



# KEY NOTE

Sec: E. (Geo) Longden. G3ZQS. 119 Cemetery Rd., DARWEN, Lancs. BB3 2LZ. England. 0254 703948

**Listings:** Ed N7CFA 2628 Lilac St Longview WA 98632 Corrections & Callsign changes appreciated. SASE for updated list

**Supply Manager:** Irene WO8E 25206 Hayes Roseville MI 48066. FISTS logo lapel pins \$3.50 Logo stickers 200 for \$5.00 postpaid

**North American QSL Manager:** John N8FU 4441 Andreas Ave Cincinnati OH 45211. PSE keep couple SASE's on file to get your cards.

**Family Plan:** All CW folk at the same address can join for one subscription fee with full privileges, but only one Keynote will be mailed per household. **Subscriptions** are \$15 US to Nancy POB 47 Hadley MI 48440-0048

**NETS:**

Sunday : 2000Z on 14058. KE3NV  
Saturday: 7.058 KE3NV 2400Z(7pmEST)  
Slow Traffic Net/Tues/Thurs 9pm EST 3.682  
Slow Speed QSO Group W8B1 3.720 8pm  
Also call CQ FISTS:14/21/28.058 on the hour  
Pse keep watch all Novice allocations

*When You've Worked A FISTS, You've Worked a Friend*

## North American Memo

## FISTS Photobook



EMAIL via  
CompuServe -  
73631, 3654

by WZ8C - Ms. Nancy Kott  
P.O. Box 47  
Hadley, Michigan 48440-0047  
WZ8C @ KF&JS.#NEMI.MI.USA.NA  
Phone : 1-810-797-5388

Happy Holidays FISTS! First, let me thank you for all the get-well wishes! They came via every mode of communication available: landline, snailmail, packet, Email, CW and radio-grams. It was fun to get the messages thru the traffic service!

I feel bad that I worried you and didn't print my story last month to elicit sympathy (tho it was nice to hear you care, hi). I just wanted everyone to know what was going on in case there are delays with the Keynote or in answering your mail.

I went to the cardiac Dr. yesterday for my "month-out-of-hospital visit". They did an EKG and echocardiogram and declared me to be A-OK! (or as they say at the bacon factory, I'm cured: or as they say at the duck farm, I got a clean bill of health...can you tell I've been getting some comy get well cards, hi?). The fluid is gone, the heart enlargement is gone and the muscle they thought might be damaged seems to be recovering. I am very very lucky and very thankful! He cut my blood pressure medication in half, and scheduled me for a thallium stress test at the end of January, to see how things are pumping and give us a base line for the future. I talk with the virus Dr next week to find out which virus caused all this ruckus!

So, on with the Keynote.....

I'm glad the page from the photobook met with such positive response! NO ! It isn't too late to get your photo included ! That was just the first page of what we hope will be many. It takes about 30 photos to fill a page, so we will print a page as it gets filled. When 2 or 3 pages are complete, WK8F will make up an index, probably callbook style, of the callsigns included and it's corresponding number. Also a title page is planned so you can put it in a folder and it will look FB. The photo doesn't have to be anything professional or fancy, just a snapshot where your head shows up about an inch in size is great. The background will be cut out, so the photo cannot be returned. Seems like everyone is always taking photos during the holidays so make a point to be in the photo and let someone else take your picture for a change. Then don't forget to get the film developed and send it in to WK8F 25206 Hayes Roseville MI 48066. [You will note this is the same address you use to contact WO8E for stickers and FISTS logo-lapel pins.] This book can only be a success if everyone does their part. I'm hoping Geo will help us get photos from across the pond to make it even more interesting.

### Help: grounding with coax

Moral of the story : Save your KeyNotes! (oops, the moral is supposed to come at the end of the story isn't it?) Alan wrote, asking for help finding an article that was in a Keynote a year or more ago. He wants to improve the grounding of his second floor shack, but has considerable distance to cover to find a cold water connection. In the issue he is interested in there was a description of a grounding system using coax cable. He understands the coax part, but can't remember the value of the capacitor used or how important this value is.

Does this sound familiar to anyone? It's just recently I started archiving the Keynotes, so my own collection of back issues is spotty and this doesn't ring a bell at all with me. If you have the article, pse send Alan the info: 421 Suffolk Rd Flourtown PA 19031 - or send it to me and I'll rerun it in a future issue, sounds like good information! Thanks!

## QUESTIONS

Periodically I get letters with questions about the terms and abbreviations used in the Keynote. They were starting to pile up so I thought I would take a minute and see if I can shed some light on them. Some I don't have the answer to, so if anyone can help, drop me a line. Here goes:

*What is Rad Com?* This is a British magazine called Radio Communications. It's not devoted totally to ham radio, but it's about the closest they have to CQ across the Pond. I've seen their booth at the Dayton Ham-vention so I know subscriptions are available to NA but I don't have any info about it.

