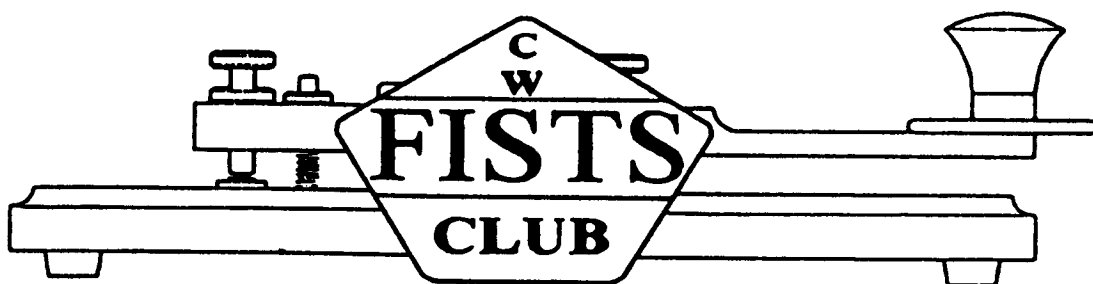


The Keynote

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 SUPPLIES?** Irene Kott, W08E 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr, Clinton Twp, MI 48038; gold logo stickers 200 for \$3.50; "I Support KNOW Code" buttons for .50; Blue enamel /gold metal clasp-back logo pins \$2.50; Rubber stamp of FISTS logo to use with an ink pad (not included) \$5.00; embroidered patch with key logo \$1; The Art & Skill of Telegraphy book \$13.23; Please make checks out to FISTS, these prices **DO** include postage. Mugs and shirts are sold out.

***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** or \$10/year for students (under 16 and family members are free) 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?** Contact Terry Klar, Itklar@sisna.com or 1870 E. Atkin AVE. Salt Lake City, Utah 84106 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.

***RECEIVE THE KEYNOTE ON TAPE?** The KN is available on tape, free, to legally blind members. Contact Ken Kott, W8ROG, 44609 N Bunker Hill Dr. Clinton Twp MI 48038 or at ikott@compuserve.com

***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> **Web page suggestions?** Contact Bill 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.**

NORTH AMERICAN MEMO

EDITOR: NANCY KOTT WZ8C

Net Information

Slow Traffic Net: Tuesday and Thursday 9PM EST on 3.682

Slow RagChewing Group: Wednesday at 9PM EST on 3.720

Volunteer Net Controls 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

Keep watch on the Novice subbands and frequencies ending in .x58 but PLEASE spread out. There have been over 9000 FISTS numbers issued. If we all try and chat on just these frequencies, all anyone will get is a lot of QRM. Please be courteous of nets and QSOs in progress and ask if the frequency is busy before calling CQ.

Courtesy At All Times!

Please note that FISTS subs rate hasn't gone up thru numerous postal hikes. Help us keep costs down by sending in your renewals early and letting Nancy, WZ8C know your address changes.

It costs FISTS 70 cents for each undelivered or forwarded Keynote due to address changes. This really adds up!

Hi FISTS!

A new award series in the works for 2003! I can't tell you much now because the details will be determined by the response we get in the next couple months.

I CAN tell you this much: It will involve "Bonus Stations" These stations will be worth extra points (even if you've worked them before).

There will be different Bonus Stations each month. Details will be printed in upcoming Key Notes and on the web page. If you'd like to be notified about it via email, please make sure you have signed up for the FISTS on-line list. Instructions for that are on the How Do I.. page inside the front cover.

The monthly Bonus Stations will be randomly selected from a pool of FISTS members who have volunteered to be a Bonus Station.

Your code skill/speed is not a factor, but as a Bonus Station you need to promise to operate during the month you were selected for.

For example, if your call was selected for the month of May, then you will be a Bonus Station all during the month of

May. Selection for Bonus Station is open to all current members in good standing of FISTS CW Club. (Meaning, you have to have your dues paid up!)

If you would like your call sign to be in the random Bonus Station drawing, please e-mail fistsawards@attbi.com or send a note via regular mail to to: Dennis Franklin, K6DF, 4658 Capitan Drive, Fremont, CA, 94536-5448. Include your name, current mailing address and call sign, along with your e-mail address or phone number

The only way you can become a Bonus Station is to send your information in as stated above

If you want to be a Bonus Station, but think you may not be available a particular month, put that in the note to Dennis, so if you get selected that month we can check with you first.

Bonus stations for Jan, Feb and March will be drawn this October..

You don't have to be a Bonus Station to participate in the new award series, but here's a chance to be "rare DX". If you've been thinking that you need motivation to get on the air, this is it. Drop Dennis a note and get involved in the fun!

Code Buddy Program Revived!

Many thanks to all who volunteered to help with the Code Buddy program. I truly appreciate it, FISTS are the best and always come through for the club.

Nick Yokanovich, K3NY and the members of the USS Torsk NK3ST will be coordinating the job. Terry Klar, KD7OL, has gotten the ball rolling again, and is working on putting all the CBuds and Elmers on a database to make things easier. There will be a new contact person, but since the loose ends have not been tied up at the time this is going to press, Terry will be the contact person for now.

We have not been successful in getting the original applications and paperwork from the OM who volunteered to take over after John W9EM had to step down, so we're going to have to consider those "lost". This is really a shame, because it left about 300 of you hanging. So, altho you may have filled out a duplicate application in the past and sent it to Terry Lohrey last year, we need you to do it again, because as I said we don't have any of the old paperwork, so we don't know who you are.

John W9EM is still volunteering to maintain the CBud web page for us - thanks, John - there is an application on line there, or you can just send your information and what times and bands you like to operate, along with your code speed/proficiency to Terry Klar KD7OLH to his address on the How Do I page inside the front cover.

Thanks for your patience in this transition time. And again, a big thanks to everyone who volunteered to help.

NEW Web Page Features

Did you know you can download a copy of the FISTS logo and FISTS log book from our web page? Well, you can!

There is also a new "search" feature compliments of WM7D.

CALL CHANGES

Change:

2534 Gary WA4KQL, to K9NSS
2900 Doug VA3ZG, to VOIDD
3215 William, WT8N, to WA8JPR
3291 JERRY KG2LL to WS1K
3371 MATT KE6CTI to K6MES
4354 Keith, WB0YPO, to W0NX
6389 MJ, KC5ZEB, to AD5KV
7073 Chip, N3BAO, to N3IW
7645 JACK WA6LOH to W6LOH
7647 John, KB3CDF, to N3QT
7685 Rob, KC8NYW, to AB8MR
7996 Jack KC8PKN, to AB8ND
7627 Daniel KF6QZQ, to K1BZZ
8069 John, KC9FC to KA9F
8584 Greg, KC0TO, to W0MPR
8774 Lloy, N3WSH, to K3ESE
9233 Russ, KC9BRR, to N9IV

SILENT KEYS

Bob Baird, W9NN, #4703: died August 1. He was 96. Baird was one of the longest-licensed amateurs in the US, having been a ham for more than eight decades

W9YWE 4983 Jack Andrews died on April 24th of this year.

SK CORRECTION

I made a typographical error in the callsign of Silent Key Larry Benjamin 1777. It is W8IIS, not W8ISS as I said in the last issue.

FISTS AWARDS

By Dennis K6DF

Well, . . . you can tell it's summer. Not as many awards issued since last month. Everyone must be enjoying vacations with their families. The WX has been great for vacations out on the West Coast, although I must add that the bands have not been as nice as the WX. Old "sol" has been sending us "Space Wedgies", as I call them, on a regular basis. The solar flares have been wreaking havoc on the bands. 20 meters was so void of signals one afternoon, I checked the antenna switch to see if I had the dummy load selected!

A word about award logss. There have been a few requests made about how to dupe check a paper log. I know that checking your paper logs for duplicate contacts can be a formidable task.

Here is a simple way to make a dupe check sheet without using a computer: Take a blank piece of 8.5 by 11 paper and turn it sideways so that the long side is at the top. Write the numbers 1 through 9 along the top edge of the paper spreading them out so you have plenty of room between each number. Now, go through your award log and write the FISTS number for each QSO under the numbered column that corresponds with the first number of each FISTS number. Each time you enter a new number in a column check down through that column to see if that FISTS number has been previously entered. If it has, then it is a dupe and should NOT be used for your Award Log.

Once you have made a dupe check sheet like the one above, you can use it as you make FISTS QSO's to keep track of which numbers are new and should be added to your award log.

To date there have been fourteen 15th Anniversary Award certificates issued for the 150 award and three members have completed the 300 award. There is still plenty of time left in the year to earn your 15th Anniversary Award certificate and/or Plaque. A reminder . . . **15th Anniversary award logs MUST be postmarked**

by Jan 31, 2003 to be eligible to receive the award certificate and/or plaque.

If you are printing your award log from a computer, Please: **Sort your log by FISTS number for Century awards. Sort your log by CC number for Platinum awards.** Above all, check your award log for duplicate numbers.

You may apply for an award via e-mail by attaching your award log in one of the following formats only: 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, tables, etc. The Awards e-mail Address is: FISTS AWARDS@attbi.com Feel free to send questions about awards to this address as well. When applying for the "Century" series awards, (Basic, Silver, Gold or 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 club with a FISTS number.

