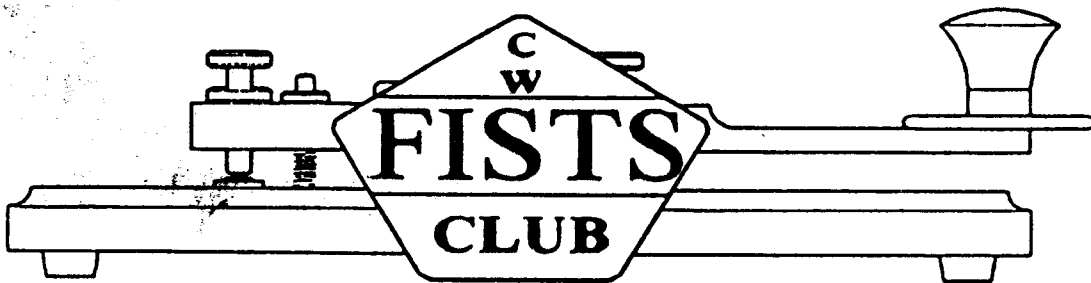


The Keynote

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

"Accuracy Transcends Speed"



- 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"

HOW DO I...?

...JOIN? Membership is open to all interested in Morse code, irrespective of their speed and ability. Subscriptions = **\$15.00/year**. Under 17 = **FREE** Students = \$10. Family members may join FISTS at no extra charge - only one newsletter is mailed per household. **FISTS, P. O. Box 47, Hadley, MI 48440** **NOTE: CHECKS can take 6-8 weeks to clear from the day received.** Nancy processes them, updating the database, then takes them to the bookkeeper. The bookkeeper enters them into the "official books", then takes them to the bank. Depending on schedules that month, it can take 6-8 weeks. **Questions?** Write to nancy@tir.com

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

...Join the FISTS Email List? For periodic Email updates send your Email address, callsign and FISTS number to Kathi, at FISTS-Elist@attbi.com. Due to spam problems, the list is not given out to the membership.

... ORDER CLUB SUPPLIES? Irene Kott, W08E, 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 are **SOLD OUT**; 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. **DO NOT INCLUDE EXTRA TO COVER POSTAGE.**

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

...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!! We send out ONE renewal postcard when your renewal time is near. If you've sent in your renewal but get a reminder postcard within a couple weeks, please don't be concerned, the card probably crossed with your renewal.

...SEND APP OR SAMPLE NEWSLETTER TO A FRIEND? For a brochure email Joe Pardue, 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 on the FISTS Webpage.

...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 119 Cemetery Rd, Darwin Lancs, BB32LZ England, he'll send them a DX application.

...PAY FOR THE SUBSCRIPTION OF A DX FISTS MEMBER? Subs for European FISTS, paid from the USA, is \$10/year. Non-European FISTS are \$15/year in US CASH. No International Money Orders, postal money orders or personal checks, cash only. Send it to Geo Longden, 119 Cemetery Rd, Darwin Lancs BB3 2LZ U.K. CASH ONLY. Don't forget to include the name and address of the DX ham you want to sponsor. They will receive the DX version of the Keynote, which is written and mailed by Geo.

...APPLY FOR AN OPERATING AWARD? For ALL awards, send the name of the award, a log of the required info (check the individual award requirements) and your mailing info to Dennis Franklin, K6DF, 4658 Capitan Dr, Fremont, CA 94536-5448. *Do not submit QSLs.* There is no charge to FISTS members in good standing, but stamps are appreciated. Dennis handles ALL awards, 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>](mailto: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, with your face about the size of a quarter, 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.

...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 reprinted if credit is given to the original author.**



International

Morse Preservation
Society Issue 4,2002

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 7000 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
Keynote due to
address changes. This
really adds up!

The Key Note

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

Hi FISTS, Spring is
here, and for hams,
thoughts turn to the
Dayton Hamvention
and Field Day prepara-
tions. Is your club plan-
ning anything special
for Field Day? It seems
like it's getting more
and more difficult to
find clubs that partici-
pate fully in Field Day.

FISTS of Michigan
isn't much better, we
have the expertise, but
seem to be lacking en-
thusiasm. We used to
have terrific Field
Days. We would camp
out for the weekend,
have cookouts and even
musical entertainment
from members who
brought their instru-
ments (when taking a
break from operating).

Sure, Field Day is a lot
of work, specially
when the same people
shoulder the load. But
when everyone pitches
in, everyone has a good
time. What are the se-
crets of the clubs who
have active Field
Days? Are they just
lucky enough to have
enthusiastic people in
their group?

We have no lack of enthusiasm for the Dayton
Hamvention, however! I have confirmation that
we do have a booth at the Hamvention, but can't
find out what number it is! I am hoping it will be
the same as previous years, which was on the
ramp between the main cafeteria and the main
arena with the bleacher seats.

The Bill Pierpont book, the Art and Skill of Te-
legraphy has been published by FISTS. This is
the latest version to date. It's beautifully book
bound (not spiral) with a color cover. The price
per book is \$10.53 plus postage, which for the
USA, brings the total to \$14.48.

They are available from Irene Kott, WO8E,
44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr, Clinton Twp MI 48038.

If you would like more than one copy, or live
outside the USA, email (or postal mail) Irene at
ikott@compuserve.com and tell her how many
copies you'd like and where you live. She'll take
them to the post office and have them weighed
for the actual postage amount needed.

Sincere thanks to Mike Dinelli and Fred Adsit
for all the hours they put into making this ver-
sion possible. And, of course, to Bill Pierpont
for sharing his expertise of the code with us
through this book. It truly is a labor of love for
all concerned, Bill doesn't want any royalties or
profits from the book, he just wants to get the
information out to as many people as affordably
as possible. We are selling the book at cost.
FISTS is very proud to be able to publish it and
help make it available. I can't say enough good
things about this book. It is an invaluable source
of information; a must read for anyone learning
Morse code, improving their skill, or just inter-
ested in Morse code. Supplies are limited, so
order your book NOW. 73 88 Nancy WZ8C

Welcome to the New FISTS

#	Call	Name	State	Sponsor
8847	N0EAX	Rich	MO	N2WDV
8848	WF1D	Gerald	NH	
8849	N8DYC	Johan	CA	
8850	AA3EJ	Dave	PA	W8KKI
8851	KE8TL	Gary	OH	N2ZHF
8852	K1PHD	Don	FL	
8853	WE1C	John	MA	
8854	N0IB	John	MO	
8855	WB7TOB	Mike	OR	
8856	K7LTC	Bart	VA	K1RMF
8857	N3YPX	Blair	PA	
8858	WA8TT	David	MI	K8WPI
8859	KG6AXD	Richard	CA	KF6QKI
8860	W1II	Bernie	RI	
8861	N9JO	Jim	IL	W9QP
8862	WJ3E	Emil	DE	
8863	KB1HOY	Henry	ME	WZ8C
8864	WA6LLE	Ralph	AZ	WZ8C
8865	KC2EQA	Lawrence	NY	WB2FXX/KC2EQB
8866	K6DMM	Jack	CA	WZ8C
8867	AB7VO	Glenn	AZ	
8868	W7KO	Ken	OR	WZ8C
8869	AB9EM	James	IL	
8870	WA3TKK	Lynn	MD	
8871	K9HJN	William	WI	WZ8C
8872	KW0P	Roger	MO	KB9USX
8873	W8KIU	Earl	MI	WW1AW
8874	KG6HSI	Art	CA	
8875	KG4JBJ	Maria	VA	N8LE
8876	KG4OHI	Len	FL	
8877	KB5AA	Sonny	LA	WB2FXX
8878	W5AHS	Frank	LA	
8879	N7NET	Scott	AZ	N6RNP
8880	N8CDN	Terry	OH	
8881	KH6AP	Chip	HI	KH6HE
8882	KA9NBU	Tom	WI	
8883	K9GA	George	IL	
8884	N6NAX	Donald	AZ	On The Air
8885	KG4KGY	Tom	KY	N6RNP
8886	K9XU	Dick	WI	WZ8C
8887	WA1TIA	Art	FL	N8UD
8888	KB1DQT	Andrew	ME	WZ8C
8889	WA6CJK	Rem	CA	
8890	W5IA	Paul	OK	
8891	N0EJS	Ellis	WI	
8892	W7ND	Frank	WA	

#	Call	Name	State	Sponsor
8893	WA3MWR	George	PA	
8894	K2UBU	Thorlief	NY	
8895	N9MIU	Mark	FL	WZ8C
8896	VE5DKN	Dave	SK	W5UYE
8897	W1MCE	Dave	MA	KU4BT
8898	N4TN	Don	TN	
8899	KG6CLJ	James	CA	

DX FISTS are using block 8900, New Zealand FISTS are using block 9000, We will be jumping to number block 9100.

Call Changes

Doug, #2900, VA3ZG, to VO1DD
 Keith, #2946, KC5QIQ, to K5QIQ
 Bob, #6769, AC0L to N0UF
 Lex, #7236 KS4YL to WY0MN
 Steve, #8023 WB7QQR to WB6QQR
 Judson, #8271, KC0JRZ to WS0J
 Ralph, #8630, WA8PVK to W8PVK
 Bill, #8682, WA2NYR to NI5F
 Trent, # 8748 KD5QJV to K5TWJ
 Cap, #8793, K4EMX to W4AMW
 Don, #8852, KG4PTE to K1PHD
 Bruce #6733 AA4Z was listed incorrectly on the roster as AA4AZ.
 David # 7435 was listed incorrectly on the roster - he is N3FCC
 John, #8296, N3AXB was incorrectly listed as N3 AZB.

Kudos for our Supply Manager, WO8E

Received the Pierpont book today — fantastic publication, and, once again, many thanks for your always superior service to FISTS members. 73, Philip, K9PL

Please remember to try not to QRM the County Hunters and the QRP-ers when calling CQ on 20 meters. They have nets and calling frequencies around 14.058, too. Courtesy at all times!

QRP With John Shannon, K3WWP

It's time again to get caught up on some correspondence from you, my readers.

First here's what Bob K2QJ had to say in an email received several months ago.

Hi John: Like your website very much. I just thought you may be interested that I was in Norway in late May until late June 2001 operating LA/K2QJ from our old farm house located to the West of Farsund Norway in the Lista area (southwest coastal area).

We vacation there every year or every other year. My xyl was raised there and has many relatives so hamming keeps me active and gives me something to do while she visits her friends and family.

I used my Heathkit HW-9 with a built-in Tic keyer and external home built tuner and swr meter. I tried the W3EDP antenna and by adding a 66 foot wire to the opposite direction made a sort of Windom out of it and fed it by bringing the ends into the ATU balanced input. I made about 130 QSO's and only about 5 US/Canadian QSO's. I worked several FISTS members, mostly in the UK but was not very successful working GQRP members. The sun shines from about 3AM to 11PM and North American signals usually appeared on 20 and 15 M around 0600 UTC when I got up in the morning. I need to make a mast to raise the antenna up as I now only throw the wire over the house roof and hold the end up with a branch from a short tree. I brought over my Radio Shack 10 meter SSB/CW mobile rig and a 10 meter magmount whip but heard nothing on ten meters; a real disappointment. Have a great summer and keep up the good work. 72/73 Bob K2QJ FISTS 6163 GQRP 5352 ARCI 6146 MI 672.

Next some interesting info received near the end of last year from my friend Hector NP4FW.

Good morning John Shannon; This is Hector

NP4FW FISTS 2531 writing you from my office during my coffee break. I am reading your article in the last Keynote. Just a few words on it. I am not so much active as you in terms of contesting. Between Scouting and Ham Radio, my xyl is just ready to hang me up.

Anyway, I am a regular participant at the ARRL INT DX CW Contest of February. I have worked that contest for about 4 years already and received a certificate from the ARRL on two times as the #1 QRP winner for the Puerto Rico area. Maybe no one else entered the contest Hi Hi. I have to confess that it has been real fun and I enjoy very much. I always go with the same radio and antenna. The two times I have come as a winner, I have used both my MFJ QRP 20-meter QRP rig and a Cushcraft vertical.

Phone calls, lunch, supper there, a neighbor knocking my door to borrow my tools and a minor honey do here and there always takes me out for short periods each year, but I manage to catch up again and still enjoy some more. For me as a DX Country, all I need are the US stations, however it's really thrilling when I hear stations from Germany, Jamaica, France, Italy, and Finland calling me. That means, that my humble 4 watts + signal is hitting far away countries nicely. Please also note that I am 100% deaf from one side so I have some difficulty pulling out stations from the pileup but I tell you, it's a great feeling.

I also try to be near the FISTS 14.058 frequency. In that way, I can make myself some more new FISTS colleagues by the same token. Next year, I am planning to show up again but this time, with a new Cushcraft Yagi I have just bought and the same rig.

I guess that's about all John; let me wish you a very nice holiday season and may God bless you good. 73 Hector NP4FW FISTS 2531.

Thank you very much Hector and Bob for helping me to show that QRP does work, and in fact works very well, especially when you are using CW.

There's just time now to invite you to visit me at my web site - www.alltel.net/~johnshan or www.qsl.net/k3wwp. If you'd like some more interactive communication, look for me on the bands or email me at johnshan@alltel.net. Of course, although it's slower, regular mail also still works well - John Shannon, 478 E. High St., Kittanning, PA 16201-1304. Till the next time - 73. -30-

QSL Bureau Work? K4UK

I've been asked to tell a little about how the FISTS QSL Bureau works and a little about the Staff.

