

The KeyNote



Newsletter of the Americas Chapter, FISTS CW Club—The International Morse Preservation Society
Issue #2, 2018

From the Editor

Congratulations and thanks to Joe Falcone N8TI for taking on the job of Americas Chapter President. It was Joe's idea to give a complementary two-year membership to all new members. He also offered a "one time" two-year membership extension to all members who had current dues from Jan. 1, 2017 to Aug. 15, 2018. Previous club members, whose dues are not current, may also ask for a free two-year membership.

Ed Wlodarski N2ED, our current Sprint Manager, has decided to retire from his Activities Manager position on Dec. 31, 2018. Thank you to Ed for all his past work on the Sprints. We will be looking for another Activities Manager in the months ahead. If anyone would like to take on the role of Americas Chapter Activities Manager, please contact Joe N8TI at the following email address: n8ti@fistsna.org.

It has been nice to get *The KeyNote* newsletters back into production. We are actively looking for a member to take on the Editor's position in the early months of 2019. If you have any experience related to producing newsletters, writing, and publishing we would be interested to hear from you. As editor, you will be working with Mary Cronin, who does an exceptional job with the layout and design of our newsletters. The editor will be required to collect articles and items for each newsletter, do some light editing and corrections. If you are interested in doing this, please send an email to Joe N8TI at n8ti@fistsna.org.

Please continue to send your newsletter articles and items in to the keynote@fistsna.org email address while we search for a new editor.

The Americas Chapter Management Team extends Happy Holiday wishes to all members and their families.

Editor

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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 email 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 email addresses have changed from the last reference issue of *The Key-Note*. Please make note of the following listings.

When emailing a volunteer please put the word FISTS in the title of your email. This will help the volunteer recognize that your email is important and not spam.

Awards and Certificates

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

Club Call, KNØWCW

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

Membership Questions; Renewals; Call Changes; Name, Mailing, and Email Address Changes

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

FISTS Store Manager

Will Dix, KF4IZE, fistsstore@fistsna.org
2028 Merrimac Dr., Fayetteville, NC 28304-2619

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

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

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

Dale Holloway, K4EQ, keynote@fistsna.org

The KeyNote

The Newsletter of the Americas Chapter of FISTS

Issue #2, 2018

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Send articles to:

keynote@fistsna.org

Design: Mary Cronin

www.marycronindesign.com

Americas Chapter, President's Message

By Joe Falcone, N8TI

The FISTS CW Club is starting to come to life. We have been receiving new membership applications almost daily. Many hams have been showing up on Facebook and looking at our website.

That being said, we are having some trouble getting activity on the bands. There is not much FISTS activity on the FISTS Frequencies. In fact, we are being killed on 7.058 by the RTTY people. The other day, during a RTTY contest, I heard them all the way down to 7.030.

One of the names of our club is the "Morse Code Preservation Society." The original idea of FISTS was to increase CW activity. Back when FISTS was formed, many hams who wanted to communicate with people in faraway lands were finding that SSB was doing the job and CW was old fashioned. As a result, CW activity was dropping. As a result, FISTS was formed to ensure that CW did not fade away.

Then, cell phones and the internet came along and the thrill of speaking to people over the radio dropped off somewhat, given that anyone can pick up a phone or hook a microphone into a computer and speak to anyone in the world. As a result, CW was seen as a challenge and more interesting to many hams. New CW clubs were formed, such as SKCC, for example. The new clubs were internet-based and did not have dues. They grew and it seemed that CW was no longer in danger.

However, some of the new clubs seemed to fall into primarily collecting club numbers and CW QSOs were more like contest QSOs instead of actual conversations via CW. Of course, all of their

members love CW and that is the greatest thing ever. I am a member of those clubs. For example, SKCC got a whole bunch of people interested in sending CW via straight keys and bugs and that accomplishment is nothing less than wonderful.

