

# The Keynote

Newsletter of FISTS CW Club, the active chapter of the  
International Morse Preservation Society



- Further the use of CW
- Encourage newcomers to use CW
- Engender friendships among members

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

# The Key Note

**Slow Traffic Net:**  
**Tuesday and Thurs-**  
**day 9PM EST on**  
**3.682**

**Slow RagChewing**  
**Group: Wednesday at**  
**9PM EST on 3.720**

**Volunteer Net Con-**  
**trols needed to run**  
**the Century Net on**  
**Sunday afternoon**  
**on 14.058 MHz**

**Saturday QSO Groups:**  
**2000Z on 14.058 MHz**  
**and 7.058 MHz at 2300Z.**  
**Sunday Slow Speed**  
**Chat: 21.158 MHz at**  
**1700Z**

**30 Meter calling fre-**  
**quency: 10.118**

**Please keep watch on**  
**the Novice subbands and**  
**frequencies ending in**  
**.x58 -- but PLEASE**  
**spread out. There have**  
**been over 8500 FISTS**  
**numbers issued now, if**  
**we all try and chat on**  
**these frequencies all**  
**anyone will get is a lot of**  
**QRM. Please be**  
**courteous of nets and**  
**QSOs in progress.**

**Courtesy At All Times.**

If you move please  
send your address  
change to WZ8C. It  
costs FISTS 60 cents for  
each undelivered Key-  
note due to address  
changes. This really  
adds up. **It may take**  
**a couple months for**  
**the new address to**  
**show on the Key-**  
**note label because**  
**the label is made at**  
**the time the KNote**  
**goes to print - not at**  
**the time it is mailed.**

The North American Memo Version by Nancy Kott WZ8C  
USA and DX member news and activities

Hi FISTS,

As this is going to  
print in mid-Septem-  
ber, things are still in  
a state of shock over  
the terrorist attacks. I  
have included condo-  
lences from our DX  
Chapters in this news-  
letter. We sincerely  
hope that FISTS  
members and their  
families were not di-  
rectly affected by the  
attacks. If you know  
of any who are, please  
let me know so I can  
share the news.

One of the reasons for  
the existence of ham  
radio is emergency  
preparedness. Take  
the time now to  
sharpen your CW  
skills, learn net proce-  
dures, and learn how  
to handle traffic mes-  
sages. And it is a good  
idea to have an alter-  
native power supply  
for your rig. Most can  
be adapted to run off  
a deep cycle marine  
battery or hooked up  
to a generator.

On a lighter note, I  
hope you got a chance  
to participate in the  
Fall Sprint, 2nd Satur-  
day of October.  
I missed the Summer  
FISTS CW Club

Sprint. I guess that is the  
good thing about having  
Seasonal Sprints now. If  
you miss one, there is  
always another one  
'round the corner.

In this issue, is another  
Just For Fun puzzle.  
The first one I tried was  
a homebrew effort and  
didn't work out very  
well...but THIS one is  
guaranteed to be correct  
because it was created  
with a computer pro-  
gram I found on the  
Internet. It even has an  
answer key, which I am  
including along with the  
puzzle. The "answer"  
lines are very thin, so  
you may have to get out  
your magnifying glass  
to see them, but they  
ARE there.

The latest Photopage  
and roster are included  
in this issue. Hope you  
enjoy it! It takes 36 pics  
to make a photopage, so  
please send in your  
snapshot. Any picture  
where your face is  
about the size of a quar-  
ter will do. An actual  
photograph is preferred  
to a .jpg or computer  
picture sent via email  
because Ken can't al-  
ways shrink the jpg  
down to the right size.

It would be a big help  
if you would print it  
out at the right size,  
and use the postal mail  
to send it in.

Dennis, K6DF, our  
NAFAM who got "pro-  
moted" to World  
FISTS Awards Man-  
ager, has things under  
control and there is not  
a big backlog of  
awards at this time. He  
has found some nice  
paper and metallic in-  
lay for the higher  
awards and writes:  
"Please be patient  
when applying for  
awards; When I have  
all the certificate paper  
in stock for each of the  
awards I will get these  
out to everyone ASAP.  
If you send an applica-  
tion to me, please in-  
clude your e-mail ad-  
dress. I will issue the  
award number to you  
upon receipt of your  
application via e-mail,  
and if you do not have  
an e-mail address I will  
send you a post card  
with the award number  
on it. That way you  
can be giving out your  
new award number  
over the air.

Thank you in advance  
for your patience and  
understanding"

## HOW DO I...?

**...JOIN?** Membership is open to everyone interested in Morse code, irrespective of their speed and ability. Subscriptions are \$15.00/year. Under 18, \$10/year. Family members may join FISTS at no extra charge- only one newsletter will be mailed per household. to FISTS, P. O. Box 47, Hadley, MI 48440

**...RENEW?** Send \$15/year (\$10/year for under 18) to FISTS, PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440-0047. Your renewal date is on your mailing label — please look at it!!

**...SEND APP OR SAMPLE NEWSLETTER TO A FRIEND?** For a FISTS brochure, send an email to Joe Pardue, at <w5os@arrl.net> with their name, call sign, and postal address. For a sample Keynote, please send \$1 to defray postage. SASEs are appreciated. Joe's postal address is Joe Pardue, 29 Melrose Dr., Marrero LA 70072-5055. Applications are also on the FISTS Webpage.

**... ORDER CLUB SUPPLIES?** Irene Kott, WO8E, 44609 N.Bunker Hill Dr, Clinton Twp, MI 48038 has gold logo stickers 200 for \$3.50; "I Support KNOW Code" buttons for .50; Blue enamel /gold metal clasp-back logo pins \$2.50; Cloth patches 3" octagon shaped \$1.50; FISTS coffee mugs \$7.50; **FISTS Club T-Shirts M and L only**, \$9.00. Rubber stamps with FISTS logo for use with an ink pad (not included) for \$5.00. Please make checks out to FISTS, these prices *DO* include Priority postage.

**... GET AN UP-TO-DATE MEMBERLIST?** Send a SASE with \$2.00 to cover printing costs to Ed Hayes, N7CFA 2628 Lilac Street, Longview WA 98632. Lists are also available on the FISTS Web page.

**...Join the FISTS On-Line Email List?** For periodic Email updates on FISTS activities and information, send your Email address, callsign and FISTS number to Brian LaFontaine, W8BL.. at his Email address: blafont@tir.com

**...GET/SEND FISTS QSL CARDS Via BURO?** Stan Reas, K4UK, runs the Buro. Send SASEs and FISTS member cards only (DX and NA) to him at 1020 Long Island Dr, Moneta VA, 24121.

**...SEND FISTS INFO TO A DX FISTS?** DX FISTS have a separate block of numbers; their Keynote is mailed from the UK. Send their info to Geo Longden, G3ZQS, at J19 Cemetery Rd, Darwin Lancs, BB32LZ; he'll send them a DX application.

**...APPLY FOR An OPERATING AWARD?** To apply for ALL AWARDS send a list of contacts (call, FISTS#, qth, date, band and power) to Dennis Franklin, K6DF, at 4658 Capitan Drive, Fremont, CA 94536-5448. *Don't submit QSLs.* There is no charge to FISTS members for the awards, but SASEs are appreciated. Dennis handles ALL AWARDS now, do not send logs to England.

**... VOLUNTEER FOR or GET A CODEBUDDY?** Write to Terry Lohrey, 115 Meadowview Dr, Taylorsville KY 40071 or email <tllohrey@kih.net>. We need ELMERS, please volunteer to be a Code Buddy!! Code Buddy applications are available on line from a link on our web page.

**...GET MY PHOTO ON THE PHOTOPAGES?** Send a snapshot of yourself to Ken Kott, W8ROG, 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr., Clinton Twp, MI 48038.

**...GET A COPY OF FISTS PRESENTATION** to give at a local club meeting? It's easy and fun! We send you everything you need for a snazzy 15-20 minute presentation. Contact Joe Spencer, KK5NA, 3618 Montridge Ct, Arlington TX 76016. email: kk5na@quadj.com

**...FIND THE WEB PAGE?** <http://www.FISTS.org>

**...SUGGEST IDEAS FOR THE WEB PAGE?** Contact Bill KK4KF at <KK4KF@LizardCop.com

**...ORDER FISTS CLUB QSL CARDS?** For pricing info send SASE to WX9X at 1608 E. Lincolnway, Suite H - Valparaiso, IN 46383. A scan of the QSL card is on our FISTS Web page.

**...ORDER A FISTS CLUB ID BADGE?** Our club badge is blue, with FISTS logo in gold and your name, FISTS number, callsign, and Int'l Morse Preservation Society in white. \$8.20 postpaid from The Signman of Baton Rouge, 879 Castle Kirk Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808. A non-engraved, laminated club badge is available from Bruce Eichmann, W2BE, 204 E. Lake Blvd., Medford, NJ 08055. Cost is \$4.75, NJ residents \$5.00 because of tax.

**...IMPROVE MY CODE SPEED and MEET LOTS OF NEWFRIENDS?** Join FISTS! Get involved in the nets and activities! Volunteer to be a Code Buddy! Write an article for the Keynote about your interests!

The Keynote, official publication of FISTS CW Club, is published approximately 10 times a year by Nancy Kott WZ8C, PO Box 47 Hadley MI 48440. WZ8C reserves the right to edit submissions for clarity, suitability and space limitations.. Comments not attributed to another are written by WZ8C. **Articles from the Keynote may be re-printed if credit is given to the original author.**

## Welcome to the New FISTS

#	Call	Name	State	Sponsor
8461	K1EV	BILL	CT	
8462	W4PJI	GIL	FL	
8463	N9EEZ	Delano	MN	
8464	K2MKX	PETER	NY	
8465	KC8ITC	DAVE	MI	W5OS
8466	KF3DO	BERN	PA	
8467	WB0PVU	TOM	MO	KB0QZ
8468	KD7MJV	William	WA	KA7JSJ
8469	K9XL	RAY	IL	
8470	N7MR	MIKE	CO	
8471	KD5KA	Chuck	VA	
8472	AD4YM	JIM	VA	
8473	N5TSF	BOB	AR	
8474	AA7L	DAVE	WA	
8475	KD5NPD	Janive	MS	K5DMC
8476	W2NT	BOB	NY	
8477	W5IQS	EVAN	TX	
8478	WA1JSD	DAVID	TX	
8479	WA1OFR	BILL	MA	W7VWV
8480	NR3C	MIKE	PA	WB2FXK
8481	KC0JKD	JAMES	MO	
8482	N3WP	BILL	PA	
8483	KC7NE	RAY	SC	WZ8C
8484	W4RYW	GILL	AL	
8485	NO7M	AL	AZ	AB7YR/
8486	KA8KFS	Robert	OH	K1BMV
8487	N1BWP	BILL	NH	WB2FXK
8488	KG4IUM	Andrea	GA	K1TCI
8489	W6UDZ	HUGH	CA	KG4FXG
8490	KA0ZBL	DAN	KS	
8491	KB8GOY	JIM	MI	K3WWP
8492	W3PMS	BILL	PA	W5XW
8493	KB9YQP	DON	IN	
8494	K2QAI	JOHN	CT	
8495	KC5KHK	Michael	TX	
8496	N9GTW	JIM	IN	
8497	KB9HR	Thomas	IN	
8498	KC0IDF	JIM	KS	
8499	K2OTN	STAN	TX	
8500	W3IYQ	"Doc"	NJ	
8501	K8PWL	HA	OH	
8502	K2MMT	PETER	NY	
8503	KC8SEJ	BRIAN	OH	
8504	KD7CPK	NORM	OR	
8505	AL1G	CORLI	AK	
8506	KC0KLH	George	CO	
8507	KF4NJY	BOB	KY	

## Callsign Changes

6655 WB4IYD, Rajah, is now AG4HR  
 5154 K8TFC, John, is now W9TFC  
 7572 KD8HT Daryl, is now K8FP  
 5368 W7EAI Paul, is now NG7Z  
 8425 KD5OPP David, is now AD5FG  
 1984 NR0NR Geno is back to original call  
 AL7GQ  
 7085 VE1AKQ Randall, is now VE1RO  
 8271 Judson KC0JRZ, is now WS0J  
 8036 WW5R Bill, is now W7MQ  
 4600 AE6TT The East Bay Contest Society, is  
 now K6TTX  
 8091 Joe KC2GVQ, is now WV2NY  
 8269 Scott, KD7KQA is now NF7Y  
 8023 WB7QQR Steve, is now WB6QQR  
 3431 Jim AC5JU, is now N5JU  
 7654 N4PQV Rob, is now WM4Q  
 7052 K7BCC, Ronald, is now W7BCC  
 3017 AB7ZL, George is now N7QU  
 2422 Richard, VE3YAG, will be using VE0RCN  
 when is is maritime mobile on a freighter

## CW on National Public Radio

One of my favorite Web sites is NPR's 'Lost and Found Sounds' from the program 'All Things Considered' (<http://www.npr.org/programs/lnfsound/>).

I came across a series of programs that is particularly interesting here:

<http://www.npr.org/programs/lnfsound/stories/990423.stories.html>

This page includes the RealAudio for the shows:

- + The Telegraph
- + Ode to the Code
- + The Tail of Two Twitching Fingers

All of them will make CW buffs smile. Enjoy!

73, Jeff, N9AVG

## Silent Keys

### WA6CCM

On Sunday 9/9/01, Hal Franklin WA6CCM, a 51 year resident of Oakland, CA, at age 79 became a silent key. He was an amateur radio operator for 37 years, FISTS member #7401, and a life member of the ARRL. He worked for TWA, then Cutter Labs, and spent the last 15 years of his life working for San Leandro and Hayward adult schools teaching seniors how to use computers.

Hal served America in W.W.II in the Pacific as a Chief Pharmacist Mate aboard Escort aircraft carriers, and was very proud of his U.S. Navy service. He was an avid Scouter, and enjoyed working with the Boy Scouts because, as he always said, "It teaches good values for life, and builds strong character in our youth". He was a member of the Civil Air Patrol, and a charter member of the USS Pampanito Radio Club, NJ6VT.

I will miss the times we operated Field Day together, the times we spent operating from the Pampanito submarine, and especially the first QSO we had when I was at sea aboard the USS Carl Vinson aircraft carrier. I will miss tuning across 40 meters and hearing a rhythmic CW signal that I would recognize as your fist . . . I will miss you, Dad. 73 sir, WA6CCM de K6DF

### W7HFZ

Dear Members of the Amateur Radio Community, Our friend, Ronald "Ron"/"Guy" Baker, W8HFZ of Prudenville, MI (P.O. Box 805) and Fort Myers, FL (113 Windmill Blvd.) joined the ranks of the Silent Keys on 1 August 2001 at his home in Prudenville, MI. Ron was an avid CW man on the HF bands. He was a member of QCWA Chapter 10-Member#30249, ARRL and FIST CW Club, to name a few. Best regards, Kathleen Callanan, W8KKM

### N2KD

Ken Dale, N2KD, made many Fists contacts, both DX and USA, every Tuesday from W4BPH, the Bay Pines Veterans Hospital Radio Room. (Fists # 8075) Ken was planning on getting his own Fists number when he passed away suddenly on July 1st. He was also a member of the ARRL, Ten Ten, and QCWA. He was a veteran of WWII, having collected two bronze stars while serving as a medic. He worked in the space program through Apollo 18. His CW skills were beyond compare. John Stark KU4BT 6215

### W4PWA

I was advised by Bonnie Peterson that Bill, W4PWA passed away on Sunday, September 16. He was FISTS # 3963.

Bill was a great personal friend and had moved from the Moneta area to be near to his doctors. He had heart trouble for many years, but continued to play all the golf he could and was active in ham radio. He handled one of the call areas for the FISTS QSL Bureau before he moved. I'll miss him! Stan K4UK

### AA8GQ

I read in the SOWP newsletter that Helmut AA8GQ, FISTS #3891 is a Silent Key. Helmut was a radio operator aboard a German transport plane which was forced down in the Sahara in 1943. He was able to alert rescue forces by making a "verboden" ham radio contact with an old friend, D4FMF, in Germany. He sent the location of their plane in clear text, using his name, Helmut, in the message. Germany allowed a few hams to communicate on a weekly basis and Helmut used this sked to send word of their plight. A rescue plane found them by noon the following day. Nancy WZ8C (from the SOWP World Wireless Beacon)

## WHO says there aren't any FISTS on the air??

Fellow FISTS Members, I've finally made my goal. In 1998 I set a goal of 1000 FISTS numbers in my log before sending in for the Diamond Award. Today, 09/04/01, I logged number 1001, W5USU, Bill in Texas. That is a log kept with no dupes. I am not going to count points, I'm sure its well over 1300 plus.

This wasn't accomplished without a few setbacks. I tried for two new FISTS numbers a day, but as you get more, new numbers become harder to find. Then Murphy came to visit, My computer burped and I lost over 300. Then Mother Nature decided to make my Parkinsons Disease worse. Boy, that is fun, sending CW to the rhythm of my shakes.

