

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; Pse 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 Nick Yokanovich, K3NY 108 Brent Road Arnold, MD 21012 K3NY@cablespeed.com We need ELMERS, please volunteer to be a Code Buddy!! Code Buddy applications are available on line from a link on our web page, or send your info to Nick.

***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.**

ISSUE 9 2002
NORTH AMERICAN MEMO
FISTS CW CLUB

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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 in 12 years. 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!

Reminders

The 15th Anniversary Award ends at the end of the year. There's still plenty of time to reach the goal, don't give up!

YOU determine in which category you count a QSO. A Canadian Club contact can count as either a Canadian contact or a Club contact. Contact K6DF if you have questions.

Hi FISTS, This is a sort of short issue this month, I am in a hurry to get it to print since it's almost November and there is still one more issue to get out before the end of the year. The New Zealand KeyNote is long, but I wanted to include it all since it has some pictures and it's always nice to see faces to put with callsigns. Speaking of that, **send in your photo so we can include it in the Reference Issue, 2003!**

If you'd like to be on the mailing list to get the NZ KN via email, send an email to Ralph at ZL2AOH@ihug.co.nz and let him know. The N.A. KeyNote isn't available electronically. It's something that is on the list of things to think about, but at this time, we're not set up to do it.

There are some exciting things in the works for FISTS in 2003. One of them is a new award. I have applied for a callsign for FISTS USA. We want to pass the operating privileges around the membership during 2003. Awards will be given for working the callsign throughout the year as well as certificates to stations who use the call and make a certain number of contacts with it. If you want to be put on the schedule for using the FISTS USA callsign, send a note to our Awards Manager, Dennis K6DF. **INCLUDE YOUR PHONE NUMBER. If we cannot contact you by telephone, you will not be put on the schedule.**

Please contact Dennis as soon as possible so we can get this set up and in place to start the first of the year. It should be a lot of fun, so get involved! Everyone with a license is welcome, no code speed or license class limitations. Here's your chance to be rare DX, hihi. Signing up doesn't obligate you to anything, we'll contact you before assigning your operating period. More to follow! Keep those cards and letters coming, I appreciate the encouragement and constructive criticism -- Nancy WZ8C

I don't have room to print the new member list, we'll catch up on it in Issue 10.

Good Advice from WB2FXK

I received a letter with a QSL, and note from Ms. Joni Ellsworth, daughter of W2LYH, Bob. She explained in the letter about Bob's passing on and she had found a QSL all made out and was sure he would want it mailed.

Bob and I QSO'd March 8, 2002 and we thought we had worked before, but neither of us could find a card or log books, too many to check through. He updated me on the homebrew transmitter and receiver and we exchanged histories. Was a real FB lengthy QSO, I was very glad to get his QSL -- but not to hear of his passing on.

Then I got a E-Mail from W8JGK, Bud. He had acquired some of W8EXS, Lew's gear and with this a letter I had written to Lew back in 1976. Lew and I had QSO'd many times. He was not taking QST or CQ at the time and I was using AB2FXK, which he could not understand, so I typed a letter explaining Centennial and copied a page out of QST that explained better than I could, but he wouldn't use the new prefix.

Shortly after he typed off two pages of his experiences with the old rigs, homemade and all problems. TVI in the city, but electric fence in country. The farmer would turn off fence while cows in for milking. Guess he spent many hours trying to fix splices and gate connections, but not help QRN much. HI Both Bob and Lew hung in there and were operating up to near the end.

Guess what I'm saying is we never know on that first call just what and who we are talking to, SO TRY TO BE AS PLEASANT AS YOU WOULD LIKE THEM TO BE TO YOU. You never know just how much you can and do to pump the other fellow up for a few more days.

73 JACK WB2FXK # 918

I spent 30 minutes by the rig after work this afternoon listening to the ham bands while riding my exercise bike. I was listening on the 10 Meter (28 MHz) band for CW DX and heard lots of voice/phone traffic on the CW sub-band. Most of it was in upper sideband, one occurrence in lower sideband (LSB) and all in Spanish on the following frequencies (MHz): 28.0142; 28.0345; 28.0400 (this one LSB); and 28.0540 (with echo reverberation, a end beep tone and a cascade of tones!). All of this between 2315 and 2345 hours UTC. I spun the dial further up into the beacon sub-band of 10 meters and at 28.2530 MHz heard a brief USB conversation in English, dialect uncertain. One side of this conversation (not deserving to be called a "QSO"!) lamented that they were not on 2 meters, yet! In none of these conversations did I hear a call sign. I have read in the Keynote where Geo has commented on the fishing ships occasionally talking on the 80 meter CW sub-band. He has also mentioned voice traffic on the 20 meter CW sub-band, and I have occasionally heard this too, especially around 14.0400 MHz.

I am writing because in my brief 9 year experience as a licensed amateur radio operator, I have never heard as much abuse of the CW sub-bands by voice modes as I am hearing lately, especially on 10 meters. I am not certain that the FCC can do much about it since most of the emissions appear to come from outside our borders. Perhaps it was a mistake to have lax enforcement over the years of violations by so-called "free banders" in the e gap between the unlicensed 11 meter Citizens Band and the licensed 10 meter amateur radio band. It appears that "free band" craze is growing and moving up into our limited CW operating spectrum.

On a positive note, of sorts, maybe the upcoming decline in propagation with the course of the sunspot cycle will cause such folks to lose interest in talking on our 10 meter CW spectrum. Now there's something to look forward to and only 12 years to wait! Steve - N9TRK FISTS NR 1915; CC 872

QRP With John Shannon K3WWP

Column #54

When I was going to an electronics school back in the 60's preparing to get my commercial license to go into broadcasting work, we had a teacher with some interesting concepts of teaching. One time he had each pupil in the class ask a question about some facet of electronics. Everyone had to participate. To show that my interest then was still strongly in CW, my question was how fast it was possible to send and copy code using an Aldis Lamp.

I'd like to do something like that. If you have a question dealing with some facet of QRP CW, please ask it to me, and I'll try to answer it in the column for Keynote #2 of 2003. Ask about operating, equipment, antennas, my opinion of something or other, anything you like. I'm sure there are many things I haven't covered in the 54 columns I have written so far. Perhaps there is something I haven't made as clear as I could have. Just ask something.

And now for something completely different. Yes, I'm a Monty Python fan. Here's an addendum to my DXCC columns of the past two issues. The next couple paragraphs give some specific countries and stations to look for in contests. Most all of the specific stations I mention are stations that have great 'ears' for hearing your QRP signals and are also stations that are very good QSLers.

Countries that I've had between 50 and 100 contest QSO's are the following, with some specific stations that come immediately to mind: Alaska (KL7Y), Austria (OE2S, OE5OHO), Bahamas, Cayman Islands (ZF2NT, ZF1A), Denmark (OZ1LO, OZ5W), Latvia (YL8M), Mexico (6D2X), Netherlands, Norway (LA8W, LA7MFA), Scotland (GM3POI), Turks & Caicos, Virgin Islands (WP2Z).

Other easy to work countries in contests are: Aruba - P40W P49V and many other expeditions. Kaliningrad will usually be represented by RW2F with great ears for copying tiny QRP sig-

nals on any band. Tunisia often has 3V8BB. Many hams operate from the Canary Islands, EA8CN and EA8EA being the two I've worked most often. A61AJ has been in several contests recently and is easy to work. Many top Russian operators will operate from Cyprus. CT1BOH and other top Portuguese operators make Portugal easy although there is not a lot of operation from this country. Belarus can be worked easily from EW8EW. Belize often has V31TP and V31JP. HC2SL provides Ecuador to many hams. One of the best of all contest operators, Trey Garlough often puts the Galapagos Islands into contests with HC8N. CN8WW is often active from Morocco. V47KP covers St. Kitts for the testers. GW3YDX puts Wales into many contest logs.

With this information plus that from the previous two columns, you should be able to snag your DXCC award in no time. If conditions are good, and you are reading this before November 23rd, be sure to enter the CQWW contest the weekend of the 23rd. If you're just starting to work for DXCC, that will certainly give you a good start, and if you're near your 100 countries already, it's a good place to perhaps catch the few you still need. I'll be there trying to increase my total of 200 countries worked, hoping some of the rarer countries are active with some good conditions also.

Now jumping to something else. I recently reached 3000 consecutive days with at least one QSO using QRP and simple wire antennas. The actual totals are 35,521 QSO's from all 50 states, 7 continents and 199 countries (one of my 200 was worked before the streak and not again since it started). 10,548 of the QSO's are DX (non-W/VE). As I've said before, I think that definitely proves that minimal QRP does work and work very well. I'm delighted at the constantly increasing number of QRP operators on the ham bands, and more than a few have told me they've tried QRP because of this column or my web site. That makes everything worthwhile for me. I want folks to realize there is more to ham radio than talking to their neighbor on those 2 meter hand held rigs. You can work the world by using CW

with only 5 watts or less of power and a hunk of wire in the back yard or even in your attic or apartment. With the 5 watts, there is virtually no problem of angering your nearby neighbors with TVI, RFI, etc. The small antennas will be inconspicuous. You'll have no trouble with RF exposure, and you'll have a lot of fun and be very successful on the ham bands.

I mentioned wanting your questions earlier in the column. Here's how to contact me. My email address is johnshan@alltel.net. Regular mail reaches me at John Shannon, 478 E. High St., Kittanning, PA 16201-1304. My web site at www.alltel.net/~johnshan/ or www.qsl.net/k3wvp/ has many mailto's that you can simply click to send me an email. I hope to hear from you one way or other. 73 -30-

Baffling Fuse Problem

Stan, K4UK, has a problem and would like to ask the membership for comments. Drop him a note if you can help him out. His contact info is on the How Do I...page under "QSL Bureau."

