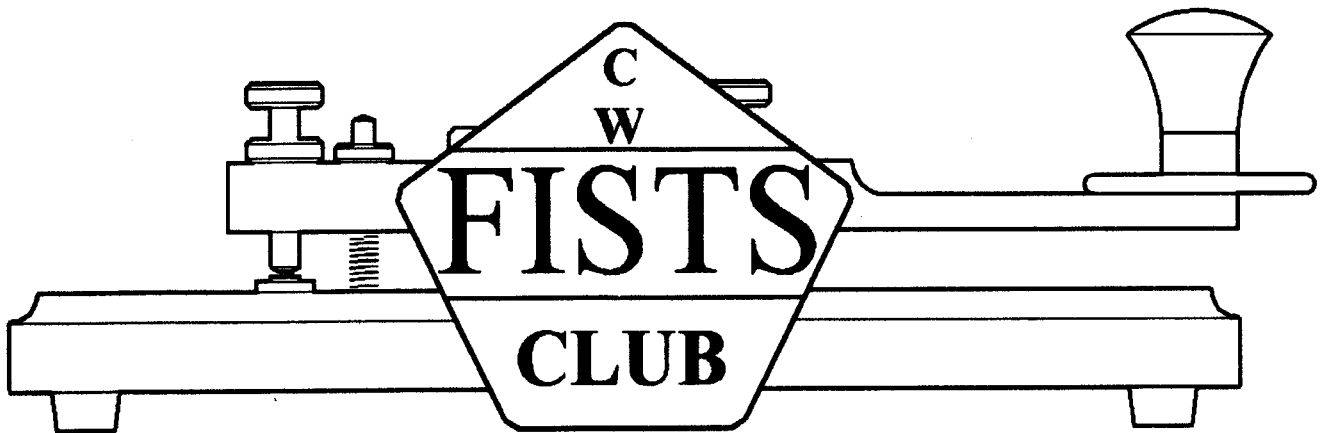


The Keynote

North American Memo
Newsletter of FISTS CW Club
The International Morse Preservation Society



Our Goals:

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

“When You’ve Worked A FISTS, You’ve Worked A Friend.”

When you have a question about FISTS, go to the source for the correct answer.

Posting a question on a chat room or email reflector may result in a lot of opinions, but your best bet is to ask a FISTS volunteer, look in the reference issue, or on our web page <http://www.fists.org>

Please put the word 'FISTS' somewhere in the title of your email. This will help the volunteer recognize that your email is important and not spam.

For questions about:

**Awards and Certificates contact
Dennis Franklin, K6DF, fistsawards@comcast.net**

**The QSL Bureau contact
Stan Reas, K4UK, k4uk@rev.net or see <http://www.fistsburo.org/>**

**Our club call KN0WCW contact
Karl Zuege, KB1DSB, kb1dsb@sover.net.**

**The membership roster, call changes, name changes contact
Ed Hayes, N7CFA, n7cfa@msn.com**

**To get an application or sample Keynote sent to a friend contact
Jim Ranieri, AA9LS, aa9ls@turbotoads.com**

**Web page changes, getting your personal or club webpage linked, etc contact
Webmaster Bill Myers, KK4KF, kk4kf@cox.net**

**Club presentation packets contact
Joe Spencer, KK5NA, kk5na@kk5na.com**

**To change or include your email address on the FISTS email list contact
Kathi Hilton, N0FKA, fistel@comcast.net (note no "s" in fistelist)**

**Code Buddy volunteers and buddies contact
Nick Yokanovich, K3NY, & The Historical Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club,
w3hem@arri.net**

**Sprints contact
Dan Sheperd, N8IE, W8PIG@yahoo.com**

**Get Your Feet Wet Weekend and G3ZQS Memorial Straight Key Contest contact
Lee Hallin, N7NU, hallinl@lanecc.edu**

All other questions, including supplies, tapes for the blind, address changes, general membership questions and articles for the Keynote contact Nancy Kott WZ8C, nancy@tir.com; PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440, phone 810-797-2033, fax 810-797-5808.

FISTS CW CLUB

THE INTERNATIONAL MORSE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

NORTH AMERICAN MEMO

EDITOR:

NANCY KOTT WZ8C PO Box 47 HADLEY MI 48440

NANCY@TIR.COM PHONE: (810) 797-2033 FAX (810) 797-5808

The University of Pittsburgh Morse code/ Memory study that I have mentioned several times over the last year is still going on, and will continue through the summer.

In this issue, I have included a flyer they sent me. Feel free to reprint it and hang it on the wall of hamfests, VE exams, anywhere you think there may be CW people who will see it and be interested.

I know of one FISTS member who participated in the study; Tim AC5SH took time out of his busy work schedule to drive there and help them out. He can't tell us the details because he was sworn to secrecy, but was able to say that they didn't stick wires in his brain or do anything that drew blood, hi hi. He found the experience very interesting.

Postage rates are going up in the middle of May, so remember to include the new postage rate (41 cents for the 1st ounce) on your new SASE's to the QSL bureau. Stan, K4UK, from the bureau wrote up a detailed breakdown of the postage rates elsewhere in this issue. You don't have to send in "make-up" postage for your existing envelopes, but please put the proper postage on the new ones.

The newest K7QO code course is being duped as I am writing this. It's basically the same, but has a lot more practice on it. Remember, these are MP3 files, it is NOT a program or a DVD. It is AUDIO only. If you put it in a CD player or a DVD player and nothing happens, odds are it's not an MP3 player, it is not the fault of the disk.

You can get a copy by sending an SASE with proper return postage (depends on the type of envelope you send - have it weighed at the post office) to me at FISTS, PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440, with a note saying you want the code course. Feel free to copy this if you need it for a code class to want your friends to have a copy. Just credit K7QO for

the contents.

Chuck, K7QO, is working on a new project. He is taking old code course tapes and recording them to CD's. He'd like to get as many as possible. If you have some put away in desks, trunks or the attic doing nothing, he'd like to borrow them.

Chuck will put a list and notes about his project on his web page:

<http://www.k7qo.net/morse.html>

Check it out and give him a hand if you can!

The FISTS have spoken and the Summer Sprint, which conflicts with the International IARU Contest, will be moved to the day before - Friday 13th. It will still be 4 hours long, from 8PM Eastern Daylight Time to midnight Eastern Daylight Time.

Please spread the word about this to any contest calendars or web pages you know about.

The ARRL has withdrawn proposal RM-11306. They apparently plan to rewrite it and resubmit it at a later time. Please contact the ARRL and let them know how you feel about limiting the bandwidth for a portion of the band to give CW a protected space. They currently want to limit signals to 3kHz, which is better than not having a limit at all, but we need to ensure that CW will have a place in the future of ham radio by giving us a part of the spectrum that is safe from encroaching digital interference. 73 88 33 Nancy WZ8C

Welcome to the New FISTS

#	callsign	First	ST	SPONSOR
13078	AE6ZF	DAN	CA	
13079	W2JSN	JOHN	NY	W9CBT
13080	K3FQP	BOB	MD	K3NY
13081	WB8WZO	DUAINE	OH	
13082	KE5LYW	Robert	TX	
13083	WD0FRB	BILL	MN	
13084	K1DDC	BOB	ME	
13085	W2BEE	GREG	NY	WZ8C
13086	KE6KRR	BRIAN	CA	
13087	KB0DBL	MICHAEL	WA	
13088	KI4PGS	JACOB	AL	
13089	KA9RBI	ROB	IL	
13090	KC8UVJ	NATHAN	OH	
13091	KJ4TQ	CHARLES	FL	
13092	WB8OGK	Bruce	MA	
13093	WB3BVL	BURK	MD	
13094	K4YDN	MIKE	FL	
13095	KB1MNN	KYLE	MA	KB1MNO
13096	WB6EJL	JERRY	CA	
13097	KD8FMN	JIM	OH	
13098	NT4D	JAY	NC	
13099	WJ4O	JIM	KY	
13101	KC9KOJ	BILL	IL	
13102	KF6CUE	CAS	CA	KG6SXY
13103	K7DDH	ANDY	WA	
13104	N3AWF	Herman	PA	
13105	AC0BP	Ralph	CO	
13106	AC7X	GEORGE	TX	
13107	NY5F	Anthony	NM	
13108	K7HV	JOHN	WA	K4IA
13109	K4EMG	TOM	TN	
13110	K3DRQ	DAN	PA	
13111	K4TC	MIKE	TN	
13112	WB6SIK	BILL	CA	
13113	AA4RA	TOMMY	SC	K4CUB
13114	AI8Z	MIKE	CO	
13115	K2XJ	HANK	NM	
13116	K9OHI	Tom	SC	
13117	N5JC	JOHN	TX	
13118	KC2NJV	WAYNE	NY	
13119	K9JP	JEFF	MI	
13120	N5TWY	RANDALL	OK	
13121	KI6APC	LARRY	CA	
13122	W0LEV	DAVE	CO	
13123	W6KGP	LEO	WY	
13124	KB3LAT	JIM	PA	
13126	N4NHE	Vanessa	NY	N2HE
13127	KB3DLS	JIM	PA	WA5LPW