The Platinum series awards, (Platinum, Platinum 250, and Platinum 500) DO NOT run on the point system. Platinum awards go by the number of Century Certificate (CC) numbers collected via on the air QSO's with stations who have a Century Certificate. A CC number may only be used once for all Platinum series awards. Example: Earn your Platinum award by working 100 different CC numbers. To earn the Platinum 250 award, you need to work 150 new CC numbers (remember, you can only count a CC number once) to get a total of 250 CC numbers. Same applies for the Platinum 500 award; add 250 more "different" CC numbers to your 250 award.

AWARDS ISSUED

June 30, 2002 to July 27, 2002

Basic Century (CC)

GW4PUC	KC7EQW	WD8MHT
HA5AK	N4PLK	
K1LGQ	W6WIL	
KA9SXH	W7PFZ	

Silver Century
WA4CIT

Gold Century
K3OKR

K8CI

Diamond Century
W9FFU

Platinum Award
KB8KIK

Platinum 250 Award
K1BMV
M5ABN
N9BOR

15th Ann 150 Award
KA1DDB
KG9LZ
W4FCR

15th Ann 300 Award
K7LFY

60 meter band

Nearly 74 years ago, the ARRL proposed to the Federal Radio Commission that a band be allocated just below 6 Megacycles. This can be found in The chapter on Stabilization, page 116, of the ARRL publication "200 Meters and Down" by Clinton Desoto. Unfortunately, the band was not assigned at that time.

In that ARRL proposal, the band would be a North American Continent assignment only. Desoto continues to write that the ARRL also proposed that this band be called "The American Eagle Band". That has a nice ring to it, and I believe this would still be a good name for the new 60 meter band if or when it happens. Anybody agree? I hope that the band assignment of 5.250 to 5.400 will include at least 50 Khz of CW only operation. Hal Williams, N6TZ

Hawaii

Mike AH7R, # 3225 and at least one other FISTS member will be operating during the Hawaiian QSO Party. Mike says they will be using "the UH Manoa campus with a big wire antenna fed in the middle with ladder line and a very clean and original Johnson Matchbox. We are personally trying to get on 80 and 40 meters in the dark hours HST. We will be planning on having our slow CW clunking away near FISTS frequencies." The Hawaii QSO Party contest period will be 5:00 UTC Aug 24, 2002 to 22:00 UTC Aug 25, 2002, for a total of 41 hours. Stations may work the entire contest period. Details at www.pilikia.net/karc/

Coast to Coast 2002

****Clubs with FISTS numbers QSO Party set for September ****

Once again the ever popular C2C Clubs Event is approaching, this time for a Fall showing on September 20th and 21st. As in the past two C2Cs, we have a large number of FISTS clubs participating (approaching 30), especially timely for those of you chasing the 15th FISTS Anniversary awards. Some new rules and rule modifications have been made in hopes of increasing the fun and activity for all, individual and club operators alike.

Details of the new rules are listed below, but to summarize there will be extra points for working clubs on more than one band, and club operators will receive individual C2C points when they work another club (using only the club call sign). The C2C exchange has been streamlined and standardized as well to help promote smoother operation.

Clubs take special note that due to the generally low-key flavor of this event, it makes a great opportunity for your members to try a little low-pressure contesting as a runner. Many an unseasoned would-be contestor has caught the bug in past Coast-to-Coast and West Coast Triple events, so encourage them to man the rigs!

Finally, let me extend my personal thanks to Robin Faulkner, N7GSU, for once again volunteering to create and distribute the very handsome Coast-to-Coast Award certificates. Details about the cost and ordering procedures will be posted at the K7FFF web site along with the rules below.

I hope to see many of you working the bands in September for the 3rd annual C2C! 73, Casey Bahr, KS7JTrustee K7FFF, FISTS Northwest

QRP With John Shannon, K3WWP #52

This month, the first of a two-parter on earning QRP DXCC on CW. If you are working toward QRP DXCC or reading this first paragraph makes you think you'd like to try for a QRP DXCC, the following info may just be exactly what you need.

I am providing this info from my personal experience which means what I will be saying applies mainly to someone living in the eastern part of the United States. Those of you living elsewhere will have to modify the info to apply to your location. For example, here on the east coast Germany is easy and Japan is hard to work. On the west coast it is just the opposite from what I understand.

First let me say that since 1993 I have worked 199 countries using only 5 watts output into simple wire antennas from a town located in a river valley. I say that so you will know that you do not need to live on a hilltop with huge beam antennas to get your QRP DXCC.

In the year 2000, I worked a QRP DXCC in the first two and a half months of the year for the Millennium DXCC Award from ARRL.

By now, you should be convinced that you can easily get a QRP DXCC so let's get down to some specific info. One skill that will be helpful is the ability to copy CW at a speed of at least 20 WPM, preferably 30 WPM since Dxing for the most part is a high speed activity. Don't tune out if you can't copy that fast however. I'll sprinkle in some tips for the slower operators here and there as well.

The best and quickest way to work new countries is in contests. I've worked stations in 148 countries that way, so you can get your QRP DXCC just by getting into various contests.

Many countries have their own contests where the main objective is for foreign hams to work as many stations within that country as possible.

If you get into these country-specific contests

just long enough to make one QSO, you've got a new country. Since you may not be going to send in an entry, it doesn't really matter if you copied the station's exchange or not. If he's going really fast, and you can't copy him completely, as long as you can recognize your call at higher speeds, you should be able to complete the QSO, and get yourself in his log to exchange a QSL card.

Here are the countries that have their own contests: January - Hungary, France. February - USA, Belgium. March - Russia (European and Asian). April - Poland, Japan, Yugoslavia, Israel, Switzerland. May - Italy. July - Canada, Colombia, Venezuela. August - Romania, Hawaii. October - Germany. November - Ukraine, Czech and Slovak Republics, Bulgaria. December - Spain, Croatia.

That's a total of 24 countries so far - nearly a quarter of the way to that QRP DXCC. Just a reminder here that a good place to get the dates, times, and rules for these contests and all others mentioned in this column is my contest calendar on my web site.

Let's move on now to the big world-wide DX contests. I put the following in that category: February - ARRL DX. May - CQ WPX. July - IARU. November - CQWW DX. December - ARRL 10M Contest. These big 5 always draw an extremely huge number of hams from a large variety of countries.

Although not all in these particular contests, I've made more than 100 contest QSO's from stations in the following countries: Argentina, England, Finland, Lithuania, Puerto Rico, Slovenia, Sweden. So those are easy ones to add to your total. Next month we'll immediately zip past the half-way mark to QRP DXCC, and get down to the somewhat harder countries that will help us make it to 100.

You'll find much more info about DXCC on my web site at www.alltel.net/~johnshan/ or www.qsl.net/k3wwp/. Let's have your input on DXCC to my Email address: johnshan@alltel.net or hard copy mail to 478 E. High St., Kittanning, PA 16201-1304. Till next column, 73. -30-

Count Me In

Many things to Larry WB0B for reading my mind and sending me an invitation to join FISTS. It seems exactly what I'm looking for.

I'm new to this game. I've just passed my Technician and code tests and I'm studying for my General. I've been a SWL on the international bands for years but =I've only recently made the effort to join the amateur side.

I'd thought about it. I can't count the number of times that I tackled the code and gave up. This time I was determined to make it in spite of being 65 and past the peak of my learning curve. An MFJ pocket code tutor and bloody minded determination got me through.

The funny thing is that, in spite of my problems and frustrations, I learned to like the code and I wanted to continue with it. I started copying the slow code practices from ARRL and looking for QSOs I could copy. I wasn't sure where to go next until Larry sent me information about FISTS.

It looks like exactly the sort of support system that I need to get started. as soon as I get my General out of the way I'll get back to polishing my CW skills and one if these days you'll hear me on the air. Until, then, Thanks! Dick Hankinson KC0MFY

A New Prosign?

Richard WA7SNY writes, "I still do not know why CW ops are sending a distance "T P" during a QSO when a 'K' "KN" or 'AR' is standard procedure. Have been hearing it for three years plus. First among domestic ops and now from everywhere.

"The most common answer I receive is that it is a sloppy 'KN'. No dice! It is too distinct: T P. I would wager a case of one's favorite beverage that they could not scan the bands for 30 minutes without hearing TP."

CW Lover, not a Fighter

Bob, W1ZZL, had fun wearing his FISTS logo in Sweden a few years ago. Several people told him he didn't look like a fighter! You won't have that "problem" with the newest patch, it has a picture of a key embroidered on it!

Endorsement

Just got my new FISTS patch in the mail. Very nice. Thanks for the quick turn around. Now I Will have to find a nice jacket to put it on so I can show it off at next year's Dayton Hamvention. 73, Don, K9UQN

Like Wallpaper? Look for K7ZPE

Art, K7ZPE, has created a certificate for you to earn. He calls it "The Sugar Lump" and it is easy to obtain, no points required. To earn it, you must 1) Be a FISTS member in good standing 2) QSO with him for at least thirty minutes, sending accurate CW 3) after 30 mintues of rag chewing, mention Sugar Lump; then send a QSL adn 9 x 12 SSE to K7ZPE. A certificate will b mailed to you. Art started sending these out in 1999 and as of June, 2002 has sent out 86 of them.

