

# The Keynote



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

North American Memo

Newsletter of FISTS CW Club

The International Morse Preservation Society

**“Accuracy Transcends Speed”**

**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:**

**North American Awards and Certificates contact  
Dennis Franklin, K6DF, [fistsawards@comcast.net](mailto:fistsawards@comcast.net)**

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

**Reserve a time to operate KN0WCW from your home! Contact our club call trustee.  
Karl Zuege, KB1DSB, [kb1dsb@sover.net](mailto:kb1dsb@sover.net).**

**The membership roster, call changes, name changes contact  
Ed Hayes, N7CFA, [n7cfa@msn.com](mailto:n7cfa@msn.com)**

**To get an application or sample Keynote sent to a friend contact  
Jim Ranieri, AA9LS, [aa9ls@turbotoads.com](mailto:aa9ls@turbotoads.com)**

**Web page changes, getting your personal or club webpage linked, etc contact  
Webmaster Bill Myers, KK4KF, [kk4kf@cox.net](mailto:kk4kf@cox.net)**

**Club presentation packets contact  
Joe Spencer, KK5NA, [kk5na@kk5na.com](mailto:kk5na@kk5na.com)**

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

**Code Buddy volunteers and buddies contact  
Nick Yokanovich, K3NY, & The Historical Electronics Museum ARC [w3hem@arri.net](mailto:w3hem@arri.net)**

**Sprints contact  
Dan Sheperd, N8IE, [W8PIG@yahoo.com](mailto:W8PIG@yahoo.com)**

**Get Your Feet Wet Weekend and G3ZQS Memorial Straight Key Contest contact  
Lee Hallin, N7NU, [hallinl@lanecc.edu](mailto:hallinl@lanecc.edu)**

**Membership Renewal/New Membership/Keynote (Renewals = \$15/year unless you are 80+ or 18-, then renewals are free. Students over 18 are \$10. Paypal to [fists@tir.com](mailto:fists@tir.com). Renewal checks made out to FISTS go to Nancy at FISTS, PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440.**

**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](mailto:nancy@tir.com); PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440, phone 810-797-2033, fax 810-797-5808.**

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# FISTS CW CLUB

THE INTERNATIONAL MORSE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

## NORTH AMERICAN MEMO

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Hi FISTS!

If you're going to be attending the Dayton Hamvention and are looking for a place to stay, keep in mind that the ARCI/QRP guys are offering to share their block of rooms with FISTS members. Here is the info they sent to me:

We have 150+ rooms at the Holiday Inn in Fairborn, Ohio, about 17.18 miles from the lovely HARA arena! We will not be using the Homewood Suites because they did not agree with the negotiated price with the Holiday Inn.

Again this year we are planning "Alternative Activities" for the hams wives, spouses, or significant others. Like last year, there will be a day or two of "Stitchin' in Dayton - STITCH" and some shopping trips to local malls, etc. More information will follow. Check the web site [www.rooms.qrparci.org](http://www.rooms.qrparci.org) and go to the link for the Stitchin' in Dayton. The details, information and room request form are located: [www.rooms.qrparci.org](http://www.rooms.qrparci.org) 73 Hank K8DD

FDIM May 15, 2008 [www.fdim.qrparci.org](http://www.fdim.qrparci.org)

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I haven't gotten confirmation of our booth this year, but from what I've heard, no one has, so I'm assuming all is well and we will have a booth again at the Hamvention.

We will need volunteers to help us run the booth again this year, let me know if you can help out for a few hours so we can take a lunch break or take a walk around the arena. We had a lot of good help last year, it makes it so much easier when WO8E and I are able to have some help.

Congrats to the 22 FISTS who sent in logs to go the distance and earn the 20-20 award plaque! These are beautiful plaques, as you can see by the cover photograph. Our plaque winners are:

K6DF DENNIS  
VE1VEI LLOYD  
WB0PYF RAYMOND  
AB8EL DON  
KC0JKD JAMES  
KG4NNN DOUG  
W3MWR GEORGE  
W9SJW JOHN  
KS3S RAY  
WB4MED JOHN  
K0TC RON  
W5GXV GENE  
VE3HUR DON  
KA8HFN LARRY  
AD5WI MARK  
N4RAY RODNEY  
KD0V MERLIN  
W7GVE ED  
WI0S KIETH  
WB2MIC JOZEF  
KK0I JACK  
AD7JY GORDON

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Corrections are starting to trickle in from the roster in the Reference Issue:

Bob 12256 call sign is **KG6ZDN** NOT KD6ZDN

#13684 is Dave, not David

Don't be shy, if there is a problem with your listing, let me or Ed N7CFA know so we can fix it. On with your Keynote....73 88 Nancy WZ8C

Welcome to the New FISTS

Number callsign

First ST Sponsor

Number	callsign	Name	State	Sponsor
13646	KI6ESK	Curtis	CA	W5TOM
13647	W7BV	Bob	AZ	
13648	WA6PZK	Dan	CA	
13649	WA6YEO	Adrienne	CA	
13651	KI4WQD	Adam	SC	
13652	N4DLA	Mat	CA	
13653	K5CZ	Ed	TX	K0MDS
13654	K5SHY	Bob	LA	WB2FXK
13655	W7ARE	Marque	AZ	W7RVR
13656	K5LRG	Lee	NM	
13657	AI4WM	Bill	FL	
13658	KE5NQP	Michael	MS	
13659	KI6OCB	Paul	CA	
13660	KC2JRN	Alexander	NJ	AI8Z
13661	AB2SL	Steven	NJ	
13662	VE7TS	Ken	BC	
13663	AB0BM	Gary	IA	
13664	KI6MIO	Fritz	CA	
13665	KC7KO	Joe	AZ	
13666	AK5U	Fred	TX	
13667	W0MWO	Bill	CO	
13668	KE7KZT	Raymond	MT	W7RVR
13669	WD8JJA	Rick	IN	
13670	KE4YH	Stew	FL	
13671	KF4UOD	David	GA	
13672	W5EPW	Bill	FL	
13673	K0GKJ	Gene	FL	
13674	K7FCP	Frank	NV	
13675	KD5KJ	Jim	AR	
13676	W8VSK	Joe	MI	K4UK
13677	W3WW	Don	FL	
13678	W4EHZ	Bob	FL	
13679	K2MUN	David	NJ	
13680	NI3B	Brian	DE	
13681	KC2QWL	Mike	NJ	
13682	K3EC	Hugh	VA	
13683	K9MMS	Gary	IL	K0DXC
13684	N3DGC	Dave	FL	
13685	VE9DSO	James	NB	
13686	W4DEG	Doc	NC	
13687	K3BTK	Brian	MD	
13688	AI4W	Pat	KY	
13689	W5MJ	Madison	TX	WZ8C
13690	KD8HSY	Barbara	OH	AB8XH

13691	W2ENJ	Vincent	NJ	
13692	WB9WHQ	Dan	WI	
13693	AA4SD	Kraig	SC	
13694	KI4CWK	Kimberly	VA	KA4AZY
13695	KF4FNS	Ron	GA	WB4DAD
13696	KC0GHY	Robert	MO	
13697	KC0YQJ	Jill	MO	KC0GHY
13698	K4ZYF	John	SC	
13699	K4SES	Myles	GA	
13701	KG4BVS	Frank	AL	
13702	KC2QGD	Steven	NY	
13703	W4CBJ	Joe	FL	
13704	KB3ONA	Gene	AZ	
13705	W2XYZ	Frank	NJ	
13706	KI4NGA	Mike	VA	
13707	W5WO	Wayne	TX	KK5NA
13708	KJ4AJX	Tom	GA	
13709	N2HY	Russ	NJ	
13710	WA1HGE	Lou	NH	
13711	W7NUW	Ken	WA	
13712	K4ETC	Jonathan	TN	
13713	KI6ATB	Herbert	CA	
13714	KI4RMO	Richard	FL	
13715	AG2I	Jim	NY	
13716	AA5MJ	Owen	TX	
13717	W0JWR	John	CO	
13718	W2WAY	John	NY	
13719	W6NEV	Marty	CA	K6DF
13720	WD8INF	Ron	OH	
13721	KJ4NX	Wayne	TN	

QSL Overkill

Hi Nancy,  
Thanks for the K7QO CD. It is the "best". I was able to download it all to my I-Pod and now can practice anytime. Even though I send and copy at 15-18 WPM, this is a great learning tool. Thanks again.....73.....Jim, K6EEE

Still Loves the Code!