#	callsign	First	ST	SPONSOR
13128	W4MJA	MIKE	GA	
13129	N6PFJ	Dennis	CA	
13130	WA2VLA	Mike	NY	
13131	K1JNX	ROB	IL	
13132	KD4II	BUD	SC	W4STX
13133	KB3BTO	CHARLIE	PA	
13134	W4SK	JOHN	TN	
13135	W0NR	JAY	UT	
13136	W4BDI	RICK	KY	
13137	WB2AUW	STANLEY	NY	WB2FXK
13138	KB3JG	JOHN	NJ	
13139	KI4HJH	CHUCK	FL	NZ1D
13140	KD5AQ	RON	OK	
13141	KA2GKL	HARRY	NJ	
13142	NE8J	HOWARD	FL	N8IE
13143	N4UEB	PAUL	KY	
13144	AA1PG	JON	TX	
13145	AA4TA	JACK	TN	N5HOT
13146	VA3RAW	RAY	ON	
13147	K4EXT	GARY	AL	

Correction from Issue 2:

- 13071 Joe is AF1E (not NF1E).
- 12866 Mahlon is WA7ZBL (now WA8ZBL)
- 12933 Wretha is KC0HHO
- 13008 John is KI6EA

QRP With K3WWP

Greetings from John, K3WWP. Here is my QRP Column #079. Since CW has somewhat taken on the aspect of a 'forbidden fruit' of late, many hams are wondering what it is about CW that makes it so hated by so many hams. As a result many are now taking up CW and finding out it is really an enjoyable, efficient mode of communications and are falling in love with it. I'd like to mainly address those hams in this column, but if that doesn't apply to you, read on anyway.

With the exception of FISTS and the NAQCC, other ham radio organizations are not doing much to teach CW procedures to those new to CW. Since I'm a proud member of both - in fact they are the only clubs I truly 'belong' to - I feel I should devote this column to operating procedure in normal QSO's on the band, then next issue devote to contesting and DXing procedures. What I say applies mostly to QRP operation, but since QRP operation is not all that much different from QRO, it will apply to anyone who operates CW.

The material in this column describes the procedures I have used to make over 45,000 QRP QSO's since 1993 when I became active again after a several years layoff from ham radio due to the pressure of work and caring for my aging mother. A lot of this material was presented earlier year back in the second QRP column that I wrote for the Keynote.

I don't sign /QRP at the end of my call, and never have except back in the 60's when it was common for members of the QRP Club

(now QRP ARCI) to sign that way to let other hams know they were club members. I prefer that the other station not know I am QRP until after we establish contact. I believe the signal reports tend to be more honest that way.

I like to get many of my QSO's from CQ's. There's a certain thrill in not knowing whom you are going to be contacting. I always call CQ in the following manner (*except in contests*):

QRL? (*check freq for a few seconds - if it's clear, then again*)

QRL? (*check freq for a few seconds - if it's clear, then*)

CQ CQ CQ DE K3WWP K3WWP K
(*check for an answer for 4-5 seconds, if no answer, then*)

CQ CQ CQ DE K3WWP K3WWP K

I continue the last two steps until I get an answer or give up. Sometimes I hear stations calling CQ a dozen times or even more before signing their call. Such endless CQ's only drive people away in search of someone else. I have great success with the "quick CQ, tune a few seconds for an answer, repeat if no answer" routine. I always ask QRL? twice before I start the CQ cycle to be absolutely sure the frequency is clear.

Once I get an answer to my CQ, I use the following as my first round in the QSO:

**KB3BFQ DE K3WWP GM (GA, GE)
TNX CALL UR 569 569 IN
KITTANNING PA KITTANNING PA
NAME JOHN JOHN HW? AR
KB3BFQ DE K3WWP K**

This takes care of the three most important items to be exchanged - RST QTH and NAME. Since they are so important, I send each one twice. I use no punctuation in my exchange as it is not re-

ally needed and makes for a crisp, quick first round that takes a little less than a minute to send depending on the code speed. Once we have completed the exchange of that basic info, then it is time to really get things started with some serious conversation. Now is the time to let the other station know you are using QRP.

When I am answering someone's CQ, I make an effort to exactly zero beat the station I am calling. If you use a transceiver, make sure the RIT, XIT, and any other gadget that offsets your transmit or receive frequency is turned off. When someone calls CQ, he almost always starts out listening exactly on his frequency for an answer. If you are there, you are more likely to catch his attention than someone who is off frequency a bit even if he is stronger. Also start to call the station immediately after he sends K. If you hesitate, he will start tuning around and may miss you. Make your answer crisp and quick: **KB3BFQ DE K3WWP K3WWP AR**. If the operator hears me at all, he or she generally can get my call right if I send it twice. If the operator is not sure, then he or she can send QRZ? and I will send it two more times. I do make an exception to this if I am calling someone who is quite weak. Then I may send my call three times. Or if I hear someone else calling at the same time I am, I sometimes drag out my reply to have my last call in the clear.

There are certain frequencies set aside as QRP calling frequencies. If you call around them, there is a somewhat better chance of getting an answer because other hams are expecting to hear weaker signals near these frequencies.

Check my web site for a list of these frequencies.

Send as close to perfect code as possible. Many DXpedition stations have said it is often the weak signal with the perfect sounding CW that is easier to copy in a pileup. The strong station with sloppy code is harder to copy.

Use procedure signals correctly. Correct procedure makes it easier to copy someone. For example, you may not have been able to copy someone saying 73 to you, but if he correctly uses SK at the end of his transmission, you can be certain that it is his last transmission, and say 73 back to him.

No matter what you do, and how correctly you do it, there will be times you won't get an answer. Sometimes, an operator will just not bother answering a signal less than S9. Rude perhaps, but it happens. Also the station you are calling may be dealing with a high noise level or some QRM from stations you can't hear. Just forget those bad experiences and keep trying. You will succeed more often than you fail.

Due to limited space in the Keynote, I have had to compress this info. You can find more detailed info on my web site - <http://home.alltel.net/johnshan/> and also the NAQCC web site - <http://www.arm-tek.net/~yoel/>. If you're at all interested in QRP, I urge you to join our NAQCC, then you will be fighting off the CW bashers with a double barrelled shotgun, instead of a single barrel. You'll have both FISTS and the NAQCC in your arsenal of weapons.

Till next month, 73 and good QRPing from me - John, K3WWP

FISTS AWARDS By Dennis K6DF

The special 20th anniversary (20-20) award has really taken off this year.

Lots of good rag chews heard on the bands trying to make those 20 minute QSO's. A 20 minute QSO is not all that long once you get to chewing the rag with someone and find some common interests and hobbies. I've even made it a point to rag chew with a few old friends as well, such as Roger K1TG, Ron K8JFT, Gene W5GXV, and Jim KC0JKD to mention just a few. Some of our newest members are doing pretty good at fraying the edges of the old rag as well. . . good to hear some new calls on the FISTS frequencies.

Remember to just send in the 20 needed QSO's on your monthly logs for the 20-20 award. Please do not send in your whole log for the month, send ONLY the 20 QSO's needed for the award sticker for that month. Tnx. Good Luck to one and all .

You may use the following e-mail address, (Fistsawards@comcast.net) for sending in your award logs. Excel, Word, and Text files are the only file types accepted. Please read the e-mail log rules on the FISTS web site for details.

Send in complete logs for awards. That means all of the following information; Call, Date of QSO, Band, FISTS #, Point/s claimed for each QSO. Incomplete logs, will delay receiving your award certificate.

