

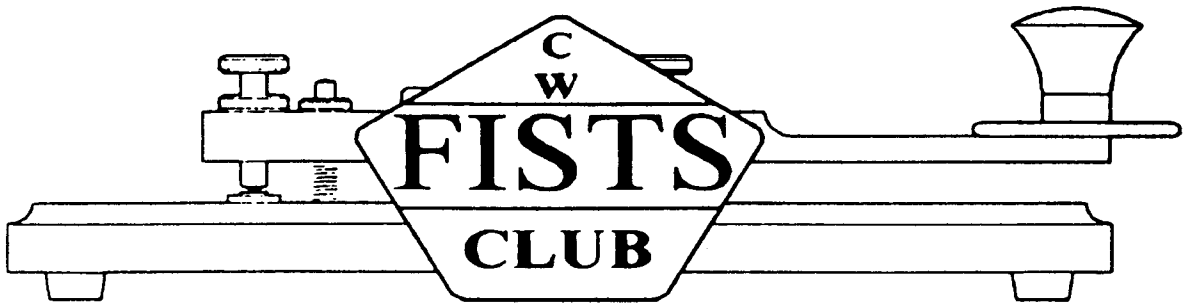
ISSUE 2, 2004

Reference Issue

# 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...?

## Info on How to do just about anything related to FISTS

**HOW DO I GET AN APPLICATION?** You can download a North American membership application or an application for DX on the FISTS web page <http://www.fists.org>. Information and an application can be mailed to you. Send a message Joe Pardue, W5OS ([w5os@arrl.net](mailto:w5os@arrl.net)) with your name, call sign, and postal address, or mail the request to Joe at 29 Melrose Dr., Marrero, LA 70072-5055

**HOW DO I JOIN?** Membership is open to all interested in Morse code, irrespective of their speed and ability. Subscriptions are **\$15.00/year**; Under 17= **FREE**; College students = **\$10**. Family members may join FISTS at no extra charge-only one newsletter is mailed per household. Send to FISTS, P. O. Box 47, Hadley, MI 48440 or via PAYPAL <http://www.paypal.com> (N.America only). Address your PAYPAL payment to **FISTS@TIR.COM**

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. NOTE: *Applications are processed as they come in, not held until checks clear - it doesn't take 8 weeks to get your number, it just may take that long for your check to clear.*

**WHERE DO I MAIL MY APPLICATION?** North American applications are to be mailed to Nancy, WZ8C at P. O. Box 47, Hadley, MI 48440-0047. "FISTS Down Under" applications are to be mailed to Ralph Sutton, ZL2AOH at 12C Herbert Gardens, 186 The Terrace, Wellington 6001, New Zealand All other applications are to be mailed to Geo, G3ZQS at 119 Cemetery Rd, Darwen Lancs, BB3 2LZ.

**HOW DO I GET A NUMBER FOR MY LOCAL CLUB?** Clubs with FCC call signs may be assigned a FISTS number at no charge providing there is at least one FISTS member in good standing in the local club. These clubs are not legally affiliated with FISTS, nor does FISTS have anything to do with how the club is run, etc. It just means the club has a FISTS number and is worth three points toward awards. If the club wants a newsletter, there is a \$15 a year charge.

**HOW DO I KNOW WHEN TO RENEW?** Your renewal date is on your mailing label - please look at it! ONE renewal postcard is mailed out when your renewal time is near. *If you've sent in your renewal but get a reminder postcard within a few weeks, please don't be concerned, the card probably crossed with your renewal.*

**HOW DO I RENEW?** Send \$15/year or \$10/year for college students (under 17 and family members are free) to FISTS, P. O. Box 47, Hadley, MI 48440. or to Paypal using the email address [fists@tir.com](mailto:fists@tir.com). Put RENEWAL in the comments section.

**HOW DO I UPDATE MY ADDRESS or CALL SIGN ON THE FISTS DATABASE?** Send corrections or changes to Nancy Kott, WZ8C, at FISTS, P. O. Box 47, Hadley, MI 48440. Please send labels with your corrections to the FISTS QSL Bureau so the bureau workers don't have to change all your SASEs by hand.

**HOW DO I GET AN UP-TO-DATE MEMBER LIST?** Send a SASE with \$2.00 (US) to [Ed N7CFA](mailto:EdN7CFA) 2628 Lilac Street, Longview, WA 98632. Lists are available on the FISTS Web page.

**HOW DO I GET ON THE FISTS EMAIL LIST?** For periodic Email updates send your Email address, call sign and FISTS number to Kathi Hilton. [fistelist@comcast.net](mailto:fistelist@comcast.net). If you put your email address on your application, it is automatically added to the list. Due to potential spam problems, the list is NOT given out to the membership and is NOT published on the web page. It is ONLY used to notify you of FISTS items of interest. If you want people to know your e-mail address, we recommend you include it in your listing on QRZ.com or Buckmaster lookup service.

**HOW DO I ORDER CLUB SUPPLIES?** Irene W08E - [ikott@compuserve.com](mailto:ikott@compuserve.com) - 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr., Clinton Twp, MI 48038 is our Supply Manager. Our supplies are sold as close to cost as possible

\*\*Metallic Gold logo stickers, 200 for \$3.50 \*\*I "red heart graphic" CW Stickers, 3/4 inch round stickers, \$3.50 for 200 \*\*\*"I Support KNOW Code" buttons for .50 \*\*Blue enamel cloisonne/gold metal "FISTS CW CLUB" logo pin, with tie-tack type pin back 1" x 1 1/8" octagon \$1.50

\*\*White enamel cloisonne pin "I (red heart graphic) CW" "FISTS CW CLUB" along edge. 3/4" diameter circle tie-tack type pin on back \$1.50 \*\*Embroidered Cloth patch of our key logo, \$1.00 each. Can be sewn or ironed on \*\*Rubber stamps with the FISTS logo for use with an ink pad (not included) for \$5.00

Issue 2, 2004

# NORTH AMERICAN MEMO

Nancy Kott WZ8C Editor  
PO Box 47, Hadley MI 4840

Hi FISTS!

The year has just started, but there is a lot going on. We ended 2003 with a bang by making a wonderful showing of Morse code support to the FCC and the ARRL. Thank you for taking the time out of your busy lives to drop a letter to the FCC and the ARRL, some FISTS even wrote to their elected government officials and local newspapers. By the way, newspapers are always looking for "human interest" stories. Consider contacting your local paper and inviting them out to see your shack. The most frequent comment I get from non-hams is, "Oh people still use Morse code?" The more we can make the general population aware that Morse code is still vital, the better awareness there will be of its use, not only as a hobby as a communications resource.

The ARRL has submitted a proposal to the FCC. This proposal essentially includes:

- \*A three-tiered licensing structure, two of which permit HF access without a Morse code test
- \*Retaining 5 WPM Morse code test for Extra
- \*Making Technician licensees General class, whether or not they passed a Morse code exam.
- \*Making Advanced class licensees Extra class.

You can read the text of their proposal from a link on the FISTS web page <http://www.fists.org>.

As of this printing, the FCC has not acted on the ARRL proposal (nor are the obligated to) but if and when they do, I will send out a special notice, as I did with the FISTS proposal, and will again ask you to make your opinions known.

The FISTS Proposal is RM-10811 and can be read on the FISTS page.

I received this poem from **Gene W2BWQ, #4357** and wanted to share it with you. Thanks so much Gene, it really made my day! 73 88 Nancy WZ8C

CW IS FISTS

I pull up my chair, and turn on my rig -  
Twirl up the dial and hear a great sig.

Lo and Behold, there's a call of CW -  
calling a FISTS. I knew what to do.

I jot down the call on the pad on my knee  
Only to hear, a FISTS preempt me.

Disappointed I was, but thought I would wait  
For surely the QSO would shortly abate.

I waited and waited, my patience grew sour  
The CW flowed, it lasted an hour.

Knowing by then, a rag-chewer's QSO,  
was surely in progress, as always they do so

Undaunted I was, my keyer was ready  
I pressed on ahead, my fingers were steady.

A call to all FISTS was sent on the air.  
The response was fast., and sent with great flair-

The CW was sweet, its tone was so mellow.  
Like music it was, to this Old Timer fellow.

My luck took a turn, upwards at that  
A DX FISTS station and I had a chat.

His speed was superb, his accuracy too  
As FISTS we are told, that's what we must do.

For sure it was fun, but you better believe  
I had a great time, I will not deceive.

To belong to a club, so worldwide in scope -  
CW is FISTS, and there lies our hope.

