

The KeyNote



Newsletter of the Americas Chapter, FISTS CW Club—The International Morse Preservation Society
Issue 4, 2020

First Contact: Will Humans Be Ready?

By Bryan Bergeron, NU1N

As we were reminded in the movie, *Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home* (1986), both Voyager 1 and 2 satellites carry a message in Morse Code. The short, inspirational recording, encoded on a golden phonograph disc, is part of a collection of images and sounds directed at extraterrestrials. Presumably, one day in the future, aliens from some other solar system will make their way to earth. Assuming they come in peace—or even understand the concept—they will likely make use of the Morse Code recordings to reach out and attempt to communicate with us.

One of the many questions, of course, is whether anyone on earth at the time will possess enough of a working knowledge of Morse Code to respond meaningfully to the aliens. Given the current trajectory of Morse Code competence, it's uncertain whether there will be any hams or other enthusiasts with more than an academic understanding of Morse Code, akin to our current understanding and use of Latin in everyday life. It's uncertain how long organizations dedicated to Morse Code, such as FISTS, will exist. Given that there is no longer a government feeder system for developing Morse Code talent for military and related activities, enthusiasts will have to create and maintain their own Morse Code competence training systems.

As most readers will recognize, most, if not all of the activities hosted by FISTS are focused on those very ends. Contests are a popular method of

spurring on activity for short, intense periods. This newsletter provides a means of communicating to thousands of members at a time. But where do we go from here? What can we do, now, to insure someone will be able to answer those aliens 10, 20 or 100 years from now? Will we have to employ some form of time travel to pluck a ham out of, say, 1960 and transport him or her centuries into the future? More likely, success will come from current hams spreading the word on Morse Code and doing what they can to support the use of Morse Code in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) programs in high school and college. Do you have any ideas you'd like to share with readers on other routes to success?

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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

Joe Falcone, N8TI, fistsstore@fistsna.org
9880 Musch Road, Brighton, MI 48116

Activities Manager

"Vacant"

If interested email to:

Joe Falcone N8TI fistsstore@fistsna.org

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

Dennis Franklin, K6DF, webmasater@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

E-logs to sprintlogs@fistsna.org
Mail Logs to: FISTS Sprint Logs
4658 Capitan Drive, Fremont, CA 94536

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

Bryan Bergeron, NU1N, keynote@fistsna.org

**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**

The KeyNote

The Newsletter of the Americas Chapter of FISTS

Issue 4, 2020

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Send articles to:

keynote@fistsna.org

Design: Mary Cronin

Americas Chapter, President's Message

By Joe Falcone, N8TI

Most of us in the Northern part of the country try to spend as much time as possible outdoors during the warmer summer months. When fall and then winter finally come around, we look to indoor pursuits on which to spend our free time. Of course, if you are reading this, one of your favorite activities must be ham radio. I know that the radio room is looking more inviting every day as the chill in the air here in Michigan starts to move in.

What I intend to do this winter is use the older radios I have. I have several "hollow state" radios that I have not turned on very much lately. The solid state radios are just so easy to use, that the older radios are sometimes ignored. It seems that when you can push one button to turn on the radio, a second button to switch bands and a third button to have the automatic antenna tuner give you an almost perfect match to your antenna, why go through the trouble of turning all of the dials on the older radios to get to the same place?

The only problem with that reasoning is that if I look back at the happiest times in my radio hobby, they were when I was using the older radios. For example, I used to have my Hallicrafters SX 101 and HT-32 boat anchors set up in my basement. Every Saturday morning, I would fire those radios up and work CW on 40 meters. You had to turn some dials to get things

just right. The sound would come out of the old Hallicrafters speaker and it was quite thrilling to be using radios that were almost as old as I was. However, I moved and never got them set up again. As a result, I have to admit, ham radio has been a little less exciting. It was hard to pull those stations out of the air using the older equipment. The mechanical Dow Keys, switching the antenna input from the receiver to the transmitter and then back again gave you proof positive that you had started or stopped transmitting. No full break-in for those radios. It was just a lot of fun.

That is not to say that solid state radios cannot be fun to use. In fact, there are a lot of "hybrid" radios out there for not much money where the receivers are solid state and the transmitting portion have tubes. They light up and spread some heat.