The problem that FISTS is facing right now is that we FISTS members may have forgotten why we joined FISTS. I believe that most of us joined because we were interested in communicating by Morse Code. We like the challenge of CW and feel that it is just plain fun to get on the radio and listen to the sweet sound of Morse Code through the static. Unfortunately, we are just not getting on the air. The FISTS Frequencies are dead most of the time.

I am asking all of you FISTS members to do your best to get on the air and call CQ on the FISTS Frequencies. Every time you are on the air, just tune to one of our Frequencies and give a shout. If you are ever just hanging about the radio shack, tune to one of our Frequencies and just listen to it in the background. If you hear a "CQ FISTS," return the call.

I know that all of us are busy nowadays. If we are working, we only have a few hours a day for our families and ourselves. For those of us who are retired, we want to spend as much time as possible with our families. As a result, radio takes a back seat to our daily lives. There is certainly nothing wrong with that much of the time. I believe, however, that if you turn on that radio for even a few minutes a week, you will see that working your fellow FISTS via CW is just a lot of fun and well worth missing a little TV or reading something on the internet.

We should all do our part to preserve CW. The best way to preserve CW and our FISTS Frequencies is to get on the air on the FISTS Frequencies. I hope to hear you on. Remember, We are FISTS!

73, Joe N8TI

FISTS Presentation Program

By Joe Spencer, KK5NA

Many FISTS members have questions about what the FISTS presentation is all about. It is a simple presentation that provides a lot of information about FISTS in a short time. Its purpose is to tell people who we are, how the club got started, what our activities and purposes are, and to dispel misconceptions about the organization and its members. It also gives information about the member accessories program, how the club is funded, and the popular *KeyNote* newsletter.

Most people use the presentation in the form of a PowerPoint presentation. Presentation time averages just 15 to 30 minutes. It has been given to many groups and has been well-received. It has generated very favorable responses from both newcomers and veterans, and has resulted in many new members.

With the presentation I also send a sample copy of *The KeyNote* and an informational tri-fold brochure in PDF form that you can print out for your presentation. You are encouraged to present the material extemporaneously and to stress facets of particular interest to you.

If you are unable to use the PowerPoint version, the presentation is also available in the form of 16 colorful framed transparencies for overhead projector use, plus a script you can use to deliver the detailed information. All that is needed is an overhead projector and a screen.

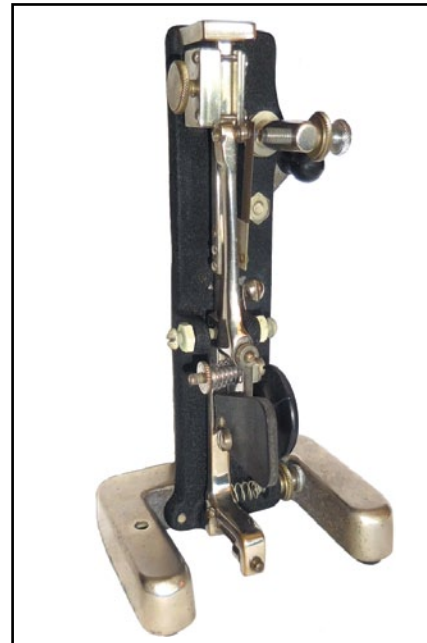
Contact me for a copy at kk5na@kk5na.com.

Joe, KK5NA

Vibroplex “Wire Chief’s” Key

Dennis Franklin, K6DF

This is a 1918 Vibroplex “Wire Chief’s” vertical key. Vibroplex only made a limited number of these as telegraphers wanted a key that would not take up much room on their desk. So far, about 29 of these are known to exist.



The Vibroplex “Wire Chief’s” Key

It was a bit difficult to get this adjusted so it operated properly, but I now have it working very well. Adjustments are very touchy. With the weight all the way out on the vibrating arm, this key will not send any slower than 28 to 30 WPM. I plan to devise some sort of clip-on weight to allow me to put this on the air and have some QSOs with it during future FISTS events.