Hello

Another fun Sprint has passed. This years Fall Sprint as in years past, was a great one. The bands were in pretty good shape and lots of folks were on the air. Thanks again for sending in your logs and your very kind comments, and remember please send them in even if you only make a few contacts. We all like to hear from you! HOPE YOU ALL HAVE A hAPPY 2004! 73 and hope to catch you down the logs! Dan, N8IEFISTS #4985

QRO Category	Call	Name	FISTS#	ST	Score
	N4BP	Bob	7871	FL	33120
	N2ED	Ed	2454	NJ	27048
	K4IA	Craig	6702	VA	26325
	W6XU	Josh	9341	CA	16170
	K8CI	Richard	5270	OH	13268
	W5TA	Dick	7889	TX	11687
	K7KJ	Greg	8686	OR	10880
	K8NVR	Ed	7957	OH	9256
	NJ2OM	Mike	N/A	NJ	9240
	K9PL	Philip	6753	IL	7314
	W7DPW	Dave	N/A	WA	7020
	KF4AAF	Chris	5480	FL	6675
	KO4OL	Glenn	6583	KY	6380
	KB6NU	Dan	9342	MI	6240
	W7SOM	John	9358	WA	6153
	WB2FXK	Jack	918	NY	4944
	W4DON	Donald	3936	NC	4920
	KS0M	Dick	3067	MO	4840
	VA3AVP	David	9913	ONT	4500
	WB2WGX	Richard	6853	NY	4305
	AE2L	Joshua	1912	NC	3906
	K5IZO	John	10309	TX	3154
	KG2LO	Roland	2980	NJ	3150
	K8VFR	Rose	5602	MI	3056
	WA0VQY	Robin	3346	IA	3024
	KG9LZ	Tom	5769	IL	2924
	KD5MJJ	Henry	8180	TX	2592
	KA5KTI	Scott	8626	AR	2533
	NG7Z	Paul	5368	MS	2475
	W8GAC	John	4043	OH	2070
	K0LWV	Larry	2589	MO	1952
	N3PM	Joseph	1268	MD	1905
	KA7CJV	Phil	9733	OR	1740
	N4RE	Rick	8806	NC	1708
	W2FCA	Frank	9109	NY	1680
	K2MKX	Peter	8464	NY	1638
	KD5JOM	Bob	7459	MS	1526
	KH6HHS	Talley	9579	VA	1400
	W6FPS	Ron	8577	CA	1400
	KE3CR	Giles	4192	DE	924
	AG4KU	Scott	N/A	FL	825
	KA8MPT	John	9552	OH	585

KG4WBH	David	10229	GA	520
K4PTT	Duane	3494	GA	495
WBOB	Larry	2916	IA	455
NF6Q	Fernando	8649	CA	385
W2GER	Gerry	10139	NJ	210
W8III	David	5058	MI	180
N1WH	Wesley	9447	MA	180
HB9CHE	Erich	7757	HB9	125
N7EIE	Leroy	9926	WA	30

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QRP Category

Call	Name	FISTS#	ST	Score
KG5U	Dale	5880	TX	11676
W5KDJ	Wayne	10060	TX	8866
WA5TCZ	Darron	9441	LA	5320
W0UFO	Mert	3823	MN	4977
W5TVW	Sandy	5144	LA	4140
K4YKI	Norm	2166	KY	3580
WA5ZJK	Glenn	4978	TX	2890
AD6WL	Jim	9259	CA	2700
WA2BQI	Bud	2009	NY	2646
WA9PDS	David	6790	IL	2430
AA3II	Jerry	9746	PA	1792
KE6CC	John	8549	CA	1534
AG4KU	Scott	N/A	FL	825
AF4LQ	Mike	4139	KY	770
W1PID	Jim	6760	NH	385
N2EZY	David	7543	NY	320
K7RRR	Richard	5448	AZ	100
K2EKM	Bill	10138	VA	75

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CLUB Category

Call	Club	Name	FISTS#	ST	Score
N7CFA	Cowlitz	FISTS ARC	1900	WA	25116
W8EOC	MEDINA	TWO METER	10250	OH	16354
KNOWCW	FISTS	USA	10000	IL	13860
KC7EQW	Imperial Valley	ARC	8675	CA	7032
W4FFF	FISTS Club Of North Carolina		9700	NC	6877
KG2GL	Nutley	ARS	8175	NJ	4600
W8FFF	Ohio Valley	FISTS	7200	MI	4326
KU4BT	SPARC	7875	FL	2533	
W7FST	Silver State	Bugs	5900	NV	2096

## KN0WCW (ex. KC8VIO) FISTS USA CLUB CALL

The inaugural year of the FISTS USA Club call can only be described as an incredible success. Thirty-nine operators gave up their own personal operating time to serve as operators of the club call. They deserve a "VRY FB ES TNX" for giving their time to promote CW and promote FISTS.

The operators were: AA1KS, AC7QG, K0KP, K2MKX, K4UK, K6DF, K9JXW, K9PL, KA3AKC, KA9F, KC0M, KD5MDO, KG9LZ, KK6AW, N0BZM, N1PT, N5KY, N6QS, N7QU, N8UW, N9BOR, NG7Z, NU7T, W1GUE, W2YMX (now K2AU), W3ZMN, W4AMW, W5AJX, W8III, W8JCR, W9UZ, WA3GNW, WA5TCZ, WA9PWP, WB5KHC, WB5RYB, WB9WZN, WD8OCV and WS0L.

While no awards are given for working the most stations, I want to acknowledge W5AJX (188), WA5TCZ (179) and N9BOR (172) for holding their fists just right to make those contacts.

Combined all the operators made close to 2,800 contacts, worked all states, worked 52 DXCC entities and brought many new members into our club.

The DXCC entities were: 6Y, 8P, 9A, 9J, 9Y, CE/XQ, CO/CM, CT, DL/DJ/DK, DU, EA/EC, EA8, EI, F, FG, G/M, GI, GM, GW, HB, HO/HP, I/IK, JA/JG/JH, KG4, KH6, KL7/WL7, KP2, KP4, LA, LU, OE, OH, OK, OM, ON, PA, PJ2, PJ7, PY, S5, SM, SP, SV, UA1/RK3/RX3, UA8/UA6/UA9, VE/VA/VO, VK, VP5, XE, YO, YU and ZL. (First prefix is common DXCC list, after "/" are prefixes which were worked in that entity.)

Any FISTS member who (1) has a current FCC issued USA call sign, (2) is current on their FISTS dues and (3) has the permission of the FISTS USA Club Call trustee is eligible to operate the KN0WCW call. You can operate one day up to a maximum of seven days during the calendar year. You can find more information

on the FISTS web site ([www.fists.org](http://www.fists.org) <<http://www.fists.org>>).

If you do not have Internet capabilities, drop me a card at my address below and will be glad to forward you a copy of the operator rules/information for the KN0WCW call.

Assistance with QSL'ing contacts made is also available for any operator who may have difficulty for any reason fulfilling our 100% QSL policy.

And, of course, if you have any questions, you can drop me a note or reach me through my email address below. I hope you will sign up for a day, two or more and have great fun being on the receiving end of a pile up. And, there are also awards for working the KN0WCW call. Check that out, too, on the web site. VRY 73 ES HPE CU ON THE FUN MODE Karl, KB1DSB

*I really believe that one of the best voices we can present will be to have CW heard as much as possible.*

Whether it is a personal call or a KN0WCW QSO, having the 2<sup>nd</sup> most popular mode heard throughout the bands surely will help.

Please consider scheduling dates to be a Club Call operator in 2004.

KN0WCW QSL MGR  
KARL ZUEGE, KB1DSB  
2176 DRAKE ROAD  
BOMOSEEN, VT 05732

[Kb1dsb@sover.net](mailto:Kb1dsb@sover.net) <<mailto:Kb1dsb@sover.net>>

PS: If you want to count the person toward your award totals, simply do a separate QSO with the exchange of your own FISTS info after you finish with the KN0WCW QSO.

## QRP with K3WWP Column # 61.

Time again to do a new column, and I'll start with info about my web site. I mentioned a couple of issues ago that Alltel would continue to support all of their old style URL's as well as the new ones. Well, that is no longer true, and many of you couldn't find my web site for some time. I did post a message about the situation on the FISTS mailing list, but not everyone subscribes to that so I'll repeat the info here in this Keynote column. You'll have to use <http://home.alltel.net/johnshan/> to get to my web site. All the individual page names, such as [cw\\_ss\\_column.html](http://home.alltel.net/cw_ss_column.html) remain exactly the same. To sum up, that's 'home' replacing 'www' and no tilde (~) before the johnshan in the URL's. I hope I've made that clear so that you can correct all your bookmarks, favorites, and links if you have them.

Dave, WA9PDS emailed me and wondered if I planned to add any info about solar power for QRP on my web site. I thought that would be a good topic for a Keynote column as well.

First of all, let me say that I have never used solar power at my station and thus have no first hand experience with it. As far as that goes, I've only used regular battery power for QRP a couple of times in my ham career. I guess the closest I've ever come to using direct solar power is using some calculators that had tiny solar panels in them.

There are two basic approaches to solar power. One uses the power directly and the second uses the solar cells to charge rechargeable batteries, which are then used to power the rigs.

If you plan on using solar power one of the first things to be considered is the power requirement. For simple portable operation out in the field with a small QRP rig being the only thing using the power, something that provides 10 watts of power should be sufficient. One such representative unit is a 10 watt epoxy folding solar panel available from Connecticut Solar (<http://www.ctsolar.com/Expedition10W.htm>). The unit is listed around \$120. It provides 18

volts at 750 ma under full sun conditions. According to the web site info, this is ideal for 12 volt systems, although the output voltage may be too high to use to feed a rig directly. However it can be used with a charge controller and an 8 amp-hour rechargeable battery for many hours of operation out in the field.

The Connecticut Solar web site has a lot of technical information about solar panels that I won't reproduce here. Check out <http://www.ctsolar.com/default.htm> if you are interested. If you don't have internet service, their regular mailing address is Connecticut Solar LLC, POB 326, Putnam, CT 06260. I have no interest in this particular company, but it is the first one that I found on my Google ([www.google.com](http://www.google.com)) search, and that generally means the company is a good one.

An example of a charge controller can be found at <http://www.seslogic.com/sunlogic.html>. The mail address is SunLight Energy Systems, 955 Manchester Ave. SW, North Lawrence, OH 44666. With that, a solar panel and some rechargeable batteries, you're all ready to operate with the cheapest energy available - solar. Maybe I'll even give it a try myself sometime.

Don't forget, these two companies are not the only source of solar equipment. There are many many more. I only used these two as examples. Do a search on Google, as I always do when I want to find more information on a particular subject.

As I've probably made clear in what I've written so far, my knowledge of solar power is very limited. If any of you who are knowledgeable in the subject would like to provide more information, let me know and I'll include it in a future Keynote column giving you full credit. My friend VA3RJ did a similar thing for me in the Keyonte issue #7 for 1999 with an article on batteries for QRP. If you have that back issue it would be good to review it as re-chargeable batteries are a great way to use solar power. The article is also available in the CW section of my

web site as are all back issues of these columns. The particular one on batteries is column # 030 in the column index.

As a further preliminary to a possible future column that expands on the solar power issue, please send me any specific questions you may have on the subject and I'll do my best to find an answer for you.