I want to thank the Hams who put up with my bad sending at times, when my fingers wont do the talking and I have to QRT all of a sudden. I am too stubborn to give CW up and FISTS has brought Hams who love Morse Code together on the ether waves. Also the computer has become a great tool in the Ham Shack, helping us to log, send CW and play in the contest.

CW is AMATEUR RADIO in my book. And FISTS our Club, I hope to QSO On the Air with all of you. W3ERU WES #2099

Hi Nancy, just thought you might like to let the fists members know how much fun I have had in the group since 1997. Here are my findings.

Following call area's, state side and dx members worked..

1	60
2	75
3	80
4	150
5	85
6	40
7	47
8	120
9	69
0	115

850 members

This is a grand total of station worked, state-side and DX of 850 fists members since 1997 when I joined. And have all 850 QSL CARDS.

Which helped me get my W.A.S.  
GOLD=SILVER=PLAT= DIAMOND  
AWARDS ALSO . It been a ball. 73  
Lou NB2T # 2944.

### **New! Easy to download! Third Revised Edition of The Art and Skill of Radio-Telegraphy!**

William G. Pierpont's "The Art and Skill of Radio-Telegraphy", new Third Revised Edition, dated July 8, 2001, has just been released in Microsoft Word and Adobe Acrobat pdf form via the download site, <http://www.qsl.net/n9bor/n0hff.htm>. This edition contains miscellaneous corrections to the previous version, and most significantly, adds a High-Speed Appendix, with fascinating interviews and stories of what can be done, and how to do it. *This is truly the definitive book on the subject of radio-telegraphy.* As Bill points out in the document, "The art and skill of telegraphy is unique. The psychologists who have seriously studied those who have developed this skill have been fascinated and challenged to try to understand it. Isn't the very idea of being able to communicate your thoughts to another by means of intermittent tones something intriguing in itself?" And, he also says, "It is my hope that you, as the reader, will find it both interesting and useful. I make no claim that it is complete, perfect or final, or that it contains everything of possible value or interest. I have had to leave out some interesting items, especially of history. Perhaps some of these, plus anything you, as reader, may wish to contribute, could be added in further editions. This book may be freely reproduced and published, but only on a no-profit basis in order to make it as widely available as possible to those who need it..." The book will be made available in many forms in the days to come. The decision has been made to make the book downloadable so it can be read off-line, as well as printed, by the computer user. This obviates the need for an HTML edition as was previously available. - from Fred Adsit, NY2V, July 8, 2001

## QRP With K3WWP - Column # 47- Contesting Part 1

It's been quite a while since I've discussed QRP contesting tips in this column, so let's go back to the 4th column I wrote and present that material again with some revisions.

There are two basic kinds of QRPer's in contests. The first runs 5 watts output from his transmitter, but has a superb location with a huge antenna farm to boost his effective radiated power to a much higher level (a 13db gain array will boost the 5 watts to about 100 watts ERP albeit in only a single direction). The second has a below average location with simple antennas that limit his effective radiated power to around 5 watts. I belong to the second group which I call minimal QRP. Of course there are many variations between these upper and lower limits as well. The information I am presenting here pertains mainly to minimal QRP. The better stations can do things that the minimal QRPer can't do in contests.

I enjoy contesting with QRP very much because it is a great challenge. Obviously a minimal QRPer like me does not have much of a chance of winning a big contest overall or even beating the QRPer with a bigger antenna farm and better location, but it is still a lot of fun to enter contests.

I enter virtually every contest that has some CW operation in it. I especially enjoy the big contests. Since I know many other QRPers have better setups than mine, I really only compete against myself to try to better my previous high score for that particular contest. If I do better my score, I am happy that I now have a new mark to shoot for next year. If not, I analyze my operation and see where I went wrong, and make some strategy changes for next year. Or if my poorer results were the result of poor conditions that particular weekend, I say those are the breaks of contesting and go on to the next test.

After that preamble that I hope makes clear there are many different classes of QRP stations in contests and outlines my goals in contesting,

let's finally get down to operating procedures in contests.

Previously I've said there is little difference between QRP and QRO operation in everyday ham activity. Not so in contests. There are many differences, as well as some similarities.

While the QRO operator can simply plop down on a frequency and call CQ for hours at a time with an endless stream of answers, the QRPer must rely mostly on the search and pounce (S&P) technique. For those unfamiliar with contesting, that means find a station calling CQ, pounce on his frequency, and call him.

The QRPer can only successfully use the CQ technique in a QRP contest or when he is the object of the contest, i.e. if he is a Pennsylvanian in the Pennsylvania QSO Party. Calling CQ in a big contest like the SS or a DX contest is simply a waste of time. In a medium size contest like a state QSO party, a well planned CQ here and there can net a few additional QSO's.

For example, if you hear an Illinois station in the Illinois QSO Party using S&P and never calling CQ himself, figure out his pattern. Is he moving up the band in his S&P effort? If so, get a couple of Khz higher than him and call CQ. He may find and answer you, especially if propagation is good to Illinois at that particular time, and signals are strong. Or if you have worked all Illinois stations that are calling CQ on a particular band, try a CQ yourself. Someone may be tuning around and find you. Sometimes those who have been calling CQ the whole contest will use the last hour or two of a contest to go looking for other CQ's. If you call CQ near the end of a contest, they just may find and call you. But overall rely on S&P for the majority of your QSO's.

How do you know who to call when S&P'ing? Try calling everyone you hear, but use common sense if you don't get an answer the first time. Does he have a big pileup calling him? If so, move on to someone else. If he is a rare multiplier, note his frequency, and come back to him from time to time because a rare multiplier

worked is worth many QSO's with a common multiplier. If someone is calling CQ without any answers, and still doesn't hear you, again move on. He may have some line noise or something else that is keeping him from hearing your signal at that moment. Or he may be running high power and forcing his signal through, while your QRP signal is getting absorbed on the way to him. Try coming back later when conditions may have changed a bit. For a common station I usually try calling him 3 separate times before moving on. I usually try longer for a rare multiplier.

Many times, you will notice a station fading up and down. Try to learn the pattern of the fades and call on an upswing.

I mentioned earlier there are some times when you can call CQ in contests. Next month I'll discuss procedures for CQing and cover any other loose ends.

If you have any specific questions about QRP contesting, let me know via Email at [johnshan@alltel.net](mailto:johnshan@alltel.net) or regular mail at John Shannon, 478 E. High St., Kittanning, PA 16201-1304. Also be sure to visit my Internet site at [www.alltel.net/~johnshan](http://www.alltel.net/~johnshan) or [www.qsl.net/k3wvp](http://www.qsl.net/k3wvp) for a wealth of QRP information. 73 -30-

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### Calling or QSO Frequencies?

I was working on 15 meters this morning and called a CQ. Was answered by several European members, but couldn't copy them through the QRM from US stations. It seems to me that, with the increased membership, something needs to be done about the FISTS frequencies.

My suggestion is that they be designated as "calling frequencies" rather than "QSO frequencies". That is to say that once contact has been established, move off the frequency 5 or 10 KHz to complete your QSO. Granted that this requires a bit of effort on the part of both parties to a QSO, after all it is a lot of work to QSY. However, since FISTS is an organization which has as a motto, "Courtesy at all times" an arrangement such as this would benefit all members and also be an example of courtesy for all amateurs. 73, Carl, AB7YW (FISTS # 6541)

COMBO 8/9 2001

### Bug Adjustment Hint

Was interested in the bug adjustment hints by W8EGI. I have been using something similar except that I use a VTVM to set the dots. I adjust the dot contact point by watching the VTVM needle oscillate around the center of its dial. In this way, the space between the dots is equal to the length of time required for the dots.

Thoroughly enjoy the magazine. Wish there were West Coast opportunity... Perhaps it will come in time. Sincerely, Bill N6QP

### West Coast Opportunity

*This isn't a FISTS activity, but it is an opportunity for the West coast CW folks to get some CW code practice:*

Aloha from Kauai,

I plan to begin my CW practice sessions again on Monday, October 1st. I suspended them after Sept. 11th.

Transceiver will be a Ten Tec Omni VI+ with the 2.8 kHz Inrad 754 filter in the transmit chain for great CW quality. So, you can hear the "famous" TT CW note and the signal amplified via a "loafing" Henry amplifier.

I have had many requests to do these practice sessions on 20 meters as I have done for Hawaii on 40 only. That is, do these sessions up somewhere in the SSB band segment; I can then give oral instructions/comments/read backs of what has been sent to my "students"; that format is very popular out here. You will be able to hear both the SSB and CW signal from the Omni VI/Henry beginning next Monday evening, mainland time.

Tentative plan is to begin at 20 meter CW practice will begin Monday evening, mainland time, at 0030 UTC (8:30 PM EDT), up near the top of the band, 14345 +/- QRM. Then, I will repeat all again at 0500 UTC on 40 meters for Hawaii and US West Coast areas at 7088 (which is within an available SSB segment out here in KH6 land). 73, Jim KH7M

FISTS CW Club

## Pete's Net

*A tribute to Silent Key, Pete Gellert, W2WSS by Anne W12G*

He was never one to blow his own horn and had been in traffic-handling far too long to harbor any illusions about the efficacy of proselytizing in attracting new blood to the traffic nets, and, come to think of it, if Pete (W2WSS) ever submitted any publicity about the Empire Slow Speed Net to the *Keynote*, it was too long ago to remember.

When I got my General in late 1987 I decided to give public service a shot; traffic-handling sounded weird and boring but you never know, so I got a copy of the *ARRL Net Directory*—which in those halcyon days had reprints of *QST* articles, outlining how to check into a net and such—and the Empire Slow Speed Net seemed just right.

I was plenty slow, God knows, and with the attic dipole in Queens CW got you out a lot better, watt for watt, than voice. So one fine evening I screwed up my courage, tuned to 3590 at 6 o'clock, and waited. The NCS was another YL, Kay (NN2H) and she seemed nice and—more to the point—patient, so I did what everyone else was doing and checked in, though I may have been the only one whose knees sounded like castanets that night.

Somehow, Kay extracted my name and QTH and welcomed me to the net and son-of-a-gun, afterwards someone with a *real* strong signal called me and it turned out to be Harvey, W2AHV (SK), who lived only a mile or two away. Gee. these traffic nets seemed like fun and since I had a new HT I figured I'd try the local VHF net and the weekly 10-meter section net and then found out from those fellas about NYS, the CW section net.

Somewhere along the line I received a QSL from Pete and started getting the *ESS Bulletin*, the monthly net newsletter, in the mail. Pete managed ESS, and was observing 10 years as manager when I came in, and I began to sense that he was the big influence on everyone else. He was a man of mystery at first—callbook ad-

dress in Manhattan, yet he showed up on the net roster in Livingston, a place I'd never heard of (Livingston Manor, maybe? *That* place I knew, at least). I'd started running with Harvey and his friends, a bunch of geezer Extras who gave me much-needed perspective and Elmering.

Since Pete lived in Manhattan during the week—Livingston was the country place, near Albany—I began inviting him to the ham soirees we had a few times a year at my place. He, in turn, seemed taken by our young family and reciprocated with tours of the Catskill Game Farm and a 13-year QSO was forged. We got along pretty well for people from opposite sides of the tracks, and I saw eye-to-eye with him on most everything connected with radio and a lot outside it too. We had a warm, comfortable friendship which looked like it would continue for a long time.

But life happens, ready or not, and in early December he called to say he'd had a relapse of the aplastic anemia he'd been pretty sick with nine years earlier. I remembered *that* well enough (the calls to the hospital from our vacation cottage on Lake George and all), but thought that Medical Science would cure him like it had the last time. But this time he was 65-plus-9, and things went horribly, horribly awry, and two days before Christmas I got the tearful call I'd been dreading from his wife Anne.

So what about the net? It had to continue as unchanged as possible, considering that *everything* had changed. Pete had mentioned, long ago, that he'd been chosen manager in an on-air election, so we had an election and ESS now has a new manager. I guess I should be happy. We meet daily and everyone is welcome. The nominal net speed is 10 WPM, but we are nice and accommodating like Pete taught us to be. We are, after all, his legacy and if there were more hams like Pete in the world, the Berlin Wall couldn't keep out the multitudes wanting to get licensed. As for me, I raise a glass to Pete (a teetotaler, it turned out): "Thanks, my friend, for showing us all what we can...no, *should* be."

## Maritime Morse Is Alive

I meant to put this in the Keynote a few months ago, but didn't have room, so it's a bit outdated in regard to the "date last heard". But, it shows that Maritime Morse is still around. These listings are from the web page of Heinrich Busch, If you'd like to check it out, it's at <<http://home.t-online.de/hoime/hbusch>>

These Martime CW signals were heard in Uruguay by Waldo Rethemias/CX2AD

Date: May 3, 2001 Time: 00.00 UTC Listening time: About 20 minutes. Receiver: Kenwood R1000 (So frequencies are approximate) Antenna: Long wire. (25 mts. long, poorly grounded)

CLA Havana Radio	Cuba: 8573 - 12673 - 16961
SPE42/61	Poland: 12939 - 8650
HLO	Korea: 12843
HLJ	Korea: 16910
7TF	Algeria: 12771 - 16932
4XZ	Israel: 12984
CWA Cerrito/Punta	Carretas_Uruguay: 8602 - 12750 - 17230
IAR Roma Radio	Italy: 17206
SAA	Goeteborg: 12675

These were heard by David Smith/ZL2BBB in New Zealand:

callsign	Frequency	Date	Kind of tfc
4xz Haifa Navy	8436,5	07mar01	tfc-list
ira Roma	8669	03mar01	cq
iar Roma	8685	03mar01	cq
irm Roma med.	8686	03mar01	cq
xst Tsingtao	8690	06mar01	cq
saa Karlskrona	12674	03mar01	cq
url Sevastopol	12733	07mar01	nx/wx/tfc-list
tah Istanbul	12799	03mar01	cq
vtg goa (navy)	12807	03mar01	cq u??
xsq Shanghai	12856	07mar01	tfc-list
spe Szczecin	12937,5	03mar01	cq
utq (Russia)	13054	07mar01	cq
(China)	16991,5	07mar01	tfc-list
xsg Shanghai	17102	06mar01	tfc-list
iar Roma	17205	03mar01	cq
hlg Soeul	22611	06mar01	tfc-list

These signals were monitored by Heinrich from Northern Germany

QRG	CS / QRA	last heard
4241,0	4xz=Haifa_Navy	24.7.01 19:00
4302,0	a9m=Bahrain	24.7.01 19:00
4320,0	iar = Rom	24.7.01 19:00
4331,0	4xz=Haifa_Navy	24.7.01 19:00
6357,0	saa = Karlskrona	22.7.01 19:00
6379,0	4xz=Haifa_Navy	24.7.01 19:00
6448,0	fdc = FAF Metz	24.7.01 19:00
8448,0	a9m=Bahrain	24.7.01 22:00
8450,0	saa = Karlskrona	28.7.01 6:30
8496,0	cla = Havannah	28.7.01 8:00
8530,0	iar = Rom	28.7.01 8:00
8573,0	cla = Havannah	4.7.01 6:00
8600,0	xsv = Tsientsin	22.7.01 21:00
8605,0	usw = Kaliningrad	22.7.01 21:00
8650,0	spe = Szczecin	28.7.01 8:00
8662,0	tah = Istanbul	24.7.01 19:00
8665,0	xsg = Shanghai	22.7.01 21:00
8670,0	iar = Rom	27.7.01 11:00
8686,0	irm = Rom Medico	28.7.01 6:30
8698,0	7tf = Algier	28.7.01 6:30
12673,5	cla = Havannah	4.7.01 6:00
12676,5	a4m = muscat radio	8.7.01 7:25
12700,0	xsq = Guangzhou	24.7.01 22:00
12709,0	a9m=Bahrain	27.7.01 14:00
12735,0	url = Sevastopol	24.7.01 19:00
12771,0	7tf = Algier	28.7.01 6:30
12801,0	tah = Istanbul	27.7.01 11:00
12808,6	vtg = Goa (Navy)	24.7.01 19:00
12811,0	tah = Istanbul	27.7.01 14:00
12856,0	xsg = Shanghai	27.7.01 14:00
12910,0	uat = Moskva	27.7.01 14:00
12916,5	hlf = Soeul	24.7.01 22:00
12923,0	hlw = Soeul	24.7.01 22:00
12927,0	uvq	27.7.01 11:00
12935,0	hlg = Soeul	27.7.01 14:00
12939,0	spe = Szczecin	24.7.01 19:00
12942,0	rlk	27.7.01 11:00
12965,0	uso = ismail (UKR)	28.7.01
13011,0	iar = Rom	28.7.01 8:00
13016,0	iar = Rom	27.7.01 11:00
13062,0	cla = Havannah	24.7.01 22:00
16932,0	7tf = Algier	24.7.01 19:00
16938,0	vtg = Goa	27.7.01 14:00
16993,0	uat = Moscow	21.7.01 14:00
17021,5	tah = Istanbul	27.7.01 11:00
17061,0	cla = Havannah	28.7.01 8:00
17175,5	a9m=Bahrain	27.7.01 14:00

## Code on the Queen Mary

Kathy, KS6CW, has the enviable opportunity to use the Queen Mary radio room on a regular basis. Here is a report from her about a typical day on board.