*What does VMT mean?* Geo uses this a lot. It stands for Very Many Thanks.

*What does ARF mean?* Pete K8OJA signs his traffic column off with "ARF from the traffic hound". This is just a "funny" - he's barking, which is what a hound does, traffic or rabbit.

*Who is GX0IPX/P?* GX0IPX is a British issued club callsign for FISTS. Geo can use it without a suffix because it is issued in his name. A British FISTS member may use the callsign (in England) with a " /P " meaning "portable". We cannot use the callsign here, even tho we are FISTS members because it's against FCC regulations.

*Do we have a US/Canadian Club Call?* No. There has been some discussion about applying for one, but I really don't think it would be practical. With the NA members numbering over 500 already, it would be very difficult to keep track of who is using it...and I think it might get out of hand. You are welcome to write and try to change my mind though!

*Is there a code character for < or > (less than or greater than) or ! (exclamation point)?* I don't know of any, does anyone know one?

*What does EMC stand for?* I don't know this one either.

In the Oct issue of page 4 - top left of page I typed in the letter "U" instead of "TU" which stands for Thank You. This was a typo and not a new abbreviation! The same thing probably goes for QRF, which was probably a typo for Petes ARF or QLF, which is a "joke" meaning sending with your left foot, when someone is sending hard to copy code.

Hope this clears up some fuzzies, LMK (Let Me Know) if there are any more and we'll try and help!

### Sunday QSO Party

11/12: Check-ins: WP2T, AE4AZ, AE2L, KC4OCS, N4VEF, K4SV, WA0RSX.

11/19: Check-ins: KB7ATV, N4VEF, N2HCU, AA0NR.

11/26: WP2T, AB4QW, WB2FXK, N1MHC, K9VKY, XE1/KG8DA, N4VEF, KB4FLO, KB5VTB, KE4HZM

Scott KE3NV is going to start a Saturday 7.058 net beginning Jan 7, at 2400 UTC (7pm EST). He is hoping for better conditions, since 20 is so lousy now.

Welcome to Paula AB4QW, she was nervous at first, but did FB!

## Reply to October Article "A Breath of Bad Air" by M. Emm

Patti AF9H sends this:

After reading the article on A Breath of Bad Code, I became very upset. Who hasn't sent bade code some-time. We start out with bad code and hopefully live long enough to send substandard code in our old age. Perhaps, we have a handicap that makes our code below standard. There are numerous reasons.

A good operator can copy almost any code. We work CW for fun and to meet hams regardless of age, sex, color, poor or slow code. Work with the person and let he or she enjoy this great hobby.

When I started in 1977, some senior hams had all the patience in the world with me. Helped me build speed, rhythm, and timing, and the love of CW. Now some of them are the hams whose code isn't perfect due to old age, arthritis etc. However, most can still copy 100%. Should I not chat with them because their code is hard copy, I think not! I would miss out on a joke, or perhaps stories about spark radio. Changes in ham through the years or about their great grandchildren. I would miss out on a lot. Besides it's nice to be called a youngster at age 52. I hope in a few years there are hams out there who will answer my substandard CW. Time goes fast and it may be sooner than we realize. Give substandard code a break. A "Q code" won't solve the problem, patience will.

### Welcome to the New FISTS

- 2029: KR4FC Gary in Ellenwood GA, (KS4UV)
- 2030: K4HXM Geo in Chesapeake VA (KC8ASP)
- 2031: VE3EDR Brice in Ottawa Canada (G3ZQS)
- 2032: KC5GXC Pete in Pearl River LA (WB2FXK)
- 2033: KD6UZJ Dave in Norco CA (?)
- 2034: W8CG Norma in Cory PA (?)
- 2035: AF5Z Bob in Georgetown TX (?)
- 2036: WS0W Frank in Boulder CO (AA0XI)
- 2037: N0DKE Pete in Hot Springs AR (KC8ASP/AA)
- 2038: KB8SBW Chuck in Milford MI (KB8SBX)
- 2039: WB2LJG Nate in Lake Wales FL (KC8ASP)
- 2040: KB7RJ Dwain in Ajo AZ (N7CFA)
- 2041: KS4VX Roger in Pittsboro NC (WN8MWM)
- 2042: K8LQM Vince in Steubenville OH (MerryXmas from Joe W8DYF)
- 2043: KF2RG George in Colts Neck NJ (Santa via his son George/ XE1)
- 2044: N3FS Greg in Cheltenham PA (?)
- 2045: KE4USA Eric in W Lafayette IN (?)
- 2046: KB8ZYY Ray in Oscoda MI (?)
- 2047: NN9K Pete in Colona IL (?)
- 2048: VE1ZAC Jeff in Halifax Nova Scotia (?)
- 2049: W2FLN George in Cliffside Park NJ (NY2V)
- 2050: WL7CKX Patrick in Palmer ALASKA (WZ8C)
- 2051: KB5IEU Charles in Friendswood TX (WA0RSX)
- 2052: N1JDP Rod in Amhurst NH (KC8ASP)
- 2053: KB0LLZ Budd in Albion NE (?)
- 2054: N9ZZD Roger in Kokomo IN (NY2V)