Stan writes: I have run into an interesting and baffling problem in my mobile installation. I have a Ten-Tec Scout running about 40 Watts output into a Hustler Antenna mounted on the left rear of the van. I have been supplying power from the "Power Outlet" located on the front dash of my 1999 Dodge Grand Caravan. These outlets were previously called "cigarette lighters". The outlet is rated 12V - 20A as printed on its rubber "stopper".

Until recently I have had no problem with this installation. But since early August, I've had a rash of blowing the 20 Amp fuse supplying this circuit. The baffling part is that there is a 12 Amp in-line fuse in the wiring from the outlet to the Scout. And, this fuse does NOT blow.

The first time the 20 Amp fuse blew, I was in contact with Howie, WA4KER while on my way home from the golf course. Rather than stop to determine the cause, I proceeded home and checked the 12 Amp in-line fuse. It was OK.

Then I found the 20 Amp fuse located in the fuse compartment under the hood was blown. I replaced that fuse and thought the one that blew may have just been a "weak" one. However, about a week later, this new 20 Amp fuse blew as I was completing a QSO while parked in my driveway. Again I replaced the fuse and everything was fine until I operated mobile in the Ohio QSO Party the weekend of August 24-25.

While parked in Ashtabula County with the motor running the 20 Amp fuse blew. When I lifted the hood I noticed it was quite hot in the engine compartment and I surmised that the ambient temperature in the fuse compartment had contributed to the blowing of this fuse.

I put in another 20 Amp fuse and all was well during the rest of the QSO Party. But then on September 11 while I was driving into Rocky Mount, VA in QSO with Jose, KA5ZBP in Irving, TX darned if the 20 Amp fuse blew just as I was sending "73" while signing off with Jose.

Now ALL these times the 12 Amp fuse in the wiring from the power outlet to the Scout did NOT blow. When I questioned the people in the Service Department at the Dodge dealership where I bought the car I was told that the "spikes" occurring when cell phones are turned on can blow this fuse. Which sounded a bit farfetched.

I explained that I did not have a cell phone and that I had used this outlet since I bought the car back in January 2000 with no previous problem with this fuse blowing. Why should it suddenly begin now, and why doesn't the lower amperage 12 Amp fuse either blow first. They just shrugged their shoulders.

On September 19 again on my way to the golf course, I was having a QSO with Tex, WA0KZL at 1146 UTC on 40 Meters and the temperature was about 64 F. The fuse blew during my final transmission to him. I replaced the fuse again. Then on the way home I had a QSO with Bill, WB9WZN at 1641 UTC on 20 Meters and the temperature was 74 F. The fuse blew sometime during my transmission to Bill. I had warned Bill

that it might happen and sure enough it did. I pulled the plug out just after the fuse blew and the tip of the plug was VERY hot.

Buddy, W4YE came over that afternoon and we tried various things including running the Scout from the rear Power Outlet. We could NOT make the fuse blow during a QSO with Larry, K0MPC.

I became leery of beginning a QSO from the mobile, because I was sure the darn fuse would probably blow again. So I built up an extension cord which permitted me to run the rig from the "Power Outlet" located in the rear of the Van. When I power the Scout from this outlet the 20 Amp fuse has not blown. And, yes, that fuse furnishes both the power outlets.

As far as I can determine there is nothing else on the circuit. The fuse box cover indicates this fuse is for "Cig & Accy" After the fuse blows I can't find any accessory that doesn't work. I suspect the "Accy" means the other similar Power Outlet in the back of the van.

I had figured that the most likely place to look is in the connection on the cigarette lighter plug. I disconnected the cord from the Scout and checked for a short across the plug while subjecting it to extensive wiggling of the connected wires. I took the plug apart and could find nothing indicating a short had occurred within the plug. I could find no strands of wire, which could short between hot and ground. I have carefully checked the plug for loose hardware. None was found. I put the plug back together and tightened the hardware. I checked everything with an ohmmeter.

I checked the Power Outlet socket to see if it was loose in its mounting, but found it to be secure. I carefully checked the socket and make sure there was no metallic debris in there. I checked the power cord between the socket and the 12 amp in-line fuse and found no exposed or frayed wiring.

The 12 amp fuse does have what looks like a coil spring inside. The 20 Amp fuse is a stan-

dard plug-in type as used in most cars. When the 20 Amp fuse blows it does not have blackened insides, just a clean separation of the fuse element.

Since I had planned to run mobile in the PA QSO Party in October, I elected to bypass the problem by doing the "right" thing. I ran a separate circuit directly from the battery to the Scout. And, yes, I fused both the positive and negative leads at the battery, just like all the books about mobile operation tell you to do. Hi!

Suffice it to say, I did not blow either of these 20 Amp fuses during the QSO Party, nor have I since. And, we gave the installation a real operational test in the QSO Party. Made 701 QSO's from 27 different counties in PA - all CW by the way

So the mystery still exists, but I plan to just ignore it and continue using my "proper" power installation. But, I'd sure like to know why that 20 Amp fuse blows when I used the "Power Outlet" on the front dash. And, I do miss the convenience of using this Power Outlet, especially when moving the rig from my car to my wife's Plymouth Grand Voyager - WHEN SHE LETS ME USE HER CAR, that is - Hi!

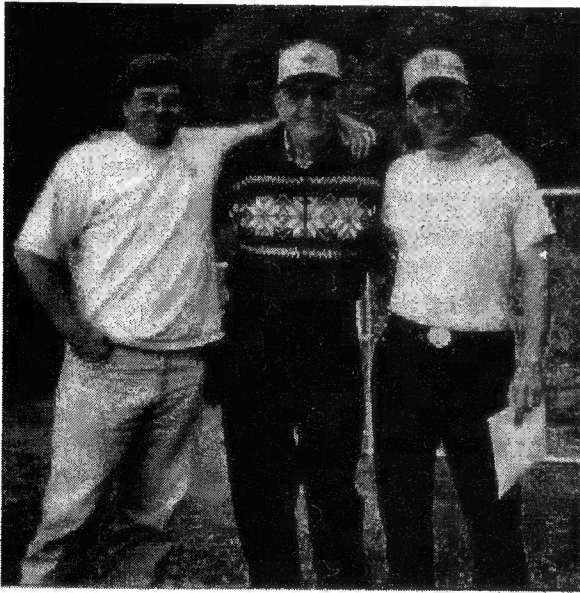
CALL CHANGES

Helene, 2990, WA8MEG is now W8MEG
Karen, 3111, AD4UI is now AD0U
Dan, 3421, W8DAN is KB8JFC
Tim, 4010, K0IZ, is now K3XI
Larry, 4733, K1ZW, is now W5WLB
Bruce, 6911, KG4DZU is now AG4NY
Mark, 7847, KF6WTM is now AE6GD
Ron, 8275, KCØ IFL is now W Ø IFL
Jan, 8511, KB 3G KY, is now AA 3ZL.
Jim, 8661, AD 5GR is now W 5QM
Jason, 9306, K 0IIN, is now N 0SG

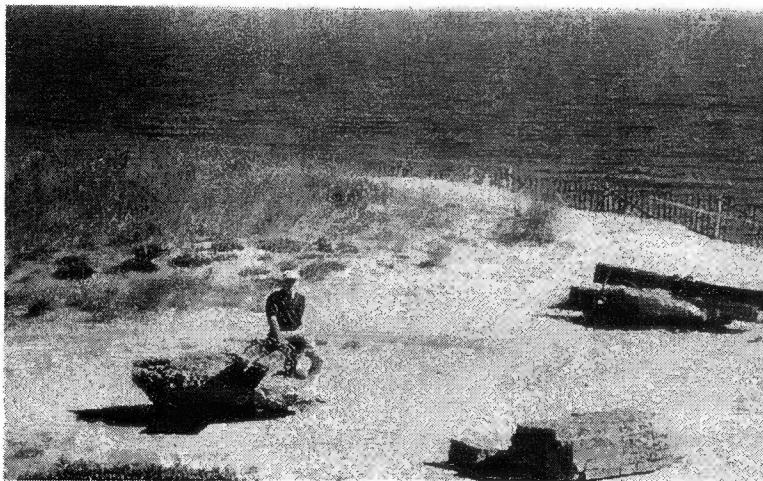
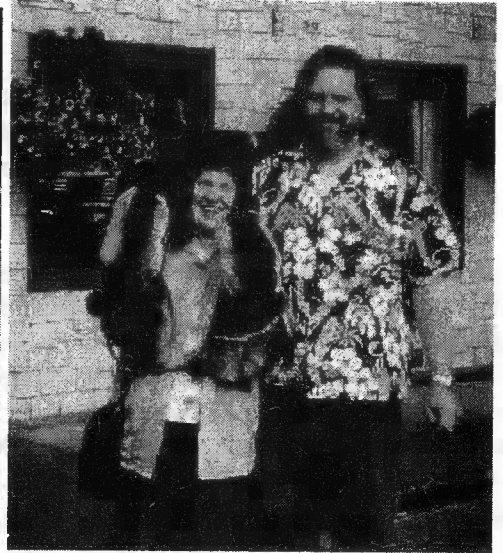
Reference Issue 2003

If there is a change/correction you want made to your call on the main list please let me know ASAP. We're putting together the Reference Issue for 2003 and want to make sure we have YOUR information correct.

Bob, WL7US - Stan, K4UK - Bob, WL7WH
in Alaska



N1TX and K4UK's XYL Carolyn wearing "cold
weather gear!" (Alaska)



FISTS on vacation

My XYL and I recently took a vacation in MA and spent a week on Cape Cod. I have always been interested in Marconi and his "Wireless Station" at Wellfleet, on Cape Cod, where he completed the first transatlantic contact, so I decided to visit the old Marconi site. It is now part of the National Parks Service, Cape Cod National Seashore, next to "Marconi Beach".