On Saturday, August 11th at the Queen Mary's W6RO we received many tourists from everywhere (as usual).

I tried something DIFFERENT with the QM tourists on August 11th. Since I was NOT able to get a key to plug into any of the radios that were close to the Dutch door I had interested tourists enter the ham shack and sit down at a MFJ — practice paddle key oscillator. And I also had one radio on 20 meters with all kinds of CW signals!! The tourists really loved hearing that.

I told the tourists that the "Morse Code" that they are hearing is NOT a recording but a live transmission. The tourists were in AWE as they thought that CW was died and no longer used. I explained to them that commercial CW is no longer used but non commercial (ham radio) CW is used by many hams around the world.

The code speeds they heard on the radio that day was up there in the contest range (30 + WPM).

Those tourists that came in and tried out the practice key had a wonderful time (both children and adults).

I had made up an alphabet chart in English letters and Morse code letters.

I told the tourists a little bit of the Telegraphy's history and told them how to work the key and send their names in Morse code. They all had a big kick out of it. A couple of boys (different times inside the shack) loved the key so much that they worked it for about 20 minutes or so. I was impressed.

This one guy (from England) David, son of Mike

didn't know anything about Morse code or how to send but by the time he left with his father he could send with a good fist.

While David was on the key having so much fun trying different words (he went beyond his name — he wanted to try out all kinds of words) I talked with his father about HAM radio. "It appears that this is be a good hobby for him" and the father agreed and told me that his next door neighbor is a ham.

A couple came by (young husband and wife) and the wife appeared very interested in trying out the key so I let her in the shack (and her husband too). Her comment, "I could do this all day." She just loved working the telegraph key (paddle). She also mentioned that she'd rather use the key than the microphone. I gave her a FISTS CW CLUB brochure.

Other tourists came in and took pictures of their children working the telegraph key in the radio room at the Queen Mary. All of the tourists thanked me so much for letting them inside. This one lady said, "This is so special — thanks."

In the later part of the afternoon a lost boy was brought to W6RO, and I called security and they had me call dispatch. Soon the boy's mother was found. He was only 5 years old and full of tears.

Dick Doan, W9CBD of Chesterton, IN paid W6RO a visit. He was hoping to see a semiautomatic key (BUG), but W6RO does not have one. He didn't want to work a paddle nor a straight key.

Several months ago there was another ham that also came aboard the QM W6RO and wanted to use a bug.

Kathy  
KS6CW

## Bug Users Group

Couple of friends and me have "founded" BUG. That's the Bug User Group (Uli, DF5DW came up with that great name). We're a bunch of folks who do not only collect bugs but like to put them back on the air where they belong. We meet every 10th, 20th and 30th of the month on either 3547 or 7017 kHz, +- QRM and time permitting of course. The time is 20:00 CEST/CET or 18:00/19:00 UTC. We don't have a president, no officers, no numbers, no membership fees - nothing of the kind. And that's to remain so. Anyone who wants to put his old bug back on the air or just feels like giving it a try is welcome. Simply turn up and join the fun.

Ah yes, the call to meet folks is simply CQ BUG ;-);-);-)

We also have a URL which is <http://www.qsl.net/bug> so far only in German. If there's sufficient interest, there might be an English version sometime... Hope to meet a bunch of you soon...

73 de Thomas, DL1CQ FISTS #6402,

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### Six Meters

I have been off the regular FISTS frequencies for two months now but wanted to share the fun I found by working six meters CW QRP. I have six meters capability on my ICOM746 and one day, thought I would try it to see if it worked. In 55 years of Ham Radio, never been on that band. WOW! I got my first CQ answered by a fellow in Pomona, California and the bug bit me. I started collecting grid squares, states, and even countries. I am using my 17 meter full wave loop on six meters because 50 mHz is a third harmonic of 18 mHz and the antenna works great, even though it is very directional. I have found many great CW ops on six meters and they operate between 50.090 and 50.110 mostly.

I would like to add 50.098 as a proposed FISTS CW frequency for those who have this capability. If you don't, Ranger Communications just came out with a radio, the 5054DX for under \$300.00 that is excellent from what I have heard. So, please join the six meter CW fun with me. So, far I have only heard Mike K8XF on six meters. 73's de Stan W5ZF #6183, Grid DM65

Try This One  
SHE IS 55 ES  
SHE IS HIS SISTER

### FISTS Philosophy In Action

I have a comment I would like to make about the issue 5 Keynote. I sort of object to the article on page 16 of the Keynote about Learners and CW. Yes, it would be nice if everyone was 12 wpm.

I promise you that I will work a station at 2 wpm if the case comes up. I am currently about 22 wpm with 16 months experience.

I have heard stations tell ops "will chat when you are QRQ. I have jumped in there and worked slow stations, guess what happened, I got a "good OO card".

Now for the good news, Congrats to Andrea on making her first CW contact! She is 12 years old. Thanks to the wonderful CW op on the other end she made her first 5 wpm contact. See her picture on my webpage, just click on the newsletter link. If you have time pictures of my CW mobile operation is under the pictures section.

[www.qsl.net/ad4dx/indexG.html](http://www.qsl.net/ad4dx/indexG.html)

73 Bill KG4FXG Fists 7249

PHOTOPAGE Winners for  
August and September are  
WF6W, Bill Botko and  
W9FAM, Vern Kaspar. Send in  
YOUR photo and be entered in  
a monthly drawing for a grab-  
bag full of FISTS goodies!

## ALPHABET SOUP

by Frank Merritt, VE7FPM

CW is an art form that most operators work hard to attain. Of course, there are exceptions. Hams who are addicted to instant gratification probably should fast forward to another article NOW!

Operating CW is a definite achievement. It requires skill that mostly can only be achieved by practice. There is a lot of great misunderstanding with respect to CW operating. Some operators feel that CW is now obsolete that we have so many sophisticated digital forms of communications. As a matter of fact, CW is the ORIGINAL DIGITAL MODE OF COMMUNICATIONS. The bandwidth is usually considered to be an optimum at 500 Hz. However, that does not mean that there cannot be interference a little way away in receivers that are not really sharp in selectivity. Here comes one of the secrets of Amateur Radio. Usually it is better to use a bandwidth of 2.4 to 3.1 kHz in tuning and establishing a contact with another station. That way there is some assurance that the other station probably will not be overwhelmed by some signal that is out of your bandpass when you are using a more narrow filter, such as 500 Hz.

With all other digital forms of communications a computer system is required to process the data before being presented to the readout mechanism. In CW this processing is performed in the "pimple" atop the operator's shoulders. In fact, in a matter of time the brain can be used to reject undesired signals while processing desired signals. This is a great advantage in operating in difficult circumstances.

Many operators are confused with respect to equipment. Generally speaking excellent radio equipment DOES NOT NECESSARILY indicate an excellent operator. Of course, it is wonderful to have the latest and best in equipment but this usually is not really necessary. There is another factor involved. That factor is ALPHABET SOUP. This term is used to indicate CW transmissions in which the spacing between words is not present. It is all just one big jumble

of characters. At times, and if the sender is a wee bit careful, the Ham on the receiving end can get the drift of what the sender is saying BUT eventually it ends up being a matter of futility.

Most of us agonize with the fact that some stations cannot be copied at 10 or 15 WPM while others much faster, say at 20 to 40 WPM, are completely readable. The operators who send alphabet soup are just not listening to what they are sending. Yes, it is just that simple. As the sending operator sends CW if he/she would take the time to critically listen to what is being sent it is merely necessary to consider: Would I like to receive this transmission?

Any code transmission that is sent by hand has a definite "signature". This was well known in all wars using radio CW transmission and military intelligence could be and was gained from this phenomenon. The "fist" of the operator is a very personal signature. As such, some operators are easy to copy and some are not. Probably those reading this are the operators who try to send legible CW. However, there is the possibility that all of us might benefit from the observation of ALPHABET SOUP.

Very, very few operators send perfect code. Most of us stumble about from time to time and this is certainly not a big problem. Probably this identifies us as human people. This does not come within the definition of ALPHABET SOUP.

Some operators seem only desirous of sending the letters and that is all. What a shame! They seem to be oblivious to the salient fact that to be an effective communication their sending will, or at least should be, understandable at the other end. The cure is simple and does not cost a cent. It is the mere desire and practice of being considerate on the air. It is wise to constantly have the thought in mind: Can the other operator make any sense out of my transmission? This is largely a matter of courtesy and caring about other people. That does not really sound like too much to me. Do you agree?

## Get Rid of That Annoying Click

A number of operators object to the upswing click of a straight key. Solving that is simple unless it is a Vibroplex or other new and unique design which has travel and/or tension adjusted in a more complex manner. On the J-38 type key, or any Speed-X straight key, both classics in their basic design and commonality with other straight keys, the travel adjusting screw is up front, and whether the frame is metal or hard composition or plastic, when the key is pressed and released, there is an "upclick". This is caused by the travel adjuster striking that hard material.

The answer: Note where the bolt strikes the frame of the key. Cut a 1/4" or 3/8" square piece of Velcro or similar sticky-backed material such as double-sided tape (leave the plastic on the top side, or replace that with a piece of cloth). Even two layers of carpet tape will do. Fully loosen the adjuster screw so the travel is outrageous. (You will need room to work for a few seconds :o). Press the tape onto the frame where the adjuster bolt hits. Now tighten the travel adjuster. You now have a soft object being hit on the upswing. I just did it on my WW2 Lionel J-38 and it is quiet as a mouse on the upswing. And I must admit, I LIKE it!

Obviously there is a firm click on the downswing - after all, metal-to-metal electrical contact is being made. <g> Frankly, most of the time you should use headphones, so whether the key clicks on the upswing is of no consequence that I can sense.

I have also found that it really IS much easier to send if you keep the travel pretty small, and the tension quite high. This was quite a debate topic here some time ago. It may not seem logical, but it works well.

By way of contrast, your keyer paddles should be adjusted with minimal travel and tension.

Do you use a semi-automatic key as I often do? For that, whatever works best for you is the answer. The 1957 Army training manual instructions at [http://www.metronet.com/~nmcewen/bug\\_adjust.html](http://www.metronet.com/~nmcewen/bug_adjust.html) are an excellent start. 73 ES ZUT Fred, NY2V

## On sending Morse Code...

I wanted to talk about the quality of Morse code sending one hears on the air these days. Most operators form good letters, but often the letter and word spacing is not quite right. The spacing between words should be 7 units, and between letters, 3 units. A unit is equal to one dot length. What I am hearing on the air are stations sending with a lot less than seven unit spacing between words, and sometimes no spacing or letter or letter spacing between words.

~~This is how this sending would look if you could see it printed out.~~

Hard to read isn't it? Well it's hard to read on the air too. Some operators have good word spacing most of the time but when it comes to sending their call sign, they get in a hurry and send the "de" and their call all together so it comes out like - deve5dc.

The problem of letter spacing is more complex because running two letters together will often form a new letter. For example I hear someone sending the word "and", they run the a and n together to form the letter "p" which then makes the word "pd". Another example is the word "well" with the w and e run together to make a word like "pll".

I have found that years of sending code on a keyboard or a computer is very good because of course the computer sends perfect code and by hitting the space bar between words you get perfect word spacing as well. To do this type of sending you must keep ahead of the buffer so that the spaces are being formed by the computer and not by the operator. Sending with a computer helps your paddle sending as well because you know what good code sounds like.

I am not suggesting that everyone should send on a keyboard, but it is good to hear machine- sending and then try to imitate it with you paddles or bug etc. I copy all the code in my head. Unless conditions are perfect the computer does a poor job of copying. To check your own sending it's a good idea to make a tape recording as you send and see what it sounds like. As dedicated CW operators we should strive for precision Morse at all times. 73 de Jerry VE5DC

## **Is This A Record?**

Talk about alphabet soup - this QSL card from FISTS member Carl, PY2DBU, from Brazil amazed me. I have never seen such a listing of clubs and certificates. Conngrats, Carl!

## **CW To The Rescue**

by Laci Radnay, W1PL

It was summer of 1975. My company sent me to do some work in the Middle East. The travel bureau set up the flight from Boston to Tehran, Iran to include a weekend stop in Zurich Switzerland to compensate for the jet lag.

After taking a sight-seeing tour, it was just some rest in the hotel..

Being a ham I tried to find a local ham. Unfortunately my old friend Jean Lips, HM9J, just became a Silent Key. My CW partners for decades, HB9EU and HB9MQ were out of town. My only hope rested on the telephone directory. It was a miracle for me, that under HB I've found one single call letter listed. If it had been an operator call, I would have hesitated. I spoke the English with my thick Hungarian accent, only traces of German or French words lingered in the far peripheries of my mind. Fortunately, it was a dial phone.

I bravely called. A young sounding male voice answered. I told who I was, some completely foreign sound came from the phone. After minutes of bilingual tries, we didn't go anywhere.

Then suddenly I got an idea. I said "dah dah dit....dit" The answer came back "dah dah dit....dit."

Finally we have understood each other and starting with that we chatted on the telephone for over half an hour, telling everything of interest about each other and establishing a "CW" QSO on the landline between an HB ham speaking only Swiss Dutch and myself speaking a badly accented English.

Now they can tell me over and over again that CW is obsolete, that CW is not needed, that CW is for he birds.

This story of mine may add a little bit to the defense of CW and prove it's usefulness.

## Bletchley Park and the Enigma

I have been living in the United Kingdom (London) for the past few months and I have a few suggestions for CW buffs who may be visiting the UK:

1) Bletchley Park is about an hour trainride outside London (12 pounds is the price). Take the train from London Euston Station (which is conveniently at a tube stop) to Bletchley and then follow the signs (on foot) to the Park: it's about a 10 minute walk. Bletchley Park was where

the Enigma code used by the Germans during WWII was broken; the Park itself has been turned into a historic "museum." You will pay about \$7.50 to enter and be given a 1 hour tour. Sometimes the tours are given by the former workers at the site. My tour was from a former WREN who ran one of the BOMBE machines used for cracking. She was an expert and delighted the group with anecdote after anecdote.

The Park is also home to about 50 interest groups, or clubs. The most interesting for many of you will be the Milton Keynes Amateur Radio Society. This club has a club station right in Bletchley Park. The callsign is, appropriately, GB2BP. You can operate the station if you have your license and a club member is present; they are truly nice chaps! It was a thrill to have a contact on the station they called "Station X" during the war. Yes, they do use CW and have both straight keys and paddles available.

Visit their website and look at the pictures:

<http://www.project-x.org.uk/bletpark.html>

<http://members.madasafish.com/~bletchley/park.html>

2) The other site you may wish to visit, which is also accessible from London Euston Station (45 minute ride), is the headquarters of the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB). Take the train to Potters Bar (that's a station, not a

pub!) and walk about 15 minutes to the station. They will e-mail directions for the walk if you contact their website. Once again, they will allow you to operate GB3RS. They have a small museum of radio equipment and are very accommodating to visiting amateurs.

<http://www.rsgb.org/>

Barry Keating WD4MSM

## Maritime Telegraph CD

This was posted on the CW reflector by Hans, K0HB, who got it via the RNARS. I thought it might be of interest to FISTS:

"Maritime radio telegraphy world wide news" is the title of a CD-album of the former German radio officer Sylvester Foecking, DH4PB and contains approximately 2 hours of different Wireless telegraphy.

He has composed this CD from collected information of the "Nautical high school Bremen" and from private sources. The CD starts with a short introduction of the 100-year old history of the Maritime radiotelegraphy.

It continues with telegraphic news from coast stations all over the world. You'll find famous names like Norddeich Radio, Scheveningen Radio, Land's End Radio, Halifax Radio, Washington Radio and Sydney Radio, just to mention a few. You'll hear from near SOS-, distress and security-messages, iceberg warning, weather forecast and press release and you'll see how Maritime radiotelegraphy was done in practice.

From what you hear you may guess what kind of ability was necessary for a radio operator and what a sensitive ear was needed to select the right information. Today most of the coast stations do not send messages anymore, at least not with this old method.

Today communication via satellite has replaced everything else. Therefore the high-

lights of the CD are surely the farewell messages of some of the famous coast stations. With only some "CQ" and deeply impressive words in Morse they said goodbye for ever. This may induce sadness, mainly when Maritime radiotelegraphy was part of your professional life.

On the sea and on the shore the radio operators always did their duty. Today this profession has vanished and the communication duties had been taken over from the nautical officers.

With his private initiative Sylvester Foecking has saved a part of the history of worldwide telegraphic news. The double CD with registrations from the Seventies and Eighties from all over the world is not only of interest for former radio operators but for all those that feel somehow attached to CW.