## What's The Secret?

*Ed, N7CFA, President  
Cowlitz FISTS Amateur Radio Club*

Why are there so many FISTS CW CLUB members in Southwest Washington State? I am not sure that you can put your finger on one thing that is the "secret". Around the time the 1400 numbers started up I happened to read a message addressed to ALLUSA on packet. It was placed there by Joe, AA8HV, and told about FISTS. In that I liked CW, I responded to his message, received an application, and joined FISTS with the number 1402. When I received a membership list I was amazed that I was the only FIST then registered in the whole State of Washington. The West Coast had not awakened yet!

A little later I mentioned FISTS to my good friend, Stu, K7WF, who is and always has been an avid CW operator. I think when Stu, being originally from GW land, saw all of those "G" calls on the list coupled with his love of CW, he could hardly wait for his number to be issued. He was the second on the list from Washington State. From there, we continued to promote CW and FISTS membership here among our Ham friends most of whom are members of our local club, the Lower Columbia Amateur Radio Association, W7DG. We also promoted FISTS among many of our CW contacts across the country.

One morning, down at the local watering hole, we were talking over coffee, and got the idea to pick up an old unused call, WA7YYY, which many years ago was a radio club here. The call had been kept licensed. So we went to the trustee and told her of our idea for a FISTS club here in Cowlitz County. She had been holding it for these many years for someone who might want to form a group. Therefore the Cowlitz FISTS Amateur Radio Club was born, licensed in September, and officially chartered October 12, 1995, with Randy, NU7D, as trustee and a membership of 18. We adopted the three basic aims of FISTS, (1) To further the use of Morse Code on the bands, (2) To encourage the newcomer to the mode, and (3) To engender friendships within the membership. Keep those in mind and you will grow from there, no question about it!

As a result of our efforts, several local Hams got excited again about CW. They had not even been on the air for six to eight years. Now they are active again and having fun. Two or three with tech licenses are working on their code, anxious to upgrade and get on the air using their FISTS numbers. There are no extraordinary plans for the future of the club, but who knows? We will pass the log book and license around for each

member to use so the club call will be on the air. We will try to be on during some of the contests, sprints, etc. We are not looking to take people away from W7DG, as far as operating, just to enhance it and have FUN.

If you have a QSO with an operator from WA7YYY, please QSL via our FISTS buro. Most of our members will be using the buro individually also, so send your cards there to John, N8FU, and keep some SASE's with him for your mail also.

**The secret?** Promote CW, talk it up, have FUN with CW. You will make many new friends as we have. (Look for at least four of us at Dayton in 1996, we are saving the egg money to pay our way to the big city!) **We are excited about FISTS!**

## 1996 Novice RoundUp

*by Pete K8OUA*

Are you missing the NR? Well, here is another one for you to try. FISTS CW Club is sponsoring the first annual FISTS Novice Roundup.

When — 1600 UTC Saturday February 24, 1996 till 2400 UTC Sunday March 3, 1996.

Object — Novices and Techs exchange information with any other stations, General class licensees and up exchange information only with Novices/Techs. Exchange — Send signal report, state/province/DX country, and FISTS number (if FISTS member) or power output (if not FISTS member). Novices and Techs must sign /N or /T to indicate their license status.

QSO points — 1 point for each complete phone contact; 2 points for each complete packet contact; 3 points for each complete CW contact. Add one point per QSO if contact is with a FISTS CW Club member (indicate FISTS number in log). Work stations only once per band per mode. Multipliers — each state/province/DX country counts as one multiplier (no matter how many times it is worked). Final Score — multiply number of QSO points by number of multipliers.

Send logs (paper logs only, please) showing call of station worked and all exchange information to Peter Kozup, K8OUA, 5115 N. Park Ave., Warren, OH 44481, postmarked no later than April 9, 1996. Results will be posted in the FISTS Keynote newsletter, or include SASE for listing of results by mail.

*We have since found out that a QRP group is having a NR in January, we wish them the best of luck and hope you will participate in that one as well. Next year we will try and co-ordinate efforts so we don't have the duplication of contests...or maybe it will turn out to be a Good Thing to have TWO NR's...at least Novice/Techs can't complain there is nothing on the air for them!*

**MFJ POCKET MORSE TUTOR Model MFJ-411**  
*User Report from Mike Greenfield N9JIY*

This is a little carry-around gadget designed to help folks learn CW. Size is approx. 3.5" x 5.5" x 1.25". It might weigh a pound. In its' black-painted case of 16ga sheet aluminum it looks nearly bulletproof! The Tutor has several user-selectable options: CHARACTER SETS C1 through C7 - C1 through C4 break the alphabet into 4 letter groups. C1 is EISHT-MO, etc. C5 and C6 are numbers. C7 is the common prosigns. This is just for beginners.