I turned 80 years old in 2007, but I am still in love with CW. William , N1WD

Likes the Color Photos

Nancy,  
I must say Issue 9/10 was a great one. I especially liked the color photos and the larger print on the UK edition. Somehow you seem to keep "bettering" your former issues. 73 88 from Kentucky, Norm K4YKI

Thanks

Nancy,  
Just wanted to say thank you for all your efforts with the FISTS newsletters. I just received the latest one and really enjoyed reading it. It was chock-full of various articles. Thanks again. 73 and 88, Will KF4IZE #5381

*Thanks much for the kind words, Will and Norm, I really appreciate it. Most of the time I only hear from people when I've made a mistake - it's nice to know that they notice when I do OK, too! - Nancy WZ8C*

Awwwww is that Cute or what?

Don, W4DON, says his friends Cat and Buck recently had a baby. When the baby was born, she was crying until they put her in Buck's arms and he tapped CQ on her back. She immediately stopped crying like a light switch was turned off. He has been tapping CQ to her on Cat's belly the whole pregnancy and the baby recognized it!

Hi Nancy,  
I got my envelope of QSL cards from the bureau today, Made out the return cards and put them in an envelope. Then I put the cards I recieved into my card files. I notice that I have as many as 5 or 6 and even more cards from the same stations over and over. Same band same power. I would like for you to put a note about this in the Keynote magazine. You may use my letter if you wish. Postage is going up, it is expensive, QSL cards are expensive, many hams are retired on fixed income and we are in a recession and trying to pay heating bills and medical bills.

People that enjoy sending out lots of QSL cards should make a list of the stations that they have already sent a card to. It is not necessary to send a QSL card for each and every contact, they must have a lot of money to burn, it could be better spent.

Not to mention it takes time to write all these cards. Today I got about 7 cards and each and every one was a duplicate.

73 Larry K0LWV #2589

Calling CQ FISTS

Jerry, WA2DKG, feels that calling "CQ FISTS" would be a put-off to other hams trolling the band. That may be so, but that is also the way I discovered FISTS. I was spending some time at Club Station W9HHX (Milwaukee School of Engineering ARC) and happened to hear such a call. I had not heard of FISTS until then and although I tend to use the soldering iron more than the key, I joined in order to add my vote in support of CW. — And one of these days I will solve my apartment antenna problems...

Anyway, calling "CQ FISTS" is not altogether negative.

Hans Schroeder, AE9G, FISTS #10781

## QRP from VP9

To celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary my wife and I took a trip to Bermuda. We had spent our honeymoon on the island 50 years ago. A Canadian couple who had also been married on December 21, 1957, and who we met there in 1957 joined us at the Pompano Beach Club from December 24, 2007 to January 2, 2008.

I took along my Elecraft K2, my Ten-Tec Model 607 single lever paddle, an ACI Model PS-3 power supply, a Yuasa NP7-12 Battery, a Schumacher Model WM-1562A Battery Charger, and a 20 Meter dipole. I strung the dipole up from the porch railing to a fence post. It was at most 5 feet above ground on the side of the hill, but a good 50 feet above the beach.

My operating was limited since we were there to enjoy the pleasant weather in VP9-land. Most of the time I operated QRP on the WARC bands. The built-in antenna tuner in the K2 was able to tune the 20 Meter dipole to an acceptable SWR on all bands. Being on the West end of the island, I had pretty fair propagation to the States, but essentially none to the East toward Europe.

I logged a total 18 QRP contacts including a most interesting one with KA3 / PY7COU who was remotely operating a station in Bangor, PA from his home in Brazil. Also I did have an 18 minute

chat with Tom, WY3H on 20 Meters. However, I was running QRO (15 Watts) for that QSO.

I always enjoy the RAC Winter Contest, so for a couple hours on December 29, I ran CW and Phone on 40 and 20 Meters and made a total of 26 contacts. I was able to work stations in AB, BC, ON, QC and SK.

For the Straight Key Night, I turned the paddle on its side and made 3 contacts on January 1, 2008.

Also on that evening, I contacted Buddy, W4YE; Riley, K4ORD and Harry, KA3NZR fellows who help me with the FISTS QSL Bureau. And I did have a good copy on Frank, N4FEG, another guy who helps with the Bureau. I gave him a 5 by 3 signal report on 20 Meter phone. But unfortunately Frank had a high noise

level and could not copy me. So I made up an "SWL" card for him. – Hi !

This year I operated QRP in the FISTS WARC Band Challenge. My operation that last week of the year from K4UK / VP9 did provide me with three new grid squares for the Challenge: K4TWJ in EM63, K4BAI in EM72 and WA2BSW in EM73.

So, I ended up with a total of 112 Grid multipliers and 446 QRP contacts on the WARC Bands during 2007. This earned me two certificates: Third place overall and First place QRP.

I find it great fun to run QRP and am always surprised as to what I can accomplish running just 5 Watts into a simple wire antenna.

Keep pounding the brass. 72, Stan – K4UK



Stan's set-up in the room at Pompano Beach Club.

## Code Improving Tips from Samuel Morse III

This is an original 1987 letter from Samuel F.B. Morse III, W6FZZ (SK), on improving code speed. John DeGood, NU3E, #3833 hosts scans of the actual 3-page letter and envelope on his website, as well as a **text facsimile created by OCR with manual cleanup**: [http://degood.org/hamradio/samuel\\_fb\\_morse\\_iii/](http://degood.org/hamradio/samuel_fb_morse_iii/)

It is printed in the Keynote with permission of Ron McConnell, W2IOL, who possesses the original. Thank you to John (and Rich, K8MEG) for bringing it to our attention. Ron obtained the letter from mutual friend Gil Gray, N2GG, who was the original recipient.

It is reported that Sam was/is a champion speed record holder with both American & International code at 75 Plus WPM.

CherryValley 92223

Sept. 3, 1987

Dear Floyd O'Neil: (Gil Gray, Peter Glen and/or your various radio clubs):

Extra copies if desired can be made from the text below or I can provide extra copies if desired from my floppy disk files.

I have been thinking about your desire to up-grade your code speed. I am sure you have at your fingertips the best possible self-teaching tools that anyone could possibly wish for. I will outline a procedure below that should be far more effective than having someone sending code to you at various speeds and most likely a quality of sending less than perfect.

The outline:

Find an interesting long-winded newspaper article. Sit down to your computer keyboard and convert this article into Morse Code in preparation to re-transmitting this morse code into a cassette tape recorder at a speed just a few words per minute faster than your present ability to easily read. Be sure to make a hard copy of the article from a copy on your monitor screen. I suppose the code copy you have made with the computer keyboard can be retained either in programmed memory or on cassette to be used repeatedly later to re-record on either the same cassette or separate cassettes progressively as your speed ability increases.

Use the loud speaker or ear phones as you choose and watch the hard copy with your eyes. Use the paper hard copy made from your monitor screen or the original newspaper copy, which ever is easiest for your eyes to follow while your ears track the code playback from the cassette via speaker or head fones. You have now turned the job over to two of your life-long-trained five senses working together.

From now on increasing your code reading speed should be effortless. You have turned the heavy labor over to your two trained buddies, (Hearing and sight.)

Sit back in your easy chair and watch the hard copy letter for letter as your subconscious or reflex nature gets used to ASSOCIATING the code sounds heard letter for letter with what has been stored in the reflex or subconscious nature via vision since childhood. Whatever is pumped into the subconscious storage by this method will stay there the rest of your life. By comparison this procedure is practically effortless as compared with other learning methods. Subconsciously what is heard is being identified with what the brain has learned to accept via vision since childhood.



I presume the computerized code can be re-transmitted into cassettes at whatever increased speeds your rate of progress indicates to be desirable. I recommend separate cassettes for each step of increased speeds. The slower speed cassettes can be retained possibly to help others.

Drop me a postcard. Let me know of your success applying this procedure. I sincerely hope it helps you to upgrade quickly. Truly; (signed) **Sam**

P.S.

