keep track of contacts for awards or anything. His mother was kind enough to fill out whatever QSL cards he sent out. Then, one day we start hearing less of John, his heart was giving him trouble and some days he was to weak to get on the radio. Then his kidneys slowly failed, until one day John wasn't there anymore. John passed away in the night, July 16 2002 Thanks for being a ham John and showing us all what can be achieved. Your friend Neal KF4HAY

Ken W6NKE

It is with great personal sorrow that I must inform you of the passing of Ken, W6NKE, on 13 June 2002 as the result of complications from cancer. Ken was a longtime advocate of CW and taught code to Navy operators during WWII. He was an early member of the FISTS organization and held number 0818. He was also Director of District 6 and President of Chapter 2 of the OOTC for many years. Respectfully, Troy, W6HV FIST #6847

Our sincere condolences to Don Seay, KC4OCS and his family for the death of his father last July.

Wes W3ERU

Wes Clopton (W3ERU) past away on April 12, 2002. Wes held FISTS #2099, one of our earlier FISTS members and was an active promoter of FISTS on the air. We will miss him.

Bill KBOJTS

Bill, KBOJTS, FISTS #1586 was a good operator, a "Brass Pounder" and a member of the Society of Wireless Pioneers. Ed, N7CFA, sponsored him into FISTS in '95, and worked him a lot but had not heard him for a long time. Ed was told be that Bill passed away from lung cancer a couple of years ago

Joe VE7BPN

Joseph Micheal Fertich was born in Quantach, Saskatchewan on December 31st 1922. Silent Key on May 1 2002., at Trail British Columbia.

Joe recieved his Morse code training with the Royal Canadian Air Force, and obtained his 25 wpm Proficiency Certificate on April 15th 1943, and his Amateur Radio Certificate and 10 wpm Morse code. On Feb,4, 1966 Joe obtained his 15 wpm Code certification.

He joined FISTS in July of 1998 and was given his Membership No: 5205, and then he proceeded to work enough Fists to recieve his CC 669 and Platinum 154. Joe was a very avid CW'er and always had time to show people his skills.

He also was a big part of our local Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Club. He will be missed and all who had the pleasure of working Joe (VE7BPN) worked a true FRIEND. 73's dear friend.....VE7RGX

Don KC4UUG

I am very sad to have to tell you that on the night of June 12-13, 2002, Don Monger, KC4UUG, FISTS# 910 died in his sleep. There was no sign of trauma: according to his neighbors, he appeared at rest. We should all keep in mind our slogan: **When You've Worked a FISTS, You've Worked a Friend**, which was coined off the cuff one evening by Don. de Maggie, WP2T :

Don, KC4UUG, was the nicest, most patient person.. What I remember most about him was how he made everyone feel welcomed on the net. He took a lot of time with me and had a wonderful sense of humor. He had made so many FISTS friends, I know we are all going to miss him. Irene, WO8E"

"I had MANY enjoyable QSO's with him in my early days with FISTS and used to check in with him often. My first QSO with Don was on 27 February, 1994. He was operating KC4UUG/KP2/MM aboard the S/V Random Starr at Buck Island about six miles south of St. Thomas, U. S. Virgin Islands. As a matter of fact, that was my very first FISTS contact. He was a real gentleman. Ed N7CFA"

"Don was one of my first ragchews during Straight Key Night. I remember that night very well. I had read about Straight Key Nights and had been looking forward to it, but I was scared to death. My code speed was very slow and I was worried no one would chat with me, and worried that if someone DID, what would we talk about? Don answered my CQ SKN, coming back at exactly the right speed with a perfect fist. We exchanged name, rst, location, type of rig, you know, the usual stuff. I signed 73, but Don wouldn't let me end the QSO. Instead of signing back 73, he asked if I really had to go. When I admitted I didn't, he started asking me questions. Did I have any pets? Where did I work, and we chatted about those topics.

He asked what I saw when I looked out my shack window. It was almost midnight, there wasn't much to see. I did see an airplane or some sort of light moving across the sky. I told him that I thought I saw a UFO. This made him laugh, because he used to work at the Naval Observatory and said in all his years of watching the sky, he had never seen anything that couldn't be explained. This lead to even more ragchewing, and the time just flew by. Looking back on it, I realize the patience he had, copying my 5 WPM for hours, and sending back almost as slowly. He was an expert CW operator.

That QSO was the start of a wonderful friendship. It led to Don joining FISTS and running the Century Net back in the days when we had a few hundred FISTS and actually needed calling frequencies and nets to find each other! That net was remarkable. I don't think any of us who were there will forget it. It could be chaotic but it was a controlled chaos and was often hilarious! Don made you feel like you belonged during your first time on the net and you were welcomed back like an old friend each time.

One evening during a phone chat, Don said "yep, when you've worked a FISTS, you've worked a friend.". I said "mind if I use that?"...and the rest is history.

Thanks, Don, for helping define what it means to be a FISTS member, and helping me be the FISTS member that I am today. You definately made your mark on a lot of hearts and will not be forgotten. Nancy WZ8C"

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 AWARDS

By Dennis K6DF

This issue of the Keynote was to have a complete set of rules in it for the "Bonus Station" program for 2003. The previous Keynote and e-mail notice sent out to the membership asked for stations to sign up to create a pool of calls that was to be used to randomly determine the Bonus Stations for each month of the year.

I am sad to announce that the "Bonus Station" program for 2003 will not move forward due to the extremely low response of the membership signing up for the Bonus Station pool.

My very sincere thanks to all those stations who stepped forward and volunteered for the pool.

NEW AWARD LOG REQUIREMENTS

Starting October 1st, all handwritten "paper" logs of over 100 contacts being submitted for awards will need to have a "Dupe" sheet attached with the log. A simple "Dupe" sheet is explained in the next section below. It is very easy to construct and will allow you to make sure your award log has been properly checked for "Duplicate" FISTS numbers or CC numbers before it is submitted. This is being done to help speed up the process of checking each "Paper" log for duplicate numbers.

If you are printing your award log from a computer, Please:

Sort your log by FISTS number for Century awards.

Sort your log by CC number for Platinum awards. Above all, check your award log for duplicate numbers.

Award logs sent by e-mail attachment need not have a "Dupe" sheet as I can sort and Dupe check them in an instant. This does not release you from the responsibility of Dupe checking your electronically submitted log. There have been many logs rejected because of an over abundance of duplicate contacts.

As many of your already know, I try to maintain a fast turn around for awards. This means that your award will be mailed to you within a day or two of my receipt of your log--provided that your log contains all the required data and does not have too many dupes.

There have been a few requests made about how to dupe check a paper log. I know that checking your paper logs for duplicate contacts can be a formidable task. **Here is a simple way to do this without using a computer:** Take a blank piece of 8.5 by 11 paper and turn it sideways so that the long side is at the top. Write the numbers 1 through 9 along the top edge of the paper spreading them out so you have plenty of room between each number.

Now, go through your award log and write the FISTS number for each QSO under the numbered column that corresponds with the first number of each FISTS number. Each time you enter a new number in a column check down through that column to see if that FISTS number has been previously entered. If it has, then it is a dupe and should NOT be used for your Award Log.

Once you have made a dupe check sheet like the one above, you can use it as you make FISTS QSO's to keep track of which numbers are new and should be added to your award log.