In today's world, we don't need to communicate by radio and Morse Code. We can simply pick up our cell phones and call anywhere in the world, often times for free. The computer allows us to communicate with people with face-to-face video. So, barring emergencies, why use the radio? Because it is just a lot of fun. We have fun thinking about how we are going to set up our stations and antennas and then we have fun actually getting on the air and seeing if our stations can reel signals sent hundreds and even thousands of miles away. Our imaginations can take over as a substitute for a face to face video.

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President's Message (continued)

There is nothing wrong with being involved in ham radio just for the fun of it. We don't have to justify why we enjoy our radios. Just like people ride horses, paddle canoes or ride bicycles, all of which are old fashioned means of transportation, we can use Morse Code with our radios, old or new, simply for the fun of it.

73, de Joe N8TI

Emotionally Intelligent Communications: Is the Mode That Important?

By Bryan Bergeron, NU1N

As I write this in late November of 2020, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has recommended that we hunker down in semi-solitary confinement. While some of us make do with Zoom and the telephone, others board aircraft in order to share face-to-face time with loved ones. It's obvious that a phone call or even a video chat—a far-out technology in the comic books of my youth—just can't make up for being close enough to “reach out and touch someone.” But is the mode of communications that important?

I'm considering, of course, the meaningfulness of a conversation carried out between two hams in CW over, say, 40 meters. I contend that the closeness of the emotional bond created during the exchange isn't necessarily limited to the bandwidth (and therefore the modality) of the communications. Sure, a video link can show facial expressions, and even slight inflections and changes of tone in voice communications can reveal the actual thoughts behind the words. That said, emotionally intelligent interfaces aren't limited to real or computer-generated characters.

But I contend that, given the proper, supportive context, even seemingly sterile communications through CW can be satisfying and a meaningful way of sharing thoughts and experience. For example, imagine the setting: It's 5:00am on a crisp December morning. You have a mug of hot coffee in one fist and the main tuning knob of your vintage communications receiver in the other. You scan the band and, hearing a CQ, grab your straight key and respond. The signal is weak, but you're up for the challenge.

Five minutes later, you've got all the particulars on the ham at the other end: his or her name, QTH, rig parameters, perhaps age and even occupation. You know that, whatever the information you've gleaned from the conversation, you share a love for CW. Politics, epidemics, and all of the other causes for subdivision fade away. At least for now, you're on the same wavelength, literally and figuratively, and you really can't ask for more than that.

So, in some respects, limiting communications to the very focus of our interest guarantees an emotionally intelligent (i.e., meaningful) interaction. We can all visualize the ham sitting at his station, working his keyer and receiver. We can visualize his antenna, say a homebrew tri-bander, and fondly think back to the time we built our own from aluminum stock. We might have flashes of an ice storm that took out that antenna and made way for a less ostentatious vertical. All of these passing thoughts triggered by a few almost sentences sent by CW from someone hundreds or thousands of miles away.

Thanks, in part to regular telephone conversations with family and coworkers, and in part to new friends I've made over the past six months on 40m CW, I haven't felt alone or the least bit isolated. I welcome a return to normalcy, but don't want to lose the new friends that I've made in those early morning QSO's. Stay well.