73, Dennis, K6DF

WELCOME NEW FISTS AMERICAS CHAPTER MEMBERS

| Call | FISTS# | First Name | S/P/C | Call | FISTS# | First Name | S/P/C |
|--------|--------|------------|-------|--------|--------|------------|-------|
| KS5X | 18771 | Tom | AZ | AF4OV | 18811 | Ted | GA |
| VE2NGO | 18772 | Nick | QC | NB5Q | 18812 | Tom | NM |
| KC2ABB | 18773 | Bert | NY | N5RWF | 18813 | Richard | OK |
| WP3PW | 18774 | Jose | PR | W7INF | 18814 | Robert | WA |
| K4DXX | 18775 | William | GA | K7PK | 18815 | William | WA |
| KE8ISD | 18776 | Waye | MI | N1BTC | 18816 | Brad | WI |
| KF7Y | 18777 | Carlton | WA | AA5OY | 18817 | Robert | LA |
| W5TFW | 18778 | Richard | MS | KM6MYF | 18818 | Dave | CA |
| W8LGZ | 18779 | Jim | OH | K6MAA | 18819 | Alex | CA |
| W1WJ | 18780 | Carl | TX | AD4WL | 18820 | Gaylon | KY |
| KC9BNW | 18781 | William | IL | KD9KZ | 18821 | Will | IL |
| KC5NAV | 18782 | Keith | TX | AA5HL | 18822 | David | TX |
| NB0X | 18783 | Matthew | CA | AC1BS | 18823 | Milton | ME |
| WB8HRO | 18784 | Timothy | MI | K7III | 18824 | Jason | WA |
| NM5Z | 18785 | David | MS | VE5YAK | 18825 | Carla | SK |
| W6IET | 18786 | John | CA | W7RF | 18826 | Daniel | CO |
| KG4WAE | 18787 | Charles | NC | K5DEL | 18827 | David | AR |
| AG5AY | 18788 | Jerry | LA | K9DRP | 18828 | Don | IL |
| N1CWV | 18789 | Scott | CT | WA5AFD | 18829 | Gerald | OK |
| YV6BXN | 18790 | Ismael | | N8YRE | 18830 | Jon | OH |
| W0MUD | 18791 | Travis | OR | N8MME | 18831 | David | MI |
| KC3LKG | 18792 | James | PA | WB3KYJ | 18832 | Brent | AL |
| W9FOG | 18793 | David | CA | N2NOW | 18833 | Rich | NY |
| W2ADW | 18794 | Adrian | WA | WX0UFO | 18834 | Club | MO |
| KM4WYJ | 18795 | Robert | VA | KD5RJZ | 18835 | Mike | OK |
| K4RCW | 18796 | Tommy | AL | W7AHX | 18836 | Ken | WA |
| AJ6EV | 18797 | Jason | CA | KB2QIU | 18837 | Jerry | NY |
| AA6MK | 18798 | Mike | CA | W6JN | 18838 | Michael | CA |
| KE8DON | 18799 | Max | MI | WD0JB | 18839 | James | MO |
| AF5XB | 18800 | Roy | MS | W4GOT | 18840 | Paul | FL |
| NB4F | 18802 | Robert | GA | AC2MV | 18841 | Michael | NJ |
| AC5RN | 18803 | Mark | TX | K0IP | 18842 | John | ID |
| K4JAZ | 18804 | Paul | AL | WX4K | 18843 | Gregg | NC |
| W9REA | 18805 | Richard | IN | W5FB | 18844 | Asa | VA |
| KK4SER | 18806 | Robert | FL | KC5TTY | 18845 | Stephen | OK |
| KJ4J | 18807 | James | NC | AF0U | 18846 | Josh | WI |
| KN4GYS | 18808 | William | NC | K3OLN | 18847 | Ron | OR |
| WA4WDV | 18809 | Alex | FL | KE8GKO | 18848 | Jody | OH |
| K4WLO | 18810 | Larry | TN | WH6FQE | 18849 | RC | HI |