One could also recommend the homepage of the editor (<http://www.seefunker.de>) "Kustenfunkstellen und ihre Rufzeichen/ Coast-stations and their call signs". See also "international" There you can hear coast stations with their original CQ-loops, so that you may already find some interest for this album.

Order: Sylvester Foecking, Wormser Strasse 16, D 55276 Oppenheim. e-mail <mailto:foecking@main-rheiner.de> The cost of the double CD is DM 15 (E/\$ 7.50) We donate DM 5 (E/\$ 2.50) to "Seefunkkameradschaft Bremen" ("Society of Radio Officers Bremen") Postage and handling in Germany is DM 4 (in Europe DM 8 = 3D E 4.00). CD in USA/overseas \$15 (all incl. postage is very high) Payment: pse ask - pse no advance payment. Delivery time ca 14 Days. There is a German or English edition (cover and introduction) Best wishes, Ludwig Morse-Telegrafie-Homepage (CW) <http://www.qsl.net/dk5ke/>

## Women Telegraphers

While we're looking at web pages, this one is very interesting and different:

<http://www.mindspring.com/~tjepson/Teleg.html>

. It is a wonderful source of all sorts of documents, research papers, stories, and photographs of women and their contribution to the telegraph. Maintained by Thomas Jepsen for National Coalition of Independent Scholars, it covers not only American women, but Canadian, Japanese, French and Cyprus, among others, as well as railroad telegraphy.

I found the Women Telegraphers in the Civil War and Women Telegraphers of the West to be particularly interesting. There is a LOT of reading on these pages, and I look forward to having some time to be able to read it all. (WZ8C)

## Award Updates

Dennis, our Awards Manager, would like to remind you that the deadline for applying for the Millennium Award is December 31, 2001. You may remember that the Millennium Award is for contacts made during the year 2000.

Now that Bob, G0FRL, has resigned, Dennis can go back to issuing sequentially numbered certificates for awards like Century/QRP instead of endorsements. If you were issued an endorsement, you will be receiving a numbered award certificate in the mail. These numbers are just for fun and have NOTHING to do with the Platinum or Diamond, etc. awards. Your REGULAR Century Certificate number (CC number) is the one you exchange on the air.

## Parting Thoughts....

*It's time to order new patches. Do you think we should order more of the same, or get some with the FISTS key logo on them? Do you have a preference? Let me know!! Hope you had a good time in the Fall Sprint, don't forget to send in your log to N8IE (NOT TO ME!) 73 88 Nancy Kott WZ8C [nancy@tir.com](mailto:nancy@tir.com), PO Box 47 Hadley MI 48440.*

# FISTS CLUB DOWN UNDER Local News - Sept 2001

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## Down Under Changes

All members will note from the above header, that a number of changes have taken place, mainly to lessen Ralph's workload, as our membership continues to increase, at a great pace. Our joint aim, is to keep costs to a minimum, which is reflected in the Subs as a benefit to all. Additionally, it is pleasing to see that our VK membership is gaining momentum and hopefully as the word spreads, more Australian Amateurs will join FISTS Down Under. With this in mind, we should all think about other VK/ZL Amateurs keen on CW Operating, who may like to join us. If you know someone, mention FISTS and put them in touch with Ralph.

Hello, to one and all, I am **Nigel, ZL2TX**, a relatively new **FIST member # 9040**. I have taken on the job of your new **Editor and ZL QSL Manager** for both inward and outward QSL cards. Cards for ZL members will continue to be sent out with the newsletter as before. Cards for overseas will be posted around the 1st of each month, or before if the envelope is full.

**AUSTRALIAN SUBSCRIPTIONS** John Blake, **FISTS # 9054**, residing in Kingston, Tasmania, becomes the new **Australian Representative and VK QSL Manager**. He will handle both inward and outward cards from our VK Colleagues. VK members will continue to receive their cards with their newsletter, which will be mailed to them, by John. This means that we are able to hold costs. Please note that :- **Subscriptions for Australian Members will remain at the same level as at present.**

**Ralph Sutton, ZL2AOH, FISTS # 1073**, who for so long, has handled everything Down Under, now takes a breather, and will now handle all **Membership Enquiries, Subscriptions and Award applications from both VK and ZL**. He will also keep the membership list on database and update this regularly.

**On behalf of all our members, Ralph, thank you, for all you have done, to keep CW Alive and bring together such a group of enthusiastic Morse Operators, in Australia and New Zealand, under the auspices of FISTS DOWN UNDER.**

## Silent Key

We regret to report the passing, of **ZL2AQ - Dr John Gabites, D.Sc, F.R.S.N.Z., Group Captain, R.N.Z.A.F., - #9031**.

John's enthusiasm for amateur radio began in his school days and continued right throughout his life. He was a pioneer in the science of ionospheric propagation and wrote extensively on the subject. His easy to understand contributions to "Break In", the NZ Call Book and branch newsletters, were greatly appreciated by the NZ amateur radio fraternity. John served as a meteorological officer in the RNZAF during WW2, before a distinguished career in the NZ Meteorological Service - eventually becoming its head. Dr John, as he was affectionately known, was an active member of the Wellington and Kapiti branches of NZART and will be missed greatly. We have sent a letter of condolence on behalf of the club, to his wife Elizabeth and the family.

## New Member

**VK4AP - Warwick # 9058**, from North Mackay, Queensland, joins us as a new member. Welcome to the Down Under Chapter, Warwick. Members will be looking for you, on the bands on or around +058khz. We look forward, to some news from you, in the near future.

## **VK/ZL Members News**

**ZL2AOH - Ralph # 1073**, reports that the Quartz Hill Station, ZL6QH, located in Wellington, was operational during the WAE Contest, 11/12<sup>th</sup> August. Operators were Wilbert ZL2BSJ and Franz ZL2III (DK1II). The station was open to the public and 20 visitors turned up, on a fine but cool afternoon. (The Quartz Hill Station, featured in Break-In, Nov/Dec 99, is located in the old Post Office Receiving Station building at Makara, looking out over the Tasman Sea. Featured are very large Rhombic and Vee Beam antennas. (For those that haven't been there, it is a visit not to be missed. Truly a Hams Paradise! -Ed)

Ralph spent a bit of time in the Remembrance Day Contest with his QRP Rig. Apparently his ICOM is still in hospital awaiting a transplant. ICOM JA couldn't donate the requisite and so hopefully, a donor will appear in the form of ICOM VK.

**ZL1MRX - Jeff # 9001**, advises, his new e-mail address is : - [monkfish@hyper.net.nz](mailto:monkfish@hyper.net.nz)

**VK2MQX - Chris # 9057**, who originally sent his application to England, has asked that the difference between the U.K. and Down Under Subscriptions be considered as a donation. Very generous Chris, thanks!

**VK7LF - Tom # 3712**, in renewing his subscription, enclosed a donation, to assist funds. Thank you Tom. He also advised changes to his address and post code, that are included with several others, in the attached Down Under Member's list. Tom enclosed a sample copy of his interesting new QSL Card. (I hear you have been using your QRP rig. How about some news, Tom. What sort of QRP rig are you using and whom have you managed to work. You might get me hooked on QRP! - Ed).

**VK2DLF - George # 9052**, is planning a trip to Germany in October. He will be travelling via Japan, so he hopes to have an eyeball QSO with JE1CLH - **Mack # 9015**. Mack's QTH in Kimitsu, is not too far from Narita Airport.

## **Overseas Members News**

**9A3SM - Mato # 7785**, regularly on 14058khz, asks if a VK or ZL FISTS Club Station is active. He is behind the new club station from Croatia, 9A0CW # 7795. Obviously, this gives us something to think about for the future.

**AA0XJ - James # 1978**, in Cedar Rapids works QRP with 5 Watts and is particularly keen to work VK/ZL members. He is QRV on or around 14058khz at 0500 UTC and welcomes a call.

**GM3OXX - George # 7174**, is another QRP follower. He uses a power output of only ONE watt, to a doublet. He too, is keen to work VK/ZL members. He has been worked from ZL on 18086khz at 1930 UTC. Signal RST 339. Having said that, I learn that he has also been worked on 14060khz and 21060khz, with the same QRP transceiver! Who needs QRO! Those amongst us with QRP equipment, give it a go, George especially likes 2 way CW QRP contacts!

**G8NT - Dick # 0426**, known to many members, entered the EUCW / FISTS QRS party, last April, becoming runner up. This you may know, however when I mention that Dick was the oldest contestant at 91 years of age and lives in sheltered accommodation, with simple antennas, it really is an incredible achievement. Congratulations Dick, from us all! Dick has a particularly nice QSL card, showing photographs of him operating his equipment in the years 1938 and 2000. How equipment has changed!

**NB2T - Lou # 2944**, is trying to work FISTS members in all Continents. "FISTS WAC"! He asked Stan K4UK # 2934, if he knew of any FIST members in Africa or South America. Stan replied with the following breakdown of members in all Continents: N.AMERICA 6004 S.AMERICA 13 EUROPE 1205 AFRICA 5 OCEANIA 75  
Apparently, Europe, includes 1024 U.K. members, leaving 181 members in all other countries. Oceania includes the 14 members in Hawaii. Goes to show, a FISTS "WAC" is possible!

**K4UK - Stan # 2934**, striving for his "Platinum Award", reports that he is struggling to find the remaining Century Award holders. (I am sure there will be one or two stations, in Australia or New Zealand, who could assist Stan, in his endeavours. Myself included - Ed.)

**WA9PWP / M - Paul # 2153**, I really enjoy HF CW / Mobile and a real treat to work "Fists Down Under". Bands must be getting better. (Paul - tells me that FISTS Down Under is reprinted in the U.S.A. and distributed to their members. I'd better watch what I say in future - Ed)

**K3LS - Larry # 8447**, Only joined FISTS last month. Rig here is very modest. 50W, Vertical Dipole. Am looking for VK/ZL.

**KB7OEX - Tim # 7879**, hails from Gilbert, Arizona. In his own words, " I'm new to CW (about 9 months) and Ham (about a year), So a New Zealand FIST is a real thrill! Thanks! Tim has his C.C. 1088 already, and I'm sure VK/ZL will be looking for him!

**G3CWW - Tony # 0595**, ex VU2CW and ZL0ACC, wrote on a card to ZL2TX, especially pleased that this QSO, was the one I needed to qualify for the FISTS Diamond Award. I since learn that he holds, Diamond Award # 50. Congratulations Tony!

(The Overseas Members News, is a new section in Fists Down Under. If any overseas member, has news, they think would be of interest to members in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands, please e-mail, to ZL2TX above. Thank you. - Ed)

The Dreaded Morse Test -1965" - A Case of Nerves - Nautical Style! Alan Smith, so wanted to go back to sea. Not as he had been, previously, a Steward on the P & O. Passenger ship, "Oriana", but as a Radio Officer on a nice, slow cargo ship. Plenty of time in port, and oh - those girls and shore-side bars! Relaxing on the beach in Rio. How he dreamed! Alan had worked hard, during his time at Radio College. He passed his Commercial 2<sup>nd</sup> Class P.M.G. Certificate theory, with flying colours, gaining 75%, in his written papers. One problem however remained. The second part of the examination! This consisted of fault finding, on all the equipment, followed by a Morse test at 20w.p.m. Both receiving and then sending, on a hand key, each for 5 minutes. Plain language, Code and those weird French and German foreign letters. How he sweated, for he had already failed this twice, and knew the third attempt, was to be his last chance! To go back to college and re-sit the whole examination was out of the question. Thinking aloud he said "It is a matter of money, I can't go selling vacuum cleaners door to door again. - I've just got to pass". Tuesday the day of the examination came. Alan was up bright and early practising on his Morse key and oscillator, for the last time. His friends, listening, reassured him. "You'll have no trouble this time Alan"! He presented himself before the examiner, a rather dour man of Scottish descent. Everything seemed to be going smoothly, he passed the fault finding and the Morse receiving test with no errors. Now came the sending test! After a few minutes practice, warming up, the examiner handed Alan the text to be sent. Alan sitting behind the key commenced the test, beads of sweat forming on his brow! When he had finished, he thought - "well that's the best I've ever done! I must have passed." The examiner came over, " I'm sorry my lad, I have to fail you. You made two errors too many!" Absolutely humiliated and down in the dumps, Alan left the room and disappeared. Imagine how he felt! Half an hour elapsed. The examiner sifting through his papers, suddenly exclaimed, "Aye, fetch that laddie, Alan, back. I'll give him one more chance, I know he can do it!" The search for Alan didn't take long, his friends found him across the road, at the nearest Pub, drowning his sorrows. Unknown to them, he had already, had three double whiskeys! Alan shuffled back into the examination room, thinking oh well nothing lost, I will give it a go! The Examiner smelling the stench of whisky on Alan's breath, thought " Poor Beggar, got him back, just in time!" Being a good sort, he calmly let Alan become comfortable, then commenced the test. Alan totally relaxed by the drink, started to send. No nerves this time! The examiner seated out of Alan's sight, remained totally quiet, listening to every dot and dash and watching his stopwatch. When it was over, he said, " Well lad, that was better, no mistakes - you have passed!" "I'll join you across the road for a dram, if I

may?" *Editor's Notes : "The above is a true story, names have been changed. The persons referred to in the text are NOT members of the FISTS CW Club. It is recommended that those sitting an examination of any type, should NOT consume alcohol, beforehand. - Ed"*

#### **DOWN UNDER AND KEYNOTE NEWSLETTERS, POSTAL OR E-MAIL, YOUR CHOICE!**

All members who elect to have BOTH the Down Under and Keynote Newsletters, sent to them by E-Mail, instead of by post, are requested to send an e-mail to Ralph. If you have done so before, please send one again. This is so Ralph can be sure his records, are up to date, and nobody is missed out. E- Mail :- [zl2aoh@ihug.co.nz](mailto:zl2aoh@ihug.co.nz) To read the e-mailed Key Note, members will need to download Adobe Acrobat Reader, if they haven't already. It is available FREE from: - <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>

**DIRECT QSL CARDS WARNING!** Even the occasional DX-ER, amongst us, must have wanted that rare overseas QSL card, badly enough, to enclose an I.R.C. or the universal U.S. \$1 banknote. It is well known, that not all Postal Staff overseas are honest, in fact, some are just downright thieves! An addressed envelope with a Call Sign, often invites problems. If you must put a Call Sign on the envelope, enclose an I.R.C. rather than a U.S.\$1 Bill. Your return, envelope, will probably have your Call Sign on it, so that a QSL Manager knows whom it is to. This invites trouble! Try putting your Call Sign, under the inside flap. Recently, a New Zealand Station received cards from A92GE - Bahrain, and 5Z4FM - Kenya. In the first case, the envelope had been slit open carefully, and when no money found, simply stapled. In the second case, two neat cuts were made in the envelope in the lower left and right corners. Again no money was found, however it was easy to look inside and see only a card! The cards may have got through this time, but it makes one think!

#### **Bits and Pieces**

##### **Interesting WEB Sites**

#1 Want to know more about the Union Jack? Visit the Flag Institute's web site

<<http://www.flaginstitute.org/fiunionflag.htm>> #2 Did you "Fly Navy"? - The Swordfish Heritage Trust web site is at

<<http://www.yeovilton.org.uk>> #3 The Navy News web site is at < <http://www.navynews.co.uk> >

#### **Merchant Navy Day.**

3<sup>rd</sup> September 2001. Listen for the Special Station GB2MN, operated by Del G4TNI, possibly around 14052khz.

#### **STOP PRESS - NEW MEMBER**

**VK2OM - HENRY- # 9059**, joins us as our latest member, from Seven Hills, New South Wales. Welcome Goud, your application arrived just as we were going to press with this issue!

#### **Editor's Activities :-**

I can honestly say that I have had a busy month, trying to compile the newsletter. I have to admit to the membership, that this is my first ever attempt at writing and editing such a work. Two visits to my QTH by Ralph, proved to be invaluable. Without his help and assistance I could not have contemplated such a task. There is more to it, than meets the eye!

Probably the biggest laugh of all, was when Ralph asked the U.K. Editor of Keynote, to send the August "Keynote" on a practice run. I hadn't seen this particular Keynote, as inadvertently, it was stuffed amongst other papers. On receiving the e-mail, I thought Oh, this is the August keynote, I haven't seen that! Must be two weeks late. Yes, you have guessed it! I went ahead and printed 45 copies, for dispatching to one and all. When Ralph mentioned that the August Keynote, had gone out already, my face turned a bright red. Not only, wasted time and 90 sheets of paper, but a very humiliated, yours truly. However, at least it was good practice and a big learning curve. Maybe the old saying still rings true. "Never, Volunteer for anything!"

I'm dreading the time that Stan, K4UK reads the above, as he is well known for issuing booby

prizes. Stan, is it a Golden Booby, for Nigel?

On a more serious note, I intend to include Members profiles, in forthcoming newsletters. I already have a few lined up, however, more are requested.

I would ask members with any news items, or anything of interest to other members, to please contact me by snail mail or e-mail at the address in the above header.

Thanks, 73's de Nigel, ZL2TX # 9040.