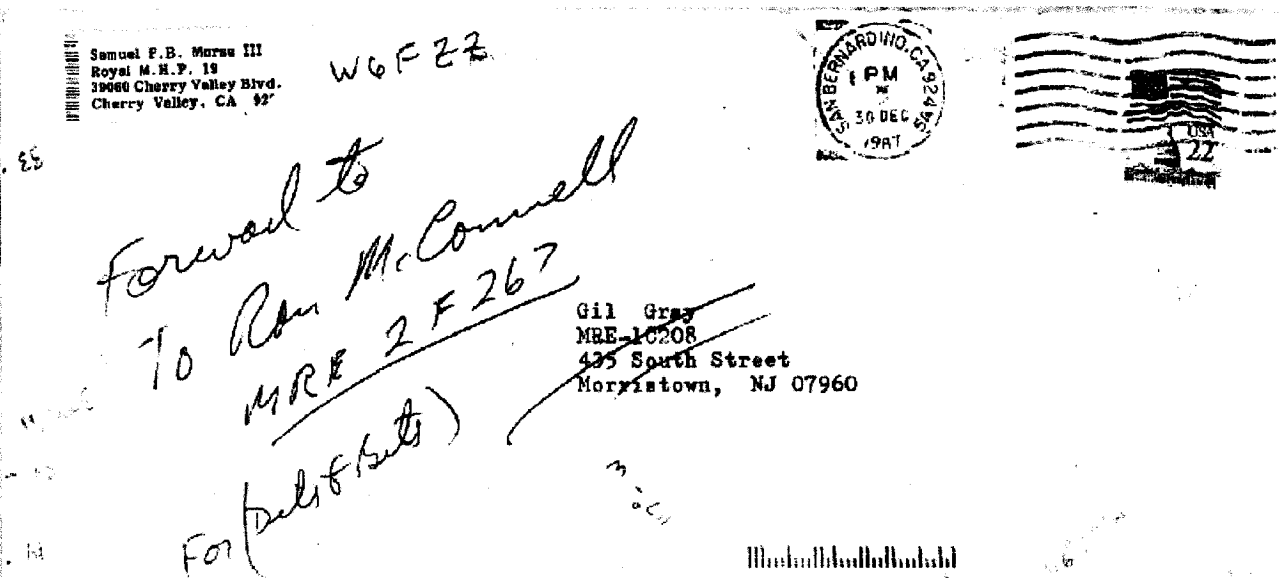
Test yourself occasionally by converting various other very short articles into Morse Code and cassette record

same and see how you read these that you have not become familiar with without looking at a hard copy. Testing yourself with two or three different ones such as this from time to time will reveal exactly the progress you are making. I repeat make these tests without watching hard copy. Then go back to the above learning procedure with increasing recorded speeds and new articles, on that on you are not yet familiar with.

A preposition is a word that you should not end a sentence with!! - - - - or a word with which you should not end a sentence. Or with which you are not yet familiar. !!

My friend Floyd O'Neil tells me he had failed the general 13 wpm code speed test repeatedly year after year. He says the practice method enclosed did it for him very quickly. He has his new call now and a general ticket. He wants to give me credit for his success, but we all know no method will work unless the learner is motivated to get in there and do it.

I am expecting him to soon be extra class, as soon as he decides to take that 20 wpm test. In communication electronics he is expert and the written test is in the bag any time he wishes to take it.





## GOOD BUG SENDING TECHNIQUE

By David Ring N1EA

Your wrist is "rocked" with the same motion that you use when opening a door knob, the wrist and are lie on the desk and rock with that motion. The position in which you assume to use the bug would be just like you would grab a door knob or to receive a beverage bottle. You roll your wrist on the fleshy part of your hand back and forth. No finger movements at all! Finger motions are not to be used as they give carpal tunnel syndrome (glass arm) the idea is to rock the wrist with a bug and cootie key.

Unfortunately the paddle used with an electronic keyer must be tapped with fingers at high speeds. I know it might be silly to say this, but it is much easier to send when both feet are on the floor not angled to the left or right, but straight and senders body is straight and not turned. It is much easier - try it if you don't believe this.

### BUG CLEANING

The following is time consuming but I find it always works and I do this routinely and it takes time but it saves time because it eliminates problems.

If your bug is old, take it completely apart and clean (especially) the contacting surfaces, including the underneath connecting strips (especially around the screws), the countersunk hole for the grounded binding post, the silver contacts, the surface where the U shaped dot spring contacts the vibrator, and the two beveled pins of the trunnion assembly (the pins on which the main lever pivots in the frame), and make sure that the cups into which the pins fit are clean of debris. I use the cotton wadding with metal polish which is sold nationwide, and a stick pencil type eraser to clean the more stubborn parts and then use Flitz metal polish to finish the metal cleaning. If you have an ultrasonic cleaner (jewelry cleaner) put some ammonia and water in it, with a few drops of Dawn dish cleaner liquid and use for 15 minutes, then repeat with clean water. I dry everything in a toaster oven for 1 hour at 140 degrees.

A bug has to swing far enough to compress the U spring - it doesn't send like a paddle - you use your wrist - you shouldn't get tired with this key - if you are, your probably doing it incorrectly. The dash spacing and tension should be adjusted for reliable dashes.

See the "Art and Skill of Radiotelegraphy" by N0HFF available several places and in several languages on the Internet for good advice on sending and general tips.

### CONTACT ALIGNMENT

Old bugs have a screw which holds the lever against the trunnion post. This can be adjusted up and down. Later bugs do not, and the alignment of the dot contact and the dash contact must be done by adjusting the top and bottom trunnion screws. The bottom trunnion screw is held fast (and will strip unless this screw is loosened) by a screw on the rear side of the frame. You must use a long handled screw driver to get to this screw! Loosen this screw and you will be able to loosen and tighten the bottom trunnion screw and raise and lower the position of the lever.

The lever should be adjusted so that the height of the lever / mainspring / vibrator assembly is such that the contact on the U shaped dot spring is vertically aligned with the dot post contact. The alignment of the dash contact can be done (after the above is done) by loosening the small contact plate and adjusting. All final adjustments should be done so that the contacts are touching and completely aligned so that the contacts meet as fully and directly as possible.

### DOT ADJUSTMENT

Bugs used for radiotelegraphy vs bugs used for landline telegraphy were set to approximately 60% of a VOM meter reading in resistance. If your power is 1500 watts key down, it will still be 1500 watts on each dot closure - but the dots will give different meter ballistic movements different results - but rest assured they are still full power. That being said, dots with a dot/space ratio of about 100:60 OR

1.67:1 will give better copy than dots with a 1:1 ratio during radio conditions on typical hf bands. Or instead of 1.00 to 1 - dots sound better about 1.5 to 1.67 to 1.

## CONTACTS

If you buy some silver cleaner you can clean them. If you can find 1500 grit wet/dry sandpaper, you can smooth them out. You can also buy a burnishing tool from GC Electronics for \$1.57 which is an extremely fine file that is about 1/4 inch wide and about 1/32 inch thick which was designed especially for that purpose. I use 800 grit wet/dry sandpaper (very lightly and with care) then 1500 grit wet/dry and finally I polish with Flitz metal polish which is a very very low grit polish;. The contacts if done this way will come out like mirrors.

## BUG ADJUSTMENT

Old-timers insisted upon sizable gaps. In fact, a significant gap for the dit lever moved against a significant spring resistance sets up a good vibration of the mainspring for producing dits and avoiding scratchy and bouncing dots.

The limit screw adjustment for the damper is adjusted just so the end of the swinging pendulum contacts the damper. The bug is also quieter when the damper doesn't move as dramatically.

The dot spring will have more tension than you might be accustomed to. The spring tension returns the lever after sending dots quickly and it also makes the lever move with more force which sets up a stronger impact on the dot spring which results in much stronger and less problematic dots. This is the cure for poor dots if the contacts and the other connections are clean.

## HARD TO FIND PROBLEMS

When you have bad dots, the hard to diagnose problems that I've routinely found are: The terminal connectors are loose and the round cylinder shaped nut is not holding the base tightly when the bug sends dots the contact is intermittent. The dot spring is loose on the vibrating arm. When the contacts

crash, the spring conducts intermittently. Similar happens for all the contact path on the connecting straps - if one is loose or corroded, it will produce poor dots.

73

David J. Ring, Jr., N1EA

Former Commercial Radiotelegrapher

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## Silent Keys

*Ken W8KEB #3014*

Ken Burrough became a Silent Key 23 December 2007.

His wife, Linda, wrote: He had been in the hospital since Thanksgiving Day because of pneumonia. He was doing quite well, but on December 1, he suffered respiratory failure because of blood clots in his lungs. From that time until his passing he was in ICU. We really thought he might pull through, as he had been doing pretty good, but he just had too much against him. He just had no more physical reserves left.

*Bob K9LXT #6122.*

From Bob's brother, Jerry, N4JJM: I am sorry to report he past away on Feb.9 2008. Bob loved CW.I would work him from My QTH here in Georgia. He would not do SSB.I want to thank you for having him as a member.

## Greetings from Oklahoma

de W5ZXM 3/01/08

'G4SSH' Roy Clayton's 'SOS' story sure brought back cobwebs. During the 10 year occupations of Germany following WWII, there were hundreds of Military Sea Transport Ship crossings between the port of New York and the port of Bremerhaven. Many US Army soldiers have stories about rough seas and seasickness during those M.S.T.S. trips crossing the North Atlantic. I won't bore you with mine except to say I didn't get sick during the rough ride going over, even during the storm. However, it was a different matter sixteen months later during the return trip.