You may apply for an award via e-mail by attaching your award log in one of the following formats only: 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, tables, etc. The Awards e-mail Address is: FISTS AWARDS@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 contact, and 3 points for working a FISTS affiliated club station.

The Platinum series 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 series awards.

Example: After you earn the 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

July 27, 2002 to Sept 23, 2002

Basic Century (CC)

AG4VA	N0ZD
AK7D	N4PLK
G2FRY	NK3ST
G4RWP	W0TUP
GW4PUC	W1QF
HA5AK	W2CUA
K1LGQ	W2KFQ
K5WAF	W5AJX
K9FOH	W5IQS
KA9SXH	W6WIL
KC2JHP	W7PFZ
KC7EQW	W8DXI
KC8LTL	WD8MHT
N0QOC	WY7W

Silver Century

AK7O	W7VWV
G4ZIB	WA4CIT
K4KSR	WA5SOJ
KB8KIK	WB7RHT
KM5WN	WB8NMK
NY2PO	ZL1BRS
VE7YMM	
W5AJX	

Gold Century

K0EVE
K3OKR
K8CI
KN9X
KY7F
M0AHT
W7VWV
WB6QQR
ZL2BLQ

Diamond Century

W9FFU

1 X QRP Award

K4KSR
K9FOH
W1QF

Mobile Award

K9JXW

Platinum Award

K4KSR
KB8KIK
NY2PO
VE7YMM
W5AJX
W7PFZ
WB8NMK
ZL1MAD
ZL2BLQ

Platinum 250 Award

K0EVE
K1BMV
KN9X
M5ABN
N9BOR
UA6JD

Platinum 500 Award

WB2FXK
K7LFY
9A2HF
KB8OMG

15th Ann 150 Award

UA6JD
KG9LZ
W4FCR
K8DDB

15th Ann 300 Award

UA6JD

QRP With John Shannon, K3WWP

Last issue we discussed getting the first 50 or so countries toward a QRP DXCC. We saw that it was not all that hard to reach that stage in the quest for the award. Going from 50 to 100 will prove a bit more difficult, but not overwhelming by any means.

Since that article was submitted I worked J45RW to bring my total to 200 countries worked. A quick check of my log shows 105 countries worked in 2002 as of August 20. I mention these figures to show that getting the basic QRP DXCC award does not require all that much work. Except for a fairly heavy effort in the ARRL DX contest in February, I have not been all that active in chasing DX this year for one reason or another and yet I have worked enough countries in 2002 to earn a DXCC.

If you have gotten to 50, then you realize that you can work most parts of the world with your QRP setup. You've won the first battle of the war, so to speak. Personally I know that when conditions are right, I can work anywhere in the world pretty easily except for Southeast Asia which continues to elude me. I still need 4 zones for my WAZ, and all are in that part of the world. However that is of no concern as far as DXCC goes, since you don't need to work every corner of the world for that award. In fact a quick count with my old eyes in the ARRL DXCC Countries list shows about 48 countries in North America and 68 in Europe for a total of 116 countries from just two easy to work (at least here in the NE USA) continents. Granted a few of those countries are small islands or other special cases where there is little or no regular ham radio, but you get my point. Only 4 of the 68 in Europe have eluded me, as have 2 of the 48 in North America, so I have 10 more countries than I need for DXCC just from EU and NA.

Last month we mentioned contests as the best way to quickly get new countries. Let me give you another tip regarding contests. Keep an eye on the bands a week or so before and after the big contests also. Many stations check

out their equipment the week before a contest, or just get on the air to give out that country to those who need it. In this regard, watch out for the big phone contests also since the ops in those contests will often get on CW to relax the week before and after the contest as well. These pre and post contest operations often take place on the WARC bands (30,17, and 12) that are not available in the contests themselves.

Watch other contests as well, like the IOTA contest for example. Many of the islands that are activated in this contest are new countries for many of us. That's where I got my J45RW QSO mentioned earlier.

The Caribbean islands are wonderful vacation spots at all times of the year, and many vacationers are hams whose idea of a great vacation is to sit at a rig in a somewhat exotic country and enjoy the thrill of being the target of a large pileup. They could care less that they are in what is perhaps one of the most beautiful spots in the world. All they want to do is to work as many stations as they can. You could easily be one of them and get one more country in the process. This also applies to other exotic vacation spots in other parts of the world. You'll hear many operations from these places as you tune around the bands.

While I personally prefer to just get on the bands and listen to find my new countries, there are other ways to do it. You can check DX spots on packet or on the Internet to see what stations are on which band at the present time. You can read the DX bulletins on the Internet to become aware of any upcoming activation of a rare country. In this information overflow age, there is no end to the sources of DX info if you choose to use it.

While I have not been specific in listing the countries to look for to take you from 50 to 100, I'm sure you can apply what I've said to help you know how to go about increasing your totals.

I think that anyone using a little bit of effort can easily get a QRP DXCC within 6 months to a year. Now getting the QSL's to make

it official will be a little more difficult, and will definitely take more time. If you work a big DXpedition that has made almost 100,000 QSO's, it is naturally going to take some time for all those cards to be filled out. Also the bureau system grinds exceedingly slow if you go that route for your QSL's. It's definitely more economical, but can take up to a few years for the card to finally arrive. Personally when I work an overall new country, I always send my QSL direct. I can't afford to do that with all my DX contacts though, so I often have to wait a long time for some cards.

I'd like to find out what you would like to know about working DX or getting a DX QSL. Please address any questions to me via Email at johnshan@alltel.net or regular mail at John Shannon, 478 E. High St., Kittanning, PA 16201-1304. Or perhaps all your questions can be answered at my web site where there is a ton of DX (and other CW/QRP) material. That's at <http://www.alltel.net/~johnshan/> or <http://www.qsl.net/k3wwp/>.

Till next time, 73 es gud DX de
K3WWP. -30-

The Importance of Zero Beat

Hello fellow FISTS and fellow CW fans. I received an email a few days ago from a fellow who was worried that I was ignoring his CQ on 40 meters. Upon further investigation of the incident by methods unimportant to this piece, we found out why. I'll skip the details of the methods used to narrow down the reason. The only important aspect is the reason itself.

He had been calling me on a noisy band. I had my 250 hZ filter engaged in each IF, and didn't even hear him, although I was 599/S9 to him. I've been on during quiet times and received calls back to my CQ from pretty far off frequency that I could hear. Some of these have been from as much as 310 hZ from mine. Usually, when someone calls from that far off, I just move to their frequency. They were indifferent of the fact that they are not zero beat, and my move fixes every-

thing. On other occasions, after turning it back over, I found that they were once again way off frequency, and we were about to engage in a chase all the way across the band.

In this instance, there are several reasons why this may have happened. One, or both of us has our RIT/clarifier turned on, and we are operating split. One, or both of us has our A/B VFO split engaged, and we are operating split. One, or both of us has a rig malfunction, and our rig may be transmitting and receiving on different frequencies. Or, one, or both of us does not have our sidetone adjusted to a tone we want to receive at, and are just using the VFO to tune the tone we want to hear. In any case, it's a little unpleasant for both of us to engage in a QSO, if we make contact at all. More importantly, we are causing problems for anyone else who may be in our general vicinity on the band.