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## **FISTS CLUB DOWN UNDER Local News –October 2001**

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### **TRAGEDY IN AMERICA**

**It was with Shock, Disbelief, Sadness and Tears, that we witnessed the recent media coverage of the attacks by terrorists, on innocent civilians, in the United States of America.**

**I am sure that all FISTS Members “Down Under”, join me, in offering our sincere condolences and prayers, to the families of victims, in this tragedy. At this time, our thoughts and hearts are with our colleagues overseas.**

### **NEW MEMBERS**

Welcome to the following new members: -

**# 9060 – Peter Leigh, ZL2APO, from Cromwell, Otago.** Peter writes that he is not very active in Amateur Radio, but is happy to be a member of a club that supports CW and Morse. He was introduced to the club by VK7LF – Tom # 3712. Peter says that his QSO with Tom was the first time he had come across FISTS on the air, so he will try harder in future.

**# 9061 – Len Fish, ZL1BLR, from Hanna's Bay, Rotorua.** Nearby is the famed “Trout Hatchery” for those that like fishing!

**# 9062 – Arch Woolnough, VK3BW, from Portarlington, Victoria.** Arch at the age of **92**, is our **Senior Member**. We wonder how he rates with the wider, World Wide FISTS membership. Arch is active and operates a Yaesu FT-840 into a tri-band yagi.

**# 9063 – Craig Jones, ZL2ACJ, from Northland, Wellington.** Craig has just passed his 12 w.p.m. Morse test and changed his call from ZL2VCJ (VHF only). He has already notched up several QSOs using CW, a mode he thinks he will be favouring.

### **SUGGESTED H/F CALLING FREQUENCIES**

**1808khz, 3558khz, 7028khz, 10118khz, 14058khz, 18085khz, 21058khz, 24918khz, 28058khz, 50058khz.**

U.S. Novice Sub Bands “ **3708khz, 7118khz, 21158khz, 28158khz.**

The above frequencies are a general guide only and are busy. Remember we do not own them! We have over 8,000 FISTS members, whom can be found anywhere on the bands. If we all turned up on these frequencies at once, "Bedlam would result!" Try to QSY lower in frequency to avoid causing interference to QRP stations, which use +060khz.

Please use the Novice Sub Band calling frequencies as much as possible. It will benefit Novices and also provide support for retaining the Spectrum.

### **VK/ZL MEMBERS NEWS**

**ZL2ZLW – Iain # 0012**, has pointed out the last part of his e-mail address was missing in the September list. His correct e-mail address is - [Sparkgap@paradise.net.nz](mailto:Sparkgap@paradise.net.nz)

**VK7LF/QRP – Tom # 3712** gleefully reports that he has been having a lot of fun on 17 Metres. With his QRP rig of just 5 watts, all home made, a picture of which adorns his new QSL card. He has worked 2 way QRP, with 175 contacts, in 35 countries, since mid August. Tom already has worked a QRP DXCC and QRP WAS. (At this rate, he will have an 18MHz DXCC soon!) He mentions, LA2OG/QRP (16262km) as his best contact, on this band, at the time of writing. You had better rest those sore fingers Tom! Proof enough that Morse and a little power can give one a lot of pleasure.

**VK4AP – Warwick # 9058**, from North Mackay, Queensland, informs us that his call sign is VK4AP and not VK4APE as printed last month. (Sorry about the error, Warwick, I can only act on the information, passed to me. Typing mistake ? – Ed).

**ZL2OY – Ron # 9035**, in renewing his subscription included a donation. Much appreciated Ron. He is anxious to improve his Morse Speed and will welcome any contacts with members who are able to assist.

**VK2OM – Henry # 9059**, from Seven Hills, New South Wales, advises that his name is Henry and not "Goud", as previously mentioned. (How this came about, I am not sure. However, hopefully things have now been put right Henry!)

**ZL2IH – Ian # 9027**, says he has not been too active of late, but is just becoming aware of the FISTS frequencies to frequent. (Hope the above listed frequencies may be a help to you Ian and other new members!)

**ZL1DD – Barry # 9029**, reports working, Villi TF3DX # 1658, in Iceland on 20 metres. Villi put his matchbox transmitter (230mW) on and received a report of RST 439 with QRN, from Barry. A prompt reply with 2 watts received RST 559. Incredible! (Whilst Villi was visiting New Zealand about three years ago, he called in to say hello. I have actually seen his matchbox transmitter, which he had in his pocket. I thought he was having me on! – Ed)

**VK3DBD – David # 3756**, has returned from his trip to the U.K. where he was active as G3SCD. He took over his TS50, PSU, Key, Headphones, log books etc which all fit into an alloy camera case weighing 12Kg in total. He worked about 150 stations on H/F mainly 40 metres due to antenna restrictions. "Not so many Fists members among them, I regret!" He says the difference between here and the U.K. on the local bands like 80 and 40 metres is unbelievable. Here, "nobody on". There, "cannot find a clear spot"!

**ZL2AOH – Ralph # 1073**, still awaiting the return of his main Icom equipment, has been limited to QRP lately. He mentions the improvement in conditions and has been busy on 15 metres, working Europe and receiving good reports.

He was listening on 20 metres one morning when he heard a Ukrainian station working a pile up. While listening, an unidentified station repeatedly kept sending 599 IDIOT and 599 LID - LID, trying

to interrupt the Ukrainian, who was operating faultlessly with good Morse and procedures. This went on for at least ten minutes. Ralph has never before, heard such disgraceful and mindless behaviour on the air. Of course, the perpetrator, made sure he maintained his anonymity.

This matter was later discussed on the Wellington Sunday morning net. Nobody knew the origin of the expression LID. It is defined in the RSBG Operating Manual's list of CW abbreviations, as "poor operator", but it gives no explanation. Perhaps one of our readers can enlighten us.

**SWL1 – John # 9054**, who is distributing the newsletters to our Australian members, has made a generous contribution to the cost of printing and postage. Thank you, John. He has just returned from a family wedding in the Wild West – VK6. (Good luck with the forthcoming Amateur Examination! - Ed)

## **FISTS AWARDS**

The September 2001 Key Note, made mention of a new FISTS Awards Manager, K6DF-Dennis-3076. For **FISTS "Down Under Members"**, **all awards are processed here by ZL2AOH-Ralph-1073**. This was arranged some time ago, to relieve our members of the costs involved, in obtaining IRCs and mailing the application to the UK. Certificates are printed here, but Dennis issues the certificate numbers, on request by Ralph. Awards applications should be posted to Ralph at the address in the heading. Please include the fee (that helps to cover expenses) of \$NZ 5.00 or \$AUD 5.00.

## **HELP WANTED**

**VK7LF – TOM # 3712**, wants to know if anyone has any recent International Call Books for Sale, (1998 Onwards), or maybe a CD ROM, if not too costly. Contact Tom Van Andel, P.O. Box 124, CYGNET, TASMANIA 7112, AUSTRALIA.

**ZL1BLY – JOHN**, a member of R.N.A.R.S. requires assistance. Does anyone have information on a source, where a replacement Rotary Switch, found on the Low Pass Output Filter Board of an ICOM 720A - can be obtained? Maybe somebody has modified this equipment with another type of switch. Please contact John QTHR or by e-mail: - [typexkamo@extra.co.nz](mailto:typexkamo@extra.co.nz)

**ZL2BBB – DAVID**, has already placed on the web the fascinating Morse Key Collection of the Kapiti Coast Museum (see Interesting Web Sites below). His present goal is to find a **Marconi 365EZ** or **365FZ Marine Morse Key**. He is now in the process of writing up, an on-line Scrapbook, "**The History of New Zealand Maritime Telegraphy**", together with others. If any members with Maritime Telegraphy connections can add to this, please contact David QTHR or e-mail: - [zl2bbb@nzart.org.nz](mailto:zl2bbb@nzart.org.nz)

## **WEB SITES OF INTEREST**

An interesting account of a real distress, where Morse prevailed, when Satellite Communication failed!

<http://www.qsl.net/nlea>

This site is in German but has translations – select the appropriate flag.

<http://webuser.main-rheiner.de/homepage/foecking/seefunk.htm>

The Kapiti Coast Museum, Waikanae, New Zealand has a fascinating collection of Morse Keys. These are on display. One or two keys have **not** been identified. Perhaps you may be able to assist!

<http://www.qsl.net/zl2bbb/Kapiti%20Brit%20Comm2.htm>

All Members should take a look at the site of John Cmiel, W9EM. His articles on how, we may assist, up and coming Radio Amateurs with an interest in Morse Code. <http://www.qsl.net/>

w9em

For those members who enjoy or are thinking of trying low power operation take a look at the G QRP Club web site.

<http://www.ggrp.com>

**"W32.Nimda Virus."** For information about this Virus, check out the following site. (Thanks, R.N.A.R.S. for information).

<http://www.nipc.gov/warnings/advisories/2001/01-022.htm>

### **OVERSEAS MEMBERS NEWS**

**VE7SNK – John # 6162**, typed a note on his QSL Card. I have been a "Ham" for 6 years, but only got on H/F 3 years ago. The XYL keeps me within budget, as we are a single income family with three girls all at school. I use a Yaesu, FT900CAT (barefoot), to a 20 – 10 metre ground plane atop my 50ft tower plus an Inverted "V" for 80/40 metres. The inverted "V" has my neighbour upset, due to it running in front of her window. (Just my luck, it is the only window, that doesn't have telephone or power lines, visible to her through) and it will be awhile before she gets used to it, I imagine! Actually, not too much sympathy with my wife on that one either, good thing she loves me. Only solution, I can see at the moment, is to convince her husband to become a Ham. This years, project, Hi.

**KD5JWC – Dave # 7426**, hails from Dallas, Texas. One usually associates big beam arrays and kilowatts with this State. ot so Dave, he only runs 5 watts QRP to a dipole. Look for him on 14058khz around 0400 UTC.

**KG4EMM – Terry # 7058**, advises that he is the "FISTS "Code Buddy Co-ordinator, and has asked if any Australian or New Zealand members would like to join the programme, assisting new Amateurs in their quest, to improve their Morse operating skills. More on this later in the article, "Become a Code Buddy".

**G3RJV – George # 428**, well known for his QRP column, in "RADCOM", the R.S.G.B. Publication, quotes a motto I just could not resist. " It is vain to do with More, what can be done with less!" - William of Occum, 1290 – 1350. Any member with an interest in QRP operation should have a look at the G QRP Web Site, see above.

**K4UK – Stan # 2934**, reports that he now has 483 points with members, towards his Platinum 500! I fully expect to learn that you have achieved your goal by the time this is printed! That's if you get time with all these QSL cards flying about!

**M0AVW – Chuck # 2896**, e-mailed members not to open any attachments or open any attachment following his e-mail. Quite an SOS. He was plagued with a virus, which took about a week to clear. Help arrived in the form of his brother-in-law, who with the assistance of "Norton", spent 3 hours cleaning up the mess. He is pleased to report, that all is now well and the problem fixed!

**K4KSR – Bill # 8440**, from Yorktown, Virginia, runs an old "HEATHKIT - DX 60" transmitter to a dipole. For those unfamiliar with this equipment, it is basically a Crystal Controlled transmitter, all valves, with an input of 90 watts AM or CW. Bill says he has two crystals at present for 14043khz and 14060khz. "Some day the V.F.O. will get built, or the VXO mod will be applied, but I'm having too much fun to stop. The area, in which I live, has very strict rules about antennas and mine are hidden in trees, but much better than an attic antenna. Working NZ is not something, I ever expected to do ". Bill would love a FISTS VK QSO!

**M5AJ0 – Mike # 7714**, is one of the new licensees in England, who had to pass a 5 w.p.m. Morse Test, to gain access to the H.F. Bands. He says his present maximum speed is just around 12 w.p.m. He literally fell off his chair, when a ZL answered his QRP (5 watts output to a G5RV antenna). (Mike

- "Practice makes perfect". I am sure that any VK or ZL FISTS member, you hear on the bands, will slow to your speed, for a contact. -Ed)

**KG6CMS – Ron # 7887**, happens to be one of the 300 members of the 1996, World Skydiving Team. At over 21,000 feet they exited Mi26 helicopters over Anapa, Russia on the Black Sea in an attempt to set the official world record for the Largest Completed Free Fall Formation. He says, "Yes, I am in the photo on my QSL and yes, it was cold up there!" (Was the team successful Ron? - Ed)

**K8JP – Joe # 7625**, from Arcadia, Indiana advises that he will be operating from **Belize as V31JP**, during the forthcoming northern winter. Listen out for him!

### **"THE KEY THAT WON THE WAR!" by Reg Godwin, G3VDH**

One of my earliest radio-related memories as a child, was of playing with some items my father had rescued from his days as Wireless Operator / Mechanic in the RAF during WWII.

A favourite item was an ugly looking lump of brown Bakelite with a doorknob shaped knob on the top and two brown terminal posts. I called it "The Pig", but in reality it was an RAF type F (10F/7741) Morse key, known to most amateurs as the "Bathtub Key".

This key was standard issue in most RAF aircraft both pre and post war, being associated with the R1082 / T1083 TX / RX combination, which developed into the famous R1155 / T1154 double act. All the heavy bombers, Lancaster, Halifax and Wellington aircraft were equipped with this combination of TX / RX and Bathtub key. They were still made up to 1967 and have been spotted in Canberras, in the early nineties.

It had several interesting features: - The base of the knob was shrouded in a leather or rubber diaphragm and this, together with the totally enclosed Bakelite case, prevented the key from igniting inflammatory mixtures of fuel vapour and oxygen. Conversely, it was relatively fireproof if the worst happened to the aircraft.

The case was also designed to be weatherproof for use in open-cockpit planes and later in rescue launches. The heavy Bakelite case also protected the operator from the 1kV across the key terminals!

An unusual feature of the key was a spring clip at the front of the case, which could be flicked forward to hold down the knob and send a continuous carrier. This was used not only in tune-up, but if the aircraft was in trouble, the crew could bale out leaving the carrier on, to enable the DF stations to get a fix on their position.

Another use for the hold-down clip came to light from a NZ source, the Kapiti Coast Museum Web Site. This recounts how the trailing 120ft. aerial from the plane, was attached to a lead weight. If the plane was ditching at sea with aircrew on board, the key clip was pressed on, the TX meter was observed and at the crucial altitude of 50ft, the lead weight shorted the TX output to Seawater earth and the pilot could be informed of the imminent touch down.

From the amateur point of view, there are very few who enthuse about the key's extremely heavy action, even on minimum spring tension. This is due to the use of a spring-loaded V notch instead of the normal bearings, designed so that the key could take a pounding, from the gauntlet-clad fist of the wireless op who was himself being tossed about by turbulence and often ground fire. The keys were also used in Air Sea Rescue launches, where heavy seas, gave the same problems of stability as in the aircraft. Operators rarely sent above 12 wpm in these conditions, even though they qualified at 22wpm.

The type F key was made in Mill Hill, London and there were versions made for use in the Canadian RAF which were black in colour.

This unique key will always have a place in my heart, as I used it to gain my Morse test and my class A license, as a 15 year old, in 1966. "Long live the Bathtub Key!"

(The Author, is an old friend of the Editor, who encouraged him to sit his Amateur licence. Hope you join FISTS soon, Reg! )

Acknowledgements:- To Mike G0VVA, who made the request for information about the Key, in R.S.G.B. "RADCOM". The - ex Royal Air Force personnel, who responded with their recollections.

The Kapiti Coast Museum, Waikanae, New Zealand. (The ZL2BBB Web Site).

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### **BECOME A "FISTS CODE BUDDY"**

We all know that there is no better way to improve CW skills than to have " on the air" contacts. But, they can be frustrating and embarrassing when you meet operators that send too fast, or are beyond your capabilities and not willing to slow down and help you.

The FISTS "Code Buddy" programme is a great way to work, one on one, with an experienced, friendly operator, that understands your needs. Your personal Code Buddy will become a friend that will send slowly enough for you to copy and will provide you with the ability to learn correct operating techniques. If you are new to CW, or just need to "brush up", your Code Buddy will work with you at a comfortable rate, as you gain speed and experience and most importantly confidence.