First of all your mail comes to my rural size mailbox. Generally each day's mail is wrapped with at least two rubber bands and often with as many as six. And sometimes the mail is wrapped in a buckled strap.

I bring it in the house and sort out what portion is FISTS mail, which is generally at least 75% of it and some days it will all be FISTS mail. Then I get out the opener that one of our Canadian FISTS members sent me years ago and carefully open each envelope. I stack up the cards and SASE's separately and then sort the cards by call number. Then I stamp the SASE's with the "Envelope ____ of ____" stamp and the return address stamp and the date stamp.

When my box of cards and envelopes gets to overflowing, I set up a meeting with my "Staff" to deliver them the cards and SASE's. One of the deliveries occurs at our Franklin County ARC meeting on the second Monday of each month. At other times we meet at places like the parking lot of Wal-Mart in Rocky Mount - about 15 miles from my home. Most of the Staff have to drive about the same distance to "Wally-World" which is what this meeting place has become affectionately known as.

The Staff takes the cards and SASE's to their homes and do the final sorting and mailing. Then they send me an Email with a status report attached indicating who has how many cards and

how many SASE's on hand. From those reports I generate the data which goes on the QSL Bureau web page.

The Staff is made up of a great bunch of fellows.

Riley, K4ORD handles the "1" calls. He is a "dyed in the wool" CW operator who doesn't have any idea where his microphone is - nor does he seem to care. He is a local boy and is our "quiet" member who will at Field Day generally make upwards of 500 QSO's all by himself.

Dick, K1HEL handles the "2" calls. He is a transplanted Yankee from Maine. Dick is into the other digital modes like PSK-31, RTTY and is quite active in ARES. He is a hunting and fishing devotee and is often out giving talks on hunter safety and demonstrations of fly rod fishing.

JJ, N3AXB handles the "3" and "6" calls. He likewise is a transplanted Yankee from Pennsylvania. He is into motorcycles and cooking peanuts, a major fund raising activity for our Church. And he is a devotee of Classical Music. He is always talking about practicing his code copying ability. One of these days he will get his gear all set up and actually get on the air.

Frank, KE4HOA handles the "5" and "9" calls. He is a VHF / UHF operator and with the great conditions on 6 Meters lately, he has impressed us all with his stack of QSL cards from all those countries he has worked. He has so much fun on phone that he has not attempted to upgrade. For which he gets the brunt of our kidding. Frank enjoys being known as our "Bubba"

Buddy, W4YE handles the "7" and "Ø" calls. He, like Riley, is a confirmed CW operator, but does know where his mike is, and can often be heard using it especially during contests. He is a member of the PVRC contest club and helped get the Old Dominion Chapter of the QCWA established here in this area and has served as its President.

Charlie, K4BSF handles the "8" calls. He is a dedicated phone operator, and does have an Extra Class license, which he got when the 20

wpm requirement was still in effect. He is very involved in the Christian Amateur Radio Fellowship, often acting as the Net Control station. He is our Clubs publicity person, par excellence.

As I've often said I could not handle this QSL Bureau without the dedicated effort these guys put in. They do a GREAT job and are always eager to get the newest batch of cards and SASE's.

I handle the "4" calls and the "VE" calls and the DX. Periodically I package up DX cards to send to Chuck, M0AVW in England and to Nigel, ZL2TX in New Zealand. And periodically I get a packet of cards from them.

So that in a nutshell is the FISTS QSL Bureau. It does take a lot of our time, but we do enjoy providing the service which appears to be appreciated by most of the members.

One of these days soon we will handle the 200,000th QSL card since we took over the job in December of 1997.

And Charlie always wants me to remind every member that we DO prefer #10 business size envelopes to handle those few "oversize" QSL cards we get. So, keep those cards and envelopes coming!

73, Stan - K4UK
www.qsl.net/w4fcr/fists/fist.html

FISTS AWARDS

By Dennis K6DF

Logs are coming in for the FISTS 15th anniversary award as you can see by the awards listing below. There is still plenty of time left in the year to obtain these awards so don't panic just yet. Things are moving along to get the certificates ready for the holders of the 15th Ann #1 award (150 contacts). These certificates should be in the mail sometime in late May or early June. Plaques for the 15th Ann #2 awards (300 contacts) will be sent out very late in the year.

A word about sending award logs.

As many of you know, I try my very best to get the FISTS awards out to you as quickly as I can. After you've sent in your log, I know how anxious one gets waiting for an award. It's always nice to receive a new award certificate so you can put it up on the shack wall to cover the bullet holes from that friendly neighbor. Hi hi

You can help speed along the award checking process by following a few simple guidelines:

Send a log with FISTS QSO information ONLY.

If you are printing your log from a computer:

Sort your log by FISTS number for Century awards.

Sort your log by CC number for Platinum awards.

If you are sending a paper log do not worry about sorting.

Above all, check your award log for duplicate numbers.

Once a paper log has been checked I do not keep it as they take up too much space.

Therefore, when you apply for another award, be sure to send the entire log for that award.

Also, Please tell me if you want your log returned to you. Once paper logs are checked they are destroyed.

You may apply for an award via e-mail by attaching your award log in one of the following formats: Excel, Word, or a plain text file. Please DO NOT send any formatted files. By this I mean do not highlight text or use color text, borders, etc. The Awards e-mail Address is: FISTSAWARDS@attbi.com

Feel free to send questions about awards to this address as well.

When applying for the "Century" awards, (Basic Century, Silver, Gold and Diamond) please include a point column in your log as these awards run on a point system. 1 point for contacts in your own country, 2 points for DX contact, and 3 points for working a FISTS affiliated club station.

The Platinum awards, (Platinum, Platinum 250, and Platinum 500) DO NOT run on the point system. Platinum awards go by the number of Century Club (CC) numbers collected via on the air QSO's with FISTS member stations. A CC number may only be used once for Platinum awards. Example: You earn your Platinum award (100 different CC numbers), you then may add to that award total, 150 more "different" CC numbers to obtain your Platinum 250 award. Same applies for the Platinum 500 award, simply add 250 more "different" CC numbers to your 250 award.

As you can see below, we had a lot of awards issued in March and April. Looks like activity is picking up on the bands. Good luck on your award hunting and I hope to work you on the bands sometime soon .

AWARDS ISSUED
March and up to April 25th,2002

(All awards listed in alphabetical order)

Basic Century (CC)

2E0RAF	HB9DCL	N2APQ	WA4RJK
9A4RC	K0CPX	N7APP	WA6RWI
AB0RS	K0PN	N9EXY	WB7RHT
AB2AN	K2RSS	PA0LPE	ZL1BRS
AC7QG	K7JIZ	VE7NI	ZL2BLQ
DL9CE	KD5MJJ	VK4BCM	
F5PBL	KD6DKC	W2IX	
G3HAL	KG4R	W5YA	
G3TZA	M0AUR	W8KKI	
G4BEQ	M0BHA	WA0KZL	
G4KGG	M0BVE	WA3UNX	
GW4SDO	M0CKD	WA4KER	

Silver Century

9A4MF	M0CHL
AA2NL	N7NU
F5PBL	OH2CF
G0IYZ	VA3EWP
G0TNU	W8FS
G3BLS	WA0KZL
K0MT	WA1ZCB
K3QA	WB0LBL
K7WAR	WB2LOS
K9XL	WB4JJJ
KF6QKI	ZL1MAD
KN9X	

Gold Century

AA2NL	N7NU
G3KOJ	OH2CF
G4WBN	PA3HEN
I2VRF	VA3EWP
K0MT	VK6PG
KC0JKD	W7DO
KJ7LB	W8FS
KO6TQ	WA3GNW
M0BTY	WA7CS

Diamond Century

AA1KS	NS2H
G0GSY	W1AWW
G3JRY	W8FS
G3VLU	WA2VQV
K0MT	WS0L
K7LFY	WW1AW

1 X QRP Award

KD5JWC
N9EXY
VO1HO
W2IX
WA4RJK

Rag Chewers' Club

K9TJL
KB3GKY
KD5GRF
N9BOR
WA2VQV

Worked All States Award

AA1KS	N71F	WA2VQV
G3KYF	N7NU	WP4IZQ
KA9F	W1GUE	
KC0JKD	W9FRC	

Platinum Award

AA2NL
G0TNU
G3BLS
K0MT
K3QA
K8CI
K9XL
KB8OOM
KH6HE
KJ7LB
KN9X
M5AGL
N7NU
OH2CF
VA3EWP
VK6PG
W5IBZ
W6YHM
W8FS
WA0KZL
WA1ZCB
WB2LOS
WB4JJ
WD9EMF

Platinum 250 Award

G3VLU
I2VRF
K0MT
K7ZYZ
K9PL
KC0JKD
W4FCR
W8FS
WA3GNW
WB0PYF
WF6W

15th Ann Award #1
(150)

GM3KHH
K4UK
K7LFY
K8XF
K9JXW
W1GUE
W8III
WA3GNW

15th Ann Award (300)

K8XF and K9JXW



Clearing out the piles in the shack is always an interesting time. No matter how careful I think I am being about Keynote materials, something always gets misplaced and buried in a pile.

Such is the case with this article from Jim N6JUG. You may remember Jim's Sawbug schematic and article in the Keynote last year. Jim wrote a follow-up article for us, and I came across it when sorting through a pile of papers today. Sorry Jim!

Here it is

SawBug Lore
by Jim Beaudry, N6JUG

Those building the SawBug might enjoy knowing the significant lore associated with the SawBug Origins and History.

There is a large amount of lore, historically, about SawBugs. Credit for it's first inventor is argueably given to Ted McElroy. Many others were building Sawbugs in the 1920's well into the 1930's. SawBugs were popular in thoses days when there were no Vibroplexes yet, nor any factories building bugs. SawBugs are the origin of The Bug.

SawBugs were then said to "do strange things to the brain." That is they soon gained a great reputation for causing SawBug operators to greatly increase both their speed and their overall Morse code skill and quality. Also, it was found that the natural rhythms on a straight key were transferred over to the Bug.

A variety of sawblades were used. To-day also a piece of bandsaw blade also makes a fun and interesting bug. The SawBug is inherently a fast bug. It is great in the 35 to 70 WPM speed range.

Weighting it down, with 1/2" to 1" 8 penny nails, bent into a horseshoe (an inverted "U") and using two or three, lets you operate the SawBug at the slower straight key speeds, but for a longer period of time.

Using a straight key , or pump, can be tiring to the arm and fist. This ability, to make slow speed CW, but for very long periods of time is another great feature of the SawBug.

Someone might be interested in making kits SawBugs, or assembled SawBugs and offering them for sale. 73 Jim N6JUG

Building a QRP Rig by Ron Pearson KA5HZV Fists 6259

Let me preface this article by saying, "I ain't never built nothin' before." Having gotten that out of the way I feel much better.

I love CW and work it as my primary mode of HF radio, but I was looking for something else. I read a few articles about guys who built their own QRP rigs and then sat in the backyard working DX in the shade of their favorite tree. It sounded like just the thing I was looking for so I hit the computer and began to surf-shop.

Some of the kits I looked at like the K-2 seemed more than a little intimidating for someone who, "ain't never built nothin' before," and in fact they were just a little pricey when I considered that building my own radio might be akin to throwing money into the wind. I mean, what if I couldn't do it? I'd hate to spend three or four hundred dollars just to add more clutter to my shack.

After careful consideration I finally settled on a \$95.00 kit put out by Tentec called the 1320. It's a CW only (what else does anyone need) 20 meter transceiver that takes up very little space and is easy to operate. I ordered it.

Next came the soldering station. They use to call it a soldering iron, but oh how things do change. But I must admit, it is a handy little device.

My wife, Debbi

We (KD5HKP, #6548) and I decided we would build the kit together over the next few months. I had good intentions of getting her involved! Really, I did! Honest!

When the kit arrived I could hardly wait to open the box, but when I did I was taken aback. Boy, there sure were a lot of parts in those little bags. First thing to do was sort everything out. This took about thirty minutes and I was very pleasantly surprised to find all the parts were there. Nothing was missing and so I began to solder a few pieces onto the board.

The instructions were very clear and there were several checks to be made as each portion of the rig was completed. I had a couple of days off from work so I decided I'd just get the kit going... a little.

Well, I don't know if it was an addiction to the solder smoke or if I'm a closet-QRPer, but I just couldn't stop. As each piece went into the rig I found myself reaching for another. Sort of like peanuts at a poker game.

Two days later the kit was complete. But would it work? Would this little conglomeration of diodes and transistors actually get my signal out to anyone. I had my doubts. I mean, how could it really work? I built it!

I plugged the power supply from an old bag-cell phone in and connected the 1320 to the leads. With a near trembling hand I flipped the little on/off switch, turned the VFO and listened. I could hear CW.

It sounded a lot like the tone and strength of the

***I even reached
a station in
Cuba who gave
me 5-9-9 and
didn't believe I
was QRP.....***

old crystal radio I had when I was a kid and it made Ham Radio take on a new dimension for me. I imagined myself back in the 1930's listening to someone far away taping out a message. But, would anyone hear me?

The little rig has full break-in so all I had to do was hit the key....

CQ CQ CQ.....de KA5HZV/QRP.....K

At first there was nothing so I sent again. And then, straight out of the 1930's I heard it. A station in VA. was answering my tiny little home built signal and it was absolutely thrilling. It worked!