WELCOME NEW FISTS AMERICAS CHAPTER MEMBERS

Call	FISTS#	First Name	S/P/C	Call	FISTS#	First Name	S/P/C
KG4DWT	20335	Wiley	NC	WB8JAY	20424	Dan	OH
KA5GIS	20336	Carol	AR	W1SSS	20425	Leo	MA
N5NYB	20337	Jaime	TX	KD2MLY	20426	Joseph	NY
K4EGP	20338	Edward	NC	W5TS	20427	Scott	TX
NC0U	20339	Fred	VA	KO4API	20428	Justin	GA
KD5TXX	20340	Ed	KY	W1LEN	20429	Len	FL
KI5JVH	20341	Juan	TX	K0XTC	20430	Tom	NE
KO4AQI	20342	Daniel	FL	W4ZEE	20431	Darrell	FL
NA1VT	20343	Andy	VT	NI4D	20432	Carl	TN
WQ8P	20344	Nathaniel	FL	WA1BXY	20433	Don	RI
VE3SIF	20345	Ron	ON	AG5ZA	20434	Burke	LA
KA1ZFY	20346	Steve	ME	AD6PR	20435	Larry	CA
NT4TS	20347	Michael	GA	KC9MJA	20436	Dan	MO
KI5KNA	20348	David	AR	AA1FE	20437	Donald	RI
W0YN	20349	Dan	MN	W5THC	20438	Mark	TX
K4JPN	20400	Steve	GA	K1BR	20439	Tim	ME
VA3RSA	20401	Richard	ON	AB1CD	20440	Hillary	SC
KC2SJ	20402	Frank	NJ	KN4ZXG	20441	Ted	VA
KC4T	20403	Mark	GA	WA8NJP	20442	Charles	OH
N9GXR	20404	Ed	MI	KB1JWZ	20443	William	MA
N9XCK	20405	Danny	WI	KM4TUO	20444	Stewart	FL
K7PD	20406	Delbert	UT	WQ2H	20445	James	NH
WB1LLY	20407	Billy	GA	K4EMU	20446	Bill	SC
N0YSQ	20408	Gary	MO	K6WXV	20447	Jerry	CA
KE0VPG	20409	John	MN	K4DQP	20448	Darcy	SC
KA3NAM	20410	Joe	KS	N0DUC	20449	Don	CO
WB2UOB	20411	Bill	NY	N1ZTB	20450	Erik	MA
KG5DNF	20412	John	AR	AG5SK	20451	Bill	TX
AA8IB	20413	Rob	OH	KA9PMD	20452	Scott	TN
N9GVP	20414	Thomas	IL	KE8OIB	20453	Logan	OH
K6FA	20415	David	CA	VE6RL	20454	Robert	AB
KM8AM	20416	Kenneth	OH	KE8PMN	20455	James	OH
NR5R	20417	Noel	TX	K7DRQ	20456	Quentin	WA
KB1FY	20418	Dexter	FL	KO4BGC	20457	Brent	SC
KA3DFK	20419	Charles	PA	NN4EE	20458	Robert	GA
KK7XV	20420	Ed	AZ	N3ZU	20459	David	CA
W3JJB	20421	John	PA	KI4KXO	20460	Danny	GA
VA1CC	20422	Brian	NS	W4BNR	20461	Frazier	NC
W0RDE	20423	Leif	MO				

(continued on page 6)

New Members (continued)

Call	FISTS#	First Name	S/P/C	Call	FISTS#	First Name	S/P/C
KV4ZA	20462	Michael	TN	KA3WVF	20500	Waymond	MD
KD4IZ	20463	John	MD	AC9XO	20501	Scott	IL
NR3DT	20464	Club	MD	AC1DV	20502	Michael	RI
WJ8J	20465	Chuck	AL	VE3KAE	20503	Alan	ON
K4SOW	20466	Steve	AL	KD8ZPX	20504	Andrew	MI
VE2FG	20467	Michel	QB	KJ7NYW	20505	Philip	WA
W1AFP	20468	Rob	MA	WA9SWW	20506	Steve	IL
KM4SK	20469	Evan	VA	KF0BVG	20507	Andrew	NE
K4CUE	20470	Dick	VA	VA3GGB	20508	Gary	ON
KE0ALG	20471	Timothy	CO	K7GYR	20509	Stephen	MT
AD5RX	20472	Jon	CA	KI2N	20510	Mark	NY
VA2YZX	20473	Sylvain	QB	W5NRE	20511	Ryan	FL
K5LNR	20474	Paul	TX	K4GHO	20512	Gary	FL
K9VYH	20475	John	IL	N0HBJ	20513	Buck	CO
AI4PL	20476	Jim	GA	KB2FSB	20514	Lloyd	NY
KI7NRI	20477	David	WA	KX4YG	20515	Jennifer	TN
W4WLC	20478	David	FL	KO4GPH	20516	James	KY
KO4GQS	20479	James	AL	K1WZD	20517	Terry	VT
KB5HSC	20480	Bryan	TX	WW1ZRD	20518	Jacques	ME
WB1BXJ	20481	Roger	CT	W4QBA	20519	Manny	GA
K6HZR	20482	Jose	CA	KF0CEH	20520	Joe	CO
WA3LXD	20483	David	FL	W7WOY	20521	Ron	AZ
KD2QDD	20484	Donald	NY	VE3TEF	20522	Tom	ON
KG1U	20485	Michael	MA	K7MOJ	20523	Louise	OR
VE9AS	20486	Richard	NB	AC6GO	20524	Robert	CA
W4QYV	20487	Avery	SC	N5SEZ	20525	Ray	NE
KE8PAI	20488	Ai Loan	OH	W2KJB	20526	Ken	NY
N0IPA	20489	Jim	CO	KM6IGY	20527	Brian	CA
KC4ONU	20490	Joe	TN	WH2ACT	20528	Brian	TX
K5EIS	20491	Thomas	TX	WJ0M	20529	William	WI
NK4O	20492	Andrew	FL	KI5DYC	20530	Mark	TX
KI5JCO	20493	Joseph	OK	KC0O	20531	Marlin	PA
AE1N	20494	Layne	NH	KB2SVD	20532	Leon	NJ
AD2BE	20495	Harold	NY	W8RQM	20533	Gerald	MI
KM6NEP	20496	Stephen	CA	KT4WA	20534	Israel	FL
KD9KHA	20497	Andy	IL	KO4IZG	20535	Hezekiah	VA
HK6W	20498	Jaime	DX	KJ7PXL	20536	Amy	NV
N9ITO	20499	Jim	IL				