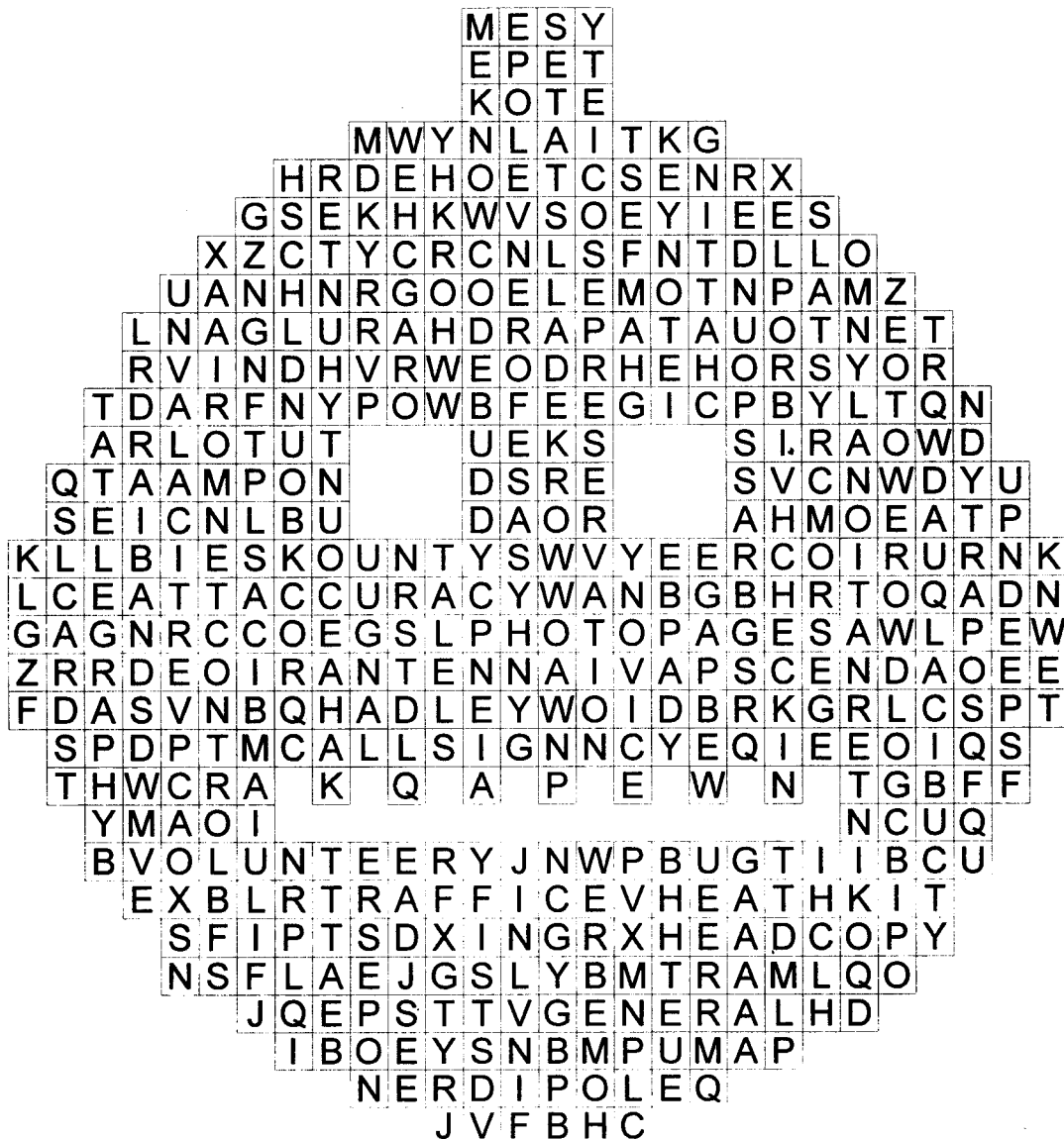
We have a number of our members that have volunteered to assist. These are the "Code Buddies", and they are the foundation of this programme. They are typically "seasoned" CW operators that will establish a schedule with you, to give you actual "on the air" practice sessions.

The first step in joining is to fill out a Code Buddy Application so I can collect your profile information and put you in our database for an assignment. We'd love to have you join the team either as a student and / or teacher (now or in the future).

The new Code Buddy Co-ordinator is: Terry Lohrey, KG4EMM, 115, Meadowview Drive, KENTUCKY 40071, U.S.A. e-mail : [kg4emm@arrl.net](mailto:kg4emm@arrl.net)

ON - LINE CODE BUDDY <http://www.qsl.net/w9em/codebuddyform.html>

Editors Note: The above programme is open to FISTS members and NON FIST members alike. If anybody in "Down Under" is willing, to become a Regional Co-ordinator, or a Fists Buddy, please register your interest with Terry.

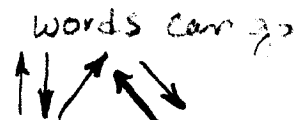


ACCURACY  
 ADVANCED  
 ANTENNA  
 BANDS  
 BEAM  
 BRASSPOUNDER  
 BUG  
 CALLSIGN  
 CENTURYAWARD  
 CHATTING  
 CHECKIN  
 CODE  
 CODEBUDDY  
 COUNTYHUNTER  
 COURTESY  
 CQ  
 CRYSTALS  
 CUBICALQUAD  
 CW

DIPOLE  
 DXING  
 ELMER  
 EXTRA  
 FISTS  
 FUN  
 GENERAL  
 GOLD  
 HADLEY  
 HAMFEST  
 HEADCOPY  
 HEATHKIT  
 HOMEBREW  
 IAMBIC  
 INTERNATIONAL  
 KEYNOTE  
 KNOWCODE  
 MOBILE  
 MORSE

NETCONTROL  
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 NOVICE  
 OPERATING  
 PHOTOPAGES  
 PRESERVATION  
 QRO  
 QRP  
 QRS  
 QRT  
 QSLCARDS  
 QSOPARTY  
 RAGCHEW  
 ROCKBOUND  
 RST  
 SASEFORENVELOPE  
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 SPEED  
 SPRINTS

STRAIGHTKEY  
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 TRANSCENDS  
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 VOLUNTEER  
 WALLPAPER  
 WEBPAGE  
 WORKEDALLSTATES





# KEY NOTE



Sec: E. (Geo) Longden, G3ZQS. 119 Cemetery Rd., DARWEN, BB3 2LZ, England. 01254-703948

E-Mail: [fist1@btinternet.com](mailto:fist1@btinternet.com)

<http://www.asel.demon.co.uk/fists-hq/> or <http://www.smartgroups.com/vault/fists/>

## OFFICES

**QSL Manager: M0AVW**  
32 Woodford Walk, Harewood Park, TS17 0LT  
**PRO: G4YLB. J.A. Welsh**  
3 Minster Cresc, DARWEN, BB3 3PY  
**CONTEST MANAGER: M0CLO**  
86 Coldnailhurst Ave, East Perry, CM7 5PY

## COMMITTEE

**Chairman**  
**Vice Chairman**  
**QSL Manager**  
**P.R.O.**  
**Rally Coordinator**  
**Secretary**  
**Committee**

G4XHZ  
G4YLB  
M0AVW  
G4YLB  
G4PPG  
G3ZQS  
G4MZS

## NETS

Sunday QRS 0900 (loc) 3.575 2E0AJS  
US 0100Z on 14058  
Tues: GX0IPX/P 1930 ON 3.558 (+/-)  
Net Control G3HZL  
DX 14/21/28.058 on the hour for 15mins  
Pse keep watch on all Novice allocations  
UK Net Controls use GX0IPX/P

**SUBS:** UK £5.00, EEC £7.00. Others £10.00. Your renewal date appears on the mailing label and your anticipation would be much appreciated.

**Up-dated listings** may be obtained from HQ. Please include 3 2nd class stamps to cover return and running costs  
**Lapel Badges**, £1.50 incl. **Fabric patches** £2.50 incl.

**QSL Cards** £7.00 per 100 or £10.00 per 200 (UK and EU pse add £1.00 for p/p. DX members - on advice.

**Personalised stickers** £1.00 per sheet of 65. Max order 5 sheets.

**Please include your CALLSIGN** on all correspondence.

## Useful contacts:

M0AVW 01642-869619 <[spence5@ntlworld.com](mailto:spence5@ntlworld.com)>

M0AYI 01207-283192 <[m0ayi@netscapeonline.co.uk](mailto:m0ayi@netscapeonline.co.uk)>

## GREETINGS

A lot of very interesting activity on the bands during August though much of it accompanied by some horrendous QRN and with QSB that ran the whole range from S9 to zilch. Was particularly anxious to hook a few of the special 'light' stations running from light houses and light ships but apart from a few EU offerings on 40m and 30m they were few and far between. I did however bag a few members whilst operating MX5IPX and, prior to the latest saga, was turning over a fair traffic level. Later however, Ivy took a queer turn with some elusive infection resulting in her being admitted to hospital again. At the time of writing, she is still there but it presented possibly the worst couple of weeks I can remember. With an absolute raging cold, I was obliged to man-handle her almost every hour doing a long-suffering lower back a lot of no good indeed and, had the condition of my ticker been a little less stable than it was, I am sure it would have resulted in some serious damage. For those kind folks who regularly enquire, the original prognosis indicating that the cancerous bladder growth had been successfully removed was incorrect and plans have been laid to have her in dry-dock again where they hope to do a better job. Enough of my problems.

The welcome spell of 'summer' weather during which old Sol actually came into view, resulted in the usual patchy band conditions but also brought about a healthy crop of members working/P from holiday destinations. The sad part about this being that we were not forewarned but they carried with them a bonus - the element of surprise which added a little flavour.

## HELPING HANDS

*We have been surprised recently to read of the number of newly qualified cw operators who have not been able to find other Amateur Radio operators willing to work them on the bands at or around the speeds of the new Morse tests.*

*The Morse Enthusiasts Group Scotland (MEGS) specialises in taking newly qualified CW operators under their wing whether they are members of MEGS or not. One of the 'aids' which we offer on a weekly basis is the 80 metre net and this specialises in encouraging new operators to 'have a go' and then to gradually improve their Morse skills until they are able to work cw at speeds nearer to the average heard on the bands.*

*If you are able to 'key' on 80 metres on a Monday &/or Thursday evening between 7 & 8.30pm here is what to do. Have a listen at around 3530Khz for the 'Group' station GMORSE (how's that for an appropriate callsign??) calling 'CQ MEGS' at speeds of around 15 WPM. He will be delighted to get a call from you at your chosen speed and a QSO can then take place at your speed. There is no need to feel embarrassed about your Morse skills or the lack of them. That is one of the reasons that MEGS exists, to help improve the Morse skills of all operators. Within a few Khz. of GMORSE you will find a number of other MEGS operators also calling 'CQ MEGS' but using their own call signs. These operators are likewise looking for other operators (whether members if MEGS or not)*

*to work at their chosen speed, whatever that may be. MEGS as an organisation is aware that this is not the best time of year for the 80 metre band within the UK. We are also aware that many new operators do not have facilities to put out a good signal on this band. We also (just like you) have problems with 'fishbone', QRN, etc on this band so should you be unable or unwilling to try '80' then give me a call and we will arrange a sked to suit you in time, frequency and Morse speed.*

*With all good wishes, de George (GM4HYF) MEGS Secretary. E-Mail [george@allan99.freemove.co.uk](mailto:george@allan99.freemove.co.uk)*

*Whilst I am saddened at the report, I am equally confident that should FISTS members be sought out by the aforementioned learners, they will receive a sympathetic ear. I have heard some real greyhounds plodding patiently away at speeds as low as 5 wpm to 'bring on' the newcomers. MEGS efforts are very much appreciated and am sure that we all wish them success.*

### ACTIVITY LADDER

Our contest manager Keith, M0CLO, has been chewing over the possibility of restoring the ladder contest which Gerry, GM4BAE, previously ran so successfully. This was a very popular feature in our calendar and I am sure all will be grateful to Keith for the new-look ladder which he intends executing as from Jan, 2002. Below is a brief run-down.

*EXPLANATION: A regular weekly activity period to provide FISTS members with the opportunity to meet each other and gain points for FISTS awards. It is also an opportunity for non-members to participate in, or become aware of, FISTS activities.*

*DAYS/ TIMES: Every Wednesday, from 08.00 to 22.00 UTC.*

*FREQUENCIES: All permitted CW frequencies, but preferably on or around the FISTS calling frequencies and avoiding the popular QRP frequencies.*

*CALL: CQ FISTS LADDER.*

*EXCHANGES: Normal QSO format, including FISTS # (non-members = NM) and exchange of other information as desired.*

*MONTHLY SCORING: For each station worked on FISTS activity ladder days during a calendar month: FISTS member worked 2 points. Non-member worked 1 point. (Duplicates excluded). Member and non-member stations worked but not participating in the Ladder activity may be logged, and scored as above, providing all relevant information has been exchanged.*

*NOTE: While individual stations may only be worked once during a given month, they may be worked on subsequent months on a similar basis, i.e., you can only count each station a maximum of 12 times per year.*

*YEARLY SCORING: The yearly score is the total of all monthly scores submitted to the Contest Manager during the calendar year, January to December.*

*CERTIFICATES: Monthly: A certificate will be awarded to the operator with the highest number of points scored, each month, in accordance with these rules.*

*YEARLY: A certificate will be awarded to the 3 highest scoring operators over the period January to December each year.*

*LOGS: Logs must be submitted to the Contest Manager, not later than the 15th of the following month. They should include: Date and time of QSO and details of the station worked, ie, Call, Name, FISTS number (non-members = NM).*

*Sheets should be headed with the Month and Year of the entry, and should include the name, callsign and FISTS number.*

*(Non-members = NM) Keith Farthing, M0CLO, 86, Coldnailhurst Avenue, Braintree, Essex, CM7 5PY England. Or e-mail: [keithm0clo@hotmail.com](mailto:keithm0clo@hotmail.com) It should be noted that Tony, G4FAI, has assisted very much in this arrangement and indeed, much e-mail has been exchanged on a regular basis between himself and Keith.*

*I look forward to the possibility that MX5IPX be activated on these occasions on a portable basis.*

*Additionally, there will hopefully be other events in which the EUCW and individual members of associated clubs will be taking part. The wider the range, the greater will be the activity.*

### Greek Telegraphy Club HELLINIKI LESHY TILEGRAFIAFAS

The Greek Telegraphy Club was formed in October 1998, as an independent Hellenic club, to further the use of Morse Code on the ham radio bands, to encourage newcomers to the CW mode and to foster and maintain friendship among radio telegraphers. GTC is also a strong influence against efforts to eradicate CW as a mode of radio amateur communications.

Here in SV-land, the majority of hams are still far away from thoughts about the non-use of code during the ham exams, but as times change rapidly, we wish to make ourselves strong enough to fight against any present and future threat of our beloved CW code.

Besides which, Greece, although just a small country, has a very large number of well-experienced CW operators who have been for years at sea as wireless officers serving our merchant navy, which still remains one of the biggest fleets in the world. Today many of them are radio amateurs, and act as CW operators on the ham bands, hitting the airwaves, having great fun while working on their favourite mode. Fortunately for us, there are also a large number of young newcomers who fall in love with morse code.

We consider that this is a very deep duty for all us elders, to keep these new people in a continued touch with CW, as the fundamental thing in the world of Amateur Radio.

At the present time, as a new "sister club", we will be involved in events from the EUCW Clubs, doing our best for their success. We also desire to establish good relations including a honest and open collaboration between GTC (SV-CW-C), and major EU CW groups as, Deutscher Telegraphy Club, AGCW, FISTS, UFT, Italian Telegraphy Club and others, wishing to enhance and push forward, common promotion of our aims.

GTC represents the interests of Morse Telegraphy in Greece, via its cooperation with RAAG, (Radio Amateur Association of Greece) and other smaller SV clubs.

Our Club profile is very simple. We're an independent organization, which promotes exclusively the CW interests in the Amateur Radio Radio Service. We accept Greek radio amateurs who like to join, and their word of honour that they agree with our statutes and aims, is enough for us. GTC recognises that there are many whose interests on this state of art mode are just as deep, and invite them to enquire about club membership. The same exactly applies to foreign people who would like to join. Membership is completely free of charge. The officers of the club are all the founding members, a number which consists of twenty two people. However, for most flexible operation of the club, an executive council is in progress.

## FIST, CW OR BOTH?

Now then... I have never made any secret about it. The name of the game is CW and encouraging its use is more important than recruiting members. If your suggestion of membership is turned down then don't badger. Some people simply cannot live with a club of any sort and we must respect their point of view. There are however a lot of people out there who would love to join but for some reason get the idea that it is a case of restricted membership, accumulative sponsorship or funny handshakes. We all know this is not the case and it should not be hard to convince the doubting Thomas.