In closing I'd like to mention a new feature on my web site. I now have a visitor survey. The first survey is now history and it proved very successful and the responses were fascinating. My second poll should still be running when you read this. So please check it out and participate. This does not replace my monthly poll that also is continuing, but a full survey is a better way to gather more information at once. For example the first survey involved 12 questions with an average of 6-8 choices for each question plus additional comments.

Contact me at  
web: <http://home.alltel.net/johnshan/>  
email: [jsk3wwp@alltel.net](mailto:jsk3wwp@alltel.net) (note-that's a new email address) or  
John Shannon, 478 E. High St., Kittanning, PA 16201-1304. Till next time, 73-30



**WIXER plate seen in New Hampshire!!**

## FISTS

By Dennis K6DF

The Winter months are bringing in more and more FISTS award applications and a little more activity on the bands. Guess the cold WX is keep most members indoors and what else is there to do except operate as an alternative to watching all the bad news on the TV.

Please remember that the awards e-mail address has changed and as of the first of January 2004 and I have asked that forwarding of the old address be terminated. Soooo, . . . if you send your award log to the old address I will not receive it.

Please use the new awards e-mail address.  
**Fistsawards@comcast.net**

We are still having many problems with the format for e-mailed logs. The guidelines for e-mail logs are presented on the FISTS Web Page: <http://www.fists.org/awards.html>

Please check this page for current information BEFORE you e-mail your award log. ONE TAB ONLY between data fields seems to throw some members as they still are putting spaces instead of a SINGLE TAB. Logs with spaces between data fields will not be processed.

I think the e-mail submission of award logs has improved the time it takes to apply for and receive an award certificate. Most of the time an applicant has their CC number or reply back from me within a few hours of award log submission. Sometimes I happened to be on the air and hear a station that just sent in an award log, and I give them their award number over the air. That has happened many times in the past. Lot of fun to do that.

**Keep banging the brass . . . C U on the bands**

**73, Dennis K6DF**



**AWARDS ISSUED - Oct 22, 2003 to Jan 31,  
2004**

**Basic Century (CC)**

AA8V  
AG4ZE  
G0RJM  
GU4HUY  
K0JJH  
K1CGZ  
K1TG  
K3MD  
K4MST  
K4WFM  
K6ENT  
K7LAZ  
K8CVC  
K8TJ  
K9YA  
KA8MPT  
KB1HSA  
KB3JAR  
KC0CCR  
KC0OSB  
KC9W  
KD0HU  
KE6WOX  
KF4IZE  
KG4KGY  
KU8T  
M0CTD  
N3EA  
N7WO  
N7XN  
N9PF  
ND4U  
VA5SAM  
VE3EIM  
VK2FDU  
VK4XY  
W2SR  
W3MT  
W4EIE  
W7FHO  
W8EOC  
WA0VQY  
WA2B  
WA3RML  
WB0QQT

**Silver Century**

AG4ZE  
DL9CE  
K2MKX  
K8TJ  
K9YA  
N4ACF  
N7APP  
W3HZW  
W8EOC  
WB2WGX  
WD4HWO

**Gold Century**

K8TEZ  
K8TJ  
KM5WN  
VA3AVP  
VA3RJ

**Diamond Century**

G3ASG  
K8LH  
KD5JOM  
N3PM  
W8DO  
ZL2BLQ

1 X QRP  
KD0HU  
VA5SAM

**Platinum Award**

AG4ZE  
K1TG  
K8TJ  
KB3JAR  
KG4CUY  
WB2WGX  
WB4MED

**Platinum 250 Award**  
G4AQZ  
KA4IFF  
N7YY  
W8DO  
ZL2BLQ

**Platinum 500 Award**  
KA4IFF  
W4DON  
W7PFZ

**Mobile Award**  
WB2WGX

**RCC Award**  
WB6CGJ

**Worked All States  
(FISTS)**  
AA7VW  
G3ASG  
K5QLF  
KA4IFF  
VA3AVP  
VA5SAM  
WB2TQC

## Operator Hints

1. Don't forget to notify the FCC when you move. It can easily be forgotten. Changing your address in one of the on line call books is great, but the FCC sure hates to get their correspondence back with a FAE (Forwarding Address Expired) sticker on it.

2. I know that we never have enough operating time, but please listen for a few minutes before calling "CQ" or sending "QRL?". Case in point: I was working ZL2SWR on 15M and he was only a 229 with QSB. Twice I had to send QRL to stations that were burying him with their calling "CQ" or "QRL?" then "CQ de xxxxx". I will never know if he was able to copy my numbers because I could never get him back. He might have gotten them in the time we were QRM'ed, but will never know. Working a dipole in VT and with the recent band conditions, he would have been a great catch. Please, take the time to listen a bit up and down from your intended operating frequency before transmitting. You might not hear one side of a QSO, but waiting an extra minute may well know there is in fact a QSO in progress. Karl, KB1DSB

### DX4WIN Logging Help?

Do you know if any FISTS member has an Award File for FISTS that is compatible with the DX4WIN logging program? I have searched the internet and found several DX4WIN award files but nothing so far for FISTS.

Thank you, Joe Young, W6RLL

### USE IT OR LOSE IT!

As far as removing the requirement for CW ability to gain an Amateur Radio licence it is very clear that this decision has been made globally at the discretion of national authorities. Personally, I feel that this is a very stupid move for a number of reasons. However, in terms of INSTANT GRATIFICATION this decision will react all over the world. Now is the time to quit this battle as it is lost and focus on dealing with this reality. CW is far from dead and it is up to us to "USE IT OR LOSE IT". It is important to pick up our socks and carry on the best way that we can. Long Live FISTS! 73, Frank, VE7FPM

*Of course, I don't for a minute believe that we have lost the battle here in the USA, but Frank does have a point about getting on the air and carrying on. Nancy WZ8C*

## The USS Hornet ARC is Active Again

Dear Nancy,

Thank you for the nice welcome. I've known about FISTS for sometime but until now, nothing has pushed me over the hump to join.

I am also a member of the USS Hornet ARC. A FISTS member e-mailed the Hornet to make a sked for the NANFA award. I made the sked and had a friendly contact with Jim, K9JXW, FIST NR.2325.

Until this request, no one on the Hornet knew that NB6GC was a Club FISTS member (# 5600 as it turns out).

With your prompt action on my application, we've collectively made an honest lady of the USS Hornet, so to speak, now there is a Club member that is an official FISTS member.

I believe that Dennis Franklin, K6DF made the original club application for the Hornet but that info got lost in several changes of club officers. The USS Hornet is a retired Essex Class aircraft carrier, now a museum ship berthed in Alameda, CA across the bay from San Francisco. Anyway, thank you for the prompt processing. PayPal is a real boon. Good move.

73, Joe KL7IDY

## Quality Counts

Yesterday I received a question from a fellow who is as concerned about the quality of his sending as about his ability to copy code. He asked if there is anything we can recommend for him, a beginner, to do working alone. The only thing I've come up with is to have him record himself sending prepared text, then listen to it and copy it down. I sent him a kudo just for being concerned about this. I wish more people were! Any other ideas on how to practice sending?  
73 Nick K3NY FISTS Nr 3549

## Suggestions

Absolutely! Tell him to get a set of paddles and an electronic keyer, and start using them as early in the code-learning process as possible. Iambic keying is not difficult at all — I taught it to myself with absolutely no outside help other than reading a few articles about it. The immediate advantage is that you are instantly sending (and hearing) perfectly-formed Morse code characters. Like many others, I originally started with a straight key, but then received a Heathkit u-Matic "touch paddle" keyer as a Christmas present. I assembled the kit, and it worked perfectly the first time (something I wasn't used to with Heathkits). The capacitive touch-sensitive paddles worked flawlessly, and my code speed (sending and receiving) took a significant jump within a few days of starting to use it on-the-air. Moreover, getting accustomed to sending "perfect" Morse code also improved my sending with the straight key, since I now knew what everything I was sending was supposed to sound like.

Another trick which improves sending are simple relaxation techniques. Taking a few deep breaths before starting to send, perhaps a few Yoga-like stretches, and making a point of keeping the shoulders relaxed is a big factor in being able to send well. Whenever we are tense, we tend to tighten up our shoulder muscles, which is part of the stress-related "fight or flight" reflex. When we relax that we do a lot better at things which require manual dexterity as opposed to brute strength. Shoulder-relaxation techniques are a big part of the training of competitive shooters, and I know from personal experience, it also works with sending Morse code.

Another technique I recommend is "sending by ear." Actually getting yourself to listen to what you're sending, while you're sending it, is a big factor in getting it to be readable on the other end. Again, using "perfect" sent code as a practice tool, whether it be sending on a paddle/keyer, listening to W1AW code-practice bulletins, or tapes/CD's, is the best way to ensure that you will be sending at least as well as you're copying. 73 de Larry, K3LT

If he has HF reception capabilities, I think listening to and copying W1AW code practice transmissions regularly would be very good "practice" to learn what correctly sent CW sounds like! Even if he isn't trying to copy faster, just listening and copying would "train" his brain when it comes to sending. Paul R Goemans WA9PWP

*I always recommend to beginners that they learn on a straight key — not a keyer.* For sending practice I suggest that your student download the software "CWGet," then feed his code practice oscillator output to his sound card. CWGet is one of the better CW Readers. It is tolerant of good, steady hand-sent code - but by that I mean almost machine perfect spacing & weight. But it adapts to slight changes in speed pretty well compared to other software I've seen. I have used this method to improve my Bug fist. Alan N5LF

If you tell him to download CWCom, there is an excellent color photo in the help file which shows how to wire-up either a pump key or a twin paddle to a serial port. Even I could understand it, which is saying something. 73, Chris (G4PDJ)

Here's a thought if he has a computer. Have him key a code oscillator and feed the tone into his sound card and use a code recognition program to read what he's sending. He could use CWCom ([http://www.mrx.com.au/d\\_cwcom.htm](http://www.mrx.com.au/d_cwcom.htm)) for this. My impression from using it for a while is that it's not very forgiving when it comes to reading what's sent. And it's free. 73! Dan KB6NU

Suggest he download/purchase a computer based 'code reader' such as CWget, MRP40, etc. My

copy of Writelog includes such a software utility, and MFJ sells that stand alone unit. If the computer can copy his code reliably, then his fist has to be pretty good. These things usually have very little tolerance for spacing errors, broken characters, etc. This is probably about the only good use for the things (code readers). vy73 es gl! John N7ZN



Pete, K4BKD, passing along the CW tradition to his eight-month old granddaughter. FB Pete!

