

The KeyNote



Newsletter of the Americas Chapter, FISTS CW Club—The International Morse Preservation Society
Issue #3, 2015

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2015 Hamvention Photos and Drawing
Winners! (pages 13-15)



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“When you’ve worked a FISTS, you’ve worked a friend.”

INFORMATION PAGE

When you have a question about FISTS, go to the source for the correct answer. Posting a question on a chat room or e-mail reflector may yield the answer, but your best bet is to ask a FISTS volunteer or look in the reference issue. Several volunteer contacts and/or e-mail addresses have changed from the last reference issue of *The Key-Note*. Please make note of the following listings.

When e-mailing a volunteer please put the word FISTS in the title of your e-mail. This will help the volunteer recognize that your e-mail is important and not spam.

Awards and Certificates

Dennis Franklin, K6DF, awards@fistsna.org
4658 Capitan Dr., Fremont, CA 94536-5448

QSL Bureau

Stan Reas, K4UK, k4uk@fistsna.org
1020 Long Island Dr., Moneta, VA 24121-1952

Club Call, KNOWCW

Cody Codianni, KC2LSD, kc2lsd@fistsna.org
413 Martin Court, Leonardo, NJ 07737-1317

Membership Questions; Renewals; Call Changes; Name, Mailing, and E-mail Address Changes

Dennis Franklin, K6DF, membership@fistsna.org
4658 Capitan Dr., Fremont, CA 94536-5448

Membership Application or Sample KeyNotes for Friends

Jim Ranieri, AA9LS, aa9ls@turbotoads.com
33778 Rebecca Rd., Kingston, IL 60145

Website Changes (including getting your personal or club web page linked)

Dennis Franklin, K6DF, webmaster@fistsna.org
4658 Capitan Dr., Fremont, CA 94536-5448

Club Presentation Packets

Joe Spencer, KK5NA, kk5na@kk5na.com
3618 Montridge Ct., Arlington, TX 76016-4821

Code Buddy Volunteers and Buddies

<http://www.fistsna.org/codebuddy.html>

FISTS Sprints

Ed Wlodarski, N2ED, n2ed@fistsna.org
3 Shore Rd., Andover, NJ 07821-2240

Get Your Feet Wet Activity Day/G3ZQS Memorial

Straight Key Contest

Karl Zuk, N2KZ, feetwetlogs@fistsna.org,
g3zqslogs@fistsna.org
15 Flintlock Ridge Rd., Katonah, NY 10536-2510

The KeyNote Newsletter

keynote@fistsna.org

FISTS Store, Supplies, Shirts, Mugs, Etc.

Dennis Franklin, K6DF, store@fistsna.org
4658 Capitan Dr., Fremont, CA 94536-5448

Please check your *KeyNote* label for your renewal date. Dues are:

- Regular membership—\$15 a year with printed newsletter, \$10 with PDF version
- Ages 65–79 and college students—\$10 a year
- Under 18 and over 80—free

Checks should be payable to FISTS CW Club. Mail to: FISTS CW Club, c/o Dennis Franklin K6DF, 4658 Capitan Drive, Fremont, CA 94536-5448 or via PayPal on our club website at www.fistsna.org/howdoi.html.

The KeyNote

The Newsletter of the Americas Chapter of FISTS
Issue #3, 2015



Send articles to:

keynote@fistsna.org

Design: Mary Cronin

www.marycronindesign.com

Americas Chapter Message

By Dennis, K6DF #3076

I would like to first welcome all of our new members. Each new member's name and call are listed for approximately 30 days on the main page of our website <http://www.fistsna.org>. I would also like to extend a hearty thank you to all of the members who recently renewed their membership dues. Your continued support of the FISTS CW Club Americas Chapter is most appreciated.

If you are not sure when your membership dues expire, go to this web page:

<http://www.fistsna.org/expdate.php>

and enter your call or FISTS number. This web page will tell you your dues expiration date. If no expiration date is shown, your dues are most likely expired for over a year or more.

Chapter Updates

Over the last month or so, there have been a number of changes within the chapter. Karl KB1DSB has resigned as Chapter President to pursue other activities in his retirement. Karl has done a very fine job promoting club activities and moving the chapter forward over the past 18 plus months as President, Membership Manager, Store Manager, Dayton Booth Manager, Finance Manager, and KN0WCW Club Call Manager, to name a few. As you can see, he was doing a lot of things for this club and the membership...and I might add that he did them very well indeed. On behalf of the membership, Thank You Karl for all your time, effort, and

tireless contributions to the FISTS Americas Chapter.

As with many clubs and organizations, the backbone of FISTS CW Club is its volunteers. We have many volunteers who give freely of their time and efforts to help this club grow and move forward. No volunteer in this chapter is paid and we do not have any paid employees. This means all of our volunteers do what they can, in their particular area of desire and expertise, within the time they have available. I thank you for your support of and patience with our volunteers.

Some of the positions currently filled by our volunteers are:

Cody KC2LSD—KN0WCW Club Call Manager & Trustee

Tim AC5SH—Social Media Manager

Joe KK5NA—FISTS Presentation Program Manager

Stan K4UK—QSL Bureau Manager

Ed N2ED—Operating Activities Manager

Karl N2KZ—GYFW and G3ZQS Events Manager

Joe N8TI—Finance Manager and Legal Council

Dennis K6DF—Webmaster, Store Manager, Membership Manager, Chapter & International Awards Manager, Interim Chapter President

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Americas Chapter Message *(continued)*

The Code Buddy sign-up procedure is changing to a web-based self-serve program. Nick K3NY has been the Code Buddy Program Manager for quite a number of years. Thank you Nick, we appreciate all your time and effort spent for the club and wish you good health and DX. If any member is interested in the Code Buddy program (finding a buddy or becoming a buddy), please go to the Code Buddy page for more information: <http://www.fistsna.org/codebuddy.html>.

As many of you have seen on the website, the chapter store was closed for about a month. This was due in part to the store inventory being shipped to me. By the time you read this Key-Note the store should be back up and running.