Please check the FISTS Web Page for additional information regarding current FISTS awards and how to apply for them:

<http://www.fists.org/awards.html>

If you have any questions about the awards that are not answered on the FISTS awards web page, feel free to e-mail me with your questions. Keep banging the brass . . . C U on the bands . . . 73, Dennis K6DF
==.==.==

AWARDS ISSUED - Mar 12, 2007
to Apr 11, 2007

Basic Century (CC)

AD7JY
K0KLN
K5ECI
KB8MMJ
KC9HGW
KG6MXO
N0ZB
SM0PMJ
VK3XU
W5VYN

Silver Century

GM4WZL
N6SUZ

Platinum Award

K1LOG
N2UC

Platinum 500 Award

N4FI

20-20 January

AB8EL
K0LUW
VE1VEI

20-20 Feb

AB8EL
K0LUW
VE1VEI
W9SJW

20-20 March

AB1BW
AB8EL
AC5JH
AD5WI
K0TC
KA8HFN
KB3JAR
KD0V
KG4NNN
KK0I
N4RAY
VE1VEI
VE3HUR
W3MWR
W5GXV
W9SJW

20-20 April

K6DF
KC0JKD
KD0V
WB2MIC
WB4MED

Worked All States (FISTS)

AD5WI
W7BWI
W9BRE

Rag Chewers Certificate

KD0V
W9BRE

Millionaire

AD7JY
K8IJ

2 Million

G4LHI
K1LOG
K8IJ

4 Million

N4FI

6 Million

K4UK
KA8HFN
W5GXV

Old CW Ops

Old CW ops never die,

They don't go down below noise level,

They go up beyond F2, to a shack in the sky.

When you get to put SK after your call,

This starts the best part of it all.

The Pearly Gates open like 40 on a cold night.

And the Vibroplex seems adjusted just right.

Welcome my Ham friend, you still have a good fist,

You are at the head of the Real Ham list.

Go ahead and pound away on the key

For you have been what a Ham should be.

Enjoy Heaven with your bug OM,

For you have earned an eternal 73.

Bob Linker W5SQA December 2006

Speaking of Beacons

By: George R. Armstrong,
K9GA, #8883, 3/31/2007

The rich history of CW has several components that can be enjoyed and used today. One is beacons, a great tool for Fists ops, as well as an enjoyable pastime.

I like the idea of calling CQ on an empty frequency with the hope of meeting new Fists ops. It's good advice! You're advertising yourself and acting as a beacon at the same time. However, let's discuss beacons as a planning tool, code practice, or just plain listening enjoyment.

My earliest thought of a beacon was during the 1960's ARRL W1AW QST broadcasts. In those days, you could listen to League News, take code practice, and get a feel for band conditions all at the same time. Those services are all still available, check QST, or www.ARRL.org. Today, beacons abound from 160 meters to 6 meters and above. My favorite beacon hunting ground is 10 meters, 28.2 through and including 28.3 Megahertz.

Although we are at the cycle bottom, I still tune for 10 meter beacons. During late spring and early to mid summer, you can hear a wide range of code speeds and styles. And they are useful if you are hunting Fists Numbers. If you hear a beacon, chances are good you can find contacts. Try a CQ on an open frequency near or below the 28058 calling frequency.

Often I've seen 10 meters come alive with callers.

At this point in the sunspot cycle, 20 meters or 17 meters are the most realistic opportunities. On 20 Meters, most of the beacons share 14.1, part of the International Beacon System. If you hear ZL1B or VK6RBP, be on the lookout for Fists Down Under. Or, if you hear OH2B, listen for UK Fists. If you hear 4U1UN, you've got a great chance at US East Coast, and hearing W6WX might indicate a shot at west coast Fists ops. If you need Hawaii, try for KH6WO to confirm conditions are open.

This might seem overly simplistic, but the 14.1 beacons run at a snappy code speed and make great code practice. After signing, the subsequent long dashes fade as lower power levels are invoked. If you hear 4 power levels, your chance at a QSO is great and QRP contacts are possible. Be sure to check www.ncdxf.org and click Beacons,

17 Meters has been solid during late 2006 and early 2007. Most

17 meter beacons are on 18.110, but other frequencies are used. If you hear a beacon on 17, your chances of a QSO are good, most beacons are low power with simple antennas.

With the somewhat rarer openings on 15 and 12 meters, beacons will help you determine band openings. If you hear beacons, try a CQ at or below the respective calling frequency for 12 or 15 meters.

I consider 160 and 6 meters the "Grad School" for beacon hunters. You can be proud of your skills if you can hear beacons on these bands! Or try the WD2XSH 500 Kilohertz experimental beacons.

Google "meter beacons" to get a nice selection of beacon web sites. Try www.ac6v.com and page down to the Gateway Index, and click Beacons for a very comprehensive beacon list. If you're hunting for Fists numbers or just looking for some fun, try tuning beacons on your favorite bands. And don't forget to email or QSL rare beacon finds!



I operate a small all CW station. Though I have a 40-meter crystal oscillator Rockmite on the shelf, my principal transceiver is the Oak Hills Research five-bander rig. It operates on 80, 40, 30, 20 and 15 meters. Maximum output is about 5 Watts on the lower bands. Despite peaking and re-winding some of the filter cores, to date the maximum output on 15 meters has been about 2 Watts. I have made contacts into the Pacific Northwest and northern Europe running that power or less.

My antenna is marginal: two simple wire dipoles. One is cut for the low end of the 40-meter CW band, the other for the lower 20-meter band. Both have current baluns installed at their mid-points.

The antennas share a common mast on our back porch roof, somewhat below its 35-foot maximum height.

The far end of the 20-meter antenna runs to a small maple tree in the yard, diverging approximately 20 degrees south of the higher 40-meter dipole. Their near placement may cause some interaction. The shorter 20-meter wire may aid as a passive director for the longer 40-meter wire. The longer 40-meter wire may contribute as a passive reflector while transmitting on 20 meters. A cheap wire yagi antenna system. Well, that may be a little stretch as none of that was in my

grand design. The run of these antennae was dictated by available space.

The far end of the 40-meter antenna runs to a 2" diameter black iron pipe set in concrete. Its free-standing height is about 20 feet. Both antennas generally run east to west and slope to the west.

On 40 meters at 5 Watts, from my QTH in NY, I routinely QSO with stations along the eastern seaboard, eastern Canada VA, NC, NJ, PA into the Ohio River valley, TN, MO, MI and up to WI and MN. During the times of clearer band conditions, I have often QSO'ed into FL, LA, OK, TX, AZ, NE, and a couple of time into California.

On 20 meters I have had DX QSO's into the Caribbean islands (not many), many European countries, thought it should be pointed out that I'm not a big DX chaser at all.

Paint cans weighted with small rocks and tied via nylon rope to each antenna absorb wire movement. I imagine most hams use a similar scheme to reduce over-tension wire breakage.

Each feed line is a standard 1/2" type RG 8/U coax with a velocity factor of 95%, foam PE type manufactured by Cable Xpert. IN each transmission line are coax wound rf chokes. These wound coax coil are as close as physically possible to the antenna.

Method of construction is detailed in The ARRL "Big" Antenna Book 10th edition dated 2002, pages 26-20, 26-21, eliminating common-mode currents.

Before entering the second floor radio room, the coax lines are routed to individual disconnect grounding electrical boxes. These metal boxes hold surge/lightning arrestors. I installed 3/4" diameter copper pipe on the interior wall of the shack, connected with AWG#8 stranded copper wire to a similar copper pipe on the exterior of the house near the roof-mounted mast. This 3/4" copper pipe is routed to ground level and connected with heavy copper wire to multiple 8-foot ground rods.

I use an MFJ-949E antenna tuner. It's a high pass type tee impedance network. An Oak Hills WM-2 QRP Wattmeter is between the transceiver and the tuner. It is kit-built, and very valuable for matching the antenna to the transmitter's output. It is very sensitive and reliable. Its lowest full-scale reflected and forward power is 100 milliwatts. At this level, the tuner can be adjusted to where the MFJ's reflected needle rarely goes about:1.

I also purchased a digital dial, Model DD-1 from Oak Hills, an absolute necessity with the Oak Hills rig. It is a fully programmable frequency indicator/counter. It could be used with other rigs and programmed to

automatically calculate offsets where the VFO/oscillator may tack either up or down on different bands. Its use with the Oak Hills rig, though, is fortunately not that complicated. Very straightforward there.

Now lastly, I selected this Oak Hills rig generally based on the following criteria:

1. Moderate price, less than \$400.
2. For base station use, multi-band
3. Simple to operate
4. No confusing mumbo jumbo computers on board.
5. Complete analog circuitry.
6. Be able to fix it myself...real big item!
7. Absolutely no surface mount components to install.
8. Enclosure large enough for me to work in.

Considering all these factors, this rig filled the bill. In fact, for its price at the time as a multiband CW rig, it exceeded my expectation for quality. For a person knowledgeable in electronic assembly it is a very straightforward system to construct. However, it is still complex equipment, and attention to detail during constructions is an absolute must. After construction, the rig fired up properly the first time. It took about one month to build and test.