I cut the QSO to a very short info exchange and moved up the band. Next I QSO'd with Chicago. My little radio was reaching out from Houston and picking up one station after the next. And I was getting signal reports of 5-3-9 and 5-4-9. I even reached a station in Cuba

who gave me 5-9-9 and didn't believe I was QRP.....

So there it is. I did it and it worked and I've been hooked ever since. I have an IC-756 and an IC-707, but the radio I love to operate is my little home built, 2 1/2 watt, single band, CW beauty. And if you think you can't build a radio, give this little kit a try. I think you too will be pleasantly surprised.....Ron/KA5HZV/#6259

"Old Timer's Corner"

Stan, W5ZF, suggested that we have a feature called Old Timer's Corner where those who were involved in ham radio during the Good Ole Days can share their stories. He volunteered to get the ball rolling with his own story. Send in yours! (I reserve the right to edit for space, though)

I was born in El Paso, Texas in 1930. Instead of blessing me with wealthy parents, God blessed me with parents who were "Dirt Poor" but made up for that with their love and caring. During the depression we never had the conveniences of today and kids today have no idea how to be innovative and creative. As I was growing up during the depression, I learned, at an early age, how to "Home Brew" everything. I had no "Store Bought" toys; I had to make my own.

For example, I made a guitar out of a cigar box strung with rubber bands across the open end and used to make music and sing with my little friends. We made tractors out of spools from thread and a button and a match stick and a rubber band. In West Texas, there were small insects, called doodlebugs, that lived and burrowed in the sand in our back yard. We used to capture them and keep them in a cigar box filled with sand and watch them dig their tunnels.

Later, as I grew up I became interested in road maps and would go to the local Texaco gas station and beg maps from old Mr. Melendres who owned the station. I used to lay on the floor and study them for hours dreaming of where I

would one day travel. There was a hobo jungle about three blocks from where we lived by the railroad station and I used to go down there and visit with the hobo's and hear tales of where they traveled on the rails. I even told my parents I wanted to grow up and be a hobo so I could travel and see the country. They didn't agree with that idea too much. At the age of five, I was sent to a Parochial School which was the best thing that ever happened because the level of education there was outstanding. I went there until I was twelve and we moved to California where my father found work which paid more than the \$17.50 a week he made in El Paso, supporting five people.

In Los Angeles, I went to Jr High School starting with the 7th grade. I had a shop class that changed my whole life. The teacher, Frank Graves, seemed to adopt me right away and I found out that he was a "Ham Radio Operator", which he described to me. I was fascinated immediately. He was also the Scout Master of the local Boy Scout Troop which he encouraged me to join. Mr. Graves taught me the Morse Code for my signaling badge. I learned how to build a crystal set first and that was a fabulous experience. I bought the Galena crystal for ten cents and made a cats whisker (How many remember those?) out of wire which I scrounged and had to buy two Fahnstock Clips where the earphones would connect. All this went on a wooden block about three by three inches. I began to make these for my friends and there was such a demand that I started selling them. They cost me fifteen cents to make and I sold them for fifty cents.

It was War time, so there was no way to get a ham license but I built a one tube regenerative receiver and listened for hours to short wave. I used to go to neighborhood radio repair stores and scrounge old radios that they would throw away and strip them of their parts, the power supplies being the most precious. I graduated from Junior High School in 1944 and went on to a high school where I was lucky enough to get into a shop class which was taught by Mr. Don Brockway. He was also a Ham, W6PL.

(continued next page...)

They had a Ham Radio Club and I met others who also were starry eyed over ham radio. Mr. Brockway taught us how to build more complex equipment such as receivers which even had plug in coils to change bands. We couldn't operate because the war was still going strong.

In 1945 we were allowed to go to the FCC office downtown and take a test for only the operators license and the station license was denied until the war ended. I went downtown and took my test which included theory and 13 WPM code which I passed easily. I couldn't wait to get on the air. When the war ended in 1945, we got on the air from the club station which we built ourselves. The call was W6QZL. Before the FCC officially gave their permission to operate, we got on anyway (bootlegged). It was funny because we worked a station who said he was an American GI on Wake Island and his call was B4UP. That was really hilarious but a lot of fun. As soon as we were allowed, I ran downtown and applied for my Class B privileges and got my first station license and my first call was W6BCT. I was 16 years old.

I got a part time job selling newspapers to earn enough money to buy parts to build my ham gear. My first station was a two tube receiver with plug in coils and a transmitter consisting of a 6L6GT tri-tet oscillator using crystals which I bought surplus and had to grind myself. Mr. Brockway gave me one of his old hand keys and I was in business. In those days we had to drill our own tube socket holes with a hand drill and on those black crackle steel chassis that was a great challenge.

My parents let me string a wire between two trees and I hoped that it would work. There were no automatic antenna tuners then and we had to tune the rig by adjusting the "Swinging Link" on the final tank coil until we could draw an arc off it with a pencil, or sometimes use a light bulb to which we soldered a coil with a couple of turns of wire and tuned till the bulb lit to maximum.

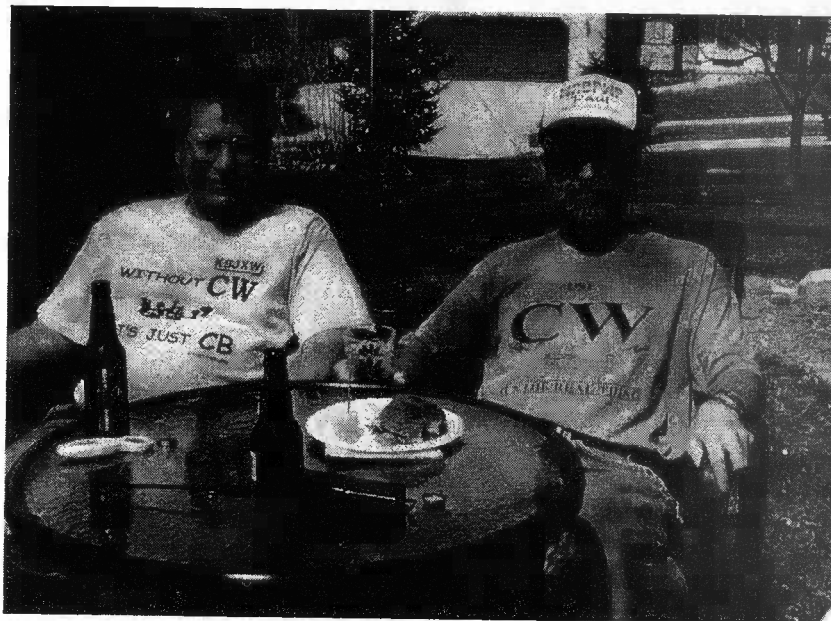
I first got on the air with this setup on

40 meters CW. I'll never forget my first contact. I called a CQ and tuned for an answer and I almost fainted because there was someone calling me a few Kcs up. It was W6AOQ, Gary in Riverside, California about 80 miles east of me. My hand shook so bad, I could hardly send. He told me how good I was doing and calmed me down as the sweat poured down my back. He sent me a QSL card which I kept for years.

I went to school the next day and shared my thrill with Mr. Brockway. He told me to always use CW because it could save my life someday. During the three years in high school, I learned how to build a superhet receiver and several transmitters. We even bought old "Command Set" surplus gear and converted them to ham frequencies. I graduated High School in May of 1947 and shortly thereafter, joined the Navy. They saw my background in radio and I was immediately sent to Radio School in San Diego, California. After radio school, I went to Submarine School in New London, CT. I had a great Navy career in the submarines as a CW radio operator and loved every minute of it. I got out of the Navy as a Second Class Petty Officer in 1953, and had fully intended to reinlist but I met my XYL and decided that she was a better option than the Navy, and that turned out to be one of my better decisions as we are now going to have our 49th anniversary. Can you believe any woman could live with me for 49 years?

My first rig out of the Navy, after getting a job, was a Johnson Viking Transmitter and a HQ129X receiver. Boy, that was like being in heaven. I kept my Vibroplex Bug I got in the Navy and used it for many years. CW was always my favorite mode. I went back to college and with my wifes help working, I managed to finish as an engineer, and also because of the GI Bill. I worked as an engineer until 1995 when I finally retired. I worked for several great companies and the last was Motorola, where I was a Field Service Engineer in their Federal Government Markets Division. I have had two patents granted to me and have written several papers that were published in the radio communications field 73/88 de Stan W5ZF

Double Whammy T-Shirts



Jim K9JXW FISTS 2325 of Wausau, WI and (Paul WA9PWP FISTS 2153 are shown here relaxing on Paul's patio after attending the "Madison Swapfest" held in Stoughton, WI. Look at the "double whammy" CW teeshirts they wore to the swapfest! Jim was Paul's houseguest the night before the swapfest. They have worked on the air many times but it was their first eyeball QSO!

Westcott House Foundation Radio Club

If any FISTS have advice for Matt, please drop him an email at mattcline@westcotthouse.org or a letter to Westcott House Foundation: P.O. Box 334 Springfield, OH 45502. He and his group aren't FISTS members...YET, hi hi. Their project sounds like a worthy and fun project.

My name is Matt Cline and I am on the board or trustees of the Westcott House Foundation (www.westcotthouse.org). We are in the process of restoring a house here in Springfield, Ohio that was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. The house will be open to the public upon completion. I have also been a ham for 8 years and was delighted and surprised when we discovered that one of the children of the house was an early ham also. He received his license in 1921.

Thus, I am also forming a radio club that will be operating a radio station from the house. We will have a vintage radio station like the one originally in the house, and we will also have a modern station so that visiting hams

can work other stations from the house.

After doing some research, I found that radio operator at the house maintained his hobby very actively until his death in the early 1980's. As it turns out, he was an avid CW fan and used it as much as SSB. As a result, I want to form the club around a heavy emphasis on CW broadcasts. We will also have other modes available, but I am looking for ideas to help promote CW.

One of the things I was hoping to do was to push club activities such as CW contests and CW special events for club members and visiting hams. I would welcome any additional ideas you might be able to offer.

I enjoy CW myself very much. I use a vibroplex bug and trudge along at around 13 words per minute...but I hope to improve. It's a struggle to keep interest in CW (let alone ham radio any more) but I would like to do my part to help keep it alive and kicking. Thanks for any advice and council.

Matt Cline Westcott House Foundation
KB8WFH

FISTS Winter Sprint, 2002 Results

**** The results published in Issue 3 are actually the FALL Sprint results ****

Hello fellow FISTS! WOW, what a great turn out for the Winter 02 Sprint, the bands here in SW Ohio were not too bad and lots of stations to be worked. Nice to see HI, and AK in the logs, also great to see the QRP stations sending in their logs!

PLEASE NOTE you have to mail or e-mail your logs to me and not to the previous Sprint Manager, Al W8FAX. Any logs sent to Al will not get to me and you'll miss out.

My address is: Dan Shepherd, N8IE, 1900 Pittsfields St. Kettering, Oh 45420

I want to thank my daughter Samantha for all her help in typing up the comments and helping me out with the scoring. See you all on the air! 73 Dan, N8IE FISTS #4985

QRO Catgory

Score	Call	Name	#	S/P/C
38826	N2ED	Ed	2454	Nj
20382	K7LFY	Robert	7866	Ok
18286	N1LN	Bruce	3525	Tx
17343	K4BAI	John	2158	Ga
15400	WB0B	Larry	2916	Ia
14004	N7IF	Steve	3398	Ut
12738	K8CI	Richard	5270	Oh
11492	W8EQA/7	Dan	2469	Ut
9554	WA7CS	Carl	4561	Wa
8866	K4IA	Craig	6702	Va
7395	KU0S	Vern	6554	Mn
7392	W9YA	Dwight	2765	Wi
7161	WA3GNW	Bruce	7878	Sc
6682	K9PL	Philip	6753	Il
6396	W7DO	Gary	6396	Wa
6084	K4TW	Johnny	2129	Ga
5356	WL7WH	Robert	3420	Ak
5124	N4GM/M	Grant	2573	Fl
4464	N3RSD/4	Frank	2411	Fl
4389	KQ6NN	Thomas	5476	Ca
4232	W6YHM	Don	8635	Ca
3910	K7ZYV	Carl	3426	Ms
3564	N7ZN	John	7076	Id
2736	N7DMA	Karl	8612	Az
2730	VA3EWP	Vincent	8070	Ont
2232	WB0PYF	Raymond	7986	Mo
1760	KD5MJJ	Hank	8180	Tx
1725	W9UQB	Mike	3687	Az
1712	KG9LZ T	om	5769	Il
1600	KH6HE	Alex	7423	Hi
1575	WA9YYF	Ed	4921	Il
1300	K2VS	Carol	2081	Nj
984	K6TN	Dick	7805	Wy
792	KR2F	Vincent	4582	Ny
650	KD5GRF	Carl	8033	Tx
627	W9KMP	Ken	4626	Il
561	PY2DBU	Helio	5273	Brazil
540	KB1CKS	Bill	5421	Me
440	K0MPC	Larry	3527	Mo

QRP Catagory

Score	Call	Name	#	S/P/C
6183	VE7NI	John	7935	B.C.
2960	KA1DDB	Michael	4527	Mi
2736	AB0RS	Richard	7289	Mn
2160	N0BZM	Ray	5149	Mo
1196	K6III	Jerry	N/A	Ca
1008	K3NY	Nick	3549	Md
783	KB0LUR	Paul	8294	Co
715	VE3EIM	Robert	5373	Ont
400	K0CNT	George	8506	Co
399	AC5XK	Dogan	7634	Tx
120	KB6MMS	Rick	8688	Ca

CLUB Catagory

Score	Call	Name	Club	#	S/P/C
35712	W7DG	Ed	Lower Columbia ARC	5777	Wa
14678	K4FFF	Charles	FISTS CW CLUB OF FLORIDA	7000	FI
10234	W4MVZ	Mike	Working Class Telegraphy Clob of West Central Florida	7600	FI
4704	K4UK	Stan	Franklin County ARC	2934	Va
1196	K5TTC	Doc	Tarrent County College ARS	7400	Tx

SOAPBOX

Larry Schreiber Kompe, K0MPC, MO FISTS# 3527

Had fun, but was able to stay only a short time. Fists a great bunch. 73 to all Larry K0MPC

Craig Buck, K4IA, VA FISTS# K4IA

Too nice day to play radio so I only got in about 2 hours. Still, was lots of fun and picked up 29 new points.