(continued on page 6)

New Members (continued)

| Call | FISTS# | First Name | S/P/C |
|--------|--------|------------|-------|
| K0AE | 18850 | John | CO |
| AC0ZU | 18901 | Gene | KS |
| WX2PAT | 18902 | Patrick | SC |
| K0XM | 18903 | Chuck | KS |
| KI5WA | 18904 | Horace | TX |
| AD4PM | 18905 | Bob | NC |
| W9YAP | 18906 | Kevin | IL |
| KA2DDI | 18907 | George | NJ |
| KB2RWC | 18908 | Giselda | NJ |
| KB2RBA | 18909 | Clinton | NJ |
| N8KIJ | 18910 | John | MI |
| AD8WR | 18911 | Dave | MI |
| WX1E | 18912 | Joseph | MA |
| N5BXN | 18913 | Bob | MO |
| W0UM | 18914 | Kat | CO |
| N4LCV | 18915 | Randall | SC |
| WA0CIE | 18916 | Butch | DE |
| W7ACP | 18917 | Mike | ID |
| KB0CSA | 18918 | Chris | CA |
| N5DJH | 18919 | David | OK |
| W7RAN | 18920 | Randy | WA |
| AE4DD | 18921 | Don | GA |
| KM5VJ | 18922 | Allen | TX |
| KX4ND | 18923 | Joseph | NC |
| VE3CQH | 18924 | Charles | ON |
| AA4MB | 18925 | Matt | TN |
| N9HTL | 18926 | Art | IA |

From Aug. 11, 2018 to Oct. 31, 2018

FISTS AWARDS

By Dennis, K6DF

Congratulations to all who earned operating awards in September and October.

FISTS award certificates are sent out to current dues paying members free of charge, so I

urge all of the new members to get on the air and start making contacts. If you are having a hard time tracking your QSOs for FISTS awards, consider using the “FREE” FISTS awards tracking and logging program, Log Converter.

Graham G3ZOD, the author of Log Converter, is constantly providing updates and improvements to the program. This program will track your FISTS awards automatically and allow you to send in your award logs to the FISTS Awards Manager at the click of a button! You can also use this program for general logging as well. The best thing about it it's FREE! The Log Converter is available for download on the FISTS web site. Look for the download link on the Americas Chapter main web page just below the “Welcome New Members” list.

Be sure to check the Americas Chapter web pages for up-to-date awards information and how to apply for them:

www.fistsna.org/awards.html

If you have any awards questions please feel free to e-mail me at: awards@fistsna.org.

I wish you and your family Happy Holidays.
73, Dennis K6DF ..._. _____ (30)

FISTS AWARDS ISSUED: Sep. 1, 2018–Oct. 31, 2018

Century Award: DL3HR

Diamond Award: AB0BM

Spectrum 20mtr Award: K6DF

2 Million Award: EA6BB

6 & 7 Million Award: K6DF

8 Million Award: AB0BM – K6DF

9 10 11 12 13 Million Stickers: K6DF

Novice Days

By Dennis Franklin, K6DF (FISTS #3076)

Sometimes I sit and think back on the many enjoyable and fun-filled days when I operated with my Novice call WN6JVZ. This was a time when Novice call holders were required to use crystal-controlled transmitters and a maximum of 75 watts input power. Being crystal-controlled created one small problem. After you called CQ, you needed to tune your receiver up and down from your transmitting frequency to listen for other Novice stations calling you who did not have the same crystal frequency as yours. This problem also made it a bit difficult to have three and four-way QSOs as well as a Novice CW net. The Novice license was good for only one year and was non-renewable.