The site has a small building with some informational maps, a memorial plaque and a model of what the wireless station looked like in the early 1900's. I have a 9 x 12 blowup of an early-1900's color postcard of the station hanging on my shack wall, yes it looks the same! There are only a few small artifacts left from the station itself, some guy anchors and small pieces of foundation. The majority of the station has now been swept out into the Atlantic due to massive beach erosion over the years. Just thinking of the history of Morse code makes me extra proud to be a ham and FISTS #2153. 73, Paul WA9PWP FISTS 2153

Forget about your computers and your memory keys! They are all too easy to use. If you want real automated memory keyer operation, get yourself a World War II Model 19 Teletype. Talk about solid state! Read on and find out how much fun you can have!

The Model 19 Teletype was actually a combination of four units: a model 15 printer/keyboard, a transmitter/distributor (TD) or punched paper tape reader, a paper tape punch, and a thyratron power supply. All four pieces were mounted on a steel table for convenience. The thyratron power supply provided a patch panel and the necessary DC voltage which was basically 120 VDC at 60 ma. This was overly complicated so most of us used an isolation transformer and half wave rectifier. The various motors ran on 115 VAC. Incoming TTY signals were printed on the printer and/or the tape punch. If you wanted to you could also prepare messages or whatnot on the tape punch for later use. A pre-punched tape was read and transmitted by the TD.

This arrangement was noisy, oily, and large. But it was fun to watch all this mechanical stuff whirring and clicking. It even had a bell or two you could ring. But how did it send CW?

Turns out if you put a polar relay in series with the TD and made a tape with special characters, the output of the polar relay was very good CW. If I remember right, the Letters Key on the keyboard set the polar relay one way while the Numbers Key set it the other.

A polar relay, by the way, was a large two coil relay that was used to translate the incoming signals to something the teletype could use. Current in one direction would close the relay in one direction. Lack of current would not reset the relay. Kind of like a latching relay but not really. It's operation was much faster than many relays today.

Anyway, to prepare a CW tape on a teletype, you sat at your keyboard and press LTRS and NUM as required for each character and space. The letter A was "LTR NUM LTR LTR LTR" for a dot, a space, and a dash. The letter Q was "LTR LTR LTR NUM LTR LTR LTR NUM LTR NUM LTR LTR LTR NUM." One LTR was a dot, three LTR gave you a dash, and NUM gave you a space. Easy? Sure. When you were finally done, you put the paper tape in the TD and the polar relay made good CW.

The CW output was near perfect. The dot/dash ratio was always 3-to-1 and the speed was a constant 15 words per minute, if I remember correctly. You could prepare any number of messages, contest exchanges, or rag tapes and have them ready for easy use.

*...it was fun to
watch all this
mechanical
stuff whirring
and clicking*

So why isn't this system in use by every CW operator today? It had problems. The tapes were fragile and oily. You had to store them somewhere. You either had piles of tape everywhere

or hung them from the rafters on nails. The speed was constant (slow). The tapes were impossible to correct if you made a change or mistake. The Model 19 Teletype is huge by today's standards. It's the size of a small desk.

Did I actually ever use this system? Yep! In the early 1970's, Model 19's could be acquired from MARS programs with the implied obligation that you would use them in MARS nets.

I remember using this set up as the start up for one VHF CW net. You connect the relay to a code oscillator and hold the microphone against the speaker. Crude, but it worked. Did I ever use it during a CW contest? No. Too slow.

As you can see, we hams are adaptive. If there is a way to extend the usefulness of a piece of equipment, we will discover it. Even if it seems to be a silly waste of time!

The third annual Coast-to-Coast FISTS Club QSO Party was another big success for all involved. Thanks to some "unregistered" clubs participating, most notably VK4RC from Down Under, W8NCK, and KC7EQW, we exceeded our goal of 30 clubs total on the air. Of course, some clubs were not on for the entire 20 hours, so we didn't all have an equal chance at all clubs, but the overall activity and participation level was superb. From the logs I have seen, it also appears that the multi-band bonus point feature was well used, with lots of multiple band QSOs racked up for clubs and individuals. Fortunately, the sunspots were our friends this time around and all bands from 80 to 10 meters had good reports. Despite the number of clubs and good band conditions, however, we didn't receive nearly as many orders for Platinum level certificates as last year. Also, it was a bit disappointing that we were unable to muster much in the way of DX clubs, which is becoming a perennial challenge. However, there appeared to be quite a bit of individual DX exchanges. Some results follow:

Table 1 - Top Reported Scores for Individuals

| Call | Name | Score | Clubs | Level | Points | Total Points |
|--------|-------------------|-------|-------|----------|--------|--------------|
| WB0PYF | Raymond A. Myers | 7986 | 20 | Platinum | 11 | 31 |
| KD5GRF | Carl Headrick | 8033 | 17 | Gold | 11 | 26 |
| WA3GNW | Bruce Gibson | 7878 | 20 | Platinum | 0 | 20 |
| WD9EMF | Vic Maue | 8574 | 19 | Gold | 0 | 19 |
| NG7Z | Paul Beringer | 5368 | 11 | Silver | 6 | 17 |
| K4UK | Stan Reas | 2934 | 16 | Gold | 0 | 16 |
| W5AJX | Donald C. Zelenka | 9361 | 16 | Gold | 0 | 16 |
| AC7QG | Paul Davis | 8697 | 10 | Silver | 4 | 14 |
| KS7J | Casey Bahr | 3648 | 10 | Silver | 3 | 13 |
| W4YE | Buddy Smith | 3929 | 7 | Bronze | 0 | 7 |
| K4ORD | Riley Dudley | 4272 | 6 | Bronze | 1 | 7 |

Table 1 shows the top ten total point scores (number of clubs plus bonus points for working clubs on a different band). WB0PYF, Ray Myers, came in with 20 clubs and 31 points total to take the #1 spot for individuals. As promised in the C2C awards section, all these folks (with the exception of myself, hi) will be receiving small prizes in the form of credits for FISTS Club Supplies. The top three will receive \$5 each and the remaining top scorers will get \$3.50 each to be used for ordering any of the fine logo products, etc. available from FISTS NA HQ.

Table 2 - Top Reported Scores for Clubs

| Call | Club Name | Score | Clubs | Level | Points | Total Points |
|--------|---|-------|-------|----------|--------|--------------|
| K7FFF | FISTS Northwest | 4400 | 21 | Platinum | 15 | 36 |
| W4FCR | FISTS QSL Bureau Club | 7007 | 19 | Gold | 13 | 32 |
| W5DAR | Deming ARC | 7500 | 16 | Gold | 5 | 21 |
| W4MVZ | Working Class Telegraphy Club of W.Cent. FL | 7600 | 12 | Silver | 6 | 18 |
| W3GR | Historical Electronics Museum ARC | 9275 | 13 | Silver | 3 | 16 |
| W7PXL | The Valley Radio Club | 8800 | 15 | Gold | 0 | 15 |
| KC7EQW | Imperial Valley ARC | 8675 | 10 | Silver | 4 | 14 |
| W8PIG | Flying Pigs QRP Club | 7373 | 9 | Bronze | 0 | 9 |
| VK4RC | Redcliffe Radio Club | 9066 | 6 | Bronze | 0 | 6 |

Table 2 shows some club scores as reported to me informally, and probably does not represent all the top scorers necessarily, but I thought them worth noting (especially since FNW comes out on "top" in this tabulation, hi hi). Informally, it looked like W4FCR came in with the most QSOs

total, 180, with K7FFF not far behind with 155. In all fairness, many of the clubs only have one op to man the key, whereas K7FFF had 5, so scale accordingly.

Finally, let me just share a few anecdotal post-event comments made from individuals and clubs.

From Stan Reas, K4UK: Greatest kick I had was this morning at 1107 UTC when I got on 20 Meters and tuned the "dead" band. So I gave out a "CQ-C2C" and was immediately answered by VK4RC the Redcliffe Radio Club station and got - 579, George, VK, 9066. George wanted a contact with his own call VK4XY so I obliged and got - 579, George, VK, 9069. And then all H— broke loose. George must have been called by 10 other stations after we had signed. - Hi! Another case of: "The band must be dead, I don't hear anything on it."

From K8FST, Fairborn FISTS Club: "K8FST made quite a few contacts from Ohio. One of our operators was having so much fun, he just kept going after the event was over. Said he had not had that much fun in years. Lots of QRN here on Friday night on the lower bands due to storms in the area, but 20 was going good. Great fun and met a few new FISTS also..."

From K7FD, trustee for K7LOW QRPacific FISTS Club: We worked 34 FISTS members, with the lion's share on 20m. Forty meters made up for the rest, sans 2 on 75m. Biggest complaint: the event is TOO SHORT! :) This was so much fun, we should have gone until 9PM instead of 9AM. I would've loved a full Saturday on 20m..."

I would presume that by the time you read this article, that if you had ordered a Coast-to-Coast award certificate you have received it by now. In any case, no more orders can be taken for this year due to Robin Faulkner, N7GSU, having run out of the special supplies for these fine awards. Much thanks goes out to Robin for once again supplying the skill and know-how to produce these heirloom quality certificates. Also, special thanks to all the clubs and individual participants

in this unique event, you are what make it so special. I hope that next year will be an even bigger success. 73 to all!! - Casey, KS7J/K7FFF, FISTS Northwest

Unusual QSO Stories

This is from Jeff KE9V: I was working 20m late one night when I hooked up with a fellow in New Mexico. His name was Bill and after exchanging the usual info we got into a long ragchew.

Bill told me that he was 78 years old and had retired from NASA. He was a flight engineer from the earliest days at NASA and retired at the conclusion of the Apollo program.

His XYL had died while he was still working and he had no other family. After retiring, he moved west to New Mexico where he bought a 40 acre "ranchette" in the middle of nowhere. He was living off the grid, and was totally energy self-sufficient. He told me that he would drive into a nearby town once or twice a month to buy food and supplies, get a haircut, and to pick up his retirement and social security checks from a PO box that he maintained there.