Paul Ermisch, KB0LUR, CO FISTS# 8294

My first sprint and first serious cw contest entry. Thanks - it was great fun

Stan Reas, K4UK, VA FISTS# 2934

Ran the Elecraft K2 at 5 Watts as a QRP entry. Sometimes frustrating when I couldn't make someone hear me - Hi! Conditions here in Virginia were poor on 10 and 15 meters. But i did pick up a few contacts for the 15th Anniversary Award including two club stations. I was surprised at how many 599 signals reports I go* I suspect many of them were just convenient reports and actually not correct. I was really pleased with the operation of the K2.

Michael Zbrozek, W4MVZ, FL FISTS# 7600

Plenty of activity but a lack of club stations was surprising. As per usual the last half-hour was the best for knocking off more contacts and finishing off a page! -Mike Zbrozek-W4MVZ

Raymond Coffey, N0BZM, MO FISTS# 5149

Lots of FISTS activity on all bands, very nice Sprint! Got kicked around quite a bit by the power houses but it is still fun. Maybe we should have a certain FISTS section of the bnads for QRP stations! Heard several DX stations (FISTS STN) but could not work them! Thnx for your handling the logs Dan! Ray

Vincent Cortina, KR2F, NY FISTS# 4582

14 FISTS, 1 non-FISTS, 40-20-15 meters, 15m strong from west coast. Never worked my own state! DOAH!

George Bruzenak, K0CNT, CO FISTS# 8506 All contacts made with an Elecraft K1 set to 5 watts out -antenna 51' G5RV All contacts were FISTS members. This is the first contest I've ever entered.

Bill Littlefield, KB1CKS, ME FISTS# 5421

I didn't make many contacts in the sprint but I have lots of fun trying.

Robert Prescott, WL7WH, AK FISTS# 3420 Thanks Dan for doing logs agn. - Had fun as always!

Robert Morden, VE3EIM, ONT FISTS# 5373

The hams I worked were real gentlemen, no one logged one frequency for the entire contest, but moved up and down in frequency when other stations appeared on a given frequency in an obvious attempt not to unnecessarily interference to their fellow testers.

Henry Lesesne, KD5MJJ, TX FISTS# 8180 A perfect short contest. Loved it!

Raymond A. Myers, WB0PYF, MO FISTS# 7986 Lots of fun!! Need to have one every month.

Carl Middlekauff, K7ZYV, MS FISTS# 3426 Had a lot of fun, where are the DX FISTS members?

Vern Veenhuis, KU0S, MN FISTS# 6554

Jeez are we ever getting a snowstorm!! It started at the same time as the "sprint". Wind is blowing so hard that I had to crank down the beam, and was stuck with the full wave 160mtr quad loop. Seems to cover the States pretty well though...actually maybe better off! hi. Bet you guys will be seeing a lot of snow & wind by tonight Thanks for taking on the "chores" Dan...it's appreciated.

Karl Rifenbark, N7DMA, AZ FISTS# 8612

Just started contesting about 4 months ago. Each one is more fun than the last, but this one was great! Vey pleasant folks in this club, and courtesy seemed abundant. Can't wait for the next sprint!

T.E. "Doc" Drake, K5TCC, TX FISTS# 5365 Hi Dan! PLEASE change format to rst/spc/name/nr MUCH confused with name first. Many stations using that above hard to log both :)

Lower Columbia ARC, N7CFA, WA FISTS# 1402

Enjoyed the sprint. FISTS is fun. We had 3 ops, K7WF, WA7UQE, and myself. We run out other club callsign for the spring and fall sprint (WA7YYY). Thanks for your efforts. Very appreciated

Larry J. Newby, WB0B, IA FISTS# 2916

Higher bands were good. What happened to 40 meters? Not many signals on 40 even tho it was good also. WB0B-Larry 2916

Rober J. Forgey, K7LFY, OK FISTS# 7866

Conditions ok. Stayed on 20M the whole time since always had returns to CQs. Goal was 100Q's. Just made it. Had a good time. 44 New FISTS #'s. 50 Pts, & 16 CC #'s. One new Club station. Now sitting at 839 points and 350 CC numbers. A good effort for me and one that met my goals. Lots of members again after I have been pretty inactive due to work and travel.

FISTS OPERATING AWARDS

All FISTS awards can be applied for via e-mail. Send an e-mail to Dennis K6DF stating which award you are applying for, your name, call and address, and send your complete log with all the info for the award via e-mail attachment. Excel and Word files are preferred, but a text file of your log is also acceptable. Be sure and carefully check your log for duplicate contacts!

When you apply for an award, please send the complete log for that award, for example, if you have the Silver award and are applying for the Gold award, send the complete log showing all 500 contacts for the Gold award.

There is no charge for any of the awards for FISTS members in good standing, but stamps are appreciated. Non-FISTS and FISTS with lapsed dues are eligible for awards but please enclose \$3 to defray expenses.

Only one numbered award of each type will be awarded per FISTS number. For example, if you earn the Basic Century with your USA callsign, then go to Europe and earn it again using a DX callsign, you can get a Century Certificate for the DX callsign, but it will have the same certificate number as your previously issued Basic.

You do not have to have a QSL cards to claim the contact for awards. A logging worksheet is available in PDF format on our web page: <http://www.fists.org>. It can be used for ALL of the Century/Platinum Awards. When using this form to apply for Platinum Awards, use the points column to list the CC numbers as the Platinum Awards do not use the point system.

Basic Century Award

*****THE NUMBER ON THIS CERTIFICATE IS YOUR CC NUMBER*****

The Century Award is earned by working 100 points of FISTS members. FISTS operating from the same country that you are in are worth one point. FISTS operating from a different country, as defined by DXCC rules, are worth two points. FISTS affiliated club stations are worth three points. A FISTS number can only be counted once.

You don't have to be a FISTS member at the time of the contact, but the person you are claiming for Century Award points must be a FISTS member AT THE TIME OF THE CONTACT. For example, if you QSO with someone who is not a FISTS member, but they join FISTS after the QSO, you must work them again for credit. You cannot count the QSO before they joined FISTS toward any FISTS Award.

Silver Century Award

The Silver Century Award has the same rules as the Basic Century and is for a total of 250 points. Points used to claim the Basic Century may be used toward the Silver Century Award. Send the log information (no QSL's please) to Dennis Franklin, K6DF. The number on this certificate is NOT your CC number.

Golden Century Award

The Golden Century Award has the same rules as the Basic, but it is for a total of 500 points. Points used to claim the Basic Century and Silver may be used toward the Golden Century Award. Send the log information (no QSL's please) to Dennis Franklin, K6DF. The number on this certificate is NOT your CC number..

Diamond Century Award

The Diamond Century Award has the same rules as the Basic, but it is for a total of 1000 points. Points used to claim the Basic, Silver & Golden Centuries may be used toward the Diamond Century. Send the log information (no QSL's please) to Dennis Franklin, K6DF. The number on this certificate is NOT your CC number.

The Century Awards are available in QRP and 2-way QRP, QRP meaning 5 watts or less output. Please give your power used when applying for the QRP version of the Award. A list of current Diamond Award Holders should be available from a link on our web page. When you apply for an award, please send the complete log for that award, i.e. . . . if you have the Silver award and are applying for the Gold award, send the complete log showing all 500 contacts for the Gold award.

Platinum Award

This award, which used to be called the Century of the Centuries, is earned by working 100 different Century Certificate holders. The Century Certificate (CC) number must be obtained during an on-air QSO. Each CC number is only counted once, for a total of 100 numbers, regardless of location or band. Send your log of contacts with their CC numbers to Dennis Franklin, K6DF.

250 Platinum Award

The 250 Century Award is for 250 Century Award holder Contacts. Send the log information (no QSL's please) to Dennis Franklin, K6DF.

500 Platinum Award

The 500 Century Award is for 500 Century Award holder Contacts. Send the log information (no QSL's please) to Dennis Franklin, K6DF.

Mobile Operating Award

This award is earned by accumulating 100 points of two-way CW QSO's made while MOBILE on or after September 1, 1998. The rules are the same as the Basic Century Award. Two-way CW QSO's within your own country are worth 1 point. Two-way CW QSO's with countries defined by DXCC rules are worth 2 points. Duplicate contacts do not count.

If you have not earned a Basic Century but apply for the Mobile, you will automatically be issued a Basic Century Award in addition to the Mobile Award. You may count the points claimed for the Mobile Award toward the QRP Century Award if the power is 5 watts or less. They may also be counted toward the Gold, Platinum, or other awards if you have not previously claimed the contacts.

For purposes of this award "MOBILE" shall mean: Any motor vehicle used to transport people, such as car, truck, etc. The mobile must be moving, or stopped temporarily, as at a stop light. NOTE: An RV, or similar vehicle, parked at a campground would be considered PORTABLE and NOT COUNTED TOWARD THIS AWARD. However, an RV, or similar vehicle, that is moving would be MOBILE. QSO's made while you are driving or while you are a passenger in the vehicle are eligible. Transmitting and receiving antennas must be physically attached to the vehicle. Transceiver must be located inside the vehicle

Worked All States Award

WORKED ALL STATES award is earned by working FISTS members in all 50 states. The FISTS worked must be a FISTS member at the time of the contact. A checksheet is available in PDF format on the web page: <http://www.fists.org>

FISTS Rag Chewers Award

This award is earned by making 100 two-way CW QSO's, each lasting at least 30 minutes, with another FISTS member on or after the date of September 1, 1998. Duplicate member contacts are valid, but they must be made on different dates. You may apply for this award only once. Send a copy of your log information to: Dennis Franklin, K6DF, at 4658 Capitan Drive, Fremont, CA 94536-5448. Return postage is appreciated.

Questions about the awards may be directed to The FISTS Award manager, Dennis Franklin, K6DF, at the above address or Nancy WZ8C PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440-0047.

NEW: 15th Anniversary Award

Happy Anniversary to us! 2002 is the 15th Anniversary of The Founding of FISTS. To celebrate, we have created two special awards. The period of time to earn these awards will be one year, 2002. QSO's made between January 1, 2002 and December 31, 2002 ONLY will be valid. Contacts must be two-way CW QSOs. You may earn both awards, but remember, only one FISTS number can be counted in your total. You can use the QSOs claimed for Anniversary Award #1 to qualify for Anniversary Award #2.

Anniversary Award #1

Requirements:

FISTS numbers from -

- A) 10 FISTS different members operating from each of the ten callsign areas - total of 100 contacts.
 - B) 15 different FISTS operating in Canada
 - C) 10 different FISTS operating in England
 - D) 10 different FISTS operating from a DX country that is NOT England or Canada.
 - E) 15 different Clubs with FISTS numbers (DX or USA)
- Total 150 different FISTS member numbers

Anniversary Award #2

Requirements:

FISTS numbers from -

- A) 15 different FISTS operating in each of the 10 call sign zones (0 through 9) - total of 150 contacts.
- B) 40 different FISTS operating in Canada
- C) 40 different FISTS operating in England
- D) 40 different FISTS operating from a DX country that is NOT England nor Canada
- E) 30 Clubs with FISTS numbers (DX or USA)

Total of 300 FISTS member numbers

* NOTE: The FISTS member number counts toward the area from which they are operating, NOT the origin of the callsign they are using.

Each contact must be with a different FISTS member. Each FISTS member number is counted only once, no matter where they are located at the time of the contact; no matter what callsign they are using. If you contact WZ8C while she's home in Michigan and later when she's on vacation in Costa Rica, you may count only ONE of the contacts toward the Anniversary Award.

Clubs with FISTS numbers are also only counted once. Working different members using their club callsign do not count as more points unless you also work them using their own callsign and FISTS number..

DX is defined by DXCC rules, which means Hawaii and Alaska are DX for the continental USA.

Once you have a person or club's number, they cannot be counted again toward your total.

Logs should include Call, Name, FISTS number, date, QTH. To facilitate log verification, please list contacts according to the group requirements they fulfill.

What is a CC number?

You may have been asked for your CC number during a QSO with a fellow FISTS member. "CC" stands for "Century Certificate". When you earn The Basic Century Award, there is a number on your certificate. This is your Century Certificate, or CC number. You can see from these pages that you can earn other awards by working FISTS with Century Certificates.

Only the BASIC CENTURY number is your CC number. You may have different variations of the Century, such as the Silver Century, but the numbers on the other Century Awards do not count toward the Platinum or other awards, only the BASIC CENTURY CERTIFICATE NUMBER.