(continued on page 7)

New Members (continued)

Call	FISTS#	First Name	S/P/C
WA3NZA	20537	Joseph	TX
K8QR	20538	Yi	OH
AE5C	20539	Allen	OK
W6SLA	20540	Patrick	CA
AB1LF	20541	Brent	MA
VA7HA	20542	Allan	BC
KB1EF	20543	Edgar	ME
KØVD	20544	Sam	TX
VE6TMJ	20545	Brent	AB
N4TTJ	20546	Pat	FL
K1RAE	20547	Rick	ME

August 16, 2020–November 15, 2020

FISTS AWARDS

By Dennis K6DF

Congratulations to all who earned operating awards from Aug. 16, 2020 to Nov. 15, 2020.

As we move forward and into 2021, all issued award certificates will be available for members to download, in PDF format from the Members Area of the Americas Chapter website, to their own computer for printing. Issued awards will no longer be mailed. A list of awards issued to your call/member-number is available in the Members Area. Americas Chapter members may log into this page from the following web page: www.fistsna.org/memlogon.php.

I'd like to encourage our members to get on the air while we are all spending more time indoors over the next few winter months. Work to finish some of those awards you started way back when and maybe make some new CW friends in the process.

New members can earn a free FISTS Club Key Patch for making their first 10-minute CW QSO with any FISTS member on any band, so get on the air and make your first 10-minute QSO with a FISTS member to earn your free KEY Patch!

New Member Patches Earned:

W1BLU David—QSO with W5TEN
W6AOY Harold—QSO with WA6SVX
K7TRT David—QSO with K6DF

We have a list of new members shown elsewhere in this issue of *The KeyNote*. Please listen for them on the bands and help them to earn their FISTS Key Patch!

Award certificates are available free to all club members, in PDF format, so dust off those keys and get on the air and start making contacts. Try using the free “Log Converter” program to track your club awards, and it's also a good general logging program as well. The author of Log Converter, Graham G3ZOD, is constantly providing updates and improvements to the program. This program was last updated on November 3, 2020 to version 4.0.4. This FREE software 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! The best thing about it is...it's FREE! Log Converter is available for download on the Americas Chapter web site. Look for the download link on the main web page just below the “Welcome New Members” list.

Be sure to check the Americas Chapter web pages for updated awards information and how to apply for them: www.fistsna.org/awards.html.

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FISTS Awards (continued)

If you have any award questions or suggestions, send e-mail to me at: awards@fistsna.org.

I hope you and yours have a safe, healthy, and Happy Holiday Season.