How is this so, you may ask. In the real world, additional filtering aside, a CW signal, even though it has a bandwidth of 4 times the wpm speed, can be heard across 3 kc's. That's 1.5 up, and down, from where we are transmitting. So, 2 hams engaged in QSO who are properly zero beat with each other, take up 3 kc's OF THE BAND. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THEY ARE NOT PROPERLY ZERO BEAT? IF, AS IN MY WORSE CASE SCENARIO, THEY WERE SPACED 310 hZ APART, THEY WOULD BE HEARD ACROSS OVER 3.3 KC'S OF THE BAND.

Let's review this coupled with calling frequency etiquette. As we spoke about earlier, the FISTS calling frequency is not to be used for QSO. Its intended use is for establishing contact only. You are then to move to another frequency for the duration of the QSO. Let's assume that station #1 is calling on 7.057.500. Station #2 returns to #1 310 hZ high, on 7.057.810. How much bandwidth are they taking up? Station #1 is occupying 7.056.000 to 7.059.000. Station #2 is occupying 7.056.310 to 7.059.310. So, they are taking up a combined total of 3.310 kc's, and are being heard from 7.056 to 7.059.310 right over the calling frequency. Well, wait a minute, you just said that station #1 was occupying 7.056 to 7.059, that's over the calling frequency, isn't it?

Well, yes, and no. Gentlemen's agreement and common courtesy dictate a 500 hZ spacing between QSO's. So, station #1 is in good shape. But Station #2 is only 190 hZ away from the calling frequency. Most of us have a 500 hZ filter in our rigs if we are into CW, so station #1 can be filtered out. But station #2 is causing a lot of QRM to the call. If they were both zero beat, and centered on 7.057.500, they would be OK in relation to the calling frequency. It's just as discourteous to be hollering QRL at someone calling CQ on 7.058 when you are in QSO on 7.058.5. Hopefully, you did QSY at least 500 hZ off the call after you made contact, right? So give your filter a bump. Don't have a filter?.... better QSY further than 500 hZ away from the call then. Getting QRM on the call from a station 500 hZ away?.... better get a filter instead of griping about QRM.

So, what are we to do to avoid all these problems? First off, make sure you have properly adjusted your sidetone to what you like to listen to. My ear changes just about every day, and I start out my operating session by adjusting the sidetone to my ears "sweet spot" for that day. Some of us are unlucky and have a rig that is locked into one particular tone. What are we to do in that case? Luckily, most of the rigs that are locked, are stuck on 700 hZ offset, which is what most people like anyway. If you can't live with that, just zero beat the station you are contacting, then use your RIT/clarifier to adjust the the tone to your liking. Just remember to turn it off, or recenter it, after you finish the QSO, or you're in trouble on the next QSO. How do you zero beat? Some rigs have a spotting feature. You push a button, and it emits the sidetone that is set from the speaker. Hold down the spotting button with one finger, and dial in the station you want to chat with on your VFO till his tone matches yours. This is assuming that your rig has no problems, you do not have the RIT/clarifier tuned off center, or you do not have your split function engaged... all to be covered next. What do you do if your rig has no spotting tone? To avoid QRM, turn off your break in, if you can, and hit the key while turning your VFO to match your tone to the other station. If you can't turn off

your break in, just bump the key shortly to hear your tone compared to his, and adjust the VFO accordingly.

Second, next time you're in QSO with someone that you are confident has a stable, on frequency rig, ask them what your exact frequency is. This will help you spot any indication that you may have a rig that is not properly aligned to transmit and receive on the same frequency. In fact, ask several hams. A few hZ here or there are no big deal, but if you're off by 20 hZ or more, you have a problem.

Third, make sure you don't have the split accidentally turned on, unless you intend to operate split. This is another way to cure the "stuck offset" problem, but we won't go into that here, in order to not confuse anyone, and create more problems.

Fourth, make sure your RIT/clarifier is either turned off, or adjusted for zero offset. The RIT/clarifier function is intended to make up for small differences in frequency, as in someone returning your call, who is off by a couple hZ. You like a 800 hZ tone, and he is off by 10 hZ. You can't stand a 810 hZ tone, so you use the RIT/clarifier to bring him down to your liking without actually changing your transmit frequency. If he is off by more than just a few hZ, do him a favor, and tell him. He may have problems he is not aware of. Telling him helps us all.

Lastly, if you find yourself using CW a lot, or find yourself getting a lot of QRM from nearby stations, invest in some filters. At least a 500 hZ filter, if not something tighter. If you only have a slot for one filter, try 300 hZ to give you a happy medium.

That's it from my soapbox. Hope this helped some of you. Remember, it's **your** job to operate a clean station and not cause QRM to others. Remember, one of our creeds as FISTS members is "**Courtesy at all times**". Occupying excessive bandwidth is **not** courteous, and is actually a violation of the FCC rules for the ham bands. 73, CU on the bands. **Mike/N4ZN/7306**



KEY NOTE



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

<http://www.asel.demon.co.uk/fists-hq/>
E-Mail HQ: fist1@btinternet.com

<http://www.fistsdownunder.morsekeys.com>
webmaster: webmaster@asel.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: GM4ELV

1 Micklehouse Rd, Springhill, G69 6TG.

COMMITTEE

Chairman
Vice Chairman
P.R.O.
Secretary

G4XHZ
G4YLB
G4YLB
G3ZQS

AWARDS

e-mail apps/logs to Dennis, K6DF:
<fistsawards@attbi.com>
written logs to HQ.

Pse keep watch on all Novice allocations
Recommended calling QRGs:
3.558, 7028, 14.058, 21.058, 28.058

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 Glenn@m0ayi.freemove.co.uk

All outgoing QSLs to M0AVW (address on banner).
All UK/EU members send stamps and labels (no envelopes
necessary) to the appropriate sub-manager as below:

M or 2 Prefixes (Except for Wales) M0AY1. 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,

GREETINGS

Well, we finally got a taste of summer and although the
HF bands were far from reliable, 20M started to open up
late evenings and early mornings enabling quite a number
of new US members to work HQ for the first time.
I activated MX5IPX for a short period but I have a
sneaking feeling that it was not recognised as readily as
GX0IPX so the results were somewhat disappointing.
Mention of "ZUT" brought a telephone call from Bob,
G0ADE, who recalls joining the coastguard club whilst
in Naples many many yonks ago and seemingly it was
recognised as the "ZUT Club". There are very few these
days who are acquainted with the "Z" codes and G3ZQS
is not one of 'em but if you hear a bunch of gas-bags a.m.
on 80 or 40 steaming along at 30wpm plus, you are also
likely to hear the odd "Z" from them. Hi.

The latest fabric patches being circulated in the US feature
a key which happily reduces the the suspicion that FISTS
is some sort of pugilistic organisation. We in Europe I
fear are rather stuck with the original patches which I
brought back from Dayton a few years ago but they serve
the purpose.

David, G3ZPF, is prominent amongst a small group who
certainly have the best interests of CW at heart; asking
me to encourage you all to look out for those shy M5
calls.

A periodic check on the LF bands would be appreciated.
I say 'shy' because most of the 5wpm guys tend to be
extremely reluctant even if the interest is there. 80M is
the ideal band of course because you can always take 'em
somewhere out of the way without the fear of gluing up
an otherwise attractive piece of band space but in any
case if they are putting out a call then they are deserving
of encouragement.