My tour of duty there was from June 1951 through October 1952. During that time, after radio school, I transferred to division headquarters at Frankfurt where I was a radiotelegrapher. Our station operated several CW nets side by side. All of our CW messages were coded into 5 letter groups. No clear text at all. Our operators did not know what any of the messages were about.

Looking back now, 57 years ago, I realize it got pretty tense over there. General Eisenhower was called back from retirement to take over as NATO Supreme Allied Commander in '50. In 1948-49 the Russians had blockaded Berlin and they were still jamming our frequencies a lot. We used authentication sheets and 'QSY' quite often. Ike's offices were in Brussels and our nets were tied in there as well as London, Paris and the US 5th Corps. He left and flew home to run for President of the United States in the fall of '52. No, I didn't get to fly back with him. I had to join a couple of thousand other soldiers on the MSTS WILLIAM LANGFITT for the rough ride home. It was much worse than going over on the MSTS WM.O. DARBY, a TWO-STACKER.

When coming home on the LANGFITT about 300 miles SW of 'lands-end' we got into a storm so rough that our berths wouldn't stay still. The captain had to turn the ship off course into the wind to dampen the rough rolling motion. However, the pitching mo-

tion was terrible. The bow would come up out of the water and when she came down and hit the water, the sides would really shake and rumble. Wow, did I get seasick. We are then about over the same area where only nine months earlier, Captain Curt Carlsen, W2ZXM, lost his ship, the FLYING ENTERPRISE (KWFZ). The news reporters named him Captain Stay-Put since he rode it out for two weeks after getting a reply to his SOS for rescue of the 10 passengers and his crew of 40. Several ships came to help within a few hours of the SOS, including the MSTS & Navy.

Carlsen had been a very active ham radio operator at sea, W2ZXM/MM, using the best Collins radio equipment. (his call has now been reissued) His ship had listed to port 30 degrees when that storm first hit on Christmas Day 1951. The freight shifter later in another giant wave and then increased the list to about 60 degrees. The seas remained terribly rough following the worst of the storm. The gravity-flow system in the engine room failed and spilled oil everywhere. All power was lost so only storage battery voltage remained (so the story goes).

The storm that started Christmas continued for several days, finally on January 3, the tug TURMOIL arrived on the scene. It was a British salvage tug from which one of its sailors managed to go into the rough to help Captain Carlsen. Many hours were spent to hook

up, finally the towing began on January 4, hooked to the stern, not the bow.

Towing continued in calmer seas for over 200 nautical miles toward safety at Falmouth with the 60 degree list for about a week. It looked like Captain "Stay-Put" was going to save his ship which was reported to have carried some precious secret cargo but included Volkswagens and pigiron. The towing continued until about 50 miles S.W. of Falmouth when another storm front hit and broke loose the tow line. The cargo then shifted further, 'KWFZ' rolled over on its side, took on water in its stack, the stern raised and lowered, the bow raised and reversed into the sea as the captain and mate were being rescued, then KWFZ sank into the 40 fathoms at eleven minutes past three PM January 10.

Front page pictures and stories spread throughout the world on many of the major newspapers and magazines almost daily, including our Military Stars & Stripes. Since the ordeal of the courageous captain attempting to save his ship went on for a couple of weeks, his stories dampened the news that seven other ships around the British Isles sank and many more were distressed during that period.

Captain Harry Grattidge brought the 81,000 ton Queen Mary into Southampton 72 hours late on December 29, 1951, describing the seas as terrific. He said it was

## Ham Dog (from Bob Linker, W5SQA)

his worst double crossing in over 30 years. The Nellie By Water, which was the only top sail schooner remaining in the British Flag Registry sank in the same storm off "Bolt Head" December 27, 1961, while trying to reach safety at Plymouth.

Several of our BC-610 transmitters were set up in "HO's" mounted on trucks in the parking lot next to our building since our operating positions were set up in a room adjoining our barracks and close or next to the message center. We got lots of "clear text" news when off duty. One of our sergeants had a ham station set up at the south end of the barracks with a 15 meter beam outside the window. He was Sgt. Bob Horowitz from San Angelo, TX. His call was DL4JO. There was always lot of RF dancing around our building.

That was the first I'd heard of ham radio. I thought then it would be great to have a ham license when back in Oklahoma. After my discharge from the Army, I tested and applied for a ham ticket and was quite surprised to find that my new call sign and Captain Curt Carlsen's had the same suffix - ZXM. I am now 81 and still enjoy an occasional CW QSO. I get a kick out of such slogans as "My Mode Is Morse Code" and "Morse, Of Course" and "Know Code (NOT No Code!!). FISTS #13576, 73 'JACK' SCHMIDT W5ZXM TULSA, OKLA.

During a recent trip my wife and I were on we drove around the back woods of East Texas near Athens. On one back road I saw a sign in front of a broken down shanty style house: "Talking Dog for Sale." Well I needed a break, so I stopped to see what the deal was. I went into the backyard and saw a nice looking Labrador retriever sitting there.

"You talk?" I asked. "Yep," the Lab replies. Well after I got over the shock of hearing a dog talk, I asked "So, what's your story?" "Ah shucks there ain't much to tell. Is that a VUU screwdriver antenna on your truck out there?" "How did you know that?" I ask.

The Lab looks up and says, "Well, I'm a ham radio operator. I got my Ticket when I was a young pup and in no time at all I had my 5 band DXCC in Phone and CW.

"The CIA heard about me and asked me to do some spy work for them. I would hang around the communications centers and with my keen hearing I could copy the transmissions. Because no one figured a dog would be eavesdropping, I was one of their most valuable spies for eight years.

"Copying high speed CW all day really tired me out and I knew I wasn't getting any younger. So, I decided to settle down. I retired from the CIA (8 dog years is 56 CIA years) and joined a ham radio club. In fact I won first place in the Oklahoma QSO Party two years in a row.

"Then I had a mess of puppies and got away from Ham Radio for a while. I sure miss my radio. Why don't you buy me and I'll be your CW operator in the Texas QSO Party."

I said "Let me see what I can do." I went back in and ask the owner what he wanted for the dog. "Ten dollars," the guy says. "Ten dollars? This dog is amazing! Why on earth are you selling him so cheap?"

"Because he's a liar. He never did any of that stuff. He's a No Code Technician."

# Get Your Feet Wet Weekend Results

Entry

*Thanks to Lee, N7NU for making time to compile the results for these two events, despite caring for his wife, who has bladder cancer. Please keep them in your thoughts - WZ8C*

225 different calls were heard and logged at least once.

4805 was highest score (K3MQ)

4648 was 2nd highest score (KG4W)

3360 was 3rd highest score (W7GVE)

896 was highest QRP score (KD0V)

122 most Q's in any log received (KG4W)

78 most E's worked (KG4W)

44 most N's worked (KG4W)

30 most logged licensee's licensed in or after 2002 (K3MQ)

22 # logs received in Experienced category

21 # logs received in Newcomer category

4 different DX countries participated

4 different provinces participated

45 different states participated

TX state with most participants (18)