**ADVANCED OPTIONS** - Lets you pick just letters (all 26), just numbers, just prosigns, or letters/numbers/prosigns combined. These are sent at random. Also offered are common words, and simulated QSOs.

You pick Normal/Farnsworth spacing, length of character groups and sending speed. You'll hear 5 character only, random or repeat the series you just heard. 6 LEDs and a 2-character display show what you've selected. There's an off/on button and 2 other buttons that you "click" separately or simultaneously to operate the device. Instructions are silkscreened on the front of it, so operation is very easy.

The Tutor uses a single 9V battery. It has a coaxial plug for external 12V, and a 1/8" stereo earphone jack.

Once you've made your operating choices, you "double click" to "GO", see a 5-second countdown on the display, and start to hear CW. The LEDs and display turn off automatically to save battery power.

In short, it would be a well designed single-purpose device typical of MFJ - EXCEPT for four things:

1/ **IMPORTANT** - in Advanced Options-Letters/Numbers/Prosigns mode, you hear common prosigns, plus 11 or 12 that are almost NEVER heard on the air. When did you last hear a dollar sign, a left parentheses or start-of-paragraph character??? This is very confusing! It should be the single most useful option. Instead it's almost useless to me!

2/ **Belt Clip** - The Tutor begs to be carried around like a portable tape player, but there's no belt clip or case provided to do so. You'll have to figure something on your own.

3/ **Battery Changing** - You have to have a Phillips head screwdriver! None of the little snap doors we've come to expect.

4/ **Price** - Most places you'll have to shell out about \$80 to walk home with the Tutor. That's a little stiff in light of 1/, 2/, and 3/ above.

**FISTS in Ex-Paradise**

Debbie NP2DJ is out of the hospital ! Her boat was totally destroyed, but Maggie is back living on hers, altho is need a lot of work to make it seaworthy again. She sends her deepest thanks to everyone who sent assistance, whether in the form of thoughts/prayers or care packages. She said what would be most appreciated is video tapes! The only TV they get is a PBS station which plays Sesame Street and Barney all day. Movies would be great, along with tapes of TV programs you tape off your own TV. I assume tapes will be returned She's still having memory problems along

with stress related troubles. She compared it to living in a war zone, with looting and unsafe conditions - she was glad she could live on her boat and not on the mainland. I imagine Debbie is going thru the same thing, maybe even more problems since she is staying on the island itself, altho I didn't talk with her. Hang in there!! Hopefully you'll have some FISTS videos to help cheer up your days.

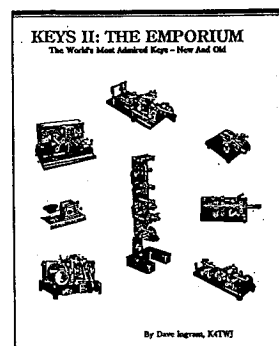
**FISTS ON-LINE**

Brian N8IAG asked me how many FISTS are able to access the Internet or get E-mail. I hang around the HamNet forum on CompuServe a lot and run into quite a few FISTS members. So, Brian is going to compile a list of FISTS On-Line, and I'll print it in the upcoming months. We are thinking of making a FISTS Web HomePage on the Internet. Do you have any thoughts about printing the Keynote on a HomePage? Would this be a help for you, or would it just give non-subscribers (non-financial supporters of the club) access to it? I don't want to sound petty or selfish, but dues from the Keynote subs keep the club going, paying for samples, applications. Not only through the mail but at hamfests and Dayton, along with extras like the FISTS photobook and certificates. I'd like some feed back on this please! Send your Email address to: INTERNET: blfont@tir.com

**Ads are free to FISTS and FISTS owned businesses, if the business offers a discount to FISTS members**

*Like CW and keys...Curious about keys and thei history... Into key collecting..Need tips estimating productin dates and values..Then you will not to miss*

*KEYS II: The Emproium by Dave Ingram. Send \$15 (Your FISTS # gets you freee shipping) to 49441 Scenic View Dr. Birmingham AL 35210*



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Marshall Emm AAOXI (FISTS 1791) Milestone Technology  
3 140 Peoria St Unit K156 Aurora CO 80014-3155

Most US hams, even many DX-ers, know very little about foreign hams. Most DX contacts are name-report-73 affairs. Yet, I believe most US hams (such as myself) as curious about these fellow hams, especially those whose culture differs most from that of the US. Europeans, such as English, French, Polish, German are more familiar since a great number of US people are their direct descendants; but the culture of China, India, Russia and Japan etc. are less familiar. It is relatively recently that these countries have been open to wide cultural and business exchanges.