JAWS!

My thanks to David, G3ZPF, for this:

Although this looks like a picture taken from a Hollywood movie, it is in fact a real photo, taken near the South African coast during a military exercise by the British Navy. There are some days it is just not worth getting out of bed let alone going to work.



THE IN BOX

M0SOP

Hugh got himself a copy of *The Art and Skill of Radio Telegraphy* by downloading it from the internet and printing it down to an A5 booklet. Cost him £1.50 to have it comb bound. Site is:

<http://www.qsl.net/n0hff.htm>. Currently labouring with 10wpm Hugh wishes he had got a copy before he started learning Morse. As Fitter/elec Engineer in the RAF, he spent most of his life lecturing physics, mathematics and science but never lost his interest in Radio.

Took up electronics again five years ago as a hobby, when he retired at 65, after having been away from it for about 35 years, just before transistors became generally available.

Built a Direct Conversion 80m and 160m Rx from a magazine and started to listen to SSB and CW and an awful lot of noise!

In 1999 a friend told him about the RAE Exam, and found that there was an evening course locally which led to his first call sign M1ETU. Although the Morse test had always seemed an insurmountable obstacle, enter G3GUR who introduced him to FISTS and I guess eased his passage to the current call.

G3ZPF

As mentioned earlier, David encourages you all to check the LF bands especially during the evenings for M5 calls. His claim to fame is stumping around the office looking for his spectacles until someone finally asked what he was looking for. Having explained, the response was "would they be the ones you're wearing?"

G4AUX

An item (I suspect from a packet circuit) from Mike enlightens re. the age old question about "LID".

Originally, early landline telegraphers coined the term. It was used as a term of derision, and applied to inept operators, some of whom placed the lid of a tobacco can on their sounders, which had the effect of amplifying and adding a "ring" to the clacking of the sounder.

JOHN BLAKE

SWL-John-9054 now has the call VK6JRB. My thanks to Ralph, ZL2AOH for the info.

F5NQL

Maurice refers us to the K1USN web page where you will find a list of Museum Ships and operating frequencies <http://www.qsl.net/k1usn/event.html>

ACTIVITY ON 60M

Maurice, F5NQL, relayed info derived from the RSGB concerning limited amateur activity of 5 MHz.

The so-called "Fivemegs Experiment" in the United Kingdom got off to an enthusiastic start in early August. Several amateur stations wasted no time in obtaining the required Notice of Variance—or NoV—to operate as part of the experiment to investigate band propagation. The Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) announced in July that the Radiocommunications Agency (RA) and the UK's Ministry of Defence have granted permission to allocate five frequencies in the range 5250 kHz to 5450 kHz.

"We now have over 200 Full Class A license holders authorized to operate on the five spot frequencies," said RSGB Spectrum Director Gordon Adams, G3LEQ, who is directing the experiment. Frequencies available in the UK are 5260, 5280, 5290, 5400 and 5405 kHz. Gordon says 5400 kHz is serving as a calling channel, but UK stations have been looking for US experimental activity on 5260 kHz. Activity in the UK has been on upper sideband.

Maurice points out that in France, the frequencies mentioned are thus far SWL only.

Maurice also mentions that K4BAI, John, FISTS 2150, will be on as 8P9Z December 10-17 in the ARRL 10M contest, mixed mode category, high power if an amp is available. Outside the contest, John will use the callsign 8P9HT, 160-6M CW and SSB. QSL both via K4BAI. Early days of course but since I confess the memory if not the brain of the Pooh bear perhaps a note in your diaries would not come amiss

FROM THE WEBMASTER

As many of you will know, Andy (G0JLX) has been having untold problems attempting to shunt the Keynote via QSL.NET. He has been in touch with the manager and although attempts have been made to set up filters to permit Andys' header to be routed round their 'spam' trap they were largely unsuccessful. *"I thought you had better know about the problems QSL.net seem to be suffering !*

On a totally unrelated subject to FISTS, I happened to send an email to an amateur with a QSL.net address. And it bounced and bounced and bounced on every single retry. Even an email of complaint to the webmaster bounced !

Then I tried the executive address of the owner (courtesy the problems we FISTS had) and even THAT bounced..... So, official recommendation - DO NOT USE QSL.net. I will require proper email addresses for all members currently holding QSL.net addresses ASAP". Andy, G0JLX.

Apart from this irritating problem, e-keynote is working fine. It is fast and trouble free. Well done Andy.

THAT MENTAL TICKER TAPE

Sometimes things happen in small lumps. This month was just one of those cases when I had no less than three references to reading without the aid of a pencil. Let me say from the start that it **will** happen. Usually when students reach a reasonable level of competence at moderate speeds, they find themselves reading in the head especially the smaller common words. This leads to the situation where you read far faster than you can physically write and you begin to jot down an odd word here and there to remind yourself of the path of the subjects covered in a QSO.

You can hasten this state by discarding the pen and just LISTENING to other QSOs. It won't take much practice believe me before you find yourself able to take on a live QSO and cease to worry about where you last saw the pen. Many people have tried to anticipate just when this happens but this is not a one-size-fits-all happening so talk of competence at a given speed is more smoke than substance.

Only wish it were not so but we all start off on the wrong rail as it were by writing everything down character by character before we really learn to 'hear' the shape of them. The non-written CW exam is not such a bad idea!

Let's face it, everyone can transcribe the phonetic equivalent of a short phrase without writing it and converting the sound 'shapes' of those same characters as Morse symbols is no less difficult.

OPTICAL PADDLES

We have had quite a bit of input concerning these. There is little doubt that because they work by the simple process of either interrupting or permitting the passage of light from an emitter to a receptor, they can be extremely light to the touch and smooth in action. Won't appeal to everyone of course. Most of you iambic operators like myself like to 'feel' something. G0EML for instance comments:

"Yes I have to confess that I was indeed using an optical twin paddle that I do use from time to time along with my small collection of about 20 Keys and paddles and two signalling lamps, But I must confess as yet Have not had any replies from my calls with the lamps.

The optical paddles are very well made by hand in Japan and can be purchased via the USA From Milestone Technologies they can be find on the web by typing in a search engine, (GHD paddles Morse Express.)

I have tried the entire top named paddles and for me GHD paddles are by far the best in quality, feel, and excellent workmanship.

GHD do optical paddles, Bugs both standard and optical, And also mechanical paddles single and twin along with the standard straight Key".

We also have info from ZS1AN who adds the note "still happy with my bencher" who did a little research and came up with the following information.

"Optical paddles" use optical sensing, instead of the normal electrical contacts, to determine when the key (or paddle) is closed. The only manufacturer using this technology is GHD in Japan, their web site is <http://www2s.biglobe.ne.jp/~ghdkey/flame.htm>, who claim that this method gives the paddles a particularly

"soft touch". There are some English pages on the site but the grammar and spelling are quite original. Alternatively see the US distributor's site, <http://www.MorseX.com/ghd/index.htm>.

There are also a number of reviews on the eham.net site - see <http://www.eham.net/reviews/detail/170>. All the reviewers give them good reports and appear to confirm the manufacturer's claims of a particularly soft touch.