Look for Art mostly in the evening, from 0200 Z and later. Sometimes you will find him in the morning if the band is in good shape. Look around 7040 - 7060Mc, sometimes in the Nov-ice area 7100- 7150 Mc.

Art tells me that Jim WJ0C will reward you with a Rag Chewer award if you are in QSO with him for at least an hour: *(I haven't verified this with Jim, WZ8C)*

There is no cost for the Sugar Lump award and it is not associated with FISTS or the ARRL - just fun.

Need VE1 in Your Logbook?

Lloyd VE1VE1 says that if anyone needs a VE1 contact, send him an email at lloyd.walton@ns.sympatico.ca and he'll set up a sked..

A Stormy Night by Bob Iler, KX0T

I was sitting in the back bedroom of our old farmhouse one stormy, rainy night in December. My 515 Argonaut with 5 watts of power seemed insignificant compared to the bad weather outside. Lots of thunder and lightning were not conducive to being on ham radio that evening, but since the old farm house was squeaking and making strange noises from the wind outside, I decided Morse code would be good company that evening.

My wire antenna, which is a 40-meter dipole, seemed to work quite well on 15 meters. Being a new ham operator, I had never worked a foreign country. As I tuned around the 15-meter band, all I got was static and an occasional CW signal fading in and out. All I had at the time was my old brass Nye Viking key. I had inherited it from an old ham, and 12 words per minute were the best speed I could do.

Our lights in the old farmhouse would occasionally flicker but the battery-powered radio never missed a beat. Suddenly a clear, loud CW signal came through the static — VK — —? I copied the call letters the best I could and sent back my call de KA0JCE, KA0JCE, KN, (now KX0T). Immediately he returned my call and to my amazement said, GE OM UR 559 in Tasmania. I was so excited I quickly and nervously gave him my name and QTH and said please QSL. He promptly replied, will QSL and nice job from Iowa with your 5 watts. He quickly faded out as fast as he had appeared, but it was my first DX contact and done with my QRP rig. Wow, to make a contact with less power than a light bulb on a stormy night was mind boggling. I have had many DX contacts through the years but none as exciting as that first contact. I later received his QSL card and all the hard work of getting the license after that stormy night was well worth it.

Morse code can become very addictive, and you don't have to be the fastest or the best CW operator to have fun. Accuracy is the motto

in our Fist magazine, which indeed is one of the most important factors.

Some of the rare DX comes from countries that cannot afford to buy an expensive station, so they go on the air with a \$75.00 QRP rig and some skill in Morse code and now this form of communication is no longer obsolete. With the tremendous membership in Fist (my nr.5,980) and now close to 10,000, I see a very bright future for the hams that enjoy CW.

There is a lot of satisfaction when you walk away from a QSO knowing that it was done in a different language with good communication. Compared to CW, I don't have this feeling with voice. It takes a little more work to become proficient, but it's well worth it. Good luck and 73's.

Bob Iler KX0T

STANDARD QSO ON CW FIRST TIME
AROUND

CQ CQ CQ DE KXOT KXOT KXOT K

KXOT DE WD8ZNX WD8ZNX KN

WD8ZNX DE KXOT

GE OM TNX FER THE CALL.

NAME IS BOB BOB.

UR RST IS 599 599.

QTH IS DUBUQUE, IOWA DUBUQUE,
IOWA.

HW CPY?

WD8ZNX DE KXOT KN

KXOT DE WD8ZNX

GE BOB

NAME IS GEORGE GEORGE.

UR RST IS 579 579.

QTH IS ATLANTA, GA. ATLANTA, GA.

WX IS COLD, TEMP IS 60 DEG F.

73 73 KXOT DE WD8ZNX

Here are some "old" letters I found in the mailbag - if you've sent me something to print, I WILL get to it eventually. It's a matter of space. Keep those letters and articles coming!

Why CW?

This is from Michael, KD7BOD.

Except for service to ARES, CW is the only mode I use in Amateur Radio. I enjoy it, but I ask myself, why this enjoyment?

Many reasons are well-known to CW operators. I won't repeat the ease of making DX contacts, the efficiency of CW, the narrow bandwidth used, the simplicity of it, the camaraderie, the consistent courtesy, and the wonderful people out there to meet on CW. Hi !

Besides those reasons, a few other reasons bring me to the key or paddles, rather than the microphone. First, I'm essentially a shy person, even though my profession is a history teacher (my family, friends and students disagree with me on this shyness-thing, but I'm too shy to straighten them out. Hi!). On CW, meeting new people moves slowly enough for me to gather my wits in order to think of responses or questions the other person might be interested in, e.g., the unusual heat in southern Texas, brushfires in the West, new leadership in Mexico etc. Moving at my 10-20 wpm speed, a conversation develops, rather than follows conventions or unthought-out comments and/or questions.

For example, and I'm baring my soul here, the day before my 19-yr-old son went into surgery for his second operation (cancer of the intestines) I had a FB QSO during which I related my worries. I don't think I could have brought myself to talk about it that evening in a voice QSO. The response was heartening (it was a FISTS member) who ended by saying that an entire Amateur Radio Club would be praying for my son. I was much uplifted in that dark night. In case you are wondering, surgery went well, pathology came back clean, and my son is back to being his usual teenage self. Only restriction is that he cannot push the lawn mower: So what's new, Hi! I find that CW is a great mind-challenge. Some

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FISTS CW Club

people have a gift for catching on quickly to CW. I don't. But working at it, day by day, I have gotten better at sending and receiving in terms of speed and accuracy. I think it exercises the mind in ways that few other things do. I believe it's time for a medical study on elderly CW Ops and the excellent state of their gray cells! And that feeling of hard-earned accomplishment spills over into all sorts of other areas of life. Now I think, that with daily work, I might become a decent teacher too!

CW brings QSOs with people who cannot operate any other mode, often due to serious disabilities. And who benefits most from such contact? Good question.

I have become adept at the Internet, frequently use email, even the telephone - but none of these 'modes' bring new people to me who are willing to share a bit of their lives in the way that CW QSOs do. To be insulated from a general mix of people is to miss meeting and learning about different people. We all talk with our friends and family at various times, as we should. But when is the last time my non-CW friends learned about life on a Kansas farm? Or of a Forest Ranger, or a telephone repairman in Florida, or a factory-worker in Virginia, or a coal-miner in Pennsylvania, or a retiree in Arizona, a musician in North Dakota, a W. W. II veteran fighter pilot in the mid-west? Perhaps voice QSOs might do the same as CW conversations, but it seems to me that CW brings out an individuality no other mode does. And such contacts get me out of ruts about my ideas concerning people in this or that kind of life.

This is not to mention how enlightening DX rag chews can be! Or how much fun it is to send and receive QSL cards -all of which, sometimes, leads to real friendships. To me, QSLing is better than stamp or coin collecting because there are people and a shared event (the QSO) involved.

One last reason keeps me pounding brass, and it's quirky. I have fun, as we all do, but examples speak for themselves. I'm now into County Hunt-

ing, and am pursuing it 'Without a Net' or contests. Nothing against those Nets, I simply enjoy totaling up normal QSOs, often rag chews, on my logging program: only 2,696 County-QSLs left to obtain! I have begun QRPing, and was overjoyed when I completed a QSO with a JA operator at 5 watts on 30 meters! After a couple hundred JA QSOs at 100 watts, this one was special. Or, my current 'award' progress toward the FISTS Rag chewer's Certificate—I find all this much more fun than the 20 second QSOs of Field Day or other such contests where there seems less humanity and more machine involved. Also I like to drive my van into the mountains and operate next to a waterfall or under big trees. Even see deer sometimes with Ant attached, but none have answered my CQs (yet!). So, I do have fun, and perhaps not all share this sort of "fun.."

Yes, it's true that the ARRL and IARU do not represent me when they recommend reduction in code requirements. That means less people on CW to talk with. Our mode is under some pressure these days, but it's still alive and well. There is only one way to keep it alive and well: get on the air with CW! Hope to meet you there, and I promise you an unusual, homebrew QSL card if nothing else.

Ticker Tape Fun

I don't intend this as a stock tip, but with the state of things on Wall Street, investing in stocks because they have "ham radio sounding" names might bring some luck.

One of the other interests of Zork, KK6DW, is the stock market, and found these while looking at the ticker tape. A stock is indicated by a one, two, or three letter symbol that represents the name of the corporation on the New York Stock Exchange.

Zork wrote, "I have often found it tinteresting that a corporation symbol on the stock exchange will somethimes have the same letters as our good ole abbreviations on CW. For example, I

get a charge when I see "CW" come across the stock screen. SO one day I decided to look pu some of my favorites and share them with you. Here are some ticker symbols that also have a second meaning for us hams:

CQ = Comsat Corp
 CW = Curtiss Wright Corp
 RST = Boca Resorts Inc
 K = Kellogg Company
 SSB = Salomon Smith Barney Holdings Inc
 QSO = Stolt Comex Seaway
 R = Ryder Systems Inc
 DE = Deere & Co
 RIG = Transocean Sedco Inc"

Zork sent these to me over a year ago, so I don't know if they are still active stocks.

Wonder if my financial planner would have a fit if I called and put in an order invest in CW and dump any SSB in my portfolio...