73, Dennis K6DF ..._. _____ (30)

FISTS AWARDS ISSUED: Aug 16, 2020–Nov 15, 2020

Century Award: G3WGE, IW2JJS, IK7UKF, HK5NLJ

Silver Award: WI5H, OK2VWB, IU0HMB

Gold Award: WI5H, OK2VWB

Millionaire Award: IZ2ESV, G3JRH, ON6PJ, IW2JJS, IK7UKF

2 Million Award: M0GSX, ON7ZH, DL3HR

3 Million Award: VE9VIC, G4PRL, IU0HMB

4 Million Award: VE9VIC

5 Million Award: IK0IXI, DD7CW

8 & 9 Million Award: WI5H

12 Million Award: G4LHI, FG8NY

13, 14, 15 Million Award: FG8NY

21 Million Award: OK1KW

RCC 2M Award: M0GSX

Spectrum Award: OK2VWB, IZ2FME, IK2WAD

Spectrum 40M: IK0IXI

Spectrum 20M: MI0WWB

Perpetual Prefix Award: PA3HEN, FG8NY, OK2VWB, IW2JJS, IZ2FME

Prefix 50 Sticker: PA3HEN, FG8NY, IW2JJS, IU0HMB

Prefix 100 Sticker: IU0HMB

Americas Chapter *KeyNote* Newsletters

Starting in 2021, we will transition to on-line PDF newsletters that can be downloaded by the membership. This change is due to rising costs for printing and postage. We will no longer have our newsletters commercially printed, collated, and mailed via the USPS. We will still produce *The Keynote* newsletter four times a year in the months of March, June, September, and December.

Knowing that some of our members are not on-line, we will offer them a \$25 yearly subscription rate for a US-mailed newsletter and \$35 per year to those chapter members not in the USA. Because we will need a volunteer member to print newsletters on their home printer, collate, and mail them, we will limit mailed *KeyNote* subscriptions ONLY to those members who do not have Internet access. If you have Internet access, please DO NOT ask for mailed newsletters!

Mailed newsletter subscriptions are from January to December each year and pro-rated at the following rates:

\$25.00 US members, \$35 Non US, if paid by February to receive 4 issues starting with the March issue.

\$18.75 US member, \$26.24 Non US, if paid by May to receive 3 issues starting with the June issue.

\$12.50 US members, \$17.50 Non US, if paid by August to receive 2 issues starting with the September issue.

\$6.25 US members, \$8.75 Non US, if paid by November to receive 1 issue starting with the December issue.

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KeyNote Newsletters (continued)

These subscription rates may change in the future if postage costs increase.

Those chapter members that do not have Internet service and wish a subscription for a mailed newsletter can send a check or postal money order made out to "FISTS CW Club" to the following address:

FISTS CW Club Newsletter
c/o Dennis Franklin
4658 Capitan Drive
Fremont, CA 94536

DO NOT send more than the amounts shown in the chart above for the month you mail your subscription. If you send more than the subscription fee, it will be returned to you unprocessed.

HOW TO LEARN CW

By Bryan Bergeron, NU1N

If you've picked up your amateur radio license in the past dozen years, then there was no CW component of the test, and you may not know CW. However, whether or not removing the code component of the FCC test was a good thing for the amateur radio hobby, there is merit in learning and using CW. Why?

Well, there are the often touted practical and theoretical technical benefits of CW over SSB and some forms of digital communications: minimal bandwidth and power requirements; simplicity of transmitter and receiver circuitry; relative immunity from noise; and security and privacy.

My chief practical reason for using CW over voice is the ability to operate in the early morning without disturbing anyone. Straight keys and iambic paddles don't make much noise compared with loud verbal discussion using a microphone. That said, my primary reason for using CW isn't practical or logical—I simply enjoy it.

It's fun decoding a noisy signal from the crud and then using a quality straight key or iambic keyer to connect with the operator on the other end of the signal chain.

So, let's say you're at least intrigued with the possibility of using CW as a radio amateur. What are the best ways to get up to speed?

Well, you'll need to address both sending and receiving CW. To learn to send CW, you'll need a straight key, an audible oscillator, and a pair of ear buds or headphones. For receiving, you could rely on a receiver tuned to W1AW, one of the many YouTube CW communications videos, or, better still, a dedicated CW training device or any number of apps for your smartphone or laptop.

For sending, my recommendation is to pick up an affordable straight key/practice oscillator combination. The best I've used is the Japanese made High-Mound TC-701 Practice Key, available for \$53 from Morse Express (morsex.com).