FISTS CALLING FREQUENCIES

We all know that no one owns a particular frequency. You can find a FISTS member on the bands just about anywhere by calling CQ FISTS. You are encouraged to spread out and not cluster just on these spots - after all, there are thousands of FISTS and we can't all fit on the same frequency! You will increase your odds of finding different FISTS members if you call in different places on the bands.

Keep in mind that some of these frequencies, particularly on 20 meters are near the QRP/DX window and other groups calling frequencies. LISTEN before you call CQ; ask if the frequency is busy. If you can, make a contact and move, or QSY, off the frequency to a different spot to free up the calling frequency for others to use. That's why it's called a calling frequency, not a QSO frequency. With this in mind, here are the suggested calling frequencies.

2m 144.058 MHz

6m 50.058 MHz

10m* 28.058 MHz

12m 24.918 MHz

15m* 21.058 MHz

17m 18.085 MHz

20m* 14.058 MHz

30m 10.118 MHz

40m* 7.028 MHz All IARU Regions

40m 7.058 MHz — IARU Region 2

80m* 3.558 MHz

160m* 1.808 MHz

* Note 1: The calling frequencies for 10m, 15m, 20m, 40m - All IARU regions, 80m, and 160m, are only 2 kHz. below QRP calling frequencies (7.030 MHz is the QRP calling frequency in Europe). Please only QSY *down* from these frequencies.

U.S. Novice sub-bands

10m 28.158 MHz 15m 21.158 MHz 40m 7.118 MHz 80m 3.708 MHz

Note 2: Please use the Novice sub-band calling frequencies as much as possible. It will benefit Novices, and also provide support for retaining the spectrum.

FISTS CLUB "DOWN UNDER" Local News - April 2002

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SUGGESTED H/F CALLING FREQUENCIES

(160M) - 1.808MHz, (80M) - 3.558MHz, (40M) - 7.028MHz, (30M) - 10.118MHz, (20M) - 14.058MHz,
(17M) - 18.085MHz, (15M) - 21.058MHz, (12M) - 24.918MHz, (10M) - 28.058MHz.

U.S. Novice - Sub Bands: (15M) - 21.158MHz, (10M) - 28.158MHz.

NEW MEMBER

We offer a warm welcome to our latest "Down Under" member: **-ZL2BLQ - Stan # 9068**, joins us from Greytown, in the Wairarapa and is our first member from this area. He is a nominated examiner for the Amateur Written and Morse Tests, and reports having passed two candidates who recently obtained their General Licences. He comments "Blimey, that 5 words a minute almost sends you to sleep!" (No doubt when you become more acquainted with the FISTS CW Club, you will mention it to your candidates Stan. Keep up the good work! - Ed).

VK/ZL MEMBERS NEWS

VK4BCM - Bevan # 9053, advises that he will be attending the reunion of ex New Zealand Post Office employees in Paraparaumu at the "Southwoods Vintage Car Museum". This takes place on the weekend of 18 / 19 May 2002. This reunion ends around midday on Sunday 19th May. It is planned that a separate "FISTS GET TOGETHER" will be held afterwards in Waikanae, at 1300 Hours. If there are any ex N.Z.P.O. employees that are FISTS Members together with their wives - Bring them along please. Prior notice of numbers should be forwarded to Ralph, ZL2AOH.

More details of this "FISTS GET TOGETHER", later in this newsletter.

ZL2BU - Richard # 9020, has advised that he is presently in the Falkland Islands (VP8), and is staying with family there. He is receiving the newsletter by e-mail. (Any chance of any activity Richard? I'm sure your VP8 call would be really rare to FISTS members - Ed).

VK2PS - Steve # 9022, recently sent in a very neat hand written entry for the Oceania Contest 2001. As this is written, none other than Ralph, ZL2AOH is transcribing his entry onto computer, as this year, for the first time, all entries are to be kept on computer. Ralph remarked "this is the neatest log I have had the pleasure of seeing, it must have taken hours to write up with over 500 entries! Sorry Steve, you will have to wait for the results!

ZL1CDX - Turner # 9048, writes he has been quiet on the radio recently what with the holidays and a major painting and decorating project under way. He notes some great African DX (9U5D and 5V6BR) on 21.270 MHz SSB and laments it is a great pity they don't use the key!

ZL3CED - Charlie # 9039, requests assistance in the form of a CW Buddy, who has the time up his sleeve once or twice a week on 80 Metres CW from the end of April. I have only two CW contacts under my belt so far and would like to gain a little more experience. My sending and receiving speed is around 10 to 12 words a minute. Anyone interested, should have e-mail access so that I can check my progress. Charlie can be reached at: - Charlie.Dawson@airnz.co.nz

ZL2BLQ - Stan # 9068, writes that he has been on 10 metres these past two years, about 25% CW, having just renewed his 10-10 membership and chasing all the awards that are there. The band is fast fading out so it is time to catch up on jobs around the house before getting too involved with the other bands. My quad is still standing, but has been repaired 4 times over the past 20 years it has been there, so not too bad!

Had a contact with Richard, AA1KS, who sent me an old FISTS newsletter, kindly offering to sponsor me. Saw the details of the VK/ZL Chapter and so decided to join. My CW speed remains at between 15 and 18 words a minute and I will be looking for FISTS members as I return to the other bands, when some of these chores are completed!

ZL2BIL - Bill # 9003, suggests something new to keep one busy as Autumn and Winter approach.

"Has anybody else taken up The Ultimate Art of Grid Hunting?" You can find this site on AC6V's [just enter AC6V in your search engine] enormous site under Grids. There is also the Field Hunter's site as well. This adds another dimension to DX-ing. Both sites display a table of contacts etc.[honour system], and there are awards to be gained. You'll also need a fairly comprehensive World Atlas and, if you can find one, a book of grids. Otherwise go to Maps on the AC6V site and download Amateur Radio Maps, which is a FREE program, but has the advantage of a built-in Grid locator...just enter the Latitude/Longitude from your atlas and bingo, instant grid location! - Good occupation, for a rainy afternoon, catching up on the squares.

ZL1BRS - Syd # 9013, writes, at last I'm back on the air, however family matters keep interrupting my efforts? (Not that much, judging by the number of QSL cards accompanying your note. - Ed)

OVERSEAS MEMBERS NEWS

G4KGG - Peter # 7165, writes that he was very pleased to receive the January / February "Down Under Newsletter", by e-mail. He remarks "This is a brilliant idea and thanks to all concerned!" (I hope this will become a permanent new free service Peter, and would add that if there are any U.K. / European members who do not wish to receive the Down Under Newsletter, please contact your Webmaster - Ed). He further adds that a new station has been established at Beaumanor Hall, near Shepshed, Leicestershire, mainly for students attending courses on the subject of World War II. Call Signs either G3BMR or GX3BMR. It is not open that regularly, only when the children attend the course, but the kids love the period receivers, they can also have a supervised TX on the Kenwood TS570.

UA6JD - Vlad # 1385, is very keen to work as many overseas members as possible this year, as he would like to obtain the FISTS 15th Anniversary Awards. If anyone with e-mail would like to set up a schedule to contact him he can be

reached at ua6id@mailru.com

GSWL2 - Pete # 4822, sent a nice e-mail to say how he enjoyed reading "Down Under". He mentions that he operated from Bahrain Island as MP4BIM in 1970 - 71 whilst serving with the Royal Air Force as a Telegraphist. Nowadays he is content to remain a listener, from Bournemouth in Southern England. He has a very interesting homepage on line together with a DX information - see Web Sites of interest. (Not often we hear from a FISTS SWL member, so if you suddenly receive a report from Pete, I'm sure your card would be appreciated - Ed)

G3CWW - Tony # 0595, in response to all the talk about Rhombic antennas replies - "I could talk at length on the subject of rhombics, having been much involved during Service days - we used them in triple diversity for reception, so we had quite a big farm! The land in between was cultivated for potato growing, by Land Army girls. The work of maintenance, mast erection etc was done by off-watch operators, this being regarded as a suitable alternative to orthodox PTI!"

K4KSR - Bill # 8440, sent the following - "Worked Dave, VK3DBD, for a second time this afternoon, in the thick of the early evening FISTS QRM between the US and Europe. He was a solid S7, when he turned his beam he was able to hear my ½ watt "solid copy RST 519" which is absolutely amazing in that QRM. Normally, I think of ZL/VK contacts as being reserved for very late at night, when the noise level is down low, and rare that is!"

MOAVW - Chuck # 2896, reports that he is now the proud owner of an "ALINCO DX77E" H/F rig, thanks to his good wife Mandy, who purchased it as a birthday present.

G3KMG - David # 0124, writes - "Am at present experimenting with a vertical 3 element 'Half Yagi' on 15 Metres. Use mainly chicken wire as a ground plane (as with the 40 Metre vertical). Compared with the vertical on it's own, it has a 'null' of 16dB and a gain of 3dB according to my FS meter. Not too exciting, but I find it much quieter on receive than my other 3 antennas. European signals are well down, less general noise and this afternoon a VE4 has severe echo not audible on the vertical array. Getting good reports from W/E - on it's favoured direction. The next will be a quad driven array on 15 Metres. I use an indoor dipole and a simple vertical on the chimney for reference!" Dave adds "We must do our best to keep MORSE alive in our lifetime. It's going to be a struggle. You have no doubt heard of the RSGB Morse "assessment" for the new licence? What a farce! Better stop, could go on all night! (Interesting Dave - Would appreciate more news on the quad driven array as I too have a big lawn. Agree regarding the Morse assessment! - Ed)

PIRATE ACTIVITY - FOOLED ONCE AGAIN!

From a New Zealand Amateur - "On the 15th March 2002, at 0428 U.T.C. a strong station was heard tuning up on 21.020MHz. A few seconds later he announced his call sign as VP6DX. Thinking this must be the Ducie Island DX operation, I dropped everything and quickly called him".

"To my surprise, he replied straight away and we exchanged reports. Nothing else - as one would expect from a rare expedition. After this, once more, he sent - de VP6DX. Receiving no answer he then disappeared!"

"Thinking that's odd - where is the pile up?"

I decided to check the appropriate web site. Information at the time stated that the call sign was yet to be announced. Two days later, I rechecked to find the call sign VP6DI had been issued".

- At this point, I wrote a very sad note in my log - book against the entry, saying "PIRATE".

What makes things worse, is the fact that this Pirate happened to be a damned good CW operator. His speed was about 35 w.p.m"

WEB SITES OF INTEREST

Special Event Station GB90MGY - The R.M.S. "TITANIC" Memorial Station site: -<http://www.gdrs.net/titanic>

The R.M.S. "TITANIC" and Jack Phillips story complete with historic pictures, messages and ships call signs: -

<http://www.gdrs.net/titanic/titanic%20radio%20page.htm>

The Site of Glen Dunstan, VK1XX, a wealth of additional information on the Titanic disaster: -<http://www.hf.ro>

Special Event Station GB50 - Have a look at: -<http://www.gb50.com/>

The Homepage of Pete - FISTS # GSWL2 : -<http://www.pgr1.co.uk>

"The first 50 years of Radio" - on one massive site. Thousands of documents, sound clips, photographs and details of early equipment. Lots of Titanic material, including many dramatic and poignant Marconi Radiotelegrams about survivors. Go to: - <http://www.marconicalling.com>

TRADING POST

ZL1MRX - Jeff # 9001, has 19 "MORSUM MAGNIFICAT" MORSE magazines numbers 58 to 76 for sale, at \$2 each or \$30 the lot. Enquiries to QTHR or monkfish@hyper.net.nz

CHATHAM ISLAND ZL7

The Kermadec DX Association is going to undertake a "DXPEDITION" to Chatham Island (ZL7), later this year. We realise that ZL7 is not the most wanted country in the world, but because of the proposed timing of this DXPEDITION we anticipate making a significant amount of contacts with both Dxers and contesters alike.

Due to the non - availability of some members of our very successful ZL8RI and ZL9CI teams, we are now looking for additional operators who are experienced in both CW and SSB operation. As this will be 24 hour per day operation, we are looking for operators, who feel they have the willingness and ability to operate during both day time and night time. If you are interested and would like more information please contact the undersigned DIRECT.

Best 73's and Good Dxing, Ken Holdom ZL4HU Group Organiser / Team Leader / QSL Manager
Kermadec DX Association P O Box 7 Clyde Central Otago New Zealand

INFORMATION COURTESY OF THE NEW ZEALAND DX REFLECTOR NEWSGROUP --

TO SUBSCRIBE or UNSUBSCRIBE Go to - <http://www.nzart.org.nz/nzart/lists/dx.html>

To submit a DX Alert or Message to the group, send E-mail to - nzdxr@nzart.org.nz

Comments or FAQ to Lee ZL2AL - leejen@paradise.net.nz

This is the NZDXR DX Reflector hosted by NZART THE NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION OF RADIO TRANSMITTERS

AUSTRALIAN AMATEUR RADIO LICENCES

The following information from VK2MQX - Chris # 9057 Australia currently has 5 classes of amateur licence with the possible addition of yet another class, which would be similar to the new UK "Foundation", licence. (WIA NSW Annual Report 2001, p.11) Here is a summary of HF frequencies available to VK amateurs according to licence class: Novice Limited: no HF access. Novice: 3.525 - 3.625MHz, 21.125 - 21.300MHz, 28.100 - 28.600kHz. Limited: 29MHz - 29.7MHz (FM only). Intermediate: All HF frequencies. Unrestricted: All HF frequencies.