Often I hear on the air, mostly SSB, that most ham operators now cannot repair their own rigs. When difficulties arise, their radios are sent back to the factory for repairs. It is sad that the perceived complexity of today's ham equipment exceeds the basic technical abilities of most ops. Software controlled surface mount multitasking circuits in single chips, indeed get beyond the average ham's time and abilities. Too bad, though.

In closing, my station is a work in progress. Small, all CW and low power operations. My antenna system is poor at best with hopes of improving it in the future. I would like to add one more QRP rig and an SSB transceiver. I had considered the K1/K2 Elecrafts. At the time, the Elecraft was about twice what I paid for the Oak Hills, I couldn't justify the extra cost for a basic CW rig.

QRP is a lot of fun, and it does work, even with a small investment of time and money. I am an ex-military CW radio op from the late 60's, shipboard overseas and at coastal stations.

73, Virgil KA2REY, #10533.

Enjoying CW on 2 meter FM

Jim Goudie AF3Z

It happened by chance, but I realized that it had potential. I talked with someone on 2 meters whose callsign ended with UU. I asked if he operates CW, and said, "Your call would sound good: dididah dididah !

Even after I left the conversation, they kept talking about CW for a bit. I realized that it was a simple way to "plant a seed" and promote CW... and I always enjoy talking about CW.

Another FM QSO helped me realize a benefit of CW that I never thought of before. One ham was telling about a station on 20-meter SSB who was being loud-mouthed and obnoxious... going on and on, ranting and raving. Several stations tuned to the frequency to check it out. About that time, I had my "aha experience." I said, "You know what? I've never heard anybody do that on CW. I've never heard anybody get 'loud-mouthed' via the code!" Of course, at times people QRM a frequency in code, but it doesn't seem as obnoxious... and most casual listeners would not be able to copy "bad-mouthed" code! There seems to be a natural BS filter (Belligerent Station filter) involved in operating CW. Here again, CW got a good plug and I enjoyed bringing the conversation around to the code.

Now that learning CW isn't required for any of the licenses, we'll have to let our enthusiasm attract newcomers to the music of code. I've found 2-meter FM to be a good place to talk about my first love.

Know Any Repair Places?

Would it be too much of an imposition to ask FISTS members in the next issue if they would write in any repair shops of which they are aware?

George - N8PKC

Nancy Note: Good question! We used to have Michigan Radio here in MI, but I haven't heard anything about them in a long time. If anyone knows of an alternative to sending a radio back to the manufacturer or a good place to get parts, let me know (nancy@tir.com) and I'll put it in an upcoming Keynote.

What's Legal for Mobile ID?

I run a lot of mobile CW and up

until now I always identified I was mobile with a /m after my call, but since England now has the letter M as a prefix in their calls it would seem that using /m would be in violation of the FCC Rules.

Since most of the CW ops use the /m, it might be good to let everyone know the proper (legal) procedure. Anyway, so now I'm in a quandary, how do we identify ourselves as mobile?

Bill Ecton, AD0CW

Nancy Note: This sure is a quandary! As you may know, I'm the editor of WorldRadio magazine, and our Rules and Regs columnist wrote about how it is illegal to use /M now that it is a prefix,

in the same month as our County Hunter columnist wrote and told people to use /M when they are mobile and activating counties.

This caused a flurry of letters, so I looked into it. The FCC expert stands by his statement, and the County Hunter acknowledged they need a new way to designate Mobile, but it's hard to break decades of tradition. He suggested using /mob.

I'll put it in the Keynote and see if we can start some dialog among the membership. /mob makes sense to me, but it's pretty long to send. /MO or /MB or maybe there is another letter that isn't a prefix, like /T for traveling or temporary or using /P for portable - although /P doesn't necessarily mean mobile...maybe /PM?

Postal Rates

The Postal Service has done it again - effective May 15, 2007 they have raised rates on the first ounce from 39 cents to 41 cents.

But it is almost unbelievable they have reduced the rate on additional ounces from 24 cents to 17 cents.

So, based on the weight of my QSL card per the scales in the Moneta, Virginia Post Office we can send the following number of cards per weight:

Weigh	Postage	Cards
1 ounce	41cents	7
2 ounce	58cents	15
3 ounce	75 cents	23

The weight limit for regular envelopes is 3.5 ounces which means 92 cents postage for 27 cards

Above 3.5 ounces the "Large Envelope" rate would apply - 80 cents for first ounce and 17 cents for each additional ounce. So, for 4 ounces, approximately 31 cards, the postage required would be \$ 1.31

We will be using stamps from our "stamp kitty" to add the postage required as needed.

We will be using quite a bunch of 2 cent stamps to add to existing SASE's we have on hand.

The postcard rate increased from 24 cents to 26 cents.

Also they have made available a "Forever" stamp which costs 41 cents, but will cover the postage for one ounce from now to forever. Hard to believe but it is true.

I've not gotten any information about the rates for the International Rates to mail outside the United States. Those rates will probably be increased also. Until I know more the existing rates are:

The costs of mailing to Canada is:

One ounce 63 cents, two ounce 90 cents, three ounce \$1.15, four ounce \$1.40.

The costs of mailing to Mexico is:

one ounce 63 cents, two ounce 90 cents, three ounce \$1.30, four ounce \$1.75.

The costs of mailing to Other North & South America Countries is:

one ounce 84 cents, two ounce \$1.65, three ounce \$2.40, four ounce \$3.20.

When practical we use the Global Priority Mail Flat Rate Envelopes to send cards to Chuck in England. This envelope is 9-1/4" x 12-1/4" and has cost \$9.50 to mail. We can put three stacks of cards in that envelope - generally more than 200 cards. Which means the per card cost is less than 4.5 cents.

When practical we use the smaller size Global Priority Mail Flat Rate Envelopes to send cards to Nigel in New Zealand. This one is 5-3/4" x 9-7/8" and has cost \$5.25 to send. Though we can put only one stack of cards in this size envelope, it is cheaper than normal mail when we have more than 50 cards to send.

Your continued donations to help cover the costs of mailing cards to DX members is greatly appreciated.

INTERNATIONAL RATES

Weight	Postage to Canada	Postage to Mexico	Postage to Europe	Postage to VK,ZL,JA	Postage to Most Others
1 ounce	\$0.63	\$0.63	\$0.84	\$0.84	\$0.84
2 ounce	0.90	0.90	1.70	1.80	1.65
3 ounce	1.15	1.30	2.55	2.75	2.40
4 ounce	1.40	1.75	3.35	3.70	3.20

Looking for info about KG2FH's Logs

My name is Tal Izsak, I am a radio amateur from Israel.

I am writing about a late member of FISTS, Kenneth E. Sanchez KG2FH. Kenny used to be my QSL manager; unfortunately he passed away in 2000 or 2001. All the work done by him is presumably lost, I haven't been in touch with his family or friends.

I would like to know if there is a way of getting the attention of FISTS members (such as an online forum or a newsletter), some of the members might have known Kenny and may still be in touch with his family, which I am trying to contact. Thank you for your time 73 & GL Tal Izsak 4X6HI taliz81@gmail.com

(Nancy's note: I have not been able to confirm that Kenny is a Silent Key, however he nor his call are listed in QRZ.)