It was very common to hear one station in a QSO but not hear the other. One station might be on 7.163 MHz and the other might be on 7.177. To copy an entire QSO involved tuning your receiver to each station when they were transmitting. Answering a CQ was done by sending the station's call sign several times in order to allow him time to tune through the Novice band to hear your reply. I know this does not sound easy, and it wasn't, but we made it work and we made QSOs.

My Novice station during this time period consisted of a National NC-270 receiver, a Johnson Viking Adventurer transmitter that put out about 50 to 60 watts, a handful of FT-243 crystals for 40 and 15 meters, and an old WWII Navy flameproof straight key. It was a very modest setup by today's standards, but one that made a lot of QSOs for me and many good memories.

Sometimes a particular QSO will stick in your mind such as one that happened over 47 years ago. In December of 1970, I was using one of my three 15-meter Novice band crystals to call

CQ on 21.135 MHz. I sent CQ quite a number of times with no replies. Almost ready to turn off the rigs and quit for the afternoon, I decided to try one more CQ. This time I received an answer but I was having a little trouble getting the call sign. The prefix appeared to be gibberish and all I copied was 3JO. I sent QRZ a few times but still could not make out a WN, W, or K as the prefix, yet I easily copied 3JO. Strange! I decided to try one more time and only copy what I heard. What I wrote down was ZL3JO! What or where was a ZL3? I knew it was DX, but where? This was going to be my first DX contact. Suddenly the temperature in the room seemed to go up about 20 degrees. I started to sweat, and my key was making lots of mistakes!

ZL3JO turned out to be Matt in Timaru, New Zealand. Matt was very patient with me and slowed down a bit so I would get good copy. He told me to slow down and relax. With Matt's patience and guidance, this was one of my longest QSOs up to that date and also one of the most interesting. I made it all the way to sending 73 and SK at the end of our QSO. That is how my very first DX QSO went. Over the years I've listened for Matt on the bands but sadly never had another QSO with ZL3JO. Matt is now a Silent Key, but I always think back on this QSO with very fond memories. Thanks again, Matt.

I write this with the hope to inspire you to take a little time and patience while working our new CW operators. Give them a QSO that might be one they will remember in 20 or 30 years and think it was one of the best they ever had. This is what Amateur Radio is all about.

Dennis Franklin, K6DF

240 KW ERP: One Teaspoon at a Time

By Karl Schulte, WA2KBZ

Long ago, in the early 1970s, I was assigned to optimize and build a large domestic and international HF system in a Middle Eastern country. With sea shore on three sides and plains and mountains, internal communications were difficult then (but now quite modern). With unfriendly countries around, especially across the northern sea and at the eastern border, communication links from the capital to outlying cities and towns were essential. Motorola had designed an HF network of 100- and 1,000-watt land stations. One KW station was dedicated to maritime defense liaison.

The biggest set was the 12 KW Gates SW communications and broadcast transmitter with a pair of National HRO500 receivers at a remote site. The transmitter was on a small mountain top just outside the capital as were all the other transmitters. A small microwave and digital scanner/modem banks accomplished audio and control links to the remote receiver site. The system was used for voice, RTTY, and CW. Most was encrypted. The big rig connected embassies around the world as well as certain friends in faraway places. Quite a system! But one day, after all seemed to be working well, we had yet to actually talk to anyone on the 12 KW setup. We had a big demonstration the next day at the remote site, and my friend, Rick, and I had concerns. We wanted solid evidence that it was getting out.

The problem was that we had no receiver, mic or key on the mountain. Then, I remembered my little portable transistor radio I had built. It was a Mohican with a whip antenna

and about 2 μ V sensitivity—okay for casual shortwave listening on broadcast, SSB, and CW. Now for a key. Some searching found a teaspoon from the small site kitchen, some wire, tape, and the earphone plug I had in my kit.