Ways To Improve from Gery VE2KRM

The alphabet order as we learn it in school doesn't have anything to do with Morse code. The codes are a presentation of the letters with an apreciation of their usage in the English language.

Therefore, we need a code apphabet order that will be more compatible with our memory. Since some letters have the reverse of others, it makes sense to learn the symbol in a systematic way:
 EISH TMO AN UD RK WG BV PX FL YQ
 JCZ

Mnemonic: Antenna Under Roof Will Begin
Propagation For You

Most important also, is to think of a code as the letter, not the letter having a code. In otherwords, reversethe normal thinking to set a new space in the brain. If you are bilingual the brain will have a space forr each language. If you start to copy a word without writing it all, stop writing for that word; persisting in copying without writing. The big reward after the pleasant hobby.

Is there a Lawyer in the House?

By Albert Kahn K4FW

I don't know why the Propagation Gods have picked on me to wreak their vengeance. My ham career dating back to spark is without blemish. I have never operated out of the band and have resisted the temptation to slip over the edge to raise some rare DX. My power never exceeded the legal limit and I always called QRL? prior to calling CQ.

When I have been DX myself, I signed frequently to let the gang in the pileups know who they have just worked. I try to respond at the code speed of the sender, answer all QSL cards and when I am on SSB (rarely) I keep my drive down to avoid spluttering.

Maybe the Propagation Gods are confused and mistaken me for someone else I know.

First, they had Zeus throw a lightning bolt to knock out a new M2 rotator and control. A few days later, they had an associate god knock down a 100 year old oak tree which, in turn, demolished my trusty old 18HT vertical antenna.

I am undecided how to respond to this unfair punishment. Can I sue the Propagation Gods? Or shall I appease them by making a sacrifice - like throwing my Omni VI over a cliff?

Welcome Back!

Paul, N6EV writes, "Hi Nancy...not sure if you remember me or not. It's been awhile. I joined FISTS long ago (in the early days of the North American group) #1407, and thoroughly enjoyed the organization, events and people.

"I maintained my membership until somewhere around 1998, when unfortunately, I was hit with rather severe case of Amateur radio burnout. I was fed up with the political infighting within the hobby both nationally and locally. I was also very disheartened with the license reorganization and subsequent lowering of standards. I even resigned my membership in the ARRL in protest. I have been virtually off-air since that then

with no desire to pick it back up. All the while, I knew that eventually I would come around and brush the cobwebs off the bugs and paddles.

"Well, it's funny the things that spark renewed interests. In my case, that spark came from a letter and subsequent emails and phone calls from the president of Bencher, Inc. He was inquiring about an order I had placed back in early 1998 (before my burnout) for their production of the N2DAN Mercury Paddle. At the time back in 1998 I was 4th on the list to receive one of these paddles. I completely forgot about that order.

"Because others on the order list in front of me had backed out, I received Serial Number 1001! Needless to say, this was the spark I needed to get back on the air. I've been making a few Qs each evening to get my fist back into shape. Really it was like getting back on a bicycle. By the end of the first Q, I was QRQ and loving it.

"I'm going to try to concentrate on having fun this time, without letting the inevitable political stuff get to me. Getting on the air, making new friends and mentoring will be my primary objectives from now on. That's why my second step in getting back into Amateur Radio (after that first !) was to fill out my reapplication and check for FISTS membership. And yes, that first QSO, as well as most subsequent QSOs, were near .058 frequencies with other FISTS members.

"I'm glad the club has thrived in the time I've been away. There really wasn't any doubt in my mind however. The membership is unmatched when it comes to pride of association as well as character."

Air Mobile Platinum

Ted K3CJQ earned his Platinum while Air Mobile! Ted says working Air Mobile is the best of all ham communications. Flying at 30,000 feet using a trailing wire antenna and putting out about 100 watts, there is little, or no noise, other than from weather, because there is no A/C in the aircraft. Everything operates on pure D/C.

Key Poll

About a year ago, I tried an informal poll, asking you what type of key you preferred to use and why. The results were less than overwhelming, but it looks like most of us use a dual paddle with an iambic keyer, but a straight key to start.

Here are some of the comments.

George, N1DHM, has been using a Vibroplex Vibrokeyer since he got back on the air in 1992 with his present call. He says the Vibrokeyer works just fine, but the base is a bit light and the keyer walked around. He fixed it by putting suction cups on the bottom.

Brian, W5YE, has owned several paddles in his 40+ years. He currently uses the Kent Dual Paddles. He writes, "I tried Kent's single paddle, but prefer the dual paddle configuration. I think I like the idea of having one paddle for dits, and one for dahs. I was a distributor of Kent's line of paddles, keys, and keyers for South Texas before the changed over to Alpha Delta Corp. as a national distributor. I was supposed to keep my territory, but as it was a part-time endeavor, I haven't pursued the matter.

"Anyway, I vote for the Kent Dual Paddle. It has a solid feel and can be adjusted infinitely to suit one's own taste for 'touch and response.' For a beginner, it can be 'opened' up to make the keying more deliberate. Likewise for the veteran it can be 'tightened', so that you can almost 'think' about touching the paddle, and it keys. It is very well constructed of solid brass, and stainless, with a heavy metal base that won't dance around on your operating desk. It also is very attractive in appearance (for the XYL's benefit). In short it is definitely a winner, especially for the price (approx \$125)."

"I did get the Mercury S/N 1001 and love it very much. I have a hard time deciding which I like better, the Mercury or the WBL V22s that I have here also. It's nice to be able to switch between different high end keys. Paul N6EV"

Old Timers Corner

This month's contribution comes from across the Pond, Ray G3ASG

My short wave listening days started when I was about 12 years old. A single valve (tube) regenerative battery-operated receiver using a 2 volt filament valve enabled me to listen to the world. What a thrill at that age! Memories of hearing short wave broadcasting stations such as I2RO Rome, the Zeesen stations in Germany, MTCY in Manchuria, W2XAD and W2XAF in Schenectady, New York, W8JK Pittsburgh and eventually, the ultimate -VK2ME Sydney, Australia with just a simple receiver. In 1937 my father bought a new wireless set (not radio then!) .It was an "All Wave Set", i.e., it had long, medium and short wave bands. Luxury! It wasn't long before I started to hear some strange voices near the 19m broadcast band, certainly not broadcast stations, but voices, quite often in English - I'd found the 20m amateur band! It wasn't long before I realised that quite a lot of them heard during our night-time were voices from the U.S.A. From 1937 to 1939 I logged such DX as VS2AK, YV5AA, W1JFG (W1 "Jolly Fine Gentleman", heard many times), HK1EP, VO6D ("Voice Of Six Ducks"), ZS5M, VQ4CRE, VU2CQ, VK3KX, etc. One particularly interesting station was VP3THE, operating in the jungle in British Guiana. It was called the "Terry Holden Expedition" (thus the "THE" in the callign) and I think it had some connection with the New York Natural History Museum. Remember the bird and monkey noises, it was a very unusual station. I did receive a QSL card from the operator -but where is it now? All on phone, I couldn't read Morse at that time, and even if I could, there was no B.F.O. on a broadcast receiver to make Morse signals audible. Still have my original log written in 1937/8.

From then on- I was hooked! Was it possible for me to be able to talk to the world? How do I start? Well, unfortunately by then it was August 1939, and with WW2 starting for us in September there was no hope of joining the happy band of radio amateurs.

In October 1946 (just after getting back home from my honeymoon!) I was licensed as G3ASG, after taking the very first Radio Amateurs Examination (always called the R.A.E. in the U.K.) in May of that year. I was exempt from taking the Morse test, usually set by the British Post Office (the license issuers at that time) for reasons that will become clearer later. At that time, newly licensed U.K. amateurs were allowed to operate using CW mode only, with a maximum power of 25 watts D.C. input to the final stage of the transmitter. My own home-made transmitter consisted of two stages: a 6V6 tritot crystal oscillator and an 807 class C power amplifier which was operated with 500 volts at 50mA. The antenna I used was a 20m Zepp, end fed with open wire feeders a quarter wave long. Way back then, very few stations had a V.F.O., so to make a contact it was necessary after a call to search the band, usually from the low frequency end up listening for someone calling you. One thing of interest was that way back then U.K. amateur stations were not allowed to call "CQ". If we wanted to make contact with another station we had to call "Test de (call sign)". I think that we were the only country in the world not allowed to call "CQ"! The official reason given for this rather odd attitude was that we were not really allowed to make a QSO just for the fun of it -the contact was really only permissible if we wanted to make some kind of measurement of an experimental nature. This was because the license at that time was an "Experimental Transmitting License". Thus we had to call "Test" meaning: "Will someone please help me make a test of some sort or another". That changed after a short time and we joined the rest of the world calling "CQ" when we wanted a contact. After being licensed for a year, and able to show proof that I had actually made contacts using Morse code during that period, I was now permitted to use telephony as a second mode.