CENTENARY PRIZE

Derek (G3ZDD) found himself in Radcom last month having won a prize in the Marconi Centenary Contest. There were 50 books on offer and 50 £2.00 coins and it was one of the former which came Dereks' way. This is a copy of Marconi's Atlantic Leap signed by one of the directors of Marconi PLC.

Well done Derek. He exceeded the requirement for working a VE station along with others by the 12 VEs he listed.

I recall commenting in a return email that you could buy nothing with a book whilst a £2.00 coin (up here in the hick country at least) would buy you a pint but seemingly all the coins were destined for VE.

A WORD OF WARNING

"Make sure you tell all you friends to be doubly careful" said the constable; so I am.

I was preparing my evening meal when the doorbell rang and found a teen-age Neanderthal burlbling on about my garden wall. 'Fer heavens' sake, show me what you are on about!' He took me round the side of the house to my garden wall and continued to the trees beyond it. Grumpy as ever, I pointed out that this was the extent of my property, turned about and retraced my steps where I discovered some scruffy youth on the doorstep with the door open. Furthermore Suzy was on the pavement looking for me and, having a rather short fuse I yelled "*#!@!* - OUT!" at which he moved with some alacrity followed by another kid who had actually been in the house. The trio headed up the road at some pace as I re-entered the house and continued preparing my evening meal. It was only after I had dined that the penny dropped and I made a quick check of the secret spot where a significant amount of cash (including US green stamps) were were living but all was intact.

I phoned the local nick and they had had no similar reports though a little while later they rang back to warn me that a constable was on his way up to seek information since the spotty trio had 'done' an old lady out of £80.00 (posing as water board employees) about half an hour after trying it on me. Sadly I have a very poor visual memory so my descriptions were vague and any endeavour on my part to identify them would be unsafe. It could well be that the diminutive Suzy created sufficient racket to put the third member off for the short time that it took me to return but whatever, be careful especially if you are predominantly alone.

Coincidentally, the following week, I was called upon by a roofing contractor who had spotted problems whilst repairing a neighbours' roof. This as it happened was perfectly genuine but before accompanying him to view the displaced coping, I pointedly slipped the Yale type lock and firmly shut the door. You just can't be too careful!

NEW MEMBERS

8939	G4YSQ	Terry	8940	GW3KJN	Ian
8941	GD4EIP	Col	8942	G4AOB	Mal
8943	MD3LEGH	Hugo	8944	M5RAR	Ray
8945	M0HOP	John	8946	M0TLT	
Trevor					
8947	M3GBT	Graham	7847	NW3EBS	Ted

Pse note that G4YSQ is a previous member but had mislaid all certs etc. At the time it was more expedient to issue a new number but no sooner had this been done than members of both NZ and the US came up with his original number. Grrrrr! For some years now I have been placing full details of lapsed members into a temporary holding file (a database table of the same structure as FISTS Members) having failed to recognise the potential advantages earlier but Terry was from an era which predated this. Also worth noting is MD3LEG. Was this callsign selected in advance I wonder? Considering the three legged emblem of the Isle of Man it is most appropriate!

JULY LADDER

July scores		Yearly total	
G0SCP	267	G0SCP	1399
G4LHI	158	G4LHI	1357
M5AGL	59	M5ABN	476
OH7QR	11	GW0SGG	180
		G3VQO	145
		M5AGL	144
		M0DRK	52
		G0MRH	49
		OH7QR	44

As you can see, we only had 4 submissions this month when M5AGL improved his yearly but failed by a whisker to place himself one rung up.

GM4BAE

For the first time in three years I found Gerry on 40m and knowing the problems he has by the need to rise at something like 5:00 a.m. to make a 100 plus mile round trip for hospital treatment 3 days a week, I was gratified to learn that he is shortly to receive a dialysis machine which his wife would be trained to operate. This roll-your-own treatment will allow Gerry to spend much more time on the air but - more importantly - will relieve him of the those tedious trips.

BUCKMASTER CD

Ralph, ZL2AOH, contacted Buckmaster Publishing since he had heard whispers that the 'Flying Horse Call Book CD was scheduled to be terminated. He received a reply: *We are planning to expand and continually improve our product both on the CD and the Internet.*

We have recently added a FISTS membership number field in our callsign records.

Jack, NIBIC President Buckmaster Publishing.

Thankyou for that Ralph and I am sure members will be quite chuffed to discover they can cross refer FISTS info.

Ralph and the Quartz Hill gang also had a fine writeup in the Dominion Post giving a brief history of the site. The old Radio New Zealand receiving station used to be responsible for picking up (and presumably relaying) broadcasts from the BBC but with the coming of satellite comms, became redundant and is now leased to the club by the current owners of the site. ZL1ZAE is pictured on his way up to the top of a 42M mast to do a little repair work.

Sadly the article appears to have been faxed rather than scanned so the photographs are not reproducible.

SILENT KEY

It is with much sadness that I have to inform you that my son-in-law, Bill Chandler G0VBH # 2252, went Silent Key on Tuesday 6th August. Bill loved his amateur radio, especially cw and was also a member of the RSARS.

Together with Wendy, G0VBG, they were very active from the Oxfordshire area.

Peter G4LHI # 2219

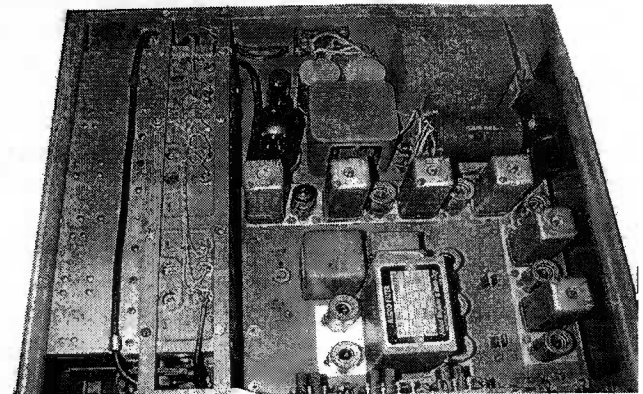
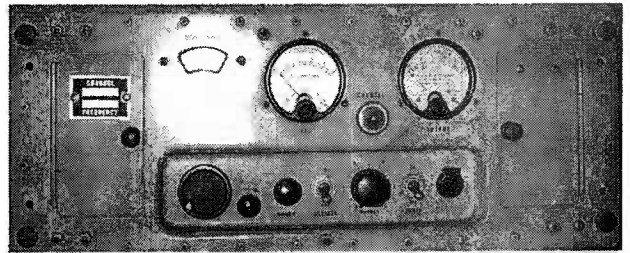
THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