He had a lot to say about the complexities of life in a technological age and he had decided to go back to living a much simpler existence. He claimed that other than his amateur radio gear and a large generator, there weren't any electronics in his home. He had lived like this for six years when I worked him, and I asked him if he had any regrets. In fact, his only regret was his concern that he might drop dead and his dog would starve since he didn't expect that anyone would find him for quite some time. He went on to say that if he ever falls ill, he planned to shoot his dog to prevent him from starving to death.

After thousands of CW contacts in my life, I think that one is the one that stands out as the most unusual.

How about you, FISTS, what is the most unusual CW contact that you can recall? 73 de Jeff, KE9V
Send them in, we'd like to hear about them!!



FISTS CW CLUB "DOWN UNDER"

Newsletter – Nov / Dec 2002

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Visit our Web Site: <http://fistsdownunder.morsekeys.com>

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to our new members this month:

ZL2TW-Stuart Watchman-#9086, whose home is in Blenheim, just across Cook Strait from Wellington. Blenheim is the chief town of the Marlborough district, a tourist Mecca, renowned for its sunshine, fine wines and other produce and the beautiful Marlborough Sounds.

VK3CGB-Chris Brett-#9087 Chris lives in Stanley, Victoria. Originally known as Snake Gully or Nine Mile, Stanley was a bustling gold mining town during the 1850's and 1860's. Today it is surrounded by orchards that provide fine local produce with berries and cherries in high summer and apples, walnuts and chestnuts throughout autumn.

VK3FGE-David Bell-#9088, from Porepunkah, Victoria. Porepunkah is an Urdu (Indian) word meaning "gentle breeze." In the gold rush days it was a target for prospectors. Nowadays the town is a tourist centre adjacent to the Australian alpine region and catering for a wide range of outdoor activities.

ZL1RED - Will Redfern # 9089, hails from Tauranga, and is sponsored by Derek, ZL1CYK as his way of thanking Will for all the help he has given him. He is very new to the bands having recently passed the new 5 w.p.m. Morse test. So, when you do hear Will, slow down please!

MEMBERS – PROFILES

Bill Cox, ZL2BIL # FISTS 9003

I was building crystal sets and short wave receivers more than half a century ago and served with the Royal Signals for three years in the 1950s, recalled some 18 months later for the short-lived Suez crisis. Had a couple of goes at theory when in England and got close to sitting the exam when job and QTH changes got in the way. We came to NZ in 1974 and I again started out on the trail in the early 80s, but once again a job move put paid to that attempt.

Finally, when retired I went for it and was first licensed as ZL2WRC in October 1994, passed the 12 wpm in December that year and got the current call sign – ZL2BIL.

Radio interests have ranged a bit, with QRP taking up a lot of time in the early days, rigs being an 80M Chelmsford and a Heathkit HW7, the latter now at the Waikanae Museum. The Chelmsford is still here, along with a recently acquired 40M companion. Main rigs are an FT101B and an FT7 (10 watts). Antennas are dipoles for 20M and 15M and a J pole for 2M. No space for an 80M dipole, but hopefully we will be leaving this QTH for a larger place with some ground!

Have made just 2 SSB contacts in the last four years or so, CW being the rule.

Former President Kapiti Amateur Radio Society (Branch 69). Love Field Days and if the 80M dipole does get erected will be back into the local contests with the Chelmsford. Don't go for awards, though I have a few NZ one's plus the 1000 miles per watt award. Currently collecting Islands on the Air (I.O.T.A.)

Married 38 years to Catherine and we have 2 sons, neither interested in Ham Radio.

Stuart Watchman, ZL2TW # FISTS 9086

My first recollection of amateur radio was in the mid seventies as a 10 year old visiting the shack of a friend of my fathers. He very generously gave me a copy of the '74 ARRL handbook that got me hooked. We later shifted to Whangarei, our neighbour turned out to be Doug ZL1BFS who helped teach radio classes for the Northland branch. Before long I had finished a course and was licensed as ZL1UBS, all at the age of 14. Doug taught me some very valuable lessons about transmission lines, especially the low loss of open wire lines when SWR is high.

I drifted from school into a technician job with the old NZPO and ended up in the radio branch in Christchurch. Working in radio killed off any interest as a hobby. It became obvious that the NZPO was heading for a major shake-up so I somehow ended up in Dunedin at medical school, I now work in the A and E department at Wairau hospital in Blenheim. I must say that I enjoyed my five years with the old PO and what I learned helps a lot with my home brewing.

Having finally settled down I have become active in radio again and after 22 years finally 'got my CW'. About half of my contacts on HF are CW, I really enjoy the ease of making DX contacts on CW with a modest station. I use a TS-130s and an 80-metre horizontal full wave delta loop, fed with ladder line of course! The loop is a great multi-band antenna; there are other wire antennas besides the G5RV! I'm afraid that my CW is still coming along, I am unable to copy much in my head and I still miss a bit when copying but I am slowly getting there. Despite this I still find CW relaxing and it is amazing how fast the time goes during a CW QSO. I get a great deal of enjoyment out of helping preserve this unique mode.

SUGGESTED H/F CALLING FREQUENCIES

(160M) – 1.808MHz, (80M) – 3.528MHz, (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.

DOWN UNDER MEMBERS' NEWS

VK8JC – James # 9076 reports that he has a new US call, **KC4MC**. He has been quite active from Alice Springs and already QSL cards are arriving at the bureau.

When renewing their subscriptions, **ZL2OY-Ron-9035** and **ZL1BLR-Len-#9061** included generous donations. Thanks Ron and Len. Len says he has trouble getting connected to the Internet. Can any of our members in the locality assist him please?

Len has just qualified for his CC award; congratulations! He says he is currently using a low (4 – 5 metres high) dipole and a 40-metre delta loop while his mast and beam are awaiting installation. He attributes the delay to a surfeit of snooker!

ZL2ZLW-Iain # 0012 has joined the ranks of the Old Timers Club and has the OTC number # 1157.

ZL1DD-Barry # 9029 is the organiser for another Straight Key Night on **Sunday 3 November 2002** from 07:00 to 10:00 Z. See details below. Barry thanks **Ian ZL2IH** for his donation of a ZC1 Mk.2.

Knowing I had worked Barry under another call sign I asked him what it was. His reply caught me by surprise!

"I had ZL4OK in the 1960s, ZL1BN from the early 70s and then in a fit of mild madness, when the call sign business opened up reverted to ZL4OK in the late 90s. Then ZL1DD who was an old friend went SK, his family asked me to take the call, which I was happy to do. Seems to work well, Hi. Bert came from a Waiheke Island Pioneer family, so nice to keep the call on the island."

JE1CLH-Mack # 9012 has had some problems. His amplifier has been hospitalised for some weeks. The surgeons reported that the repair would cost about ¥100,000 (\$NZ 2,000 approx.) Sadly there is no Medicare for amplifiers! To add to this, his beam was damaged in a recent typhoon that struck central Japan. It also took out some chestnut trees but fortunately his home and dental office, escaped damage.

VK2IC – Tony (ex ZL4DE), apparently obtained a FISTS "Down Under" Newsletter from somewhere and kindly e-mailed yours truly, in reply to the question – What was the Call Sign of T.E.V.Rangitira. He says it was British Registry "GOOR". Thank you Tony – how about joining us in FISTS? See our Web Site – Header above!

ZL1MAD – Dusty - # 9051, worked Luis, XE2LF in Sonora, Mexico and decided to send a QSL direct, including a few free pamphlets about New Zealand, from the Visitor Information Centre. They cost no more to post than a card on its own. He has never had such an enthusiastic response! This is how it went –

"Hello Dusty Friend, thanks for your QSL and Pamphlets of your pretty republica. Hardly this Friday I found your letter in the mail, some times the mail is very slow here. Already I have some pamphlets of our state of Sonora in your language, single is necessary I will write letters. I am very contented, to have in my hands first QSL of your country, there single who never I answer myself, will place yours between the others first of other countries that I have in a frame, this week will send my letter to you.

By these days of August we have been much warm here and zero rains, it is necessary to be with refrigeration all the day and the night, friend please saludame to your appreciable family of our part, if in something I can serve to you, I am your you order. I take leave with a strong hug 73's well Your Amigo Luis H. Harrison, XE2LF".

(Incredible Dusty – the pamphlet idea is great! Full marks to Luis – Wish I could speak Spanish as well as he does English. I thought he was FISTS but don't see him on my new list. – Ed)

ZL1CDX – Turner # 9048, writes that he recently sold his Isuzu 4WD (see photographs). He still has the Spare Wheel Cover with "Ham Radio etc" on it. If any of the lads have a 4 X 4 and need a cover, I have one for sale. All that needs doing is the removal of my call sign and put their call sign in its place. XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX or QTHR.

VK4RC – Redcliffe Amateur Radio Club # 9066, operated by Bevan, VK4BCM # 9053, was quite active handing out the club bonus points during the recent CTC event. QSL cards are already filtering through the bureau for this rarity.

ZL1BRS – Syd # 9013, had his QSL card to W6DDB returned, free of charge in the ordinary mail, with no explanation and wonders how this happened. W6DDB is still active as I heard him recently and his FISTS number is O.K.

(Strange Syd, however your QSL has been resubmitted to Bill, W6DDB – who does QSL via the FISTS Bureau – Ed)

Syd, bemoans the fact that Club Stations are like "Hens Teeth". He has managed to gain his Silver Award – Congratulations – and is now aiming for the next Platinum Certificate, but it's a bit of a struggle!

OVERSEAS MEMBERS NEWS

TF3DX – Villi # FISTS 1638, sent in the following the visit of Don, ZL1UB, to Iceland. (Photographs appear later in this issue).