A full explanation of VK licences can be found on the Australian Communications Authority web-site: www.aca.gov.au/publications/info/amateur

A description of the UK 'Foundation' licence can be found in the February edition of Amateur Radio magazine (p.18) and also on the RSGB web-site. (Thanks Chris, now, we know where to look, for Novice Licensee's - Ed)

MEMBERS COMPUTER NEWS

Renewing membership was ZL1MAD-Dusty # 9051, who included a generous donation with his subscription. Many thanks. Dusty reports that he has ordered a computer, so we hope to see his name on the e-mail list shortly. If you have e-mail facilities but have not notified us, please do so. In addition to circulating the newsletter by e-mail to those who chose that means. We also send out occasional items of interest, as they come to hand. The morning after FISTS Down Under was sent out by e-mail, ZL2AH-Ralph # 1073, received this e-mail from Bresso, Italy.

Hi Ralph, I read on "Down Under" of March your profile. Congratulations! I obtained my first licence in 1958, but already during the WWII I was a boy going to radio shops to get exhausted tubes to see how they are made! E-mail, like Internet, is too easy: 50 watt CW with dipole, QSB, QRM - are more interesting, stimulating and competitive. But that is just the opinion of a man born at the valves-time. Many hams use PA, cluster and monster antennas and they are happy merely for 59+. I hope to meet you soon again on the bands. 73 from the other side of the world! I2VRF- Giancarlo (Gian) # 8325. A couple of new e-mail addresses:

ZL3DL-Lindsay # 9016, reports: I have just opened an Internet account at home at last. (zl3dl@slingshot.co.nz) I managed to pick a computer at the right price so it's all go at home. You may like to place this info in the next membership list update. Not much on the ham front at the moment however did work an e-European member a week or so back on 20. In fact my first FISTS QSO!! Hope to improve my aerial in the next few months to get better TX/RX.

From Queensland, VK4AP-Warwick #9058, has a new address: - lakew@austarnet.com.au

SHACK VISIT

During a stay in Nelson, ZL2AOH - Ralph, visited ZL2GQ-George # 9059 at his hilltop residence. He has a spectacular outlook covering the city, port and the whole of Tasman Bay. George has an ingenious mast supporting a two-element delta loop. With his hilltop situation, he has to avoid offending the locals with a permanent mast, so he used his skills as a precision engineer to design a hydraulic system, to erect the mast with the local water supply. The mast is rotated manually. George also has a modified Windom antenna.

While there, Ralph joined a regular net that George takes part in most days. It is the "Waipiro Net", that has been going for some years. They start at 16:15 hours local time with a ten minute Morse practice session on 7.015 MHz. This is followed by a SSB chat net at 16:30 hours on 7.104 MHz. Ralph had the pleasure of on-air meetings with some of the regular attendees, that include FISTS members ZL1IG - Jack # 9043, ZL1BMN - Bruce # 9049 and ZL2NV - Alec # 9046. While in Nelson, Ralph also had the pleasure of a brief eyeball QSO with ZL4PO - Lester # 9044. Lester is busy with planning his participation in the forthcoming Mellish Reef Dxpediton.

SOME SOUND ADVICE

We picked this off a FISTS reflector. What do you think?

Try not to use those DXpediton pileups to form an opinion of what CW should be like. There are old timers in those pileups and so-called "Big Guns" and they have no respect for others. It is "Dog Eat Dog" and there are no manners or ethics when it comes to those "Shark Infected Waters" with them in a "Feeding Frenzy". This is NOT what it is all about. I have heard bad language, name calling, and everything else in those situations. I have been on CW for 55 years plus six years as a Navy CW Radio operator and I stay away from them, because that is not what CW is all about. What makes CW a pleasure is when you have a rag chew for over an hour and get to know the other person, what he does for a living, where he lives, his other interests, etc. I had a one-hour QSO with G3KDE on 12 meters the other day and it is one of the nicest QSOs I can remember. We had so much in common it was great. That is what it is all about. Speed is not the only objective and that comes with time. I copy in my head and just jot down notes to remember to comment on, but that comes with experience. The main thing is to get on and operate CW. I look forward to contacting you. 73's de Stan W5ZF

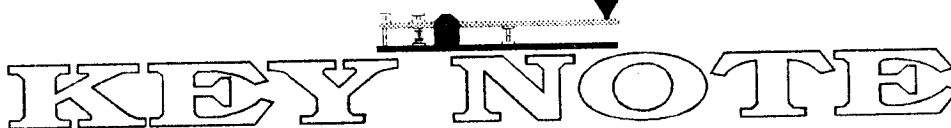
CQ CQ FISTS CQ CQ FISTS

LOWER NORTH ISLAND MEETING

NZ Post Office veterans are holding a reunion near Paraparaumu over the weekend 18-19 May 2002. At least one FISTS member will be there, VK4BCM-Bevan-9053. We thought that it would be a good opportunity for FISTS club members in and around Wellington to have a social gathering and to meet Bevan and any other FISTS members who may have travelled to the reunion, or otherwise might be in this region at the time. (Hawkes Bay and Taranaki members, how about joining us?)

It is proposed to meet for lunch at the Old Flame Restaurant on the corner of State Highway 1 and Kapiti Road at 13:00 hours on Sunday, 19 May 2002. The price for the all inclusive smorgasbord menu is \$15.95 a head, \$14.50 for senior citizens, (drinks extra of course.) We hope that as many members and their XYs as possible will come along. It will be an occasion to celebrate three years of successful FISTS Club development Down Under, one that we hope to repeat regularly. We also hope that it will encourage FISTS members in other centres to organise similar gatherings. So that we can arrange the catering and seating, please let Ralph ZL2AOH know if you are coming and numbers. (Contact details as at the masthead above.) I will give you a cut-off date for replies, in the May newsletter. Also, if you require assistance with transport, please let Ralph know. Incidentally, the Old Flame is a short stroll from the Paraparaumu railway station.

International Morse Preservation Society



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

<http://www.asel.demon.co.uk/fists-hq/> <http://www.zl6qh.com>

E-Mail HQ: fist1@btinternet.com webmaster: webmaster@asel.demon.co.uk

Pse keep watch on all Novice allocations
Recinnebbed calling QRGs:

3.558, 7028, 14.058, 21.058, 28.058

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

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Vice Chairman

P.R.O.

Rally Coordinator
Secretary

G4XHZ

G4YLB

G4YLB

G4PPG

G3ZQS

AWARDS

e-mail apps/logs to Dennis, K6DF:

[<fistsawards@attbi.com>](mailto:fistsawards@attbi.com)

written logs to HQ.

GREETINGS

Again I must start this letter with an apology for delay. My wife - Ivy - spent but 8 short days in residential care before ending up again in hospital. I keep my fingers crossed that this time the source of her problems has been uncovered; namely an ageing artificial hip joint which has begun to impinge upon her pelvic structure causing conducted pain to spread throughout her lower body. Can't grumble, it has only taken 7 lengthy stays in a hospital bed over a period of several months to make this discovery. Hopefully they will be taking steps to correct this in which case, I should have much more time available. Easter brought us our first real taste of spring. Had little time to spend on the air but what there was proved to be most gratifying. Ignoring some juicy DX I concentrated instead on rag-chewing with many of you on both sides of the puddle - it's just the way I am. Hi.

Those (particularly the newly licensed) who have been observed to use less than perfect CW on the bands have been the target of some pretty vitriolic comment. Think about it though! These folks will in all probability improve their techniques over time as opposed to those who choose not to use the mode

E KEYNOTE MATTERS

We are amassing a significant number of subscribers to the e-mail version of Keynote and Andy (our web-master) has kindly constructed a short guide which is sent to all new subscribers irrespective of experience outlining possible problems and offering guidance. I have recently been involved in a few queries when the keynote has been received as KN_02_02.PDF.DAT. Andy explained that some ISPs automatically append the ".dat" to the extension as a security measure so that the file may be quarantined and checked with anti-virus software before removing the added ".dat".

Outlook Express

Many users of MS Outlook Express do not appreciate the way the programme saves downloads. You want to be safe? Then do not touch the paper clip which you will find on messages with attachments. Click on **FILE..SAVE ATTACHMENT**. Note the folder that Outlook is saving to (bottom of the dialogue box), change it to a quarantine folder if you choose and after locating the file, use your virus checker to ensure that it contains nothing harmful. Now you can re-name it by simply removing the appended ".dat", double click the file and the Acrobat reader will be invoked automatically.

Confirmation also that your now non-existent label is no prob-

lem. When shooting Keynote over to Andy for conversion to a PDF file, renewal dates are checked and members whose subs are, due are reminded by a short e-mail from HQ.

Free ISP problem

A number of you may be unaware that some ISPs (principally the popular hotmail) restrict the size of attachments. Andy sends attachments which (together with the ZL/VK letter) exceed the allocation and as a consequence he is regularly faced with 'bouncers'. There is little point in even attempting to send traffic of anything approaching a moderate size to hotmail since it will invariably be rejected with the error "Exceeded allowance allocation" and it is recommended that those of you who are using the service should set up with an alternative freebie such as mail.com whose limits are not so stringent. No need to quit hotmail - both can be run independently.

GACW CONTEST

The first of such events will be held third weekend in April with full rules from <http://www.geocities.com/gacwar>. Info from Raul/LU6EF, GACW Coordinator. GACW incidentally refers to Group Argentine CW because I took one quick look and read AGCW. Hi.

IRCS FOR SALE

Yes, I have again accumulated a large number of IRCS and rather than exchange them for stamps (a poor bargain at best), I offer them to members at 50p each. Some are the larger and more recent type whilst the rest, though still valid, are the original type. Gimme a ring first pse to confirm availability.

SOUNDS OF AMATEUR RADIO

I am grateful to G3KSU for an audio tape covering a programme on the radio with amateur radio as a subject. It could have been better presented since there was a surfeit of the atmospheric and other noises which bedevil us on many bands though much hand sent CW was evident throughout the programme. With my ancient cassette player/recorder I fear that copies would be 99% noise but it is here in the shack should members wish send a stamped jiffy bag and despite my opening comments, is well worth listening to.

THOSE CONTESTS

It was a Saturday, it was spring, the flowers were blooming in the garden and it was a beautiful sunny day. At this time my wife was in the kitchen happily replacing the worn out irons on my 34-year-old sons clogs. My 24-year-old daughter was

sprawled full length on the carpet watching a Swedish film on television. My cat was curled up in its beanbag, fast asleep with a contented look on its face. At this time my matrimonial status can only be described as sheer bliss and I decided to spend some time on the radio and take advantage of this happy time so, off I went to my upstairs shack to enjoy myself. I switched on the rig and tuned around the bands only to find there was yet another contest in full swing. I thought "Never mind, there must be a space somewhere where I can have a chat with my friends, at least the contesters are enjoying themselves". A suitable frequency was found and after checking it was clear I started calling CQ. Instantly a clandestine station with no call sign appeared and told me to "QSY this is a contest". Thinking that the other stations remarks were rude and not in the true spirit of amateur radio I continued to call CQ. What happened, Armageddon broke loose, I was told to "Sod Off", was asked "Are you stupid?", I was called a "Maniac", a "Lunatic" and a "Lid". What did I do wrong? I only wanted to talk to my friends.

I suddenly became very angry and thought, who are these people who appear and claim the bands as their own for the day. I turned off the rig and stormed downstairs into the kitchen. My wife said "What's the matter dear, don't tell me, its another contest isn't it". I complained bitterly to her about the contest whereupon, she became very irritated indeed, she was shaking with rage and shrieking at me for taking my wrath out on her. The situation developed into a full-blown domestic disturbance. My wife was so angry; she threw the hammer she was using at me. I ducked, but the hammer continued and went straight through the kitchen window shattering it into a thousand pieces. My daughter came into the room and yelled at me to be quiet because I was spoiling her program. The cat went past me like a rocket, hissing and spitting jumped out through the broken window and has not been seen since. My wife immediately jumped into the family car and went to stay with her sister for the rest of the weekend. My daughter will no longer speak to me and is talking about leaving home. I am now housebound, suffering from depression and feel thoroughly dejected.

As a direct result of the contest I can only describe my present matrimonial status as a complete disaster and I now find myself casting admiring glances at the 74 year old widow who lives next door but one from me.

Each night when I go to bed I have this wonderful dream that contests had never been thought of or introduced into amateur radio. When I wake up the following morning and face reality I realise that it was only a dream, but it was a nice dream.

Tongue in cheek of course but the writer is known to me and when last seen was nursing a king sized hangover. The prospects for his future weekends would seem to be tied to the garden, the local watering hole and the old dear next door but one!

I-QRP

We inform you that the new web site of I QRP CLUB A.R.I is on line.

You can visit : www.aribg.it/iqrclub now in 4 languages.

Best Regards & 73' de Arnaldo

I QRP CLUB # 001, Manager & Founder

ik2nbu@amsat.org

FISTS DOWN UNDER

Pse note the new web address for the Quartz Hill gang on the banner.

PROPOSED EUCW CONFERENCE

This projected meeting as reported last month has resulted in too few likely representatives and a lamentable response to his e-mail messages. Jean-Marc, F5SGI, has consequently quit his post as EMC for the UFT. A sad and lamentable situation indeed.