Insufficient input to include this last month but quite a few items this time. **G4GUA**. John (who uses optical paddles) gives me the source as Morse Express which will presumably be found by an internet search. Delivery was uncomplicated and completed within two weeks. He has recently moved QTH but no details of antenna possibilities. **G0GSW**. Hello again Vic. Our Rev friend has also done a Romany act and by the time you receive this letter, he will be flogging pegs and lucky heather somewhere near Worthing from whence he is anticipating being QRVasap. **GI0BEY**. Our Scotty (after 18 months with no shack/antenna) has recently managed to make himself heard with a multi-band vertical (R-700) using QRP and has even managed a bit of DX. Asks that you all put on your best ears around the FISTS preferred segment since he may be a little difficult to copy in the face of his QRO brethren. **G0IHK**. Nigel is again available on the web. Feels like he has done a few rounds with Mike Tyson and presumably come off second best following a femoral bypass which has to be repeated later for the opposite side. Only used to hear Nigel signing /M when his dogs were taking him for a walk but reckon that situation must have changed. Maybe blowing the FISTS trumpet Nigel but since we started, the incidence of 'deaf' CQ calls appears to have diminished considerably and most ops now appreciate the need for QRL? but sadly a very small number mis-interpret and take it to mean "I am about to call CQ on this frequency so if anyone is here then shove off". **M0ETO**. Brian has joined our happy band of wanderers also but has taken it a little further with a QSY to Sweden. For the first 3 months, he may be found with SM/M0ETO after which he will be applying for a full SM licence. Yes, your number remains unchanged (7710) whilst of course your Century award (1091) is still valid and thank you for the update on the e-mail address. Main reason for the move is his job with Engelska Skolan Jarfalla (English School) for which his residence in Stockholm is a necessity and he offers the web-site: <www.engelska.se> which provides links to Jarfalla Skolan. He would also like to express his appreciation to G3KTT, M0KKT, M0AYI, M0COX and M5ABT for their help and encouragement. **G3WP**. VMT the 'extras' Jack. Found late evening traffic on 14/18 MHz though he now has a tendency to fall asleep at the key. Made 82 QSOs during the Jubilee contest but only 4 of them in commonwealth areas. Thinks it was a mistake to allow non-commonwealth countries to participate and would have been better in

the BERU format. Take care matey. **M0CMQ**. Tnks for the email address Mark and also the extract from the web site. Very comprehensive. **G3LNC**. Our Jack is still cycling and running which, when you consider he is sporting a pacemaker is no mean feat. Reports no untoward effects with the gadget when operating. Like the piccy on your QSL mate... very dramatic. **G3TSK**. 1 Jan, 1999 was a marker for Colin since on that day he made a resolution to have at least 1 QSO per day. Even went to acquiring a big reserve prior to moving QTH just to cover for 'silent' days. **M0SOP**. Hugh (ex M1ETU) got a little confused. The date you see on the Keynote label is the date your renewal is due so tnks for an early renewal and yes - understood about your preference for the snail-mail version of the news letter.

INFO REQUIRED

ON7OP would like info on this piece of ex-US military kit (which he places to 1940) particularly schematic and psu details.



FINALE

Well that's another month consigned to history. The days are noticeably shortening and with them I hope, doing the opposite, will be the band conditions. Mind you we really cannot grumble because there have been plenty of openings but by the end of August, we will be approaching that happy state when we start thinking of more substantial clothing and the HF bands begin to open during daylight hours. In the meantime, if Suzy will only stop yapping at me whenever I don the cans, there will be yet more members found.

Have fun people and lets have a few more of you challenging for the ladder and the monthly score. We can't just let LHI and SCO rule the roost can we? 73/88 es stay sober de Geo.

October 2002

UK KeyNote

by Geo G3ZQS

GREETINGS

At the time of writing, autumn seems to be heralded by weather more characteristic of summer than during summer itself. Still it does give a lift both in spirits and in band conditions where late evening on 20M is frequently open to the US and 40M finds a whole host of strong UK/EU FISTS signals providing good conditions for rag chewing. The fact that HQ is in need of a decent antenna for 30M though becomes obvious when I can hear EU and even UK stations working into JA, ZL and other DX locations which cannot be heard at this end. I really must do something about it. Hi. The only thing I can do at the present time is to 'tune' the W3DZZ because the small mag loop above the beam will not bounce on that band and the large one located in the garden is extremely touchy at 10.1 MHz aside from causing interference to the audio on neighbours TV. Why this should be so is a mystery since they report no interference with the video side and there are no problems evident on my own installation.

We continue to attract new members on the EU/DX list whilst both Nancy and Ralph regularly report additions to the US and ZL/VK lists. Currently there are 5021 members in total - 1096 on the EU/DX list, 3837 on the US and 88 on the ZL/VK lists. The US list is in a state of flux of course since deletions and reinstatments are not always up to date but it gives a good overall picture of our state of health.

M0AVW reports a seasonally characteristic increase in the traffic being handled at the bureau and incidentally, is keen to thank those of you who have been sending in stamps for his local church appeal. The response itself he describes as overwhelming and somewhere up in the wilderness of Tyne Tees, there is a local vicar with a broad smile. Hi.

Talking of broad smiles, an on-air report from a M0 station who seemingly had been encouraged to use a gifted key by one of our members came out as 332. I can understand the strength and readability part of the report as he was blessed with little more than 30 feet of wire under his roof, but is my FT1000MP responsible for such a disgraceful tone? Don't worry.... this confusion with full RST reports as opposed to those of phone is common and I tend to think "I heard what you said but I know what you meant".

GOVTN and myself often turn up the wick on 40M and between us try to put the world to rights. These QSOs frequently border on the bizarre since we share the same warped sense of humour and have identical views of current social events but I think we must have something of an audience because snippets from our observations frequently creep into on-air rag chews with other stations. Ron incidentally struggles with severe arthritis and I picture puppet like behaviour out of the chair but he handles things well making it a pleasure to insult him. Got his wife well trained though - takes care of all the household chores, does the gardening and is not averse to buying him the occasional treat. Hi.

CONTEST MANAGER

Heck! I am not having the best of luck here. Dale who so recently volunteered to take over the position has indicated his wish to resign. Fortunately we do have another member who is prepared to take up the reins but for the moment, he is not QRV on the web which does make things difficult. However, he has plans afoot which will rectify this before too long. I will keep you informed as things progress. In the meantime, Dale has offered to maintain his watch on the ladder until November.

DARC AND CW REQUIREMENT

Germany moves to keep code tests...from WIA Web Site

The Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (DARC) in a submission "Morse code and WRC 2003" to the IARU Region 1 Conference being held in San Marino in November, support the retention of Morse code as an amateur licence qualification.

It urges all IARU Region 1 member societies to ask their radio authorities to keep Morse code as an amateur licence test requirement.

DARC argues that in all of the previous discussion in the IARU Region 1 about the obligatory knowledge of Morse code, one major requirement not under dispute is to keep the knowledge level of amateur radio examinations at least at the current standard.

DARC seems to rely on this to mean that Morse code should continue as a licence requirement. "Morse code watch" says time will tell if the DARC submission gains support from other IARU Region 1 radio societies.

A vote of DARC members earlier this year narrowly supported retention of the code requirement.

DARC also states in its submission, that the IARU Administrative Committee's "Guatemala Resolution" on the issue needs to be reviewed.

In a media release issued in October 2001, the IARU AC stated: recognising that the Morse code continues to be an effective and efficient mode of communication used by many thousands of radio amateurs, but further recognising that the position of Morse as a qualifying criterion for an HF amateur license is no longer relevant to the healthy future of amateur radio,
Resolves that

1. member societies are urged to seek, as an interim measure, Morse code testing speeds not exceeding five words per minute;
2. setting aside any previous relevant decisions, IARU policy is to support the removal of Morse code testing as an ITU requirement for an amateur license to operate on frequencies below 30 MHz.