Slow Speed CW Nets

Name:	NTS?	Purpose:	Coverage Area:	Freq:	Alt:	Days:	Local:	UTC:	Manager:	Reporting:	Updated:
Alabama Training Net	✓	Traffic, Training	SE United States	3.712		Dy	18:00	0:00	KG4IMI	KG4IMI	06/25/05
Amateur Radio Telegraph Society net		Traffic, Training	Wide Coverage	7.052		Dy	6:30	12:30	WB5NKD	WB5NKC	03/17/06
British Columbia Emergency Net	✓	Emergency Traffic	BC, AB, SK, MB, WA, OR, ID, MT	3.652		Dy	19:00	3:00	VE7XLH	VE7DWG	12/16/03
Carolinas Slow Net (CSN)	✓	Traffic/Code Practice	NC and SC	3.571		Dy	20:00	1:00	W4EAT	W4EAT	03/09/07
Empire Slow Speed (ESS)		Traffic, Training	NE US	3.576		Dy	18:00	23:00	WI2G	WI2G	01/10/07
Florida Medium Speed Net (FMSN)	✓	Traffic	FL	3.552		Dy	18:30		AG4RJ	AG4RJ	04/13/07
Georgia Training Net (GTN)	✓	Traffic, Training	SE US	3.549		Dy	21:00	2:00	N4VAD	N4VAD	04/01/07
Handiham Informal Slow Speed CW Net				7.112		F	9:30		W8IRT	KØHLA	04/11/07
Hit and Bounce Slow Speed Net (HBSN)		Traffic, Training	Eastern & Central	3.576		Dy	19:30	11:30	WD8DIN	K2TV	03/15/07
Hoodview CW Net		CW Practice	Portland, OR Metro Area	28.130		Dy	19:00	3:00	AB7BI	N7QR	11/05/03
Idaho Montana Net (IMN)		Traffic, Training	ID & MT	3.647		Dy		3:00	N7MPS	VE7DWG	04/16/05
K9YA Slow Net.		Practice/fun	Continental US	7.121		2,3,4 W	19:00	1:00	N9BOR	K9PL	03/10/07
Kansas Slow Speed Net			KS	3.710		MW	19:30			KC0CCR	04/16/05
Maine Slow Speed Net	✓		ME	3.585		Dy	18:00		W1QU	N1MHC	04/11/07
Maryland Slow Net (MSN)	✓	Traffic, Training	NE USA & SE Canada	3.563		Dy	19:30	23:30	W8CPG	VE2KRM	04/22/07
Mountain States Net (MSN)	✓	Traffic, Training	AZ, CO, NM, UT, WY	3.570	7.063	Dy	20:00		W0HXB	W0HXB	04/29/07
NARL Slow Speed	✓	Traffic, Training		28.180			20:00	1:00	AA1GW	N0UEP	01/20/07
NJ Slow Speed	✓	Traffic, Training	NJ	3.547		Dy	18:30	23:30	K2PB	WI2G	01/20/07
Northern CA Slow Speed Net	✓	Traffic	EB, NV, SCV, SF, SV	3.705		Dy	21:00	5:00	WB6UZX	VE7DWG	11/11/03
Ohio Slow Net	✓	Traffic, Training	OH	3.535		Dy	18:10	23:10	WD8Q	WD8Q	03/09/07
Oklahoma Training Net.		Training	Wide	7.120.6		Dy	17:20	23:20	WB5NKD	WB5NKC	03/17/06
Orange County Wireless Net		Practice, Chat	Orange County CA & Nearby Cnties	7.086		Sn	9:00	17:00	KF6UEB	KE6OIO	03/17/06
Oregon Section Net	✓	Traffic, Training	OR	3.587		Dy	18:30	2:30	W7IZ	N0UEP	01/20/07
Oregon Section Net	✓	Traffic, Training	OR	3.587		Dy	22:00	6:00	KC7SRL	N0UEP	01/20/07
PA Traffic & Training Net	✓	Traffic, Training	PA	3.537		MWF	18:30		N3SW	N3SW	04/09/07
Sandia Valley ARC Slow Speed Net		Code Practice / Ragchew	Southwest US	7.063		W	21:00	4:00	WB7RHT	WB7RHT	12/16/03
Texas Slow Net (TSN)	✓	Traffic, Training	TX & other	3.552		Dy	20:00	2:00	KD5GM	WZ8C	04/27/07
Utah Code Net (UCN)	✓	Traffic, Training	Utah and surrounding states	3.570		Dy	19:30	2:30	NA7G	NA7G	04/13/07
VE2UMS Traffic Net		Traffic	Quebec (Canada) and surrounding re	3.578		W	20:00	1:00	VE2CBW	VE2CBW	01/20/07
West Coast Slow Speed (WCN)		Traffic, Training	West coast US	3.540		Dy	19:00	3:00	K7WCN	K7EX	04/27/07
Wisconsin Novice Net (WNN)	✓	Traffic	WI & Surrounding States	3.555		Dy	18:00	0:00	KB9ROB	KB9ROB	03/10/07
Wisconsin Slow Speed Net (WSSN)	✓	Traffic	WI & Surrounding States	3.555		Dy	18:30	0:30	N9JIY	N9JIY	04/13/07

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High Speed CW Nets

<i>Name:</i>	<i>NTS?</i>	<i>Purpose:</i>	<i>Coverage Area:</i>	<i>Freq:</i>	<i>Alt:</i>	<i>Days:</i>	<i>Local:</i>	<i>UTC:</i>	<i>Manager:</i>	<i>Reporting:</i>	<i>Updated:</i>
All FL CW Traffic Net (QFN) - Early	✓	Traffic	FL	7.051		Dy	19:00		W8IM	W8IM	04/16/05
All FL CW Traffic Net (QFN) - Late	✓	Traffic	FL	3.651		Dy	22:00		W8IM	W8IM	04/16/05
Buckeye Net (BN) Early	✓	NTS Section Net	Ohio	3.577		Dy	18:45		WD8KFN	WE8AUQ	03/15/07
Buckeye Net (BN) Late	✓	NTS Section Net	Ohio	3.577		Dy	22:00		NY8V	WD8AUQ	03/15/07
FIRST Region (in) Net	✓	Traffic	ME,NH,VT,MA,CT,RI	5.598		Dy	21:30		K8SH	N1MHC	04/27/07
FIRST Region (out) Net	✓	Traffic	ME,NH,VT,MA,CT,RI	3.598		Dy	19:45		K8SH	N1MHC	04/27/07
Georgia Section Net (GSN) - Early	✓	Traffic	GA	3.549		Dy	19:00	0:00	K4GK	K4BAI	04/27/07
Georgia Section Net (GSN) - Late	✓	Traffic	GA	3.549		Dy	22:00	3:00	K4GK	N4VAD	04/01/07
Hit 'N Bounce Net (HBN)	✓	Traffic	Eastern/MidWest US	7.042		Dy	8:30		WD8DIN	W8IM	05/12/05
IN Section CW Net -- QIN	✓	Traffic	IN	3.535		Dy		13:30	K9PUI	NA9U	04/29/07
IN Section CW Net -- QIN	✓	Traffic	IN	3.535		Dy	19:00	0:00	KJ9J	NA9U	04/27/07
K9YA Fast Net		Practice/tun	Continental US	7.121		1 W	19:00	1:00	N9BOR	K9PL	03/10/07
Lake Erie Boat Anchors Net (LEBN)		Tube gear usage	General	7.094		S	13:00	18:00	W8KYD	W8KYD	03/11/07
MD DE DC Net (MDD) - Early	✓	Traffic	MD, DE, DC	3.557		Dy	19:00	0:00	AA3SB	N3ZOC	01/20/07
MD DE DC Net (MDD) - Late	✓	Traffic	MD, DE, DC	3.557		Dy	22:00	3:00	AA3SB	N3ZOC	01/20/07
Morse Telegraph Club-SQ -- 20 m Net		On air activity	Southern CA	14.055		S	7:30	15:30	KA6G	KA6G	12/20/04
Morse Telegraph Club-SQ -- 40 m Net		On air activity	Southern CA	7.084		S	8:30	16:30	KA6G & WA	KA6G	12/20/04
New York State CW - Early	✓	Traffic	NY	3.576		Dy	19:00	0:00	N2QZ	W12G	01/20/07
New York State CW - Late	✓	Traffic	NY	3.576		Dy	22:00	3:00	W2YGW	W12G	01/10/07
New York State CW - Morning	✓	Traffic	NY	3.576		Dy	10:00	15:00	KA2GJV	W12G	01/10/07
Northern California Net	✓	Traffic	Northern CA & NV	3.533		Dy	19:00		K9JM	K9JM	10/20/06
Orange County Wireless Net (OCWN)		Practice/Social	Orange County CA	7.086		Sn	9:00	17:00	KF6UEB	KF6UEB	03/07/05
Pine Tree Net	✓	Traffic	ME, NH, VT, MA, CT, RI	3.596		Dy	19:00		W1KX	N1MHC	04/11/07
QNM	✓	Traffic & WX	MI	3.663		Dy	22:00	3:00	WB8SIW	WB8SIW	04/16/05
QNM	✓	Traffic & WX	MI	3.663		Dy	19:30	0:30	WB8SIW	WB8SIW	04/16/05
Texas CW Net (Early)	✓	Traffic	TX	3.552		Dy	19:00	1:00	AC5XK	WZ8C	04/27/07
Texas CW Net (Late)	✓	Traffic	TX	3.552		Dy	22:00	3:00	AC5XK	WZ8C	04/27/07
Tin Can Sailors CW Net		Code practice	General coverage	7.117		W	10:00		N3RSD	N3RSD	07/15/05
Virginia Net Early (VNE)	✓	Traffic	VA	3.578		Dy X T	19:00	0:00	KV4AN	W12G	01/20/07
W6MTC CW net -- FISTS 10350		Code Practice	Southern CA, AZ & NV	7.084		S	8:30	15:30	KA6G	KS6CW	04/09/04
Washington State Net (WSN)	✓	Traffic	Washington State	3.563		Dy	18:45	2:45	W7QM	W7GB	04/09/07
Washington State Net (WSN)	✓	Traffic	Washington State	3.563		Dy	21:45	5:45	W7QM	W7GB	04/09/07
Washington State Net (WSN)	✓	Traffic	Washington State	3.563		Dy	7:30	14:30	W7QM	W7GB	04/09/07
Wisconsin Intra-Late Net (WIN/L)	✓	Traffic	WI & Surrounding States	3.555		Dy	19:00	1:00	WB9ICH	W9UW	04/09/07
Wisconsin Intra-Late Net (WIN/L)	✓	Traffic	WI & Surrounding States	3.555		Dy	22:00	4:00	W9UW	W9UW	04/09/07