PUBLICITY FOR DX-PEDITIONS

Again, from F5NQL who is the DX page editor for the website of UFT/EUCW. As such, Maurice is in a splendid position to offer some wide publicity. He invites those of you contemplating DX-peditions, Lighthouse jaunts or special calls to let him know so that the info may be placed on the website. This is the source of information from RSGB, REF, URE, UBA, USKA, Labre, GACW and dx webs in Brazil and Argentina, ARRL, RSGB IOTA, UFT, NG3K, VA3RJ, IOTA's Chairman, All the IOTA's checkpoints, different domestic islands awards checkers, IOSA, DX Bulletins as 425DX, Ohio Pen DX Bull, New Jersey DX Tips, ARRL DX News and W3UR, La Gazette du DX, Robinson Club dx infos, All the WLH Checkpoints, RA0FF Asian DX portal, and on about 30 mailing lists and several specialised magazines like National Contest Journal, Megahertz and CQ (America and France).

Information should preferably contain Dates, Country, Island name or IOTA number (when activating rare islands), operators Names (not forgetting SWLs if any), Bands and Modes etc. The web page is located at: <<http://www.uft.net>> and info may be shunted direct to Maurice at: <f5nql@aol.com>

STRAIGHT KEY WEEK

FISTS Straight Key Week -New Rules Now Open to Non-Members

FISTS CW Club invites all licensed radio amateurs and short-wave listeners to take part in its yearly Straight Key Week. This is a leisurely, relaxed, event and QSOs need not necessarily be of the "rubber stamp" variety if participants wish to chat and exchange more than the basic information required by the rules. Dates: The SKW runs from Sunday 16th June till Saturday 22nd June 2002.

Times: From 0001 UTC on the Sunday, to 2359 UTC on the following Saturday.

Please note that any QSO's on the Saturday can also be used for the EUCW/SCAG Straight Key Day as well. Details available from the contest manager shown below.

Frequencies

Any licensed amateur frequency, except WARC bands.

Mode: CW, using straight key only.

Exchanges: RST / Name / QTH / FISTS Nr (Non-Members, send NM) / Day Number.

Note: Sunday is Day 1, Monday Day 2, and so on up to Saturday Day 7. This allows duplication of working the same station on different days.

Classes: A: Transmitting (including non-FISTS members)

B: Short-wave listeners (including non-FISTS)

Scoring: 1 point per station worked, or participating station heard by SWL, per day

Logs: To include: Date; Call worked or heard; RST; Name; QTH; FISTS number (if not a member = NM); Day number; and, one vote for "Best Fist" as described below.

SWLs may log one or both participants in a participating QSO, provided they have not logged either of them in a previous QSO on the same day.

The name and call sign of the entrant (or name of the SWL) should be printed clearly at the top of all log sheets. The name and address of the entrant should be printed at the end of the log together with his/her FISTS membership number, if applicable. Best Fist of the Year

Entrants are invited to submit with their logs one vote for the

station which they feel had the Best Fist of all stations worked (or participating stations heard and logged by SWLs). This station does not have to be a member of FISTS.

The operator receiving the most votes will be declared "Best Fist of the Year", provided he/she has also submitted a log for the SKW, and has not been declared "Best Fist of the Year" in a previous SKW. If the station receiving the most votes is disqualified for either of these reasons the qualifying station receiving the next highest number of votes will be declared "Best Fist". If there are equal top votes the person scoring most points in the contest will be declared the winner.

Awards

In the SKW, the "Best Fist of the Year" will be awarded a prize of a Morse key and a certificate.

The first three runners-up in the voting for "Best Fist of the Year" in the SKW will be awarded certificates.

The three highest scoring operators will receive certificates.

The three SWL entrants with the highest number of points SKW will receive certificates.

Recipients of any award or certificate in this event are not required to be members of FISTS.

Entries: All entries to FISTS Contest Manager, Keith Farthing, MOCLO, 86, Coldnailhurst Avenue, Braintree, Essex, CM7 5PY, England.

Or e-mail:- keithm0clo@hotmail.com

Not later than the 31st July 2002

Results

Results will be published in Key Note, newsletter of FISTS CW Club, and radio related magazines.

Non-members may obtain the results by sending an s.a.e. to the Contest Manager, as above.

Well, with Keith at the helm I sure as blazes am not gonna lose the results this time. Hi.(Geo).

CHANGE OF CALL/QTH

Please note that Steve, DK8LS is returning to Blighty and will henceforth be recognised as MW0GLS.

OF CAPS AND STAMPS

Chuck, M0AVW has asked me to remind you of the personalised and FISTS logo caps which are available. Drop him a line for info.

He also distributes particularly, overseas stamps and has many members on his books from around the world. This has created a lot of interest so those of you who are not currently committed to allocating your used stamps to other sources would perhaps like to consider sending 'em to Chuck for distribution.



AWARDS

I remind you that there is now no charge for awards though members are free to include a donation with their application. All hard copy EU/UK applications should be sent here to HQ and not to Chuck, M0AVW (the lad has enough on his hands already Hi) though those with e-mail facilities may send their applications and logs electronically to Dennis, K6DF (address on banner) but please CC to HQ also.

MORSE ENTHUSIASTS OR FANATICS

Dear Geo,

Isn't it time that Morse enthusiasts, & I count myself as one, stopped behaving in such a childish manner over the probable, indeed inevitable, abolition of the Morse Test. As far as commercial radio communications are concerned, Morse Code is as dead as the Dodo. I have said it before & I will say it again. Morse Code, whether you care to admit it or not, was the first Data Mode. There are now many others, & most of them can wipe the floor with Morse Code in terms of efficiency. Morse is still the accepted mode for EME, but according to Pat Gowen G3IOR, (who gave the members of Kings Lynn ARC a fascinating talk on the subject), the moon itself is about as good a reflector of radio signals as green cheese. Thank goodness commercial communications have better ideas, but it does not mean that no one should be allowed to enjoy that particular branch of Amateur Radio, nor does it mean that we all have to do it. Road haulage no longer relies on steam power & we never had to take a test to show that we know how to drive a traction engine

anyway, so what is all this nonsense about Morse Code? Members of FISTS & those in similar groups who continue to fight for the retention of a Morse Test are more likely to kill Amateur Radio off by themselves, they don't need any help from the RA, the RSGB, the IARU or anyone else.

I have taken Morsum Magnificat for many years & I well remember the outcry against GPS. Every false alarm was eagerly publicised by the editors who said that this never happened with Morse Code. So where are those voices now? Are there still as many false alarms as there were at the beginning? I'm heading for 70 years of age myself but I do not live in the past, nor do I wish to do so. I am transmitting this letter by e-mail, so do you object? Get with it for goodness sake, before you & Tony & other fanatics bury amateur radio. I hope that I will be able to enjoy communicating by Morse Code for the rest of my days, but as for Speaking With One Voice, include me OUT.

Colin G0SDA, FISTS 1172.....

Well, I do have another letter in similar vein but I wonder if perhaps the voices have been mis-interpreted here? You will remember that in these pages, the 5 wpm test and 'Novice' licence was taken as a good sign - at least newcomers were exposed to the mode - but the current trend seems to be towards regarding the use of Morse as an anti-social waste of band space. How long will it be before the current US pressure to re-allocate the 40M Novice segment to other modes is extended to all the HF bands current CW allocation?

SUBS BY DIRECT TRANSFER

HB9US. Werner forwarded green stamps to cover his subs but suggests that if the FISTS account number is quoted, it may be convenient to transfer subs directly. Don't know what charges the originating band would make but Barclays here tell me there would be no charge to FISTS. Be interesting to see the results of similar enquiries from overseas members.

SILENT KEYS

Just recieved a contest log from Tom G0SCP and he reports the following members sadly silent key, not sure if you already know?

MOBLG Bill FISTS 5513 passed away 11th March, and G4ENQ Fred FISTS 4899. Tom wasn't sure if they were still members or not. 73 Keith, M0CLO.

Also (via MD0BXX) a report that MD0ADD passed away 28 March. A much respected tutor of Morse.

Belated advice of the passing of Fred Grant, G4ENQ, in December/01.

QUERY DX STATION

I invite you to go to <http://www.grz.com>. You'll find an interesting topic about PY3ZM indicating that the callsign is irregular. Save your dollars and QSLs particularly about the last HC2DX op!

Maurice, F5NQL.

AND IN THE BEGINNING!

Morse and his partners originally tried mechanical code printers. Then Sam's partner Alfred Vail came up with the brilliant idea of a sounder (a brass bar relay) so that the operator could look at something else and listen to the telegraph, and Vail invented the original Landline code which survived for 125 years in North American landline systems. In addition to the normal element space there was a semi-space used in the characters O, C, R, Y and a long dash for the letter L. The numbers 1 to 9 were designed to be all exactly the same time length except Zero which remained the same as O.

The most common letters in the English language were the shortest combinations. This code was about 15 per cent faster than the later International Morse. Vail's code was so effective that the idea took off like wildfire. A year or two later the European governments setting up landline systems decided to change the format to allow for some European language characters and they dropped the idea of a semi-space, and also created a different and slower number system, which International Morse was later adopted for wireless by Marconi. Stan Jones VE7SJK Fists Nr 8079. (retired landline operator)

THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

M0CDP. Black-box operator? In the case of Paul, this could hardly be appropriate! His shack contains no less than four hand rolled QRP rigs and though he confesses his lack of knowledge about what is happening inside the case of his 817 his is considering adding a RF processor to this for possible HF QRP SSB. **G4LHI.** Peter happened upon Dennis, K6DF on 10M when he explained about NJ6VT, the club call of the USS Pampanito in San Francisco. **PA3HBX.** Sadly, Bert has had to place his 94 years old Father in a retirement home which has caused his radio activities to be very much restricted. **GI4CBG.** Plans here for a new antenna shortly since Roy was so dismayed at the condition of his doublet (brought down for overhaul) that he 'binned' it. **GW3SB.** Take it easier Charles. He is hardly a spring chicken and following a heart attack in November thought it was 'safe to go back into the water' but had a nasty turn recently. Us "wrinklies" have to watch out ya know. **M0CTD.** Daves' rig developed QRH recently and has

had to send it in for surgery but the resultant period of inactivity has caused an unfortunate deterioration of relations with his good lady who declared he was a pain to live with. Join the club Dave. Hi. **OH2CF.** Unexpected improvement in the weather there in Finland has pushed Matti into thinking about re-floating his sailing yacht later this year and perhaps 'tinkering' with the QRP rig on board. I learn that his e-mail address '@yle' refers to the Finnish Broadcasting Company which he equates to our own BBC. Come on now Matti.. it can't be as bad as that!

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Brian, W8BL, is no longer handling this list. Any additions or changes pse to Kathi: <FISTS-Elist@attbi.com>

FINALE

Activity here is coming in small lumps due to the ongoing domestic situation but I continue to find much traffic on my favourite 15M band. In the meantime however, 20M is in turmoil most of the day with extremely heavy QRN at this end and whilst we cannot expect continued openings on 10M, there are occasions when it is well worth investigating.

If the weather here in the UK continues its encouraging trend, some of us may well be well be getting the old Bermuda shorts out for an airing and turning our minds to loftier things like neglected antenna systems. Always assuming of course that some demanding partner is not standing over us with a whip and pointing to the garden.

It is noted that Hatley Antennas have offered the business up to any interested parties. Been curious about these for ages but I have seen/heard no reports. Any info out there?

Have fun people. 73/88 es stay sober. Geo.

DX KEYNOTE

May 2002

By Geo, G3ZQS

GREETINGS

Has summer arrived at last? Something is stirring - there is the usual sound of frying bacon on most of the bands and mid-month a bee was spotted here in the North West investigating some of the early flowers. There is considerable activity amongst the squirrels (grey sadly - no red ones hereabouts) and just as an added boost, a few of our common tits have been spotted.

My thanks to those kind souls who ask about Ivy. She is in a residential home close by though it looks like being long-term if not permanent. Makes things a little easier for me I guess with much more free time but it sure gets lonely!

Some of you are still forgetting to update us on changes to your e-mail addresses which is causing some problems for Andy and the digital keynote. Please keep us up to speed!

Dennis (K6DF), is being kept very busy with awards and I must thank those claimants who ignored the changes which made the awards free by including a 'donation' with their applications.

INFO WANTED

Bill, GM0KMG, is in need of info on the Collins SWR unit. ID is 524/4116/004, MCN, 2788. It has 4 connections lying bare at one end and 5 (insulated) at t'other and Bill is also keen to know about maximum power etc.

THE LADDER

Sorry.. was so puddled I forgot to include this in last months letter but from Keith, M0CLO comes the following results: First place (February) was G4LHI and March was G0SCP. The latest Yearly listings show

G4LHI 581 points, G0SCP 424, M5ABN 226, G3VQO 112, G0MRH 49. M0CMQ 49 and OH7QR 12.

An interesting set of results this month and congratulations to Tom, G0SCP, for winning this month's ladder. It's a shame more members can't find time to send a log in as there are plenty members on other peoples logs, 88 on the winning log alone.

Many thanks to all those who took part and look forward to some more logs next month. 73 Keith M0CLO

CONTEST MANAGER

Keith, M0CLO, has indicated that he wishes to stand down from his duties as contest manager due to fresh family commitments and an apparent general lack of interest. He will continue to cover the SKW and record the ladder results until the end of the year but before that time, we need to find a replacement. Keith is QRV on the internet so any volunteer can perhaps get the low-down via that medium well in advance of further contest activity.