The DARC has also proposed that IARU Region 1 societies should, as a group, discuss the introduction of a Novice licence system before introducing a low level entry licence to their individual radio authorities.

This proposal could be seen as referring to those nations, including Britain with its Foundation licence, who have or intend to jump the gun on a uniform CEPT Class 3 (novice) licence.

12th September 2002 - (SIC) - The Wireless Institute of Australia <http://www.wiavic.org.au/mcw/>.

The above info relayed from F5NQL.

SILENT KEY

It is with great sadness that I have to inform you of the death of Bill Woodrup 2E0RAF.

He Passed away peacefully Friday 13th September 2002 and

will be sadly missed. My mother has asked that Donations to Trinity Hospice in the fylde or to Rosemere Cancer Centre (Royal Preston Hospital) who both treated him in his final weeks, be sent in lieu of flowers.

Andrew Woodrup, 2E0AVJ

DEADLINE???

Tony (G4FAI) relayed an email from the Italian I-QRP CLUB ARI which highlighted a contest due to begin 27 Sept. This is a EUCW club but as Tony pointed out, it was a tad optimistic that it would meet any news letter deadline limits. I am frequently unable to include scheduled items which arrive too late for inclusion so, just a gentle reminder to those of you planning dx-peditions or even just holiday activity possibilities, please allow plenty of time.

CHANGE OF CALL

M5AGQ, having passed the necessary tests, sent an application to the RA for a M0 call. This was confirmed as M0TIF and they even refunded the fees for his previous call pointing out that he could not hold both M5 and M0. Also, Mark, M0DJA becomes G0DJQ with an appropriate change to his email address.

160M TEST

The next EUCW 160m contest will be on the air on the first 2003 week end, January 4th and 5th.

The EUCW 160m. contest rules are now modified as follows

Any of EUCW's official call-sign used in the contest by authorised hams, values the contact for 10 points. For example : GX0IPX (for FISTS), F8UFT (for UFT), G4FOC (FOC) and so on are each valued for 10 points if contacted by any participant in the contest.

It would be kind of you to inform the EUCW 160m Committee, if your Society owns a special call sign, what it is, and if it's will be possible to hear it in the contest. In such case, please say us who will be behind

the key using your Society's callsign, before December 28th, 2002.

Except for the name of the operator of your Society's callsign, please would you answer not later than September, 30th, for the rules need to be updated and published no later than Oct 10th for Magazines and on Web sites

Best regards . For the EUCW 160m contest committee (Sponsored by UFT) . Jacques, F5YJ , jacar@club-internet.fr, et Maurice, F5NQL, f5nql@aol.com

I know this is some way ahead but the fact is that the HQ station as such is unable to operate on 160M (the antenna is just not up to it) and apart from that, even allowing for my usual "Christmas break", I would be hard pressed to participate. As you will note, there is not too much time to confirm the presence of GX0IPX though if any members have 160M facilities and care to form a team, MX5IPX is available for this occasion but please note the restricted time available.

QRS AND PRACTICE ACTIVITY

Hello Geo,

Fairly soon, in the next couple of weeks or so, I am proposing to start a morse over the air session at 1830 clock time for 30 minutes on 3.595 MHz + or - QRM. From 1825, interested listeners should look for sigs from me 'QRL QRL QRL de G0JLX /p' etc.

I propose to use the Farnsworth method of teaching, starting at 5 wpm (20 wpm characters) and slowly, increment that to 16wpm over a number of weeks to ensure competency for those eventually taking the CW test.

Transmissions will be made from Epsom on Mon, Tues, Wed & Thurs only, thus giving 2 hours practice Rx per week. It would be great if somebody else could do it Fri, Sat & Sun when I cannot.

Routine will be 2 sets of numbers to 'warm them up' then plain language with mixed numbers and control characters for approx 29 minutes. Text can (and will) be anything I feel like sending, so it will be impossible to cheat.

I currently have 3 students, comprising 2 SWL's in Chalfont St. Peter and 1 'B' class in Coventry.

Interested parties (A, B, Intermediate, Foundation or SWL) are invited to contact me at:

instructor@asel.demon.co.uk

andy.digby@mail.com

by phone on 07768 282880

by fax on 08701 205954

Reports will be welcomed after each session's SSB readback. Kind regards, Andy Digby G0JLX

S5 QRP CLUB

I am advised that a new site (<http://www.s5qrp.com/>) is currently under construction

REMEMBER

Just a short reminder to our newer members to keep an ear open especially on 80m for recent 'M' calls QRS. Tnks.

30M AWARD

For those of you QRV on this useful but otherwise under-used band, F5NQL relays the following:

DXCC is pleased to announce the addition of the 30-Meter (10 MHz) Single Band DXCC award.

Applications for this award will be accepted beginning October 1, 2002.

30-Meter DXCC certificates will be dated but not numbered. 30-Meter credits will count toward the DeSoto Cup competition ending September 30, 2003.

They will also be included in the DXCC Annual List totals for the period ending on that date. A 30-Meter endorsement to 5 Band DXCC will also be available.

The 30-meter band was added to the standard printout in January 2002. If you received a copy of your record since then, you already have a copy of your 30-meter credits.

If you do not know which credits you have on 30 meters, you can contact DXCC for a copy of your record.

If you have web access and can handle ADOBE (pdf) files, contact DXCC at dxcc@arrl.org for a copy of your record.

If you do not have web access, please send a note to DXCC along with \$2.00 (US and Canada), \$4.00 (outside the US and Canada) for postage and handling.

For further information, please contact DXCC at dxcc@arrl.org.

Mauro Pregliasco, I1JQJ/KB2TJM

425 DX News Editor

E-mail: i1jqj@425dxn.org

<http://www.425dxn.org>

NEW MEMBER

Hans, G0UPL recounts building a rock bound one-valve 80m TX together with a polyphase SSB RX. Forward/reverse switch on his homebrew ATU was reverse-labelled so his first QSO in March 2002 (with FISTS member G4GZG) over a distance of 12 miles must have stretched it a little. He tried again in August (this time remembering the misleading labelling) and since then has managed 30 QSOs in 5 countries on 80m, QRS with what he describes as 'rusty' Morse. A DX contact over about 4 miles with G0JLX/P resulted in their meeting in a local watering hole for a pint or two where he was introduced to FISTS. QSL exchange was literally 'direct' of course. Hans includes references for those interested in the hand rolled kit:

<http://www.hanssummers.com/radio/cwtx/index.htm>

<http://www.hanssummers.com/radio/atu/atu.htm>

<http://www.hanssummers.com/radio/polyphase/index.htm> Welcome aboard Hans.. sure you will enjoy the company.

SITES

Following last months' list of sites, David, G3ZPF reminds me that he may be found at www.djreynolds.supanet.com. I try to keep up with these but the list is rather exhaustive; however following a hint from David, I found <http://www.mods.dk/> to be among the really useful ones. Lots of mods for lots of rigs.

WELL-COULD YOU TRANSCRIBE TO JA?

G3ZOD (Graham) took a shufti on the GHD web site (re. optical paddles) and whilst he took his hat off to the guy since he speaks not one word of Japanese, the following quotes put his belly in spasm:

"No chattering well signals at all."

"High grade. You will satisfy on it!"