Cody, KC2LSD, the new Club Call Manager, has been making some very positive changes for the use and display of club call logs. We invite all members to contact Cody to schedule dates to use the club call on the air. It's lots of fun and you will be sought out on the bands since this call is worth 5 points towards FISTS awards!

We are always looking for new volunteers to help keep the chapter running smoothly. If you are interested please send an e-mail to Dennis, K6DF, at webmaster@fistsna.org.



FISTS AWARDS

By Dennis, K6DF

I have not issued many awards in the last few months. Our U.K. members have been rather busy on the bands and earning awards, though. We have signed up many new members recently, though, including a bunch at the Dayton Ham-vention, so we should start to see activity pick up on the FISTS calling frequencies.

I urge all of our new members to get on the air and have fun with CW, as well as earn some of the nice operating awards we have that are sent free to current dues-paying members. If you are rather new to operating CW and need a little help to get started, I would direct your attention to the new FISTS Code Buddy web page at <http://www.fistsna.org/codebuddy.html>. If you are an experienced CW op, I ask that you volunteer to become a Code Buddy on that same web page.

Congratulations to all who earned FISTS Awards over the past few months.

In addition to the many FISTS CW Club operating awards, some of the FISTS chapters offer their own awards. You can find links to all the FISTS websites at <http://fists.org/>.

To qualify for an award, e-mail your logs to awards@fistsna.org. We accept log files in Excel, Word, Open Office, and plain text format. Please read the e-mail log rules on the FISTS web site <http://fistsna.org/awards.html> for details.

You may also use the "FISTS Log Converter," written by Graham G3ZOD, to automatically send in your award logs. Please check out and download this FREE software on the following web page: <http://www.fistsna.org/logconverter.html>.

Send in complete logs for awards. That means all of the following information: Call, Date of

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WELCOME NEW FISTS AMERICAS CHAPTER MEMBERS

Call	FISTS#	First Name	S/P/C	Call	FISTS#	First Name	S/P/C
W0XO	17296	Jonathan	MN	K2GAR	17332	Glenn	TX
KD5DE	17297	Mel	LA	W7XT	17333	Dick	MT
KG7NSP	17298	John	AZ	AI6JQ	17334	Douglas	CA
K8NGW	17299	Frederick	MI	N5XTH	17335	Michael	NC
VE3GON	17300	Gilbert	ON	K9LJ	17336	Len	WI
WI4P	17301	John	AL	WQ2E	17337	John	NY
AF4JM	17302	John	FL	KH7AX	17338	Joe	HI
NT5I	17303	Dennis	LA	AF5WT	17339	Lance	AR
W7ZIM	17304	Fred	OR	WF7BSR	17340	Raymond	AZ
AC2OX	17305	Les	NY	AF5FX	17341	Darrell	TX
K2DCG	17306	David	NJ	AD0X	17342	Joe	AZ
W4HXH	17307	Dennis	FL	W8PU	17343	Gary	OH
N1AB	17308	Steve	CA	WB5TVK	17344	John	SC
KC4WNI	17309	Bill	KY	KB4VVE	17345	Greg	FL
W4RQ	17310	Rich	FL	N0TW	17346	Terry	FL
W2FR	17311	Raul	FL	K3NGV	17347	Clay	PA
WA0WHE	17312	Gary	MN	WN4R	17348	Byron-Ron	FL
N6UG	17313	Birton	CA	AD5LX	17349	Richard	TX
AB4NS	17314	Dan	VA	KB3VCQ	17350	Serg	DE
KB0TUA	17315	Robert	MO	KE5HYA	17351	Joseph	OK
KW1K	17316	Joe	CT	KK7KP	17352	Michael	NV
WA9BNZ	17317	Bill	IL	AA9TY	17353	Dale	IL
K6GCN	17318	Bob	CA	W5MPY	17354	Ronald	OK
KM6NN	17319	John	TN	KB0DD	17355	Danny	MO
WA6KJV	17320	Steve	CA	K0KWN	17356	Ronald	AZ
KW4HR	17321	Rob	SC	KI4SII	17357	Powell	KY
N6LZD	17322	Darel	CA	N8DWN	17358	Carl	OH
K0MSO	17323	Charlie	AZ	KW4JG	17359	Richard	NC
VE3PVI	17324	Thomas	ON	KA8BMA	17360	Richard	MI
KB0LQJ	17325	Jon	UT	KC0MMY	17361	Andre	NY
NM9O	17326	Matt	WI	W5PTT	17362	Phillip	OK
K8TOM	17327	Tom	WA	KJ4YKX	17363	William	TN
K6QQQ	17328	Kyle	AZ	AG5DX	17364	Ron	TX
K3HK	17329	Harry	TN	K9IBM	17365	Dan	WI
KF5YGL	17330	Dennis	TX	KE4XJ	17266	Brad	AL
K3ZGA	17331	Bob	NC	K9LZJ	17367	Lyman	IN

FISTS AWARDS (continued)

QSO. Incomplete logs will delay receiving your award.

Check the FISTS NA website (<http://www.fistsna.org/awards.html>) for additional information regarding current FISTS awards and how to apply for them. If you have any questions about the awards that are not answered on the FISTS awards web page, feel free to e-mail your questions to me at awards@fistsna.org.

I will be looking forward to hearing and working a lot of our newer members as well as many of our current and renewing members through the remainder of 2015. I wish you good health and good DX.

73, Dennis K6DF

FISTS AWARDS ISSUED: Apr 22, 2015–Jul 30, 2015

CENTURY AWARD

G0DJA, 1 X QRP

SPECTRUM AWARD, 40 mtr

M5ABN

2 MILLION AWARD

WD9HBC, 2E0JCY, 2E0DPH

3 MILLION AWARD

WD9HBC, 2E0JCY, 2E0DPH



Sounders and American Morse

By Dennis Franklin, K6DF #3076

Sometime in early April I was copied on an e-mail from Karl, KB1DSB, to a person by the name of Mr. Joe Herrington. Karl was referring Mr. Herrington to me with the hope that I could help him with a rather interesting and challenging request.