25 different states represented in 45 logs received

Call	Score	#of Q's	E	N	>= 2002	Class	Fist#	State
1 K3MQ	4805	95	60	35	30	N	11194	DE
2 KG4W	4648	122	78	44	27	E	12448	VA
3 W7GVE	3360	79	46	33	29	E	12077	AZ
4 W7JI	2968	74	42	32	27	E	11079	KS
5 N5RDN	1892	59	28	30	21	N	11984	TX
6 N6NAX	1520	56	32	24	18	E	8884	AZ
7 KA8HFN	1411	62	41	21	16	E	11631	OH
8 AC2C	1328	50	33	17	15	N	12639	MD
9 KD0V	896	46	26	19	13	E	12068	MN
10 N0JRN	648	44	29	14	8	N	50w	MO
11 KC2OJZ	636	32	22	9	11	N	100w	NJ
12 W7DAX	528	36	24	12	10	E	12802	UT
13 VE5BCS	473	27	16	11	10	N	3498	SK
14 W1TPB	418	30	20	9	10	E	12192	MA
15 K8NVR	380	30	22	8	9	E	7957	OH
16 KZ5P	297	23	13	10	8	E	11808	TX
17 KC9HGW	264	24	20	4	5	N	12909	IL
18 N2ZHF	252	26	16	10	6	E	2151	NY
19 VE3HUR	224	21	14	7	7	E	11349	ON
20 KC9EHQ	216	18	9	9	7	N	12779	
21 AE6RF	210	22	11	8	6	N	12302	CA
22 WI0S	186	24	17	7	5	E	12093	MN
23 AI4RE	156	16	10	6	5	N	12663	FL
24 VA7CPC	147	12	9	3	6	N	10604	BC
25 K5ICW	135	21	15	6	4	E	8180	TX
26 AA3II	126	11	4	7	6	E	9746	PA
27 KI6BHB	108	13	8	5	5	E	80w	CA
28 K2FW	100	15	11	3	3	N	11990	NJ
29 NG0K	70	10	6	4	4	E	11857	NE
30 N7NU	52	8	3	5	3	E	6126	
31 N0UMP	48	11	6	5	2	E	12960	MO
32 W9TTT	44	9	7	2	3	N	13407	IA
33 AJ9ON	36	6	3	3	3	N	12829	IL
34 KL1JP	33	7	4	3	2	N	11766	AK
35 N5KEV	18	4	2	2	2	E	11320	NM
36 N9MRG	16	5	3	2	1	N	10962	IL
37 VA3SIE	14	5	3	2	1	E	13094	ON
38 VE5CUL	12	3	1	2	2		12029	SK
39 KC9KRG	9	2	1	1	2	N	13457	IL
40 KG4WNA	6	2	1	1	1	E	9738	KY
41 TI2CLX	6	2	1	1	1	N	12771	
42 KM5Z	4	2	2	0	0	N	100w	TX
43 KA8JBY	2	1	0	1	1	N	100w	CO
44 KI4KXO	2	1	1	0	0			GA
45 WG7WG	2	1	1	0	1	N	11809	

## G3ZQS Memorial Straight Key Contest

28 logs were received    342 different calls were heard and logged at least once

27200 was highest score (KG4W Ed)

23127 was 2nd highest score (AD5WI Mark)

13344 was 3rd highest score (W7GVE Ed)

2 QRP logs received    3173 was highest QRP score (NILU Don)

135 most Q's in any log received (AD5WI Mark)

763 lowest FISTS # logged (K6CSL Bert)

20 different DX countries participated

5 different Canadian provinces participated

49 different states participated

TX state with most participants (34)

17 different states represented in 28 logs received

CALL	POINTS	# Q's	Name	FISTS#	QTH	KEY USED
1 KG4W	27,200	119	Ed	12448	VA	Vibroplex paddle as SK
2 AD5WI	23,127	135	Mark	11936	AR	NYE Master SK
3 W7GVE	13,344	87	Ed	12077	AZ	MFJ 557 Code Practice Key
4 WI0S	10,620	75	Kieth	12093	MN	
5 WB9DLC	10,404	66	Mike	11145	IN	Bunnell SK
6 W0JFR	10,199	67	John	11827	CO	
7 W1TPB	3,322	32	Ted	12192	MA	
9 NILU	3,173	34	Don	11561	NH	Sox Key
9 N5DY	3,173	34	Jack	11105	OK	Straight Key
10 KD8CGH	2,682	31	Bob	12014	OH	Ameco SK
11 K0LC	2,489	31	Louis	10498	KS	Straight Key
12 KD0V	2,376	27	Merlin	12068	MN	Kent KT-1 & GHD GT504
13 VE3HUR	1,824	24	Don	11349	ON	Wilson Speed Key
14 W3TNU	1,552	20	Rabe	10203	PA	
15 KC9HGW	1,032	19	Bob	12909	IL	Navy Flameproof Key
16 AA3II	804	14	Jerry	9746	PA	Bencher RJ-1 SK
17 NP3CW	600	15	Julio	2396		CMI 26003A
18 K5ICW	500	10	Hank	8180	TX	Vibroplex Straight Key
19 K5PAX	396	10	Harvey	10946	NM	Brown Brothers ST-A
20 JO3HPM	320	8	Nao	15008		
21 KD5RSS	280	8	Butch	9905	OK	J-38
23 N4DCC	245	7	Bill	12659	VA	GHD MDL GT501A
23 N2ZHF	245	7	Randy	2151	NY	
24 WA6OCP	125	5	Neal	10992	CA	Johnson Speed-X SK
25 KM3D	110	5	Harry	12076	PA	
27 N5XGG	45	3	Joe	9974	TX	SKCC straight key
27 VE5CUL	45	3	Brian	12029	SK	Straight Key
28 K3WWP	20	2	John	2002	PA	J-38

## FISTS AWARDS

by Dennis K6DF

The bands have not been all that great, have they? Hang in there. The bands will really start to heat up as this next cycle picks up.

Last year's 20-20 award has finally come to an end. We've received a lot of nice comments about the 20-20 and the plaques. We had a number of diehard members that stuck with it all year long as you can see from the "Plaque Award Holders" list. The 20-20 plaques were mailed a little later than I had anticipated. My wife and I were away from the home QTH for several weeks helping a family member through some medical problems. That, coupled with an error made by the plaque maker held things up for a few weeks. There is a photo of a 20-20 plaque on the cover of the Keynote for all to see. My congratulations to all the 20-20 Plaque recipients. Also a big thank you to all club members that stuck with it to make the 20 minute QSO's possible under less than the best band conditions.

You may use the following e-mail address, ([Fistsawards@comcast.net](mailto:Fistsawards@comcast.net)) for submitting your award logs. Excel, Word, Open Office, & 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 Nr., Point/s claimed for each QSO. Incomplete logs delay receiving your

award certificate. 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 email questions to me at [fistsawards@comcast.net](mailto:fistsawards@comcast.net). Keep banging the brass . . . C U on the bands . . . 73, Dennis K6DF

AWARDS ISSUED 12/ 19/ 2007  
TO 3/17/2008

### Basic Century (CC)

K0MDS KB4TOX K6FFY  
KD8CGH KE0N N0FL  
VE1BA W0CI W7MXQ  
WA2FJK WI9X N1UIY  
N9TMU

### Silver Century

W4IHI W5VYN

### Diamond Award

AD5WI WB2MIC

### Platinum Award

W5VYN

### Platinum 250 Award

AD5WI

### Mobile Award

N4PHH

### NANFA Award

WB2MIC

### 1 X QRP Award

K4PBY

### 20-20 Plaque Holders

AB8EL AD5WI AD7JY  
K0TC K6DF KA8HFN  
KC0JKD KD0V KG4NNN

KK0I KS3S N4RAY  
VE1VEI VE3HUR W3MWR  
W5GXV W7GVE W9SJW  
WB0PYF WB2MIC WI0S  
WB4MED

### Millionaire

K0MDS K4PBY  
KC2EE KC2LSD  
N4PHH W4IHI  
W5VYN WA4ONV  
WA8BIJ

### 2 Million

K3WWP VE2PID  
W5VYN

### 3 Million

K3WWP VE2PID

### 4 Million

AD7JY K3WWP  
K8IJ KK0I  
VE2PID W2IX

### 5 Million

K3WWP VE2PID W2IX

### 6 Million

N3RSD

### 7 Million

K0TC WB2MIC

### 9 Million

AD5WI

### 10 Million

AD5WI W5GXV

### 17 Million

W7GVE

### 19 Million

KC0JKD



"Could it be done?" Was it possible for a ham who lives in a deed restricted community to make ten thousand contacts in a one year period? I wanted to see if it was possible to actually get ten thousand QSOs in the logbook from a station that has no tower, no beam, no rotor and not much more than a wire tossed out the window due to deed restrictions. All QSO's must be with distant stations with the use of propagation and from home. The local repeaters, Echolink, going mobile, satellite's and operating remote stations via the internet and such could not be counted toward that goal. Now there is nothing wrong with operating any of the above means but for my query to be answered it had to be from home with deed restrictions in play. In other words, it must be accomplished strictly from home with only antenna's that one could be sneaky enough to get away with from the prying eyes of the HOA(Home owners association).

So January 1<sup>st</sup> 2006, I started out on a quest to answer that question. At the very end of that quest I ran into some thing so unbelievable, so unimaginable, some thing so hard to believe that I can only begin to describe it as the magic of radio. I have always heard talk of what many call the magic of radio. This may mean different things to different people but at the end of my quest I ran into this magic which hit me like a ton of bricks.