In a few minutes we whipped up a crude CW key and started up the 12 KW, which was an exacting process. When all was set, we had to laugh. Talk about an alligator site! A little SWL set with a 5-foot antenna inside a concrete building mated to a 12 KW transmitter. And, as if that was not silly enough, it was connected to a 13 dB 3-30 MHz log periodic. We had it set for Europe and the USA, but sunspots were low, near zero. To save you the math, that's 12,000 times 10 times 2, or 240,000 watts ERP. Well, we sent out a CQ using a national ham call sign. A note on this: there was no ham radio allowed then in that country, but we had clearance from the head of the FCC equivalent, plus the ruling official. Tapping away on my spoon key, I signed "K" and turned receiver back on. There were about 20 stations calling me! It seemed that 240 KW ERP does get out! Well, it seemed that no one believed us until I asked a German ham and an English one to share beam headings and it matched our QTH. Then the fun started in earnest. But after a few dozen or so QSO's, we had to QRT.

The funny end of the story was the next day at the big VIP demo for the president equivalent, ministers, generals, etc. I was asked if I would mind doing a demonstration of ham radio for the leaders and VIPs. They again authorized a ham call and I proceeded to work all over Europe and Africa on 20 meters, now using the HRO500s on receive. I never got less than a 40 dB over S9 report. It

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240 KW ERP (continued)

was fun, then it was over. The officials were ready to begin the process of allowing ham radio in their country. Seeing and learning what we had just talk about—radios, antennas and so on—had erased the suspicion that hams were secret agents. Rick and I explained how useful ham radio is in emergencies and as a source of radio experts. They were very accepting.

Today, ham radio lives in that country and Rick and I were the first legal (well, sort of—the power was a bit high, unless in California) hams, for a day, in that ancient land.

Karl Schultz, WA2KBZ

A Special CW Net

By David Cornell, W9LD (FISTS #6764)

There are various reasons for forming a network of stations on the ham radio bands. Frequently, they are for traffic handling, emergency preparedness or sharing announcements for a local radio club. This article describes a net for the special purpose of gathering friends by virtue of their former employment and/or religious affiliation. The group had its genesis in the Amateur Radio club at Principia College in Elsah, Illinois. The club name is the Principia Amateur Wireless Society (PAWS). The net that evolved operates CW only, and is called the PAWS CW net. If you wonder how such a net operates today, read on.

Net membership is small, consisting of about four or five regular participants. While the net met weekly for a decade or more, it recently changed to meet monthly. The net meeting time is 10:00 p.m. Eastern time on the first Thursday

of the month. This is evening time across the USA, later in the east. The net frequency is 7112 kHz, which avoids QRM lower in the band. It also provides a reliable radio path between most pairs of participants. Net operation is semi-formal and courteous. A net control station (NCS) calls CQ PAWS and invites check-ins with the QNI signal. During operation, the NCS sets up a rotation among the checked-in group. Few Q signals figure in the operation, but QSP is used to relay as necessary. The net meeting usually lasts 30–45 minutes, closing with QNF from the NCS.

Here are brief bios for the most frequent participants:

Perry Ballinger, W8AU, a U.S. Navy veteran and former Telecom Engineer, maintains WWII radio and radar equipment aboard Navy Memorial ship USS LST325, which is home-ported on the Ohio River at Evansville, Indiana. He is part of the crew that travels with the ship during annual cruises, operating amateur station WW2LST. As ship's chaplain, he provides devotional and ceremonial services. The ship docks at selected ports for tours. When time permits, he operates HF using 33-foot verticals or a 275' mast-to-bow inverted L.

Dale Lang, AA1SZ, is former director of the physical plant at Principia College, Elsah, Illinois. While there, he helped to maintain the repeater antenna on campus. He and his family are frequently on the road to visit family members from Massachusetts to California. Living in Rio Rico, Arizona, Dale gives updates on the progress of the summer monsoons from the desert below Tucson. Dale uses an 80-meter loop antenna which tunes and radiates well on the HF bands.