My idea is to increase the understanding and empathy of FISTS members by publishing a series of articles about foreign hams in the Keynote. To do this, the cooperation of DX hams and those who have visited, perhaps operated from, these countries would be essential.

If you don't have the time to write the article yourself, try providing the raw material. In odd moments of your spare time, jot down your thoughts on any piece of paper handy and mail it, or Email it to me.

Items of interest might be: How is ham radio conducted and restricted in the country you are familiar with? Is phone or CW mostly used? How are the language symbols sent in CW? Is US language used much or at all, or only for DX? Do they have radio clubs like we do? Do they publish newsletters? Are there any International clubs? What are their ham exams like, code, technical requirements? Frequencies allowed? Is equipment readily available to Japanese hams at a low cost (where most of it is made) or are the prices kept artificially high? Are their shackes are "messy" as ours?? Do they collect QSLs?

I could go on and on, but I think you see what I'm driving at. Does anyone else think this would be of interest? Can you think of a better approach to achieving closer relationships among FISTS members?

I hope Geo picks up on this and includes an invitation to our DX FISTS to send info along to me, along with a photograph for our FISTS Photobook. If a DX member sends in a photo, I'll send him a copy of the Photobook.

### **FINAL**

Of course, there is more, but I want to keep it to eight pages so I can get it in the mail before Christmas. I hope you have been doing your wrist exercises to get in shape for Straight Key Night! I will be spending New Years Eve on the air, along with New Years Day. It's one of my favorite events and the anniversary of when I met several of FISTS who are very special to me (KC4UUG to name one!)

Congrats to Kenny NABG who married Catherine this month!

It's not too early to make your plans for Dayton (May 17) We have our same booth confirmed (C-15) and will have our FISTS gathering at Stouffers Sat nite! It will be here before we know it! Happy New Year! Nancy

### **GREETINGS**

Hi people. Winter has arrived with a vengeance here in the hills of West Lancs. Up in Geordie-land they had a few inches of fluffy white stuff and whenever I speak to a Russian station, they always seem to have snow on their boots.

T'other week I was rudely awakened at the unholy hour of 0755 by Ivy complaining that she couldn't breathe. She was clearly in difficulty and it sounded like she had a box of ball bearings in her chest. Not being much of a medico I spent 10 minutes massaging and thumping to no avail so t'was a 999 call and the ambulance arrived 20 minutes later.

Before starting out for the A&E the paramedic inserted a "candle" into a vein and administered some mysterious fluid. She was then hooked up to what looked like a double beam scope and we were off. The usual rush hour mess of nose-to-tail traffic extended for about 4 miles but with siren "mee-mawing" we commandeered the centre of the road and made the 4-mile trip to Blackburn in under 15 minutes. It turned out that she had the same problem that hit poor Nancy (WZ8C) with a build up of fluid which caused undue pressure and threatened a heart attack. She was home within a week fair rattling with the pills needed.

The first Christmas card of the year arrived from G4DNC. Geoff had chosen a paint and ink view of the Royal Needles Hotel at Alum Bay on the Isle of Wight from whence on the 3rd June 1898, Lord Kelvin sent the first paid telegram transmitted by wireless via the 120 foot aerial which Marconi had caused to be erected in the grounds. In 1899, Guglielmo chose another site on the island and in 1909, the Hotel suffered the ravages of fire.

### **TOPS CW CLUB**

Now then. I have a letter from Chris Hammett, G3AWR who for some time has been trying to revitalise TOPS but with little success. Chris is seeking a way of amalgamating TOPS into FISTS but the prospect is spiked with problems.

It would involve a modification of our title and of course a re-writing of the constitution in addition to assembling a new committee which would represent both clubs. I have written to Chris inviting him to submit an article calling on all TOPS members within FISTS to contact him and perhaps find a way out of the dilemma since there is a considerable amount of cash lying idle in a TOPS Post Office account and Chris is anxious to put it to good use before the Post Office gobbles it up as a "dead" account.

One suggestion may be to use the brass to offer a free ride to TOPS members but even then, nothing can be done unless Chris is able to assemble a committee for the purpose.

## G-QRP EVENTS 1966

01 JAN	Last day of 1995 Winter Sports
06 JAN to 07 JAN	AGCW DL QRP Contest (1) 1500z/1500z
07 FEB	Last day for Winter Sports Logs to G3MCK
23 FEB to 25 FEB	Czebris 1996. 1600z/2359z
30 MAR to 31 MAR	Somerset Contest 1200z/1200z
7 MAY to 10 MAY	Yeovil Fun Run
18 MAY to 19 MAY	Yeovil QRP Convention
17 JUN	IARU Region 1 QRP Contest
17 JUL	Last day for International QRP day Logs to G3MCK
20 JUL to 21 JUL	AGCW DL QRP Contest (1)
27 SEP to 29 SEP	Europe for QRP
19 OCT	Rochdale QRP convention
11 NOV	Last day for Europe for QRP logs to OK1CZ
17 NOV	AGCW DL HOT party (1)
26 DEC to 01 JAN	QRP Winter sports Maximum activity on all QRP allocations Logs to G3MCK by 07 FEB G4DQP Trophy and Certificates.