Living under dreaded deed restrictions is a tough choice for any ham. Many people need to be close to their place of employment, family or other same such that puts them into neighborhoods. Many of these neighborhoods have some type of deed restrictions and most new neighborhoods will have them as well. So what is a ham to do? Well he could give up radio from home and just do it while mobile. Or he can get a little creative and stay on the air. For myself it was a no brainer but I needed to figure out a way to get on the air. How was I going to get an antenna up in the air and at the same time keep the neighbors happy. Installing any type of tower was way out of the question here. So I did what many hams do under such circumstances and installed numerous antennas in the attic with the help of the XYL. These dipoles for HF and loops for 6 meters and verticals for vhf and uhf worked well. But still I had a yearning to get something up outside. Luckily in the back yard is an old oak tree. This tree that has stood for many years and was soon to become my deed restricted tower.

I purchased an Antron 99 antenna also known as an A99. This is a vertical antenna that stands nearly 20 feet tall. The A99 is also a white antenna that would stick out like a sore thumb if pushed up into the oak tree. A few cans of green and black spray paint took care of that problem. I then pushed the A99 up into the center of the tree with the feed point

up about 15 feet. Walking around the neighborhood I could not spot the antenna, so I knew I was safe from the HOA. But there still was a problem, the A99 was only good for 15 thru 10 meters. While some claim great success with the antenna on 17 meters, that was not the case here. I made a 102 foot version of the G5RV and using a sling shot, I pulled the G5RV up my tree tower about 18 feet high. The configuration of this dipole antenna does some strange things like running along a wooden fence. But it is a far cry from when I first installed it along the top of some 3 foot high shrubbery. To my surprise these outdoor antennas were working like a charm. I did have to use an antenna tuner to get them to work.

The main radio in the shack is an Icom 756 Pro II but at times I do switch to a Kenwood TS-440 or even an old Hallicrafters or some other boat anchor. But by far most of the QSO's were done with the Icom. So now that I have all the antenna's in place and the radio turned on it was time to see if this deed restricted ham could make 10,000 QSO's in a year. I started out making a few SSB contacts and knew right away how I would not reach my goal by doing it this way. What I would have to do is place myself on the bands when there was the most activity.

There is usually a large crowd on weekends with the contests. So I started to hit every one. These included not only the phone contests but also the digital and CW.

During this time I never officially entered any of the contests with turning in a log except for one Hellschreiber contest thanks to the help of W6RK, Risto Kotalampi. I was making between 200 to 500 contest contacts on a weekend. By far the greatest number of contacts was RTTY followed by SSB then CW and rounding out the end with numerous other digital modes. What other hams in deed restrictions might find interesting is that modes such as CW or digital go such a long way with nearly no power at all. I really enjoy the digital modes and with my simple station I can talk with hams from around the world using less than 5 watts. Both CW and digital are fantastic modes to use for any one in a similar deed restricted situation. Give either one a try with that wire tossed out the window and do not be surprised when the DX comes rolling in one after the other.

Getting back to the story, during the week I would work what I could on phone and digital with a touch of CW tossed in. My goal was 10 QSO's a day but there were many days when only one or two QSO's were made because of time constraints. Night was the easiest time to make a quick QSO. I wound up many nights on 40 meters calling CQ in the PSK section around 7.070 USB. I found that it was practically guaranteed to make at least one QSO there every time I tried. Please see table one for a breakdown of each month's QSO's figures.

On the first weekend of November 2006 I was throwing out a CQ call in the Ukraine RTTY contest. Being under deed restrictions, the replies I receive are slow in coming at times which gives me a chance to get caught up on some reading. I was reading the October issue of CQ. I never imagined that the magic of radio was about to appear to me but it sure did. I did know that I was very close to hitting my goal of ten thousand QSO's though. I was reading and calling CQ when I ran across the editorial by W2VU, Rich Moseson. He wrote about a new idea, which was communities set up just for ham radio for a way to help the deed restricted ham. And I thought to myself, John why don't you shoot Rich an email asking if you should write a short story about making 10,000 QSO in a year from a deed restricted home. If it might inspire others to do the same. A few contest replies later and a little more into the magazine I ran into an article by Bob Locher, W9KNI where he starts off by talking about W2VU's editorials and how there is still plenty of DX to be had even at the bottom of the solar cycle. I read that article and was now at 9999 QSO's for the year. I need just one more. But I am also very tired as I never went to sleep the night before trying to reach this goal. So I stopped calling CQ in the hopes of finding another station that was calling CQ contest so I could get that last QSO and shut down and get some sleep. The next thing I knew I was getting hit and getting hit hard

with the magic of radio. The very next person throwing out a general CQ call was none other than W2VU. That number of 10,000 was reached on November 4 2006 with W2VU. Not only that, my number 10,000 was the only contact that Rich made that day and the only reason for doing so was because he just connected a piece of equipment in his shack that had been sitting on his desk for 6 months. So number 10000 for me was from a fellow I was just thinking about and whom I had never talked with in the past before and who was just trying out a new piece of equipment for the first time that had been sitting on his desk for 6 months, WOW!! Some people may say that the bands are dead but I know that they are not. Some people may say that the magic of radio has left but I for one know without any doubt that it has not. And by the way, it sure is possible for a ham in deed restrictions to make 10,000 QSO's in a year.

#### Month #of QSO's

January	1316
February	1552
March	1149
April	794
May	879
June	611
July	801
August	648
September	1002
October	1187
November	1053
December	638
Total	= 11630
Average per day	= 31.863
Average per month	= 969.167



# **FISTS DOWN UNDER**

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### **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 MEMBER**

This time we welcome two new members.

**ZL1ALD-David Smith #9682** from Whakatane, Eastern Bay of Plenty. David tells us this about himself: -

He became bitten by the radio bug while a boy at school in Helensville, when he built crystal sets, "hikers' ones" etc

He was encouraged into Amateur radio by two "hams" that had moved into the town. He resolved to study for his Ham Ticket and by this time had left school and was apprenticed to the electrical trade. He passed the written exam and scraped through the Morse test and applied for a call sign in Sept 1952 when just turned 19 and came on air with the call ZL1ALD.

He says "I was never very adept at CW but after about 12 months on 80 metres, I managed the 15 wpm Morse test for my HF permit."

Ian is keen on working DX, with 50 Watts input with his home built rig and ground plane antenna on 20 metres.

He continues "In 1958 I travelled to UK for "OE" and obtained the call GM3NIP". There he met and married his XYL in Scotland and returned to N.Z. in 1961. After several years working at Kinleith paper mills, he left to settle in Whakatane.

In the recent past, he has enjoyed working CW QRP on the bottom end of 80 M., but also enjoys other modes and higher power.

Ian admits that he has ever have managed a Morse speed greater than about 15 wpm which is comfortable for the straight key he uses. - He is looking forward to more CW contacts in the future with "FISTS" members and others.

**ZL2AIM/ZS5IAN-Ian McQuillan #9683** who writes about himself: - I arrived from South Africa about 6 weeks ago and have set up a temporary station in Hikuai (20 km East of Thames) and have a 706 MKIIG and a long wire. At first I was disappointed at few numbers of CW contacts I was making, but things changed in the last week or so and I have noted that I have worked ZL2OB, VK2ASB, VK3FGE and VK3XU who are all member of Fists Down Under, (amongst many other stations). So things are looking up!

I have only been involved in amateur radio since 2001 and when I passed my 12 wpm, I decided that as I had put in so much effort into CW, I was not going to waste it. I was so lucky insofar as there was an operator about 400 km away that was blind and had been a marine operator some years previously. He had a lot of time on his hands. He took great care in listening out for us "newies" and would have 1 hour QSOs with me at about 10 wpm just to get us hooked. He would tell me all about naval flags etc. There were not many operators around who were prepared to help the slower operator.

A year or so later, there were lots of ZRs trying to pass their CW exams at 12 wpm. I was asked to start up a CW practice net on the 2m repeater. First call in there was about 12 people. Within 4 months it had dwindled down to just 2 of

us. The word had got out that soon it would only need a speed of 5 wpm to get the ZS exam! (Of course, later that was also to fall away.)

I built some TenTec QRP kits and remember my first 2 watt 20 meter QSO with the states. What a thrill! I built a few more of them and then built a K1 that I sold a few weeks before I left for ZL, in order to buy a K2 (already built up). I own quite a few QRP rigs which are now somewhere on a ship between here and Durban. We have decided to keep it all in storage until we move into our own house in August this year. - A long wait! That is why I have a temporary shack with only a long wire for antenna.

Although I graduated to a paddle about 4 years ago, I did have a few nice straight keys. My favourite being a Junker. I started a straight key net on a weekly basis about 3 years ago which varied between 8 of us and sometimes only 2 - band conditions were a big player as our participants were scattered around South Africa. Most of us were QRP folk too. Although it was primarily for straight keys, we allowed the use of bugs as one of our members had acquired a bug from me (I could not get the hang of it!) and he managed within 4 weeks to make himself understood with it. By the time I left SA about 3 months after he got it, he was very proficient with it. Not many bug users left in SA - I only know of 3 people that use a bug in preference to other means.