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FISTS DOWN UNDER

Newsletter – May 2007

Editor & QSL Manager for ZL: Nigel Hardy, ZL2TX, P.O. Box 15078, Otaki Railway, Otaki 5543, New Zealand. Tel: 06-364-6339

Newsletter Distribution & QSL Manager for VK: Chris Thompson, VK2CTN, P O Box 178, Wellington, New South Wales 2820, Australia. Mobile Tel: 0407-249-474

Membership/Awards Liaison: Ralph Sutton, ZL2AOH, 12c Herbert Gardens, 186 The Terrace, Wellington 6011, New Zealand. Tel: 0-4-473-0847. Fax: 0-4-473-0848

QSL Manager for ZL6FF: Nigel Hardy, ZL2TX at address above.
QSL Manager for VK2FDU: Chris Thompson VK2CTN at address above

Address e-mails for all the above persons to: <fists-down-under@ihug.co.nz>
Web site --: <<http://www.fistsdownunder.org>>



SUGGESTED FISTS CLUB H/F CALLING FREQUENCIES

1.808 MHz (160m) – 3.528 MHz (80m) – 7.028 MHz (40m) – 10.118 MHz (30m) – 14.058 MHz (20m)
18.085 MHz (17m) – 21.058 MHz (15m) – 24.918 MHz (12m) – 28.058 MHz (10m)

Members are reminded that the above frequencies are suggested calling frequencies. If they are busy, it is suggested that once you establish contact with a station, it may be prudent to change frequency down the band, avoiding other calling frequencies of known clubs.

NEW (OLD) MEMBER

We welcome back one new member this month: **VK3GFE-David #9088**. David is concerned at the lack of FISTS on-air contacts, especially those providing rag chewing opportunities. His concerns are discussed in an article below.

DOWN UNDER MEMBERS' NEWS

We are sorry to have to report the death of **ZL/W6HPM-Darrell #6969**. Darrell was one of our newest members, having joined us in January 2007. We have sent our condolences to his family and friends. **ZL2BLQ-Stan #9068** is assisting the family with the disposal of Darrell's equipment. Items include:

- TS 530S transceiver in good working order with Kenwood MC 50 desk microphone
- Radio-Shack field strength & SWR meter
- Brown Bros Machine Co paddle
- An Italian collector's item paddle heavy brass block with plastic paddles
- A home brew matching unit
- Boxes of assorted components and books

Inquiries to Stan Mangin ZL2BLQ, 33 West Street, Greytown 5712,
Tel: 0-6-304-9871 E-mail: mangin@infogen.net.nz

We continue to receive voluntary donations from members when they are renewing their subscriptions. This month thanks are due to **VK3DBD/G3SC-David #3756**.



ZL2AOH-Ralph #1073 flew the flag for FISTS at the recent Wellington Area Radio Expo, held at Naenae College, Lower Hutt. Although a number of attendees expressed an interest in FISTS, so far it has not resulted in any new members. The club shared a table as a guest of the Wellington Amateur Radio Club. The power supplies at the left are constructed in recycled computer cases and the gizmo in the centre of the table above the FISTS poster is a rotary spark gap, all constructed by master technician **George Newlands ZL2AG**.
– Spark gaps! Yeah, those were the days!!

ZL1DD-Barry #9029 reports: Am presently living in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Not able to get a ham licence here, so QRT. Am contemplating renting a station in Cambodia next month, checking out the logistics now.

VK3DBD-David #3756 reports on the goings on in northern Victoria. -

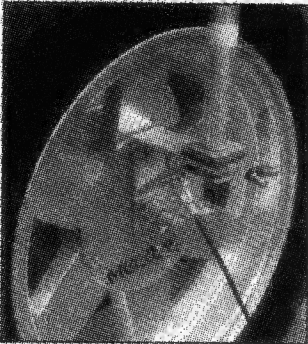
You might not hear many Fists on the bands but believe me its all happening around these parts and it's not for want of trying!

At **VK3CGB-Chris #9087** is preparing for some portable operation in exotic parts - Like even NSW- A new toy arrived at his QTH recently, a touring caravan and after a preliminary long weekend trial not a million miles from home, the priorities were set in action - how to fit it up with a suitable easy-to-set-up-and-operate radio station..... Of course being very new, he was under strict instructions from the Station Manager, Carol, not to drill holes for wires or otherwise deface the appearance..... Well he wouldn't would he??

In the VK3DBD workshop a suitable steel bracket was made up which fitted on the spare wheel mount and was easily detachable, some modifications on the lathe to a 3 m length of alloy tube, plus a few spare mobile loading coils from the DBD factory and Chris has a caravan/p antenna.

Early experiments with this has shown promise and you can now often see a long coax cable running from Chris' shack to the caravan ant. It seems to compare favourably with the regular aerials on the property. The system has yet to be tested under field conditions but watch this space - and the low ends of the bands.

Caravan antenna mount

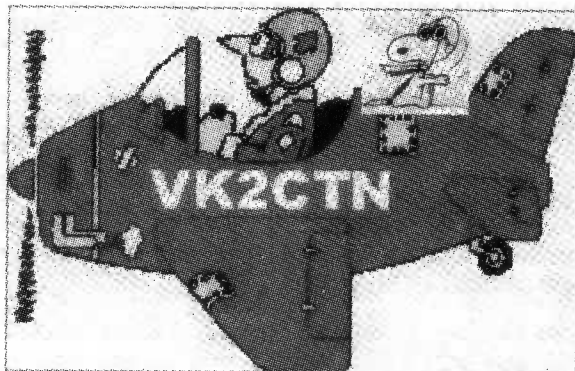
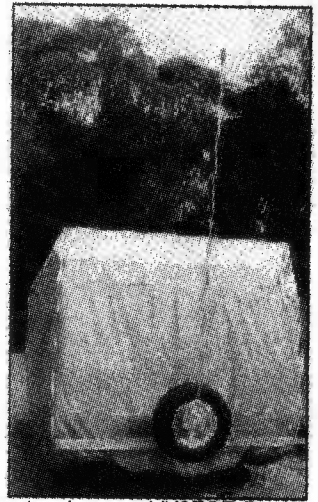


Not so far away just over the hills at VK3DBD changes have been undergoing to the aerial farm and the skyline could be said to be slightly tidier. Abandoning an 80 and 40 m dipole, for a sleeve dipole with 30/40/80 elements, hanging on the mast that sports the 20/15/10 beam. This antenna has been tested over a few weeks and seemed promising too at least on the two lower bands, 30 m is not as good as my "special" WARC dipole.

So yet another session resulted and the sleeve dipole was abandoned for a delta loop, a full wave, and nearly vertical triangle for 40m, fed with coax and a matching section. This is giving good results and USA is worked frequently now on 7 MHz. The 80m dipole is now transferred to the

same coax as the 160m dipole and so some major changes brought about without so much as bringing yet another coax to the house..... Brownie points for this one!

Caravan antenna



Meanwhile down in the High country near Bright, where the autumn colours are approaching in their usual spectacular way **VK3FGE-David #9088** is still working on the array to go on top of his 70ft mast. A pair of delta loops of plumbers delight construction. There is no truth in the rumour that the Airport Authorities have been looking over the site as a possible danger to navigation in the area. **VK2CTN - Chris #9057** our tame FISTS Man in Oz, keeps in regular communication with this part of the world and manages to put out a good signal on 40m with some 12 metres of fishing pole supporting his dipole in a pocket sized garden - with the blessing of friendly and helpful neighbours, (whom he recently mystified further by giving them a demo of a CW QSO with Yackandandah.) I guess they only believed he was not talking to a little Green Man from Mars when we

changed to SSB. Chris may be looking over us all more often in the future as he has been taking to the air in a Cessna during his leisure hours. - Just make sure you keep well above ground over the VK3FGE QTH, Chris. Perhaps we can have our FISTS QSLs delivered by airmail.