Notes(1) Full information from:|

Dr H. Weber, DJ7ST Schlesierweg13,  
D-3288 SALGITTER, Germany

## WOTTA FREEBIE

G0NFV Bob, responded to a competition in Radcom and was dumped into the hat along with some 500 others. The big finger must have been pointing at him 'cos at the Leicester rally he was presented with a MFJ1798 10-band vertical. Hey Bob - wanna make out my lottery ticket next time?

## ODDS N` ENDS

Found Nigel G0RWQ the t'other day operating from the Kings Lynn club station (G3XYZ) with a dust-ridden, corroded and mis-aligned key. It's the only key available here explained Nigel; both bearing caps were split and the front of the shaft was fitted with a paper shim and when asked where the real club key was, he was told it was only used for cw practice.

He will be QRV from G3XYZ as frequently as possible during the winter months so - especially on 80m - keep an ear open because he is not able to operate from home. He is Fire Safety Officer with the Norfolk Fire Service and his QSL reflects this with a line drawing of an old "Dennis" appliance.

ZL2AOH. See your bank manager found it easier to send a MO Ralph.

G0HIN responded to last months request for info on bug keys by Yuzuru AA1JA which has been forwarded via Nahnyc. There was more to come as Chris (G3TUX) waded in with more pages from "Keys, Keys, Keys". This particular item drew attention to what every would be bug user should know but few indeed do: It is a

mechanical device and thus cannot be treated in the same way as paddles on electronic keyers.

Too many try to set the thing up with as small a movement as possible on paddle. There must be a reasonable gap not least to permit the weight and "U" spring to do their job but also to impart the "feel" which is highly desirable. I have heard old sweats rattling along at 40wpm plus but since you have to make your own dashes, you need to be a real expert to send good code at such a rate of knots.

I have had several members commenting on the item last month "A Breath of Bad Air" Trevor, G4IXI, even went so far as to suggest that the article should not be restricted to the pages of Keynote but rather, should be publicised more widely in the journals.

As a sort of addendum to this article, Nolly, G3WGL, comments on the speed merchants who seem to spend more time calling than working. Since CW seems to be the odd man out, why narrow down you horizons by going so fast that only a few can reply.

Three ex-navy sparkers met regularly and were having a whale of a time working each other at 55 wpm plus - trouble was that they worked few other stations which is hardly surprising. Hee. The old ear drums aint what they used to be though I can still copy "good" code around that speed Nolly but hands up anyone who has heard me sending that fast!

Talking of speed, I was privileged to be the business end of the very first QSO from G0WNP the other evening on 80m. Straight key and 12 to 15 wpm was more than a little appreciated.

It was a bit frustraticating - I kept getting messages from Alex, UU0JN on compuserve via internet but my replies were rejected. Finally, Mike (G0ATR) came to the rescue as he had managed to work out the correct address which was not the same as the header.

PA3AFF's e-mail response to the add-a-bug controversy was that he was left handed and had rewired his el-bug paddles to mirror the right handed version (dits still on thumb) but later disciplined himself to use the bug right handed leaving his left hand free for notes.

I got a panic call from Doug, G0KKX when a pink slip appeared with his Keynote. He is looking forward to a much delayed trip to hospital where they will amputate the lower half of a troublesome leg. He has taken the prospect with much stoicism and had a fair old giggle when I suggested we buy him a stuffed parrot for his shoulder so that he could go around yelling "Aaar Jim Lad".

GW0WMR is the callsign of the Red Rose Amateur Radio Group. They appear on the latest listing courtesy of GOLRE and Jerry recommends Keynote as a substitute for the Sun newspaper because he can always find a "giggle" within it. I am chuffed of course but if he thinks I am gonna produce topless dolly birds on page 3 then he's in for a disappointment. Hi.

Got a piccy of a youthful G5XV taken in the shack from the year 1932. Rack mounted bits and pieces of all manner and, twixt a pair of cans, a youthful Ron. It was unfortunately a reproduced 100dpi scan so I was

unable to present it. Also a piccy of G0FVS with a warning on the reverse that "one day you may look like this" but this time, distinctly fuzzy apart from the gear in the shack which did not move. Did my best with it mate but image too small. One of these days I'll get hold of a decent auto scanner and transform Key-note. Hi.

14.058. Just a reminder that you cannot all squeeze on this spot QRG unless it is a net. It is intended to be a starting point. If there is a QSO there be it FISTS or not then QSY down to a clear frequency. You will find GX0IPX as low as 14053 on occasions when the band is very busy.