Amplitude modulation (did someone say "ancient modulation"?) was the only phone mode in use then by nearly all radio amateurs, so now I could talk to other amateurs! Again, the maximum power allowed was 25 watts D.C. input to the P.A. stage. What a thrill it was to get my first

phone contact with G2HDC, just a few miles away, on 12th October 1947. Soon after, got my first phone DX QSO with MD2B in Tripolitania on 20m. One of the problems in the U.K. was that our television service operated on 45Mc/s, with sound separately transmitted on 41.5Mc/s. This meant that when operating on 20m, or 14Mc/s, the third harmonic of the transmission appeared right in the middle of the television signal at 42Mc/s. Disaster! Fortunately for the amateurs the television service only operated for short periods each day, and even later on during 1959 there was a time around 6.00 to 7.00pm when the TV service was off the air.

During 1959 I maintained a weekly CW schedule with 5LWP/MM. First contact was on 28th February when I discovered that Laurie, the British operator, was Radio Officer on the Greek owned tanker "S.T. Eurydice" flying the Liberian flag. It was anchored in Amuay Bay, Venezuela about 100 miles West of Curacao. Week after week we made contact every Sunday evening about 1700 to 1800Z on 21Mc/s. His usual run was between Venezuela and Montevideo, Uruguay, carrying crude oil from the Venezuelan oilfields to the refineries in Montevideo. Eventually, his ship was sent to Bremen in Germany for a refit. contact was maintained across the Atlantic until nearing the Cape Verde Islands and when off the coast of the Isle of Wight we used phone on 40m! The last QSO was on the 8th February 1960 when passing Belgium and Holland -still on 40m phone.

Earlier, during WW2, I worked full-time for Marconi's W.T.Co. at a factory in Surrey (Southern England). My job was to find electrical faults in radio receivers that were being produced for fitting in British bomber aircraft. The receiver type was known as the R1155, which as well as being a short wave set, also included long and medium wave bands. These low frequency bands were receivers alleged to be used primarily for providing a visual navigation aid to the crew of the planes, but I'm sure they were also used to provide some entertainment from medium wave broadcasting stations. Many of these receivers became available after the war for about

£5, and many British hams bought them as there were no commercially built sets at a reasonable price available then.

In July 1941 I was in the Home Guard (armed(?) local defence volunteers). All people exempt from military service because their work was of National importance had to join one of the civilian groups such as, for example, Air Raid Wardens, National Fire Service, Fire Watchers, Home Guard. Some 8 hours per week of their free time was expected from them. In the Home Guard, the only thing that I could do and which the others couldn't, was read and send Morse code. I found that this was to prove to be very important. After one horrible session of being out in the rain the whole of one Sunday night with my (non-working Sten gun) with others of my group, I got home soaking wet and hungry. After getting dry, it was straight off to work by 8.00am on the Monday morning. With no sleep, and presumably looking thoroughly miserable, I was approached by a colleague (who had been a pre-war amateur operator, G3FK) and asked if I would like to do something different for my voluntary service. "Yes, I would and very soon!"

So, some time later, a man with a bowler hat and rolled-up umbrella (in the U.K. the sign of a government official or an off-duty officer in the armed services) appeared at my house to talk to me. My parents were probably worried about what I might have been up to, after all I was only 19. This man asked me where I was born and where my parents and grandparents were born, etc. Then I was asked to sign a form which was connected to the Official Secrets Act. What had I got myself into? The result of this interview was that I became a member of the Radio Security Service (R.S.S.) and was called a Voluntary Interceptor (V.I.).

From then on, at home in the evenings, I used to listen on my home-built short wave set for Morse signals on the band 7.0 to 7.5 Mc/s (not MHz then). No information was given about what I was supposed to listen for, so I just copied anything I heard and sent off my log with any messages (usually 5 letter code groups) to a Box 25,

Barnet, Hertfordshire address. Thirty years later it transpired that the messages and logs were then sent by motorcycle despatch riders from the Box 25 address to Bletchley Park in Buckinghamshire where they were decoded. I've since learnt that many of the signals reported by V.I.s (about 1200 of us around the U.K.) originated from German diplomatic services and also Gestapo headquarters to and from their agents. These various services were found by the R.S.S. direction finding stations to be situated not only in occupied Europe, but also in countries all over the world.

Before the V.I.s started intercepting these messages, the official receiving stations operated separately by the British Army, Navy and Royal Air Force, called the "Y" service, had been concentrating on the German and Italian equivalent services. Because the V.I.s who were operating as General Search stations (I was one of them) had not been told what to listen for, they didn't especially look for any particular type of transmission. This resulted in the serendipitous discovery of services previously unknown, in particular the Gestapo network. So our work was found to be extremely valuable. Of the work at Bletchley Park much has been already been written, with many TV programmes showing how the decoded messages were used to shorten the war by at least two years.

Because of my R.S.S. connection it was known that I could receive Morse -but send it? I was invited to go to an R.S.S. location in Barnet where they give me a sending proficiency test. This done, I did not have to take the test given by the British Post Office.

Amateur operation has been continuous since 1946 with a power never exceeding 100 watts, and for the last 35 years using only indoor antennas. Even so, over 200 countries have been worked with nearly all confirmed. Since joining FISTS have made over 550 Fists QSOs and am currently attempting to Work All States. Only need Hawaii and Montana! Please help.
Ray Fautley, G3ASG

Building the W3NQN Passive Audio Filter

The May, 2002 QST, page 96 (QRP Power) mentioned a neat item, called a passive audio filter. I'd heard of these, but never used one. I emailed Rich, K7SZ, editor of the QST QRP column, and he suggested I contact Ed, W3NQN directly. Well, I wrote to Ed, and he replied with a nice letter and the cost of the filter kit, which is \$35 postpaid (make checks payable to Ed Wetherhold).

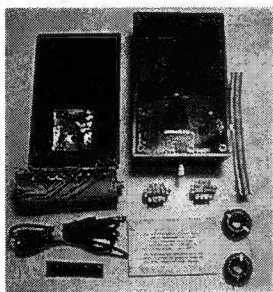


Figure 1 – Here are the contents of the kit:

Included are the box, predrilled, with the in/out switch and phone jack ($\frac{1}{4}$ -in, mono) installed and a piece of ribbon cable that you pull apart for interconnections. A 5-inductor stack (shown above the phone plug and cable in Figure 1) is used for L1, L3 and L5, and the two separate toroidal inductors (bottom right of Figure 1) are for L2 and L4. Also included are input and output transformers, rubber feet, a $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch mono-phone plug with a 34-inch cord, and a small manila envelope with capacitors and resistors. All the parts you require are there, including complete instructions for assembly. Be sure to read thru the instructions first and refer to the schematic and pictorial diagrams to find the node locations listed in Table 1.

Assembly is easy. First, jumper the wires on the toroid stack, I used bare copper wire. Then I had to scrape off the enamel-film insulation from the wire ends of the two separate inductors (specified as L2 and L4 in Table 1) before mounting them on the ends of the stack and wiring them to the stack terminals. For the 550Hz filter it was not necessary to remove turns from these two inductors, but for filters having higher center frequencies, L2 and L4 require turns-removal modification. They are secured to the stack with GE

Household Glue, 100% Silicone Sealant, Clear, 2.8 Fl.Oz (available at your local hardware store). Then just wire up the capacitors to the stack. Two of them are held to the stack with the above mentioned silicone glue. The input and output capacitors are supported by their leads. When this 'stack' is finished, you make ohmmeter readings to make sure it's wired correctly. The readings are $\pm 20\%$ and I modified Ed's chart to indicate the high, low and nominal readings. It makes it easier than to calculate the 20% in your head!

NODES FROM	TO	COMPONENTS	20%	REST (ohms)	+20%
1	GND	T1 Hi-Z Winding	9.6	12.0	14.4
2	GND	L1 + 1/2(L2)	6.6	10.7	12.8
3	GND	L2	6.4	8.0	9.6
4	GND	1/2(L2)	2.2	2.8	3.4
5	GND	L3 + 1/2(L4)	20.6	25.8	31.0
6	GND	1/2(L4)	2.2	2.8	3.4
7	GND	L4	6.4	8.0	9.6
8	GND	L5 + 1/2 (L4)	8.6	10.7	12.8
9	GND	T2 Hi-Z Winding	9.6	12.0	14.4
2	4	L1	6.4	8.0	9.6
5	6	L3	19.2	24.0	28.8
6	8	L5	6.4	8.0	9.6
2	3	L1 + 1/2(L2)	8.6	10.7	12.8
8	7	L5 + 1/2(L4)	8.6	10.7	12.8

Table 1. Node-to-Node resistances for the 750-Hz filter assembly (Refer to note 1 at the end of the article)

Once all resistance readings are correct, you wire up the input and output transformers with some wire from the ribbon cable provided in the kit. Mount them to the case with more silicone glue and wire them up to the input cable and output jack. Connect the transformer secondary to their respective capacitors and you're almost there. The toroid stack presses into a clip that's already mounted in the box. A resistor on one side of the switch is used to match the volume, so when the filter is 'out' you don't get your ears blasted. There is some insertion loss, so, just turn up the volume. I put a pot across the switch terminals, and adjusted it, so the volume was the same for either position of the switch (I used my scope and audio generator) and then measured the pot and substituted a fixed resistor. Now you're done.

The supplied in/out switch is a center-off, DPDT unit. I was considering replacing it with a nor-

mal DPDT (no center-off). But, I soon learned that the center position, which cuts out all audio, is useful, especially if the XYL comes into the shack (and you want to listen to what she says). Ed has since replaced this switch with an on-on type, no center off position.