"Maintenance free No back rash"

I'm still puzzling over this statement - not having an engineering background probably doesn't help:

"Lever to base had jumped direct by stainless steal. Perfect finished."

Well... 9 out of 10 for trying. Hi.

THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

G8NT. Sadly, Dick's wife (already badly disabled) suffered a stroke in June which so badly affected her sight that she is now registered blind. Needless to say, this has placed something of a brake on his activity.

G4KKI. Bill and I had a QSO in which he recalled the name of his Morse instructor from way way back. I just couldn't believe his memory but in a letter he recalls there were two sergeants with the same name, one known as 'bang bang' and the other 'tap tap' which is surely a great mnemonic and explains his 'phenomenal' memory.

Hi. **E15FY.** Our Bill finds his role reduced to that of SWL these days with the ubiquitous arthritic shoulders, fingers etc. Count myself lucky Bill 'cos aside from a few prominent knots twixt palms and fingers, things are near normal - at least I can still lift a pint pot. **G3JKY.**

Tnks for the giggle Jakey. Too long to relate in Keynote though. Feels the prefix should reflect the source but notes that VE stations in particular are using odd ball prefixes at the slightest excuse which rather leaves you wondering about the country of origin. On the matter of GQ sub-manager, he expands on the possibilities... is GQ3JKY a 'G', 'GI', 'GM' or whatever? Now then mate.. just ask Chuck M0AVW how he goes on with MX5IPX, GX0IPX/P etc. He has bought himself a deerstalker but keeps losing his magnifying glass. Hi. **GW3KJN.**

Ian was in dry-dock for 3 weeks (Aug) and was in again for a week during Sept all of which has done his CC chasing a lot of no good. Tnks for the unexpected quicky on 20m Ian. **GM3PIP.** Peter has resurrected a 1154/1155 combo and his letter noted a failed call to HQ but I later worked him on 40m. Got some work to do on it yet though Peter. That QRH was pretty severe with LF about 200 and HF about 300Hz. Wonder if any of our OTs could help sort out this ageing budgerigar. Could be unstable supply to the VFO I suppose but have a feeling it is a little more complex than that. Any offers? **G0FVS.**

Jim was happy with a QRP QSO to an IK4 station but next day he found his loop lying flat on the ground with grass growing round it. Must have been there for quite a while so how in blazes his 5W got beyond the next street is a puzzle. Period of intense activity restoring it to its rightful place but all seems fine now.

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ZUT AGAIN

From Richard, WA7SNY, a note explaining that the US Coast Guard CW Operators Association was founded by RMCS Ralph H. Davis in 1996; the requirements of membership being service as a Coast Guard CW Operator. 'ZUT' however was founded in 1962 by RM1 Bill Gullidge during the period RATZ was establishing itself as the primary comms mode between ocean station vessels (WX) and Coast Guard radio stations. In fact, CGCWPA nets are still run Saturdays at 1600z on 14052MHz for CW check-in. That QRG incidentally is also the calling frequency for the RNARS group and those of you with a taste for it will find some pretty slick operators there

DXPO

If you happen to be in France during October, the 24th HAMEXPRO will be held in AUXERRE, 19/20th. After Friedrichshaffen, it is possibly the most popular event on the EU calendar and several thousand visitors are expected.

Auxerre is in N. Burgundy about 160km SouthEast of Paris within drinking distance of the vinyard area that produces Chablis.

During the weekend, F6REF (REF HQ Call) will be qrv whilst TM5SIA will be active the previous and following week though no mention is made of CW activity. Info via F5NQL.

IAMBICS AND A QUESTION OF CHOICE

G4AJA is quite pleased with his IC756 Pro but the in-built keyer enthalls him not since it is of type B whilst he is strictly a type A man. The difference? With type B a 'squeeze' released during a dot or dash will cause another alternate element to follow the one which is being produced. With type A however when a 'squeeze' is released, the element preceding release (dot or dash) will be completed and nothing else. His photocopied notes indicate that the window for action (release) on type B is only half that of type A. It would seem that some 80% - 90% of Curtis consumer sales are type A but A or B, the pin layout is identical and either the A or B pin is grounded to produce the desired output format. The blurb also points out that the mechanical bug, aside from facilitating 'characteristic' Morse (which means bending convention somewhat) also lends itself to the 'long dashes' used in the US railroad code.

THE IN-BOX

Not a lot of note this month though Jakey, G3JKY observed that '*Keynote arrived last week and I was surprised to find last months still in its envelope. This leads me to conclude that Old Age is when a monthly mag arrives every week*'. Tempted to write my address as 'Symmetry Rd' but chickened out and remembers that some folks misread Wrotham (pronounced Rootem) as Rotherham whilst a club 2m field day found one hopeful logging 'Settle' as Seattle. Now that must be a first on 2m surely folks!

NEW MEMBERS

8949	M3XGQ	Tony	8950	M5JSW	Steve
8951	JA8XIC	Kato	8952	G4XEC	Laurie
8953	M0AUW	Dick	8954	JR0ECQ	Tomo
8955	G3HFX	Pete	8956	G4JOK	Bob
8957	G0UPL	Hans	8958	DL5DXS	Steve
8959	JA2BCQ	Kaz	8960	M0EOS	Allen

ZL2AOH IN BLIGHTY

Our Ralph spent some time in the West country and hooked up with a few members. His web-cam was working overtime though not with too much success but I was able to make use of the above showing (left) Ralph and (right) Brian 2E0BGD. We also had a .jpg picture of Steve, G0UFW and Chris, G0HFX which whilst passable presented me with a few problems. Ralph threatened to 'borrow' someones shack and get on the air but guess I missed him if he succeeded in this.

Brian... I note we share the same taste in fungus cultivation and hair style but I am far more good looking! Dunno what happened to your garden mate.. it was there the last time I looked!



FINALE

Seemingly overnight the leaves have begun to die off and whilst the UK sits beneath a virtually static umbrella of high pressure there is little or no breeze and the temperatures rarely fall below 12c at night, peaking to 19c during the day.

Oh disaster. I have here a Datong FL-2 AF filter. It used to work a treat but when it started giving problems, I went to work with contact cleaner (spray) on the slide switch - the obvious culprit. Seems to have done more harm than good though and now it is to all intents and purposes deaf. Don't really need it any more but before finding a foster home, I would like to get it up and running as it was from the factory. Anyone got any useful suggestions for undoing the damage?

11 September has been and gone and although the band conditions on 20/15 were 'grotty' to say the least, I did manage a few US contacts all of whom thanked me for my expression of shared sadness and assurance that the occasion was not forgotten on this side of the pond.

A thankyou to those thoughtful souls who heeded my plea of last month and reported in with changed email addresses. It does help.

That's your lot for this month people. Thank you all for your support. Without your help and enthusiasm, CW could well be in the oblivion that some folks claim it is instead of which, it is thriving. The best of health to you all. 73, 88 es stay sober de Geo

FISTS SPRINT ENTRY FORM

Entry Class QRO _____ QRP _____ CLUB _____

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

CLUB NAME _____

CLUB FISTS Number _____

YOUR NAME _____ CALL _____


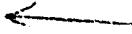
YOUR FISTS Number _____

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 your 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 correct and true to the best of my knowledge."

Date _____ Signature _____ Call _____

COMMENTS:

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

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Are YOU due to renew your subs??