### Lord Of the Rings, Tolkien Mystery

*This was posted on the internet. I thought it might be of interest....* Hello! I live in Seattle and have written a book on Tolkien's Lord of the Rings (Untangling Tolkien) and am working on others. I'm also a ham, KE7NV.

In Book 2, Chapter 4, "A Journey in the Dark" some creature beneath them in the cave of Moria begins a tapping that the travelers take as a signal. Since Tolkien had been a British signal officer in WWI in France, I wondered if it might mean something. Here is the content:

Tapped message inside Moria: (tom-tap)

<. .<.<< .. <

which is: NA AN IT

or reversing the dots and dashes AN NA ME Same in International and Continental Morse. Unfortunately, neither seems to mean anything in English and simple codes like next letter, previous letter or rotating by 13 characters yield nothing.

Tolkien would have been using the Fullerphone for part of the war, so I wonder if there are short

codes (like ham Q-codes or police 10-codes) in the manuals you have that might give meaning to this message. A two-letter code, for instance, might refer to infiltrators crossing lines.

Tolkien is known to have put puns and hidden allusions in his stories. Just a wild guess this one might have ties to his WWI service.  
--Mike Perry

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### Kudos !!

The best CW QSO I have had in my short time as a ham (only four QSO's so far) was a wonderful experience with a FISTS member (Jim K9JXW #2325) who graciously QRS's, periodically QSZ'd and put up with my shaky, neophyte code for about 20 minutes yesterday.

I look forward to being a member of FISTS and returning the favor whenever I can. 73, Kevin KI4DEF

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I had a CW QSO with Lars KD5MQX. It was his first solo on CW. He had good, steady fist that was easy to copy, and we had an enjoyable exchange and then signed.

A few weeks later, I received a letter and a hand-made photo QSL card. In the letter's closing paragraph, he reminded me of the importance of reaching out to CW newcomers.

It said: "...By the way, I want to commend you on your CQ calling technique. I heard you calling for a while at a fairly fast WPM rate, but then having received no answers, you called CQ at a much slower rate.

I can't tell you how encouraging that is to a person new to CW. Not only does it make the code slow enough to understand, but it also speaks volumes about the person making the call, i.e., that this person will be patient with a slow CW operator.

Thanks again and see you on the bands!" TNX OM Lars ES 73 DE N5LF dit dit

# FISTS CW CLUB "DOWN UNDER" Newsletter - January / February 2004

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Membership/Awards Liason: Ralph Sutton, ZL2AOH, 12c Herbert Gardens, 186 The Terrace, Wellington 6001, New Zealand Tel: 0-4-473-0847 Fax 0-4-473-0848 e-mail: zl2aoh@ihug.co.nz

QSL Manager for ZL6FF : Chas Dawson, ZL3CED via FISTS Bureau or QTHR.

QSL Manager for VK2FDU : Chris Thompson, VK2MQX via FISTS Bureau or QTHR.

Visit our Web Site : <http://fistsdownunder.morsekeys.com>

## NEW MEMBERS

We extend a very warm welcome to the following new members:

ZL1KF - Les Cole # 9627, who comes from Dinsdale, a suburb of Hamilton. Les' profile appears below.

ZL1ALA - John Halden # 9628, is from Ngatea, a farming area in the Hauraki Plains, near to Thames and Paeroa.

VK3XU - Drew Diamond # 9629, who resides in Wonga Park, Victoria. Wonga Park is a rural town and urban locality 29km east north east of Melbourne.

We hope to bring you profiles of John and Drew at a later date.

## DOWN UNDER MEMBERS' NEWS

When forwarding his subscription, VK3FGE - David # 9088, kindly enclosed a donation. Thanks David!. He wrote: You may remember that earlier in the year I started a net to help the "key shy" among us. I called it the "CW Improvers' Net." Alas, I have had to end that net several weeks ago, owing to a lack of patronage and personal priorities. I don't know why it did not succeed, maybe a lack of dedication on my part. (I don't believe that - Ed.)

I may restart it in future. In "Amateur Radio", the WIA publication, Lindsay Lawless is advertising private theory tuition. I may do something similar for CW. I am not very good at CW, but I do seem to have the ability to put the CW on-air beginners at ease and give them a little boost to their confidence. I see confidence as being vital to good code. Perhaps, more importantly, I see confidence as necessary to an operator to stay with the mode. If they have to steel themselves to go on air, they are more likely to give the mode away. That of course is everyone's loss. - Surprisingly, Lindsay received no replies after advertising in three issues!

Just before Christmas, ZL3CED - Charlie # 9039, wrote: I have been using PSK31 over the last 2 weeks. Made up an interface with a few mods kindly offered by a couple of HAMS. I can alter the ALC & power level without having to change the software, when I go up and down the waterfall. A lot of fun and yet another mode to use! Had some really excellent contacts on CW just recently, with a raft of new countries clocked up, now that I have a new programme called RXCluster 8.1 installed. (It was featured in last issue of Break-In). You can either hook it up to the 2m cluster, or you can use the Internet to hook up to it. As I don't have any VHF stuff, and heaven forbid if I attempt to put another aerial up in our backyard, using the Internet is just as good. It ties up the phone line obviously, but that's when XYL & self just leave our cell phones on, in case family want to contact. The other plus with using the Internet, it stops the damn sales people ringing, trying to sell you something

The QSLing for ZL6FF is working well. We may want to think about getting a proper card made up for the future, once the initial 750 run out.

I have 3 weeks off in March when the XYL and I are off to Australia, to explore the coastline from Surfers Paradise up to as far as we can go. After getting in hot water with her in Rarotonga after spending too long with Victor ZK1USA one afternoon (2 years ago) and returning tanked to the eyelids, this holiday in Aussie is going to be totally radio free! (Come off it Chas! - Some of our VK members may like to meet you both - Ed)

Congratulations to VK2MQX - Chris # 9057, our man in Australia. Chris has just completed his university studies in environmental planning. In addition to his studies, Chris has successfully flown the FISTS flag in VK; a very commendable effort. He is now looking for something to top up his finances, so good luck with the job-hunting Chris.

Another member to move his QTH is ZL2DB - Tony # 9064, who has left Wellington for the greener

pastures of Raumati South, on the Kapiti Coast. He says he has an acre of flat land on which to erect a decent dipole and beam. His 50 ft lattice mast, which has been stored for the last 23 years, may well be made use of, at last!

VK4BCM - Bevan # 9053, reports that he and Sally have moved QTH. During the move he has been off the air. He writes: At the new place I need to talk to a friendly neighbour if there is one, to get permission to string the top of his tree which, combined with my tree will give me a beaut long line. We are resting for a few days from the shop so I will be able to set up my mobile rig in the delivery van and listen around for a CW contact. I will also have enough room to erect my 30ft tower and lift up my 10-15-20m quad, which I have never had erected. So that is another activity for the near future.

In renewing subscriptions, ZL2ASQ - Eric # 9041, ZL2OY - Ron # 9053, VK3DBD - David # 3756, ZL1CDX - Geordie # 9048 and ZL3CE - Ian # 9099 included generous donations. Many thanks gentlemen!

### OVERSEAS MEMBERS' NEWS

2E0BGD - Brian #7741, our good correspondent from the ancient city of Bath, wrote in December: - The Sounds of Christmas are all around here now, but the Radio Bands don't seem to know the tunes, as there doesn't seem to be much activity especially on 20 metres. I guess folks are either visiting the shops or the sun-spots are playing havoc! I mentioned in my last message that I had ordered the book about Radio Officers, which was reviewed in a recent Down Under newsletter. My local library got it for me and it was a really good read. Thanks go to your reviewer! Betty and I have been up to a local viewpoint to witness the very last flight of the wonderful Concorde. It did three circuits all around the Bristol area. Then it landed at Filton, where it was built. There were huge crowds all over the various locations, on really a very sad day. The clouds cleared and the hailstorms parted a few moments, before she came over. Brilliant!

WZ8C - Nancy #379, "Queen Bee" of FISTS in the Americas, didn't have a very good start to her New Year celebrations! She reported: - A truck slid on the icy road yesterday, coming toward me, and fishtailed into my passenger side and wiped it out. No one was hurt, but I am temporarily car-less for the next two weeks. That means I am at the mercy of others to take me to the PO and the FISTS Computer, until I can get a loaned car or a rental. What a way to end the year!

M5AGL - Bob #6493, (Fists UK Contest Manager) wrote to VK3CGB - Chris # 9088 who was one of those operating VK2FDU over the holiday period: Very many thanks for the contacts with all of us here in the Huntingdon chapter of Fists. It's our Xmas Challenge until the 4th Jan and the Club call is worth 5 points for the Challenge and as a multiplier for all VK's worked. So from all stations worked :- G4LHI, M5AGL, M5BRY, M5ABN and M0RHB. Also - M0DRK, G0SOP and M3GBT who are still hoping to work the Club call, we all wish you and David a very Happy New Year and look forward to catching you again during the coming year.

### MEMBERS' PROFILES

ZL1KF- Les # 9627, writes about himself: - I have held a call for about 30 years now, with my full call being active for the past 10 years. I have always been keen on Morse and was very active on 80m up until 6 years ago. I now find a renewed interest in 20 metres, which is my main band, however I can easily operate on both 80 and 40 as well. I am married and live in Hamilton and also find myself active in the local NZART Branch 12. I am very interested in QRP also and believe that great things can be achieved with simple homebrew radios and antenna. I also find tube equipment fun too! Vintage radio and tube audio are my other interests and as I work as an electronic service technician in today's complex world, easy to build and operate equipment really appeals to me.

### AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CALL VK3FDU / 3

In VK particularly, Fists Club calls are quite a rarity, apart from ZL6FF. Surprising really, when one looks at the long list of 3 and 5 point calls in USA.

So it was with great interest bordering on shock, when my relatively near neighbour Chris, VK3CGB told me just before Christmas, that he had asked for VK2FDU over the holiday period. He suggested we share operating sessions as and when mutually convenient, enabling us to arrange at a few moments notice by means of a phone call or QSO on two metres.

My first session turned out to be on the morning of 21st Dec, (2130z on 20<sup>th</sup> Dec) A time of the day when I often check 20 or 30m while eating breakfast cereal! It is noticeable that I often hear several USA stations, but have a job to raise one. I think they are all suffering a high noise level and/or not expecting to hear DX.

Usually once I have made a QSO, there is a pile up and a queue while the right skip conditions exist.

My first and only QSO that day was with AG4ZE Alan, Fists 10413 with 559 each way on 14.058. The Christmas period then intervened. (I had to be sociable some of the time). On 29th Dec, I had a better and longer session on 20m at both ends of the day, working England, USA, Japan, New Zealand and the Netherlands.

Two days later, 30m and 20m featured with a selection of calls adding another 11 QSOs in the log. On 2nd and 3rd of Jan (40, 30 and 20m), I made another 12 contacts including 4 VK's in VK2, VK4, VK6, and VK8 areas, all Fists members. The biggest surprise of all, was a weak but solid signal from Z2JGC in Harare. Brian wanted to know all about Fists and seemed most interested in becoming a member. The first time in 40 years of Amateur Radio I have heard Zimbabwe, let alone worked the country. What made it more interesting, was the fact that I had visited the country exploring many of its scenic areas and meeting many friendly folk, before the current political upheaval.

My short time with VK2FDU/3 proved to be a memorable one and to summarise I made 33 QSOs, 23 being on 20m, 2 on 40m and 8 on 30m. A total of 12 different countries, 7 were USA, 11 English, 4 VK, the others being PA, Z2, ZL, F, D, OE, J, RX and VE. 17 of the stations worked were Fists Members, 18 were Non Fists and I feel confident that at least two of those may join us soon.

A few notes on operating. It was noticeable (as usual) that calling "CQ Fists" seems to mean very little to some, as non Fists stations reply in quantity. I always work them. The suggested 058 Fists frequencies are often very busy and although this time, I did mainly stick to very near 058 (Well, surely FDU has some rights!) I believe it is high time we spread out a little more, listening around or better still using 058 as a starting point and then deliberately QSYing to a clear spot far enough away to avoid QRM, giving others the chance to call on 058.

There are many standards of code heard from Fists members, which is no bad thing and with the large amount of newcomers to CW (yes, I think there are many converts in the pipeline) it can be very important to adjust speed to suit the occasion, either operator or band condx.

Many times I work stations knocking on at 25wpm in difficult condx, repeating everything two or three times when a simple QRS to say 15 or 18 wpm sending once only, would in fact pass the information quicker! I have no objection to adjusting to very slow CW stations, who obviously have to start somewhere and need the confidence and practice of a solid QSO. I'm sure most Fists members would whole-heartedly agree. But it does help if those stations make an effort to use the usual abbreviations and cut out irrelevant words. Like: VK3DBD de VK3XYZ VK3XYZ Thanks for the call = nice to meet you - my name is John my name is John my QTH is Melbourne Melbourne your RST 599 599 please my report so back to you etc. When the conditions are good the repetition is not needed and many words can be left out, so it would become VK3DBD de VK3XYZ TNX CALL PSED TO MEET U NAME JOHN QTH MELBOURNE UR RST 599 = TU VK3DBD de VK3XYZ KN (Yes I know there really is a VK3XYZ, but this is a hypothetical example!)

It may be prudent to note that regulations require our call every 10 minutes, so a simple BK to change over, is often all that is required, especially when working familiar stations or in good band conditions. Slick operating even at moderate speeds can come very close to information exchange at speeds of normal SSB chat, short overs and BK-in mode as most modern transceivers have, can almost reproduce a duplex communications link. David, VK3DBD, Yackandandah.

(Since we acquired the Australian National Call Sign, VK2FDU, in July 2003, a total of 100 contacts have been made. We recently qualified for the Basic Century Award giving us that much wanted CC number. Work us again for this added bonus! Australian members - if you would like to use VK2FDU, simply get in touch with Chris VK2MQX) Chris, VK2MQX

#### UK FISTS CONTESTS 2004

ACTIVITY LADDER. January 04 to December 04.

To be run on the last weekend of every month. Times 0700 UTC Sat to 1900 UTC Sun.

Frequencies. All licensed amateur bands except the WARC bands.

RETURNS/SCORING. Returns are to be either a maximum total 8 hour continuous or 2 x 4 hour continuous periods only, taken from within the 36 hour operating time. Scoring; 3 points for a Fist Club Station, 2 points for a Fist member, 1 point for a non-member. A station can only count once on each monthly weekend.

LOGS to include; CALL/NAME/QTH/QRG/RST/TIME/FIST No or NM/POINTS SCORED.

All returns are to be received by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the next month.

DATES; 24/25 Jan. 28/29 Feb. 27/28 March. 24/25 April. 29/30 May. 26/27 June. 24/25 July.

28/29 Aug. 25/26 Sept. 30/31 Oct. 27/28 Nov. 18/19 Dec (1 week early to avoid Xmas and Boxing day).

MIXED KEY WEEK. 0001 UTC on 7<sup>th</sup> March to 13<sup>th</sup> March 04.

Frequencies; All licensed amateur bands except the WARC bands.

A station can only be worked once on each band during the week. A multiplier of 1 point for every station worked on 5 or more bands during the week can be used against the total weekly score.

Scoring; 3 points for a Club Station, 2 points for a Fist Member. 1 point for a Non Member.

LOGS; to include CALL/NAME/QTH/QRG/TIME/FIST No or NM/ POINTS.

TOTALS to show weekly score times the number of stations worked on 5 or more bands during the week.

- All returns are to be received by 21 March 04.

There is no restriction on keys used in this contest.

EUCW/FISTS QRS PARTY. 0001 UTC on 25<sup>th</sup> April to 2359 UTC on 1<sup>st</sup> May 04.

A full list of rules and participating clubs will be published in our Key Notes in March and the other clubs Newsletters as well as the national radio magazines well before the above dates, or is available from the Contest Manager at your request.

STRAIGHT KEY WEEK. 0001 UTC on 5<sup>th</sup> September to 2359 on 11<sup>th</sup> September 04.

Frequencies; All licensed amateur bands except the WARC bands.

Scoring; 3 points for a Club Station, 2 points for a Fist Member, 1 point for a Non Member.

Exchanges to be RST/NAME/QTH/FIST No or NM/DAY No. Sunday is Day 1 Monday is Day 2 and so on to Saturday as Day 7. All entrants must have used a straight Key for all their QSOs but the worked station

Does not have to use a straight key.

LOGS to include DATE/CALL/NAME/QTH/QRG/RST/TIME/FIST No or NM/DAY No/POINTS.

- All entries to be received by the 25<sup>th</sup> September 04.

PLEASE NOTE, These contests are meant to be fun and friendly as well as competitive.

All entries can be received by post to:

Bob Kimpton, M5AGL, 15a Buckden Road, Brampton, Huntingdon, CAMBS. PE28 4PR. Or by e-mail to bobm5agl@btopenworld.com <mailto:bobm5agl@btopenworld.com>

### TRADING POST

WANTED: Circuit diagram for a Southern Cross Electronics DC30 power supply please. All expenses covered of course. Can anyone help please? Thanks in advance. Contact Tony ZL3HAM. E-mail ZL3HAM@xtra.co.nz <mhtml:mid://00000013/ZL3HAM@xtra.co.nz%20> or Fax (03) 312 5350

### FISTS AWARDS

Congratulations to the following "Down Under" members on attaining the following FISTS Awards: -

Century Award (CC): - VK3CGB, Chris # 9087, ZL2ASQ, Eric # 9041, ZL2SWR, South Wairarapa Club # 9618.

Gold Award / Platinum Award / Rag Chewers Award: - VK3DBD, David # 3756.

Diamond Award (117) / Platinum 250 Award (250): - ZL2BLQ, Stan # 9068.

Editors Note: -On learning that ZL2BLQ had attained his Diamond Award, I decided to contact the FISTS Awards Manager, Dennis - K6DF, to confirm a few facts. The Diamond Award is issued on amassing 1,000 FISTS points and should be considered one of the ultimate FIST Awards. Stan, ZL2BLQ is only the second "Down Under" member to attain this award. Relevant award numbers are shown in brackets. The first "Down Under" Diamond (25) and Platinum 250 Awards (20) went to ZL1BSG, Keith # 9000 some years ago. Both these gentlemen deserve our sincere congratulations on this incredible achievement.

I am further advised that no Australian member has achieved these awards as yet. Looking above, it would seem that David, VK3DBD would be a likely contender for the first VK, however with Gold he is only half way there! Something I myself, am finding out - ZL2TX.

To our FISTS members worldwide - Do try to gain your Century Award. Do give your CC number to other members, as there will be those out there, who are striving to gain these ultimate awards! For those who wish to claim awards, e-mail applications should be made to the FISTS Awards Manager, Dennis - K6DF at fistsawards@comcast.net <mailto:fistsawards@comcast.net>

Other information on these awards and applications may be made to Ralph, ZL2AOH our Membership Manager, address in header. A stamped addressed envelope would be appreciated.