## THE CANADIAN CONNXXN

*I've just returned from a holiday on Cape Breton Island in Nova Scotia, Canada. Alongside the many beautiful natural sights, a real "must" for any radio amateur is a visit to the Marconi National Historic Site at Table Head in the town of Glace Bay. This was the site from which, on 15th December 1902, the signal was transmitted to Poldhu in Cornwall, marking the first trans-Atlantic QSO.*

*Although the site is largely bare, with just pieces of concrete marking the antenna bases, there is a small*



*building holding displays and artefacts relating to those days. More importantly, for me, there is also a well-equipped amateur radio station run by the Sydney*

*ARC. Operating during my visit was fellow FISTS member Jim VE1ALZ (FISTS 6905), and, on hearing that I was a licensed amateur, I was invited to use the rig. Conditions were not good on the day, with signals into Europe a bit weak and watery on 14 MHz. Nevertheless it was a real treat to be able to operate from such a historic location.*

*The station is active daily from throughout the summer months with the callsign VE1VAS. The suffix utilises the callsign of the maritime station VAS, known affectionately as "Voice of the Atlantic Seaboard", which operated from Glace Bay. Jim is the main operator and would welcome contacts with FISTS members. The preferred bands are 14 and 21 MHz, either in the lowest 2 or 3 kHz*

*or on the usual 058 FISTS frequencies, and all QSOs are confirmed via the bureau.*

*Jim is also active from his home location in Sydney, but limitations on antennas mean he is currently limited to 5 watts on the 30 metre band. He is often to be found on the FISTS frequency of 10.118 MHz and would welcome a QSO with you.*

*There is some talk of the Italian government providing funding to rebuild the old Marconi antenna system for the 100th anniversary next year.*

*Having seen the model displayed, that will be an impressive sight! The Sydney club also hopes to install a suitable antenna for the planned attempt on the goal of a trans-Atlantic QSO on 2 metres. What a wonderful memorial to Marconi that would be if it occurred in 2002.*

*The two in the picture are G3VQO (who wrote the item) and is nearest the camera with VE1ALZ.*

## AWARDS

I intend here to devote a little space to clearing up the factors which have led to the current situation.

Right from the word go, clubs have been welcomed within FISTS and, since (assuming they were sponsored by a FISTS member) they cost us nothing, I saw no reason to treat them any differently than individual members.

A club station will have FISTS members at the sharp end who pay their subs and in addition to this, they will also include the usual fee (£2.00 or \$5.00) when making an application.

Although we do not insist on this, periodic donations from such groups would be welcome and, indeed we have number of them who insist on making the same subscriptions that apply to individual members.

Bob, G0FRL, found it difficult to come to terms with this, insisting that award applications from non-paying clubs be refused.

It was this insistence which caused a great deal of discontent particularly in the US where there are a far greater number of clubs than we have in the EU chapter. When Dennis, K4DF, volunteered to cover these applications, I was at first dubious but the matter was removed from my hands when Bob promptly acted upon the suggestion and, with some space for on-going applications and others in the pipeline, promptly resigned and threw the whole thing over to Dennis.

I made an initial attempt to restore a situation where all awards were dealt with within the UK but encountered a stumbling block in the shape of the depleted foil application which had hitherto been used by Bob. This was seemingly not possible and time - our eternal enemy - was becoming important so a number of e-mails were exchanged between myself and Dennis who it seems, was aware of the depleted foil application (having seen it used by his father) and agreed to process the awards

in their current manner. Since then, I have received an indication from Nancy that the US chapter would underwrite all the postal cost meaning that every time an application was received here at HQ, the associated fee would go directly to the EU funds with no expenses. Transferring the job to Dennis also removed much of the hassle since there was no need for EU/US dialogue in regard to award numbers.

Some of you may feel disappointed with this outcome but in view of the fact that US applications exceed those from EU by a factor of at least four, it is logical if nothing else.

Please be aware that I am not ungrateful to Bob. He did a superb job and I am sure that this sentiment will be echoed widely throughout the club and I am saddened that things have turned out the way that have done.

### DIGITAL KEYNOTE

Having recently sent a 'welcome pack' to some of our new members, I was shocked to discover that it set us back £3.40 for postage to Japan which was perhaps in some way due to including a full listing. Have been seeking to reduce these costs and in a recent batch of newmems, I noted that some e-mail addresses were included so I have asked them to download the latest list from the web site.

It would surely do the funds no harm at all if those of you with e-mail facilities could consider accepting the news letter by e-mail. Generally speaking, it arrives somewhat sooner than the snail-mail version and of course is something of an improvement since it is not dependent upon the mood of the offset press. This means that most photographs etc., are shown in colour where-as with the offset, I need to print as 256 grey scale (can't run to the cost of a 4-colour press Hi) and of course, any 'picky' bits (the odd few words in sheltered areas of the page that print in less than the desirable clarity) are displayed clearly. The visually impaired can 'zoom' to a very high level with the reader (Acrobat) which is on free download. Using a dBase viewer or even a text editor for the listings, there is no need to thumb through pages to find the suffix you want - control+F, F3 or whatever hotkey activates the search facility, an extra couple of key presses for the full call sign and it will find unambiguously whatever call you enter almost instantaneously.

*Nancy note: This option is not yet available in the United States*

### OPERATING PROCEDURES

Letters continued to pour in with info about the IMI v INT topic and many were the lamps left swinging in the process. The observations by Tony (G3CWW) ended in a wish that QSD be better understood. In truth, this is not used often simply because it could be hurtful (it indicates that the code is unreadable or readable with difficulty)

and unexpectedly, I found a couple of members asking the meaning. We have all I am sure heard stations calling FV when it should be CQ and this of course is only one reason where one would be justified in using QSD - improper weighting. The most common however is a lack of spacing resulting in things like NAG for NAME, PD for AND, GX for TNKS and etc., so common indeed that they tend to be decyphered on the fly. If the offender refuses to believe that there is anything wrong with his/her code then there is nothing you can do. QSD I have used only once since this resulted in the permanent disappearance of an otherwise keen CW operator. These days I hint that much of the info was not OK as I was having problems with the spacing which is a much more sympathetic approach than telling someone that their code is unreadable. When was the last time you sat down for a session of CW and switched on a recorder to play back afterwards. Really hammers home the point if there is anything even remotely wrong with your code. Hi.

### THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

Quite a bit more correspondence this month so: **G0FVS**. Jim, on hearing about the 'sniffles' re-iterated his advice that half a dozen buds from the top of a nettle plant, bung 'em into a pot and include 'em in your usual brew of tea. On learning the code, he recommends the old brass band trick of Di Ki Di Ki for 'H', or Di Ki Di for 'S'. Mentally sound the 'Di' from the front of the

mouth - the 'Ki' comes from the back of the throat. **G4LQO**. Bill joined us in Feb/99 and uses only and MFJ loop on the finch post (30m to 10m) and a home brewed 3 ft loop in the loft for 40 and 80. Since he recently applied for his Diamond, he wonders if this is unique. Couldn't be sure Bill because many members are restricted to indoor antennas or even flea power but in any case, it is an achievement worth savouring. **G3VUN** re-joins us after a long absence. He has given up his regular teaching job to fit in with Network Gloria, a registered charity for the advancement of education and relief of poverty, sickness and distress in Romania. Try <[www.networkgloria.org.uk](http://www.networkgloria.org.uk)> and look for NORCAL where you will find items on amateur radio. **G0WLP**. Can any members remember using 'M' series codes? Could be connected to visual tracking in RAF and he sites M1, M2, M3 etc. as examples. **G00FHD**. Ham radio has been on the back burner for Ernie following the sad passing of his dad with broncho-pneumonia but things now getting back to normal. Like the sylised Scottish Kit on the letter mate! **G4AJA**. Greyscale view of the G4BPO/G7BPO club station. Tried a scan but results poor Chris. **G0RKT**. Hi David. Well no, not used mag loops a lot recently but generally they are between par and 1 S-point down on a dipole which can't be bad!

## THE IN-BOX

Report per Daily Mail from Angie, G0HGA, which ran "HER REIGN BEGAN WITH A MESSAGE IN MORSE. I think most of us remember where we were and what we were doing when the news came of the death of the Queen's Father. Her first message as Queen was from Winston Churchill just as she was boarding the plane to return from Treetops and was written down by a bush radio operator. It took 15 minutes to take down and it was sent in MORSE!

And from Tom, DL1CQ:

Couple of friends and I have "founded" BUG. That's the Bug User Group (Uli, DF5DW came up with that great name). We're a bunch of folks who do not only collect bugs but like to put them back on the air where they belong. We meet every 10th, 20th and 30th of the month on either 3547 or 7017 kHz, +- QRM and time permitting of course. The time is 20:00 CEST/CET or 18:00/19:00 UTC.

We don't have a president, no officers, no numbers, no membership fees - nothing of the kind. And that's to remain so. Anyone who wants to put his old bug back on the air or just feels like giving it a try is welcome. Simply turn up and join the fun.

Ah yes, the call to meet folks is simply CQ BUG ;-)

We also have a URL which is <http://www.qsl.net/bug> so far only in German. If there's sufficient interest, there might be an English version sometime...

73 de Thomas, DL1CQ

## RUMOURS

A number of enquiries were phoned in during the month concerning the buzz that collection of the licence fee was to be undertaken by the RSGB and that as a consequence, the cost of the UK ticket was set to rise to a magnificent £81.00 sterling.

I phoned the RA and it turned out I was just another bonehead making silly enquiries. **There are definitely NO PLANS TO INCREASE the licence fee in the immediate future.**

All this came about by some correspondence which sought to show the opinions of a sample of amateurs (though I think it was CBers in truth) who were pushed to indicate just how much they would be prepared to pay for a licence. Disturbingly though, the RA was less committal when I asked about the RSGB connection.

## ANY ANSWERS?

Why were the elements of the Morse code not simply a progression through the alphabet? I understand that Sams' code was not as we know it now. Probably underwent a few changes until the structures were married to the greatest usage. The most common letter is 'E' so is the shortest. 'I' was next and presumably followed by 'A' and etc. Anyone shed more authoritative light on this?

## NEW MEMBERS

Quite a mixed bag this month and a couple of enquiries were referred to the US contingent whilst the antipodean guys, after having a member go Silent Key makes up ground.

8317	DL9AAS Willi	8318	OH7QR	Erkki
8319	G0AXV Stan	8320	MM0CWI	Craig
8321	J12NNJ Nao	8322	JA8AJE	Masa
8323	ON6QS Gil	8324	G3LCK	Dick
8325	I2VRF Gian	8326	PY2LEC	

Yes.. OK so Dick, G3LCK was a member previously but he has forgotten his number and does not appear in the holding list since he dropped out before it was started. Hunting through 4 packed-to-the-limit box files is not my idea of relaxation hence the new number. Hi.

## ODDS 'N ENDS

### Web Pages

From Vlad, UA6JD, a couple of web pages that members may be interested in:

[fistsnorthwest](http://fistsnorthwest) - FISTS Northwest is Oregon's (K7FFF) first FISTS affiliate CW club, accepting members from OR, WA, ID, and AK. [fistsnorthwest-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:fistsnorthwest-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) archives <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/fistsnorthwest> [qcfcwa](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/qcfcwa) - Queen City FISTS CW Association

Subscribe: [qcfcwa-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:qcfcwa-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

For more information: <http://www.qsl.net/qcfcwa>

archives <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/qcfcwa>

visit [www.qth.net/fists](http://www.qth.net/fists) - you find all info & archives. To be added to the FISTS mailing list, send email to [majordomo@qth.net](mailto:majordomo@qth.net)

Very good DX info include some FISTS activity by FISTS member G13038 "Pete's-dx-newsdesk" at Yahoo

Subscribe by e-mail [petes-dx-newsdesk-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:petes-dx-newsdesk-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) or visit YAHOO

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Pete's-dx-newsdesk>

**Suggested FISTS calling QRGs.**

28.058, 24.918, 21.058, 18.085, 14.058, 10.118, 7.028 (7.058), 3.558, 1.808. These are the frequencies known to be used by the US gang though 7.058 is a no-no here in EU. They also use 28.158, 21.158, 7.118 and 3.708 in the US Novice sub-bands to encourage Novice CW activity.

## FINALE

Keeping fingers firmly crossed that all goes well with Ivy. Daily visits take up an appreciable amount of available time and is reflected in the amount of on-air activity from here. Not looking too hopeful at the moment with little change in her condition but when the antibiotics have finished their work, hope things will improve. Please remember that MX5IPX/P is up for grabs and also, GX0IPX/P will again be heard on Friday evenings. 73/88 people. Look forward to working lots more when the Autumn conditions give us improved paths. Have fun es stay sober

de Geo

# DX KEYNOTE FOR OCTOBER 2001

By Geo Longden, G3ZQS

## GREETINGS

Had hardly begun to settle down for a few days after having lodged the postal Keynotes with the Post Office when I watched in disbelief the live pictures from Manhattan showing the complete mayhem resulting from a carefully orchestrated terrorist attack on the WTC. My immediate thoughts centred on the possibility that some of our members could well be directly involved in the carnage. As a result, I e-mailed Nancy asking her to include the EU chapter in any communications with such members.

She confirmed that this would be done and also attached a statement from the FCC which I re-produce below: *Along with most other federal agencies, the FCC has closed its offices and sent its employees home in the wake of apparent terrorist attacks this morning in New York City, Washington, DC, and elsewhere. The FCC has issued no emergency declaration nor other special instructions to the Amateur Radio community. The ARRL has advised amateurs to stay alert to instructions from local authorities. President George W. Bush has announced that the US military is on high alert in the US and abroad.*

*US air traffic was shut down after two airliners struck the twin towers of the 110-story World Trade Center in New York City this morning (11/09/01) within a short time of each other. The building's towers partially collapsed in the wake of the collisions. An aircraft subsequently crashed into the Pentagon, and another aircraft crashed near Pittsburgh, reportedly after being hijacked. American Airlines and United Airlines both have acknowledged that they have lost planes this morning. More than 260 died in the crashes. Thousands were believed injured in New York City; there's no estimate on the number killed.*

*New York City-Long Island Section Emergency Coordinator Tom Carrubba, KA2D, said there has been no request for any Amateur Radio Emergency Service response at this time, although hams have been requested to assist the American Red Cross. New York City's emergency management offices are located in the World Trade Center. He said he was alerting all amateurs, especially ARES and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service personnel, to get prepared and to stand by. Carrubba said he's in the process of setting up a command channel on a linked repeater system that will cover the area from New York City into Long Island's Suffolk County. Kenneth Goetz, N2SQW, reports New York State RACES is operational on 3.993.5 and 7.248 MHz handling emergency and governmental-type traffic. He asked amateurs to avoid these frequencies.*

*In the Washington, DC, area, Virginia SEC Tom Gregory,*

*N4NW, says Virginia ARES has been put on alert but has not yet been activated. "I've asked everyone to monitor the emergency frequencies and to keep a full tank of gas." He said the attack on Washington has resulted in a massive traffic jam as workers in DC attempt to leave the capital; cellular telephone communication was next-to-impossible. While no emergency nets are in operation yet, Gregory said all repeaters would be available as well as 7.243 MHz and 3.947 MHz on HF.*

*Virginia RACES reportedly has been activated at the state emergency operations center at Virginia State Police headquarters in Richmond as a precautionary measure.*

*The FCC's Riley Hollingsworth today suggested that the amateur community remain calm but ready. He invited amateurs monitoring any suspicious radio activity to contact him, and he will relay relevant information to the FCC duty team. He advised monitors to tape such radio traffic, if possible.*

*Should a state of war be declared, Amateur Radio would not automatically be shut down. This requirement was eliminated prior to the Gulf War.*

My own feelings on this side of the pond were not so much fear that the same thing could happen here but sheer crimson anger and a desire for retribution taking precedence over the stated intention that the perpetrators be brought to justice. Improper as this may be, I offer no apologies.

On a lighter note, Ivy was discharged from hospital on that very same day. She is coherent enough but it saddens me to see her using a stick where she would otherwise be walking unaided. She is soon to attend hospital for a follow up operation and has already had extensive x-ray probes to aid the surgeon. My thanks to all those kind souls who enquired after her health and extended their good wishes.

## HOLIDAY DX

*Hello Geo. Just a quick note to let you know that I will be QRV from V47 [St Kitts & Nevis] and will be mainly on RSARS and FISTS QRGs on 20 metres. Assuming of course, in view of the current situation, I will be able to even get there.*

*I leave UK on Wed 10 October for V47 and come back on 25th. 73 Sam G4OHX*

The call is confirmed as V47OHX and I guess the gang will be having some fun trying to get through the pile-up but it sure is a nice one to grab.

## MORSE CODE

In answer to the question posed in the last Key Note, Samuel Morse's original idea, in 1832, was for a numerical code linked to a code dictionary, and his first alphabetical code, demonstrated in 1838, was chosen arbitrarily without regard to the frequency with which particular letters occurred in everyday use.

In 1844, what today is known as American Morse was finalised, with the most common letters given the shortest symbol. When the code came to Europe (Germany) in 1847, it was considered unsuitable for German use and a new code was devised by F.C. Gerke in Hamburg. Twenty percent of Morse's original symbols were retained, although several of their meanings were changed.

In 1852, the newly formed Austro-German Telegraph Union adopted a slightly modified version of Gerke's code for communications between all countries belonging to that Union. With further slight changes over the years, the 1852 code was eventually adopted for world-wide communications, becoming the international code we know and use today.

I am currently researching and preparing an article for Morsum Magnificat which will cover the subject in much more detail. Tony Smith G4FAI

### EUCW Fraternising CW Party

A reminder that as FISTS is a member of the European CW Association, FISTS members are encouraged to take part in the annual EUCW Fraternising CW Party which this year will be held on 17-18th November. Last year there was a commendable FISTS entry and we would like to see even more members take part this year. Remember, however, in a fun event like this it's more important to take part (and to send in an entry) than to win!