TF/ZL1UB/M log 2002

On our way from Keflavik airport to Reykjavik:

2. August 2002, QTH: Vogar

Freq. 14.034 MHz. Don, I have torn off the part of the page containing your QSO with Nigel ZL2TX, but mine started at 07:18 UTC, actually on the road between the airport and Vogar. I gave him 439 and got 339 initially, but the signals were coming up, especially when we got down to the Vogar harbour, 569 I think. I don't remember the RST exchange between you two, but suppose you have retained the slip. (I hope he has – Ed)

During the sightseeing trip: Whip antenna: 1m leg + 0.2 m coil core + 2.43 m whip = 3.63 m (total height over road 4.8 m) (80 m coil adds 0.2 m)

4. August 2002, QTH: Skalholt Vehicle: Mitsubishi L300 minibus, 4WD, diesel engine

11:39 3633 TF3KB/1 sent: 539 001 Skalholt whip 200 W ER rcvd: 559 005 Thjorsardalur 100 W dipole ER

11:46 3633 TF3KM sent: 539 002 Skalholt whip 200 W ER rcvd: 439 QRN 01 Reykjavik 100 W LW RA

11:59 3633 TF3EE sent: 219 rcvd: 409 (sic!)

RST 409 – Oh it seems all "Newcomer's" believe in the S Meter!

Tcwr: Yeasu FT100, 100 W output (estimated 200 W input)

The following article appeared in the September / October N.Z.A.R.T Magazine "Break In" under "The Morseman" column by Gary Bold ZL1AN # FISTS 9008 to whom due acknowledgement is made. I am reprinting this article in the hope that it will give encouragement to those newer members who may be finding Morse a bit of a struggle or those trying to pluck up courage to have a go!

The "First QSO" Helper Group

From Charlie, ZL3CED "Dropping you a line to let you know how the first CW QSO went. It was absolutely nerve racking but the next day I was walking around like an air head, I had really done it! I got hooked there and then. It has now been a month since I had this CW QSO with Ron, ZL1TW. His help has been absolutely incredible. To date we've had 10 QSOs and are intending to meet on Monday nights on 80 metres, so he can push me along and provide feedback." "Now I'm chasing DX! Sending my own CQs on 80 and 20 metres and having some real good ragchews when I find someone who is going at my present speed. I did not believe I would be this far ahead after a month." "I must mention ZL2AOH, ZL2TX, ZL2BBB, ZL1CDX and ZL1PC (all FISTS members), who all gave me tremendous encouragement and positive feedback. Your little group's idea of having volunteers available for the FIRST CW QSO really works! I am living proof!"

That speaks for itself, Charlie well done, and welcome to the worldwide fellowship of CW ops. The group mentioned is co-ordinated by Ron, ZL1TW and Paul, ZL1PC who have respective e-mail addresses

zl1tw@nzart.org.nz

zl1pc@nzart.org.nz

Just e-mail, telephone or write to either of them to set up your first CW QSO, or tune around 3520khz in the early evening. Friendship, understanding and encouragement guaranteed!

Incidentally, Ron tells me that the new lower-speed Morse testing requirements in many countries seem to be having an effect. There are more low-speed (10 – 15 w.p.m.) operators appearing on all of the H.F. Bands, making it easier for other newcomers to obtain contacts at speeds they can comprehend. I'm not surprised, as I predicted that this would happen.

- Gary Bold, ZL1AN

(Charlie and Gary, thank you both! – It is really heart warming, to read an article such as this! Maybe more of our members will turn up on 3520khz to assist newcomers! – Ed)

Editorial :

Being an Editor of a small newsletter, such as this, is not an easy task and many times I have sat back and scratched my head trying to think what to put next. I count myself lucky in the fact, that the members of "Down Under" and indeed overseas, are only too happy, to forward items and photographs for inclusion in the newsletter. I must especially mention my Mentor, Ralph, ZL2AOH, who has always been willing to assist and advise me, in my efforts as Editor. Thank you Ralph!

Over the past year I have received quite a few photographs, which I have been unable to publish due to space limitations.

With this issue I have decided to look back over the past year and publish the photographs received, as attachments to the newsletter. It is always nice to put a face to the person one works on the key. If I have missed anyone's photographs – please accept my apologies.

The past year has seen a large increase in "Down Under" members both in Australia and New Zealand and Asia. It would be very satisfying if over the coming year we could achieve 100 members locally. With this in mind, I ask all our members to tell your friends about FISTS and point them in the direction of our Web Site:

<http://fistsdownunder.morsekeys.com>

As this is the last issue this year, the next being in January 2003, all that remains for me to do is to wish all of you and yours a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2003.

May God Bless you all.

Nigel Hardy, ZL2TX, Editor & QSL Manager for New Zealand.

Ralph Sutton, ZL2AOH, Membership / Awards Liaison.

Chris Thompson, VK2MQX, Newsletter Distributor & QSL Manager for Australia.

Georg Goerge, VK2DLF, Fists Down Under Web Master

FISTS DOWN UNDER NEWSLETTER

Please note that there will be no December issue of FISTS "Down Under". The next issue will be in early JANUARY 2003.

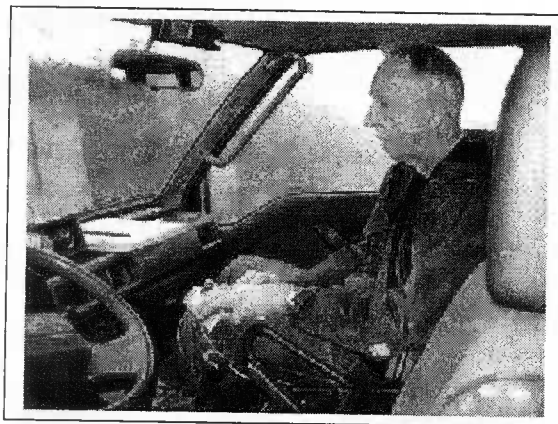
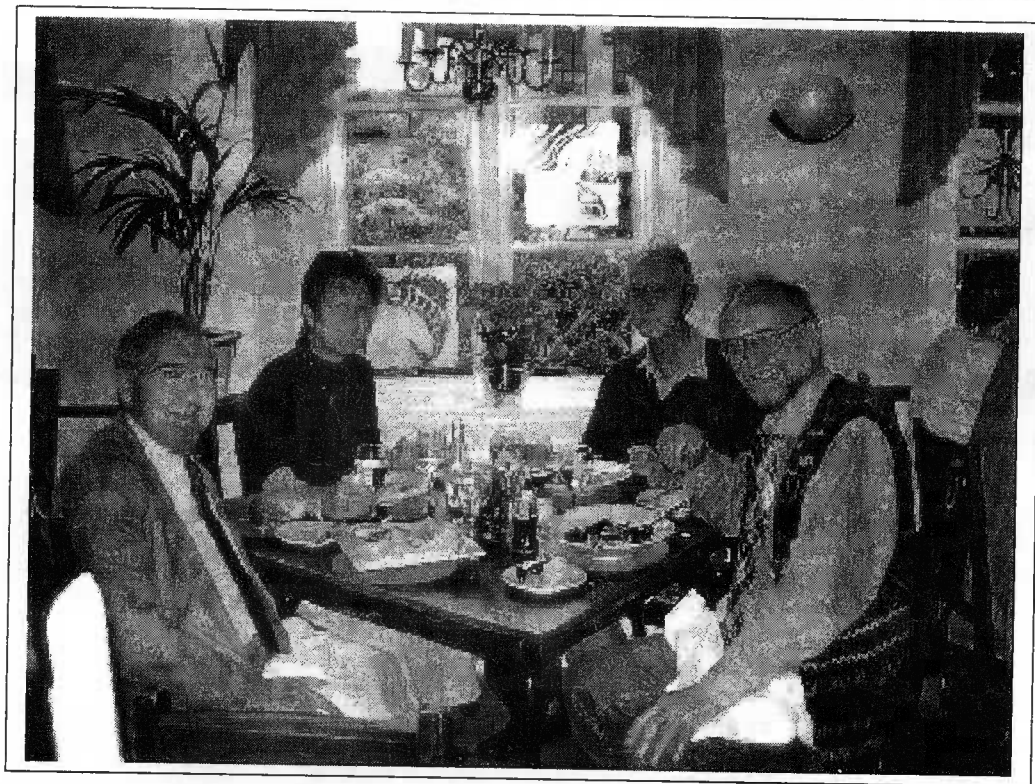
During the Holidays, the FISTS QSL BUREAU will continue to function, so keep those cards coming

FISTS DOWN UNDER PHOTOS (1) – CHRISTMAS 2002

Top Centre : Left to Right: Kris, TF3KM Photographer and Jazz Pianist, Gundrun TF3DX – XYL, Don TF/ ZL1UB and Mine Host Villi TF3DX FISTS # 1638.

Bottom Left : Sightseeing with Villi in pouring rain, Snap on 80 metre coil in place.

Bottom Right : TF/ZL1UB/M concentrating on a TF – Field Day QSO with TF3KB/1.



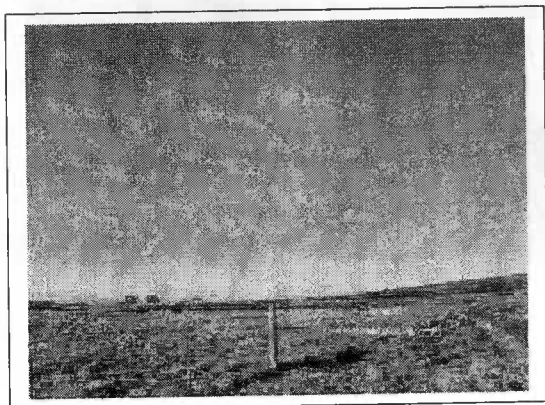
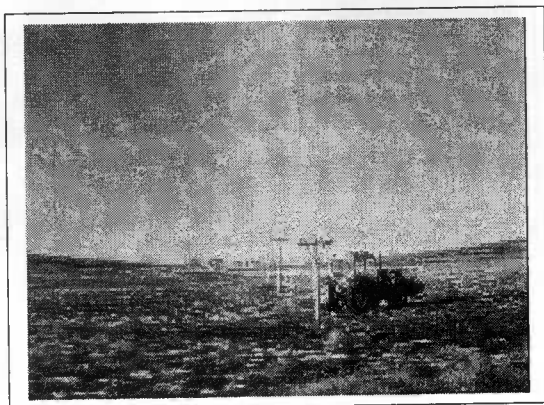
Top Left : Visiting Agust, TF3OM at his Summer Hut. Apart from Radio he and Don share another great hobby.