As the Principal Media Designer for Walt Disney Imagineering department, Mr. Herrington was looking for someone to translate four different recordings of Morse code used in Disney Parks around the world. These recordings play in the Frontier Land Train stations in various Disney Parks. Somehow over the years the original scripts these recordings were made from were lost and the Imagineering department wanted to know what the recordings actually said. All four of the recordings were of an old telegraph sounder click-clacking out the various characters in code.

After receiving the four recordings I started to work. First I needed to determine if these recordings were done in Continental or American Morse. The Continental Code is basically the same code radio amateurs use everyday for CW transmissions. The American Code is somewhat different in that it is a more "dotty" code. More dots than dashes are used, there are spaces within the dots for some of the letters, the letter "L" is a "long" dash with the "zero" an even longer dash. The American code was actually about 15 percent more efficient than the Continental code when used with the English language. It was also popular because it had an extensive set of punctuation marks that made it much easier to send "press" copy. I listened to all four of the recordings and determined three of them were sent in Continental Code and one was sent in American Code and were all sent at approximately 22 words per minute.

Now please bear in mind that listening to code sent over a sounder is a little different than the nice pure audio tones we usually hear in the CW portions of the amateur radio bands. First of all, there are two sounds associated with each dit or dah on a

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Sounders (continued)

sounder. An initial click is heard when the telegraph key is closed and the sounder armature is pulled to the electromagnet coils and the sounder lever moves downward and the lever adjustment screw hits the anvil. A second sound, clack, is then heard when the telegraph key is opened and the armature is released from the electromagnets and the level bar hits the stop screw being pulled to its original position by the level return spring. As one can see there is a lot of things happening to make the sounds associated with just a single closure and opening of the telegraph key.

Since it had been 40 to 45 years since I had sent and received American Morse, I decided to translate the three Continental recordings first figuring those would be the easiest. Although I found this not to be the case...

The first recording I tackled went rather smoothly and I was pleased with the results I sent to Mr. Herrington.

Translating the second Continental recording was going well until I realized I was writing what I considered gibberish down on the paper. I started over once again with a new clean sheet of paper... more gibberish? Here is an excerpt of the gibberish, "REPLACER SACS DE PEPITES PAR SACS DE CAILLOU X SUR PROCHAIN DEPART." Hummm, maybe this was not going to be as easy as I had thought! I decided to try again only this time I would copy exactly what I heard and not pay any attention to what was being sent. When finished, I reluctantly sent the copy to Mr. Herrington with an apology that I believe there were many misspellings and errors in the copy. It was a relief when I received his reply e-mail telling me that this recording was from the Paris Disneyland Park and much of it was in French. Whew! Not being fluent in French I thought I had lost my skill copying sounder code completely. The above roughly translates as, "TO REPLACE BAGS OF NUGGETS BY STONE X BAGS ON NEXT DEPARTURE."

The last recording was the most fun to translate and I enjoyed every minute I spent with it. Being a railroad buff, I simply love American Morse because

it is the original American Code used on our railroads for many years. American Morse was known as Railroad Morse and used by the railroads up into the 1970-80s.

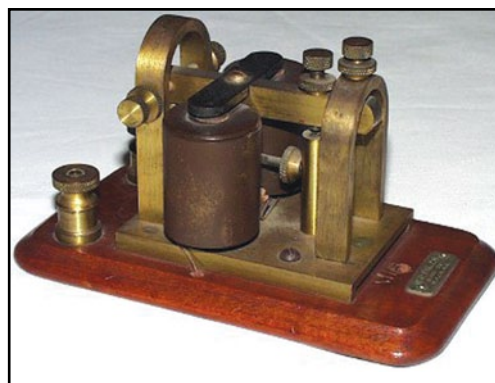
The text for this last American Morse translation is as follows,

"TO ALL WHO COME TO DISNEYLAND, WELCOME. HERE AGE RELIVES FOND MEMORIES OF THE PAST, AND HERE YOUTH MAY SAVOR THE CHALLENGE AND PROMISE OF THE FUTURE."

These are the beginning sentences of the original Disneyland Dedication Plaque. I am pleased with the results of this undertaking and was glad that Mr. Herrington was happy with the translations.

How did I learn American Morse? Forty to forty-five years ago I had several ham radio CW contacts with an old C&N Railroad Telegrapher and he was the person that piqued my interest in learning the American Morse code. He and I ended up having many QSOs using American Morse on 20 meter CW and to this day I always sign off not with a Continental "SK" pro-sign, dit, dit, dit, dah, dit, dah, but with the old American Morse "30" which was used at the end of a press release to indicate, "End of Story or End of Work."

DE K6DF Dit, dit, dit, dah, dit Dahhhhhhh.



Western Union Telegraph Sounder circa 1860 to 1881. This 4 ohm sounder would have been used on a secondary telegraph circuit and keyed by a main line telegraph relay. Photo by Dennis Franklin, K6DF, sounder from the author's telegraph collection.

FISTS Booth at Dayton

By Dennis, K6DF, #3076
& Karl, KB1DSB, #6938

Thursday May 14th started out as a cool overcast morning with a few drops of rain here and there on the windshield. Karl, KB1DSB, Dennis, K6DF, and Tim, AB4B, pulled into the exhibitor parking lot after riding together in Karl's truck from their Springfield accommodations. Tim and Dennis were eager to get out of the truck and get started, especially after listening to Karl's rendition of "Big Girls Don't Cry," "Sherry" and "Walk like a Man" (Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, classics) during the 20 mile ride from the motel. Throughout 3 ½ days Tim and Karl were attired in shorts and tee shirts, one would get the idea they came up from down south for Dayton, where the weather the first two days was damp and cool. The three of us went into the Hara Arena Conference & Exhibition Center and met up with Larry, KA8HFN, near the FISTS CW Club booth area.