I feel that there has never been an overwhelming interest in contests - most members either like to chase awards or simply enjoy a good natter but for the remainder, we did try to provide a contest atmosphere of sorts. I was rather hoping that a contest manager could provide this element whilst leaving me free to concentrate on the day to day traffic within the club and this will continue if we can find another volunteer. PLEASE!

NEW MEMBERS

8379	SM5JAB	Micke	8380	G8UQV	Frank
8381	G4AXH	Richard	8382	PA0NCV	Nick
8383	M0CWY	Gary	8384	G4SFN	Jim
8385	G3ZOD	Gra	8386	2E0SEA	
Mervyn					
8387	G3LWT	Peter	8388	G3XLW	David
8389	G3RFH	Ken	8390	DK1AR	Heinz
8391	G3LDY	Ron	8392	GI3KVD	David
8393	9A4RC	Robert	8394	M5ADQ	Brian
8384	DF7PW	Wolf			

Pse note that Heinz, DK1AR may well be found using the alternative call TA4ZT

8396	M0BYS	Bill	8397	GC0EJE	CLUB
8398	G3NYY	Walt	8399	G3JJG	Gerry

I am about to take a leap forward to a new set and leapfrog the US listings so the next 100 EU members should be in the 8900 range provided Nancy does not beat us to it!

The custodian of GC0EJE is GW0GUY and represents the Pembrokeshire R.S.

I am also reminded in the most gentle of manner that last months listing was incorrect and that not only was DJ7PW listed as DF7PW but his number is 8395 and not as 8384 as quoted. Wolfkindly observes that Murphy is everywhere! This was a kokup of greater than average dimension since although his number is correct in the records, the call is definitely wrong. Pse amend your listings. One wonders if senile dementia is joining forces with sticky fingers and dubious visual acumen.

IT'S HAPPENING

The following item was brought to my attention via the eagle eye of F5NQL:

The ARRL has asked the FCC to eliminate the 80, 40 and 15-meter Novice/Technician Plus CW subbands as such and reuse that spectrum in part to expand the phone allocations on 80 and 40 meters. In a Petition for Rule Making filed March 22, the League requests that the FCC revise its Amateur Service rules in accordance with the modified Novice band "refarming" scheme the ARRL Board of Directors okayed in January. The Petition has not yet been put on public notice for comment.

QSL MGR???

G3LUZ (Fred) mentions that a station (reputedly from the Falklands and signing VP8LUZ) is quoting him as his QSL manager. Since he knows nothing of this, the VP8 should be regarded with extreme suspicion.

For Sale.

Fred also tells me he has a standard Vibroplex (on grey base) for sale and is looking at something in the region of £70.00. Check on <g3luz@aol.com>.

STRAIGHT KEY WEEK

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Mode

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Recipients of any award or certificate in this event are not required to be members of FISTS.

Entries

Entries to be received Not later than the 31st July 2002

FISTS Contest Manager,

Keith Farthing, M0CLO,

86, Coldnailhurst Avenue,

Braintree, Essex, CM7 5PY,

England.

Or e-mail:- keithm0clo@hotmail.com

Results

Results will be published in *Key Note*, newsletter of FISTS CW Club, and radio related magazines.

Non-members may obtain the results by sending an s.a.e. to the Contest Manager, as above.

QRS AND THE NEW HAMS

FISTS have always been prominent in offering encouragement to new licencees and much painstaking pump handle QRS work has been in evidence especially on the 80M band. There is just one small problem though! Quite a few these stations are unaware of the accepted QRP segment and as a result, a few notes of discontent have been heard. Please continue the good work in this area but also, try to encourage them to QSY (HF if possible) out of way of the flea power boys. Working QRP recently (I do not have a true QRP rig here - just turn down the wick on the FT1000MP) to an OK1 station with some 3 watts, I was overwhelmed by a local M5 and in the process of trying to get him to QSY, my original contact disappeared. I don't spend a lot of time there but I can imagine that it must be very frustrating for many dedicated QRP ops.

THE QUARTZ HILL GANG

Think I remarked upon this last month but for clarity, I include a short e-mail from Ralph, ZL2AOH:

The Quartz Hill site isn't really a FISTS entity, although I am closely involved with the administration. The type of operation from there is principally contesting, so I never tried to get it as a FISTS club. I can't imagine them stopping to exchange

numbers. (I loved the article about contesting - when there are big contests on I usually go and do something else.) Something else I don't do is join in DXpedition pile ups. There are the same sort of rude police with their amplifiers and tons of metal in the air prowling around there also.

THE HISTORY OF AMATEUR RADIO

UA4LFR (Alex) sends me an item he picked up on the internet which could be of interest since there is a whole wealth of various topics. Try www.dxzone.com/ and be warned, you could be in for a seriously extended session.

SUBS FROM EU

Yes I know we have a problem here. Werner, HB9US, mentioned last month that with the provision of an IBAN (International Bank Number) funds could be simply transferred. I am still in doubt as to the cost at the originating end though and meanwhile, Norbert (ON4ANE) has arranged with his bank to 'transfer' his subs. He points out that it is forbidden in Belgium to send banknotes through the post. I note however on the photo copy of the document that there is what I take to be a handling charge of 7.50 which I take to be in Belgium francs. I have pointed this out before but Norbert suggests that we need only one member within the EEC to open a bank account on behalf of the club and act as pay-master, transferring accrued subs at years end.

All this is for a paltry £7.00 (or even £4.00 in the case of digital Keynote recipients) but the fact remains that EEC members would need to send £14.00 or £11.00 per above, to cover the £7.00 that UK banks demand for processing a cheque from an EEC country. Even the hitherto friendly Eurocheque is now subject to this rip off. Some members (notably our Italian friends) make use of Girocheques for which the bank makes no charge whilst others send subs in the form of a UK based bank cheque via a building Society. Otherwise, for such small sums, it is a no-win situation since a charge of £7.00 would still be levied on £100.00 or perhaps an even larger sum. Crazy or what?

THE MORSE ABOLITION QUESTION AGAIN

Hi Geo,

I just wanted to comment on Colin, G0SDA's entry in this months Keynote. I say: Let them abolish morse. But don't allocate the frequencies to anything else! Running CW on a few watts can get you everywhere and through all kinds of noise A modern slogan would, perhaps, be "it rocks!"

Leaving the CW portion of the bands intact would lure people into morse when they realize that SSB is not really an alternative for long distance communication (with practical amounts of watts and aerials). Letting everyone onto SSB would make the SSB portions of our bands even more crowded too. I occasionally make SSB QSO:s but am always frustrated by the bad sound quality on the frequency, due to both QRM and QRN. With morse, on the other hand, I can take almost any QRM or bad signal/noise-ratio and still get every word sent. What is the alternative to morse then? SSB? Ruled out, as per above. Leaves digital techniques: RTTY, PSK etc. I don't do any of them (even though my work is computers, computers and computers again, I don't like them crawling into my rig) and the thought of having to have a) another source of interference and b) even more hardware in the shack is repelling. But I am biased on this - I like uncomplicated hardware, heck, I use an old HW-8 even today...

At the end of the day I can see no way that CW will die. It is too good in my practical, daily DX-life to do so. Cheers, Micke sm5jab, #8379

THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

G3PNF. Will be off at the end of May to Sardinia and then to Corsica. Normally takes Summer holidays outside of zone 14 in order to give RSARS members an o/s contact and award point so IS0/G3PNF and TK/G3PNF will be QRV for about 10 days each beginning around 24 May. **G4BWJ.** Cheques to just plain "FISTS" are OK Barrie. He has ceased the reading of GB2RS news broadcasts after 10 years and some 500 broadcasts. Sadly, no acknowledgement from you-know-who but recently pushed the 'on' switch of his HF rig after it had been idle for some 6 months. Second home to neighbours'

inky black labradore who frequently takes Barrie walkies and whom he doggy-sits when neighbours are away. **M0ADB.** Sorry to hear that your Wife died Norman but as you say, 'looking to the future' and hope to find you on the bands. **GM4BAE.** Gerry is still very much QRV although he still has to undertake 3 round trips of 150 miles each week for Haemadylalysis. That means leaving Stranraer at around 0545, arriving back home at around 1500. Doesn't leave you much time Gerry and am sure the gang will treasure each QSO because of it.

THOSE CONTESTS

Got a whole A4 page from Don (G3HZL) headed "Those Contest" in which he confesses their appeal and re-iterates the oft' published recommendations to make use of the WARC bands during contest weekends if you are not of that following. He is perhaps fortunate that he has never encountered opposition to his general calls. I and others have been known to call "CQ NO CONTESTS" in frustration which is to some people like a red rag to a bull. By their reckoning, you are simply not entitled to be on the bands during a contest doing anything other than taking part.

I am reminded that some contest (other than FISTS generated ones) are worth taking part in such as the RSGB slow speed ones which are conducted in a hassle free environmen and have the same end result (encouraging beginners) as our own EUCW/FISTS QRS contest

"I do lose my cool a bit at times when they get my callsign wrong but I do try to be patient and often receive a fast QSL with apologies" is typical of the thoughtful attitude of those attracted to FISTS and is very much applauded.

As he says himself, very few of us are from a professional background and most have had to struggle to overcome the 'hump'. Don and I go back a long long way and since he is 'self taught', my initial respect for him is strengthened.

I must point out that last months item was very much tongue in cheek by a member who occasionally indulges in contest activity himself but balks about spending each and every week-end embroiled in fictitious reports and mayhem. However, I do hope it gave you a giggle if nothing else.

ODDS N' ENDS

Tnks

M0DBO would like to acknowledge the assistance of G0ONS for his tuition and also to GM0HYF for the tapes. Sri to be so late with this but the e-mail was one the 'escaped'.

Pirate

Advice from ZL2AOH that ZL8RI is a pirate. The call has not been issued by the NZ Ministry of Economic Development since the last official DXpedition to the Kermadecs in 1996.

The dizzy heights

Below is the view of the TW33 of Wolf, DJ7PW taken from his QSL card. Dunno who executed this shot but I got an attack of vertigo just scanning it!



GB90MGY

As with many other stations, I sought in vain for this one. Must have been up on the HF bands somewhere!

The Godalming group worked over 100 countries with 2685 QSOs. The station you will remember was set up to mark the 90th. anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic and especially in remembrance of the Chief Radio Officer, Jack Phillips who shunned the lifeboats and stayed to the end broadcasting his SOS messages. The exercise was not wasted however since I found G0ADE and others who were on a similar quest.

Masquerade

Chuck (M0AVW) reported working S58MU claiming to be a FISTS member and offering the name Mil on 15 April later finding a QSL card addressed to this character dated 14th from a member. The Callbook identifies him with the name Milan (so far a trace of honesty) but the call could simply be pirated. Pse note **he is not on the list**. Should we be wary of this or flattered?

Ladder quandry

Originally, Keith (at my suggestion) planned that no member could receive more than one 'winner of the month' but due to a restricted list, this rule has had to be waived in favour of G4LHI - highest score for March. Moral: no matter how insignificant it looks, send in your log!

Quiet isn't it!

Putting the finishing touches to Keynote, it is 19 April and is there something wrong with my beam? 20M and 15M, apart from mush are filled with quietfulness. The beam is North of West so I shift East and CQ. I find UR, UN, US and then a VK4 at 349. Bit of a struggle clarified in the end when he tells me he is beaming long path and of course I am short. Grrrrr!

FINALE

Plenty of activity for you this month and for the EUCW/FISTS effort, I am sure you will find lots of new friends and renew acquaintance with some you almost forgot. In this respect, keeping a digital log frequently turns out to be an eye-opener - mine often shows decades between contacts it is always a special delight to find an op who has been QRT for a long time not only returning but doing so with CW.

Remember that for those in the UK who have a reasonably good fist, MX5IPX/P is available. Find yourself a free week or so and you will have lots of fun just flying the flag. QSL cards will be printed for you and you will long be able to look back on pleasant memories.

The dire predictions of famine, flood, earthquakes and global mayhem with the alignment of all the Solar planets like others of that ilk has failed again.... what did you expect?

Have a super month and I hope to find sufficient time to indulge in some activity on the bands. 73/88 and stay sober.

You are cordially invited.....

...to join FISTS CW CLUB, the non-profit group devoted exclusively to CW operators and Morse code operating.

We have three straightforward goals:

To further the use of Morse code
To engender friendships among members
To encourage newcomers to use Morse code

We are celebrating our 15th year of bringing hams together using a common bond — A love of Morse code.

FISTS members actively participate in a wide variety of FISTS activities including rag chewing, contesting, earning awards, QRP, and most importantly, our Code Buddy "Elmering" program.
All activities emphasize courteous operating practices.

Our members are young and old, both OM's and YL's. They live worldwide, hold every license class and enjoy CW at widely varying proficiency levels.

FISTS is not tied to any commercial interests and has no paid employees. Our chatty newsletter, The Key Note, our QSL Bureau, all awards and activities are funded by entirely by a modest annual dues of \$15.

Requirements for membership are simple.

You simply have to like Morse code!

Visit our web site at <http://www.fists.org>

----- FISTS CW Club * Application for Membership * Please print clearly -----

Name _____ Callsign _____

Mailing address _____

Phone number _____ Email _____ Birthday _____

Do you need our taped Keynote for blind members? _____

How did you hear about FISTS? _____

Signature _____

Please enclose \$15 annual dues (checks payable to FISTS) and mail with this form to
Nancy Kott WZ8C, PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440-0047

FISTS CW CLUB, PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440-0047
email: nancy@tir.com web page: <http://www.fists.org>

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