Top Right : Two Hitch Hikers from Old Zeeland (Holland) picked the right company from Thingvellir to Reykjavik.

Centre : The much travelled Don, ZL1UB, Gullfoss Waterfall in background.

Bottom Left : The Rhombic Aerial, Villi – TF3DX/P, used in his regular tests to "Down Under"

Bottom Right : "A Sad Day – Villi's Rhombic is no more!" The East Mast comes crashing down!



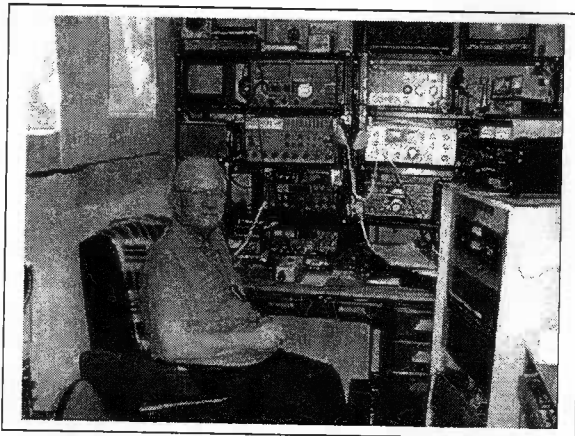
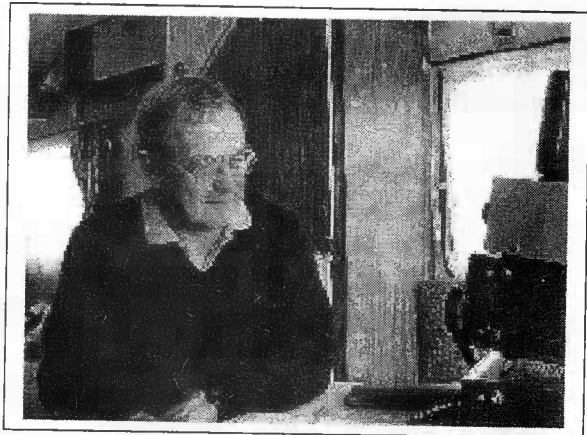
FISTS DOWN UNDER PHOTOS (3) - CHRISTMAS 2002

Top Left : Nigel, ZL2TX # FISTS 9040, operating for Branch 16, Horowhenua, in the N.Z.A.R.T. National Field Day.

Top Right : Ralph, ZL2AOH # FISTS 1073, operating as G/ZL2AOH at the QTH of Chris, G0HFX # FISTS 0236 in U.K.

Bottom Left : New Member, Stuart Watchman, ZL2TW # FISTS 9086, operating from his home in Blenheim.

Bottom Right : The Titanic Memorial Society QSL Card 90th Anniversary. GB90MGY - "TITANIC/MGY"

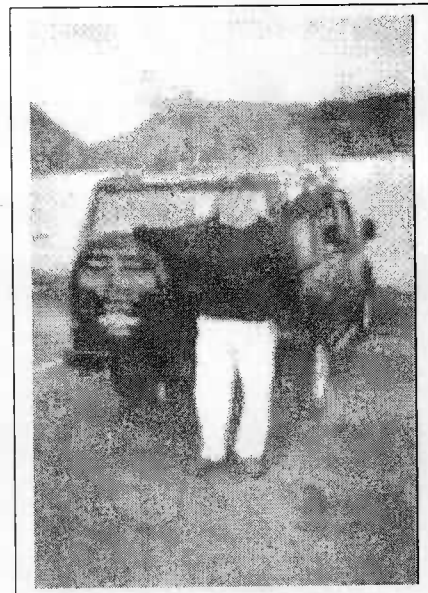
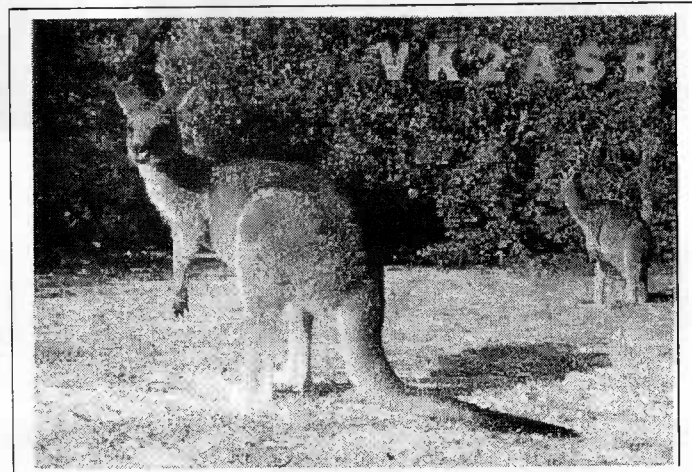
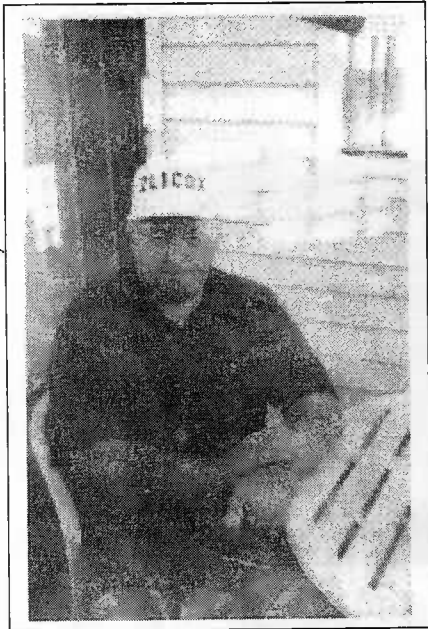


Top Left / Bottom Left : Turner (Geordie), ZL1CDX, FISTS # 9048, relaxing at home. Hey where is the beer? Can't I am driving the Ambulance!

Top Right : The Order of St. John 900th Anniversary – QSL Card. ZM1OSJ operated by Turner, ZL1CDX and Len, ZL1BLR both FISTS members.

Middle Right : The Truly VK QSL card of VK2ASB, Arthur # FISTS 9082. How about a personal photo?:

Bottom Right : Roger, ZL2RX, FISTS # 9084, operating from Nelson. His resume was in last month's newsletter!



FISTS DOWN UNDER PHOTOS I & II – CHRISTMAS 2002

Top Left : Then there were the storms in July. This is what happened to the vehicle belonging to Carolyn – XYL of Stan, K4UK FISTS # 2934.

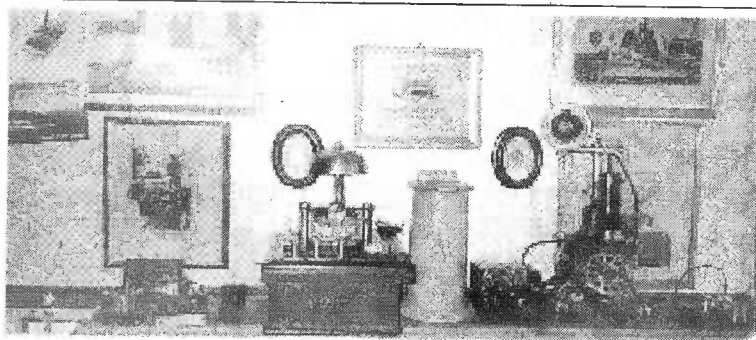
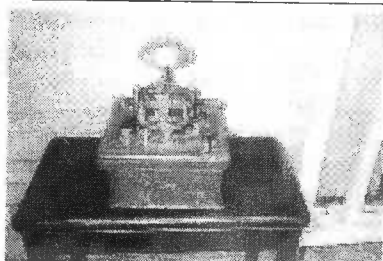
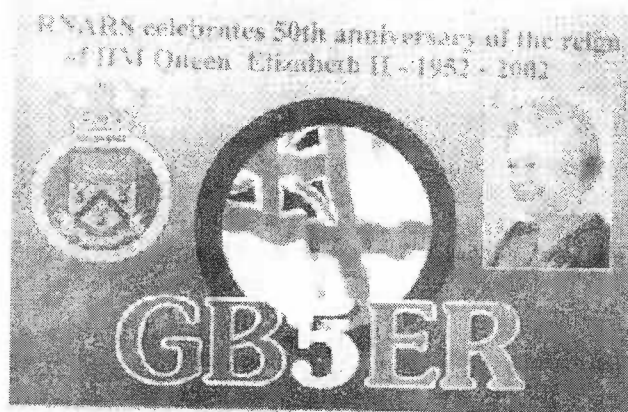
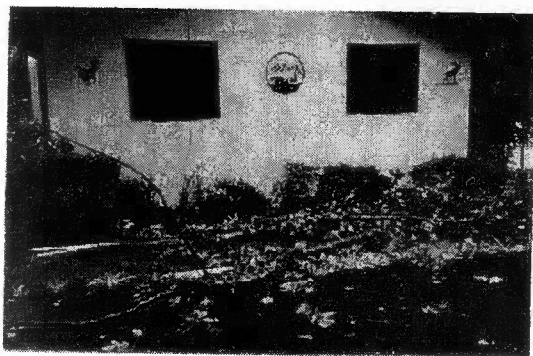
Top Right : The Vehicle was bad enough, but the house suffered too. Imagine telephone O.K. – Cable T.V. broken, no T.V. for a week, and Stan's (K4UK) All Band Trap Dipole a "Goner" too!

Centre Left : Stan, K4UK (U.S.A. QSL Manager) operating K4UK/MM aboard "Carnival Spirit" Juneau, Alaska. (KL7)

Centre Right : H.M. Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee Celebrations. " GB5ER QSL Card" – Operated by R.N.A.R.S. Members.