Karl met with FISTS member Jamie, WW3S, also a Dayton staff member, to get everything set up for our booth. Thanks Jamie, your time and efforts were most appreciated. Things then progressed with the unloading of Karl's truck and setting up the FISTS booth. It took a little while to get things transferred from the truck to the booth. Karl had everything from the FISTS Store sorted and properly labeled in storage bins, which made things easy to move, sort, and find. Larry, Tim, Karl, and Dennis worked through the morning hours and into the early afternoon setting up the tables, organizing bin locations, hanging signs and t-shirts, to get the booth ready for the next three days. Once things were done we all headed out to relax and have some lunch. What each of us did not know was, the next two and a half days were going to be a blur of activity and no lunch for two of those days. . .

This was the first Dayton Hamvention experience for both Dennis and Karl and as such the two

of us were not quite sure what to expect. Early Friday morning Karl, Dennis, and Larry were joined by Henry, WD8Q, who had volunteered to work with us in the FISTS booth. Later in the morning Dirk, KG8JK, joined in the often harried worked in the booth. We really appreciated the incredible help from Larry, Henry, and Dirk ...they were simply the best help anyone could have asked for. After the doors to the convention center opened things started to happen quickly. People were constantly crowding around the booth and all of us were very busy chatting with club members and non-members. It was a great experience!

One of the items we had in the booth this year was something Terry, W1QF, suggested to Karl and it was an instant hit. We were providing the chance for anyone to become QLF certified. (QLF means to send with your left foot.) There were two straight keys wired to practice oscillators on the floor for people to try sending the following in CW, "KN0WCW de Their Call", with their left foot...and...if they succeeded they were presented with a freshly printed QLF certificate to hang on their radio shack wall! Everyone had a great time with this activity and Larry, KA8HFN, was the official examiner. I know Larry had a great time doing this and he was the perfect coach/examiner rolled into one. There were 113 QLF certificates issued including several to DX hams: F5AGB, VA3CO, VE3WMT, HI3B, DK5PZ, G4UDU, and UR5WA. This was a fun activity and I am sure this will be a fixture in next years FISTS CW Club booth.

Manning the FISTS booth at Dayton was really a lot of fun because it was great to put faces with so many of the hams we've worked on the air over the years. Many new and prospective hams gathered around the booth to ask questions and get information about FISTS, learning CW, and improving their CW skills. Many took advantage of the free K7QO Code Course CD's (over 350 sets given out)

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Dayton FISTS Booth (continued)

that were available as well as past issues of *The Key-note*. Hopefully these items will help them get on the air and enjoy the fun and excitement of using Morse code.

On all three days we processed over 100 membership renewals as well as signing up 43 new members. All the new members received their printed FISTS membership certificate along with their new member information packet. All Dayton new members and renewing members were instantly entered into the "Active Members" database, which was used on Sunday morning to draw names for 16 prizes to be given away.

Sunday brought a little relief in the form of a slight slow-down in the traffic at the booth. Many Dayton visitors seem to be already heading home or were outside at the swap meet to find some last minute bargains. This gave all of us in the booth, a little more time to chat with those that stopped by. At 11a.m. we held drawings for 4 each of the following items: Ten-Tec Eagles, Ten-Tec Patriots, Vibroplex Deluxe Vibrokeyers, and Vibroplex Deluxe Straight Keys. The lucky winners are listed below.

Ten-Tec Eagles to: N3KHK, KI7MH, W4EAB, and W4FLN.

Ten-Tec Patriots to: K8GIB, K0HEA, K7XH, and N4SNB.

Vibroplex Deluxe Vibrokeyers to: KJ6M, WA8DHP, AB8XA, and AI0F.

Vibroplex Deluxe Straight Keys to: NQ6Y, AI4SH, WG1L, and K3PSD.

Congratulations to all the prize winners!

Dayton was a learning experience. The event size, the crowds, larger than anything we had ever been involved with. We went away satisfied that we did all we could to promote FISTS CW Club. But, we learned that folks really were not shopping for our store wares when so many deals were there from other vendors and out in the flea market.

And, probably the biggest thing learned was that we just could not spend the time with everyone who stopped by for the very important "Eyeball QSOs." Please forgive us for that.

Sunday afternoon was spent taking down the booth, loading, and packing everything into Karl's truck. After a quick cleanup of the booth area we were ready to depart Hara's Arena and head for home...

Karl and Dennis want to thank everyone who helped make this years FISTS CW Club booth a great success. Larry, KA8HFN, for doing such a great job with all the QLF certifications, Henry, WD8Q, and Dirk, KG8JK, for all their time and effort talking with and signing up new and renewing members and answering a host of questions from all our visitors. Our thanks to Jamie, WW3S, for helping to get things set up properly for us on Friday. And last but not least Tim, AB4B for being such a workhorse getting the many tubs of FISTS items to and from Karl's truck. Many thanks to you all...

It was not an uneventful 8 hour drive from Dayton back to Alabama for Karl and Tim as they ran into several downpours from thunderstorms. They were probably grateful they did not have to listen to Dennis' silly jokes and strange questions any longer e.g., "Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got married... Why is abbreviation such a long word?" Dennis had a fun three-day drive back to California through snow, ice, and heavy rain from thunderstorms. Everyone arrived home safely and with good memories of Dayton Hamvention 2015. Our thanks to all who stopped by the booth, we enjoyed chatting with you and look forward to seeing you again next year.



“You Ain’t Nothing But Numbers Chasers!”

by Karl, KB1DSB

The above was the subject line of an e-mail that Nancy, WZ8C (SK), our chapter’s founding president received somewhere around 2005. The e-mailer went on about how FISTS members were discourteous to newcomers and only wanted more wallpaper for their shack. That e-mail really bothered her, and she regularly commented in *The KeyNote* about what FISTS really was all about. I want to repeat those here, so there is no mistaking what FISTS is really about.