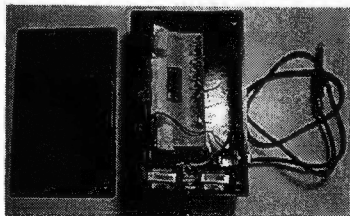


Figure 2 - The completely assembled filter. The toroid stack is mounted in its clip on the left. The input and output transformers are on the lower part of the box, along with the in/out switch. The input cord and output jack are on the lower right.

How does it work? When I hooked it up to my Kenwood TS-570D(g), the background noise almost disappeared. Since this unit is passive, it does not introduce any noise of its own. Great for Field Day and portable work, although it will add weight and be larger than many QRP radios! Tune through the bands with the filter out. When you hear a signal of interest, switch it in. The signal will stand out and all you hear is that signal. It is remarkable. Figure 3 shows the attenuation response when the filter is measured in a 200-ohm test system (less the input and output transformers).

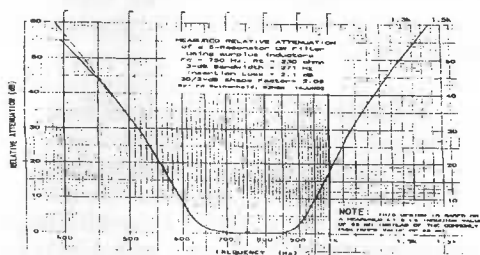


Figure 3 – Measured relative attenuation of the cw filter.

And HOW does it work? The passive audio filter ‘reduces wide-band noise and restricts the audio bandwidth of the receiver’ (from the 1985 Handbook). The Handbook describes a 10-element Chebyshev band-pass filter, using telephone-type toroids, which are supplied. The cen-

ter frequency of the filter should match the sidetone frequency of your receiver. Remember, get the correct filter for your sidetone frequency, otherwise you will not hear your sidetone. I verified this on my TS-570 and Elecraft K2, its true! The filter is very sharp. Just to make the point again, if your sidetone is 550 Hz and you have a 750 Hz filter (center frequency), the sidetone will be attenuated by 20dB. Currently available center frequencies are 546, 600 and 750 Hz. Contact Ed if you require a different frequency. Filters for SSB operation are also available.

You can contact Ed at:
Ed Wetherhold, W3NQN
1426 Catlyn Place
Annapolis, MD 21401-4208

for more information. If you require a reply, please send him a 9½x4 inch SASE. Please type (or hand print) your correspondence, and include the date, your name, address and phone number. Ed also asks that you do not use any of the small self-stick labels, normally used for return address labels. You may fax to Ed at 410-268-4779 or contact him by phone at 410-268-0916.

Ed has articles and correspondence in QST and QEX, from July 1966 through June 1998. These cover both audio and RF filter design.

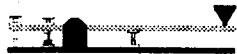
The 1985, 1994 and 1995 ARRL Handbooks, have a section on Ed and his passive filter designs, as does Bill Orr’s Radio Handbook (see Note 2). Ed has also designed RF filters, sold by Array Solutions at: www.arrayolutions.com.

73, Ken WB2ART, FISTS #3456
wb2art@arrl.net
(With kind assistance from Ed Wetherhold, W3NQN)

Note 1: To find the node points in the filter wiring of the inductor stack, refer to the schematic and pictorial diagrams that are provided with the filter kit assembly instructions.

Note 2: Bill Orr’s Radio Handbook, 23rd edition, p. 13-5, published by Howard W. Sams & Co., First Printing – 1986.

International Morse Preservation Society



KEY NOTE



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P.R.O.
Secretary

G4XHZ
G4YLB
G4YLB
G3ZQS

Pse keep watch on all Novice allocations

Recommended calling QRGs:

3.558, 7028, 14.058, 21.058, 28.058

AWARDS

e-mail apps/logs to Dennis, K6DF:

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

· written logs to HQ.

SUBS: e-mail Keynote £4.00, UK mail £5.00, EEC mail £7.00. Others £10.00. Your renewal date appears on the mailing label and your anticipation would be much appreciated.

Up-dated listings may be obtained from HQ. Please include 3 2nd class stamps to cover return and running costs

Lapel Badges, £1.50 incl. Fabric patches £2.50 incl.

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

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

Please include your CALLSIGN on all correspondence.

Useful contacts:

M0AVW 01642-869619 <spence5@ntlworld.com>

M0AYI Glenn@m0ayi.freeserve.co.uk

All outgoing QSLs to M0AVW (address on banner).

All UK/EU members send stamps and labels (no envelopes necessary) to the appropriate sub-manager as below:

M or 2 Prefixes (Except for Wales) M0AYI. 7 Tynedale Terrace, Annfield Plain, STANLEY, DH9 7TZ.

G0, GM0 etc (Except GW0). G3JRY. 3 Rochford Cresc, BOSTON, PE21 9AE

G3, GM3 etc (except GW3). G0UQF. 2 East St, Darfield, BARNSELEY, S73 9AE.

G4, GM4 etc (Except GW4). M5AAQ. 6 Central Ave, SHEPHELD, LE12 9HP.

G2, G5, G6, G8 (Except for Wales) and ALL special (GB etc) calls to M0BPT. 38 Wheatley St, WEST BROMWICH, B70 9TJ.

All members in Wales. GW0SGG. 14 Heather Cresc, Sketty, SWANSEA, SA2 8HE

EU/DX Members: IRCs, UK Banknotes or US dollars to M0AVW. The Club will provide envelopes. Any excess over subs from non-UK members will be regarded as QSL postage unless otherwise advised.

GREETINGS

How many of you I wonder noticed the summer? I missed most of it since I was in QSO at the time but the temperature here in the NW of England rose to a staggering 23c. Mind you we were reminded earlier in the season that such temperatures were no more than blips on a declining graph line because in spite of the sun, we experienced a few showers of hail. I don't know where all this stuff about global warming is coming from but clearly no-one has bothered to tell our Met Office about it!

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Early this month there was the inevitable contest on the bands and I was most heartened when I heard PY, JA, ZL and VK amongst other coming through at good strengths on 20/15M. As is my wont, I migrated to 30M where I found only a few EU stations but at least I got a QSO or two. On Sunday evening after the contest, the rig was switched on with anticipation. 20M yielded absolutely NIL and all I could hear on 15M were a few wayward Europeans and watery sigs from the US East Coast. What happened??

Sorry I have not been in a position to make GX0IPX available most Wednesdays for the ladder chasers. A half hour or so on 40M rewarded me with G0LHI, G0LHI and G0LHI who wasn't exactly over burdened with traffic. 80M in the evening almost as much noise as that produced by the Rolling Stones though, I am tempted to suggest, somewhat more melodious. Still, it was not all doom and gloom since 40M (apart from the usual home brew station drifting and chirping like a sparrow on LSD) some old and long lost friends were found and much lamp swinging was in evidence. Oh! do shut up and get on with it Geo.

RADIO ACTIVE MAGAZINE

FISTS was listed amongst a couple of dozen 'useful addresses' printed in the above. I received a copy through the post with an invitation to input more information. Wonder if I am unique in getting somewhat niggled by errors which would not be present with a little care and checking like a mis-spelled name. They also made the (not uncommon) error of substituting an 'a' for an 'e' so that a place of burials and graves became a CEMETARY rather than a cemetery.

Validation of my company pension arrives here with both these error and continues to do so after at least a dozen attempts to have it rectified. From an individual, I can understand but from the post room of a commercial organisation - grrrrrrrrrr! - take it easy Geo... remember your blood pressure!

TINTS AND HIPS

From David, G3ZPF comes the following:

Had a note from my mate re: those energy saving bulbs assuming your eyes are good enough to deal with sm technology. You know them they are energy-saving lamps, the little flourescents in a bayonet base, well... Keep the duff ones - they have bits in them. I bashed the first one I've ever had 'go' with a brick (was a 20W -> 100W equivalent) and inside was: two 400V 1A power fets (one p-channel and one n-channel) a little 400V bridge rectifier (sm) a 10uF 350V electrolytic two little inductors (470uH and 680uH) low current inductor 2.2mH (with a 2.5uH overwind) wire-ended 3A fuse. Some R's and C's as well, but not that useful 'cos surface mount.

Those of you who have not yet experienced the delights of Surface Mount Technology have both pleasant and unpleasant surprises in store. Everything is mounted (usually with solder paste and a soldering iron whose business end is on a par with a hat pin) onto one plane of a pcb. The requirements are a pair of head mounted binoculars, a steady hand and a touch like a midwife. Some of our QRP brethren are already producing useful circuitry and constructing units which border on the description of nano-technology. Try it!

CONTAGEOUS CRASHES

Following Andys' HD crash a few weeks ago, I have been ultra cautious; backing up data to a FAT partition on the hard drive of my second computer. Although no harm was done, this 'belt and braces' approach was a source of relief when the PSU on my main computer went belly up. A new PSU was fitted the very next day and all is back to the usual semi-chaotic running order but it certainly underlines the need for some sort of safety net if the data on your PC is of any importance.

BRITISH WIRELESS FOR THE BLIND

A reminder from the above organisation that the annual competition (Transmission 2002) is scheduled 14/15 Sept 2002.