Bottom Left : The British Rail Telegraph key, Sounder and Bell, purchased by Chuck M0AVW # FISTS 2896

Bottom Right : The Mini Telegraph Key Collection of Chuck M0AVW # FISTS 2896





KEY NOTE



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COMMITTEE

Chairman
Vice Chairman
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>
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.freemove.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, BARNSELY, S73 9AE.

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

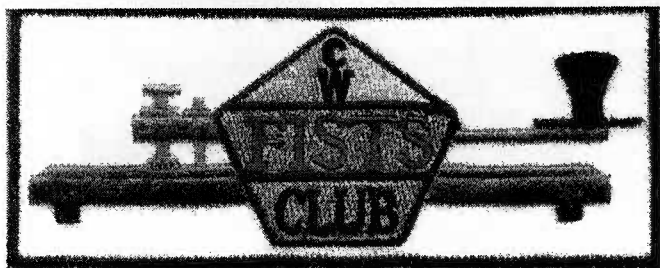
G2, G5, G6, G8 (Except for Wales) and **ALL special** (GB etc) calls to M0BPT. 38 Wheatley St, WEST BROMWICH, B70 9TJ.

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

There was a fair degree of confusion last month when Chuck (M0AVW) received samples of the new fabric patch from Stan, K4UK, and we assumed that Stan was



responsible for their sale and distribution. I was most impressed with them and sent Chuck some green stamps and instructions to ask Stan to send a few so they would be to hand for any EU members. This consequently led to email messages which were mis-interpreted by Nancy intimating that either Chuck, Stan or both thought that I was partisan and would not be prepared to accept and distribute items emanating from the US. It matters not to me from whence FISTS oriented items originate - just as long as they do the job of enhancing the club and it transpired that Nancy had already asked her Mom, WO8E, to send 100 patches to me pdq. These are in the form of a gift from the US gang and they are now available at HQ for £1.50 each including postage to help the funds and possible purchase of a replacement laser printer in the near future. As you can see from the accompanying scan, they go some way towards correcting the impression that FISTS is some sort of pugilistic club. Hi.

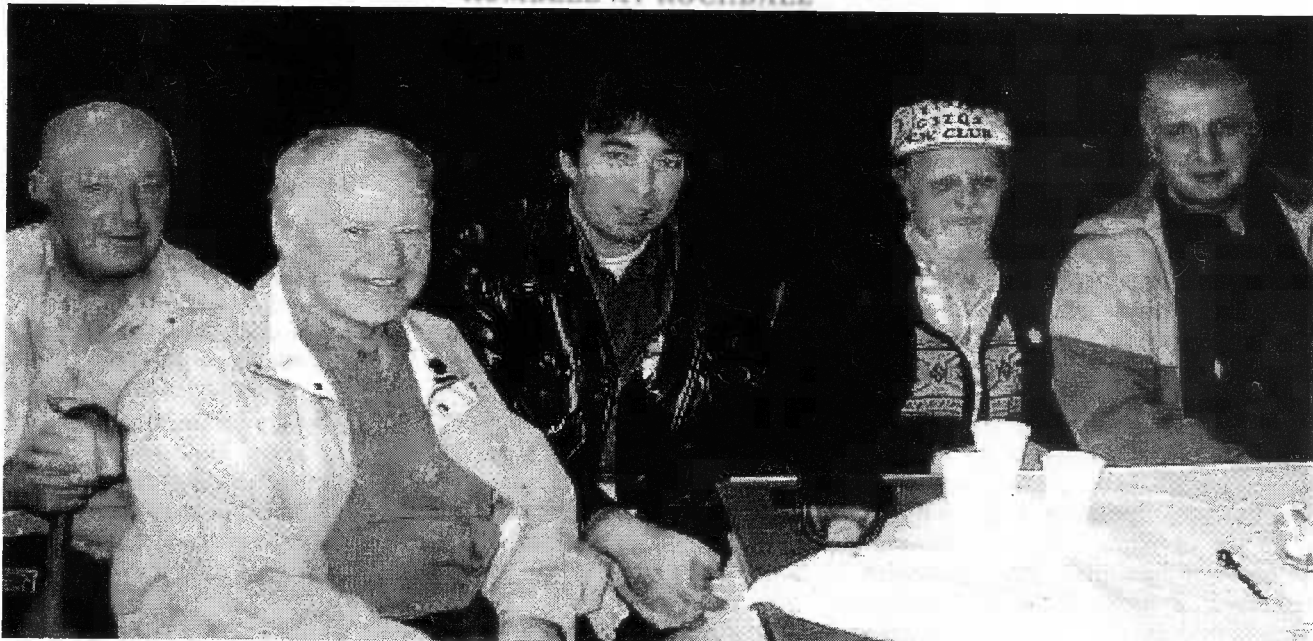
They are incidentally, machine stitched and thus will not colla-pse if exposed to rain.

QSL Cards

Many of you have not been reading the leader on this page. You are asked to include postage which incidentally, is significantly less than that which the Post Office actually demands. I know that the excess of 30p doesn't sound much for UK despatch but it does get a wee bit hefty when the destination is Europe or other DX. The actual costs for 200 cards within the UK is around £1.30 but the cost quoted is held at £1.00 for the convenience of those who send cash rather than cheques.

Printer

The current laser (HP4V) is becoming somewhat quirky in its old age and I can no longer sit back and watch it pick out a sheet at a time from the stack and get on with the job. I have to stand there like some guardsman at attention wearing a rubber finger and coaxing each sheet individually. It is of course an A3 rather than the standard A4 printer because it is also used to prepare the paper litho plates prior to printing Keynote. The replacement will not have to accommodate that size stock of course (the HP4V will still do it) and ideally, it should be capable of duplex printing so that listings etc which are printed back-to-back can be done in one rather than two operations. There is still life in the old gal so I am not pushing too hard at the present time but it is a case of when and not if its successor will be required.



Much QRM was evident at the G-QRP gathering with (left to right) G3JMZ, G3ZFZ, G0TUE, G3ZQS, G0JWB. As usual I departed with virtually the same brass with which I arrived but this tradition was almost changed by a very impressive Russian made camel back key for sale. Sanity prevailed when I noted a small label with the inscription '£98.00'.

Are you wearing out?

All this however is symptomatic of the same trend which out-dates your fire-breathing all-singing state of the art rig just a couple of months after you bought it. Redundancy it seems is built into everything these days and not least ourselves. It is this which probably accounts for the enthusiasm exhibited by a few for coaxing the last gasp of CW from bottle bound ex-military kit and the fascination found by those who work such equipment on-air. If GM3PIP manages to cure his 1154/5 combo of hiccups it will be a delight not only to himself but to those who participate in on-air QSOs with it. Keep up the good work. You and others of the same ilk have my deepest admiration mate.

Optical Paddles again!

"There is nothing new under the sun" quotes John, G3BEX with a photocopy of a certificate from GW8IH in which Noel acknowledges the world's first 2-way QSO using optical keying. This was dated May, 1988 so the concept has been brewing for some time now. Hi.

QRM

There I was harking to 3558 and someone sending (with a rather

poor fist) either weather obs or, more likely, cypher. The problem here though was that the guy was not only 20db over S9 but the TX was in RTTY mode so he was actually occupying a full KHz of band space. LF of the data proper was a reverse echo which meant a constant carrier on key up. When he had thankfully finished I was left

wondering if he knew that he had been in FSK mode and whether he got a 'rollocking' for it? Hi.

EMAIL Keynote

Andy and I are still finding a lot of work due to changed email addresses which are not notified. Email subscribers please advise Andy, G0JLX, of any address changes and CC to me here at HQ so I can keep my records up to date.

THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

G4GKF. George solved a problem from last month's info on the Curtis chip and keying modes. Replacing his FT101ZD with a new FT920, his dismay with the keying eclipsed the delight he experienced with all the bells and whistles since the keying is seemingly in "B" mode. Since the mode is dependent upon which one of two pins are grounded it should be simple enough to correct and I have set up a communication between himself and the originator of the item. Meanwhile, if anyone else has done this job with a rice box, I am sure the info would be appreciated. **MODAW.** Our David lends his voice to a prominent minority who are not afraid of speaking out. He has for some time now taken care to avoid a small number of members whose fists leave something to be desired. He is not in the business of blowing whistles (and neither am I come to that) but voices a plea for all to plug in a tape recorder and play back the results after a QSO. He also mentions QSL return rates for non-FISTS QSOs which weighs in at a dismal 5% though FISTS returns so far amount to

only 16 out of 29. There may be others in the pipeline though David so I guess it's not too bad. **G0TBB**. Bert recently picked up his belongings and fled to pastures new (I know the area well mate) and vows it will be the last time. Wonders how we manage to accumulate all the junk. If you take a look at my spare bedroom, my shack and my cellar mate the question would be justified - and I have recently cleared out at least 50%. Trouble is of course that whenever you want that odd capacitor, transistor or whatever, the collection is in such a mess that it is easier to go out and buy. Hi. **G4SSH**. The QSL card for GB2SCA was accompanied by a letter apologising for the delay due to circumstances beyond the groups' sphere of control. The lighthouse weekend went well and they acknowledge the kind assistance of the Harbour Master in permitting them access. Saturday in particular (being the hottest day of the year) saw temperatures soaring to 80F in the glass bound greenhouse which was the business department of the lighthouse. This same weather was responsible for a local East coast 'sea fret' demanding the application of the fog horn (situated about 10 feet from the operating position) and for three hours they were subject to these periodic blasts which are audible for five miles. There were over 700 contacts in total so, by the time they hauled the cotton wool from their ears, it must be regarded as a success. **G3GUR**. John entered the usual event for the British Wireless for the Blind (transmission 2002) under the call of G2NM. This was the call of Gerald Marcuse prior to his death and has been 'adopted' by the Chichester & Dist ARC which was renewed for the occasion. The call is remembered by many including one in ON land. Tnks for the card John and was a pleasure to work you. **G0VTN**. Not much use for brass these days says Ron - "can't get out to spend it" so passes time issuing orders to 'her indoors' and receiving the old two-fingered salute in exchange together with dire threats of what she is gonna do to some of his anatomical bits 'n pieces if he doesn't shut his 'tater trap'. **G4UIA**. An ancient old string bag flies proud atop his stationery though sadly it is displayed as a mangled heap on the footer. Derek refers to his dictionary which describes a 'Tyke' as a Yorkshireman or a low fellow which, whilst it may come as something of a surprise to the to the residents of the badlands may well resolve a mystery for our transatlantic cousins! Ooops! **G3FIJ** Our Frank (thankee koindezur) is still engaged in the Colchester ARC's schooling of M3 ticket holders both Foundation course and Morse appreciation sessions. Resolves to pursue neighbour, G0SCP, in the ladder but Frank... he has quite a good start for this year!