The FISTS CW Club was founded by Geo, G3ZQS (SK) with the following basic principles:

- To further the use of Morse code on the bands.
- To encourage the newcomers to the mode.
- To engender friendships within the membership (and all others operating CW).

Our chapter upholds those principles. Every member is issued a FISTS number for life. We do give out awards for working FISTS members, and the exchange of FISTS numbers can be part of a QSO, but exchanging numbers should not be the sole purpose of a contact.

You create friendships and good will by exchanging information about yourself, beyond some number. Your age, your QTH, your rig and antenna, maybe your hobbies, how long a ham, the weather, etc. You know all the typical exchanges that are found in a QSO. And, of course, these are done at a speed the other party can copy. On more than one occasion I have had a reply to my calling “CQ FISTS” with “SRI not FISTS.” I returned to the party and followed with the usual progression of info in a QSO. I never gave it further thought that the individual was not a FISTS member. I logged another FB QSO, and that was what was really important.

So, I leave you with the following. If you joined the Americas Chapter of FISTS solely to chase numbers and add wallpaper to your shack wall, please reconsider. There are great friendships waiting to be made. They won’t occur if a QSO is ended because the other party is not a FISTS member or after FISTS numbers are exchanged. If you are only a member to chase those numbers and get that wallpaper, we will gladly refund your dues and end your membership in our Americas Chapter of FISTS. I do not want you to waste your money on dues to belong to an organization which is not all about chasing numbers and shack wallpaper.

Guide to the FISTS QSL Bureau

By Stan, K4UK

QSL Cards Handled by the FISTS QSL Bureau:

We handle QSL cards for FISTS Club Members, ONLY. We distribute cards for all our US, Canadian FISTS and chapter DX FISTS in North, Central and South America directly from the Bureau. QSL cards for contacts with all other DX FISTS members will be forward to the proper person in each FISTS Chapter. There is no longer a need to check a look-up list to see if a member uses the Bureau, as the Bureau will handle all cards for FISTS members sent to them.

DO NOT SEND CARDS for contacts that are NOT FISTS CLUB MEMBERS.

To Send QSL Cards Via the FISTS QSL Bureau:

To send your QSL cards to other FISTS members, simply bulk mail your QSL cards to the FISTS QSL Bureau. The bureau will sort the cards and forward them on. When we get 6 to 7 cards in an SASE with one ounce postage on it, we mail them. For those members who do not

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QSL Bureau (continued)

have a SASE on hand at the Bureau, we will mail out cards to them when 6-7 cards have accumulated for them, or semi-annually, on January 1st and July 1st.

To Receive QSL Cards Via the FISTS QSL Bureau:

To receive cards which are sent via the Bureau to you, we would like you to have SASE's on file with the bureau, however that is not absolutely necessary.

Method #1

Envelopes must be at least 4- $\frac{1}{8}$ " high and the #10 Business Size envelope (4- $\frac{1}{8}$ " \times 9- $\frac{1}{2}$ ") is preferred as they will work for nearly all QSL card sizes. Alternative envelope sizes are 5 \times 7 or 6 \times 9 brown envelopes.

Some members make their own QSL cards and quite a number of DX members send cards that are larger than the standard 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " \times 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ " QSL card size. The small personal sized envelopes cannot accommodate these larger cards without folding the QSL card or modifying the envelope. This can be very frustrating for the volunteers handling the cards at the bureau.

Again, if you want to send SASE's to the bureau, remember to send envelopes that have a height of at least 4 $\frac{1}{8}$ " \times 6", minimum.

Before Sending Your SASE's to the QSL Bureau:

Each SASE should have at least one ounce postage in the upper right hand corner. The best stamp to place on your SASE's is a "Forever" stamp, as that will insure your SASE's will not need extra postage when the postage increases. Put your address in the normal address portion of the envelope and print your call in LARGE letters in the upper left-hand corner.

When your SASE's are received at the bureau we will stamp the lower left hand corner of each SASE's with the following:

ENVELOPE _____ OF _____
SASE LEFT _____

This will indicate which envelope is being used and how many are left on hand.

Method #2

If you have trouble finding #10 business size envelopes, we will accept mailing labels with your address on them and stamps or money in lieu of SASE's. We will put your labels and your stamps on #10 envelopes which we will furnish from our stock. Or..

You can send us your mailing address along with funds to the Bureau via check or money order, payable to "FISTS QSL Bureau," and we will set up envelopes for you.

For Our Canadian, Central and South American Chapter Members:

All mail sent out from the Bureau must have U.S. postage stamps; therefore you will have to put U.S. stamps on your SASE's. Since obtaining U.S. stamps may be difficult, if not impossible, for some DX members, we suggest that you send SAE's (Self-Addressed-Envelopes) without stamps and some funds to cover the stamps we will obtain for you. Or, in order to minimize your costs, if you wish, we will accept mailing labels with your address on them in lieu of SAE's and will paste them on envelopes from our stock. Please include some funds with your labels to cover the stamps.

Such funds can be by check or money order (U.S. Dollars) or IRC's. Please make check and money orders payable to "FISTS QSL Bureau"

The current international postage rate for a one ounce letter is \$1.20 as of May 31, 2015. But these rates will continue to rise.

(continued, page 12)

QSL Bureau (continued)

Some Final Very Important Items:

The FISTS QSL Bureau will handle your outgoing FISTS cards and your incoming cards regardless of whether you choose to send envelopes, mailing labels and funds. Also, your membership does not have to be current to receive the services of our FISTS QSL Bureau. However, we do hope you will support your Bureau with envelopes, mailing labels and funds.

If you move and have SASE's at the Bureau, please notify the bureau of your new address.

If you move, notify the FCC of your new address. QRZ.com and other ham databases download from the FCC database. Beside the fact it required by the FCC, it keeps your address current for those wishing to QSL you, either via our FISTS QSL Bureau or directly.