## WEB SITES OF INTEREST

FISTS CW Club, KN0WCW. To find out which FISTS members have what awards (especially useful if looking for holders of Century Club Awards (CC) Go to: -

<<http://home.comcast.net/~fistsawards>>

Interested in aerals? For a very in depth view of many aerals including beams, verticals, and many others view the site of L.B. CEBIK, W4RNL. Go to: -

<<http://www.cebik.com/radio.html>>

You know a new Amateur who wants to break the ice and have a CW contact but doesn't know how. Direct him to "A Beginner's Guide to Making CW Contacts" by Jack Wagoner, WB8FSV.

<<http://www.netwalk.com/~fsv/Cwguide.htm>>

## BELIEVE IT OR NOT!

We have to thank Barry, ZL1DD # 9029 for "Spilling the Beans" on his good friend Peter Byam, ZL2JJ # 9624. He writes: - "Originally from W8 land. Peter and XYL Jo, have been farming down Waverley way for many years. Now New Zealand citizens, Peter is no mean DX man, has WAS and over 200 DXCC confirmed, all on CW, of course and with a 100% homebrew station! More remarkably, his station is a replica of an early to mid 1930's outfit!

All receiving done with TRF regeneration and the transmitter is a tabletop job, built on wood. Peter is a superb craftsman, making wonderful "ZEDDER" paddle keys in his own workshop. He even casts the bronze himself! You can see his receiver on the glowbugs website (use google)"

Photos: - The Homemade 1930's Station of Peter Byam, ZL2JJ FISTS # 9624.

sorry, the photos didn't make the 'translation' from the UK version to the US version!

# International Morse Preservation Society



# KEY NOTE



Sec: E. (Geo) Longden, G3ZQS, 119 Cemetery Rd., DARWEN, BB3 2LZ, England. 01254-703948  
<http://www.ascl.demon.co.uk/fists-hq/> <http://www.fistsdownunder.morsekeys.com>  
E-Mail HQ: [fist1@btinternet.com](mailto:fist1@btinternet.com) webmaster: [webmaster@ascl.demon.co.uk](mailto: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: M5AGL**  
15a Buckden Rd., BRAMPTON, PE18 4PR

## COMMITTEE

**Chairman**  
**Vice Chairman**  
**P.R.O.**  
**Secretary**

**G4XHZ**  
**G4YLB**  
**G4YLB**  
**G3ZQS**

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

## AWARDS

**e-mail apps/logs to Dennis, K6DF:**  
[<fistsawards@comcast.net>](mailto:fistsawards@comcast.net)  
written logs to HQ.

**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. Cheques should be made payable to just FISTS.

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 £1.50 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](mailto:spence5@ntlworld.com)>

M0AYI Glenn@[m0ayi.freeseve.co.uk](mailto:m0ayi.freeseve.co.uk)

M5AGL bobm5agl@[btopenworld.com](mailto:btopenworld.com)

M0ZAK jim.steel@[ntlworld.com](mailto:ntlworld.com)

## QSL BUREAU INFO

**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) 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). M0ZAK. 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**

## Pre-paid postal subscriptions

**EU/DX Members: IRCs, UK Banknotes or US dollars to M0AVW. The Club will provide envelopes. Any excess over subs from non-UK members will be regarded as QSL**

## M0AVW CERT

Chuck dedicates a certificate each year to those who are most helpful in sorting their submitted QSL cards. For 2003, this goes to M0MJG.

## GREETINGS

My sincere thanks to all of you who expressed their condolences on my recent loss. Cards in particular were arriving by the score and finding somewhere to display them became a problem. We chose to keep it as a strictly family funeral though Nancy sent flowers on behalf of the NA gang. For all of you who continue to enquire, thank you for your kind thoughts. I miss Ivy of course but things have become much easier in recent weeks allowing me to get on with the serious business of living and the simple chore of keeping up with subs and other FISTS related matters has helped a great deal.

I trust you all had an enjoyable festive season and, having more time than normal due to Christmas break, much time was spent on air in my favourite rag-chew mode. Hi.

The wintry storms most of us in the UK experienced on New Years eve brought their own problems. Here in West Lancs, we had a mere two or three centimetres but that was sufficient to completely glue up several miles of the A666 between Blackburn and the moorlands to our South. Whilst we were talking of centimetres, our friends in much of Scandinavia, Russia and other countries in Europe were speaking in terms of feet but did they have problems.... no. We have much to learn. Hi.

For a few days, 40m was near normal and much traffic was evident not only in the Ladder but also Bob's Christmas Challenge. Meanwhile there was much transatlantic chatter as 10 and 15m enjoyed sporadic openings. Hope it continues.

## INTRUDERS

The bad news! VK6XW reports hearing 53 non ham stations on the 14 MHz band operating SSB. He says that most appear to be from Indonesia.

The good news? Word that another group of Indonesians who had been using 14.335 MHz have vanished and have not been found again. The same is true for the bunch on 14.252 which have also disappeared from the Amateur spectrum leaving only the 14.144 gang which have gone LSB and moved up to 14.145 Mhz. (Q-News) Both the above items courtesy of WB2FXK.

## GACW KEY DAY

This is to remember the next 2004 gacw key day, this is not a competition but a friends hf bands meeting during which we encourage all ww hams to enjoy the rithm of the code using all kind of keys except those electronics. The main objective is to enjoy the Morse and to meet old and friends. The 69 2003 participants remarks are in our web site. Sorry most of them are in spanish. <http://gacw.no-ip.org>

## MARKING HISTORY

Carlos Beviglia, LU1BCE, says that between January 4 and 15th, the Radio Club Argentino will participate in the 6th Andes Mountains Land Crossing. LU1BCE is the Secretary of the Radio Club Argentino. He tells the Ohio Penn D-X newsletter that this trek is made every year to honor General San Martin and his army's crossing to Chile. This, during the American Independence War in 1817.

The Radio Club Argentino will provide the communication for the event. The club will set up two High Frequency stations at every camp point throughout the journey. Operation will be mainly on SSB and C-W using the special event call LS4M. QSL via LU4AA, either direct or via the bureau. (OPDX)

This is a partial list of the keys used during the event:  
Schur - Lw8dlb Deluxe Special - Vibroplex - J37 - Hi Mound  
Hk 704 - Manipulador Telegrafico Argentino - Wt& #2 -  
Vk2dlf - Ww II Italiano - Gmp Mini Llaves Artesanales  
Telegraficas - Daxon Radio 1982 - J38 - Bencher RJ2 -  
Manipulador Ff Cc Argentino - Ason - Cte and some home  
made also.

Date: Starting last February saturday each year. 28/2/2004.

Time: 1800 Saturday till 0600 utc Sunday.

Frequencies: Up to 3530 - 7030 - 14030 - 21030 and 28030 kHz.

Warc: The qso in the Warc bands are allowed but no recommended freq.

Mode: A1A - cw, straight key, bugs, maniflex, sideswipers only no-electronic key.

Call: cq kd - cq gacw kd, etc.

Exchange: Greetings and rst plus your gacw#. Non gace members send kd.

If you made more than 10 qso you are invited to vote for 3 different stations with a special very good sending. Swl are invited to send his log and vote too.

The gacw key day will be awarded to the 5 most voted stations.

Logs. Simple list using log book format, etc.

Deadline: Not later than the 31st of March.

Logs can be sent via e-mail as text-file to: lu6ef@yahoo.com.ar or gacw@gacw.no-ip.org

By mail to:

Gacw P.O. Box 9, b1875zaa - Wilde, Buenos Aires, Argentine

## LATE FROM F5NQL

Look for Guy, F5MNW to be active as FM/F5MNW between the 21st of February and the 6th of March from Martinique main island, NA107, DIFO FM001.

It will be a CW only activity on HF bands. Guy will be QRV at his spare time.

## NIMH BATTERIES BREAKTHROUGH

*Turning to the latest in electronic products of interest to hams, we have this from battery maker Rayovac. That company has announced a new charger that it says is capable of fully restoring a specially designed Nickel Metal Hydride cell in only 15 minutes. Dubbed the I-C3, the new rechargeable cells and charging system uses Rayovac's In-Cell Charge Control technology that puts the control of recharging into the battery instead of the charger. The company says that doing this offers significant performance and convenience advantages over existing rechargeable and disposable battery systems. More information is on-line at [www.rayovac.com](http://www.rayovac.com)*

Thanks to WB2FXK for the info.

FISTS CW CLUB NEWS LETTER

**ON THE AIR: IOTA 40TH ANNIVERSARY WARD**  
Don Field, G3XTT, wants to remind Islands on the Air Award enthusiasts and would-be enthusiasts that 2004 marks the 49th anniversary of this unique program. Don says that a set of files for downloading with lots more information are now available on the Chiltern DX Club website at [www.cdxc.org.uk](http://www.cdxc.org.uk) Just follow the IOTA 2004 links and remember this years award began on January 1st. (source RSGB)

## MORSE TEST TEAMS

I am no longer a member of the RSGB since they assumed I was an idiot who could not write and in any case, have rather got my hands pretty full already. As a consequence, I am quite happy to leave the liaison with the Society to G4BUO (possibly in conjunction with others) for the question of proficiency examinations and certificates.

G4BUO is president of FOC for 2004 and this month was due to attend a meeting with the RSGB General Manager to formulate a strategy.

The first logging of a team comes from John, GM4GZQ who in company with Jim GM3UWX have offered their services for which I am most grateful and the team is now included in any future plans.

Interestingly, since the dissolution of the MTS, they have received a number of requests for proficiency tests including one from the RA.

John was senior examiner for Strathclyde whilst Jim was one of the examiners on his team.

This is what we need people. TEAMS not individuals since the tests need to be witnessed. Whilst two members represent a minimum, three or even more would be helpful not only by permitting others a respite but also as cover in the event that some should find it difficult to attend venues.

Another member of interest is MOTIF who is currently working with the Milton Keynes for practice and tuition and expressed an interest in certification. From a club of that size, I am sure that support would be possible so pse keep me updated.