Unlike most key/oscillator combinations, the TC-701 is based on a regular key, but with a code oscillator built into the base. When you're done learning to send CW, you can easily remove the oscillator circuit and use the key with your HF transceiver. A slightly cheaper option is the MFJ-557 code practice oscillator/key. It's about double the size of the TC-701, but it's cheaper at \$50 from MFJ (mfjenterprises.com).

Although it's more challenging than using a straight key, you could also start learning to send CW by using an iambic keyer and an

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How to Learn CW (continued)

iambic practice oscillator. Check out Morse Express for a variety of iambic keyers. eBay is, of course, another option.

For the iambic oscillator, the most affordable option I've used is an electronic keyer module from www.electrosales.com (\$18). The website provides full schematics and printed circuit board layouts for each practice oscillator model. If price is no object, then consider the MFJ-407E Deluxe Electronic Keyer with Memory available from Amazon; ham radio stores; and the manufacturer, MFJ, for \$120. The MFJ-407E is a desktop unit with a self-contained speaker and easy-to-use front control knobs for volume, speed, tone, and weight.

For learning to receive CW, my all-time favorite is another MFJ product: the MFJ-418 Pocket Morse Code Tutor. About the size of a deck of cards, this unit with LCD screen and internal 9V battery is \$110 from MFJ, but turns up regularly on eBay for less.

It's simple to use. I can turn it on and listen to a simulated CW communication in about a second—less time that it would take me to find an app icon on my cell phone.

For the latest in full-featured electronic tutoring for CW, my pick is Morse-IT by ICOM. I'm running version 8.1.1 on my iPhone and iPads, and it's by far the most feature packed, easy-to-use Morse Code training app available. At \$5 from the App Store, it's still a bargain, even compared with the free Morse tutoring apps.

I keep the app on my cell phone for practice on long trips. Because it can use any text file as an input, the content never grows stale.

So, there you have it. Technology aids are readily available. All you need is the discipline to spend 10-20 minutes/day practicing and you'll soon be able to send and receive CW at 10-15 WPM.



MFJ Deluxe Electronic Keyer with Memory



Fall 2020 Sprint Results

FISTS Fall Slow Sprint Results

QRO Category

Call	Name	State	FISTS#	QSOs	Mem	Non-Mem	Points	Mults	Score
K6DF	Dennis	CA	3076	13	2	11	32	10	320
W5RES	Paul	NM	19964	1	1	0	5	1	5
KB9OLD	Steve	WI	4609	1	1	0	5	1	5

Club Category

Call	Name	State	FISTS#	QSOs	Mem	Non-Mem	Points	Mults	Score
KNOWCW	Cody	NJ	10000	6	5	1	27	6	162

QRP Category—No logs received

FISTS Fall Unlimited Sprint Results

QRO Category

Call	Name	State	FISTS#	QSOs	Mem	Non-Mem	Points	Mults	Score
K6DF	Dennis	CA	3076	15	9	6	57	11	627
WI5H	Mike	TX	16705	13	4	9	38	9	342
KA8HFN	Larry	OH	11631	11	6	5	40	8	320
KF4AAF	Chris	FL	5480	8	4	4	28	6	168

Club Category—No logs received

QRP Category—No logs received



NEW SPRINT INFORMATION

Sprints will be held eight times throughout the year on the first Saturday and third Sunday in each of the following months: Feb., May, and Aug., with the exception of Nov., which will be the second Saturday and third Sunday.

OBJECTIVE:

To exchange specified information with as many FISTS members as possible using Morse Code only, and within the time frame stipulated. Sprints are a great opportunity for our newer members to get on the air, meet other club members, and have some fun! We encourage more experienced operators to please QRS to match the other operator's speed.

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.

DATES AND TIMES:

WINTER SATURDAY SPRINT: from 1600 UTC to 1800 UTC on first Saturday in February.

WINTER SUNDAY SPRINT: from 2100 UTC to 2300 UTC on third Sunday in February.

SPRING SATURDAY SPRINT: from 1600 UTC to 1800 UTC on first Saturday in May.

SPRING SUNDAY SPRINT: from 2100 UTC to 2300 UTC on third Sunday in May.

SUMMER SATURDAY SPRINT: from 1600 UTC to 1800 UTC on first Saturday in August.