QSL Bureau Mailing Address:
FISTS QSL Bureau
c/o Stan Reas, K4UK
1020 Long Island Dr
Moneta, VA 24121-1952

QSL Email:
k4uk@fistsna.org

Website Helps You Get UTC Right

By Graham Smith, G3ZOD FISTS #8385

It's common for ham radio activity dates and times to be given in UTC, and translating local dates and times, such as Eastern Daylight Time, to UTC can cause much head scratching. Even over here in England, while our standard time is UTC for part of the year, when we move to our daylight savings time (BST), even we become adrift from UTC. To help me get it right, I've long used an online converter for figuring out times. Given the date/time and 'from' and 'to' time zones, it spat out the converted date and time.

However, I've come across a website that works far better than this, giving a really helpful visualization of dates and times: World Time Buddy (<http://www.worldtimebuddy.com>).

You can choose which time zones you want shown, and it will remember this for future visits. Two of the club's activities that cause most confusion are the Summer Sprints, starting at 00:00 UTC on the first two Saturdays in July. If you plug in the start time of Saturday July 4th 00:00 on the UTC line, you'll see that the equivalent EDT date and time shows on the UTC line as July 3rd, 8 p.m. and over here in England the London (BST) equivalent is July 4th, 1 a.m., which appears on the third line.

So, now, you have no excuses not to be on time on for the Sprints or any other FISTS activities!



Annual Veterans Appreciation Operating Event 0001 GMT Nov. 10–2400 GMT Nov.12

Americas Chapter will be holding our Annual Veterans Appreciation Operating Event this fall. This three-day event is not a contest; it is an opportunity to get on the air and to chat with a veteran or fellow veteran. Ragchewing is definitely encouraged.

Note that these contacts can be applied toward the FISTS Military Appreciation Award. Please follow the instructions on the web site for the Military Appreciation Award submission. Your log will need to show the date and time, band, signal reports, call, name, FISTS number and branch of service of the veteran contacted. Logs only need to be submitted to the Awards Manager when you apply for the award. No other log submissions are required.

Please put this event on your calendar and remember to honor our veterans this November.

FISTS Photos

Photos from the 2015 Hamvention



FISTS CW Club Dayton Booth, Dennis K6DF (left) and Larry KA8HFN (right)



Henry WD8Q chatting with a renewing FISTS member



L-R: Dennis K6DF, Larry KA8HFN, and Karl KB1DSB at FISTS booth 2015



Dirk, KQ8JK, (right) qualifying for the QLF certificate, with examiner Larry, KA8HFN (left)

(continued, page 14)

FISTS Photos (continued)

Photos from the 2015 Hamvention (continued below)



Larry, KA8HFN, helps Moe AB8XA and XYL Barbara W8FCJ do their family renewal



Karen W4KRN earned her new QLF certificate at the 2015 Dayton FISTS booth

2015 Hamvention Drawing Winners



Allan Brown, W4EAB



Jim Wagner, NQ6Y

(continued, page 15)

FISTS Photos (continued)

2015 Hamvention Drawing Winners (continued)



Bruno Walczak, WA8DHP



John Fehr, KJ6M



Jim O'Rourke, WG1L



John Klim, N3KHK

SPRINT INFORMATION

FISTS Sprints are a great way to meet other FISTS members, collect FISTS numbers, and have a lot of fun. We hope to work you in the next FISTS SPRINT.

OBJECTIVE:

To exchange specified information with as many FISTS members as possible using Morse Code only, and within the time frame stipulated.

PARTICIPANTS:

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

DATE AND TIME:

Fall **SLOW SPEED SPRINT**—runs from 1700 to 2100 UTC on October 3, 2015

Fall **UNLIMITED SPRINT**—runs from 1700 UTC to 2100 UTC on October 10, 2015

Winter **SLOW SPEED SPRINT**—runs from 1700 UTC to 21 UTC on February 6, 2016

Winter **UNLIMITED SPRINT**—runs from 1700 UTC to 2100 UTC on February 13, 2016

BANDS:

Operation is limited to the following amateur bands: 3.5, 7, 14, 21, and 28 MHz amateur bands. Look for other participants around the FISTS frequencies: 3558, 7058, 14058, 21058, and 28058 kHz.

Work stations only once per band.

ENTRY CLASSES:

There are three entry classes: Club, QRO, and QRP.

QRO: Over 5 watts–100 watts output power. 100 watts is the maximum output power allowed.

QRP: 5 watts output power or less.

Club: (regardless of power).

Entry class **MUST** be shown on logs to be considered for entry in a particular class, or will be assumed QRO. An entry must be **ONE** class only, no combination of classes is allowed.

EXCHANGE:

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

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

Non-FISTS members: RST, U.S. state/Canadian province/DXCC country, first name, output power.

DX COUNTRY STATUS:

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

MULTIPLIERS:

Each U.S. state and Canadian province counts as 1 multiplier. Count each only once, no matter how many times worked. Each DXCC entity counts as 1 multiplier. Count each only once, no matter how many times worked.

SCORING:

Each QSO with a FISTS member: 5 QSO points.
Each QSO with a non-FISTS member: 2 QSO points.
Final score is total QSO points times multipliers.

CERTIFICATES:

Certificates will be awarded to the first, second, and third place finishers in each Entry Class.

LOG SUBMISSIONS:

All log entries must be received within 30 days after the Sprint to be considered valid. Logs not sent to the proper address will not be considered for entry. The logs will be spot checked for accuracy and correct scoring procedures.

All logs **MUST** contain the following information to be considered for entry: Your name and call sign. Club name if entry is for a club. Your FISTS number if a member. Entry class. Your claimed score. List of claimed multipliers. The entry form is the best way to record this information.

ELECTRONIC LOGS:

We accept electronic logs in standard Cabrillo format or ASCII text files. If you're not sure about your format, please contact me before the contest entry deadline. E-logs are sent to n2ed@fistsna.org ONLY.

PAPER LOGS:

Send log and forms to: FISTS Sprint Log, c/o Ed Wlodarski N2ED, 3 Shore Rd., Andover, NJ 07821-2240.