In the past, a number of our members have taken part and indeed last year produced a prize winner in the individual category.

The aim is to make as many contacts as possible over as great a distance as possible and prizes are awarded for the following categories:

- * the most contacts by an individual
- * the most contacts by a club
- * the furthers contact
- * the most sponsorship raised by an individual
- * the most sponsorship raised by a club

Prizes so far donated from by Roberts Radio; Tennamast (Scotland) Ltd; W.H. Westlake Electronics; Those Engineers; ICOM (UK) Ltd and the organisation is looking for additional support and more prizes.

They supply free QSL cards and sponsorship forms may be obtained from: The British Wireless for the Blind Fund, Gabriel House, 34 New Rd, Chatham, ME4 4QR. There is a web-site at www.blind.org.uk or you may e-mail fiona@blind.org.uk or phone 01634-832501

ARIADNA ISLAND

From our sharp eyed F5NQL we get the following info: Mariano Viva, LU4EJ, and Daniel Vicencio, LU3DTD, will be active from ARIADNA Island, (IOTA SA 021) as AY4EJ/D and AY3DTD/D October 4 to 6th. 2002. This Island will be worked in first time by radio amateurs. The Island, valid for the IOTA Award, is located on the Atlantic Ocean, about 70 Km South East from Bahia Blanca. They will to work with a Yaesu FT 817 (QRP), and power amplifier of 150 Watts, vertical antenna AV3 with 9 ground planes for 20, 15 and 10m. On 80 and 40 meters, with dipoles. The suggested SSB frequencies are: 3680, 7090, 14260, 14200, 21260, 21300, 28560, 28460 and 50.110 KHz. Also Mariano wish to operate in CW on + - 3520 and 7020 KHz from 21:00 UTC. Please listen first and no more of 12/15 ppm. We will to send informations to many DX Clusters. His e-mail is: lu4ej@hotmail.com. QSL's, via LU4EJ/LU4DTD (See QRZ.com) direct or via Bureau. 72/73 es DX de Tito, LU7EE AY7EE Spanish Internet Bulletin GACW ay7ee2002@yahoo.com.ar

AND A LITTLE MORE DX

By the way, do you have my present callsign for your records? I am presently in Western Sahara and with the political situation, I have 2 callsigns here, CN2PM and S07PM. I am using CN2PM extensively and S07PM when I get the chance to get out to the western half of the country, 73, Peter, G3WQU (ex-E4/G3WQU)

G4UHM/G0AOL

This combination slipped the net along with a few others following Andys' HD crash but all has now been resolved. Steve also adds in an email message:

Finally an observation. Last month we were all allowed to use "Q" in our calls. We both used it the whole month. Sadly it seems most stations did not make the effort, all but 2 of the G & M stations we worked were using their plain calls. Personally we wish we could have used it longer, the rest of the year would have been good.

Having sent envelopes (and a stamped postcard for acknowledgement) to the GQ QSL sub-manager over 2 weeks ago we are now left wondering if we will ever see our incoming (esp. GB50) QSLs. The postcard has yet to come back to us. Why RSGB had to commission a separate sub-manager is beyond us - just makes life more complicated.

Yes Steve; we brits seem to far less inclined to take advantage of callsign dressing than some of our EU counterparts. No, dis-respect to Her Majesty I am sure but I must confess that GQ3ZQS or GQ01PX did not appear - just didn't seem worth the effort!

STAMPING MAD

Our Church, M0AVW, has asked me to make you aware of the following: "Our parish priest has asked me if I could ask our UK members if they could save all their used stamps for our church to be used for charity. If they could put a few in with their qsl cards they send to me i would on behalf of our church be very grateful.

CROATIAN CLUB AWARD

9A - QRP CLUB Franjevačka 5, 42220 Novi Marof, Croatia
E-mail : 9a3fo@hi.hinet.hr

Rules for membership in 9A - QRP CLUB :

Membership is offered to all operators all over the world who have the licence and whose output power from transmitter does not exceed 5 (five) W RF in CW or 10 W PEP in SSB.

There are no test QSO's needed for the membership in 9A-QRP CLUB.

Membership fee is paid with the application for the membership in the Club and it is for life 5 (five) USD.

Every new member gets a membership certificate and a membership number.

9A - QRP CLUB was formed on 10. April, 1994.

9A - QRP CLUB AWARDS PROGRAMME :

General rules : a) These awards can be obtained by licenced radio amateurs whose output power from transmitter does not exceed 5 W CW or 10 W PEP SSB.

b) All QSO's must be confirmed.

c) You must send the GCR list accompanied by a statement from any two licenced amateurs that the QSL cards of the contacts listed are in your possession and that the items from the cards are correctly listed. If QSL cards are submitted, sufficient funds for return postage will be also required.

d) A fee for each award is 5 (FIVE) USD.

e) Applications should be submitted on any usual application form, but the official 9A - QRP CLUB application form is recommended and can be obtained from the Award anager (Please SAE and 1 IRC).

f) The application must contain your call sign, name and address, name of the award applied for and a list of contacts in alphabetical order. The list of contacts must include : date, time (UT), call sign, RS/T/sent and received/, band and mode. Mark CW on the application form if all QSO's are in telegraphy.

g) All QSO's must have been made after 10. April, 1994. 9A-QRP CLUB was formed on this day.

W QRP DXCC AWARD

This award is issued to any amateur radio station who has worked and confirmed 20 different DXCC countries.

Next awards will be given for every next 20 new countries, i.e. W QRP 40 DXCC AWARD, W QRP 60 DXCC AWARD ... etc.

W 2 - WAY QRP DXCC AWARD

The same as W QRP DXCC AWARD, but both stations have to be QRP.

This award is issued to any amateur radio station who has contacted and confirmed 10 (ten) different club members.

Next awards will be given for every next 10 members i. e. W 20 9A QRP MEMBERS, w 30 9A QRP MEMBERS etc.

W QRP 6 CONTINENTS AWARD

This award is issued for having confirmations from all 6 continents.

W QRP ZONES AWARD

This award is issued to any licenced radio amateur who has contacted and confirmed amateur radio stations from 10, 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 CQ Zones. Next awards can be obtained only by 9A - QRP CLUB Members

CW QRP STN AWARD

This award is issued to any licenced amateur radio station who has contacted and confirmed 250 different radio stations in telegraphy. Next awards will be given for next 250 stations, i.e. W 250 CW QRP STN AWARD, W 500 CW QRP STN AWARD ... etc.

W QRP CW WPX AWARD

This award is issued to any licenced amateur radio station who has contacted and confirmed 50 different prefixes in telegraphy. Next awards will be given for next 50 different prefixes, i. e. : W QRP 50 CW WPX AWARD, W QRP 100 CW WPX AWARD etc.

W 2 - WAY QRP CW WPX AWARD

The same as W QRP CW WPX AWARD, but both stations have to be QRP.

Applications for any awards have to be send to : Awards Manager, Denis VINCEK - 9A3Z, K. Tuskana 8, 49218 PREGRADA, CROATIA.

I hold a list of the Croatian Club members here at HQ also if they should be required.

E-MAIL KEYNOTE PROBLEM

I have already contacted a number of you who are taking traffic via qsl.net. There was a problem here because the admin people were viewing Andys' mass mailings as spam and rejecting them. Andy has been in communication with the administrator of qsl.net explaining the situation as a result of which, the filters, which were in place have been modified to accept traffic from him. In the interim however, I have asked a number of you to provide us with your 'real' address so that Andy can circumnavigate qsl.net and these are coming in slowly. Some of 'bouncers' are causing problems however since the records show either no telephone number or an incorrect one or the postal address is not up to date and I have been unable to make contact. I have to keep asking this but PLEASE if you change your telephone number or your e-mail address, it is just as important that you keep us up to date as it would be if you changed your postal address E-Keynote recipients should advise both myself (for club records) and Andy for his mailing list.

AND CHANGE OF QTH

Golin G0IFM has recently done a QSY to the Orkneys leaving Stony Stanton in Leicestershire to struggle along without him and he will now be identified as GM4IFM.

GW4SGG & QRS NET

I am privy to a communication from Bill to Brian:

Brian -I heard you after Bert and I had gone qrt last Thursday evng. Hope you -both- will be able to assist next Thurs 18/7/02 -1930 local.

By the way wot do u know about "optical paddle" ??? I overheard G0EML & G4GUA this afternoon on 7.023 -

- Ray was using one-- from USA- I think ??

Now I have only heard one station thus far claiming to be using the "optical" paddles and to be truthful I know less about them than I do of embalming. A little info would not come amiss!

BANKS AND THE BIG RIP OFF

Gerald, G3MCK, wrote to assure me that joining the Euro will **not** help our overseas members. Those in the Euro zone will still have to pay inter-bank transfer charges whilst those outside will carry on as they are. He makes a suggestion that such members may have a friend who is visiting the UK and he could ask them to obtain a Postal Order (£7.00 or £4.00) which they could then assign to FISTS and send when subs were due. This is of course by far the cheapest option since the poundage on a Postal Order is in no way as severe as the bank charges for transfers or overseas cheques.