Ben Brown, WB1D, taught physics at Principia College for several years. He is an experienced experimental physicist in the field of

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A Special CW Net (continued)

positron physics. While at Principia College he spearheaded the effort to upgrade the equipment at PAWS club station N9YN. Currently, he and his wife crew their sailing craft, the Cheval, a 46-foot sailing boat. When they check into the PAWS CW net, they may do so from ports from the coasts of Maine, Florida, or the Bahamas.

Dave Cornell, W9LD, made his professional career teaching at Principia College from 1964 to 2007. During the early years, Ben was his student, and completed an experimental physics research project under Dave's supervision. After retiring from full-time teaching, Dave moved with his wife, Linda, to Washington State to live closer to the location where a granddaughter arrived in 2007. After moving into a retirement community, Dave moved HF operation to operate remotely via RCForb client software (RemoteHams.com.) If you have questions, feel free to address them to Dave W9LD at davidcornell123@comcast.com.

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

**NOTE: Image files need to be high resolution
JPGs or 300 dpi TIF files at least 5" wide.**

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



You Have a Story to Tell!

How did you get into ham radios? When did you learn Morse Code and how? What was an interesting event that you experienced using Morse Code? Do you have some unusual equipment you want to tell members about?

We want to hear your story, but if you are a shy author, you may find an article written by Dale Halloway, K4EQ, in a previous issue can help you put that story together. That article now resides on our web site at:

<https://www.fistsna.org/pdffdocs/Keynote%20Writer's%20Guide.pdf>

Don't be shy. Tell us your story!

FISTS SUMMER AND FALL 2018 SPRINT RESULTS

FISTS Summer Slow Sprint Results

NO LOGS RECEIVED

FISTS Summer Unlimited Spring Results

QRO Category

| Call | Name | State | FISTS# | Points | Score |
|--------|----------|-------|--------|--------|-------|
| K2HT | Dick | MO | 11565 | 10 | 20 |
| KB2PLW | Randolph | FL | 2348 | 10 | 20 |
| AA7CU | Al | AZ | 14241 | 5 | 5 |

Club Category—NO LOGS RECEIVED

QRP Category

| Call | Name | State | FISTS# | Points | Score |
|-------|---------|-------|--------|--------|-------|
| K3JZD | Jody | PA | 17513 | 17 | 68 |
| NS3C | Richard | CA | 17864 | 15 | 45 |

SOAPBOX

| Call | Comments |
|------|-----------------------------------|
| K2HT | <i>Horrible band condo in MO.</i> |

FISTS Fall Slow Sprint Results

QRO Category

| Call | Name | State | FISTS# | Points | Score |
|-------|--------|-------|--------|--------|-------|
| WBOB | Larry | IA | 2916 | 42 | 462 |
| K6DF | Dennis | CA | 3076 | 32 | 288 |
| N5XGG | Joe | TX | 9974 | 14 | 56 |
| WD5RS | Russ | TX | 9162 | 12 | 36 |

Club & QRP Categories—NO LOGS RECEIVED

SOAPBOX

| Call | Comments |
|------|--|
| K6DF | <i>WX overcast and the morning dew was making the power pole insulators arc all morning. Later in the Sprint the high noise level went away and I had some very nice QSOs.</i> |

FISTS Fall Unlimited Sprint Results

QRO Category

| Call | Name | State | FISTS# | Points | Score |
|-------|--------|-------|--------|--------|-------|
| N2ED | Ed | NJ | 2454 | 233 | 6990 |
| K5YQF | Cecil | TX | 8077 | 60 | 840 |
| N5XGG | Joe | TX | 9974 | 20 | 140 |
| K6DF | Dennis | CA | 3076 | 12 | 36 |
| WI5H | Mike | TX | 16705 | 5 | 5 |