CONTEST MANAGER

Bob, M5AGL after some dialogue with Dale has assumed the duties of Contest Manager. You will find his address on the banner. I am still waiting for him to make arrangements to get on line but in the meantime results are via snail mail.

SKW RESULTS

From M5AGL a compilation of the 2002 SKW results. Bob comments "*It seems that man G4LHI has again romped away with first place though at least G0SCP is giving him a challenge in the ladder*".

G4LHI (231), G4SQR (68), G0SCP (66), M5AGL (61), G3IUC (55), G4NCU (49), M0AYI (45), G3ZHE/P (37), M0DRK (25), VK3VB (24), M5ABN (21), G0XAH (18), OH7QR (16), M5DAP (9), HB9DEO (7), G4HSO (6), PA3AFF (6).

Some of you are going to have to try harder - there is no mistake about that - but thanks to all who submitted logs. Bob remarks "*It was nice to see we had 10 returns for the September Ladder despite it now being a two horse race. Even more encouraging was the returns from two M3s (M3XGQ Tony) who had 6 points and M3GBT Graham with 58 points.*"

That worthy gent M5ABN received most mentions for Best Fist closely followed by VK3VB and G4LHI (both with equal nominations).

AND THE LADDER

Is that air-hog really being displaced? Annual scores: G0SCP (1731), G4LHI (1710), M5ABN (681), GW0SGG (180), M5AGL (157), G3VQO (145), M0DRK (124), OH7QR (80), M3GBT (75), M0CMQ (71), G0MRH (66), HB9CHE (61), M3XGQ (6).

G0SCP made quite a 'push' for September to get his nose in front of the favourite

SUBS, QSL CARDS ETC

I am sure it is not done with intent but I am still getting incorrect monies. EU members in particular should remember that EU snail mail subs are £7.00 and not \$7.00 US. At current exchange rates this equates to about \$10.00. Also, a few members seem to be referring to prices quoted for QSLs a few years back. 100 cards = £7.00 and 200 = £10.00 plus postage. It costs over £1.00 to send 200 cards in the UK and you can safely reckon at over £2.00 to other destinations. I am not penny pinching folks - the bulk of you are spot on to generous - but those who send less money than is required are not playing the game with the majority. Must get my-self a new pair of mitts and a quill pen. Hi.

GB5FF

A little too late I regret but the Scarborough group were active again 12/13 October in an event they describe as Farewell to Fearless. The Assault ship HMS Fearless had a long and distinguished career including The Falklands conflict and earlier this year, returned to Portsmouth after anti-terrorist duties related to Afghanistan. Her bell and battle honours were presented to Scarborough (her adoptee port) and her white ensign will be lowered for the last time at the end of October. QSL cards will feature a picture of 'Fearless' anchored in Scarborough's South bay, the event being a final salute to the Royal Navy's last steam powered warship.

OOPS! I'VE BEEN HAD

Re. JAWS (photograph Sept Keynote). "This photo is a well known fake. Just search on Yahoo with helicopter and shark". From Harris, VK6AV.

NEW MEMBERS

| | | | | | |
|------|--------|-------|------|--------|--------|
| 8949 | M3XGQ | Tony | 8950 | M5JSW | Steve |
| 8951 | JA8XIC | Kato | 8952 | G4XEC | Laurie |
| 8953 | M0AUW | Dick | 8954 | JR0ECQ | Tomo |
| 8955 | G3HFX | Pete | 8956 | G4JOK | Bob |
| 8957 | G0UPL | Hans | 8958 | DL5DXS | Steve |
| 8959 | JA2BCQ | Kaz | 8960 | M0EOS | Allen |
| 8961 | G4IBH | David | 8962 | JJ1BDX | Joe |
| 8963 | G4VVI | John | 8964 | M3CRD | Clive |
| 8965 | M0MJB | Mark | | | |

You will likely hear Joe signing as JJ1BDX/3 whilst Clive (M3CRD) lives with his OM (M3MCA) and sadly is confined to a wheelchair. Got home tuition for the foundation licence and although he has one of those squawky things attached to his rig, he prefers CW since he also has a speech problem.

QSL BUREAU

Our various QSL managers are continuing to build up small mountains of QSL cards for which there are no corresponding stamps or labels. I know they are hesitant to bounce them over to the National bureau but how long can they continue? If you send QSLs via FISTS then you really should have stamps and labels lodged with the appropriate sub manager.

THE CHRISTMAS BREAK

As usual, I shall be taking a bit of a rest over the Christmas period (some folks have even been known to suggest I have earned it) The December issue will be prepared and circulated hopefully towards the end of November followed by the February issue. It is probably a good time to remind you that the Ladder for 2003 will start on the first Wednesday of January although It is patently untrue that some members have put out a contract on G4LHI and G0SCW so you will likely have to run the gauntlet of those two again. Hi.

G0HFX

It took quite a bit of work messing around with some awful background shadows etc. but here is a likeness of G0HFX. Isn't it just plain unfair that someone should have all that thatch when others amongst us appear to be contestants in the Kojak look-alike competition? Not that I am jealous mark you.. it's just that I miss the raucous cry of a CPO with "Get yer 'air cut you scruffy individual".



COAXIAL TRAPS

John DeGood, NU3E is the author of a very enlightening letter entitled "Attic Antenna" which came into my hands via G3ZPF. He uses coaxial cable and standard plastic pipe fittings to produce traps for a multi-band antenna housed in his loft. Details are given for 80, 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10M traps with associated element lengths. Somewhat too detailed to reproduce here but I have it here (it is in .DOC format) for anyone who would like a copy. Just send me an email and I'll shoot it back to you.

MX5IPX/P

Stuart, G0LOE, completed a couple of weeks activity and seems to have had quite an interesting period. A reminder that the callsign is available to any member though I caution you that you will be flying the flag and that your CW should therefore be beyond reproach.

DX STUFF

Nov 27/30, Ogasawara, 8N1OGA, QSL JARL
 Nov 30/Dec 8, Luxembourg, LX0LT, QSL BUREAU
 Nov 2/24, Equitorial Guinea, 3C2MV
 Nov 2/7, Tonga, A3, QSL HB9DKX
 Nov 5/19, Madagascar, 5R8HA, QSL G3SWH
 Nov 7/Dec 5, Sierra Leone, 9L1AB, QSL G3AB
 Nov 9/10, French Polynesia, F0, QSL via QRZ.com adr
 Nov 10/Dec 02, Netherland Antilles, PJ2, QSL PA0VDV
 Nov 15/25, Sable Isl, CY0MM
 Nov 19/27, Belau, T88
 Nov 20/Dec 1, Gambia, C56R, QSL OH3RM
 There will also be much DX in the CQ contest later in Nov with many groups and individuals planning DX trips for the event.

G4GFQ

Our Ron took advantage of a £150 reduction offer and splashed out on a IC718. "All I have to do now is learn to drive it". Ron, who confesses to being 'octal based' eclipsed his tally for the period Jan/99 to last month with 20 QSOs. By his own confession, he is not a speed merchant and offers his thanks to the patient ones (including three FISTS) for their indulgence of his (approximately) 10 wpm. Look forward to more regular appearances on the bands Ron though the purpose of printing this was to again highlight the very helpful attitude of the bulk of our members. We can hardly profess to be encouraging the mode if the slower guys are not accommodated so it is a big thank-you to all of you who are prepared to go out of your way.

FINALE

We were more or less spared the worst of those horrific winds of the last weekend October, my own concern was the well being of my antennas rather than the roof. At the time of writing, I detect no damage to either though there is fear for those members in the Southern counties. That's it for this month people. Keep that flag flying please and may your award lists grow.
 73/88 and stay sober. Geo

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

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Hadley MI 48440

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

If your address changes, please let us know; undelivered and re-sent newsletters are very costly.

15th Anniversary 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 QSO's. You may earn both awards, but remember, only one FISTS number can be counted in your total. You can use the QSO's claimed for Anniversary Award #1 to qualify for Anniversary Award #2.

Anniversary Award #1 (150) 150 Requirements:
FISTS numbers from -

- A) 10 different FISTS members operating from each of the ten call sign areas (0 through 9) - a 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 (300) 300 Requirements:
FISTS numbers from -

- A) 15 different FISTS members operating from each of the ten callsign areas (0 through 9) - a 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 or Canada
 - E) 30 different Clubs with FISTS numbers (DX OR USA)
- Total 300 different FISTS member numbers.*

** NOTE - The FISTS member number counts towards the area from which they are operating, NOT the origin of the call sign they are using. THEREFORE, the QTH must be included in all logs.*

Each contact must be with a different FISTS member. Each FISTS member is counted only once, no matter where they are located at the time of the contact; no matter what call sign they are using. If you contact WZ8C while I'm at home in Michigan and later when I'm on vacation in Costa Rica, you may count only ONE of the contacts toward the Anniversary Awards. Clubs are also only counted once, no matter how many different members you may work. Clubs may be US, or DX. 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, and QTH. To facilitate log verification, please list contacts according to the group requirements they fulfill.