ZL2JKY/G3JKY-Jakey #7110 did not make his usual six-month sun-seeking pilgrimage to Takaka this year. (He must have been pre-warned that the early summer WX was to be lousy!) However he kept the Kiwi connection open by submitting a SWL log r this year's NZ Jock White Memorial National Field Day contest in February.

ZL4PW-Paul #9636 has an interesting web site at <http://www.zl4pw.orcon.net.nz> - Of particular interest are the pictures and descriptions of his antennas. Makes us city slickers very jealous.

We are sorry to report that **ZL2CD-Bill #9004** is in Wellington Hospital recovering from major surgery. We have sent him our wishes or a quick recovery.

Our editor **ZL2TX-Nigel #9040** is on vacation, so, this month, you are having to put up with the efforts of **ZL2AOH-Ralph #1072** who takes full responsibility for errors and omissions!

FISTS DOWN UNDER CHAT NETS?

In returning to FISTS Down Under **VK3GE-David #9088** wrote highlighting the often-bemoaned scarcity of FISTS on-air contacts. He not a contester or number gatherer. He prefers old-fashioned rag chewing. Like many of us, although retired he leads a busy life and has limited time to devote to radio. So he would like to maximise the benefit from his on-air time. He feels that, at the present time, calling CQ FISTS minimises his chances of making a contact, as non-members may not respond.

David suggests that this situation could be ameliorated by instituting FISTS Down Under chat nets, something that we briefly touched on in last month's newsletter. Such nets could be held periodically (weekly or monthly, depending on demand.) The time could be afternoon and/or evening on frequencies suited to the prevailing conditions. The sessions should be controlled by a net master (a role that could be rostered among participants) and could be structured as a round robin or with members being paired of to adjacent frequencies.

The regular officers of the club ZL2TX-Nigel #9040, VK2CTN-Chris #9057 and ZL2AOH-Ralph #1073 are busy in their respective roles and should not be expected to organise and run such a series of chat nets. So the onus is on others to take up David's suggestion and offer their services and time.

The task would involve scheduling o times and frequencies, establishing rules and organising a roster of net masters. It may be preferable to have two organisers in VK and ZL working conjointly for ease of communicating with net masters and participants.

So it's over to you, people. Offers and comments should be sent to Chris VK2CTN or Ralph ZL2AOH by e-mail or post to the addresses in the masthead.

KEYS

By VK3DBD/G3SCD-David #3756

Some years ago I never dreamt of using a paddle key. I had enough difficulty sending with a straight key! Then in a silent key sale I acquired an Eddystone Bug. This was a fascinating device - just to look at! Of course I had read the history of these, they were a commercial failure but many folk must have used them! After Eddystone ceased production, I believe another firm made several hundred.

I didn't even have an electronic keyer in my shack, so the bug was purely decorative. Later I added another bug key - a Mac Key. This you could turn on its side and use as a straight key too. A Vibroplex came my way shortly afterwards, Now this was a really posh instrument and I just had to get serious with it. My learned friends, the Old Timers, told me all about bugs. (Opinions varied- "Sounds like good Jazz" "distinctive sound, a pleasure to listen to" - "Awful things, you can always tell a bug" and so on.

I mentioned these comments to an elderly friend who is now SK who was a professional op in charge of a major coast station for many years (also a Ham of long standing). He always used a bug, I had heard him on air often enough, and I didn't know this! "Ah" he said, "It needs to be properly set up". Well I found out about this little known secret and did my best. As predicted, the Eddystone was not good, but the Vibroplex proved interesting indeed. I never became particularly good at it. It was about then I acquired a radio with a built in keyer and a paddle key too. They told me that learning to use a paddle was about the same effort as learning Morse code from scratch. Yes I think that's about right.

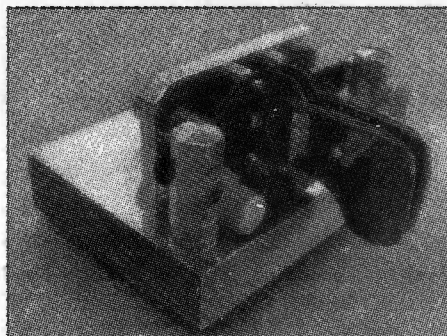
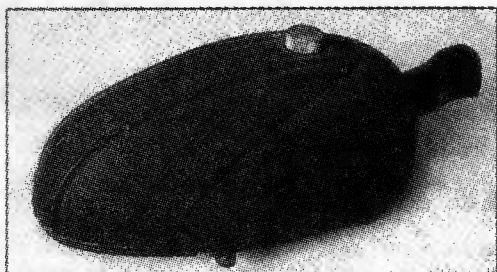
Time passed by and several paddles were tried and tested and the Kent paddle probably became a favourite. Then I tried a friend's Vibroplex paddle. Now this was a different animal indeed. I decided to make one and thus the Yackandandah production line came into being. Using Vibroplex ideas, naturally - why re-invent the wheel?

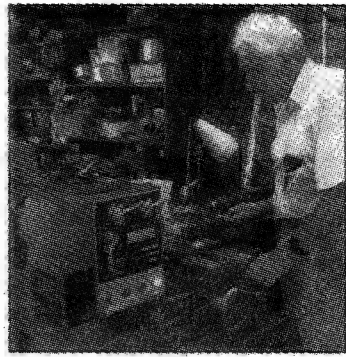
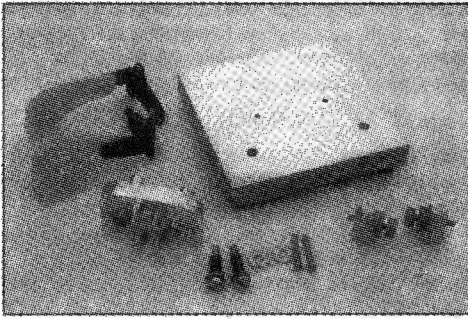
I built something similar; using bits lying around and some Neodymium Iron Boron Iron magnets, the basis of the tension for the paddle arms. It was a fair success and over a period of time I built another, and another, each time changing small design features to try to improve. What suits me may not suit all but I think I now have managed to construct a key with a degree of finesse. The downside to all this paddle stuff is that I used the Vibroplex Bug as intended with my right hand; I then learned to use the Paddle with that hand. Now use of the paddle is virtually indelibly engraved on the part of my brain that controls the hand, and now I cannot use the Bug key.....

The Paddle ought to have been a left-handed choice. I'm working on the ambidextrous ideal!

I still enjoy using a straight key of which I have several and often reach for that when QSP is needed or some special emphasis is called for.

Here are photos of the Eddystone bug, one of my latest effort paddles, some details of the bits as well as a picture of where it all takes place.



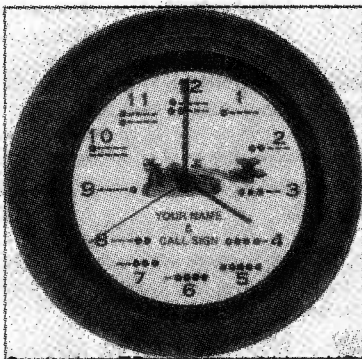


INTERNET RELECTOR

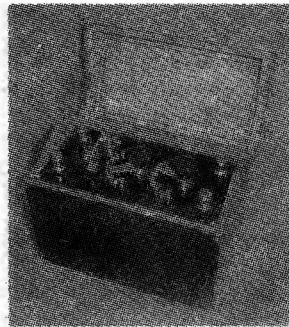
Both UK and North American FISTS have Internet reflectors where members can informally chat, post notices, comments and questions. VK2CJC/MM0AXL-Jack #9666 has set up a similar group for FISTS Down Under. So why not join and see if we can get some active discussions going. To join, send an e-mail message to fistsdownunder.subscribe@yahoo.com - There is no need to put anything in the subject or message areas.