Maybe one of these days I will write an article about my CW learning days on the banks of the Okavango river in Botswana where one of my mentors Raymond G4NJW was nearly tempted to throw me in with the crocodiles and hippo's as my MFJ Morse tutor was driving him mad - I had forgotten to pack earphones. It was meant to be 3 weeks of solitude in the back of beyond. (He eventually gave me a present of a TenTec 1340 for passing my 12 wpm - now, that was worth working towards!) Ian is a member of the following other organisations: - South African Radio League, Highway Amateur Radio Club, New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters, Straight Key Century Club number 2955 and Society for the Preservation of Amateur Radio.

### DOWN UNDER MEMBERS' NEWS



A picture of **JE1CLH-Mack #9012** appeared in our last issue showing him on a climb to Mt Bandai in Fukushima prefecture in JA7. This month's picture was taken in late November atop Mt Daimon in Kagoshima Prefecture JA6. He appears here with his son Masahiro who is studying at university in Kagoshima City. Our Japanese lesson this month shows the inscription *Dai-mon-dake 944 m.* (Dake. like yama and san means mount or one of the many equivalents in English) - Mack has a sked with **ZL2AOH-Ralph #1073** most Sundays at 08:30 UTC on 14.400 MHz. Feel free to butt in.

Thanks to the following for including generous donations with their renewal subscriptions - **ZL2JKY-Jakey #6462**, **VK3DOU-Bill #9651**, **VK4BUI-Les #9617**, **VK3DOU-Bill #9651**, **VK4BUI-Les #9617** and **VK3CGB-Chris #9087**

Jakey has returned from the UK to spend the next few months in Golden Bay. He reported just before Christmas that he had not quite finished assembling a station although he had joined a couple of nets and had made 87 QSOs in the CQ WW CW contest.

He suffers from a very high noise level from nearby power lines. In addition a neighbour contributes to the electrical pollution with his TV.

During JOTA the **Redcliffe and District Radio Club (VK4RC #9066)** decided to provide two Foundation scholarships to scouts and cubs that visited the club station. ●●

These scholarships provide the cost of the Foundation course, Foundation Book, examination fees and the cost of the ACMA licence fees for the first 12 months.

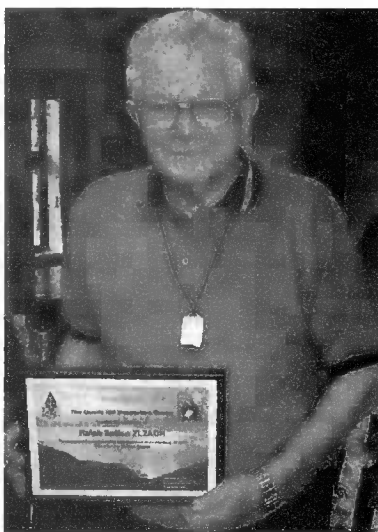
At the Wellington Amateur Radio Club Christmas function, two FISTS members received recognition for service to the club's radio site at Quartz Hill.

### FOR SALE

A swag of "Morsum Magnificat" Morse Magazines in tip top order. Interested parties should contact: -

Syd Sutherland, ZL1BRS, 27, Prosser Street, Green Island, Dunedin 9018 for details and prices

**ZL2BSJ-Wilbert #9637** has left New Zealand to take up employment in the Netherlands, his home country. At the Wellington Amateur Radio Club's Christmas function, Wilbert received a piece of quartz from Quartz Hill, nicely mounted on a polished base with an inscribed plate. This award was symbolic of Wilbert's enthusiastic involvement in the management, administration, maintenance and operation of the station since its inception. - Wilbert will be transferring to the UK/Europe FISTS Chapter once he is settled. He has recently acquired the Netherlands call sign **PE7T** that has already been heard in ZL.



**ZL2AOH-Ralph #1073** received a colourful certificate for his work as the QSL manager for the club's call sign ZL6QH. Ralph has processed over 34,000 QSLs in the past ten years.

The photographs by ZL2AOV- Doug show Wilbert and Ralph with their respective awards.

*ZL6QH has been silenced pro tem, while an extensive wind generation farm is established on the site. The station infrastructure has been dismantled and stored. During this QRT period, the Quartz Hill committee is planning for the hopeful establishment of a new and better facility on the site, once the contractors have departed and the wind farm is operational – probably in 2010. Watch for progress at [www.zl6qh.com](http://www.zl6qh.com)*

### OTHER MEMBERS' NEWS



Just before Christmas we received a very nice Christmas card from our good friend **I2VRF-Gian #8325** in Bresso, Italy. We assume that the picture is of Gian's front garden. *(The yellow plants appear to be broom; an import into New Zealand that has prospered to the extent that it has escaped from gardens to be a noxious plant in the wild.)*

We also received greetings from a number of overseas members and associates including **MOBMN-Paul #5533**, **G4PPG-Jim #1189**, **GM4WZL-John #12515**, **M0CDL-John #5592**, **UA6JD-Vlad #1385**, **UA6JW-Harry #0820**, **N7CFA-Ed #1402**, **K9PL-Philip #6753**, **GSWL2-Pete #4822** and WIA President and Directors. All these greetings have been acknowledged on behalf of FISTS Down Under.

### INCREDIBLE ACHIEVEMENT

**Congratulations to Tony Timme, G3CWW on his 8 Band DXCC achievement entirely on CW.**

*(Tony, G3CWW in a letter to the Editor, mentioned that he had achieved an 8 Band DXCC (CW Only). This is incredible given the fact that he uses only vertical aerials and runs 100 watts. I wish to share with you parts of his letter – Ed)*

On the brighter side, 2007 was a good year for me in that I achieved 8-band DXCC entirely on CW, i.e. 5BDXCC plus all three of the WARC bands, in March. This resulted in my claiming the DXCC plaque and the new DXCC Challenge award plaque. I started out on this chase a couple of years after the DXCC CW award was instituted (1975) and it took me 27 years!!! The great handicap was worming QSL cards out of people - the last two cards (both for 3.5MHz) took more than two years, during which time my scores on the other bands continued to pile up nicely.

I am now 82, still pretty active although walking is no longer a pleasure - need my trusty walking stick everywhere outside the house. Still driving, and enjoying it, but don't like trips more than about 100 miles without a companion to keep me alert. Have much pleasure too from my children and grandchildren, who keep me abreast of most of the new electronic gadgetry. Hate mobile phones but my younger son and his wife insisted that I have one for security - and my two grandchildren (11 and 9) were my teachers! I had a small medical problem just before Christmas, saw my doctor for the first time in over 8 years and was prescribed a course of antibiotic capsules which cleared up the trouble in about five days - my first prescription for more than 20 years, other than painkillers after my hip joint operation. I do attend the practice nurses for a regularly annual check plus regular ear syringing - I now have two digital hearing aids, both of which I remove when operating the rig - CW is a single note to listen to and the rig controls do all the adjusting I need. Yet another good reason for being a CW man! Still "have a go" in all the major contests and enjoy myself - I am not competitive any more and the long spells I used to operate now upset my body clock, so feeling sleepy sends me straight off to bed.



<b>FEA Web Site</b>	Primary: <a href="http://www.feacw.net/">http://www.feacw.net/</a>	Secondary: <a href="http://www.fists-ea.org/">http://www.fists-ea.org/</a>
<b>FEA Calling Freq. (MHz)</b>	7.026/7.028, 10.118/10.138, 14.058, 18.085, 21.058, 24.918, 28.058/28.158	
<b>FEA CW Net Schedule</b>	40m: 2300GMT on Saturdays	20m: 0800GMT on Sundays

<b>Contacts</b>				
<b>Role</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Callsign</b>	<b>FISTS#</b>	<b>E-Mail Address</b>
FEA Net Manager	Nao	JO3HPM	15008	jo3hpm at fists-ea.org
Membership Secretary	Jean	JL3SIK	9836	join-fea at fists-ea.org
Webmaster, QSL Manager, Newsletter Editor & E-Mail Distributor	Harry	JL3AMK	15002	webadmin at fists-ea.org
QSL Bureau: Akinori Harry SHIBATA, 4-34-10-203 Senriyama-Nishi, Suita City, OSAKA 565-0851 JAPAN --- Please send your SASE's or SAE's + IIRC/SAE to the bureau.				

***from Editor***

Harry, JL3AMK #15002

**Back Issues**

You can read the latest and back issues of FISTS Newsletters at FEA website; morsEAsia, KeyNote and FDU Newsletter.. You have to input username and password. Please email webmaster with your name, callsign, and FISTS#, if you don't know them.