SUMMER SPRINT RESULTS

QRO Category

Call	Name	State	FISTS#	Total Qs	Score
AFOE	Alex	Co	14416	39	2856
KC2LSD	Cody	NJ	11793	17	803
K4BAI	John	GA	1742	15	792
K3ZGA	Bob	NC	17331	9	252
N6IET	Rick	CA	17247	6	180
N1DN	Phil	CT	14602	6	135
W4EAT	Carl	NC	6265	5	88
W8JPF	Joe	OH	17164	2	20
VE7GM	Brett	BC	12624	1	5

Slow Speed QRO Category

Call	Name	State	FISTS#	Total Qs	Score
N2ED	Ed	MK	2454	30	2142
K4BAI	John	GA	1742	22	1380
KE4S	Dave	VA	9731	16	748
K2HT	Dick	MO	11565	11	490
WA01YY	Ken	MO	Non-Member	9	360
N6IET	Rick	CA	17247	9	312
K6Df	Dennis	CA	3076	6	162

Slow Speed QRP Category

Call	Name	State	FISTS#	Total Qs	Score
AA0CL	Gary	MO	15785	6	135
KE5XV	Bill	TX	7681	5	125

Soapbox

KE5X—*Learned something about using my radio on CW. Lots of fun!*

K6DF—*Could not stay in the Sprint long but it was fun to work the SLOW Sprint, although some ops were still running a little faster than 13 WPM. I also called CQ FS on 15 and 10 meters with no takers. Worked a couple of new stations as well as some old friends, looking forward to the Sprint next weekend.*

AA0CL—*1st time operating QRP in a contest. No answers to any CQ. Next time 100. Back in 2013 you gave 5 points for QSO with FISTS. I'm counting that way.*

FISTS SPRINT ENTRY FORM

Entry Class: QRO _____ QRP _____ CLUB _____

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

CLUB Name _____ FISTS Club # _____

Name _____ Call sign _____ FISTS # _____

Address (Street, City, State, Zip Code) _____

E-mail Address (optional) _____

MULTIPLIER CHECK-OFF LIST

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

Please enclose paper logs ONLY, photos, comments, ideas, etc., with your entry and mail promptly to:

FISTS Sprint Logs

Ed Wlodarski N2ED
 3 Shore Rd.,
 Andover, NJ 07821-2240

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 sign _____

Comments:

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor,

I just got around to checking out the new digital version of **The KeyNote**. It's so much crisper and easier to read than the old paper version. The color photos are much better too. I was reading your 'Why CW?' list in Issue #1 2015 and would like to add some reasons that are important to me:

1. CW gives you the opportunity to work battery-powered QRP portable rigs in the field. This includes operating from the park or beach as well as Summits on the Air (SOTA) and Adventure Radio Society sprints.
2. Knowing CW is important if you like to build simple home-brew rigs and actually use them. There's nothing like making QSOs on a rig you built.
3. CW ops are, in general, more polite than Phone ops. I have yet to find some of the language and rudeness that appears to be rampant on the upper end of the 20m band with SSB or AM ops.
4. Not all of us have good radio voices. My friends say that I have a perfect voice for CW!
5. When the aliens invade Earth CW ops can save the world, because everyone knows that aliens don't know CW.

I will take some pictures and send you an article after my next beach ops day.

73, Will, AI4VE, FISTS #13555

Editor,

I would like to thank Tony, W1ZMB, and Stan, WB2LQF. for their article titled, "In Pursuit of the Ultimate CW Credential," in the 2012 Issue #4 **KeyNote**. In the article, Tony and Stan tell of their personal challenge, adventure, and feeling of accomplishment obtaining their FCC Commercial Radiotelegraph Certificate, which they described as "membership in a rather exclusive club." Before reading the article, I was completely unaware of these licenses.

Some months after the **KeyNote** article was published, the FCC consolidated the First and Second Class Radiotelegraph Certificates into a new license called the Radiotelegraph Operator License. Motivated by Tony and Stan's accomplishments I began studying and on December 21st, 2013 passed the exam at a Commercial Operator Licensing Examination Managers session in Mesa, AZ.

Many thanks to Tony and Stan for the interesting article and motivation!

Herb Maas, WØHM, FISTS #12406

**We need articles and reviews for
The KeyNote!**

Send your Word or text files to
keynote@fistsna.org

FISTS STORE

Make check payable to "FISTS Club." Mail your check along with your order to:

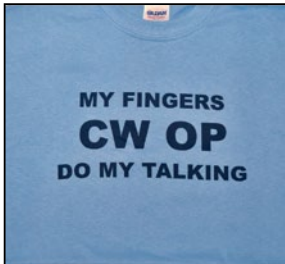
FISTS CW Club, c/o Dennis Franklin K6DF, 4658 Capitan Drive, Fremont, CA 94536-5448.

All prices listed include shipping in US only. For Canada, Mexico, and DX contact Dennis for additional shipping costs.

Shirts

NEW—My Fingers Do My Talking

Carolina Blue T-shirt by Gildan®. 100% heavy-weight cotton, no pocket.



Front



Back

SKU# NA017T

Cost is \$9 each, including postage

Sizes: M–XL

NEW— I'm Keeping It Alive On the Bands

Light gray T-shirt by Gildan®. 100% heavy-weight cotton, no pocket. Back has same image as My Fingers Do My Talking shirt.



SKU# NA018T

Cost is \$9 each, including postage

Sizes: M–3XL

White T-Shirt with Color FISTS Key Logo

Gildan® brand, 50/50 preshrunk, white color, no pocket. Color FISTS logo on front only.



SKU# NA015T

Cost is \$11 each including postage

Sizes: M–3XL

Light Blue Polo Shirt—FISTS CW Club Key Logo

Jerzees® brand, 50% cotton/50% polyester. FISTS logo embroidered over left breast, no pocket.