Also, do please remember to check on the hour (or even the half hour if possible) and a receiver with wide bandpass on around 14057 is a good thing for those who have other chores to do whilst just listening.

*NOTE: The italics and underlining are my addition, as I frequently get asked about where to find FISTS and what to do if the .058 frequencies are busy. I'm glad Geo mentioned that listening with a wide bandpass is important also. Too many have narrow filters on and you miss it if someone comes back to your CQ FISTS a little bit off frequency. It's hard to zerobeat a CQ sometimes, so listen leniently after your CQ FISTS !! de Nancy*

## THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

**G0SBH.** Ted applauds the move to permit class "B" code on 2m and cites G/N1KPL and G0AVY as being instrumental in his achieving of the "A" ticket. He has moved to W. Wickham but still spends much time in Coventry where a Sony PRO80 is his ear to the world in the absence of antennas. My oft-repeated advice that spaces are just as important as the sounded elements is echoed here.

**G4FMH.** Bill notes G0GSW's 52nd anniversary of joining the RN and is reminded that 1996 is the 60th anniversary of his enlistment with the RNV(W)R (he stresses that the "W" is for Wireless and not Women) on board HMS Flying Fox - a WW1 warship moored in the Bristol City Docks. The ship has since suffered the indignity of the breakers yard being replaced with a "Stone Frigate" well away from the wet stuff. He is now running a MFJ9020 QRP rig whose three watts have logged US and Canary Islands from a dipole. On Marions cry for "hee" he prefers Ho Ho Ho so a bottle of rum could be appended.

**G0KMU.** Joan says she was tidying out her hand-bag (is this a tri-annual event flower) and found an old copy of Keynote wherein I was asking for a Computer Chapter Mgr. Tnks for your belated offering petal but Fraser, GM7GOD has long been doing the honours. The dreaded redundancy axe is to fall soon which will leave her with lotsa time on her hands.

**G0UQE.** Bert is found at rallies in the Birmingham area rattling his box for the "Wings" appeal in the vicinity of the RAFARS stand. Keep an eye open for him.

**VK7DQ.** Gerry has been through a rough patch. Three ops for cancer of the Saliva Glands over a period of

two months. Added to this, his wife began suffering dementia and since she is now well looked after in a Nursing Home, his three year period of inactivity is set to end. Look for him mainly on 20m.

**GW3JEZ.** Bob is a stickler for correctness and intends to renew the antennas which are cut to correct lengths because he does not like using an ATU.

**GW4PXQ.** George was getting kinda frustrated. He ordered a badge but heard nil. He phoned me and my grey cells cast an opaque cocoon over it. He wrote Bob and asked him to remind me - Bob suffered the same lapse of memory - George, you should have it by now - sri for the delay. You can send cards to all the Services bureaux (RSARS, RNARS and RAFARS) and also the G-QRP club. It may be possible to extend this to other dedicated bureaux but I have got to think of the demands placed upon G0FRL.

**PA3BJD.** Passed a number of Bram's QSL cards through my hands. They are very elegant with Job's lightning bolts, key, headphones and a heraldic shield. Symbolic Morse symbols spell out "Holland" at the foot and a central panel on the reverse displays logos for Veron, VRZA, DiG, HSC, AGCW\_DL and NAFRAS but more impressive are the slips of paper trimmed from a dot-matrix printer in a miniature face one of which updates the address info and another updates the affiliations to include FISTS. Very neat Bram.

**G0FVS.** Jim is still sending stamps to Vlad, UA6JD after a request many moons ago. Vlad has sent him a piccy of himself in the shack surrounded by an impressive array of awards. On the subject of QSD, he wanted Italy for the MEGS contest so responded to a IO CQ call. After many tries to pass his Name & QTH, the IO requested QRS although Jim was already down to 50% of the Italians speed who was sending stuff Jim had never heard of. On return, Jim said SOLID COPY UR FB CW which caused the guy to relax and finally explain that this was his very first day with cw. **GW3PRL** stays with the HEE tone with Hi-Ho Hi-Ho its off to work we go etc.

**G4WBN.** Trevor has always used HI on the bands but is all in favour of a standard Hee!. Now I'm getting konfuzed. Marion was concerned about the written version. On air, HI is almost always HEE. A few of my US FOC friends use "Haw" which I confess I do not care for and have even heard stations improvising with "LAF" which seems a little absurd. Stick to HEE on air pse. Ho Ho.

**PA3AFF.** My thanks to Piet for digging up the original page for the chatterbox. This has been forwarded to Pista. All our e-mails arrived here OK Piet and I did acknowledge so if you heard nothing then there is something amiss with the return address! Thanks for the info re your projected Novice status in the Netherlands.