SUMMER SUNDAY SPRINT: from 2100 UC to 2300 UTC on third Sunday in August.

FALL SATURDAY SPRINT: from 1600 UTC to 1800 UTC on SECOND Saturday in November.

FALL SUNDAY SPRINT: from 2100 UTC to 2300 UTC on third Sunday in November.

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. You may NOT work the same station more than once.

ENTRY CLASSES:

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

1. QRO: Over 5 watts to legal limit.
2. QRP: 5 watts output power or less.
3. 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 allowed.

EXCHANGE:

The following information must be exchanged by both stations and shown in your log for each QSO to count as a valid QSO:

FISTS members: RST, S/P/C, first name, FISTS number. *Non-FISTS members:* RST, S/P/C, first name. (Enter "0" Zero if your logging program requires a power entry for non-members.) S/P/C = U.S. State/Canadian Province/DXCC Country

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 (50) and Canadian province (13) counts as 1 multiplier. Count each only once, no matter how many times worked. Each DXCC country counts as 1 multiplier. Count each only once, no matter how many times worked. Canada and the USA do not count as DX multipliers.

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 the number of multipliers worked.

(continued on page 14)

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

4658 Capitan Drive
Fremont, CA 94536-5448

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:

New Sprint Information (continued)

CERTIFICATES:

Certificates will be awarded to the first, second, and third place finishers in each Sprint for each Entry Class. End-of-Year Certificates will be awarded ONLY to FISTS members with the highest cumulative point totals in the QRO, QRP and Club categories for all Sprints at the end of the year. Certificate will be sent to the winners via email in PDF format.

LOG SUBMISSIONS:

All log entries must be received within 14 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 for entry:

1. Your name, call sign, mailing address, and FISTS Number if member.
2. Club name and call sign if entry is for a club station.
3. Sprint worked—Date of the Sprint worked.
4. Entry class—QRO, QRP, or Club.
5. Number of FISTS members worked.
6. Number of Non-FISTS worked.
7. FISTS Number for FISTS QSO's.
8. List of multipliers.
9. Your claimed score.

An entry Form is available here and on the FISTS website at:

fistsna.org/pdfdocs/sprint_entry_form_rev2.pdf

ELECTRONIC LOGS:

We will accept electronic logs in standard Cabrillo or ASCII Text File format. If you're not sure about your format, please contact the Sprint Manager before the contest entry deadline. E-logs are sent to: sprintlogs@fistsna.org ONLY.

PAPER LOGS:

Send log and entry form to: FISTS Sprint Log, 4658 Capitan Drive, Fremont, CA 94536-5448.

CHANGES COMING JAN. 1, 2021 TO AMERICAS CHAPTER MEMBERSHIPS

All Americas Chapter memberships will be dues-free.

- Expired memberships will be changed to Life memberships on Jan 1, 2021.
- Current paid memberships that expire this year will be changed to Life memberships on their expiration date.
- All New Memberships received after April 2, 2020 will be entered as Life memberships.

Details about printed/mailed newsletter subscriptions appear earlier in this *KeyNote*.

Miscellaneous

New Membership Applications

Notice that we no longer require a printed membership application. Instead please send an e-mail with your Name, Call, Mailing Address, and e-mail address to:

FISTS Membership Manager
Dennis K6DF
membership@fistsna.org

FISTS Awards Change

NOTE: As stated earlier in the newsletter, awards will NOT be mailed to Americas Chapter members, but will be available in PDF format for members to download in the Members area of the FISTS-NA website:

www.fistsna.org/memlogon.php

Notice

The 2021 Nancy Kott Memorial Event will take place from 00:01 UTC Saturday April 10 to 23:59 UTC on Sunday April 11. Web info for this event is available on:

www.fistsna.org/operating.html#nkf



Happy Holidays!

All of us on the staff of *The KeyNote* wish you and your family a safe, healthy and happy holiday season and, hopefully, a much better 2021!

Americas Chapter, FISTS CW Club
3000 Town Center, Suite 2370
Southfield, MI 48075
www.fistsna.org
webmaster@fistsna.org

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ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ANN ARBOR, MI
PERMIT #229

FISTS CW Club
Americas Chapter

Send in your stories and photos for *The KeyNote!*
keynote@fistsna.org

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