Talking about subs and particularly cash, some members simply do not believe the problems outlined. I have here 2,000 JA Yen and \$40 Australian together with other obscure bank notes which have to wait until other similar currency is obtained to justify the cost of conversion. In the interim period, the equivalent in subs must come out of my own bank account. \$(US) do not present the same difficulty since I get so many of these that they can be changed a couple of times a year.

STROKES V CW

Our Tex, G3TTH, mentions in a letter that "*I am sure I am not the first CW op to be grounded following a medical condition which has detrimentally affected the prime (Right or Left) fist*". A stroke is the usual villain here though there are other conditions which result in the same problem and for Tex, it was at first all QSD as he struggled with weeks of dry runs of the rubber stamp variety until he achieved and estimated 95% accuracy at 20 wpm. Things are beginning to improve to the degree that although he can now use his Right fist again on the pump, he prefers his educated left one on the paddles. As so many have proved over the years, despite the initial struggle, acuity is not beyond the grasp of those afflicted and Tex is anxious to assure them that it is not the end of their CW life.

AWARDS MANAGER

I forwarded a query to Dennis on behalf of a member who has two call signs current and wondered how he would go on re awards. I received the following advice from Dennis:

If they have two calls and use the same membership number for both, they can use contacts made with both calls to apply for an award. They need to note this on their award application and I will issue the award to both calls as:

M0AVN - M3NSB.

Nancy and I discussed this before and decided not to issue additional numbers to other calls held by a single club member.

The reason for the query was that I was reluctant to issue separate numbers for alternative call signs. It is not difficult but can lead to some pretty deep confusion later.

JUNE LADDER

Here is the results for the June ladder and congratulations once again to Tom, G0SCP, for being successful and making the all year race very interesting. As from now all ladder and other contest logs should be sent to Dale, GM4ELV, who is on e-mail but not sure if he is prepared to receive logs this way or not. Many thanks to all those who have taken part in the Ladder and good to see it's more successful than the last Sunday ladder where we only got 2 entrants. Good luck to all entrants and also good luck to Dale and I hope you will support him as well as you have supported me.

73 Keith M0CLO.

June result	Yearly total	
G0SCP	267G4LHI	1164
G4LHI	158G0SCP	1154
M5ABN	74M5ABN	476
M5AGL	48GW0SGG	180
M0DRK	30G3VQO	145
OH7QR	11M5AGL	55
	M0DRK	52
	G0MRH	49
	OH7QR	44

CHANGE OF CALL

Charles (G7TDL) must have been doing something right since he has changed his call to **M0TDL** and I continue to receive call changes of the vanity flavour from Nancy.

N0HFF PUBLICATION

Got a heavyweight deliver from Nancy this month; a copy of The Art and Skill of Radio-telegraphy by Bill, N0HFF. It totals 241 pages and for anyone 'bringing in' a new pupil it is not only a good read but a worthwhile source of interesting reference.

Bill deals with Learning the code - the right and wrong way of doing things - Skill building, reading, copying, sending, alternative keying devices, the role of Memory, the 'ear', timing and a host of other very important topics discussed in an easy manner.

Costs \$10.48 (US) and postage I note was \$5.10 and believe me, for \$15.58 total you will go a long way to find better value.

Orders to Irene, W08E but I am not sure of her current address (don't keep those details here - not necessary) so those of you on the web email <IKott@compuserve.com> to confirm postal charges or LMK and I will email on your behalf.

THE DX STUFF

01/08 Aug, Honduras, HR, QSL W4CK
05/11 Aug, Brunei, V8, QSL IZ8CCW
05/15 Aug, Monaco, 3A, QSL IZ1DSH
09/11 Aug, West Malaysia, 9M2, QSL N3SL
10/14 Aug, Fr. Polynesia, FO, QSL IK2QPR
11/18 Aug, Malta, 9H3KW, QSL EA5KW
11/19 Aug, St. Pierre Miquelon, FP, QSL K9OT

There are other listed for August but I report only those who specify the use of CW.

NEW MEMBERS

8933 GB2RL CLUB 8934 JG0SXC Man
8935 M0LOG Logan 8936 M0CDF
Maurice
8937 M0KVN Kevin 8938 EI7GW Joe

GB2RL is a club station (Bishop Auckland RC) already listed as G4TTF Nr 6471 but this is a one-off normally restricted to operations from the Roker Lighthouse. Custodian M0AY1.

A BLAST FROM THE PAST

Dunno how many of you are acquainted with Tom, GM3HBT (#0053) but he mothballed his Key many years ago to concentrate on the business of staying alive. Happily he has recently asked to rejoin us and of course, I am delighted.

Somewhat restricted at the moment with a modest 90 feet of wire round his loft via a SGC230 Smartuner but he has been busy assisting G3DXZ to develop the Bugambic semi-automatic/iambic keyer. As with so many of us old wrinklies, he has been fighting the dreaded arthritis which accounts for his interest in the keyer. Hi.

G3HZL

Further to his last tome, Don has been busy dumping all members into a log to help him keep check on his scores. Says he never really came to grips with the PC but at least his data is less liable to be 'lost' than when he was trying the same thing with a Sinclair. Bet that takes a few of you back somewhat? Still got one sulking around the shack somewhere but even if I dug it out, I would be hard pressed to use it - forgotten all those secret keypress sequences. Hi.

By this time it will be all over with but anticipated activating GB4FUN - school summer fair - and was looking forward to fostering some interest in the 5/11 year old group.

I have kept a list of drop-outs for the last few years Don mainly to facilitate a one-key resurrection but it doesn't go back too far since I was a bit slow realising how handy it would be when it came to re-instating lapsed members. If it's any use to you, I can break it down to Call, Number, Name and QTH for you.

Nurses continue to attend him and are most impressed by decor (all manner of awards). Guess his wallspace must be comprehensively covered by now though he is gazing thoughtfully at the Kitchen and loo!

FOR SALE

G3LUZ has been sorting out his shack and finds that he has a Tentec Century 22 plus PSU and handbook taking up valuable space. Offers in the region of £200 to <g3luz@aol.com> or QHTR.

LINERS' RADIO ROOM

Latest input from Nancy is FISTS 9350. The number is out of sequence but she likes to keep club stations to 00 or 50. This is W6RO and is the radio room of the RMS Queen Mary. Good huntin'.
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THEY ARE STILL DOING IT!

Sorry to have to keep harping on about this people but an absence of your Callsign or SWL ID on letters and subs causes a real bottle neck. Today (23rd) out of 13 letters with subs, two had no callsigns and I had to stop the process in order to locate the originator from data available. In addition to this, three had appended their callsigns using what appeared to be hyroglyphics. Again detective work was called for and what should have been at the most five minutes work ran into twenty or more. **PLEASE** remember that records are indexed on Callsign or the allocated SWL number. In the time taken to log just one mystery subscription I could have registered a dozen more.

Gerroff your soapbox Geo...

THREAT TO BANDS

Perusing some of the traffic in a chat room reminded me that over in the US, it appears to be frequent practice for presenters of chat shows on commercial radio stations to scan the amateur bands recording cases of deliberate mis-use (music being played, deliberate jamming or offensive language). These are subsequently re-transmitted in an effort to discredit radio amateurs with the argument that the space would be better used commercially. I should imagine that the bulk of this exposure concerns VHF/UHF allocations but if such attempts succeed in their goal then the rest of our allocations must surely be in jeopardy.

It would be difficult to report on such schenanagins in the CW portions of the HF bands although interlopers using SSB have occasionally been noted behaving in such a sick manner. Quite recently however I have witnessed legitimate QSOs being subject to blatant interference on a hitherto friendly 40M and it does rather punch a hole in ones faith.

With the rig on speaker as I worked, I heard weather obs being passed on this band which is somewhat distressing since it is likely that the recipient was a shore station and both parties must have been aware that they were handling traffic on an exclusive amateur band. It brought forth a number of stations who were stricken with a sudden desire to tune up or test their keyers with strings of Vs and resulted in the rapid departure of the interlopers. Could these amateur stations be accused of deliberate jamming I ask?

FINALE

If by some strange quirk of fate you happen to tune 20 or 15M during daylight hours and find it usable then you have won yourself a coconut. It truly has been discouraging but the appearance of a DX station again proves that there are hundreds monitoring as a 'dead' band bursts suddenly into life. Perhaps a brief CQ sequence every five minutes or so would help! Keep on the top side of it people - conditions will improve I am sure.

73/88 es stay sober de Geo



1 K1FTA



2 W1GYF



3 AB8JP



4 AE8U



5 VA3KV



6 KD3GZ



7 K9FOH



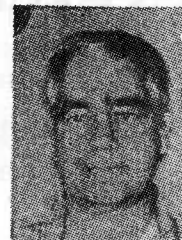
8 KS4TD



9 W1LO



ART K7ZE
10 K7ZE



11 K0LWV



12 K3UFG



13 W8GX



14 N0BLU



15 W3BBO



16 KE3FL



17 WB5RFM



18 NX0X



19 VE7NI



20 W6HVR



21 AA8PB



22 KB2UZM



23 W3FUO



24 AB8LP



25 KG4KG



26 AB8GQ



27 KB3HTY



28 W5EJ



29 N4GE



30 K8LYR



31 KT0S



32 W4BNO



33 KA2HDO



34 N1RUY



35 K1LGO



36 KI3O

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

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