**G3KEF.** Hi Tom. We don't lose that many members really. It is usually a case of forgetting to send subs and in many cases, we get a request to re-join. Lemme have a copy of your dbase on disk mate and I'll update it including the NA gang. Happy to discover that

the majority of FISTS take heed of the legend on the certificate "Accuracy transcends Speed".

**G0AIV.** Alf will be the subject of medical video early this month when they stuff a mini-camera into his inner workings to resolve a tummy problem which has been plaguing him for the last 5 months. Describes his GrandDaughter as a human dynamo. Ringlets and big brown eyes - looks like an angel - heads for the men and would charm the trousers off the Pope. Heaven help Alf When she reaches 16. Hi. Only get one letter per year off Alf but it's always worth the wait.

**GW4KUS.** Not surprisingly, Bert voices strong objection to having to renew his driving licence every three years. A 20 year old gets a 30 year licence but they begin to penalise the ancients at L2.00 per year - is there no justice left?

**G0JLX.** Andy is looking forward to the Christmas post to see how he fared with his OU degree. Meanwhile, he managed to escape from the Magic Kingdom for the usual October holidays but æere long he will be home permanently and then maybe we can bag him on the air. Jason used to wear AndyÆs cans and tune round with glee on a borrowed FT101 which gave Andy hope that the lad was developing in the right direction. The fitting of a CD to the 486 has released a seemingly natural affinity for multi-media in the boy so he is now on the hunt for those Amateur Radio oriented CDÆs that tickled his fancy.

## THE SWEDISH KEY

Chris, G3TUX reports a telephone conversation with Otto, LA1IE who was enquiring about the above item. Chris' information per SM5CBC (Einar) at the end of September was that it is not in current production and that the manufacturer (Rex Radio AB) requires a minimum order of 300 pcs to make another batch! We understand that stock (perhaps limited) is available from:

The Swedish Radio Supply AB, PO Box 208, S-651 06 KARLSTAD, Sweden. Price is SEK 850 including local tax but not shipping.

## G0BQV @ ZC4

Mary skittered off to ZC4 with the Whitton gang to enter the CQ WW SSB contest (uugh) but after, she managed to put the TS50S on cw finding that 30m and 40m were the most useful. Much pileup from 5B4/G0BQV/P though few UK stations worked. If any of the gang got her then your QSL via Bob will find her OK.

An adventurous time hiring in total 3 cars and one motor bike but descending mountains with failed brakes is not my idea of a fun time Mary. Hi.

Expresses appreciation for the kindness and cooperation received from the Episkopi gang and I hope you manage it again some time lass.

## FRACTURED ENGLISH

G3YXJ, Danny, reading the item concerning bugs for

Yuzuru, AA1JA, was prompted into submitting a sheet of destructions which accompanied a JA bug key. Before doing so however, he pointed out that this last issue of Keynote cost him 38p because someone forgot to add a stamp to the envelope. Not guilty yer honour. Tis Bob, G0FRL who is the club's postman.

"This is a telegraph key equipped with an apparatus of striking out a dot signal in rapid succession automatically, called 'Bug Key' in common, and as it can in particular make out a machinery ordered dot signal in succession, a high speed dot signal which needs an exquisite skill in keying can be made out with accuracy and in the easiest way.

The only point in its operation is that a proficiency of the operation can be observed in dividing a dot signal made out successfully according to a necessary number and in the construction of a signal smoothly to combine with a dash signal. The difficulty in operation of ordinary telegraph key, is a trembling in disinformation of high speed transmitting but with this key you can achieve not only a good result in high speed transmitting but also a wellcutting in general and attractive signal within certain possibility of easy high speed transmitting. That's why this machine is getting popular recently".

I am already confused but the missive includes such choice statements as:

"Put hand on table in reluxe and strike comaratively hard on key with thumb in case of making out a dot signal, then you can operate accurately. It is a sense of timing at touch-on how many dot signals you are going to make out. You can strike it out accurately after well trained".

Even the illustrations are reversed on this sheet with the thumb clearly in charge of the "dash" operation and forefinger for the dot.

In fairness, this was seemingly printed in the days before JA manufacturers tumbled to the necessity of employing english speaking technical writers but I join Danny in hoping that not too many of our members suffer from a trembling of disinformation. Hi.

## FINALE

Thats your lot again I am afraid folks. It has not been a bad year for us though with lots of new members and many Century Awards being claimed. things much

I really must take the opportunity to wish you all a really super Christmas and if 1986 is anywhere near as kind to us as 1995 then it will not be bad at all. I hope you all get from Santa exactly what it is that you have been secretly planning to do a bank raid for and, should this come to fruition then it will be my pleasure to hook up with you on the bands with it. Personally, I can think of little to upstage my FT1000MP though oddly enough, I still crave the fascinating sounds which emanated from that very first single valve reaction receiver. Will we ever be satisfied?

73/88 es stay moderately sober. Hi. Geo