SANGSTER SHIELD CONTEST - 2007-04-19

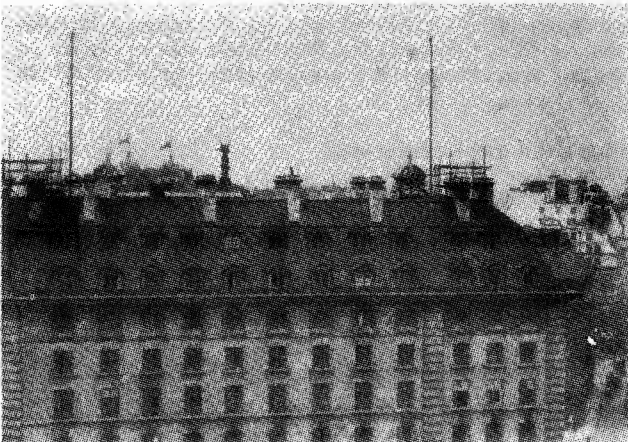
This annual QRP CW 80 metre contest will be held over two nights on 19 and 20 May 2007 between 08:00 and 11:00 UTC. Contest rules can be seen in the 200-2007 NZART Call Book Page 5-4 or on the Internet at http://www.nzart.org.nz/nzart/update/Contests/Sangster_Shield_Rules.pdf



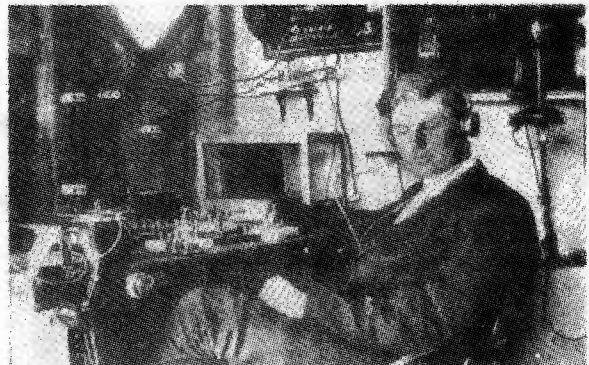
Spotted on EBay – about 14 bux US



State-of-the art receiver 1923



L- Marconi House, London in 1923



R - Harold H Beverage, The inventor of the very long wire antenna bearing his name. Probably taken in his shack at the university of Maine in 1915

A CLOSING COMMENT

People are complaining about the poor propagation conditions, now we are in the trough of the solar cycle. However a brief scan of the various DX reflectors, DX clusters and DXpedition reports reveals that there is still some good DX to be had. So if you listen and you call you may be agreeably surprised. It will keep up your skills up for when the bands again become highly active. Incidentally, the recent N8S DXpedition to Swains Island achieved 117,205 contacts at the bottom of Cycle 23, so it can't be all doom and gloom.

HOW DO I...?

Renew and get FISTS shirts and Operate KN0WCW

Please read this - it really will answer most of your questions

HOW DO I JOIN?

Membership is open to all people interested in Morse code, irrespective of their speed and ability.

An application form is not necessary to join, but it gives us a more complete picture of our membership.

You can download a North American membership application on the FISTS web page: <http://www.fists.org>.

An application can be mailed to you. Send a message Jim Ranieri, AA9LS, aa9ls@turbotoads.com and he will email it to you, or mail an SASE to him at 33778 Rebecca Rd, Kingston IL 60145 and Jim will send you an application via return postal mail.

To join without an application, send your name, call, and mailing address with your membership fee to Nancy WZ8C, PO Box 47, Hadley, MI 48440 (checks payable to FISTS).

To join using Paypal (www.paypal.com), send the funds to fists@tir.com. In the comments box, type NEW MEMBERSHIP, your callsign, name and mailing address if different from your Paypal address. If you join via Paypal, you don't need to send in a paper application.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

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.

Please make checks payable to FISTS CW Club and send to FISTS, P O Box 47, Hadley, MI 48440.

Do not send FISTS correspondence to Nancy WZ8C's callbook address.

Checks can take 6-8 weeks to clear from the day received. Nancy processes them, 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. ***It doesn't take 8 weeks to get your number, it just may take that long for your check to clear.***

HOW DO I JOIN USING MY PAYPAL ACCOUNT?

North American FISTS accepts PAYPAL (<http://www.paypal.com>). Address your PAYPAL payment to **FISTS@TIR.COM** To join via Paypal, type "New Membership" in the Paypal Comments Box, your name (if different from the name on your Paypal account), callsign, and mailing address. You don't have to send in a paper application if you join using Paypal.

HOW DO I KNOW WHEN TO RENEW?

We send out renewal postcards, but if you renew prior to your renewal month it will save postage and printing costs as well as volunteer time. Your renewal date is on your Keynote mailing label in the form of year, month, date. For example 2005/4/4 would be a renewal date April 2005. The date of the month is meaningless, but the computer program requires a date, so generally the date of the month is the same as the month. 2005/12/12; 2006/5/5 etc.

HOW DO I RENEW?

To renew, send \$15 (or \$10 if a student) to Nancy WZ8C (checks payable to FISTS) at FISTS, PO Box 47 Hadley MI 48440. If you are under 18 or over 79, there is no renewal fee, but let us know you're still interested so we can renew your subscription.

WHAT IF I AM A MEMBER UNDER 18 or OVER 79?

Renewals are free for a teen (17-) or old-timer membership (80+), but you must notify WZ8C of your continued interest in FISTS, renewals are not automatic.

HOW DO I ORDER CLUB SUPPLIES? Irene W08E, 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr., Clinton Twp, MI 48038 is our Supply Manager. Our supplies are sold as close to cost as possible

We offer:

Metalllic Gold logo stickers, 200 for \$3.50

I "red heart graphic" CW Stickers, 3/4" round stickers, \$3.50 for 200

Blue enamel cloisonne/gold metal "FISTS CW CLUB" octagon logo pin, with tie-tack type pin back \$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 rectangle key logo, \$1.00. The patches can be ironed on or sewn.

Plastic travel mugs (with lid) with I "heart" CW on both sides in red and blue. \$5.00

You may use Paypal to order supplies. Send the total amount to fists@tir.com and put the items you would like in the comments box. Be sure your name & address are included.

ALL PRICES INCLUDE POSTAGE. DO NOT ADD POSTAGE TO YOUR TOTAL

HOW DO I GET FISTS SHIRTS? Show the world that you are proud to be a FISTS member. We have t-shirts, sweatshirts, and polo shirts. The front of the t-shirts and sweatshirts are printed with:

I'm PROUD to be a KNOW CODE Ham

and the backs of the shirts are printed in light blue with the FISTS key logo graphic and

Join the Code Crusade

<http://www.fists.org>

The T-shirts are available in two solid colors: black or royal blue (a medium blue, not navy) Sweatshirts are gray with royal blue printing on the front and back.

The polo/golf shirts are sky blue with the FISTS key tastefully EMBROIDERED on the top left side. They are short sleeved and have a knit collar and a couple buttons at the neck.

Sizes are small, medium, large, XL, 2XL, and 3XL.(only polos and sweats avail in 3X, T's are sold out)

All shirts are 50/50 blend. The T's are "Best" Fruit of the Loom. Sweats are 5.8 oz Jerzee and Polos are Fruit of the Loom. Price are: T-shirts = \$6.00 Sweats = \$11.00 Polos = \$15.00

PRICES INCLUDE POSTAGE. NOTE: Contact WZ8C (nancy@tir.com) for non-USA or bulk order postage.

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

Nancy Kott WZ8C, PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440

Checks payable to FISTS, Paypal to fists@tir.com.

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

WHAT IS KNOWCW AND HOW DO I OPERATE KNOWCW?

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 Karl Zuege, KB1DSB (kb1dsb@sover.net). 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.

FISTS CW Club Membership Application

If this is a renewal or if you have had a FISTS number before, please check here.....



Call sign: _____ Name on the air: _____

Full name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Email address: _____

(Please print clearly. We do not give out or sell your email address to anyone)

Birthday: _____ Phone: _____

The newsletter is offered on audio cassette to blind members at no charge. If you require this service please check here:

Favorite bands: _____

Other club affiliations (ARRL, QCWA, etc) _____

Other interests: _____

Date: _____ How did you hear about FISTS? _____

Signature: _____

Please make checks (\$15 per year, includes newsletter) payable to FISTS CW Club and mail to:

Nancy Kott WZ8C

PO Box 47

Hadley MI 48440

Also payable via paypal.com to FISTS@TIR.COM

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	

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

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. I agree to be bound by the decisions of the FISTS Awards Committee."

Date _____ Signature _____ Call _____

COMMENTS:

MORSE CODE and MEMORY

Individuals who are proficient in Morse code (able to send and receive Morse at 15 wpm or above) are needed to participate in a 1-2 hour experiment.

**** PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE \$30-\$50****

this research takes place in the Learning Research & Development Center (LRDC) at the University of Pittsburgh.

Learn more about our research by visiting:

<http://www.qrz.com/ib-bin/ikonboard.cgi>

click on Ham Radio News and select report 1539

to read an interview with Dr. Julie Fiez.

Call 412-624-7083 or send e-mail to morsestudy@hotmail.com

FISTS CW CLUB
PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440

Please note that YOUR RENEWAL
DATE is on the TOP LINE of your
MAILING information.

(format: FISTS# year/month/day)

Summer Sprint:

The Summer SPRINT will run from 8pm
EDT to Midnight EDT July 13.

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