Club & QRP Categories—NO LOGS RECEIVED

SOAPBOX

| Call | Comments |
|-------|---|
| K5YQF | <i>Well I was hoping for better; everything was working but the propagation. Only 8 members from 18 QSOs in 3½ hrs. At least a tree branch didn't take out my antenna like happened to Dennis, K6DF. Still, looking forward to the next Sprint—and to FISTS Friday in November. CUL</i> |

N2ED *The first hour was very slow but picked up later, worked several "18000" members. Good to see the new members are getting on!*

K6DF *Only got to work a little at the end of the Sprint. Arrived at our ranch to see a large tree branch had taken out my inverted Vees. Spent most of the Sprint using a chainsaw instead of a key. Got the antennas back up and in a useful condition for the last half hour. First QSO was an old friend, Cecil K5YQF. 73, Dennis K6DF*

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:

WINTER SLOW SPEED SPRINT—runs from 1700 UTC to 2100 UTC on February 2, 2019

WINTER UNLIMITED SPRINT—runs from 1700 UTC to 2100 UTC on February 9, 2019

SPRING SLOW SPEED SPRINT—runs from 1700 UTC to 2100 UTC on May 4, 2019

SPRING UNLIMITED SPRINT—runs from 1700 UTC to 2100 UTC on May 11, 2019

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 kc21sd@fistsna.org ONLY.

PAPER LOGS:

Send log and forms to: FISTS Sprint Log, c/o Cody Codianni KC2LSD, 413 Martin Court, Leonardo, NJ 07737-1317

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

Cody Codianni KC2LSD
413 Martin Court
Leonardo, NJ 07737-1317

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:

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.

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.

Please Note: Changes to Americas Chapter Membership Dues.

1. A “one time” extension of two FREE years membership has been added to all expired memberships from Jan. 1, 2017 to Aug. 15, 2018, due to no *KeyNote* newsletters being produced during that time frame. This two-year extension started on Aug. 15, 2018.
2. All paid memberships as of Aug. 15, 2018 will receive a “one-time” FREE extension of two years membership.
3. Any previous members with lapsed dues (not included in item 1 or 2 above), that wish to renew their membership, may ask for and receive a “one time” two-year FREE extension of membership, with down-loaded newsletters.

4. If you wish to join FISTS as a “new Member,” you will receive a FREE “one time” two-year complementary membership with down-loaded newsletters.
5. If you are 80 years old and over, you will receive a FREE “Life Time” membership.

Offers 1, 2, 3, and 4 above expire on Aug. 15, 2020.

To take advantage of these offers, send email with your Call, Name, Address, and Telephone Number to: Dennis K6DF, FISTS Membership Manager at membership@fistsna.org.

DO NOT SEND ANY DUES PAYMENTS!



FISTS CW CLUB Membership Application/Renewal



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

Call sign _____ NEW Member or Renewal, Enter FISTS # _____

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ ZIP+4 _____ Phone _____

Rig (optional) _____

Other club affiliations (optional—ARRL, RSGB, etc.) _____

A User Name and Password will be sent to the e-mail address you provide below to give you access to current On-Line Newsletters as well as Member Only Areas of the FISTS CW Club web site.

E-Mail _____

Regular Membership—**On-Line** Newsletters*

Family Membership—Please provide the Name, Call, and FISTS # of the member.

Name _____ Call _____ FISTS # _____

Under Age 18-FREE Membership—Birthdate Required mm/yyyy _____

Over Age 80-FREE Membership—Birthdate Required mm/yyyy _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Send application to:
FISTS CW CLUB
c/o Dennis Franklin, K6DF
4658 Capitan Dr.
Fremont, CA 94536 USA

*E-Mail required
09/24/2015

Americas Chapter, FISTS CW Club
300 Town Center, Suite 2370
Southfield, MI 48075
www.fistsna.org
webmaster@fistsna.org

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #212
ANN ARBOR, MI 48103

You Can Find Your Renewal Date on the Mailing Label
Or On the Following Web Page:

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

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

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