Whilst I must express my gratitude to the many individual members who have declared their interest, I must also ask them to seek support either from their local clubs or from others within their area though these may not necessarily be FISTS members. As long as they can attend local rallies on a regular basis, this satisfies our needs.

I will keep you updated as more information comes to hand.

## ZL2AOH

A little stirring at the year end as we go into the great unknown. The Australian authorities have announced that the Morse requirement ceases 1 January 2004. The ACA has announced a "celebration" and is encouraging its members, especially the new "liberated" ones to go on the air on 1 January. I am not sure whether they aren't too sure of the response but they are bribing people to participate by offering prizes. Let's hope that they stick to the band plans.

Among my ham radio activities, I am QSL manager for The Quartz Hill amateur radio station. Using the station call ZL6QH the user group has achieved 100,000 QSOs. Of these 71,452 are CW contacts. It will be interesting to measure the proportion of CW contacts when we reach the 200,000 milestone. I think that it will not be very different then.

We'll be back with newsletters at the end of January. Don't forget that we welcome items of interest, comments (kind or critical) and pictures. Please encourage your friends to join. We will send information to those you suggest are interested.

Vy 73 de Ralph. ZL2AOH

FEBRUARY 2004 PAGE 19

## THOSE TUNERS

In reference to a previous item concerning QRM from stations tuning up on frequency, G3HAL asks me to remind you that aside from dummy loads, noise bridges are extremely useful. Radcom for April 2001 covers an easily constructed version with a useful add-on in the September 2001 edition.

## ROCK MITE

This is not some hitherto undiscovered insect which burrows into solid stone but a small rock-bound QRP transmitter. It would appear that there is a dearth of 'baccy tins' out there in the colonies so Chuck sent one over to Stan (K4FU) in a batch of QSL cards which Stan used to construct this flea power unit. Following this, Chuck built one himself (he seems to be well blessed with such tins) and is most enthusiastic about the results. Originally, he found himself in the company of SSTV signals but raided his piggy bank for 7.030 Mhz rocks. It's output is a magnificent 400mW and a QSO with a German station at 550 miles qualified him for the QRP-ARCI 1000 miles per watt certificate. Not having a dedicated QRP TX, I need to turn down the wick on my FT1000 MP to get what appears to be a minimum of 4 watts (though this could be reduced via a resistive network) and must confess that my QRP activity has been neglected of late. Well done Chuck. That's not bad bang per buck!

## RE-ISSUE OF CALLSIGNS

A further item from G3ZPF contains the rather disturbing observation that there is an ongoing trend for new licencees to apply for the callsign of deceased amateurs. I understand that it has always been the policy of the agency to re-issue the callsigns of deceased licence holders when such a request is accompanied by approval of the immediate family but this latter requirement no longer seems to be necessary. His letter to the RA asks if it is possible to restrict re-issue to family members after he has been planted. Not sure if he got a reply yet?

## DL1CC AND ESPERANTO

*At last the report on my activities in the FIST frequencies with various countries.*

*For more than 40 years, I was living in the former GDR (German Democratic Republic). As no doubt you already know, our frontiers were closed to us, apart from being able to go to other nearby counties in the Soviet block.*

*Now that I am a pensioner and everything has changed, I am making the most of being able to travel to as many countries as possible.*

*This year, I went to Málaga EA7, and was active as EA7/DL1CC in 40 to 10 m, making contact with many FIST members. Together with G-SWL Ian and DK8RE, we went from Málaga by ship to Melilla (EA9) for 6 days. We were also active there in the 40 to 10m bands, again making contact with many FIST members in CW, also in SSB and had more than 5000 QSO's, with 420 British stations altogether. On two days we also used the call sign EA9URM.*

*In May we went to Yalta. During several weekends there we used the station UUSJK as UU/DL1CC. In June, I was active for IOTA on Wolin Island (EU 132). There I had an interesting call sign SOICC. The unusual prefix and the IOTA number attracted many DX-stations. While there, I also worked in 50 MHz. I cannot use 6m in Germany, but in Poland those frequencies are allowed.*

*After a short break at home, I went to Götting at the end of July for the Annual International Esperanto Conference. In spite of the week's busy programme of specialist meetings, visits and cultural events, I managed to find time to use the ILERA club station 8S6UEA (Universal Esperanto Asocio). Amongst the approximately 2000 delegates at the conference from 75 countries, there were 25 radio amateurs coming from many parts of the world. Amongst my 540 QSO's there were also some FISTS-QSO's.*

*In August we went by ship from Götting via Kristiansand to Newcastle-on-Tyne, and from there to Liverpool, then to the Wirral Peninsular, where I was Ian's guest (aktiva SWL) in Wallasey. Using the IC706 and a Keleman-dipolo, almost every day I listened and transmitted in the FISTS frequencies. Then again in Barlaston, where I took part in the Esperanto Summer School holiday arranged by the British Esperanto Association who have their headquarters there.*

*After that I visited Wales, Scotland, The Isle of Man and Ireland, where I was able to use the North Dublin Club's station (EI5NDR). After that, I went to Felixstowe and then a few days in London with Lenio, (G00OS) - Secretary of ILERA - International League of Esperantist Radio Amateurs. Then, it was back home again to Germany on 15th of September.*

*At the end of October, I came here to Santa Ponsa on the island of Mallorca (EU004), where I will be staying until 17th January 2004. I am transmitting regularly in 14.058 and 21.058 MHz, and have had many very interesting QSO's. It is also very interesting to contact QRP stations with only one or two watts. My maximum power is 100 watts using IC706 mk IIG and the Keleman Dipole in the 20, 15 and 10 m. I can also contact with 17 and 12 m using low wattage.*

*The plan is to go again to Melilla (EA9) for a week or two after 16th December, and I hope to be able to work in all frequencies. Please check all FIST frequencies. I am already making plans for 2004, and will willingly send you reports on my activities. For Christmas and the New Year 2004 I wish all FIST club members and their families the very best, good DX, and of course good health.*

*73 and until next time Wolf Krüger (EA6/DL1CC)*

## MOTORISTS BEWARE

Technology keeps on marching and this seems to apply to modern digital techniques more than any other. David, G3ZPF, warns that the new electronic signs on the M4 amongst others are fitted with the SPECS speed camera which which electronically logs your vehicle registration plate. The very next sign you encounter will do exactly the same thing and automatically convert the time taken to arrive from the previous camera into road speed. They operate 365 days a year and will issue unlimited tickets to vehicles exceeding 78mph. Got a radar detector? Forget it. These gadgets are passive and emit no radar signal at all. Be warned. Big Brother is watching!

## ETM KEYER SOUGHT

G3XVF is looking for a ETM9C - X3 Keyer and in view of the tendency to include keyers in modern rigs is hoping that a member may have one gathering dust. <g3xvf@btinternet.com> or PO Box 3082, Norwich, NR4 7YQ.

## CHANGE OF CALL

Pse note that M3NHY will be recognised as G6NHY. Also, PA2DGR is now PL8E

**LADDER**

Nov 03		Dec 03	
CALL	Total	CALL	Total
G3VQO	688	G3VQO	688
G4LHI	541	G4LHI	592
G0MRH	415	G4MRH	417
M5ABN	306	M5ABN	332
M0AYI	300	M0AYI	300
G4AQZ	214	OH7QR	235
M0RHB	207	M5AGL	221
M5AGL	202	G4AQZ	214
HB9CHE	159	M0RHB	207
OH7QR	153	HB9CHE	159
M0DRK	139	M0DRK	149
M0CMQ	100	M0CMQ	107
M5BRY	58	M5BRY	68
G8XGQ	36	G8XGQ	40
G0SOP	24	G0SOP	34
GW0SGG	17	GW0SGG	17
M3GBT	13	M3GBT	13
G0XAH	10	G0XAH	10

Well done to Erkki OH7QR who tops the monthly totals With 82 points.  
 Congratulations to Les G3VQO for first place this year and To Peter G4LHI second place , Ron G0MRH third place. Certificates will be sent to you in due course.  
 Again many thanks to all who have supported the ladder in 2003

and do remember that there is a new format for the 2004 ladder. A full list of this years contests is printed in the Key Notes, is also on the Fists web page or available from me.  
 73's for now de Bob M5AGL.

**LADDER FORMAT 2004.**

**Activity ladder.** January 04 to December 04.

To be run on the last weekend of every month. Times 0700 utc Sat to 1900 utc Sun.

Frequencies, All licensed amateur bands except the WARC bands.

**Returns & Scoring.** Returns are to be either a maximum total 8 hour continuous or 2 x 4 hour continuous periods only, taken from within the 36 hour operating time. Scoring: 3 points for a Fist Club Station, 2 points for a Fist member, 1 point for a non member. A station can only count once on each monthly week-end.

**Logs;** to include; Call/Name/QTH/QRG/RST/Time/FIST No or NM/Points scored.

All returns are to be received by the 10th of the following month.

**Dates;** 24/25 Jan. 28/29 Feb. 27/28 March. 24/25 April. 29/30 May. 26/27 June. 24/25 July. 28/29 Aug. 25/26 Sept. 30/31 Oct. 27/28 Nov. 18/19 Dec(1 week early to avoid Xmas and Boxing day).

**NEW MEMBERS**

09867	G0OOS	Len	09868	G3KEK	George
09869	G4FZS	Maurice	09870	2E0EUK	Fred
09871	MW0DDE		Andy	09872	
M5MKW		Mark			
09873	M3JCA	Colin	09874	G4SCB	Mike
09875	G0POT	Michael			

**POWER LINE DATA AGAIN**

From Jack, WB2FXK:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has joined the fray against the idea of broadband data via power lines pointing out that BPL could seriously impair FEMAs mission essential HF radio emissions in areas serviced by BPL technology. BPL could also have a detrimental effect on FNARS whose operators normally conduct communications with signals barely above the ambient noise level. Similar problems could be encountered by the Amateur Civil Emergency Services the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS.) and the Civil Air Patrol..