There's a lot of scope. Look out for members of AGCW-DL (Germany); ARI (Italy); Benelux-QRPC; BTC (Belgium); CT-CWC (Portugal); EA-QRPC (Spain); EHSC (Extremely High Speed Club); FISTS; FOC (First Class Operators); G-QRP; HACWG (Hungary); HCC (Spain); HSC (High Speed Club); HTC (Switzerland); INORC (Italy); I-QRPC (Italy); MCWG (Macedonia); OE-CWG (Austria); OHTC (Finland); OK-QRPC (Czech Republic); RTC (former GDR); SCAG (Scandinavia); SHSC (Super High Speed Club); SP-CWC (Poland); UCWC (Russia); UFT (France); U-QROC (Ukraine); VHSC (Very High Speed Club); YL-CW-GP (Germany); 3A-CW-G (Monaco); 9ACWG (Croatia).

Details are as follows:

### Dates, Times, and Frequencies

17 Nov

1500-1700 UTC 7010-7030 & 14020-14050 kHz

1800-2000 UTC 7010-7030 & 3520-3550 kHz

18 Nov

0700-0900 UTC 7010-7030 & 3520-3550 kHz

1000-1200 UTC 7010-7030 & 14020-14050 kHz

### Classes

A - Members of EUCW clubs using more than 10w input or 5w output.

B - Members of EUCW clubs using QRP (less than 10w input or 5w output).

C - Non-members of EUCW clubs using any power.

D - Shortwave listeners.

### Exchanges

Class A & B, RST/QTH/Name/Club/Membership number.

Class C, RST/QTH/Name/NM (ie, not a member).

Class D, Log information from both stations.

Call: CQ EUCW TEST. Stations may be worked or logged only once a day, per band, during the contest.

### Scoring

Class A/B/C - 1 point per QSO with own country, 3 points per QSO with other European country. Class D - 3 points for every complete logged QSO.

Multiplier, all classes: 1 multiplier point for each EUCW-club worked/logged per day and band.

Logs to include date, UTC, band, call, info sent, info received, and points claimed per QSO.

Summary to include full name, call, address, total points claimed, station details, power used, and signature.

Entries to be received by the EUCW Contest Manager, Guenther Nierbauer DJ2XP, Illinger Strasse 74, D-66564 Ottweiler, Germany, not later than 31st December, 2001. Certificates will be awarded to the three highest scorers in each class.

Tony Smith G4FAI FISTS EUCW Representative.

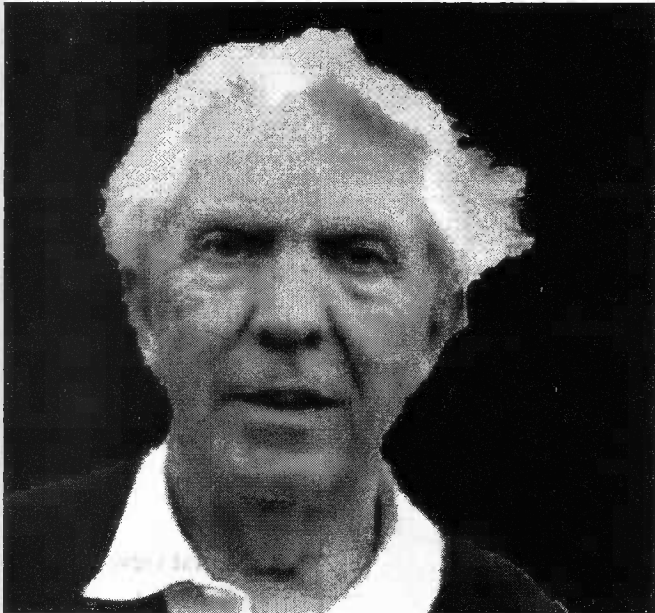
## THE LADDER

A couple of objections were received in connection with the chosen operating times. Whilst at a first view it may appear to be disadvantageous to those who are not retired - having all day to rove the bands - it must be remembered that stations may be worked ONCE ONLY so what will tend to happen is that members operating during the day will perhaps run a session of an hour or two and then turn up again in the evening to pick up stragglers. Since they will have worked many of the stations in the previous session, these will be available to be picked by those who earn their crusts during the day. I have referred these (thus far two) such observations to Keith, M0CLO, for direct response. Your position on the ladder depends very much on your activity patterns and it is anticipated that evening time operating will pull in the bulk of the points. Also, the choice of a mid-week operating session is preferable since contest proliferate over most weekends. Additionally, the proposed format does not place new members who come in half way through the ladder period at a disadvantage. Please remember this is something of a trial and if there are any snags found, Keith will be looking to even things up.

## WWW AND @

Terry, G0TBD, suggests the use of WWW as the commonly accepted abbreviation for World Wide Web when it is needed to send an e-mail address on the air. Stands out like a sore thumb of course but then so does the somewhat reduced WW. Think it would be wise to let 'em sort it out for themselves Terry though I admit to being forced into use 'AT' on a number of occasions. There was no confusion of course but as you say, a dedicated Morse symbol would be so much better and I have encountered a few stations already indicating WW for that elusive symbol.

## MUGSHOT



Above is a photograph of G0WCB which arrived here via Dennis, K6DF. He was so chuffed with his Diamond certificate that he displayed it in a photograph and sent it to him. Sadly, the cert itself did not photograph well so I was unable to include it.

## E-MAIL STUFF

From Andy, G0JLX - your webmaster - an answer to something that puzzled me when reported by digital keynote downloaders. Why does the unzipped file carry two extensions .PDF.DAT. Its done as a 'security' measure *The idea is to help prevent the spread of virii via email which are frankly a pain in the whatsit. Save the attachment somewhere (C:\download is good) and then simply rename the file to what it should be (KN\*.PDF) scan it for bugs, then move it to where ever you want to keep it.*

Andy also submits some hints on security:

*Outlook is a perfectly OK email handler, and yes, it does download attachments to email - the issue is over the saving of the attachment. Many of our readers with this facility may not be very computer literate and even fewer will have set up a special 'download' area where all the files they download, either from the internet proper or attachments, are put prior to bug-scanning.*

*Most viruses (virii more correctly) are spread by activating (clicking on) an infected executable program. However, some more recent ones can be spread simply by opening the email in which they are contained. Unfortunately, Outlook has a thing called 'preview mode' where it lets you 'see' the contents of the email before it is fully opened. This preview is sufficient to let the virus in - the email is effectively opened and wallop - you are infected. Sometimes unknowingly. These same virii typically propagate by sending themselves to every single address in the Outlook address book. The other fateful trick is to double click on the paper clip which opens the attachment from within the email - ignore advice from me [Geo].*

*Some virii are destructive, and can attach themselves to the end of executable programs such as .exe or .com or .dll and then systematically slow down your machine or cause malfunctions or simply format your hard disk.*

*There are literally thousands of virii out in the wild and the only way of dealing with them is to be totally aware of them. Some people are now fitting their home PC's with 'firewall software' previously only used by bigger companies with networks to protect.*

*Absolutely everybody should have anti-viral (AV) software fitted, running in the background to check if there are any major problems. And it's no good fitting AV software and then forgetting about it. It needs to be the type you update regularly - weekly or even more frequently. I purchased mine a couple of years ago for 30 GBP and it is updated 2 or 3 times a week - so the chances of my becoming infected are severely reduced. BUT: Every single file that is downloaded, every single disk that has been in contact with another machine, is scanned before it is used.*

*Many offices use the 'sheep dip' approach where one standalone machine is equipped with nothing but AV software and every disk that's bought into the office MUST pass through the sheep dip.*

*Anybody becoming infected with a virus should do several things:*

- 1. Don't panic.*
- 2. Boot your machine from a KNOWN CLEAN disk.*
- 3. Use your AV software to determine if the virus can be cleaned out.*
- 4. Reload whatever bit of software was infected from original disks.*
- 5. When you are back on line, notify everybody of the virus name/type and when you think you were infected.*
- 6. Remember, if you back up regularly, an infection will*

*cause minimal damage even if you have to totally scrub your machine down.*

*7. If you have not got it backed up when you discover you are infected, its probably too late as you might just be backing up a virus too!*

### WEBMASTER ADDRESS

Please note the preferred address for Andy, G0JLX which now appears on the banner. Separates FISTS and works ttc.

As was mentioned before, members accepting Keynote via e-mail are of considerable value to us. They help to maintain the funds in line with inflation and - more importantly - enable me to hold subs to the level they were during the 1980's. I am sure you will appreciate though that even if ALL members were so, we still need funds to provide the running costs - only thing is that the funds would be more stable and tend to increase above the inflation level.

### WEST MANCHESTER RALLY

I am invited to arrange for the manning of a table on 18 Nov at the Horwich Liesure Centre. If any of the 'local' members would like to offer arrange the event then pse LMK. I have the table dressing here at HQ ready for picking up. Transport is something of a problem for me and also of course the necessary domestic responsibilities.

#### SILENT KEY

His many friends will know by now that John, G4USS Nr. 7712, passed away (18/08/01) following a heart attack whilst attending hospital. He found much enjoyment in his tutoring and indeed he will be sorely missed by the many FISTS members who were always happy to find him on the bands.

#### MX5IPX/P

M0FLY 7 days from Sept 28, 2001 Tony is not anticipating an operating speed of greater than 15wpm. This is the first one to turn up so far so hope there will be more.

#### THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

G8NT. Got a classy h/b QSL card from Dick who has gone to town with a scanner and an ink-jet printer with glossy card. Gives two mugshots of this OT one in 1937 and the other 200`. Very smart mate.

#### Strawberry Basket, Cont...

G3GUR. John's QSL card boasts a racy type convertible with the number plate reading G3GUR which of course is not to be taken seriously but more important (at least to John) is himself and Cassie. Sadly, John recently lost this beautiful Sheltie and yes... I know how you feel! Sorry the image was too small to scan.

G3OEP. We mentioned in a previous news letter about early WWII kit and Dave has a Torn E.B. receiver (1943) taken from a U-Boat. Furthermore, he has the circuit diagram. At one time, he had another EB with burned out bottles which were replaced with IT4s but regretfully, the performance was 'useless'. Now were they always thus I wonder - suspect they could well have been. DL1CC. Have a QSL here from Wolf showing a gaggle of Israeli amateurs from his operations in Tel Aviv as 4X85E/4X85EUK further to his enthusiastic support of Esperanto. Wolf also distributes cards as DL0EKO and DF0ESP (again, images too small for successful scanning - sorry). G3MCK. Gerald is also reluctant to use QSD and instead adopts QCM from Morsum Magnificat which does not appear in the popular listings of Q codes.

G0CEK. A welcome return to Fred whose previous removal from the list was due to ill health. He sold his HF gear and the 'beloved AR88D' and after surviving a heart attack in Sunderland Hospital, was fortunate to receive from a G6 friend an IC725. The G5RV is back aloft and the code is coming up to speed.

G4IST. Now then Bill, your friend Arthur Ritis is no stranger to many of us but I am sure that if you take things slowly, you will continue to derive enjoyment from the mode. Morse is set for a come-back says Bill as the world seemingly plunges into anarchy - even if it is only with a heliograph. Hi.

G3CSC. Sam makes good use of the NCDXF/IARU beacon, monitoring it whilst doing other things and has recently been drawn to flea power - 5w via a FT817. Doesn't give me a date but hopes to be QRV from Dieppe in October. M0APB. Ken is yet another to be mesmerised by the swinging lamps of late with the INT/IMI subject. G4KKI. Our Bill has forsaken his Century21 for a TS530S and the G5RV/2 which he claims is the lousiest antenna in the NorthWest is still clawing in W, VK and etc. Can't be had! Also hoping to complete a Mag Loop for 80m but is still shy of the 500pf W/S capacitor. These things were never really widely available Bill but these days they are getting as rare as rocking horse droppings. Some of our correspondents have recently decided that old Geo's grey matter needs a bit of exercise. Wouldn't argue with that but it does tend to slow things down somewhat when I get a detailed letter of some subject or other with no indication of the originator - no name, no call sign and perhaps the merest hint of an address from the postmark. Come back Conan Doyle.. we need your famous creation!

## ODDS 'N ENDS

So, there I was on 15m where the fierce racket of 20m became a subdued whisper in the background. Conditions were a long way from perfect but they were acceptable. A handful of previously un-worked members had found their way into the log and I was able to create a very comfortable listening environment in the phones with the aid of the out-board DSP, the in-built DSP of the FT1000mp, shift, bandpass and notch controls. The beam was aimed at N. America and all was well with the world until the eardrums were assailed by a YU station (off the beam remember) reading some 60db over S9 on the strip. I received 599 as expected but what threw me was the report that the guy was using 5 watts to a simple dipole. Perhaps some technos in our midst can explain why this sort of thing happens occasionally because it certainly has me puzzled.

Periodically, Suzy explodes. I mean like one day she looks tolerably well trimmed and the next, there are clumps of hair sticking out all over the place. The services of Sally (the local dog trimmer) are sought and she will turn up early morning and return a slimmed down version of Suzy early the same evening. Last month however was different. It was close to 1800 by the time Sally turned up and all day the log had been filling up with the results of some very nice rag chews. She opened the door as previously agreed and an excited Suzy flew into the shack like a bullet, jumped onto my lap and did a little dance all over the computer keyboard. I still have the QSLs to remind me of the stations worked but exactly what those diminutive paws did to the programme I have no idea. Suffice it to say that instead of the anticipated 25K plus entries in the database, there remained just 3. Good job I take regular backups but I still lost 2 days.

### Bugs Bugs Bugs!

*Couple of friends and I have "founded" BUG. That's the Bug User Group (Uli, DF5DW came up with that great name). We're a bunch of folks who do not only collect bugs but like to put them back on the air where they belong. We meet every 10th, 20th and 30th of the month on either 3547 or 7017 kHz, +- QRM and time permitting of course. The time is 20:00 CEST/CET or 18:00/19:00 UTC. We don't have a president or officers, no numbers, no membership fees - nothing of the kind. And that's to remain so. Anyone who wants to put his old bug back on the air or just feels like giving it a try is welcome. Simply turn up and join the fun.*

73 de Thomas, DL1CQ - FISTS #6402, CC #1036  
AGCW-DL #2943 <http://www.qsl.net/dl4obn>

## NEW MEMBERS

8327	MW0COF	Lynda
8328	9A5FM	Zack
8329	9A2HF	Franc
8230	G3ROC	Rex
8331	G4WUM	Frank
8332	G0CYO	Graham
8333	M5DAP	Dave
8334	M1ETU	Hugh
8335	GW4OFQ	Roger

I am happy to acknowledge a donation of £10.00 from the club station, 9A0CW in addition to the two new 9A members noted above.

Doubtless we will be seeing some call sign changes for many of the G5 members following the recent modifications made by the RA.

## HELPFUL PERSONALITIES

G0IYZ was interested in the comments by GM4HYF and new ops not being able to find QRS contacts. These were backed up by a recent QSO which took place on 2m recently when an M5 station asked a G4 ticket holder for a QRS QSO on 80m. The G4 was heard to reply in the negative like "No can do. I have got the Keyer set up just how I like it and I don't want to muck it up". The M5 questioned this and why he could not slow it down the reply being "When you are used to 20wpm you can't just slow down to kiddies speeds"

Although he was mobile, Chris broke into the QSO and after expressing his disgust to the G4 station, advised the M5 to search around the FISTS frequency. He also passed on his phone number in case there was no takeup but sadly nothing has thus far been heard from him.

Chris comments: "*It begs the question is whether experienced ops won't slow down or is it that they can't slow down? Have rigs and keyers got so complex that once they're set up they're left alone for fear of having to refer to the manual in order to alter the appropriate controls? I wonder!*"

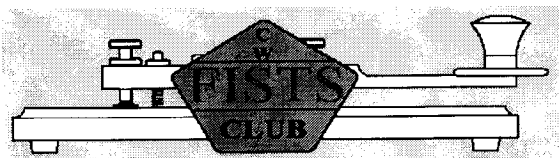
## FINALE

That's your lot again for this month people. I am sure I do not have to ask you to spare a thought for the victims of the WTC but if you do know or hear of any FISTS connection the please do let me know and I will publish the details next month.

If the band conditions continue their trend towards improvement there should be lots of club activity on our preferred frequencies. Remember that you activity will encourage others to join in with this great mode.

73/88, stay sober and may the Morse be with you!

Geo



# FISTS C.W. Club Membership Application

Callsign: \_\_\_\_\_ Name used on Air: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Name & Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**The following information provides a synopsis of the member's working conditions:**

Rig(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Antennas: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Clubs Affiliations (ARRL, RSGB, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Other Interests: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you visually handicapped? \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose annual membership fee of \$15 (U.S. Funds)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Your Sponsor (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to FISTS C.W. Club and return to:**

**North, Central, and South America  
including all territories/islands;**

**Nancy Kott WZ8C  
POB 47  
Hadley MI 48440-0047  
USA**

**Europe, Asia, All others;**

**Geo Longden G3ZQS  
119 Cemetery Rd.  
DARWEN, BB3 2LZ  
England**