**Many Thanks**

to Sugi, JK7UST #7178 and Johon, 9V1VV #8998.for posting articles.

***from Members*****Drake R-4C, I Longed for.**

Sugi, JK7UST#7178

Translated freely by  
Harry, JL3AMK #15002

I have received the R-4C that I had made a successful bid on the Internet Auctions. I have longed for it since I had become a radio amateur.

Previous owner had mainly used on 80-meter. I turned the receiver on and tuned on 80m at first, then lots of signals were received strongly. It seemed to be tuned up for this band. But signals on 40-meter

couldn't make the S-meter move. Other bands seemed not to work well.

So I adjusted the sensitivity by changing variable inductors connecting to the variable coil, and local oscillators too. Now I can hear good sound from speaker, on 40m, 20m and 15m as same as on 80m. I didn't adjust 10m because I don't have any antennas for that band.

The sound is really soft. Receiver performance is good because that has roofing filters, I guess. The 8kHz-width 4-pole Xtal filter is set as a 1st IF filter. It has wonderful performance although this was made 30 years ago.

I'd like to use my R-4C as an external sub-receiver for Elecraft K3 that I had ordered it but have not received yet.

73, Sugi, JK7UST



## Ham Radio CW Operating Techniques vs Marine Radio

John 9V1VV #8998

**Since** getting my ham license in 2002 and going on the air I have become aware of many differences in operating procedures to those I was used to as a sea-going radio operator in the 1970s and 80s.

**On** the ham CW bands the operators almost all use iambic keys, which were almost unheard of when I was at sea.

I did come across one in a radio shack of the South African coastal tanker MT Buffalo when I first went to sea in 1979, but I never used it, being somewhat afraid of the wrath of the South African coast station operators at ZSC and ZSD, who were all straight-key men. Some of the Greek ship's operators would use iambic keyers and make mistakes, and the coast stations would refuse to work them if they could, sending terrible insults over the air. I believe with practice we could have all used keyers but were afraid to go on air with them.

**Although** I have said we only used straight-keys at sea, this is not strictly correct. The USA operators used bugs extensively, often at very high speed. The operators at KPH were a pleasure to work., but EU operators generally steered clear of bugs. The UK coast stations would also discourage their use, Portishead Radio GKA being the main one.

EU coast and ship station radio officers were mainly trained the old-fashioned way on straight- keys. We were not allowed to use side-tone when sending, and we had to learn to receive through heavy QRM which was simulated by mixing the instructor's signals with noise from an old AR88 receiver. My Morse instructor was an ex-government radio operator who had served in diplomatic missions all round the world . A fascinating man.

**At** my radio college in Bristol, England I was tutored

over a 2-year period, which gave plenty of time to hone straight-key skills. The reason for the long time to achieve 20 wpm was because we also learned radio technology theory, from batteries and Ohm's law through to 3-phase theory and transmission lines. It was a good foundation for a future career in electronics.

**The** final Morse test was daunting. We had to send mixed groups at 16 wpm with no uncorrected errors over a ten-minute period. Only 4 corrected errors were allowed. Similarly with plain text at 20 wpm. For receiving, no errors were allowed whatsoever, and we were not allowed to request repeats. I was lucky enough to pass first time but many of my friends had to endure the ordeal again in order to get through.

**We** learned all the standard abbreviations, very few of which are used by hams, and much of our instruction involved distress and urgency procedure. I can still remember many of the Qcodes such as QSQ, QTC, QSA etc. Punctuation marks such as colon, open bracket and closed bracket are never used by hams, nor are the European letters with umlauts and accents.

I was involved in a rescue at sea in 1985 when we saved 16 souls from the foundering MV New Concord in the South China Sea when I was on board the supertanker MT Eriskay. I first picked up the distress on 500 KHz and we were the closest vessel to the stricken ship. In two hours we were in position to pick up the survivors in their lifeboat. After they had come on board we received a relayed SOS via Satellite communications, two hours later ! But those were early days in satellite communications, and now things are much faster. I believe this rescue must be one of the last ever to use 500 KHz as a means of communications.

**Some** of the symbols used by hams sound strange. We learned the standard end-of-message symbol VA but we were told never to actually use it. It meant "I have finished with you" and sounded rather impolite, and I hardly ever heard it at sea.



I never heard of KN and BK at sea. I still don't know why it is used by hams, and why we can't just use K. After all, it is obvious who is in communications with whom.

73 was rarely heard either, except from one or two coast station operators at KPH (USA) and VIP (Perth). 73 sounds rather informal but of course it is ideal for hams; we are not communicating official messages. At sea the standard way to sign off was TUSU or TU SEEU.

We used full break-in at sea which was necessary when sending or receiving long messages. This meant that the receiving operator could break in at any time and request a repeat of a missed word. It was very useful. I don't hear full-break-in on the ham bands.

For 15 years I did not go near a Morse key and I am trying to get back to the proficiency I had at sea. Many ham operators are incredibly skilful and it is a pleasure to hear them and learn from them.

73

John 9V1VV

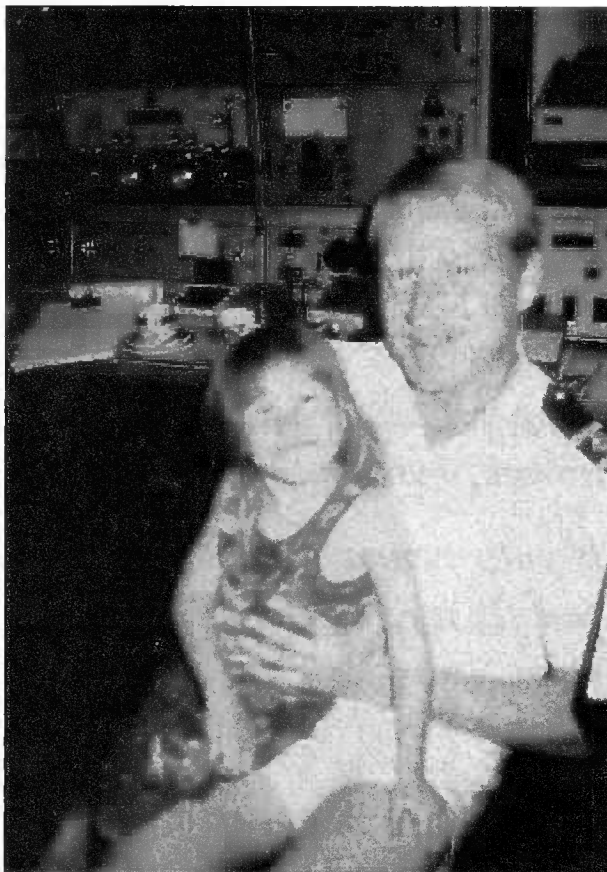


PHOTO: John in the radio shack of the cruise liner MS Coral Princess with his daughter, in 1987

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***from FEA Net Manager***

**FEA CW Net Results : Nr. 163 to 166**

**Nao, JO3HPM #15008**

No.	Y/M/D	GMT	MHz	Controller	Participant
166-2	2008/2/24	0800-0900	14.0515	JO3HPM(Nao)	VK4TJ(John), JJ8KGZ/m(Leo)
166-1	2008/2/23	2300-0005	7.026	JJ8KGZ(Leo)	JL1IRB(Hoz), JR0YRC(Man), JO3HPM(Nao), JK7UST(Sugi), JK1TCV(Kazu)
165-2	2008/2/17	0800-0845	14.054	JO3HPM(Nao)	VK4TJ(John), JE1RZR(Manabu)
165-1	2008/2/17	0000-0110	7.026	JE7YTQ(Sugi)	JE1RZR(Manabu), JO3HPM(Nao), JR0QWW/0(Taro), JL1IRB(Hoz)
164-2	2008/2/10	0800-0900	14.055	JO3HPM(Nao)	9V1VV(John), VK4TJ(John), JE1RZR(Manabu)
164-1	2008/2/9	2300-0000	7.001	JJ8KGZ(Leo)	JQ2SFZ(Isao), JO3HPM(Nao), JG0SXC(Man), JK7UST(Sugi)
163-2	2008/2/3	0800-0900	14.054	JO3HPM(Nao)	VK4TJ(John), ZL2AOH(Ralph), JE1TRV(Atsu), 9V1VV(John), JK1TCV/QRP(Kazu)
163-1	2008/2/2	2300-0001	7.026	JE7YTQ(Sugi)	JO3HPM(Nao), JA3AVO(Masumi)

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***See You Next Month!***

# **FISTS CW CLUB**

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