**FOR CW STUDENTS/TUTORS**

*My interest in assisting the deaf to communicate led me to: <http://www.utoronto.ca/atrc/reference/links/ideaf.html>  
 At the bottom of the page is a near sine wave audio programe with variable speed which could help in learning morse or reinforce speed practice. Be ideal for anyone who prefers to be waffled at in morse. G4XEC.*

**THE OK EXPERIENCE**

G4PRL holds the alternative call OK8AGK and his experiences open a window on repairs or replacements which most of you will be happy not to share.

He required a simple component to repair a H/B txcvr for a friend. There were no convenient High street shops, no mail order facilities, no email routes etc. The answer lay in a 20 mle road trip over poor unsurfaced roads to the back of a farm in Poland where, in a ancient and battered shed, there was a heap of old defunct electronic equipment. All old gear was funnelled to this location and it was up to him to rifle through the junk to find what he needed. "Try to imagine building a complete txcvr" he challenges but this is just what has been achieved in many cases.

They have dreams of course of obtaining professionally constructed rice boxes but even a second hand example would cost the equivalent of perhaps months of income.

Roy agrees with my grading of the 'K' series of QRP etc kit., but it comes at such a cost as would enable you to buy very good used commercial equipment. He cites the FT817 as 'cheque book' operating - too much money for too little output. Roy will happily work those chirpy QRP signals on the basis that the constructor has made a little more effort to get some RF out and has no doubt learned something in the process. He is not he says "sitting smugly in front of some very expensive equipment criticising others for their less than ideal signal quality".

**THE DX STUFF**

Mar 01/12, Cambodia, XU, 160-10m  
 Mar 03/17, Revilla Gigedo, XF4IH, 160-10m  
 Pse note I only report events for which CW is specified.

## THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

**M0PCB.** Iain is currently ploughing his way through an RF engineering course at York university. Seems he is endeavouring to run /P via a mobile whip in his room. **G3EFY.** Whoops. The item Resurrection or Re-engineer from last month ascribed to G3RFE should have been Tom. Gotta get these spectacles seen to! **G0GFG.** Mark was QRL on the door at the local rally but FISTS shared the RAFARS stand and Glenn, **M0AYI** told him there was lots of interest. **G4SSH.** Our Roy sends greetings from the Scarborough crew and it seems he has adopted the additional hobby of digital photography armed with experience from a course at a local college. You're never too old to learn I guess but you are never too old to make mistakes either. Hi. **G4BEQ.** Thank you for the kind thoughts Doug. He has undertaken the duties of carer to his invalid wife for 12 years now. **G3JKY.** As mentioned previously, Jakey is in ZL land and spent some time at a place called Takaka. Invites me to try sending that on the key. Hi. **M0ECS.** Been QRL studying for his Police Inspectors exams and having passed the first part is looking forward to joining in the fun with the rest of the gang. **PA9RZ.** Robert is Chairman of the Benelux QRP club. Not over enthusiastic about contests but the recent CQ WW found good conditions and he managed VE on 40 and 80m with 5w to a W3DZZ. October saw a magic lantern show in the sky and also produced 56A reports with ZL and the other 5 continents. **G0OWS.** Now there's a thing. Jim noted the item concerning our Cuban member and his french horn and wondered what sort of orchestra we could muster. He himself was at one time co-leader of the BBC Midland radio orchestra and recalls G4OHB and G4HNH who was a fine clarinetist and the best sax player in the country. Degraded eyesight (those pesky floaters) has caused him to give up his fiddle playing but you know Jim, you don't need specs for memories. Hi. **G4ZPY.** Due to indifferent health, Gordon's output of keys and paddles has been seriously restricted with something in the order of 6 months completion time. **M0BZN.** Fun and games. Thermostat on boiler went belly up H2O plus steam through office ceiling and this topped by two bouts of flu. Funny how things happen in threes ain't it Lou?

## KIT BUILDERS

Those of you who enjoy the smell of tortured flux and hot solder may be interested in the info from F5NQL:  
*This is not an add for a gear builder, but one for disabled of us.*  
*We all know the quality of the Elecraft company products especially their K1 and K2 transceivers.*  
*This is a new for those of us who would have one but can't build the kits or do the assembly or solder the parts of them.*  
*On the Elecraft web page at <http://www.elecraft.com/>, you can find a listing of hams, located throughout the whole world who can build the kits for disabled. Some of them can even do the job freely.*  
*My friend Hughes, F6GPA (ex G3BQ) owns one built by PA3HBB/G0BZF, which is a marvellous thing.*  
*In UK and USA, there's also a lot of hams who do the job also.*  
Don't know if similar arrangements are available for other kit suppliers but it's sure worth a shift.

## FINALE

Well, it has been a rare couple of months which I am not keen to repeat and which I would wish on no one. Suffice it to say that with your encouragement all has been bridged. It would also be thoughtless of me not to acknowledge a larger than normal stream of Christmas cards falling through the letter box. It is doubtful if my postman feels quite the same way but at least the weather was such that no excess steam was noted emanating from his shoes. Hi.  
We fear that Dayton may experience a reduced presence of overseas visitors this year. Not only was BA223 cancelled so abruptly recently but UK members at least may find themselves visiting the US Embassy in London for a visa. Will someone please tell me who is winning in the 'war against terrorism'?

Whilst 15m has been open to the US on a few occasions of late, there will surely be more. For those of you who live a 'normal' life i.e. go to bed at a reasonable hour, be consoled with the fact that transatlantic traffic has been variously reported on 80, 40 and 30m. Meanwhile, 20, 17 and 15m has found Australasia, Japan and some quite juicy DX periodically. If the stuff can be worked on 10w from the home counties and Europe there must be a chance for us mere mortals even up here in the hick country. Hi.

73/88 my friends and stay sober.

Geo.

FISTS Shirts: Tshirts=\$5, Gray Sweatshirts=\$10, Light Blue Polo=\$14 PLUS POSTAGE T's come in blue or black Postage = \$2.50 for 1st T or polo and \$4. for first sweat and \$1 for each additional garment

For example:

If you order a blue t-shirt, a black t-shirt, a sweatshirt and a polo, the postage would be:

\$2.50 plus \$1.00 plus \$4.00 plus \$1.00 = \$8.50

If you order a black t-shirt, a polo shirt and 2 sweatshirts, the postage would be

\$2.50 plus \$1.00 plus \$4.00 plus \$2.00 = \$9.50

NOTE: As with all FISTS supplies, please contact Irene ikott@compuserve.com to find out the amount of postage necessary to ship items to Canada and other non-USA addresses.

You may order using Paypal. The email address to use for Paypal is fists@tir.com. Do NOT use nancy@tir.com. In the "comments" box of the Paypal form, please be specific about what you are ordering, since this info will be used to fill your order. To order by mail, send your order (don't forget to include what color tshirt you want, and the size!) to; Irene Kott, 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr. Clinton Twp, MI 48038. Checks payable to FISTS.

This is a limited time opportunity. When the shirts are gone - they're GONE, so get yours now!

**HOW DO I GET/SEND FISTS QSL CARDS Via BURO?** Keep SASEs in stock with the FISTS QSL Bureau. Stan Reas K4UK runs the Bureau. Send envelopes to 1020 Long Island Drive Moneta, Va 24121

**HOW DO I IMPROVE MY CODE SPEED and MEET LOTS OF NEW FRIENDS?** Join FISTS! Get involved in the nets and activities! Volunteer to be a Code Buddy! Write an article for the Keynote about your interests!

**HOW DO I GET/SEND FISTS QSL CARDS Via BURO?** Keep SASEs in stock with the FISTS QSL Bureau. Stan Reas K4UK runs the Bureau. Send envelopes to 1020 Long Island Drive Moneta, Va 24121

**HOW DO I SEND APPLICATION OR SAMPLE NEWSLETTER TO A FRIEND?** For a brochure, email Joe W5QS 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. An application is available for downloading, in text format, on this web page.

**HOW DO I 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; he will get in touch with them and send them a DX application.

**PAY FOR THE SUBSCRIPTION OF A DX FISTS MEMBER?** Subs for European FISTS, paid from the USA, are \$10/year American Cash. Non-European (Africa, Japan, etc.) 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?** Dennis Franklin K6DF is the Awards Manager. We have many different operating awards. Details are on our web page or in the Keynotes. Dennis's contact information is fistsawards@comcast.net or 4658 Capitan Drive Fremont, CA 94536-5448

**HOW DO I OPERATE KN0WCW?** KN0WCW is the USA FISTS Callsign. Members in good standing (meaning, paid up dues) can operate KN0WCW from their home station after getting PERMISSION. To get permission, contact Dennis Franklin K6DF at fistsawards@comcast.net or 4658 Capitan Drive Fremont, CA 94536-5448 A schedule of operators can be found on the FISTS Web page. Remember, when you're using KN0WCW, you're flying the flag for FISTS, so please operate responsibly.

**HOW DO I VOLUNTEER FOR or GET A CODE BUDDY?** W3GR, The Historical Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club members are the volunteers handling the Code Buddy Program. Contact them at Box 746 MS 4015, Baltimore, MD 21203 or Email [W3GR@arrl.net](mailto:W3GR@arrl.net). We need ELMERS, please volunteer to be a Code Buddy!! You don't have to be a speed demon to be a Code Buddy, lots of people just want someone to practice with, just like YOU! Code Buddy applications are available on line or from W3GR.

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

**HOW DO I RECEIVE THE KEYNOTE ON TAPE?** The keynote is available on tape, free, to legally blind members. Contact W8ROG, 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr., Clinton Twp, MI 48038. The tapes are read by Roger Cameron, N8KV and copied and distributed by Ken.

**HOW DO I GET A COPY OF FISTS PRESENTATION** to give at my 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.

**HOW DO I SUGGEST IDEAS FOR THE WEB PAGE?** Contact Bill KK4KF at [kk4kf@cox.net](mailto:kk4kf@cox.net)

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