SKU# NA001P

Cost: \$15.50 each, including postage

Sizes: M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL

Reverse Vinyl Window Clings



FISTS CW Club Key Logo reverse vinyl window cling. 7 1/2" x 3 3/4"

SKU# NA009

Cost: \$1.00 each

FISTS STORE

Stickers



Metallic gold logo FISTS CW
Club sticker (left)
SKU# NA007
200/package
Cost: \$3.50

I ❤️ CW Stickers, 1" round
sticker (above right)

SKU# NA008
250/roll
Cost: \$9.00



I ❤️ CW, FISTS CW Club reverse
vinyl window cling.
3" diameter

SKU# NA010
Cost: \$1.00 each

Pins

FISTS CW CLUB Logo Pin



Pentagon, blue enamel,
cloisonne/gold metal, with
tie-tack-type pin on back.

SKU#NA005
Cost: \$1.50

"I ❤️ CW, FISTS CW Club" Pin



White $\frac{3}{4}$ " enamel cloisonne
pin with tie-tack-type pin on
back.

SKU# NA006
Cost: \$1.50

FISTS CW Club Key Logo Patch

Embroidered cloth patch. Can be ironed or
sewn on.



SKU# NA011
\$1.00 each

Mugs

I Let My Fingers Do My Talking Coffee Mug (NEW!)



11 oz, white and dishwasher safe. Has "The International Morse Preservation Society" with the FISTS CW Club Key logo on the back.

SKU# NA016CM
Cost: \$14.00

FISTS Travel Mug



This 12oz Travel Mug says
"I CW ❤️ FISTS CW Club."

SKU# NA013
Cost: \$5.50

Miscellaneous Items

The K7Q0 Code Course and K7Q0 Upgrade Project

The Code Course is a set of MP3 files designed to teach beginners the code. The Upgrade Training Project CD is the General Exam questions and answers sent in Morse Code. Please make sure your CD player or computer can play MP3 files!



SKU# NA012.
One 2-CD set \$3.50,
2 sets \$4.50,
3 sets \$5.50

TO JOIN OR RENEW YOUR FISTS MEMBERSHIP

If you live in North, South or Central America, you may join the Americas Chapter of FISTS. Membership is open to all people interested in Morse Code, irrespective of their speed and ability. You can download a North American membership application from:

<http://www.fistsna.org/pdfdocs/nafists.pdf>

or use the application form on the inside back cover of *The KeyNote*. You can also have an application e-mailed to you by sending your name and address to Jim Ranieri, AA9LS, aa9ls@turbotoads.com or mail a SASE to Jim at 33778 Rebecca Rd., Kingston IL 60145 and Jim will send you an application via return postal mail.

The membership fee to join or renew is \$15.00 per year for regular membership or \$10.00 per year for college students. This includes having *The KeyNote* mailed to you. You may join or renew for up to 5 years at one time. Family members of a current dues paying FISTS member may join and receive a membership number without paying additional dues, but only one issue of *The Keynote* will be mailed to a household.

The membership fee to join or renew as a regular member and receive *The KeyNote* electronically (PDF file) is \$10.00 per year. Again, you may join or renew for up to 5 years.

FISTS numbers are not reassigned, so if you had a number in the past and renew your membership, you will retain the same membership number.

If you are 65 to 79 years old, regular membership is \$10 per year, and you may renew for more than one year at \$10 per year. Please note your date of birth on your application/renewal that you include with your check or money order if renewing by mail, or in the comments section if paying by PayPal (see right).

If you are age 80 and older, or under age 18, or have a family membership, membership is free. If you qualify for a free renewal, please drop Dennis K6DF a note by email or by postal mail around the time of your renewal each year. Let us know you are still interested in CW and FISTS so we can update your membership info and keep you on the Active Members List.

To join or renew, send a check or money order with your membership fee, along with your membership application, to Dennis Franklin K6DF, 4658 Capitan Drive, Fremont, CA 94536-5448. Please make checks payable to "FISTS CW Club." Include your call sign and FISTS number (if you are currently a member) on the memo line.

If you wish to pay your membership fee using PayPal, go to <http://fistsna.org/howdoi.html>. Use the proper PayPal box (JOIN or RENEW) to select the number of years you wish to Join or Renew as a Regular, 65 to 80 year old member or Student member. Enter your CALL and NAME to JOIN or enter your CALL, NAME, and FISTS Number if RENEWING in the space provided. For the 65-79 age group also include your date of birth, please. Be sure to include your home mailing address if it is different from the one you use for PayPal. Then click "Pay Now."

For non-US applicants and renewals, please make sure checks, money orders and PayPal funds are in USD (US Dollars).



FISTS CW CLUB Membership Application/Renewal



For North, Central, and South America including all territories and islands.

Call sign _____ FISTS # _____ Name on the Air _____

Mailing Name and Address:

The following info provides a synopsis of members' working conditions:

Rig(s) _____

Antennas _____

Other club affiliations (ARLL, RSGB, etc.) _____

*Birthdate _____ Phone _____

E-mail address (if available) _____

Please check the appropriate box and enclose annual subscription in U.S. funds (pays for *The KeyNote* newsletters and awards).

Under age 18 or 80 & over—FREE*

College student or age 65 to 79—\$10.00*

Regular Membership with mailed *The Keynote*—\$15

Regular membership with PDF file download of *The KeyNote*—\$10.00**

Signature _____ Date _____

Please make checks payable to "FISTS CW CLUB" and send to:
Dennis Franklin, K6DF, 4658 Capitan Dr., Fremont, CA 94536-5448 USA

*Birthdate required

**E-mail address required

Americas Chapter, FISTS CW Club
c/o Dennis Franklin K6DF
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Fremont, CA 94536-5448
www.fistsna.org
webmaster@fistsna.org

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PLEASE LOOK AT YOUR RENEWAL DATE ON THE MAILING LABEL

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Issue #1: March 16, 2015
Issue #2: June 1, 2015
Issue #3: September 14, 2015
Issue #4: December 14, 2015

Send in your stories and photos for *The KeyNote!*



When you've worked a FISTS, you've worked a friend.